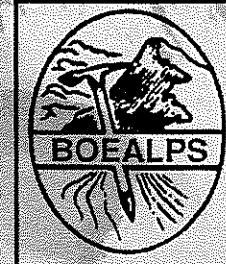


ALPINE ECHO

James Prostka 67-MC

January 1999



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

President	Rich Baldwin	206-544-7580 richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com	Equipment	South	Mike Jacobsen	253-657-1438 michael.t.jacobsen@boeing.com
Vice President	Rob Kunz	206-655-7645 robert.r.kunz@boeing.com		Central	Silas Wild	206-527-9453 silaswild@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ed Alejandro	425-865-2217 ed.alejandro@boeing.com		North	Andy Roth	425-342-1308 andrew.s.roth@boeing.com
Secretary	Tom Yocum	425-342-9794 thomas.e.yocum@boeing.com	Librarian		Jeff Arnold	206-662-2772 jeffrey.j.arnold@boeing.com
Past President	Chris Rudesill	425-965-2683 christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com	Membership		Elaine Worden	425-965-0049 elaine.worden@boeing.com
Activities	Ilan Angwin	425-266-9038 ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com	Photographer		James Weisman	206-655-7939 james.l.weisman@boeing.com
Conservation	Vera Trainer	206-522-7022 Vera.L.Trainer@noaa.gov	Programs		Eric Bennett	206-579-5016 eric.r.bennett@boeing.com
Echo Editor	Frank Sommers	425-957-5691 frank.sommers@noaa.gov	Homepage Editor		Rob James	rob.james@gecm.com
	Matt Robertson	matt.robertson@boeing.com	BCAG Recreation		Jake Davis	425-342-8369
Education	Tom Rogers	253-773-8517 thomas.a.rogers@boeing.com	Home Page			

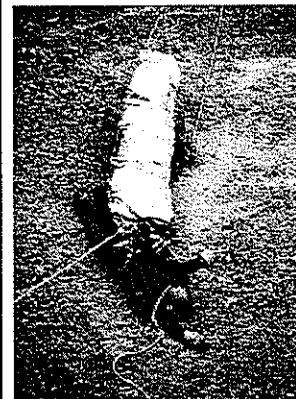
Photo: Boealpers on Frostbite Ridge, Glacier Peak by Mike Jacobsen

From Elaine Worden 6H-CJ

January General Meeting
Mark Hicks & Katy Rusho: Mini-presentation on
the Boealps Intermediate Climbing Class

Don Goodman: Surviving your Mountain
Experience - Human Factors in Mountaineering

Thursday, January 7th
 Oxbow Recreation Center
 Social half hour 7:00 pm
 Meeting at 7:30 pm



BELAY STANCE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Well, we've made it through another year - time to sit back with family and friends and reflect on all we've done. In that spirit (and since I'd really like more input from all of you!), how about taking a few minutes and dropping me 4 or 5 sentences on what your favorite climb this year was and why. If I get any responses(!), I'll compile them and run a list in next month's Echo. Your favorite trip from last year could be the catalyst for some one else's great adventure next year - what a great Christmas present for your climbing buddies! Send 'em to me at matt.robertson@boeing.com, or mail stop 7M-HC.

Time to renew...

There's still time to renew and not miss a single exciting issue of the Echo! The renewal form is conveniently located in this issue, so take a few minutes, fill it out, and send in your check, if you haven't done so already.

Volunteers Needed!

If you're a recent basic class grad looking for a way to become more active in the club, or if you're a long time member who'd like to donate some time, there's plenty of opportunities - we need instructors to help out with the Basic class, the Intermediate class and the new Ski Mountaineering class. See the class descriptions in this issue for contact info. If you'd like to help out, but are a better shopper than climber, Eric Bennet still really needs someone to pick up refreshments before the general meetings the first Thursday of each month - we'll give you the money, you do the shopping! If volunteering your time isn't your bag, how about a trip report? Climbing, backpacking, kayaking, lawn bowling - write something up and send it in - if you've got prints or slides to go along with the sotry, but no scanner, send the pictures to me - I'll return them, and email you a scanned copy for your effort!

Speaking of Eric

Eric Bennett's off to South America for a climb of Aconcagua - we wish him best of luck, and a safe return...

Speaking of classes...

What a great opportunity to further your mountaineering education - in this issue you have your choice of the Basic Class, the Intermediate Class, a winter climbing skills seminar, a ski mountaineering class, an avalanche safety seminar, and MOFA - sign up for a course from Boealps U.

This Issue Includes...

Info on Len's XC ski weekend at Mt. St. Helens ...info on the January pizza feed - we feed you, you feed the activities list ... lots of classes ... The Boealps library list ... your yearly membership form (do it now!) ... last month's board meeting minutes ... information on the fixed anchor debate and new Sno-Park fees ... and a great write up of an amazing rescue in Nepal. Thanks, everyone, for your input!

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still:
It's needed when accessing the Activities or club roster sections of the web site.

SLESSE

Merry Christmas from the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson

Matt Robertson

FEBRUARY ECHO DEADLINE IS JANUARY 21st



January 1999

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Want more info? Go to <http://www.andersonlodge.com>

Mt. St. Helens X-country Ski Trip - Anderson Lodge

Jan.22-24, 1999

After three great years in Winthrop at the Westar Lodge, the time has come to head south for the winter - it's back to the Anderson Main Lodge! Boealpers long in the tooth will recall this place, but for you novices, this is a great opportunity to mingle with the best (and undoubtedly the worst) of the club, with opportunities for doing x-country and backcountry skiing, climbing Mt. St. Helens, playing ping-pong, jumping in the hot tub, and roasting in the sauna. The cost will be \$42/adult and \$25/child, which covers Friday and Saturday night lodging, Saturday breakfast/dinner and Sunday breakfast - bring your own Saturday/Sunday lunch and beverages. Families welcome!

The lodge has room for 50, with a group hot tub, two saunas, and it features an array of bunk beds, double beds, and even a few private rooms for families. You will need a Sno-Park permit to use the Forest Service trails around Mt. St. Helens, so come prepared. Climbing permits are not required this time of year, and if the weather is good and you are ready, willing, and able, a summit attempt could be in the offing.

How do you make a reservation? It's easy:

- Mail a check (**payable to Boealps**) to me or deliver in person - no cash please
- Include your phone number, e-mail, and how many beds you need

In return, I'll send you an information sheet as well as directions. Beds will be assigned in order of payment received, so send your check in early (Roy actually got his in already - a miracle). As of this writing, there are 10 spaces left. A short waiting list will be made - though we'll do our best, there is no guarantee we can make refunds. Note: I got just laid off December 10th, so your only reliable means of contacting me in the interim is via home phone or mail.

Contact: Len Kannapell
361-7523 (h)
1015 NE 126th St.
Seattle, WA 98125-4031

"Pizza for Activities" Feed - Wednesday, January 13th 7-9 pm

Who: Any Boealps member

What: You submit an activity to put in the ECHO - we provide the pizza (simple!)

When: Wednesday, January 13th, 7-9 pm

Where: Round Table Pizza, 5111 25th Ave NE (by University Village)

What we'll bring: maps, guidebooks, activities submission forms, and good advice from experienced (i.e. "suffered through rain and snow many times") Boealpers

What you need to bring: yourself and your activity. If you don't have anything, we'll help you come up with something.

Who will be there: Len Kannapell and Iian Angwin, the old and the new Activities chair

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Winter Snow Skills Seminar Saturday, February 6

Come out for a day of learning and/or practicing your winter climbing skills. The topics discussed will include the following:

- Learning to build snow anchors
- Learning about belaying on snow
- Practicing running belays
- Rope handling
- Reviewing self-belay and self-arrest techniques

We will be doing some snow travel so snowshoes in good working order will be required.

Party Limit	none
Area	Snoqualmie summit
Equipment	Winter/cold weather gear
Experience	Basic Class graduate or equivalent.
Contact	Dave Stephens (425)477-3912 (w) (425)774-1396 (h) david.a.stephens@boeing.com

Boealps Winter Campout on Mt. Rainier February 20-21

Don't let the masochistic title fool you - this is actually a lot of fun! The new Activities chair Ilan Angwin will help you find opportunities for climbing, skiing, snowboarding (dude!), sledding, snowshoeing, igloo building, and competitive campbuilding. As usual, this will be a short hike from the Paradise parking lot to an area away from the crowds. Boealpers may bring their children but be prepared for their care, grooming, feeding, and safety. No food provided by the club, but we know you'll be creative with your cuisine...

Party Limit	24
Route	Paradise parking lot to some short distance away
Equipment	Winter/cold weather gear
Experience	None required
Contact	Ilan Angwin (206) 547-4340 (h) ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (h)
ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Don't let the horrendous weather get you down - get up, submit an activity, and get out!

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
(____) _____ (Home)
E-Mail: _____
M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
Ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com
Mail Stop: 06-03

Boealps MOFA Class
(Note: There's only two spots left!)

What: Mountaineering Oriented First Aid class is a 27 hour first aid course for the wilderness traveler. Training includes American Red Cross Adult CPR and Standard First Aid certifications, as well as a MOFA endorsement. The MOFA part of the course includes additional wilderness focused first aid training with hands on exercises. The classroom sessions will be followed by two evenings of practical scenarios conduction, in conjunction with other MOFA classes at Camp Long in West Seattle, and a written exam.

Who: This course is recommended for all Boealps members and required for all Boealps instructors.

Dates: January 19, 21, 26, 28, February 2, 4, 9, 11, 16 and 18 (last two sessions at Camp Long)

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Where: Boeing Customer Service Center. Practicals will be held at Camp Long in West Seattle.

Cost: Approx \$45 per student (exact amount will be determined after the first class.)

Class Size: 24 students. The class will be filled in the order that the registrations are paid.

To sign up return the registration form below along with your payment. Payment should be in the form of a check made payable to Boealps.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Hirabayashi at (425) 814-5487 (w) or (206) 527-5281 (h) or e-mail at Khibachi@aol.com or Joyce Holloway at (425) 477-4393 (w) or (425) 888-4434 (h) or e-mail at joyce.r.holloway@boeing.com.

Boealps MOFA Class Registration Form

Name: _____

Mail Stop (or address): _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Complete the information requested above and return this form along with payment (Make check payable to "Boealps") to:

Joyce Holloway
MS 6F-06
or 15704 451st Ave SE
North Bend, WA 98045

Phone: (425) 477-4393 (w)
(425) 888-4434 (h)

1999 BASIC CLIMBING CLASS

The Boealps Basic Climbing Class will be held March 3rd to June 16th. Orientation will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxbow Recreation Center, Room 202. The class consists of Wednesday night lectures and outings every weekend.

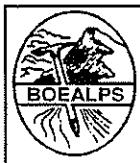
Although MOFA (Mountaineering Oriented First Aid) is not required to take the class, it is strongly recommended. This year's class will be run by Shawn M. Paré. For more information, contact any of the people on the class flyer contained in this issue or any of the board members listed on the front of the ECHO.

WANTED: BASIC CLASS INSTRUCTORS

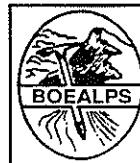
Everyone who instructed last year should receive a commitment form by mid-January. If you do not receive a commitment form by this time, please contact Elaine Worden at 425-965-0049 and have her send one to you. If you have never instructed for the Basic Climbing Class and would like to, contact Elaine to receive information and an application. All instructors are required to have had MOFA at some time prior to the beginning of the class. Please send in your commitment forms as soon as possible as it is necessary to know how many instructors there will be for this year's class before February 10.

If you can not instruct this year, but would like to help with other tasks that make the class run smoothly, please contact Shawn Paré at 425-483-0548.

This ECHO includes a poster for this year's class. Please take it, make copies of it, and post them anywhere that is appropriate.



Boeing Employees Alpine Society



1999 Basic Mountaineering Course

Orientation & Registration

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 pm
Oxbow Recreation Center
9-150 Building Room 201

Class Meetings

Wednesday Evenings
Plus
Weekend Outings
March 3 through June 16

- Equipment Selection
- Route Finding
- Safe Climbing
- Rope Use –
 Belaying
 Rappelling
- Rock Climbing
- Snow Climbing –
 Ice Axe Use
- Glacier Travel –
 Crevasse Rescue



For More Information Contact:

Rob Kunz	206-655-7645	robert.r.kunz@boeing.com
Vera Trainer	206-522-7022	
Janet Harris	206-938-3550	
Chris Rudesill	425-965-2683	
Matt Robertson	425-822-0455	matt.robertson@boeing.com
Jim Weisman		jweisman@home.com

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society (Boealps) also offers an Intermediate Climbing Course. For more information on this course contact Katy Rusho on (206)-297-2715.

1999 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Class

The Intermediate Climbing Class is currently being organized for the 1999 climbing season. This is the class's twelfth year.

This course is being offered for those who have basic climbing skills and the desire to learn to climb some of the more technical and remote routes in the Cascades. In addition to having completed the Basic Course (or showing equivalent experience); students must be in good physical shape and be active in climbing outside an instructional framework. This does not mean that prospective students have to be super climbers—the ability to climb low fifth class rock on top-rope and negotiate a 40 degree snow slope with confidence is adequate.

The course will cover the following areas in a seminar format: leading technical rock climbs, mountain safety and self rescue, and snow and ice climbing techniques. We spend the remainder of the course climbing some of the Northwest's finest alpine routes, such as the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak and the North Face of Mount Maude. The instructor-to-student ratio is approximately one-to-one, which allows personalized instruction.

The course will run from mid-March through the end of August, requiring about two weekends per month. Contact Katy Rusho or Mike Bingle for further class details, specific dates, and a course application and information packet. March 5th is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 10th.

Katy Rusho
206-256-1263 (w) 206-297-2715 (h)
KatyR@PMISEATTLE.com

Mike Bingle
206-662-4929 (w) 935-3992 (h) before 9 p.m.
michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

Winter Climbing Skills Seminar

When: Saturday, February 6, 1999
Where: Near Snoqualmie Summit
How Long: All day or until hypothermia sets in

Come out for a day of learning and/or practicing your winter climbing skills. The topics discussed will include:

- Learn to build snow anchors
- Learn about belaying on snow
- Practice running belays
- Rope handling
- Review self-belay and self-arrest techniques

This skill seminar is open to Basic graduates or equivalent. We will be doing some snow travel so snowshoes in good working order will be required.

Contact for enrollment or for more information:

Dave Stephens
david.a.stephens@boeing.com
w (425)477-3912
h (425)774-1396

Boealps

Ski Mountaineering Course

If you are an alpinist and an intermediate level skier who's been itching to escape the lift area crowds and take your skis into the backcountry this winter and bag some peaks, this new Boealps course may be for you! The added speed of ski approaches to winter climbs can bring many more peak objectives within your range during those oh-so-short winter days.



Course Objective: Show intermediate level skiers (lift area or backcountry) who are also climbers how to combine these two sports and use their skis to venture safely into the backcountry for approaches to alpine climbs.

Who should sign up: Climbers with both **Boealps Basic Class certificate or equivalent AND intermediate level skiing ability** (lift area or backcountry) who want access to more winter climbing.

Course Cost: \$95.00 (Make checks payable to "Boealps")

Class Size: Maximum of 15 (filled in order that paid sign-ups are received)

Course Sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mon. Jan. 18 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Backcountry skiing styles & gear selection	Oxbow (Rm 202)
Mon. Jan. 25 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #1 with Gary Brill	Seattle REI
Jan 31 st OR Feb 6 th	All Day	Avalanche Field Outing with Gary Brill	TBD
Mon. Feb. 1 st	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #2 with Gary Brill	Seattle REI
Mon. Feb. 8 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #3 with Gary Brill	Seattle REI
Mon. Feb. 15 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Ski mountaineering skills and tips	Oxbow (Rm 202)
Sat/Sun Feb. 20/21	All Day	Weekend skills practice outing	TBD

Topics Covered:

- Backcountry skiing styles and equipment selection
- Avalanche hazard assessment, safe route finding and rescue techniques
- Winter camping and climbing equipment and techniques
- Glacier skiing (skiing roped + self arrest & crevasse rescue with skis)

How to sign up: Fill in the information below and send it in with your check for \$95.00.

Questions? Contact Brian Tryba (h) 425-255-5365
or Dan Goering (h) 206-364-6783 (w) 425-717-2289

Name: _____ MS: _____ Phone: (h) _____

email: _____ (w) _____

Return this information along with a check for \$95.00 (payable to "Boealps") to:

Dan Goering at MS 03-RA OR 15002 9th Pl NE / Seattle, WA 98155

Avalanche Safety Seminar

Plans for a Boealps avalanche safety seminar as announced in the December Echo have been scaled back due to limited availability of professional instructors. 15 spaces in Gary Brill's Avalanche Seminar taught at REI have been reserved for participants in the Boealps Ski Mountaineering Course. Any spots not filled by the Ski Mountaineering Course will be made available to other Boealps members at the Boealps discounted price of \$95.00 (\$20 off full price).

Course Sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mon. Jan. 25 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #1	Seattle REI
Jan 31 st OR Feb 6th	All Day	Avalanche Field Outing	TBD
Mon. Feb. 1 st	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #2	Seattle REI
Mon. Feb. 8 th	6:30 to 9 pm	Avalanche Lecture #3	Seattle REI

Topics Covered:

- Identifying hazardous slopes
- Understanding snow crystal types & their relation to avalanche hazard
- Evaluating slope stability
- Risk assessment and decision making
- Safe route finding
- Rescue techniques

Cost: \$95.00 (\$20 discount off full price!)

To Sign-up: Return the information requested below, along with payment.

Please put me on the list for a Boealps discounted space in Gary Brill's Avalanche Seminar. I understand that priority for these spots will be given to participants in the Boealps Ski Mountaineering Course and that my check will be returned if no space is available.

Name: _____ MS: _____ Phone: (h)_____

email: _____ (w)_____

Return this information along with a check for \$95.00 (payable to "Boealps") to:

Dan Goering at MS 03-RA OR 15002 9th Pl NE / Seattle, WA 98155

BOEALPS Library Inventory

<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Copies</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Adventure						
Ascent of Everest	Hunt	John		1993	2	
Ascent of Rum Doodle, The	Bowman	W. E.		1979		
Breach,The	Taylor	Rob		1981		Kilimanjaro and the conquest of self
Brooks Range Passage	Cooper	David		1982		
Challenge of Rainier	Molenaar	Dee		1971	2	
Eiger: Wall of Death	Roth	Arthur		1982		
Everest the Hard Way	Bonington	Chris		1977		Adventure story of the decade
Everest, the Cruel Way	Tasker	Joe		1981		
Everest: The West Ridge	Hornbein	Thomas		1980		
Expeditions to Nowhere	Sherman	Paddy		1981		
Gervesutti's Climbs	Gervesutti	Giusto		1979		Autobiography
Give Me the Hills	Underhill	Miriam		1971		Women's account of climbing in the 30's
In the Shadow of Denali	Waterman	Jonathan		1994		
In the Zone	Potterfield	Peter				
Kongur, China's Elusive Summit	Bonington	Chris		1982	2	
Last Step, The	Ridgeway	Rick		1980		The American ascent of K2
Leading Out	deSilva	Rachel		1992	2	Women climbers reaching for the top
Living on the Edge	Bremer-Kamp	Cherie		1987		Winter ascent of Kanchenjunga
Men Against the Clouds	Burdall	Richard		1980		The conquest of Minya Konka
Mountain World, The	Swiss	Foundation		1953	2	Years 1952-1955
Mountains of the Great Blue Dream	Reid	Robt. Leonard		1991		
Nahanni Trailhead	Moore	Joanne		1980		A year in the Northern Wilderness
Savage Arena	Tasker	Joe		1982		
Storm And Sorrow in the High Pamirs	Craig	Robert		1977		
Summits and Secrets	Diemberger	Kurt		1991	2	
To the Ends of the Earth	Fiennes	Ranulph		1983		Transglobe Expedition: First Pole-to-Pole Trip
To the Top of Denali	Sherwonit	Bill		1990		Climbing adventures of N.A.'s highest summit
Total Alpinism	Desmasion	Rene		1982		
Touching the Void	Simpson	Joe		1990		
Trekking Peaks of Nepal,The	O'Conner	Bill		1989		
Biography						
British Mountaineers	Smythe	F.S.		1946		Old book, brittle pages
Degrees of Diffuculty	Shatayev	Vladimir		1987	2	
I Chose to Climb	Bonington	Chris		1966		
Wager with the Wind	Greiner	James		1978		The Don Sheldon Story
Women Climbing	Birkett	Bill		1989		200 years of achievement
Climbing Guide						
A Climbing Guide to Mexico's Volcanoes	Secor	R.J.		1993		

BOEALPS Library Inventory

<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Copies</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Alps, The	Sanuki	Matao		1969	2	
Camping and Climbing in Baja	Robinson	John W.		1975		
Cascade Alpine Guide	Beckey	Fred		1973		Columbia River to Stevens Pass
Cascade Alpine Guide	Beckey	Fred		1973		Stevens Pass to Rainy Pass
Climber's Guide to the High Sierra	Sierra Club			1976		
Climber's Guide to the Olympic Mountains	Olympic Mtn.	Rescue		1972		
Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley	Sierra Club			1971		
Climbing Guide to Oregon	Dodge	Nicholas		1975		
Colorado's Indian Peaks Wilderness Area	Roach	Gerry		1989		Classic Hikes and Climbs - Signed copy
Cross-Country Ski Routes of Oregon's Cascades	Veilbig	Klindt		1984		
Eldorado - A Rock Climber's Guide	Ament	Pat		1980		
Exploring Katmai National Monument	Publications	Alaska		1974		
Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis	Baldwin	John		1994		A guide to mtn ski touring in SW British Columbia
Flatiron Classics	Roach	Gerry		1987		Guide to Easy Climbs in Boulder-Signed copy
Free Climbs of Devils Tower	McGee	Dingus		1981		
Guide to Climbing and Hiking	Farley	Bruce		1993		InSouthwestern British Columbia
Guide to the Colorado Mountains	Ormes	Robert		1979		
High Peaks, The	DuMais	Richard		1981		Climbing Guide to Mountain areas of RMNP
Highpoints of the States	Ashley	Frank		1970		
Hiking the Bigfoot Country	Sierra Club			1975		
Hiking the Great Basin	Hart	John		1981		High desert of California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah
Hiking the Teton Country	Sierra Club			1973		
Idaho Rock	Green	Randall		1987		Climbing guide to the Selkirk Crest and Sandpoint areas
Mexico's Volcanoes:A Climbing Guide	Secor	R. J.		1993		
Mont Blanc Massif, The	Rebuffat	Gaston		1973		The 100 finest routes
Mount Cook Guidebook, The	Logan	Hugh		1982		A climbers guide to the Mt. Cook Region
Mount Cook Guidebook, The	Misc					Maps and Information
Rock Climber's Guide to Lumby Ridge	Salaun	Chip		1980		Guide to Lower Rocky Mountain National Park
Rock Mountain National Park	Roach	Gerry		1988		Classic Hikes and Climbs
Rocky Mountain National Park	Gillet	Bernard		1993		
Selected Free Climbs of the Black Hills Needles	McGee	Dingus		1981		
Trekking in Tibet	McCue	Gary		1991		
Washington State Trails Directory	Interagency			6		Trails Directory
Wastach Granite	Smith	David		1977		Rock climbing guide
Field Guide						
Fire and Ice	Harris	Stephen		1976	2	Cascade Volcanoes
Glaciers of North America	Ferguson	Sue		1992		
Guide to Western Wildlife	Handcock	David		1977	2	
Mountains of the World	Bueler	William		1970		A handbook for climbers and hikers

BOEALPS Library Inventory

<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</u>	
			<u>Date</u>	<u>Copies</u> <u>Comments</u>
Northwest Trees	Arno	Stephen	1977	
History				
Mountain Fever, Historic Conquests of Rainier	Haines	Aubrey	1962	
On Top of the World	Miller	Laurie	1984	Five women explorers in Tibet
Sivalaya	Baume	Louis	1979	Exploration of the 8000 meter peaks of the Himalaya
Instruction				
Accidents in North American Mountaineering	Alpine	Club of Amer.	1994	
Adventure of Caving	McClurg	David	1986	A practical guide for advanced and beginning cavers
American Alpine Journal	Alpine	Club of Amer.	1970	
American Alpine Journal	Alpine	Club of Amer.	1985	
American Alpine Journal	Alpine	Club of Amer.	1972	
Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers	Daffern	Tony	1992	Good book on avalanche awareness
Basic Rockcraft	Robbins	Royal	1977	
Climbing Anchors	Long	John	1993	
Climbing Ice	Chouinard	Yvon	1978	2
Free-Heel Skiing	Parker	Paul	1988	The secrets of Telemark and Parallel techniques
Going High	Houston	Charles	1980	2 The story of man and altitude
How to Shit in the Woods	Meyer	Kathleen	1989	2 An environmentally sound approach to a lost art
Ice World	Lowe	Jeff	1996	Techniques and experiences of modern ice climbing
Learning to Rock Climb	Loughman	Michael	1981	
McKinley Climber's Handbook	Randall	Glenn	1984	
National Parks, The	US Govt		1993	Index to Parks
Norhtwest Mountain Weather	Renner	Jeff	1992	2 Understanding and forecasting for the backcountry user
Snowshoeing	Prater	Gene	1974	
Surviving Denali	Waterman	Jonathan	1983	A study of accidents on McKinley 1910-1982
Literature				
Armchair Mountaineer, The	Reuther	David	1984	Triumphs and tragedies of ascent from fact and fiction
Canadian Mountaineering Anthology, The	Fairly	Bruce	1994	
Cascade Volcanoes	Bates	Malcolm	1992	Conversations with Washington Mountaineers
Cloud Dancers	Waterman	Jonathan	1993	Portraits of North American mountaineers
Mixed Emotions	Child	Greg	1993	2 Mountaineering writings
Mountaineering and its Literature	Neate	W.R.	1980	Bibliography of selected works.
Mountaineering Literature	Neate	Jill	1986	Bibliography of selected works.

1999 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Read and complete the waiver on the reverse side of this form. This is required for membership.)

Please print: Name (Last, First, MI)

Mail Stop

Social Security Number

Street Address

E-Mail

City

State

Zip Code

()
Work Phone()
Home Phone

Age

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

New Member? Yes / No

- INDIVIDUAL (Boeing Employee or Dependent)
Dues \$10.00
- FAMILY (Boeing Employee and Dependents)
Dues \$15.00
- RETIRED (Retired Boeing Employees, includes Family)
Dues \$5.00

NON-EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

(Only non-employees/families who have been members prior to 1993 may continue their membership)

- INDIVIDUAL FRIEND OF BOEALPS (Non Boeing Employee Renewal Only)
Dues \$17.00
- FAMILY FRIEND OF BOEALPS (Non Boeing Employee Family Renewal Only)
Dues \$22.00

Note: Club membership is only for those who sign up as an individual member, or are listed on the back of this form as dependents of a member with a family membership.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR DUES: _____

Send application, signed waiver, and dues to:
(Make checks payable to BOEALPS)

Elaine Worden
or:
M/S 6H-CJ
1400 E. Mercer St., #4
Seattle, WA 98112

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOEALPS Basic (team color _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineers Intermediate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOEALPS Intermediate | <input type="checkbox"/> Avalanche Awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineers Basic | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing Seminar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid Climbing Seminar | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard First Aid/CPR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOFA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) _____ |

How often do you climb? _____

GET INVOLVED: Are you interested in organizing or leading an activity or outing?

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____ (print name(s)), certify that I am aware of all the inherent dangers of mountaineering, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents, or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons.

I understand that it is not the function of the activity leaders to serve as the guardians of my safety. I also understand that I am to furnish my own personal equipment and I am responsible for its safety and good operating condition regardless of where I obtained it. I understand and agree that neither the Boeing Employees Alpine Society (BOEALPS) nor its officers, agents, operators, instructors, leaders of club sponsored activities, other assistants and the Boeing Company may be held liable in any way for any occurrence in connection with club activities which may result in injury, death, or other damages to me. In consideration of being allowed to participate in club activities, I **HEREBY PERSONALLY ASSUME ALL RISKS** in connection with said activities, and I **RELEASE** the aforementioned club, officers, agents, operators, instructors, activity leaders and assistants from responsibility for any harm which may befall me while I am engaged in club activities, including all connected risks, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable. I **FURTHER AGREE TO INDEMNIFY** the aforementioned entities and Company and persons from any liability, claims, and causes of action which I may have arising out of my enrollment and participation in this club.

I further state that I am 18 years of age or older and legally competent to sign this release (or in the event that I am a minor, my parent or legal guardian must sign this release), that I understand these terms are contractual and not a mere recital, and that I have signed this document as my own free act. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assignees, personal representatives, and for all members of my family, including any minors.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT.

(Signature)

(Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

Conservation Corner by Vera Trainer

Fixed Anchors Update

The issue over the use of fixed anchors took a positive turn this fall, when the Forest Service directed its Regional Foresters not to impose any new bans on fixed anchors until a national policy is established. This directive delays any ban until the completion of the rule making process, which should take more than a year.

It has also been clarified that within the one area where the ban has been imposed, the Sawtooth Wilderness in Idaho, the *placement* of fixed anchors is prohibited. The initial fixed anchor ban, which was announced this past June, banned both the placement of new fixed anchors and the use of existing anchors.

This is an illustration of what a proactive stance can do. Climbers are being heard. If you feel strongly about an issue, contact your representatives.

Next month: Trail fees, grooming fees, will it ever end? If you don't like them, what can you do about them? Stay tuned...

Winter Recreation Essential Information

Avalanche Hotline (Seattle) (206)526-6677

Road Conditions (888)766-4636 or www.wsdot.wa.gov

Ski Report (Seattle) (206)632-7787 (Yakima) (509)966-3515

Cross-country Ski Report (206)632-2021

Sno-park Information www.parks.wa.gov/xsnopark.htm

ADDITIONAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SOME SNO-PARKS

In the good old days, all you needed to cross-country ski were boots, poles, Nordic skis and, of course, some snow. Then, the Sno-Park program was implemented and for a fairly nominal fee, you received a permit that allowed you to park in cleared parking areas designated for winter recreationists. This money was also used to provide sanitary facilities, trail grooming, signs, maps, parking lot construction, and administration of the Sno-Park Program.

Now a new fee has been implemented at some Sno-Parks that have groomed trails associated with them. In addition to the \$20.00 per vehicle seasonal Sno-Park permit, there is \$20.00 per vehicle seasonal "Special Grooming Sticker". This sticker is required at Cabin Creek (plan to do Amabilis this year?), Chiwawa Loop, Crystal Springs, Kahler Glenn, Lake Easton, Lake Keechelus, Lake Wenatchee, Price Creek Eastbound, and Mount Spokane Sno-Parks. One-day Sno-Park/Special Grooming passes are available for \$7.00.

For a complete listing of the Washington state Sno-Parks or more information about the Sno-Park and/or Special Grooming Permits, go to the following web site
<http://www.parks.wa.gov/welcome.htm>.

Submitted by: Pam Kaiser-Paré

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

December, 1998

This month's meeting was held at the Latona Pub. Those who attended, your participation is appreciated. My faulty memory prevents me from listing the attendance here.

Once again the meeting opened with a discussion concerning the preparations necessary for the upcoming 1999 Basic Class. Shawn Paré has agreed to take over as the Basic Class Head Instructor. (The Red team's tradition of excellence shall be bestowed upon all students this year.) A Basic Class Coordinator is being sought out to assist Shawn with some of the Administrative duties associated with operating The Basic Class, interested parties please contact Shawn Paré. The number of instructors for the class of 1999 has yet to be determined, interested parties please contact Shawn Paré. Each year several prospective students seek out additional information about the basic class; anyone willing to provide personal insights to the prospective basic class students, please contact Shawn Paré. It does not require much of a time commitment and provides former students / instructors a chance to reminisce about their initial mountaineering experiences. Due to company budget cuts, the placement of advertisements in the Boeing News has been restricted. Thus, flyers will be a key component in the advertising campaign. Anyone willing to volunteer to post the flyers on behalf of The Basic Class, please contact Shawn Paré. (See the pattern developing here?) Just as a reminder, time is drawing near for the orientation which will be held on February 17th 1999 at the Oxbow Recreation center. The Customer Service Center has been reserved for Wednesday night lectures from February 24th through June 16th.

The board voted unanimously to allocate club funds to reserve 15 slots in a professionally taught avalanche safety seminar. By reserving the slots in advance and booking the slots in groups of five, a twenty dollar discount can be obtained. First priority will be given to students enrolled in the Boealps Ski Mountaineering class. If any avalanche seminar slots remain unfilled, those slots will be offered to interested club members. See this issue of the Echo for details on the Boealps Ski Mountaineering Course.

News flash ... The club is the proud owner of two new avalanche beacons. These latest additions to the club equipment inventory are DTS Tracker beacons with three dimensional tracking and are capable of screening out other transmissions. A special thank you goes out to our Equipment Chairperson Silas Wild. Your efforts in researching the available products and finding the best deals are greatly appreciated

Been out on an adventure lately? Been out on a routine outing and posses an active imagination? Feel free to submit an article to the echo. Club members, (key word "club") need to keep in contact with each other. Become an active participant in your club and share your outdoor experiences with the rest of us in the Echo.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Club's General Meetings on a regular basis and specifically while Eric Bennett is off climbing Aconcagua please step up. Volunteers please contact Eric.

Congratulation to Ilan Angwin, your new Activities Chairperson.

Plans are in work for the club to host a technical snow travel seminar, the details will be posted at a future time.

There will be a Boealps club pizza party on 13 January 1999. Since the club is a social organization, this is your chance to get out and be social with out the packing rigmarole. See the activities report for the time and place.

There will be a winter campout on 20-21 February 1999. See the activities report for the time and place.

The next Board meeting will be 14 January 1999. The place is as usual TBD.

The new and approved official club By-Laws will be published soon I promise. Sorry about the mixup last time - those where a flash-back to 1983.

Tom Yocum

What a Day in Pheriche

Trekkers: Pete Allen, Len Kannapell, Pam Kaiser-Paré, Shawn Paré, Michele Paré, Linda Stefanini, Victor Yagi, Vera Trainer (scribe).

Our group called itself the Dragnags, a name derived from the tiny mountain village to which we would descend after crossing the 17,200 foot mountain pass, the Cho La, in the Khumbu region of Nepal. A week before this story begins, we flew from Kathmandu over the lowland farms to a small town south of Mt. Everest called Lukla or "place of many goats". During the first week of our trek, we'd had bouts of coughing, sneezing, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, which were nothing compared to what we were about to experience. What follows are the words from my journal during that memorable day...

11/3/98 Pangboche – Pheriche

I was groggy at 6 AM, even though I'd had about 10 hours of sleep. My cold is still hanging on. Healing is slow at altitude. The higher we go, the less chance we have to get better. We set off on the trail early, after enjoying the sunrise over Ama Dablam and neighboring peaks. The walk to Pheriche became more and more beautiful. The rushing stream 100 meters below the trail serenaded us. We passed the prayerful mani stones and chortens – always keeping to the left of them and touching with our right hand (the left hand is the "dirty" hand). The trail to Island Peak and Dingboche veered to the right around the north side of Ama Dablam. We climb up the left fork of the trail to the crest of a chilly hill – always making sure we stayed uphill of the yaks and zopkios (half yak, half cow – supposedly an interesting mating). Namgil (our youngest Sherpa) and Pemba (our oldest Sherpa) came up the other side of the hill, from Pheriche, to help us with our packs. I still wasn't feeling so well, so I gave Namgil my pack. He is so willing and cheerful about his job. Our sirdar, Perba, told us that his mother is dead, so at 15, he has to work. The lives of these people are simple, but hard.

We arrived in Pheriche shortly after lunch and ordered hot lemon which we drank in the "sun room", a greenhouse-like room which was very warm when the sun was shining. After relaxing for a while, we went to the Himalayan Rescue Association (HRA) building around the corner from our lodge. Linda and I talked to the doctors there about our upper respiratory infections. Dr. Eric Johnson from Boise, Idaho, explained that doctors in the U.S. generally give the wrong antibiotics to trekkers going to Nepal. In this remote place, there are few resistant bacteria, so "older" but more specific antibiotics can be more effective. We got the right drugs to treat our colds and noticed a couple of other patients in the clinic, including a tall, fit climber sitting on a bench, swallowing numerous pills that the doctors had given him. He dropped a pill on the floor and his speech seemed slow. The doctors were trying to arrange for a helicopter rescue for him, but he couldn't remember the trekking agency from Kathmandu which had organized his climb.

We stayed for the 3 PM lecture on high altitude trekking, along with about 10 others, all crammed into the small reception room. Toward the end of the lecture, a rescue crew (we later learned that one was a member of Seattle Mountain Rescue) crashed through the door and into the back room with a man on the stretcher. It was the same guy who was to

be helicoptered out the next morning. Realizing the urgency of the situation, we folded up the chairs filling the small room and slowly filtered out of the room with a sense of respect for the dangers of climbing at altitude. Since Michele is a nurse, she stayed behind to see if she could help.

The patient, we later found out, is a Swede named Henrik Johansson. He was at Ama Dablam base camp when he fell at night while going to the bathroom, hit his head and was knocked unconscious. He regained consciousness and decided to stay at camp and even ascend to a higher camp over the next two days. But the day after that, he became dizzy and finally decided to descend to Pheriche with his girlfriend.

While Michelle was assisting at the clinic, his condition worsened. He slowly lost the ability to breathe on his own. The doctors had to shake him periodically to get him to breathe. What began as short episodes of no breathing, turned into longer and longer events.

At 9 PM, Len and Yag went to the clinic to see if Michelle needed dinner. Soon after that, Pam came to our rooms to report what the guys had learned: we would take shifts through the night breathing for Henrik since the docs had just "bagged" him. Len and Yag had the 12-2 AM shift, Pam and Shawn, the 2-3 AM shift, Pete and Linda from 3-4 AM, some fellow climbers from 4-6 AM, then Len, Yag and I went at 6 AM. Michele stayed awake for most of the night. Henrik lay in the clinic secured to a wooden stretcher with duct tape around his chest, with a blanket over his body and an IV tube in his arm. He was on oxygen, with a tracheal tube running down his throat, and heavily sedated. We took turns breathing for him pumping the rubber bag at the end of the tracheal tube, monitoring his vitals, holding his head, and holding his hand while comforting him. We didn't even know this guy, but somehow felt related...

11/4/98

The medical staff had tried the previous afternoon to get a helicopter after Henrik's girlfriend told the name of their trekking agency, but said it was not possible until the following morning... something about not having a 24 hour number of his trekking company. So we helped care for Henrik and waited to hear word about the helicopter. By 8 AM, the doctors were running out of morphine. Instead, they gave him slurries of crushed valium tablets into his stomach (after pumping it in front of us – gag). They gave him expired morphine. It was an amazing, makeshift operation. His IV bag was attached to a hook on the ceiling with three coat hangers twisted together. When Henrik's medications started wearing off, he would open his eyes and stare wildly. It was eerie.

He is 27, strong, and had wanted to climb Ama Dablam. One slip put his life in complete peril. This head wound could have been fatal, had the HRA not been in Pheriche to help. If he had descended immediately, the bleeding in his brain may have stopped. However, he didn't. So eventually he could no longer breathe on his own, and the medical crew decided to sedate him and breathe for him. This was a huge commitment. In the absence of sophisticated medical equipment, this meant squeezing a bag to inflate his lungs every 2 seconds.

Medicines were saved for the helicopter flight. The doctors were quickly running out of sedatives and oxygen (which a French team heading to Island Peak had given the clinic). There was fog in Kathmandu. When would the helicopter come? At 9AM, I sat outside the clinic in case I was needed. At 930AM, one of the medical staff exclaimed, "Do I hear something?" It was a helicopter. Everyone sprang into action. Everyone was assigned a job. Carry the litter, squeeze the bag, hold the oxygen bottle, monitor his vitals, reassure him.

The helicopter landed. It was the wrong one. There was no doctor on board as had been requested. Henrik had already been dosed with the last of the morphine. How long would he still have to wait? Would it be too late?

We were all worried now. The clock was ticking and Henrik needed to get down – to get the pressure off his brain (as a last resort, the doctors had even considered drilling a hole in his head). Thankfully, the right helicopter with the doctor on board arrived 10 minutes later. Pam and I ran to get the stretcher. There was no stretcher, so we'd have to use the one from the HRA clinic. We waited by the helicopter and kept the crowds and yaks out of the way. The HRA doctors filled in the Kathmandu doctor, Martin Springer, on Henrik's condition. Finally, the slow progression of about 20 people in centipede formation came toward the helicopter carrying the dying man. He was restless. They all moved forward over rocks, not able to see their feet. Nepalis and people of all nations worked together to carry, move rocks, to get this young man into the helicopter. He was finally transferred to the floor in the back (the back seat had not been taken out as requested). The doctors tried again to stabilize him, to change his oxygen tank, to ready him for the 40 min flight to Kathmandu. Finally, the Dr. Springer positioned himself on the seat behind Henrik and continued the respirations. The pilots were anxious to go – they wanted their money. Finally, we all got out of the way, the helicopter doors closed and the chopper lifted. Five minutes later he was gone...

Almost all of us had tears in our eyes (including the doctors who had cared for him). All that was left was us and the mountains. We spent the rest of the day talking, resting, taking showers, drinking hot lemon and taking short hikes. We were tired but life seemed particularly sweet today and the mountains even more glorious.

Epilogue: Henrik is alive. He left Kathmandu for Sweden about 2 weeks after leaving Pheriche, but first needed to recover from a coma and regain the ability to breathe on his own. The Dragnags recently sent him a Christmas card.

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELAINE WORDEN, M/S 6H-CJ
OR: 1400 E. Mercer St. #4, Seattle, WA 98122
OR: elaine.worden@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



January ECHO staff

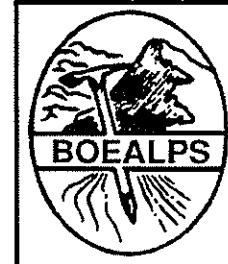
Editor:	Matt Robertson
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Outings:	Dave Stephens, Ilan Angwin
Library List:	Jeff Arnold
Minutes:	Tom Yocum
Sno-Park Information:	Pam Kaiser-Paré
Trip report:	Vera Trainer

Thanks to everyone!

ALPINE ECHO

James Prostka 67-MC

February 1999



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

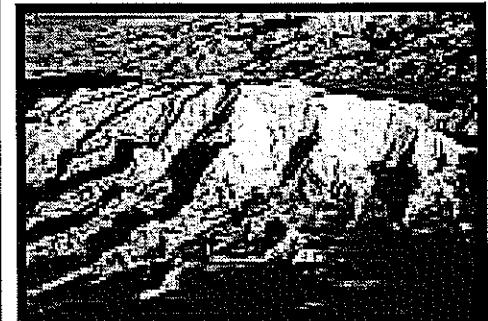
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Treasurer	Ed Alejandro	425-865-2217 ed.alejandro@boeing.com		North	Andy Roth	425-342-1308 andrew.s.roth@boeing.com
Secretary	Tom Yocum	425-342-9794 thomas.e.yocum@boeing.com	Librarian		Jeff Arnold	206-662-2772 jeffrey.j.arnold@boeing.com
Past President	Chris Rudesill	425-965-2683 christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com	Membership		Elaine Worden	425-965-0049 elaine.worden@boeing.com
Activities	Ilan Angwin	425-266-9038 ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com	Photographer		James Weisman	206-655-7939 james.l.weisman@boeing.com
Conservation	Vera Trainer	206-522-7022 vera.l.trainer@noaa.gov	Programs		Eric Bennett	206-579-5016 eric.r.bennett@boeing.com
Echo Editor	Frank Sommers	frank.sommers@noaa.gov	Homepage Editor		Rob James	rob.james@gecm.com
	Matt Robertson	425-957-5691 matt.robertson@boeing.com	BCAG Recreation		Jake Davis	425-342-8369
Education	Tom Rogers	253-773-8517 thomas.a.rogers@boeing.com	Home Page			

Photo: Boealpers on Frostbite Ridge, Glacier Peak by Mike Jacobsen

From Elaine Worden 6H-CJ

February General Meeting Martin Minarik: Solo Traverse of Mt. Logan

Thursday, February 4th
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm



IMPORTANT - This Is Your Last Issue!

To renew your club membership for 1999, and continue to receive the Echo, you must renew your membership by filling out the membership form on the next page!

1999 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Read and complete the waiver on the reverse side of this form. This is required for membership.)

Please print: Name (Last, First, MI)	Mail Stop	Social Security Number
Street Address	E-Mail	
City	State	Zip Code
() Work Phone	() Home Phone	Age

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

Boeing employees or contractors.

New Member? Yes / No

- INDIVIDUAL (Boeing Employee or Dependent)
Dues \$10.00
- FAMILY (Boeing Employee and Dependents)
Dues \$15.00
- RETIRED (Retired Boeing Employees, includes Family)
Dues \$5.00

NON-EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

Renewing members of BOEALPS or sponsored applicants (must obtain approval of the BOEALPS board and Boeing Recreation).

- INDIVIDUAL FRIEND OF BOEALPS (Non Boeing Employee Renewal Only)
Dues \$17.00
- FAMILY FRIEND OF BOEALPS (Non Boeing Employee Family Renewal Only)
Dues \$22.00

Note: Club membership is only for those who sign up as an individual member, or are listed on the back of this form as dependents.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR DUES: _____

Send application, signed waiver, and dues to:
(Make checks payable to BOEALPS)

Elaine Worden M/S 6H-CJ
or: 1400 E. Mercer St., #4
Seattle, WA 98112

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOEALPS Basic (team color _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineers Intermediate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOEALPS Intermediate | <input type="checkbox"/> Avalanche Awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineers Basic | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing Seminar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid Climbing Seminar | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard First Aid/CPR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOFA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) _____ |

How often do you climb? _____

GET INVOLVED: Are you interested in organizing or leading an activity or outing?

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____ (print name(s)), certify that I am aware of all the inherent dangers of mountaineering, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents, or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons.

I understand that it is not the function of the activity leaders to serve as the guardians of my safety. I also understand that I am to furnish my own personal equipment and I am responsible for its safety and good operating condition regardless of where I obtained it. I understand and agree that neither the Boeing Employees Alpine Society (BOEALPS) nor its officers, agents, operators, instructors, leaders of club sponsored activities, other assistants and the Boeing Company may be held liable in any way for any occurrence in connection with club activities which may result in injury, death, or other damages to me. In consideration of being allowed to participate in club activities, **I HEREBY PERSONALLY ASSUME ALL RISKS** in connection with said activities, and **I RELEASE** the aforementioned club, officers, agents, operators, instructors, activity leaders and assistants from responsibility for any harm which may befall me while I am engaged in club activities, including all connected risks, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable. **I FURTHER AGREE TO INDEMNIFY** the aforementioned entities and Company and persons from any liability, claims, and causes of action which I may have arising out of my enrollment and participation in this club.

I further state that I am 18 years of age or older and legally competent to sign this release (or in the event that I am a minor, my parent or legal guardian must sign this release), that I understand these terms are contractual and not a mere recital, and that I have signed this document as my own free act. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assignees, personal representatives, and for all members of my family, including any minors.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT.

(Signature)

(Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

BELAY STANCE

I can see clearly now!

After years of futzing with contacts and glasses while in the great outdoors, I decided I'd had enough, and, on January 4th, I went in for LASIK surgery. For those unfamiliar with this, the procedure uses a laser to reshape the cornea and correct your vision. I've been absolutely amazed with the results! There was no pain involved in the procedure, but a fair amount of discomfort. The first four hours after the surgery I was very light sensitive, but by the next morning my eyes felt fine, and I could see! At the post-op exam that afternoon my eyesight was measured at 20/25 and 20/30 where before surgery both my eyes had been about 20/450! The eyesight continues to stabilize and improve, and will do so for the next 6 months, but I'm already looking forward to a summer of "lenseless" outings and climbs! If anyone would like more info on the procedure or my experience, I'd be happy to talk with you - drop me an email, or give me a call!

Volunteers Still Needed!

Volunteer opportunities still abound! Instructors are needed for both the basic and intermediate classes, and I believe Eric Bennett could still use some help with shopping for refreshments before the monthly general meetings. Also - this issue contains a poster advertising the upcoming basic class. Please tear it out, make copies, and put it up wherever you think it will get the attention of people interested in learning to become climbers. Also - I'm still looking for trip reports, articles on climbing issues or other contributions to the Echo - here's your chance to see your name in print and become famous! If anyone has more "favorites of 1998", send them in - I'll be happy to run a sequel to this month's collection in March!

Let's Be Careful Out There

On Christmas Eve, two Boealps members (and two others in their party) were caught in an avalanche on Mailbox Peak. Fortunately, no serious injuries were sustained, but keep in mind that even on close in peaks, it's still winter out there - treat the mountains with the appropriate amount of respect, and keep your winter climbing skills sharp!

This Issue Includes...

Lots of activities from the Pizza feed, a repeat of information on the intermediate and basic classes, Tom Rogers' aid climbing seminar, Dave Stephens' winter climbing skills seminar, January board meeting minutes (are our dues going to increase?), Frank Sommers views on the current fee demonstration program, a list of some of your favorite trips from 1998, Marv Perrin's account of climbing Mt. Thompson with his father, a very sobering first person account of an avalanche on Mailbox Peak, and the signed version of our club bylaws.

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still:
It's needed when accessing the Activities or club roster sections of the web site.

SLESSE

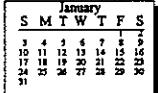
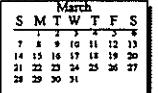
From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

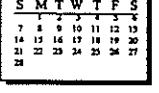
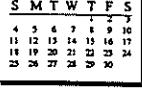
Matt Robertson

MARCH ECHO DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 18th

February 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4  General Meeting - Oxbow	5	6  Winter snow skills seminar
7	8	9	10  Basic Class Instructor meeting - Oxbow 6:30 pm	11	12	13  Aid Climbing Seminar - Index
14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17  Basic Class orientation - Oxbow 7 pm	18  MARCH ECHO deadline	19	20  Winter Campout Mt. Rainier
21  Winter Campout Mt. Rainier	22	23	24  Intermediate Class Instructor meeting - Round Table Pizza 7 pm	25	26	27
28	 					

March 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3  Basic Class lecture - Equipment	4  General Meeting - Oxbow	5	6
7	8  Intermediate Class lecture - Orientation	9	10  Basic Class lecture - Knots, Ropes, Belaying	11	12	13  Basic Class - Basics at St. Edwards
14  Basic Class - Basics at St. Edwards	15	16	17  Basic Class lecture - Rock Climbing	18  APRIL ECHO deadline	19	20  Basic Class - Rock Climbing at Mt. Erie
21  Basic Class - Rock Climbing at Mt. Erie	22  Intermediate Class lecture - Snow Climbing	23	24  Basic Class lecture - Snow Climbing	25	26	27  Basic Class - Ice Ax Arrest Stevens Pass
28  Basic Class - Ice Ax Arrest Stevens Pass	29	30	31  Basic Class lecture - Map & Compass			
	 					

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Winter Snow Skills Seminar

Saturday, February 6

Come out for a day of learning and/or practicing your winter climbing skills. The topics discussed will include the following:

- Learning to build snow anchors
- Learning about belaying on snow
- Practicing running belays
- Rope handling
- Reviewing self-belay and self-arrest techniques

We will be doing some snow travel so snowshoes in good working order will be required.

Party Limit none

Area Snoqualmie summit

Equipment Winter/cold weather gear

Experience Basic Class graduate or equivalent.

Contact Dave Stephens

(425)477-3912 (w)

(425)774-1396 (h)

david.a.stephens@boeing.com

Boealps Winter Campout on Mt. Rainier

February 20-21

Don't let the masochistic title fool you - this is actually a lot of fun! The new Activities chair Ilan Angwin will help you find opportunities for climbing, skiing, snowboarding (dude!), sledding, snowshoeing, igloo building, and competitive campbuilding. As usual, this will be a short hike from the Paradise parking lot to an area away from the crowds. Boealpers may bring their children but be prepared for their care, grooming, feeding, and safety. No food provided by the club, but we know you'll be creative with your cuisine! ☺

Party Limit 24

Route Paradise parking lot to some short distance away

Equipment Winter/cold weather gear

Experience None required

Contact Ilan Angwin

(206) 547-4340 (h)

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Cross Country Skiing at Kelcema Lake

February 13

Route begins at 1,575 feet and climbs continuously, but not steeply to Kelcema Lake, elevation 3,175 feet. Then Ski Deer Creek Road 4.2 miles to Lake Kelcema Trail, Number 718. You are now only .4 miles from the Lake.

Party Limit 12

Route Read Above

Equipment Winter/cold weather gear

Experience Intermediate Skier

Contact Al Baal

(206) 781-2382 (h)

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Snoqualmie Peak**February 13**

A great winter snowshoe trip. Destination may change based on conditions and interest of the group.

Party Limit 12**Route** Standard winter route**Equipment** Winter/cold weather gear**Experience** Basic Mountaineering Class Graduate**Contact** Janet Oliver

(425) 413-0298 (h)

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Bullon Basin**February 27**

Ski backcountry near crystal mountain before the new lifts go in. Depart 4th and F St., Auburn at 7 AM.

Ski up a road, then up in Bullon basin. Ski down, hike back up the back side of the ridge, repeat until tired.
Trip cancelled if freezing level is less than 3000 feet.

Party Limit 6**Route** See Above**Equipment** Shovel, beacon, skis**Experience** Intermediate skier**Contact** Silas Wild

(206) 527-9453 (h)

Mt. Angeles**March 6**

We will leave Friday night or Saturday morning, depending on the group, and climb on Saturday. Route 1 or 2 from the guide book to Olympic Mountaineering will be used.

Party Limit 12**Route** Standard winter route from Hurricane Ridge**Equipment** Snowshoes, shovel, and beacon**Experience** Basic Class graduate or equivalent**Contact** Ilan Angwin

(206) 547-4340 (h)

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Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering**June 19 - 20**

Depart Seattle area 6 AM Saturday, snowcamp at 7,500 feet an climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills, actual date could move depending on road closures

Party Limit 12**Route** South Spur**Equipment** Telemark or Ranenee Skis or snowboard**Experience** Basic class graduate; intermediate skier**Contact** Rob Kunz

(206) 655-7645

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin

206-547-4340 (h)

ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Thanks for everyone for submitting activities. Start thinking about those spring / early summer climbs and submit, submit, submit!

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
 (____) _____ (Home)
E-Mail: _____
M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
Ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com
Mail Stop: 06-03

1999 BASIC CLIMBING CLASS

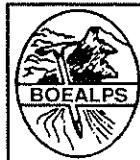
The Boealps Basic Climbing Class will be held March 3rd to June 16th. Orientation will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxbow Recreation Center, Room 202. The class consists of Wednesday night lectures and outings every weekend. Although MOFA (Mountaineering Oriented First Aid) is not required to take the class, it is strongly recommended. This year's class will be run by Shawn M. Paré. For more information, contact any of the people on the class flyer contained in this issue or any of the board members listed on the front of the ECHO.

WANTED: BASIC CLASS INSTRUCTORS

Everyone who instructed last year should receive a commitment form by mid-January. If you do not receive a commitment form by this time, please contact Elaine Worden at 425-965-0049 and have her send one to you. If you have never instructed for the Basic Climbing Class and would like to, contact Elaine to receive information and an application. All instructors are required to have had MOFA at some time prior to the beginning of the class. Please send in your commitment forms as soon as possible as it is necessary to know how many instructors there will be for this year's class before February 10.

If you can not instruct this year, but would like to help with other tasks that make the class run smoothly, please contact Shawn Paré at 425-483-0548.

This issue of the Echo includes a poster for this year's basic class on the other side of this page. Please take it, make copies of it, and post them anywhere that is appropriate.



Boeing Employees Alpine Society

1999 Basic Mountaineering Course

Orientation & Registration

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 pm
Oxbow Recreation Center
9-150 Building Room 201

Class Meetings

Wednesday Evenings
Plus
Weekend Outings
March 3 through June 16

- **Equipment Selection**
- **Route Finding**
- **Safe Climbing**
- **Rope Use –
Belaying
Rappelling**
- **Rock Climbing**
- **Snow Climbing –
Ice Axe Use**
- **Glacier Travel –
Crevasse Rescue**



For More Information Contact:

Rob Kunz 206-655-7645 robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

Vera Trainer 206-522-7022

Janet Harris 206-938-3550

Chris Rudesill 425-965-2683

Matt Robertson 425-822-0455

Jim Weisman

robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

matt.robertson@boeing.com

jweisman@home.com

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society (Boealps) also offers an Intermediate Climbing Course. For more information on this course contact Katy Rusho on (206)-297-2715.

1999 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Class

The Intermediate Climbing Class is currently being organized for the 1999 climbing season. This is the class's twelfth year. The course is being offered for those who have basic climbing skills and the desire to learn to climb some of the more technical and remote routes in the Cascades. In addition to having completed the Basic Course (or showing equivalent experience); students must be in good physical shape and be active in climbing outside an instructional framework. This does not mean that prospective students have to be super climbers—the ability to climb low fifth class rock on top-rope and negotiate a 40 degree snow slope with confidence is adequate.

The course will cover the following areas in a seminar format: leading technical rock climbs, mountain safety and self rescue, and snow and ice climbing techniques. We spend the remainder of the course climbing some of the Northwest's finest alpine routes, such as the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak and the North Face of Mount Maude. The instructor-to-student ratio is approximately one-to-one, which allows personalized instruction.

The course will run from mid-March through the end of August, requiring about two weekends per month. Contact Katy Rusho or Mike Bingle for further class details, and a course application and information packet. March 5th is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 10th.

Katy Rusho
206-256-1263 (w) 206-297-2715 (h)
KatyR@PMISEATTLE.com

Mike Bingle
206-662-4929 (w) 935-3992 (h) before 9 p.m.
michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

1999 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Course Class Schedule

March 8	6:30-9:00	Orientation and Basic Skills (Oxbow Rec. Center)
March 13-14	All Weekend	Fundamentals at Horsethief Buttes
March 22	6:30-9:00	Snow and Winter Climbing at Oxbow Rec. Center
March 27-28	All Weekend	Snow Outing
April 5	6:30-9:00	Rescue (Oxbow Rec. Center)
April 10-11	All Weekend	Rescue Techniques and Scenarios at Mt. Erie
April 26	6:30-9:00	Leading Rock (Oxbow Rec. Center)
May 1-2	All Weekend	Rock Climbing at Smith Rocks
May 17	6:30-9:00	Advanced Rock (Oxbow Rec. Center)
May 22-23	All Weekend	Multiple Pitch Leading at Squamish
June 7	6:30-9:00	Alpine Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
June 12-13	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #1
June 21	6:30-9:00	Safe Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
June 26-27	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #2
July 12	6:30-9:00	Group Dynamics/Leadership (Oxbow Rec. Center)
July 17-18	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #3
July 26	6:30-9:00	Ice Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
July 31-Aug. 1	All Weekend	Ice Climbing Practical
August 9	6:30-9:00	Expedition Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
August 14-15	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #4
August 23	6:30-9:00	Student Presentations (Oxbow Rec. Center)
August 28-29	All Weekend	Graduation Climb
September 13	6:30-9:00	Wrap-up Class (Oxbow Rec. Center)

Boealps Aid Climbing Seminar

The aid climbing seminar is being offered again to torment the souls of free climbers everywhere. Come and be seduced by the evil joys of the Black Art of aid climbing. Stand in etriers! Bounce test dubious nut placements! Hang from manky bat hooks! Horrify your friends and family! Take part in an activity that is sure to discourage even the most tenacious free climber! Ken Johnson will not be able to teach this year, so I (Tom Rogers) and Brad Walker (Brad a veteran of many Big Walls) will be helping to spread this wonderful forgotten art of climbing. On a more serious note, the workshop will cover aid techniques and equipment. Advanced nut placements, testing, hanging belays, hauling, cleaning, and following will be covered. These skills can be added to your 'bag of tricks' and will increase your ability to place clean protection.

There will be an **evening seminar** on one weekday evening during **Feb 9 or 10th**. (Oxbow Recreation Center) and the workshop will be at **Index on February 13th**. Participants must have had exposure to setting up anchors and fifth class rock climbing. To register, or ask questions, call
Tom Rogers
Phone: 253-773-8517
E-mail: thomas.a.rogers@boeing.com
Please contact me ASAP

Winter Climbing Skills Seminar

When: Saturday, February 6, 1999
Where: Near Snoqualmie Summit
How Long: All day or until hypothermia sets in

Come out for a day of learning and/or practicing your winter climbing skills. The topics discussed will include:

- Learn to build snow anchors
- Learn about belaying on snow
- Practice running belays
- Rope handling
- Review self-belay and self-arrest techniques

This skill seminar is open to Basic graduates or equivalent. We will be doing some snow travel so snowshoes in good working order will be required.

Contact for enrollment or for more information:

Dave Stephens
david.a.stephens@boeing.com
w (425)477-3912
h (425)774-1396

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

January

This month's meeting was held at Tom Rogers house. Those in attendance included: Elaine Worden, Len Kannapell, Chris Rudesill, Tom Rogers, Ed Alejandro, Rob Kunz, Rich Baldwin, and Tom Yocum.

The meeting opened with a status update on the preparations for the 1999 basic and intermediate classes. A few issues, such as the number of instructors required, and the number of students admitted, will remain open until all the completed applications have been received. Based upon the first batch of applications already trickling in, this years classes will educate a new legion of climbers on the safety skills necessary for responsible year-round climbing.

The membership renewals are also flowing in on a regular basis. The February issue of the ECHO will be the last one sent to members who do not re-new their membership.

The winter snow skills seminar is still scheduled for February 6.

There will be an aid climbing seminar at Index on February 13.

Due to the finical difficulties that exist through out The Boeing Company, the Recreation Unit reduced our funding by \$1000, we had requested \$2500 and have been allocated \$1500. Our budget will have to be re-adjusted to reflect this drop in cash flow. Since the club has not raised it's dues in 6 years, one way proposed to help accentuate the clubs revenues is to increase the annual membership dues slightly. Compared to the other Boeing sponsored clubs, BOEALPS has one of the lowest membership dues and offers tremendous amenities.

The next board meeting will be February 9.

Best quotes of 1998 from the Usenet newsgroup rec.climbing:

"I climb as hard as anyone on earth. I just do it on easier routes" - Jeff McCoy

"Profanity is the best pro you'll get until the crack starts to narrow. Include doubles of profanity in the #6 to #8 range on your rack for this lead" - Bruce Bindner

"How do you distinguish between being off-route and putting up a first ascent?" - Bruce Bindner

"Any good rope will last you a lifetime - which might not be as long as you wish" -- Stefan Axelsson

"The climb has been tainted for me, and I wish I could have done better. If I'd fallen and broken an ankle, the answer would have been easy; I went over the line. But instead, I pulled on a piece, and I'll never quite know where that line was, or how close I was to it." - Tom Dunwiddie

Questioning the Fee Demonstration Program

by Frank Sommers

Are wilderness user fees a fair method of directing funds to the agencies that provide access to wilderness areas, or are we being again charged for use of facilities and access to areas that our taxes have already paid for? An article entitled "Should we pay to play?" in the February issue of Climbing explores this question as well as raising some alarming questions about the privatization of public wilderness recreation areas.

The Fee Demonstration Program was enacted by congress a couple of years ago. Officially, this program was designed to help "raise operational revenue to run visitor centers, maintain decaying trails, repair over-used areas, provide adequate waste disposal, and hire more seasonal personnel". While not necessarily happy about them, this explanation sounds reasonable enough and the majority of people are willing to pay these fees. The article provides several examples of how this plan may sound more fair and reasonable than it actually is.

"At Mount Saint Helens national Volcanic Monument, \$176 million was spent on a new highway leading to three new visitor centers, grand structures that siphoned an additional \$50 million of taxpayer's funds. Monument visitors pay nothing to drive the new highway and \$8 for a three-day pass into the heavily staffed visitor centers. But scaling the mountain (which relies on a gravel road, a trail , and a pit toilet) costs visitors \$15 per day...".

In another example, "The Forest Service announced in June of 1997 losses of \$89 million in their timber-sales program, because the financial sheets have finally started accounting for the roads the Forest Service builds for private logging companies. Money that one arm of the government squanders, the other steals back by imposing taxes on users like us".

The article goes on to summarize some of the content of the Wild Wilderness (www.wildwilderness.org) website. If you are not already angry about having to pay these fees and the way our public wilderness areas are being managed, then prepare to be. This site is well laid out and appears to be well researched and is worth a visit.

Online Climbing Resources

Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center (with detailed mountain weather forecast):
<http://www.nwac.noaa.gov/>

Washington Trails Association (check out the "Freshest Reports" link on the left hand menu):
<http://www.wta.org/wta>

Washington State Department of Transportation pass reports (with cameras!):
<http://traffic.wsdot.wa.gov/sno-info/>

Favorite Trips of 1998

Thanks to everyone who sent in a trip report! I didn't get as many responses as I was hoping for (and will be happy to run more in the next issue if others of you would like to submit a short description of your favorite outing from last year), but those I did were great!

From Ken Hopping:

JULY We began our summer backpacking marathon with a 4 day trip to Spider Meadow in the Wenatchee National Forest. Our objective on the second day was Mt. Maude, a challenging scramble with 5400 feet of elevation gain. The final approach to the summit looked difficult with snow cornices and cliff bands guarding the route. Another party of two men turned around at this point saying they were "tired", even though they had started at the high camp in Leroy Basin, 2000 feet above Spider Meadow. Although they had lots of fancy climbing equipment, it was all just for show.

Genuine trail commandos are not easily intimidated so we decided to continue our climb. We managed to find a route through the cliff band that was not visible from a distance. Once we gained the upper ridge, the rest of the climb was easy! Views from the 9082 foot summit were grand. On the way down I suggested a short-cut to save time. We started down a gully that appeared fine from above, but became much steeper and narrower as we descended. It gradually changed into a class 3 route with significant rockfall hazard. We got far enough down that it became difficult to back off. Everyone kept their nerve and we squeaked through without incident. Needless to say, my route finding ability is no longer held in high regard. A standing joke on our hikes is to suggest a "short-cut" wherever there is an obvious cliff or other terrain hazard.

The Mt. Maude climb took 12.5 hours round trip, but the next morning we were off at 8 AM on a hike to Spider Gap. From there we had outstanding views of Lyman Lakes. Continuing along the ridge, we arrived at an overlook above Hart Lake. To the North was massive Bonanza Peak, highest of the 9000 ft. summits in Washington. With such fine scenery, it was sad to see our visit to Spider Meadow come to an end. The next day, on our trip back to the trailhead, we made a quick dash up to the summit of Carne Mountain. Snow had just cleared from the high basin and lots of anemones were blooming. From the summit we could see Buck Mountain, with Glacier Peak looming in the distance. Far up the valley was Spider Meadow, truly one of the finest camping spots in the state.

From Beth Sundquist:

I had several great outings in 1998 including the Mt. Persis climb that Matt Robertson wrote up, a fun trek to the top of Mailbox peak on a day full of wild weather changes, and a super summer rock climb of Liberty Bell which unbelievably we did without seeing

a soul, but, I'd have to say that my favorite outing was a long, leisurely weekend backpacking from Lake Ozette to the Point of Arches on the Olympic Coast.

The hike begins at Lake Ozette in Olympic National Park. Take the northern arm of the Ozette triangle and turn northward at Cape Alava. Hike the beach a few miles and ford the Ozette river (preferably at low tide). (Note: you do not need to reserve a hiking permit if you camp at least one mile north of the Ozette river which I recommend anyway to avoid the over abundance of raccoons in the Ozette triangle.) Continue along the beach to Seafield Creek (the best camping spot and source of fresh water most of the summer). We stayed at Seafield Creek two nights and day hiked to Point of Arches and over to Shi Shi beach. I don't know if I'd want to take a very heavy pack over the headlands required to get to Shi Shi beach. Anyway, in my opinion Shi Shi is not worth an over night stay. I found it to be too crowded.

My favorite part of this outing was not the fact that the entire hike entailed little more than 100 feet of elevation gain, rather it was the solitude and beauty of the surf and the sea stacks and the unique wildlife such as the group of sea otters bobbing in a kelp filled cove, eating breakfast in the early morning mist. It was one of the most relaxing backpack trips I've ever taken. Hiking in this terrain has some unique problems not normally encountered in the mountains such as tides and some benefits as well such as beach bon fires. I highly recommend this hike even though your ropes, helmet, and ice ax will be left at home.

From Kurt and Diane Nelson:

My favorite outing for 1998? Black Peak - Wow! Diane and I went in mid/late September when the larches were just starting to turn. We had absolutely fantastic weather the whole weekend. Found a beautiful little knoll by Wing Lake that allowed us a tent door view of the entire NE Cascades at sunset. Then up the gully out of Wing Lake to the South ridge first thing the next morning. Coming over that ridge hits you smack in the face with the rest of the Cascades, with Mt Goode staring you down from across the valley. Heading up the gullies for the summit is not necessarily as fun with the loose rock and all (helmets might have been nice) but is nothing too strenuous or difficult, and the views from the top are all worth it! Wow! That's about all I can say to sum it up.

From Len Kannapell:

Mt. Olympus, July 12, 1998 - It was a dark and stormy night. And morning. And afternoon. One really couldn't be too sure if it really was one or the other or the other, as our sextants were useless in the surprisingly inclement weather of the Olympic Range. If there was a sun, it had been banished like Orpheus to the Netherworld.

One could place cotton balls inside one's glacier goggles to experience vicariously our stunning views of the Snow Dome and the majestic West Peak itself. As we trudged up the alternate route to the West Peak (via Crystal Pass), I came to the stunning realization that it was truly stupid to be here. Stevie Wonder could have done just as well navigating in this blissless environment, I figured.

The temptation to turn around and work the New York Times crossword puzzle in the alluring confines of a sodden tent and slightly damp down bag was almost overwhelming - and a quick call for a helicopter rescue to save the 18-mile trudge back to civilization was certainly imminent ("Yes, I'm stuck at Glacier Meadows in the rain, and my espresso maker is no longer functioning, so...").

But we suffered fools gladly, or we gladly suffered foolishly, whatever. And somewhere that afternoon near 3 pm, before the final summit massif, around 7,700', in the midst of the wind and wild whiteout, Vera Trainer and I got engaged. And somehow, it was truly all worth the experience, though I think she expected me to carry her and her backpack down after the modest proposal.

Be it duly noted that Mr. Richard T. "Extreme" Privett, bearer of remarkably consistent horrid weather and cousin to El Nino, was on this trip, perhaps accounting for the inclement conditions.

From Matt Robertson:

In March I lead a trip up Mt. Persis - I don't think I've ever been in the mountains on a more beautiful day! There had been a couple of feet of new snowfall since the last time anyone had headed up for the summit, and once above tree line we were putting fresh tracks into two feet of honest powder snow, with a marvelously solid base underneath. The skies were blue and cloudless, the trees looked like they had a heavy coating of vanilla frosting applied to them, and the lack of any wind made the summit a very pleasant place to sit and look out at the world. The skyline of both Seattle and Bellevue were visible to the southwest, while mountain peaks surrounded us in all other directions. Most impressive, of course, was our neighbor Mt. Index. We had a spectacular view of the stunning north face of this peak. Although we were planning on attempted traverse over to Mt. Index, some logistical errors early on in the day made it obvious this wasn't going to happen, so we just relaxed in the sun on the summit, with plenty of time to spare, and eventually enjoyed some fun cornice jumping on a leisurely trip back to the cars. (For a full trip report and pictures, go to <http://home1.gte.net/mandm/persis.html>)

Note: Due to illegal dumping, the logging road (# 62) leaving Highway 2 for the Mt. Persis trailhead has been gated and permanently locked. This will add about 4 miles of hiking or mountain biking each way to this climb.

Mt. Thompson, West Ridge, August 26-27, 1998

Climbers: Marv Perrin Sr. and Marv Perring Jr.

As dad and I were making the final gear check, I found myself counting cars in the Commonwealth Creek parking lot. Wondering where the other hikers/climbers might be heading, I selfishly hoped none were going to Mt. Thompson, as we were.

Thinking back two months earlier, we had set out for this same destination. Armed with the latest route information from the Cle Elum ranger station, we set out at noon under cloudy skies. Surprised by the snow accumulation at 4600 feet, I began questioning the info I had received just the day before: "Snow ½ mile from Kendall Katwalk, might want ice axe to climb Bumble Bee Pass..." Three miles before the Katwalk we lost all signs of the trail. Donning our crampons, we continued traversing the 30°-45° snow covered slopes below Kendall Ridge. As the afternoon wore on, it became apparent hopes of completing the climb in two days were gone. A mere ¼ mile from the Katwalk we dug a platform into the snow covered ridge leading up to Kendall Peak. We spent the remaining daylight hours reminiscing of outings gone by.

Now it is August and we are approaching Ridge and Gravel Lakes, thrilled to see the top of Mt. Thompson protruding above the ridge that separates us. With the trail void of snow, we arrived at the lakes in a leisurely four hours. Looking forward to trying out my new Pür water filter for the first time, I hurried down to Ridge Lake. After years of simply treating water with iodine we were skeptical if it was really necessary, but since we carried only one full water bottle each on the approach instead of the usual two, the 11 ounce filter saved us a total of 64 ounces of weight.

Continuing the last ½ mile to Bumble Bee Pass, we scrambled up to the top, pausing to admire the unobstructed view of our "Annapurna." By 6:00 p.m. we had our camp set up in the SE corner of the basin looking down over Edds Lake.

Settling in for dinner of muffins and beef jerky, I recounted foggy details of the first time I climbed Mt. Thompson. It was with Steve Kness and Dave Stephens in 1995 during the intermediate class. Remembering how we had gotten off route and had to climb the "Tom Rogers" gully, even after detailed warnings, I was determined not to repeat the same mistake.

The next morning, lying awake in our bivy sacks, we watched the sun slowly fill the basin. After a breakfast of muffins and water, we broke camp. Soon after, we stopped to fill our water bottles, including our second, which we had carried in empty. Discovering another plus to water purifiers, we easily filled the bottles from a small puddle fed by the last trickle of snow melt.

We picked out way across the scree covered southern slope, choosing to ascend to the west ridge via the second notch left of the base, the first looking far too dirty and loose. Once at the base, we prepared our gear and started up, climbing a chimney on the northern side. Working my way past the first and second, ledges, I finished the first pitch using a scruffy pine as an anchor, fifteen feet above the ledge leading to the "Tom Rogers" gully. Continuing, we followed another chimney straight up the west ridge. The second pitch lead us across the top of the "Great Slab" as described by Fred Beckey. Having to stretch the rope to reach a lone pine, I set up an anchor straddling the top edge of the slab. A short scramble further placed us at the base of the next pitch. Enjoying the moderate exposure to the north and south, we started the third pitch, climbing the ridge for 50 feet before reaching a ledge. Following the ledge to the north, we ended the pitch at 2/3 of a rope length due to rope drag caused by the 90° turn up the ledge. At the upper end of this ledge, we traveled around a corner to the east and scrambled up a gully, placing us at the large final notch. Beginning our pitch, we stepped out to the north side of the ridge once again to access the final gully to the summit. After climbing the loosest pitch of the route, we found ourselves on top of Mt. Thompson. Looking around through the afternoon haze we could see countless peaks: Rainier and Adams to the south; Baker

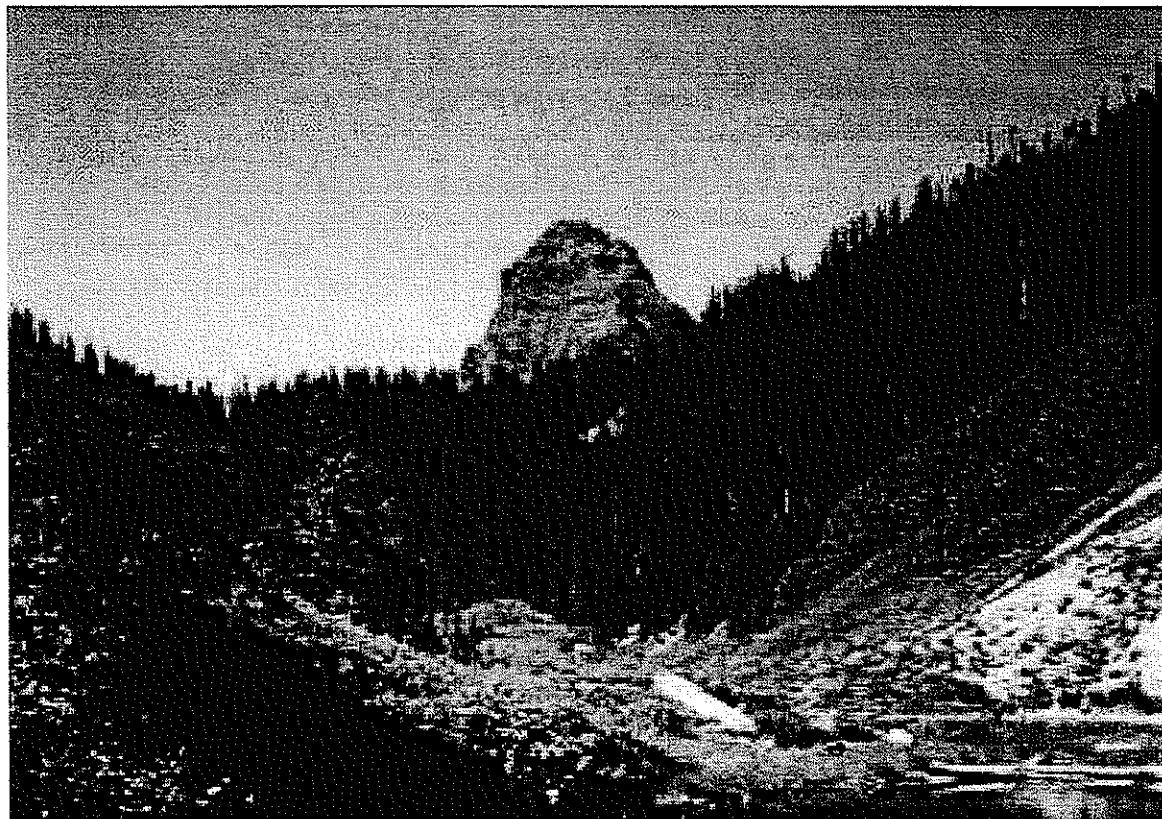
and Glacier Peak to the north; Stuart and Chikamin Peak to the east; Kendall, Lundin and Snoqualmie to the west. Many we had climbed.

Enjoying the view, I felt pleased. The entire outing had gone as planned, the weather was mild, the rock was good, the company was great, and, with the exception of the summit, the entire trip was void of bugs. The only thing missing was the ice packed "summit beer" dad usually carried on so many other trips, Mt. Rainier included! Due to the ever vigilant quest to save weight, it had been left behind along with the other 10 essentials. It would have to wait for our return.

Knowing we would run out of daylight sooner than we would like, we prepared to descend the east ridge. Trading rock shoes for boots, we started back to base camp. Making the mistake of veering too far south off of the ridge, we opted for a few rappels and worked our way back northeast to get back on route. The descent being longer, dustier and far looser than I remembered, it was a relief to arrive at camp two hours later. Noticing I had blown the rubber welts loose on both boots, I was glad for the dry weather.

Knowing our two day reprieve was coming to an end, we hesitantly started the 8 ½ mile trek back to the truck. With the various water breaks, boot adjustments and such, we arrived at the parking lot an hour after dark, with our head lamps blazing the way.

As I write this, it amazes me that four months have already passed. Our plans that will take us to Glacier Peak this summer seem and eternity away. In the mean time, I have many more fond memories to add to my collection. I can only hope I too will be able to stand atop these same peaks with my son 30 years from now as my father has with me. Thanks, dad!



East ridge of Mt. Thompson from Joe Lake
(Photo by Tom Mallard)

An avalanche on Mailbox Peak

by Steve Fox

The event

On Christmas Eve 1998, our group of four (me, "A", "B", and "C") and a 30 lb. puppy met to climb Mt. Catherine on Snoqualmie Pass. After a tricky drive down from Everett on icy and snowy roads, we revised our plan to Mailbox Peak (exit 34, I-90, 4800'). The weather was warming up a bit from several days of temperatures in the 20's, but was slightly below freezing. Several inches of snow were at the trailhead (el. 1000') and we started off in the usual good spirits.

The steep hike went fairly well, except for a strong wind at times. At 2500' it started raining or dropping sloppy glop from the trees, but by 3000' there was only a very light snowfall. Much of the trail was protected from the winds. Eventually we broke out of the trees and slogged up in sometimes deep powder, sometimes nearly bare crust, to the base of the boulder field. Here the wind was howling. We tried climbing up it for a way, but decided it was too deep and windy for the dog, and headed to the left to go through the trees. Eventually the trees gave way to an open slope (about 30°), which had deep wind-blown powder on it. C decided to turn around here with the pup, and started descending to a big tree to wait. With me in the lead, A and B followed.

Not more than a few steps up the slope, I saw a small flow of snow coming down the slope. Within a second, the entire width of the slope was avalanching towards us. It didn't look too deep, and my first thought was "oh, there's a small avalanche." Nonetheless, I yelled "AVALANCHE!". Not worried in the slightest, I turned and said "RUN!". I had no idea which way to run -- we were 30-50' from the trees, and much farther from the sides of the slope. However, I had no concern as I thought the fine powder would just wash around our legs.

Suddenly I found myself head first sliding downhill, totally out of control. I could see nothing, but may have closed my eyes. I don't recall if I was on my back or chest. The sensation of speed was really disturbing, and I remembered the trees we had just left. All I could think was "I'm going to hit a tree head first and get really hurt." I slid down for what seemed like an eternity, but never hit anything. I remembered about halfway down that you should 'swim' to keep afloat. There was no way to do that as I was totally out of control. I knew I was going to get buried next. Sure enough, I came to a stop with my mouth full of snow.

The panic set in -- I couldn't breathe properly. I was on my back, with my head down hill. My throat was partially full of snow. My legs could barely move, nor my arms. I choked out "HELP!", and my throat burned with a small amount of bile. It was all I could do to yell once or twice with all the snow in my mouth. "HELP ME!" ... I heard C frantically saying B was buried. "Hey, I'm buried too," I thought, as I could not move my feet, and barely move my hands. I was trapped by the pack straps and I was choking. I didn't know if my head was above the snow or not, and didn't know if another avalanche would do me in for good. At least I hadn't hit a tree. I tried to calm down to save oxygen. But I also started a mighty struggle to get free my legs and arms.

After hearing the initial "AVALANCHE" yell, C (who was near the bottom of the slope) grabbed the dog and tried to get behind a nearby tree. But the flow knocked C down and the two rolled at least three times in the flow. Somehow, C wasn't buried much and quickly squirmed out, perhaps with some help from the dog.

C yelled for all of us, but didn't hear any response back. Frantically, C raced around and saw B's feet sticking out of the snow, but nothing else was showing. C immediately started pawing at the snow in a desperate attempt to extricate B. She could hear him moaning. C had no idea where A was, but saw me face up in the snow and figured I was going to be up and helping at any moment. It looked futile to get B out of there by herself, and then she heard me yell "HELP!".

C had to make a tough choice: keep digging out someone in obvious trouble, or help me. Two can dig quicker than one, and I was yelling for help, so, anxious to make meaningful progress, C stomped through the deep snow to help me. C frantically cleared my face, while in a near-panic saying B was buried.

Somehow I heard A shout out she was fine for the moment, but stuck. I knew that I had a shovel on my backpack, but could barely talk yet. "Get me out of here -- my legs!", I somehow demanded and C pawed the snow off my legs, but in doing so was piling snow back on my face. That really scared me, but I couldn't yell due to the snow choking me. (A week later, this seems comical.) I quickly figured it was uncomfortable, but not threatening. C was already drained from trying to free B, and some panic had set in . But in short order, one leg was freed up, and I used it to help scrape snow off the other leg. I knew that I had to get my shovel out very quickly, as I knew B only had 15 minutes before he was in major trouble.

My pack was holding me down, and I couldn't get free. C's hands were very cold, and had a really tough time finding my waist belt clip, then finally unclipping it. C unbuckled the chest strap, and loosened the shoulder straps as much as possible, but I was still caught. I lurched upwards mightily, worrying about the time elapsing, but it didn't work. My straps held me in really strongly. Somehow, C and I freed up my left elbow and I finally wriggled out. I could only guess it took 3-5 minutes from the time the avalanche stopped until now. Whew, I'm OUT!

Now to get to action -- I can help at last! I quickly got my pack and fumbled for what seemed like a long time to disconnect my shovel, get it free, and connect it back together. I could hear B groaning. I dug like crazy with the shovel. I remember at one point C stopped helping, and I yelled "DON'T STOP!", not realizing her backpack was restricting the digging. She quickly removed her pack and resumed pawing away snow. In a few minutes we freed an area around his face and one hand. His body was against a 4 inch tree, and seemed bent backwards. Was he badly injured? I kept digging while C cleared the snow better around his face, so he could breathe. The moaning had stopped, and he wasn't moving.

During the avalanche, A started running too. Immediately she was knocked down and found herself zooming downhill headfirst, on her chest. All she could see was snow all around here. She worried about hitting a tree also. Sure enough, she hit several branches and sticks in the snow, and perhaps some small trees too. But somehow she didn't get hurt really badly. She ended up with her head well out of the snow, both legs spread wide at a funny angle and twisted, and one arm deep into the snow. Those three limbs were totally stuck as the snow hardened like concrete around here. Her one free hand had the mitten and ski pole ripped off during the avalanche. She tried to scoop the snow away from a leg as we worked on B, but made little progress. Her hand was so cold she put it in her jacket to warm up. Nonetheless, she was strangely calm and relaxed about the whole thing. The puppy wandered up there and A was hopelessly licked with little means to defend herself (had to put in a little comic relief!)

Meanwhile, poor B had also been knocked down. He never lost his poles. He slid down in the terrible jumble of snow and ended up immobile except for his two feet, which he claims to have wiggled continuously. The snow was like concrete for him, too, and he was sealed in a frozen tomb. He figured that his end had come, said his prayers and prepared to die. He tried hard to arch his back, but could not budge at all, and passed out due to lack of oxygen.

I kept urgently digging out B's pack (he was face down) and around his body and legs, while asking "can you move your hand?" There was no response. He didn't move. I don't recall if it seemed like he was breathing or not. C kept freeing snow from around his face. Suddenly, his hand moved, and we knew he was alive. We were both freeing up the area around his head, and I had set down the shovel. Oh no! Where's the shovel?! B's still under too much... I thought our pawing had buried the shovel. I pawed away frantically trying to find it, but to no avail. Did it slip... no... how could it slide, as I had set it down carefully! It MUST be under this snow. Somehow, I looked around in my first real panic of the event. There it was, downhill 30 feet! I raced down to get it, raced back up and continued the frantic digging. He was a good 3' under and I

had cleared away quite a wall upslope. Would it collapse on him? Hurry! It is impossible to describe the urgency, the panic, the helpless feeling...

Finally we freed him. Whew! He's moving at least... and he revived very quickly. We got his pack off and helped him up. I was really worried he had injured his back. C had him sit quietly in a safe place while I raced up to extract A with the shovel. She had three limbs buried, only one hand free. Her leg was twisted badly and she had a bruise, but extracting her wasn't too hard with the shovel. Fortunately, she never felt particularly in danger during the entire event.

We all grouped behind a large tree to catch our wits. I asked if anyone was cold. No, all were fine. A had a twisted knee and walked with some difficulty, but B seemed fine. All I could think was "we gotta get outta here," and after checking that all were OK and doing a bit of consoling to some pretty shaken-up folks, we went back to retrieve some stuff from the snow pile. B really wanted his poles, and we found both. I bent one of them taking it out. (It finally broke part way down the trail.) My ice ax and half-size ski pole were missing, as well as both of A's poles and her missing mitten/wind cover.

We started down the hill, staying in the trees. At one point, we got to a small open slope but decided not to go that way. There were some small cracks in the snow, and even though it was probably safe, we took the conservative route. I finally decided to put a stretch bandage around A's knee and we gave her two poles and the snowshoes. It was a long trip down, with A having to slide down the slushy, slippery, rooted trail in many sections. We had to put on headlamps part way down. I kept urging the team to keep moving as I worried the event would suddenly "set in" and somebody would freak out. We just wanted to be home... and hours later, after dark, everybody was home, safe and sound.

Analysis

The avalanche report:

Note: The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center is an excellent resource: <http://www.nwac.noaa.gov/>

I had read the previous day's avalanche report before we left, which sounded somewhat OK below 5000'. However, when I got home, the current day's report wasn't as good (I've only included relevant paragraphs):

0900 AM PST Thursday, December 24, 1998

ZONE AVALANCHE FORECASTS..... WASHINGTON CASCADES. . . . OLYMPICS. . . .

Increasing avalanche danger Thursday becoming high above 5000 feet and considerable below by afternoon. Avalanche danger remaining high above 5000 feet and considerable below through early Christmas Day, gradually decreasing. Further increasing danger later Christmas remaining high above 4 to 5000 feet and considerable below through Friday night.

SNOWPACK ANALYSIS.....

Increasing snow early Thursday and increasing ridgeline winds have deposited some 4 to 6 inches of new snow over most areas by Thursday morning. This new snow has fallen on either weak recrystallized snow, small surface hoar, intact stellar crystals or a smooth and hard crust. In an case, the new snow is now loading the underlying weak snow or is weakly bonded to the crust, causing widespread but relatively small natural avalanches, mainly above about 5000 feet where stronger winds are present. While these slab avalanches may be relatively shallow and break up quickly, backcountry travelers should avoid steep open slopes, especially above terrain traps such as cliffs, rocks or trees. In most areas the smooth hard near surface crust, now buried some 4 to 10 inches below the surface, should provide a slick sliding surface for avalanches to release on. On steeper slopes, it may be extremely

difficult to arrest a fall or stop if caught in a small slide. It should be noted that the recent cold temperatures and the very strong temperature gradient in the upper snowpack has continued to cause recrystallization or faceting of the snow layers near or just above the crust. This process has also been gradually weakening the crust itself, mainly at higher elevations where the crust was thinner. Recent snowpit data over the past two days has confirmed this, indicating that weak lower density snow exists to near a foot below the crust. This structure should cause a significantly increasing danger when loaded with wind deposited snow or higher density snowfall expected over the next few days. Avalanches which begin sliding on the crust may break below the crust and entrain significant weak snow below, resulting in more substantially dangerous avalanches. Backcountry travelers should use extreme caution, especially in areas receiving more significant new snow and wind transported snow. The greatest danger is expected to develop on mainly northeast through east facing slopes along the west slopes.

Lessons learned

Avalanches are not theoretical things that you read about in climbing books. A peak as "mundane" as Mailbox Peak can be a killer. According to Freedom of the Hills, when in an avalanche, you should locate and extract the victim quickly. A person located within 15 minutes has a 90% chance of survival. C made the right choice in extracting me first, even though B was clearly in much more trouble. Two can dig faster. She needed the moral support of a second person too, as would anybody, in such a desperate situation

We should have checked B for breathing and pulse, and extracted any snow from inside his mouth as soon as practical. I'm sure we would have if he had not started moving. We also should have checked B over carefully for any injuries he may not have noticed, and perhaps forced more clothes on him. We were concerned that we were in a bad place, and he did recover very quickly, both which made us think we didn't need to worry too much.

Survival tips in an avalanche include grabbing a rock or tree, digging in an ax or ski pole, swimming, making a breathing space, etc. From my experience, these are nice in theory, but you have no time to think. You just survive. I did think to swim, after sliding through half the avalanche path. By that time I was moving so fast, that I just mentally prepared for hitting a tree headfirst.

