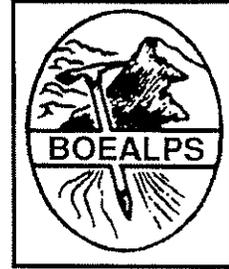


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

January 2001



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

President	Norene Borg	425-237-6991 LilBiner@hotmail.com	Equipment South	Mike Jacobsen	206-544-5689 michael.t.jacobsen@boeing.com
Vice President	Dan Costello	425-342-0477 daniel.m.costello@boeing.com	Central	Silas Wild	206-527-9453 silaswild@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Glenn Tomchik	425-234-5141 glenn.a.tomchik@boeing.com	North	Andy Roth	425-342-1308 andrew.s.roth@boeing.com
Secretary	Don Fraser	425-294-5424 donald.m.fraser@boeing.com	Librarian	Andrew Keleher	425-342-1320 andrew_keleher@beaerospace.com
Past President	Bill Harrison	206-662-2487 william.l.harrison@boeing.com	Membership	Prash Bhat	360-435-8831 prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com
Activities	David Hamilton	206-297-7353 dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org	Photographer	James Weisman	425-867-2043 jimw@smd.com
Conservation	Troy Colyer	425-234-2424 troy.colyer@boeing.com	Programs	Micah Lambeth	206-655-7314 micah.d.lambeth@boeing.com
Echo Editor	Matt Robertson	425-957-5691 matt.robertson@boeing.com	Web Master	Rob James	rob.james@gecm.com
Education	Len Kannapell	206-522-7022 kannapell@yahoo.com	Web Site Home Page		http://boealps.org/
			BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: "October Sunrise, Columbia Crest" by Mike Jacobsen

From Prash Bhat 04-JJ



January General Meeting

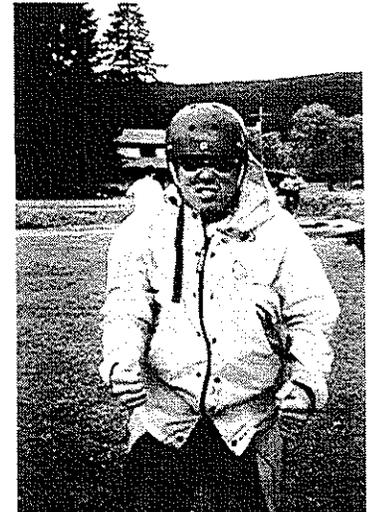
"What I Did on My Christmas Vacation!"

A slide show presented by your board members and chair people – this one should be amusing!

All other members are invited to contribute a slide or ten as well – it'll be a community effort!

There will also be a mini-presentation on the upcoming 2001 Intermediate Climbing Class by Mike Bingle.

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



BELAY STANCE

Happy Holidays, and don't forget to renew...

Even with everything else going on this time of year, don't forget that your Boealps membership expires this month! Fill out the membership form (located near the back of this issue), and send it in, along with your check for yearly dues, to Prash Bhat before your membership or Echo subscription lapse!

New Librarian...

Andrew Keleher has volunteered to be our librarian for 2001 – thanks Andrew! Andrew is going to inventory all the books the Boealps library currently has in it in January, so if you checked a book out recently, or have had one out for a long time (you know who you are!), please return it by the January general meeting. The current inventory of books in our library is listed later in this issue.

X-C Ski Weekend...

There's still plenty of room up in the Methow – get your checks to Elden at mail stop OW-PC, or send them to him at 5639 126th Ave SE, Bellevue WA 98006.

...and a Backcountry Ski Class...

Bill Frans and Rob Kunz have teamed up to offer the ever popular Backcountry/Ski Mountaineering class starting in February. If you're interested, there's more info later in this issue...

Basic Climbing Class...

Rich Privett is heading up BCC 2001, and could still use some more warm bodies to help out. Instructors, lecturers, quiz graders, anything and everything is appreciated. If you can volunteer to help out with any aspect of the class, give Rich a call at 206-662-1520. Instructor commitment forms should reach you sometime in January. The annual flier advertising this year's BCC is located in this issue. Please make copies of it and post it anywhere appropriate – break rooms, bulletin boards, etc. The class is open to non-Boeing employees, although employees are given priority during registration.

Intermediate Climbing Class...

The ICC returns once again, headed up by Brian Tryba. Mike Bingle will be giving a presentation on what the ICC is all about, who should take it, and what you can expect, along with handing out application packets, at the January General meeting on January 4th. Brian could still use more instructors – if you're interested in helping out, please contact Brian at rockmobster@hotmail.com or 425.255.5365

Access to the Oxbow...

Access to the Oxbow Rec Center will require a badge starting sometime early next year. See the article later in this issue on how to get a badge if you're not a Boeing employee. This may prove challenging for BCC and ICC class orientation nights...

Call for Articles...

Dang – getting submissions is like pulling teeth from you guys! I'll try again though – for next month's issue, I'd like to run an article titled "My Favorite Trip of 2000". Not just my favorite trip, though, but all of yours, too! Doesn't matter why it was a favorite – maybe you overcame a significant technical challenge, maybe it was just really beautiful, or maybe your companions were what made the trip memorable, but whatever the case, please send me just a paragraph or two (if you really want to write more, I won't complain) describing what your favorite trip of the year was and why. Think of it as your Christmas present to me!

Merry Christmas from the desk of your editor,



Matt Robertson

February Echo deadline is January 18th

January, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day; Glacier Peak; First Light trip	2	3 Avalanche Safety seminar	4 General Club Meeting	5 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	6 Avalanche Safety field trip
7 Avalanche Safety field trip; Winter Outing	8	9 Full Moon	10 Avalanche Safety seminar	11 Board Meeting; MOFA Class	12 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	13 McClellans Butte
14 Bandera Mountain	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 MOFA Class	17	18 Echo Deadline; MOFA Class	19 Skiing @ Stevens Pass; North Cascades XC Ski Trip	20 North Cascades XC Ski Trip
21 North Cascades XC Ski Trip; Winter Outing	22	23 MOFA Class	24 New Moon Chinese New Year	25 MOFA Class	26 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	27 Mt. Pilchuck
28 Mt. Pilchuck	29	30 MOFA Class	31			

February, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 General Club Meeting	2 Groundhog Day Skiing @ Stevens Pass	3
4 Winter Outing	5	6 MOFA Class; Ski Mountaineering	7	8 Full Moon; MOFA Class; Ski Mountaineering	9 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	10 Abiel Peak
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Ski Mountaineering; MOFA Class @ Camp Long	14 Valentine's Day	15 Echo Deadline; Ski Mountaineering; MOFA Class @ Camp Long	16 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	17 Mt. Hood; Overnight for Ski Mountaineering
18 Mt. Hood; Overnight for Ski Mountaineering; Winter Outing	19 President's Day	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23 New Moon Skiing @ Stevens Pass	24
25 Web Mountain	26 BCC 2001 Orientation	27	28 Ash Wednesday			

this time; but rest assured the ascent, if successful, will be a noteworthy accomplishment. Prior to Lizard's Memorial Day mountain bike ascent, only 3 previous visitation dates (in 1988, 1991, 1994) were etched into the metal plate found at the summit.

Depending on snow conditions, the approach march could be as long as 12 miles with an elevation gain in excess of 5000'. The steep, grassy shoulders of the peak appear avalanche prone and the summit itself is quite exposed to the weather. Getting into position to catch those first rays of sun at 7:21:53AM will be no picnic; but the undertaking, successful or not, will be a tremendous adventure offering a fairly high potential for publicity -- if we so choose.

Negotiations are currently under way with the cattle rancher who controls access to much of the area, and I believe the chances are fairly good that we may be able to get permission to ski his private access road and perhaps even spend a night or two at his farmhouse. Near as I can tell none of the locals (nor anyone else, for that matter!) is aware of the significance of this prominent mountain.

Yes, I realize mid-summer is not the best time to talk about the dark days of winter, but early expressions of interest will help determine the feasibility of pursuing this once-in-a-thousand-year opportunity.

29 December 00 -- 2 January 01: First Light of the Third Millennium

Trip Update:

Our trip to the first point in Washington to see the sunrise of the new millennium is still on track. Lizard has received permission from the private landowner who controls access to the most direct route to our objective. The climb has now been reduced to a quite manageable 4000' gain over 5 miles. Hopefully this development will encourage a few more signups!

The climb will commence from the lower Grande Ronde River near the bottom of Snake River Canyon -- one of the most scenic canyons in all of North America. Our New Year's Eve camp will be situated at 5000' on the open slopes of a very exposed summit, and cold winter conditions can be expected.

The official name and other access details for *Third Millennium Peak* will not be revealed in this public notice; but for parties with a serious interest, its GPS/post-SA NAD27 coordinates are: 501805 meters East, 5093631 meters North, UTM Zone 11T.