We did numerous things wrong:

- We did not recognize the wind-blown slabs.
- We did not recognize the classic slope angle that is highly susceptible to avalanche.
- We did not recognize the warming weather, even though it was raining below.
- We did not spread out, one at a time, on the open slope.
- Every party member should have snow shovels and avalanche probes.
- We should have had avalanche transceivers and the proper training and proficiency to use them.
- I had a case of "summit fever". We all should have turned around when the whole party was not able to continue. Mailbox Peak just isn't worth it!

I'm sure there are many others, but hopefully you get the idea.

We were incredibly lucky:

- One person was buried so slightly that she could help extract another quickly.
- We weren't all exactly together when the slab broke free.
- Nobody hit a tree really hard.
- B's leg was out of the snow, and was easy to find.
- The person with the one shovel wasn't buried too deeply.

We had a shovel! (We should have had more though!!)
I'm so glad that dog was there, otherwise all four of us may have been immobilized.

In summary, before the avalanche we ignored some basic warning signs. After the avalanche we performed closely to the way we were trained. While the event was a really close call, we all came out of it ok, except for some pretty nasty bruises that A received. We were damned lucky. I recommend that anyone considering going into this type of terrain take an avalanche course, pay attention to weather and avalanche reports and current conditions, and take proper equipment.

If you have comments or questions, please email me, sfox@eskimo.com

(Note: The full account of Steve's avalanche report, with pictures taken a week later, can be found at <http://www.eskimo.com/~sfox/SJF/HIKE/avalanch.htm>)

Here is where we dug out "B". Note how deep the wall of snow is, by comparing to the snow shovel.



BY - LAWS

BOEING EMPLOYEES' ALPINE SOCIETY

Article I - Name and Organization:

- Section 1. The organization shall be known as the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society, and by the acronym BOEALPS.
- Section 2. The organization shall be a non-profit corporation under laws of the State of Washington, Article of Incorporation file number 601-645-960, dated June 21, 1995, and any amendments thereto.

Article II - Officers:

- Section 1. The officers of the Boeing Employees' Alpine society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer.
- Section 2. President
- a. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings.
 - b. The President shall be chairman of the Board of Directors.
 - c. It shall be the President's privilege and duty to call extra business meetings, appoint committees not otherwise provided for and fill committee and pro tem vacancies.
 - d. The President shall perform such other duties as the office may require.
 - e. The President shall perform the duties of the Vice President in the latter's absence.
 - f. The President shall become immediate Past President upon the expiration of the term of office.
 - g. The President shall attend meetings of the Boeing Employees' Recreation Council as required by the council.
 - h. The President shall sign, with the Treasurer, contracts or bonds approved by the Board of Directors.
 - i. The President shall have the authority to sign checks issued by the corporation, when the treasurer is unavailable.

Article II - Officers: (Cont'd)

Section 3 Vice President

- a. The Vice President shall oversee and coordinate the efforts of all major and special committees.
- b. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and succeed to that office in case of emergency.
- c. The Vice President shall prepare, or review and approve prior to release, all news releases, meeting notices, posters and related material for club publicity and public relations.

Section 4. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all regular monthly and executive board meetings and shall read these at the next meeting or assure their publication in the monthly news letter.
- b. The Secretary shall provide a full copy of the By-Laws to the Recreation Unit and each member whenever amended. The Secretary shall provide copies of the By-laws or the Articles of Incorporation to members on request.
- c. The Secretary shall prepare official correspondence and club records and shall support other board members in this function when requested.
- d. The Secretary shall collect and maintain a file of official correspondence, publications and legal documents.

Section 5. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all financial transactions.
- b. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the corporation, receive and disburse all money, subject to the will of the Board of Directors.

Article II - Officers: (Cont'd)

Section 5. Treasurer (Cont'd)

- c. Disbursement shall be made by check only. A checking account will be set up and no check will be honored by the bank for payment unless signed by the Treasurer or the President.
- d. The Treasurer shall maintain accounts and render financial reports at each meeting of the organization and of the Board of Directors. All financial records shall meet specifications set by the Boeing Recreation Unit.
- e. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report to the Boeing Employees' Recreation Council as required by the council.
- f. The Treasurer shall see that an annual budget forecast is prepared and presented to the Boeing Employees' Recreation Council after approval by the Board of Directors.

Article III - Standing Committees:

Section 1. Membership Committee

- a. The Membership Committee shall provide information about the organization to prospective and new members.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.
- c. The committee shall see that each new member is introduced at the first meeting the member attends.
- d. The committee shall maintain an up-to-date roster of members and submit copies to the membership and the Recreation Unit at least annually.

Section 2. Activities Committee

- a. The Activities Committee shall promote and coordinate club activities. These shall include climbing, ski mountaineering, hiking, and other special activities as determined by the chairperson.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.

Article III - Standing Committees: (Cont'd)

Section 2. Activities Committee (Cont'd)

- c. The committee may, at their discretion, decline to promote activities.
- d. The committee shall solicit advance information and follow-up reports to the News Committee for publicity and news letters.

Section 3. Program Committee

- a. The Program Committee shall plan and schedule all regular and special meeting programs and shall assure that programs are properly publicized, coordinated and carried out.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.
- c. The committee shall prepare program schedules and shall provide this information to the News Committee as necessary for advance publicity.
- d. The committee shall handle all arrangements for guest speakers including transportation, projection equipment and compensation when appropriate.

Section 4. News Committee

- a. The News Committee shall prepare and distribute information for internal communication among club members.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.
- c. The committee shall publish and distribute, at least once each month, a news letter informing members of current club affairs.

Section 5. Equipment Committee

- a. The Equipment Committee shall be responsible for club owned equipment.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.

Article III - Standing Committees: (Cont'd)

Section 5. Equipment Committee (Cont'd)

- c. The committee will be responsible for maintaining an accurate inventory and the location of equipment so that members can easily make reservations for its use.
- d. The chairman shall make recommendations for the repair of existing equipment and new equipment acquisitions for approval by the Board of Directors, the Recreation Unit and the membership as required by Article IV., Section 2., Paragraph b., and Article IX., Section 2.
- e. The committee shall make the equipment inventory known to the membership at least annually through the club newsletter.

Section 6. Conservation Committee

- a. The Conservation Committee shall keep the club informed on conservation issues.
- b. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson.
- c. The committee shall prepare official statements on conservation issues for approval by the Board of Directors.
- d. The chairman or a delegate shall attend conservation hearings and events of importance and represent the views of the club with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Library Committee

- a. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson..
- b. The committee will make recommendations to the Executive Board for approval regarding books and periodicals acquisition.
- c. The committee shall make provision for filing, check-out and return of all properties acquired by the library.
- d. The committee will actively solicit the donation of material for the library.

Article III - Standing Committees: (Cont'd)

Section 7. Library Committee (Cont'd)

- e. The committee shall make the general contents of the library known to the membership at least annually through the club newsletter.

Section 8. Education Committee

- a. The committee shall consist of a chairperson and all volunteers accepted by the chairperson..
- b. The committee will coordinate the educational activities of the club, outside of the Basic and Intermediate Mountaineering Classes, provide an interface between the Board of Directors and the Basic and Intermediate Classes as necessary, and recruit seminar instructors and assist in advertising and organizing seminars as required.

Article IV - Board of Directors:

Section 1. Members

- a. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and immediate Past President shall be members of the Board of Directors.
- b. A Recreation Supervisor assigned by The Boeing Company shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors but shall have no voting privileges.

Section 2. Duties

- a. The members of the Board of Directors shall be the official Directors of the Corporation and shall have all the responsibility and authority provided by the Articles of Incorporation.
- b. The Board of Directors shall oversee all operating expenditures, promotion of activities, and the general government of the organization. Acquisition of any property, real, personal or interest therein in excess of \$500 per item shall be referred to the membership at a regular or special meeting.

Article IV - Board of Directors: (Cont'd)

Section 2. Duties (Cont'd)

- c. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once every three months. The date and time of meeting shall be set by the President.
- d. The Board of Directors shall approve appointments by the President to fill unexpired terms of officers.

Article V - Meetings:

- Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held once each month. Regular meetings may be canceled or re-scheduled by the Board of Directors provided members are notified at least one week in advance.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time as provided for in Article II., Section 2., Paragraph c.
- Section 3. All meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
- Section 4. A quorum shall be present at a special or regular meeting before official business or elections can be conducted.
 - a. For the Purpose of establishing a quorum, a family shall be considered as one member.
 - b. A quorum for regular or special meetings shall be fifteen (15) percent of the total membership or the average number of members attending the preceding two regular meetings, whichever is less.
 - c. A quorum for the Board of Directors meetings shall be fifty (50) percent of the total board membership.
- Section 5. A majority of the members voting at any regular or special meeting shall be required to pass on all motions except as stated in Article VI., Section 2., in Article VII., Section 3 and Article VIII., Section 6. For purposes of establishing this majority, a paid membership shall have one vote except as stated under Article VII., Section 1., Paragraph e.

Article VI - Amendments:

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by the distribution of the proposed amendment to all members in writing at least one week prior to the special or regular meeting of the organization at which the amendment is to be considered.
- Section 2. A two-thirds majority of the members voting shall be required to adopt an amendment. Any proposed amendment not adopted by a two-thirds majority at the meeting at which it is initially considered shall be considered at the next regular meeting, at which time it shall require a two-thirds majority vote to be adopted.
- Section 3. Written notice of the meeting shall be given at least one week prior to the meeting at which the amendment is voted upon.
- Section 4. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Recreation Unit for clearance before final consideration by the membership at a regular or special meeting.
- Section 5. Each time these By-Laws are amended, a copy shall be sent to each member and the Recreation Unit by the Secretary.

Article VII - Membership:

- Section 1. Membership shall be open to the following, without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin. All other proposed membership shall be subject to prior clearance through Recreation Unit.
- a. Boeing employees.
 - b. Retired Boeing employees.
 - c. Vendor, customer and military service representatives stationed at The Boeing Company who carry a permanent Boeing badge.
 - d. Spouse and dependent children of above members

Article VII - Membership: (Cont'd)

Section 1. (Cont'd)

- e. Other persons on the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society roster shall be termed "Friends of BOEALP'S." They shall be charged an annual fee covering expenses for the Newsletter, meetings, and other club activities. The "Friends of BOEALP'S" may enjoy all privileges extended to members except voting and holding a position as an elected officer in the club.
1. Candidates must be able to show they are a benefit to BOEALPS and The Boeing Company.
 2. Candidates must submit a written request to the board which explains why they wish to join the club and what they will do to benefit the club.
 3. The request must include an employee club member in good standing as a sponsor.
 4. After review by the elected board, the candidate may be elected in by majority vote.
 5. The BOEALPS club will submit a form to The Boeing Company Recreation Unit requesting the candidate be added to the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society roster under the title "Friends of BOEALP'S".

Section 2. Dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors. They shall be payable yearly on January 1 and shall be delinquent on March 1. One (1) dollar from each paid membership's dues shall be applied towards the principle of the Agriss Moruss fund.

Section 3. Members may be expelled from the organization for cause by the Board of Directors. Expulsion may be appealed to the general membership at a regular or special meeting, with a two-thirds vote of those in attendance required to reverse an expulsion.

Section 4. Persons who are eligible for membership but have not paid current membership dues may be considered guests for occasional meetings or activities. Frequent or regular attendance of club functions by such persons for a period of three months or more shall be considered evidence of interest in the club warranting notification by the Membership chairperson that current dues are payable. They shall not be eligible to participate in club functions or to enjoy benefits offered by the club after one month from such notice until dues are paid.

Article VIII - Elections:

- Section 1. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be filled by election at the first regular meeting in September. The new officers shall assume their duties at the first meeting in October.
- Section 2. Nominations for officers shall be taken at the August general meeting. Nominations from members attending the September meeting shall also be recognized and voted upon. Each nominee shall agree to serve if elected before that name may be submitted as a candidate for office.
- Section 3. To be eligible to hold the office of President, Vice President, or Treasurer, a person must be a Boeing employee and a member in good standing. To be eligible to hold the office of Secretary, a person must be either a Boeing employee or retiree and a member in good standing.
- Section 4. No member is eligible to hold more than one elective office at a time or to be retained in the same office more than one year consecutively.
- Section 5. Members may elect to cast their votes by a show of hands or by secret ballot.
- Section 6. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be considered elected.

Article IX - General provisions:

- Section 1. Property or equipment purchased by the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society with Boeing employees' Alpine Society funds shall not be considered the property of any individual member or group of members, but shall be known as Club Property.
- a. As Club Property, it shall be entrusted to the custodial care of the Equipment Chairperson as provided for in Article III.
 - b. In the event that the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society ceases to exist as a corporate body, Club Property shall revert to such Recreation Unit, to be handled in a suitable manner until further group interest and use is indicated.

Article IX - General provisions: (Cont'd)

Section 1. (Cont'd)

c. All equipment checked out and assigned to members by the Equipment Chairperson shall be the responsibility of the member regarding loss, negligent use, willful destruction, etc. Compensation for the foregoing will be subject to determination by the Board of Directors. Compensation shall not exceed replacement cost of an item at issue or cost of a comparable piece of equipment. The members will waive all legal rights whatsoever should the Board of Directors determine redress or compensation by the member is appropriate after a hearing of the facts. Any equipment transferred without the prior approval of the Equipment Chairperson will remain the responsibility of the last listed as in possession of the equipment..

Section 2. Acquisition of any property, real, or interest therein, in excess of \$500 per item, shall receive prior clearance through the Recreation Unit.

- a. Real property shall be defined as land or buildings.
- b. Interest therein property shall be defined as that property which is leased or rented.

Section 3. The fiscal year for the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive. All budgeting and financial accounting shall be rendered on this basis.

We, the undersigned, officers of the Boeing Employees' Alpine Society, a Washington non-profit corporation, do hereby certify: The foregoing By-Laws were adopted by the corporation on the 10th day of December, 1998.

Richard Baldwin

Richard Baldwin, President

Robert R. Kunz

Robert Kunz, Vice President

Edward Alejandro

Edward Alejandro, Treasurer

Thomas E. Yocum

Thomas Yocum, Secretary

Christopher Rudesill

Christopher Rudesill, Past-President

Dated 12-10-98

at Seattle, Washington

Jacob Davis

Jacob Davis
Recreation Advisor
The Boeing Company

12-10-98

Date



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

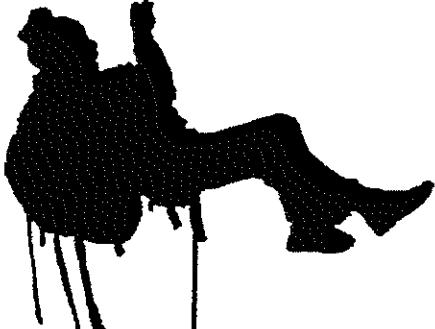
NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELAINE WORDEN, M/S 6H-CJ
OR: 1400 E. Mercer St. #4, Seattle, WA 98122
OR: elaine.worden@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



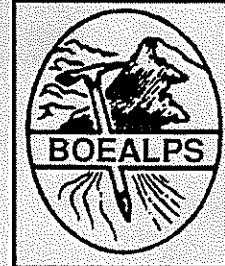
February ECHO staff

Editor: Matt Robertson
Production: Ilan Angwin
Activities/calendar report: Ilan Angwin
Trip Reports: Ken Hopping, Kurt Nelson,
Len Kannapell, Beth Sundquist,
Marv Perrin, Steve Fox
Minutes: Tom Yocum
Conservation Corner: Frank Sommers

Thanks everyone!

ALPINE ECHO

March 1999



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

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Secretary	Tom Yocum	425-342-9794 thomas.e.yocum@boeing.com	Librarian		Jeff Arnold	206-662-2772 jeffrey.j.arnold@boeing.com
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Photo: Crater Rock, Mt. Hood Descent by Mike Jacobsen

From Elaine Worden 6H-CJ

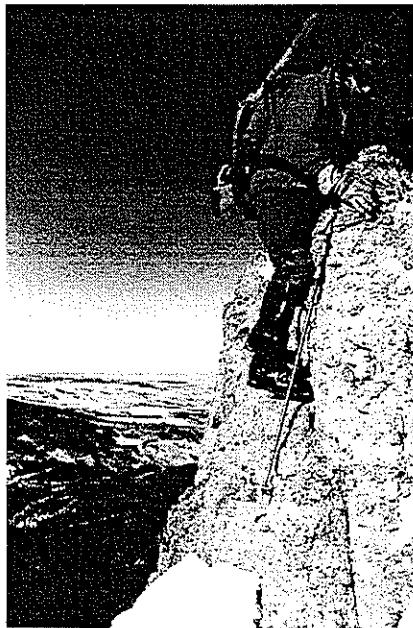


Photo by D. Sauer

♣ March ♣
 ♣ General ♣
 ♣ Meeting ♣
**Ski Mountaineering
by Carl Skoog**

**Thursday, March 4th
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm**



Photo by D. Sauer

BELAY STANCE

Huge snowpack generates extreme avalanche hazards...

Avalanches again take the forefront of this issue - with the incredible snowpack we've built this year, and the weather conditions that have generated it, we're looking at possibly the most dangerous avalanche conditions in 50 years. Unbelievably, at this time when we most need it, the funding for the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center (NWAC) (<http://www.nwac.noaa.gov/>) is again in danger of being eliminated. Please, even if you only get out in the mountains once a year, take some time and let your representatives know what an important service this agency provides, and at bargain basement prices to boot. I've included an article on the current and potential avalanche conditions in the Cascades and Olympics this year by Loren Foss, Education and Advocacy Manager of the Seattle Mountaineers, and an appeal for support for the NWAC, along with instructions on what you can easily do to make a difference by Brooke Drury, Recreation Resources Manager of the Seattle Mountaineers. Let's let our representatives know we're out here, and that the Seattle Mountaineers aren't the only organization that uses the Pacific Northwest backcountry and supports the NWAC! And, please, let's all be extra careful in our backcountry adventures this year - make sure you only read about the massive avalanches to come, and don't experience them first hand.

Basic class of 1999

The Basic class orientation was held on Wednesday, February 17. Unlike last year, when we had to turn away some prospective students to maintain an appropriate student to instructor ratio, this year we were able to accommodate all applicants. We have 66 students currently, and there'll probably be a few more trickling in before the actual start of the class on March 3rd. Shawn Paré will be taking his first stint as head instructor, and he thinks he has enough instructors, but he could always use a few extra volunteers - if you could help out with snacks at St. Edwards, making copies of hand out materials or correcting quizzes, or any other organizational tasks, please contact Shawn at shawn.m.pare@boeing.com or (425)342-7134.

Continuing education...

When asked about helping to instruct this year's class, one of the most common comments made was "I'd like to help instruct, but I haven't taken MOFA". If this describes you, do something about it! The MOFA class I took was the most worthwhile mountaineering course I've ever taken, and I feel very strongly that you owe it to your climbing partners to take the time to learn the skills necessary to possibly save their lives. To get on a waiting list, or to find out when the next MOFA classes are being offered, contact Kathy Hirabayashi at (425)814-5487 or khibachi@aol.com; or Joyce Holloway at (425)477-4393 or joyce.r.holloway@boeing.com. Don't wait until you need it!

Speaking of education, I recently received a catalog from the North Cascades Institute, based in Sedro-Woolley. Although I've never taken any of their courses, they seem to offer an interesting mix of history, natural history, geology, ethnobotany and artistic classes: *Wild Edibles & Traditional Uses of Native Plants*; *Geology of North Cascades National Park*; *Photographing Mountain Landscapes*; *Before the Highways: Railroad History of Stevens Pass and Waterfowl by Kayak* are just some examples. If any of these titles intrigue you, get in touch with North Cascades Institute and ask for a catalog - they're at 2105 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 or (360)856-5700, ext. 209. If anyone has actually taken any of their classes, and would be willing to share their experience with me, drop me a line at matt.robertson@boeing.com...

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still: It's needed when accessing the Activities or club roster sections of the web site.

SLESSE

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

APRIL ECHO DEADLINE IS MARCH 18th

March 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Basic Class lecture—Equipment	General Meeting—Oxbow		Club Outing—Mt. Angeles
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Intermediate Class lecture—Orientation		Basic Class lecture—Knots, Ropes, Belaying			Basic Class—St. Edwards Intermediate Class—Horsethief Buttes
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Basic Class—St. Edwards Intermediate Class—Horsethief Buttes			Basic Class lecture—Rock Climbing	April Echo Deadline		Basic Class—Climbing at Mt. Erie
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Basic Class—Climbing at Mt. Erie	Intermediate Class lecture—Snow Climbing		Basic Class lecture—Snow Climbing			Basic Class—Ice Axe Arrest Stevens Pass Intermediate Class—Snow outing
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Basic Class—Ice Axe Arrest Stevens Pass Intermediate Class—Snow outing			Basic Class lecture—Map and Compass			
28	29	30	31			

April 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Easter
					1	2
	Intermediate Class lecture— Rescue Techniques		Basic Class lecture			Basic Class— First Expereince Climb
4		5	6	7	8	Intermediate Class— Mt. Erie
Basic Class— First Expereince Climb			Basic Class lecture			
Intermediate Class— Mt. Erie						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Basic Class lecture			Basic Class—first overnighter
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Basic Class—first overnighter	Intermediate Class lecture— Leading Rock		Basic Class lecture			
25	26	27	28	29	30	

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Mt. Angeles

March 6

We will leave Friday night or Saturday morning, depending on the group, and climb on Saturday. Route 1 or 2 from the guide book to Olympic Mountaineering will be used.

Party Limit 12

Route Standard winter route from Hurricane Ridge

Equipment Snowshoes, shovel, and beacon

Experience Basic Class graduate or equivalent

Contact Ilan Angwin

(206) 547-4340 (h)

ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com

Mt. Washington (I-90)

March 7

We'll climb on to the north "ridge" as low as snow conditions allow, and follow the ridge to the top. Some steep snow travel will be encountered - trip is subject to avalanche conditions.

Party Limit 12

Route North ridge

Equipment Standard winter mountaineering gear

Experience Basic Class graduate or equivalent

Contact Matt Robertson

(425) 822-0455 (h), (425) 957-5691 (w)

matt.robertson@boeing.com

McClellan's Butte

March 27

The route follows the north avalanche chute. Very steep snow at the top by the summit block. For those who want a challenge - trip is subject to avalanche conditions

Party Limit 4

Route North Face

Equipment Harness, crampons, rope, second tool, and helmet.

Experience Basic Class graduate +, comfortable on steep snow and ice.

Contact Gail Verzani

(253) 931-2770

Gail.j.verzani@boeing.com

Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering

June 19 - 20

Depart Seattle area 6 AM Saturday, snow camp at 7,500 feet an climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills, actual date could move depending on road closures

Party Limit 12

Route South Spur

Equipment Telemark or Randenee skis, or snowboard

Experience Basic class graduate; intermediate skier

Contact Rob Kunz

(206) 655-7645

Robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin

206-547-4340 (h)

ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Thanks for everyone for submitting activities. Start thinking about those spring / early summer climbs and submit a activity.

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info:	Name: _____
	Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
	(____) _____ (Home)
	Email: _____
	M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
Ilan.g.angwin@boeing.com
Mail Stop: 06-03

BOEALPS Board Meeting Minutes

February, 1999

This month's meeting was initiated at Ed Alejandro's house, but broke early to be reconvened at Dino's. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett and Tom Yocum.

The Board voted unanimously to approve Sascha Dublin's request to join the club as a Friend of BOEALPS. Sascha took the Basic Mountaineering Class in 1996, and helped instruct the class in 1997, 1998, and plans to continue helping with the class in the future. In 1997, she organized and coordinated an Avalanche Safety Class which was taught by Gray Brill and predominantly attended by BOEALPS members. In the future, Sascha plans on becoming a certified instructor of Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) and helping teach a MOFA course for BOEALPS members. Sascha has proven to be an asset to BOEALPS, and we look forward to her continued participation in the club. Congratulations and welcome to 1999 BOEALPS!

The budget was reexamined to account for the reduced funding allocated to the club by The Boeing Company. See this issue of the ECHO for a questionnaire concerning allocations of the club's funds. **Please take the time to voice your opinion on what/where you would like to see our club money spent!**

Due to the recent layoff notices, a new sub-group is under development - this is Boeing so add another acronym to the list: BUCS (Boeing Unemployed Climbers Society). If you're going to have an abundance of free time and a paucity of funds in the near future, you had might as well spend them climbing! See their write up later in this issue...

The next board meeting will be on March 9th at Ed's. house.

Online Climbing Resources

http://www.americanalpineclub.org	American alpine Club
http://www.culturenet.ca/acc	Alpine Club of Canada
http://www.mountaineering.org	UIAA
http://www.mra.org	Mountain Rescue Association
http://www.outdoorlink.com/accessfund/index.html	The Access Fund
http://www.climbing.com	Climbing magazine
http://www.rockandice.com	Rock & Ice magazine
http://avalung.com/	Incredible new avalanche safety device - not available yet, but check it out!

2nd Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival

Voytek Kurtyka of Poland, one of the most accomplished high-altitude climbers presents his slide show *The Art of Suffering*, Thursday March 4, 1999, followed by a panel discussion on High Altitude Climbing. The Best of Vancouver's 1999 Mountain Film Fest: March 16, Paul Malon *Images from the Coast Mountain Ranges of British Columbia*; March 17, Andy Selters *Human Spirit, Mountain Spirit*. Both Film Fest evenings include selected films on mountain culture and mountain sports, and all three events will take place at The Mountaineers Club, 300 3rd Ave. For more information call (206)284-6310.

Budget Cuts

With these troubling economic times we are forced to make changes. Boeing is subsidizing the club less, costs have gone up, and dues have remained unchanged. The club cannot continue to provide the services, equipment, and events as we have done in the past with the current budget. We are going to have to make some changes. In order to meet our budget for this year we are going to have to make some spending cuts. For next year and future years, we will have to raise the membership dues in order to keep the budget balanced. I would like club members' input. Tell me how you would like to see your money spent. I have included some of the things that are big expenditures for the club. Please let us know what like and what changes we could make to improve your club.

Monthly Club Meeting

- Refreshments
- Speakers
- More money spent/less money spent?

Campouts

- Site Reservation
- Food for June Campout
- Food for July Picnic
- More money spent/less money spent?

Banquet

- Food
- Speaker
- Door Prizes
- More money spent/less money spent?

Equipment

- Do you like the selection?
- What you wish we had?
- What you could live without?
- More money spent/less money spent?

Library

- Do you like the selection?
- Would you like to see more money go in the library?
- Would you like to see more videos?
- More money spent/less money spent?

If I don't get input, then I'll assume that everyone likes the things as they are. If that is the case then we will probably increase the dues for future years to be able to continue running things as we currently are. Make your voice heard! Both good and bad would be appreciated. Please comment on these and any other items you would like to see. As the board we would like your assistance in running things.

President

Rich Baldwin

MS: 2M-14

richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Vera L. Trainer

Mt. Rainier Backcountry Fees

Mt. Rainier National Park officials have rescinded the backcountry fee program used last season. Beginning this summer, hikers can reserve their wilderness camps up to 60 days in advance for a flat fee of \$20. Only 60 percent of the campsites will be available for reservation, with the other 40 percent available up to 24 hours before a trip on a first-come, first served basis. There is no fee for day-of-hike campsite reservations. This advanced reservation program will be in effect June 1 through Sept. 30, 1999.

Snoqualmie Pass Skiing

The Summit at Snoqualmie (including the Summit and Alpental ski areas) is proposing to make changes to the existing downhill ski areas which will be implemented in the summer 2000. This "master development plan proposal" includes:

- Replacement and addition of chair and surface lifts
- Addition of a restaurant and a year-round gondola at Alpental
- Addition of ski terrain both inside and outside the current boundaries
- Expansion of night skiing at Alpental and Summit Central
- Expansion and addition of parking lots
- Renovation and replacement of day lodges and support facilities

In reviewing the development plan, it looks to me like the most substantial changes are:

ALPENTAL

- an increase in the amount of expert terrain
- addition of 2 quad chairs and a gondola
- an increase in the water demand per day

THE SUMMIT

- a reduction in the number of double and triple chair lifts
- an increase in quad, detachable quad chairs, and surface tows
- the addition of beginner and novice terrain with a reduction in advanced intermediate terrain
- an increase in water demand per day

This project will result in further disturbance of riparian reserves, wetlands, and old growth forest.

Comments should be mailed by mid-February to:

Forest Supervisor
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
21905 64th Ave. West
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-2278
Attn: Summit at Snoqualmie Master Plan

Questions? Contact Larry Donovan (425)744-3403 or ldonovan/r6pnw_mbs@fs.fed.us
Or contact Vera Trainer for a copy of the master plan.

1998-99 Extreme Avalanche Conditions Summary

by Loren Foss, Seattle Mountaineers

As the winter of '98-'99 passes the halfway point and approaches 2/3's term, a relentless pattern of weather gives an ominous warning for the days and months to come. My longtime relationship to Washington winters as a mountain guide and avalanche instructor has my antennas humming. Since I've lived here, beginning in 1959, I've never seen a long term avalanche hazard to equal the current situation in the Cascade and Olympic Mountains.

I want to report what makes this year so unusual, and dangerous, and offer a warning to travelers who venture into the Northwest backcountry away from highways and commercial ski areas. Brooke Drury, Seattle Mountaineer's Recreation Resources Manager, would like to add important and timely information about the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center.

Here are some important weather facts, noteworthy by themselves, alarming when combined:

- 1) LOTS of snow has fallen, early in the season and often. Mt. Baker reports 660" has fallen as of February 14.
- 2) There have been few periods of stabilization. I doubt that since November we've seen more than three days in a row without snowfall at the higher elevations. A record has been set for precipitation in the three month period from November - January.
- 3) There has been little warming or mountain rainfall to bring down the frequent, normal winter slides that tend to stabilize the snowpack. Washington far exceeds the Rockies in the average total number of slides per year, but it is those very slides, over time, that tend to decrease the long-term danger.
- 4) There is a lack of major sun or rain crusts in the snowpack, which tend to limit avalanching snow to the unstable layer/s on top of those lubricated crusts.
- 5) At Mt. Baker (and elsewhere) roughly 20 FEET of snow has fallen in the last two weeks alone. That's about 17 inches per day at Baker.
- 6) Powerful and frequent winds, stronger than normal, have accompanied these storms, forming thick and dense hard-slab snow conditions. These strongly bonded slabs of snow, typically formed on the lee slopes of the ranges (North & East facing) are brittle and do not easily stabilize like softer snows that creep slowly downslope. A catalyst in these locations will cause the huge slab avalanches that are unsurvivable.
- 7) No end in sight. Long-range forecasts predict more of the same.
- 8) As spring approaches, the sun is getting higher in the sky, days are longer, and the threat of rapid warming to both local snowpacks and the general landscape is greatly increased.
- 9) For unknown reasons, most likely a lack of knowledge, much of the media has failed to recognize the unique conditions this year and adequately warn mountain recreationists about the consequences.

This is just a quick summation. What does it portend? A worst case scenario would be the continuation of this pattern, without warm-up, for the next few weeks. If that is followed by rapid warming and either heavy rainfall or strong sunlight, we could see huge, massively destructive climax avalanches the like of which we haven't seen in a half century or more. The effects may be devastating. A climax avalanche is one which takes the entire snowpack down to bare ground. An entire winter's accumulation can come roaring down a mountainside, cross the intervening valley, and race up the opposite slope for hundreds of yards.

This scenario implies the good possibility of destruction to timber and other natural and human structures that have never before been hit by avalanches. Three-foot-diameter firs would be snapped off like matchsticks at the point of impact. Backcountry skiers and snowshoers could be knocked down by the windblast hundreds of yards from the slide itself.

Avalanche transceivers could actually prove a liability. Parties so equipped might venture forth with a false sense of security; believing that self-rescue was a possibility in places where the reality, this year, warns that bodies might not be recovered until June or July.

Even if it stops snowing or raining immediately, the hazard is far above normal. Slides will be bigger, faster, more destructive, and will exceed normal slide paths. On any length of slope over 20 degrees gradient you may be in harms way until midsummer. This prediction is based upon in-depth study and long personal experience.

What things can you do without having to cloister yourself in your home or workplace:

1) If leading a trip to the mountains, examine your destination and EVERY STEP OF THE ROUTE to see whether or not the terrain and conditions pose a threat. Be especially vigilant if the temperature rises significantly/suddenly by 4-10 degrees, if steady rain falls on the snowpack, or if bright sunlight shines directly on exposed slopes.

Avoid climbing or traversing suspect slopes or traveling along valley bottoms beneath such slopes. Ridge-tops are much safer; but watch out for huge cornices overhanging leeward sides.

Special dangers: 1) steep north, east or lee faces 2) south slopes at midday 3) warmer than usual weather.

2) If in any doubt, cancel the trip or reschedule your route or destination to a safer location with gentle, forested slopes and little snowpack. Still use good avalanche practice of never traveling alone, and spacing party members some distance apart in questionable spots.

3) Don't rely on avalanche transceivers to keep you from disaster. This isn't to imply you shouldn't carry and know how to use them.

4) If you are a member of a party led by someone you don't know or about whose judgment you are unfamiliar, remember that it is better to feel foolish than to be dead.

6) This isn't a complete list of options, nor is it given as a substitute for high quality avalanche/snow mechanics instruction.

In the days to come, we will be hearing in the media about huge, destructive avalanches all across the northern hemisphere. We at The Mountaineers are hoping that you are around to shudder and exclaim in wonder at the amazing power of fast-moving snow.

Many of you are already aware of the important services provided by the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center. The phone number is 206-526-6677. By posting accurate and up-to-date information on winter weather and avalanche conditions in the North Cascades and Olympic ranges, the Center has helped to keep tens of thousands of mountain travelers safe from the threat of avalanches. It is, therefore, hard to believe that government budget cuts may soon cause the center to close.

Please join the Friends of the NW Weather and Avalanche Center in an effort to keep the Center up and running. You can make a great difference with only a couple of hours time on projects ranging from organizational development to computer data entry. For more information, please contact Recreation Resources Manager Brooke Drury at The Mountaineers, at 206-284-6310 or brooked@mountaineers.org.

Travel safely this winter and spring. We hope to see you in the mountains!!

Loren Foss Education/Advocacy Manager

Brooke Drury Recreation Resources Manager

Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center Funding Cuts

by Brooke Drury, Seattle Mountaineers

URGENT! YOUR ACTION NEEDED NOW! HELP SAVE THE NORTHWEST WEATHER AND AVALANCHE CENTER!

The Washington State Legislature is considering funding of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center and every communication to Olympia will help this effort. This notice will explain where to send letters and what to say. Time is of the essence! Thank you in advance!

PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Read the background below
2. Write letters to legislators (information provided below.)
3. If you absolutely do not have time to write letters, send coupons, make phone calls or send e-mail messages (information provided below).

BACKGROUND

The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center is the most sophisticated institution of its kind in the nation. Administered by the US Forest Service, it is a federal, state, and privately funded public service that:

1. Collects and disseminates mountain weather data and forecasts local mountain weather and avalanche conditions.
2. Saves lives and prevents costly search and rescue missions by educating and informing motorists and outdoor enthusiasts about avalanche and weather dangers in the mountains of Washington and northern Oregon.
3. Helps to provide the state Department of Transportation with the information it needs to conduct avalanche control and keep our mountain highway passes safe and open for travelers and cross-state commerce.

Since the Avalanche Center began its work 20 years ago, avalanche accidents and fatalities in Washington have declined while numbers of backcountry users and highway travelers have greatly increased. This winter, the Center expects to receive more than 300,000 phone calls and web page hits from individuals, organizations and agencies wanting information to help them travel safely in the mountains. **FOR THE COST OF ONE OR TWO RESCUE MISSIONS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE CAN ENSURE CONTINUED FUNDING AND OPERATION OF THIS IMPORTANT SERVICE.**

IN YOUR LETTERS, PLEASE:

1. Identify yourself as an individual who belongs to an outdoor organization (if you do, name that organization) and enjoys the outdoors.
2. Explain that the work of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center is critical to keeping winter mountain travelers safe, on highways and in the backcountry. (Use any of the information provided above but put it in your own words whenever possible.)
3. Explain that the budget for the Center has been cut in recent years and must be restored.
4. Ask for approval of \$141,000 for the Center from the state general fund for Fiscal Year 2000-2001.
5. State that if this funding for the Center is not approved, the CENTER WILL CLOSE.

These issues are being considered now by the Legislature, so **PLEASE WRITE YOUR LETTERS NOW!**

WRITE TO:

1. Your state legislators from your district. To find out what district you live in, check your voter registration card or call your local County Auditor's office. To find out who the legislators from your district are, call the League of Women Voters of Washington at 206-622-8961 or go to the state Legislatures website, www.leg.wa.gov.

2. Also write: Rep. Tom Huff, co-chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Rep. Helen Sommers, co-chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Sen. Valorie Loveland, chair of Senate Ways & Means.

You may use the SAME letter, just address them individually. IF POSSIBLE, include copies of recent articles about avalanches and avalanche danger. Keep your letters short and to the point.

WRITE STATE SENATORS AT: PO Box 40482 Olympia, WA 98504-0482

WRITE STATE REPRESENTATIVES AT: PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600

IT IS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE TO WRITE LETTERS THAN TO SEND ANY OTHER TYPE OF MESSAGE. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE NO TIME TO WRITE, PLEASE DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. FILL OUT AND SEND IN THE COUPON PROVIDED BELOW.
2. CALL THE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE at 1-800-562-6000. The operator will ask for your name, address, zip code and telephone number to verify your legislative district and allow your elected officials to respond to your call. It is best to keep your message to no more than two or three short sentences, such as: "The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center saves lives by providing winter mountain weather information and avalanche forecasts for Washington's mountains. The Center's budget has been cut and must be restored. Please approve \$141,000 from the general fund for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001. If funding is not approved, the Center will close."
3. E-MAIL your legislators. PLEASE e-mail them ONLY if they represent your district. Legislators from other districts will not acknowledge your e-mail. You will still have to WRITE to Huff, Sommers and Loveland if you do not live in their districts. To find your legislators' e-mail addresses, call the League of Women Voters of Washington at 206-622-8961 or go the state Legislature's website, www.leg.wa.gov.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, contact Brooke Drury, Public Policy Manager, The Mountaineers 206-284-6310, ext. 3015, BrookeD@Mountaineers.org.

Again, thank you!

COUPON

TO:

RE: Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center

The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center saves lives by providing winter mountain weather information and avalanche forecasts for Washington's mountains. The Center's budget has been cut and must be restored. Please approve \$141,000 from the general fund for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001. As a mountain pass highway user and avid outdoor recreationist, I urge you to do what you can to keep the Center open for the benefit and safety of Washington's citizens. If funding is not approved, the Center will close. Thank you.

Signature:

Name:

Address:

The High Points of the 39 Counties of Washington State

by Matt Robertson

Is the Bulger's "100 Highest Peaks in Washington" a bit much for you? Andy Martin has compiled this list of the high points of all 39 counties in Washington. The big volcanoes are still there, but there's only 39 summits to attain, and many of them are easy walk ups (without looking at the list, can you name the one mountain that's the high point for two counties?). John Roper has an excellent article in this month's "Pack & Paddle" magazine (www.packandpaddlemagazine.com) with driving and hiking directions, and DeLorme Atlas coordinates for each high point. Click on over to their web site and ask for a free issue to read his full article - the magazine is another good source of current trail conditions. (answer: Mt. Daniel)

County	High Point	Elevation (feet)	USGS quad
Adams	Karakul Hills	2100+	Karakul Hills
Asotin	Ray Ridge	6185	Saddle Butte
Benton	Rattlesnake Hills	3629	Maiden Spring
Chelan	Bonanza Peak	9511	Holden
Clallam	Gray Wolf Ridge	7218	Tyler Peak
Clark	Sturgeon Fin	4120+	Bobs Mountain
Columbia	Oregon Butte	6387	Oregon Butte
Cowlitz	Goat Mountain	4965	Goat Mountain
Douglas	Badger Mountain	4254	Orondo
Ferry	Copper Butte	7140	Copper Butte
Franklin	Benajmin's Butte	1640+	Washtucna South
Garfield	Diamond Peak	6379	Diamond Peak
Grant	Ulysses S. Hill	2899	Rattlesnake Springs
Grays Harbor	Wynoochee Point	4880+	Wynoochee Lake
Island	Camano Crest	580+	Camano and Juniper Head
Jefferson	Mount Olympus	7969	Mount Olympus
King	Mount Daniel	7960+	Mount Daniel
Kitsap	Gold Mountain	1761	Wildcat Lake
Kittitas	Mount Daniel	7960+	Mount Daniel
Klickitat	Indian Rock	5823	Indian Rock
Lewis	Big Horn	8000+	Walupt Lake
Lincoln	Lilienthal Mountain	3568	McCoy Lake
Mason	Mount Stone	6612	Mt. Skokomish
Okanogan	North Gardner Mountain	8956	Silver Star Mtn
Pacific	Pacific County HP	3000+	Blaney Creek
Pend Oreille	Gypsy Peak	7320	Gypsy Peak
Pierce	Mount Rainier	14410	Mt. Rainier West
San Juan	Mount Constitution	2407	Mount Constitution
Skagit	Mount Buckner	9112	Goode Mtn
Skamania	Skamania Pinnacle	8920+	Mt. Adams West
Snohomish	Glacier Peak	10420+	Glacier Peak
Spokane	Mount Spokane	5883	Mount Spokane
Stevens	Abercrombie Mountain	7308	Abercrombie Mtn
Thurston	Quiemuth Peak	2922	Eatonville
Wahkiakum	Huckleberry Ridge	2673	Skamokawa Pass
Walla Walla	Lewis Peak	4888	Deaman Peak
Whatcom	Mount Baker	10781	Mount Baker
Whitman	Tekoa Mountain	4009	Tekoa Mtn
Yakima	Mount Adams	12276	Mount Adams

Winter Driving Regulations

Here's a couple of Washington State Administrative Codes (WAC) that you might find interesting regarding winter driving conditions, and when you're required to have chains. This is particularly relevant to those of you with four wheel drive vehicles - even if you don't have to chain up, you are still required to have chains in the car or truck!

WAC 204-24-050: Use of tire chains or other traction devices.

- (1) Vehicles under 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight
 - (a) When traffic control signs marked "approved traction tires required" are posted by the department of transportation it shall be unlawful for any vehicle to enter the controlled area without having mounted on its drive tires at least one of the traction devices meeting the requirements of WAC 204-24-040.
 - (b) When traffic control signs marked "chains required" are posted by the department of transportation it shall be unlawful for any vehicle to enter the controlled area without having mounted on its drive tires, tire chains meeting the standards in chapter 204-22 WAC.
 - (i) Exception for all wheel drive vehicles. When "chains required" signs are posted, all-wheel drive vehicles shall be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle.

WAC 204-24-040 Traction devices.

The following equipment items are approved by the state patrol for use as traction devices wherever traction devices are required by the department of transportation:

- (1) Tire chains meeting the standards in chapter 204-22 WAC.
- (2) Studded tires meeting the standards in WAC 204-24-030.
- (3) Approved traction tires. An approved traction tire shall have the following tread characteristics:
 - (a) A minimum of 4/32 inch tread, measured in the center portion of the tire at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire.
 - (b) A relatively aggressive tread pattern designed primarily to provide additional starting, stopping, and driving traction on snow or ice. The tread shall have ribs, lugs, blocks or buttons, the edges of which are at an angle greater than thirty degrees to the tire circumferential centerline.
 - (c) On at least one side of the tread design, the shoulder lugs protrude at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in a direction generally perpendicular to the direction of travel.
 - (d) Tires manufactured to meet these specifications shall be permanently labeled on at least one sidewall with the words "mud and snow" or any contraction using the letters "M" and "S" (e.g. MS, M/S, M&S, etc.).
- (4) Special tires specifically designed to improve stopping, traction, and cornering abilities of the tire on ice or snow may be approved by the state patrol as an approved traction device.

BUCS - the Boeing Unemployed Climbers Society

Are you another casualty of the downsizing process at Boeing? And are you a climber? If you're at the end of your rope, don't despair - the Boeing Unemployed Climbers' Society (BUCS) is there to help! We've been there and know what it's like to have unlimited time but very limited funds. For the unemployed alpinist seeking camaraderie in a supportive and nurturing environment, we offer a variety of services:

- Free ads ("Male Seeking Female for Winter Ascent of Mt. Rainier," "Female Seeking Studly Males for House Reroofing Project")
- Free counseling by fellow BUCS members
- Advice on free meals and lodging (Costco samples for lunch?)
- Job referral service (Dick's Deluxe is always looking for goodfrycooks, starting \$7/hr.)
- Cheap entertainment ideas (no entry fee on Thursdays at the Seattle Art Museum)
- Free slide projector rental - for your six-hour slide shows you've always wanted to do but never had the time!

BUCS membership is growing fast, thanks to the economic crisis in Asia, and you won't want to miss this opportunity to discuss your feelings and future climbing plans (if the weather ever clears up) with fellow Boeing outcasts. For more information or a membership application, contact:

Eric Bennett
(425)742-4706

Ilan Angwin
(206)547-4340

"I didn't know where to turn - I got a WARN notice in December and I was out by February. I had zero income but unlimited time, and my Prozac was running out - I had never been so low. One quick phone call later, and I got some great advice from BUCS on what to do with myself. My equipment storage room has never been so organized!"

-- anonymous climber

"I felt so alone. But then I found out there were other Boealps members out there who had been laid off too. BUCS helped me realize what a great opportunity it was to be laid off, and now I can effectively balance resume writing and skiing every day. Thank you, BUCS!"

-- different anonymous climber

Climbing Haiku

slightly modified, but mostly plagiarized, from Frederck Weihe

The Chief soars o'erhead,
but your group can't lead 10b.
Go to the brew-pub.

Run out leader flails.
The rope is very loose, but
the sphincter tightens.

Suddenly floating,
weightless flight. Is gravity's
law repealed? Splat.

The Ghost of Kerouac

A Dharma bum looks back at Desolation Peak in the North Cascades

The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom.

- poet, author, and engraver William Blake

August 1987 The sparse belongings of the stranger next to me indicated he was clearly headed for the palace. I continued my scrutiny of this apparent escapee from "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" with great curiosity as he sat quietly, clutching all his worldly possessions in two Safeway grocery bags, encompassed by his world of thought. Everything he had, in two old brown, wrinkled, and slightly torn Safeway grocery bags, and no lifetime warranty on either one. Spare he was, but he could easily have been headed to the school of hard knocks instead of the palace.

Four of us sat close by, contemplating unknown roads and wayward souls, particularly this Spartan misanthrope sitting next to me. Misanthrope or not, we were all uniformly drawn here by virtue of one magnetic figure, a misunderstood literary enigma who went by the nickname Memory Babe, a moniker for his prodigious memory which recalled experience in maze of impossible detail. Memory Babe was better known as Jack Kerouac, the king of the Beat Generation. He was the reason the four of us and, as I suspected, the one misanthrope were here – and we went to find him, on Desolation Peak.

In search of Kerouac, our 1949 Chevrolet was the water taxi belonging to the Ross Lake Resort. We jetted north on the pristine waters of Ross Lake, the sleepy serpentine of the moody North Cascades, and the plan was to get dropped off at the Desolation Peak trailhead some 20 miles up the lake. The sojourners were Mark Lewington, David Starkweather, Anne Cox, and me. And one misanthrope seated next to me, his face revealing nothing but a studied intensity of each detail around him, more than vaguely reminiscent of Kerouac. The taxi driver thundered on at 40 mph, the cool air of morning whipping through my clothes, and my curiosity got the best of me. I asked the misanthrope where he was from. "Lowell, Massachusetts," he responded after a brief pause. Hmmm - Kerouac's hometown. So he was in search of Kerouac too, but this misfit had traveled 3000 miles to find him. With my casual question as catalyst, Pandora's box had been opened, and the misfit unleashed a flurry of maps, diagrams, descriptions, histories, stories, and rumors that left me astounded at the detail, as Kerouac himself would have done. And it left me nostalgic - Memory Babe took me down memory lane.

November 1984 My senior year at Marquette University in Milwaukee, the home of Miller beer, Laverne and Shirley, and Jeffrey Dahmer. Drawing me from my studies was Kerouac luring me with the promise of hip-cat coolness and the freedom of the road, prompting me to trade textbook for road book. The vehicle was Kerouac's best-known work, "On the Road," published in 1957, which brought this counter-culture movement called the Beat Generation to the national forefront. Kerouac wrote the book in a manic stream-of-consciousness in 20 days, a fictional account of three coast-to-coast trips across America by Dean Moriarity and Sal Paradise, who hopped overnight freight trains through the corn fields of the great Midwest, hitch-hiked the lonesome highways of Wyoming, drove the endless flatland of Kansas, all in pursuit of the great palace of wisdom. Art imitated life, for Kerouac's real-time cross-country ventures with ex-jailbird Neal Cassidy formed the basis of that novel and many to come.

In my Spartan apartment at 26th and Wisconsin Ave., an old red cardboard table and a single candle (lesser known as "college furnishings") in my bedroom accompanied me as I roared down Kerouac's "On the Road," fueled by the sheer rampage of experience I was exposed to that I hardly paused in two nights of reading, thereby ensuring a Philosophy 202 paper which was due would be overdue. There was something in Kerouac's rich fervor of dangling precariously at the edge of the very limits of day, night, psychosis, madness, of touching the infinite through the extremes, of being completely and hopelessly alive that I wanted to follow the road of experience.

Jon Krakauer understood the Beat extremes in existence through his best-selling biography of the ethically-driven radical Chris McCandless in the book "Into the Wild," noting "the farther you go out on a limb, the

better it feels when you crawl back in." For McCandless, the branch was too thin and snapped before he could return. For the Beats, it was a marvelously unpredictable and twisting bough, a maze which never yielded its complete identity. What riches awaited the Beats when they crawled back to the trunk, for the palace of wisdom was theirs.

After the introduction of "On the Road," I found Kerouac's "The Town and the City," his first book thinly masqueraded as a historical novel but in reality was his autobiography, a work, as he said it, to "explain himself" and his blue-collar roots in Depression Era Lowell, MA. And then onto "Dr. Sax," "The Subterraneans," "Mexico City Blues," "Visions of Dulouz," "Maggie Cassidy," "Book of Dreams," and "Big Sur," the rambling, drunken, and incoherent novel while Kerouac was living at Lawrence Ferlinghetti's cabin above the Northern California coast. And there was more - I discovered Kerouac's "The Dharma Bums," the adventures of Japhy Ryder and Henry Morley. Art imitated life, for in that book, Kerouac ended up getting a summer job as a fire lookout on Desolation Peak in the summer of 1953, manning the post for two months, the drama of thunderstorms and sunsets playing out before him.

August 1987 I looked at the misanthrope as we motored past Rainbow Point and Cat Island, perhaps three miles from the trailhead. And now he produced a layout of the Chinese pagoda-like fire lookout at the top of Desolation, where Kerouac stayed. This guy even had the original pit toilet on his map - The Place Where Jack Shat. That pagoda brought a smile to my face, as this wasn't my first time on Desolation. I had been there the year before.

August 1986 The palace of wisdom awaited me that year. My companion was then-girlfriend Marjean Brigham, who shortly after the trip, became ex-girlfriend Marjean Brigham. It was early August - the cool and arid conditions were supplanted with 90 degrees of sweltering heat and humidity as we boarded the water taxi at Ross Lake Resort. The black flies were having a feast. Marjean and I were planning on a bivouac at a small tent site ¾ of the way up the trail, which led to an arm named Starvation Ridge, which somewhat lacked appeal. Our road of excess consisted of two large and unwieldy frame packs, a 10 lb. tent, two huge cans of Dinty Moore beef stew, a few cigars, and three very warm Cokes. Breakfast the following morning would be instant grits, a starch-filled taste sensation which had a tendency to harden like concrete. Oh yes - a peanut butter and jam sandwich for each of us would be lunch, generously slathered on horrendously fragile white marshmallow bread.

Before departing on the adventure, the ranger at the Ross Lake Resort went through a formal list with the hikers, particularly the overnight types like us. "Are you aware there is no water on Desolation Peak?" he asked as he peered down at his clipboard. My theatre training was called into action: I casually shrugged my shoulders that we had a gallon and a half of water packed each, which accounted for the somewhat dense backpacks. Later on, if only it was true; our water bottles were half-full, and it was clear, in retrospect, that my idea of Coke supplements was half-baked. Perhaps I should have read the hiking description more closely: "The trail is a scorcher in hot weather; carry lots of water" and "Water is from snowfields only and usually rare or nonexistent by late July." Considering it was now August, I expected buzzards to be circling overhead, somewhere by the God-forsaken Starvation Ridge.

The water taxi dropped us off at the Desolation Peak trailhead, just past Lightning Creek, at 11 am. Marjean, no slouch on a hiking trail, pondered the wisdom of the 4400' of elevation gain in such heat and humidity, to which I courageously responded, "Don't worry - we'll be fine." Of course, a hungry grizzly could have been charging down the trail, mouth agape and snarling, anxious for a taste of human flesh, and my words would have been just as meaningful. Three hours into the hike, in desperately hot conditions, Marjean suddenly collapsed in front of me on the trail, her fragile balance of inner calm and turmoil shattered, as she cried aloud: "I can't go any farther...I don't think I'm gonna make it..."

I rushed up to her, as we were both enveloped by the dry dust cloud of the trail, and I was trying to figure out what to do. I stopped and uttered with whatever sincerity I could muster: "Don't worry - we'll be fine." I was prepared to be smacked with a right cross, but fortunately, she was out of energy, and the blazingly hot Coke I offered to slake her thirst was of little help. The words came back to haunt me: "Water is from snowfields only and usually rare or nonexistent by late July."

I decided to drop my pack and see how much further it was to the campsite. Much to my surprise, it wasn't far - about 50 feet. I retrieved both packs and a relieved Marjean, and we set up camp in the burning afternoon. I was bone-weary after this haul and dehydrated, and a hot Coke was scarcely enjoyed by either of us. After two hours of afternoon sleep in the blissful shade of the tent, the Dinty Moore stew for dinner was nothing short of heavenly - but a tepid can of Coke did little to slake the thirst. Our conversation that night was brief and candidly pointed.

The next morning, at 5 am, I completed the pilgrimage solo by arriving at the Desolation fire lookout at 6085'. It was utterly calm without even a touch of wind, the nutcrackers merrily chirping as I approached the pagoda. As I gazed at the majesty about me, what I later learned were Mt. Challenger and Mt. Fury of the Northern Pickets and Mt. Terror and Mt. Triumph to the south captured me, an infinity of granite and grandeur. Perhaps the only detraction from the magic was my view 4400' below of the tranquillity of Ross Lake and the promise of a cool sip of water. I began to salivate with no bell ringing. It had been a hard road that led to this palace of wisdom, but surely it had been worth the difficulty. I am sure Marjean saw it differently.

August 1987 Almost exactly one year after Marjean and I had suffered our way up, and now I had David, Mark, and Anne to show my special hangout to. Plus one misfit, who has last seen carrying his Safeway bags in both arms up the 4400' of elevation to the top, where he planned on spending the night. And after the four of us had shared the spectacular vista of the North Cascades at the fire lookout for an hour, much to my surprise, I saw the misfit coming up, struggling with those Safeway bags, looking dog tired but elated. Unlike the trip with Marjean when we were desperate for water, I had packed an extra quart - and upon my offer to the misfit, he quickly chugged its precious contents in its entirety. As I watched him consume the water, I realized how little it pays to be a Good Samaritan sometimes.

But more troubling was the realization after we swapped Kerouac stories and booklore and he stretched deep into his pocket of memory: it became clear that all the way from Lowell, Massachusetts came a ghost of a man to find Kerouac. This man had ceased living - only a desperate shell seeking out places Kerouac had been, seen, written about, lived, and died remained, and little else. The man was in his early 40s, but he was long gone, a life devoted to reliving what once was or what might have been instead of what really was. I thought about what Kerouac himself would have said, had he been around to see this lost sheep: "Hey, man, what are you doing? Quit chasing me around and go find yourself!" he would have uttered in disgust, before lighting another cigarette and heading off down his own road. On this road of excess, the misfit had found no palace of wisdom to enter but merely a place to escape to.

The four of us started down the trail. I paused one last time, to hold on to the mountains which held me, and looked over to the fire lookout. There was no one there - just two Safeway bags and the ghost of Kerouac.

- Len Kannapell 2/20/99

The Call of the Wild

Have you gazed on naked grandeur where there's nothing else to gaze on, set pieces and drop-curtain scenes galore,
Big mountains heaved to heaven, which the blinding sunsets blazon, black canyons where the rapids rip and roar?
Have you swept the visioned valley with the green stream streaking through it, searched the vastness for a something you have lost?
Have you strung your soul to silence? Then for God's sake go and do it; Hear the challenge, learn the lesson, pay the cost.

Have you wandered in the wilderness, the sage-brush desolation, the bunch-grass levels where the cattle graze?
Have you whistled bits of rag-time at the end of all creation, and learned to know the desert's little ways?
Have you camped upon the foothills, have you galloped o'er the ranges, have you roamed the arid sun-lands through and through?
Have you chummed up with the mesa? Do you know its moods and changes? Then listen to the Wild – it's calling you.

Have you known the Great White Silence, not a snow-gemmed twig aquiver? (Eternal truths that shame our soothing lies).
Have you broken trail on snowshoes, mashed your huskies up the river, dared the unknown, led the way, and clutched the prize?
Have you marked the map's void spaces, mingled with the mongrel races, felt the savage strength of brute in every thew?
And though grim as hell the worst is, can you round it off with curses? Then hearken to the Wild – it's wanting you.

Have you suffered, starved and triumphed, groveled down, yet grasped at glory, grown bigger in the bigness of the whole?
"Done things" just for the doing, letting babblers tell the story. Seeing through the nice veneer the naked soul?
Have you seen God in His splendors, heard the text that nature renders? (You'll never hear it in the family pew.)
The simple things, the true things, the silent men who do things - Then listen to the Wild – it's calling you.

They have cradled you in custom, they have primed you with their preaching, They have soaked you in convention through and through;
They have put you in a showcase; you're a credit to their teaching – But can't you hear the Wild?
– it's calling you.

Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us; Let us journey to a lonely land I know.
There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star agleam to guide us,
And the wild is calling, calling...let us go.

-- Robert Service

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELAINE WORDEN, M/S 6H-CJ

OR: 1400 E. Mercer St. #4, Seattle, WA 98122

OR: elaine.worden@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



March ECHO staff

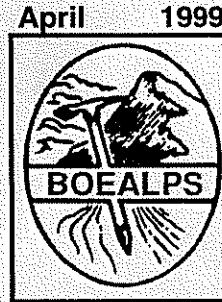
Editor:	Matt Robertson
Production:	Ilan Angwin
Activities and calendar:	Ilan Angwin
Minutes:	Tom Yocum
Conservation Corner:	Vera Trainer
Contributors:	Rich Baldwin, Loren Foss, Brooke Drury, Len Kannapell, Vera Trainer, Eric Bennett

Thanks everyone - keep those cards and letters coming! We can always use more submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering related will do.

Email them to me at

matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in implant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO



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Photo: Crater Rock, Mt. Hood Descent by Mike Jacobsen

From Elaine Worden 6H-CJ

April General Meeting

Bob Gunning's North Cascades Photo Essay
Early dawn flight from Paine Field to Ross Lake along the Cascade Crest
 (taken March 3, 1976 from 6-9am)

Thursday, April 1st
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

BELAY STANCE

Avalanche danger is still the hot topic...

The more folks I talk to about avalanche conditions this year, the scarier it sounds. Tom Gorham is another avalanche safety instructor for the Mountaineers, and I've included his response to Loren Foss' avalanche warning that ran in last month's Echo. I've also included an avalanche condition check list that you can transfer onto an index card to carry with you in the back country. Let's all be extra careful out there - we're likely to see more than the average number of avalanche fatalities in the Olympics and Cascades this year - let's make sure none of them are Boealps members.

Climbing restrictions on Mt. Hood

The Mt. Hood National Forest has released for public review an Environmental Assessment for Wilderness Protection of Mt. Hood. Their preferred plan cuts the number of climbers allowed on the south side of the mountain from the current average of 215 people per weekend day to only 25, with one-third of these spots reserved for guided parties. There's not much time for feedback - the response deadline is April 1st. See the letter from the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club in this issue for more information, and please, write a letter to the Forest Service expressing your view on the proposed restrictions.

Intermediate class of 1999

The Intermediate class has started up, and yours truly is participating as a student this year! Our first outing at Horsethief Butte was a blast, and the fact that the rain held off from deluging us (as it did to last year's class) didn't hurt any. This year's roster of 20 students is the largest ever, and the class should be very interesting given the snow conditions we'll be working in for the rest of the spring and early summer.

Volunteer opportunities...

Calling on Everett Boealps members! As of the end of this month, our activities chair will no longer have a job with Boeing. Ilan Angwin, like so many others, is being laid off, but will continue to act as the activities chair (thanks Ilan!). However, Ilan also took care of carrying the Echo over to the print shop in the 40-85 building in Everett each month, along with a box of front covers. With Ilan's leaving, I need a volunteer who works up at the Everett plant who would be willing to spend 15 minutes each month (honest - that's all it takes!) to drop the Echo and the front covers off to be printed and mailed out. If you would be willing to help out, please give me a call at 425-957-5691, or drop me an email at matt.robertson@boeing.com. I need someone to help out by the next Echo deadline of April 22nd!

Have you climbed some of Washington's 100 highest peaks? Then you are in a position to take advantage of a unique opportunity to help John Lixvar (better known as Lizard) to complete his forthcoming book on "Climbing Washington's 100 Highest Peaks." See the advance copy of the first chapter of his new book in this issue for more details of what John is looking for, but if you have route information, or amusing ascent tales of any of the "Big Boys", John would love to hear from you. If you haven't been on many of these peaks, but would still like to help out, John would appreciate help in double checking GPS waypoints, bearings and general route descriptions. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of what is sure to become a Cascade Classic!

In this issue...

Other highlights this month include Ron Fleck's great trip report on his climb of Aconcagua (and the beginnings of "Aconcagua - the Musical"), this year's membership roster, last year's budget recap, and a couple of equipment recalls. There's not a lot of activities being offered - if you can't think up a trip to lead, how about writing up one you've already done and send it in - either way, Ilan and I can use all the submissions we can get!

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still SLESSE. It's needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of the web site.

From the desk of your editor,



Matt Robertson

MAY ECHO DEADLINE IS APRIL 22nd

April, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Club Meeting	2	3
4 Easter Daylight Savings Time Begins	5 Intermediate Class	6	7 Basic Class	8 Board meeting	9	10 BC - Snoqualmie Pass IC - Leavenworth
11 BC - Snoqualmie Pass IC - Mt. Erie	12	13	14 Basic Class	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Basic Class	22 Echo Deadline	23	24 BC - Devils Peak
25 BC - Devils Peak	26 Intermediate Class	27	28 Basic Class	29	30	

May, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BC - Devils Peak IC - Smith Rock
2 BC - Devils Peak IC - Smith Rock	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting	7	8 BC - Tatoosh
9 Mother's Day BC - Tatoosh	10	11	12	13	14	15 BC - Leavenworth
16 BC - Leavenworth	17 Intermediate Class	18	19	20 Echo Deadline	21	22 BC - Mt. Rainier IC - Squamish
23 BC - Mt. Rainier IC - Squamish	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering

June 19 - 20

Depart Seattle area 6 a.m. Saturday, snow camp at 7,500 feet and climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills, actual date could move depending on road closures

Party Limit 12
Route South Spur
Equipment Telemark or Randenee Skis or snowboard
Experience Basic class graduate; intermediate skier
Contact Rob Kunz
(206) 655-7645
robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (h)
iga4@gte.net

Notes from the Activity Chair:

If not now, when will there be any activities?

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

March, 1999

This month's board meeting was at Ed Alejandro's place above Lake Washington with his cat presiding over the proceedings.

Further budget cuts were discussed and the board decided to not fund food for the June campout and July picnic this year. Also, the food budget for general meetings will be reduced.

The board voted to pay the Boealps member who fixed the damaged tent he borrowed from the club for parts and labor. Club members are encouraged to check gear for damage before returning them to the equipment chairs so the chairperson can make necessary repairs.

The club radios are missing from the storage unit. If someone has them checked out, please call Rich Baldwin or Shawn Paré so the club knows what happened to them.

The next board meeting will be on April 8th.

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info:	Name: _____
	Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
	(____) _____ (Home)
	Email: _____
	M/S: _____

***Please note:** all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!*

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
iga4@gte.net



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Frank Sommers

Remember to write, call or e-mail your legislators and ask them to restore the budget cuts to the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Hotline. Information on how to contact legislators can be found at the state legislature's website, www.leg.wa.gov. More information can be found on the Boealps homepage.

Spring is here and, unlike me, some people like grass in their lawn rather than moss and dandelions. If you have been awake at all, you are probably aware that some species of Puget Sound salmon are being placed under the protection of the Endangered Species act. This should be a wake up call to all of us to pay more attention to the kinds of crap we produce and where it goes. Non-point-sources of harmful substances such as pesticides, fertilizer, and grease and detergent from washing your car (guilty) can have a significant impact on water quality. Lots of good information on natural lawn care as well as other water quality issues can be found on the Seattle Public Utilities' Conservation and Environment page at <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/RESCONS/default.htm>

Speaking of salmon.... here is a chance to go play in the mud for a good cause:

HELP RESTORE HABITAT IN THE DUWAMISH FOR CHINOOK SALMON!

Join People for Puget Sound, I'M A PAL, World Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, and ECOSS as we green the Duwamish this spring with six planting projects!

PRE-EARTH DAY EVENTS

Puget Creek Estuary	Turning Basin
Saturday, March 27, 1999	Saturday, April 17, 1999
10:00 a.m. Sign-in	10:00 a.m. Sign-in

To sign-up or request more information about the Puget Creek Estuary or Turning Basin restoration projects, contact Siri Dale at People for Puget Sound, (206) 382-7007 or sdale@pugetsound.org. Directions and a confirmation postcard will be mailed to you after you register.

EARTH DAY EVENTS

Join us for restoration work at one of four different sites.
Saturday, April 24, 1999
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

East Bank:	Hamm Creek:
Boeing Public Access (Slip Four)	North Fork Ponds
GSA	Point Rediscovery

To sign-up or request more information about the Earth Day restoration projects, contact John Beal at I'M A PAL, (206) 762-3640. Directions and a confirmation postcard will be mailed to you after you register.

DUWAMISH RESTORATION SITE STEWARDSHIP

Are you interested in learning how to monitor habitat restoration sites? We are looking for committed volunteers to adopt Duwamish restoration sites. Site Stewards will be trained to do monthly site checks and quarterly site surveys. For more information, call Siri Dale at People for Puget Sound, (206) 382-7007 or email sdale@pugetsound.org.

This project is funded in part by the Puget Sound Urban Resources Partnership and King County WaterWorks.

Captain Hook and Claw Ice Tool Recall

March 10, 1999

Trango is issuing a formal recall and replacement policy for the picks of the Captain Hook and Claw ice tools. Over the past two months we have become aware of a small, but unacceptable number of pick failures (30 of 800) that have occurred without warning. The failures have occurred approximately 1.5" to 2" back from the tip of the pick, usually when the pick is being extracted from the ice, and there does not seem to be any correlation between ambient temperature, ice conditions or age of the picks.

The suspect picks were all manufactured in 1998 and shipped to stores between October 1, 1998 and February 10, 1999. If you have a Captain Hook or a Claw ice tool that has a pick with no identifying batch number on it, we ask that you return it to the store where you purchased it for a free replacement.

The new picks can be identified by the batch and model designation number C/S 22599, B/S 22599, or C/W 22599 laser etched into the sides just right of the "TRANGO" logo, and they have been improved by tapering the bolt holes in the picks to facilitate securing the picks to the heads.

If you are unable to return to the location where you purchased the tool, or if it is inconvenient to do so, please contact us directly at 303.443.8438 or techtalk@trango.com, and we will arrange to have replacement(s) sent directly to you. Be sure to specify which model of Captain Hook you are requesting the picks for: Clearance Shaft, Bent Shaft, or Straight Shaft, and include an address where we can ship the picks to.

This is not a general recall for the Captain Hook or Claw ice tools, nor is it a request to return the tools or picks to us. To obtain your replacement picks, either contact the store where you purchased the tools, or contact us for replacements.

I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Malcolm Daly, President
Great Trango Holdings, Inc.

4439-C North Broadway Boulder Colorado USA 80304
Tel: 303.443.8438 Fax: 303.443.8432
email: techtalk@trango.com
<http://www.trango.com>
Trango and Stonewear Designs are divisions of Great Trango Holdings, Inc.

WARNING/RECALL NOTICE

Product: YATES ADJUSTABLE DAISY STRAP

Production lot: October 1998

Yates Adjustable Daisy Straps purchased between October 1998 and March 1999 should be inspected for a possible problem with the cam buckle assembly. A batch of buckles have been found to have insufficient penning of the frame/pin assembly. The X penning pattern on the frame was found to be too shallow on some of the cam buckles and can allow the pin to migrate out during use. The cam buckle can be inspected by using a small screw driver and pushing on the cam axle with moderate pressure. If the pin can be pushed out of buckle assembly please return to Yates Gear Inc. for replacement. Any Adjustable Daisy Straps purchased between October 1998 and March 1999 can be returned for factory inspection.

John Yates
Yates Gear Inc.
2608 Hartnell Ave. #6
Redding, CA. 96002
1-800-YATES-16



Joint AAC/Access Fund Letter to Oregon and Washington Members Response Deadline: April 1

Dear Pacific Northwest AAC and Access Fund members:

We are writing to alert you to a very serious development in the evolution of wilderness management policy in the Pacific Northwest. No, it's not the fixed anchor issue again – this time, it's about "solitude."

The Mount Hood National Forest has released for public review an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wilderness Protection. This plan would severely reduce opportunities to climb and hike in the Mount Hood, Salmon-Huckleberry, and Hatfield Wildernesses. Perhaps more important, this plan represents the Forest Service's most recent effort to protect wilderness *by keeping people out of it*, rather than by managing visitation more appropriately.

Your immediate response is required to help prevent an enormous reduction in climbing access, and to persuade the Forest Service to make wilderness policy based on factors such as resource impacts rather than on the arbitrary notion that everyone who enters a wilderness area must find solitude.

The Mount Hood National Forest proposes to guarantee a uniform level of solitude on all climbing routes and trails at all times by requiring that visitors (both day and overnight) obtain an advance permit for a specific route or trail and pay a fee for permit issuance, and by severely limiting the number of permits issued for climbing routes and lowland hiking trails.

The impact of these restrictions on climbing would be dramatic. The Mount Hood EA's preferred option (Alternative #2) would cut use on the South Climb route from a current average of 215 people per weekend day to only 25 (with one-third of use reserved for guided parties), a reduction of over 90%! Similarly, while an average of 190 people per weekend day hike the 2.5-mile trail to scenic Ramona Falls, the preferred option would reduce this to 22 people per day.

The Access Fund and the American Alpine Club have been strong supporters of the protection and managed use of wilderness. After all, many of America's most historic and challenging climbs are in wilderness. However, we do not believe in wilderness management based on arbitrary concepts that are not mandated by the Wilderness Act, and have no basis in either the actual condition of wilderness resources or public opinion about wilderness.

The AAC, Access Fund, and other organizations have urged the Forest Service to recognize that some areas in wilderness historically have received higher use, and to manage these areas to allow a higher level of use rather than to "spread out" visitation over an entire wilderness. This method is consistent with recommendations from the Forest Service's Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, where researchers are concerned about damage to the environment from displacement of wilderness visitors. (Vegetation at current high-use areas will not regenerate nearly as fast as virgin terrain in current low-use areas will be trampled, causing an overall increase in damage to the physical resource.)

Here are some reasons why the Mount Hood solitude-based restrictions are misguided:

- The 1964 Wilderness Act does not guarantee or require solitude in wilderness. The Wilderness Act merely says that wilderness should have "outstanding opportunities for solitude *or* a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" (emphasis added).
- Opportunities for solitude already exist in the Mount Hood Wilderness, and are largely self-regulated. Most climbing routes on Mount Hood currently see between two and ten climbers per weekend day. The only route that currently lacks solitude on weekends and holidays is the popular South Climb, which can see up to 400 people on

peak-season weekends. However, even on this route solitude can be found midweek. It is obvious that climbers who wish to do the South Climb do not seek solitude so much as other, equally important wilderness values.

- The Forest Service's own data show that the number of people climbing Mount Hood has remained constant since 1900, and that even at present levels of use climbers pose little threat in terms of damage to wilderness resources. There was no need to reduce the historically high use of the South Climb and popular trails in order for Mount Hood to be designated as wilderness by Congress in 1964. If solitude can be found elsewhere in the wilderness, and if wilderness resources are not at risk, then there is no need to cut back so drastically on visitation now.
- The popularity of the South Climb allows other, more remote and technical climbs to remain uncrowded. Forcing solitude on the South Climb would reduce opportunities for solitude on every other climbing route on Mount Hood.
- Reducing access to the easiest and most popular climbing route on Mount Hood by 90% could lead to more accidents and rescues. Climbers unable to obtain a permit for the South Climb on good weather weekends might choose to climb in inclement weather or to attempt more difficult and committing climbing routes for which they are unprepared.
- The solitude-based restrictions in the Mount Hood Wilderness EA impose an unwarranted layer of bureaucracy and are costly to users. An advance-registration requirement would limit climbers' ability to take advantage of brief spells of good weather, and wilderness visitors *already* pay fees for recreation in national forests in the Northwest.
- According to the Forest Service's own guidelines, if the agency believes a lack of solitude is causing problems in some areas of the Mount Hood Wilderness, it should educate visitors about alternative trails and routes before limiting access. The agency also should heed the comments of the many users who have told the Forest Service they would prefer to have less solitude rather than a restrictive permit system.

There is a lot at stake in the Mount Hood EA – climbing access, the role of public opinion and scientific analysis in defining management priorities, and whether solitude will be found through government regulation or through personal choice and initiative. ***It is vitally important that you write a letter to the Forest Service*** about the Mount Hood National Forest Wilderness Protection Environmental Assessment! Your comments must be postmarked by ***Thursday, April 1***. Send to:

Kathleen Walker
Zigzag Ranger District
70220 E. Highway 26
Zigzag OR 97049

For a complete copy of the Wilderness Protection Environmental Assessment, either contact the Forest Service at (503) 668-1700 or obtain it electronically at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/wildea.htm>.

Climbers have always been among the most fervent supporters of wilderness. We believe climbers should redouble our efforts to enjoy wilderness in such a manner as leaves the resource unchanged, and to work for its protection. Your response to the Mount Hood EA will make a crucial difference in determining how climbing – and wilderness generally – are managed in the future.

Best regards,



Sharley Shimanski
Executive Director
American Alpine Club



Sally Moser
Executive Director
Access Fund

P.S. Please contact our staff if you have any questions: AAC – Lloyd Athearn, (303) 384-0110, ext. 13; Access Fund – Sam Davidson, (831) 484-6610.

Response to Loren Foss' Avalanche Conditions Summary

by Tom Gorham

I have reached largely the same conclusions completely independently of Loren. For my part, I have canceled all climbing and back country ski trips at least until April at which time I will re-evaluate in detail. I suspect that at the earliest, the snow pack will not be stable enough on south aspects until late May to mid June. North and east aspects may not become stable until mid July--which is to say, until they nearly melt out. The key factors I see are (similar to Loren's):

1. The volume of snow is enormous in a *very short period of time*. And Loren is correct--there have been very few melt-freeze cycles which are required to stabilize the snow pack in mid season.
2. The snow has been deposited during storms with ridge top winds regularly exceeding 100 mph. This forms extremely dense cornices and slabs which fail as a *unit*. (Recent triggered and natural releases have been 3/4 to 1 1/2 miles wide and 15 - 20 feet thick all moving at once. Whew!!!)
3. There is a very slick, very hard crust from early January on top of which is about two feet of very cold (hence, low density snow = full of air) snow with a very poor bond to the crust. On top of that is 20+ feet of heavy, wind-packed, often wet stuff. There are only two ways to stabilize:
 - a) Somehow water has to percolate down (which, in turn, destabilizes before it stabilizes, thus avalanches)
 - b) Slides release to the crust which tends to stabilize (not guaranteed!) the part that has slid but leaves the immediately adjacent parts along the sides and above completely destabilized
4. The east side of the Cascades will be even trickier to evaluate than the west side. Due to the thinner pack but prolonged cold weather, I'm certain both significant TG weakening and depth hoar have occurred. We should anticipate true climax avalanches (i.e., to the ground) on the east side (10-15 feet) riding on the depth hoar.
5. For both climax avalanches and releases to the crust, we should expect severe wind blast (capable of snapping 2-3 foot diameter mature timber) up to 1.5 miles away. (There is little or no snow in a wind blast -- just wind caused by the volume of the slide (riding on its own air cushion 30-50 feet high) pushing the air in front of it "out of the way".)
6. We should also expect sympathetic slides to march from the top of a valley toward its lower end. In the narrow valleys of the Cascades and Olympics, a slide will begin at the top of the valley on one side, run across the valley floor and, as it (or its wind blast or its ground vibrations) runs up the other side, it will trigger a new avalanche. This new slide repeats the process until the entire valley is swept by slide after slide after slide. There is no place to escape even though you may be a mile or two from the initial slide.

Bottom line: exercise extreme caution in the backcountry this spring. Watch weather conditions, call the Northwest Avalanche Center for current conditions before you go, and treat all slopes as suspect.

Avalanche Checklist

Here is an avalanche cheat sheet submitted by Steve Fox, who got it from Jeff Medaugh, who got it from... you get the idea! This goes on a index card (two-sided) to be carried anytime you venture into snow in the back country. This is no substitute for training, but works as a reminder. Having the Beaufort scale helps you to check out the wind loading.

Weather Top Ten:

1. Heavy dense snowfall or rain.
2. New snowfall greater than 12 inches, any density.
3. Snowfall rate greater than 1" per hour.
4. Wind loading greater than 15 mph.
5. Long/clear/cold spell followed by significant snowfall or wind loading.
6. Storms that begin cold and end warm.
7. Rapid temperature rise during the day.
8. Prolonged period of above-freezing temperature.
9. Intense sun, especially near cliff bands.
10. Any combination of above.

Rutschblock Test Ratings (Block 6' x 5' x 5' deep):

Test on a safe, short slope greater than 30 degrees with same aspect and elevation of suspect slope. Slope **must** be facing the same direction as the suspect slope!

1. Block fails as you isolate it or walk above it.
2. Block fails when you carefully step on it.
3. Block fails when you make a sudden sinking or deep-knee bend.
4. Block fails when you jump vigorously with skis.
5. Block fails when you jump vigorously with skis a second time.
6. Block fails when you jump repeatedly with or without skis.
7. Block does not fail.

1, 2, or 3 - High to Extreme Hazard - Avoid ALL slopes above 25 degrees

4 or 5 - Moderate - Avalanches possible on slopes greater than 35 degrees

6 or 7 - Low - Avalanches unlikely except in isolated pockets or steep gullies

Beaufort Scale:

Number	Speed	Effects
0	1	Smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	Smoke shows direction.
2	4-7	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle.
3	8-12	Leaves and twigs in constant motion. Blows up small leaves from ground.
4	13-18	Moves small branches, raises dust and paper and drives them along
5	19-24	Large branches and small trees in leaf begin to sway. Crested wavelets on inland water.
6	25-31	Large branches in continuous motion.
7	32-38	Whole trees in motion, inconvenient walking.
8	39-46	Breaks twigs and small branches, difficult to walk.
9	47-54	Loosens bricks on chimneys, litters ground with broken branches
10	55-63	Trees uprooted, considerable damage.
11	64-75	Widespread structural damage.
12	75+	Severe and extensive damage.

Best hike of 1998: Mt. Daniel

by Steve Fox

Although I participated in a number of peaks in 1998, one stands out clearly as the best of the year. Dave McElmurry, Tom Hagman, Fred Hutto and myself hiked up to Peggy's Pond. We did some scrambling on Catheral Rocks, then spent a mosquito-infested evening at the pond. Most of us retreated to the tents or bivies quite early to avoid the buggers. We got up the next morning to perfect weather, and climbed up the Hyas/Lynch glacier route. One traverse in particular was quite interesting, where Dave planted pickets to mitigate any tumbling errors. We climbed to the summit with grand views of the surrounding Cascades. Making a loop out of the journey, we downclimbed the ridge route that most people take (class 2). Why was it the best? A combination of great weather, excellent companions, a very scenic and interesting loop route, and it wasn't an epic climb but just plain ol' fun!

Bandera Mountain via the West Ridge

by Matt Robertson, March 7, 1999

Although the climb I had offered last month was that of the north face of Mt. Washington, the snow conditions we are experiencing this year gave me second thoughts about the safety of that route. After consulting Dallas Kloke's book "Winter Climbs: One Day Ascents", and finding the west ridge of Bandera Mountain listed as having "little to no avalanche danger", I suggested changing our climbing destination to this route, and the four other climbers who had signed up for this outing all agreed. Since the snow level was down close to 1000 feet, we were pretty sure we wouldn't be able to drive to the standard trailhead for this climb. Instead, we took Exit 42 off of I-90, and parked on the north side of the freeway. It's important to park completely off the pavement here, otherwise you are considered to have parked in the interchange, and are subject to ticketing and towing. From the end of the pavement, the route starts by crossing a huge slash pile, littered with logging remnants and shotgun shell casings. Eventually the slash gives way to brush, and by staying in the middle of two creek drainages you gain the snow covered road to the trailhead after about 700 feet. From here we mostly followed the old fire road up to the junction with the Mason Lake trailhead. The trailhead is clearly marked, and trail had been broken for us by some kind soul (or souls). We followed the boot prints up to where the trail crosses a large boulder field in summer. Here we stopped to strap on snowshoes, and then continued on, closely hugging the south side of the west ridge. It looked like it would be possible to access the west ridge here, which drops down into the timbered slopes, but we elected to follow the contours a bit further before tackling a short, steep section of snow through the trees to gain the ridge. Once on the ridge the going became easy, and the views opened up wonderfully. The wind picked up a bit as well from time to time, and now and then a small snow squall would spit a few hard flakes at us, but in general it was a pleasant stroll, first to the top of the false summit, then down and up and down and up to the true summit where we stopped for a bite to eat. Not wanting to have to travel the slash pile in the dark, we turned back the way we had come, and followed our footsteps back to the cars. I would concur with Dallas' avalanche assessment of this route, and recommend it for times when the slide danger is too high to go elsewhere.

Climbers: Matt Robertson, Mike Bingle, Doug Sanders, Ilan Angwin, John Fenstra

For Sale:

McHale and Co., 5000+ cu. in. (large) backpack, with side pockets, very comfortable on long hikes, belt stays cinched, multiple adjustments, rainfly, detachable fanny pack. \$425. Call Joe Fischer, 425-393-6719.

Aconcagua

(Sung to the tune of Oklahoma by Rodgers & Hammerstein)

A – concagua, They call you “Sentinel of Stone”
Each year 2,000 folks attempt your talused slopes
In the Andes you stand all alone

A – concagua, The tallest in the Hemisphere
I just set my sights upon your lofty heights
And the reason – just because you’re there

A – concagua, Yes we took three days for the approach
But we were not fools and we got some mules
To schlep our extra heavy loads

A – concagua, Where the wind comes screaming ‘cross the hills
And the endless scree can wreck your knees
When the temp’s not giving you the chills

A – concagua, We based our camp at thirteen - eight
Then a day of rest so we’d feel our best
Before moving gear over 2 days

A – concagua, Where the neve’s always penitent
And the air’s so thin it can do you in
Even when you’re sleeping in your tent

A – concagua, Camp 1 was set at sixteen - one
Oh, to move camp higher took some firm desire
With the strong wind spoiling all our fun

A – concagua, We made camp 2 at nineteen - two
Then a night of snow kept us hunkered low
But we still knew what we had to do

A – concagua, Next we traversed cross your Northern Flank
“White Rocks” was our stop, Thirty-five from the top
By this time, oh, the tent, it really stank

A – concagua, When we finally made it to the top
Oh my knees were weak, and I couldn’t speak
And I thought my head was gonna pop!

A – concagua, We commenced our slow and downward slog
And when the clouds did form, we envisioned storms
‘Til we found our tent shrouded in fog

A – concagua, Now we all had really hacking coughs
To regain our strength, we spent one day at length
Playing hearts and lazing ‘round like sloths

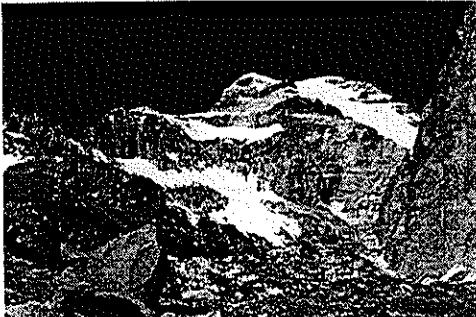
A – concagua, We descended each with 80 pounds
We dropped 5,000 feet in 3 hours – Neat!
At de Mulas tents were all we found

A – concagua, Day fifteen would be our final day
Mules would haul our load till we hit the road
Through the valley 20 miles away

We know we performed quite a feat
And the way that we did it was sweet
And when we say YEOW!
A Yip-I-O-EE-AY
We’re only saying
That you’re on our minds Aconcagua
Aconcagua, S.A.



In the Relinchos Valley



The East Face of Aconcagua



On the summit of South America

Aconcagua, January 29th - February 21st, 1999

by Ron Fleck

For those of you who like your trip reports more verbose and less lyrical – here goes. (By the way, Rob Kunz had an excellent write-up of his trip to Aconcagua in the August 1998 Echo)

Alex (an RMI guide), Ed, and I made the trip between January 29 and February 21, 1999. Unlike Rob, we were going to make a traverse of the mountain high on its northern flank. The approach was via the Vacas valley. This is a longer, more gradual approach, and affords an extra day to acclimatize. This route brings you directly to the base of the Polish glacier at about 19,200 feet. Presuming that you don't want to do the Polish Glacier route (which is 50 – 60 degree glacier and ice), one can still keep camp at the base of the glacier and do the Falso de Polacos route, which is just an ascending traverse to the Ruta Normal. Or one can traverse and set up camp in a number of spots (we chose White Rocks), which are at or near the Ruta Normal for the summit day attempt. We would then descend via the normal route and out the other side of the mountain.

Alex got to Santiago, Chile a few days early, but Ed and I arrived on February 1st. Ed was coming in from the East Coast so his travel time was not nearly as long as mine or Alex's (who lives in Eatontown). To save money, I went through L.A. and Dallas, so I had about 24 hours of continuous travel. A VERY long day. After getting settled in Santiago we did a bit of shopping to supplement the group food for breakfasts and dinners. We already had lots of oatmeal, ramen and Lipton noodle dinners, so we purchased cereal, powdered milk, canned tuna and chicken, instant potatoes, etc., to round out our food supply. The hotel we had in Santiago just so happened to be across the street from an adult theater so it got a bit noisy at night and was hard to sleep (a problem I'd have throughout the trip. But as Alex often said – "Sleep is overrated!").

The next day we took a bus to Penitentes, one of two jumping-off points for the start of the trip. The other is Puente del Inca, which is about five miles up the road. We thought we'd be the only ones on the minibus we had hired but the tour operator consolidated his groups and we were seven heading toward the base of the mountain. The area is basically desert and was quite hot and dry (though Santiago seemed to be fairly humid). The road heads toward Mendoza, Argentina and climbs a pass to about 10,500 feet. Starting at the base of the pass, the road takes 32 hairpin turns (without guardrails, of course) to ascend the approximate 3,000 feet. We know there were 32 because there were signs at each turn. Just beyond the pass is the border, which is quite the experience to cross. We expedited the crossing by making a campaign contribution of \$10 total for the seven of us to the customs "agent" so he didn't have to search our big duffels. It seems that neither country likes the transport of plant or animal products across the border so we were worried about our contraband of jerky, raisins, and, especially, dried apricots. Plus, by paying the "fee" we would probably save an hour or two of needless searching through all our stuff.

We arrived at Penitentes a little haggard, but excited since we had had a glimpse of the awesome South Face of the mountain from the road. Our route was on the much gentler North side, however. Penitentes is a ski area with a number of hotels and lodges. We stayed at one that the tour operator ran during their summer, just for climbers. It was a little spartan, but clean and pleasant and the woman who ran the place, Monica, took great care of us. We spent a rest day there, rearranging our gear, deciding what we "really" needed to take, and what could be left behind. It still seemed like a ton of gear, but somehow we'd manage. We also took a couple hour day hike that went 2000 feet up a dirt road to the top of the ski lift, just to help the acclimatization along a little.

We set out the next day, February 4th, at the Vacas Valley trailhead, Punta de Vacas, at approximately 8,100 feet. We hiked with daypacks while mules carried the rest of our gear. The first day's destination was Las Lenas, approximately 1500 vertical feet. and ten miles distant. It was a hot but leisurely trek to the camp. There is a ranger station here where you register, get your permit stamped and get a numbered trash bag that must be produced upon exit, presumably full of trash. We also met Frick n Frack (our affectionate names for them) here who said that they had hiked along the railroad tracks from Mendoza (at least 100 miles away) in order to acclimatize. That seemed a little odd to us, since they spent a LOT of time just to get to 8100 feet. So whenever we spotted them along the trail or something seemed a little odd to us, we'd just start humming "I've been hiking on the railroad," and get a little chuckle out of it.

The next morning the mules carried us across the Rio Vacas, right out of camp. Then they set off on their merry way and we began hiking again. The river varies from about ten to fifteen feet wide throughout most of the valley and there were very few rocks in it that you can use to boulder hop. In most places it was at least knee deep, more like upper thigh, so using the mules to cross the river just outside of camp was the easiest way to ford. Today was supposed to be a near repeat of the previous day – another 1200 feet. and ten miles. The deeper we headed in, the broader and more spectacular the valley seemed. There was a slight breeze, and the views around every bend seemed like they were from a whole series of postcards. The only potential problem was water. The Rio Vacas is the color

of running hot chocolate, so finding clear water was the concern. Fortunately, there were three or four thin side streams that seemed to materialize every hour or so, and with some Potable Aqua and neutralizer pills the water was great.

Just after lunch, we saw a guy, Russell, waving at us from the other side of the river. Seems that he and his girlfriend, Jennifer, left about 30 minutes before the mules and they didn't cross the river right out of camp. They were on the other side now, and had to go up and down a few embankments where the "shoreline" would disappear. Now they were searching for a reasonable way to cross the river and somehow got separated in a boulder field. When Russell couldn't find Jennifer he headed further upriver, thinking that was the way she had gone., but he hadn't found her and was getting fairly distraught. Well, we hadn't seen her either, so we tossed him a pair of river shoes and a ski pole and helped him get across. We headed back a ways with him until we saw Allen (a solo climber who had our same itinerary in mind), who had also not seen her. We left Russell there and headed toward camp Casa de Piedra. Just before arriving at camp we came to the first trail view of the mountain through the Relinchos valley that we would be walking through tomorrow. Here we could see part of the South and East faces, as well as most of the Polish glacier. Spectacular.

About three hours later, Jennifer came stumbling into camp. Apparently she had returned all the way to Las Lenas on her side of the river, and then crossed before hiking to the Casa De Piedra. She hadn't seen Russell and was very tired and seemed like she might have some heat exhaustion as well as dehydration. The mules had left their stuff, however, so she got busy setting up her tent, getting a stove going, etc. and would accept very little help. Around 9:00 Russell trundled into camp. He too, apparently, had gone all the way back to Las Lenas, but somehow they didn't cross paths, and never saw each other. What a long, harrowing day for each of them. To us the pair became affectionately known as Jack and Jill, or Team Maple Leaf, due to their Canadian origin.

On the 6th we had to cross the river again to head up the Relinchos Valley. The mules were supposed to accommodate us again but the driver wanted a contribution to take us across. We had left all our money back at the ski lodge, so that wasn't going to happen, not to mention the principle of the thing since we had supposedly already paid the mule drivers for the crossing. We just rolled up our pant legs, used our river shoes, and crossed. It was bracing. I took one step into the river and it was above my knees, but facing upriver and using the ski pole, it wasn't too tough. We had several more crossings up the steeper Relinchos valley, but here we could use boulders. Today would be another ten miles, but this time about a 3,000 foot gain to our base camp at Plaza Argentina, 13,800 feet. Once we crested a pass at about 11,900 feet we had a full frontal view of Aconcagua, Ameghino, and the valley below them that we would have to ascend. The moon set on the col behind the two peaks sometime around noon, and neither words nor pictures (at least not MY pictures) can describe how glorious a day that was. For the third straight day we spent about 5:45 underway.

Plaza Argentina was like a very small town. There were about 35 tents here, a number of them the large, walk-in kind. These are staffed by the tour operators and guide services and stay up for the duration of the climbing season. I almost felt like we needed zoning restrictions. The mules dropped off our gear, and that would be the last we'd see of them until our final day on the mountain. From here on in, we would be our own mules. We set up camp, and since it was windy, cooked in the vestibule. Everyone was feeling reasonable. I'd had headaches every day, but not too serious and Ed was a bit tired. Alex would be strong throughout the entire trip and never had an "off" day. At 8 p.m. (long after the sun had set behind the col) the outside temp was 40 degrees. Plaza Argentina is at the end of a terminal moraine, and although there was a glacier underneath us, you'd never know it. It's all covered in scree and rubble, and only at a couple of spots could you see a hint of the ice hiding below.

Even though the next day is a rest day, living at altitude seems tough. I had a severe headache during the night that took a long time to go away. In the tent playing cards my pulse was 68, but after a "leisurely" walk to the latrine, it was racing at 96. I also had a mishap jumping a small creek to get water. I landed badly on the other side, rolled, banged my knee and cut my finger. Fortunately my knee only stiffened a little. The cut was not bad, but didn't really start to heal until we got to lower elevations twelve days later. Man, I'd hate to screw up the climb before it even really got started, on such a simple thing as crossing a three foot wide creek! The rest of the day we re-sorted our gear, and gave away some food that we thought would be excess and that we didn't want to carry if we didn't have to. Since we were doing a traverse we had to take everything with us, and weight is always the enemy. Here we would also switch from hiking boots to climbing boots for the rockier terrain. We figured the heavier boots would provide much more support and stability, especially since I'd already proved I could have trouble jumping or standing.

Now the routine is this: carry roughly half the load to the next camp, stash it in a duffel and then return to the lower camp to sleep. The second day carry the remainder of the gear to the higher elevation and set up a new camp. On the third day, rest. This seemed to work pretty well. On the carry to 16,100 feet (Camp 1) Ed really struggled with the last 500 feet or so. It's a steep scree slope that causes each step to be two feet up and one foot back. In a couple of places it seemed like just the reverse, losing two feet with every step up. It was very slow going. Later in the day we saw Jack and Jill going up the sun-capped snowfield (called neve penitentes, or praying snow, I believe) and that seemed like it was much harder work. But at least we knew they were still pressing on in their climb. The weather continued to be very good - mostly sunny and warm, an occasional cloud, and not too windy (that means anything less than 20 mph).

On the first carry from 16,100 feet to 19,200 feet (Camp 2), I really struggled. I had had little or no sleep the night before, and the load was about 60 pounds. The wind had picked up in the middle of the night and was one reason for not sleeping. Also, the higher we got the stronger the wind got, though it was more gusts than anything else. Within about half an hour of setting out I tossed my breakfast and had the dry heaves at least another four times throughout the day. It was a battle to keep moving upward. After a little more than five hours we made it to the platform at the base of the Polish Glacier. Here the wind was gusting between 30-35 mph. I felt like my energy meter was pegged at zero and took it very slowly on the descent, most of which was scree. When we got back to camp I was just wasted. I felt like I had never been so exhausted in all my life. Fortunately, with some rest, food and drink, it only took another 3 hours before I felt almost human again.

This had been a real tough day for me. For the first time doubts about reaching the summit started cropping up. If it's this tough, getting to 19,000 feet, I couldn't imagine what going to 22,800 was going to be like! I also started to wonder if my training regimen had been adequate. But then I also thought that there wasn't much more I could have done back in Seattle to prepare me for altitude in the midst of the wettest autumn on record. As it was, several times a week for months I took 60 pounds on the stair climbers and treadmills at the gym so that I'd at least be prepared for the load, if not the altitude. And then of course I did other aerobic exercises for two hour stints to mix it up. Now it all seemed to be crumbling around me.

When we moved camp the next day it was Ed's turn to struggle. The wind was still strong and more sustained, pretty much constant 25-30 mph, with gusts getting to maybe 45 mph. The wind beat him up a lot. Luckily for me, I felt stronger than the previous day. It's amazing what a little sleep and 10 pounds less in the pack will do. I felt pretty strong until the last hour. I got nauseous again and it was hard to eat or drink under those conditions. The last 45 minutes or so we resorted to crampons and ice axes. At Camp 2 there was an IMG (International Mountain Guides) group with a couple of guides Alex knew from Rainier. The group was gracious enough to help us set up camp under the deteriorating conditions (fog, some snow, and gusting winds). Actually they helped Alex mainly because Ed and I were pooped and moving in a sort of slow motion. They leveled a platform in the snow, set up the tent, and also had a hot drink for us. What a godsend! The IMG folks had foregone their summit bid the previous night because of "nuking" winds and it looked like tonight would be the same. But at least we had camp set up and although tired, were safely tucked away in the tent. It seemed that with the strong winds there would be no summit bids again that night.

As predicted no one went for the summit. However, the winds ceased somewhere about 4 a.m. At 6 a.m. it was 16 degrees inside the tent but we still felt pretty cozy. When we finally got up it was calm and beautiful blue skies. Our original plan had been to traverse the northern flank to a camp called White Rocks, which is just east of the normal route. We would carry ALL our gear (probably about 90 pounds a piece at this point). The traverse would only gain a couple of hundred feet and should take about three hours. We'd set up camp and then go for the summit the next day. After the difficulties that Ed and I had had the previous two days, we decided that it would be too strenuous for us and that we'd have no steam left for a summit bid so quickly. Since it was such a beautiful day, and Alex was feeling like we should at least accomplish "something" we decided to do another carry of half the load. The following day we'd move camp and then go for the summit. We had originally allotted three summit days and this would eat up one of them, but it seemed like our best chance to get all of us on top. Alex didn't like the idea of us being separated from half of our gear so high on the mountain, but we figured that it was literally only a couple of hours away on not too difficult terrain, and was a reasonable risk to take. We also considered that the weather seemed to be in our favor and we weren't too worried about a major storm moving in within the next day.

Someone had done the traverse earlier than we did, so there was a good trail to follow. At times it was crusty and we chopped steps, and then after an hour we just put our crampons on. That made life much easier. The traverse took three hours, and seemed harder than we felt it should have, but we found a reasonably level spot under some spires and stashed our duffels. On the return we saw Allen carrying his full load and he said that he was going to descend. He, too, struggled with his energy levels and said that he felt like he needed another week to acclimatize. We tried to talk him into taking a rest day or two and then seeing how he felt, but he had convinced himself to descend. We really felt bad about that because he was such a nice guy and this was his second attempt on the mountain. Our return with literally empty packs took just over an hour but again Ed and I were pooped. Alex, who had much more energy, did the majority of the chores such as snow gathering and getting the stoves going. Without him I don't think we'd have much of a chance at the summit. As it is, I felt like our chances were getting slimmer. Most of our days until now have been 5-7 hours of exercise. We figured that summit day would be something on the order of 12 hours, so how were we going to endure under that extra load?

Today, Valentine's day, we repeated the traverse and moved camp. It went much better than the day before. We set up camp and jury-rigged a duct taping of the fly which had somehow ripped near the vestibule door while shaking it out and packing it up a few hours earlier. We also checked for Allen's tent but couldn't find it anywhere so we figured he descended after all. Then we just got ourselves set up for the summit bid. We stuffed all the necessary gear in the tent, I re-sized my crampons to fit the overboots I'd be using on summit day, etc. In the middle of the day I got a bad headache, but some Vitamin I (Ibuprofen) and some extra water seemed to ease that.

During the early evening we discussed our options – what happens if one guy craps out, etc. We had planned to rope up for most of the summit bid, even though not on a glacier. There were some pretty steep sections with VERY long runouts and we wanted to be able to stop anyone's fall. Also, the upper mountain ascends a chute called the Canaleta that is about 900 feet of 45-degree terrain, normally scree. I recalled the guide book description of "mind numbing scree" and was dreading this. However, in spite of a dry year, they had had a prolonged snowstorm about a week before we arrived on the mountain and its upper slopes were still covered with enough snow to make the mind numbing scree mostly invisible. At least some things were in our favor.

We choked down as much food as we could stand and then hit the sack around 8 p.m., nervous and with all kinds of conflicting thoughts racing through our heads. Within 30 minutes my stomach was churning and I had a case of the runs. GREAT!! Popped two Prescription I (Imodium) and tried to sleep. Not so easy. Up at 3 a.m. and underway at 5. It was pretty cold, but not too windy yet. Within half an hour my feet were cold, as were everyone else's. I loosened my crampon straps a notch and that seemed to be enough. Alex would have cold feet most of the day. At our first long break around 6:30 it was minus 5 degrees with a slight wind. I took a picture of the sun coming up (it's the last we'd see of the sun till around 11 since the upper reaches of the mountain block the sun from the route) and watched in horror as my camera case slid down the mountain. I thought I had put it and my pack on a very flat spot by a big rock but I guess not. Fortunately it stopped, as if by magic, about 30 feet lower. Before I can get to it, a water bottle takes the same suicide plunge and it, too, stops only a few feet from the case. I must be REALLY lucky today. But descending those extra 30 feet to fetch those items seems to take an extra dollop of energy – energy that is already in short supply.

From here on out the wind picks up to about 15-20 mph. Not too bad, but certainly enough to make my face cold. I use a neoprene mask for a while, but when I can't get enough air in I yank it down and breathe very deeply for a while before pulling it up to try and keep my face warm. I'm at the tail end of the rope and taking at least one breath per step. As we ascend, I keep slowing down to where I'm at four breaths per step and we haven't even reached the Canaleta yet. I can't use the mask at this breathing rate so I have to opt for a balaclava to keep my neck and face warm. The route is steeper than I anticipated, but fortunately it's mostly on snow and is fairly good cramponing. I'd hate to be on the scree now. Also by this point I am spent. Ed, who is in front of me on the rope is literally a saint. The rope keeps getting tauter and I seem powerless to stop it. About six hours into it, around the base of the Canaleta, I am completely wasted. However, if one turns around we all turn around, so I try to keep plodding on.

We don't say too much at breaks and I have trouble eating anything. I apologize for being slow and Ed says it's OK because he can use the breathers too. Alex says he is somewhat cold because he's not moving fast enough to generate any heat. He also says that we have to keep focused (seems very difficult for me today) and that we'll continue climbing since the conditions are still pretty reasonable for the summit bid. So onward we plod. If I stumble then it takes me about ten breaths to recover and try and get in the groove. I try to psyche myself up to maintain a regular pace but it's practically impossible. My energy meter is now definitely pegged at zero. I don't know how, but after several more hours we reach the summit and I'm as exhausted as I've ever been. The carry to 19,000 feet pales in comparison. But there we are on the top at 2 p.m., nine hours after we left camp. There's no summit register. DAMN!! The last hour I had concocted how I was going to write this whimsical diatribe about being the world's highest boat anchor, but there's no ledger for my clever bon mots. There is about a two foot high metal summit cross that looks like it has beer cans for arms, but maybe I'm just hallucinating. We take the obligatory summit photos and stay only ten minutes because it's still pretty cool out, and it looks like some clouds are building. Surprisingly, we're only the third group up that day, and we pass at least 20 people on our way down. Some are almost three hours behind us.

The descent was very slow as I almost literally watched every step I took and willed my feet into the established path so that I wouldn't fall. What should have been about a two and a half hour descent took over four hours. But we got down safely and that's all that counts. Halfway down, the clouds moved in and we were in fog looking for the route and our tents. Fortunately it was not too much of a problem to find them, but we certainly didn't want to miss them and have to climb back up. We reached the tents around 6:30, flat out exhausted. Apparently Ed was about as drained as I was, but Alex still had plenty of steam left. We made some hot drinks, skipped dinner, and tried to control the hacking coughs that we all had. The supply of throat lozenges and cough drops was running short.

We took the next day as a rest day to regain our strength. It seemed that I had gotten a minor case of frost nip on the central part of my nose. It didn't hurt or anything but it started to peel immediately and would be red for a week. Ed and Alex seemed to be somewhat badly burned but they didn't start peeling for days. Alex and I took a jaunt to the other established camps to see what the little huts looked like, and take some scenic photos. Again, it was a sunny day with just a few clouds and a slight breeze. We spent a quiet night and tried to rest as much as possible. Finally it was time to pack up and descend the other side. Our packs were down to about 80 pounds by now, but they were still heavy enough. The main problem seemed to be finding places to stuff and strap all the gear on our packs. From here we took just over three hours to descend 5,000 feet on a miserable scree slope to Plaza De Mulas. We were so happy we had not made the approach from this side! An ascent here seemed like it would just be a killer, psychologically if not physically. On the descent Alex ran into another person he knew and we also heard about Jack and Jill. Apparently they had ascended

via the Polish glacier (quite a tough feat this year since only four people had made that ascent this season due to the dry and icy conditions) and summited around 8 p.m. They bivouacked on the summit and had to be helped down. Again, doing things the VERY hard way.

From above, Plaza de Mulas definitely looks like a little city. There were about 100 tents of all shapes and sizes. Again, we were glad that we went up the other side where there were a lot fewer people. After numerous locals tried to buy our gear, we just repacked it all into duffels again for the mules to haul back to the trailhead (they also haul out the trash). We spent a warm night and then headed out.

For the first hour or so we felt like we were hiking in a quarry, and we encountered four mule carcasses in close proximity. Finally, though, the trail opened into a broad, gorgeous valley that at times seemed reminiscent of a mini Grand Canyon. Again we had numerous creek crossings, but nothing too difficult. Just over seven hours and about 20 miles later we were at the park entrance, getting our permits signed off, tired, but looking forward to a nice shower and Monica's cooking.

Epilog:

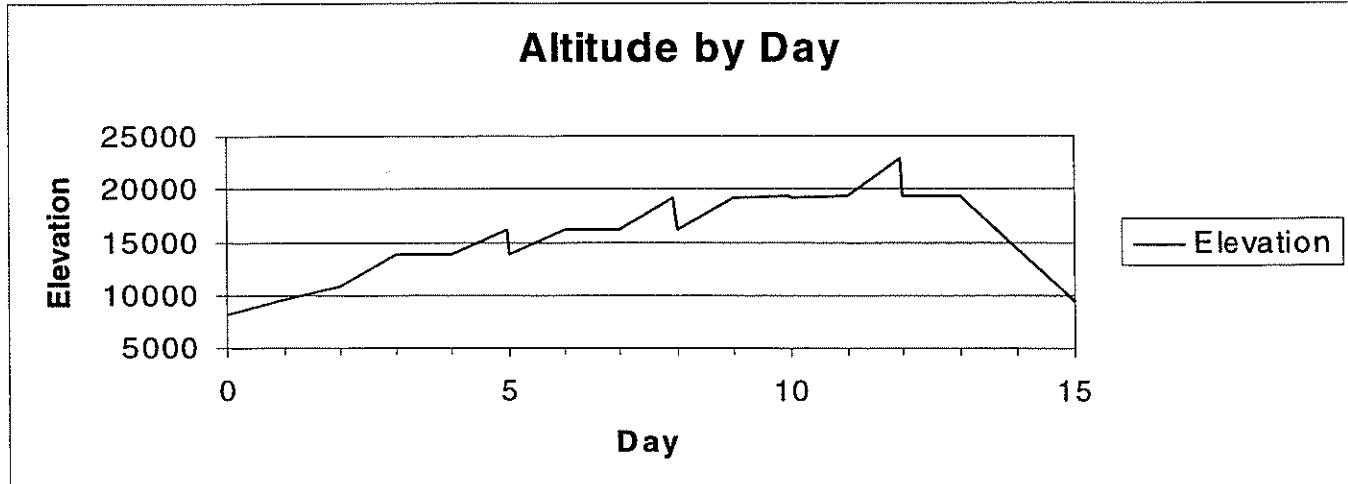
Prior to our arrival we had heard that five people had died on the mountain this season and that two of the bodies had not yet been recovered, so there was the possibility that we would encounter a corpse alongside the route, high on the mountain. That never happened, but it is a grim possibility one has to be prepared for. People from all over the world come to Aconcagua, and we saw a number of whom we thought: "No way can these people make a serious summit attempt." The mountain can be much harder than it looks. We were VERY fortunate with the conditions we experienced - mostly sunny, warm days, and very few days of strong winds, and even those weren't the killer 70-100 mph winds we figured we had to be prepared for.

We spent a total of 15 days hiking into, climbing, and returning from the mountain. Twelve of those days we slept above 13,800 feet and of those twelve, we slept above 19,000 feet on five of them. The route we took was not at all technical but it was difficult, or at least very strenuous. Don't underestimate the effects of altitude. It is the GREAT equalizer. I thought that with my training and "all that time" spent at altitude it would prepare me for the summit. A lot more time is needed to really acclimatize. Heck, at 19,000 feet just getting up in the middle of the night to pee in a bottle got my heart racing by an additional 15 or 20 beats.

The permit fee was \$120 and is supposed to increase to \$300 next year. In addition, you are going to have to go into Mendoza to personally pick up the permit. Tour operators will no longer be able to do it for you. We also heard that they may require a mini-physical in Mendoza before granting the permit.

Be flexible in your planning and on the mountain. Realize that everyone can have a bad day or two and try to work around that. We talked to one guy who tossed his breakfast at 19,000 feet and that was it for his summit bid. An extra day and he may have been fine. You spend a lot of money, time, and effort to get there to have one bad day potentially ruin it for you.

In addition to Imodium and Pepto Bismol, bring LOTS of throat lozenges and cough drops. Above 16,000 feet our throats were constantly dry, especially when trying to sleep. Breathing through a bandanna works reasonably well to moisten the air, but you naturally get less air than the scarce quantity that is already available. Also, a deck of cards works well to while away the idle hours after a carry or on rest days. I seemed to win more Hearts games at altitude than at sea level. That was my foolish way of convincing myself that the altitude was affecting my partners more than it was affecting me. HAH!



In Search of Higher Ground - Washington's Top 100

by John Lixvar (Lizard)

This essay, reprinted from an earlier Echo, is an excerpt from John Lixvar's forthcoming book on "Climbing Washington's 100 Highest Peaks". In order to appease the impatient publishers at Mountaineer Books, Lizard is looking for contributions and/or volunteers to help push this project to completion. The guidebook portion of the text needs the most help -- route descriptions need to be crosschecked and updated for current conditions, and many GPS waypoints, bearings, and coordinates need to be compiled and verified for accuracy and consistency. Fresh and engaging narrative focused on some of the unique features of individual Big Boys would also be most welcome.

If participating on such a project appeals to your creative talents, please contact John at (425)865-3783 or at lizard@redwood.rt.cs.boeing.com. The Liz will be away on climbing holiday until early May, but upon his return he will convene a strategy session for all interested contributors. Don't miss this great opportunity to put a BoeAlps/Bulger imprint on the mountaineering literature of the Northwest!

Back in 1975 when the 1:24,000 Pasayten quads finally became available, it was possible for the first time to identify all of Washington's major mountains. Previous lists of notable Washington summits all suffered from serious omissions. The nine-thousanders were generally well known, but beyond that nothing comprehensive was available.¹

By the spring of 1976 all of Washington's 197 peaks over 8000' were enumerated. Rules were defined to distinguish individual summits, and the one hundred highest were singled out for special attention. Ultimately a "Big Boy" list called the Top 100 was established and circulated among a small circle of climbers.

A crude but rude, undisciplined but dedicated group of mountain fanatics calling themselves the Bulgers soon fell victim to the siren call of the Big Boys. This group of hard men and women sporting names like Buffalo, Koala, Lizard, and the Zookeeper began to systematically climb the hundred highest.

Competition was fierce for the first few years. From 1977 through 1979 the six original Bulgers collected 229 Big Boy ascents. However by 1980 it became obvious that no one would be able to match the furious pace set by the Koala. On October 4th of that year Rus Kroeker stood atop Sinister Peak and became the first man in history to climb Washington's 100 highest mountains. Since that time eight others have managed to duplicate Koala's feat, and interest in the Top 100 has spread throughout the local climbing community.²

This story, more than ten years in the making, is about the outstanding climbs and remarkable people that make up Lizard's perspective of the unique Big Boy experience.

The Cast of Characters

1. Bulgers

The Bulgers (actually Bludgers) were a despicable gang of bush rangers immortalized in Henry Lawson's famous but unpublished Australian verse "*The Bastard from the Bush*." The six original Captains of the Push are:

Mike Bialos - Buffalo. A Bungle in the Jungle. The quintessential Bulger: awkward on level ground, but unstoppable in the high country.

Bruce Gibbs - Giraffe. A rather capable oxymoron: cranky but jovial, crafty yet indecisive. Adds strength and diversity to any group.

¹ Prior to 1968 barely 80 percent of Washington was mapped at a primary scale of 1:62,500 or better. State mapping at 1:24,000 was finally completed on a provisional basis in 1991.

² As of August 1997 fourteen hardbodies (11 Bulgers and affiliates plus 3 others) have summited the Top 100.

Rus Kroeker - Koala. An affable, take-charge techno-junky stuck in overdrive. A Pritikin convert who runs on turnip greens and artichokes.

Bette Felton - Zookeeper. An acrophobe with a very high tolerance to pain and bad company. Quite a lady in the rough. A good desert island choice.

John Plimpton - Long John. Surprisingly normal. Can't say much bad about LJ. Probably too moderate for most Bulger tastes.

John Lixvar - Lizard. A gentlemen among rogues. Originator of the Top 100 and author of this article.

2. Latter-day Bulgers, Youngbloods, Neo-Pritikins and other Peripheral Forms:

Mary Jo Gibbs - Gazelle. Bruce's former better half. Actually, Mary Jo had a near monopoly on the couple's finer character traits.

Bob Tillotson - Taurus. Former body-builder turned mountain jock. Good Bulger material.

John Roper - Rhino/Himmelfahrtskommando (HFK). A connoisseur of the Skagit with humor far too subtle for full Bulger membership.

Silas Wild - Silage. Another HFK. A bold climber too kool for Bulgerhood.

Dick Kegel - Kangaroo. A smooth, competent, absolutely fearless climber obviously over-qualified for the Bulgers.

Ken Zafren - Zaphod. Equipment freak. Ken outfits Alaskan expeditions from his basement supplies.

Al Ryll - The man who got Lizard up Goode Mountain, and the person to whom this article is dedicated.

Big Boys Rules

Washington's 100 highest extends from 14410' Mt Rainier to 8320' Flora Mtn. Three major rules determine Top 100 eligibility:

Rule 1: An individual summit has to rise at least 400 feet above the surrounding terrain. The distinction looks right in the field and can be clearly determined from maps with 40, 80 and 100 foot contour intervals.

Rule 2: A peak with an official USGS-approved name will be considered for inclusion even if it fails the 400 foot rule.

Rule 3: An 800 foot rule applies to major volcanoes. This rule avoids counting Columbia Crest and Liberty Cap on Rainier as two separate mountains. Little Tahoma is the only volcanic sub-summit with Big Boy status.

Rule 2 has been applied to include a few well known summits that are generally considered distinct mountains even though their rise above adjoining saddles falls somewhat short of 400 feet. Seven Fingered Jack, Copper, Sahale and Sherpa, among others, fall into this category.

The Climbs

1. Shuksan and the Major Volcanoes

Mt Rainier 14410	Mt Baker 10775	Mt St. Helens(pre) 9677
Mt Adams 12276	Glacier Peak 10541	Mt St. Helens(post) 8365
Little Tahoma 11138	Mt Shuksan 9127	

Washington's major volcanoes fill the first five positions in the Big Boy list. These summits together with Mt St. Helens and the non-volcanic Mt Shuksan attract a tremendous amount of climber interest.

Public awareness of Cascade mountaineering is often limited to these peaks, and many Washington climbers begin their careers with these enjoyable, but generally uncomplicated snow climbs. Indeed, six of Lizard's first seven climbs in Washington were on peaks from this group.

Mount Rainier was my first Big Boy, and only my second mountain climb ever. After spending nearly a week in training at Camp Muir with Lou Whittaker and other guides from RMI, our well acclimatized group raced up and down the Ingraham Glacier in a little over five hours, and returned to Paradise feeling like world class alpinists.

Unfortunately that endorphin induced illusion was soon shattered by an extremely painful lactic acid buildup. Within hours, the post-Rainier Lizard was reduced to a pathetic, stiff legged creature of limited mobility. Bicycle touring the Great Plains of Illinois had helped my aerobic conditioning, but did little to prepare me for the after effects of our long speedy descent. Nevertheless, I was hooked on climbing. After receiving engineering degrees from UIUC and IIT, I found employment with the Boeing Company, and in the fall of 1968 relocated to the Pacific Northwest. Today, even after more than 285 visits to the grand mountain, Rainier continues to excite the imagination.

The rest of the Bulgers had also completed most of the climbs in this group before Big Boy mania focused their climbing activity on the one hundred.

Post-eruptive Mt St. Helens was of course the obvious exception. In a most spectacular reordering of the list, the once lovely, symmetric peak was reduced to an ashen frustum and placed off limits to climbers. This situation posed a bit of a dilemma. Neither Bette Felton or Silas Wild had gotten around to climbing St. Helens before May 18, 1980. How could they earn credit for a peak placed in a red zone for the indefinite future? What about the rest of the Bulgers? Would their credit apply to the new summit? The issue remained unresolved for three years. However, volcanic activity eventually subsided, the red zone was reduced, and rumors of unauthorized ascents began to circulate in the climbing community.

The Zookeeper could not afford to wait much longer. Her short list was down to seven, and several other Bulgers, including the Lizard, were closing in on their final peaks. In the pre-dawn light of a July 1983 morning, after quietly working her way up through dark gullies and cinder chutes, a solo climber cautiously approached the crater rim, and became the first Bulger to look down the boresight to the dome below.

My turn came in early February 1987, a few months before the official reopening of the mountain. However, unlike Bette's undetected ascent, my climb attracted some undesired attention. Officials from the enforcement division of the USFS, together with a fair number of other spectators, had watched my progress through binoculars and were eagerly awaiting me at the Butte Camp roadhead.

An out-of-uniform backcountry ranger was the first person to reach me after the climb. The views from the top and the ski run down were so sensational that it didn't take much effort to coax an admission of trespass from a clueless Liz. Fortunately the ranger, who did not have arrest authority, shared my enthusiasm for the climb and warned me about the reception committee waiting at the parking lot.

Thoughts of the possible \$1000 fine and six month jail sentence filled my mind as I approached my fate. All hopes of quietly slipping by to my truck were dashed by distant calls of "Here he comes!" and "That's him!" I was enveloped by the congregation. One fellow complimented me on my skiing, another asked if I had seen any sastrugi (?), and everyone was curious about the view -- including the fellows from the green truck with "ENFORCEMENT DIVISION" printed on the side.

The anticipation was a lot worse than the reality. The USFS officers were congenial outdoorsmen and fine gentlemen. They let me change clothes and clean up a bit before talking to me in private, and after about 30 minutes of earnest conversation, let me go free. Apparently a court decision challenging the red zone restrictions had just been upheld, and the state legislature was close to reversing its position on the closure.

Over 34,000 people have stood atop Mt St. Helens since its reopening two years ago; but on that memorable morning of February 8th, all the mountain above timberline was mine alone!

Never again.

2. The Stuart Range

Mt Stuart 9415	Enchantment Peak 8520
Dragontail Peak 8840+	Cashmere Mtn 8501
Colchuck Peak 8705	Argonaut Peak 8453
Cannon Mtn 8638	Little Annapurna 8440+
Sherpa Peak 8605	McClellan Peak 8364

Mt Stuart and the Enchantments offer an easy opportunity to quickly run up one's Big Boy total. The range suffers from over-exposure, but the quality of climbs available there make it all worthwhile.

Rus Kroeker and I bagged Colchuck, East and West Dragontail, Little Annapurna, McClellan, Enchantment, plus Witches Tower in one intense weekend foray. Other Bulgers have indulged themselves in similar peak fests.

Cannon Mtn and Mt Stuart were done by non-technical routes on long 7000' to 8000' daytrips. Only Argonaut and Sherpa stand out in my mind as especially noteworthy climbs. Long John, Dick Bock (a peripheral form) and I tackled Argonaut on its west ridge from Sherpa Pass. It was a long, strenuous climb on fine granite that finished with an exposed 5th class pitch up the summit block. Our descent to the Argonaut-Colchuck col was supposed to be by the class 2 route described in Beckey's guide. To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever been able to locate a class 2 route off Argonaut. Our route involved tricky downclimbing on steep snow, uncertain rappels off shrubs and detached flakes, and numerous other difficulties. We arrived back at camp utterly exhausted, and spent 12 hours in the sack that night before moving out along Mountaineer Creek.

Sherpa was a more jovial climb, but it too had its moments. Ken Zafren and I started up the south face, rappelled down the cold north face after getting in trouble near the balanced rock, and finished the climb via the west ridge. Our convoluted 11 hour route on Sherpa was just one of many fun climbs Ken and I made together during that summer of '83. Our cautious climbing styles meshed well together, and a shared weakness for "*Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*" always seemed to get us through tight situations in good humor.

Lizard: "I've got this terrible pain in all the diodes down my left side..."
Zaphod: "DON'T PANIC!"

The confidence we developed in each other during these climbs would serve us well in some of our future, more desperate ventures.

3. The Chilliwacks

Mt Spickard 8979	Mt Rahm ³ 8480+
Mt Redoubt 8956	Mox Peak (SE Spire) 8480+
Mt Custer 8630	Mox Peak (NW Spire) 8320+

The Chilliwacks are an especially difficult group of peaks -- wild, remote, and friable. Only Mt Spickard offers the prospect of an easy ascent. Redoubt, Custer, and Rahm are merely tough; whereas the Moxes test, or exceed, the limits of prudent mountaineering.

Only the Koala managed to dispatch this group in two visits. Lizard's five trips up Depot Creek is more typical of the effort needed to get these peaks.

NW Twin Spire, known as Easy Mox to the Bulgers, was one of Lizard's most dangerous climbs to date. Crossing the bergschrund on the upper Redoubt Glacier was risky; climbing to the saddle over wet downsloping slabs was treacherous; and retrieving the rope after the summit rappel (the site of Warren Spickard's fatal accident) was positively perilous. Long John and I spent 14 hours on the route, and felt lucky to escape unscathed.

And then there's Hard Mox...

Fred Beckey's description of his 1941 first ascent of SE Twin Spire is required reading for anyone contemplating "the most difficult principal peak in the Northwest." Here is a climb that more or less determines one's ability to get the Top 100. The graphic account given in "*Challenge of the North Cascades*" has intimidated a generation of climbers, and caused more anxiety among the Bulgers than any other Big Boy.

The Bulger "A" team, consisting of Rus Kroeker and Dick Kegel, got Hard Mox in July 1979. Mike Bialos and Bruce Gibbs, together with Don Goodman (another powerful peripheral form), got it shortly thereafter. Their reports were not very encouraging. The Ridge of Gendarmes was terrifying; the exposure on the 500' summit tower was profound; and worst of all, the rock was unsound and offered few reliable anchor points.

The rest of us less capable climbers tried to avoid the issue of Hard Mox as long as possible. However by 1986 Bob, Bette, Long John and I were all down to our final few; and our investment in the 100 had gotten too great to let the threat of one dangerous climb deter us.

On August 10th Rus repeated Hard Mox, and in the process helped Big Bob Tillotson get his 100th. Our grim resolve was only reinforced when the Taurus, a taciturn fellow not often given to exaggeration, called Southeast Twin Spire the scariest climb of his career.

Two weeks later, after spending an uneasy night at the Redoubt-Bear saddle, the Zookeeper, Lizard, and LJ kick steps up to Twin Spires col. The maw of Mox is just about the most uninviting place imaginable, and we waste little time there as we carefully ascend to the proper notch in the Ridge of Gendarmes. The view of the SE Spire from this point is just staggering -- the sort of stuff climbing nightmares are made of.

Sustained with little more than Rus's detailed schematic and the knowledge that 15 parties have preceded us, we downclimb slabby, loose rock to a steep snowfinger, cross three nasty gullies, and reach the base of the tower. Rus's notes have served us well to this point, but nothing above seems to make sense. His route over the rotten Red Crap Overhang to the detached White Pillar seems most improbable. Long John's leadership here is masterful. The crux is a very delicate 5.6 overhang. Two more leads over steep, broken terrain bring us to the top! We congratulate Bette for making her 100th, but she responds with only sullen acknowledgment. Our overriding but unspoken concern is to get out of this unhealthy place intact.

³ Mt Rahm, formerly known as International Peak, was the last addition to the Big Boy list. It fails the 400 foot rule but was officially designated in a 1977 U.S. Geographic Names Board decision. The mountain commemorates David Allan Rahm (1931-1976), author and professor who published and lectured about the geology of Washington. Mt Rahm is located two miles NNE of Mt Spickard.

We set up a double rope rappel and I set off over the edge. Half way down I discover that the ropes have fallen to the right of the northwest rib, onto the nearly vertical north face. I reach a little platform and try to reset the lines. Unfortunately the ropes have caught on some unseen snag!!! Moreover, my little platform is a topply rock of uncertain integrity. I have no option but to rappel down to the foul up. To my immense relief I only have to drop about ten feet before the ropes come free. I carefully reclimb the pitch, reposition the rappel, and continue down a full 50 meter rope length to a protected spot.

Hard Mox was Long John's 86th Big Boy; I have three more to go; and Bette is finished.

4. The Eldorado Massif

Eldorado Peak 8868	Klawatti Peak 8485	Snowfield Peak 8347
Primus Peak 8508	Dorado Needle 8440+	Austera Peak 8334

The Eldorado massif is a relict from the Pleistocene -- an icescape that suggests what most of North America must have looked like during the height of the last glacial epoch. Many of the peaks in this uplift barely pierce the icecap; and those that do are often buttressed with steep skirts of glacier carved rock. Klawatti and its Klaws, Austera and its Towers, and Dorado Needle are all sculptured horns nearly surrounded by glacier ice.

In July of 1978 many of the Bulgers assembled on the Inspiration Glacier for an extended four day reunion with the Big Boys of the Skagit. Eldorado was our first target. Even though we had all previously climbed this magnificent mountain, the lure of its airy summit arete was irresistible. While traversing that narrow crest of firn I was reminded of my previous crossing two years earlier. The strategy on that audacious climb was to get Eldorado in a day, and return to the cars under the light of a full moon. We nearly made it. Our party summited at 9 pm; waited until 11:30 for the moonrise; but then bivouacked three hours later in a wind cirque. After 17 hours of climbing we were just too weary to finish the final two miles of brush.

Dorado Needle was our next target. Rus and Mike tackled the SW face, while Bruce and Mary Jo Gibbs, Bette, and I attempted the Route Normale. Our route was threatened by an enormous perched snow block, and finished with an exposed but thoroughly enjoyable summit cheval. Both parties met near the top.

The key to Klawatti is getting started. Moat problems (I fell in!) prevented our getting onto the SW ridge, while vertical rock made the south face unattractive. Rus eventually worked his way onto a ledge system that solved the south face problem, but unfortunately he was not carrying a rope. The task of fixing the route fell to our reliable Buffalo. The rest of the climb was over loose, but fairly easy rock. Surprisingly, our ascent was only the eighth since 1945.

Austera's main attraction is the view. Few places in the North Cascades offer such a pleasing panorama of rock and ice. The climb itself is also fairly interesting: a chockstone problem requiring more athleticism than finesse, and a firm 4th class staircase leading straight to the summit.

Snowfield Peak, situated north of McAllister Creek, is really an outlier detached from the main Eldorado group. Four of us got up the impressive mountain during a three-day Snowfield-Isolation traverse. The trip was made over Labor Day weekend, and the biggest problem encountered was getting a lift back to the car at the Pyramid Lake trailhead. Hitchhiking that Monday night in Newhalem was at best a poor proposition. What little traffic there was, was headed south. Finally, after a futile two hour roadside vigil, I gave up and called the State Patrol for assistance. Officer Ray Beazizo was sympathetic, but unwilling to help. He had just put in three tough days of patrol duty and was understandably tired. Beazizo did mention that a tow truck was enroute from Concrete to Ross Lake, and thought I might get a lift from the driver. Thirty minutes later the truck rolled by, leaving me standing at the curb. By this time it was well after midnight and the Bulgers were settled in for the night, resigned to a lost day of work. However Lizard had one more idea: a direct, forceful appeal to Newhalem's County Sheriff.

Sheriff George Sharpe met me at the door to his home, dressed only in his underwear and shoulder holster. After awkwardly explaining our situation, the out-of-uniform officer notified his dispatcher and gave me a "citizen's assist" in Skagit County's ultimate authority vehicle: a dark mobile command post-cum-muscle car equipped with sawed-off shotgun in the front seat, steel cage in back, and a dash crammed with communications gear and other electronics.

Sheriff Sharpe acted well beyond the call of duty, and refused any compensation for his service. The Bulgers, and especially the Lizard, want to publicly acknowledge the sheriff's good deed.

Our long, long three-day climb of Snowfield ended sometime after 3:00am; in contrast, Roper and Kroeker made a January ascent of neighboring Colonial Peak in less than 10 hours RT, and managed to return to Seattle in time to attend a Bulger social.

A wildly ambitious snowshoe attempt of Primus Peak in February 1978 was halted a scant 4600' from the summit. Icy conditions, a lack of determination, and uncommon Bulger good sense doomed this climb only a short distance above Thunder Creek. The summit of Primus eluded me until June 1986. Number 95 was an exhausting 7800' brush bash up from McAllister Creek. Cliff bands, closely spaced little trees, and tricky route finding gave character to the climb. We bivouacked in a rock crevice just below Lucky Pass, and returned without climbing nearby Tricouni Peak.

5. The Cascade Pass Peaks

Goode Mtn 9200+	Forbidden Peak 8815	Horseshoe Peak 8480+
Buckner Mtn 9112	Sahale Mtn 8680+	Mt Formidable 8325
Boston Peak 8894	Storm King 8520+	

This group is the *crème* of the one hundred. Every climb here is a classic, and most are serious undertakings. Horseshoe is the only questionable member. The peak is probably misnamed on the map, and falls way short of the 400 foot rule even though it is the high point of Ripsaw Ridge. Nevertheless this crag, a single 80 foot lead of 5.3, is fun and every Bulger has been compelled to climb it. Long John's placement of protection on Horseshoe was so secure that at least two subsequent parties have failed to remove a chock we were forced to leave behind. Be sure to bring a big 8 foot sling for the summit rappel.

Sahale and Boston are neighboring summits of starkly different character. Sahale beckons the climber upward on attractive, gentle terrain and rewards the effort with the ineffable "Sea of Peaks" view of the North Cascades. In contrast, there is not too much good to say about the red ogre called Boston. The loose boulders strewn along the south ridge and SE face are treacherous and demand constant attention. The summit register still records the grim accident that befell the Roper party back in 1967. One does not repeat a climb of Boston.

Buckner Mountain is also nearby, but the direct route from Sahale Arm down to Horseshoe Basin is threatened by ice collapsing from the margin of the Sahale Glacier. Rus Kroeker forced a super-direct line down a gully from the Boston-Sahale ridge and experienced one of the most bizarre incidents in Bulger history.

Rus's exuberance for the Top 100 would occasionally violate the precepts of safe mountaineering. In this case, his route to Buckner was so bold that no one else in the party dared follow his lead. Half way down a high angle snow chute Rus ran into trouble. Footholds became scarce as he moved from one tenuous position to the next. Then suddenly he slipped and fell headlong out-of-sight into a moat on the Davenport Glacier. The rest of the party attempted a rescue by way of Sahale Arm and the Davenport but retreated after getting hit by falling ice. Things did not look good for the Koala.

A short while later, after regaining consciousness, Rus emerges from his ice crypt and to everyone's utter amazement announces his intention to continue on! The next day our bruised but unbowed buddy arrives at Cascade Pass, after bivouacking on the summit of Buckner. The determined Koala had also soloed Booker Mountain and bush-rappelled down the steep Horseshoe Basin headwall to the Stehekin River trail.

Our climb of Forbidden Peak was even more exciting. Forbidden's inclusion in the list of fifty classic climbs in North America is well deserved, but results in an abnormal amount of activity on this difficult peak. In order to avoid other climbers, our venture was planned as a midweek daytrip in early July.

Our plans did not go well. Bette Felton got the short straw in the undemocratic process of selecting a four person climbing team, and wept bitterly over being left behind. Damaged personal relationships, anxiety over difficult climbs, and unrelenting competitive pressure are some of the costs incurred when playing the Big Boy game.

Our climb did not go well either.

July 9th, 1980 was a day of unsettled weather. Conditions are not bad enough for an outright abort but the somber clouds circling the high summits above Boston Basin hardly inspire confidence.

Ice axes begin to buzz as we approach the 8300' notch in the east ridge. We have entered an intense electric field surrounding Forbidden's upper reaches and the Bulgers are in panic.

Indecision gives way to action as we cache the axes and drop down to a ledge on the northeast face. The exposure down to the Boston Glacier is phenomenal, but the north side offers protection from the incoming weather. Rus and Mary Jo begin to belay across a ledge system slightly above our position while Bruce and I survey our options. Suddenly without warning, a snow block falls from an unseen cornice somewhere above and sweeps across the twenty foot span separating me and Bruce! A moment later it's gone and only bits of detritus mark its passage. Our position on that narrow ledge was so precarious that getting hit by even that minor release of snow could have been fatal.

The climb continues with the two rope teams reaching the summit pyramid within minutes of each other. We forgo the summit register and immediately begin to setup a double rope rappel. Thus far the weather has held, but now big rain drops are spattering around us and a thunderstorm seems imminent.

A hundred meters of rope are tossed down from the summit as Bruce leads off. Naturally, in times like this, the lines get fouled and the Giraffe has to spend precious moments trying to unravel the mess. By this time even the Koala began to get edgy about our situation. Bulger patience is at best limited, and before long the three of us downclimb to Bruce's position and reset the rappel. Three long raps get us back to the ledges. Amazing how one's tolerance to exposure grows with a climb like this! Rather than belay the ledges, we carry loose coils and literally race across the face. We soon reach the notch, recover our crampons and ice axes, and dash for the cars in a steady rain shower.

The Forbidden epic took 16 hours RT, and was a remarkable climb in marginal conditions. However, the Bulgers can take little pride in their ignoble treatment of one of their own. Bette had to wait six long years before getting another opportunity to climb the peak. Bob Tillotson personally recovered a measure of Bulger honor by accompanying her up Forbidden's west ridge in 1986.

Our route on Mt Formidable was by the seldom done southwest ridge. The approach up the brushy South Fork of the Cascade River was at least as tough as the climb itself. The southwest ridge becomes extremely dry in late summer and our entire party suffered dehydration on the ascent. Rock stars Steve Exe and Bob Tillotson had little difficulty coping with the fourth class technicalities; but Steve, in particular, was nearly debilitated by lack of water.

With the climb of Storm King on 24 August 1980, the Bulgers collectively finished the Top 100. Rus Kroeker was still six weeks away from individual honors, but with Storm King the mystery of the Big Boys was solved.

The climb was also one of our better screwball Bulger adventures.

The march in over Cascade Pass, up Park Creek to the basin south of Storm King is long and arduous, and the Bulgers are going light: one rope, a few slings, and bivy gear. That night at base camp Rus uses the rope for a pillow and apparently forgets to bring it along for the climb. (*Author's note: Rus still insists he forgot the rope, but the Bulgers remain unconvinced.*) Hours later at the base of the North Fork Bridge Creek face we are faced with a problem. Retrieving the rope is an unattractive option, but so is the prospect of free climbing the fifth class East Peak of Storm King!

While the rest of the party looks for an easier route, Rus begins to solo the face. The K-bear makes remarkable progress and it soon becomes apparent that he alone is going to make the summit. Was this Koala's intention all along? Rus passes out of sight and shortly thereafter calls out his familiar "whoop whoop" victory yell. Of course we are all very happy for our fellow climber!

The Koala is beyond redemption -- or is he? A short while later he is seen waving us up the Goode-Storm King ridge. Our resourceful teammate has found an inspired route up Storm King that will go free. The route zigzags up some loose rock terraces, climbs through an improbable pottyhole, and leads to a notch just short of the summit. The final 20 foot pitch of exposed class four is protected by a handline fashioned from every available sling in the party. The Koala makes amends!

I suppose it was appropriate that Goode Mtn would become my final Big Boy. The Lizard made such a fuss over the correct pronunciation of Richard Urquhart Goode's last name (it's "good" not "goody") that it was only fair to repay his pedantry with a little suffering.

And suffer he did.

The pain started at Black Tooth Notch. The first edition of Beckey's green book places the notch at an impasse. The error has since been corrected in the second edition, but judging by the distressed notes we found at the site, our defeat there was not unique.

Injured pride and unusual personal circumstances caused him to miss the successful all-Bulger retry in 1986, and two other semi-serious attempts were thwarted by bad weather.

By 1987 all the rest of the Bulgers had gotten Goode and Lizard was forced to recruit outside support. Al Ryll, a co-worker at Boeing, was an ideal candidate. We had met previously on a three week expedition to Mt Gerdine in the Alaska Range, and had done some good (goode?) climbs together in the Olympics. Al was a solid mountaineer with a developing interest in the Top 100.

Our route is the notorious Bedayn Couloir. It is a classic line with aesthetic appeal that suffers from dangerously loose rock. The climb involves a rugged two day approach, and the crux is a narrow, unprotectable ledge that leads into the couloir. The lower gullies leading up to that off-camber ledge are extremely rotten, and in spite of all our precautions I get struck in the thigh by a watermelon-sized boulder. Fortunately the blow is taken by leg muscle rather than bone, and after a short rest I am able to continue. Al does a great job in leading the crux, and around 11:00am, August 2nd we gain the summit.

Al is off to a great start, but for me the quest is over. Completion of the Top 100 brings relief and a sense of accomplishment -- but surprisingly little elation. The effort has been too long and difficult to be rewarded by a simple feeling of joy.

The descent was hell. As my badly bruised leg began to stiffen and swell, downclimbing became extremely painful. Al did a magnificent job in assisting me through the difficulties. We spent seven hours on the technical rock, and I would not have been able to get off the mountain without him.

The next day was almost heaven. Walking the well graded trail up from Cottonwood Camp in warm sunshine did wonders for my leg. We even had the good fortune to meet a group of fun-loving women along the way and spent much of the afternoon skinny-dipping together at Doubtful Lake. We also met Silas Wild coming in over Cascade Pass in hot pursuit of his one-hundreth. He congratulated our success; and I wished him well on Dark Peak as he rushed off to catch the Stehekin shuttle bus. Silas and I had been competing, and finishing two days ahead of him was sweet consolation for the many hardships suffered on Goode.

That climb was one of the highlights of my many years in the mountains, and I will never forget the uncommon experiences Al and I shared. We made only one more trip together -- a four-day Labor Day outing to Mt Challenger. Two months later Al was killed in a tragic bicycling accident on the island of Maui.

God rest his soul.

6. Chelan-Entiat

Bonanza Peak 9511	Reynolds Peak 8512	Pinnacle Mtn 8402
Mt Fernow 9249	Martin Peak 8511	Buttermilk Ridge 8392
Mt Maude 9082	Dark Peak 8504	Spectacle Butte 8392
7 Fingered Jack 9077	Hoodoo Peak 8464	Martin Peak 8375
Copper Peak 8966	Mt Bigelow 8440+	Devore Peak 8360+
Oval Peak 8795	Emerald Peak 8422	Abernathy Peak 8321
Star Peak 8690	SW Dumbell Mtn 8421	Cooney Mtn 8321
Cardinal Peak 8595	NE Dumbell Mtn 8415	Tupshin Peak 8320+
Libby Mtn 8580	Saska Peak 8404	Flora Mtn 8320

Three of the nine-thousanders in this group are fairly easy climbs, but Bonanza is a mountain to be reckoned with. Washington's highest non-volcano offers no easy routes. The standard Mary Green Glacier approach is plagued with crevasse problems, and the 800 foot SE face is often subject to stonfall. Our 1978 attempt was abruptly terminated by stonfall one lead above the 8700' bergschrund. Within minutes after a brief rain shower hit the face, salvos of rock began whistling down over our heads. That unnerving experience taught us a few lessons about Bonanza: (1) Attempt the peak only under stable, dry conditions, and (2) get an early start and try to be off the face before any other parties start up.

For us, condition number one wasn't met until August 1982, and then just barely. Bonanza seems capable of producing its own weather. The Seattle area forecast was good, Holden was in sunshine, but the mountain looked threatening. However since Bonanza looks threatening even under the best of conditions Bulgers Bialos, Gibbs, Zafren, and Lixvar commenced their climb.

The ascent went well, and the largely fourth class face was easier than expected. However by the time we reached the summit, signs of a weather change were unmistakable, and Buf's eagerly anticipated mountain top siesta had to be canceled. Our rappels were rushed and awkward; our traverse of the Mary Green, a running retreat. The rainstorm hit just as we were crossing the polished slabs above Holden Pass. A tarp shelter was quickly jury-rigged at the pass, but the peevish Giraffe forsook our accommodations for better shelter in the trees around Holden Lake. His departure was appreciated, for now there was sufficient space for three sleeping bags. The Giraffe was unhappy camping at the pass the night before, and chose his sleeping spot in such a way that nobody else could be comfortable. Giraffes do not suffer in silence, and when they are unhappy the whole zoo suffers.

Dark Peak sits in the shadow of Bonanza and was apparently unclimbed before a visit from the Bulger "A" team in 1980. After getting away late from Seattle, Rus Kroeker went to extraordinary lengths to join that party. He twice swamped his little motorboat on a daring run up Lake Chelan, and then navigated the faint Swamp Creek trail at night by headlamp. The not-to-be-denied Koala caught up with the group in time to share their first ascent.

Our party repeated the climb via the Swamp Creek headwall in May 1982, and Silas Wild completed his one hundred there on 4 August 1987. The close-up view across the Company Glacier to Bonanza's seldom seen north side is reason enough to climb Dark Peak.

Copper and Martin are two peaks above Railroad Creek designated off-limits to the hikers of Holden village. The climbs are rugged, even dangerous, and I suppose the restrictions are sensible. Obviously the Big Boy list cannot make such distinctions; but fortunately for every Martin there is a Maude.

Martin Peak was climbed as a consolation after our 1978 Bonanza failure, and in retrospect was the more interesting ascent. The original 1936 Ida Zacher Darr first ascent notes were still in the register along with material on the 1939 Penberthy-Lavelle climb. Ours was only the 20th ascent in 43 years.

Copper Peak was my 98th Big Boy, and was climbed solo in eight hours from Copper Basin. I had gotten Hard Mox a week earlier and was pushing hard to complete the hundred before the end of the 1986 climbing season.

The following week Ken Zafren and I do battle with number 99: Tupshin Peak. Tupshin is a relatively unknown mountain in spite of its proximity to Stehekin. It is also one of the most technically demanding climbs in the Top 100. Tupshin's dark summit pinnacles look very imposing from distant viewpoints; from the White Goat-Tupshin

ridge they are positively fearsome. Even the fearless Kangaroo, Dick Kegel, is reported to have been momentarily stunned by the prospect of crossing the west face.

Ken and I climb too far west in upper Bird Creek meadows and gain the ridge at the wrong saddle. Hours are lost recovering the route, and by the time we reach the thin ledge crossing Tupshin's west face we feel pressure to hurry. But the route does not permit hurried climbing. We continue for nearly two hours beyond our previously agreed turnaround time, and end up on a pinnacle 50 feet short of the true summit. We can see the damn cairn a short distance away, but the intervening gap spells defeat. Our disappointment is of course keen, but our primary concern is to get back to camp.

We have gone extremely light on the climb and have no food, water or bivouac gear. Everything, including our packs, was stashed when the going got tough. We get back to the catwalk ledges after a long series of rappels; recover our gear; and luckily manage to find the tent in the dark woods of Bird Creek. Over dinner we discuss tomorrow's plans. We are of one mind. We are going back to get Tupshin.

Our 2-man team had the route wired and the reclimb was successful. However, that climb on September 12th marked the end of my Big Boy season. That night it snowed down to 6000' and all the high peaks were plastered. Goode Mountain would have to wait until next year.

The remaining Big Boys in the area: Flora, Emerald, Saska, Cardinal, Pinnacle, Devore, Spectacle Butte, and SW Dumbell are all straightforward climbs. However NE Dumbell (aka Greenwood Mountain) deserves further mention.

Our poorly chosen route took us from a col above Spider Meadow onto a nasty black ice ramp at the head of Big Creek. An hour or more of ultra-cautious cramponing got Rus, Bette and the Lizard onto easier terrain above Dumbell Lake, but it was a route that I, for one, would not reverse. We would have to find a better way out.

Dumbell's summit register held quite a surprise for us: one previous ascent in 1937 by Ralph Titerud, a Boy Scout leader from Cashmere. Ralph's route must have been a Lulu. He had come in from Leroy Creek and thought he had gained the summit of Fernow.

To my considerable relief, we found a goat track leading around the southeast buttress of the main peak of Dumbell. "Baby Carriage Ledge" is an exposed fourth class route with one short difficult corner. It was a vast improvement over our approach and is probably the route of choice on NE Dumbell. In the months following our climb, Rus tried without success to locate scoutmaster Titerud or his family. We were all interested in learning more about his pioneering climb, and wondered if ol' Ralph ever learned of his mistake.

The Chelan Crest peaks along Sawtooth Ridge are attractive, non-technical climbs with extremely scenic approaches. These summits support Washington's easternmost glaciers, and are subject to more foul weather than their easterly location might suggest. I have gotten atop Mts Bigelow, Martin, Libby, and Cooney on foot, with skis, and by mountain bike; and have found them to be especially enjoyable all-season climbs. Reynolds, Abernathy, Oval, Star, and Buttermilk are also good sport, but are best saved for the off-season when snow still blankets their rather extensive scree and boulder fields.

7. Washington Pass Area

Mt Logan 9087	Mesahchie Peak 8795	Golden Horn 8366
Black Peak 8970	Katsuk Peak 8680+	Cosho Peak 8332
N. Gardner Mtn 8956	Kimtah Peak 8600+	Big Snagtooth 8330
Gardner Mtn 8897	Tower Mtn 8444	
Silver Star Mtn 8876	Azurite Peak 8400+	

I found the Ragged Ridge climbs unpleasant. Beyond Easy Pass the country turns harsh and barren, and the climbing gets serious. On my first visit to the area in July 1979, Long John and I traversed the summit of Mesahchie to the 8480+ east summit of Katsuk. We encountered ball-bearing rock on smooth slab above the Katsuk-Mesahchie col and became dispirited by an evil looking canyon separating us from Katsuk's main summits. Getting down to Fisher Creek was no simple matter either.

Bette and I picked up Cosho and Kimtah the following year in another rugged but satisfying trip. Kimtah looked terrible, but actually went fairly easily once we found a convenient ledge system on the west face.

The rematch with Katsuk in 1981 was scheduled on Bette's birthday. The menacing canyon was bypassed on its shattered east rim, and both summits of the peak were attained. Katsuk has two pinnacles that exceed the 8680' contour line, but the more difficult western point looks a little higher. You know you're hooked on climbing when you cannot think of a better birthday activity than bagging your final Ragged Ridge Big Boy!

Joe Vance, a geology professor at the University of Washington, finished his 35 year run at the Top 100 with Katsuk. Joe had already climbed many of the Big Boys before the start of the Bulger Era, and is the only climber up to 1997 to complete the hundred largely as an independent.

John Roper is credited with first ascents on Katsuk, Kimtah, and Cosho; while Rus Kroeker, together with Bruce and Mary Jo Gibbs, got all four peaks on a remarkable, if not first, Easy Pass to Red Mountain traverse.

Tower and Golden Horn also required multiple attempts. Tower's central gully offers a direct but dangerous route to the summit. One attempt with formidable rock climber Dan Davis was foiled by rain and stonefall. We eventually got up the snow covered west face in June 1982. Bruce Gibbs, the Power of Tower, led a tense group of Bulgers up the super steep snow.

Golden Horn is fun. In 1978 we underestimated the climb -- we had a rope but no hardware, and were stopped by a snow covered block 60 feet from the summit. We came back the following spring with friends -- the mechanical kind, and blitzed the mountain. We got one summit via a cannonhole (I love cannonholes!) and another by conventional means. Dick Kegel stormed ahead of everyone else and easily free climbed both summits before the rest of the party arrived.

The Bulgers enjoyed Golden Horn.

A similar blitzkrieg style assault was used on Silver Star. The summit block requires a bit of gymnastic talent, and the decidedly ungymnastic Bulgers had to build a human pyramid to get to the top.

The Banded Glacier route on Mt Logan was done on an unusual traverse from Easy Pass; while Azurite Peak was climbed in two days by an elegant direct line from the North Cross-State highway to Mebee Pass to the summit.

The Gardners are best remembered for Long John's spectacular fall into Huckleberry Creek. The Gardner trip was made in late April when the snowbridges were beginning to breakup. The entire Huckleberry bridge collapsed mid-span under John's weight. He made a desperate lunge for a nearby log; teetered on snowshoes for a few moments; then fell headlong into the water. Pretty amusing stuff for those Bulgers already on the other side. Unfortunately, I wasn't.

In 1975 I took a three year leave from Boeing in order to climb full-time. I traveled to New Zealand and Tasmania, skied the Haute Route across Switzerland, and eventually took up residence at the Alpine Club of Canada clubhouse in Banff. I was having the time of my life. I was also losing weight and generally letting myself rundown. The trouble with being on perpetual holiday is that you never get a chance to rest. I gained over 367,000' in 1975 and spent more than 200 days in the mountains. One trip followed another until the inevitable breakdown. Over developed thigh muscles coupled with weak abdominals had slowly pulled my spinal column out of line and damaged my sciatic nerve. The injury forced a two month layoff from climbing and taught me the importance of flexible, balanced musculature.

Black Peak was my first Big Boy after recovery. Getting back to the mountains was essential to my well being, and John "Turkey" Spezia's support on Black will never be forgotten. Situps and stretching exercises are now part of my daily routine, and since 1978 I've been able to climb more than a hundred days a year without any recurrence of the problem.

Fred Beckey's first ascent notes were still in the register at the time of our 1980 climb of Big Snagtooth. The route requires some exposed technical moves on firm rock, but is thoroughly enjoyable. However May 18, 1980 is best remembered for another event: the Big Bang -- the day Mt St. Helens blew up. Our party was startled by a series of three loud explosions. We thought it might have been avalanche control work at Washington Pass, and never made

the connection with the ominous clouds moving in from the south. We first learned the news that evening from a shopkeeper in Marblemount. Curiously, the sound wave largely missed Seattle but was heard far up into the Chilcotin Plateau of British Columbia. Michael King, a helicopter pilot in Tatla Lake who works the Mount Waddington trade, heard the explosion; but thought it was the sound of a neighbor dynamiting a local beaver dam.

8. Glacier Peak Region

Dome Peak 8920+
Fortress Mtn 8674
Clark Mtn 8576

Buck Mtn 8573
Chiwawa Mtn 8459
Sinister Peak 8440+

Luahna Peak 8400+

The Glacier Peak region is perhaps the crown jewel of Washington wilderness. Other parts of the range contain higher and more difficult mountains in austere surroundings, but for me, this alpine playground possesses a sublime combination of ice, meadow, and rock, and is the scenic climax of the North Cascades. This is also a region of grand traverses, a place where the excellence of alpine travel generally exceeds the quality of the climbs available. Trips like the Ptarmigan Traverse, the Bath Lakes High Route, High Pass and the Napeequa, Image Lake and Miners Ridge attain a standard rarely matched elsewhere.

Ed Boulton and I took a side trip to Dome Peak while doing the Ptarmigan Traverse with a party of Seattle Mountaineers back in 1971. The climb came early in my career, and I was very impressed with the grandeur of the peak. The actual summit point was a large boulder perched atop the mountain's crest. The grandeur of Dome remains; but the summit boulder disappeared during the winter of 1981-82.

The Lizard has been fortunate to stand atop pre-eruptive Mt St. Helens, Trigger Finger before its fall, and the Dome summit boulder. Our mountains are not as enduring as they seem!

Up until recently, Dick Kegel had only dallied with the Top 100. Even though his support had been enlisted on many of the tougher climbs, the Kangaroo professed total indifference to the rest of the hundred. All that changed at the 1986 fall celebration held in honor of that year's three finishers. Dick's total was then less than 50, and he was gently chided for not having reached the Bulger "Threshold of Respectability." The criticism must have irked Regal Richard, for the following year he went on rampage and collected an incredible 41 Big Boys! The Kangaroo who would be king then vanquished his final 13 and ascended to the throne of Dome on October 2, 1988.

The Bulgers have enjoyed a very pleasant association with Sinister Peak. The Koala finished his whirlwind odyssey of the Top 100 with Sinister in 1980. Silas Wild accompanied Rus to the summit, while a sick Lizard was left behind on the south side of Dome. I returned with the rest of the crew two years later and bagged the peak by the narrowest of margins. We climbed Dome (sans boulder) in dense cloud but did not dare cross the fractured Chickamin Glacier without better visibility. After a few hours the situation seemed hopeless and the Bulgers were ready to retreat down Bachelor Creek. Then miraculously, we were shown the way! A "sucker hole" clearing appeared for a few minutes, then closed; but that was enough. We set our course across the glacier and got our peak.

Our not-so-Sinister climb also ended on a rather amusing footnote. Since Bette's 10mm perlon rope was not needed for the climb, it was left behind at the Dome saddle. Its bright green color must have attracted the interest of the resident marmot, for the rope was gnawed into three pieces by the time we returned!

Fortress and Buck make a nice combination. Our party went in over Buck Creek Pass and exited via the Napeequa and Little Giant Pass. The steep bushwack down Louis Creek to the Napeequa River parallels a spectacular waterfall and requires some caution. Also, the old bridge over the Chiwawa River is out, necessitating a deep and possibly difficult ford. Buck Mountain has three summits and some confusion exists over which is the highest. An Alpine Roamers register resides on the north summit, but a Bulger consensus gives credit to the central peak. The Koala might be well advised to return to Buck Mountain someday; for his 1977 effort included ascents of only the north and south summits.

Chiwawa Mountain was climbed from Trinity via Spider Pass in poor visibility and fresh snow. The Zookeeper forgot her ice axe and had to use an improvised stone adze on some of the tricky sections of the south spur. Near the summit, we broke through the dense clouds and were treated to a fantastic "Ships at Sea" view. The topsails of a few

peaks were visible, but the rest of the world seemed smothered in a white blanket of foam. Loop trip requirements were met by way of the Chiwawa River.

Clark and Luahna can be conveniently climbed as a pair from either Boulder Creek or the White River. The Thunder Creek route is brutal, and is best left for the descent. Luahna's climbing history is uncertain. The remnants of an old summit cairn were visible at the time of our 1979 ascent, but no evidence of recent climbs was apparent. Luahna is unnamed on the Holden quadrangle and was overlooked in early versions of the Big Boy list. The unofficially named peak meets the 400 foot rule; nearby Chalangin does not.

9. The Pasayten Peaks

Jack Mtn 9066	Mt Carru 8595	Lake Mtn 8371
Mt Lago 8745	Monument Peak 8592	West Craggy 8366
Robinson Mtn 8726	Osceola Peak 8587	Amphitheater Mtn 8358
Remmel Mtn 8685	Big Craggy Peak 8470	Windy Peak 8334
Ptarmigan Peak 8614	Lost Peak 8464	
Cathedral Peak 8601	Blackcap Mtn 8397	

Jack Mountain stands apart from the rest of the peaks in the Pasayten. It is a tough peak with comparatively few ascents. Our climb of the Nohokomeen Glacier in May of 1981 bordered on the heroic. Heroic leadership coupled with an amusing personal embarrassment have made Jack an unforgettable climb for the Lizard.

May Creek and the Nohokomeen are climbed to a point where Jack's north ridge can be gained. The continuation of the route to the summit tower is along a narrow arete. May 24th was a warm day marked by continuous avalanches, and our passage along the snow-crested arete seemed foolhardy in the extreme. In places the north ridge is no more than a bootwidth across, literally forcing one foot to be carefully placed in front of the other. The old joke about saving a falling ropemate by jumping off the opposite side of a knife edge ridge was no joke on this trip.

The summit tower was equally intimidating and had everyone but Silas cowed. Silage trailed a double rope to the summit and belayed everyone else up. Our ascent was the 15th since 1967, and only the third up the Nohokomeen Glacier. The register also recorded Joe Vance's imposing climb of the integral north ridge.

My moment of embarrassment came on the rappel. A tight fitting seat harness split my pants at the crotch and exposed my reproductive vitals to the friction of the snow encrusted rope. The rappel was a free overhang and I had no choice but to continue on down at a v-e-r-y slow rate of descent. The humor of that unpleasant situation became apparent to me only after we were safely down off the ridge!

The area east of the Cascade Crest, bounded by the Methow and Chewack Rivers, contains 15 Big Boys. This 1200 square mile region of open vistas and grand peaks is also the highest in Washington with an average elevation of almost 5400'. The Pasayten peaks are also fairly remote and generally require a full day or more for the approach. The Bulgers have traditionally reserved the first week in October for their visits. The area is especially beautiful after the first snowfall of autumn. The bugs are gone, the larches have turned golden, and the peaks themselves become a pretty fair challenge.

Lizard's first visit to the Pasayten came in 1974 with Joanne Williams, Frank King and veteran climber Phil Dickert. We got a few possible first ascents along the Wildcat-Rolo ridge and collected most of the major summits in Eureka Creek Basin. Phil had a rough time on the trip. He became hypothermic on Osceola and fell on Carru. Two days later he was suffering from such severe stomach pain that he had to be rescued by helicopter from Lake of the Woods. We later learned that he had been suffering in silence from a stomach ulcer since the start of the trip. Phil is one of the most stubbornly tough characters I have ever met; and it is of no great surprise to me that he got the first ascent of Mount Challenger back in 1936!

In 1978 I caught note of an article by USGS geologist Rowland Tabor suggesting that Monument Peak might still be unclimbed. The unstated basis for that curious assertion was probably a helicopter landing by the flying geologist. A similar helicopter ascent by a USGS survey team was noted in the Star Peak register at the time of our 1977 ascent.

The lure of a BBFA (Big Boy First Ascent) was irresistible, and the following May a group of Bulgers went in over Pistol Pass to claim the prize. We had a successful climb on nearby Lake Mountain and Rus got a probable FA on Lake Pinnacle. Unfortunately the weather turned sour the next day and everyone except the Koala retreated. Rus got Monument, but returned to camp mildly hypothermic and very disappointed. A 1978 first ascent had already been claimed by Beckey and Roper. Fred must have read the same article -- and responded quicker!

The Bulgers returned to Monument Peak the following year for the third ascent, and suffered one of their rare injury accidents. Mike Bialos got hit by rockfall and broke a hand while leading a rope up Monument's steep southeast escarpment. The Buf was belayed to the top of the ridge at 8200' and left behind as the rest of our party went on a short distance to the top. The stoic Buffalo never complained, and managed to downclimb the technical stuff with only one good arm. Like Phil Dickert, the Buffalo is one tough climber.

If I had to pick one trip as a personal favorite it would be our 1978 Trans-Pasayten Patrol -- a four-day cross-country sweep of the Okanogan that included ascents of Windy, Amphitheater, Cathedral, and Remmel. For me, that trip had a special magic that has never quite been equaled. I still recall clutching Rus's outstretched leg as I struggled with the exposed step-across at the summit of Cathedral; and I will never forget cooking that 100 ton boulder at the base of Remmel Mountain.

The Bulgers rarely built campfires, but that night was an exception. Our 7000', mid-October bivouac required more than a space blanket and half-bag for warmth; and as the evening chill began to set in, Rus and I piled timbers beneath a massive boulder and started a roaring fire. After an hour or so of intense heating the rock began to crack and explosively shed large granite flakes. We continued to add more wood in hopes of splitting it, but eventually grew weary of the effort and fell asleep comforted by the warm glow of embers and reradiated heat that lasted most of the night. I still savor the comradeship, adventure, and pure fun experienced on that trip. Those events are enduring personal treasures, and best represent the spirit of the Big Boy experience.

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A Retrospective

Three years after...

Is there life after the Big Boys?

The Bulgers have been actively climbing together for more than a decade, and in the course of pursuing the Top 100 have visited nearly every corner of the Cascades. Their collective climbing record and knowledge of the range is substantial and matched by very few others. Most of the group have now completed their mission, and perhaps inevitably the fellowship is beginning to fade. New interests, family responsibilities, and other obligations are drawing the Bulgers apart.

Silas and Long John are now busy raising families and climb with less intensity. Bruce and Bette remain fairly true to the Bulger credo, but Rus and Big Bob have discovered other passions in life. Ken now lives in Anchorage, and between trips to Nepal, pursues his alpine recreation in Alaska's untrammeled mountains. John Roper's long term goal is to climb every named peak in the Skagit and Stillaguamish drainages. This HFK is currently only four peaks away from every named summit in North Cascades National Park; and he, together with Dick Kegel, are well on their way to the second hundred. Of all the Bulgers, only the Buffalo has remained immune to the competitive aspect of climbing the one hundred. The Buf marches to his own drummer. His commitment to climbing is a lifetime affair, and he intends to save a few Big Boys for his dotage.

And the Lizard? He's back on his bicycle; but now it's a fat-tired model. Bike mountaineering is entering its Golden Age, and every difficult or unusual ascent is probably a first. The Lizard, now known as Shock Wave Rider, has already placed his bicycle atop more than 400 summits, including a fair number of Big Boys, and is planning ever more audacious climbs.

Is there a point to all this frenetic activity? Have the Bulgers attained enlightenment on mountain tops or found answers to ultimate questions? According to the Galactic Hitchhiker's "Deep Thought" computer, the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is forty-two. I personally prefer the Socratic answer to the question of why we climb:

"... it is a disgrace to grow old through sheer carelessness before seeing what manner of man you may become by developing your bodily strength and beauty to their highest limit. But you cannot see that you are careless, for it does not come of its own accord."

-- Socrates, rebuking a young man in poor physical condition.

Socrates smiled when Reinhold Messner finished his eight-thousanders; he smiled when Don Forest got every 11,000' peak in the Canadian Rockies; and I believe he smiled when the Bulgers got their one hundred.

Ten Years After...

Postscripts

The Bulgers:

The Bulgers found their identity on the summit of Silver Eagle Mountain on April 23, 1977. That date was the occasion of Koala's first soul-stirring recitation of Henry Lawson's bawdy "*Bastard from the Bush*." The poem is possibly apocryphal and generally considered too repugnant to be included in Lawson anthologies. Rus, with the help of a King County librarian, had to search the Australian Archives in Sydney for an unexpurgated copy.

*As the shades of night were falling over city, town and bush
From a slum in Bludgers' Alley slunk the Captain of the Push.
He scowled towards the north and he scowled towards the south
Then crooked his little finger in the corner of his mouth,
And with a long, low whistle woke the echoes of The Rocks
And a dozen ghouls came sloping round the corners of the blocks.*

Bludgers came out Bulgers, but no matter. Our group had a mission, and now it had a name.

*Then the Captain crooked his finger at a stranger on the kerb,
Whom he qualified politely with an adjective and verb,
"Who is this that's come amongst us?" asked the Captain of the Push.
"Gorstrike me dead -- it's Fuckin' Fred, the Bastard from the Bush!"
And he begged the Bloody Bludgers that they wouldn't interrupt
Till he gave an introduction -- it was painfully abrupt.*

*"Here's the bleedin' push, my covey -- here's a bastard from the bush!
Strike me dead, he wants to join us!" said the Captain of the Push.
Said the stranger: "I am nothing but a bushy and a dunce,
But I read about the Bludgers in the 'Weekly Gasbag' once.
Sitting lonely in my humpy when the wind began to whoosh,
How I longed to share the dangers and the pleasures of the Push!"*

Early on, individual Bulgers got dubbed with alliterative appellations of the animal kind. Giraffes are tall contradictions, Koalas live on leaves, and what Buffalos lack in finesse they make up in power; Lizards lay naked on warm rocks, and Zookeepers are needed to keep the wildlife in line. To a non-Bulger, such animal designations may appear derisive; however, the names were given in affection and have become part of our personal identity.

Completion Statistics:

Name & Rank	Last Peak	Best Year
0. Bulgers	Storm King - 24 Aug 80	1978 - 91
1. Rus Kroeker	Sinister Peak - 4 Oct 80	1978 - 24
2. Bruce Gibbs	Ptarmigan Peak - 13 Jul 86	1982 - 17
3. Bob Tillotson	SE Twin Spire - 10 Aug 86	1982 - 24
4. Bette Felton	SE Twin Spire - 24 Aug 86	1977 - 17
5. John Roper	Lost Peak - 24 May 87	1986 - 24
6. John Lixvar	Goode Mountain - 2 Aug 87	1978 - 19
7. Silas Wild	Dark Peak - 4 Aug 87	1985 - 25
8. Joe Vance	Katsuk Peak - 23 Aug 88	1986 - 13
9. Dick Kegel	Dome Peak - 2 Oct 88	1987 - 41
10. John Plimpton	Dorado Needle	1979 - 12
11. Dave Creeden	Jack Mountain - 13 Jul 97	1994 - 24
12. Jeff Hancock	Goode Mountain - 15 Jul 97	
13. Mike Bialos	Ptarmigan Peak - 19 Jul 97	1978 - 12
14. Johnny Jeans	SE Twin Spire - Aug 97	1994 - 26

Summit Registers:

Throughout this account of the Top 100 I have tried to recount some of the early climbing history of the Big Boys as recorded in the summit registers. A summary of these statistics appears in the comments column of the Top 100 list attached to this appendix.

If I could make an appeal on behalf of register integrity, it would be to leave original material of historical interest on the mountain. A few well intentioned climbers have been removing old registers with no thought to those who come after them. Finding a Fred Beckey first ascent note or an old Ida Darr record is a thrill worth saving.

Duplicating old records for preservation is acceptable only if the originals are left on the mountain. The replacement registers that I have found have never been true to the original. These hastily prepared field copies are often incomplete and invariably careless with important details. More than one counterfeit Becky [sic] first ascent note has been encountered. This practice should stop even if it means the eventual destruction of historically significant material.

I confess to losing Fred's first ascent notice on Warrior Peak -- a wind gust unexpectedly blew the note away as I was trying to dry it out. Yet somehow I feel this end is more fitting than letting old records moulder away in some unknown repository.

The Top 100 List:

Which are Washington's hundred highest mountains? This seemingly simple question has no simple answer. The Bulger Big Boy list is only one of many possible compilations; and other listings, based on different rules or requirements, may have greater merit. However, since I am more or less responsible for this version of the list, I will try to explain some of the reasoning behind it.

The 400 foot rule is probably the most defensible of the three rules that govern Big Boy eligibility. A larger elevation requirement, say 1000 feet, gives greater geographic diversity to the list, but does so at the expense of many commonly recognized mountains. A 500 foot rule has some numerical appeal, and has been applied to summits in Colorado and elsewhere. However I feel the rule is flawed, since it cannot be rigorously applied to peaks mapped with 40 or 80 foot contour intervals. Since 400 is a common multiple of 40, 80, and 100; a 400 foot rule can be applied to 7.5 and 15 minute series maps without interpolation. A 400 foot rise also seems sufficient to meet ones visual requirement for a distinct summit. The USGS-approved names rule is somewhat less defensible and suffers from a theoretical inconstancy. Mountain names are frequently submitted to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names, and future decisions could add new peaks to the list. Fortunately the Washington Board operates with reasonable restraint, and in the past fourteen years only one peak, Mt Rahm, has had to be added to the Big Boy list as a result of a names board decision.

The names rule is only advisory, and I have chosen not to apply it to named features on the major volcanoes, such as St Andrews Rock or Kennedy Peak, or to collective names like the Crescent Creek Spires or the Tepeh Towers. On balance, this rule seems desirable, since it allows the inclusion of a few well known peaks whose rise above adjoining saddles falls somewhat short of 400 feet.

The final rule is designed to deal with volcanic sub-summits. Very few people perceive Liberty Cap on Mt Rainier as an individual summit -- its 472 foot rise notwithstanding. Lincoln and Colfax on Mt Baker are more distinct, yet many people refer to them only as Baker's Black Buttes. Only Little Tahoma seems to have established an identity independent of its parent peak.

Applying an 800 foot rule to major volcanoes satisfies the above requirements, but gainsays the perceptions of some discerning climbers. In particular, the omission of Lincoln Peak is troublesome; and John Roper, among others, has amusingly called this rule the "John Wilkes Booth" proviso.

I have examined some of the published antecedents to my 1976 compilation of Washington's highest mountains and found them fascinating, but woefully deficient. However this is not surprising, since the old lists are invariably based on inconsistent criteria and incomplete topographic information.

The earliest listing I have found for Washington appears in Henry Gannett's 1906 "Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States." Gannett's book lists 12 Washington peaks over 8000 feet, and includes a fascinating discussion of some of our state's more unusual benchmarks. For example, back at the turn of the century, Tacoma's official USGS B.M. was a crosscut on a step at the entrance to McDaniels Cigar Store; while Marblemount's 313 foot altitude reference was marked by a nail driven into a cedar stump west of the blacksmith's shop. One of the most comprehensive lists of that era was compiled by state geologist, Henry Landes. Landes was also president of the Seattle Mountaineers, and his list of 31 peaks over 8000 feet first appeared in the November 1908 issue of the club annual. The Washington Geological Survey reprinted his work in 1917, in the now classic "*Geographic Dictionary of Washington*". 9400' Bonanza Peak was still known as North Star, Mt Rainier's elevation was given as 14,363', and Mts St Helens and Shuksan were estimated at 10,000'. Landes's list omitted such notables as Goode, Logan, Jack, Forbidden, and Eldorado; but included some relatively obscure summits such as Abernathy, Bauerman Ridge, Hozomeen, and an unidentified 8250' Whatcom County peak called Big Horn.

More recently, earth scientist Stephen Fry has directed his attention to the problems of mountain mensuration. Steve has rigorously defined all of Washington's major and sub-major mountains, computed their volumes, measured their steepest faces, and enumerated the hundred highest using 250, 400, 500, 1000, and 2000 foot rules. Steve's work is comprehensive and his lists certainly represent legitimate alternatives to the Bulgers' Top 100.

My involvement in the Big Boy list stems from a strong personal interest in mountains, maps, and numerical minutiae. In addition to identifying the two hundred highest mountains in Washington, I have catalogued the state's hundred largest glaciers, and have compiled a 82 year database for Cascade mountain snowfall. My private collection of topographic maps exceeds 6000 sheets, and includes the entire USGS historical collection for Washington and Alaska on microfilm. Using the resources of such a comprehensive map library to catalog the state's highest mountains and largest glaciers was great fun and an extraordinary cartographic experience.

John Plimpton was a key contributor to the concept of the Top 100, and John's careful scrutiny of early versions of the list helped to ensure its accuracy. John Roper's thoughtful criticisms have also been helpful, and had he been involved with the Bulgers during the first years of the list's creation, its final form might very well have been different.

Until recently, distribution of the Big Boy list was restricted to Bulgers and a few other trusted friends; and in fact, our list of the second one hundred is still classified. However, as knowledge of the Top 100 enters the public domain, I hope other climbers will be drawn to the considerable challenge and manifold pleasures of the Big Boys of Washington.

John Lixvar -- January 1990
First Revision Date: August 1993
Second Revision Date: October 1997

WASHINGTON'S 100 HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

RANK	PEAK	FEET	METERS	MAP	DATE CLIMBED	COMMENTS
1	MT RAINIER	14410	4392	MT RAINIER WEST	19 JUL 68	GUIDED ASCENT, 4:15 FROM MUIR
2	MT ADAMS	12276	3742	MT ADAMS EAST	19 SEP 71	HIGH WINDS DEFEAT MOST OF THE PARTY AT PIKERS PEAK
3	LITTLE TAHOMA PEAK	11138	3395	MT RAINIER EAST	23 JUL 78	CAMP ATOP THE 8800' FRYINGPAN NUNATAK
4	MT BAKER	10775	3284	MT BAKER (1972)	11 MAY 69	SNOWSHOE ASCENT VIA EASTON GLACIER
5	GLACIER PEAK	10541	3213	GLACIER PEAK	4 JUL 71	2 DAY CLIMB VIA SITKUM GLACIER
6	BONANZA PEAK	9511	2899	HOLDEN	29 AUG 82	#132(1961-1982) VIA MARY GREEN GLACIER
7	MT STUART	9415	2870	MT STUART	6 JUN 82	8000' DAY CLIMB VIA CASCADIAN COULOIR
8	MT FERNOW	9249	2819	HOLDEN	6 JUL 79	#3(1979) A LONG TRIP FROM ICE LAKES
9	GOODE MTN	9200+	2804+	GOODE MTN	2 AUG 87	#3(1987) GET HURT IN BEDAYN COULOIR
10	MT SHUKSAN	9127	2782	MT SHUKSAN	10 AUG 69	VIA FISHER CHIMNEYS. MEET ROYAL ROBBINS
11	BUCKNER MTN	9112	2777	GOODE MTN	15 OCT 78	#7(1978) VIA HORSESHOE BASIN
12	MT LOGAN	9087	2770	MT LOGAN	26 JUL 81	#3(1981) 3RD ASCENT OF BANDED GLACIER
13	MT MAUDE	9082	2768	HOLDEN	20 JUL 74	SOUTH SHOULDER WITH JOANNE WILLIAMS
14	SEVEN FINGERED JACK	9077	2767	HOLDEN	21 JUL 74	SW SLOPE WITH JOANNE WILLIAMS
15	JACK MTN	9066	2763	JACK MTN	24 MAY 81	#15(1967-1981) 3RD ASCENT OF NOHOKOMEEN GLACIER
16	MT SPICKARD	8979	2737	MT SPICKARD	20 AUG 83	SIGN A TWO DAY OLD REGISTER
17	BLACK PEAK	8970	2734	MT ARRIVA	19 OCT 76	WITH HELP FROM JOHN SPEZIA
18	COPPER PEAK	8966	2733	HOLDEN	31 AUG 86	#9(1979-1986) A RUGGED 8HR SOLO CLIMB
19	NORTH GARDNER MTN	8956	2730	SILVER STAR MTN	29 APR 79	INTERESTING EXIT FROM (AN INTO) HUCKLEBERRY CK
20	MT REDOUBT	8956	2730	MT CHALLENGER	19 AUG 82	#11(1980-1982) VIA CANNONHOLE EAST OF SUMMIT
21	DOME PEAK	8920+	2719+	DOME PEAK	8 AUG 71	WITH ED BOULTON ON PTARMIGAN TRAVERSE
22	GARDNER MTN	8897	2712	MAZAMA	28 APR 79	INTERESTING SNOWSHOE APPROACH UP HUCKLEBERRY CK
23	BOSTON PEAK	8894	2711	CASCADE PASS	25 JUL 82	#58(1966-1982) UP SE FACE, DOWN SOUTH RIDGE
24	SILVER STAR MTN	8876	2705	SILVER STAR MTN	30 APR 77	GET BOTH SUMMITS
25	ELDORADO PEAK	8868	2703	ELDORADO PEAK	15 MAY 76	A 17HR, 9100' DAY CLIMB. BIVOUAC IN A WIND CIRQUE.
26	DRAGONTAIL PEAK	8840+	2694+	MT STUART - NE	9 JUN 79	GET EAST DRAGONTAIL ALSO
27	FORBIDDEN PEAK	8815	2687	FORBIDDEN PEAK	9 JUL 80	A 16HR, 6000' DAY CLIMB. MOST DIFFICULT BB TO DATE.
28	MESAHCIE PEAK	8795	2681	MT LOGAN	15 JUL 79	#7(1966-1979) TRAVERSE TO EAST KATSUK
29	OVAL PEAK	8795	2681	OVAL PEAK	12 JUN 77	#7(1962-1977)
30	MT LAGO	8745	2665	MT LAGO	3 JUL 74	TRAVERSE TO CARRU
31	ROBINSON MTN	8726	2660	ROBINSON MTN	27 APR 80	#7(1971-1980)
32	COLCHUCK PEAK	8705	2653	MT STUART	9 JUN 79	VIA COLCHUCK COL
33	STAR PEAK	8690	2649	OVAL PEAK	10 JUN 77	#4(1968-1977)
34	REMMEL MTN	8685	2647	REMMEL MTN	9 OCT 78	UNMARKED TRAIL LEADS TO 1932 LOOKOUT SITE
35	KATSUK PEAK	8680+	2646+	MT LOGAN	13 SEP 81	#5(1968-1981) GET BOTH SUMMITS
36	SAHALE MTN	8680+	2646+	CASCADE PASS	16 JUL 72	ENJOY THE SEA OF PEAKS VIEW
37	FORTRESS MTN	8674	2644	HOLDEN	24 JUL 77	#4(1976-1977)
38	CANNON MTN	8638	2633	CHIWAUKUM MTS	20 MAY 78	A 12.5HR, 7000' DAY CLIMB
39	'MT CUSTER'	8630	2630	MT SPICKARD	21 AUG 83	#5(1971-1983) NEARLY STOPPED BY A GAP IN THE RIDGE
40	PTARMIGAN PEAK	8614	2626	MT LAGO	4 OCT 77	NO CAIRN
41	SHERPA PEAK	8605	2623	MT STUART	4 SEP 83	TRAVERSE A COLD NORTH FACE TO THE SUMMIT
42	CATHEDRAL PEAK	8601	2622	REMMEL MTN	8 OCT 78	#3(1978) 1941: IDA DARR
43	KIMTAH PEAK	8600+	2621+	MT LOGAN	20 JUL 80	#2(1979-1980)
44	CARDINAL PEAK	8595	2620	LUCERNE	21 AUG 77	#5(1971-1977)
45	MT CARRU	8595	2620	MT LAGO	3 JUL 74	PHIL DICKERT GETS INJURED ON DESCENT
46	MONUMENT PEAK	8592	2619	MT LAGO	25 MAY 80	#3(1978-1980) 1-1978:BECKY-ROPER, 2-1979:KROEKER
47	OSCEOLA PEAK	8587	2617	MT LAGO	1 JUL 74	A FOUL WEATHER CLIMB
48	'LIBBY MTN'	8580	2615	MARTIN PEAK	8 JUL 78	NO CAIRN. GET BOTH SUMMITS.
49	CLARK MTN	8576	2614	HOLDEN	13 JUL 77	THUNDER CK BUSHWACK IS HARDER THAN THE CLIMB
50	BUCK MTN	8573	2613	HOLDEN	25 JUL 77	#3(1976-1977) GET THE NORTH AND MIDDLE PEAKS
51	STORM KING	8520+	2597+	GOODE MTN	24 AUG 80	#2(1976-1980) CLIMBED WITHOUT A ROPE
52	ENCHANTMENT PEAK	8520	2597	MT STUART	10 JUN 79	HAD TO SEARCH FOR THE SUMMIT
53	REYNOLDS PEAK	8512	2594	SUN MOUNTAIN	2 SEP 79	#3(1978-1979)
54	MARTIN PEAK	8511	2594	HOLDEN	15 JUL 78	#20(1936-1978) 1-IDA ZACHER, 3-1939:PENBERTHY
55	PRIMUS PEAK	8508	2593	FORBIDDEN PEAK	7 JUN 86	#5(1980-1986) 7800' BRUSH BASH FROM McALLISTER CK
56	DARK PEAK	8504	2592	AGNES MTN	30 MAY 82	#2(1980-1982) VIA SWAMP CK HEADWALL
57	CASHMERE MTN	8501	2591	CHIWAUKUM MTS	6 OCT 74	WITH DAVE MUELLER AND GORDON THOMAS
58	KLAWATTI PEAK	8485	2586	FORBIDDEN PEAK	31 JUL 78	#8(1945-1978) VIA SOUTH FACE
59	HORSESHOE PEAK	8480+	2585+	CASCADE PASS	5 SEP 82	#3(1980-1982) LIZARD'S FOLLY: 80 FEET OF 5.3

RANK	PEAK	FEET	METERS	MAP	DATE CLIMBED	COMMENTS
60	MOX PEAK (SE SPIRE)	8480+	2585+	MT CHALLENGER	24 AUG 86	#16(1941-1986) SPEND 14HRS ON THIS DANGEROUS MTN
61	MT RAHM	8480+	2585+	MT SPICKARD	21 AUG 83	THE EAST SUMMIT (PT 8478) IS HIGHER
62	BIG CRAGGY PEAK	8470	2582	BILLY GOAT MTN	12 SEP 77	#4(1974-1977)
63	HOODOO PEAK	8464	2580	HOODOO PEAK	9 JUL 78	CAIRN, NO REGISTER
64	LOST PEAK	8464	2580	LOST PEAK	27 MAY 79	1961 USGS MARKER. BUILD BRIDGE OVER MONUMENT CK
65	CHIWAWA MTN	8459	2578	HOLDEN	13 AUG 78	BETTE USES AN IMPROVISED STONE ICEAXE
66	ARGONAUT PEAK	8453	2576	MT STUART	14 JUN 76	A STRENUEOUS 12HR CLIMB
67	TOWER MTN	8444	2574	WASHINGTON PASS	12 JUN 82	#2(1980-1982) A TENSE 13.5HR CLIMB OF THE WEST FACE
68	MT BIGELOW	8440+	2573+	MARTIN PEAK	7 MAY 78	CAIRN, NO REGISTER
69	DORADO NEEDLE	8440+	2573+	ELDORADO PEAK	30 JUL 78	CLIMB FINISHES WITH AN EXPOSED CHEVAL
70	LITTLE ANNAPURNA	8440+	2573+	MT STUART - NE	9 JUN 79	VIA WITCHES TOWER
71	SINISTER PEAK	8440+	2573+	DOME PEAK	19 JUL 82	#29(1964-1982) LOSE BETTE'S ROPE TO A MARMOT
72	EMERALD PEAK	8422	2567	LUCERNE	21 AUG 77	NO CAIRN
73	DUMBBELL MTN (SW)	8421	2567	HOLDEN	12 AUG 78	#15(1936-1978)
74	DUMBBELL MTN (NE)	8415	2565	HOLDEN	6 OCT 79	#2(1937-1979) 1: RALPH TITERUD, 4 JUL 1937
75	SASKA PEAK	8404	2562	LUCERNE	20 AUG 77	#5(1956-1977)
76	PINNACLE MTN	8402	2561	LUCERNE	26 AUG 78	#2(1974-1978) 1: JIM PRICE, 26 AUG 1974
77	AZURITE PEAK	8400+	2560+	AZURITE PEAK	11 MAY 80	#3(? -1980) 2: JIM PRICE CLAIMS A 2ND ASCENT
78	'LUAHNA PEAK'	8400+	2560+	HOLDEN	26 AUG 79	REMNANT CAIRN
79	BLACKCAP MTN	8397	2559	MT LAGO	2 OCT 77	#2(1976-1977) A TREACHEROUS SNOW CLIMB
80	BUTTERMILK RIDGE	8392	2558	OVAL PEAK	11 JUN 77	NO CAIRN
81	SPECTACLE BUTTE	8392	2558	HOLDEN	5 JUL 79	#3(1953-1979) 1:CROWDER-TABOR, 2:BULGER "A" TEAM
82	MARTIN PEAK	8375	2553	MARTIN PEAK	7 MAY 78	CAIRN, NO REGISTER. SKI ASCENT.
83	LAKE MTN	8371	2551	MT LAGO	26 MAY 79	#5(1948-1979) RUS GETS 1ST ASCENT OF LAKE PINNACLE
84	GOLDEN HORN	8366	2550	WASHINGTON PASS	19 MAY 79	#4(1978-1979) GET BOTH HORNS, ONE VIA CANNONHOLE
85	WEST CRAGGY	8366	2550	BILLY GOAT MTN	12 SEP 77	CAIRN, NO REGISTER
--	MT ST. HELENS (pre)	9677	2950	MT ST. HELENS	15 JUN 69	UP THE LIZARD, DOWN THE DOG'S HEAD
86	MT ST. HELENS (post)	8365	2550	MT ST. HELENS - NW	8 FEB 87	SKI ASCENT
87	MCCLELLAN PEAK	8364	2549	MT STUART	10 JUN 79	#14(1978-1979)
88	DEVORE PEAK	8360+	2548+	MT LYALL	15 JUN 86	#12(1940-1986) SIGN THE DARR'S WY EAST REGISTER
89	AMPHITHEATER MTN	8358	2548	REMMEL MTN	8 OCT 78	VIA CATHEDRAL LAKES
90	SNOWFIELD PEAK	8347	2544	DIABLO DAM	7 SEP 81	#4(1980-1981)
91	AUSTERA PEAK	8334	2540	FORBIDDEN PEAK	31 JUL 78	#4(1965-1978) INTERESTING CHOCKSTONE PROBLEM
92	WINDY PEAK	8334	2540	HORSESHOE BASIN	6 OCT 78	NO CAIRN
93	COSHOP PEAK	8332	2540	MT LOGAN	19 JUL 80	#5(1970-1980)
94	'BIG SNAGTOOTH'	8330	2539	SILVER STAR MTN	18 MAY 80	#7(1946-1980) HEARD THE EXPLOSION OF MT ST. HELENS
95	MT FORMIDABLE	8325	2537	CASCADE PASS	19 SEP 82	#17(1981-1982) BASH UP FROM S FORK CASCADE RIVER
96	ABERNATHY PEAK	8321	2536	GILBERT	3 SEP 79	#5(1949-1979) 1:RONALD R. ABERNATHY
97	'COONEY MTN'	8321	2536	MARTIN PEAK	6 MAY 78	SKI ASCENT
98	MOX PEAK (NW SPIRE)	8320+	2536+	MT CHALLENGER	21 AUG 82	#11(1941-1982) A 14HR EPIC ON THE NORTH RIDGE
99	TUPSHIN PEAK	8320+	2536+	STEHEKIN	12 SEP 86	#15(1940-1986) SPEND 26HRS ON 2 CLIMBS OF THIS PEAK
100	FLORA MTN	8320	2536	LUCERNE	8 JUN 80	REACH SUMMIT AT 6:00AM

Notes:

1) Unofficial peak names are placed in single quotes.