Contact Lizard at 425.865.3783 (John.Lixvar@PSS.Boeing.com)

Fridays at Stevens Pass

Fridays starting in January

Do you work 4/10's? Or just feel like having some fun and playing hooky? I have a mid-week pass and plan on skiing often!

Mountain/Area	Stevens Pass Ski Area
Elevation	4000'
Route	Intermediate runs
Skills	Ski or snowboard
Limits	?
Contact	Brian Tryba, 425-255-5365, rockmobster@hotmail.com

McClellans Butte

January 13

Popular winter climb just off I-90. Some steeper snow with a rock scramble to the summit.

Mountain/Area	McClellans Butte
Elevation	5162'
Route	South ridge or NE gully and E ridge
Grade	III
Approximate Time	4-5 hours up
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	6
Contact	Tom Ryan, 425-487-8706(w), 206-527-2724(h), tom-p.ryan@frco.com

Bandera Mountain

January 14

The west ridge of Bandera offers a much safer route than the south slope of this peak. Mostly gentle terrain, with a short section of steep snow.

Mountain/Area	Bandera Mountain
Elevation	5240'
Route	West Ridge
Class	2
Grade	I
Approximate Time	4-6 hours up
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	8
Contact	Matt Robertson, 425-957-5691(w), 425-822-0455(h), matt.robertson@boeing.com

Mount Pilchuck

January 27 or 28

Backcountry snowboarding at the old Pilchuck ski area. Climb up using snowshoes and snowboard down! Required equipment: snowshoes, avalanche beacon, probe and shovel. We'll practice avalanche rescue before climbing.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Pilchuck
Route	Old ski area
Approximate Time	Full day
Skills	Basic class grad (preferred), intermediate snowboarder
Limits	8
Contact	Hau T. Pho, 425-342-7145(w), 206-297-1830(h), hau.t.pho@boeing.com

Abiel Peak

February 10

A pretty peak at the south end of the Lake Annette drainage, just off of I-90. We'll snowshoe to Annette Lake, then scope out the routes. The north face will be the main objective, but that will depend on weather and snow conditions. The east and west ridges are not too technical and should be less condition dependent, so they'll be the backup routes.

Mountain/Area	Abiel Peak
Elevation	5365'
Route	North face, east or west ridge
Grade	II
Approximate Time	10-11 hours round trip
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	6
Contact	Prashantha Bhat, 425-294-6792(w), 206-546-6032(h), pbbhat@hotmail.com

Mt. Hood

February 17-18

This is your chance to climb Mount Hood in the winter – no chair lifts, dammit!!! Experienced climbers to assist leading are welcome

Mountain/Area	Mt. Hood
Elevation	11,239
Route	South side
Grade	I
Approximate Time	2 days
Skills	Basic class grad or better. Looking for experienced climbers to assist.
Limits	8
Contact	James Schalla, 425-294-0306(w), 206-526-7900(h), james.p.schalla@boeing.com

Web Mountain

February 25

This was a hoot last year, and a bit more challenging than expected – let's do it again! Expect some brush, steep snow, snow covered rock, and a few areas of hard, steep, exposed snow. Snowshoes and crampons required.

Mountain/Area	Web Mountain (I-90, Exit 38 area)
Elevation	5335'
Route	West Ridge
Class	3
Grade	I
Approximate Time	4-6 hours up
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	8
Contact	Matt Robertson, 425-957-5691(w), 425-822-0455(h), matt.robertson@boeing.com

Cragging

March 3

Let's find some rock to climb! I'll go anywhere and try anything within reason. I have leading skills to 5.9, beyond that, I'm following you. Happy to help beginners learn.

Mountain/Area	Index? Mt. Erie? Smith Rock? Suggest a place!
Route	Participants will decide
Class	Somewhere between 5.0 and 5.you're-dreaming
Time	Part or all day
Skills	Basic climbing skills
Limits	6
Contact	Tom Ryan, 425-487-8706(w), 206-527-2724(h), tom-p.ryan@frco.com

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to: **David Hamilton**

206-297-7353

dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Avalanche Seminar with Gary Brill

We still need five more students for Gary's Avalanche Class, already underway. Class dates are Wednesday, January 3 and Wednesday, January 10. There will be a class outing either Saturday, January 6 or Sunday, January 7. You can make up the December 12 class at one of Gary Brill's REI or Marmot seminars. Cost is still \$80.

Ice Leading Seminar

We've got an ice seminar tentatively planned for January 29-31 in Lillooet, B.C. Let me know if you're interested.

Contact Len Kannapell at kannapell@yahoo.com or (206)522-7022 h. for more info on either seminar, or to sign up!



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer and Victor Yagi

Northwest Environmental Issues Course

Highly recommend by your conservation corner advocates is the Northwest Environmental Issues Course offered by the Mountaineers. It is a great way to gain insight into many of the environmental issues that you face all the time. Not only that, it will give you a new ideas on how you can make a difference. From the syllabus: "This course provides lectures and field instruction designed to empower participants to take actions that will protect the natural resources of the Northwest. Students examine the often-conflicting interests of population, lifestyle, forests, water, salmon, growth management, energy, and transportation through lectures by nationally recognized speakers and local environmental experts, group discussions, and other activities. A series of field trips is offered to actively engage participants in the issues they are studying. In addition, students will learn how to influence legislation, write persuasive letters, and determine the most effective forums in which to shape public policy." The entire series consists of nine class sessions, and runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday evening from February 8, 2001 through April 5. The course is being held at The Mountaineers Clubhouse. The cost for the course is \$60 for Mountaineer members, and \$70 for non-members. Keep an eye on the Conservation Currents in the January issue of The Mountaineer for more details. For more information, please contact the Mountaineers at (206) 284-8484, or e-mail Laura Hastings to laurahastings@yahoo.com

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremony

January General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on January 4th, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, then the presentations.

Mini show:

Mike Bingle will be presenting information about the Intermediate Climbing Class. If you're planning on signing up for this year's ICC, Mike's presentation will give you all the info you need and provide you with the opportunity to get a registration application.

Main Show:

'What I Did On My Christmas Vacation'

Come see what your fellow Boealpers have been up to during the recent winter months or let them know what you've been doing with a few slides of your own. If you have one good picture of a friend falling off a ski lift or several documenting a New Years day summit attempt share it with the rest of us.

February Meeting Presentation

Join us on February 1st for pictures and stories from India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Tibet. Presented by Bill Harrison and his fellow trekkers and climbers recently returned from their Himalayan adventures.

Boealps Online

By Rob "Spiderman" James

Personal email accounts

Want a personal email address like your_name_here@boealps.org? Well, you can now do just that! Let me know what you would like your "name" to be and I'll set up the account for you – and, yes, it's free! You can access the email by logging in to the web at <http://mail.boealps.org:8383> and enter your user ID (which would be your email address) and your password (which I'll tell you once the account is set up). Or, alternatively, you can also pick up your email from other email clients, or even from Hotmail. Drop me an email at webmaster@boealps.org to set up an account or if you have any queries.

Finding fellow Boealpers

There are two ways to track down fellow Boealpers on the web site (other than using the Noticeboard). If you click on the hyperlinked "Members" on the intro on the front page, you'll get taken to two links, one for Member's email addresses (some of which may be out of date – but I've no way of knowing unless you tell me!), and one which takes you to the roster database. You can search the roster database in a number of ways - type in a search string and then click one of the buttons below for the type of search you want. For instance, if you want to find me, type in Rob and then click the "name" button and then the "send" button. Or you might want to find all the Boealpers who live near you so you can car pool to the banquet: type in your zip code, click the "zip code" button and then the "send" button. You will need the password for the roster searches – it's "Slesse". As a general rule we don't allow access to member's details such as names, addresses, phone numbers or email addresses without the password unless we're asked to. We will also remove member's details totally if they have any concerns about their privacy or our security.

Route Guesser competition

Anyone been trying to guess the routes on the front page? Made it to the end yet? Here's the first 4 in case you've got stalled – "Spiderman", "Chain Reaction", "South Face of Jello Tower" and "Delay of Game". Hopefully next month we'll have a new comp - anyone got any photos they'd like to enter? The theme will be "Name That Peak" this time.

Cheers ...Rob (Hey – Its snowing - OK, where is my fluro wax) webmaster James

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. (*counting last year's class, which wasn't held – unlucky 13th! – Ed.*)

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 Climbing 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 Brian Tryba or Mike Bingle for further class details, specific dates, and a course application and information packet. February 25th is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 3rd.

Brian Tryba
425-255-5365
rockmobster@hotmail.com

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

BOEALPS
BACKCOUNTRY / SKI MOUNTAINEERING CLASS
WINTER 2001



Learn the techniques and the tools needed to explore the Cascades on skis.

Expect that summertime glacier slogs will be transformed into downhill fun fests and the cold wintry northwest days into powder epics.