2) The number of summit register entries at the time of Lizard's earliest ascent are summarized in the comments column. For example, #132(1961-1982) indicates 132 ascents of Bonanza from 1961 through 29 August 1982 inclusive.

3) This is the original Big Boy List as compiled in 1976, and modified in 1980 for Mt Saint Helens. The 15' quads for Mts Baker, Challenger, Shuksan, Glacier Peak, Holden, and Lucerne have since been superseded by provisional edition 7.5' sheets. The composition of the Top 100 List remains unchanged; however, the 1988-89 resurvey has resulted in some elevation changes for summits in that region. However even these measurements are now outdated by the recent adoption of a new vertical datum (NAVD88) for North America. This general adjustment of the sea level reference for the North American continent increases the elevation of most Washington mountains by 110 - 130 cm. The impact of this change is so pervasive (-40 cm to +150 cm in the conterminous United States, and up to +240 cm in Alaska) that USGS has yet to announce a revision policy with regard to the new datum. It should also be noted that NAVD88 values are now given in Helmert orthometric height units (computed using geopotential differences based on observed, not modeled gravity) -- a change that, in mountainous terrain, accounts for much of the difference between NAVD88 and the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The new reference station for Canadian-Mexican-U.S. leveling is a tidal benchmark at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River known as Father Point/Rimouski, Quebec, Canada.

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BOEALPS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

APRIL 1999

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BOEALPS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

APRIL 1999

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BOEALPS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**APRIL 1999**

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Boeing Employees Alpine Society
1998 Summary Budget Report

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference	1998	1997	1996	1995	
Receipts								
Dues:								
200 Members @ 10.00	2,000.00	2,260.00	260.00	Members	226	208	197	211
40 Families @ 15.00	600.00	630.00	30.00	Families	42	35	35	45
50 Subscribers @ 17.00	850.00	612.00	-238.00	Subscribers	36	41	47	47
5 Subscriber Families @ 22.00	110.00	154.00	44.00	Subscriber Families	7	4	5	4
25 Outside Students @ 22.00	550.00	308.00	-242.00	Outside Students	14	24	22	
20 Retirees @ 5.00	100.00	85.00	-15.00	Retirees	17	16	17	9
Total	4,210.00	4,049.00	-161.00		342	328	323	316
Other Income:								
Agris Moruss Income *	200.00	200.00	0.00					
Avalanche Class *	400.00	0.00	-400.00					
Basic Climbing Class *	15,000.00	11,830.00	-3,170.00					
BOEALPS Memorabilia	0.00	5.00	5.00					
Cross Country Ski Trip *	2,000.00	1,080.00	-920.00					
Intermediate Class *	3,000.00	2,052.00	-948.00					
Interest Income	300.00	308.36	8.36					
MOFA Deposits *	500.00	1,042.05	542.05					
October Banquet	2,500.00	2,188.00	-312.00					
Miscellaneous	0.00	1,067.92	1,067.92					
Total	23,900.00	19,773.33	-4,126.67					
Funds Carried Forward from 1997:								
Administrative	500.00	674.92	174.92					
Books	200.00	90.82	-109.18					
Equipment	1,000.00	1,200.00	200.00					
Equipment Maintenance	300.00	400.00	100.00					
Intermediate Class	898.02	898.02	0.00					
Monthly Speakers	600.00	0.00	-600.00					
Total	3,498.02	3,263.76	-234.26					
Company Contribution:	2,550.00	1,500.00	-1,050.00					
Total Receipts	34,158.02	28,586.09	-5,571.93					

Boeing Employees Alpine Society
1998 Summary Budget Report

Category		Budget	Actual	Difference
Disbursements				
Administrative:				
Agris Moruss Fund	*	200.00	200.00	0.00
Checking Fee		36.00	0.00	-36.00
Committee Meetings		100.00	370.72	270.72
Conservation		200.00	0.00	-200.00
Executive Board Meetings		800.00	837.85	37.85
Incorporation Fee		10.00	10.00	0.00
Instructor Dinner		100.00	0.00	-100.00
Miscellaneous/Postage		50.00	9.88	-40.12
Photo Supplies		50.00	0.00	-50.00
Total		1,546.00	1,428.45	-117.55
Affiliation and Usage Services:				
Avalanche Class	*	400.00	0.00	-400.00
Basic Climbing Class	*	15,000.00	11,830.00	-3,170.00
Intermediate Class	*	3,600.00	2,572.88	-1,027.12
MOFA Course	*	500.00	1,032.75	532.75
Total		19,500.00	15,435.63	-4,064.37
Capital Equipment Purchase:				
Books		300.00	0.00	-300.00
Climbing Equipment		1,500.00	437.21	-1,062.79
Total		1,800.00	437.21	-1,362.79
Expendable Equipment:				
Summit Register		50.00	0.00	-50.00
Total		50.00	0.00	-50.00
Facility Rental:				
Campground Rental		250.00	136.00	-114.00
Equipment Storage		300.00	270.00	-30.00
September Meeting		90.00	108.60	18.60
October Banquet		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		640.00	514.60	-125.40

**Boeing Employees Alpine Society
1998 Summary Budget Report**

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference
Maintenance of Capital Equipment:			
Equipment Repair	200.00	0.00	-200.00
Total	200.00	0.00	-200.00
Disbursements (continued)			
Prizes and Awards:			
Banquet Door	400.00	400.00	0.00
Photo Contest	250.00	206.87	-43.13
Recognition	100.00	271.50	171.50
Total	750.00	878.37	128.37
Social:			
Club Campouts	300.00	200.00	-100.00
Cross Country Ski Trip	2,000.00	1,080.00	-920.00
July Picnic	250.00	60.00	-190.00
Monthly Refreshments	500.00	570.46	70.46
Monthly Speaker	800.00	400.00	-400.00
Mount Hood Climb	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00
Oct. Banquet Food	2,000.00	3,156.50	1,156.50
Oct. Banquet Speaker	500.00	500.00	0.00
Total	7,350.00	5,966.96	-1,383.04
Miscellaneous Expenses:			
President's Fund	100.00	0.00	-100.00
Software	50.00	0.00	-50.00
Web Site	200.00	238.20	38.20
Miscellaneous	0.00	5.00	5.00
Total	350.00	243.20	-106.80
Funds Set Aside for 1999:			
Administrative	274.00	2,000.00	1,726.00
Book Purchase	200.00	104.53	-95.47
Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Equipment Repair	200.00	200.00	0.00
Intermediate Class	298.02	377.14	79.12
Total	1,972.02	3,681.67	1,709.65
Total Disbursements	34,158.02	28,586.09	-5,571.93
Overall Total (Receipts - Disbursements)	0.00	0.00	0.00

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELAINE WORDEN, M/S 6H-CJ
OR: 1400 E. Mercer St. #4, Seattle, WA 98122
OR: elaine.worden@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



April ECHO staff

Editor: Matt Robertson
Activities and Minutes: Ilan Angwin
Conservation Corner: Frank Sommers
Contributors: John Lixvar, Ron Fleck
Steve Fox, Tom Gorham

Thanks everyone - keep those cards and letters coming! We can always use more submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering related will do.

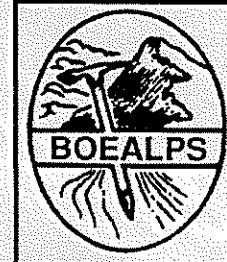
*Email them to me at
matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in
inplant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices
will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and
we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

May 1999



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

President	Rich Baldwin	206-544-7580 richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com	Equipment	South	Mike Jacobsen	253-657-1438 michael.t.jacobsen@boeing.com
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Secretary	Tom Yocum	425-342-9794 thomas.e.yocum@boeing.com	Librarian		Jeff Arnold	206-662-2772 jeffrey.j.arnold@boeing.com
Past President	Chris Rudesill	425-965-2683 christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com	Membership		Beth Sundquist	425-266-1464 beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com
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	Matt Robertson	425-957-5691 matt.robertson@boeing.com	Home Page			
Education	Tom Rogers	253-773-8517 thomas.a.rogers@boeing.com	BCAG Recreation		Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: Crater Rock, Mt. Hood Descent by Mike Jacobsen

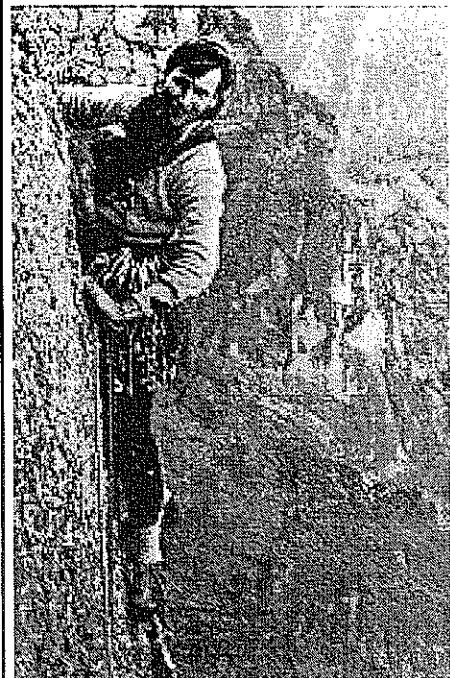
From Beth Sundquist 39-TA



**May
General
Meeting**

**Bryan Burdo and Pete Doorish
"Applied Rock Lizardry"**

**Thursday, May 6th
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm**



BELAY STANCE

Don't miss Bryan Burdo and Pete Doorish at this month's meeting...

In a presentation titled "Applied Rock Lizardry", Bryan Burdo will reflect on how a trip to Joshua Tree National Park twenty years ago to study the behavior of small rock-dwelling reptiles launched a personal journey from a class-4 mountain scrambler to a 5.13 full-time rock climber. Featured will be climbing from 20-foot roadside boulders to 2000+ foot alpine rock walls in the Cascades and elsewhere. Pete Doorish, Washington's most accomplished Alpine Big Wall first ascentionist, will be a featured guest. Plus, Bryan promises tips guaranteed to improve your own performance on the rocks and in the mountains! It should be a great show!

Basic class update...

The basic class has now completed their first group of skills weekends, and they participated in their first experience climb over the weekend of April 10-11. Under the expert tutelage of Al Baal and Aggie Christie, this year's Green Team placed all their members on summits; Red Mountain on Saturday and Snoqualmie Mountain on Sunday - way to go! The Blue Team, headed up this year by Victor Yagi and Pete Allen, made an attempt on Snoqualmie Mountain on Saturday, but were turned back at Cave Ridge. The Sunday Blue crew, however, got to the top of the north summit of Guye Peak. On Saturday, Rich Baldwin and his Black Team also visited the north summit of Guye Peak, but were turned back from the summit of Red Mountain on Sunday by avalanche conditions. Rich Privett is leading the Red Team this year, and on Saturday they got to the top of one of Kendall Peak's many false summits, while on Sunday they joined the Blue team atop the north summit of Guye Peak. Congratulations to everyone, and good luck on your overnighter - think about writing up a trip report and sending it in to the Echo!

Intermediate class update...

The intermediate class has also been keeping the students busy with skills weekends, but we were allowed out in the mountains for a snow outing March 27-28. Unlike the basic class, the intermediate class placed NO groups on top of any peaks! The snow conditions turned each and every group around well before closing in on any summits, but the groups did get to practice some new snow skills, such as building a snow cave and avalanche transceiver location (alpine whining was an optional skill that was perfected only by some of us). Three of the five groups spent the night in their snow caves on Saturday, with one group having to bail after their instructor fell into a creek, and another group cutting the two day outing down to one because they thought the weather was too inclement - they missed out on a great character building opportunity!

Volunteers and opportunities...

Thanks to Beth Sundquist for taking over as Membership Chair from Elaine Worden. And a special note of thanks goes to Elaine, both for her term as Membership Chair, and also for donating a copy of "Off the Beaten Track: Women Adventurers and Mountaineers in Western Canada" to the Boealps library. If you have some climbing related books you'd like to donate, contact our club librarian, Jeff Arnold at (206)662-2772 or jeffrey.j.arnold@boeing.com

If you've climbed some of Washington's 100 highest peaks and would like to help John Lixvar with his forthcoming book on "Climbing Washington's 100 Highest Peaks" don't forget to drop him an email at lizard@redwood.rt.cs.boeing.com, or give him a call at (425)865-3783. Even if you haven't climbed any of the "Big Boys", John could still use help with checking GPS waypoints, bearings, and route descriptions. Let him know you appreciated his article last month by helping out!

Ilan Angwin would like to pass the position of Activities Chair off by the end of this summer - if you're interested in orchestrating some events, and coercing Boealpers into leading trips, please contact Ilan at (206)547-4340 or iga4@gte.net for more information.

In this issue...

Ron Fleck's lyrical talents strike again with a reprint of his Shakespeare inspired "Climber's Soliloquy" ... Mike Jacobsen recounts a recent climb of Mt. St. Helens via Monitor Ridge .. The Washington Trails Association has a bunch of trail maintenance outings already planned - if you don't want to pay for your 1999 Trail Park Permit, they'll help you get one for free ... Be sure to check out the press releases from Mt. Rainier detailing the 1999 reservation system and fee schedules, and a proposed limitation on the number of climbers allowed at Camp Hazard, the ridge just below Camp Hazard, and Thumb Rock.

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still **SLESSE**. It's only needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of our web site.

From the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson

JUNE ECHO DEADLINE IS MAY 20th

May, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BC - Devils Peak IC - Smith Rock
2 BC - Devils Peak IC - Smith Rock	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting	7	8 BC - Tatoosh
9 Mother's Day BC - Tatoosh	10	11	12	13	14	15 BC - Leavenworth
16 BC - Leavenworth	17 Intermediate Class	18	19	20 Echo Deadline	21	22 BC - Mt. Rainier IC - Squamish
23 BC - Mt. Rainier IC - Squamish	24 Victoria Day	25	26	27	28	29 Full Moon
30	31 Memorial Day					

June, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Club Meeting	4	5 BC - Graduation Climb
6 BC - Graduation Climb	7 Intermediate Class	8	9	10 Board Meeting	11	12 BC - Trail Maintenance IC - Experience Climb
13 BC - Trail Maintenance IC - Experience climb	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 Echo Deadline	18 Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground	19 Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground
20 Father's Day Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground	21 Intermediate Class	22	23	24	25	26 IC - Experience Climb
27 IC - Experience Climb	28 Full Moon	29	30			

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

BoBaby Hike - Little Si

May 15

The toddlers are two, and it's time to get them out again! This was a fun trip last year, so we'll repeat it as the first BoBaby hike of 1999.

Party Limit 12

Route Trail

Equipment Backpack (the trail is not suitable for strollers), extra diapers

Experience Any parents with children, but this is aimed at the 2 year old crowd

Contact Matt and Maren Robertson

(425)822-0455

matt.robertson@boeing.com

June Campout

June 18-20

See the sign up sheet on the next page for more info

Party Limit ??

Route Highway 2, or I-90 and 97

Equipment Camping gear, climbing gear, food, drinks, bicycles, anything else you can think of!

Experience Any and all are welcome

Contact Ilan Angwin

(206)547-4340

iga4@gte.net

Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering

June 19 - 20

Depart Seattle area 6 a.m. Saturday, snow camp at 7,500 feet and climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills, actual date could move depending on road closures

Party Limit 12

Route South Spur

Equipment Telemark or Randenee Skis or snowboard

Experience Basic class graduate; intermediate skier

Contact Rob Kunz

(206) 655-7645

robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (h)
iga4@gte.net

Notes from the Activity Chair:

The weather's finally getting better - let's see some more activities offered!

Boealps June Campout

- Where:** Tumwater Campground, off Highway 2 near Leavenworth.
- When:** June 18-20, 1999
- Who:** All club members, family, friends.
- What:** Rock Climbing, Hiking, Cycling, Bragging, Lounging.
- How:** Return the attached form by June 14th. Please bring a food item to share with the other members for the Saturday night potluck dinner.
- Last name begins with:
- A-C Side Dish
D-N Main Dish
O-Z Desert
- Note:** Due to budget cuts, Boealps will not supply food this year!
- Rules:** A quiet sleeping area will be reserved for members who want an early bedtime. Please ask where it is before setting up your tent. Loud and wild behavior will be limited to just after 10pm. Please note that some people will stay up very late around the ol' campfire.

June Campout Response Form

(RSVP requested by Monday, June 14)

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Potluck Dish: _____

Send response to: Ilan Angwin
Mail: 1615 N. 35th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

E-mail: iga4@gte.net

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
(____) _____ (Home)
Email: _____
M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
iga4@gte.net

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

April, 1999

This months meeting was hosted once again by the gracious Ed Alejandro. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett, Beth Sundquist, and Tom Yocum.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the club's annual banquet. Last year the club subsidized the banquet considerably. This year's budget cutbacks require a re-evaluation of the banquet options. In order to balance the cost vs quality aspect of the event, alternatives in venue, speaker, activities, menu, and everything else are under review. This year's banquet will be on October 8, 1999.

The radios used in the Basic Class to maintain communication between teams, turned up missing. A payment plan for new radios is in development.

Any individuals interested in holding a club position? Positions will be opening up for next year soon.

Next month's board meeting will be held at Matt Robertson's on May 3rd.

Tom Yocum

For Sale:

Old ropes (no leader falls, rock bruises, crampons): \$10 each, good top-roping (only) ropes (150' x 11mm, 150' x 8.6mm)

Lowe Snarg hammer-in ice screws (5 or 6): \$5 ea.

Chouinard ice screws, various lengths, mostly 8-inch (6 or 8): \$5 ea.

Russian titanium ice screws (2): \$5 ea.

Lowe Big Bird ice hammer: \$30

Lowe Hummingbird ice hammer: \$20

CMI figure 8: \$3

"40-below" overboots, barely used on one Denali trip, made to fit size 13 Koflach Ultra Extremes (but they are just neoprene, so they could be brought in some): \$20

Trailwise Sleeping bag, -25 degree F rated, always hung up, perfect condition, two trips to Denali, and a little Minnesota winter camping, goose down, 5-pounds, stuffs small, 11-inches loft: \$125 (will trade for a serious down jacket, like a North Face Nuptse, that fits me.)

Contact Jim Blilie: (425)234-0258, (425)255-5895, james.blilie@pss.boeing.com

With apologies to Joyce Kilmer:

I think that I shall never see
A station lovely as a tree.
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of rap slings in her hair;
Poems are warped by fools like me,
But only climbers sling a tree.



1305 - Fourth Ave., Suite 512, Seattle, WA 98101-2401

(206) 625-1367

Dear Trail Volunteer,

It's time to go to work!!

1998 is going to be a tough volunteer year to follow, with a total of 41,100 hours contributed by our great volunteers. We're still not sure what kind of surprises Mother Nature left for us but our indicator trails, Boulder River, Wallace Falls, and the Issaquah Alps, say she was most generous. Lots of downed trees and water damage. Please try to give us at least one day this year.

Last year we listed our 10 favorite reasons for volunteering during the summer and this year we've added one!

11. Give something back.
- 10 Meet new people.
9. Learn about trails.
- 8 I just got my PHD and it's easier than looking for a job.
- 7 I'm coming 5 times to get my own hard hat.
6. The court listed WTA as a place to do community service.
5. I work at a desk all day long.
4. My mother never let me play in the mud.
3. I'm a trail work junkie.
2. Come out twice and earn an annual Trail Park Pass.
1. This year you'll be entered in our free outdoor gear drawing each time you volunteer

Here's what the schedule looks like for the first few weeks. And don't forget – we've got 17 week long trips to some of the best places in Washington's backcountry. Call the hotline 206/625-1367 or visit the web site at www.wta.org to sign up or for more information.

DATE	DAY	TRAIL	LOCATION
4/25/99	Sunday	Franklin Falls	I-90 near Denny Creek Campground
4/25/99	Sunday	Skookum Flats	Highway 410 near the Dalles Campground
4/28/99	Wednesday	Lower Big Quil	Olympic peninsula Highway 101 at Quilcene
4/29/99	Thursday	Lower Big Quil	Olympic peninsula Highway 101 at Quilcene
4/29/99	Thursday	Squak Mt	I-90 at exit 15
4/30/99	Friday	Mt. Walker	Olympic peninsula Highway 101 at Quilcene
5/1/99	Saturday	Notch Pass	Olympic peninsula Highway 101 at Quilcene
5/1/99	Saturday	Mid Fork Snoqualmie	I-90 at exit 34
5/2/99	Sunday	Notch Pass	Olympic peninsula Highway 101 at Quilcene
5/2/99	Sunday	Skookum Flats	Highway 410 near the Dalles Campground
5/2/99	Sunday	Mid Fork Snoqualmie	I-90 at exit 34
5/5/99	Wednesday	Verlot	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/6/99	Thursday	Verlot	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/6/99	Thursday	Tiger Mt	I-90 at exit 20

5/7/99	Friday	Verlot	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/8/99	Saturday	Verlot	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/8/99	Saturday	Meadow Creek	Highway 2 near Skykomish
5/8/99	Saturday	Lower Coal Creek	I-405 at exit 10
5/8/99	Saturday	Green Mt Pasture	Suiattle River Road near Darrington
5/9/99	Sunday	Green Mt Pasture	Suiattle River Road near Darrington
5/9/99	Sunday	Taylor River	I-90 at exit 34
5/9/99	Sunday	Verlot	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/12/99	Wednesday	Gold Creek	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/13/99	Thursday	Lower Dungeness	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/13/99	Thursday	Lower Coal Creek	I-405 at exit 10
5/14/99	Friday	Lower Dungeness	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/15/99	Saturday	Gray Wolf	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/15/99	Saturday	Lake Dorothy	Highway 2 near Money Creek Campground
5/15/99	Saturday	Lower Coal Creek	I-405 at exit 10
5/15/99	Saturday	Lower Lewis River	Long drive from Seattle !!! I-5 near Woodland
5/16/99	Sunday	Lower Lewis River	Over night cookout. Come for 1 to 2 days.
5/15/99	Saturday	Green Mt Pasture	Suiattle River Road near Darrington
5/16/99	Sunday	Green Mt Pasture	Over night cookout. Come for 1 to 2 days.
5/16/99	Sunday	Pratt Lake	I-90 at exit 47
5/16/99	Sunday	Dungeness	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/20/99	Thursday	Squak Mt	I-90 at exit 15
5/22/99	Saturday	Trout Lake	Highway 2 at Skykomish
5/22/99	Saturday	Lower Coal Creek	I-405 at exit 10
5/23/99	Sunday	Lake 22	Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls
5/23/99	Sunday	Granite Mt	I-90 at exit 47
5/25/99	Tuesday	Deadfall	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/26/99	Wednesday	Deadfall	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/27/99	Thursday	Tiger Mt	I-90 at exit 20
5/27/99	Thursday	Mt. Townsend	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/28/99	Friday	Tunnel Creek	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/29/99	Saturday	Big Quil	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene
5/29/99	Saturday	Lake Dorothy	Highway 2 near the Money Creek Campground
5/29/99	Saturday	Red Town	Bellevue near the intersection of I-90 & I-405
5/29/99	Saturday	N Fork Sauk	Mountain Loop Highway south of Darrington
5/30/99	Sunday	N Fork Sauk	Overnight, cookout. Come for 1 or 2 days
5/30/99	Sunday	Pratt Lake	I-90 at exit 47
5/30/99	Sunday	Deadfall	NE Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene

Come and join us. Call 206/517-7032 or visit the web site www.wta.org to sign up.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Ball
Director of Operations

Mount Rainier National Park

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

360-569-2211, Ext. 3305# or 3308#

WILDERNESS RESERVATION SYSTEM BEGINS AT MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Acting Mount Rainier Superintendent Dave Uberuaga has announced that climbers and backpackers will now be able to reserve camping spots in the park this summer. Following a review of public comments, the park has settled on the following elements of the system:

- Reservations are optional. No one is required to make a reservation and reservations are often not necessary. However, up to 60% of sites will be reservable up to two months in advance of the start of a backpacking trip or a climb of Mount Rainier. The remaining 40% will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis on the day a trip begins.
- Reservations will cost \$20 per party per trip (up to 14 consecutive nights). One re-scheduling before and one during a trip will be permitted without additional charge. Reservation fees are non-refundable.
- Reservations will be held until 11:00 a.m. on the day of departure. After 11:00 a.m. the reservation will be canceled in its entirety and re-issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Use limits have existed in most of the park for the past 25 years and apply only to the June 1 through September 30 period each year. The reservation system will be in effect during that period only.
- Wilderness camping permits, for camping along the park's maintained trail system and in trailless areas, are required year-round but are free!
- Climbing permits, for climbing on the upper mountain or anywhere on glaciers, cost \$15 per person per climb (or \$25 annual). These fees fund some of the climbing ranger staffing, safety and route information reports, and the expensive helicopter removal of human waste from the upper mountain each summer.

A reservation office at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center is currently staffed Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours of operation will expand to seven days a week beginning in June. Climbers and backpackers can make reservations in person, via phone (360-569-HIKE (4453), letter (Wilderness Information Center, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304), the Internet (mora_wilderness@nps.gov), and effective May 1, by FAX (360-569-2255). Instructions will also soon be posted on Mount Rainier's web site at www.nps.gov/mora and in park handouts.

Acting Superintendent Uberuaga is optimistic about this new public service. "For one modest fee, climbers and backpackers can now have what they had often requested - the opportunity to make reservations for each night of their planned trip without there being a requirement to do so." Reservations should be especially attractive to those visitors intending weekend climbs and backpacking trips and for those with large groups or on extended trips.

Visitors are reminded that due to the deep snowpack this winter, a late snowmelt is expected in the park's backcountry. Updated trail conditions will be posted on the park's website.

Mount Rainier National Park

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

360-569-2211, Ext. 3305#

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON CLIMBER USE LIMITS ON MOUNT RAINIER

Mount Rainier National Park is seeking public comment on proposals for establishing use limits in certain alpine areas where there were previously no limits. Park managers annually review Wilderness overnight use. Because the number of climbers is increasing each year (over 11,000 in 1998 and a 21% increase between 1994 - 1998), their impacts on the environment and on each other have intensified. Limits have long been in effect on the two primary climbing routes (Muir and Schurman). Impacts are now becoming excessive on certain secondary routes during peak season.

On the Kautz Glacier climbing route, an overnight use limit of no more than 36 people per night camped at Camp Hazard is proposed, and another 36 per night in sites along the ridge below that area. With limited space available at Camp Hazard, user-constructed walled campsites are increasing on the ridge below Camp Hazard and are destroying fragile alpine plant communities. The proposal will limit camping on the ridge to approved sites.

A limit of no more than 12 campers per night is proposed for the Thumb Rock bivouac site on Liberty Ridge. This tiny area is hard-pressed to accommodate even 12 campers in separate groups because of its size and the very steep slopes above, below, and on either side of the site. Unless remedial action is taken, the site is expected to experience unsafe crowding and significant sanitation concerns.

Currently, both the Kautz Glacier and Liberty Ridge routes are open to unlimited overnight use. All of the above concerns can be mitigated with the implementation of these limits. The effects of these limits on climbers is expected to be minimal, although some climbers attempting to camp in these particular areas on busy Saturday nights may be denied when the routes are filled to capacity. The proposed limits will seldom be reached on other nights of the week.

Climbers are reminded about existing limits on the two primary climbing routes:

- Through Camp Muir (Disappointment Cleaver, Ingraham Glacier, Gibraltar Ledge):
 - 36 people/night (up to 12 people/party) on the Muir Snowfield
 - 110 people/night (up to 12 people/party) at Camp Muir
 - 36 people/night (up to 12 people/party) on Ingraham Glacier
- Through Camp Schurman (Emmons and Winthrop Glaciers):
 - 2 parties (up to 5 persons each) on Mount Ruth
 - 2 parties (up to 5 persons each) at Camp Curtis
 - 48 people/night (up to 12 people/party) at Camp Schurman
 - 24 people/night (up to 12 people/party) at Emmons (Glacier) Flats
 - 24 people/night (up to 12 people/party) in the Emmons/Winthrop alpine zone
 - 2 parties (up to 12 persons each) on the Inter Glacier
- Comments should be mailed by May 1, 1999 to:
- Superintendent, Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods
Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304
Or E-mail: mora_superintendent@nps.gov.

Mt. St. Helens via Monitor Ridge

by Mike Jacobsen, April 16th, 1999

(Climbers: Mike Jacobsen, Julie Jacobsen, Annette Mockli, Mark Bigelow, Scott Smith, Stan Monk)

Our group of six left Thursday afternoon, April 15th to make the drive to Jack's Restaurant in Cougar. We made good time and picked up permits before they closed at 8:30 PM. Just as we were heading inside to pay the \$15 per person climbing fee, a local Search and Rescue group took off from the parking lot with flashing lights and a trailer carrying a couple of snowmobiles, heading towards Mt. St. Helens. The snow pack was having its first sustained warming trend of the season this week with freezing levels expecting to rise gradually to around 10-12,000 feet the following day. While we looked forward to the much anticipated sun, we were also concerned about possible wet slide avalanches. I started to wonder why the Search and Rescue guys were called.

Actually, we had been watching the conditions all week regarding the temperature and the 200% snow pack on the mountain. We had decided to leave around 2 AM to put our climb in the low avalanche danger time frame, and keep to the ridges. One concern was being able to see hazards while traveling in the dark. Our planned route was to start at the Marble Mountain Snopark (2700 feet) on the Swift Ski trail #244. From there it is 5 ½ miles to the summit. This is the Worm Flows route and is popular during the winter. This contrasts to the road to the climber's bivouac, which was a 5 mile hike in, and then about 4 ½ miles to the summit via Monitor Ridge. We reviewed recent comments in the climbing register and it appeared several summits were made via the Worm Flows route. We didn't find any negative comments, except the rather colorful one targeting snowmobilers.

We drove to the Marble Mountain Snopark and started organizing gear for our early departure. Soon we heard a helicopter fly in to pick up the injured person. This was the 4th helicopter evacuation of a snowmobiler this year on Mt. St. Helens. It turned out that a snowmobile and its "Darwin" driver took a nose dive off of a steep 25-30 foot snow wall. The driver sustained internal injuries when his abdomen impacted the handlebars or instrument panel. He was also quite a ways east of the lahar area. Search and Rescue got the call from a cell phone around 6:15 PM and he was in a litter flying out around 9:15 PM. Search and Rescue did a great job locating and getting the injured person out in such a short time.

With the local Search and Rescue crew packing up, it seemed prudent to get some more information on our route and snow conditions. They told us that there were a couple of areas of exposure on our intended route, particularly near Chocolate Falls. They said we would need to stay on the right hand ridge and not any ridges that veered northwest into more exposure. They recommended going back to the Cougar Snopark and hiking road 8100 and then 830 towards climber bivouac for 2 ½ miles, then at a sharp right turn head at a bearing of 345 degrees for about a mile. This would put us at the base of Monitor Ridge. They also said we would likely have this route to ourselves. So, after talking as a group, we decided to change our planned route to Monitor Ridge via the Cougar Snopark. This is the most prominent ridge on the south side. With that decided, it was time to bivy in the parking lot and watch the satellites pass by against a sea of stars.

In the morning, we definitely had the route to ourselves. We didn't see , and only faintly heard, a snowmobile the whole day, and saw no other climbers. The Cougar Snopark is at 2200 feet. We left at 2:30 AM and determined that what may have seemed like 2 ½ miles to the sharp right hand turn (on a snowmobile I presume) was closer to 4 miles on foot. There is still a lot of snow on the road for this time of year, but with the help of snowmobile tracks we were able to walk the road without snowshoes. At about 3340 feet, and a mile short of the climber's bivouac, we donned snowshoes and headed north toward Monitor Ridge. In ¾ of a mile we came to the base of the ridge just as the sun was rising with a beautiful view of Mt. Adams in the background. As we worked our way up the ridge, nice views of Mt. Hood were enjoyed, along with a good stiff breeze of 20-25 mph. The wind became our companion much of that day, and didn't leave us until we were heading out that afternoon. When it gusted to higher speeds, our ski poles became handy stabilizers.

We worked our way up the ridge, keeping pretty much on the normal route. The snow on the ridge was still solid and frozen, and the cleats on the snowshoes provided a pretty good grip, but I wished I hadn't left the crampons in the car. The wind and clear sky had kept the snow frozen solid, and for those planning on skiing down, it looked like an icy slope was in store. We passed Monitor Rock around 8:30-9:00 AM and stopped about 300 feet above for a final rest and to rid ourselves of the snowshoes. The snow had softened enough to allow for good steps, and Annette lead out and did an excellent job of kicking steps to the summit. Julie and I followed with Stan and Scott in the back. Mark had decided to just go to Monitor Rock and wait for our return.

We eventually ended up on the crater rim, all arriving about 10-15 minutes apart, with Mt. Rainier poking up on the other side. Annette was there first at 10:50 AM. We dug a small snow pit and wall to get out of the wind, and at about 2-3 feet down we found rotten snow. In fact it opened up into kind of a hole beneath our snow pit. We filled in the void with snow and packed it down. (Later, on examining a crack on the way to the true summit, rocks were seen down inside with the rotten snow. I'm guessing the snow had melted out from the bottom from contact with the rocks.) The rim cornices were large, and venturing too close to the edge was not advisable. We hadn't seen any evidence of sloughs except for a small, steep chute below Monitor Rock. It was interesting to see snowmobile tracks that led to the summit rim, and the questionable route they took to get there. And yes, the snowmobiles can go to the summit, without paying the \$15 climbing fee. Go figure.

We enjoyed lunch and a relaxing rest after the nine miles and 6100+ feet to the summit. The wind seemed to throttle back to around 10-15 mph, and we made the side trip to the true summit to take some pictures. By the time we were ready to head down, the snow had really started to soften up, and instead an icy slope, the way down had turned into a slightly slushy one. Those of us without skis started down wishing we had them, but, of course, you can make pretty good time plunge stepping if the snow is right! After all, it was only nine miles to the car! At the very base of the ridge, some small sloughs were set off by the skiers and those attempting to glissade down. While this was just a small slope, it was interesting to see the amount of stuff that can pile up at the bottom. We were all back at the car between 4:00 and 6:30 PM. (Okay, Julie and I were the 6:30 arrivals.)

The route from the Cougar Snopark via Monitor Ridge turned out to be about 18 miles round trip. This is a good long route. You probably won't see too many others out there, except for an occasional snowmobiler. Allow plenty of time if you plan on doing this route in a day. Also, Road 83 will be closed from May 1st to mid-June for repairs. You will not be able to drive to the Cougar or Marble Mountain Snoparks during this time, so access will be limited - call before you go. I expect the road to the climber's bivouac will be snowed in for a while yet, so the road closure won't affect climbing too much, if you're willing to walk a little extra distance. Permits are handed out by lottery from May 15th through October 31st. The best time to climb is in the winter from November 1st through March 31st - they don't charge the \$15 fee, and there's no lottery!

The Climber's Soliloquy

by Ron Fleck

To climb or not to climb: That is the question!
Whether 'tis cheaper for the bank account to purchase
The slings and carabiners costing an outrageous fortune,
Or to veg out in front of the television
And become a couch potato. To hike, to climb –
Yet again – And by gaining lots of altitude we begin
The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks
The knees are prone to. 'Tis a consummation
That cannot be denied. To plod, to trudge –
To trudge – perchance in plastic boots: OWW! There's the rub,
For in that march of death what blisters may come
When we have shuffled off our dearest moleskin,
Will trash our feet. There's the folly
That makes calamity of long approaches.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of brush,
The snagging branches, the twisted root systems,
The pang of muddy trails, the team's delay,
The group totally lost, and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy forks
When he himself might his own trail
With his ice ax make? Who would burdens bear
To grunt and sweat under a heavy pack
But that the dread of foul-faced weather,
In unexplored country, from whose boundary
No climber returns, puzzles the brain,
And makes us rather follow those trails we have,
Than to fly to others we know not of.
The crevasses do make cowards of us all,
And thus the need for ready prussiks
And Z pulley systems, most bombproofly anchored
For enterprises of great pitch and steepness
With this regard, the novices turn away
And lose the name of action. Hear you now
Fair Wapachutla – Nymph, in thy hidden logbook
Be all my climbs remembered.

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO BETH SUNDQUIST, M/S 39-TA

OR: 7021 10th Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98117

OR: beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



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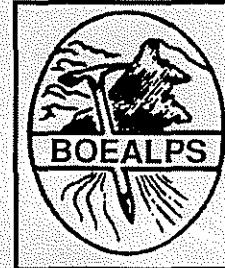
Thanks to everyone who contributed - keep those cards and letters coming! We can always use more submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering related will do. Email them to me at matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in implant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

June 1999

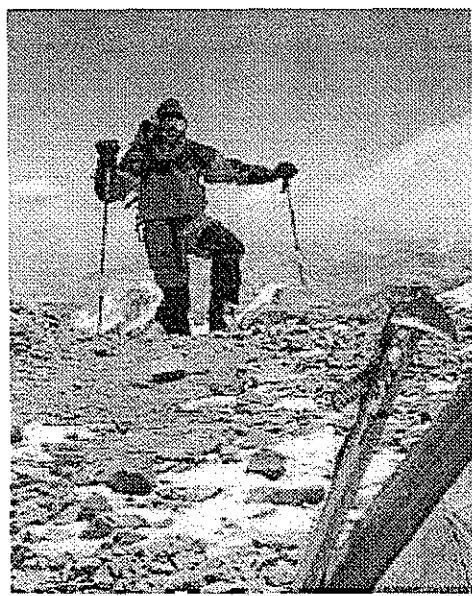


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Photo: Paradise Lost by Tim McGuire

From Beth Sundquist 39-TA

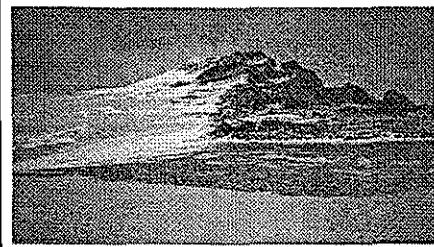


Eric Bennett approaching the Independencia hut at 20,800' on Aconcagua

June General Meeting

**Rob Kunz, Eric Bennett and Ron Fleck present:
"Cerro Aconcagua"**

**Thursday, June 3rd
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm**



The Polish Glacier on Aconcagua

June, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Basic Class	3 Club Meeting "Cerro Aconcagua"	4	5 BC - Graduation Climb
6 BC - Graduation Climb	7 Intermediate Class: Alpine Climbing	8	9 Basic Class: Final Exam	10 Board Meeting	11	12 BC - Trail Maintenance IC - Experience Climb
13 New Moon BC - Trail Maintenance IC - Experience climb	14 Flag Day	15	16 Basic Class: Graduation	17 Echo Deadline	18 Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground	19 Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground
20 Father's Day Boealps Campout, Tumwater Campground	21 Intermediate Class: Safe Climbing	22	23	24	25	26 IC - Experience Climb
27 IC - Experience Climb	28 Full Moon	29	30			

July, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Canada Day Club Meeting and Photo Competition	2	3
4 <u>Independence Day</u>	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10
11	12 New Moon Intermediate Class: Group Dynamics/ Leadership	13	14	15	16	17 IC - Experience Climb
18 IC - Experience Climb	19	20	21	22 Echo Deadline	23	24
25	26 Intermediate Class: Ice Climbing	27	28 Full Moon	29	30	31 IC - Ice Climb

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

BoBaby Hike - Twin Falls

June 12

This is a gentle trail that's stroller friendly almost all the way to the falls. The total elevation gain is about 500 feet, and the round trip distance is 3 miles.

Party Limit 12

Route Trail

Equipment Backpack, stroller optional

Experience Any parents with children, but this is aimed at the 2 year old toddler crowd

Contact Matt and Maren Robertson

(425)822-0455

matt.robertson@boeing.com

June Campout

June 18-20

See the sign up sheet on the next page for more info

Party Limit ??

Route Highway 2, or I-90 and 97

Equipment Camping gear, climbing gear, food, drinks, bicycles, anything else you can think of!

Experience Any and all are welcome

Contact Ilan Angwin

(206)547-4340

iga4@gte.net

Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering

June 19 - 20

Depart Seattle area 6 a.m. Saturday, snow camp at 7,500 feet and climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills, actual date could move depending on road closures

Party Limit 12

Route South Spur

Equipment Telemark or Randonee Skis or snowboard

Experience Basic class graduate; intermediate skier

Contact Rob Kunz

(206) 655-7645

robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin

206-547-4340 (h)

iga4@gte.net

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Summer's just about here - let's see some more activities offered!

WANTED – climbing/hiking partner.

I am recently laid off and planning to take the summer off, so I am available virtually any day for about any type of climbing. Contact Eric Bennett at 206-579-5016 or via email at erbennett@hotmail.com

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
 (____) _____ (Home)
 Email: _____
 M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Ilan Angwin
206-547-4340 (H)
iga4@gte.net

Boealps June Campout

- Where:** Tumwater Campground, off Highway 2 near Leavenworth.
- When:** June 18-20, 1999
- Who:** All club members, family, friends.
- What:** Rock Climbing, Hiking, Cycling, Bragging, Lounging.
- How:** Return the attached form by June 14th. Please bring a food item to share with the other members for the Saturday night potluck dinner.
- Last name begins with:
- A-C** Side Dish
D-N Main Dish
O-Z Desert
- Note: Due to budget cuts, Boealps will not supply food this year!**
- Rules:** A quiet sleeping area will be reserved for members who want an early bedtime. Please ask where it is before setting up your tent. Loud and wild behavior will be limited to just after 10pm. Please note that some people will stay up very late around the ol' campfire.

June Campout Response Form

(RSVP requested by Monday, June 14)

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Potluck Dish: _____

Send response to: Ilan Angwin
Mail: 1615 N. 35th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

E-mail: iga4@gte.net

Leavenworth Rock Leading Seminar - Sunday, June 20

If you'd like to push your capabilities beyond just following technical rock routes, here's a great opportunity for you! In conjunction with the club's June campout, Tuney and Len Kannapell will lead you through the basics of leading, including learning how to set belay/rappel anchors, place rock climbing protection, and use commands ("Hey Billy Bob, gimme some slack!"). If you are a Basic Class grad or equivalent yearning for learning, or if you have already been leading but doing so cluelessly, this one-day seminar focuses on safety first with a strong emphasis on having a good time.

Where to meet: Snow Creek parking lot (parking permit required)

When: Sunday, June 20th at 7:30 am

Climbing area: Mountaineers' Dome (warning: this may be crowded)

Student limit: 18

What to bring:

- Rope
- Harness
- Helmet
- Rock climbing shoes
- Rock climbing gear
- Slings
- Lunch + water

This seminar will run roughly from 8 am - 2 pm, but it may take less or more time, depending on class size. The goal is to have everyone lead one rock pitch, no matter how short or difficult, to go through the process of leading.

Contact: Len Kannapell
(206)361-7523
kannapell@yahoo.com

THE BOEALPS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

By Jim Weisman

Start rounding up your slides and prints - the Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the July general meeting!

Prizes will be given out for the categories listed below with the exception of the Echo Cover category. First place winning slides and prints will be displayed in the Alpine Echo (with permission of the photographer). The top four placing slides and/or prints in the Echo Cover category will get placed on the Echo cover for three months each over the course of the next year.

<u>Slides</u>	<u>Prints</u>
Mountain Scenes	Mountain Scenes
Nature Scenes	Climbing
Sunsets & Sunrise	Sunsets & Sunrises
Climbing	Boealps Climbing Class
Most Embarrassing	Most Embarrassing
Echo Cover*	Echo Cover*

*This will be a combined category. All entries into this category must have high contrast and a horizontal orientation (vertical orientations will not fit on the cover although possible alternate formats are being considered).

How to enter:

Show up at 6:30 pm if you plan on entering any slides or prints.

Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.

Your name should appear on each entry. (For slides, write on the frame; for prints, attach a note to the back.)

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

Rules:

- Do not enter photos that have won in previous years (The Echo cover category is not subject to this rule).
- You must be the actual photographer of your entry.
- All entries must be of club interest.

Any final arbitration rests with the club photography chair whose decision is final.

WANTED – Roommate to share a two-bedroom townhouse in the Lynnwood/Harbor Pointe area. Private full bath and off street parking. Located between Alderwood Mall and Boeing Everett with easy access to I-5 and I-405 roadways. Fully furnished kitchen and living room also includes a washer and dryer. NO pets - I have a pair of cats. \$500 plus half utilities. Contact Eric Bennett at 206-579-5016, or via email at erbenett@hotmail.com

OUR 1999 SCHEDULE OF WEEK-LONG WORK PARTIES

Dates	Trail	Area	Type
Jun 6-12	Icicle Creek	Wenatchee National Forest	Car camp
Jun 12-19	Domke Lake	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Jun 19-26	Fossil Trail	Mt. St. Helens National Monument	Backpack
Jun 26-Jul 3	Mount Rainier	Mount Rainier National Park	Car camp
Jul 3-10	Mount Baker Wilderness	Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest	Car camp
Jul 10-17	Carlton Creek	Gifford-Pinchot National Forest	Backpack
Jul 17-24	Holden	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Jul 24-31	Holden	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Jul 31-Aug 7	Mazama Park	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	Backpack
Aug 8-14	Deception Pass	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Forest	Backpack
Aug 14-21	Nada Lake	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Aug 21-28	Waptus Lake	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Aug 28-Sep 4	Dishpan Gap	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	Backpack
Sep 4-Sep 11	Rainier View	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	Car camp
Sep 18-25	Fish Lake on the PCT	Wenatchee National Forest	Backpack
Sep 25-Oct 2	Snow Lake (Snoqualmie Pass)	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	Backpack

To sign up for one of our week-long work parties or to receive more information, please call our volunteer hotline at 206/517-7032 or visit our website at www.wta.org

Washington Trails Association is a member based non-profit devoted to the protection and enhancement of hiking and trails in Washington. For more information about WTA's issues and advocacy, *Signposts for Northwest Trails Magazine*, or WTA membership, call (206)625-1367.

Red Team at Devil's Peak

April 24, 1999

Whoa! Backing off a hundred foot rock face is one thing, but backing off a hundred foot free rappel when everything you see around you is below and miles away is a completely different experience! That was the feeling I had backing off the top of Devil's Peak - scared!

Somehow, through a combination of luck, mass confusion, 16 students who didn't know exactly where they were going or when they were supposed to be there and six patient instructors, we ended up on top of Devil's Peak on a near cloudless day. I'm sure the clear view heightened the sense that we were stepping off into nothing. Half the team did a double rope rappel off the top, and the other half did a single rope rappel with a belay off the east ledge. If I learned anything, I'd say it's to know and trust your equipment. More than anything else I remember looking at my seat harness and thinking, "Is this going to stay on?"

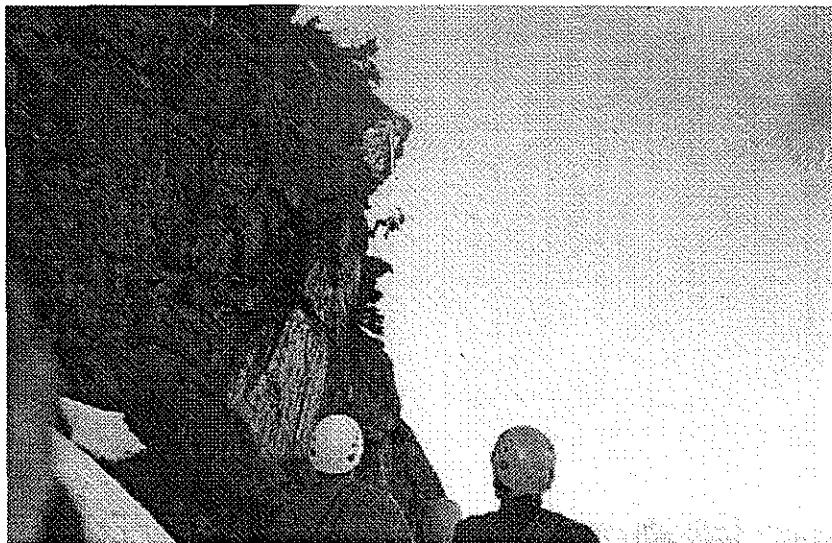
We had stunning views of Big Four, Glacier Peak, Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier off in the distance to the south.

Despite the sunshine, it was still pretty cold at the top of the peak - I would have traded the rest of my granola for a pair of dry socks! But the cold feet I had also motivated me to climb the final 100 feet to the summit after the ropes were set up - darned if I was going to sit at the bottom and shiver! We did get to see the sun set from the top and darkness was setting in as we got back down to base camp. We thought we were late, but in the distance we could make out the headlamps of the Black Team still on the ridge under Devil's Thumb. We thought we'd help them out by building a nice fire with "our" Duraflame logs so they could see where base camp was - I'm not sure they appreciated our effort!

At 5:30 the next morning we awoke to rain. Our hot breakfast didn't help much by the time we got to the top of the ridge on the approach to Devil's Thumb. No one was interested in slithering up the wet class 4 rock into the blizzard on top, so we decided down was the best direction at that particular moment.

I think most of the team fared well in our first overnighter, even if some members are camp stove challenged! The steep climb, deep snow and rain couldn't dampen the exhilaration of getting to the summit on Saturday. It was a great trip! Thanks to our lead instructor, Rich Privett, and all the assistant instructors that helped out and made it possible!

-- Don Fraser



The Red Team's Colleen Hunter doing the free rappel off of Devil's Peak

The Devil and the Green Giants

by Al Baal

Question: What sort of weather did the Kannapells induce in the Devil's Basin?
From what I heard, there was Len-ticulars, Tun-der and Vera snowy weather!

It didn't take long to lose the bet I had made with Tuney Kannapell. I said it wouldn't rain on us. Luckily by the time we reached camp the rain had turned to snow. As half the group were setting up camp, the other half took off with six ropes to set the route on Devil's Peak.

I had convinced Victor Yagi (one of the Blue team leaders) that the team with the most students should get Devil's Peak on Saturday, knowing full well that with 18 students we would get our peak of choice. We weren't more than a few hundred feet from the saddle (where we would be break out the ropes), when out of nowhere we heard a loud "CRACK"! Tuney yells "AVALANCHE!" A few of the students admitted to wetting their pants before we realized that it was thunder instead. The avalanche conditions were moderate heading to high with all the snow we were getting. We decided to wait before going up any further to see if the thunderstorm would blow over. On the one hand we didn't want to be struck by lighting while waiting under a tree, on the other hand we didn't want to be on a totally open slope in case of avalanches. So we settled on being near a tree that was bent over.

The storm turned out to be a good distance away, but in the mean time, the wind picked up and our body temperatures were quickly dropping. Dan Goering started his stove, and we dug a pit to pile into. It wasn't long before we were all warmed by the hot chocolate and the intermingling of our bodies. A sun sucker hole over Devils Peak gave us a brief moment of hope that we would complete our climb, but just as quickly as the sucker hole showed up, it left. When the other half of the team caught up to us they gave us an update of worsening avalanche conditions. It was time to make our retreat.

Down at Devil's Lake we were surprised to see the BLUE MOON ARISING (Len was that you in those cute black bikini shorts?). But before we could make it to camp, the blue team took advantage of the slope to bombard us with snowballs (we got even later). We were back at camp a little after 3 PM with lots of time to cook dinner, and enjoy the Presto log campfire.

We woke up to several more inches of snow and decided avalanches would be cutting loose, and sure enough, several of them did come down later that morning. We had a good time building an igloo that was strong enough for Terry Hill to stand on top of. We also dug two other types of snow shelters. First, a ranger's trench, which is a long trench that goes down about four feet, then spreads out on the sides. We didn't take the time to finish it by covering the top with blocks of snow. Next, and I think the most interesting, we stacked a bunch of packs together, covered them with snow and let it set, then we dug below the packs and pulled them out - it's a quick way to build an igloo!

I must say, that despite not making any summits, and having to deal with crummy weather, we had a great time and learned some important lessons.

BoBaby Outing to Little Si

May 15, 1999

Although the weather wasn't quite as nice for this trip as it was last year at this time, Bryden Robertson, Rachael Arnold and Evan Steiner all managed to coerce their parents into helping them reach the summit of Little Si. The morning did start out a bit drippy, but this just added to the wonderful amount of mud available on the trail to jump in, stomp through, and in general splash every possible way! The kids did wonderfully, walking almost a mile on the way up, and the same mile on the way down. A stop just below the climbing areas for snacks proved to be quite popular before walking along the dark and boulder studded base of the climbing crag. Once past this area, the trail steepened, and all three toddlers retreated to the safety and warmth of their back pack carriers, with only Evan remaining awake for the final stretch of trail to the summit. Once on top, however, it was lunch time (eating is never far away with two year olds!), and the summit rocks provided a wonderful playground for climbing, with just enough puddles for throwing rocks into. Some other hikers even kindly provided a dog for an up close and personal wildlife encounter that seemed to particularly thrill Bryden. After stretching their legs and throwing arms, and filling their tummies, it was time to head back down again. The kids all got rides down to the flats again, and then walked much of the way down to the trailhead, and along the street back to the parking area. A wiggly and friendly puppy, a mailbox shaped like a fish, and two llamas in a pen provided the highlights of the return trip!

We'll be scheduling one BoBaby outing each month through the summer, and would love to have more toddlers (and their parents!) join us. We also meet each Tuesday at the Redmond Vertical World around 6:00 for a few hours of gym climbing and shared baby sitting (once the weather gets warmer, we'll meet out at the Exit 38 climbing area instead), and we try to get together once a month for an evening for the kids to play together (and the parents, too!). If you'd like to join us in any of these activities, please drop an email to Maren (mnelson@physio-control.com) or me (matt.robertson@boeing.com), and we'll send you more info!

-- Matt Robertson



Evan and Natalie Steiner, Bryden and Maren Robertson and Rachael and Jeff Arnold
at the Little Si trailhead

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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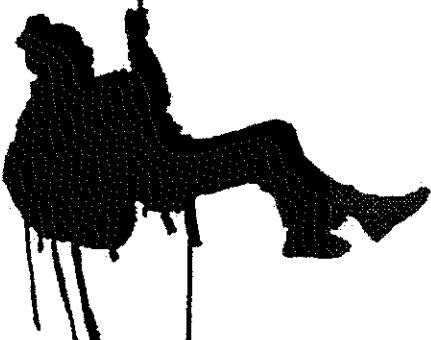
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OR: 7021 10th Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98117

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ALPINE ECHO



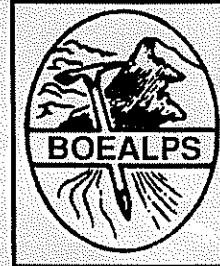
June ECHO staff

Editor: Matt Robertson
Minutes: Rich Baldwin
Conservation Corner: Vera Trainer
Contributors: Al Baal, Don Fraser,
Jim Weisman, Len Kannapell,

Thanks to everyone who contributed - keep those cards and letters coming! We can always use more submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering related will do. Email them to me at matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in implant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

July 1999

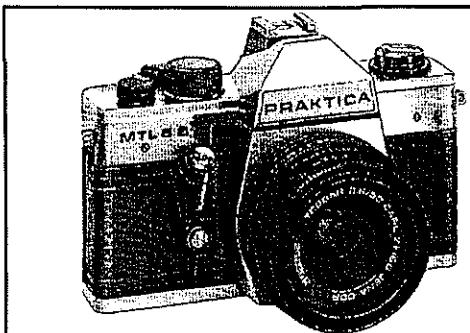


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Photo: Paradise Lost by Tim McGuire

From Beth Sundquist 39-TA



July General Meeting

Annual Photo Competition!

Thursday, July 1st
Oxbow Recreation Center
 Submit pictures for contest - 6:30 pm
 Social half hour and picture viewing - 7:00 pm
 Meeting and Judging - 7:30 pm

BELAY STANCE

Sorry for the absence of the Belay Stance column in last month's Echo. We delivered the page to the printers, but they didn't get it printed. You should have received a copy of it in the mail a few days following the Echo – there was some important info on the upcoming club meetings in it, and I'll include that again this month...

Annual Photo Competition at the July 1st meeting

Basic graduates - bring all those great shots you took during the basic class! Everyone else - bring any pictures of your trips and enter them in our photo competition! Winners will be awarded free film to take even more great pictures! See further details in this issue. If you haven't been attending the monthly meetings, this is a really fun one to start out with - show up at the west end of the 2nd floor of the Oxbow Recreation Center for a great evening!

Upcoming club meetings

The August club meeting will be our annual summer picnic, and will be held at the Marymoor climbing rock August 5th. Join us any time after work, and plan to bring your shoes, harness, rope, 'draws and some food to share. A prototype of the new climbing guide to the Marymoor Rock might make its appearance at this outing! In September we'll have the annual board meeting and election of the new board members - all the board positions are up for grabs, so if you're interested in becoming more active with the club, this is a great opportunity. Look on the front cover for a list of all board and chair positions. The October general meeting will be our annual banquet - a chance to catch up with everyone, retell war stories, and dine and dance the night away. The planning for the banquet is just getting started and Eric Bennett (erbennett@hotmail.com or 206-579-5016) would like your input (and volunteers to help will be most graciously accepted). Do you want a speaker and/or dancing? What price range is agreeable? Have you gone in the last few years? If not, why not (cost, date, interest, etc.)? Keep those first Thursdays of the month free, and join in on the fun!

Basic class update...

As frequently seems to happen, the weather was not cooperative for this year's basic class graduation climb of Mt. Baker. None of the teams were able to summit, but we graduated many of the students on June 16th anyway. Congratulations to all the Basic Graduates! I hope you stay active with the club, and submit an activity or two, and I'd love more trip reports! Hope to see you in the mountains or at the crags!

Intermediate class update...

The Intermediate Class has finally started heading into the hills on its experience climbs. Prusik Peak, Silver Star, Liberty Bell via the Beckey Route, the Brothers traverse, Twin Sisters Traverse, and Mt. Rainier via the Fuhrer Finger were all diligently attempted by various intermediate students in June with varying degrees of success. Mike Jacobsen wrote up a great trip report of his outing for this issue, and I'm hoping there will be further trip reports from other intermediate students in future issues (hint, hint!)...

Volunteers and opportunities...

Activities chairman anyone? The position is currently vacant, and could really use a volunteer. If you're interested in orchestrating some events, and hosting pizza feeds to coerce your fellow Boealpers into leading trips, please contact Rich Baldwin at 206-544-7580 or richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com for more information.

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still SLESSE. It's only needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of our web site.

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

AUGUST ECHO DEADLINE IS JULY 22nd

July, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Canada Day Club Meeting and Photo Competition	2	3
4 <u>Independence Day</u>	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10
11	12 New Moon Intermediate Class: Group Dynamics/ Leadership	13	14	15	16	17 IC - Experience Climb #3
18 IC - Experience Climb #3	19	20	21	22 Echo Deadline	23	24
25	26 Intermediate Class: Ice Climbing	27	28 Full Moon	29	30	31 IC - Ice Climb

August, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 IC - Ice Climb	2	3	4	5 Club Picnic at Marymoor Climbing Rock	6	7
8	9 Intermediate Class: Expedition Climbing	10	11 New Moon	12 Board Meeting	13	14 IC - Experience Climb #4
15 IC - Experience Climb #4	16	17	18	19 Echo Deadline	20	21
22	23 Intermediate Class: Student Presentations	24	25	26 Full Moon	27	28 IC - Graduation Climb
29 IC - Graduation Climb	30	31				

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

BoBaby Hike – Cedar Butte

July 10

This is a mostly gentle trail that's backpack friendly with a steep trail bit toward the top. The total elevation gain is about 800 feet, and the round trip distance is 3 miles.

Party Limit 12

Route Trail

Equipment Backpack, no strollers

Experience Any parents with children, but this is aimed at the 2 year old toddler crowd

Contact Matt and Maren Robertson

(425)822-0455

matt.robertson@boeing.com

Mt. Adams Ski Mountaineering

July 24-25

Depart Seattle area 6 a.m. Saturday, snow camp at 7,500 feet and climb Sunday. Strong intermediate skiing skills required. (Date changed due to road closures)

Party Limit 12

Route South Spur

Equipment Telemark or Randonee Skis or snowboard

Experience Basic class graduate; intermediate skier

Contact Rob Kunz

(206) 655-7645

robert.r.kunz@boeing.com

South Central Alaska

August 21-September 6, 1999

Hiking in a mountainous wilderness amongst three mountain chains and lots of wild life. Hike up Dixie pass and then return along Kotsina trail loop. Opportunity for side trips to hike some of the ridges.

Party Limit 6

Route St Elias National Park, Dixie Pass/Kotsina trail loop (Elevations will be approximately between 1000 and 5000 feet)

Equipment Backpacking gear, ice axe

Experience This is a moderately difficult backpack. All interested parties should know how to use an ice ax and have back country travel skills. It will take 7 to 9 days for the 45 miles loop. There will be time at the end of the trip for personal itineraries or an early return.

Contact Joyce Holloway

(h) (425) 888-4434

(w) (425) 477-4393

e-mail: deandjh@halcyon.com

Janet Oliver

(h) (425) 413-0298

(w)

e-mail: oliverj2@email.msn.com

Submit activities to

Rich Baldwin

206-544-7580

richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Isn't anyone interested in leading a climb?!

Boeing Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info:	Name: _____
	Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
	(____) _____ (Home)
	Email: _____
	M/S: _____

***Please note:** all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!*

Submit activities to

Rich Baldwin
206-544-7580
richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com

THE BOEALPS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

By Jim Weisman

Start rounding up your slides and prints - the Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the July 1st general meeting!

Prizes will be given out for the categories listed below with the exception of the Echo Cover category. First place winning slides and prints will be displayed in the Alpine Echo (with permission of the photographer). The top four placing slides and/or prints in the Echo Cover category will get placed on the Echo cover for three months each over the course of the next year.

<u>Slides</u>	<u>Prints</u>
Mountain Scenes	Mountain Scenes
Nature Scenes	Climbing
Sunsets & Sunrise	Sunsets & Sunrises
Climbing	Boealps Climbing Class
Most Embarrassing	Most Embarrassing
Echo Cover*	Echo Cover*

*This will be a combined category. All entries into this category must have high contrast and a horizontal orientation (vertical orientations will not fit on the cover although possible alternate formats are being considered).

How to enter:

Show up at 6:30 pm if you plan on entering any slides or prints.

Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.

Your name should appear on each entry. (For slides, write on the frame; for prints, attach a note to the back.)

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

Rules:

- Do not enter photos that have won in previous years (The Echo cover category is not subject to this rule).
- You must be the actual photographer of your entry.
- All entries must be of club interest.

Any final arbitration rests with the club photography chair whose decision is final.

WANTED – Roommate to share a two-bedroom townhouse in the Lynnwood/Harbor Pointe area. Private full bath and off street parking. Located between Alderwood Mall and Boeing Everett with easy access to I-5 and I-405 roadways. Fully furnished kitchen and living room also includes a washer and dryer. NO pets - I have a pair of cats. \$500 plus half utilities. Contact Eric Bennett at 206-579-5016, or via email at erbennett@hotmail.com

Silver Star Mountain

June 12-13, 1999

Planning for a June Mt. Baker climb always requires a couple of backups in case of poor weather. Silver Star Mountain and Mt. Robinson on the east side were ours. Naturally as the weekend approached the forecast was for a small front to move through the North Cascades on Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning - our window for climbing!! I finally arrived back in Seattle on Friday at 2pm, two days early from Amsterdam and joined the group. Kathy packed my pack for me.

Although the sight of Mt. Baker was tempting, the gut feeling was that it would be a washout. So it was off to the east side and Silver Star Mountain. We left Marysville at 6:30 am and drove to Marblemount for climbing registration. Strangely, the Matt Robertson who signed in before us was not the editor of the Echo. (Editor's Note: I was getting spanked by the approach to Prusik Peak this weekend – the blisters still hurt!) At the old Log Cabin Inn, #4 is still the popular breakfast choice on the menu. The drive up and over the pass was spectacular and included a porcupine crossing. Our starting point, where Hwy 20 crossed Silver Star Creek, was easy to find due to the collection of vehicles alongside the road (somewhat surprising, as this was not the standard route). A good boot path followed the left side of the creek. The woods were refreshingly cool and soon we were on firm snow (3800 feet). In about 2 hours we reached the far end of the 5000-ft basin. We climbed out the upper side of the basin to pass the cliff band at the 5500-foot level and then swung to our camp beneath the towers of Burgundy Col in the highest trees at about 6300 feet. Groups of day skiers came through camp, accounting for the cars at roadside. Around 5 pm three skiers set up camp 100 yards below our privy and dug a snow cave. High clouds rolled in as we settled down for the night. Bill was using his brand new bivy sac for the first time and we were all "helping" him get comfortable. It was suggested that a bivy sac on a snow slope would make a good combination toboggan and body bag if he started sliding in the middle of the night. He elected to tie in to a picket to preclude this possibility. Troy prepared to share a tent with Bingo (a convicted snorer) by placing his socks close at hand. It began sprinkling as we finished dinner and crashed for the night. Mt. Robinson, directly north, dominated our views all day.

The skies rained off and on all night, and continued through breakfast. It was light precipitation though, and we elected to push on to the summit. Kathy again led off with a punishing pace through inconsistent snow that had us all stripping our breathable rain gear in spite of the continued drizzle. We traversed below the glacier and ascended the east lobe of the glacier without a hint of a crevasse. Bill kicked steps through avalanche debris and ski tracks up to the saddle between the East and West Peak. The snow was nearly continuous to the summit. The axes were sheathed for a scramble leading to a short roped pitch (20ft) and the final summit block. This was probably not the standard route- I think we could have bypassed this step, but were suckered in to this spot by the high snow. After being "oh-for", Kathy finally made the summit, her 50th of the highest 100. The views were great - the Wine Spires, Glacier Peak, Dome and Goode. Mt. Baker was conspicuous by its absence in a bank of clouds. Mt. Robinson was bathed in sunshine while we were still under gray sky.

At 11am, a short rappel returned us to the snow. A careful descent through loose mixed terrain led us to open snow and glissading. We descended the 2500 feet to camp from the rappel in 30 minutes! We packed up camp as the sun came out. A small traverse led to more glissading as we descended into the 5000-ft basin. In a parallel chute I attempted to pass Kathy, but she removed her brakes and flew on by. Bingo demonstrated her glissading prowess by "sticking" a landing. Troy avoided many of the tree wells that seemed to suck in his followers. Back in the basin we took a break for our last photo opportunity with sunshine on the towering peak behind us. Soon we were hiking out of the basin and pounding down the dirt boot path. We were back at the cars at 2:15 pm. The drive home included one unhappy moment as we discovered the "Good Food" restaurant in Marblemount was permanently closed.

Climbers were: Doreen Bingo, Troy Colyer, Bill Thomas, Kathy and Jerry Baillie (scribe).

Half Dome via the Regular NW Face

Todd Bauck & David Towns

June, 1998

On the drive over, a fortune cookie at a Chinese restaurant had this message: "A thrilling time awaits you".

Our plan was to hike in, fix the first two pitches, then go to the bivy ledge at the top of pitch 11 the following day. From there we would go to the Big Sandy Ledges at pitch 17, and from there to the top. We started hiking in early in the morning. We had all our stuff loaded into one large haul bag and a smaller pack. Seven and a half miles (and about 3000') later we arrived at the shoulder of Half Dome. We were taking turns with the haul bag, but it was still a grunt. The top of Half Dome was actually not too far away. I was rather eager to get away from the hikers who seemed to think we were going to rappel down the face to start the climb. From there, we had to descend along the slopes below the face. The initial portion of the decent was not obvious. We had to traverse some slabs and several steep snow fields about 100' from the NW face of Half Dome (in normal years, the snow has long since melted out and a reasonable climbers trail exists). I had the joy of carrying the haul bag across the snowfields; it wasn't just the weight, but the awkwardness of the haul bag. Eventually, we cut back toward the face and found the climber's trail. The bivy sites at the base were good, and the snow provided all the water we could want.

Getting to the first pitch was made difficult by a steep snowfield at the base and a bergschrund. On the plus side, we didn't have to climb the lower part of the route. We were able to identify the route by a bay tree approximately half way up. We managed to fix the first two pitches (a 5.10c and a 5.9) before dark.

Getting up early the next morning we jumared up the first pitch and got the haul bag stuck twice on two different lips. It was taking both of us to haul the pig at this point. The second pitch had an ugly chimney that we had to haul through. I finally was able to start the leading the third pitch around 9 a.m. It was a nice 5.8 that followed the arete. I fixed the lead line for Dave to jumar and began to work out how a body haul could be performed efficiently (by the end of the day, we both learned to body haul while the follower was jumaring and cleaning the pitch).

I led the next pitch which started off with a few aid moves to a bolt ladder consisting of nice Metolious 3/8" bolts that were occasionally spaced a little too far apart. I wished I had a clip stick. The rest of the pitch was a awkward 5.9 hand crack for about 90'. The hand crack was hard to lead (probably due to the weight of the big wall rack, lead line, haul line, and hauling equipment). To make it interesting, my aid gear tangled up with some of my pro when I was trying to free climb which resulted in some down climbing to clean up my mess - I should have put it away more neatly. As with most of the bottom pitches, two nice 3/8" Metolious bolts made up the anchor.

Dave led the next two pitches, each having some 5.9 sections interspersed with mid 5th class terrain. These pitches were a little dirty and loose. As I jugged these pitches, I stayed with the haul bag so I could guide it around chimneys and pop it over lips. The top of the 6th pitch contained a reasonable sized sloping ledge that could be used as a bivy spot for a few people. It even had a pound in bolt for protection for the bivy.

I led the 7th and Dave led the 8th pitch. Both were rated 5.5, and ended at decent belay ledges. The 9th pitch was a 4th class scramble from the pillar where the previous pitches were on to the main wall of Half Dome itself. At this point, the character of the climb began to change. Prior to this, we were on an arete that had the feel of alpine climbing due to the easier climbing, shrubbery, and occasional loose rock. Now the exposure was picking up dramatically and a retreat would be much harder due to the traversing.

The 10th pitch was another bolt ladder (Metolious 3/8" bolts that involved some long reaches at times) that traversed over to the right. From the top of the ladder (which was a piton), I had Dave lower me down and I made a pendulum swing over to a decent side pull. It took me a couple of tries to get my swing and timing correct. Dave had to follow by lowering off of the top piton using the extra lead line. He did not like that too much (but preferred it to doing the pendulum on lead). Dave led the next pitch (a 5.9+ shallow corner) which brought us to the pitch 11 bivy. In the guidebook, it was listed as a good bivy - it was not! It was narrow (2' wide) and rocky. The exposure and views were great. Apparently a previous party bailed at this point and left behind a 2-liter water bottle. This was a major score for us since it meant some extra water for each of us (I had some iodine pills to treat it with).

Pitch 12 provided a choice of either a hard to protect 5.9 chimney/offwidth or an A1 crack - Dave wisely aided up the A1 crack.

We had a 60-meter lead and haul rope. I used the full length to combine pitches 13 & 14 and 15 & 16 into two long pitches (mostly 5.8 - 5.9 climbing). Dave called 13 & 14 the death chimney due to the roofs that I had to pull through and the general offwidth nature. Most of the moves utilized ledges and arete rather than true offwidth climbing, but it was a physical grunt and a real pain to haul the pig. Several times during the 13 & 14 haul, I had to wait for Dave to free the pig when it got jammed in the chimney.

Dave led pitch 17, which was great. It started out with some 4th class traversing on ledges and then went up a beautiful 5.8 crack to the Big Sandy Ledges. The Big Sandy Ledges was the best bivy spot. It has several nice flat ledges to sleep on and a lot of great exposure. The ledges were in a series of steps that were broad and wide enough that we were able to take gear out of the haul bag without having to hang it from the anchor. At this point, the top was not too far away; we were almost directly below the "diving board" which is a rock that sticks out from the top of Half Dome. Several people crawled out on the diving board and made comments to us (the easy route up Half Dome included some steel cables over 45 degree slabs that allowed hikers to get to the summit). One lady thought we were stranded and was ready to call for help.

The next three pitches are called the Zig Zags. I led the first of the three, which was 5.11d, or A1 (I free climbed the easy bottom part and then started aiding). Where the crack began to seam out, it had a fun small pendulum (from a piton) to a nice hold. I stuck in a #2 Camelot and climbed up to the belay that was about 12' above the nice hold. I back cleaned the Camelot to give Dave an easier traverse. Dave free climbed part of the next pitch (5.10b), but had me finish it by aiding. The belay was at the top of a 15' deep slanting hole (2 people could probable hide here in a storm). Dave aided through the last Zig Zag pitch.

I got to do the "Thank God Ledge" pitch. It was a ledge that started out about a foot wide and then narrowed and became outward sloping as I went. Dave told me that the 'real hardmen' walk across it, preferably in a casual stroll. So I started out walking across it, but ended up doing a hand traverse and finally crawling the last few feet - kneepads were nice (so much for being a real hardman!). From the end of the ledge you could either do a chimney (you would need a #5 Camelot to protect it) or traverse another few feet to a thin 5.9 crack that went up to the next belay. I chose the thin crack because I did not want to climb the chimney that I could not protect. After hauling the pig, I belayed Dave over (jugging the Thank God Ledge traverse would be scary).

I kept my rock shoes on for pitch 22, which started out with some unprotected 5.6 face climbing to a 3/8" Metolious bolt. The next solid piece of protection was another 3/8" bolt about 20' to my left at the same height as the first bolt. I was unable to perform a pendulum and ended up doing some manky aiding off a small shallow crack (I could only get 2 cams of my smallest camming unit to work). This got me to the next bolt. From this bolt, several other good bolts (and long reaches for some of them) led to the headwall where I traversed to the left. Some fixed gear was in the seam between the headwall and the steep slab I was climbing across. This was a good thing, because snowmelt from above was pouring water down on me (I did not want to stop to put in my own pro in the thin seam). It seemed that the closer we got to the top, the more the climb was trying to stop us. As I was bringing over the haul bag, Dave followed using the jumars and an occasional swing when he had to unclip a piece of gear along the headwall. Normally, there is no snow above to provide the waterfall, and this traverse would be an easy face climb. As it was, this became the hardest aid pitch.

A short 5.8 pitch that consisted of a lot of mantling on blocks in a corner was followed by to some 3rd class climbing that led to the summit. At the end of the 5th class climbing, a pound-in bolt is on the wall. It was nice reaching the top, as the hikers were treating us as daredevils and asking a number of odd questions.

On the hike out, we got a lot of questions about the haul bag: "Is that a raft?" (Why would we be carrying a raft downstream?) "Is that a hang glider?" (Why would be carrying a hang glider down hill?) We were tempted to tell people it was a body bag!

Attempt on Denali

May, 1999

Michael Mixon

Tim Jackson and I left Seattle on May 5th. After arrival in Anchorage, the Talkeetna Shuttle Service transported us to the town of Talkeetna. We arrived about 4 p.m., to drizzle and overcast skies. As we checked in at the NPS Ranger station the weather began to clear. That evening we enjoyed pizza, our last "real food" for a while, at the Talkeetna Deli. We spent the night organizing gear and slept on the open-air deck at Talkeetna Air Taxi. The following morning, May 6th, we climbed on board a TAT Cessna 185 and flew onto the SE Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. Shortly afterward, two Italian climbers, dressed in identical yellow/gray one-piece down suits arrived. Tim and I geared up and started climbing. Actually, we first descended 800' onto the main Kahiltna glacier and then began climbing. We climbed to 7,800', where the NE Fork of the Kahiltna intersects with the main Kahiltna and spent our first night on the mountain. The next day we ferried a load of food and fuel up to 9,800' and returned to camp, spending the afternoon lounging in the sun, drinking and eating. Here we met two climbers from Wisconsin, Pat and Eric, who also planned to attempt the upper West Rib.

On day 3, we moved our camp to 9,800' on the Kahiltna. Clouds enveloped us as we set up the tent, but appeared thin and we could here planes above the clouds. That night the temperature dropped to -12F. The following day started off clear. As we turned eastward, below Kahiltna Pass, the wind picked up drastically. By 10,300', the wind was >20 mph and the temperature had dropped. By the time we stopped next to a camp at 10,600', the wind had increased to close to 40 mph. Tim dropped a portion of his gear in a cache and I donned a down parka. After a quick break, we continued on to 11,000'. There, along with a recently added NPS toilet, we found light winds! In a little over two hours, we had a campsite dug out and our tent set up. We met a party of 4 returning from 17,200 on the W Buttress. They included Klev Schoening, Cliff Leight and 2 others from Washington. They told us about high winds at the 17,200 camp.

The following day was spent at 11,000' camp. Tim returned to pick up the cache at 10,600' and I wondered around the 11,000' camp in the wind, blowing snow and low visibility. I specifically remember looking into a small (12") crevasse that was only 50 yd. from our tent, on the path up Motorcycle Hill.

On day 6, we awoke to clear skies with the plan to shuttle a load up toward the 14,000' Advance Base Camp. The first party out of camp that morning promptly "dropped" a climber into the crevasse 50 yards from our tent as Tim and I were getting ready! (The climber was extracted without incident). We climbed up Motorcycle Hill and were rewarded with a nice view of the Peters Glacier. From there, we headed E, around Squirrel point toward Windy Corner. We climbed under the toe of the W Buttress and enjoyed the beautiful couloirs that line the ridge. Windy Corner wasn't... that is, windy. But it was very, very scenic, with outstanding views of the NE Fork and the main Kahiltna Glaciers as well as views of the upper mountain! Due to the time, we elected to drop our cache at 13,500' and returned to our 11,000' camp.

On the 7th day, May 12, we woke and began climbing early. Leaving behind one day of food, our snowshoes and garbage in a cache, we again climbed Motorcycle Hill, went around Squirrel point and over windless Windy Corner. We continued up and arrived in the 14,000' camp area where it was warm and snowing lightly. With no open tent sites, we built new snow walls to protect our tent from possible high winds. Little did we know how much we would come to count on these walls over the next week.

The next day I arose early and watched the sun rise over the W Rib. We returned to 13,500 and recovered our previous cache. We visited the NPS Ranger tent where we learned that the previous night's low temperature had been -16F. A volunteer paramedic from Alaska Natl. Guard measured my O₂ saturation at 80% (compared to 100% at sea level). We also traveled over to the "Edge of the World", where the basin at 14,000' abruptly drops off to the NE Fork of the Kahiltna, 4,000' below! Another impressive and beautiful sight.

A rest day at the 14,000' camp is a wonderful opportunity to visit other climbers from around the world. The 2 Italians who flew in with us on day 1 were there as were 4 Canadians from Toronto that we had previously met. There were also 4 Canadians who described themselves as being from "Central Alberta". I pressed them for further definition of "Central Alberta" and was told they were from Canmore and Red Deer. I expressed my dismay that there was no one on their team from Nordegg, but we then swapped tales of our favorite ice climbs in the Canadian Rockies! And then there was the solo climber from Reno, who said he was the head of his own religion, which he called Zen-Nazism. His motto: "Peace, Love or Kill'em". At the end of the day, our climbing friends from Wisconsin showed up, and received a well-earned dose of verbal abuse from Tim and I for being so late.

Day 9 started out clear but very windy, with snow plumes sailing of the summit, signalling things that were to come. We elected to take a rest day and while visiting the Ranger tent, learned of a rescue in progress on the upper W Buttress. Two

Spanish climbers had slipped and fallen above Denali Pass at about 18,500'. One had broken ribs, labored breathing and a broken ankle. The other had a broken wrist. The high wind was prohibiting the high altitude helicopter, the Lhama, from picking up the injured climbers. I volunteered to assist if a ground rescue was required as the volunteer rangers at the 14,000' camp readied the rescue gear. Eventually, at about 5:00 p.m. the wind died down and the Lhama helicopter was able to successfully extract the most severely injured climber. Later that evening, Tim and I decided to switch from the W Rib to the W Buttress. We developed a plan and went to sleep knowing that we would be ferrying a load tomorrow.

At 10:30 on day 10, we started up the headwall with 5 days of food and fuel, Tim in the lead. We crossed the bergschrund at 15,500 and I took the lead. We attached our prusiks onto the fixed lines and began climbing the 55-degree headwall, which was blue ice! After a break in a walled campsite at the top of the headwall at 16,000', we resumed climbing up the W Buttress. It provided very interesting climbing among the brown granite rocks and the pure white snow on the sheer ridge. At 16,800, with the wind howling and the entire lower mountain shrouded in clouds, we decided to bury our gear and return to our 14,000 camp. It was snowing by the time we reached our tents. It was decided that day 11 was to be another rest day. Another day of meeting new people, discussing climbs and talking about the weather. High winds and snow continued on and off all day and the weather forecast was for even higher winds aloft, estimated at 50+ mph. A guided group of 10 arrived from Mountain Trip and 3 groups of 2 returned from successful summit attempts. My O2 saturation was now 89%.

Day 12 dawned with weather the same as the preceding day... clear and windy. After a slow start, I spent the afternoon by climbing up to the West Rib. I was treated to a fly-by of 2 Alaska National Guard Pave-Hawk helo's and a C-130. The view of the Cassin Ridge from 15,800' on the W Rib was outstanding! Had a quick lunch while watching several groups of climbers coming up from the lower W Rib and then headed down. Day 13 was spent re-building snow walls and digging out the spindrift from the very high gusts that continued. The forecast was for a low-pressure system to move in and for snow flurries to begin. Day 13 ended as it had begun, with very high gusts, hammering the tent.

Day 14 arrived bringing with it clear skies... but the same, very high wind gusts. The forecast was for the low pressure to move in, bring more clouds and even more high winds. This weather pattern was to remain for the foreseeable future. After a brief discussion and a review of our schedule, we decided that sitting at 14,000' any longer would not be beneficial and that our chances for a summit attempt were slim. Along with the decision to head out the next day, we decided that we would remove our food and fuel cache that we had left at 16,800' on the West Buttress. As we started up, Tim's feet would not warm up. I elected to continue up, to bring back the cache. The upper W Buttress was very windy, with gusts upwards of 40+ mph. As I reached the cache site, I decided to push higher to see the 17,200' camp. The winds at the 17,200' campsite were easily 40 mph sustained. There was, rightfully, no one camped at 17,200. I descended back to our 14,000' camp, picking up the cache along the way. I was greeted with warm water prepared by Tim. That night, as I visited "the men's room" for one last trip, I watched as the Lhama arrived above the Ranger tent, with a short-haul line affixed. Immediately, the helo picked up Ranger Kevin and headed up to the West Rib. A visit to the ranger tent and I learned that Kevin was going up to rescue an Italian climber clad in yellow/gray one-piece down suit, who had broken an ankle while attempting a ski descent of the Wickwire Variation of the West Rib!

Shortly after waking on day 15, I went over to the Ranger tent to let them know we were leaving and found the Rangers and volunteers huddled around the CB radio. I soon learned that 3 British climbers were overdue and had last been seen at 18,500' on the upper W Rib, too far east. There was a C-130 circling overhead, looking for movement and trying to establish radio contact. We headed out of 14,000' about 1:00 p.m. and by 1:05 p.m. I had begun having sled difficulties. The problems continued until we stopped at 11,000' to pick up our snowshoes and garbage. I re-rigged the sled and we continued down to 7,800'. That night we enjoyed our last dinner on the mountain, by sitting outside the tent as the sun set over Kahiltna Dome.

Our final day started early. We were underway by 9:45, heading down the main Kahiltna glacier. After a quick break, we headed toward the landing spot on the SE Fork of the Kahiltna. Heartbreak Hill passed rapidly, driven by the desire for hot pizza and cold beer! At the landing area, we met George Dunn and Phil Erschler who were each leading a guided party for R.M.I. Soon afterwards, we loaded our gear onto the TAT Cessna for the scenic flight back to Talkeetna.

That afternoon was spent checking in at the NPS ranger station, re-arranging our Alaska Airlines flight back to Seattle, arranging transportation to Anchorage and buying last minute souvenirs. Later that afternoon, we ran into Pat and Eric, our friends from Wisconsin. They had just flown off the mountain with 3 Alaska climbers and were the last ones out that day. The weather had closed in and Kahiltna base was in clouds! We also learned that the three British climbers had been rescued from the mountain and that another accident had occurred on Mt. Hunter. We spent our last evening in Alaska, enjoying pizza with our recently acquired friends from Wisconsin and Alaska, swapping Denali tales and promising to come back another day!

The Brothers Traverse - Intermediate Climbing Class Outing

June 12-13, 1999

Climbers: Mike Jacobsen, Carson Kaan, Dave Stephens & Katy Rusho

Written by Mike Jacobsen

The Brothers are located in The Brothers Wilderness Area on the Olympic Peninsula northwest of Hoodspur. Hiking begins at the Lena Lake trailhead. The Brothers are named after Edward and Arthur Fauntleroy, early settlers to the area. While our group did not summit both peaks, we did enjoy a sunny summit on the taller south peak (Mount Edward, 6866') and a short running belay onto the ridge traverse and back.

We started out the trip with an unfortunate incident. Near Hoodspur, we saw a deer hit by a truck in the oncoming lane in front of us. It was a pretty sad and the deer wouldn't have lived long. We tried to put it out of mind. Shortly after, we arrived at the Lena Creek trailhead (780') with some 20+ cars already there with an assortment of hikers. The most interesting group of the trip had to be the traveling musicians. We left the trailhead around 9:15 AM. The hike to beautiful and heavily used Lena Lake is only 3 miles. The lake also sports a newly constructed solar toilet. We continued past the lake on the East Fork of Lena Creek and through the "Valley of the Silent Men." This is an extremely scenic wilderness area. Several bridges cross the creek with multiple channels carved deeply in the moss-laden rock. About 3.5 miles after the lake, we reached the normal climbers bivouac (3000').

At this location, it is important to cross the East Fork of Lena creek north of the feeder stream so you end up on the right side. We chose to cross earlier on a solid snow bridge of avalanche debris and ended up on the left side. Finding a safe place to cross took a little looking. We continued up the valley passing a couple of couloirs and went onto the third. It is amazing how much snow is up there this year. We saw huge 20-25 year old firs that were snapped off at the base of the avalanche debris. For those trees still standing, large limbs had been snapped off some 30+ feet from the ground. We continued up the large S. Couloir to Lunch Rock around 5200' where we found a reasonably protected bivy spot. We arrived around 5 PM after some 8+ miles and 4500' elevation gain. Dinner was over and we were just climbing into our bivy bags when the rain arrived with the advancing storm front. It rained off and on during the night with some pretty strong gusts. Dave and Katy noted that they were lulled to sleep with stereo nasal harmonics.

4 AM came quickly. It hadn't rained for a while, and we just started getting up when it began raining again. We postponed the wake up time until 4:30 AM. We ate, got ready, melted some more water and headed out around 5:15 AM. Our plan was to go up to about 5700' and traverse across gullies and chutes to a less than obvious notch to gain access to the Great Basin. We crossed over some chutes and tried a couple of notches, but they dropped off on the other side. We were actually trying to cross too high. After descending a bit, we found some cairns that we believe identified the correct traverse route. After coming to a steep exposed chute that we needed to cross to reach our 3rd attempt at a notch, we decided that we needed to modify our plans. With this agreed upon, we headed back to the S. Couloir and worked our way to its top. The wind had managed to dry my rain gear while we were climbing up the final portion. When we ran out of snow, it was a rock scramble to the summit. Around 10:15 AM we were greeted by clearing skies and departing rain clouds. That was particularly refreshing.

Dave, Katy and Mike decided to work our way out towards the prominent gendarme in the middle of the traverse to the North Brother. We didn't get far and I realized why the guidebook says to allow 4 hours for the traverse one way. It was quite exposed. Another climbing group had found the correct notch and made it to the summit of the North Brother. They started the traverse from the north peak. Most climbers do the traverse from north to south. From the summit, we enjoyed wonderful views of the entire Cascade Range. We could see across the Puget Sound from Mount Baker down to St. Helens. We also had views of Mt. Olympus behind us. We noticed a cloud cap on Rainier around 10,000' and wondered how the group assigned to that climb was doing.

It was around now around 1 PM and we couldn't stay longer. We left the summit and made good time glissading down the sun softened snow back to camp. We packed quickly and were able to continue our glissade down to the base of the S. Couloir. We once again enjoyed the Valley of the Silent Men as we passed thorough. When we reached Lena Lake, it had risen 5-6 feet up the shoreline from where it was the day before and it was already at least 8-10' higher than its normal levels. One group of campers had to move their tent during the night due to rising waters. Although I couldn't talk the rest of the group into it, an exhibition of two refreshing dives into Lena Lake were offered up for trailside entertainment. A group trip with good company. I'll need to go back and try that traverse again!