ALPINE SKIERS, TELEMARKERS, and SNOWBOARDERS are all welcome.

Course Dates:

Classroom:	Tues. and Thurs., February 6 and 8, 2001
Skiing Skills:	Tues. and Thurs., February 13 and 15, 2001
Backcountry Overnighter:	Sat. and Sun., February 17-18, 2001

Suggested Skier / Snowboarder ability: Intermediate and beyond.

Additional Information:

Please contact course instructors for more information –
Bill Frans: e-mail: bill_eff@hotmail.com
Rob Kunz: e-mail: rob2ski@email.msn.com

OR

See BOEALPS website. Check under Club Activities (<http://www.boealps.org/active.html>)

2001 BOEALPS BASIC CLIMBING CLASS

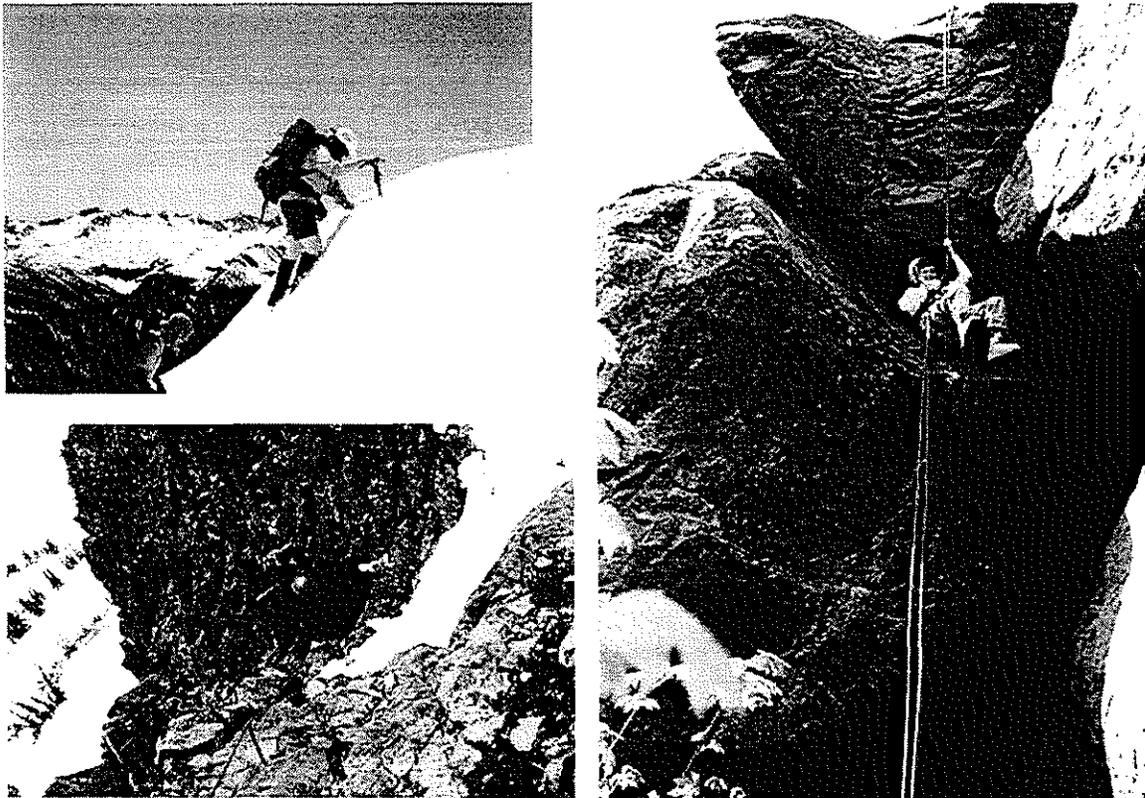
The Boealps Basic Climbing Class will be held March 7 to June 13. Orientation will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7:00 pm at the Oxbow Recreation Center, Room 201. The class consists of Wednesday night lectures combined with weekend outings. This year's class will be run by Rich Privett. For more 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 CLIMBING CLASS INSTRUCTORS

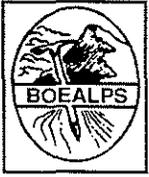
Everyone who instructed last year should receive a commitment form by mid-January. If you do not receive a commitment form by this time, please contact Rich Privett at (206) 662-1520 to have one sent to you. If you have never instructed for the Basic Climbing Class and would like to, contact Rich to receive information and an application. All instructors are required to have taken MOFA at some time prior to the beginning of 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 14.

If you can not instruct this year, but would like to help with other tasks that make the class run smoothly, please contact Rich at (206) 662-1520.

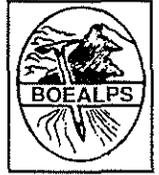
This ECHO includes a poster on the next page for this year's class. Please take it, make copies of it, and post them anywhere that is appropriate.



Basic Climbing Class 2000 on Snow, Rock and Rappel



Boeing Employees Alpine Society



2001 Basic Mountaineering Course

Orientation & Registration

Monday, February 26, 7:00 PM
Oxbow Recreation Center
9-150 Building Room 201

Class Meetings

Wednesday Evenings
Plus
Weekend Outings
March 7 through June 13

- **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:

Joyce Holloway (425) 477-4393
Dave Hamilton (206) 768-7146

Prashantha Bhat (425) 294-6792
Matt Robertson (425) 957-5691

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society (Boealps) also offers an **Intermediate Climbing Course**. For more information on this course contact Brian Tryba at (425) 255-5365.

North Cascades X-Country Ski Trip -

Jan. 19-21, 2001

Join us for another fabulous XC ski weekend! This year we'll be in the Methow Valley at the Westar Lodge, located off the W. Chewuch Road. The lodge has 7 double beds + 16 single beds to sleep 30, **and yes there is a hot tub!** **For more info, look at:**
<http://www.shepnet.com/westar/>

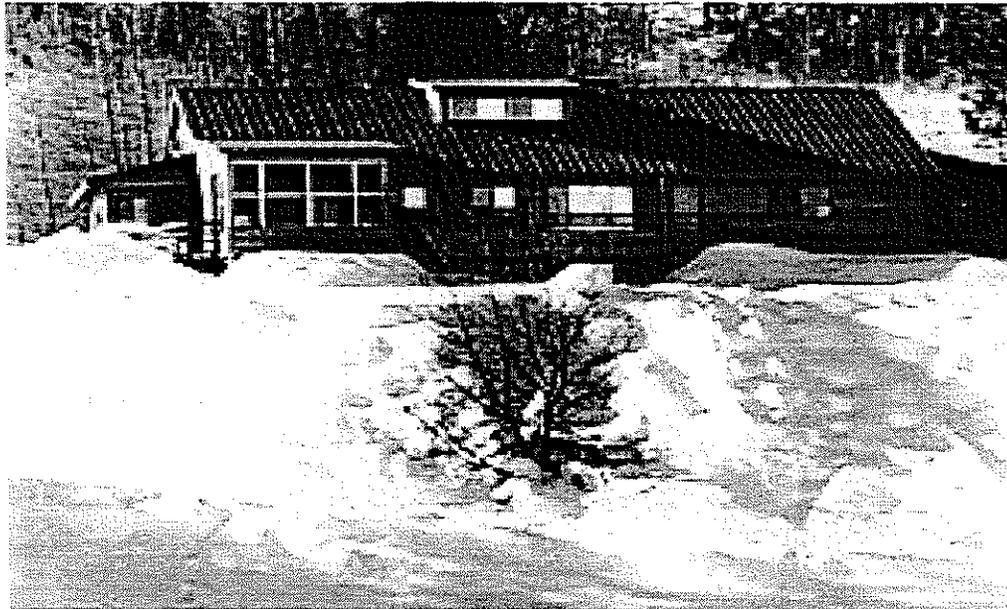
Included: Friday & Saturday night lodging with Saturday breakfast/dinner and Sunday breakfast. **Cost:** \$50 Adults, \$45 Children under 12, \$40 6 and under.

Sign-up as soon as possible! \$25 holds a spot, but I need full payment 2 weeks prior to trip, Jan 5. The Methow Valley Sport Touring Association maintains over 175 km of groomed trails (beginner to advanced) in the pristine wilderness, including hut-to-hut skiing. Recent trail fees were \$13/day or \$30/weekend.

Please send your deposit (make checks payable to Elden Altizer) and sign-up to:
Elden Altizer
M/C OW-PC
5639 126th Ave SE
Bellevue WA 98006

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

No. of People: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ Deposit _____ Total: _____



Westar Lodge, Methow Valley



BE PREPARED

BE SAFE



**MOFA CLASS
2001**

Boealps is offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid class in January/February 2001. 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. A **MOFA refresher** class will be offered in March. Send Joyce Holloway an e-mail if you are interested.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (January 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, February 6, 8, 13 and 15.
(Camp Long dates: Feb 13 and 15.)