Last Journal Entries of Don Fraser, Basic Class Student, Red Team

Saturday, May 15th: We are lost in the Tatoosh Range! Visibility is down to 50 feet. We are on a steep icy couloir somewhere we think is definitely not Wahpenayo Peak, that we managed reach using our animal instincts and team effort. We've started the day in rain and spent the last few miles hip deep in snow. Something yellowish just whizzed by me. Only the snow churning off the ice ax in arrest position indicated it was another student (nice technique!). A few team members have climbed ahead and determined our way is blocked by rock cliffs. Luckily for our sliding comrade, we're headed in the same direction. If I ever get out of here I'm going to spend some more time learning how to read a map and compass.

Saturday, May 22nd: We've found our way off Chutla Peak (last week) but somehow have ended up wondering around the south slope of Mt Rainier on the Nisqually Glacier. The sun bears down on us and the reflection off the snow is intense. Helicopters buzz overhead and strangers ask us to keep an eye out for their lost comrade. Slough balls periodically roll down the slopes around us and we hear crashing avalanches from the surrounding cliffs. One by one my fellow students have disappeared into an eight-foot wide crack in the glacier. I'm the last one left. They tie a rope to me and slide me over the lip. Little did I expect the awesome chasm that awaited me.

Saturday, June 5th: I write this note in the fading light at 6000 ft basecamp on Mt Baker. The wind is howling outside and snow blows in every crack of our vestibule. It has been a grueling day. First a three-mile hike to the trailhead on a snow-covered road. Then about a mile through drizzly rain, and then two miles up the Easton Glacier. I started getting cramps in my left shin at the start of the Glacier climb, just before our lunch break. I thought that with a little break I might be able to walk through it, but after another mile I was getting shooting pains in my knee with every step. I arrived at basecamp a little late, but luckily was tent partners with three other students that didn't mind doing most of the digging and tent rigging in the howling wind and snow. After about a half-hour warming up in my bag I emerged from the tent again for our meager attempt at trying to cook pasta noodles and heat sauce at the same time. Luckily there were lots of munchies! My Gaz propane performed miserably, but I was able to get some snow melted and hot enough to put in my bag for the night, a lifesaver! I've resolved that when the team leader comes rustling people out of their tents at 12:30 am, they'll have to drag me out.

Sunday, June 13th: Things have taken a turn for the worse. A band of renegade WTA Volunteers has captured my team. Pulaskis and Cholders have been forced into our hands, and we've been herded on the long march up toward Whitehorse pass. Being eaten alive by gnats and mosquitoes, and working under the constant threat of beach ball size boulders thundering down the hillside, crashing through everything in their path (and being pushed by certain over enthusiastic members of our team). We picked, clawed, shoveled, and raked our way up the steep terrain. By the way, this looks like it might be a nice trail to come back to, trailhead about a mile off 520, turnoff a couple miles west of Darrington. Anyway, sweat running off my brow, knee aching, out of water, and down to a small can of tuna and some Chex mix; one thought kept me going: "Graduation Wednesday night!"

(No other entries)

It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Climb Rainier)

(To the tune of It's A Long Way To The Top If You Want To Rock N Roll by AC/DC)
Words by Ron Fleck

Ridin' down the highway, Goin' to the park
I packed the night before And left well in the dark
Hit the trail Like a Snail
Hope my Legs Do not fail
Gettin' cramped, Gettin' whupped
I tell you folks, It's farther than it looks

It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
If you think it's easy sloggin' up that peak
Try doin' it when your knees are weak
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier

Strap-on crampons Hangin' off my pack
All this climbing gear Is gonna break my back
Battlin' Heat Battlin' cold
Battlin' strong winds On endless snow
Struggling up Air's so thin
I'm crawlin' towards The crater rim

It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
If you think you're gonna jump that crevasse
Look out you'll bust your ass!
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
It's a long way to the top, If you wanna Climb Rainier
Well, it's a long way
It's a long way, (they tell me)
It's a long way, such a long way

(Cue the Bagpipes)

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO BETH SUNDQUIST, M/S 39-TA
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NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



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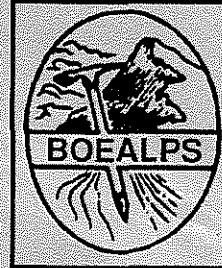
Thanks to everyone who contributed - keep those cards and letters coming! We can always use more submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering related will do. Email them to me at matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in implant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colver

6C-JM

August 1999



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Photo: Frostbite Ridge by Mike Jacobson

From Beth Sundquist 39-TA



August General Meeting

Potluck Picnic at
Marymoor Climbing Rock!

Thursday, August 5th
Marymoor Park
After work until dark

BELAY STANCE

Wow! What an issue! Humorous and harrowing trip reports, rescues, more activities than we've seen in a year, and the winning photos from this year's photo competition! Before we get to that, however, I need to mention an accident that occurred on the 17th of July. Todd Campbell, a student in the Intermediate Climbing Class this year, took a bad fall and was seriously injured on the south buttress of Cutthroat Peak in the North Cascades during one of the Intermediate Class's experience trips. I don't have all the official information yet (I'm hoping to have an incident report put together by next month's issue), but from what I do have, Todd fell about 15-20 feet after a hold apparently broke, fracturing a lumbar vertebra, cracking two ribs and spraining some of his fingers. Todd was unconscious for some time after the fall, but with the help of the other students and instructors on the climb, he was evacuated via helicopter to Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee, where he will undergo surgery to fuse two vertebrae in his lower back. I know everyone in the club will join me in wishing Todd a speedy and complete recovery – if you'd like to express your sympathy and boost Todd's spirits, you can give him a call in Wenatchee at (509)662-1511. (Note: I'm not sure when Todd will be transferred back to this side of the mountains, so the phone number may not be valid by the time the Echo comes out.)

Annual picnic on August 5th at the Marymoor climbing rock...

The August club meeting will be our annual summer picnic, and will be held at the Marymoor climbing rock August 5th. Join us any time after work, and plan to bring your climbing shoes, harness, rope, 'draws and some food to share. A prototype of the new climbing guide to the Marymoor Rock will make its appearance at this outing!

Upcoming club meetings and activities...

The September general meeting will be our annual election of the new board members, and will be held at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford on September 2nd (see more details later in this issue). All the board positions are up for grabs this year, so if you're interested in becoming more active with your club, this is a great opportunity. Our annual fall campout will be held October 1-3rd – location yet to be determined, but somewhere near Leavenworth, no doubt! The October general meeting will be our annual banquet - a chance to catch up with everyone, retell war stories, and dine and dance the night away. It will be held on October 8th at the Sea Garden restaurant in Bellevue. Program and price still to be determined, but mark it on your calendar, and check out next month's Echo for final details. Keep those first Thursdays of the month free, and join in on the fun!

Thanks to new volunteers...

Steve Fox has volunteered to be our new activities chairman – thanks, Steve! Steve took the basic class just last year, and was a first year instructor for the basic class this year. Now our new activities chairman – way to get involved!

Jeff Arnold and family have vacated the Puget Sound area for a bit (job related), and vacated the librarian position at the same time. Scott and Stacy Drum, newly graduated from this year's basic class, have volunteered to keep our bookshelves in order – thanks guys – you're setting a great example!

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still **SLESSE**. It's only needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of our web site. (Currently, it doesn't seem to be working very well, but our illustrious web master, Rob James, assures me he'll have the lackies at Access One whipped into shape and fixing our web site soon!)

From the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson

SEPTEMBER ECHO DEADLINE IS AUGUST 19th

August, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 IC - Ice Climb	2	3	4	5 Club Picnic at Marymoor Climbing Rock	6	7
8	9 Intermediate Class: Expedition Climbing	10	11 New Moon	12 Board Meeting	13	14 IC - Experience Climb #4
15 IC - Experience Climb #4	16	17	18	19 Echo Deadline	20	21
22	23 Intermediate Class: Student Presentations	24	25	26 Full Moon	27	28 IC - Graduation Climb
29 IC - Graduation Climb	30	31				

September, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting and Annual Elections	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 New Moon	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Echo Deadline	24	25 Full Moon
26	27	28	29	30		

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Glacier Peak

August 6-9, 1999

Climb the most remote of the Washington Cascade volcanos via the original route

Party Limit

6

Route

Disappointment Peak Cleaver (from the south)

Equipment

Glacier gear

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Tom Walton (206)933-9007 (h), (206)662-1973 (w), thompson.r.walton@boeing.com

Sperry-Vesper Peaks

August 7, 1999

Near Big Four and the Mountain Loop Hwy.

Party Limit

12

Route

The easy way

Equipment

Ice axe

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Rich Christie (206)524-5868 (h), (206)543-9689 (w), christie@ee.washington.edu

Sloan Peak

August 7-8, 1999

Two-day trip. Class 4 scrambling, glacier crossing, creek crossing, camp on or near the glacier.

Party Limit

6

Route

Corkscrew route

Equipment

Glacier and rock gear, helmet

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Scott Drum (206)783-3668 (h), (206)762-1010 x6199 (w), sndrum@hotmail.com

Mt. Shuksan

August 7-8, 1999

In the Mt. Baker wilderness area. A long hike, be prepared for exposure.

Party Limit

6-10

Route

Via Lake Ann and Fisher Chimneys. Moderately difficult.

Equipment

Glacier travel

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Mike Griffin (253)840-6500 (h), (425)237-7451 (w), michael.L.griffen@boeing.com

BoBaby Hike – Talapus Lake

August 15, 1999

A short hike to an alpine lake that may be warm enough to swim in (it was last year, but this year, who knows?) Depending on the group and weather, we may continue up to Ollalie Lake

Party Limit

8 toddlers plus supporting parents

Route

Easy trail, but not stroller friendly

Equipment

Swim diapers and towels

Experience

Aimed at the 2-3 year old crowd

Contact

Matt Robertson, (425)822-0455, (425)957-5691(w), matt.robertson@boeing.com



Mount Curtis Gilbert**August 20-21, 1999**

Leave Friday night on Aug 19. Mount Curtis Gilbert is the highest point in the Goat Rocks. It has a gentle W ridge and a short steep face falling off to the E. The highest portion of the summit is the NW point. From surprise Lake 4 ½ hours.

Party Limit

10

Route

Meade Glacier

Equipment

Glacier gear

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Patty Griffin (253)840-6500 (h), (360)893-5250 (w), mgirffin@gte.net

Whitehorse**August 21, 1999**

6850' peak near Darrington.

Party Limit

10

Route

Ascend trail to 3000', traverse below cliff, ascend couloir. Follow ridge crest, climb snow finger

Equipment

Crampons, ice axe

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Scott Ellis (206)633-1281, scott@greatfood.com

Enchantments**August 27-September 1, 1999**

Seeking three people for Enchantments. Hiking/climbing. Enter together on Friday, but exit date is flexible. Cost is \$20 per person to cover permit fee

Party Limit

3

Route

Snow Lake trail

Equipment

Overnight backpacking gear, rock climbing gear optional

Experience

Backpacker or basic class, depending on activities

Contact

Vera Trainer, (206)522-7022, vera.l.trainer@noaa.gov

Sahale Peak**August-September, 1999**

First and past-president climb since the 1998 president's climb didn't happen!

Party Limit

12

Route

Cascade Pass, Sahale Arm

EquipmentGlacier/low 5th class**Experience**

Basic class

Contact

Chris Rudesill 729-0640 (h), (425)237-0887 (w), christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com

Sahale Peak**September 18, 1999**

Drive up Friday night, car camp 12 miles from the trail head. On Saturday the trail starts at 3600', goes up to Cascade pass (33 switchbacks on a 10% grade) in 3.7 miles. Up the Sahale Arm across a small glacier to a fun 2 pitch scramble. The top is 8680' with a one-day elevation gain of 5080'.

Party Limit

12

Route

Cascade Pass up Sahale Arm

Equipment

Glacier gear

Experience

Basic class

Contact

Al Baal, allen.c.baal@boeing.com

Sharkfin Tower

October 2, 1999

From *Selected Climbs in the Cascades*: "Solid rock of this neat little summit set in the alpine grandeur of Boston Basin".

Party Limit 6-8

Route Southeast Ridge

Equipment Rock gear, glacier gear

Experience Basic class

Contact Javier Ortiz, (206)270-8964 (h), (206)544-7756 (w), javier.r.ortiz-aponte@boeing.com

Shi-shi Beach to La Push

October 9-10, 1999

Columbus Day weekend outing – flat, easy trail down the scenic Washington coastline. Hike about 10 miles each day, good campsite along the way.

Party Limit 10-12

Route Above the low tide line

Equipment Overnight backpacking gear

Experience Backpacking

Contact Matt Robertson, (425)822-0455 (h), (425)957-77565691(w), matt.robertson@boeing.com

South Central Alaska

August 21-September 6, 1999

Hiking in a mountainous wilderness amongst three mountain chains and lots of wild life. Hike up Dixie pass and then return along Kotsina trail loop. Opportunity for side trips to hike some of the ridges.

Party Limit 6

Route St Elias National Park, Dixie Pass/Kotsina trail loop (Elevations will be approximately between 1000 and 5000 feet)

Equipment Backpacking gear, ice axe

Experience This is a moderately difficult backpack. All interested parties should know how to use an ice ax and have back country travel skills. It will take 7 to 9 days for the 45 miles loop. There will be time at the end of the trip for personal itineraries or an early return.

Contact Joyce Holloway, (h) (425) 888-4434, (w) (425) 477-4393, deandjh@halcyon.com

Janet Oliver (h) (425) 413-0298, oliverj2@email.msn.com

Submit activities to

Matt Robertson (Steve will be back at the activities helm next month)
(425)957-5691
matt.robertson@boeing.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Let's fill up some dates for fall, too! They can be hikes, climbs, rafting trips, bike rides, family outings, indoor gym fun, or whatever other kind of fun you want.

-- Steve Fox

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
(____) _____ (Home)
Email: _____
M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Matt Robertson
(425)957-5691
matt.robertson@boeing.com

Stand Up and Deliver!

Annual Boealps Elections

Thursday, Sept. 2nd 6:30-9:30 pm

Blue Star Cafe & Pub (in Wallingford) 4512 Stone Way

There are no incumbents this time around, so we need you! If you are a Boeing employee and are interested in running for office, now's the time to get involved. The four positions we will vote on:

President - presides at all General and Board Meetings, so that's two meetings per month. Controls all operations, and oversees the mighty Boealps empire.

Vice President - takes charge of special committees. Responsible for all news releases. Assumes control of the meetings when the president is not present or merely goofing off. Generally a pretty easy job.

Secretary - assumes responsibility for the minute-taking and scribing of Board Meetings. Prepares official correspondence. Provides a copy of the by-laws to Boeing Recreation when amended. Perfect for beginners.

Treasurer - keeps track of all financial transactions, writes checks, and maintains accounts. Chief budget tracker. Great for someone with an accounting or finance background or who simply likes handling money.

Note: You need to be there to be elected. If you think someone would be good for a position, call them and ask them to run - they may actually take you up on the offer.



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Vera Trainer

The North Cascades National Park is currently reevaluating their permitting system for backcountry and car camping. This is motivated by the fact that permits obtained through the mail or by telephone are often not used and spaces go unused. If you have comments or suggestions, please write:

William F. Paleck, Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
Mt. Baker Ranger District
210 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9394

For summer climbing information and permits, the following are other important numbers:

State Ranger Districts/Visitor Centers:

Sedro-Wooley: (360)856-5700 x310
Marblemount: (360)873-4500 x39
Newhalem: (206)386-4495
Stehekin: (360)856-5700 x340, then 14
Winthrop: (509)996-4000
Twisp: (509)997-2131
Lake Chelan: (509)682-2576 USFS, (509)682-2549 NPS
Leavenworth: (509)548-6977

Lake Wenatchee: (509)763-3103
Glacier Public Service Center: (360)599-2714
Darrington: (360)436-1155
Verlot: (360)691-7791
Skykomish: (360)677-2414
North Bend: (425)888-1421
Snoqualmie Pass: (425)434-6111
White River: (360)825-6585

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

June, 1999

El Presidente Rich Baldwin hosted this month's meeting. Those making the voyage to attend included Rich Baldwin, Len Kannapell, Rob Kunz, Beth Sundquist, and Tom Yocum.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the club's annual banquet. Last year the club subsidized the banquet considerably. This year's budget cutbacks require a re-evaluation of the banquet options. In order to balance the cost vs. quality aspect of the event, alternatives in venue, speaker, activities, menu, and everything else are under review. This year's banquet will be on 08 October 1999. Sound familiar?

Any individuals interested in holding a club position? Positions are or will be opening up; take an active interest in your club and volunteer. Remember that the elections are just around the corner.

Tom Yocum

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

July, 1999

This month's meeting was held on the shores of Lake Washington. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett, Len Kannapell, Rob Kunz, Silas Wild and Tom Yocum.

The club elections are scheduled to coincide with the September general meeting and will be held at the Blue Star café in Wallingford. See the notice in this issue of the Echo for further details.

The next item of business concerned the club's annual banquet. This year's banquet will be on 08 October 1999 at the Sea Garden restaurant in Bellevue. The controversial topics still being debated revolve around what is an acceptable ticket price; what is included in the ticket price; what beverages should be available; and should the banquet be completely self sustaining financially. If you have input on any of the above issues, please contact Rich Baldwin.

The last issue addressed was the annual club dues. The debate concerns whether a modest increase is justified in order to maintain and/or extend the club benefits (activities, programs, equipment, library, etc.).

Tom Yocum

Far Flung Friends of Boealps

As many of you know, Dan Goering started a 16-month sabbatical from Boeing at the end of May to take some time to travel, visit, sightsee, and climb. Earlier this month, Katy Rusho and Ilan Angwin headed up to Alaska to join Dan in an attempt on the North Ridge of Mt. Blackburn. Here's a post card from the three of them to all of us — can you make out the stick figure climber on top of Mt. Blackburn that Katy added?



WRANGELL - ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

1980: MT. BLACKBURN FROM WILLOW LAKE ON THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY
BETWEEN GLENNALEN AND VALDEZ AT 13,390 FEET MT. BLACKBURN
IS THE HIGHEST PEAK IN ALASKA'S WRANGELL MOUNTAINS. ESTABLISHED
IN 1925, WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE IS THE
NATION'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK.

PHOTO BY GEORGE HERBEN



Well, we've determined that the sign of a good restaurant in Alaska is plenty of moose antlers hanging on the walls! But...you probably want to hear about our Expedition!! The North Ridge really isn't as hard or long as people make it out to be — mostly just 50° - 60° ice except on this one overhanging pitch on the section called "The Thing." It's pretty weird living in snow caves for 2 weeks, but you adjust. For the most part the weather was clear and cold, with only 8 or 10 days of severe snow storms, which kept us inside playing cards and working on our creative writing!

Katy  Dan 

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In case the text is a little hard to read:

Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Reserve - Alaska

Mt. Blackburn from Willow Lake on the Richardson Highway between Glennallen and Valdez. At 13,390 feet Mt. Blackburn is the highest peak in Alaska's Wrangell Mountains. Established in 1980, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is the nation's largest National Park. Photo by George Herben

Well, we determined that the sign of a good restaurant in Alaska is plenty of moose antlers hanging on the walls! But...you probably want to hear about our Expedition!! The North Ridge really isn't as hard or long as people make it out to be — mostly just 50° - 60° ice except on this one overhanging pitch on the section called "The Thing." It's pretty weird living in snow caves for 2 weeks, but you adjust. For the most part the weather was clear and cold, with only 8 or 10 days of severe snow storms, which kept us inside playing cards and working on our creative writing!

Katy, Dan and Ilan

Meanwhile, towards the Atlantic seaboard...



Jay Kirby (a Boealper gone East), his wife Anne, and new daughter Kajsa were spotted near Lake Winnipesaukee in central New Hampshire in late June 1999. Jay is the head counselor at a summer camp for young boys and responsible for keeping them away from girls, drugs and alcohol (go figure!). He was last seen at the camp setting up a climbing wall for the kids!

July 21, 1999

A FORBIDDEN EXPERIENCE

Forbidden Peak, West Ridge Route - Intermediate Climbing Class Outing
July 17-18, 1999
Climbers: Erick Kasiulis, Brian Tryba, Hitoshi Hajiri, Dennis Fay (scribe)

It was a day in which I came closest to death, yet it was the luckiest day of my life.

It started - atypically for me on a Saturday - with a 4:00 AM alarm. I, however, have been awake since 1:30 for some odd reason. Maybe my subconscious mind knew what my conscious mind had in store for it in about 12 hours. Erick, Hitoshi and I bivied at the trailhead about 22.5 miles up the Cascade River Road. Brian was already in Boston Basin with our permit. He came up with a friend on Thursday to secure a permit for us and to climb Sharkfin Tower. They ended up scrubbing the Tower due to bad weather and headed to Washington Pass instead on Thursday. Brian, however, did secure a permit and arrived in Boston Basin about 6 PM on Friday night. There were three vans from Alpine Ascents International and about four other vehicles at the trailhead, so it was a good idea that Brian came up early to get a permit. In fact, on Friday night, two other climbers drove up and complained that they couldn't get a permit and were going to have to do the climb in one day. I heard them rustling around about 2 AM. We awoke to low clouds on Saturday and if it weren't for the fact that Brian was already at the Basin, we may have just scrubbed the climb and headed to Leavenworth for some rock climbing. Three weeks before, I was assigned Forbidden Peak and our team turned around at the Basin due to white-out conditions with wind and rain and you get the picture. We ended up at Leavenworth (with a couple side trips to microbreweries on the way). So, my main goal of this weekend's climb was to actually see the mountain we were aiming for. Forbidden Peak, at 8815 feet, sits high above beautiful Boston Basin (5400-6400ft) on a continuous ridge with Mt. Torment to the West and Boston and Sahale Peaks to the Southeast. The climbing route from the basin crosses an unnamed glacier, up a moderately steep couloir to a notch on the west ridge at about 8300 feet. From the notch, the totally exposed ridge, consisting of 5.3 or 5.6 rock depending on the guidebook you use, is normally climbed with fixed pitches or running belays. From what we could assess, the rock seemed to be mostly class 4 with a couple mid 5th class moves.

We started up the trail at 5:00 AM and stayed on the trail until it hit snow at about 4800 feet where we broke through the clouds. We then followed a snow filled gully to Boston Basin, arriving at 7:10. The creeks on the way were running high due to the snow melt but were still passable, albeit a bit tricky, especially Midas Creek. We saw Brian immediately upon entering the Basin and decided to revise our previous plan of spending Saturday night at the notch. Instead, we would leave some gear at the Basin and climb as light as possible and get back down since the weather didn't look too promising. Brian stated that the cloud layer kept rising and falling depending on the wind strength. He also said that he had noticed two pairs of climbers who were going extremely slowly along the unnamed glacier earlier in the day. We could still see them inching their way up at an agonizingly slow pace. But, hey, I can actually see the mountain - well, one goal attained! We packed an emergency bivi bag and a stove with fuel, just in case. We picked a location to drop off some of our gear in the basin (~5600 feet) and headed to the couloir at 7:50 AM. We followed some nice steps kicked in the snow for us up to the couloir (you gotta love those IC class instructors not making us kick our own stupid steps when a perfectly good set is right next to ya going to the same bloody place!). During the ascent, we looked back several times and noticed the white fluffy clouds rising and falling, mostly rising. We best keep an eye on those. The couloir was moderately steep snow, about 45° in places. We ran into two of the climbers we saw from the basin at the top of the couloir and were immediately held up since they were performing a fixed pitch up the class 3-4 scramble to the notch. This was a sign of things to come. We arrived at the notch at 10:00 AM. We ate, drank, and prepared our racks and rope for running belays. We noticed the white fluffy clouds still getting higher; now the tops of the clouds were at about 6000 feet. They looked pretty harmless though. Erick even stated that if this was a cartoon he could simply jump off and bounce on the cloud tops. In a few hours, we were wishing that were an option.

Brian and Hitoshi started off with Brian leading the running belay at about 10:45 and they immediately disappeared along the ridge - I was impressed. Erick and I started at 11:00 AM with me leading and Erick forced to carry the pack (hey, he shouldn't have asked!). The first part was mostly class 4 with a couple of 5.0 moves thrown in. It was pretty easy, but since I was trying to keep at least three pieces of pro in between us, I wasn't going as fast as I should have. However, we soon caught up to the climbers we saw above the couloir and were held back again. We were able to get by these two by taking a lower route along the ridge but then got held up by yet another pair of climbers. Jeez, what is this, Mt. Si? We ran into Brian and Hitoshi at about 1:00 on the way down from the summit - yes on the way down! I anchored and brought Erick in and we decided to have a talk. Erick asked, "Dennis, do you think we should turn back or do you want to continue for the summit?" We discussed the weather and the slowness and the vast numbers of other climbers on the route. I said, "Well, it's still early, tons of daylight left, and we are only about two running belays from the summit. I would like to give it a shot." Of course the white fluffy clouds were now reaching us now, but we still weren't too concerned about them

since no really organized storm was brewing that we could "see." Brian suggested that I should try to get ahead of the next team of climbers who were also doing fixed pitches. That could save us an hour. Erick and I set a turn around time of 3:00. Brian and Hitoshi was going to head down and wait for us at the notch. With that decision made, Erick and I continued. The climbers ahead of us reluctantly let us by. But then soon after, we got held up by two climbers who had climbed the East Ridge Route and were descending our way. Boy, we need some passing lanes on this route. The climbers who did the East Ridge were the two that had left the trailhead at 2:00 this morning. After the permitless climbers passed, we proceeded to the false summit where I was greeted by a nicely exposed 10 foot step down. "I better stick a bomber piece in about here," I think. The step isn't as evil as it first looks though. There are nice ledges on the face of the step, you just need to hang over the edge and find them with your feet. This then led to an easy scramble to the summit. I belayed Erick over and we officially summited at 2:45 PM, almost 4 hours from the notch (should be more like 2 hours), and a little too close to our turn around time. We took photos of each other, ate a summit cookie and were about to head down when we noticed another backup at the top of the false summit. We decided to eat something quick. I took two bites of my essential sandwich and then we decided to get the heck out of there (the true swearing doesn't start until a few minutes later). To speed the descent, I asked Erick to lead the running belay down. We left the summit at precisely 3:00 PM. Not good, but we still have 6 hours of daylight left.

After Erick put a couple of pieces in and the rope between us was almost out completely, I broke down the anchor consisting of a cordelette around a big rock. The cordelette started making that humming and sizzling sound like you hear in those high power lines. And then all of rock around me started sizzling. Then I thought "Uh-oh, we're in trouble here. We better get the #*!% outta here now!" Yep, the swearing starts about now. About 10 minutes later, a five-minute hailstorm consisting of pea size hail hit us, which nicely covered the rock. The rock and even the rope continued to sizzle. During another agonizing wait for a pair of climbers descending below us, Erick asked me to raise my hand. I raised it to head height and it immediately began to make that same sizzle sound. It was an interesting, yet terrifying phenomena. A few minutes later, a lightning bolt hit way too close. Then another bolt hit. Then, just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, it started to hail again, this time with a vengeance. It was like someone simply dumping buckets of ice coated BBs on our heads. It immediately covered what little foot and handholds were left on the rock. The extremely loud claps of thunder were like nothing I ever heard before, even while growing up in the Midwest. It was as if the air around us just split open and suddenly closed upon our heads. There was no time difference between the light flash and the thunderclap. We found out later from Jerry Baillie who was on Mt. Torment that he witnessed at least 3 lightning strikes hitting Forbidden. There were 6 climbers at this time helplessly exposed on the ridge desperately trying to get down to the notch where Brian and Hitoshi were stuck waiting. We started to get to know each other's names by this point. The two ahead of us were Matt and Lee. Then Erick and me, followed by Tim and Bob descending behind us. We all decided we're in this together and would wait for each other at each stage of the descent, including when we would finally get back to the notch. The hail and lightning continued for a terrifying two hours as we slowly inched our way down the ridge. After every lightning strike, we would yell up and down to each other to make sure everyone was OK. After one particular lightning strike, I heard Bob scream. I yelled up asking if he was all right. No response. I yelled again. Still no response but I could see him looking at his feet and shaking his hands out. Well, at least he's moving. Erick, of course, asked me at this point, "Hey Dennis, do you think we should turn around now?"

Matt and Lee started rappelling down ahead of us. Rappelling along a ridge is rather difficult in nice conditions, since you are always trying to keep from penduluming down one of the sides. During a hailstorm with lightning flashing around you, it is downright horrifying. During one of Matt's rappels, he slipped and pendulumed down the face of the ridge, somehow hanging on to the rappel. He was able to climb back up a snow slope and continue with the rappel. Erick stated later, that he had all of these awful images of us having to try to rescue Matt off of the face in these extreme conditions. We couldn't leave him up here, after all - we're in this together.

Erick started down climbing the section where Matt slipped. Somehow, staying on the ridge, he got to a belay stance and told me that he would top rope me down this icy section. In order to do this we had to undo the coils of rope that we both carried and tie in. This proved more difficult than it seemed. Even with our numb hands (to go with our numb feet since we just had rock shoes on) and the sense of urgency to do it quickly, we still had to do it safely. Erick stated later that he took extra time to double check that everything was done properly. I was grateful. I also ensured my knots were tied properly. As I started to down climb, I slipped and Erick caught me. I asked him to just lower me down to where he was since I had no feeling left in my hands and feet. After getting down to him, we pulled the rope and got ready to rappel after Matt and Lee.

As the lightning and hail continued around me, the thought of not making it down alive wouldn't leave my mind. I was surprised that that we were all still alive at this point. I, like many others, have been close to death or serious injury before, such as a close call while driving, riding a bike or white water rafting. But those instances were intense for maybe a few seconds at most. Here, while waiting to rappel, I was basically waiting to die.

Prior to Matt and Lee rappelling down, Matt said that he would leave his locking 'biner on the rappel sling for the rest of us to use. That way, the rest of us could safely use the same rap station without the fear that the webbing burned through after the previous rope was pulled. Matt ended up leaving a lot of gear on that mountain. While waiting, we gathered the rope and prepared ourselves to follow Matt and Lee. I was thinking that for every foot we descend, it puts us closer to the relative safety of the notch, however, this waiting was getting us nowhere fast. Now Erick was starting to uncontrollably shiver. We had to get moving.

At about 6:00 PM, the lightning and hailstorm finally ended, to be followed by a snowstorm. I felt relieved that it was just snow - no more of that lightning crap! The snowstorm lasted about a half-hour, then it started to clear up and we could see down in the valley, north of the ridge. We could also now see our packs at the notch - it was staring to look like we would make it, but the time was getting late.

Matt and Lee started leading pitches down again. We thought that the notch could be reached with one pitch. But it wasn't. It took another two pitches to make it to the notch. This was discouraging at the time since we could easily see the packs and Brian and Hitoshi waiting for us to come home, faithful as the family dog. On the last pitch, I left the pro in for Tim and Bob to use after us, hoping that I would get it back after they descended (I didn't). We eventually made it to the notch at 7:30 PM – less than two hours of daylight left with eight people to get down the couloir.

Brian and Hitoshi initially set up a double rope rappel from the notch. After they rappelled down, they revised it with a single rope rappel. We untied the double rope rappel and dropped the 50-meter rope down to them, first ensuring that they had it tied off. We then used the 60-meter rope to rap down to the top of the couloir. Matt rapped off next with another rope to be used for a double rope rappel down to the middle of the couloir. We planned on downclimbing the remaining part of the couloir since there was no more time to set up another double rope rappel. Lee rapped off after Matt, and was followed by Erick. Erick used a prusik backup per Brian's suggestion and soon got ahead of it. He tried to climb back up to loosen it, but ended up cutting it off. I opted not to use a prusik. Then it was me, Tim, and then Bob. After Bob rapped, we tried to free the rope and I discovered that instead of going down the slight free rappel section, Bob had crossed over to a gully and got the rope wedged eight feet off to the side. We tried in vain to free it. The only way would be to scramble back up to flip it out of the gully section. It was 8:30 PM with the three of us still waiting to rap down so I sent the message down with Tim to see if it was all right to leave it – we'll buy the owner a new one. The owner was, of course, Matt, who had already left a bunch of gear up there. He said leave it. I gathered from talking to Matt while on the ridge that he's not going to do this anymore. Jerry Baillie retrieved Matt's rope on Sunday during his climb of Forbidden. Erick and I did get Matt's phone number while we were in the notch in order to compensate him for the gear we used. Erick is going to try to get the rope back to him. Thanks to Jerry for carrying another wet rope down.

I let Bob rap down next and then I brought up the rear. When I got to the bottom of the rappel, I half expected someone to be there to help me pull the rope in case there was trouble. But it looked like I was on my own from here on home. I stomped out a platform, sunk my ice axe into the slope and clipped my harness and backpack to it in case I lost my balance while pulling the rope or in case the rope knocked me over after screaming 165 feet down the couloir. There are some wicked looking crevasses just below the base of the couloir, and I wasn't interested in accidentally exploring their depths. After pulling the rope and simply shoving it into my pack, I started backing down the slope. I traversed out of the exposed area at 9:40 PM. The weather actually started to clear and I could see some headlamps at Boston Basin from the Alpine Ascent group camped near our bivies. There was a first quarter moon and the ending light of twilight. I could easily see the footsteps from the previous people who descended. I thought, "Hey this is actually going to be a pleasant end to an absolute frightening day." I started plunge stepping down and where I could see that the path led down the fall line, and it was steep enough, I would glissade. After all, I couldn't get any wetter. During my second glissade, I notice a big rock up ahead and decide to slow down. Then I notice a huge moat along the side of it – ARREST! After stopping, I stepped over to the side and noticed that I stopped two feet from a whale-size moat. Well there's lesson number 159 learned for the day.

After about 20 minutes, the cloud layer rose again and cut out the light. I donned my headlamp and continued. Then the descent path became a little more difficult to follow with the tracks splitting a few times, some tracks going off in one direction and some off in the other. Whenever there was a set of three descent tracks, I would follow them assuming they were from my team. Then I noticed a dark band in the distance, which was the moraine we ascended earlier in the day. I noticed our ascent tracks that came from the top of the exposed moraine but the descent tracks angled down. I followed the descent tracks. It hit the moraine, where I assumed they simply crossed over. So I crossed over, but didn't find the tracks. Thinking I descended the moraine while crossing it, I climbed on the snow about 40 feet. Not seeing tracks, I descended about 150 feet down. Then I thought "Maybe I didn't go high enough before since I didn't think they came off the moraine this far down." So I climbed back up, starting to swear again, especially after remembering that Erick had the emergency bivi in his pack. I climbed up about 100 feet higher than I did before, and, satisfied that they couldn't have gone this high, I descended back down. I discovered their tracks about 50 feet below the point where I had turned around. Now I knew I was, finally, basically home free. After about 5 minutes, I noticed a light in the foggy distance, like a light at the

end of tunnel (this time it wasn't a train) - it was Brian. We walked a few minutes back to camp, where Erick had the stoves going. It was now 10:30 PM. One long freaking day.

After finishing my essential sandwich that I started on the summit and drinking a cup of hot chocolate, I hit the sack.

We got up around 6 AM, and I had only gotten about an hour's sleep, due to shivering in my wet clothes and the thoughts running through my head of the events of the previous day. The first thing Erick asked me was, "Hey, Dennis, do you think we should turn around?" I started keeping count. We started down at about 7:30 and reached the cars at 9:00. The Midas Creek crossing got more difficult due to more of the snow bridge collapsing.

So you're probably wondering why I thought it was luckiest day of my life. So many other things could have gone wrong. With six of us on the ridge, and Brian and Hitoshi on the not-much-safer notch, no one got struck by lightning, directly anyway. Erick stated that during two of the strikes, it felt like his hand had touched an electrical outlet. Tom said that he felt one strike strongly in his ankles. And twice, my hand felt like it was on a vibrating table. Also, no one got seriously injured during the slippery, precarious descent down the ridge. This would have required a rescue in some very dicey conditions. Matt escaped with bruised ribs from his pendulum fall. Lastly, I didn't get lost on the way back to camp in the dark fog. So, yes, I was damn lucky.

So, being a class experience climb, what did we learn from this? We had a discussion of our decision-making abilities over breakfast in Marblemount Sunday morning. Brian asked me what I thought of the climb. I said, "Had fun, learned a lot." For those not in the Intermediate Climbing Class, this response usually comes up from at least one of the students during class discussion of the previous outing experience, usually followed by laughter. From Brian's expression, this wasn't what he was looking for. I stated that at the time of our big decision at about 1:15 PM, it seemed like we made the right choice for Erick and me to go for the summit due to amount of daylight remaining and the nearness of the summit. Of course hindsight being 20/20, that didn't turn out to be the case. The other climbers slowed us down a lot more than I expected., and the weather turned much more violent than any of us expected.

One thing that amazed both Erick and me was that we all kept a cool head and nobody panicked. Any one of us could have lost it at any time due to the utter feeling of helplessness. But I believe that since we all knew we were in this situation together, we were able to help each other and we all survived.

As Erick said, you learn a lot more from an experience like this than one where everything is perfect. Here are a few of the things I learned:

- 1) Recognize the ability and the number of other climbers on the mountain with you, especially on routes in which there are not many passing lanes. We did notice even before we left the basin that there were a couple of parties that were moving slowly. That should have tipped us off that they were going to be even slower on more technical terrain.
- 2) Pay more attention to weather conditions. We noticed the white fluffy clouds rising higher throughout the day, but ignored the fact that these could obscure thunderclouds forming near by, or that they may form into thunderclouds on their own.
- 3) Don't glissade when the visibility isn't very good - it's simply not worth the extra speed and fun.
- 4) We should have brought more runners. I had 6 doubles and 6 singles with two biners each, but I could have covered more ground with each running belay if I had few more plain runners - I always had a bunch of pro left over when I ran out of runners. One reason for this was that there were a bunch of horns which required at least one runner, so a few more doubles and singles without biners would have helped. Of course, different routes require different equipment.
- 5) Make sure you have a space blanket or plastic bag with you at all times. If I got lost on the way down, I would have been in a bit of trouble. I did have a plastic bag in my helmet when we first got to the notch, but we were trying to use it to melt snow while we climbed the ridge so we would have water when we got back down. The bag was gone when I came back down to the notch and, frankly, I forgot all about it until I was roaming up and down along that moraine.

Forbidden Peak is one of the 50 Classic Climbs of North America. Boy, I hope the other 49 aren't nearly as epic.

Some post-graduate MOFA training

June 19, 1999

By Steve Fox

Out for a dayhike

I had the daytime free, with plans for the evening, so I went on a dayhike up a fun and popular local peak, Mt. Dickerman (up the Mt. Loop Hwy) on Saturday, June 19. I hiked up, seeing numerous people and summited 2.5 hours later. While on top I met the Bulger "Buffalo" (you recall the Bulgers were the first to climb the 100 highest Washington peaks -- see April 1999 Echo). A group of 10 hikers from the Mountaineers was also at the summit, along with some other folks. I spent a couple of hours lounging and chatting while the sun tried to peak through the overcast.

On the way down, I thought I heard bird calls up ahead. They were quite loud and at regular intervals, and it didn't really sound like any bird I'd heard before, but I just kept slogging down the snowy route. The sound got louder, and I started thinking it might be someone blowing a whistle. I started looking for slide marks down from the steep traversing trail, and sure enough, I saw one going down a steep gully. An ice ax was stuck in the snow a bit above the "trail", and the slide went over the edge into a creek that flowed under the snow, tumbled steeply downhill, then turned into a waterfall over a cliff. I grabbed the abandoned ice ax so I could use two ice tools to carefully descend. It wasn't long before I saw a guy below - I figured I needed to give him his ax so he could climb his way out.

Walking into an accident scene

By this time, another hiker had caught up with me, and the two of us descended down. "Are you all right?" I yelled over the loud creek sounds. "No!" I could barely hear and could not understand anything else, so we climbed down a somewhat technical section to the stream, crossed it just over the waterfall, and found a man attending to his 15-year-old son. The son had slipped on the snowy trail and hadn't been able to successfully self-arrest with his ice ax. He had tumbled down 20' of rocky streambed (nearly vertical) and had stopped under a snowbridge in the water. His father had pulled his unconscious son out of the stream and somehow dragged him onto a precarious flat spot nearby. All this had happened 30 minutes before we arrived.

I took the Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) course this winter through Boealps. The father and the other hiker with me also had taken MOFA, so we attended the best we could. The kid was soaking wet and shivering. We did a brief check but the kid was squirming in his unconscious state, so we figured his spine was OK. We removed his socks and pants and put on a spare pair of mine. It was difficult to put them on at this site without him rolling off. We covered him with jackets and a space blanket and then did a full-body check. Mostly he had just a few scrapes, but he was bleeding out of his left ear and had obviously hit the side of his head. He was unresponsive to voice but occasionally moaned and tried to sit up. His eyes were usually closed, but sometimes they partially open - they did not respond too well, but they seemed to have equal response to light when we opened them.

I finally looked at my watch; it was 3:30pm. We decided someone had to go for help. The other hiker offered to go and call rescue, and he took off. Meanwhile, some of the Mountaineers hiking party arrived. One of them was a doctor, but it was difficult getting her down to the boy. She was a little out of her element without hospital equipment, but she was able to monitor the situation and it was a great relief to have her take over.

We cut away at branches to make more room where the boy and his attendants were, and to open a path for rescue. The Mountaineers party sent two hikers up the trail to try and place a call via cell phone. They finally got a signal at the summit, and learned that Search and Rescue (SAR) were on their way. I could see that the patient was in better hands than mine, so I grabbed my snow shovel and started carving a path in the steep snowfield for people to walk across. With a little help I spent a couple of hours hacking away a path.

Eventually I ran out of energy, got hungry and very thirsty so I quit. By this time we heard the helicopter. There was an instant feeling of relief, as we knew the experts were on their way.

Search and Rescue takes over

The helicopter hovered around until they saw us - the guy who had gone out to call SAR must have given excellent instructions, because they seemed to zoom in on us very quickly. They flew off and dropped a helicopter rescue specialist from Harvey Field and an emergency medical technician (EMT) about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up the trail. Even without ice axes, they managed to get to the victim fairly quickly and tried to administer medical help. Within an hour, there were about 10 SAR specialists setting up ropes and working on getting him into the litter. It would not be long before dark, so those hikers without headlamps hiked down to the trailhead while the rest of us stayed to help.

It took about 2 hours to get the boy into the helicopter stretcher and strapped in. He managed to wriggle his feet partly out of the restraint at one point even though he was still unconscious. Finally the ropes were set up with a Z-pulley system and backup belay. Some of the SAR team and a few of us hikers helped steady the litter while the rope team pulled him up the steep hill. It took several resettings of the Z-pulley but we finally got him up onto the "trail". They then borrowed my shovel and cut a flat platform, placed him on it and radioed for the helicopter. By this time it was about 9pm, and there was only 30 minutes of daylight left.

The helicopter made several attempts to get into position over the area. Finally a man standing on the landing gear lowered a haul line. The slope above was nearly vertical, and the tremendous downwash of air from the rotors would hit the slope and push the line far downhill. They could not get the line near the litter, even after hovering for 10 minutes. The noise was tremendous and the winds blew at 60 mph as we watched from 100' away. It got mighty cold, and lots of debris blasted towards us. We covered ourselves with our parkas, and I was glad I had glasses on so I could watch, but I had to cover the sides of them so dirt wouldn't fly in my eyes.

The helicopter backed off, then made a second attempt. It seemed to hover just over the tree level and too close to the cliffs. And I thought climbing could be dangerous – these guys were crazy! Finally they gave up. Ugh ... now what!? They considered hiking him out and started investigating that possibility. It would not be easy due to the deep and hard snow, and there were many blow downs blocking the trail. SAR decided instead to set up more Z-pulleys and belay ropes and we all managed to get the boy to another pickup point further up the trail.

Call in the Army from Fort Lewis

The Army "MAST" team became available, which had better equipment and nighttime training. By this time it was very dark. It took 90 minutes to get the poor boy to this second site. The MAST helicopter showed up with really bright lights and hovered over the site. I was with his dad behind a big tree and crouched in the tree well watching. An even louder noise and a tremendous wind sandblasted us as we watched the proceedings. Out of the night sky they lowered two men wearing green lights on their helmets and holding green lights to signal the flight crew. After a couple of attempts they managed to get them down, but far downhill from the litter. Up again they went, almost hitting some trees, but on the second lowering they got down and unclipped from the haul line.

They brought their own litter and moved the boy to it. After an exciting and anxious time, they connected up the line to the litter and started raising it. The litter almost hit a tree several times, swinging around and penduluming quite a bit. Then they lowered the haul line again and picked up the two men. After hovering for some time as they hoisted them into the helicopter, they finally took off just before midnight, more than 9 hours after the accident.

Victim is in safe hands at last

The snow had hardened due to nighttime temperatures and some of the Mountaineers hiking party and SAR team did not have ice axes. Those of us with proper equipment and training helped them down to the trail, and set up hand lines to get them across the various steep slopes. We finally got to the trailhead at 4:30am.

We later heard that the boy was in critical condition with a concussion and fractured skull, but was downgraded to serious condition two days later. A week after the accident he was conscious but still in the intensive care unit. As of this writing (2 ½ weeks later), he is still recovering at Children's Hospital.

Addendum, 7/23 – The boy just got home from the hospital, after spending a month there. Things are looking ok. He's weak and has lost weight but he hopes to be swimming for his high school team this fall.

MOFA review

It is instructive to review how our MOFA training helps in a real-life situation (a little post-“doc” MOFA?). This accident was a classic situation that our instructors would use. I would like to thank the Boealps MOFA instructors including Kathy, Joyce and Chris for the excellent job they did. If y'all reading this have not taken MOFA yet ... well, just DO IT!

Step 1: Take charge of the situation.

The boy's dad did all the right things at the beginning. Once we showed up, we all announced that we had MOFA training, and mine was the most recent, so I was elected to be in charge. It was difficult, as everyone had their own opinion, but we worked together well and did most of the right things.

Step 2: Approach the patient safely.

The other hiker and I descended cautiously so we would not also become victims. It took a bit of time, but was the right thing to do.

Step 3: Perform emergency rescue and urgent first aid.

The dad had already done this when he pulled his son out of the creek. There was no obvious massive bleeding and the boy would move occasionally. So not much urgent first aid was needed.

Step 4: Protect the patient.

Dad had put a bivy sack over him by the time we arrived. We exchanged some of the wet clothing for dry, and with a pad, clothing and space blanket managed to keep him warm. We also cut branches so we could hold him in the area, and finally put a bivy sack on him and tied it to a tree. Then we tried to keep him from inadvertently moving off the flat spot.

Step 5: Check for other injuries.

I did a full-body check. We used a checklist, but there was a little confusion and disorganization. My MOFA checklist was hard to read. Bring a good copy! (Editor's note – see next page) But generally, it went well and his only really bad injury seemed to be the side of his head and bleeding from his ear.

Step 6: Plan what to do.

We decided to send someone out for a rescue call when any other hiker showed up. The rest of us would wait to help with the carry-out. There was nothing we could do for the boy but keep him calm and warm.

Step 7: Carry out the plan.

The plan worked as hoped, and when more people showed up we took advantage of their skills. We had to revise our plans a bit but all went about as well as expected.

FIRST AID REPORT FORM

START HERE	FINDINGS	FIRST AID GIVEN	RESCUE REQUEST																																		
Airway, Breathing, Circulation INITIAL RAPID CHECK (Chest Wounds, Severe Bleeding)			Fill Out One Form Per Victim																																		
ASK WHAT HAPPENED:			TIME OF INCIDENT AM PM DATE																																		
ASK WHERE IT HURTS:			NATURE OF INCIDENT FALL ON: <input type="checkbox"/> ROCK <input type="checkbox"/> SNOW <input type="checkbox"/> FALLOING ROCK <input type="checkbox"/> CREVASSSE <input type="checkbox"/> AVALANCHE <input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESSIVE <input type="checkbox"/> HEAT <input type="checkbox"/> COLD																																		
TAKE PULSE & RESPIRATIONS		PULSE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT																																		
HEAD: Scalp—Wounds Ear, Nose—Fluid Eyes—Pupils Jaw—Stability Mouth—Wounds		RESPIRATIONS	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">DETACH HERE--KEEP THIS SECTION WITH VICTIM</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">DETACH HERE--SEND OUT WITH REQUEST FOR AID</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>INJURIES (List Most Severe First)</td><td>FIRST AID GIVEN</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>SKIN TEMP/COLOR</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>PAIN (Location)</td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td>RECORD: Time</td> <td>INPUT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pulse</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respiration</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>VICTIM'S NAME</td> <td>AGE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">ADDRESS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NOTIFY (Name)</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE</td> <td>TIME</td> <td>RELATIONSHIP</td> <td>PHONE</td> </tr> </table>	INJURIES (List Most Severe First)	FIRST AID GIVEN									SKIN TEMP/COLOR		STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS		PAIN (Location)		RECORD: Time	INPUT	Pulse		Respiration		VICTIM'S NAME	AGE	ADDRESS		NOTIFY (Name)				DATE	TIME	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE
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NECK: Wounds, Deformity																																					
CHEST: Movement, Symmetry																																					
ABDOMEN: Wounds, Rigidity																																					
PELVIS: Stability																																					
EXTREMETIES: Wounds, Deformity Sensation & Movement Pulses Below Injury																																					
BACK: Wounds, Deformity																																					
SKIN: Color Temperature Moistness																																					
STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS																																					
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LOOK FOR MEDICAL ID TAG																																					
ALLERGIES																																					
VICTIM'S NAME		AGE																																			
COMPLETED BY																																					

SEVEN STEPS

1. Take charge of the situation.
2. Approach the patient safely.
3. Perform emergency rescue and urgent first aid.
4. Protect the patient.
5. Check for other injuries.
6. Plan what to do.
7. Carry out the plan.

SIDE 2 RESCUE REQUEST

EXACT LOCATION (Include Marked Map If Possible)

QUADRANGLE: SECTION:

AREA DESCRIPTION:

TERRAIN: Glacier Snow Rock
 Brush Timber Trail
 Flat Moderate Steep

ON-SITE PLANS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will Stay Put | <input type="checkbox"/> Will Evacuate To _____ |
| Can Stay Overnight Safely | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| On-Site Equipment: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Stove <input type="checkbox"/> Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Insulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Flare <input type="checkbox"/> CB Radio |

LOCAL WEATHER:

EVACUATION: Carry-Out Helicopter

- Lowering Raising

EQUIPMENT: Rigid Litter

- Food Water Other

PARTY MEMBERS REMAINING:

Beginners Intermediate Experienced

NAME NOTIFY (Name) PHONE

NOTIFY:
IN NATIONAL PARK: Ranger
OUTSIDE NATIONAL PARK: Sheriff/County Police,
RCMP (Canada)

**DETACH HERE—KEEP THIS SECTION WITH VICTIM
DETACH HERE—SEND OUT WITH REQUEST FOR AID**

Record TIME	BREATHS Rate	PULSE Rate	PULSES BELOW INJURY	PUPILS	SKIN	STATE OF CONSCIOUS- NESS	OTHER
	Character Deep, Shallow, Noisy, Labored	Character Strong, Weak, Regular, Irregular	Character Strong, Weak, Absent	Equal Size, React to Light	Color, Tempera- ture, Moistness	Alert, Confused, Unre- sponsive	Pain, Anxiety Thirst, Etc.

Prusik Peak and the High Priest

Intermediate Climbing Class

June 26-27, 1999.

Climbers: Mike Jacobsen (scribe), Dave McElmurry, Dan Patton

The trip began by meeting at the Leavenworth Ranger station for the 7:45 AM Enchantments permit lottery. Only 3 parties were there, possibly due to questionable Sunday weather and a mudslide closing the road beyond the Snow Creek trailhead. All parties automatically "won" the lottery (\$3 per day per person fee.)

We left the Snow Creek trailhead (1300') at 8:30 AM and set off on the 10+ mile approach and 6200' of elevation gain to the Lower Basin of the Enchantments and Prusik Pass (~7500'). If we had time and felt good, the plan was to climb Prusik Peak when we arrived. The approach was uneventful. One foot in front of the other, trying to make good time without burning ourselves out. We tried to move quickly, but not sweat too much. Dave sweated the most, followed by Mike and then Dan who sadly was born without sweat glands. The trail was free of snow past Nada Lake. Partway up the switchbacks to Snow Lake we picked up some snow. We took a nice rest after wading across the cement dam on Snow Lake (6.7mi).

The route continued around Snow Lake to the footbridge crossing Snow Creek (5420'). This part of the route zigzagged through the trees and up and down snow mounds. The snow was fairly firm and provided reasonable travel with post holing opportunities. After crossing the footbridge we stayed close to Snow Creek and worked our way up to the Lower Enchantments and Lake Vivian (6785'). We passed between Vivian Lake and Naiad Lake (or Temple Lake depending on which map you use) and continued on up to a good bivy spot at Prusik Pass. This took about 7 hrs 45 min from the trailhead. From here (the base of the climb) we decided that after a rest we would leave the packs, climb Prusik and come back. This would leave us more time in the morning for a second objective if possible. Also, the weather looked good at the moment and you never know how long that will last.

We scrambled through the class 3 stuff and a bit past the balanced rock. Dan did his balancing rock act as we passed the rock. We roped up and Dave led the running belay and then the first pitch up. It can be a bit slower with 3 people on a rope, but it worked out okay. The rock was real nice to climb. Dave stopped and belayed us up to a large block. I led out from there over the 5.7 face pitch. We went over and around a block that had some nice exposure. I went a bit farther and belayed the rest of the group up. Dave led up the final pitch to the summit. This took 1 hr. 45 min. from Prusik Pass. The actual summit (~8000') has a neat area in which 3 or a tight 4 could actually bivy in relative safety. There was a Boealps summit register tube stuffed with various signatures. Some were of infamous Boealps ICC instructors on the back of their route descriptions. We looked down the S. Face route and thought that it was pretty cool. Maybe we'll try it another time. We rappelled down the final pitch and then descended the climbing route via a running belay. I led the running belay down. I did need to be a tad more generous in placing protection in the difficult areas and keep in mind the last person coming down. We were back at the bivy spot by 9 PM and settled in for dinner and hot tea. We had some discussions about potential climbs in the morning and decided on the High Priest, south face.

The night was crisp with a moderate wind. We awoke at 6 AM with frost covering the windward side of the bivy bags. Hot water was made for some tea and topping off the water bottles. We packed and headed out at 7:05 AM for the High Priest. The approach from Prusik Pass to the High Priest (8240') was probably the most difficult part of the climb. We headed out around the south side of Prusik. The soft snow from the night before had frozen and there wasn't much purchase as we traversed the snow slopes above and around Naiad Lake. Since we opted for leaving the ice axes home, the traverse was even more interesting. A fall would have taken us for a good ride. We all had a ski pole and that helped give some element of safety. I felt pretty comfortable in my stiff boots and kicked steps while Dan belayed Dave across the slopes. This

worked out quite well as we moved up and across the slope. We eventually came to some rock bands that allowed some more sure-footed climbing. Soon we arrived at the gully which leads from the South face to the East notch. We located the class 4 sloping ramp that leaves the gully about 100 ft before it reaches the notch. Dave ascended this to a good belay and the start of the climb.

The south route did provide some interesting and enjoyable climbing. We chose a short 5.7 flake (just past a 5.8 crack) which led up to the 5.6 part of the route next to some blocky overhangs. Since we were roped as a threesome and the pitches were fairly short, we decided it would be faster to have Dave continue leading up to the top. The summit provided a nice block for relaxing and views back down at Prusik Peak. For the descent, we decided on a double rope rappel down the East face to the East notch. We even had a short overhang for a brief free rappel. It was a real nice rap off. We left a double sling behind here. We were off the High Priest at Noon and heading back to our stashed packs. The snow had softened by now and it took us about 2 ½ hrs to get to the Snow Lake dam crossing. We wasted about an hour here while Dan and I jumped in Snow Lake a few times. The water was cold, but it sure was refreshing. A little under 3 hours at Dave's incredible downhill pace took us to the Snow Creek trailhead. It was 6 PM, we had dropped nearly 7000' and were on our way to Gustav's. A fine weekend.

Graduation Climb

June 6, 1999

By Kristy Berg

It's 1:00 a.m. The wind and the snow have been keeping sporadic tempo on the walls of the tent all night. I wait, straining to hear. Ah, there it is. Noise—voices to be exact.

I prepare myself, mentally, to get out of my sleeping bag; to put on the cold, wet climbing boots; to feel the assault of cold air when I unzip the bag and fold back the flap. But I'm so comfortable. I'm actually warm! (I have to pee but I've been ignoring that fact for 3 hours.)

But, I tell myself, this is why you came here. This is why you slogged through 6 miles of snow for 8 hours. This is why you argued with the wind over who got to keep your tent—the mountain or you. This is why you forced yourself to go to bed at 5:30 p.m. even though the sun was out—well, somewhere behind all the snow clouds—and people were laughing and talking. All those things come down to this one moment.

At last, the voice approaches our tent. He's telling the people in the tent next to ours something—the plan. What? Snow? White out? Not climbing? Leaving camp after breakfast? But I'm ready! —the boots, the cold, the 10-hour slog through the snow to the summit. I am so there!

I lie there; shocked, numb, relieved? Come on, girl. What kind of a sissy are you? You should be disappointed, upset.

But I'm warm. I'm comfortable. And now, I really gotta go pee.

A Midsummer Ascent of Prusik Peak

July 17, 1999

By Rob Dymond (scribe) and Eric Bennett

As the summer of '99 began to wane and the weather had yet to turn consistently pleasant, we began to realize that we must take matters into our own hands. With city fever setting in and a break in our calendars, Eric and I decided to get out and do something worthwhile: to reaffirm our identities as climbers. But what to do? Having recently done both Rainier and the Seattle to Portland bicycle ride, I felt comfortable with a tough approach as did Eric, and we both wanted some good rock action. Having never been to the Enchantments, Prusik Peak was an obvious choice.

7/17/99

5:30am Leave Everett with 4 hours of sleep under our belts. The weather forecast was calling for rain/thunder showers on the east slopes of the cascades with warm temperatures and improving conditions all weekend. Taking that with a grain of salt, we could only assume luck would be on our side.

6:30am "Hey Eric-I forgot my parka. No wonder everything fit into my pack."... "I am NOT turning back now."... "Oh well, I'm sure we'll be fine!"

8am After obtaining the permits at the Leavenworth Ranger station, which opens at 7:45, we headed for the trailhead. Having arrived 35 minutes early, I secured provisions at Safeway that would not suffer from lack of a stove, while Eric hunted and gathered our breakfast at McDonalds. Luckily, we planned on bivying in the upper Enchantments so we did not have to take part in the lottery for Colchuck Lake permits. We did not notice any other climbers in the throng of permit seekers, so we were confident we would have the area to ourselves.

9am We left the Snow Creek Trailhead with a spring in our step generated by our good fortune thus far and our light packs. We passed a few people heading in, and a lot more coming out.

11am Reached the bridge crossing of Snow Creek a mile or so below Nada lake.

12pm Arrived at the northern shore of Nada lake and stopped for lunch. Our energy had begun to lag but the weather was cool, overcast and comfortable. The mosquitoes were out in force, though. We had a great view of The Temple from where we sat.

12:10pm A light rain began to fall as we cooled down, so we packed up and headed out.

12:15pm Happening upon a nice sheltering rock, we again dropped our packs, hoping that we could wait out this "shower" without getting too wet. The strength of the rain increased as we proceeded to doze off.

12:50pm About the time water started rolling down the boulder to drip onto us, three climbers approached from down the trail. It just so happened that they were a BOEALPS intermediate class team! Katy Rusho was the instructor with two students: Heather and Kenny. Katy was an instructor for Eric and I when we took the class two summers ago. We chatted for a bit and they continued on. Eric and I took satisfaction in knowing that we may not have been able to bivy in the Enchantments if we hadn't beaten them to the ranger station.

1:00pm When the rain began to slacken, we developed the hypothesis that the strength of the rain is directly proportional to the proximity of the Intermediate Climbing Class (ICC), and headed out.

2:00pm Reached the foot wide by 50 foot long dam between Upper and Lower Snow Lakes. We charged across in our boots, getting minimal dampness in return, which went virtually unnoticed due to the rain.

2:30pm The rain began to pick up again and we soon came in sight of the ICC. We hiked along the edge of the lake with them, then continued on into the Enchantments while they looked for a bivy site.

3:30pm The rain began to stop, leaving the sky mostly overcast. According to our hypothesis, we must have finally distanced ourselves from the ICC.

4:00pm We took a break at 6200'. The continual stream of hikers heading down had one sentence in common: "There's a LOOOOOT of snow up there!". Yeah, yeah, whatever.

4:45pm Reach Lake Viviane (6785') after losing the trail and doing some exposed scrambling next to a (cool looking) waterfall.

5:05pm Found our campsite: a lovely flat and dry sandy spot at 7000' just above Lake Viviane and directly between it and Temple Lake.

5:20pm A mysterious bright orb appeared briefly in the sky as we settled down to our stoveless dinner of jerky, cheese and bagels.

7:00pm Having decided we were too beat to do anything but gear up for tomorrow and seek out water from a nearby stream , we hit the sack for the evening. Toasty as I was, I looked up at the sky as the clouds melted away and the stars came out for the night. Eric sealed his bivy up tight to conserve heat.

7/18/99

3:30am Eric, damp and restless, got up to give the nearby goats a salty snack. Having gotten plenty of sleep, we lounged around and napped waiting for the light to gather.

4:45am We decided to eat our cold breakfast and get moving, the thought of the ICC nipping at our heels spurring us into action.

5:30am Leave the bivy site, making a short stop to refill water bottles.

6am Wait for Eric to fish his food bag out of a deep moat, after dropping it while checking out the topo. I was highly amused to see his feet sticking out of the snow below me.

6:45am Scramble up to the balanced rock above Prusik Pass. Drop our boots and packs, and scramble up the ridge.

7:30am Some 200+ feet above the balanced rock, we roped up and Eric quickly led the first pitch up to the ridge crest, placing a single piece of protection between the toughest moves. Swapping leads, I took the rack and walked over to the friction slab. After backing up the fixed pin with a nut, I clipped it and gingerly stepped onto the slab, using a few moves of pure friction to reach the holds above. Breathing again, I placed a piece, posed for the photo op, mantled up, slung a horn, and crawled around it and along the ridge to the belay. A short stroll along the ledge brought us to the base of the summit structure. By now we were thinking maybe our rack was too big. Then again, it's better to have than to want. Eric scrambled up to the next ledge, then did a quick layback/mantel onto the one above, sewing it up with three placements. At this point he had about half a rope left. With that in mind, rather than climbing the lovely thin flake and easy chimney off to the right, he conserved rope by attacking the awkward handcrack/offwidth/chimney directly above. Protecting with a small Big-Bro chock and a Camelot, he fought and squeezed to the top. I guess the rack was not too big after all. After I followed, straining to clean those pieces and squeezing up through the chimney, we reached the top.

9:10am We took a break to check out the BOEALPS summit register, take photos, snack and gawk. The ICC had arrived at the balanced rock around 8ish, and were now well into the climb. The heretofore clear blue sky began to gather clouds as they approached.

9:45am As the clouds began to build, we rapped off doing about 4 single rope raps with some scrambling. A short step kicking session with rock shoes (we were glad to be wearing socks!) got us down to where we could traverse back to our packs on the balanced rock.

11:00am Returning to our packs, we took a leisurely break to put our boots back on, pack up, and stash a couple of small rocks in the ICC's packs. We noted that it's rather nice not having an instructor constantly hounding us to keep moving.

11:40am Head back down to the bivy site.

12:00pm Lunch time at the bivy site. We lay out our bags to get the last bits of dampness out, eat our food, pack the gear, and chase a goat around trying to get a picture of it with Eric.

1:05pm Hoist our packs. Depart.

3:00pm Reach the dam spanning Upper and Lower Snow Lakes. I decided my boots couldn't take another dousing and the thought of 6.5 more miles with 5 lbs. of water sloshing in each boot didn't appeal to me, so I took them off to cross barefoot. This is how I discovered that my feet had become very, very, painfully tender. The none-too-smooth concrete felt more like a bed of nails. At least I didn't notice the cold.

4:20pm As it started to drizzle, we could only assume the ICC was catching up. By now speed had given way to fast hobbling as our feet began to feel the miles.

4:45pm The curse of the ICC upon us in full force (maybe they found the rocks?), the drizzle turned into a downpour worthy of a Texas flash flood. Big fat drops fell with impunity. Luckily we were plenty warm, even dressed as scantily as we were.

5:30pm The rain finally let up, and a dry warm breeze quickly dried us out so that we could concentrate on the intense pain in our feet. My thin-soled light hikers were now not so appreciated... Eric was faring no better in his plastics.

6:00pm We arrive back at the trailhead. I collapsed at the car where some geriatric Canadian tourists gaped at us and snapped a photo. Donning fresh clean cotton and Tevas, we are transformed. Only now, two summers later, do I feel like a graduate.



South face of Prusik Peak, west ridge on left skyline. Photo by Karen Sykes

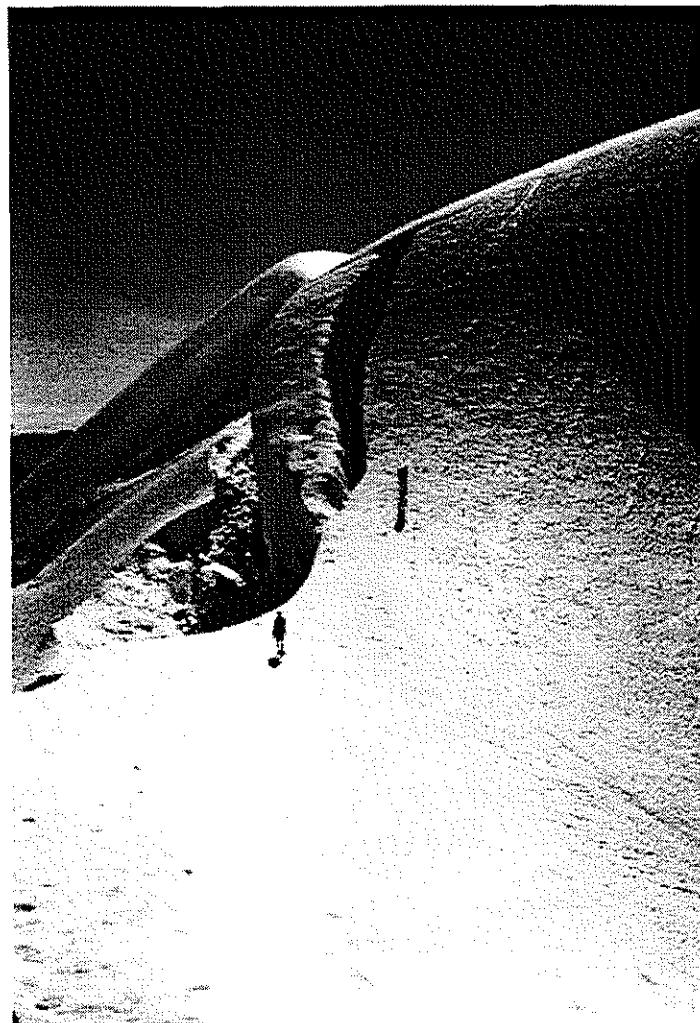
1999 Photo Competition Winners

The competition this year was furious, with a fair amount of new talent from the newly graduated basic class moving in to grab some of the top spots. The following scanned, black and white versions of the pictures don't do the photographers justice, particularly the sunrise and sunset pictures. You can check out the full color images on our web site, but they're still scanned – if you want to see the originals, you'll have to show up at the competition itself next year! A few folks managed to abscond with their images before we could get a hold of them to scan them in, but they should at least get mention here: For "Climbing Scenes, Slides", 3rd place was "Ice Man Demo" by Derek Marshall. For "Mountain Scenes, Slides", 3rd place was "The Big One" by Erich Koekler. The third place winner in the "Most Embarrassing, Prints" category must have really thought their photo was embarrassing, since they grabbed it and left before we even had a chance to record who and what it was. If any of the three of you would like to have your winning picture in the next issue of the Echo, send 'em my way, and I'll get them scanned in!

You'll get a chance to see the "Echo Cover" category winners on next year's newsletters.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and start keeping track of your best pictures this year for next year's competition!

Climbing Scenes, Slides



1st Place: "Life is Easy on Challenger" by Len Kannapell



2nd Place: "Almost in Heaven by Ken Hopping

Climbing Scenes, Prints



1st Place: "The Devil's Approach" by Stacy Drum
climber: Colleen Hunter



2nd Place: "Freezer Burn" by Stacy Drum



3rd Place: "Cornice Jumping" by Matt Robertson
jumper: "Pilar"

Boealps Class Scenes, Prints



1st Place: "Free Rappel - Devil's Peak" by Scott Drum
rappeller: Stacy Drum

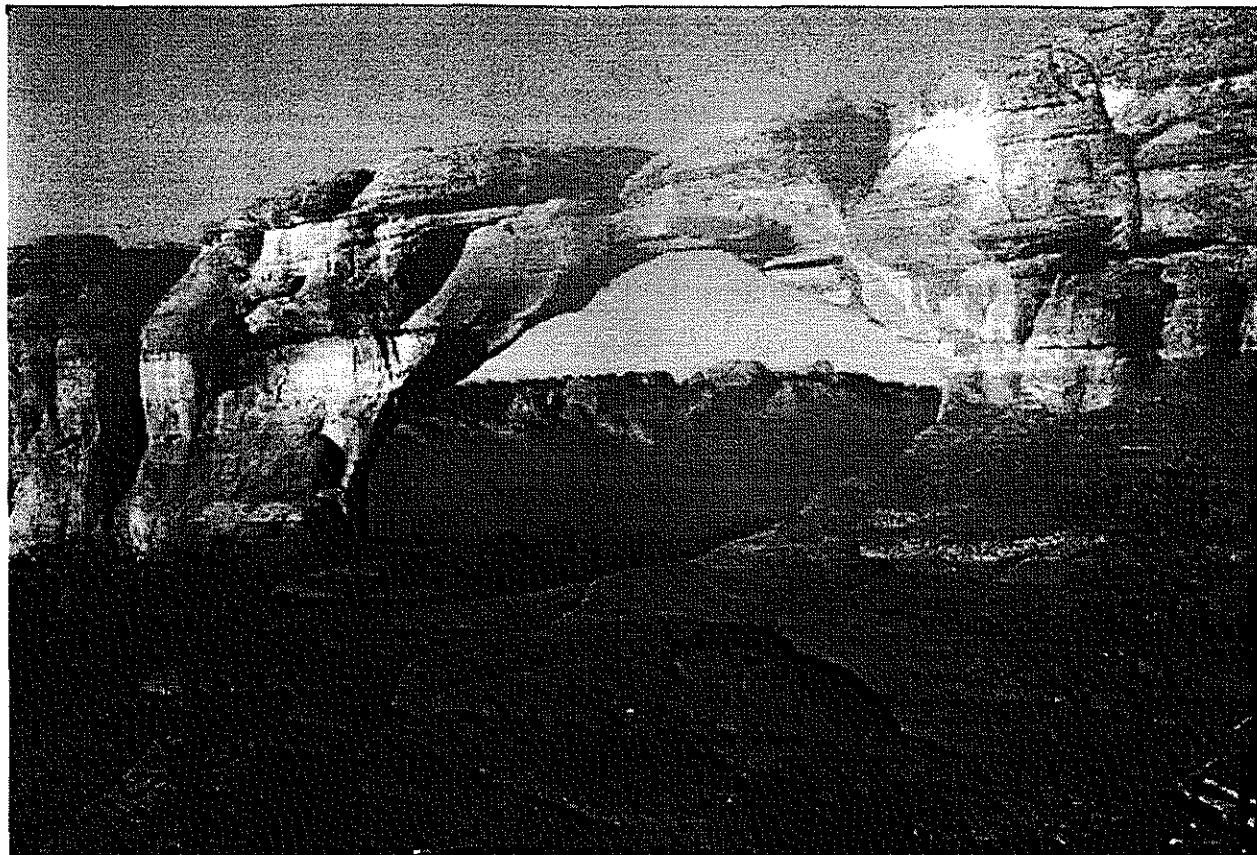


2nd Place: "Topping Out on High Priest" by Mike Jacobsen
climber: Dan Patton



3rd Place: "Who, Me?" by Stacy Drum
climber: Edith Szabo

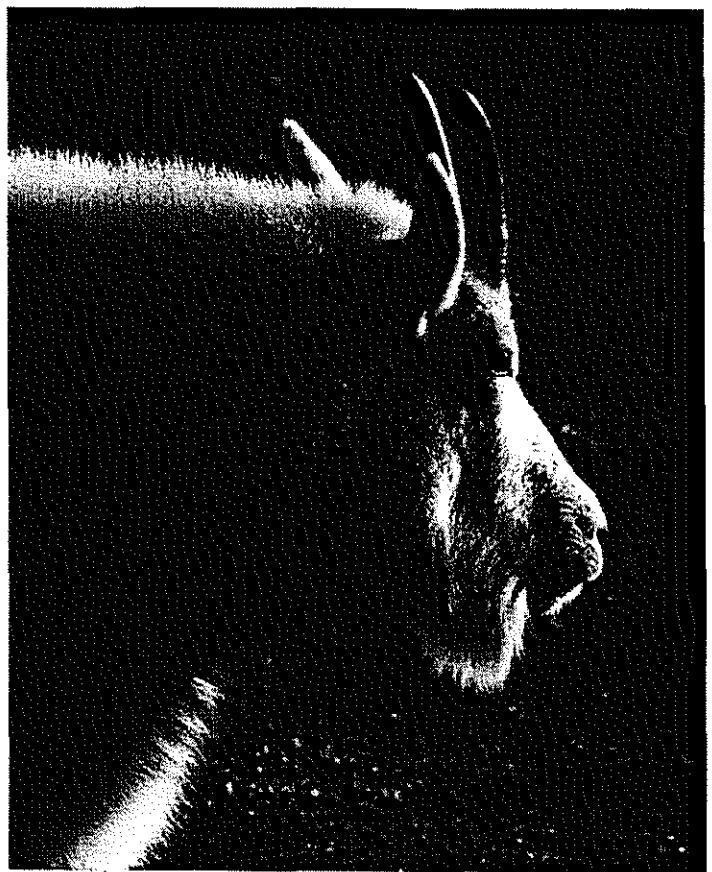
Nature Scenes, Slides



1st Place: "Broken Arch blues" by Len Kannapell



2nd Place: "The Burn" by Chris Rudesill



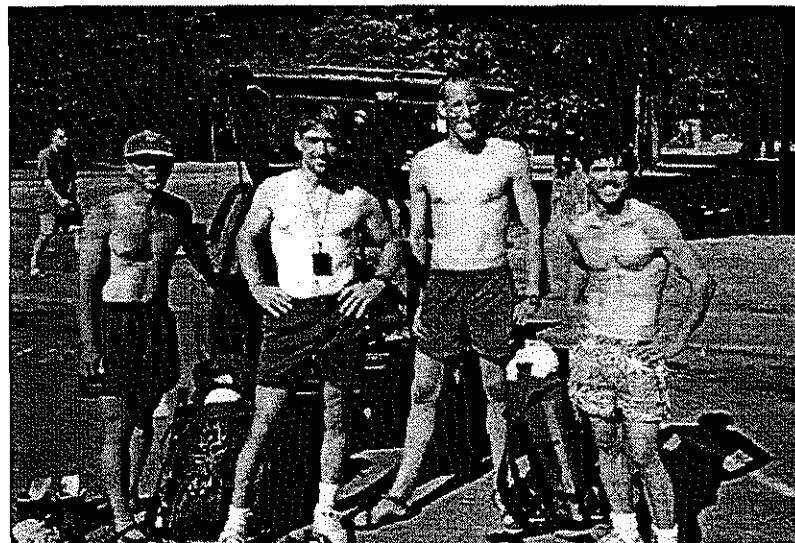
3rd Place: "Mountain Goat Profile" by Ken Hopping

Most Embarrassing, Slides



1st Place: "Breakfast" by Shawn Pare

Subjects: Vera Trainer (looking disheveled), Victor Yagi



2nd Place: "Someone spends too much time in the office..." by Len Kannapell
Climbers: Victor Yagi, Len Kannapell (glowing white), Dan Goering, Mark Hicks



3rd Place: "Careful Gear Placement" by Len Kannapell
Climber: Mark Hicks

Most Embarrassing, Prints



1st Place: "Flashing Rainier" by Val Hagman
Climber: ???



2nd Place: "Kiss Me Quick" by Derek Marshall
"Climber": Dan Goering

Sunrises and Sunsets, Prints



1st Place: "September Sunrise – Columbia Crest" by Mike Jacobsen
climber: Annette Mockli

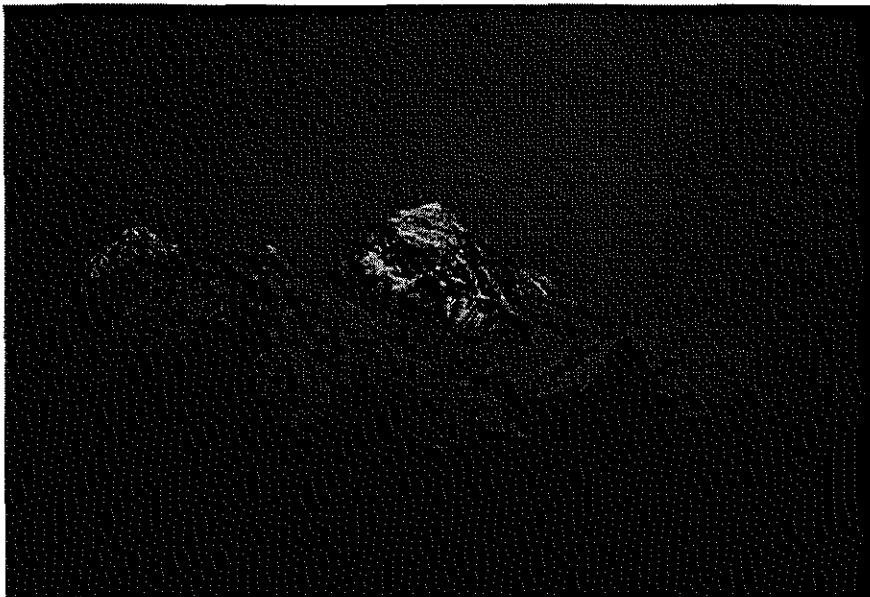


2nd Place: "Sunset from Goat Flat" by Matt Robertson



3rd Place: "Sunset from Mount Outram" by Matt Robertson

Sunrise and Sunset Scenes, Slides



1st Place: "Curtain Call on Everest" by Len Kannapell

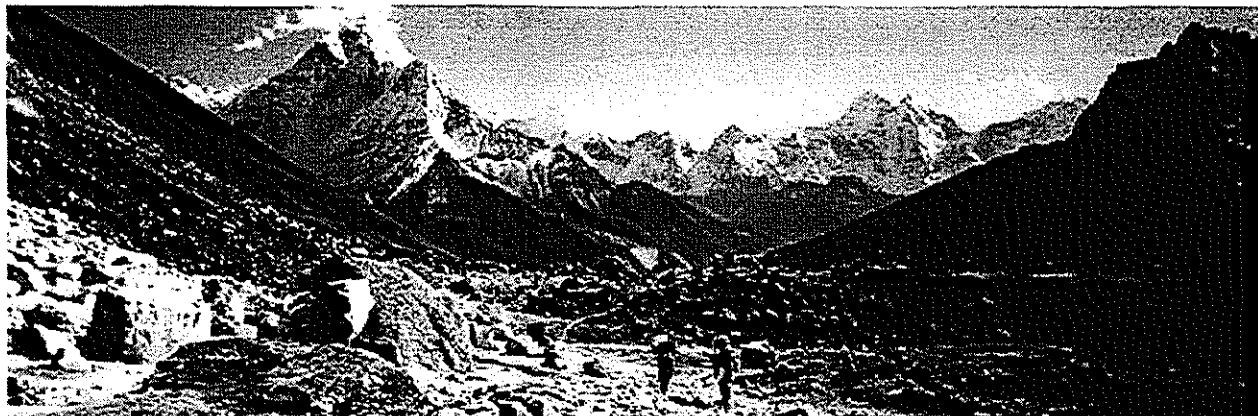


2nd Place: "Morning Light on Glacier Peak" by Ken Hopping



3rd Place: "From Givler's Dome" by Chris Rudesill

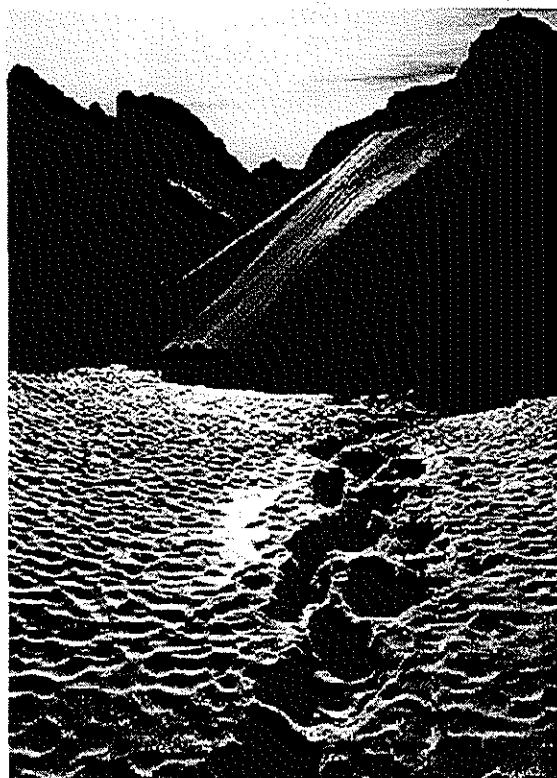
Mountain Scenes, Prints



1st Place: "On Top of Dugla Hill" by Pam Kaiser-Pare

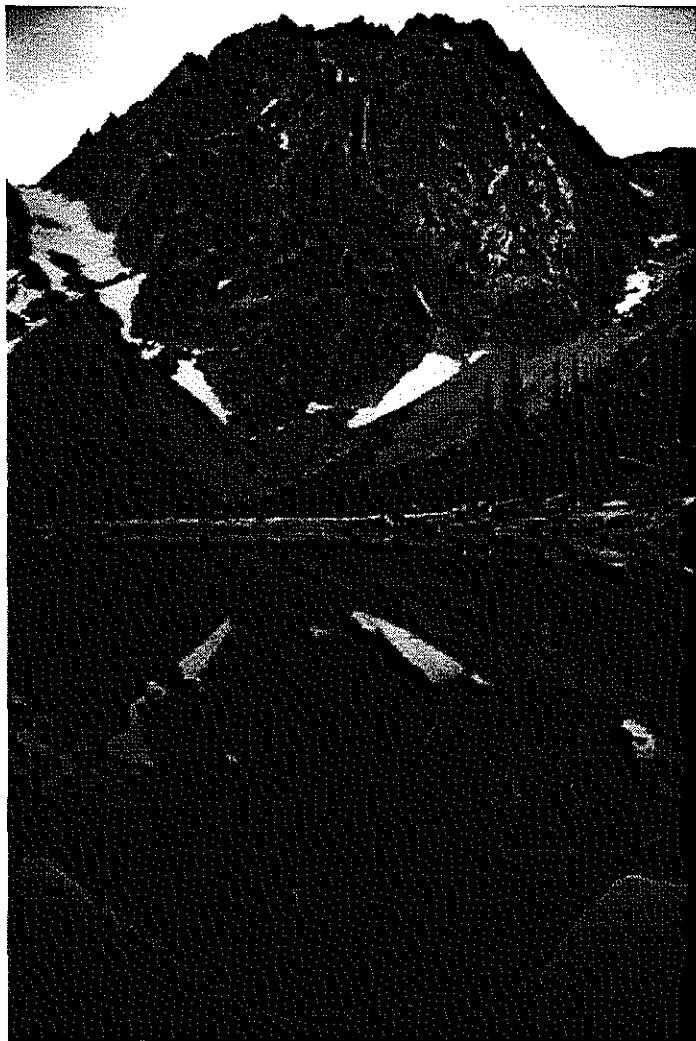


2nd Place: "North Face of Johannesburg Mountain" by Matt Robertson

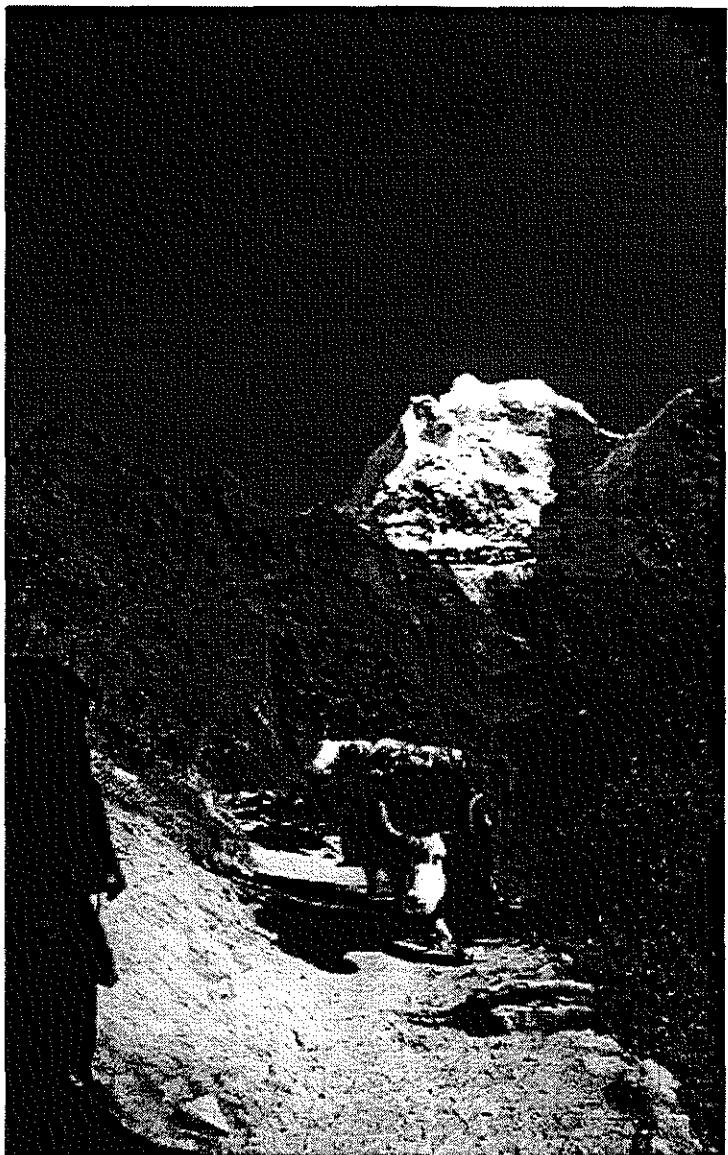


3rd Place: "The Way to Three Fingers" by Matt Robertson

Mountain Scenes, Slides



1st Place: "Dragontail peak from Colchuck Lake"
by Ken Hopping



2nd Place: "The Yak" by Shawn Pare

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW MAIL STOP: _____

NEW HOME PHONE: _____ NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO BETH SUNDQUIST, M/S 39-TA

OR: 7021 10th Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98117

OR: beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com

NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



August ECHO staff

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Rob Dymond, Mike Jacobsen,

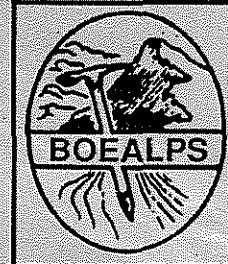
Katy Rusho, Vera Trainer

...and everyone who submitted an
activity or photograph!

Thanks to everyone who contributed – what a great issue! If you have any submissions - anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do - email them to me at matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in plant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices will work, give me a call at (425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

September 1999



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Photo: Frostbite Ridge by Mike Jacobson

From Beth Sundquist 39-TA



September Meeting

**General Elections!
Be There and Vote!**

**Thursday, September 2nd
Blue Star Café in Wallingford**

BELAY STANCE

Upcoming club meetings and activities...

Remember, the September general meeting will be our annual election of the new board members. This year it will be held at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford on September 2nd from 6:30-9:30. (In previous years, the election was traditionally held at the Rainier brewery, but, alas, now that it's been sold, we've had to find other quarters.) All the board positions are up for grabs this year, so if you're interested in becoming more active with your club, this is a great opportunity. The club is providing free appetizers, if you need to be bribed!

The Fall campout will tentatively be held October 1st - 3rd – details are sketchy at the present, but plan on Eightmile Campground. More details will appear on the Boealps web site later this month.

The annual banquet is coming up on October 8th at the Sea Garden Restaurant, so make sure to mark your calendars. Mike Gauthier will be the featured speaker this year, and we'll make sure to limit his presentation time so there'll be time afterwards for dancing, unlike last year's banquet. Join us for dining, dancing, and some great stories!

Meanwhile, over at that other climbing club...

If all this isn't enough to fill your social schedule, the Mountaineers have some presentations coming up that look great:

Aaron Shaw will be making a presentation that holds particular interest for me: "Hiking and Backpacking with Young Children" on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountaineer's Building. This presentation on hiking, backpacking and snowshoeing with children 6 months through 5 years old will include a slide show, gear recommendations, advice from experience, and destination suggestions.

Dee Molenaar will present a slide program at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15 about Mt. Rainier: its geology and geological history including glacial formations; plus exploration and climbing history. Since Dee wrote what's probably the definitive history of climbing on Mt. Rainier (The Challenge of Rainier), this should be a great show! Tickets are \$5 for members, \$6 general public, and are available at The Mountaineers Bookstore or at the door.

Jim Whittaker will be the keynote speaker at The Mountaineers Annual Banquet (if one banquet in a month isn't enough for you!) on October 18. Tickets are \$25 and will be available starting September 1 through The Mountaineers Bookstore

Sir Christian Bonington will speak and present a slide show at The Mountaineers Building on October 1 at 7:30 p.m. Some of these slides and stories will come from his latest book, "Tibet's Secret Mountain," about his adventures on the unexplored Sepu Kangri. Tickets are on sale through The Mountaineers Bookstore: \$8 for members; \$10 general public.

Club Outing Idea...

Now that the new "Rock Climbing Washington" guide book by Jeff Smoot is finally out, I had a chance to peruse its pages and was intrigued by the coverage on the Tieton River canyon area, Royal Columns. I know that the Tieton River in September is a great raft ride, and the rock in the canyon is columnar andesite – a lot like Vantage (columnar basalt), but much more solid! I thought it might be fun to put together a three-day September club outing – climbing on Friday and Sunday, and a rafting trip on Saturday. To put this together, I'll need some of the club rafters to offer to help out, and I'll need several lead climbers to express an interest. If you fit in either of these categories, and would like to help me organize a trip like this, drop me an email! If you're interested in participating in an outing like this, drop me an email as well, and I'll start a sign up list...

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still **SLESSE**. It's only needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of our web site. (which still aren't working... c'mon Rob, crack the whip over those Access One flunkies a little harder!)

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

OCTOBER ECHO DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 23rd

September, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting and Annual Elections	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 New Moon Board Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Sahale Peak
19	20	21	22	23 Echo Deadline	24	25 Full Moon
26	27	28	29	30		

October, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Club Banquet	2 Sharkfin Tower
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 New Moon
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14 Board Meeting	15	16 National Boss Day Smith Rock trip
17 Smith Rock trip	18 Smith Rock trip	19	20	21 Echo Deadline	22	23
24 Full Moon United Nations Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween Daylight Saving Time ends						

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Sahale Peak

Aug-Sept, 1999

First and past-president climb since the 1998 president's climb didn't happen!

Party Limit 12

Route Easy

Equipment Glacier/low 5th class

Experience Basic class

Contact Chris Rudesill 729-0640 (h), (425)237-0887 (w), christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com

Sahale Peak

Sat, September 18, 1999

Drive down Friday night, car camp 12 miles from the trailhead. On Saturday the trail starts at 3600', goes up to Cascade pass (33 switchbacks on a 10% grade) in 3.7 miles. Up the Sahale Arm across a small glacier to a fun 2 pitch scramble. The top is 8680' with a one-day elevation gain of 5080'.

Party Limit 12

Route Cascade Pass up Sahale Arm

Equipment Glacier gear

Experience Basic class

Contact Al Baal, allen.c.baal@boeing.com

Sharkfin Tower

Sat, October 2, 1999

From *Selected Climbs in the Cascades*: "Solid rock of this neat little summit set in the alpine grandeur of Boston Basin".

Party Limit 6-8

Route Southeast Ridge

Equipment Rock gear, glacier gear

Experience Basic class

Contact Javier Ortiz, (206)270-8964 (h), (206)544-7756 (w), javier.r.ortiz-aponte@boeing.com

Smith Rock

October 16-18, 1999

How about a fall Smith Rock trip? Come out for 2 or 3 days if you get Monday off. Camping at the park.

Party Limit None

Route Bring a guide – your choice of routes!

Equipment Rock gear and warm sleeping bag

Experience Basic rock climbing skills – a few people that lead would be nice

Contact Janet Oliver, (425)413-0298 (h) or oliverj2@msn.com

Submit activities to

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Only one new outing came in the past month? C'mon, git off your duffs and send in an activity!

- SF

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (Work)

(____) _____ (Home)

Email: _____

M/S: _____

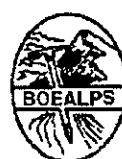
Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com



Boealps Annual Banquet



Friday October 1, 1999

**Sea Garden Restaurant
200 106th Ave NE (Bellevue)**

<http://www.chinesecuisine.com/seagarden/bellevue/> for directions

Last year's banquet at the Tyee Yacht Club was a great success – and like a fine wine, we've improved with age:

- Great menu featuring Chinese cuisine – barbecue pork, salt and pepper squid, hot and sour soup, Peking duck, Cantonese roast chicken, Mandarin pork chop, and much more
- Hosted bar with beverages included
- Dancing

Can you beat that? And don't you dare forget the fabulous door prizes!

Banquet Speaker – Mike "Gator" Gauthier

Mike Gauthier started backpacking in the Washington wilderness at age eleven. His professional career began in Olympic National Park as a volunteer backcountry ranger. Ten years ago, he joined the National Park Service climbing staff at Mount Rainier where he is now the Lead Climbing Ranger. This October, the Mountaineers Press will publish his first book, "Mt. Rainier: A Climbing Guide", an extensive guidebook with photos of the climbing routes on Mt. Rainier. It contains specialized sections on history, the National Park Service, planning and preparation, weather, safety and survival, health, avalanches, and general mountaineering. Mike has summited Mount Rainier over 145 times by twenty-four different routes, in all seasons and under all conditions. He regularly conducts workshops in mountain and rope rescue techniques, cold weather survival skills, backcountry snowboarding, and avalanche awareness. In 1998, he was designated a Wilderness Rescue Hero by the American Red Cross.

In addition to his activities at Mount Rainier, he has led three expeditions to Alaska's Mount McKinley and is an avid snowboarder, rock climber, and photographer. His photographic artwork is on permanent display in the National Park Inn at Longmire, Washington. Mike lives in Mount Rainier National Park.

Banquet Schedule

6:00 Arrival/social
7:00 Buffet dinner
8:00 Coffee & dessert - past/new Board, door prizes, etc.
9:00 Banquet speaker – Mike Gauthier
10:00 Dancing
11:30 Exit



Boealps Banquet Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone (work or home): _____

Mail stop or
address: _____

Member/guest tickets = _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to **Boealps**

Return to: Beth Sundquist (425) 266-1464 (w) beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com

Reserve your place by 1) returning this form (with payment) or 2) contacting Beth Sundquist
no later than **Friday, September 24th**

Stand Up and Deliver!

Annual Boealps Elections

Thursday, Sept. 2nd 6:30-9:30 pm

Blue Star Cafe & Pub (in Wallingford) 4512 Stone Way

There are no incumbents this time around, so we need you! If you are a Boeing employee and are interested in running for office, now's the time to get involved. The four positions we will vote on:

President - presides at all General and Board Meetings, so that's two meetings per month. Controls all operations, and oversees the mighty Boealps empire.

Vice President - takes charge of special committees. Responsible for all news releases. Assumes control of the meetings when the president is not present or merely goofing off. Generally a pretty easy job.

Secretary - assumes responsibility for the minute-taking and scribing of Board Meetings. Prepares official correspondence. Provides a copy of the by-laws to Boeing Recreation when amended. Perfect for beginners.

Treasurer - keeps track of all financial transactions, writes checks, and maintains accounts. Chief budget tracker. Great for someone with an accounting or finance background or who simply likes handling money.

Note: You need to be there to be elected. If you think someone would be good for a position, call them and ask them to run - they may actually take you up on the offer.

Show up any time after 6:30, and the nominations and voting will start around 7ish. The café is a full service restaurant and has a large drink selection, and the club will provide gratis appetizers. Those that have a RecSport card receive 15% off the bill. (If you don't have a card, join up with someone who does!) Most importantly, come on out, get involved, and help select the new executive board!



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Vera Trainer

The McClellan's Butte trail, which used to be sponsored by Boealps (i.e. we did some trail maintenance there in the past), has now been adopted by Outdoor Research. Perhaps Boealps would like to consider adopting another trail?

Goodbye...

Frank Sommers and I have enjoyed reading about conservation issues over the past year or so and writing up articles for the ECHO. We're now stepping down as conservation chairpeople and would like to pass the magic wand to some other eager Boealper. I would be happy to help someone with the first couple issues of the Conservation Corner, to familiarize that person with the literature, etc. Please contact me, or any of the Board members (those people with their phone numbers listed on the front of your ECHO), if you're interested in helping out.

Lightning Safety Tips

(Ed. Note: Since last month's issue had a trip report involving getting caught in a lightning storm, I thought I'd include this lightning primer from the Wenatchee National Forest Service)

Lightning storms occur every summer in the Wenatchee National Forest, in fact lightning storms ignited over 50 small fires (most of which have been put out) in the Wenatchee National Forest last week. If you were out recreating in the woods would you know what to do to keep safe during a lightning storm? Here are a few tips from Richard Kithil, American Lightning Protection, Inc., on what to do if you are caught in a thunderstorm. The following are only guidelines as lightning can be very inconsistent.

- * Take cover indoors when possible.
- * Avoid trees. Lightning often hits trees, travels down the trunk and may explode the bark. The charge then spreads out on the ground.
- * Go to a low lying area; brush is better than trees because it has "disbursed streamers" which don't act as a specific lightning rod. Get off the ridge, peak, roof or tower.
- * Carry a 4-foot square of polyethylene in your pack to whip out and stand on as an insulator
- * Make your body a single point ground by putting your ankles and knees together and then crouching down. This posture lessens your chances of being a lightning rod or of having a charge enter one foot from the ground, travel through your vital organs, and then exiting through your other foot. Another suggested position is to drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground because electrical current from a strike can easily travel through your vital organs this way, too.
- * Get away from each other. This will lessen the draw as a target.
- * Get away from rocks and boulder fields. Lightning likes to travel through the route of least resistance, and water (as in trees and our "70% water" bodies) is a great conductor from the ground to the sky. Rocks don't hold much water, so your body would be the conductor.
- * Aluminum and fiberglass poles will conduct electricity (keep in mind for skiing, tent camping, fishing). Carbon fiber is better. Stay away from metal objects and tall objects.
- * If you are in the water, count to ten between a lightning strike and the thunder; if you get to ten or less, get out of the water and go to safety immediately. Remember, water is a perfect conductor. A ten count means that the lightning is 2 miles away. (4-5 seconds per mile)
- * If your hair stands on end, immediately take safety action. A lightning strike could be imminent. You are charged up and ready to go; a perfect target.
- * Get rid of the metal objects. Your GPS, the baseball cap (with the metal rivet around the hole at the top,) your keys and knife. (If you have a plate in your leg or screws in your knee... sorry.)
- * If on a horse, get off. Separate. The horse may have metal shoes, bit, and rigging in the saddle. (If the storm is a ways off, unsaddle your friend and put him in the brush.)
- * Lightning can happen in snow, rain, hail, dust; many kinds of turbulence where static occurs; then it looks for a good target of least resistance to discharge this voltage.
- * Make certain you stay under cover until the danger has passed. Just because the rain may have stopped does not mean that the lightning is over.
- * Err on the side of being very conservative. Most of us have just been lucky so far . . . take defensive action.

Perhaps the best advice of all is to keep calm and keep low. Remember, weather conditions change rapidly and are often unpredictable.

The Continuing Travels of Dan Goering...

(Ed. Note: Dan is in the midst of a long sabbatical from Boeing. He promised that he would send recounts of his adventure whenever he could find Internet access, along with the occasional postcard. Here's the email I got this month, along with post cards from Dan and Ilan...)

Greetings from Grand Prairie!

Where, you say? Ok - its in Alberta a ways north of Jasper National Park AND it has a community college with internet access so its a great town. Lots of really amazingly small town public libraries have internet access too, but most have rules that out of town visitors can check email only between 10 am and 11 am and then you only get 15 minutes unless others have already signed up for the available slots. Community colleges on the other hand have a big room full of computers and all the students are out at the bars after 4pm so there's no competition! Its been hot and sunny for the past week so summer feels like its really here after cool rainy weather during our July in Alaska. The other redeeming feature of Grand Prairie is a tiny little shack decorated like a castle that serves up a really good hard ice cream cone!

The big adventure since last report was a canoe trip. Ilan and I got the itch to paddle and began studying options as we headed from Fairbanks towards Yukon province. We rolled through the town of Chicken one evening and stopped at the saloon for a drink. Chicken is really only 4 buildings and an airstrip. By itself on the highway, er, gravel road, is the Goldpanner. Just off the road is the true downtown consisting of the Chicken Saloon, Chicken Mercantile, and Chicken Cafe. Ilan and I ordered up a cold Rainier in the packed saloon and started talking to a couple of guys up gold mining for the summer. If you want to come up and give mining a try, the first step is to "test" a number of claims before deciding which one to buy. Apparently, there are plenty for sale. Most mining in the region these days is done using a suction dredge -- a floating platform with a couple of lawnmower size engines and an inclined box with a rippled floor. You struggle into your wet suit, start both engines on the suction dredge, and lie on the bottom of the river all day, sucking up gravel with a vacuum driving by one motor. The other motor pumps air down to you. The gravel is washed through the box with the rippled bottom and the heavier gold bits are supposed to settle in the ripples while the heavier gravel washes down and back into the river. No one seems to like to say how much gold they're finding, but my impression is that if you do ok for the summer, you might break even on your costs for the equipment and getting to Alaska.

Just down from Chicken, we turned onto a contorted gravel road that dead-ended 60 miles later at the Yukon River and the town of Eagle. A flyer we'd picked up indicated a guy named Mike Sanger had canoes for rent there. There are no phones in Chicken so we couldn't call to check on the canoes. We'd just have to go visit Mike!

The large canoe shaped sign made Mike's place just outside of Eagle easy to find. After a short conversation, we had arranged for Mike to drop us off on the Forty Mile River the next morning and we would float down to the Yukon River and then on down to Eagle again. Only trouble was no one in Eagle takes credit or debit cards and I was short on cash. Ilan saved the day as he had his checkbook the local store happily gave him cash back off his check. They didn't bother to check id.

Downtown Eagle consists of the store, the old courthouse/now museum, a lodge or two, the Riverside Cafe, a pool hall and a laundromat. A couple of big tour busses were just leaving as we arrived around 10:30 am and within 10 minutes of their departure, the store and everything else in town except the cafe was closed. We cooked lunch on the porch of the museum and watched the skies cut loose with a deluge. Eventually we retreated to the Riverside Cafe for a warm cup of coffee and were treated to the following conversation when a local woman stopped in, freshly arrived from the town of Tok:

Guy: "How's the weather in Tok?" Woman: "Sucks" Guy: "How's the weather in Eagle?" Woman: "Sucks" Guy: "Must be the same in-between" Woman: "Tok got freezin" Guy: "In Tok?" Woman: "Yep" Guy: "There goes the berries..."

People who live in Eagle are there for the lifestyle and not the money. It's a subsistence form of living and hunting, trapping, gardens and picking berries contribute significantly to their source of food. We had a great conversation with the keeper of Fort Eggbert after the canoe trip as he gave us a tour of some of the historic buildings. The fort was built around 1900 when a telegraph line was pushed through to Eagle by the US Army. The line was replaced by wireless just 10 years later. They had a great exhibit on trapping with furs and traps displayed. We actually got to see a #3 Connibear after hearing others talk about various types of traps. The keeper traps himself and told about a debate he and a friend had over whether it was wasteful to shoot a trapped wolverine instead of just clubbing it. The pro-clubbing trapper changed his ways after a stunned wolverine regained consciousness in his backpack as he was returning home!

But now, onto THE CANOE TRIP!

We bounced along the road in Mike's truck for over an hour before he unloaded us and the canoe at the Forty Mile Bridge. Ilan and I bantered a bit with a New Zealand farmer out to try his luck gold mining, then loaded the canoe and reviewed paddling strategy. I canoed in my grade school and high school years, but hadn't been in one for about 12 years. Ilan had canoed maybe once, but was game to go. The Forty Mile, about 30 yards across, slipped by smoothly but quickly at our put in. We launched and were quickly off, keeping our eyes open for miner Dave Lichen's cabin about 5 miles down on the right. Mike had said Dave could give us some good info on the two big rapids we'd have to pass: Deadman's Riffle and The Canyon. We had a map, but it wasn't very detailed and made keeping track of just where we were difficult. The Forty Mile was still busy with mining activity: we passed several cabins and a number of dredges with engines running and their operators submerged. One operation even had a hovercraft pulled up on shore instead of the usual boat! Our first fast water section was exciting, but we handled it, even though we came out the downstream end going backwards. Eventually, we floated past a non-submerged miner and asked if he knew how close we were to Deadman's Riffle. "Its two miles back", he replied. Hmm - not so bad after all! We camped on a gravel bar and built a nice fire, regretting that we hadn't brought some hot dogs to roast.

Our late starts due to morning rain continued and sometime the next afternoon we were pulled onto a gravel bar debating whether we had crossed the border into Canada or not when a red canoe with two red jacketed individuals came around the bend and headed right for us. At first, we thought it might be the Canadian Mounties. There are no border facilities on the Forty Mile and officially, you're supposed to pull out at the border and hike some distance to report in. Mike Sanger had recommended that we just float on through. Were the Mounties coming to nab us for crossing the border? Our "Mounties" turned out to be BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Smokejumpers Mike and Tye canoeing their way to work in Eagle. We talked briefly and then passed each other as the day continued.

Early evening, we knew we were getting close to The Canyon rapids. Coming around the bend, I saw them starting but ahead were Mike & Tye and they were at the downstream end, but tipped over and in the water. If they survived, I figured we might as well try to shoot them too and so in we went. Only 1/4 of the way through, a big wave kicked the bow sideways and before we knew it, Ilan and I were swimming and laughing our heads off. We kicked to shore, bailed out, lined the canoe past the worst section ahead and then floated past the smoke boys who were gathering up gear that had tried to float away. At the first nice gravel bar we built a big fire to dry out and were joined shortly by the smoke boys who we shared a camp with that night. Smokejumpers are an interesting and friendly bunch. They live on the edge as a profession and these two had very straight shooting manner about them. Mike had dark, clean cut hair - a rugged good looks sort, very talkative and a generous beer drinker (generous as he shared his case liberally with us!). Tye or "Rawhide" had long curly hair tucked under a leather hat, complete with half-smoked stogie tucked in the band. He was quieter and spoke with a distinct southern accent picked up from his youth in NE Texas near the Louisiana border. We traded stories as we ate dinner and dried out our soggy clothes. Their food for the trip was a big BLM supplied cardboard "fatboy" box stocked with all sorts of canned goods, candy bars and freeze dried meals. Ilan spotted a can of B&M Brown Raisin Bread and inspected it curiously. Mike offered to us.

Mike & Tye were off at the crack of 10 am the next morning and needed to arrive at Eagle, only 70 miles away, before the following morning. After a breakfast of oatmeal and fresh picked raspberries, Ilan and I drifted on down to where the Forty Mile flows into the Yukon and stopped to inspect the abandoned Forty Mile town site. Founded in 1886 when gold was found on the Forty Mile, the town was all but empty just 15 years later when the rush moved on to Circle, Alaska. We poked through old buildings and then discovered the town was not completely abandoned. The old general store cabin has been restored by a couple from Dawson City (Sebastian & Shelly) who spend their winters there. A sign out front welcomes summer visitors to use the cabin, stove and bed. Their dog sleds and gear are neatly hung in neighboring abandoned buildings. I found this display of generosity and trust in their fellow humans inspirational. We spent the night in a big building with wood floor and good roof, but no walls, after the worst, stale tasting, freeze dried meal I've ever eaten. Thanks Shelly for the use of your Mrs. Dash Extra Hot spice!

Fantastic swirls and eddies played where the clear iced tea colored waters of the Forty Mile mixed with the murky gray waters of the Yukon. We let the swift current of the Yukon take us and the only sound was the hiss of suspended silt flowing past the bottom of the canoe, backed by the soft burble of water moving around rocks on the distant bank. The surface irregularly erupted with turbulent boils and whirlpools sent up from the murky depths by some hidden terror. There are no roads in this section of the Yukon and it occurred to me that this was probably as close to true wilderness as you could get in the world these days for under \$120. No rapids on the Yukon. The only real danger is from the Yukon Queen II, a jet boat that hauls tourists from Dawson City to Eagle and back each day - its impressive rooster tail of water and huge wake could - easily swamp a canoe. We kept an ear open for the roar of the engine and were standing on shore when it passed. Early

evening after being rained on, we pulled into Eagle to find Mike Sanger waiting to greet us as we beached the canoe. We told him the trip highlights and his parting words were "Thanks for surviving". Mike and Tye greeted us as we walked by the Cafe. Eagle was starting to feel almost like home! Our third greeting after down the Cafe's lasagna special was from the US customs agent. He was a little bit unhappy that we hadn't immediately sought him out on arrival, but was nice enough and had us fill out the standard arrival form. I was a bit confused about what to write in under the box for arriving flight/ship number. He wrote in "canoe on the Yukon" for me.

We barely made it into Canada the next day. Ilan had lost his driver's license in Anchorage and so when the agent asked for ID and he had none, it looked a bit suspicious. We also didn't mention up front that we had briefly canoeed through the Yukon, but she started asking more detailed questions when she learned we had been to Eagle and so we confessed. A brief search of our van convinced her that we really were just a couple of lunkhead climbers out for a summer of adventure and she graciously sent us on our way into the Yukon.

Dawson City is another gold mining town, but this one still very much alive from tourist dollars. The only way into town is a small government ferry, which will haul your vehicle across the Yukon for nothing more than a long wait in line. Dawson City has gotten money from the Canada Parks department and is nicely restored. As we walked through, Ilan asked "What would we have to do to experience Dawson outside the standard tourist way?" The answer was a couple kicking a soccer ball around the schoolyard. We asked to join in and met Bruce and Budge, teachers from Edmonton. Bruce's father is the Episcopalian minister in Dawson. We ended up playing a 2-hour soccer game involving Miles, Michael and Obediah - three local boys. After the game, Bruce invited us to camp on his father's lawn. As we pitched the tent, Ilan managed not to swear when he discovered his foam sleeping pad had joined the growing list of gear that has disappeared on this trip.

On the way to Whitehorse, we picked up George Sam in Carmacks. George is a Northern Shoshone Indian who lives in Vancouver BC now, but hitchhikes up to Whitehorse every summer to look for work as a cook. George grew up around Whitehorse and prided himself on predicting which lake or creek would lie around the next bend of the highway. He became quite accurate as we got close to Whitehorse. After each correct prediction, he'd say "I tell you the truth, eh?" He pointed out a hill where he and his family had spent the summer hunting when he was 19 and the highway was still a dirt road. At his recommendation, we stopped at the Braeburn Lodge for a sandwich and cinnamon bun nearly a foot in diameter. The sad part is that George had obviously been drinking quite a bit and a friend of his we ran into at the lodge was in the same state. We dropped him at #7 McCandless in Whitehorse and then headed downtown to look for a movie theatre.

Tyler at the outdoor store in Whitehorse told us about some rock climbing at White Mountain and we pulled in the next afternoon for some top roping on the 40 foot cliffs. The setting was beautiful with Little Atlin Lake just below the cliffs. To get in shape for some alpine climbs in the Rockies, we followed climbing with a 5K run and a swim in the lake. The finish of a wonderful day was a big pasta dinner cooked on the 2-burner Coleman and pulling out the guitar and fiddle.

The following night, Ilan baked brownies on his Outback Oven to help celebrate my 34th birthday. The next day we stopped in Watson Lake long enough to add our own sign to the sign forest - a collection of posts with over 2000 signs that travelers from around the world have purloined from their home towns and hung in Watson Lake. This is about the only thing worth stopping for in Watson Lake. We hadn't known to purloin a sign, so we made our own from scrap of board from the new post office construction site. We had help from James, another Shoshone Indian who had been hanging out in Kaska Indian country the past 20 years. Like George Sam, he too had been drinking and regaled us with tales of heroics from his youth. He didn't seem to have any recent stories. We carved our names into the wood. James rubbed dirt over the board, which darkened the carved parts, and we pounded it onto a post using a rock and rusty nails we found.

That night, we pulled into Liard River Hot Springs - a place recommended by several friends and now recommended by me! The springs are a five-minute walk from parking along a nice boardwalk and are still natural - i.e. the pools still have sand and rock bottoms instead of being turned into concrete pools. The water coming in at the hot end is around 120 degrees F and cools to around body temperature at the far end where a cold stream enters. The wooded setting is wonderful and the price is FREE! We spent three days here, soaking, reading, playing music and just hanging out. Ilan's fiddling attracted several other fiddlers to stop by, and Roger, an east coast Indian now living in Bella Coola, BC taught us a new tune. We also met Rick Wells, an engineer from Vancouver working on the Alaska Highway for the summer. He drove us around one night in the company truck showing us the sights of the area. It was a three-day weekend for him due to "BC Day" so we shared a campsite and celebrated with another of Ilan's excellent pasta meals and good Canadian beer supplied by Rick.

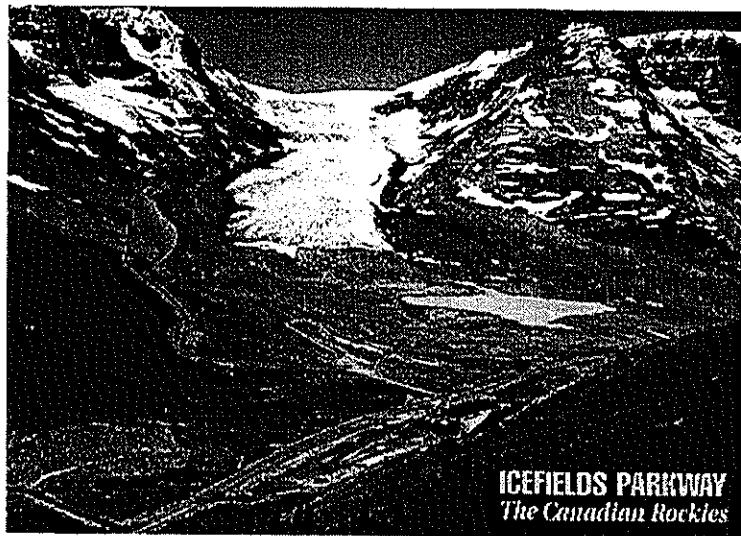
I quit wearing my watch the last day of our canoe trip and have seldom known the exact time since. I found that when I had the watch on, I would look at it whenever I felt tired or hungry to see if it was a reasonable time to be tired or hungry. I'm finding it nicer just to sleep when I'm tired and eat when I'm hungry, regardless of the time.

We're now headed for Jasper and the Canadian Rockies for some good climbing! It has begun to get dark again at night, which I initially found annoying. It does bring the stars back out, but I need to figure out where my headlamp has gotten to ...



Matanuska Glacier Alaska

"Greetings from Eagle on the banks of the Yukon! Ilan and I depart on a 4 day canoe venture tomorrow – down the Forty Mile River into Yukon, Canada, turn left down the Yukon River and float back to Eagle. Eagle is at the end of 100 miles of gravel road and we passed through Chicken to get here. Denali Park was a delightful mix of tundra hiking (squishy underfoot), moose, bear, caribou and beaver watching and perfect views of McKinley and the Alaska range to balance the bureaucratic headache of a complex permit and shuttle bus system and lots of cold rainy days. Next – south to summer!" -- Dan



"Greetings! You can see our route, Shylatter, in the upper left hand corner. A 17 hour "day trip"! After all that, we didn't make the summit after getting through the technical section. A full report will be coming!" --Ilan

What follows are three viewpoints all on the same climb. Patrick Pettinelli ended up suffering a mild case of HAPE while climbing Mt. Rainier, and in addition to his trip report, he asked two of his fellow climbers to write up their comments and versions of the trip. It's quite interesting to be able to read three different versions of the same trip, and this also serves as a good reminder that HAPE, like AMS, can affect even very fit people, and at lower altitudes than most would think.

Thoughts about HAPE on a Mt. Rainier climb

By Patrick Pettinelli

The alarm goes off and it's 12:30 AM on Summit Day. We're at Camp Schurman on Mt. Rainier (elevation 9,400). There's anticipation in the air as people begin to wrestle out of their tents and prepare for the climb. I didn't sleep much last night but I still feel rested. I didn't expect it to be so hot in the tent. Also, I seem to be forcing food down this morning, as I had yesterday. Normally, I've got a healthy appetite. My water consumption is fine.

I start thinking about what I need to do and begin going about it. As I prepare for the climb, thoughts run through my mind. "Can I really do this? Have I prepared enough? Do I have the necessary skills? Am I physically strong? Am I mentally strong? All the answers come back a resounding YES! But, one thought still lingers in my mind. I've never climbed Rainier before, so I don't know what to expect. You hear stories from different people who've attempted the summit but I really don't have a standard to judge it by. Because of weather and snow conditions this year, I've only made one summit. The only climb I really have to judge from is the South Spur Route on Mt. Adams. It's almost like comparing apples to oranges though. Adams' summit is 2,000 feet lower than the summit of Rainier. There's no glacier travel on the South Spur route, so there's less weight to carry up the mountain. Also, because of the lower elevation, we can sleep a lot longer before setting out for the summit. But, I'm as prepared as I'm ever going to be! I've told myself, if I only make one summit this year, let it be Rainier.

The climb up the Inter Glacier, across Camp Curtis and up the base of the Emmons Glacier went well yesterday. Conditions are perfect! The Route is in great shape, the weather forecast is beautiful, and we have a $\frac{3}{4}$ moon to travel by. After a quick breakfast and some hydration, we're on the trail. As we climb on to the Route, I notice how bright the mountain is, how warm the air is and how good I feel. I CAN DO THIS!

On the first rest stop at 10,400 I feel great and I hydrate. As we climb past 11,000 my breathing is changing. I'm not sure what's wrong (or if anything is actually wrong). Maybe I'm not in as good as shape as I thought I was? Thinking I can work through it, I begin to pressure breathe. Something is not right, my lungs seem 'tight' and congested. On our next break at 11,400, I see an opportunity to let them know I'm questionable. As I rest and hydrate, discussions ensue. I feel better and I decide I can press on. Mike offers to carry some weight, I decline. I'm OK, I CAN DO THIS!

As we climb on, my breathing is somewhat stable but becomes more restricted and raspy, so I continue to pressure breathe. I'm not sure what's wrong but I CAN DO THIS! I'll be OK after the next break.

During the next break at 12,300, I actually lay down on my pack and try to catch my breath between raspy grasps for air. I don't understand. I've been at this elevation before, why then, am I feeling this way? When asked how I feel, I tell them I feel OK. But, I feel only marginally better after resting and hydrating. As we climb on, I begin to pressure breathe on every step. Again, my breathing is more restricted, congested and raspy as I climb. I stop my rope team twice after the last break to slow them. They show concern because they now can hear my breathing deteriorating. I tell them, I'll be fine if I can rest at the next stop. I CAN DO THIS! They continue to show concern.

I stop my rope team at 13,200 in an attempt to catch my breath. Ron wants to check my breathing in a flat area just below the Bergschrund at 13,400. As we rest, Mike walks up to check on me. He hears my breathing and with concern suggests I descend. I tell him I'm OK. I CAN DO THIS! At break, as I sit on my pack laboring for breath and wheezing, all it takes is one breath and Ron tells me I'm descending immediately. I tell him, on one hand I know he's probably right but on the other hand I have the legs to do this. I CAN DO THIS! I don't have any other altitude sickness symptoms. I'm strong and besides, I'm only 1000 feet away from the summit! But, Ron tells me that if I can't breathe then I'm really NOT strong.

He's diplomatic but firm and tells me I'm still descending immediately! I'm extremely disappointed. Thoughts of guilt, defeat, and failure set in. Two team members have to descend with me. I don't want to hold anyone back. I know this is part of being a team but it's tough to accept when you're the victim. I truly want the rest of my team members to summit but it's a bittersweet thought for me right now.

As I sit on my pack, wheezing and rasping, I feel tears roll down my face. I've trained so hard and worked so long for this moment. Everyone is supportive and concerned. Well wishes are given and offers to climb again next season are extended. Will there be a next season for me? In my heart I appreciate all their thoughts, but all that matters to me right now is the summit! Why then, when I'm unable to breathe, am I still pushing for the summit? Why can't I give it up! Is it Determination? Pride? Poor Judgment? Lack of oxygen? All of the above? Normally, I know the summit is just a goal, but at this point, it's my only focus! What is that fine line where I'm able to push my body to climb on or know I've had too much and should stop?

Ron and Micah volunteer to descend with me. I can see the apprehension in the rest of the team. They're concerned about me. I ask them not to worry and assure them I'll be all right. I wish them success on the push to the summit. Ron, Micah and I descend 4,000 ft. to Camp Schurman swiftly but safely. As we descend, my breathing is not improving. I think to myself, I don't ever want to climb this mountain again.

Upon arrival at Camp Schurman, my breathing hasn't changed. As I'm administered oxygen in the Hut, the Park EMT makes a call to a doctor with my vitals. At first, the doctor suggests an air evacuation. AN AIR EVACUATION?!?! But, after I stabilize, and assure the EMT I can get out on my own power, he re-evaluates the situation. After questions and monitoring, the EMT makes another call to the doctor and suggests I be escorted on the climb down. The doctor agrees, and states I descend immediately and see my doctor. After the walk down the Inter Glacier, we're met by a Paramedic, an EMT, and a Back Country Ranger. After an examination and a number of questions, the Paramedic releases me. I'm very impressed with the care I receive from the Park Service. The only after effects I have are mild congestion and a cough. That evening, after the remainder of our team summits and is safely off the mountain, we celebrated, talk, and break for the ride home. Everyone's exhausted. They feel the summit was anti-climactic because the entire team didn't make it. I'm encouraged by my team members to climb Rainier again. I now want to climb it again.

On Monday morning, I see my doctor. After an examination, an EKG and an X-Ray of my lungs, she suspects I had HAPE. She gives me a clean bill of health and explains that it doesn't matter what shape you're in or what age you are, anyone can 'get' HAPE. She further explains that once a person 'gets' HAPE, you're more prone to get it again. If you get HAPE again, it can progressively get worse. She suggests I discontinue climbing at elevations over 10,000 feet. DISCONTINUE CLIMBING AT ELEVATIONS???

If I do climb Rainier again, I now know I need to pay closer attention to my body while climbing at elevations. Another lesson learned is that a good team is invaluable! I feel all my team members made the right decisions at the right time. Thanks again Everyone!

Now, I have to make some decisions about my future climbing at elevations.

Comments on the climb

By Ron Fleck

At the outset we set a very good pace and I felt everything was on track. At 11,400 when Patrick said he was a little questionable I still thought we'd be OK. But in the next hour he told me to slow the pace a couple of times. Granted the terrain was getting steeper, but at this point he seemed to be the only one needing extra breathers. Now I'm starting to wonder if we'll make it since the pace is deteriorating.

Above 12,500 he needs more breaks and we're really slowing. I'm 1st on the rope and Patrick is 3rd so I really can't hear him breathing. On a switchback when I'm directly above him I ask if he's pressure breathing and the response is yes. I tell him to do it at every step if need be, but I still didn't hear him rasping. I also ask if he hears any gurgling or bubbling in his breath (to check for HAPE) and the response

is no. A little below the bergschrund at 13,400 he needs to stop again but I push us to a flat spot for a break. Once he drops his pack and starts to rest, I hear what sounds like a prolonged asthma attack emanating from him. To me, it seemed to come on him all of a sudden since I hadn't heard his labored breathing before. I think the other guys on the rope were also surprised at what seemed to be a very rapid deterioration. At this point we were 7 hours into a trip that I thought would take 7 hours to summit. At our most recent pace, the summit was still 2 hours away and I knew there was no way Patrick was going to make it, despite his protestations. More importantly, he was having extreme breathing difficulties.

Normally people will have trouble breathing on Rainier and they may even gasp as the exertion takes its toll. However, the breathing becomes more regular once they stop and take a break. This was not the case with Patrick and since it sounded so severe, I knew he had to descend and quickly. It can be a fine line between struggling your way to the top and knowing when your body is done for.

Patrick argued with other teammates but seemed to listen to me more since I'm more experienced and have been on Rainier several times. That's when we started discussing options and looked back for the other rope. Seeing they were only 10 minutes away we decided to rest and try and get more food and fluids in us. I was concerned since I knew that someone had died a few years ago from an Asthma attack at about 10,000 feet. I also knew that there was Oxygen at Schurman and figured that would help, if it became necessary. Certainly, a multitude of scenarios started flashing through my head, none of them particularly enticing.

The descent was not as fast as I would have liked, but was reasonable given how tired Patrick and Micah seemed to be. I was pretty sure that the descent would clear him up, but after 2,000 feet and he's still gasping I'm getting REALLY concerned. He says it's not getting any worse but my immediate, somewhat sarcastic reply is that it's supposed to get better with descent. The 2-hour descent seemed like an eternity and even at rest at Schurman he doesn't sound any better than he did 4,000 ft. higher. That was a real shocker for me. Fortunately the rangers are close by and can render assistance quickly. The climbing ranger, Mark, says that he was involved with the asthma attack 2 years earlier so he is also quite concerned – the look on his face said it all. Even as oxygen is being administered we agree that further descent is required so Micah and I start to pack up, knowing that the rest of the team is now on their own.

Luckily, the oxygen seems to do the trick. Thirty minutes and a full bottle later, Patrick seems to be breathing normally, though perhaps a little congested. We can continue down, not quite so rushed. It seems that we're out of the woods, so to speak.

Again, the real eye opener for me was the fact that descent seemed to bring no improvement. I don't know what would have happened had we gone all the way out without the Oxygen, but I'm glad we didn't have to find out.

A Climb of Mt. Rainier

By Michael Wargel

12:30 a.m. came quickly enough, and we struggled out of our bags to get ready. No one seemed particularly rested, and I can guess that I had at best 4 hours of restless sleep. The temperature was reasonable, the wind fairly calm, and the sky completely clear. A ¾ moon was brilliant, and lit up the snow with an almost incandescent glow. The lights of Seattle were clearly visible and cast an orange hue on the horizon. Time was traveling quickly, and it was a little before 2 a.m. before we were underway - right on schedule.

I may never get to the moon, but for a few hours Sunday morning I felt I was there. The snow resembled gray dirt, rock, and ash under the sky's reflection. The stars were brilliant, every constellation jumped out to reveal itself. Without even focusing, your mind connected the dots to reveal the hidden shapes. All about was muffled silence, rhythmically interrupted by the sound of metal crunching through icy snow. I could vaguely make out the outlines of teammates before me, but I was alone in spirit.

At about 11,500, the group was having a little trouble. One of the group was concerned they weren't going to make it and Patrick remarked about some difficulty in catching his breath. None of us expected any kind of trouble so quickly. We offloaded some of the gear to others on the rope, and Patrick resolved to continue, and both members who were having difficulty decided to see how they felt in an hour.

That next hour or so brought one of the most memorable sunrises I have ever been blessed to witness. The spectrum of colors that lit the sky was beyond words. Each moment the intensity grew, until finally the crimson orb peeked above the horizon. The sunlight projected our shadow before us, and the mountain loomed ahead. The moon dangled above the summit, enticing us to climb further so that we may try and pick it from the sky. It was unforgettable.

Climbing higher, the two rope teams became a bit more spread out. I was the last person on the first rope, with Patrick, then Jason, and finally Ron in the lead. Patrick was still struggling, but the rest of the group was doing well. He had begun to pressure breath with increasing frequency, somewhere above 12,500'. Just so you know, Patrick is as strong as an ox. I've seen him spend many days in the Rec Center climbing stairs with full pack and ankle weights. No one doubted his resolve or strength to complete this climb. His struggle was unexpected, and a true concern. As we broke 13,000', he was asking for more and more breaks to catch his breath. It got to the point that after 15 steps we would have to break for a couple of minutes. I was truly frustrated by the intermittent pace, but remained tempered by my concern for what was happening before me. It got bad enough that on one switchback Patrick rested by lying on the snow. A little further up the route, I made my way alongside him. His breath was even more forced, and not quite right. We began yelling back and forth over the wind about his condition. I raised my concerns about our ability to make it at our current pace, and Jason concurred. This really upset Patrick, and he let us know about it. He said he felt strong, he just couldn't breath. By this time, Ron, Jason and I were all worrying that it might be HAPE. Patrick was adamant about making this summit. Jason and I were worried he would not listen us. How were we gonna stop this guy from climbing? At about 13,300' we stopped at a relatively flat spot, dropped our packs and waited for the other rope team to catch up with us. In the next 10 minutes, Patrick got steadily worse. It was in these moments that Ron told Patrick it wasn't his day. To his credit, Patrick listened to those very difficult words.

The other rope team caught up with us, and we discussed the situation as a team. Micah and Ron took the responsibility of escorting Patrick down. 1100' from the summit, 7 hours into the climb, and 1.5 hours from the top, Patrick turned back nearly in tears. We all felt horrible. We felt bad for him, and in a way regretted the decision for the 5 of us to continue on one rope. It is something I don't believe we ever really shook throughout the rest of the climb. Despite talking about the possibility that the entire team wouldn't summit, we really weren't mentally prepared for that very thing. It didn't make any sense - the team was too strong for this to be happening. We never imagined that this could be a reason we all wouldn't make the summit.

The rest of the climb to the summit took over an hour. It was interesting, with a couple of crevasse crossings. The wind began to pick up, and clouds started appearing overhead. They traveled so fast that I could almost feel the earth spinning. We plowed along, but very slowly. Climbing one final steep rise, I only thought of making the top. Finally, there was the summit. We collected on the ridge and just stopped, somewhat dumbfounded. Dropping our packs and rope, we caught our breath. The wind was whipping us at 40 mph, and the temperature was right at freezing. Walking into the wind to the true summit, clouds blew about us. The view was surreal and at some point I stared down at a prayer flag buried in the snow. It took time but I remembered that I needed to celebrate, and shared a hug while managing a pseudo primal yell. At the register, we sat for a few minutes thinking about how destroyed we felt. It seemed we each thought about Patrick, and that made the whole event bittersweet. I should have been ecstatic, but fatigue and guilt tempered that emotion.

After an hour at the summit, we began our descent, not relishing the return trip. The trip down was long, but uneventful. Upon reaching Camp Schurman we dropped our packs, unclipped from the rope, and found the rangers. They had given Patrick oxygen and hiked down to the trailhead with him. Their words were reassuring, and our minds rested a little easier.

In the passing of weeks since the climb, I've tried to determine my clarity of thought on this whole effort. The achievement feels somehow dulled by unfortunate circumstances. I almost feel we didn't do it right, or at least as well as we could. For that reason, I'm going to have to do it again. Patrick just better invite me if he needs another for his rope!

The Red Ogre, Boston Peak, via Sharkfin Col.

July 10-11 1999

by Underdog

Despite having numerous reliable sources available, weather, memory and variable conditions can cause deviations from the soundest of plans. Included for future Boston ascenders are some disseminated information and our validation thereof. However, our assessment of the validity of these statements could be incorrect by as early as yesterday.

"There is only one 128th Park and Ride" -FALSE

I was spurred to stage a mutiny against our oft-planned climb of Shuksan. Why trudge through a slushy conga line when you can strike off on a rare route on a seldom-climbed peak? Plans were set to meet at the 128th Park -N- Ride. However, there are actually two P+Rs, and our two cars singly occupied each for 20 minutes before we found the other P+R on a map. After a short reconvening we sped off to the Marblemount Ranger Station, which, on this first nice weekend of 1999, was packed. Everyone there was heading to Sahale, and one party was actually heading to Boston! Where were all the other climbers? One had to wonder if in 15 minutes the station would be full of folks doing Eldorado or Forbidden.

"First day will be about 4300' to camp" -FALSE

The last 1.2 miles of the road were immaculate and well oiled, but unfortunately had to be walked because of a gate. Suddenly we were looking at 5100' just to the col. This was also the last sign of recent trail maintenance we would encounter. At the trailhead, I tore the sleeve off my shirt by an obviously improper pack removal. As it was my only comfortable shirt, with temperatures in high 70's, and being plain stubborn, I knotted the scraps and continued on, much to the amusement of my fellow climbers.

Evidence of the last trail maintenance was provided by the cropped tops of the 3-foot high brush occupying the trail. Much of the first 2 miles was a streambed, with small signs declaring "Re-vegetation! Stay on the trail!" (the stream bed). Overhanging brush was strategically located in areas where it could cling to your pack and knock you off balance, if not off your feet (as in Bingo's case). We lost the trail in the snow at 4400', and bushwhacked east until we reached the edge of Boston Basin. The Basin itself is expansive, something you would expect on Rainier; the surrounding peaks of Torment, Forbidden and Sahale rise vertically from the fringes of ice and snow. It would be great to see the basin thawed out and covered in wildflowers. Today it was all snow, and Tim and Kathy kicked steps furiously to our camp below Sharkfin Tower. We were planning to camp on the Boston Glacier, but we were running out of time and experienced difficulty determining exactly which gully was Sharkfin Col. Kathy & Tim actually climbed a steep hard snow finger as directed by Jerry's memory only to be disappointed (his Alzheimers appears to be worsening). Ultimately, we set up camp under Sharkfin Tower. The heat had everyone woozy, and Tim actually lost his first and second attempts at dinner. Jerry claimed it was all the worms in the snow. Although we did not quite believe him (they were quite tasty), we fished them out of our boiling pots and filtered our drinking water. Tim dug a gigantic Denali style latrine that left Bingo pondering on its proper usage.

We got started at 7:30 the next morning, expecting a quick ascent of both Boston and Sahale. However, the Col was a hazard bazaar: a moat crossing; a scramble up an iced snow tongue; a class 3 gully scramble with enough basketball sized loose rock to build a new sports stadium; crumbly spires rising above looking like they could collapse at any moment. At the top right was a slung rock next to a cornice and a window view of the glacier below. Rapping off a cornice was not as bad as imagined.

"...expect about 50' of unprotectable mid-class 5..." TRUE.

We questioned whether we would be able to return to Boston Basin via the Sahale/Boston Col...should the rope be left in place for a prussik ascent, or could we free climb back up the rock? We pulled the rope down. It was then a joy exploring the seldom-visited Boston Glacier. One continuous crevasse looked impassable, but after several dead ends we were able to cross. When we finally arrived at the peak after slogging through the knee-high snow, to our dismay, this more difficult approach ended at the same place as the easier approach off Sahale. And same rotten rock... across the skyline we saw a giant airborne rock dislodged by a previous summit party on rappel. Gaining Boston's summit was huge time suck. Loose rock made for slow going and little protection. Climbing (low 5th) consisted of partitioning your weight across unstable foot and hand holds so that none of them came loose while you depended on them. Three belays later, the final stretch was an exposed slab leading to summit block.

"One does not repeat a climb of Boston"

UNCONFIRMED

On the summit we read the 1966 Mazama register, and laughed at some of the more colorful comments. One entry from the 1970's was from a climber who got lost in the fog, and thought he was climbing Forbidden. Realizing his mistake, he decided for a first ascent only to find he was about 30 years too late. A 1982 entry was from a party that included a "Jerry Baillie", with a comment of "Piece of #\$\$%^! NEVER AGAIN!!"(affirming our feelings!). We were the third summit group of the year, 2nd of the day. A short down climb led to a rappel station, where a double rap was constructed. The rappel was unsavory, but the group kicked nary a rock and it was quite a relief to be down. After Tim took the final rappel, we roped back up, hoping to find the route to Sahale and down the glacier. The ridge crossing was a bit tedious - a few belays were given, a couple spills taken, including Chris breaking through a cornice with her legs swinging in space 800' above the Boston glacier. A scant 1000' feet above us, I could see reasonable folk on Sahale having a beer. They waved. Sahale would have to wait for another day. At long last (4pm) we reached the Qien Sabe route to Sahale, and began our descent to our camp far below.

Camp was expediently broken, and we headed down two thousand feet to the treeline. Bear and canine tracks were crossed (a bear was spotted that day on Forbidden Glacier). On the descent, Chris dislocated her shoulder. On our slide down steep duff back to the trail, this became a problem. Unable to grab for support, Chris did some spectacular wipe outs. A couple times we were left wondering if she was still alive, but miraculously she sprung back up un-phased each time!

"We crossed at the island" *Unconfirmed, believed FALSE*

Stream crossings that were sketchy on the way in were plain ugly on way out. At our final crossing, the bridge had melted on our side, effectively stranding us. The remaining snow looked too unstable for a belay. Undeterred, Jerry smashed down through the devils club and found a crossing beneath a waterfall. If one slipped during the crossing, they would be the first one (swept) back to the cars. Feet were not visible crossing under the churning water and everyone emerged soaked. We passed a guided party who had done a 3-day assault on Forbidden. They looked as spent and delusional as us, and we could not get a straight answer on how they crossed Midas Creek. Back to the cars at 8:30, ultimately back home at 12:10 am Monday.

"There is not much good to say about the red ogre called Boston..." *Unconfirmed, believed TRUE*
....however, the outing was successful and partially enjoyable. We had a great group of climbers, and everyone kept a positive attitude even when things kept not happening as expected. Although I doubt we will repeat Boston, I was happy that Jerry and Tim returned to lead a lonely route up a challenging mountain.

Climbers: Jerry and Kathy Baillie, Doreen Bingo, Troy Colyer, Tim Jackson, Christine Nagamine



Boston Peak (photo by Mike Maurer)

The Brothers (South Peak, elev. 6866 ft.)

July 18-19, 1999

The trail to Lena Lake is in excellent condition. Judging from the number of campsites, it must be one of the most popular lakes in the Olympics. This year the water level is unusually high, submerging many shoreline sites.

The turnoff for The Brothers trail is marked with a sign. We encountered several snow blockages as low as 2000 feet when crossing avalanche gullies. I was very impressed by the untamed wildness of this narrow valley. The stream alternately roars around moss-covered boulders then gurgles quietly past fern-covered flats.

Several large windfalls block the trail just beyond the third bridge crossing. We reached snowline a quarter mile from the climber's camp. Snow depth there was 3 feet. We continued upstream to find an open gravel bar with warm sunshine. Travel time from the car was 4 hours.

We started our climb at 7:00 the next morning. A boot path was occasionally visible through bare spots near the stream. We crossed one small avalanche track at the base of a cliff then began ascending a long avalanche slope that curved upward to the right. Judging from moats around several giant boulders, snow depth here was 20 feet.

We carried crampons but they were unnecessary on the sun-warmed snow. A flat spur ridge topped by small trees bounds the eastern side of the slope. We left the snow at a headwall and scrambled up a series of easy ledges. A convenient meltwater stream offered welcome refreshment.

After a rest stop on top of the ridge, we resumed climbing on snow. A prominent gully known as The Hour Glass soon came into view on the left. Snow conditions were excellent for kicking steps and we ascended the steep slope unroped.

Crumbly rock on the sides of the gully suggested that it is safest to do this route as a snow climb. The runout is not forgiving, so proven snow travel skills are mandatory.

The gully broadens near the top. We angled right toward the main summit block. Leaving the snow, we scrambled up to a 20-foot high face. On the right side a sloping chimney offered clean footing. Above was a short talus slope leading to the summit - time from camp: 5 hours.

This peak has been on my gotta-do list for a long time. It was a great feeling of satisfaction to finally reach the summit after a challenging climb. Looking down at the steep descent route, I had to remind myself that it was only half finished.

The snow was much softer going down. We could plunge step, but occasionally an icy crust would deflect the heel plant. Even with extra caution, one member of our group gave an impromptu demonstration of precision self arrest technique.

The lower avalanche track was littered with debris making it uncomfortable for glissading. We found it acceptable for boot skiing and enjoyed a long run down to tree line.

Everyone was tired when we arrived in camp at 4 PM. With energy waning we packed up our gear and shouldered heavy packs for the 6-mile hike to the trailhead. The camaraderie of a shared victory, together with a dose of planning for our next adventure, help divert our attention from those aching muscles and joints. It was 8:30 PM when we finally arrived at the car. A long but enjoyable day.

Climbers: Ken Hopping (scribe) with Debbie Anschell and Chip Curtis

Mt. Rainier via Deception Cleaver

July 30-31, 1999

By John Gowan

On Friday, July 30, four members of the 1999 Boealps Basic Class Red Team (Pedro Jato, Scott Ellis, Louis Frank, and John Gowan) decided to test their basic class skills with a climb of Mt Rainier. We arrived at Paradise at about 8:30 AM and got our climbing permits - I think we got the last ones since the ranger called Longmire and told them to stop issuing permits after we got ours, meaning that everyone had to go up to Ingraham Flats after us. After the long slog up to Camp Muir, we set up camp under clear skies. We tried to get some sleep that night, but it was tough (Louis: how did you manage to sleep on your stomach in a mummy bag?) After about five hours of sleep (maybe) we got up at midnight and started working our way up the Disappointment Cleaver route. We were one of the first groups out of Muir that morning since we wanted to get ahead of the RMI groups so they wouldn't impede our progress on the Cleaver. The weather during our climb was good, with a nearly full moon lighting the way, and the route was in good condition too. Once we got above the Cleaver we had a long traverse right followed by a long traverse left, then up to the crater rim. I thought the most difficult part of the climb was negotiating the Cleaver while roped up and with crampons on. We had to step over a few crevasses along the way but it was pretty straightforward I thought - it just required willpower and perseverance. Louis said he was feeling bad towards the top, but I think we were all feeling bad at that point. We reached the summit at about 8:15 AM, we had a great view with most of the Cascade peaks in sight. After a few photos and a catnap on top we descended to Muir, broke camp and then descended down to Paradise. We stopped at the Puerto Vallarta Restaurant in Eatonville for a little celebration dinner before returning to Seattle at about 11:30 PM Saturday night.

I know that this doesn't rank up there with the North Face of the Eiger in the annals of mountaineering, but the four of us felt pretty proud to have made the summit, since none of us had much mountaineering experience or had climbed on Rainier before. I felt well prepared for the climb and ready if we had run into trouble. I want to thank all the basic class instructors for giving us the skills and confidence to make this climb. Oh, and no, Scott didn't carry through with his threat to wear a pink dress on the summit.



Summit photo: (l to r): John Gowan, Scott Ellis, Louis Frank, Pedro Jato with Mt Adams on the left and Mt St Helens on the right.

Silver Star Mountain

June 12-13, 1999

Climbers: Todd Campbell, Dennis Fay, Ed Hahne, Erick Kasiulis, Kurt Nelson (scribe)

The plan was Silver Star on Saturday, then Chablis Spire on Sunday. Welcome to the first experience outing of the Intermediate Climbing Class! We headed off for Burgundy Col via the standard route from the west at about 9:30am. The crux of the climb came at approximately 9:38am as we split into a couple groups trying to find the best (?) way across Early Winters Creek. Due to the abnormally large snowpack, the babbling brook had the appearance of a nice class 4 river in spots... at least to someone standing on a downslowing log, splashed with water and no bark. My nerves started working overtime as we watched the small tree Erick was using as a balancing stick in the creek get sucked effortlessly from his hands by the current. After an uneventful, but interesting crossing, we all started on the climb.

Staying left of Burgundy Creek, we slowly plodded our way up the ridge into the basin at about 6400'. We stopped there at about noon or so for a ½-hour lunch break. After enjoying the beautiful sunny weather for a while, we continued on to the steeper snow slopes up to Burgundy Col. Luckily, there were some previously kicked steps for us to use, however, they were not made for those vertically challenged. Even Erick commented that he wanted to meet the giant that kicked those steps. If you know how tall Erick is, this comment takes on greater meaning!

We arrived at the col (7800') around 2:00pm. Erick, being the first on the scene laid claim to the condo of bivy spots, large enough to camp a small platoon in. We then laid claim to the rest of the spots on the col, all very nice in their own special way. After a quick unpacking of unnecessary items, we headed down the East side of the col, onto the Silver Star Glacier at about 2:45pm. No ropes, no crevasses, no problems. Just a straightforward snow slog with some gorgeous views of all the Wine Spires.

As we approached Chablis Spire, we tried to discern the route up the East Face. After some debate and discussion, we finally decided where the route 'appeared' to go. Unfortunately, it also appeared that all the belay ledges were under several feet of snow, and the final pitch to the top climbed directly under quite a large cornice. In addition, assuming the cornice didn't let go while you were under it, you'd have to punch through it to get to the top. We decided that this was probably not too safe of a climb for Sunday. Vasiliki Tower started to sound a bit better.

We trudged onward to Silver Star and summited somewhere between 4 and 4:30. An interesting little chimney leads directly to the summit from a big granite flake. A nice bit of butt jamming brings you through the chimney with only a minor bit of grunting and cussing. As Beckey puts it... "moderate athletic ability." After the required summit photos, we commented on how quick the weather was changing and decided to high tail it back to the col. We arrived back between 5:30 and 6:00.

After dinner we decided that on Sunday we'd give the NW Dihedral route on Vasiliki Tower a try. We all bedded down around 9ish and not soon after the pitter patter of rain started hitting the bivy bags. In addition to the rain, Erick, in his palatial bivy spot, was entertained all during the night by a marauding band of pikas and reportedly one very large hairy animal that he assumed was a marmot. I only felt one little prancing of feet on the foot of my bivy sack, which I quickly launched into the damp air. I hope he/she found their ride enjoyable.

After raining all night in 1/2 hour spurts, 6am came with the call of Erick saying... "Ed... you take the students up Vasiliki... I'll meet you at the cars!" We needed no further explanation as we all started packing for the trip out, trying to take advantage of the brief clearing in the showers. Leaving the col at 7am, we quickly descended the steeper slopes until we hit glissading territory. After the last glissade, I got up, started plunge stepping down the slope, and suddenly saw a helmet that looked a lot like mine glissading on its own at a high rate of speed. It took a minute to sink in, but I suddenly realized that it was mine, and that it was heading right for a steep chute that led down into a basin we had no intention of visiting! Trying to steer the wayward helmet like a bowling ball with plenty of body English, I watched it veer right into a thicket of shrubs just before the drop into the chute. I retrieved my helmet and thanked the shrubs from saving us from an extended search and rescue mission for the wayward hardhat. It then started raining... hard!

We hit the highway shortly after 9am. This time we found a much better log to cross Early Winters Creek... not much better, but at least it had bark! This is a great early season climb, and I would definitely give it a thumbs up!

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DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
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ALPINE ECHO

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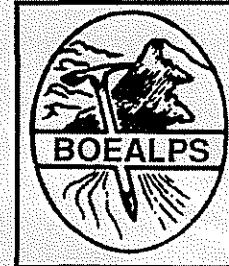


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

October 1999



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Photo: Paradise Lost by Tim McGuire

From Beth Sundquist 39-PU

The Boealps Annual Banquet
Friday, October 1st from 6:00-11:30 pm

Dinner!
Dancing!
Door Prizes!



Come meet your
new board
members!

Featured Speaker: Mike Gauthier
Lead Climbing Ranger at Mount Rainier

BELAY STANCE

New Officers and Chairs...

As you can see by the front cover, we have a new set of club officers, and some new folks volunteering for the chair positions as well. Thanks and congratulations go to Bill Harrison (our new prez), Norene Borg (basic class of '99 and the new vice-president), Ed Alejandro (back by popular demand for one more term as treasurer) and Glenn Tomchick (another basic class '99 grad and our new secretary). Troy Colyer is taking over the Conservation chair position, Len Kannapell and Eric Bennett are the new Education co-chairmen, and Victor Yagi is our new Programs chair, although he brings the experience of being a prior Programs chair to the position. Based on that experience, Victor is already asking for someone else to help him out with his position. If you'd be willing to help sign up speakers for our monthly meetings, or help out with picking up the munchies for those meetings, please contact Victor at victor.r.yagi@boeing.com or at 425-477-4812.

Fall campout at Eightmile campground...

The annual fall campout this year will be held October 8th through the 10th at Eightmile campground near Leavenworth. (Sorry for the wrong dates last month.) As usual, we have the group site reserved, but this year Boealps will NOT be providing any food or beverages this year, just picking up the tab for the camp site, so bring your own consumables and entertainment. If there is enough interest, Eric Bennett will be leading a seminar on rock protection and leading on Sunday between 8 am and 2 p.m. Eric needs some additional instructors (with or without racks) to help out with the seminar. The number of additional instructors volunteering will determine the number of students allowed. For more information, contact Eric at erbennett@hotmail.com or at 206-579-5016.

New Equipment...

The club has added a new ice hammer to its inventory. Contact Silas Wild at silaswild@yahoo.com or at 206-527-9453 for more info.

and New Boealps Members...

Bob and Tammie Conder are pleased to announce a new Boealps member. Reed Alexander was born on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 1:11a.m. He weighed in at 9 pounds even and 21 ½ inches in length. His first summit attempt of Mt. Pilchuck was thwarted by flies, but he has successfully backpacked (or should that be front packed?) from Ozette to Cape Alava. For more information on Reed's adventures check out his homepage at: <http://www.jps.net/btconder>

Paul and Rise Pyscher have also joined the burgeoning BoBaby bevy with the birth of their daughter Haley Mera on July 23rd. Haley's middle name is for Mera Peak in the Himalayas which Paul and Rise summited together on a Boealps trek in 1995.

Congratulations to the Conders and the Pyschers, and hope to see you at a BoBaby outing soon!

User fees...

The Mountaineers are hosting a panel discussion on recreational user fees at their club house October 14th from 7-9 pm. Representatives from the American Recreation Coalition, Wild Wilderness and Public Access and Resource Coalition will be there to gather comments to present later this year to Congress as they look at changing this pilot project to a permanent program. If you have any strong feelings on this issue, please plan on being at this meeting!

Homepage Password

The password for the Boealps web site (<http://www.accessone.com/~boealps/>) is still **SLESSE**. It's only needed when accessing the activities or club roster sections of our web site. (sigh – those sections are still not working...)

From the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson
Matt Robertson

NOVEMBER ECHO DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 21st

October 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	Club Banquet	2 Sharkfin Tower
3	4	5	6	7	Fall Campout, Eightmile Campground	8 <i>New Moon, Fall Campout</i>
10 Fall Campout	11 <i>Columbus Day</i>	12	13	14 Board Meeting	15	16 Smith Rocks
17 Smith Rocks	18 Smith Rocks	19	20	21 Echo Deadline	22	23
24 <i>Full Moon</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30

November 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 <i>Halloween, End of daylight savings</i>	1	2 <i>Election day</i>	3	4 Club meeting	5	6
7 <i>New Moon</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Echo Deadline	19	20
21	22	23 <i>Full Moon</i>	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26 <i>Boeing Holiday</i>	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Sahale Peak

First and past-president climb since the 1998 president's climb didn't happen!

Aug-Sept, 1999

Party Limit 12

Route Easy

Equipment Glacier/low 5th class

Experience Basic class

Contact Chris Rudesill 729-0640 (h), (425)237-0887 (w), christopher.c.rudesill@boeing.com

Sharkfin Tower

Sat, October 2, 1999

From *Selected Climbs in the Cascades*: "Solid rock of this neat little summit set in the alpine grandeur of Boston Basin".

Party Limit 6-8

Route Southeast Ridge

Equipment Rock gear, glacier gear

Experience Basic class

Contact Javier Ortiz, (206)270-8964 (h), (206)544-7756 (w), javier.r.ortiz-aponte@boeing.com

Smith Rock

October 16-18, 1999

How about a fall Smith Rock trip? Come out for 2 or 3 days if you get Monday off. Camping at the park.

Party Limit None

Route Bring a guide – your choice of routes!

Equipment Rock gear and warm sleeping bag

Experience Basic rock climbing skills – a few people that lead would be nice

Contact Janet Oliver, (425)413-0298 (h) or oliverj2@msn.com

Mike & Doug's Winter Outing Series

2nd Sunday of the Month, November-March

Mountain/Area Somewhere on the Mountain Loop Highway, Stevens Pass or Snoqualmie Pass

Elevation Higher than home

Route Various

Class 2-3

Grade I-II

Approximate Times 6-7 a.m. 'till evening

Skills Basic class grad or equivalent

Limits None

Contacts Mike Bingle, (206)662-4929(w), (206)935-3992(h), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com
Doug Sanders, (206)622-2140 x-217(w), (425)252-5331(h), DougSanders@aol.com

Submit activities to:

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Are any of the new ICC grads going to lead some climbs?

-- SF

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (Work)

(____) _____ (Home)

Email: _____

M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com



Boealps Annual Banquet



Friday, October 1, 1999

**Sea Garden Restaurant
200 106th Ave NE (Bellevue)
425-450-8833**

Last year's banquet at the Tyee Yacht Club was a great success – and like a fine wine, we've improved with age:

- Great menu featuring Chinese cuisine – barbecue pork, salt and pepper squid, hot and sour soup, Peking duck, Cantonese roast chicken, Mandarin pork chop, and much more
- Hosted bar with beverages included
- "Who Named It Mt. Fairweather?", a 15-minute Boealps skit

Plus the usual array of fabulous door prizes – be there!

Banquet Speaker – Mike "Gator" Gauthier

Gator's professional career began in Olympic National Park as a volunteer backcountry ranger. He joined the National Park Service staff 10 years ago as a climbing ranger at Mt. Rainier, where is now Lead Climbing Ranger. Gator has summited Rainier over 145 times by 24 different routes, in all seasons and (needless to say) all conditions. He regularly conducts workshops in mountain and rope rescue techniques, cold weather survival skills, backcountry snowboarding, and avalanche awareness. In 1998, he was designated a Wilderness Rescue Hero by the American Red Cross.

The Mountaineers Press will publish his first book this October, "Mt. Rainier: A Climbing Guide". This guidebook has plenty of route photos and has sections on history, the National Park Service, planning and preparation, weather, safety and survival, health, and avalanches.

Banquet Schedule

- 6:00 Arrival/social
- 7:00 Buffet dinner
- 8:00 Coffee & dessert - past/new Board, door prizes, etc.
- 8:45 "Who Named It Mt. Fairweather?"
- 9:00 Banquet speaker – Mike Gauthier
- 10:00 Dancing
- 11:30 Exit



BE PREPARED



**MOFA CLASS
2000**

Boealps is offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid class in January/February 2000. This course is designed to prepare you to deal effectively with accidents which can occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available. Eight classroom sessions, including hands-on scenarios held outdoor, will be followed by two evenings of practical exams conducted in conjunction with other MOFA classes at Camp Long in West Seattle. Graduates will receive American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card.

This course is recommended for all Boealps members and is required for all first-time Boealps Basic Class Instructors.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (January 18, 20, 25, 27, February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17.
(Dates to be confirmed next month).

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center

Cost: Approximately \$45 (exact amount will be determined after 1st class)

Class Size: Approximately 24 persons

Instructors: Kathy Hasegawa, Joyce Holloway and Chris Rudesill

The class will be filled in the order that registration forms are received. To reserve your space, return the registration form and \$45 in the form of a check payable to Boealps.

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com	(425) 814-5487	(206) 527-5281
Joyce Holloway	Joyce.R.Holloway@boeing.com	(425) 477-4393	(425) 888-4434
Chris Rudesill	Christopher.C.Rudesill@boeing.com	(425) 965-2683	(206) 729-0640

BOEALPS MOFA REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Boealps") TO:

Joyce Holloway MS 6F-06
(425) 477-4393

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes

July

July's meeting was held on the shores of Lake Washington. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett, Len Kannapell, Rob Kunz, Silas Wild and Tom Yocum.

The club elections are scheduled to coincide with the September general meeting. Since the exact location of the aforementioned meeting remains TBD, the meeting was brought to order to discuss the local options. In the past the elections were held at the soon to be closed Rainier Brewery. A few of the numerous possible alternatives included: Big Time Brewery & Alehouse, Blue Star, Pacific Crest Brewing Company, Pyramid Ale House, Redhook Ale Brewery, Sea Garden, and The Mountaineers.

The next item of business concerned the club's annual banquet. This year's banquet will be on 01 October 1999 or 08 October 1999. The banquet location has been narrowed down to just a few remaining options. (Maplewood Greens in Renton. Sea Garden) The controversial topics still being debated revolved around what is an acceptable ticket price, what is included in the ticket price, what beverages should be available, and whether should the banquet be completely self sustaining financially.

The last issue addressed was the annual club dues. The debate concerns whether a modest increase is justified in order to maintain and/or extend the club benefits (activities, programs, equipment, library, etc.).

August

August's meeting was held once again at Ed Alejandro's house. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett, Len Kannapell, Rob Kunz, and Tom Yocum.

The meeting was called to order to discuss the club elections. The elections are scheduled to coincide with the September general meeting at the Blue Star. It was determined that the club would provide appetizers up to \$150 and that individuals would be responsible for their own main entree and beverages.

The next item of business concerned the club's annual banquet. This year's banquet will be on 01 October 1999 at the Sea Garden. The banquet will have one set ticket price of \$25 for anyone who chooses to attend members and nonmembers alike. The speaker list has been narrowed to a few candidates. \$400 was allocated to be spent by the new president on door prizes, \$150 was allocated to be spent by the past president on recognition awards, and \$100 was allocated to the president's fund to be spent. The banquet will be limited to 100 tickets on a first come first served basis.

The board voted to donate \$270 to the basic class in order to recoup the cost of the stolen radios.

The last issue addressed was again the annual club dues. The debate continues as to whether a modest increase is justified in order to maintain and/or extend the club benefits.

September

This month's meeting was held once again at Ed Alejandro's house. Those in attendance included: Ed Alejandro, Rich Baldwin, Eric Bennett, Norene Borg, Bill Harrison, Len Kannapell, Rob Kunz, Beth Sundquist, Glenn Tomchik, and Tom Yocum.

The new club board is as follows: President Bill Harrison, Vice-President Norene Borg, Secretary Glen Tomchik, Treasurer Ed Alejandro.

The meeting was called to order to discuss the club banquet, which will be on 01 October 1999 at the Sea Garden. The club's annual banquet agenda has been set. The banquet will have one set ticket price of \$25 for anyone who chooses to attend members and nonmembers alike. The guest speaker will be Mike Gauthier, the lead climbing ranger at Mount Rainier. His slide show run will last for 1 hour.

The programs chairperson, Victor Yagi, is looking for volunteers to help him out.

A funding request needs to be submitted to the treasurer before 01 November 1999. The Boeing Company will not provide any financial support to the club in the year 2000.

An ice climbing seminar is being scheduled for 01 October 1999.

The fall campout will be on 08 October 1999 thru 10 October 1999. The group campsite at Eight Mile Campground in Leavenworth has been reserved. During the campout, a rock leading seminar is being scheduled for 10 October 1999 provided there is enough interest. The seminar will be held on Sunday from 8 AM to 2 PM. Bring a lunch, helmet, harness, biners, slings, rope and any rock protection. Meet at the Snow Creek Parking lot (Trail head pass required) around 7:30 AM and set up car pools since there is limited parking at the Mountaineers Dome. Volunteer to help instruct are also needed. Contact Eric Bennett at erbennett@hotmail.com or 206-579-5016 for further information.

The last issue addressed was again the annual club dues. The debate still continues as to whether a modest increase is justified in order to maintain and/or extend the club benefits.

Tom Yocum



SAVE THE DATE!!!

WHAT: Panel Discussion on Recreational User Fees

WHEN: Thursday, October 14th from 7-9 PM

WHERE: The Olympus Room at The Mountaineers, 300 Third Avenue West, Seattle

BACKGROUND: Perhaps no other public policy issue has aroused the attention of the outdoor recreation community of late than the recreational user fee demonstration law. Passed by Congress in 1996, the law directs federal land managers to implement a series of pilot projects whereby members of the public are charged a fee or fees while engaging in recreational activities on public lands.

For each of the past three years while pilot projects have been in place, The Mountaineers has hosted a user fees conference to discuss implementation of the fee demonstration law with federal land managers in the Pacific Northwest. The law itself and the concept of "pay to play" is now under renewed scrutiny by Congress, so instead of looking at the inner machinations of individual fee projects, this year's discussion is aimed at exploring the merits of the law itself.

By answering a series of questions posed by The Mountaineers Recreation Access Committee and audience participants, panelists Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition, Armando Menocal of the Public Access and Resource Coalition, and Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness will provide an overview of opinions on the user fees law so that audience participants can formulate their own views and, hopefully, participate in the important policy discussions now taking place in Washington, DC. This is a free event. Members and non-members are welcome.

QUESTIONS: Please direct inquiries to Recreation Access Coordinator Brooke Drury at The Mountaineers, 206-284-6310 or BrookeD@Mountaineers.org.



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer

Cascade Volcano Pass added to list of user fees levied in Washington

As part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration, climbers 16 years of age or older climbing above 7,000 feet on Mount Adams are required to display a Cascades Volcano Pass. Purchase options include: a \$15 Weekend Trip Pass, valid for a single climbing trip, up to three days (valid Friday through Sunday); a \$10 Midweek Trip Pass, valid for a single climbing trip up to 4 days (valid Monday through Thursday); or a \$30 Annual Cascades Volcano Pass, valid for multiple trips at Mount Adams. Youngsters under the age of 16 are not required to purchase a pass. Senior citizens do not get a discount - Golden Age/Golden Access discounts to do not apply to this fee.

Cascades Volcano Passes are available at the Mount Adams Ranger Station in Trout Lake and, for convenience, single-trip passes will also be available at self-issuing stations (fee tubes) located at the Mount Adams Ranger Station and at the South Spur, Killen Creek, and Divide Camp Trailheads, when the trailheads become snow free.

In an effort to make the fee more palatable to a fee-weary public, the Mount Adams rangers will honor the Mount St. Helens' Annual Climbing Pass and the rangers at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument will accept the Annual (multi-trip) Cascades Volcano Pass.

The Cascade Volcano Pass does not replace existing rules and regulations. On Mount St. Helens, for instance, climbers with the Volcano Pass must still follow all reservation and permit procedures required for obtaining one of the 100 climbing slots available per day. Likewise, each party climbing Mount Adams will still need to obtain a free Wilderness Permit, which is self-issued and required for all Wilderness use in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Fees generated by sales of Volcano Passes are slated to be used for implementing an effective human waste management program of Mount Adams, improving conditions of the South Spur access road, and providing information and education programs. Suggestions on other program priorities are welcome and will be solicited throughout implementation of the project.

Instructors Needed for Lead Seminar

Eric Bennett is heading up this seminar at Leavenworth, which takes place the same weekend as the Boealps October campout. This seminar is typically meant for recent Basic Class grads (and other leading novices), covering types of rock pro, gear placement, anchors, belay commands, etc. The goal is to have each student lead one EASY pitch to go through the mechanics of leading. Typically, 10-15 students sign up for this outing. You do not have to know everything about rock leading to help out - your rack of gear and/or willingness to help is all you need (ICC grads, this is a great opportunity to get involved with the club). If you have any time that Sunday and want to help out, contact Eric at 206-579-5016 (cell) or erbenett@hotmail.com

Mt. Baker climbers:

I am a graduate student at Central Washington University studying Resource Management and have climbed in the northwest since 1987. For my Master's Thesis, I am analyzing the recreational use on Mt. Baker and assessing the wilderness character of the Mt. Baker Wilderness in order to formulate a proposed management plan affecting climber use on Mt. Baker. For those who have climbed on Mt. Baker, your input regarding your experience on Mt. Baker is crucial to this plan.

Please take a few minutes to reply to the following questionnaire and either email to BakerMt@hotmail.com or mail to:

Thomas R. Perkow
1401 Delphine St.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Your input is most appreciated. Thank you.

1) In which year(s) did you climb (or attempt to climb) Mt. Baker?

2) The Wilderness Act of 1964 mandates that all Wilderness areas be managed for "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." Are you aware that the summit area and all approaches excepting the Easton and Squock Glacier routes (Schriebers Meadow area) are in designated Wilderness (known as the Mt. Baker Wilderness)? (this includes the Coleman/Deming, Ptarmigan Ridge, Boulder Glacier and Roosevelt Glacier routes).

3) On a scale of 1-4, do you feel there are "outstanding opportunities for solitude" on the climbing routes within the Mt. Baker Wilderness?

- 1: there are no opportunities for solitude
- 2: few opportunities for solitude exist
- 3: some opportunities for solitude exist
- 4: there exist plenty of opportunities for solitude

4) On a scale of 1-4, would you be in favor or a permit system to limit climber use on the mountain?

- 1: strongly object to any type of permit system
- 2: a permit system ought to be considered
- 3: a permit system ought to be implemented on the more popular routes on Mt. Baker
- 4: a permit system is mandatory on all climbing routes on Mt. Baker

5) Would you be willing to pay \$5 per person to obtain such a permit?

Additional comments:

Explorer Search and Rescue

Do you like to get outdoors? Are you spontaneous? Do you like to help other? Do you like to improve your skills? Are you up for a challenge? Then search and rescue is for you!

While Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) is associated with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), it is not solely a youth organization. There is no limit on the upper age of our members. There are as many or more adults active in this organization as there are youth. You are invited to attend one of our monthly meetings to get a feel for the organization. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Bellevue Police department in the 3rd floor conference room at 7:00 p.m.

This is a volunteer organization! After completing the Basic training (see next page for the training schedule), you will be qualified as a Team Member and ready to participate on missions. You will need to purchase/lease a pager as the pager is used to notify members of missions and relay other general information. There is no monthly fee for the pager service unless you have a personal line. As with most volunteer organizations, you can choose your level of involvement. Beyond the basic training (Team Member), there are opportunities to advance to Team Leader, Field Leader, and Operations Leader plus other qualifications for Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Team, Advance Team, Communications, Information Unit, Bike Team, and Van Driver to name a few.

Attend an orientation session to get your questions answered or leave a message on our Information Line: (206) 748-1300. You can also visit our web site at <http://www.kcesar.org>.

ESAR is one of many search and rescue organizations under the King County Search and Rescue association (KCSARA). To find out about the other organizations you can call King County Special Operations or visit their web site at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/sar.htm>

Joyce Holloway
Deandjh@halcyon.com

(Editor's note: If you don't live in King County, other counties have similar programs. For more information, contact your local county's sheriff.)

Upcoming Events over at the Mountaineers...

If you're not planning on attending the Boealps banquet, Sir Christian Bonington will speak and present a slide show at The Mountaineers Building on October 1 at 7:30 p.m. Some of these slides and stories will come from his latest book, "Tibet's Secret Mountain," about his adventures on the unexplored Sepu Kangri. Tickets are on sale through The Mountaineers Bookstore: \$8 for members; \$10 general public.

Jim Whittaker will be the keynote speaker at The Mountaineers Annual Banquet (if you can handle two banquets in one month!) on October 18. Tickets are \$25 and are available through The Mountaineers Bookstore.

The annual Mountaineers Gear Grab, sponsored by the Youth Committee of The Mountaineers, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. The event, which offers discounts on used outdoor equipment and apparel, benefits the Youth Committee which receives 10 percent of the vendors' proceeds. Those interested in selling gear should call 206-284-6310.

EXPLORER SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING SCHEDULE 1999-2000

BASIC TRAINING

ORIENTATION (A: 7:00 to 9:30 PM, B: 6:30 to 9:30 PM) Attend one A and then one B session

Westside: St David's Episcopal Church, 18842 Meridian N, Shoreline

A:	Sep 23	Oct 7	Oct 21	Nov 4	Nov 18
B:	Sep 30	Oct 14	Oct 28	Nov 11	Dec 2

Eastside: VFW Hall (down stairs room), 4330 148th Ave NE, Bellevue

A:	Sep 22	Oct 6	Oct 20	Nov 3	Nov 17
B:	Sep 29	Oct 13	Oct 27	Nov 10	Dec 1

Southend: Tukwila Fire Station (south door), 444 Andover Park E, Tukwila

A:	Sep 21	Oct 19	Nov 16	
B:	Sep 28	Oct 26	Nov 23	

OUTDOOR SESSIONS (Sat 7:00 AM to Sun 1:00-3:00 PM)

Camp Brinkley, Woods Creek Road, Approximately 15 miles north of Monroe, WA

Course G	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3
Oct 2,3			
Oct 23,24	Oct 23,24		
Nov 6,7	Nov 6,7		
Nov 20,21	Nov 20,21	Nov 20,21	
Dec 4,5	Dec 4,5	Dec 4,5	
	Dec 18,19	Dec 18,19	
		Jan 8,9	
		Jan 22,23	Jan 22,23
			Feb 5,6
			Feb 19,20

COURSE III: Call (206) 521-3200 after Wednesday before training weekend for rendezvous location.

COURSE IV: (Sat 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sun 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Additional cost \$15.00)

Location: McKnight Middle School, 2600 NE 12th ST, Renton, Date: **TBD**

Course IV classes by pre-registration ONLY

Brinkley Work Party (Sat 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) Date: **TBD**

Trainees returning from last year must retake the last course successfully completed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN BASIC TRAINING

1. Minimum age of 14 prior to taking Course G
2. Registration with the Boy Scouts of America (Boy Scouts or Explorers)
3. Submit a completed ESAR Personal Information Form prior to taking Course G
4. Pay the \$22.00 Training Fee

Note: Attendance at both Orientation A and Orientation B is a pre-requisite for participation in the Outdoor Sessions. The requirements listed above must be met before participating in the Outdoor Sessions, and can be handled at the orientations. For youth participants at least 2.0 grade point average must be maintained for release from school for ESAR operations.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Director: Darren Emmons, 15704 451st Ave SE, North Bend, WA 98045 (425) 888-4434 (VM) (206) 989-2313

Orientations: Westside: John Bee (206) 546-1105

Eastside: Darren Emmons (425) 888-4434

Southend: Bob Boyd (206) 244-2869

Course G - Mark Chapman (206) 542-8354

Course I - Dottie Krigbaum (425) 392-3278

Course II - Richard Crosier (206) 784-4196

Course III - TBD

IU Training - TBD

TL Training - Seth Bothers (425) 432-8543

FL Training - Seth Bothers (425) 432-8543

Records - Darren Emmons (425) 888-4434

Membership Information Line (206) 521-3200 WWW.KCESAR.ORG Recruiting Line (206) 748-1300

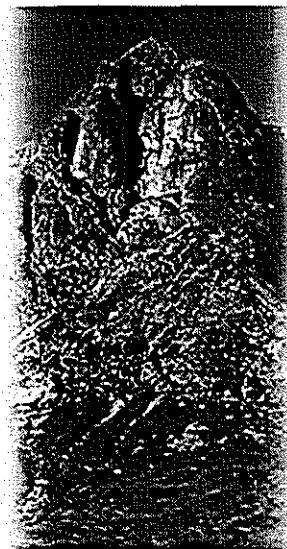
Boealps Email Mailing List

Eric Bennett is trying to put together a mailing list that would allow all Boealps members to be notified by email of important issues, upcoming outings or items of general interest to the club that are too timely to wait for the next issue of the Echo. In order to help him put this list together, please take a look at the club roster at the end of this issue, and verify the email address we have on record for you. If your email address (or any of the other info) is incorrect, please contact Beth Sundquist with the corrections at beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com or at 425-266-1437. Thanks!

Join the Rock Gym Climbing Email List!

With the rainy season approaching (didn't we just start getting some sun!?), it's time to start turning those thoughts to indoor climbing. I'm willing to construct an email list of those folks that would like to meet to climb at one of the local indoor rock gyms. Once the list is constructed, you can send an email out to ask if anyone is interested in meeting at (whichever gym) on what day and time. The ROCKBOTTOMS list worked quite well last year and gave folks the opportunity to meet other BOEALPERS! Email me, Janet Oliver, at oliverj2@msn.com if interested. I promise I won't sell this list to any business (unless they offer me big money!).

(Editor's note: a group of us meet most Tuesdays at the Redmond Vertical Club gym from 6:00 until whenever, and you'd be more than welcome to join us. For you climbing parents, we bring our kids, and you're welcome to do the same! You can get directions, costs, etc., from their web site: <http://www.verticalworld.com>)



"I edged cautiously round the pool through hissing spray, hesitated, retreated with a sensation of nervous shock in the solar plexus, then stricken with shame advanced more determinedly and found small holds at the outer edge of the chimney. The spray poured over my body, a constantly penetrating spur to hasten me upward. At the very point where total immersion had seemed inevitable, I discovered some rock wrinkles that allowed me to push myself up, back and foot on opposing walls. My head, chest and feet were thus clear of the main volume of water, which instead poured on to my stomach. In one more minute I was standing on top, damp but delighted, and looking forward to the discomfiture of the others. I was not disappointed. I have paid good money to see performing sea lions give me a great deal less pleasure."

-- Excerpted from "The First Ascent of Clachaig Gully" from "Mountaineering in Scotland" by W.H. Murray

Silverhorn route on Mt Athabasca, Jasper National Park BC

By Dan Goering

"Now this is more like it", I thought as my climbing partner Ilan Angwin and I climbed steadily up the shadowy moraine trail at 3 am with enough starlight from the clear skies above to avoid living only in the microcosm of the headlamp's beam. After being dogged by inclement and rainy weather during much of our summer tour through Alaska and northern Canada, our arrival and first climb in Jasper National Park appeared at the moment as if it would be blessed with sunshine!

Starlight brightened to the first glimmers of dawn as we crammed across the firm snow leading up to the Silverhorn route on the SE side of Mt Athabasca. This moderate ice and snow route with slopes of up to 40 or 45 degrees was reported to be in good shape by various other parties who had ascended earlier in the week and I expected it to be a nice introduction to this sort of climbing for Ilan. Mt Athabasca lies just west of the Icefields Parkway (Hwy 93) and within view of the Ice Center there, which is a focal point for visitors passing through the park. Our summit time and descent would most certainly be observed by a multinational crowd peering through the telescope at the Center. The previous afternoon, we too had used this amenity to scope out the condition of the route and watch other climbers descending.

Ilan led us up to a rock outcrop where the route steepened and turned from snow to ice above. The sun had gained the horizon, and its welcomed rays warmed us as Ilan passed me the second two of our four ice screws and I set out up the slope. I felt a bit awkward at first, having not been on bare ice for quite a number of months. The angle was low enough that I wanted to climb it in good style without frontpointing, but just steep enough to make this challenging. Toes pointed downhill, ankles flexed, the spike of my axe thrust into the ice, I walked up the slope with growing confidence, stopping to place ice screws at about half rope intervals. Snow with bomber steps separated the short sections of bare ice at the bottom and top of the route and we quickly gained the summit ridge on one running belay.

Free of the rope, we made our way to the summit through the rapidly warming snow that would frequently yield beneath my boot, plunging my leg into knee deep mush. The view from on top was pure pleasure. On one side, the highway and Ice Center were coming slowly to life below. To the west, the vastness of the Columbia Icefields stretched out before us. Water from the glaciers that make up the Columbia Icefield find their way into three separate oceans: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Bering Sea!! We dallied on top, soaking in the much missed sunshine, our predawn start now rewarding us with summit solitude as we watched others approach up the Silverhorn and also via the standard route. SnoCoaches (big six wheel drive, knobby tire, high clearance busses which haul tourists from the Ice Center well out onto the Athabasca Glacier) crept back and forth below. Not a cloud in sight!!

We also scoped the condition of the Skyladder Route on neighboring Mt Andromeda. Our viewing angle made the route appear fearfully steep, though our guidebook promised slopes no steeper than 50 degrees. Given more good weather, tomorrow would surely bring another climbing adventure!



Mount Athabasca, Silverhorn on the right

Skyladder route on Mt Andromeda, BC

By Ilan Angwin

The risks of camping without paying increased once we were in the Banff /Jasper National Park. We heard stories of campers being awoken by wardens in the middle of the night and being fined for camping illegally. Every night, I was in fear of a knock on the van door as we camped in some hopefully unobtrusive nook. One night we finally paid for our first campsite since leaving Seattle in June and spent a pleasant evening around the campfire with a Swiss couple camping next door.

Early the next morning we packed up our camp by headlamp and drove the short drive for our attempt at climbing Mt. Andromeda. We made rapid progress towards the glacier at the base of a 45 to 50 degree ice climb called the Skyladder. This rapid progress came as a result of attempting the climb the day before. We had climbed until I started thinking about why I climb at the wrong time of day: 5 AM, feeling nausea from going from sleeping to hiking in less than twenty minutes and still feeling cold before my body started generating heat. At the base of the glacier, I still couldn't think of one reason why I wanted to climb up cold ice and snow, wander across a long ridge and then try and find my way down the mountain by another route. The whole enterprise seemed pointless and dangerous. "Dan, I can't go on today. I am sorry," I had said. We had walked back in silence to the car.

This morning I felt good, mentally ready, and excited about the route. On the way up to the glacier this morning, the northern lights streaked white light across the horizon behind us making the white rock glow against the dark dirt. The lights reminded me of the pyrotechnical displays in the skies that Plutarch described as portents of greatness before a famous person like Alexander the Great was born. I felt happy to put the headlamp away and hike by the northern lights.

We stopped at the base of the glacier and decided to climb un-rope through the bare ice on the edge of the glacier. All crevasses were visible and being roped up was of limited use in arresting a fall on the ice. Dan picked a route through the flat ice to the snow where we roped up to hike the final section of the glacier to the base of the Skyladder. Standing at the base of the bergschrund, we made a final check before committing to the route. The weather looked good, only a few clouds on the horizon, and the problem of crossing the bergschrund onto the 45 degree snow on the other side looked possible over a snow bridge across the middle of the moat. Dan led out across while I belayed from a sheltered spot against the scattered rockfall around us. When I followed Dan up I was surprised to be doing more difficult climbing than we expected. A few moves of almost vertical ice using both ice tools and front pointing was required to climb up the other side of the bergschrund. Kicking in solid foot placements into the ice, I felt a surge of satisfaction for being out.

Beyond this problem the snow provided good step kicking up through some rock outcroppings to the base of the ice section. At the base of this section, Dan placed an ice screw for protection and continued climbing. When I reached the ice screw, I thought gratefully that Dan trusted me enough to do a running belay up this ice because of the potential for me pulling him off if I fell. Dan continued running belays for roughly two rope lengths before running out of protection and belaying me up to him.

"Do you want to lead?" he asked. I looked at the ice above me and thought about how I didn't necessarily want to lead, but then I realized the climbing had been solid and on this type of terrain speed can mean safety, so I didn't want to pause to switch the lead back to him. I started racking up the protection and leading out. Looking down at my rack of three ice screws I thought the rack a little thin for my first lead on ice. Luckily, this W2 rated ice climbing is the equivalent of walking down the street for ice climbing, so with each step I felt more and more confident. As I lead, my thoughts began to clear of everything: What is going to happen tomorrow? What will I do after the road trip ends? What the hell am I doing with my life? Only each step was in my thoughts. I looked with satisfaction at the front points of one crampon buried deep in the ice; then the twelve points of my next crampon sitting top of the ice, but gripping well with my ankle rolled to keep my foot flat against the steep ice. I felt completely calm and in control. The pitch finished close to the end of the ice. I brought Dan up and he led off the ice and back onto the snow.

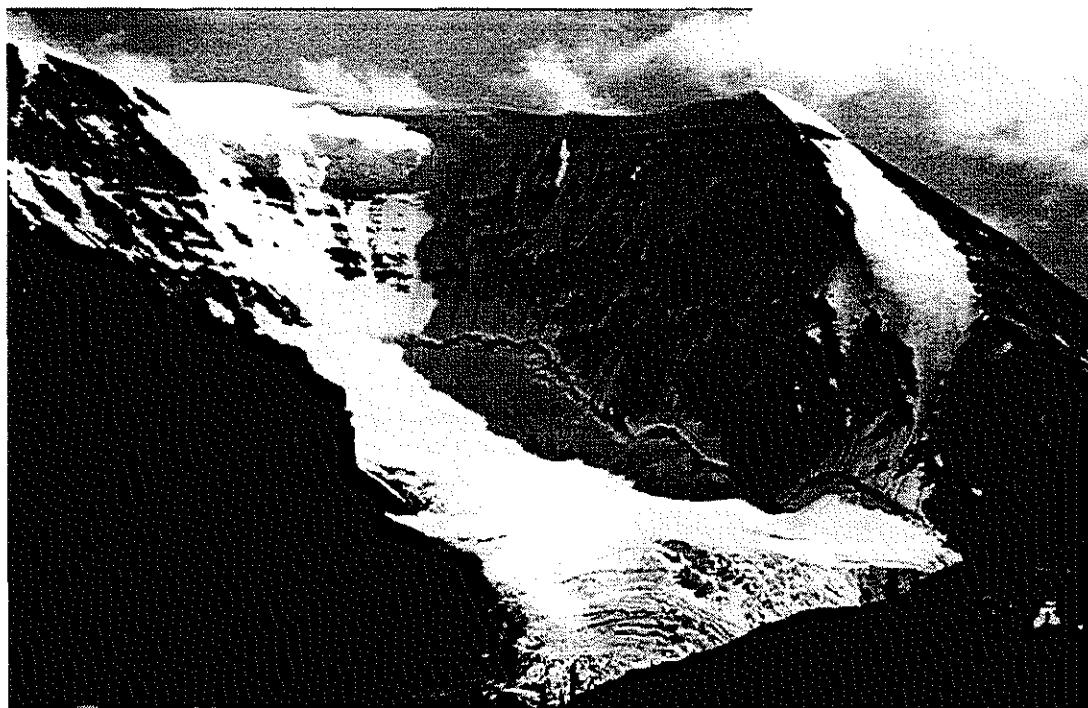
Fog rolling off the Columbia Ice Sheet behind us started to destroy the visibility of our route so we stopped to eat and wait for better visibility to return. After about twenty minutes, the fog started to clear, but only enough to bring us to the top of the ridge leading to the summit. Then clouds again. While we waited, I investigated some steps leading downhill off to the right. Tired of sitting around, we decided to see where the steps went. They led us to an easily accessible col that seemed too easy to reach considering the guidebook talked about cliffs and steep scree leading down to the correct col for descending the route. We wisely retraced our steps back up and waited again for some good weather. After experiencing a little rain and snow on top, we decided the weather wouldn't clear anytime soon. We had to decide between going back the way we came or walking along a corniced ridge in a near white out before crossing an unknown glacier back to the trail to our car. We debated this subject with another party coming up behind us. They decided to try and run the ridge to the easy walk off, but we decided to down climb the Skyladder by following scree and snow beside the ice we climbed up.