Refresher dates: Class: March 20, 22, 27, 29, April 3 and 5. (Camp Long dates: April 3 and 5.)

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center

Cost: Approximately \$50 (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 \$50 in the form of a check payable to Joyce Holloway.**

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com		(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) 772-1869

BOEALPS MOFA REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain a syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Joyce Holloway") TO: Joyce Holloway M/S 6F-06 or 15704 451st Ave SE, North Bend, WA 98045

Access Control to be Instituted at the Oxbow

(Editor's note: Norene received this from the recreation folks – this will affect everyone's access to the Oxbow Rec Center for the club's monthly meetings. You may want to get there a little early in January to get your badge, or if you have a badge, to make sure yours will let you in.)

Dear Club Presidents,

Beginning sometime in January of 2001, access to the Oxbow Activity Center (9-150 building) will be through the Access Management System that has been established by the Health and Fitness organization. In other words, a valid badge will be needed to enter into Oxbow. This means that if any building user is not a Health and Fitness member, they will need to be entered into the system so their badge will allow for access into Oxbow.

How can you be entered into the system? **If you are an employee**, the next time you come into Oxbow, you will need to show your badge to a Recreation employee, and data will be entered into a software program that will allow your badge to work at Oxbow. You may also call 206-655-1941 if you are an employee and provide us with your name, SSN and badge number to be activated. **If you are a retiree, spouse or other qualified club member**, a badge will have to be made for you that will allow you access to Oxbow. The next time you come into Oxbow, you will need to see a Recreation staff member and a picture badge will be created for you.

Remember, if you are a health and fitness member, as either an employee, spouse, or retiree, you will not need to do anything. Your badge will get you into the building.

Below is a question and answer section that should answer most of your questions relative to this procedural change.

Q: Why is access to Oxbow changing?

A: The primary reason is for safety and security reasons. Thefts have occurred off and on at the center, and it is felt that a more controlled access is the best way to address this.

Q: I'm currently a Health and Fitness member. Do I have to do anything different now?

A: No. As a Health and Fitness member, your badge will work once the system is activated in January.

Q: I'm not a Health and Fitness member, but I am an employee. Shouldn't my Boeing badge work anyway?

A: No. This AMS system is not a company wide system. It is a Health and Fitness system. As such, badges of Boeing employees who aren't Health and Fitness members won't work without being activated by Recreation.

Q: I'm a retiree who only comes down to my club meeting once per month. Do I need a badge?

A: Yes. You will need to see Recreation on your next visit to Oxbow, and a badge will be created for you.

Q: If I play in the volleyball league and I'm an employee, I understand I need to have my badge activated since I'm not a Health and Fitness member. Does my spouse, who is not an employee, still need to have a badge made for him since he only visits Oxbow with me?

A: Yes. All building participants will have to have a badge to enter. This would be either a Boeing badge or a badge created for spouses, retirees, and other qualified club members.

Q: As a retiree, would I get my badge right away?

A: No, we would take your picture, but the badge would not be available for about 5-7 days after that.

Q: What if my badge isn't activated right away? Can I still get in?

A: Yes. A phone is located outside the center. You can call into our office to get access. At that point we would enter you into the AMS system, and/or create a badge for you.

Q: I am a spouse of an employee. Can I attend my club meeting without my spouse?

A: Yes. You do not need to be escorted by an employee while at the activity center. You will however need a badge to enter the building.

Q: Do you have an exact date for when the system will be operational.

A: No, not at this point, although we are looking at early to mid-January. We'll let you know when it is scheduled to occur.

Any additional questions can be addressed to Recreation at 655-1941.

Avalanche!

By Micahel Adamson

It's hard to admit when you made a mistake, but I felt like sharing my experience today with the other members of the local community. It's hard to even say what mistake we made, though. I think everything just points to the random, and sometimes unpredictable, nature of being in the mountains in marginal conditions.

December 10th, Alpentel Valley West

Jim at Pro Ski in North Bend told me about a fat, 2 pitch waterfall he'd seen while ski touring to Chair Peak during Wednesday's temperature inversion. We made plans to check it out, and I invited my longtime climbing partner Ray Borbon along for the trip. Jim called to bail on Friday evening so it would just be Ray and me for this one. It didn't matter to me, I was just stoked to be heading up to the hills! The fact that one of the worst snowstorms predicted for this year was brewing up and inbound only made me more interested in going. I was hoping that this trip would provide difficult conditions and therefore added experience points. I would have to say that in the end it certainly did provide an experience. One not to be repeated. Luckily for us it turned into a learning experience and not a recovery operation.

I hesitated briefly about going to Alpentel as I developed a better plan for Sunday. Observing the fairly clear conditions on Saturday night, I somehow convinced myself that a trip to the top of McClellans Butte seemed more challenging than stomping around the valley for a few pitches of moderate ice.

I woke up at 5am on Sunday morning to find that the overly hyped first big winter storm of the year had indeed arrived. I immediately noted that the conditions had seriously deteriorated to the point that even hiking a trail to over 5000ft underneath some of the most avalanche prone chutes in the Snoqualmie pass area seemed just plain stupid. That, and I really didn't want to suffer at that level today. I reconvinced myself that the best thing to do was find the fat waterfall that Jim had reported to me and just get a top rope on it and have fun for a few hours.

The snow was coming down pretty hard and 1610 AM was reporting temps in the mid-twenties at the Pass, with compact snow and ice on I-90 from mile marker 32 to 61.

At 5:30am I saw Ray's car arriving at the gates of my townhouse. I let him in and we hung around my house for a bit sitting in front of the fireplace while I sort of tried to wake up and finish getting my things together. Neither one of us was feeling any sense of urgency at that point, mainly because it was snowing all the way down at North Bend. It's hard to get fired up to drive in the snow in Washington. Other drivers who see snow once a year give me road rage. I knew the drive to the Pass would be interesting. We drove over to Denny's and wolfed down omelets while I drank coffee.

In the end the drive was pretty relaxing. Ray and I talked about a film he had watched the night before about avalanches. He specifically mentioned some skier in the film who had skied over the top of a loaded 20ft wide couloir. The slope fractured in an instant and the skier had been swept away and buried in the avalanche, but had survived. In a half sleep I was just sort of thinking "that sucks". Of course I could never be that dumb or that unlucky. I mentioned that I had read somewhere that most avalanche victims were killed in slides of less than 300ft. It doesn't take a very big one to get you.

It was just starting to get light and, although the roads had not been plowed, the snow was soft and I kept it in 4 wheel drive from about mile marker 45 onwards. We made good time and were greatly amused by the antics of some madman flying around in his Citron. I parked in the far corner of the lower Alpentel lot and we got out and started to organize some gear and throw on boots, gaiters and snowshoes. Immediately, there were 3 climbers from New York wanting to get some beta from us. They had spent the night in the back of a truck parked in the lower lot. One of the guy's names was Andre, who was apparently the trip leader and only ice leader amongst the 3 of them. They said they were going to head up to Chair Peak.

Ray and I told them that it wasn't going to be in condition and in a nutshell that they were going to end up dead if they tried getting into that basin on a day like today. I hinted at a few objectives lower down (all the while trying to get dressed) and finally told them that if they made it up there that they should write a trip report for Cascade Climbers (a local website catering to NW climbers). They thanked us and went to get their gear in order.

Free from the beta session I hastily finished getting ready and strapped on my brand spanking new MSR Denali snowshoes for their trial run. By this time the parking lot was starting to fill, and numerous other larger parties were

ramping up. Time to stop bullshitting and ruck up. We moved out quickly around 7:30 and started making tracks up the road to the upper parking lot. I could have sworn that there was one lone skier that had left the parking lot ahead of us, but although we followed some tracks the whole way we never saw the guy. The snow was pumping down at the rate of about 2-3 inches an hour and the entire valley was socked in. I stopped to adjust my snowshoes a few times, but we pretty much trucked up the valley until 8:30 when we stopped to hydrate. We were both totally soaked from sweat and the snow melting on our shells. We decided that we would let the other parties we had seen far behind us catch up and break trail for the rest of the way. I was keeping an eye open for the waterfall in question, but with everything obscured under a hefty amount of new snow it was hard to tell what was what.

I stamped out a platform to the side of the trail and waited. After about 10 minutes we heard them coming up behind us and I started calling out 'Snow Fairies' through the mist like I do sometimes. Someone called back and we thought we would see them through a break in the trees. The unknown party called back a few times and we patiently waited for our new trail breakers to follow through.

Nothing - the voices were moving up and away from us. I peered through a gap in the trees and DAMN! There it was. I could see the fat ice right through the trees and up the gully about 2 minutes away. What EEEEEIOTS we were! Our line had been snaked right under our noses. Ice is hard to come by in this area too.

I told Ray, and we instantly geared back up and started backtracking. As we rounded a small bend in the trail the 3 New York guys were right there, but it was another party that was moving up to get the first dibs on the climb. Trying to move fast I fell in a hole and slid up to my chest in new snow that was moated around a tree. As I struggled up and out, the New York guy was eyeing me like he wished he hadn't listened to me in the parking lot. I must have looked pretty eager to get up to the ice (or something like that).

I went around him and stopped briefly when the tail end member of the NY party started asking me about my snowshoes. I answered his questions praising the folks at MSR. After several terrible Randonee and Telemark experiences I guess plastic milk cartons cut in half and glued to my feet would have elicited praise from me though.

I turned away, and started weaving my way between the trees up the new snowshoe path the other party had made. I came up pretty quickly on a guy sitting in the middle of the trail putting on some snowshoes. I halted and just started shooting the breeze with the guy who's name was Brian and turned out to be a real cool character. I had that ice on my brain though and just wanted to get up to it and check it out. The party of 5 stopped about 75 yards from the base of the climb and were already starting to break out their gear. Ray had blazed past them and was standing at the base of the falls taking off his snowshoes. Bad etiquette, and I would have been happier where the other party was, but I didn't want to get in their way since I didn't know any of them.

I came up anyway and moved off to the side a bit because I really didn't like where Ray has placed himself right in the fall line of the upper waterfall. I moved because I was thinking about chunks of ice hitting me if I belayed there. I wasn't really thinking about anything bigger than that. I kept glancing at the 5 guys down below who were putting on their harnesses and getting ready. They obviously meant business like we did. I ripped open my pack and got my ice rack and crampons out. Noting the other party's preparations I quickly threw on my harness and racked my screws.

While I was doing this I kept looking up at the ice and checking out the lines. A few fairly benign, but relatively large, spindrift avalanches were coming down the ice adding real alpine flavor to an otherwise tree filled gully. I called down to the other group and said, good naturedly, "Hope you guys like climbing in spindrift!" One of their members called back up and said, "It will make it feel like something really serious." Taking the cue I yelled back down to them, "If that spindrift knocks you off your holds it will feel serious enough." The other party laughed and agreed.

Ready to go, I turned toward the cliff and started moving up to Ray's stance a few feet above mine to start making a decision about going right and around to set a top rope or leading the pitches. Just as I turned around and started moving something made me look up.

Have you ever seen one of those Warren Miller films where they place a camera at snow level in the path of a loose snow avalanche? The snow soft and billowy as it begins to gain speed and cover all the linear and horizontal space until it flows viscously over the camera and then all is blackness.

As I looked up, I saw that same white billowy cloud begin pouring over the cliff overhead. For a microsecond my dull brain was thinking "Oh, wow-look at that," then the reality came over me just as quickly and the words of wonder that been forming on my lips turned into "Look out!"

Instantly, I felt Ray start bolting down the slope. I felt leaden as I turned to run, but it happened so fast. We had barely gotten 2 or 3 steps when the snow pounded me down like I was nothing. It drove me flat and shoved me into the prone position, face first. My legs had been swept out in an instant. That's when you start to feel the snow rolling over and around you burying you like quicksand. The feeling was similar to body surfing into the shore and trying to get up while being forced down by the next wave.

I must have opened my mouth to breathe. The soft powdery snow filled my mouth and went into my lungs, choking me. It felt like I had just vacuum sucked the dust from the bottom of a bag of sugary cereal. I could feel it melting almost immediately, but I resisted the urge to breathe again or yell. Physically I felt the snow sliding over the layers already on top of me growing perceptibly heavier. I was totally helpless. For a brief second I thought, "This is it. My life is going to end in this avalanche." Then abruptly it stopped and I didn't sense the snow turning into concrete. My mind told me to begin fighting right then. I began punching my fist towards what I felt must be the surface. I threw my arm upward several times while struggling to find purchase for my feet. For a second I thought I could see the gray overcast of the sky, but I couldn't be certain. Just then I heard Ray yell "Help!" I stood up and started coughing. It was the sky.

We had been completely buried and swept down about 25 feet, but only covered by a couple of feet of loose powder snow.

The 5 guys below were all standing there, but nothing was clear in my vision. They had been dusted, but were otherwise fine. One of them yelled up. I turned back uphill and all I could think was to grab my gear and get the hell away from where I was at. I had to move about a foot or two of snow off my stuff, but I was working so furiously that I had everything in a matter of seconds. I never really felt anything like shock, but I was tremendously alert at that point. I flew back down the slope with my gear to the other party's little platform they had stamped out.

I think everyone there was a little stunned. I remember saying something like, "I'm done climbing for today. I'm outta here." I became aware that Ray was standing next to me and his gear had been buried in the slide. He had no snowshoes and was postholing around in the powdery snow.

The other party had quickly sent two members to run down the New York group to tell them that the upper slopes were loading up and that the trees were in no way safe at this point. We still had no idea where the slide had originated from. Someone mentioned something about a line of cornices they thought were above us.

I knew we had to at least go look for Ray's gear. At least I thought we did. Maybe I was in shock, but I felt pretty rock solid. I think Ray was telling me to forget it, but I was determined. I grabbed my shovel and went back up into the slide path. That left 2 guys with us, and one with a shovel in case we got buried again. The same guy that said he thought there were cornices above us was saying something about how it might take an hour for this thing to load up again. That sounded like we better hurry the hell up because I wasn't really planning on hanging out that long to find out.

Honestly, I was shitting bricks every time spindrift came down, clearly remembering the sloughs that had proceeded the last slide. It felt like we were standing underneath a guillotine, just waiting to get chopped again. I mentally noted a tree that I was going to jump to and hug if I saw that white cloud come over the top of the cliff a second time. I also noted that the guys from the other party had not taken even one step in the uphill direction. They were hanging back and I can't say I blame them.

As we dug under the snow looking for Ray's stuff I began to realize the volume of snow that had come down on top of us. We found one of Ray's snowshoes and a crampon under about 3 feet of fresh snow, but couldn't find anything else. We probably only dug for about 5 minutes, but when you're standing underneath something that might kill you any second, and without warning, it feels like forever.

Every scoop of snow was making me realize just how much we were not going to get dug out if anything bigger came over those cliffs. We couldn't even find Ray's pack and we were standing right where he had left it! These 2 guys with one shovel weren't going to be able to get us out before one or the other of us suffocated. Finally I was like, "Dude, we'll come back for the stuff, let's just get the hell out of here". I verified later on the trail out that this is exactly what Ray had been thinking all along, but I guess he didn't want me to go back up there by myself. We scooted back down to the other 2 party members and I got all my gear in order. All 4 of us started walking back down to join the main snowshoe path. I came walking up on Brian who had been posted at the junction of the 2 trails as a sort of guidepost I

guess. Obviously someone had been thinking clearly and had some rescue background. I have observed enough rescues to recognize the procedures.

This other guy from their party was like, "Anyone want some coffee?" I probably had enough juice in my veins at that point to run back to North Bend, but I was thinking that some coffee sounded pretty damn good. Everyone was in really good spirits and I have to say because of the presence of the other group and their good naturedness I felt really at ease despite the fact that we had just about gotten waxed on some no name piece of dung Alpentel gully ice climb. The high volume chatter began immediately as everyone started relating their stories about what they saw and thought.

The weather had backed off quite a bit at that point and made a clearing. A small portion of the cliffs above us were visible. Someone pointed out a clear fracture line about 25 feet above the edge of the cliff and probably, from a distance anyway, about 8 feet wide and 3 feet deep. That's it! If it had been another 10 feet higher I doubt we would have been able to get ourselves out from underneath the snow. The total volume was miniscule compared to what I'm sure could have come down on top of us.

If the other party hadn't been there at all in that scenario Ray and I might be dead. As it turns out it was just a close call and a bit of a lesson learned. They would have hopefully had to come dig us out, but I suspect that something much greater might have clipped them too.

The other 2 guys from the large party came back and had brought the NY group of 3 back from the edge of the open slopes above Source Lake. They had apparently already made the decision to head back anyway. No one reported seeing a lone skier.

So, to make a mediocre story short: 10 people walked up Alpentel Valley in the most marginal weather of the year looking for some fun and ended up heading out the other way less than 3 hours later. We turned back anyone and everyone that was heading up the direction we had just come.

On the drive home we immediately began turning the event over in our heads and made a point to assess what we felt we could have done that would have been smarter.

First let me say this. Overall, I still felt very safe where we were at. There were intervening trees all over the slopes above and it was a fairly small drainage. I think more than anything, it simply points to the unpredictable nature of the mountains and being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It happens. So before anyone jumps on any soapboxes, think about it. Would you have felt threatened where we were at?