Downclimbing rock and scree and a little snow brought us almost to the base of the ice section. When we saw we had to go back onto the snow and ice, Dan belayed me down to the edge of the ice where I belayed him down to me. Now we started belaying each other down the steep snow, digging deeper and deeper to find good ice protection as we descended. At this point the sun started to come out even though the ridge was still enveloped in clouds above us. I almost laughed when the sun started to beam down on us - of all the time we wanted sun this summer, we were finally getting some when we didn't want any! The sun started to warm up the snow and little fluffy avalanches from above started to come down the Skyladder on our left. I was hot from the sun, a little tired from being outside and climbing for 10 hours now, and distracting avalanches made concentrating on doing things right increasingly difficult. The longer we were exposed on the Skyladder, the less the advantages of protection on the steep snow became - a speedy descent seemed to provide more safety. We finally abandoned the belays and started downclimbing on our own. Dan moved down faster than I did and set up one final belay to re-cross the snow bridge across the bergschrund. When I caught up to him, I asked for a break for a drink of water. He handed me the rope and told me to wait another fifteen minutes until we were in a safe place again. After re-crossing the moat, I made one of those small decisions that give such purpose to every little action in mountains. A protected place to belay Dan across was 20 feet to my left when I crossed the moat. I didn't want to walk over there to belay Dan down, but it was the right thing to do. A few seconds after reaching the safe spot, Dan yelled "Rocks!" I didn't look up to see the rocks fall, but I could hear the spattering of rocks falling into the snow all around me. Luckily, none hit Dan above and my sheltered spot protected me. Dan came across quickly and we ran across the glacier dragging the rope between our legs to a safe spot.

On our hike out it started to rain heavily on us and we reached the cars about 16 hours after leaving in the morning. Back at the van the questions I had chased away on the mountain were back in my head, but I had chased them away for a brief moment going up and down the Skyladder.

Rain continued to fall all night long, and we sleep soundly in the van at the trailhead. Around 8 the next morning we heard a knock on the door. We opened the door to see a warden standing in front of us. "I am sure glad you crashed here tonight because I thought I would have to search the campgrounds for you. I have a few questions about when you last saw the other party on Andromeda. They are overdue," he said. So much for my fear of being fined for not camping at a legal campsite!

(Editor's note: Neither Dan nor Ilan heard what happened to the other party. Dan is pretty sure they were okay, just spent a cold, wet evening out. The only party member's name Dan heard was Dave LeBlanc (spelling uncertain), and that he was a member of the Mountaineers. Anyone know Dave, and can comment on their safety?)



The north bowl of Mt. Andromeda, Skyladder on right

West Ridge of Forbidden

Rob Dymond (scribe), Eric Bennett

I left work a little early at 3:30 Friday afternoon, and headed home to pack. Eric and I were planning on going light and fast, so I didn't need to worry too much about gear. I just took the basics. The plan was to sleep next to the car near the trailhead, and go in "one day assault" fashion, with no stove, no sleeping gear, and no shelter. The only survival gear we took was a single sleeping/sit pad and a few plastic bags for emergency shelter.

I sifted through my rock gear and managed to gather a baker's dozen of double, single, and shortie quickdraws, as well as two tied double slings. Eric would bring the rack and the half ropes. (or is it twin ropes? I can never figure that out). At any rate, it's the kind that you clip alternately, rather than both at once.

Around 7, I began to worry about Eric, but he finally called to let me know he was on the way. He had gotten up very early, so took a nap before packing. We left Everett around 8, headed up to the North Cascades Highway, left the road at Marblemount, and proceeded 20 miles on the (much improved) gravel road to the Boston Basin Trailhead. Arriving at about 10, we found only 2 cars at the trailhead, so parked there, threw our mattresses and sleeping bags on the ground, had a snack and a beer, and went to sleep under a warm, clear sky. The full moon lit the snow patches on Johannesburg peak across the valley - a beautiful night. At 4:30 we awoke, organized our gear, applied sunscreen, and hit the trail at 5:30 am. It was already so warm that we were hot immediately, thankful that we had dressed lightly: shorts and T-shirts, with no Polypro to speak of. It was going to be a scorcher.

The trail was mightily overgrown and the spiders had come out in force, stringing their cobwebs across our path in the night. Stuck with leading, I demanded that Eric tell me stories to keep my mind distracted from the fact that I may in fact have spiders crawling all over me. After crossing four streams relatively uneventfully, I lost the trail in the old growth forest and was led back by Eric's calls. When we emerged into the basin we were surprised to find no one camped nearby, and at how little snow remained. We spotted the distant trail and made our way across the foot of the basin and up the Moraine toward Forbidden Peak. We spotted some exceedingly jaded marmots, who seemed to live under every rock adjacent to the grassy trail.

After leaving the trail, we got to our first patch of snow below Forbidden Glacier, and proceeded upward. We passed two tents with no signs of life at this late (8:30) hour, and assumed we would have to jockey for position with them on the ridge above. Approaching the west ridge gully of Forbidden peak, we saw no signs of life. Hmm...

After carefully winding through some nasty moats, bergschrunds, and crevasses at the base of the gully, we dropped one of the packs with the extra gear in it. We got on our harnesses, strapped on a rope apiece, and headed up the snow gully, crampons and boots still on but with rock shoes at the ready.

Things got interesting very quickly, as we crossed a moat that had almost melted across the entire gully, followed by a 6 foot section of vertical ice (thank god for crampons!), more snow, and then, bam-- a giant gap in the snow -- impassable. I carefully JUMPED across the left side moat to a 2-foot ledge where I skittered my crampons across the rock carefully until I could sit and remove them. Eric did the same and we donned our rock shoes, electing to leave our boots, crampons, gaiters, and ice axes behind on the ledge. We had already passed two rappel stations (including one that looked to have some brand new gear left behind), so we figured we could continue by using the stations as protection as we went.

I led off since I had the rack in my pack, doing some mixed climbing alternating between the somewhat sheer rock face on the left of the gully with the occasional ledge, the ice/snow in the gully, and the muddy/sandy moat between. Soon I was muddy and cold, but glad to be progressing. I clipped each rappel station I passed, vaguely noticing that it might be better to stick to the nice rock on the left instead. Oh well... I made a few iffy though not unnerving moves on chossy rock and then arrived at the final vertical stretch of the gully. Clipping a fixed piton and hanging my ass out into space, I crawled out of the gully and moved up onto the ridge itself. Did I mention that simul-climbing with two full 165-ft ropes between you makes for about the worst rope drag you can imagine? At the notch I was treated to a fantastic view of Moraine Lake, Eldorado, and Austera. Wedging myself behind some big boulders, I threw the rope(s) around my back and hip-belayed Eric to the top!

We then re-racked and he headed off up the west ridge. Apparently we had the route to ourselves. After a time, he belayed me in and we decided to stow one rope in the pack and double the remainder. Apparently Eric was smart enough to actually do something about the rope drag. Lead on! We had an enjoyable time simul-climbing along the ridge with high quality, stable (for the most part) rock, great views, and enough exposure to make us feel excitement and the associated ego boost. A drop of a thousand or so feet to either side kept us on our toes, but we still felt safe enough to dispense with the time-suck of static belays. Eric continued up the ridge, clipping in protection on occasion, with me following behind as we went. We had at least three pieces clipped in at all times, and I gave him a hip belay for one section that was a bit on the slabby side. When he ran out of gear, he belayed me in and we re-racked. I took the gear and headed up to the summit. Hmmm. Looks like the east and west summit are nearly the same height. I belayed Eric up and we checked the route description. East is higher. Dang! I belayed Eric over to the other summit and we took photos of each other on our respective summits. Then he belayed me over, and we took more photos, had some food, and enjoyed the views of Glacier, Boston, Sahale, Eldorado, Austera, Klawatti, Glacier, Baker, Shuksan, Johannesburg, Buckner..... boy, I'm gonna have to come out here more often!!

It turned out not to be a scorcher at all. Light overcast and a breeze on the ridge kept us cool and comfortable with light jackets on. We seemed to be in a bubble of clear weather, as Baker and Glacier seemed to be fading behind a dense layer of cover, possibly containing rain. I took the rack and led the descent back to the gully, simul-down-climbing. This time we had pieces in more often, about 5 or so pieces of protection in at any one time. That's pretty frequent on easy terrain when you only have 70 or so feet of rope between you. But, you have to be careful to protect your second from an unprotected tumble. Therefore every time I would go down an even slightly tenuous move, I would place a piece just below it. Throwing in a couple of single rope rappels, we eventually arrived back at the gully, re-racked, and proceeded. We probably only lost 15 minutes to (almost) getting the rope stuck.

Now is where the double/half rope technique shone: our nice light ropes did excellent duty for long, 165 ft. rappels down that nasty gully. With a small amount of downclimbing, a single rope rap, and one double, we reached a ledge just above our boots. I dropped onto the ledge, got my boots back on, stashed the crampons in the pack, and got back on rappel. I rapped down to a lower station, cleaned out the booty, (two brand new, brightly anodized bent gate biners, a brand new spectra sling, and a brand new HB #0 Quadcam), and continued down to the end of the ropes. Where did they reach? Right onto a bare patch of ice just above the last bergschrund. Dang. Wellllll.... the 'schrund isn't deep on this end... and the snow is just a few moves below me... I'll be OK!

I swung the axe firmly, burying the pick in the ice and secured the leash around my wrist. I kicked a (dubious) hold for each foot and unclipped from the rope. I yelled back up the gully at Eric: "Off rappel!! and PUT ON your crampons!!" After a few tenuous steps down, and VERY quick axe swings, I was safely onto the snow. Except for the big crevasses and 'schrunds still below... but it wasn't very steep and the snow was the perfect kind for arresting. By now Eric was partly down the gully and onto the snow above. "You OK up there?" I yelled. "How about the ropes? Can you handle them?" Good. I decided to go down and retrieve the other pack and get the gear organized. It was getting late.

With both packs laid out and our gear separated, I was breaking out a final meal when Eric yelled down to me after pulling the ropes: "could you come up here and help me bring the ropes down?" I looked up (way up) 300 feet, past the hazards in the snow and ice, to my partner comfortably standing in crampons. I looked down at my unshod feet and sarcastically intoned "Yeah, I'll be right up!" A few minutes later, Eric rudely pointed out he WASN'T kidding, and after a few minutes of yelling back and forth for the whole basin to hear, I reascended to collect the delightfully wet ropes while Eric picked his way down past the icy section.

After packing and apologizing, we found a way to descend without having to pass above the crevasses at the base of the gully and descended the glacier. Near the snowline we found three tents-- two parties contemplating Forbidden and one Sahale. We pumped up our Egos and dispensed with the beta freely. It was getting dark by now so we cut our bragging short and headed back across the basin. The sun went down just as we were leaving so we descended the steep trail with headlamps. The moon was hidden by a thick cloud cover now, and it drizzled as we approached the trailhead.

Arriving at 10, approximately 24 hours after pulling in the night before, we congratulated ourselves on impeccable timing. Arriving back home around midnight, I awoke in the morning to find truly dreadful weather. Despite my sore legs, I couldn't help but think: "I sure wouldn't want to be stuck in a tent in Boston Basin right now..."

North Ridge of Forbidden

Intermediate Climbing Class

July 24, 1999

Climbers: Mike Jacobsen (scribe?), Annette Mockli, Dan Patton

(The North Ridge of Forbidden is normally a strenuous two-day trip. In our case, it was an attempt at a one-day climb that somehow went dreadfully wrong. The following is an account of the fatal trip.)

The day did not look promising, even in the pre-dawn darkness. It was 4:30 am Saturday, and a light mist filtered through the Arco station on Benson Way as I filled up my white 1977 Cutlass. I picked Annette up and we headed north to meet Dan for the beginning of a pre-makeup climb for me (I would be gone for Alpine 4) and a post-make-up climb for Annette (missed Alpine 2 due to an ankle injury). This would soon turn into an epic I wished I had only dreamed up.

We got to the Marblemount Ranger Station just after opening at 7 am, and we had a good indication this trip would not come to its fruition – the rangers had a good laugh when we told them we wanted a permit for the Boston Glacier for Forbidden. Their mirth was not due to the lack of permits but rather the hideous weather forecast, another aftershock of a La Niña year which had plagued many an outing throughout the Intermediate Class this year. We decided the road of experience was worth the travel, so we got the permit and headed east on the Cascade River Road, arriving at the Boston Basin trailhead at 8:30 am. A fine mist greeted us and the parking area, normally packed tighter than sardines, was strangely vacant.

After a quick shuffle of gear, we headed up the Boston Basin trailhead and things progressively got worse. The trail was slick and soon we found ourselves on wet snow, which thankfully slowed Annette down to five miles per hour uphill with a full pack. The views were tremendous – to paraphrase the famous Boealps alpinist Tim Jackson, “it was as if I had taken cotton balls and stuffed them inside my glasses and looked out.” I began to think maybe this would have been a good weekend to stay home and help my kids build a new swing set.

We arrived at Boston Basin at 11 am only to find the marginal weather deteriorating further – the visibility, cotton balls and all, was about 75 feet, and we began the hunt for Sharkfin Col, the passage way to the North Ridge and our bivy spot on the Boston Glacier. A small problem ensued – we couldn’t find the col! We spread out, keeping within earshot of each other, a triad of explorers trying to cull the elusive path out of a hopeless fog and now a steady drizzle, but there was no joy in Mudville – the mighty Boealpers had struck out.

We had a long discussion over what to do, and it became obvious we needed to head down, any hope of doing the climb had all but faded with the relentless fog. Dan wanted to continue, while Annette and I were ready to pack it in, but we couldn’t reach a group consensus of what to do. There was one logical way to resolve this dilemma: a quick round of rock, paper, scissors would decide. Dan and I pounded our fists three times in unison, and then came the decisive moment: Dan had scissors, and I had rock - rock smashes scissors, so we got to descend.

Disappointed but glad to be getting out of the rain, we descended quickly through the soggy brush to the trail, making good time and desperately trying to keep our footing on the damp rocks lower down. One hour and 45 minutes later we were back to the confines of the car. We dried off as best we could and decided to head across Highway 20 to Leavenworth.

But first, we decided to pay a friendly neighborhood visit to my cousin J.J. Jacobsen, Diablo native and life-long resident. I had not seen his family since last year, so a quick phone call at the Log Cabin in Marblemount confirmed he was home, and sure, it was fine to stop by. J.J. works for Seattle City Light, an engineer who runs the turbine controls for the Diablo and Ross Dams, and he happened to be home that Saturday morning. It also just happened that his wife Janine had just made fresh blackberry pie, and the air was filled with the sweet aroma of the home-fired concoction. The berries were imported from afar – the backyard. Janine topped the pie with homemade vanilla ice cream churned from the barrel - as we sat on the front porch rocking chairs, I now understood how good the food on Intermediate Class climbs can be.

It was now 1 pm and time to shove off to Leavenworth to salvage the rest of the weekend. It was still foggy outside, but at least the sun was beginning to break through the gray as we rounded the curves past the Diablo overlook and the parking area for Ross Lake. I could just make out the faint outline of Jack Mountain, with the summit of Little Jack faintly pushing through the clouds. And that's when it happened.

It came out of nowhere and stopped directly in my lane: a 100 lb. black-tailed deer. I hit the brakes and simultaneously swerved to the left, but I knew in my heart it was an exercise in futility. Deer have an amazing Darwinian reaction to stress: they simply stay put. In this case, not for long.

The sickening thud happened in seconds; before any of us could utter a word, the deer met the front bumper with a tremendous impact that was felt resoundingly through the vehicle. We humans have a more sophisticated reaction to stressful situations, and we three kept our heads low. This was important, because the next thing that happened surprised a veteran driver like me even more – the deer went *through* the windshield.

It was as if the deer was launched from the Boeing Chicken Gun facility in Tulalip, where deceased (and normally thawed) fowl are fired from a huge cannon-like device at airfoils to see what damage occurs as a function of velocity, incident angle, and impact area (among other variables). The sound of the shattering glass was deafening, accompanied by the screech of the tires as the vehicle lurched through a 180° turn and came to a halt. It was Kosovo with deer instead of land mines. And then everything was still.

For a few moments, no one moved. I glanced down and noticed my hands were white-knuckled, a vice-like grip on the steering wheel. There were shards of glass all over my lap and on the front seat as the elusive sun now poured through the gray skies. I glanced to my right to Dan, who was practically under the dashboard - being a neat and tidy individual, there was nary a piece of glass on him. He looked a bit shell shocked at the incident, whiter than Casper the friendly ghost. I stared straight ahead and asked Annette, in the back seat, if she was okay. There was a brief pause, followed by her response:

“Yes, but I’ve got some company.”

Dan and I looked at each other and then turned around: there, in the previously vacant left rear seat, lay the deceased beast, looking remarkably intact considering the trauma of his violent ending. There were gashes on his legs from the front bumper impact and a thin vein of blood trickled from a skull fracture, from the windshield collision. Its eyes were wide open, staring back at us in the front seat. So much for shatterproof glass – Oldsmobile must have been a bit negligent in its deer-impact studies.

Annette, as usual, was the island of calm in the turbulent sea, casually observing the herbivore, which occupied the seat next to her. Most of the glass had gone to the back of the car, but she had kept her head down and emerged unscathed. It must have been a curious sight, our foursome, with hardly a word exchanged, no windshield, and the car perfectly still in the westbound lane of HWY 20, just past mile marker 134. The car, like the deer, had died, so I started it up and moved it on to the shoulder, out of harm's way.

I posed a question: "What should we do with the deer?" There were plenty of good places for a proper burial to slowly return him to the earth, but Dan had a better idea – he had a red Space Blanket, and the advertisement on its packaging suggests a multitude of uses: rain/snow protection in an emergency; signal distress by waving the shiny aluminum side; collect snow; and the coup de grace: cleaning game. So we pulled the beast outside and off the road, and Dan, armed with his Leatherman tool, began the incisions for what turned out to be a volume of venison which exceeded 50 lbs. Extra one-gallon Ziploc bags proved most handy for storing the meat, and the black garbage bags normally reserved for emergency bivy use were employed for the final wrap – after all, we had been taught in the Intermediate Class that safe mountaineering practice demands redundancy in systems, and a single Ziploc wrap was simply insufficient.

With the task of the deer gutting completed, we tossed the carcass down the hill toward Ross Lake and walked back to the car. After a quick discussion, we decided to continue to Leavenworth. But just as we got to the car, I noticed an ominous stream of greenish yellow fluid coming from underneath the front of the Cutlass. Intuition spoke volumes: radiator fluid. After the initial deer impact, I had inspected the damage to the front and determined it was no more than a cosmetic problem that would not affect the mechanical functioning of the vehicle, save the broken left headlight. But I missed the punctured radiator, and now the vehicle was rendered as useless as Boeing management.

Fortunately, my wife Julie makes me take a cell phone with me, so one quick phone call back to J.J.'s house in Diablo, and soon he arrived with his Chevy half-ton, complete with tow bar. J.J. inspected the damage and suppressed a snicker, a veteran of dozens of these rescues. I called Julie, who thought I was making this whole story up until J.J. got on the phone with her, and soon she was on her way from Renton to pick us up in our 12-passenger van.

So we waited on the front porch, watching the skies clear and eating more homemade blackberry pie with freshly churned ice cream. At least I could offer some venison in return.

Uh Oh, There Goes My Pack

By Troy Colyer

Scene: A cool foggy Sunday morning on the scree and rock summit ridge of Abernathy, 1300' above Scatter Lake. Scouting a route in the fog, I decided my route was too exposed and preferred not to go back the way I came. Alas, the final step to the ridge was a 5' wall. I had a bomber foot hold belly-out, but I had to take my pack off. I reached down at least half the distance, and tried to set it gently down. It tipped over on the slope and (HORROR!!!) started slowly sliding on the scree. I watched as it went over a ledge and gathered enough momentum to pass the next logical stopping point. It seemed as if it might catch on several ledges, but each drop gave it enough gravitational assistance to push on, stronger, faster than before. The pack vanished from view, only to reappear spinning through the air. Down, down, down. I heard a crash as the outside water bottle was smashed, and a 'clink' as the restraining 'biner let go. The remaining pack came to a halt in a snow finger's moat about 350 steep and torturous feet down. Queasiness filled my stomach.

While the east side of the peak is gradual dry scree, the west (pack) side is cliffy wet slabs underneath scree dustings. My first thought was "its a goner", but I could see the damn thing. My wallet and rain gear were in it, and the camera's film was mostly exposed. I crossed the ridge and hollered to my companions- "I dropped my pack". Understatement, yes, but communication was difficult. I heard "then go get it", and took it as an order ... leaving a pack did seem like a fairly serious proposition. Take the ax or leave it on the ridge? Having no idea where it might end up, I took it along.

The descent had its harrowing moments. The terrain was wet, slabby, loose rock and ball bearing scree. Forward momentum was easy to gain. At one point I went on a dirt ride on my butt and had to arrest. Only halfway down and I was committed. I speared my ax into a snow finger below for a tight scramble (whew, it stuck - not feeling very confident, I could imagine it spinning down past the pack). The notch I was descending inconveniently developed into an overhang. I made it down that, but knew my direct return route was hosed. A little shaky, I reached the pack. I was quite fortunate the pack was not 2 feet higher when it landed...the snow finger went off a very steep col onto a final snowfield in the basin below. I did not feel comfortable kicking into nearly vertical exposed snow alone and out of sight from the others. Sinking feeling - my preferred option of descending and taking an easier route up was gone. An exposed ledge to the side wound around and up, but it probably led into the same cliffs I was scouting. The only way up was to ascend the descent. I stashed the ax and pack, and prepared for an attention demanding solo climb.

Back up slabs and scree, bypassed the overhang. I saw Tim above on the ridge. He looks perplexed. "Did you go down that way?" Unfortunately, yes. I got stuck at a chimney surrounded by down sloping slabs. I made a general pass at the chimney but did not like the holds and once again the pack was a problem. A corner and the adjacent slab could be climbed if I could initiate a single lie-back move. I tried it. I fell off. I would not have attempted it without a good landing, but I lost all 4 points of contact and it had me a little nervous and scratched. Ok, back to the chimney. Amazing what holds you can find when it is your only option. The rest of the way was much less thrilling, merely demanding concentration. Returned to the edge, I assessed the damage: missing water bottle, ripped shorts, missing battery, lens missing in cheap sunglasses, and lunch (cashews) crushed to dust. Camera, wallet, etc in good shape (beside cashew dust). Half-hour round trip. Much ribbing from others, who thought I at least had the sense to drop my pack off the EASY side. They are still not convinced it was not intentional, as it might have been one of the first low 5th ascents of Abernathy. How does that Intermediate Class saying go- "had fun, learned a lot"?

West Ridge – Mt. Stuart

Intermediate Climbing Class – Graduation Climb

August 27-29, 1999

Climbers: Ambrose Bittner, Carson Kaan, Hitoshi Hajiri, Dennis Fay (scribe)

From what we read beforehand, the crux of this climb is route finding. And now, afterwards, I surely believe it. One of the reasons we picked Mt. Stuart for the graduation climb was that it is in Eastern Washington, where, hopefully, the weather gods were going to look favorably on us for a change. All of our previous Intermediate Class experience climbs have been washed out to some extent or another. The climb: at the apex of the giant granite massif of the Stuart Range is Mount Stuart, at 9415 feet. Mt. Stuart has three main ridges, the East, North (one of the 50 North America classic climbs) and our intended climbing route, the West Ridge. The West Ridge route is a very long athletic climb with about 3000 vertical feet of rock climbing of various difficulties. The route is mostly scrambling with some 4th class and low 5th class moves. The most difficult move, assuming you stay on route, is 5.4.

With possible showers coming in on Sunday the 29th, and the fact that we planned to climb this as a carryover, we decided to get an early start on the climb Friday evening. We met at Issaquah P&R at about 3:00 on Friday, and ate dinner at the Cottage Café in Cle Elum before starting up the Ingalls Lake Trail at 6:40 PM. From Ingalls Pass, we could see the beginning of the climbing route up the first major deep gully on the Southwest side of the mountain which still had a couple of snow patches in it. We reached the Lake at 9:00PM, donned headlamps and continued around the North side of the lake with a lovely orange moon rising over our shoulders. The route finding around the lake was a bit tricky, not only because of the darkness, but also due to crossing snow slopes and big granite boulders and slabs. We settled down to bed at some primo bivy sites on the ridge just North of Ingalls Lake at about 10:00 with a slight breeze blowing. When the breeze let up, we were face to face with a horde of noisy mosquitoes that kept us up all night. Next time I'm bringing earplugs! Carson had other problems. Wanting to go as light as possible, Carson didn't bring his sleeping bag so also ended up shivering all night.

We "awoke" at 5:00 AM to clear skies. After Ambrose stated that he needed to borrow some TP, Carson couldn't pass up the opportunity to comment that Ambrose was taking this weight savings thing a bit too seriously. Ambrose did get his revenge, since he was the only one to bring insect repellent - the bugs would have bugged us all the way up to the summit and back if it wasn't for Ambrose's bug juice. We started hiking towards the deep gully at 6:00AM by performing a rising traverse across grass and boulder fields.

We ascended the gully that is mostly class 2 and 3 scrambling to its head. Here we had trouble finding a good way to cross over some rock to get to the adjacent gully. We ended up climbing some low 5th class rock to arrive at the next gully. After ascending the next gully, we had more trouble finding an easy way up and around Long John Tower. We ended up climbing an approximate 5.6 route. Ambrose and Hitoshi "What's this rock pro used for?" Hajiri soloed it and set up an anchor for Carson and me. After this, Carson and I stayed roped together to continue with running belays around the Tower. After the Tower, the route became much easier but we stayed roped. Ambrose and Hitoshi cruised ahead and waited for us at the tricky areas. We did a rising traverse over to the West Ridge Notch. It was difficult route finding since it was easy to either stay up too high or too low on the ridge which can make the route more difficult. Ambrose, while waiting for us at particular spots, would periodically look back and say, "No, you want to stay high (or low) through there." We eventually reached the West Ridge Notch where the route ascends just South of the ridge crest then crosses to the North side for 60 feet of nicely exposed class 4 climbing (great photo op here). It then crosses back to the South side of the ridge. We traversed down to some sandy ledges and then up to some more ledges. Here is where we lost Ambrose and Hitoshi. We looked at the route description and pictures and determined that we were probably still on route, so I led off doing the fixed pitch to the summit. It started out easy enough, but then became more and more difficult especially with climbing boots and a big hulking pack on. I somehow made it through a couple tough spots with the help of a rusted piton to clip into. After belaying Carson up, we figured that this route must have been rated at least 5.7, it surely wasn't 5.4. We met Ambrose and Hitoshi on the summit at 4:20 PM who had ascended up along the ridge crest. They summited at about 3:00. Of course, if they weren't waiting for us, they would of summited hours ago. But of course you can go pretty fast if you don't place much pro. Ambrose said that Hitoshi only placed 4 pieces on the entire route. Hitoshi is much gutsier than I will ever be.

After we asked a guy who had climbed the North Ridge route to take our summit picture, we departed the summit at 5:00 PM with the hope of reaching the valley before dark. We scrambled down to the false summit and continued over to the snow slope on the Southeast side of the false summit. Hitoshi started backing down the 35-degree slope, and I started to plunge step down. I took a few steps and started to determine that the footing was not too good. There was about 2-3 inches of soft snow over a firm layer. I was just thinking that, yeah, maybe I better turn around also. Unfortunately, I took

one more step and then before I knew it my feet went out from under me and I was screaming down the snow nearly nailing Hitoshi when he tried to stop me. My first attempt at arresting knocked my ice axe out of my hands. Luckily, I had tied my wrist loop on. I kept frantically trying to grab the ice axe as it dragged above me and I kept sliding down. I just kept thinking that I had to arrest before I hit the rocks a couple hundred feet below me. Luckily, again, I must of hit some softer snow and started to slow down and was able to grab my ice axe and finish the arrest. I ended up sliding about half way down the slope (~150 ft). I then thought, well... maybe I'll back down from here. Of course every time my foot would break through a step as I went down, I would get this adrenaline rush. I eventually made it down off the snow with just some skinned up knees. Well, I figured that I would have to nearly die at least once per outing and we were getting close to the end of this trip.

It started getting late and we determined that it would be dark before we would arrive in the valley. We decided to bivy at some nice level spots at about 7900 feet just above the turn down to the Cascadian Couloir. Of course this would mean that Carson would spend another chilly night without his sleeping bag. We ate, drank and hit the sack.

On Sunday, we left camp at 7:00AM and headed down the Cascadian Couloir arriving at the valley at 8:30. We then headed up to Longs Pass where we took a long deserved break and admired the mountain for one last time. We made it down to the cars around noon when the clouds started to roll in. I heard from someone who climbed Ingalls Peak on Sunday that the weather had turned nasty at about 2:00PM - clouds, wind and cold mist - yuk! So I'm glad that we summited on Saturday and got the heck outta there when we did before it ended up like one of our previous experience climbs!

All in all, a very enjoyable climb with super views all the way up and down. Sometime I gotta give that North Ridge route a shot.



West Ridge of Mt. Stuart from Ingalls Pass

Mt. Maude - Entiat Icefall
Dave Burdick (scribe), Mike Mixon & Len Kannapel
Intermediate climbing Class – Graduation Climb
August 28-29, 1999

After getting a leisurely 7:00 a.m. start from Seattle, Mike, Len and I arrived at the Phelps Creek trail head around 10:30 a.m. The end of the road parking area was packed with cars and people. After checking out the Leroy Creek trail's existence, we headed out in a swarm of bugs. The approach to Maude can be a bit confusing, especially without someone else's advise. The shortest way in is through the Phelps Creek trail, which connects to the unmarked and well worn Leroy Creek trail. The trail empties into a basin directly under Maude and Seven Fingered Jack. From here, we followed a small climbers path to a notch at around 6,900 feet. We figured this was the notch at about 7,200 feet described in Beckey's guide. This error later helped us make a long detour in the wrong direction up an ugly scree bash. At the pass we encountered an old man hiking up to climb Maude. He carried a old mining map of the area and a bunch of interesting history to go along with it. I suppose there is reason to keep old guys around. ☺ After talking for a half hour or so, we packed up and headed out towards the lakes. Finally, after four thousand feet and six hours in our own personal bug cloud, we found a great bivi spot above the South side of Icy Lake.



Mike and Dave on Mt. Maude

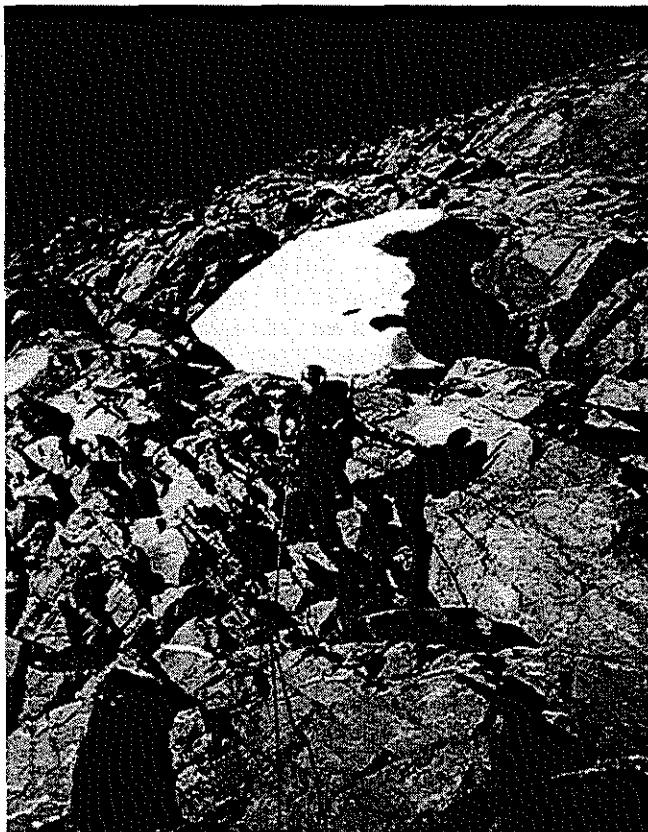
Our position was ideal for the South Ridge route, which was to be our descent route. However, to reach our desired route, we had to traverse to the other side of the mountain! The route included a long scree bash over a cliff band to a notch. At this time, Mike told us about his knees. We then decided on cushiony time estimates for the next day's climb. Due to the fact that both the Icefall and the North Face are committing routes, we decided to set an early turnaround time at the notch. If we could not make it to the notch in two hours from camp the next morning, there would not be time to complete the route and descent to the cars. Thus, the clock was ticking.

After two brief rain storms and thoughts of going home, we were up at 4:00 a.m. under clear skies. After most of the scree bash was complete, Mike decided that he was having another infamous "bad hair day." But we decided to continue onto the notch over a short snow slope anyway. By now, I had not contributed much in the way of danger to the climb. So, when we came upon a brief patch of ice, I decided to show off my ice skating skills. With thoughts of sailing across the ice with a running leap, I hopped on. Immediately I was ass-over-tea-kettle, landing hard on the shaft of my ice ax. After rolling around on the ground for a while, realizing the utter stupidity of my feat, I was able to get up with only a bruise.

The three of us roped and descended the Entiat Glacier, found a path through a short abolition zone, and to the base of the icefall. We decided on four long screws, though we carried eight total, one picket and two flukes for the leader. Luckily, because of the extra snow this year, we were able to take steep snow slopes off to the side, bypassing about two pitches of the icefall. From here we began a running belay through short vertical steps and ramps between crevasses. Soon we were above the difficulties on moderately angled snow and ice slopes. The entire icefall, for which we had planned at most six hours, took an hour long running belay.



After a brief break to look at pictures of the route, Mike lead off on the first pitch of rock. In our original estimates, we expected to do the "scramble," described by Beckey, in an hour and a half. In reality, the rock turned out to be loose and scantily protectable 4th and low 5th class. After four hours and 900 vertical feet of running belays, the three of us stood on Maude's 9,082 foot summit! With some pointing and laughing at the thunderstorms that seemed to be pounding down on the other graduation climbs, we soon headed down for fear that we would have the same fate. The descent was pleasantly trivial, taking only 30 minutes to descend back to our bivi site. After the long descent, we found ourselves back at the truck at only 6:00 p.m! A great wrap up to the course for sure.



Mike picks his way through the rocks

Trip Report - Graduation Climb ICC Class 1999

Mike Jacobsen (scribe), Annette Mockli, Dan Patton

Dragontail Peak (8840'), Serpentine Arete. Grade IV, 5.8
Prusik Peak (8000+), W. Ridge. Grade II, 5.7

After a less than stellar class presentation for the NE Buttress of Mt. Goode and an even worse backup plan for the N. Ridge of Stuart, we had some time for personal reflection of our ambitious yet still ambiguous graduation climb. We didn't have the vote of confidence needed by our instructors for either climb and the weather was looking good for the weekend. The next day I spoke with a couple club members who had done these climbs before and received some good route beta. While they seemed doable, we would need to move quickly, with little room for route finding errors or other mishaps. In the end, the climbs just weren't coming together and it didn't feel right for everyone on the team. Annette spoke up and expressed her concerns. I certainly learned a lesson about having good team communication and making sure everyone, including myself, feel good about the climb. Since we weren't feeling comfortable with the climbs, it was time to look at other options.

We spent most of the next day and evening coming up with other possible graduation climbs. We wanted to climb something that was challenging, but not too airy. We contemplated the W. Ridge of Forbidden, W. Ridge of Stuart, NE Ridge of Triumph, SW Face of Kangaroo Temple, W. Face variation on Sloan Peak, and Mt. Redoubt. At one point, I suggested Serpentine Arete on Dragontail, but didn't think it would be considered. Dan Patton, our instructor for the climb, dismissed it as a candidate. Dan later discussed the route with Ken Kongorski (who had climbed it before) and felt that Annette and I could learn something important from it. So, we did some more research and put together a plan.

While planning, we determined that the approach was straightforward. Getting onto the route from the snow might be interesting, but this actually turned out to be simple. On the climbing route itself, the most difficult sections were near the bottom followed by low to mid-fifth class rock the rest of the way to the top. The difficult sections consisted of a short 5.8 pitch and another short 5.7-5.8 pitch. These pitches could be problematic since we had planned to carry over. I was concerned about climbing these pitches with a pack, but decided that I could practice hauling up my pack if I needed to.

The general plan consisted of the approach, the climb Serpentine Arete and the bivy on the first day, and then hike across to climb the west ridge of Prusik Peak, then head out via Aasgard Pass on the second day. This seemed like a reasonable plan. Although the weather forecast was excellent with a full moon that night, we needed to make the summit of Dragontail before dark. To do this, we had to keep moving and stay on route. We also needed to keep in mind that there is no good way to bail from Serpentine Arete once you start the route some 2000' below the summit. In reviewing our plan, Dan said that if we wanted to climb Serpentine Arete then he would need to lead the first two hard pitches and we would lead the rest. That sounded reasonable. A challenging route, not too airy and a couple difficult spots towards the bottom. After an extra day of thinking about and researching the route, we still felt good and decided to finalize our plans.

The climb to Colchuck Lake from the Stuart / Colchuck trailhead was uneventful, but coming over the rise and seeing the blue-green water was particularly refreshing. Colchuck Lake is a wonderful alpine lake set beneath Colchuck and Dragontail Peaks. Aasgard Pass is situated on the north side of Dragontail and is a common entry route to the Upper Enchantments. Dragontail Peak rises 3270 feet from the south end of Colchuck Lake to an elevation of 8840 feet. We continued around the lake enjoying the spectacular scenery. Just before a good bivy spot at the south end of the lake, we headed up the boulder field towards the glacial moraine. We stopped midway to hydrate and top off two water bottles each. Then we continued up through the loose talus scree to the top of the moraine and onto the east side of Colchuck Glacier. We were headed to the whitish depression between Backbone Ridge and Serpentine Arete, which was the beginning of the route. Upon crossing the snow directly below the depression, we found smooth rock and quite difficult climbing to gain the route. A short ways up from a rock outcropping, there was a nice entry trending left to gain the depression. The elevation was about 6800', the beginning of the route.

Since I happened to have the rope, it was time for me to lose some pack weight. We had decided to go as light as we could since this would be a carry over. We left the stove home and ate cold. I left my heavy shell in favor of a lighter nylon coated one. I added a disposable camera last minute to round out the extra

luxuries on the trip. I felt that we managed to keep the weight down quite well. The route began with class 3-4 slabs and steps leftward to the depression. The route then turned up and right toward a large ledge at the base of a prominent pillar about 500' above the moraine. Several low to mid-fifth class pitches led up to the ledge from the depression. I led this section as a running belay up to the ledge. I found the rock a bit loose the more you moved into the depression and tended to stay to the right of it. I belayed Dan up to the ledge and he followed by belaying Annette up. From this ledge we moved across and to the right of the pillar. A fairly difficult flaring crack went up from the center of the face. Dan led up this pitch. I slowly followed and cleaned the pitch from the center position of the 60-meter rope. Annette opted for the crack system to the right of the center crack. It turned out to be a tad bit easier.

The second pitch above the pillar followed a shallow dihedral and then by an awkward finger crack to a platform. Although this was a bit tricky with a pack, it wasn't as hard as the flaring crack earlier. At the top this pitch, Annette took over leading the running belay with Dan back in the middle. We tried to stay as close to the ridge as possible. It made the climb more interesting this way. There were various options that could be selected; some made for more difficult climbing. The description talks about difficulties in route finding, but we did pretty well overall. Annette and I switched off leading a couple more times before we made the summit.

Towards the top of the route, I was leading and ventured to the right onto some class 3 and 4 slabs and ledges. I thought we could make a little better time since I was concerned about the hour. This was not a wise choice since it didn't speed anything up. In the ledges, there is a greater hazard for party induced rock fall and the ability to place protection isn't very good. While I was careful where I was stepping, the rope didn't have the same concern for knocking rocks loose. Shortly after I headed up this way, Dan took a few small rocks on the arm and helmet. Eventually he belayed Annette up to him and we headed back left to the main ridge. The lesson I learned was already spelled out by Jim Nelson in Selected Climbs, "Anyone climbing Dragontail Peak by any route should be aware of the potential for rock fall caused by parties above." He suggested if you don't like where parties are on the route above you, you should consider abandoning the climb or choose another route. This is very true on this route. While we were the only party on the route, I still was knocking off rocks onto my rope team below. While the ledges to the right present easier climbing, it's not worth the rock fall hazard. Staying to the ridge is much more interesting.

The remainder of the route to the summit went well after we were back on the ridge proper. Near the top of the route we followed the ledges to the left of the ridge and skipped the 5.7 pitch to the summit. It was 7:30 PM and the sun was descending into the distance high clouds. As we briefly snacked and put on our boots we were treated to a spectacular sunset. The soft pink sky transformed into a deep red hue spreading across the horizon as we started our descent from the summit. The setting, timing and cooperation of the weather made for a very memorable climb. But that was just the beginning.

We descended the snow slopes towards the upper Enchantments. The snow was starting to harden up and it was pretty steep towards the top. We were glad that we had our heavy boots here for kicking modest steps for our toes as we down climbed. After a hundred feet or so, Dan and I glissaded to the bottom passing over a few ice sheets on the way down. Annette continued to down climb a bit further. We were pretty much out of water by this time and it was getting dark. We put on the headlamps and continued into the upper Enchantments. Eventually we picked up the trail marked with cairns and followed this to some water runoff. We drank as much of the frigid water we could hold. We continued on the trail till we came across a relatively flat boulder to bivy on.

This was an amazing bivy. As we ate dinner, the stars slowly disappeared, the full moon rose pink in the sky over the Enchantments. It was breathtaking. Lying in our bags we could look around at all the encircling peaks bathed in the warm rays of the moon. Annette later told us that Aasgard is referred to in Tolkien's books as the passage into the kingdom of the Gods. I didn't sleep much that night in awe of my surroundings. I felt like a very small speck.

I finally started to go to sleep about the time the sun was coming up. We decided to get up with the sunrise, but the early morning mosquitoes helped us along. They flocked over each of our protruding heads hastening an early breakfast. Soon, the Mountain Goats were welcoming us to their enchanted realm. They were more interested in the pee lick they found on the nearby rock slab. We thought a fight might ensue between two momma goats over this precious treat, but the pecking order was already established between them. After downing some more water and contributing to the pee lick again, we headed off to Prusik Peak. We passed a nice group of 9 goats mingling around Leprechaun Lake on the way.

The trail was melted out much of the way. We turned off by Rune Lake and headed toward Prusik Pass. At Prusik Pass we pulled out the gear we needed for the West Ridge route. We stashed the remaining gear in trees and headed to "Balanced Rock" to put shoes on. This is when I noticed I had a nasty blister on my left heel. This matched Annette's blister on her left heel from the day before. Blisters are not too comfortable in rock shoes. I was glad that Annette was going to lead most of the W. Ridge. We were the first on the route with 2 or 3 climbing parties showing up shortly after we started. This ended up changing our down climbing plan. The groups actually climbed variations on the W. Ridge route and tried to stay to the ridge as much as possible. We climbed the standard route, mostly. (Okay, so I told Annette to go the wrong way a couple of times.) Annette led the 5.7 friction pitch near the top and belayed us up. I led the last pitch to the summit with just enough rope to set an anchor and belay Dan to the top of the chimney. The 60-meter rope for 3 people worked out well on this trip. For the most part, we managed the rope pretty well for a 3-person team.

Since others were coming up the route, we decided to rap the south side instead of down climbing. We were pretty efficient for 3 people and were down in an hour. We gathered our things and headed down to Prusik Pass. Annette and I took a moment to bandage our blistered heels for the hike out. Soon we were heading back up through the lower and upper Enchantments and on to Aasgard Pass. As we descended Aasgard Pass, we tried to head left onto the snowfield. The snow turned out to be too hard for safe glissading and we headed back up and around to the north side. The best way down is to follow the worn paths to the right to the ridge before the cliff band. Even with some slight back tracking, we managed to amble down in about an hour. As we passed the excellent bivy on the south end of Colchuck Lake, we noticed prayer flags strung across their camp. While it wasn't Nepal, it was still pretty neat.

We continued past the Lake and down to the trailhead, sometimes faster depending on whether Annette or I was out front. With the trailhead in sight, we ran the last few hundred yards. It was 5:30 PM and we were on our way to Gustav's. The weather was great for this trip and we were the only ones on the route. Lots of things were in our favor and we didn't have any major mishaps along the way. There are real reasons why this route is a Grade IV. It would have been a very different situation if it started to rain and the route was wet. The rock was loose in many places and being below other climbers would be a serious situation. Even being on the back of the rope was a bit tenuous, due to rope or party induced rock fall. This route doesn't present itself with an easy way to descend. Once you get past the bottom portion, it would be better to continue up and over if you could. Also, an evacuation would be especially difficult and time consuming. In retrospect, I learned what kind of attention one needs to place when deciding on routes to climb and the need to keep them within your own climbing limits. While this was a challenging and serious climb for me, it was truly an enchanting trip that was quite perfect in many ways.



Dragontail Peak by Sarah Boomer

Last Days of Summer

By Ilan Angwin

Dan and I struggled to pull ourselves away from the comforts of staying with Matt in Bozeman. Normal things like receiving a telephone call and doing dishes in a sink were a nice change from our usual road conditions. Eventually the pull of the mountains broke us out of our lethargy and we set off for a quick one-day drive to the Grand Tetons.

Two days later we arrived in the Tetons after our usual slow progress on the road: A stop in Virginia City to see the actual beam that vigilantes hung three victims on during the gold rush days. After Virginia City we had to spend a day in Yellowstone searching for a hot spring to soak in and seeing Old Faithful blow steam and water over a hundred feet into the air.

We finally arrived in the Grand Tetons and began to put our plan for climbing Mt. Moran into action. This is a quick guide to climbing this classic: First you rent a canoe and put all your climbing and camping gear into the canoe and begin paddling across String Lake. Then you portage 1/10th of a mile and continue paddling across Leigh Lake. As you cross Leigh Lake remember to pull to shore to let passing thunderstorms light up the sky around you from a safe place. After patiently waiting out storms arrive at the far end of the lake and park the canoe below a steep looking boulder / river gully. It's really not that steep once you start hiking up the well marked path around and through the boulders up to the CMC camp at roughly 10,000 feet. Once at camp enjoy an amazing sunset over the lakes below and rise the next morning at 4 AM to start climbing. Climb to the top of a peak called Drizzlepuss and be freaked out by the very steep looking CMC route across from you. But don't worry about that, it only looks real bad. Rappel to the notch between you and the CMC route and begin climbing the very enjoyable rock to large summit plateau. Enjoy the sunshine and views. On the way down from the summit, don't forget to make friends and climbing plans with the only other two people on the mountain that day. Enjoy a lazy canoe ride back under threatening clouds and don't care if it starts to rain on the drive back to return the canoe. You have just enjoyed your last days of summer in this millennium.

But we didn't know this going back to the Climber's Ranch (a sort of youth hostel run by the American Alpine Club) under darker skies and colder weather. It looked like another afternoon storm moving through the mountains. So we continued our plans to go up and try to climb the Grand Teton after a day of rest. A nice day greeted our climb to base camp and we talked to many climbers on the way down who successfully climbed the Grand. Once at base camp we looked at the clouds coming over us and figured they would pass in the night. I didn't sleep much that night because I was too busy watching Dan's glasses swing back and forth at the apex of the tent as thunderstorm after thunderstorm struck the mountains around us. Around 2 AM Dan checked outside to see how wet the ground was only to be greeted by the sight of snow.

It finally stopped snowing late the next morning and we left our tent to hear the prophets of doom camping near us at the Saddle. The ranger said he thought it was the end of the summer climbing season. The guides were canceling the next day's climbing attempts without leaving the parking lot. We took a picture of ourselves under the Grand wearing a level of clothing we haven't worn since last winter. Back at the Climber's Ranch a strange scene greeted us: no climbers. The staff informed us everyone was bailing out and heading for better weather and the last rays of summer in other places.

Dan and I joined the exodus and headed south to Colorado where a good authority said summer still reigned.

The bad weather chased us across the Wyoming high desert and we spent another night in a thunderstorm on some BLM land. The next morning the dirt BLM road promised an interesting diversion so we continued along it. To our surprise we found the road paralleled the Oregon Trail. Bumping along the trail we did a complex calculation of wagon weight vs. horsepower to figure out how fast a covered wagon traveled. It went something like this:

Dan: "I think a wagon travels around 5 miles per hour."

Me: "That sounds about right."

We rolled down the windows and started to travel at five miles an hour. After a short distance we found we coasted at a faster speed so we turned off the motor and encouraged our wagon to keep going up the short rises in the road before going down the next. At one point we jumped out to push our wagon up a particularly steep little rise. After a mile of this wagon riding we turned the engine back on and returned to the main road. On the way back we stopped to watch cowboys rounding up cattle on the sage covered desert.

Before entering the state of Colorado we passed through the Medicine Bow National Forest. The road rose to almost 11,000 feet and traveled through some stunning alpine terrain. Rising above the alpine lakes and meadows rose the Snowy Mountains. Whenever we see mountains this uncontrollable desire to climb takes over. We parked the car and did an enjoyable scramble up a small peak close to the road during a break in an otherwise stormy day. That night we spent in Fort Collins with Jesse Ryan who was on our Mt. Blackburn adventure.

After a pleasant morning bouldering (climbing problems on boulders close to the ground) Dan and I headed out for one more attempt at summer climbing before I left him to go to New York to visit my sister. Longs Peak was our objective and we woke up at 3 AM and started to climb up to the base of the Kiener route. At dawn we found ourselves on the wrong side of a diamond shaped steep rock face on Longs Peak. Instead of trying to go over to the correct side, we continued up the Cable Route instead because that route rose above us on our side of the diamond. The cable route should have been simple, but some ice that foreshadowed the end of summer on the lower route and some snow on the upper section made the climbing, well, "interesting." On top of the mountain at 14,255 feet all of Rocky Mountain National Park lay at our feet. It was a little windy, but no clouds in the sky. Before heading down, Dan and I had a little disagreement over a descent route and we were both stubborn so he descended off the mountain one way and I went another. A day later Dan dropped me off at the airport before heading south with the summer.

(Editor's note: Both descent routes turned out to be fine. Dan was able to bag another peak next to Longs Peak with his descent route and make a little loop on the way back past Chasm Lake. Ilan was able to see the south side of Longs Peak on his way down through the keyhole route.)



Longs Peak (photo by Ernie Port)

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Bailey, T. Mark	(425) 788-7154	(425) 294-0782	18515 NE 186th St.	Woodinville	WA	98072	mark.bailey@boeing.com
Bailey, Timothy P.	2067897225	4257172920	741 N 87th St.	Seattle	WA	98103	timothy.p.bailey@boeing.com
Baillie, Jerry	(206) 283-6870	(206) 662-1516	1120 W Wheeler St.	Seattle	WA	98119	jerald.c.baillie@boeing.com
Baillie, Kathy	(206) 283-6870		1120 W Wheeler St.	Seattle	WA	98119	
Baldwin, Richard F.	4254137141	(206) 544-7580	20304 SE 228th, Unit A	Maple Valley	WA	98038	richard.f.baldwin@boeing.com
Balzer, Michael A.	2539390892	4252376795	809 Ninth St. SE	Auburn	WA	98002	michael.a.balzer@boeing.com
Barber, Jeffrey W.	2066324158		17411 SE 224th St.	Kent	WA	98042	scooter757@hotmail.com
Baty, Haldis M.	4254866227	4252949026	1410 220th St. SW	Bothell	WA	98021	haldis.m.baty@boeing.com
Bauck, Todd A.	(303) 750-1915	3036773025	2685 S Dayton Way #304	Denver	CO	80231	
Bauermeister, Walter	(206) 232-5697		8320 Avalon Dr.	Mercer Island	WA	98040	
Beaudette, Judith E.	(206) 706-4052		308-1/2 NW 67th St.	Seattle	WA	98117	iceaxe@earthlink.net
Beckey, Fred			15002 Ninth Pl. NE	Seattle	WA	98155	
Beemster, Therese L.	(425) 486-2000		10223 NE 198th St.	Bothell	WA	98011	
Bennett, Eric R.	2065795016		3315 133rd St. SW #105	Lynnwood	WA	98037	erbennett@hotmail.com
Berg, Kristy	4257424885		13302 14th Pl. W	Lynnwood	WA	98037	
Berg, Rick	4257424885		13302 14th Pl. W	Lynnwood	WA	98037	rickberg@wa.slr.com
Bhat, Prashantha B.	2065461917	4256319201	9336 232nd St. SW Unit A	Edmonds	WA	98020	ppbhat@hotmail.com
Bingle, Mike	(206) 935-3992	(206) 662-4929	5444 37th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98126	michael.g.bingle@boeing.com
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NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Borg, Norene A.	2065285369	4252376991	7664 East Greenlake Dr. N	Seattle	WA	98103	Norene.borg@pss.boeing.com
Bovard, Douglas G.	2538593186	2065446325	4201 S 273rd Pl.	Auburn	WA	98001	douglas.g.bovard@boeing.com
Bradshaw, Roger D.	2063644692	4252345996	12316 28th Ave. NE #307	Seattle	WA	98125	roger.d.bradshaw@boeing.com
Brady, Mike	(206) 938-8074	4256444010	3042 37th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98126	fineday@home.com
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Brendemihl, Fritz W.	(425) 277-3327	(425) 237-5236	2116 High Ave. NE	Renton	WA	98056	frederick.w.brendemihl@boeing.com
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Buettner, Linda V.	4252550291		9103 120th Ave. SE	Newcastle	WA	98056	lbuettner@paccar.com
Burdick, David B.	2067830754	2069342823	6502 22nd Ave. NW	Seattle	WA	98117	dbb@u.washington.edu
Callies, Mike T.	2068787717		21600 24th Ave. S #F101	Des Moines	WA	98198	emcal25@aol.com
Campbell, Richard J.	2062971827		2572 3rd Ave. W.	Seattle	WA	98119	rcampbell121@yahoo.com
Campbell, Todd K.	(253) 941-3051	2537735228	28712 41st Ave. S	Auburn	WA	98001	todd.k.campbell@boeing.com
Chandler, Stacie M.	(425) 222-4999	4252348981	28515 SE 41st St.	Fall City	WA	98024	stacie.m.chandler@boeing.com
Chaplin, Carey S.	(206) 365-8858	(206) 655-8769	349 NW 113th Pl.	Seattle	WA	98177	carey.s.chaplin@boeing.com
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Cirilincione, Glenn	(425) 271-2931	(425) 957-5282	14517 144th Pl. SE	Renton	WA	98059	glenn.cirilincione@boeing.com
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Clare, Joseph B.	(206) 729-1487	(425) 827-7701	4920 32nd Ave. NE	Seattle	WA	98105	jclare@aesgeo.com
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Cole, Donna J.	(425) 432-6281		22610 186th Ave. SE	Renton	WA	98058	
Cole, Gary E.	(425) 432-6281	(206) 662-7915	22610 186th Ave. SE	Renton	WA	98058	gary.e.cole@boeing.com
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Colyer, C. Troy	2067207294	4252342424	1120 17th Ave. #301	Seattle	WA	98122	troy.colyer@boeing.com
Conchi, William R.	4254862144	4252662576	8211 NE 159th St.	Kenmore	WA	98028	william.conchi@pss.boeing.com
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Conder, Tammie	(206) 526-2970		3047 NE 98th St.	Seattle	WA	98115	
Costello, Daniel M.	2066790105	4253420477	1406 N 46th St.	Seattle	WA	98103	daniel.m.costello@boeing.com
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Crisan, Victor	4254238598	4252943418	10220 Third Ave. SE #1328	Everett	WA	98208	victor.crisan@pss.boeing.com
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Croy, Jennifer K.	2067831638		1538 NW 51st Ave. #1	Seattle	WA	98107	jennifer_croy@hotmail.com
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NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Davies, Douglas C.	2536390328	2539312657	25815 135th Lane SE #12	Kent	WA	98042	douglas.c.davies@boeing.com
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Davis, Dan	(206) 284-1588		3222 30th Ave. W	Seattle	WA	98199	dand@scn.org
Dellarco, David J.	(206) 784-5203	(206) 553-4978	319 N 74th St.	Seattle	WA	98103	
Downs, Kenny M.	(253) 891-1380	(253) 931-6407	16511 38th St. E	Sumner	WA	98390	Kenneth.Downs@pss.boeing.com
Downs, Lainey	(253) 891-1380		16511 38th St. E	Sumner	WA	98390	
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Drum, Stacy	2067833668		6202 Phinney Ave N #3	Seattle	WA	98103	sndrum@hotmail.com
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Estep, Stephen	(206) 935-7181	(206) 645-6886	3808 45th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98116	stephen.estep@pss.boeing.com
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Ewing, Patrick D.	(425) 483-5633	(425) 237-9222	19612 109th Pl. NE	Bothell	WA	98011	patrick.d.ewing@boeing.com
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Fish, David H.	(425) 868-2915	(206) 433-0199	22405 NE 20th St.	Redmond	WA	98053	
Fisher, Russell W.	3607301301	4252665608	3491 Saratoga Road	Langley	WA	98260	Russell.Fisher@pss.boeing.com
Fleck, Ronald K.	(425) 255-7403	4259656235	1700 Field Ave. NE	Renton	WA	98059	ronald.k.fleck@boeing.com
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Fox, Stephen J.	(425) 353-9508	4252668818	#426	Everett	WA	98208	sfox@eskimo.com
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NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Furuglyas, Mitchell J.	(206) 783-3294	4257170566	6520 Third Ave. NW	Seattle	WA	98117	mitchell.furuglyas@pss.boeing.com
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Goodman, Donald J.	(425) 452-9589	2067662423	1657 105th Ave. SE	Bellevue	WA	98004	donald.goodman@pss.boeing.com
Gorremans, Gary L.	(425) 485-6134	(425) 957-5576	16619 NE 180th Pl.	Woodinville	WA	98072	gary.l.gorremans@boeing.com
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Griffin, Patty A.	3608934462	3608935250	14817 145th St.	Orting	WA	98360	mgriffin@gte.net
Grimard, Bruce	4258688701	4258306166	4335 209th Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98053	grimard@nwneexus.com
Grob, Jacob W.	(253) 813-3809	2536573853	5408 S 236th St.	Kent	WA	98032	jacob.w.grob@boeing.com
Grubenhoff, Mark (Sar	(253) 735-2739	(253) 931-9302	402 F St. SE	Auburn	WA	98002	mark.grubenhoff@pss.boeing.com
Grunerud, David A.	3603873793	4253424136	518 N Waynes Ridge Circle	Camano Island	WA	98292	david.a.grunerud@boeing.com
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Hagman, Valerie J.	(206) 937-2952	(253) 931-4130	5922 36th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98126	tvhagman@gte.net
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Harder, Daniel	4252552863	2536571597	#T3136	Renton	WA	98055	daniel.harder@boeing.com
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Harris, Janet	(425) 938-3550	(425) 614-2345	7575 44th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98136	
Harris, Randy W.	4253377199	4253422221	204	Mill Creek	WA	98012	randal.w.harris@boeing.com
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James, Robert	(425) 861-0455	(206) 544-3033	9722 159th Pl. NE	Redmond	WA	98052	rob.james@physics.org
Jato, Pedro	4252277685	2065448809	1332 Duvall Ave. NE #G60	Renton	WA	98059	pedro.jato@pss.boeing.com
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Johnson, Ken	(206) 361-7523	(425) 266-7659	1015 NE 126th St.	Seattle	WA	98125	ken.johnson@boeing.com
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Kaan, Carson			6856 18th NE	Seattle	WA	98115	
Kaiser-Pare, Pamela	(425) 483-0548	4252347574	2625 169th St. SE	Bothell	WA	98012	pamela.a.kaiser-pare@boeing.com
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Kannapell, Tuney	2062972910		546 N 74th St.	Seattle	WA	98103	
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Lambeth, Micah D.	2069320436	2066557314	3403 63rd Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98116	micah.d.lambeth@boeing.com
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Larson, David E.	4252778871	2066559165	14815 SE 179th St. #M	Renton	WA	98058	runhills@gte.net
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Leicester, Jack	(206) 546-2770		1837 N 200th St.	Seattle	WA	98133	
Lixvar, John P.	(425) 255-4754	(425) 865-3783	15638 SE 175th St.	Renton	WA	98058	lizard@redwood.rt.cs.boeing.com
Loewenherz, Carrie A.	2067290109		6239 26th Ave. NE	Seattle	WA	98115	
Loewenherz, Franz	2067290109		6239 26th Ave. NE	Seattle	WA	98115	
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Loois, Ellen W.	2066522449	2065445666	1415 2nd Ave. #1704	Seattle	WA	98101	ellen.w.loois@boeing.com
Lopez, Wilfredo L.	(253) 473-4933	(425) 237-2820	1715 S 44th St.	Tacoma	WA	98408	
Lyttle, David W.	(206) 243-1684	(206) 544-0264	16603 21st Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98166	david.w.lyttle@boeing.com
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Marshall, Jean	(425) 883-6354		13336 NE 55th Pl.	Bellevue	WA	98005	
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Menzer, Kim A.			Lane	Charlotte	NC	28270	k_menzer@hotmail.com
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Mondrzyk, Robert J.	(425) 432-9578		23805 SE 208th	Maple Valley	WA	98038	
Moorman, Steve B.	(206) 870-7702	(206) 662-8312	24324 Military Road S	Kent	WA	98032	steve.moorman@pss.boeing.com
Morgan, Victoria A.	2538593186	2065446322	4201 S 273rd Pl.	Auburn	WA	98001	victoria.a.morgan@boeing.com
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Nelson, Kurt	(253) 859-5746		4629 Kent Court	Kent	WA	98032	
Nelson, Maren	(425) 822-0455		6509 114th Ave. NE	Kirkland	WA	98033	
Neuberger, Michael W.	(425) 228-9764	(206) 662-2515	16624 133rd Pl. SE	Renton	WA	98058	michael.neuberger@pss.boeing.com
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Olds, Kirsten E.	2069011837		1611 SW 170th St.	Seattle	WA	98166	
Oliver, Janet C.	(425) 413-0298	2063987822	18017 187th Ave. SE	Renton	WA	98058	oliverj2@msn.com
Ortiz-Aponte, Javier R.	(206) 270-8964	2065447756	1404 Tenth Ave. W #7	Seattle	WA	98119	javier.r.ortiz-aponte@boeing.com
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Pirson, Christopher J.	(425) 432-9593	(206) 655-0110	22130 238th Pl. SE	Maple Valley	WA	98038	chris.pirson@boeing.com
Pisaruck, Michael A.	(206) 937-0602	2063211050	3446 39th Ave. SW	Seattle	WA	98116	
Plimpton, John M.	(206) 525-3786	(253) 924-3057	8760 Sand Point Way NE	Seattle	WA	98115	plimptj@wdni.com
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Price, Earl L.	(253) 848-7544	4259651556	12344 Tatoosh Road E	Puyallup	WA	98374	mtclimr@worldnet.att.net
Privett, Richard T.	2067844164	2066621520	1757 NW 59th St., #302	Seattle	WA	98107	richard.t.privett@boeing.com
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Robertson, Matthew R.	(425) 822-0455	(425) 957-5691	6509 114th Ave. NE	Kirkland	WA	98033	matt.robertson@boeing.com
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Throolin, Lucinda			19834 Fifth Ave. NE	Shoreline	WA	98155	
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ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

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ALPINE ECHO



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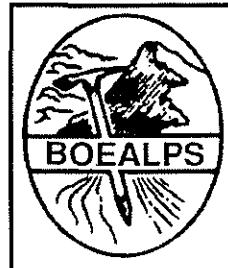
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Contributors: Dan Goering, Ilan Angwin,
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Troy Colyer, Dennis Fay,
Dave Burdick, Mike Jacobsen

*Thanks to everyone who contributed! If you have
any submissions - anything vaguely
mountaineering or outdoors related will do -
email them to me at
matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in
inplant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices
will work, give me a call at
(425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!*

461 401 0184

November 1999



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

President	Bill Harrison	206-662-2487 william.l.harrison@boeing.com	Equipment	South	Mike Jacobsen	253-657-1438 michael.t.jacobsen@boeing.com
Vice President	Norene Borg	425-237-6991 norene.a.borg@boeing.com		Central	Silas Wild	206-527-9453 silaswild@yahoo.com
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	Eric Bennett	206-579-5016 erbennett@hotmail.com	BCAG Recreation		Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: Crater Rock, Mt. Hood Descent by Mike Jacobsen

From Beth Sundquist 39-PU



**November
General
Meeting**

**Erik Hall presents
"Bicycling Across Tibet"**

**Thursday, November 4th
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm**



BELAY STANCE

Fall Banquet Once Again a Success...

The food was excellent, the drinks flowed freely, Len and Rob's creativity was soundly applauded, and Mike Gauthier presented a fabulous selection of slides and stories from his years as a climbing ranger on Mt. Rainier. The banquet was well attended, with 100 Boealps members and guests showing up for the gala evening.

Library Funds to be Spent...

Our new librarians, Scott and Stacy Drum want to spend the \$175 in our current library budget. Scott's already coerced Mike Gauthier into contributing a copy of his new Rainier climbing guide to the club, but would like to know if any members have any suggestions as to what titles would be good additions to our shelves. Also, Scott wants to remind you that you are more than welcome to donate any old volumes sitting around your house just collecting dust. Any suggestions can be sent to Scott and Stacy at sndrum@hotmail.com, and anyone with a book or books to donate can find Scott and Stacy at any of the monthly general meetings.

Slide Presentation at the November General Meeting...

Erik Hall will be making the presentation at the November General meeting at the Oxbow recreation center on November 4th. Erik did a bicycle ride across Tibet in 1995 with climbing equipment. He attempted to climb Anye Machen, which is about 20,000 feet tall, but at one time was thought to be the highest mountain in the world. He traveled in Taskent, China, Tibet, Nepal and India on his extended trip. Come out and catch what should be an interesting show.

Volunteer Opportunity...

Want to try some gear for free? REI is recruiting equipment tester volunteers! Volunteers meet once a month on Monday evenings in Kent to discuss, review, preview, and critique outdoor gear & clothing...during the rest of the month, volunteers test the products. Items tested include prototype gear and clothing from REI Product Development, current product and new items from many vendors. Volunteers serve a two-year term, and must fill out and file an application (which can be picked up at any Seattle area REI store) by Monday November 1, 1999. You can find more info at <http://www.rei.com/storelocator/seattle/> - click on "Store clinics/events".

Join the Rock Gym Climbing Email List...

Climbing at an indoor gym is the perfect way to keep your technical rock skills sharp until the sun starts shining again some time next summer. Janet Oliver is building and maintaining an email list for folks who would like to hook up with other partners for an evening of climbing at any of the local gyms. Once she has the list constructed, you'll be able to send email out to ask if anyone is interested in meeting at (whichever gym) on what day and time. The ROCKBOTTOMS list worked quite well last year and gave folks the opportunity to meet and climb with other BOEALPERS! Email Janet Oliver, at oliverj2@msn.com if interested. There is a group of climbers who already meet every Tuesday evening at the Redmond Vertical World around 6:00 – contact Matt Robertson at matt.robertson@boeing.com for more info, or just show up on Tuesdays! Be warned, however, the Tuesday night crowd shows up with toddlers in tow! This may be good or bad, depending on your family situation...

Peshastin Pinnacles is closed for the season...

Peshastin Pinnacles State Park will be closed for the season starting on October 26th and is scheduled to be reopened on March 16th. The re-opening is dependent on weather and trail conditions. Also note that there is a fine of \$114 if you are caught in the park when it is closed per WAC-352-32-050.

Homepage Password...

Still doesn't work. During the last board meeting, however, the decision was made to move our web site to another provider, so watch for details here soon, and hopefully we'll have a fully functional web site before the end of the year!

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

January 2000 ECHO DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 16th

November, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Election Day	3	4 Club Meeting	5	6
7 New Moon	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day Board Meeting	12	13
14 Mike & Doug's outing	15	16	17	18 Echo Deadline	19	20
21	22	23 Full Moon	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Boeing Holiday	27
28	29	30				

December, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting	3	4
5	6	7 New Moon	8	9 Board Meeting	10 John Lennon shot	11
12 Mike & Doug's outing	13	14	15	16 Echo deadline	17	18
19	20	21	22 Last Full Moon of the Century!	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	30	28	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 st , 2000!

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Mike & Doug's Winter Outing Series

2nd Sunday of the Month, November-March

Mountain/Area	Somewhere on the Mountain Loop Highway, Stevens Pass or Snoqualmie Pass
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Various
Class	2-3
Grade	I-II
Approximate Times	6-7 a.m. 'till evening
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	None
Contacts	Mike Bingle, (206)662-4929(w), (206)935-3992(h), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com Doug Sanders, (206)622-2140 x-217(w), (425)252-5331(h), DougSanders@aol.com

November BoBaby Outing – Rattlesnake Ridge

November 6th

Are you ready to get out with your toddler in less than perfect weather? With a backup plan of the Seattle Aquarium if the weather is WAY less than perfect, come join us for the short hike to the top of Rattlesnake Ridge. The trail is not stroller friendly, so plan on carrying your BoBaby at least part of the way...

Mountain/Area	Rattlesnake Ridge, North Bend
Elevation	1200 foot gain
Route	Trail, 1.4 miles each way
Approximate Times	10 am at the trailhead
Skills	Capability to kids warm and dry when it's cold and wet
Limits	None
Contacts	Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455, mnelson@physio-control.com

December BoBaby Outing (to see Santa)

December 5th

Since the weather this time of year is unpredictable, the BoBaby outing for December is a Santa train trip on the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad. We'll be riding the rails on Sunday, December 5 and boarding at North Bend at 9 am; please plan to be there by 8:30 am. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and children over 3; children under 3 ride free. The train ride is about 1 hour, with an hour to spend in Snoqualmie and see Santa Claus. The train returns to North Bend before 11am. More information can be found at <http://www.trainmuseum.org/home.htm>. Tickets must be purchased in advance (soon!) by visiting the Snoqualmie depot or calling (425)888-2206.

Mountain/Area	Snoqualmie Valley
Elevation	Not much
Route	Train tracks
Approximate Times	8:30 am – 11:00 am
Skills	Dealing with toddlers; diaper changing skills a plus
Limits	None
Contact	Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455, mnelson@physio-control.com

Submit activities to:

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Anyone up for a pizza feed in return for leading a trip in December?

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
(____) _____ (Home)
Email: _____
M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes October

October's meeting was held at the house of our new prez, Bill Harrison. Attendees were Bill Harrison, Noreen Borg, Glenn Tomchik, Beth Sundquist, Victor Yagi, Silas Wood, Rob James, Andy Roth, Rob Kuntz.

Silas delivered the new ice tool, which is now part of the North Equipment. Silas also requested \$1100 for four Avalanche Beacons.

Discussed issues raised by Jack Leicester's letter to the president related to the annual banquet. Board will consider using cash bar for next year's banquet. Banquet cost will likely be lower for those who do not drink alcoholic beverages. Board approved lowering door prize fund, but keep the recognition fund at \$200 for next year.

Board Approved Mt. St. Helens as winter ski trip. Glenn Tomchik is trip leader.

The BoeAlps website will be switching to a new service provider. Proposed address will be www.boealps.org (assuming it is available). This name will be independent of the service provider so any future changes will not require a change of address. This change will save \$80/year over current provider.

Boeing, which is currently experiencing significant budget reductions in numerous areas, has eliminated its annual contribution of \$1500 to the BoeAlps. The company will still support the club by providing liability insurance and by paying for Echo distribution internally and to outside Boeing members. To compensate for this loss, the board approved increasing annual dues for Boeing employees to \$15 and \$20 for families and non-employees to \$20 and \$25 for families. At current memberships this will roughly offset the budget loss we will experience.

The board made it a goal to publish information about future events, if known, in the Echo ahead of time to help members plan their schedules. This will include listing speakers at meetings if known in advance.

-- Glenn Tomchik, secretary

Can one letter from you really influence an important decision?

Absolutely! The Washington Action Network is an online environmental activist network in Washington State. When you join the Action Network, you choose issues you care most about: clean air, heritage forests, ocean health, population growth... After that, the Action Network notifies you by e-mail when legislation influencing those topics is happening, and when a letter from you to the appropriate decision-makers will make the difference. You will receive a brief draft letter to help you express your thoughts, and instructions on how and who to send your message to. Our most recent action was an effort to permanently protect National Forest roadless areas. Join us--on the web at <http://actionnetwork.org/>

-- Linda Furney



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer

A series of cougar encounters in the Graves Creek Area of the East Fork Quinault Valley led to several temporary closures in the area and an extra word of warning for visitors to Olympic National Park.

While travelling in Olympic National Park, or any cougar habitat, people are advised to follow the precautions listed below. For more information, people are urged to call the Olympic National Park Wilderness Information Center at 360/452-0300.

To prevent a cougar encounter:

- Do not hike or jog alone (in fact, don't jog at all - joggers look like fleeing prey to a predator)
- Keep children within sight and close at all times
- Avoid dead animals
- Keep a clean camp
- Leave pets at home
- Be alert to the surroundings
- Use a walking stick

If you meet a cougar:

- Do not run! Running may trigger a cougar's attack instinct
- Stand up and face the animal
- Pick up children
- Try to appear large- wave your arms or a jacket over your head
- Do not approach the animal, back away slowly
- Maintain eye contact with the animal

If a cougar becomes aggressive:

- Do not turn your back or take your eyes off the cougar
- Remain standing
- Throw things
- Shout loudly
- Fight back aggressively

Cougars are curious animals and may appear threatening when they are only being inquisitive. By making the cougar think you are a bigger, meaner critter than it is, you will be able to avoid an attack (the big cats realize that there is enough easy prey that they don't have to mess with something that will fight back). Keep in mind that fewer than 20 fatal cougar attacks have occurred in the United States in the past 100 years (on the other hand, more than 50 people are killed, on average, by deer each year-most in auto collisions with the deer).



BE PREPARED



**MOFA CLASS
2000**

BE SAFE

(Ed. Note: There's only a few spots left for this class – if you're planning on taking it, sign up soon, or be disappointed!)

Boealps is offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid class in January/February 2000. This course is designed to prepare you to deal effectively with accidents which can occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available. Eight classroom sessions, including hands-on scenarios held outdoor, will be followed by two evenings of practical exams conducted in conjunction with other MOFA classes at Camp Long in West Seattle. Graduates will receive American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card.

This course is recommended for all Boealps members and is required for all first-time Boealps Basic Class Instructors.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (January 18, 20, 25, 27, February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17.
(Dates to be confirmed next month).

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center
Cost: Approximately \$45 (exact amount will be determined after 1st class)
Class Size: Approximately 24 persons
Instructors: Kathy Hasegawa, Joyce Holloway and Chris Rudesill

The class will be filled in the order that registration forms are received. To reserve your space, return the registration form and \$45 in the form of a check payable to Boealps.

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com	(425) 814-5487	(206) 527-5281
Joyce Holloway	Joyce.R.Holloway@boeing.com	(425) 477-4393	(425) 888-4434
Chris Rudesill	Christopher.C.Rudesill@boeing.com	(425) 965-2683	(206) 729-0640

BOEALPS MOFA REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Boealps") TO:

Joyce Holloway
(425) 477-4393

MS 6F-06

**REFRESHER****REFRESHER**

MOFA REFRESHER

(Ed. Note: The Mountaineers are also offering a MOFA refresher class November 12, 20 and 21 at the American Red Cross – call the Mountaineers, or visit <http://www.mountaineers.org/MOFA/> for more info.)

Boealps will be offering a "MOFA Refresher" class in February/March 2000. This course is offered to those needing to renew their MOFA certification and have taken MOFA within the last three years. This is a quick way to keep up to date on your first aid skills. Four classroom sessions, including hands-on scenarios held outdoor, will be followed by one evening of practical exams conducted in conjunction with other MOFA classes at Camp Long in West Seattle. Graduates will receive American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card.

This course is recommended for all current MOFA cardholders wishing to renew their certificates before it's too late. **Current or recent MOFA card required. MOFA cards are valid for three years.**

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (TBD – February/March 2000)
(Dates to be confirmed next month).

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center
Cost: Approximately \$45 (exact amount will be determined after 1st class)
Class Size: Approximately 24 persons
Instructors: Kathy Hasegawa, Joyce Holloway and Chris Rudesill

The class will be filled in the order that registration forms are received. To reserve your space, return the registration form and \$45 in the form of a check payable to Boealps.

If you have any questions, please call:

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Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com	(425) 814-5487	(206) 527-5281
Joyce Holloway	Joyce.R.Holloway@boeing.com	(425) 477-4393	(425) 888-4434
Chris Rudesill	Christoper.C.Rudesill@boeing.com	(425) 965-2683	(206) 729-0640

BOEALPS "MOFA REFRESHER" REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Boealps") TO:

Joyce Holloway MS 6F-06
(425) 477-4393

(Editor's note: After their near Grammy/Oscar-worthy performance at the annual banquet, here are the lyrics to "Who named it Mt. Fairweather?"")

Boealper

(Tune of Aqualung by Jethro Tull)

by Ron "Flecktone" Fleck and Len "Kanna-rhyme" Kannapell

Resting on a Thin Ledge
Eyeing slabby snow with mounting dread
Snot running down his nose
Frosty fingers clutching icy holds – Hey Boealper

Freezing without warm sun
Hiking before rising rivers run – Hey Boealper
Feeling like a Dead duck
Because weather gods just don't bring him luck – Whoa Boealper

Butt numbing cold, he inches up an icefall
Placing screws wherever they will hold
Leg cramping bad, as he kicks another front point
He swings his tool and climbs another foot

Feeling some slack, he yells to get more TENSION
Exposure on the rise, but he's feeling great
Boealper, my friend, don't you climb ahead uneasy
The guidebook rates it only five point eight.

Do you still remember December's heavy snows?
When the precip fell in huge amounts and closed off all the roads
Hey! Did grab your neoprene snowshoes with long awaited glee
And head off to the mountains anyway, hey, hey – hey, hey, hey?

Butt numbing cold, he inches up an icefall
Placing screws wherever they will hold
Leg cramping bad, as he kicks another front point
He swings his tool and climbs another foot

Feeling some slack, he yells to get more TENSION
Exposure on the rise, but he's feeling great
Boealper, my friend, don't you climb ahead uneasy
The guidebook rates it only five point eight.

Dee, dee, dee, etc.

Boealper, my friend, don't you climb ahead uneasy
The guidebook rates it only five point eight.

Resting on a Thin Ledge
Eyeing slabby snow with mounting dread
Snot running down his nose
Frosty fingers clutching icy holds – Hey Boealper

Freezing without warm sun
Hiking before rising rivers run – Hey Boealper
Feeling like a Dead duck
Because weather gods just don't bring him luck – Hey Boealper



The Continuing Travels of Dan Goering...

(Ed. Note: Dan Goering's "Boealps North American Tour" continues this month with two installations!)

Howdy Y'all, from Georgetown TX!

Rolled in a few days ago for a stopover on my way from Colorado to California. Now, those of you who weren't one of the 94% of Americans who the surveys say can't pick out the outline of the USA on a map of the world are probably saying to yourselves, "Texas ain't exactly on the way from Colorado to California!" and of course you're right.

The draw of Georgetown (just outside Austin) was not fiddle music and hot Texas BBQ, but the presence of long time cohort Dean Carroll, also known as Captain Adventure. Dean has been slaving away all summer in a small windowless building that houses Manning Environmental attempting to get a new design of a peristaltic sewer sampler to work. Dean, his Dad and brother own this small company and the recalcitrant design along with other responsibilities have kept him in Georgetown all summer instead of on the road with me as was originally planned. So I'm here to visit and provide moral support and free labor for a few days.

But what has passed since the Bozeman update, you ask? From Bozeman, we headed towards Grand Teton National Park, which can be reached in a short day's drive. Two days later we arrived following stops at Three Forks, Virginia City, and Yellowstone.

Far better than Virginia City was Three Forks - the location where the Madison, Jefferson and Gallatin rivers merge to form the headwaters of the Missouri. It was a hot sunny day and I took the plunge and swam across the Missouri River and back. This might not sound like much of a feat and it actually wasn't here, but it brought back childhood memories of my youth in Columbia, Missouri. Our house was only 20 miles or so from the Missouri River and the river there was at least 5 times wider, lots faster and much muddier. At least once a year, Dad would pile us all in the car and drive the narrow gravel road along the river to the hillbilly town of Easly so we could poke about in Easly Cave and the bluffs above. Dad delighted in driving with the tires just inches from the edge of the road while we all screamed in terror with visions of the car rolling over and disappearing forever below the turbulent muddy waters!

Upper Geyser Basin in Yellowstone and its wondrous spectacle of steam rising from the ground brought us to a halt for some picture taking. We snapped our photos and were about to continue driving, but a mere photo had not satisfied either Ilan's or my curiosity about these natural wonders. We tugged on our hiking boots and strode off across the meadows towards the source of the steam. Parts of the ground sounded hollow and we carefully skirted these areas, wondering whether we should have roped up in full glacier travel gear for this hike! We spent several hours along the Madison River wandering from steaming hole to steaming hole, looking for one of the right temperature to bathe in and marveling at these hot water holes, their crystal clear water glimmering cornflower blue and bubbling away with heat from the depths. Equally amazing are the bubbling mud pits, burping sulfur and flinging bits of light grey mud about. We finally found a spot in the river where the hot and cold water mixed sufficiently for some warm bathing.

One more stop at Old Faithful to view its 100+ foot eruption and then we were really off to The Tetons and the fabled Climbers Ranch, run by the American Alpine Club. The Ranch is THE spot to stay in the park if you're a climber or even just a hiker. \$6 per night gets you a hard plywood bunk in one of a quaint cluster of cabins and includes hot shower, covered cooking area, and, for those rainy days, a library/lounge with lots of climbing books and magazines, plus a TV, VCR and selection of climbing videos. Better yet is the free food cooler with an odd selection of items donated by those departing for home (Ilan and I managed to scrounge a couple of meals here!). The best part though, is all the friendly, like minded people to hang out with and trade route information with.

On the approach to Mt. Moran, you'll find yourself gliding across String Lake with the bottom of the canoe almost brushing the bottom of this narrow, shallow lake. At the far end, heft the canoe onto your head and portage it the tenth of the mile to Leigh Lake. On across Leigh Lake you'll glide until you see the huge boulders in the clear depths below rising up closer and closer towards you just before you pull up to shore at the base of the bouldery stream descending from the Falling Glacier. In our case, we stopped once along the shore of Leigh Lake for shelter in the trees as one of the thunder storms circling above in their holding patterns passed directly overhead. Two more times on the hike up along the stream, we dived for shelter under bushes and rock ledges as rain dumped from the sky. We managed to reach

the beautiful views of the 10,000 ft camp without getting soaked and prepared to climb the next day as the skies cleared.

We basked in sun on the summit until noon the next day, having completed the long scree slog up to the summit of Drizzlepuss and found the courage to continue down the steep west face to the base of the CMC route on Mt. Moran. The route looks steep and scary from the top of Drizzlepuss, but the guidebook's advice to take heart and continue on was good, as the route is very moderate once you get started. CMC, by the way, stands for Chicago Mountaineering Club - not exactly where I'd go looking for such a thing!

On the descent, we shared some rappels with the only other guys climbing that day - Joe from Portland and John from Seattle. As luck would have it, they had obtained a permit for four persons to camp at the Lower Saddle below the Grand Teton and we were invited to join them! Two days hence, our tents were pitched at the saddle and I found myself talking to Tom Kimbro.

Tom has been a ranger at the park since 1972 and has climbed a good number of routes on most of the peaks in the park. We passed his binoculars back and forth, watching the progress of two climbers nearing the broad Wallstreet Ledge on their way up the Lower Exum Ridge route. It was nearly 7:30 pm and without much daylight left, Tom was somewhat concerned with their slow progress. "They're almost home free", Tom said, "that is, if they realize it." As we watched, Tom pointed out key features on The Grand and I learned that Tom had done some climbing around the Cascades in years past with the likes of Kim Schmitz, Fred Beckey, and others whose names haunt local guidebooks. Fred in fact had himself climbed Mt. Moran via the CMC route earlier in the summer.

The weather forecast promised a beautiful day for our attempt on the Grand via the Petzolt Ridge the next day. But, as the evening progressed, Tom kept saying "I don't know if I like the look of those clouds," and shared a few epic stories of parties caught by the season ending snow storms that could blow in this time of year. The late climbers reached Wallstreet and I bid goodnight to Tom, feeling much more familiar with the mountain. As I walked off to the tent, he called one last thing: "You know about the escape route off the Petzolt Ridge? Reach the base of the Exum and a 60 ft rappel will get you back to Wallstreet".

I woke an hour or so later with the tent trembling in the wind and a bright blue flash visible even through closed eyelids. Thunder crashed almost immediately and the storm built in intensity. Tom had commented that lightning has never struck the lower saddle, preferring the higher peaks above and the Black Dike - a dark band of rock a hundred feet or so above our camp that has a higher iron content than the surrounding rock. Reassured, I enjoyed the evening's show from the warmth of my sleeping bag as I drifted in and out of sleep. Three inches of snow on the ground the next morning convinced us to abandon the climb and, later that afternoon, Ilan and I were back on the road southwards in search of better weather.

It was a good day to be driving as storms chased us across Wyoming until that night on the continental divide, pulled over several miles down a dirt BLM road, we were again treated to the spectacle of a thunderstorm's fury. One of the things I miss living in Seattle is the thunderstorms of my Midwest youth and so I drifted off to sleep quite content. The BLM road we slept on paralleled part of the Oregon Trail, so we spent the morning exploring and playing wagon train. (A Chevy Astro van probably weighs about as much as a covered wagon loaded with a family's entire set of possessions and felt as hard to push when our downhill coast didn't quite get us over the next rise!) On the way back to the highway we temporarily became part of a cattle drive complete with several hundred cows and about 10 cowboys on horses. We also finally used the van's all-wheel drive capabilities and I was especially proud of the huge mud glob we managed to stick to the middle of the windshield!

Thunderstorms remained the theme in Wyoming and we were treated to another show just after lunching at the North Platte River State Park. If I'd had an inner tube, I could have (theoretically) jumped in the river and arrived at my relatives in Platte Center, Nebraska a number of days later. I opted instead to continue with the van through Medicine Bow National Forest. We stretched our legs here on an hour and a half scramble and arrived at Jesse Ryan's place in Fort Collins, Colorado just before dark. Jesse, you may recall, was on the Alaskan adventure to Mt Blackburn earlier this year, and we all headed out to Lucky Joe's to start our Labor Day weekend with a pitcher of dark beer and all the peanuts you can eat. Lucky Joe fortunately has a tradition of tossing the peanut shells on the floor to be swept up later, so Ilan and I didn't have to change any of our wilderness eating habits to fit in here.

Next stop was Long's Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Sunday sun rose to find Ilan and I on the north edge of The Diamond - the steep east face of Long's Peak. Trouble was, we really intended to be at the south edge but had taken the wrong trail in our predawn perambulations. We decided to climb "The Cable Route" which we originally had picked as our descent route but which now lay directly in front of us. Its name comes from the steel cable that used to be strung down the steeper lower part of the route. The Park Service had removed the cable a number of years ago leaving only large iron eyebolts to mark the route. In our case, the normally easy climbing was made more interesting by the presence of verglass - a thin layer of clear ice frozen to the rock. Ilan made a nice first lead, finding enough ice free spots to climb and we were quickly enough on top with the dozens of others who had come up the standard "keyhole" route. I finished the day with a traverse to climb Mt. Meeker just to the south and a big slice of watermelon back at the van.

Ilan departed the Boealps North American Tour on Tuesday morning at the Denver Airport with plans to visit his sister in NYC and dad in New Mexico before returning to Seattle to work on graduate school arrangements. I pulled away from the curb headed for Aspen, looking forward to this next solo segment of travel, but knowing already I would miss having Ilan as an adventure companion. We had spent nearly three months in each other's nearly constant company with only minor bickering, and that says a lot!

Aspen was a quick stop to visit a good friend, Cathy Zimmer, who I don't see nearly often enough, and then I began the long drive to Texas. My first night camping in the van with only my thoughts for company came at Poncha Pass in southeast Colorado. I enjoy sleeping out on a clear night and the silent starry blackness of this night with the cool sage scented breeze was as beautiful as any that I can remember. I spent the morning playing at The Great Sand Dunes National Monument just down the road and then got down to the business of putting some miles behind me. Not far past Texline, Texas, I pulled down a farm road and then down a dirt tractor path to sleep between fields of corn. Flashing white "in operation" lights on numerous center pivot irrigation systems made the whole area look like some vast airport.

Most land in Texas is privately owned, making it much more challenging to find a free spot to pull off for the night. Texans are reputed to be mighty fond of their guns and I slept fitfully with the worry of waking to some farmer's shotgun pointed my way. About 4:30 am, I decided to just start driving and began navigating as straight a line towards Austin as the back roads would allow. Driving in the predawn light eastwards to sunrise was pure pleasure as I sped along narrow two-lane blacktop roads through dry west Texas farm country. At this hour, the roads belonged to me alone.

I called Dean from the Georgetown courthouse, just two blocks walk from Manning Environmental. Our conversation went something like this:

Dean: Where are you at?

Me: Just outside Santa Fe. You still going to be able to join me in South America?

Dean: I think so. (*sigh*) I've still got lots to wrap up here at Manning.

Me: Gotta go. Bye.

It was a grand reunion minutes later.

The good thing about Texas is that it is REALLY summertime here - temperatures in the 90's!! Dean took me sailing Sunday on Lake Travis on the boat of a friend he crews for during races and I was able to swim around in the water for hours without turning blue! The other nice thing is that Dean's parents feed me like royalty when I stop over at their house!

Surfs up Duudes!

-- the continuing adventures of Dan Goering

I'm hanging at my little sister Sara's new place in Long Beach, California this week. She's been here a month now teaching philosophy at the California State U, Long Beach (CSULB). Her place is just two blocks from the beach and a short walk from a good variety of shops and restaurants – perfect location for a woman who decided to buck LA culture and not own a car. We went for sushi last night, but earlier in the week she confessed that she often has microwave meatless corndogs for dinner – surely one of the marvels of the modern industrial age. If only her students knew! I tried them for lunch yesterday and its amazing that the Morningstar company can take discarded vegetable parts and turn them into a pink squishy hot dog-looking meatlike substance. They're actually quite good!

My sweetie Patty flew down for a long weekend and we tried out surfing with the M&M surfing school. The school consists of Mike and Helen and their huge van full of soft foam boards parked at Seal Beach. Mike is in his mid to late 40's, bit of a paunch, shoulder length sun bleached blond curls, and a friendly, caring twinkle in his eye. Patty and I tugged on our wet suits, waxed down our long boards and followed Mike down to the water's edge where he demonstrated the proper technique to go from stomach to feet on the board and had us practice on the nice stable sand. Then it was out to the waves, where Mike would eye their development, select a good one and give us a push start into it. As the board began to skim down the face, he'd yell "You're up!" and we would attempt to jump to our feet. My first wave was actually one of my best rides, until I fell off at the end and took a gouge out of my palm with a mussel shell. With Mike's help, both Patty and I were catching some good waves before the 11 am wrap up time arrived. Our best ride was a side by side cruise on the same wave! Helen took pictures for us with my camera.

Their school is quite apparently more than just a job for Mike and Helen. They make sure everyone on the beach knows each other by name and is having a good time. Mike said they're out 364 days a year at the beach and know just about everyone who comes down. A former student of theirs, also named Mike, stopped by and confessed that he'd been absent because he checked himself into a drug rehab program. Surfer Mike asked how it was going and wanted a phone number so they could check up on him. Then they outfitted him with a wet suit and board and he joined into the surfing fun. I'm pretty sure they didn't charge him anything. Instead of wrapping up at 11 am as advertised, Mike suggested a break for the surfer's special at the local taco shop and then we went back out for another hour!

The path from Texas to California was a long one, but it was punctuated with several nice stops. First up was the Gila Wilderness Area and the Gila Cave Dwellings National Monument in New Mexico. This little gem lies down 40 miles of a dead end road and I met a number of its fans who visit every year. Basalt cliffs tower above the Gila River canyon full of junipers, oaks, pines, and sparse grassy meadows all sprinkled with an abundance of bright yellow flowers and populated with fat black tailed squirrels. At ranger Dave's recommendation, I set off late one afternoon for the Jordan hot springs, arriving at dusk after traversing through the Little Bear slot canyon and crossing the river 15 times as the trail avoided the steep bluffs on the outside of each river bend. My Teva sandals were the perfect footwear here!