Ray and I came up with several things almost immediately:

1. Climbing in marginal conditions greatly increases the risks. Try not to climb in conditions where snowfall exceeds more than 1 inch an hour. Even a relatively "safe" area can be hazardous. I did not feel threatened at all where we were even when the larger spindrift avalanches came down proceeding the "big one". I see now that this means little. There is no way I would have gone up to Source Lake or Chair, but this event surprised us all.
2. Take the time if possible to observe what is above the climb. In this case I would have said the visible terrain was safe, but as it turns out it wasn't. Our main problem was lack of visibility when we walked up. It only cleared enough to see when we were heading out. Later, Greg Mueller, who had climbed the route the day before, emailed me and said this about the slope:

"Yes, from reading your story (nice one, btw) I suspected it was the same spot. I'm not surprised stuff came down on you. When I got to the top of it I saw above me a long steep slope with tons of snow on it, and the first thing I thought was, "I hope it doesn't release." I think the snow pack was fairly stable Saturday morning, though."
3. Climb with more than 2 people if possible during periods of avalanche danger. Even a third person could save your life. Of course this means taking the usual precautions.
4. Keep all of your gear close and "contained". Everything was contained in my pack except a few items. Ray lost everything because it was blown over a wide area.
5. **SMALL SLIDES CAN GET YOU!** Don't be fooled into thinking that it will take something big. Go swim around on Granite Mountain in March if you don't believe me.

I would say that a beacon in this case probably wouldn't have helped. No one else was wearing them and the terrain we were in did not seem to necessitate using one. However, you'll see me out tomorrow buying both a transceiver and a probe pole. You'll find me wearing it too. At least they will know where to find me quickly and I won't be exposing others to risk if I get buried again. It's morbid, but seems sensible to me.

I know what hit us was a very small slide and I would never try to exaggerate that, but it gave me a good taste of what being caught in a big one or in the wrong type of snow conditions feels like.

I definitely feel like I was swatted out of the mountains today.

Thanks to Brian and those other guys (you know who you are) for being so cool. We'll see you around the salt mine.

Mike
North Bend

The following pictures were taken by Mike on December 13th. He went back up to see if he could find any of the missing gear, but was unable to locate any of it. The pictures look better in color, and then you'll be able to see the line Mike drew in showing the path of the avalanche - check them out on the web at <http://www.boealps.org/newslet.html>



Site of the avalanche



Upper slopes

Yellowjacket Tower

June 4, 2000

By Matt Robertson

I learned about Yellowjacket Tower by seeing it listed as one of the Mountaineer's basic rock climbs. It looked pretty easy and straightforward, and when a friend of mine, Andrew, mentioned that he'd like to try his first alpine climb, it seemed like just the right objective. Two Boealps buddies, Janet Oliver and Annette Mockli, rounded out our crew, and we all drove over to Leavenworth on a nice Sunday morning. The tower itself is easily visible from the Snow Creek parking lot - it's on the next major ridge upstream, and it sticks up pretty prominently. We parked just a little more than 6 miles from the start of the Icicle River road, and walked down to a private road and crossed the river on the bridge there. Turning left after crossing the bridge and walking a few hundred yards, you'll come to a well-worn and deep trail heading uphill. Follow this a short ways, then head for the obvious large boulder, which I believe is the Rat Creek Boulder. Circle around the boulder and you'll come across a fairly well worn climber's trail that starts heading up. And up. And up! This puppy is steep, and a lot of it is in loose, sandy soil, or across granite slabs covered with round gravel - watch your steps!

The way continues up, never relenting in its steepness, passing a natural bonsai tree, and giving ever opening views behind you to the climbing domes on the opposite side of Icicle Creek, and a great view down to the braided creek itself. The gully at the base of Yellowjacket Tower is blocked just 50 or 60 feet up by a huge chockstone. We headed up and to the right here, finding some easy ramps, and one steep section to scramble before we were back in the main gully. We walked up the obvious trail in the gully for a ways until we came to an area where there were slings wrapped around trees, signaling to us that perhaps the start of the climbing route was nearby. Wandering over towards the rock itself, we were able to easily spot the 3rd class gully that was the first pitch of the climb. We stopped here to grab a quick bite of lunch and pull out the climbing gear, and to attach our packs to slings we could secure to branches of the trees.

This proved prudent, because before we had finished lunch a mountain goat wandered on down the sandy slopes towards us, looking quite curious about the contents, and the taste, of our packs! We hoped that we had hung our things high enough, and Annette and Andrew started scrambling up the first pitch gully while Janet and I opted for belayed climbing. The gully was actually quite easy, with only a move or two that made me happy for a rope, and it ends at a convenient belay tree, just a few feet away from the start of the



right facing dihedral that makes up the second pitch. The climb description talks about the gully being class 2-3 with maybe a move or two of 4th class, but doesn't mention the difficulty of the dihedral at all.

Assuming this meant it was at the most very easy 5th class, I hadn't bothered bringing climbing shoes, but now as I looked at the start of the pitch I wished I had. As Andrew started following Annette's lead up this pitch, I asked him to clean the rope but leave the pro in place for me to clip through. I was guessing that I'd be working plenty hard enough just making the moves, and I'd be happy to skip making placements! The pitch was indeed a bit more than "easy 5th class", feeling more like 5.5 or 5.6 to me for the first 15 or 20 feet. After that the difficulties eased, and soon I was working my way around and above the tree at the top of the dihedral, and climbing over a large cap stone to our next belay. Annette was already belaying

Andrew up the final pitch, and he called back that he thought we'd find two of the moves "interesting"! Still, it didn't take him long to top out on the peak of the tower and wave back at us! The final tower does indeed have two "interesting" moves, and I was again thinking I'd rather do them in climbing shoes than alpine boots. No matter, though, it didn't take long before we'd all had our turn on the small summit, and rapped back down to the base of the final rock.

On reaching the base of the second pitch dihedral, we found that our goat friend had wandered up the gully we had climbed and had installed himself in a comfy alcove to watch our activities! We rigged for another rap, and as we were sliding down the rope, he nonchalantly walked along beside us in the gully, very sure-footed and oblivious to the consequences of a fall, which I'm certain he considered impossible to happen to him. We picked up our packs, still safely un-gnawed and hanging in their various trees, and decided to rap one more time, since the gully was steep and sandy, and the soil didn't provide for the best of footings. Mr. Goat followed along with us, with a look of almost

disbelief on his face that we were bothering with ropes on this terrain. I rapped first, and while I was waiting for the others to join me the goat was calmly grazing along one side of the gully. Finishing the clump of vegetation that had caught his fancy he headed out towards the middle of the gully, right where our rope laid. I wasn't too keen on having a goat checking for salt on our ropes and maybe deciding on a taste or two, so as he got close I flicked the rope to startle him. It did startle him a bit, but since it didn't move him away from the rope, I flicked it a second time, this time trying to get the rope 5 or 6 feet off the ground. This succeeded in startling the goat, and he jumped back a bit lifting his front legs as he did so. The rope then came down from above him and slapped him on his rump, frightening him enough to make him kick his hind legs. Without trying, I pulled the rope taut, and it slipped right under his hind feet, which were now in the air, and came up on the back sides of his front feet. He did another little buck up in the air with his front hooves, and I pulled the rope completely away from him - we had had a mountain goat jump rope with our climbing ropes! He didn't seem very impressed however, and quickly scurried back over to the side of the gully where he wouldn't have to deal with us and our ropes!

After plunge stepping down the loose soil of the gully for a bit we came back to the huge chockstone that marked the base of the main gully. Here we decided on one last rappel rather than downclimbing our approach route, and after that it was smooth sailing all the way down. We still had to be a bit careful when crossing the granite slabs, as there was plenty of sand and grit on them, and more than one of us slipped a bit here and there. Still, shortly we were back at Rat Creek Boulder, and then across the bridge and back to the cars ready to sort gear. I laid out a rope bag to put gear on and went over to get my rope back from Annette, who had carried it down. She dropped her pack, looked puzzled, then worried, and said she must have dropped the rope! "Yeah, right," I said, assuming she was just teasing. I didn't really believe her until she started jogging back towards the bridge and crossing it - she really had dropped the rope along the way! Fortunately, she returned about 10 minutes later - she had readjusted her pack near the Rat Creek Boulder, and the rope had somehow slipped off at that point, although we were quite amazed she didn't notice the sudden lightening of her load! After returning with the wayward rope, we finished swapping gear and changing into clean clothes, then headed to Gustav's for a welcome dinner.



Summit Block of Yellowjacket Tower

Who Let the Dog Out?

An expected bivouac on Mt. Si (4171') with Vera Trainer, Ilan (the Penguin) Angwin, and a homeless waif

Saturday, November 11 Getting an early alpine start of 8 pm from the trailhead, Vera, the Penguin, and I realized the enormity of the task that lay upon us as we attempted to accomplish the impossible: seeing no one on Mt. Si. The evening adventure would require a bivouac on its forbidding slopes, and I had just finished reading "Addicted to Danger," Jim Wickwire's autobiography of the occasional triumph of life over death. Many had perished in his fiery pursuits in the high mountains, and I began to wonder how we would fare without supplemental oxygen.

Yet the words of Helen Keller spurred us on: "Life is a daring adventure, or it is nothing." It was a night of full moon, whose quiet brilliance brought us out in the first place, and the forest was stunning in its silvered countenance, the elegant shafts of light stretching diagonally across the sculpted faces of the Douglas fir and cedar.

Suddenly, we heard the insistent baying of a distant dog and stopped dead in our tracks. After accounting for Doppler shift, I concluded a canine of likely vicious disposition was swiftly approaching. We stepped up the pace, our imaginations fired by childhood nightmares of rampaging dogs escaping from barbed wire fences, jaws snapping as decisively as a gavel at a Texas death sentence. As my thoughts raced for a means of escape, my mind walked over to John Fogerty, from Creedence Clearwater Revival's 1968 album "Bayou Country":

*I can remember the fourth of July,
Runnin' through the backwood bare.
And I can still hear my old hound dog barkin',
Chasin' down a hoodoo there.
Chasin' down a hoodoo there.*

*Born on the bayou
Born on the bayou*

But I was born in Kentucky, and just like now, there was simply no escape. I listened attentively as the feral animal crashed through the forest, drawing closer, and I was prepared to reach for my ice axe when the beast came into my line of sight. I stood transfixed while an aging yellow Labrador wagged his tail in his approach and carefully checked us one by one, apparently sniffing for contraband or perhaps when we had showered last. Satisfied with his inspection, Old Yeller marched up to the lead and began an unsanctioned and possibly illegal guided trip to the summit. Funny thing was, we could offer nothing for compensation beyond a handful of peanut M&Ms and some beef jerky, which he hoovered down quickly. Without even a Milk Bone for compensation, no case could be made for illegal guiding that would hold in a court of law. I checked out Old Yeller's tag and found his true identity: Gus.

Now, Gus was the name of a different yellow Labrador that Shawn and Pam Kaiser-Paré, Vera, and I encountered on a trip to Glacier National Park in March of 1998. That Gus, on a fine Saturday afternoon skiing, took the liberty of inaugurating my REI daypack with his bladder contents when I wasn't looking, as Pam laughed uncontrollably. So when a name like Gus comes around the block, life is indeed like a box of chocolates.

Back to the trail: the next two hours and 20 minutes with Gus were filled with the shadows of night striking the well-lamped forest, which lingered in the black and white panorama of the full moon. The disparate clouds had gathered into a single lofty layer of stratus, unaided to the eye, unyielding to the soul. But the trail, trodden by the hundreds of thousands of footsteps of our predecessors, was becoming difficult and increasingly treacherous with ice glaring from the surface. It was the Penguin and I who encountered the greatest difficulties in gaining purchase as streaks of bulletproof ice encased the trail, my sporadic falls accompanied by a Tourette's Syndrome hail of obscenities, then a subsequent rise followed by a return to the earth, which only precipitated further, less delicate eruptions.

At last, we hit the plateau out of the woods and scrambled over the snow-custed rock toward the Haystack, seeking an unoccupied bivy spot. On Si, the choices are many, considering I had previously employed the use of parking lot spaces below automobile undercarriages and dung-strewn slopes in Switzerland as bivy spots. I opted for the sheltered bivy, a flat hollow to the right of the trail – secure from wind but lacking in aesthetics and prosaic in

choice. Vera suggested we go slightly higher, and so we did, finding an exceptional spot next to a rest area bench facing west. We stood silently, satiated by the alpine vista, a splendid view into the vast suburbia of North Bend far below.

The two-man North Face Bullfrog tent was already filled beyond capacity with three homo sapiens, but now a dilemma evolved: what to do with Gus? As we fired up the Apex stove for the alpinist hot toddy (Chamomile tea spiked with Knockando, a fine single malt), it became apparent Gus wasn't going anywhere as he thundered around camp, his bulky tail catching everything in mid-swing, narrowly avoiding the stove and nearly destroying the accoutrements of the cocktail hour.

By the time the drinks and soups were consumed, it was abundantly clear Gus wasn't going anywhere. I say this because he was the first one in the tent. Scarcely had Vera and Penguin removed their sleeping bags when they saw the shadow of Gus slowly crashing his way into the tent, a bull in a china shop, more like Belushi at a frat party. I heard cries of protest, but it was clearly too late. Vera and Penguin reluctantly stretched their sleeping bags in the tent, concerned that Gus might cut the fabric of one of the down sleeping bags with his massive paws. But there was no unsettling the beast as he now crept into the only available spot: on top of my Ridge Rest.

After I finished packing up the stove, I entered the tent, which was already occupied by three mammals. Gus wasn't too cooperative about moving from his perch - with a Herculean effort, I pushed and managed to move him just enough to get my torso on the ground. I lay my sleeping bag over Gus, my legs draped over the top of him. I looked at him, and he looked back, his eyes half-mast in the dreamy comfort of warmth, the picture of contentment. Then I looked down and realized the source of Vera's complaint: Gus was lying on her legs, trapping her with his bulk, her sleeping bag serving as a luxurious dog blanket. But despite our best efforts, the Titanic could not be raised.

Sunday, November 11 Dawn broke early, the shadows of the night replaced by the hope of the new day's sun. As I gazed from the promontory at Camp Gus, I realized that a lifelong dream had been fulfilled: an opportunity to hike up Mt. Si with nary a soul in sight. The world was calm, and there was no wind, just the distant sounds of big rigs thundering across I-90 far below. But alas, we couldn't stay for the full breath of morning, as we had a MOFA refresher to attend at Joyce Holloway's place in North Bend, and malingering would not be an adequate excuse.

Cruising down the boot-beaten path, we encountered the masses approaching for their respective Sunday ascents. I counted one, two, three, four, then two more for six, four more for 10, three more for 13, until it became clear that counting would impractical. Halfway down, as we worked our way down the perilous ice-encrusted trail, someone stopped and noted the size of our packs. Curious, he said, "Where did you get your permit?" Silently, we avoided the question by shoving on to the oxygen-rich environs that awaited below. I was renewed by the bivy but hopelessly late for MOFA, at least at the glacial pace we were keeping due to the ice. No problem - Gus would be hustling in late for breakfast.

- Len Kannapell 12/13/00



(Editor's note: Could this be the mysterious "Gus"? He followed us up Little Si back in 1998...)

The Continuing Saga of Dan Goering

(Editor's note: Make sure you go to the Boealps web site (www.boealps.org) to check this one out – the pictures or the waterfalls are incredible, and the black and white repros don't do them justice!)

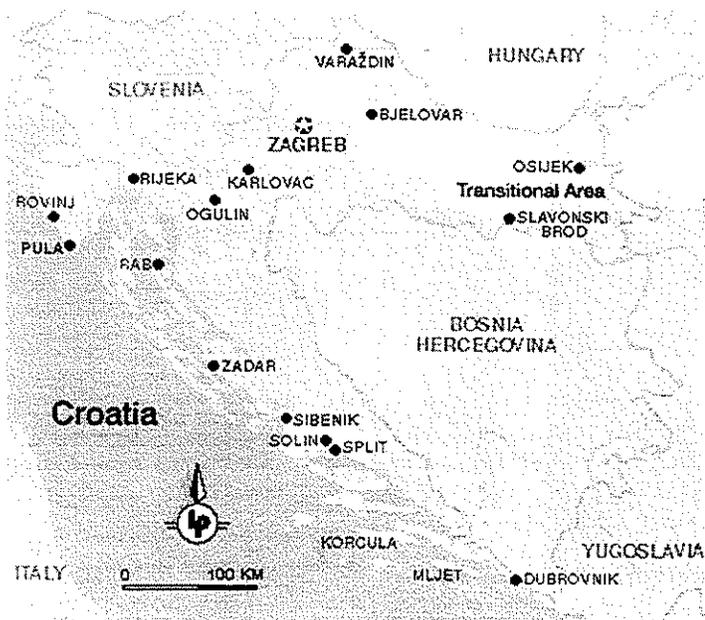
Friday, December 1st: Namaste from Katmandu!

I've been here about a month now, and for the past week have been enjoying the company of Seattle friends Al Baal and Kathy Hasagawa. Tomorrow morning we'll all start an eight-day drive into Tibet and the city of Lhasa where we will spend another six days before flying back to Katmandu. In our month here, Patty and I have spent 16 days trekking around Dhaulagiri (an 8000-m peak just west of Annapurna), several days in Pokhara, and a week here in and around Katmandu. Those tales are coming but in this episode, I'd like to extol the virtues of Croatia and recommend that if you ever fly anywhere near the middle east, Gulf Air is an excellent choice!