I ended up staying 2 nights here, taking hikes and soaking in the crystal hot springs which were comfortably warm and conducive to hours of soaking while reading and relaxing. A red, black and white ringed snake slithered off the trail just ahead of me one afternoon and I found myself trying to recall how you tell a poisonous coral snake from the harmless king snake. Was it "Red next to Black, Friend of Jack" or "Red next to Black, get back Jack"? It was kind of moot as I got only a quick glimpse and couldn't remember which color of ring was next to what. (Turns out that the proper phrase is "Red next to black, friend of Jack. Red next to yellow can kill a fellow". This was useful later as we saw several king snakes in Yosemite.)

On down the road, I drove over Hoover Dam just outside Las Vegas and phoned Patty at work:

Me: "Hi there! I've just seen the most amazing sight!"

Patty: (slight pause) "You're at that dumb Hoover Dam aren't you?"

Patty, you see, grew up in the town of Coulee Dam in eastern Washington and is quite proud of this amazing bit of construction. She had visited the Hoover Dam on a Las Vegas business trip earlier this year and wasn't much impressed – especially as they had to pay \$2 just to park. I was impressed with how fast she guessed where I was phoning from!

Being in a back highways rural frame of mind, the glittering lights of Las Vegas didn't hold much appeal. Besides, I was due to lose at Blackjack this visit (I seem to alternate between winning money and losing it quite rapidly). Instead, I blew on through town and pulled over into the desert just west of town to admire the sunset and cook up a pot of chicken and rice before climbing in to slumber in the back of the van.

If you look very closely at a map of Nevada and zero in on a patch of green near the California border and just NW of the town of Pahrump, you'll notice the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Now if you look even closer, within the Refuge is a tiny spot of darker green labeled "Devil's Hole Death Valley Nat'l. Park". Intrigued, I drove around on the dusty dirt roads of the Ash Meadows Refuge until I pulled up to a gated road that led in about 100 yards to a small city-lot sized area surrounded by 10 ft chain link fence topped by barbed wire. Further to the side, a couple of industrial strength welded steel cages were sitting on the dry desert ground amidst the cactus. This, apparently, was Devil's Hole National Park! The name conjured images of a cave, so headlamp stuffed in a pocket, I walked up to the chain link. A sign proclaimed this opening to a water filled cavern as the last known dwelling of the endangered pupfish whose cartoon outline was pictured actual size – about 2 inches long. A telephone pole in the enclosure bristled with antenna, presumably sending data from scientific instruments off to a remote site. This was definitely the strangest national park I had ever seen. The cages off the side covered other openings in the ground. Not a very visitor friendly place! I was sorely tempted to climb over the fence for a first hand look at the pupfish.

A bit later my perch atop the lava hill behind the caves afforded an expansive view of the empty, surrounding desert – a reassuring sight when so many areas like Seattle keep expanding and getting frustratingly congested. Here for miles around lay nothing but desert and lava hills, man's presence marked only by the occasional dust plume thrown up by a distant car speeding along the dirt roads.

Back down on the flats, I followed a dry wash to an island of green and stepped into the welcoming cool of a shade tree. Out in the sun, the desert was still and seemingly lifeless outside of the cactus and the hills of some very hardy ants. In the shade, the air buzzed with the wings of flies and other insects. A giant blue iridescent tarantula wasp hummed about in a circular search pattern, looking for a spider to attack and lay her eggs in. The growth was so thick here that bushwhacking through it was almost out of the question. I skirted the edges, beating the grass before me with a stick so as not to surprise any rattlers at close quarter. My diligence was eventually rewarded with an unseen rattling just ahead and I skirted even wider.

Mid-afternoon is perhaps not the best time to hike in Death Valley, but I found myself scrambling among the dunes above 20 Mule Team Canyon – so named for the mule teams that helped operate the borax mines here at the beginning of the 20th century. I got excited when I saw some dark openings in the hills, but exploration revealed only short shafts that ended 100 feet or so in. After several hours of hiking around in the 120 degree heat, I retreated near sundown to the Furnace Creek visitor's center for some really warm spigot water and a refreshingly cold pineapple/cherry popsicle. I had miles to go yet to meet Jose Pastor in Yosemite the next morning and so I climbed back into the van as a full moon rose over the jagged red ridge above, fired even deeper red by the glow of the setting sun.

The empty two lane pulled me along as I sped north through dusk, but just after dark, my progress was foiled by the large barricade reading "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" which sat in the turnoff to my planned route to Yosemite. I didn't want to accept this bit of information. I cursed the authorities who left me wondering if the road was really closed or whether they just didn't want lots of traffic on it. 75 miles ahead, the road connected to Hwy 6 not far from Yosemite's west entrance. The only other way around was back into Nevada – a drive of over 160 miles. I had only 110 miles in the gas tank so if the road ahead was really closed, I could find myself out of gas a long ways from any town. In no mood to decide, I shut off the van and cooked up a dinner of scrambled egg burritos. The beauty of the full moon and the quiet desert seeped in and soothed my anger and frustration. A calmness descended and I pulled out the guitar and serenaded the desert before setting out once again on the long drive around and back into Nevada. The powerful moonlight cast thin shadows on the colorless landscape and I didn't turn on the headlights until I hit the next major highway 35 miles later. Finally around 1:30 am, I crossed back into California and crawled in back for some much needed sleep.

Highway 120 into Yosemite's west entrance must be one of the most spectacular drives in California. Golden dry high alpine meadows, lakes steaming off fog in the early morning cool, fantastic looking rock formations waiting to be

climbed on and, behind it all, the snow capped peaks surrounding Tuolumne Meadows. Alas, I was already late to meet Jose, but still made several photo stops.

I rolled into Camp 4 in the Yosemite Valley 2 hours late and found a note from Jose on the bulletin board that he would be sleeping in his car in the parking lot. It was a happy reunion as we traded stories of our travels. I had climbed and skied with Jose a number of times in Seattle and knew he was someone who I wanted to have more adventures with. Then he and his girlfriend Rene quit their jobs, traveled around east Asia for 4 months and moved to San Francisco where Rene started Berkely Business School. I had tracked down their number while in Texas and Jose enthusiastically postponed his job hunt a few days for some climbing. We bought a guide book and climbed a couple of routes that afternoon before meeting up with some of Jose's college buddies, Scott & Joel, at the campground.

The next morning we stumbled along the trail to Halfdome in darkness. This early start paid off putting us most of the way to the top of the 9 mile, 4800 ft climb before the sun really started heating things up. The final climb up fine granite slab to the summit is aided by a pair of thick steel cables. At the base of the cables is a large pile of leather and cotton work gloves in all states of repair. Our early arrival meant we had a decent choice to protect our hands on the way up and down. At the top you walk over to an outcrop and creep carefully to the edge for the impressive view 2000 feet straight down to the valley below!

Two hours later as we descended, the cables were clogged with people heading up and the parade of expressions on their faces was good entertainment. The cold clear waters of the Yosemite River refreshed us on a break from the trail back down to the valley and we celebrated the day with a cold Henry's back at camp. Scott and Joel decided to head back to Joel's place in Fresno that night (hot tub there, ya know?) leaving Jose and I to plan our next days adventure.

Over the next three days, we climbed several routes on Manure Pile Buttress (named for the manure pile that used to be located at the base, not because of the rock quality!) including the Dynamic Doubles start to Nutcracker, After Six, and After Seven. Jose also did a nice lead up the first pitch on Little John Right at the base of 3000 foot overhanging face of El Capitan. It was fun watching the big wallers at various stages on the wall through the binoculars and I was a bit awed standing at the base of such a huge face. The crowning glory of the week was an ascent of the 15 pitch Royal Arches route – steep 5.6 (5.7?) climbing on clean granite punctuated with shady belay ledges!!! The walk off route via the North Dome gully is long, dusty and a bit hard to follow, but rife with great views across the valley.

The bears in Yosemite can be quite entertaining, even if you never see one. The rangers do an exemplary job of warning you to keep your food locked up in the plate steel containers provided at campsites and to keep anything that might even look like food out of your car. Four or five bears regularly visit camps each night and they have learned to recognize coolers, cans or bottles of soda, picnic baskets, and such. They go peeking into cars until they see something promising, then break a window and climb in to help themselves. And if the car in Site #1 left food in it Tuesday night, the car in Site #1 WILL get a visit the next night also. Smart critters, those bears! I was cooking dinner by the van after dark one night and had turned my headlamp off to admire the stars when I heard a snort nearby. I yelled and turned on my light to see a big black bear not 50 feet away! More yelling and the light drove him off and now I can say I've had the complete Yosemite experience!

Jose & Rene kindly hosted me a day or so in Alemeda while I recuperated from a bug I'd picked up in the park. I met Ilan (now staying at his parents just south of San Fran) for lunch one day to trade some pictures and tales. Friday night, I had dinner with my cousin Scott who has lived in the Mission district working with homeless youth for the past 10 years. He's one of those rare people really trying to live life by their ideals and beliefs and we always have some great conversations when we get together. He took me to a hole-in-the-wall Vietnamese place and introduced me to a wondrous concoction called Vietnamese Drip Coffee – delicious!! The evening was necessarily brief as he just started law school and had to get back to studying and I needed to hit the road too, so I could pick Patty up at LAX the next morning. We stopped by his very bohemian one room apartment above Pop's Bar and then I started the drive south to LA.

Next stop on this adventure is the Grand Canyon! I'd also like to visit Zion and perhaps Escalante Canyon before heading home to Seattle around the first week in November. Stay tuned!

"Go To the West Ridge, Young Climber"

West Ridge of Prusik Peak (5.7); Climbers: Mike Brady and Scott Drum (scribe); Date: 8/29/99; Weather: sunny overhead, breezy and cool. The entire climb took place on the shaded west ridge without direct sunlight. Location: Enchantment Peaks area, during a loop hike from south to north TH.

"Mike, keep the rope tight, Ok!" I breathed forcefully, "I'm going to try something."

Chancing another glance over my red, polyester clad shoulder, I silently shuddered at the sheer exposure of Prusik Peak's last, but difficult crack situation before the summit.

Despite the small, silent shudder I found it amusing that I was mostly at ease and comfortable with my present spatial orientation, about six hundred feet above balanced rock, our initial starting point. And of course adding to my ease was Mike, securely anchored above, near the summit with a bomber top belay.

"Here I go, hold tight," I stammered, mostly for my own reassurance.

Gingerly I extended and smeared my left, borrowed rock shoe a tad higher, just above the comfortable little ledge / granite flake that I'd occupied now for about the last 10-minutes. Reaching up with both hands for an attempted double fist jam within the crack, I kept my front torso positioned toward the crack and brought up my right knee, stuffing it solidly into the all too narrow crack as I smeared my left shoe a bit higher and pushed.

"Ahhhh, ooompf," I grunted between huge gulps of oxygen rewarding air. "Got it, I'm up."

"Nice job," mused Mike with a wry, but friendly grin.

"You lead that! Geez, I sure flailed," I complimented Mike. "Nice job to you too!"

Unroping completely, We enjoyed the mostly cloudless and uninterrupted view before us. Little Annapurna rounded out to the southwest, Dragontail Peak jutted up and out to the west as did Mt. Stuart's generous, granite girth. Mt. Rainier and its volcanic cohorts were not to be seen through the far away haze, but the surrounding upper and lower Enchantment Lakes area appeared, well, enchanting! Then, off to the east, nothing but flat plains extended to the distant horizon. Immediately to the south of the summit dropped the south wall, a precipitously notorious Beckey 5.9 climb.

Amidst my local geographic ponderings, Mike unscrewed the hollow, metal summit tube and produced an array of rolled paper, including an old west ridge report summary. While glancing over this old route report we came across the signatures of Eric Bennett and Rob Dymond with the comment that "once again with the intermediate class nearby, stormy weather is rolling in." Finding nothing to scribble with, Mike jammed the paper back into the tube and secured it, but not before noting many other familiar Boealpers' names.

"Ready to rappel?" queried Mike.

"Sure," I casually spoke without unmasking the surge of trepidation into my brain.

We intended to rappel straight down the line we'd just climbed to the summit, which should put us back down to the easily negotiated class 3 ledge and our cached gear. Nearby, conveniently placed webbing strands wove their way around a tightly jammed boulder the size of a small refrigerator. I watched as Mike expertly assessed the validity of this anchor and its many shrouds.

"Looks good," he proclaimed, "but I can't understand why there aren't any rappel rings." I didn't have to answer Mike, understanding that if this was such a popular rappel station there ought to be rappel rings available. Still, I made my own inspections and could find nothing unreliable about the many,

brightly colored slings. Just the day before we'd observed about nine people climbing this very route and it seemed reasonable that new webbing piled up here often each clear, summer day.

Mike threw the rope up and away from our perch after it was securely threaded through about all ten of the slings. Next, he fluently threaded each rope strand through his Jaws belay/rappel device and hopped over the edge, but not before I quizzed him about my own descent. Not one to leave anything to chance, I felt much better knowing that I knew Mike knew what I knew about rappelling. I know, I'm sounding a bit redundant, but that's my point.

Just before I backed off the summit, having spent the last 5-minutes alone, I tried to corner the sole emotion of why I'd just followed Mike up a Beckey classic 5.7 alpine route. Nothing. Only a neutral inner silence greeted my retrospection, but indeed I felt a sense of freedom and renewed set of climbing possibilities. Altogether I realized that I most enjoyed the unmatched level of concentration such a climb entailed, whereby every day life tribulations were forgotten and tucked away to be thought about later. The summit was mesmerizing, but rather anti-climatic when compared to the unbridled joy of moving through the process of getting to the top. Clinging to that thought, each of our initial fifty-foot rappels occurred without incident.

Plopping down beside Mike on the living room sized, class 3 ledge, we began gulping fluids and nibbling cheese slices, then gathered our cashed gear and easily down climbed the 30 to 40 feet of class 3 rock to the next supposed rappel station. Again, brightly colored and conveniently placed slings greeted us along with a rappel ring.

"Looks good," I said to no one in particular, and Mike uncoiled his rope and began to weave a fisherman's knot with my rope. Peering downward from our current stance, I began to reassess my "looks good" statement. Below us over 300 feet of sheer, vertical air laughed back at us.

"I think I'll tie another sling around our wedged rappel rock," I again expressed to no one in particular. Mike nodded in agreement. First I untied my double sling's water knot, slid it around the microwave sized chock stone and retied the knot, making sure I had over 3 inches of tail on either side. Assessing my own work, I realized I didn't adequately shorten my sling to take the load along with the other already placed webbing loops. Well, I thought, if all of the other slings break simultaneously then the load will be caught a fraction of a second later by my new one. Or so the thought went.

"Rope," yelled Mike and tossed his 10.5 mm perlon over the edge. "Ok, now throw your rope over."

Picking up my rope I looked at Mike while he glanced back at me.

"Oh, you didn't uncoil your rope yet," stated Mike matter of factly.

To uncoil my bright orange 9 mm perlon, Mike had to first untie the fisherman's knot joining the two ropes together. Carefully, he attached his rope (with an overhand knot) to a 'biner attached to his harness. Then he undid the knot and I uncoiled my butterfly tied rope. Finally, Mike reattached the two ropes as before and detached his rope from his harness 'biner.

"I'll go first," I volunteered and felt a surge of excitement. The rappel would cover almost 150 feet and I'd be responsible for finding a solid ledge and anchor for the next and last rappel. Without hesitation I double-double-checked my Tuber and over I went. Peering once again over my familiar red, polyester clad shoulder, I carefully backed down the solid granite west wall of Prusik. Then, looking up and to my right I retraced our ascent route. Not far away stood the white horn, as described by Beckey. The white horn lived about 300 feet above balanced rock and required low class 5 climbing to reach. Mike and I did not even rope up until we had to round an exposed corner and move into an exposed crack below the horn, all the while efficiently and confidently ascending the lower portions of Prusik's flank. Next I located the "faceless slab," described by Beckey as "a tricky 5.7, 12-foot slab. Climb it and move on...." Both Mike and I moved up the slab without hesitation, but upon further reflection I realize that I was truly following in Mike's footsteps, mimicking his toe smears and effortless hand placements. Needless to say, I "followed"

well and with a clear mind, having observed Mike courteously inserting a small piece above the slab to protect me from a long and lonely pendulum, should I have slipped. Further up I caught sight of the harrowing rock horn where I took over Mike's well protected, but super exposed belay station. Once in belay mode, I watched Mike clamber over an even more harrowing ridge, which dropped off many hundreds of feet to the south and north. Safely on the secure class 3 ledge, Mike produced another belay station. Meanwhile I had attempted to effortlessly clean the exposed, windy and cold horn, but instead found myself wrestling with a nicely lodged wire stopper at foot level with my butt hanging shamelessly over the exposed south wall. Finally the stopper let go, and I'd scurried over the exposed, but now well protected ridge to Mike's rewarding position. From there I continued my visual trace up the last pitch and choked again at the exposed, off width crack where I flailed not too long ago.

Snapping back to the task at hand, I came to rest on a nice, secure granite ledge. Nearby I noticed another convenient rappel station fashioned once again of a wedged rock, with the now familiar ten or so slings and, this time, rappel rings. Perfect, I thought, we're almost off. "Off Rappel," I yelled up to Mike. Minutes later Mike stood beside me.

Once off rappel, Mike repeated "pull orange, on the right," and began to retrieve the double rope. Up above, I recalled Mike repeating his simple "orange on the right" mantra in order to tug the rope down on the fisherman's knot side first. The rope resisted our tugs initially, but began to slide through the above rappel rings more easily the more rope we collected. Down came the rope, but then it happened. Collecting on a ledge about 50 feet above, the rope became lodged. I tugged hard several times and even began swinging the rope back and forth. Nothing. Next, Mike attempted more severe rope swinging, then looked at me, shrugged, and pulled with all his might. Instantly Mike was rewarded with a wooosh and a freed rope!

"All right," I said excitedly, not the least bit interested in climbing back up to free the rope, as suggested by Mike, before his Herculean tug.

Mike rappelled first, reached the bottom, waited for me to back down beside him, and casually walked back to balanced rock. I finished the rappel, cleaned and coiled the rope and walked over to Mike.

"Great climb," I said. "Thanks for such a fine lead! Now I know a little about what it feels like to climb a multi pitch rock route."

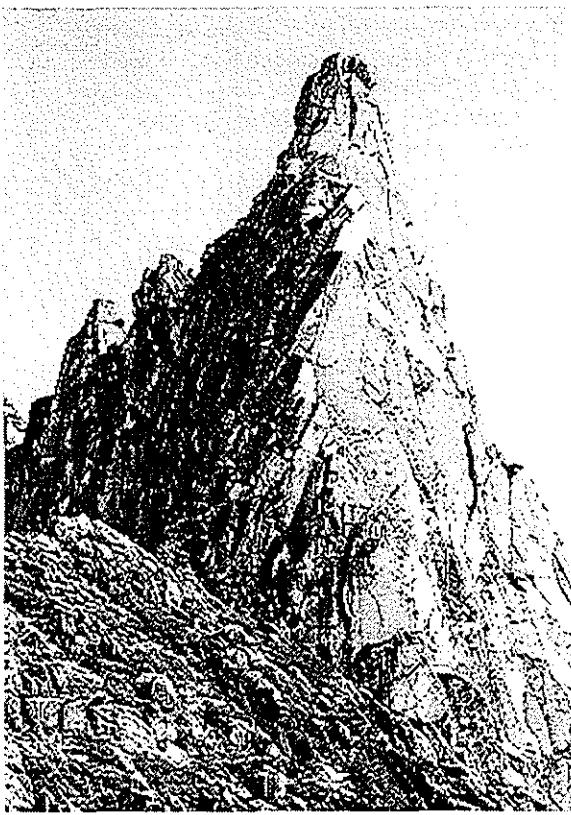
"You did well, but will need to practice climbing cracks," expressed Mike.

I didn't dispute this suggestion for a second and mentally signed myself up for continued rock practice, especially up cracks.

The requisite collection and packing of stashed base camp gear ensued. Minutes later, shouldering our packs, Mike and I descended toward Prusik Pass, but stopped near a prominent high point, still above the pass, and began to observe two other climbers just below the faceless slab. Immediately I was struck by the climbers' exposed position and thought about what it must feel like to be in such a stance. Moreover, I pondered, what type of character and attitude does it take to climb, protected only by a rope, a partner and one's self-reliance.

Not forgetting altogether our recent ascent and passage over the same ground we now observed from afar, I felt an even deeper sense of accomplishment and a growing desire to climb more. I realized I could stop thinking in the "what if" or "how does it feel" frame of mind and begin to nurture the "where does it go from here" mind set!

Turning toward the main trail to Leprechaun Lake and the trailhead beyond, I hiked with renewed energy and vigor, all the while embracing the memory of my ascending, physical presence on a remote, steep west ridge.



"FullFrontal" – West Ridge, Prusik Peak



Mike Brady and Scott Drum beginning scramble
before roping up

Mt. Sir Donald By Silas Wild

After skiing into August and seeing too many rainy weekends this summer, a few warm, sunny days in Seattle was a call to action for my first rock climb of the season. My mind ran through objectives, rejecting them one by one -- too technical, too easy, too brushy, too much hiking -- until my mind flashed! This would be a perfect weekend for Mt. Sir Donald -- solid rock, lots of moderate climbing, easy approach and the good weather at Rogers Pass the past week was forecast to continue a few more days. It took some persuading, but finally my old buddy Sam Grubenhoff agreed to go -- if we used my car, not his. Sleeping accommodations in my Vista Hotel would be much more luxurious than room 510 in Sam's Hotel Datsun, but luxury comes at a price -- the Vista gets far worse gas mileage than the Datsun. Brief chats with Tom Rogers and Lowell Skoog gave me all of the beta I needed to minimize gear. Sam and I agreed to meet at 6PM Friday to begin the 450 mile drive, and I packed the car Thursday night.

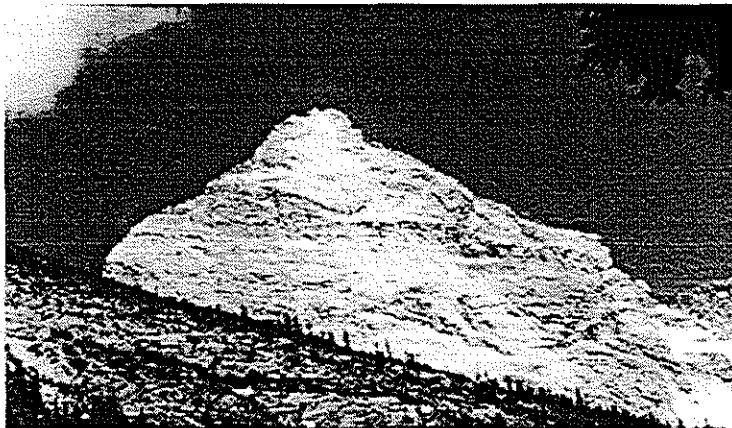
Friday morning Sam called me at work to see about revising our start to 2:30PM to beat the traffic and I quickly adjusted my afternoon schedule to comply. Unfortunately, we reached Everett just at the end of Boeing's first shift, so we crawled through the resulting traffic and then found more after the Bellis Fair

exit on the way into Canada. Views of the north sides of Baker and Shuksan were spectacular, as was Judge Howay north of Pitt Lake. In Lynden we fed the Vista a tank of gas with a quart of oil for dessert, and treated ourselves to a Mcburger. There was only one car in line ahead of us at the border. Sights along the Coqualla Highway included a beautiful sunset on Yak Peak and a sad couple sitting on large duffels not far from the charred remains of their Honda Civic. A few miles down the road, the toll booth attendant explained that the car had suddenly burst into flames. We, on the other hand, were making pretty good time, and because of the late hour we looked forward to light traffic on the two-lane road after Kamloops, since the motor homes should be all bedded down for the night. Instead we found delays for a nighttime repaving project. It was time for another tank of gas in Salmon Arm, and next door for a burger, baked potato and Caesar salad at Wendy's all for about \$2US. In Revelstoke, we picked up a young couple hitchhiking with two large tires and dropped them off at their truck halfway to Rogers Pass. We arrived at the pass at midnight and pulled into a quiet sleeping spot behind the national park maintenance shed nearby.

The alarm went off at 4:30 so we could eat breakfast and begin hiking by 6:00 in order to do the climb in a day to allow for a leisurely drive back on Sunday. (Un)fortunately(?) our grogginess saved us from that fate, and we slept until 8:00. We had the buffet breakfast at the Rogers Pass Hotel, paid our park fees, and began hiking at the crack of 11:00. By 1:30 we were at a series of excavated tent platforms just below Uto-Sir Donald pass wondering what to do for the rest of the day. We decided to eat dinner, and climb as far as we could before dark with sleeping bags and no stove, leaving a short day Sunday. A climber ran by as we ate, saying he was headed out to get a helicopter for his wife suffering from appendicitis halfway up Uto. As we hiked up to the col, we met a Canadian couple on their way down from soloing the NW Ridge of Sir Donald in 2.2 hours and descending in 4.5 hours, only using the rope for four rappels. They warned us that the route was too steep for bivi sites and did not recall seeing any. As we changed from boots to rock shoes just above the col, we watched the rescue chopper short haul the stricken climber off the slopes of Uto Peak. Sam led off our route with twelve slings, sixteen 'biners, ten stoppers, and six cams and we simul-climbed on a doubled nine millimeter rope straight up the NW ridge until he was out of protection. Then I led out onto the North Face for a while, and Sam brought us back to the ridge. Just after we found a snow patch to refill our water bottles and I began leading again, and Sam suggested stopping soon so we could set up camp before dark. The sun set at 8:00PM and within half an hour we had prepared two level beds. We were disappointed that we had gained only 500 meters in three hours, but the view from our bivi was beautiful and Sunday would be a shorter day.

We were up at 6:00 and off by 7:00; and within the first fifteen minutes of climbing we found a perfectly flat campsite with a snowpatch nearby. Doing the climb in two hours, the Canadians weren't really looking for bivi spots, I guess. The climbing was solid and pleasant and we arrived on the summit at 9:00 to a vast view of a sea of glaciers and summits; during the past week of good weather only one party had signed in Friday, and the speedsters on Saturday. With a view of the black clouds that were headed our way, the 40% chance of rain in the forecast, and the knowledge that the descent takes about twice as long as the climb, we made our summit rest a short one. Not long after we started down the rain arrived, but an hour later we reached the bivi site and reloaded our packs in sun and wind. A dozen angling single rope rappels and plenty of downclimbing later, we arrived at the col, thankful that Mother Nature had smiled on us. Unfortunately, thanks to our slow progress the drive home was shaping up to be the crux of the trip. We passed a pair of campers at the Vaux Glacier outlet stream who planned to climb Sir Donald the next day, and we were caught by a rain storm for the final flat mile back to the car. With a 7:30PM start for home we figured the marathon drive should be over by 4:30 Monday morning. Rewinding the tape of the drive north, we stopped at Salmon Arm for more gas, oil, burgers, and baked potatoes. Sam assumed the horizontal position in the back of the Vista, and I guzzled a Pepsi in preparation for my three-hour shift to Hope. Unfortunately, a forty-five minute wait for an accident just as I started driving and twenty more minutes delay for the road repaving doubled the usual hour drive to Kamloops. Before reaching Merritt, I had to turn the duties over to Sam, both of us preferring that to falling asleep at 75mph behind the wheel. A short nap later, I heard Sam answering the Sumas border guard's questions. When he said that we were headed home to work tomorrow, I had to correct him that it already was tomorrow. Again it was my turn to drive, so I filled the car with gas and my belly with more Pepsi. I was amazed to see how much traffic there is in Everett at 5AM, and we arrived at the Seattle Park And Ride at 5:30 just in time to get home for a shower.

and go to work - NOT! I did make it in by 10:30, and am planning to work on my golf game for a change of pace when my sore muscles have recovered. As some would say, the rat has been fed.



Mount Sir Donald from the west. The Northwest Arete follows the left skyline.

Aborted Mission to Outer Space, Returned to Safe Orbit BoeAlps Fall Campout at Leavenworth By Tom Ryan

Saturday morning Brian Tryba and I made the excruciating effort to rise in the pitch black darkness of the 8 Mile Campground on the Icicle Road at 5:00am. Observing the "campers" at the site across from us, who were still drinking, smoking, yelling and throwing more tinder on an inferno which was sending copious amounts of sparks into the air, we shook our heads and piled into Brian's car headed for the Snow Creek Trailhead. Arriving we found the lot almost totally full; baffling for the hour, time of year, and the uncertain weather outlook. Not to be deterred we grabbed our gear and hit the trail bound for Snow Creek Wall and Outer Space.

Upon arriving at the base, we were astonished to be the first there, although it was our plan. Routes on the Snow Creek Wall are long, and not ones to get behind several parties on, especially at this time of year with shorter daylight hours. (More on that later.)

I was leading the first pitch and wanted something a little more adventurous than the 4th class scramble to Two Trees Ledge. A direct approach would offer mid 5th class to warm up for the harder pitches. Lacking any sort of detail on the options before us, I lead first towards 2 bolts on the left. This is a harrowing slab climb, with nothing for the feet and less for hands. (We had the new Jeff Smoot WA Rock topo, and although I do like the book and its intention, it is not as detailed as area guides. This option is clearly shown in Leavenworth Rock as 5.10d. Also, Smoot gives less info on the separate pitches above on the route.) I elected to avoid the slab and go straight up, which is some of the more manky climbing available there.

Perfecting my gardening and moss smearing technique, I set up a belay below Two Trees Ledge and began to bring Brian up. After he rounded an edge and came into view about 25 feet below me, we had a laugh

about choosing the route less traveled. Next, a momentary lapse of concentration on both our parts resulted in Brian pulling down towards himself, with two hands and full body weight, a rock which has grown considerably in size since, to its present magnitude of 4' in width, 3' high, and 6" thick. Amazingly, and for sure very vividly in my mind for some time, Brian was able to wrestle this rock, which had to weigh hundreds of pounds, off himself as it was riding him down several feet to the spot where he had stood below it. As it impacted over to the left side of him, it made a thunderous crash and broke in two, with one piece sailing down to the trail below. Fortunately, nobody was there, as it would have been catastrophic had there been.

Brian managed to escape, shaken, with a torn up index finger. This was a good point to consider what to do next, as his finger was cut and very sore, but perhaps would not have prevented him from finishing the route. We reached the decision to abort pretty easily, and returned without incident to the campground. With Brian feeling a little better early that afternoon, we went to the Planet of the Eights area and climbed the three routes there. These are quite fun, short, mixed bolt/pro routes that are mostly face climbing, but cover a little crack action too. A good safe challenge to your face climbing footwork, as the holds are micro and it's basically all feet. Brian's finger held up really well, although that pretty much did him in for Sunday.

Sunday saw me trying to round up a partner for another attempt on Outer Space. I made plans to go with Len Kannapell, should his partner not show at the trailhead for their climb. This was a possibility as they were going off plans now over a week old. While waiting out the grace period at the Snow Creek trailhead, we saw eight climbers leave the lot, undoubtedly heading for Outer Space. This made for precisely the situation we didn't want to put ourselves in. Saturday, when we aborted at 11:00, there was only one other party on route and no more headed up the trail on the way out!

With Len's partner not showing we hiked back with Orbit our new objective. This proved a good decision, as all the others were on Outer Space. While I was showing Len the manky lead I did, and Brian's contribution to the trail's rock garden, a cantaloupe size rock sailed off the 4th class Outer Space pitch into the approach area. It made only one warning sound then went whizzing by like a meteor. Watch for those rocks with climbers above!

We 3rd/4th classed the first pitch, which leads up to a substantial pine with a nice purple sling around it. The only move we roped was just below the pine, and I'd have to recommend it. It's not very difficult: somewhat airy and lacking in holds, but the consequence of a fall could be severe. That being said, why not just rope the first pitch and be totally safe? Running belay would do.

I led the second pitch, a 5.8 with an awkward move around a leftward-leaning block obstructing the route. If you bring a pack on this lead, make it small or be studly. I have a great alpine climbing daypack, an Arcteryx Bora 30, and it was not a good scene. I gave it at least three goes with the pack, then decided to clip it off. You really get sucked into the crack at the juncture of the block with the face, as you're protecting the crack and using it for holds. The problem is, when you reach the crux, the move is out onto the face, leaving the security of the crack. Once by this, you're up to the belay station, where there's a rock with several slings that looks nearly identical, although slightly larger, to the one Brian pulled off Outer Space. Needless to say, I backed it up with two bomber hexes just above. Len, being superhuman, followed up with his pack, strapped on mine below the crux, and joined me shortly later. This first pitch is a lot of fun, despite the tough move.

Len led the next pitch, which includes a 5.9 crack section below the 3rd belay. This pitch is really quite enjoyable. The right crack is the harder option and it gets funky near the top. Lower down you can lie back straight off it, as it's in-cut in the back. You just cruise until you hit the point where the cut tapers out and it's now smooth and too big for a fist jam. If you're not a purist, there's a thin flake on the left you can make use of to get up the rest of the way.

The fourth pitch goes 5.8 and is perhaps a little more run out than the others. Len volunteered to remain on the sharp end, and I wasn't going to argue. Leaving the belay station there is an airy move around the corner just above. Moving around the corner earlier than the last opportunity provides a good stance to

throw some pro in. This pitch challenged me a little more than the prior ones, but I can't remember any specifics at the moment; perhaps it was the exposure. The belay Len chose was maybe a little less than ideal, although it was a logical choice given a good bolt and room for pro. Check out those $\frac{1}{4}$ inch guys that no doubt have been there since Fred's days.

The next lead was mine, and I charged straight up an obvious crack. Fun climbing and good pro, until I realized I should have traversed right around a corner earlier. You know that feeling you get when you make a tough move to stand tall on your feet, reach full height, the wall is smack dab in your face and there are no handholds? Not very fun. So look ahead, maybe the crack you're climbing peters out and you should move off it earlier. When I first stood up I really got nervous, because I made two or three good moves in sequence to get to a stance to put some pro in. When I arrived, there was very little opportunity for placements, one I'd say. I went for a tiny stopper (merely a speed bump), got it placed, clipped in, and relaxed only a little. I still needed to find a move out of there and I was 10+ feet over my last good piece, although with no really serious obstructions in the fall line. Looking down, I saw the rope dangling freely and about lost my mind! Somehow I had miss-clipped, now of all times! Cursing my stupidity and impending doom, I clipped in properly, and focused on breathing, relaxing, and finding a way out of there. Reversing the sequence that brought me to my present position was frightful. Instead, I worked on traversing around the corner from the stance, but it was too sketchy with such bogus pro.

You can only hang out so long, and then you just may have to do what you fear most; or fall anyway. I'd rather fall trying, at least the suddenness of it is more comforting than the escalation of gripping fear and subsequent crumble to oblivion that staying put would lead to. If you DEFINITELY have to fall, then plan it out as safely as possible, or else get your butt outta there! That's what I did: went for it and was rewarded. Not with a thrill ride, but with more solid ground and a bomber cam. Moving up from here was much more pleasant, and when I reached a ledge with a waist high overhang which might have been mitigated, I went for that too; really fun!

The fifth belay was at an awesome ledge that has some relevance to follow. Len, leading out on the next pitch, looked back down to give the requisite "Ba-bawk Ba-bawk" call of the chickenhead range that is characteristic of the upper reaches of the Snow Creek Wall. After some good climbing with some unnerving moves, there's nothing more satisfying than just cranking your way up chickenheads. This part of the climb is truly a blast. I don't know what it's rated, it doesn't matter. 5.fun, maybe. If you got here, you're going to the summit on a ladder of chickenheads!

One last pitch with running belay landed us on the top. We were 6 hours on the climb, wasting no time, moving average speed I'd say, not detained by anyone. Weather was good, a little chilly at times, but awesome for October. Now, regarding the prior allusion to following other groups. Two parties of two were following us on Orbit. We did not detain them, although they were on our heels the first couple of pitches. They had come to do Outer Space, but with four parties ahead of them, ended up getting on Orbit. A good decision followed by perhaps a bad decision. We topped out with just enough time to make the 3rd class descent to the base, drop down to the creek and cross the log in the waning light. Without a doubt, these two other parties would be descending in the dark. The first couple had headlamps, but I don't know about the others. Wouldn't want to do it either way. Scary.

The really scary thing was the second party was not going to finish the route in the light! They would have been fortunate to finish the last of the difficult pitches before dark, based on their position. Hopefully, they made good decisions from that point on. The belay ledge before the chickenheads would make an awesome bivy spot, although cold for sure. Perhaps climbing the chickenheads pitch in the dark with a headlamp would not be too bad, but then that descent, and then crossing the creek on a log! Why not just stick around the Icicle and get some great climbing in? I'm glad my instruction has lead me to the point of getting the earliest start possible, and being happy with second options.

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO BETH SUNDQUIST, M/S 39-PU
OR: 7021 10th Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98117
OR: beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com

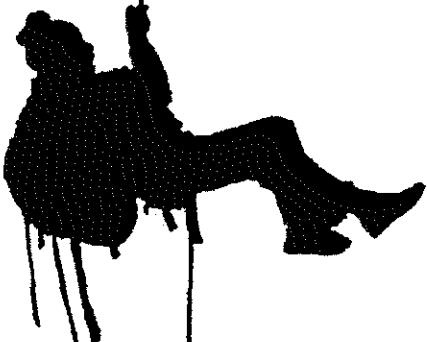
NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THIS PUBLICATION
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO

November ECHO staff

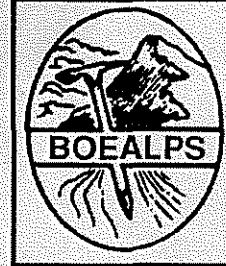
Editor: Matt Robertson
Production: Don Fraser
Contributors: Dan Goering, Silas Wild,
Scott Drum, Tom Ryan

*Thanks to everyone who contributed! If you have
any submissions - anything vaguely
mountaineering or outdoors related will do -
email them to me at
matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in
inplant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices
will work, give me a call at
(425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!*



ALPINE ECHO

December 1999



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			NEW Home Page!!	BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis 425-342-8369

Photo: Crater Rock - Mt. Hood Descent by Mike Jacobson

From Beth Sundquist 39-PU

December General Meeting

Journey to the land of the midnight sun with a bevy of Boealpers! Go backpacking in South Central Alaska with Joyce "Hurrah for" Holloway. Follow vagabond Ilan "The Penguin" Angwin on a cross-country climbing and road trip through Alaska, the Yukon and Canada. Travel with Pam and Carrie "We're NOT Sisters" Richard(s) to Denali National Park. And join Katy "Krusho" Rusho and friends on an adventure to Mt. Blackburn in the wild Wrangell Mountains of SE Alaska.

Thursday, December 2nd
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour 7:00 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

Also: Get in the holiday spirit – bring a can of food for Northwest Harvest to the meeting!

BELAY STANCE

December General Meeting and Food Drive...

Journey to the "Land of the Midnight Sun" with four mini-presentations from a whole slew of Boealpers. Social half-hour starts at 7:00, and presentations will start at 7:30 at the Oxbow Recreation Center on Thursday, December 2nd. (More details later in this issue.) Also, Len Kannapell has graciously offered to organize a canned food collection at this meeting. From Len: "Don't be a Scrooge – there are many in need this season, even right in our own city. So, get in the swing of the season by bringing a can of food, a bag of rice, or some other non-perishable to the December General Meeting. We'll haul the motherlode to Northwest Harvest's Cherry Street food bank. No, your left over gorp is not an acceptable contribution!"

It's that time again...

Your Boealps membership will be expiring this month! Fortunately, you can rectify this situation by filling out the membership renewal form conveniently located in this issue. Send it in along with your check, and you can look forward to another year full of fun filled alpine adventures (not to mention another 12 issues of the fabulous Alpine Echo!)...

Library Acquisitions...

Our intrepid librarians, Scott and Stacy Drum, have added five new volumes to our club library. They are: "Mount Rainier; A Climbing Guide" by Mike Gauthier; the beautiful photo essay "North Cascades Crest" by James Martin; "Climbing Mt. Rainier" by Fred Beckey and Alex Van Steen; "Rock Climbing Washington" by Jeff Smoot; and "Conditioning for Outdoor Fitness" by David Musnick, MD. They're all available at any of the regular monthly meetings at the Oxbow Recreation Center.

Everest/Mallory Artifacts on Display

The Washington State History Museum in Tacoma will host a Mount Everest display, including artifacts connected with Mallory that were brought home by Eric Simonson's team. The display runs November 26th through January 30th before being permanently housed by the Royal Geographic Society in London. The museum is at 1911 Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. For more information call 253-272-9747.

You can still join the Rock Gym Climbing Email List...

Janet Oliver is maintaining an email list for folks who would like to hook up with other partners for an evening of climbing at any of the local gyms. If you'd like to be added to this list, email Janet Oliver, at oliverj2@msn.com

Where's the Beef?

Most of our club members live in the Seattle area, and I'd wager that most of our climbing is done in the north and central Cascades. To get in and out of our alpine realm, we're pretty much limited to five main thoroughfares: I-90, Highway 2 (Stevens Pass), the Mountain Loop Highway (530), the North Cascades Highway (Highway 20) and the Mount Baker Highway (542). Knowing that food is never far down the priority list for most climbers, and realizing that our five avenues of access kind of limit the possible choices for eating establishments, I'd like to hear about your favorite restaurants along those five routes. Addresses or exact locations aren't needed – something along the lines of: "that little place just west of Verlot on the north side of the Mountain Loop Highway" would be just dandy! Send in your recommendations – for breakfast or dinner – along any of these roads, and I'll publish them in the next Echo.

Homepage News...

Our website is moving! After getting poor customer service for an extended period of time from our old ISP, we've moved to a new address. You can now access all the Boealps on-line features at <http://www.boealps.org> – stop by and let our webmaster know what you think!

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

January 2000 Echo deadline is December 16th

December, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting – Four Alaskan presentations	3	4
5 Bobaby Santa Train outing	6	7 New Moon Pizza for Activities feed – University Village Round Table	8	9 Board Meeting	10 John Lennon shot	11
12 Mike & Doug's outing	13	14	15	16 Echo deadline; Avalanche seminar lecture	17	18
19	20	21	22 Last Full Moon of the Century!	23 Matt's birthday	24	25 Christmas
26 Boxing Day	27	28	30	28	31 New Year's Eve	

January, 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4 Avalanche seminar lecture	5	6 New Moon General Meeting; Avalanche seminar lecture	7	8 Avalanche seminar outing
9 Mike & Doug's outing; Avalanche seminar outing	10	11	12	13 Board Meeting	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Day	18	19	20 Full Moon Echo Deadline	21 Mt. St Helens XC Ski Trip	22 Mt. St Helens XC Ski Trip
23 Mt. St Helens XC Ski Trip	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

hikes • scrambles • ski trips • climbs

Mike & Doug's Winter Outing Series

2nd Sunday of the Month, November-March

Mountain/Area	Somewhere on the Mountain Loop Highway, Stevens Pass or Snoqualmie Pass
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Various
Class	2-3
Grade	I-II
Approximate Times	6-7 a.m. 'till evening
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	None
Contacts	Mike Bingle, (206)662-4929(w), (206)935-3992(h), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com Doug Sanders, (206)622-2140 x-217(w), (425)252-5331(h), DougSanders@aol.com

December BoBaby Outing (to see Santa)

December 5th

Since the weather this time of year is unpredictable, the BoBaby outing for December is a Santa train trip on the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad. We'll be riding the rails on Sunday, December 5 and boarding at North Bend at 9 am; please plan to be there by 8:30 am. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and children over 3; children under 3 ride free. The train ride is about 1 hour, with an hour to spend in Snoqualmie and see Santa Claus. The train returns to North Bend before 11am. More information can be found at <http://www.trainmuseum.org/home.htm>. Tickets must be purchased in advance (soon!) by visiting the Snoqualmie depot or calling (425)888-2206.

Mountain/Area	Snoqualmie Valley
Elevation	Not much
Route	Train tracks
Approximate Times	8:30 am – 11:00 am
Skills	Dealing with toddlers; diaper changing skills a plus
Limits	None
Contact	Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455, mnelson@physio-control.com

Submit activities to:

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Notes from the Activity Chair:

Check out the notice for the "Pizza for Activities" on December 7th at the University village Round Table later in this issue.

Eric Bennett would like some feedback on the club email distribution list he's maintaining and moderating. He'd like to know:

- What do you think of it?
- Does it work?
- Is it a pain?

Please respond to: boealps_dlist@hotmail.com

If you are not getting any messages from the distribution list (and would like to), check your email address in the membership roster that ran last month.

Boealps Activity Submittal Form

Please fill out as much information as you can in the spaces below. This form will not be relevant for every activity submitted, but it will give you and those who sign up more info. Thanks!

Trip date(s): _____

Mountain or area: _____

Elevation: _____

Route: _____

Class Rating: _____

Grade: _____

Approximate Time(s): _____

Maps Required: _____

Skills Required: _____

Brief Description: _____

Number of Persons: _____ (Maximum number willing to take)

Contact Info: Name: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ (Work)
 (____) _____ (Home)
 Email: _____
 M/S: _____

Please note: all persons leading an activity should be aware of their responsibilities as trip leader and make sure the activity is within your abilities. You are responsible for the safety of your party. For all persons signing up for a trip, do the homework necessary to be a good follower: read the guidebook, study the map, and come prepared. Be safe and have a good time!

Submit activities to

Steve Fox
425-353-9508
sfox@eskimo.com

Mt. St. Helens XC Ski Trip - Anderson Lodge

January 21-23, 2000

Back by popular demand! Well, popular with the board anyway. It's back to the Anderson Main Lodge at St. Helens! (Check out more info at <http://www.andersonlodge.com>) Hate those \$15 Volcano Permits? Well here's your chance to avoid them legally – there's no fee to climb this time of year! This is a great opportunity to mingle with the old, the new, the different of the club, with opportunities for doing x-country and backcountry skiing, climbing Mt. St. Helens, playing ping-pong, jumping in the hot tub, and roasting in the sauna. The cost will be **\$47/adult and \$30/child**, which covers Friday and Saturday night lodging, Saturday breakfast/dinner and Sunday breakfast brought to you by Chef Rudesill and his culinary compadres. Bring your own Saturday/Sunday lunch and beverages. Families welcome!

The lodge has room for 50, with a group hot tub, two saunas, and it features an array of bunk beds, double beds, and even a few private rooms for families. You will need a Sno-Park permit to use the Forest Service trails around Mt. St. Helens, so come prepared. Climbing permits are not required this time of year, and if the weather is good and you are ready, willing, and able, a summit attempt could be in the offing.

How do you make a reservation? It's easy:

- Mail a check (**payable to Boealps**) to me (M/S 74-07 or see below) or deliver in person. Cash is considered a tip for the organizer, not a reservation.
- Include your phone number, e-mail, and how many beds you need.

In return, I'll send you an information sheet as well as directions. Beds will be assigned in order of payment received, so send your check in promptly for best selection!

Cancellations: The funds are *not* refundable if canceled (We have to pay for the food and rooms even if you don't show up). If we can find replacements to fill reservations we will do our best to refund part or all of a cancellation; however there are no guarantees we can make refunds.

Contact: Glenn Tomchik
12818 SE 41st Lane #B203
Bellevue, WA 98006-1246

glen.a.tomchik@Boeing.com
(425) 747-6285 (h)

Pizza for Activities Feed – Tuesday, December 7th 7-9 pm

Well, the old activities list is starting to dwindle, so it's time to resort once again to bribery – you lead, we'll feed! Any outdoors activity is appropriate – climbs (of course!), hikes, XC ski or snowshoe trips, easy or hard, a couple of hours to multi-day. If there's a trip you've always wanted to do, but aren't sure you're up to leading it, submit it with yourself as the organizer and ask for a more experienced member of the club to sign on as the technical leader.

Who can participate? Any Boealps member.

What's the deal? You submit an activity to put in the Echo – we provide the pizza!

When is it? Tuesday, December 7th from 7 'til 9 pm

Where is it happening? Round Table Pizza, 5111 25th Ave NE (by University Village)

What we'll bring: Maps, guidebooks, activities submission forms, and good advice from "experienced" (read "I've suffered through more rain and snow storms than you have!") Boealpers

What you need to bring: yourself and your activity. If you don't have any ideas, we'll help you come up with something!

Upcoming Seminars

We're working on a triad of seminars in January and February to get you going in the new year, so plan on attending any or all of these workshops. It has been a trifle difficult to nail down specifics, but here's what we've got thus far:

Ice climbing:

Dates: January 29th – 30th

Instructor: Mark Andou

Location: TBD

Note: This is a conditions dependent seminar, as ice can be non-existent. Look for more details in the January Echo.

Avalanche Safety Seminar:

Instructor: Gary Brill

Lectures: December 16th, January 4th and January 6th

Location: Customer Services Center (where the Basic Class meets) from 6:30-9:00 pm

Field Outing: January 8th or 9th

Class Limit: 20

Approximate cost: \$80. This covers the textbook, lectures and the field outing. Note that a special permit from the US Forest Service may be required – if so, the cost could increase by \$10-\$15 per person. If you sign up, you will be contacted as soon as we know.

If you want to increase your safety in snow travel, this class is a must. You'll learn about avalanche terrain, causes of snow instability, and how to travel safely by recognizing unstable conditions. Your class fee (a bargain compared to the same seminar at REI for \$105!) covers three evening lectures and your choice of a Saturday or Sunday field trip to Snoqualmie/Stevens Pass.

How do you sign up? It's easy! Send a check (payable to Boealps) with your phone and email to:

Len Kannapell
342 NE 58th St.
Seattle Was, 98105

Reservations are made when I receive your check, so don't delay. If the class is full, I'll return your check – contact REI or Mountain Madness if you are still interested in taking the class.

A 457 kHz avalanche transceiver is required for the field outing. Bring your own or contact one of the Equipment folks (on the Echo cover) if you need a transceiver. If none are available, Gary Brill can provide one for a nominal fee (\$5-\$7) at the field outing.

If you have further questions, contact Len at (206)522-7022 (home) or at kannapell@yahoo.com

Aid Seminar:

Lecture: Thursday, February 17th

Outing: Saturday, February 19th

Location: Index

Instructor: Tom Rogers

We're also thinking about offering a crevasse rescue refresher course, possibly in May. If you are interested in any of the above seminars, or have ideas or inputs for other seminars, please contact Education Chair Len Kannapell at kannapell@yahoo.com or at (206)522-7022.

Programs

December General Meeting Program

The December Program is a home grown show. 1999 was a banner year for Boealpers to explore the vast vistas of Alaska – Land of the Midnight Sun. Come see and hear Joyce Holloway, Janet Oliver and Stacie Chandler recount their August/September backpacking trip to Dixie Pass in the St. Elias National Park. Next, Ilan Angwin will recount the three summer months he spent with world traveler Dan Goering on a road trip in the “Dan Van” across Alaska, the Yukon and western Canada. Then, Pam Richards and Carrie Richard reminisce about 24 stitches and a grand ol’ time in Denali National Park. Finally, Katy Rush will spin a yarn about crevasses, avalanches, snowmen and a June expedition with Ilan, Dan, Andy Roth and non-Boealper Jesse James “Ride ‘em Cowboy” Ryan. They made an attempt on the daunting Northwest Ridge of 16,410 foot Mt. Blackburn.

Come join in the fun and get warmed up for the holidays with your fellow Boealpers. Refreshments will be served at 7:00, and the programs begin at 7:30. We will also be taking donations of non-perishable food items for Northwest Harvest. Please bring an item or items to help out those less fortunate than you are. Everything collected will be taken to Northwest Harvest’s Cherry Street food bank, and donated in Boealps name. Thanks to Len Kannapell for organizing the food drive.

First Call for Mini-Shows

Would you like to share tales of your latest adventure with your Boealps buddies? We are looking for people who would like to give a mini slide show before the main slide show at our monthly meetings. Put together a short presentation of less than 15 minutes and maybe you will be on your way to stardom! Valuable Cash Prizes are not given! If you are interested in giving a mini-show, please contact Victor Yagi or Al Baal.

Victor: 425-477-4812 or victor.r.yagi@boeing.com

Al: 425-477-4812 or allen.c.baal@boeing.com

Agris Moruss Memorial Fund

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2000 Agris Moruss memorial Fund grant. The grant is offered each year to help meet the expenses of a worthy climbing endeavor attempted by Boealps members. Past grants have been awarded for climbing trips all around the globe. The trip’s sense of exploration and level of challenge for the applying climbers is more important than the technical difficulty of the trip’s objective when the decision to award the grant is made. The size of the grant is at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, but it is generally about \$100.

The grant is offered in memory of Agris Moruss, a long time club member and an active climber who lost his life leading a Basic Class climb of Lundin Peak in 1982. The only application requirements are that you are a current Boealps member, you attempt the climbing trip during 2000, and (if awarded the grant) that you write a letter of appreciation to Agris’ father. In addition, I personally ask that you write up a trip report for the Echo.

Later in this month’s Echo you will find an article that includes a brief biography of Agris and provides more details about the fund. You may apply by writing a letter outlining your trip and the reason you feel it meets the criteria for the grant. Applications must be received by March 1st, 2000. Send the application to Bill Harrison at M/S 43-37, or via US mail at 3721 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA, 98103



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer

In October the Seattle Mountaineers met to discuss the controversy over the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Started in 1996, the program gave the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service congressional authority to charge recreation use fees as a way to help pay for the operation and maintenance of recreation areas. In 1998, Congress extended the program through September 2000. The number of fees being charged has been increasing (5 new fees in 1999), although the Forest Service promises that in the Spring of 2000 there will be a new user fee system that is simpler and more convenient. Locally the user fees have been at least partially living up to their mission statement, returning 89% of the \$5,427,300 collected "to the ground" in 1998 (including \$20,000 to the Washington Trails Association), according to a "Stakeholder's Report".

A Forest Service watchdog group named Wild Wilderness is leery of where another round of user fees could go. The establishment of user fees was drafted with a partnership from the American Recreation Coalition, the lobby for the motorized recreation community. Heavily represented by members of the petroleum, hotel, RV and amusement park industries, the ARC claims that \$98 billion of the \$130 billion from National Forests will be generated by mechanized outdoor recreation, and most likely will be interested in sharing the revenue. The ARC denies trying to "Disney-ize" the National Forests, claiming support from "muscle recreation" groups and retailers, such as REI. When asked about the REI's association with the ARC, they gave the following response:

"REI had participated in the Recreation Roundtable, an organization that includes a varied representation of outdoor companies, both motorized and non-motorized in philosophy. REI held a seat at the Roundtable to represent the views of muscle-powered outdoor recreation user. REI never has been a member of the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), but since ARC sponsors the Roundtable, our participation in the Roundtable confused some of our members. In response to this confusion, REI stepped down from its membership in the Recreation Roundtable earlier this year. REI initially supported the concept of the Fee Demonstration pilot program because it promised to offer a way to provide desperately needed funding for trail maintenance and other resource stewardship needs. While we supported the pilot, this does not commit REI to pushing for permanent adoption of a Fee Program when the pilot is concluded - the program must stand on its own merits and it must have the support of outdoor users."

The Mountaineers recently reconvened to discuss changes to their 4-year-old position of statement on the User Fee program. Updates will be posted here.

Thanks to Eric Bennett and Mike Collins (REI)

On line links:

Wild Wilderness: <http://www.wildwilderness.org>

Recreation Fees Report: <http://www.gao.gov>

Recent local coverage (the first two lines are one URL – type them on a single line):

<http://archives.seattletimes.com/cgi-bin/texis.mummy/web/vortex/display?storyID=37a610491&query=judd>
http://www.seattletimes.com/news/sports/html98/feea_102998.html
<http://www.registerguard.com/news/19990202/1c.cr.forestfees.0202.html>

Boealps Board Meeting Minutes November

November's board meeting was held on November 11th at Ed Alejandro's house. Attendees were Bill Harrison, Noreen Borg, Glenn Tomchik, Ed Alejandro, Beth Sundquist, Rob Kuntz, Al Baal, Len Kannapell and Eric Bennett.

There was a special guest appearance by Rick Anderson of OSAT - One Step At a Time. He came to request support for a petition to name a peak in memory of a former OSAT instructor and Boealper Jim Hinkhouse. (See the letter, and a previously unpublished article written by Jim later in this issue.) Bill agreed to draft a letter of support.

A discussion about potential liability problems with people injured on Boealps activities was discussed. The problem is if someone is injured on a trip that has not signed a waiver. This can happen if someone is not a member or membership expires. Rather than force the activity organizer to verify membership status of everyone at each activity, it was decided to have waiver form provided to the leader and have everyone sign it. The activity coordinator will send one out to the leader prior to the outing.

-- Glenn Tomchik, secretary

Wanted – Basic Climbing Class Instructors

If you are interested in helping out with the 2000 Basic Climbing Class, and did not instruct in the 1999 class, then please contact Shawn Pare' at (425)342-7122 (w), (425)483-0548 (h) or pare@seanet.com. Everyone who instructed in 1999 will automatically get a commitment form around the beginning of the year. If you have never instructed for the Basic Climbing Class in the past, you will need to fill out an information and application form along with the commitment form. All instructors are required to have taken MOFA or have proof of equivalent training.

FOR SALE:

PRE M4 skis (length 204) with Tyrolia 490 bindings includes poles and bag (red/black with SkiBacs label). Used three times since last tune up. \$125.00 obo

Dalbello Triax TX800 (1996) boots (color blue; they say size 11, but my feet are more of size 13), worn about 30 days on the slopes. These are rather stiff (a step below racing boots), but have a lever at heel to make it easier to walk in. \$150.00 obo (bought at \$350)

The gear is in good shape and I like the setup, but I bought a snowboard in 1998 and have not used the ski gear since.

Eric Bennett
206-579-5016
erbenett@hotmail.com

2000 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Class

The Intermediate Climbing Class is currently being organized for the 2000 climbing season. This is the class's fourteenth year.

This course is being offered for those who have basic climbing skills and the desire to learn to climb some of the more technical and remote routes in the Cascades. In addition to having completed the Basic Course (or showing equivalent experience), students must be in good physical shape and be active in climbing outside an instructional framework. This does not mean that prospective students have to be super climbers - the ability to climb mid-fifth class rock on top-rope and negotiate a 40-degree snow slope with confidence is adequate.

The course will cover the following areas in a seminar format: leading technical rock climbs, mountain safety and self-rescue, and snow and ice climbing techniques. We spend the remainder of the course climbing some of the Northwest's finest alpine routes, such as the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak and the North Ridge of Mount Stuart. The instructor-to-student ratio is approximately one-to-one, which allows personalized instruction.

The course will run from mid-March through the end of August, requiring about two weekends per month. Contact Katy Rusho or Mike Bingle for further class details, specific dates, and a course application and information packet. March 3rd is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 10th.

Katy Rusho
425-787-2469 (h)
krusho@prodigy.net

Mike Bingle
206-662-4929 (w) 935-3992 (h) before 9 p.m.
michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

Rigging for Rescue

If you're interested in furthering your technical rescue skills, a group called "Rigging for Resuce", located in Invermere, BC is offering a seminar titled "Rigging for Rescue". From their brochure:

"Participants will find that a *Rigging for Rescue* seminar is not just another basic rope rescue course but rather a specialized inquiry into the statics and dynamics of rigging. It is the application of theory into practical systems and concepts that makes these seminars instructor-level. These seminars are open to individuals which have a solid understanding of ropework techniques and a questioning attitude. Five seminars are being offered this year near Invermere, British Columbia. The dates are: April 15-22, 2000; May 27-June 3; June 10-17; September 2-9; September 16-23. All seminars are 7 full days (70+ hours) and run from 19:00 Saturday to approximately 17:00 the following Saturday. Fees are \$510 US per person, and each participant is responsible for their own transportation, personal equipment, food and accommodation."

They have more info at their web site: <http://www.riggingforrescue.com>. Has anyone taken any of their seminars or do any of our Search and Rescue members have any opinions on these folks?

Suggestions for ICC 2000 and Beyond

by Dan Patton and Katy Rusho

In response to feedback from the 1999 ICC students and instructors, as well as an accumulation of ideas over the past few years, we would like to offer some ideas that may assist you in preparing for the Intermediate Climbing Course. This is not intended to be a list of "things to do", and completion of the activities mentioned below does not guarantee admittance into the course. This is only intended to guide you in your preparation for more advanced climbing in general, and help you to assess whether you are ready for the ICC.

The Intermediate Climbing Course is designed to be both physically and mentally challenging. We concentrate on the skills needed to successfully execute alpine climbing: that is, mountaineering that combines fast, hard approaches, with rock, snow and ice climbing skills. You will be learning new skills and applying them under sometimes stressful circumstances. Alpine climbs undertaken during the course of the ICC include approaches to distant peaks, technical climbing and long summit days. A student should be prepared to vigorously approach the season!

One of the first experiences for Basic Class students to acquire is more experience! It has been suggested more than once that volunteering as an assistant instructor for the Basic Class helps to reinforce your basic climbing skills, as well as simply allowing for more time in the hills. It gives you another year to get in some climbing and broaden your base of experience and exposure. Judgment is an essential skill to develop, and that comes with time. You can become strong and fit in a relatively short period of time, but developing judgment requires experience. If you are a recent Basic Class graduate this is a reasonable first step.

We would also like to suggest that perspective students take advantage of the following types of classes and seminars. Look in the Echo or contact the Boealps Education Chairperson for dates.

- Boealps Rock Seminar
- Boealps Aid Climbing Seminar
- Boealps Ice Seminar
- MOFA (Not required, but highly recommended)
- Orienteering Class (Seek out an advanced class or continue to develop and practice the basic map and compass skills learned in the Basic Class)
- Avalanche Seminar

In addition, we would like to suggest that students work (and play) to develop the skills necessary to fully participate in the ICC. Consider the following:

- Fitness level (it is no joke that 10 mile approaches with 40 pound packs are common).
- Wilderness experience (a general feeling of ease with the environment, a well developed sense of direction, the ability to read the terrain and find your position on a map).
- Ability to move (up, down, across) on moderately steep snow (up to 40 degrees).
- Experience with traversing/ascending/descending difficult terrain, (e.g.: scree, bushwhacking, scrambling).
- Route finding (including rock and snow routes and general cross-country travel).
- Moderate exposure in a relatively safe context (e.g.: a steep and long drop-off to either side, but climbing is on a wide ridge and low 5th class)

Many of the mountains that are considered to be of an intermediate level include strenuous approaches and require skills as described above. While you will have ample opportunity to develop these skills

during the course of the ICC, some previous experience will enable you to absorb other new techniques and technical skills that are offered.

We would like to offer the following lists of day hikes and climbs as some ideas on how you can develop those necessary skills.

Day Hikes - these should feel like a "good workout", yet not exhaust you. Carry a pack!

Paradise to Camp Muir

Mt. Pugh

Mt. Si

Mt. Dickerman

McClellan's Butte

Mt. Adams (South spur)

Mt. Saint Helens

Alpine climbs at the Basic+ level and the challenges you may encounter:

- Eldorado: Standard Route: strenuous approach, glacier travel, travel along a narrow exposed snow ridge, route finding is fairly easy with only one moderate route-finding problem.
- Sahale via Qien Sabe glacier: Good workout as a carry over, glacier travel, class 3 rock, route finding is easy.
- Glacier Peak: a long approach, with moderate route finding and glacier travel.
- Colchuck Peak via Colchuck Glacier: a good one day climb to test fitness level, steep snow, easy route finding.
- Mt. Shuksin via Fischer Chimneys: moderate route finding, travel on exposed class 3 terrain, glacier travel.
- Mt. Rainier via DC or Emmons glacier: strenuous climb, extensive glacier travel, altitude, possible severe weather conditions.
- Mt. Stuart via Cascadian couloir: strenuous, class 2 rock scramble, excellent practice for climbing/traversing scree and rock fields
- Mt. Daniel - Mt. Hinman Traverse: multiday backpacking/climbing trip, great route finding and cross country travel experience, moderate to advanced route finding skills, strenuous.
- Crater Mountain: strenuous day climb, mostly trail, class 3 rock, easy route finding - follow the painted dots.
- South Early Winter Spire via SW Couloir: lots of class 3 & 4 rock, easy route finding.
- Three Fingers: moderate route finding, exposed ridge hiking.
- Del Campo Peak: class 3 or 4 rock, easy route finding.
- Mt. Olympus: remote, moderate route finding, glacier travel, long trip.
- White Horse: steep snow, glacier travel, objective hazards, lots of elevation gain.

We hope that you will use this information not as a means of lengthening your list of summits bagged, but rather as a means of developing your mountaineering skills. Please remember that completion (or lack of completion) of the above lists of activities does not ensure your participation in the class. These are suggestions for ways to acquire skills that will be needed in the class. During the first few outings of the season, you will have an opportunity to determine if you are in the right place, and we will have an opportunity ensure that your base of skills will carry you through the season. If you have questions, please contact Dan Patton (daniel.a.patton@boeing.com), Katy Rusho (krusho@prodigy.net), Mike Bingle (michael.g.bingle@boeing.com) or Len Kannapell (kannapell@yahoo.com).



REFRESHER

REFRESHER



MOFA REFRESHER

Boealps will be offering a "MOFA Refresher" class in February/March 2000. This course is offered to those needing to renew their MOFA certification and have taken MOFA within the last three years. This is a quick way to keep up to date on your first aid skills. Four classroom sessions, including hands-on scenarios held outdoor, will be followed by one evening of practical exams conducted in conjunction with other MOFA classes at Camp Long in West Seattle. Graduates will receive American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card.

This course is recommended for all current MOFA cardholders wishing to renew their certificates before it's too late. **Current or recent MOFA card required. MOFA cards are valid for three years.**

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (TBD – February/March 2000)
(Dates to be confirmed next month).

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center
Cost: Approximately \$45 (exact amount will be determined after 1st class)
Class Size: Approximately 24 persons
Instructors: Kathy Hasegawa, Joyce Holloway and Chris Rudesill

The class will be filled in the order that registration forms are received. To reserve your space, return the registration form and \$45 in the form of a check payable to Boealps.

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com	(425) 814-5487	(206) 527-5281
Joyce Holloway	Joyce.R.Holloway@boeing.com	(425) 477-4393	(425) 888-4434
Chris Rudesill	Christoper.C.Rudesill@boeing.com	(425) 965-2683	(206) 729-0640

BOEALPS "MOFA REFRESHER" REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Boealps") TO:

Joyce Holloway
(425) 477-4393

MS 6F-06

Non-Boeing Employee Membership

Note: This does not apply to non-Boeing employees who are members under a Family membership of a current Boeing Employee.

In recent years Boeing has placed additional rules on non-Boeing employee membership in clubs including BOEALPS. Some non-Boeing employees must be "sponsored" to become members or renew a membership in BOEALPS while others are not (due to grandfather rules). Sponsoring entails the BOEALPS Board providing information to Boeing recreation regarding how a non-Boeing employee benefits the club. While no sponsorship candidate has been turned down to date, it is preferable to keep the members in the non-sponsor category to reduce paperwork and the risk of justifying the worthiness of a non-Boeing employee member. The rules governing whether a non-Boeing employee member must be sponsored or not are as follows:

- Members who were Boeing employees when they joined BOEALPS but, are no longer Boeing employees, may renew their membership without sponsorship.*
- Members who were not Boeing employees when they joined BOEALPS may renew their membership without sponsorship if they joined prior to September, 1995.*
- Members who were not Boeing employees when they joined BOEALPS and joined after September, 1995 may renew their membership but they must be sponsored.**

Notes:

* Continuous membership from year-to-year with no breaks is required. If breaks occur, the member must be sponsored on subsequent applications. (Note: This has not been a strict policy in the past, but it will begin to be in the future.)

** At this time, sponsorship is handled by the BOEALPS Board. No additional paperwork is required from the member signing up.

Questions?

Contact: Beth Sundquist

Membership Chair

425-266-1437 (w)

206-789-4185 (h)

beth.l.sundquist@boeing.com

If reaching the summit is only the final step of a long journey, then the people along the way may be as important as the peak, and an expedition to nowhere may become a modest journey to everywhere.

-- Paddy Sherman, "Expeditions to Nowhere"

2000 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Read and complete the waiver on the reverse side of this form. This is required for membership.)

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Social Security Number

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Mail Stop

()

Work Phone

()

Home Phone

e-mail

Age

Check one membership type.

New Member: yes no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00)

FAMILY (\$20.00)

RETIRED (\$5.00)

NON-EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP (check one)

Renewing members of BOEALPS or sponsored applicants; sponsored applicants must obtain approval of the BOEALPS board and Boeing Recreation.

INDIVIDUAL FRIEND OF BOEALPS (\$20.00)

FAMILY FRIEND OF BOEALPS (\$25.00)

Club membership is only for those who sign up as an individual member, or are listed on the back of this form as dependents.

Send application, signed waiver, and dues to:

(Make checks payable to BOEALPS)

Beth Sundquist

M/C 39-PU

or: 7021 10th Ave. NW

Seattle, WA 98117

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

BOEALPS Intermediate

Mountaineers Basic

Mountaineers Intermediate

Avalanche Awareness

Ice Climbing Seminar

Aid Climbing Seminar

Rock Leading Seminar

Standard First Aid/CPR

MOFA

Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

GET INVOLVED: Are you interested in organizing or leading an activity or outing?

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____ (print name(s)), certify that I am aware of all the inherent dangers of mountaineering, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents, or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons.

I understand that it is not the function of the activity leaders to serve as the guardians of my safety. I also understand that I am to furnish my own personal equipment and I am responsible for its safety and good operating condition regardless of where I obtained it. I understand and agree that neither the Boeing Employees Alpine Society (BOEALPS) nor its officers, agents, operators, instructors, leaders of club sponsored activities, other assistants and the Boeing Company may be held liable in any way for any occurrence in connection with club activities which may result in injury, death, or other damages to me. In consideration of being allowed to participate in club activities, **I HEREBY PERSONALLY ASSUME ALL RISKS** in connection with said activities, and **I RELEASE** the aforementioned club, officers, agents, operators, instructors, activity leaders and assistants from responsibility for any harm which may befall me while I am engaged in club activities, including all connected risks, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable. **I FURTHER AGREE TO INDEMNIFY** the aforementioned entities and Company and persons from any liability, claims, and causes of action which I may have arising out of my enrollment and participation in this club.

I further state that I am 18 years of age or older and legally competent to sign this release (or in the event that I am a minor, my parent or legal guardian must sign this release), that I understand these terms are contractual and not a mere recital, and that I have signed this document as my own free act. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assignees, personal representatives, and for all members of my family, including any minors.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT.

(Signature)

(Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)

Club Equipment for Loan

All of the equipment below is available for loan to club members. The gear is for members to try out different types of high priced items to help them decide which one to buy for themselves, or to borrow items that they would infrequently use so would not want to buy. It is not to replace gear that a member should buy for him/herself. Members can check out only one of each item (unless they have a family membership); we don't loan gear for non-members to freeload off their Boealps friends with. There is no charge for the equipment, but if you bend it, you mend it. The maximum loan period is for 2 weeks, although with special permission longer loan periods can be negotiated (for an out of the area trip, for example). Equipment must be returned to the same location it was checked out from, and can't be passed directly on to another Boealps member, since the condition of each item needs to be checked after each use.

The equipment committee is always interested to hear suggestions from members about what gear they feel would be a good addition to the inventory. Keep in mind, however, that club equipment is chosen for its versatility and toughness. The rare purchase of superlight, superexpensive tents and the like have proved to be inappropriate - the gear doesn't last as long. Likewise the suggestion of a club parka or sleeping bag would require more maintenance (cleaning), and would be size dependent. Also - is there a need for a Woodinville location, or are Everett, Renton and Seattle enough?

-- Silas Wild
silaswild@yahoo.com

Brand	Style	Description	Renton	Seattle	Everett
DTS	Trakker	Avalanche Beacon transceiver (needs 3 AAA batteries)	0	2	0
Pieps	SF457KHz	Avalanche Beacon transceiver (needs 2 AA batteries)	3	1	1
Ortovox	Dual frequency	Avalanche Beacon transceiver (needs 2 AA batteries)	5	2	2
Garmin	GPS 40	Global Positioning System receiver (needs 4 AA batteries)	0	1	0
Simond	Chigal	Waterfall Ice Hammer	1	0	0
Simond	Piranha	Waterfall Ice Hammer	0	1	0
Quaser		Ice Hammer (for steep ice, not an alpine tool)	0	1	0
Camp	Hypercouloir	Ice Hammer with Alpine Pick	0	1	0
Lowe	Humming bird	Alpine Ice Hammer	0	0	1
Black Diamond	X-15	Alpine Ice Hammer	1	0	0
Hagan	Alpin T1	180 cm touring skis (with skins) for mountaineering boots	1	1	1
Sherpa	Featherweight	Medium snowshoe - good for climbing	5	1	2
Sherpa	Lightfoot	Large snowshoe - good for deep, soft snow	1	0	1

Tubbs	Kathadin	Small snowshoe - best for total weight less than 170 pounds	2	1	0
Shoo	Large	Light snowshoe for recreational hiking	0	1	0
Shoo	Small	Super light snowshoe for recreational hiking	1	0	0
MSR	Denali Llama	Snowshoes with wing attachments	1	0	1
REI	Wedge	Lightweight 2 person 3 season tent (5 lbs)	0	0	1
Sierra Designs	Half Moon	Lightweight 2 person 3 season tent (5 lbs)	0	1	0
Walrus	Rocket	Lightweight 2 person 3 season tent (5 lbs)	1	0	0
Windy Pass	#24	2-3 person 4 season tent (8.5 lbs)	0	0	1
Sierra Designs	Stretch Dome	2-3 person 4 season tent (10 lbs)	1	0	0
North Face	Pole Sleeve Oval	3 person expedition tent (11 lbs)	0	1	0
Moss	Little Dipper	3 person expedition tent (12 lbs)	0	1	0
Moss	Star Gazer	2-3 person 4 season tent (8.5 lbs)	1	0	0
Wilderness Experience	Equinox	4 person 3 season tent (11 lbs)	0	1	0
Eureka	Sentinel	4 person 4 season tent (11.5 pounds)	0	1	0
Sierra Designs	Base Camp	4 person 3 season tent (12 lbs)	1	0	0
REI	Mountain Home	4 person 3 season tent (12 lbs)	1	0	0
Walrus	Eclipse	4 person expedition tent (14 lbs)	1	0	0
Moss	Big Dipper	4 person expedition tent (15 lbs)	1	0	0
Sierra Design	Kingdome	5 person 3 season tent (13 lbs)	1	0	0
REI	Great Pyramid	5 person recreational tent (15 lbs)	0	0	1
Windy Pass	Shangri La	4-6 person 3 season tent (15 lbs)	0	0	1
North Face	Himalayan Hotel	4-6 person 4 season tent (16 lbs)	1	0	0
A5/North Face		2 person Portaledge with expedition fly	0	1	0

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Boealps has a new Home(page)!

Where is it? <http://boealps.org>

So what does the new web page do for you? Well, it's basically the same format as the old page, but the CGI functions which drive the search for the roster and echo articles are working again, plus the activities list (password protected "slesse") is back on line again. Hopefully by the time you get this the current conditions bulletin board should be working again too.

The new web site is not only cheaper than the old one but now offers free email for members. Yes, you can all have a Boealps email address like fred.bloggs@boealps.org to impress friends and relatives with. If you'd like to get one email me at webmaster@boealps.org or call me at 206-544-3033, all I need to know is what you'd like instead of fred.bloggs. Now you need to know how you can use it.

There are several ways to access the email;

- 1) Directly via the web page
 - point your browser to <http://mail.boealps.org:8383>
 - enter you ID fred.bloggs@boealps.org
 - enter you password (which will be "slesse" the first time you log on – please change this)
 - do the mail
- 2) Via something like Eudora
 -
- 3) Via something like Hotmail
 - first you have to get a Hotmail account (it's free)
go to www.hotmail.com
open an account
 - once back at the email page (after having logged in) select "options"
 - select "POP mail"
 - for server name type mail.boealps.org
 - for user name type fred.bloggs@boealps.org
 - put in your password
 - select you choice of marker and hit OK
 - when you're back at the main page click "pop mail"
- 4) Forward your mail
 - If you already have another email account which you are comfortable sending private mail to, you can do this too from the web page method.

If you don't have an internet service provider (like AOL, Compuserve, Earthlink, eskimo, etc) then you can still get onto the internet using a free (yes – totally free) service such as NoCharge.com or Freei.net. I've no idea how NoCharge.com make any money, they don't even have adverts. All you need is a computer/modem/phone line. Here's how you set up Win95/98 etc. to do NoCharge.com (if you have a Mac you're on your own);

- 1) Click on My computer and open up "dial up networking"
- 2) Click on "Make New Connection"
- 3) Type in a suitable name for the connection (ie NoCharge.com)
- 4) Check the modem is the one you are using – hit Next
- 5) Type in the phone number (425 786 1000 in Bellevue) – hit Next – hit Finish
- 6) You should now have an icon called NoCharge.com in the dial up folder – double click it
- 7) Enter "guest" as your ID and "password" as your password (minus the " of course) – hit OK
- 8) Your PC should make computer type noises and log you on – then open your browser
- 9) Type <http://boealps.org> to surf the web site and <http://mail.boealps.org:8383> to do email

Let me know if you have problems and I'll see if I can help.

-- Rob James, rob.james@gecm.com

The Agris Moruss Memorial Fund

Agris Moruss was born in Latvia in 1941, the scene of bitter battles between German and Russian troops during World War II. He spent his early years in a displaced persons camp in Germany before coming to Longview, Washington with his family in 1949. He received his degree in Engineering from the University of Washington, then joined Boeing.

He took the Boealps Basic Climbing Class in 1964. Not only was he by far the strongest student, but also one of the most popular, both with his fellow students and his instructors. His quiet manner, his willingness to always do far more than his share and his unforgettable smile left their mark.

After the class ended, he climbed virtually every weekend, with instructors, classmates, and others. While he quickly demonstrated his ability to successfully climb at ever-higher levels, he seemed equally happy being on modest routes with companions of mediocre abilities and stamina.

Less than two years after finishing the Basic Class, he was invited to join some of his instructors and other veteran climbers on a climb of Mt. McKinley. Though he had only a fraction of the experience of the other party members, he pulled the heaviest sled, led the toughest pitches, carried the heaviest pack, and always did far more than his share of camp chores. Returning from the summit, the team members gave him a book inscribed "To the most inspirational member of the 1976 McKinley Expedition."

Agris began instructing the Boealps Basic Climbing Class in 1977, generously sharing his energy and enthusiasm with students and fellow instructors alike. Unlike some of the other instructors, he would patiently follow the slowest students down from the summits, occasionally carrying their packs atop of his. He cheerfully took the least popular routes, and, on more than one occasion, assisted in evacuating students who were fatigued, or had been injured.

On May 8th, 1980 eight teams from the Basic Class set out from Narada Falls and Longmire aiming at virtually all of the Tatoosh Range summits. When Mt. Saint Helens erupted that morning, the sky suddenly turned black, as did the ash-covered snow. All the climbers and instructors quickly forgot their summit bids and thought only of a quick descent. All except for Agris. He kicked steps straight up to the top of a steep ridge at an incredible pace "just to see if I could get a better view!"

In 1982 Agris decided to take a sabbatical from teaching to accomplish some other goals. One of these was to run the Boston Marathon, his first ever marathon. His goals were to finish in less than four hours and within the first two thousand. He accomplished both. On a Sunday morning just two weeks later he showed up at Snoqualmie Pass, volunteering to fill in for a missing instructor and take a team of Basic Class students up Lundin Peak. The summit rocks were covered with a very thin layer of frozen fog. Agris was within just a few feet of reaching a solid anchor where he could safely belay the rest of his party to the summit when he slipped and disappeared into the whiteout far below.

A few days later more than a thousand of those who had been privileged to have known Agris gathered for a memorial service. Not only were there hundreds of climbers, but also his skiing friend, his bicycling companions, his fellow workers from Boeing, and hundreds of friends of all ages from the Northwest Latvian community. Many of those wanted to contribute "something to help us remember Agris." By the end of the evening, well over a thousand dollars had been left on a table. That is how the Agris Moruss Memorial Fund began – very spontaneously and very emotionally.

Over the years the fund has grown, through additional donations and through appreciation. Each year applications are considered for a grant or grants from the fund. Those applications which best exemplify the spirit in which Agris climbed, and where such a grant might significantly support the attainment of a challenging mountaineering objective, have been awarded financial assistance.

Washington State Geographic Name Application

Proposed Name - Hinkhouse Peak
County: Chelan / Kittitas boundary
Section: 26 Township: 23N Range: 15E

Lat 47° 27' 26" N Long 120° 55' 44" W UTM 10 T 0656110 5257840

Description

Type of Feature: Mountain

Description of feature: Peak located in the Wenatchee Mountains, on the ridge between Ingalls Creek and North Fork Teanaway Creek drainages, approx. 1.5 miles SSE of Ingalls Peak

Alternate existing name: Identified on USGS Mt. Stuart 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle as Peak 6878

History

Origin of name: Proposed name is commemorative, in honor of Jimmy D. Hinkhouse, a Washington mountaineer in the 1980's and 1990's, founder of the One Step at a Time mountaineering club.

Two factors suggested the selection of this particular peak as an appropriate memorial to Jim. Firstly, Mr. Hinkhouse's association with the region surrounding the feature was strong. In the year's immediately preceding his death, he led several climbs of Ingalls Peak and Stuart Peak, and spoke fondly of the Stuart, Enchantments, and Teanaway areas. On one of these climbs, the group out ahead of Jim continued toward Ingalls Pass (west of the peak) in error when the intended route to the base of Mt. Stuart was across Long Pass (south of the peak). When Jim finally got the group turned around, he led them cross-country across the west slope of the peak toward the intended route.

Secondly, another measure of the strong feelings Jim had for the Stuart region is expressed in an unpublished article he wrote concerning a climb of the Mt. Stuart Ice Cliff Glacier which is attached for reference. In the context of that story, the phrase "the 'Sound of Music' descents" would have been inspired by a descent of the south side of Stuart, which has a direct view of the feature proposed for renaming.

Sketch of the life of the person: (adapted from the obituary published in the 1996 American Alpine Journal) Jimmy "Jim" Dean Hinkhouse was born and raised in Scappoose, Oregon and graduated from the University of Oregon. He worked for Boeing, Wharton Econometrics, and Weyerhauser before returning to Boeing in 1987. Throughout his life Jim was a multi-talented athlete. He became interested in mountaineering when he moved to Seattle, where he was a member of the Seattle Mountaineers, completing their "intermediate" mountaineering course and becoming a climb leader for the group. In 1994 he retired from his career as an economist at the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group marketing department to pursue his interests in mountaineering, writing, and substance dependency recovery counseling. He also was a member of Boeing Alpine Society (BOEALPS) and the American Alpine Club.

In 1990 Jim began combining his interests in mountaineering and substance dependency recovery. He was unable to attain his goal of arranging an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting atop Mt. Rainier that year when the AA national convention was held in Seattle, but the following year he organized three groups of 12 climbers each who made a simultaneous ascent of the mountain for the first of many AA meetings conducted in high alpine settings. The groups included experienced mountaineers, but over half were neophytes who spent several months in an alpine climbing training class that Jim organized with his friends -- all but two in the group were recovering alcoholics or drug users.

In conjunction with the climb, Jim established One Step At A Time (OSAT), "an outdoor club for members and friends of 12-Step Recovery programs." ("Twelve-Step Programs" include AA, NA, OA, Al-Anon and other recovery groups.) Under his leadership and guidance OSAT grew to include climbers from throughout Washington, sponsored an annual alpine mountaineering class, Mountaineering Oriented First Aid courses, a full schedule of alpine and rock climbs as well as skiing, running, and kayaking activities, and several regular weekly 12-Step Recovery meetings conducted in wilderness settings in the Seattle area. At the time of his death in 1995, OSAT numbered over 100 active members and several hundred more benefiting from the OSAT 12-step meetings and activities. Since his death OSAT has grown to an active membership of about 300.

In recalling a frightening climb of the Leuthold Couloir on Mt. Hood, one climbing companion observed that "Jim knew just how far behind you to be: not too close, so you knew you were accomplishing it on your own; but not so far back that you felt alone." A non-climbing friend who Jim saved from alcoholic suicide commented that the same characteristic made him an invaluable friend to people striving to establish lives free from the suffering of alcohol or drug dependency.

Jim died with climbing companions Scott Hall and Tom Downey during a storm at Windy Corner on Denali (Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska) May 23, 1995. The OSAT Denali Expedition was retreating from the base camp at 14,200 feet together with other groups totaling fifteen climbers, when all were caught by horrific conditions and forced to bivouac near 13,300 feet. Circumstances forced the three OSAT climbers to attempt establishing a camp above Windy Corner while the other parties took shelter below. While specific circumstances of their deaths are unknown, they evidently died of hypothermia while attempting to establish camp in a crevasse.

Jim died with over sixteen and a half years of sobriety. He was survived by his two children, Aaron and Kym, two grandsons, and a multitude of climbing companions and others whom he inspired and taught about recovery, climbing, and enjoying a life of service to others.

Justification of Proposed Name

Usage of feature: Peak 6878 is located on the boundary of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the Wenatchee National Forest. The land surrounding the peak is used exclusively for wilderness-oriented recreation.

Why this name will best serve the public interest: Mr. Hinkhouse's impact on the climbing and the recovery communities in Western Washington was profound. The program he founded is widely recognized as a success in the field of substance dependency recovery.

How long has the proposed name been in use? There is no current name in use for this feature other than Peak 6878

Sources of information: USGS Mt. Stuart 7.5 minute series quadrangle, *American Alpine Journal 1996*, personal recollection of the applicant

Support for the proposed name: [Soliciting support for this application from the following:]

OSAT - One Step at a Time, an outdoor and climbing club for members and friends of 12-step recovery programs
The Mountaineers - Seattle-based climbing organization
BOEALPS - the Boeing Alpine Society
The Hinkhouse Family (Kym and Aaron, his children)

Thoughts on a May Afternoon in the North Cascades **by Jim Hinkhouse, ca. 1994**

Here Jim captures many of the emotions experienced by mountaineers, and trods once again the ground of "Why...?" In so doing he explores the addictive aspects of the sport. For Jim, climbing was a metaphor for life, a metaphor for recovery from difficulties and personal weaknesses, a metaphor for taking on goals that appear unachievable. The organization Hinkhouse founded, One Step At A Time (OSAT) introduces people with alcohol and drug dependencies to the reality of that metaphor. In so doing, OSAT provides its members the skills and confidence they need to leave any trailhead in life with self-assurance that regardless of whether or not they attain their goal, they will be proud of their performance on the route.

The day started differently - a delightful hike under a glowing blue sky in air as fresh as a cool shower. A furtive glance upwards at the ice cliff brings a rush of excitement and the familiar warm glow of anticipation. Slowly, we move onto the ice - two tiny specks on a mighty mountain in a wilderness landscape devoid of people and people scars.

Soon the beautiful picture changes. Clouds appear, then moisture in the air and a few snowflakes. Slowly our world becomes the inside of a small white bubble. The soft snow makes the climbing unpleasant and dangerous. And slow.

Finally we reach the top of the "endless gully". Above, a huge, overhanging cornice - tons of frozen snow hang over empty space almost directly above us. Climbing through the cornice is impossible. To the left is a steep, uneven ditch covered with ice. Not very inviting. Or very practical. No, we must avoid the left side.

It looks better to the right - large blocks of granite mixed with snow. Up ahead, my partner has been intently studying the possibilities and now appears ready to climb. Thank God. Backing off would be extremely dangerous.

He asks me for an anchored belay. When I am ready, he starts slowly up the rock. Almost immediately, he stops and puts in some protection. Carefully he begins working his way up. From over fifty feet, above the wind and through my thick headgear, a shouted obscenity finds my ears. I am surprised, he rarely curses. It must be delicate climbing, he must be very stressed.

The minutes drift by. He is out of sight and the rope feeds out slowly. It must be difficult. He is stopping often to put in hardware. I am alert for a fall, but my thoughts wander...That infernal, internal, dialogue returns:

"What are you doing here anyway?" (Good question. Wonder if it's time for the old "I'll never do this again, if you get me out of this one" prayer.)

"Your feet and hands are very cold." (But I am not shivering, so I must be okay.)

"You are tired, especially your arms and calves. You may get cramps any moment now." (But I have plenty of reserve. I can do this all night, if I must. Remember that the mind always gets tired before the body.)

"What will you do if he can't complete the pitch?" (He has to; no use worrying about it until it happens.)

"Do you have enough warm clothes in your pack to survive a night on the mountain?" (Yes, I'll be miserably cold, but I won't die.)

"You are not enjoying this; this is insanity." (Really, then why am I here?)

"Good question. Why are you here?"

Climbing has the nature of an addictive disease: altered states of consciousness (elation, fear, endorphin highs)...obsessiveness...a compulsion to repeat the activity...increased tolerance...some extremely negative consequences (fatigue, injury, death)...loss of old friends...apathy toward career...depression during withdrawal...and so on.

I must get this habit under control. I must limit myself to safe and sane mountaineering. Is this possible? Climbing is inherently dangerous. There are always objective dangers, but they could be minimized instead of maximized. Do I have to attempt difficult routes that are clearly hazardous to my health?

It must be the altered consciousness. Is it the elation? But I feel elation just from finishing whatever I start. Why wouldn't another climb of Rainier suffice? Or a new, easy peak with new views? Do I really need to always be climbing something more dangerous, requiring more skill and technique, involving more risk, to get the same high?

Maybe its an "ego" thing. An attempt to overcome a strong unconscious conviction of unworthiness - an obvious manifestation of low self-esteem...

Or is it the fear? Does fear so run my life that I must constantly overcome it to gain some peace of mind? Is this really what it is about? At this moment, high on the Ice Cliff Glacier, I don't feel a need for another shot of adrenaline....

Finally, I hear "Off belay."

He is out of sight. It has taken him over an hour and a half to lead the pitch. Now it is my turn. I climb as fast as possible, since I am top-rope and cold. I marvel at the difficulty of the pitch. At first the snow is soft and shallow, making ice tools useless. Later, there are pockets of ice in the near vertical rock that make handholds difficult. One move is particularly memorable - a delicate, exposed mantle onto the top of the cornice, where one hand uses the pick of a tool in hard snow for leverage, the other an edge of the rock...

In a few minutes we are both on the ridge above a steep snowfield. It is a dreary, cold place, but looks very good at the moment. Relative to where we have been, it is safe, secure. We relax for the first time in over ten hours. Summit plans are quickly and easily discarded. Only the descent occupies our thoughts.

We traverse to a notch and look down a steep, corniced gully. It must not be the correct route - or so we hope. The sky clears and below us is a couloir leading to the glacier. The slope looks easy.

And it is. Carefully at first, we start plunge stepping down the snow. It is easy going. We go faster. The way is clear. The slope is gentle and the crevasses easy to avoid. We see our camp below, even our tent. Now there is sunshine and blue sky everywhere, dominating everything below. Our mood lightens. I smile to myself. Truly, this is what I enjoy about the mountains - the "Sound of Music" descents: sparkling snow, protruding rock spires, green meadows dotted with alpine flowers; bright, blue sky with an occasional puffy white cloud and soaring hawk; cooling breezes and a warming sun; strong, effortless strides by a tired body and an exhilarated mind.

IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.

Do I really need the prickly tension of technical ascents to enjoy these descents?

Back to camp by dark. Beat up again, but elated. Will some of the memories of this climb fade? Yes, probably, and I think I know which ones.

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