Dhaulagiri, 8167m (26,794 feet)

Ask a typical American which countries in Europe they would like to visit and I'd bet you a pound of pistachios that Croatia won't be mentioned. Formerly part of Yugoslavia, present day Croatia is



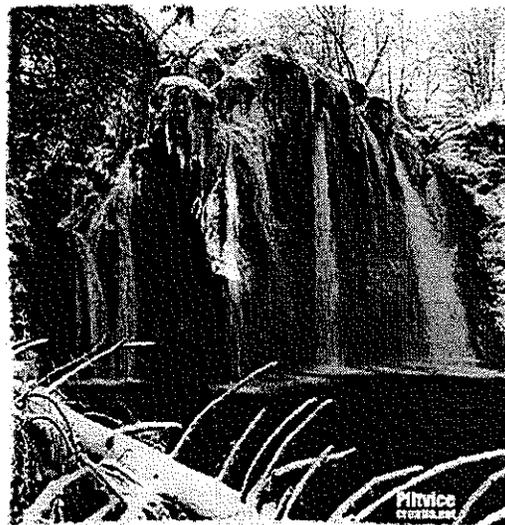
shaped much like a comma with reverse curve on its tail. The capital, Zagreb, lies in the inland dot nestled under Slovenia, which connects to the thin tail of the Dalmation Coast, strung out southwards along the Adriatic Sea. This is indeed where the classic spotted dog originates! This idyllic beach escape, long known to the residents of central and northern Europe lost much of its tourist business over the past decade as warring factions in the self-destructing Yugoslavia

battled over how the new borders in the area would be drawn. The last skirmishes in Croatia ended in 1995 and tourism has been steadily recovering since.

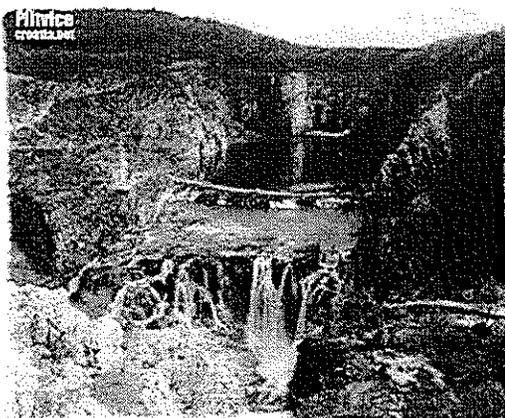
After our arrival in Rijeka on the overnight train, Patty and I were enjoying a greased series of bus connections to Plitvice National Park when they ended in splinters at the Korona Autocamp -

reportedly near the park entrance. The campground was closed for the season and the park entrance lay another 7 km down the road. The adventure part of adventure travel isn't always glamorous. Trudging down the non-existent shoulder of a narrow road, packs heavy with rock climbing gear, I mentally calculated that our pace would get us to the park in only 3 hours or so. Cars whizzed by, Patty marched forward despite stomach cramps, and neither of us was enjoying ourselves. Two weathered ladies in colorful print dresses lounged in their wheelbarrows in a pullout, watching over the small blue plywood table on which were displayed 6 or 8 rounds of cheese. I bought one of the smoked sheep's cheeses and asked how far to the park. Only seven more kilometers! A bit farther ahead, we stopped at a wooden bus shelter to rest. Across the road, a tidy peaked roof house displayed a sign: "Franjkovic Zimmer #45". \$20 bucks bought us a clean cozy room for the night in the Franjkovic's house - quite the bargain in our present situation!

Plitvice Park was worth all the previous day's hassles! Miles of trails winding among a series of stair-stepped lakes in a valley paradise surrounded by dry scrub hills. Showers of brown and yellow leaves spinning lazily down through crisp fall air each time a gentle gust came. Fat fish drifting lazily about in the transparent blue-green waters which made their way from lake to lake in white cascades of spray and seeping through green moss covered cliffs. At a small bridge where people had been throwing coins into the clear flowing water, I waded in to supplement my travel budget, collecting 35 kuna in change (around \$4) as well as coins from Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Poland, Israel and a few others.



Galovacki Buk, a 16 meter waterfall between Galovacko and Gradinsko Lakes



The lower Plitvice Lakes are smaller and squeezed in the limestone gorge



Sastavci -- the procession of lakes ends here and the river Korana begins

We hit the coast at Split - a town that got its start when the Roman emperor Diocletian built his magnificent fortified retirement palace there and resided in it from 305 to 316 AD. Diocletian was

known for his persecution of Christians and it's amusing to see that his mausoleum in the main square is now a Catholic cathedral! The view over the town and the sea from the more recently constructed church tower is splendid and Patty and I lingered snacking on fresh local satsumas until they tossed us out to close for lunch. Our room in the apartment of Maria, a nice older woman, was right on the edge of the old town center and quite splendid. Huge king bed, high ceilings that my hands when stretched full length came no where near to touching and an impressively large blonde wood armoire with revolving mirror, behind which were hidden storage shelves.

An afternoon's boat ride brought us to the island of Korcula where we lingered in the town of the same name over the next four days. Our dark early evening arrival was rather chaotic for such a sleepy island. I reclaimed our backpacks, only to find Patty surrounded by three yelling, tugging local women all vying for our lodging business. This was no friendly contest. Each promised a wonderful place with kitchen, view balcony, right on the water, good price as the others clamored that she was lying. We finally selected the woman with an Australian accent to her English and followed her into town as another of the women followed along urging us to look at her place first and saying nasty things in Croatian to our host. Don't know what we turned down but our room with kitchen, fireplace, view terrace and just steps from the water and town center was a fantastic bargain at \$11 a night!

Post season on the Dalmation Coast is wonderful! The narrow stone paved streets of Korcula, the birth place of Marco Polo, were quiet and sleepy with locals relaxing after the busy summer. The big Jadrolina ferries were now calling only once a week and many shops and restaurants were closed on the weekend. Still the days were 70 deg F warm, the palms lent a tropical feel and the clean blue-gray sea was warm enough for short swimming sessions.

I was itchy to get out on the water and, in absence of kayaks or rowboats for rent, we hired a small boat with a 4 hp outboard for the day, bought a couple cans of beer, and putted around to some of the smaller islands. Badia's sports center was deserted but for a family of talkative tabby cats who greeted us at the stone pier. I love messing around in small boats, and the day in and out of small coves and bouncing across the waves with the wind in our hair was pure pleasure!

Dubrovnik was a major trading city on the Adriatic back in the heyday of Venice and its high, massive stone walls built to protect its sovereignty stand today fully intact. Strolling along the walls is a highlight of visiting and the view from the high corner, where Patty and I perched one morning eating pastries, is fantastic! The Adriatic sparkles just beyond the mosaic of clay tile roofs and narrow streets.

The city was shelled by the Yugoslavian army during the breakup, but little damage is visible today, though there is still repair work going on. A map showed the locations of shell hits in the old town but Patty and I weren't able to spot any obvious damage other than the mismatched colors of replaced roof tiles. The aerial cable car, which hauled tourists to the hill above town, was completely destroyed by bombs and still lies in ruins. Things are stable now, prices are low, the seafood is delicious and those of you who enjoy playing "Slug Bug" will have a heyday here!

Our good bus karma returned when after a long day's ride back up the coast from Dubrovnik, we were dropped just meters from the Paclenica National Park campground near the town of Starigrad. Our Slovenian friends Bostjan and Marjeta arrived late that night in their little red Renault, accompanied by Klemmon and Damijana in their matching grey Renault for a weekend of rock climbing.

Patty and I followed Bostjan and Klemmon the next day up "Akademska" - a 5-pitch classic rated at IV on the UIAA scale (5.6?). The well bolted route led up nice relaxed climbing but the last

pitch (and I suspect not the standard finish) held a twist. Right above the belay was a short overhung section without any of the usual juggy holds. It looked tricky, and overhangs not being my strong point, I told Patty to watch me closely. Clipped bolt one. Worked slowly up to within reach of bolt #2 and managed to clip from my shaky stance. Hips in tight, very conscious of the weight in my pack pulling me backwards, I moved a bit higher searching for a solid handjam in the flaring crack or a hidden jug above. Nothing. I knew trouble was coming and then I was off. Patty caught me with the rope just in time to avoid some broken ankles. I finally got through the move after a rest to shake out the arms and minus the pack, which we hauled past this section. Bostjan and Klemmon were waiting at the top.

At dinner by our tents one night, Marjeta points up to a road snaking up the hill above town and says "Wouldn't sunset look great from up there?" Minutes later, we piled into the two Renaults and drove off looking for the right turnoff. A series of dead ends, U-turns and false choices had us laughing and pointing from car to car as we zoomed about and the sun sank into the sea. Finally on the right road, we raced upwards just fast enough for the sun to rise briefly back above the watery horizon before finally sinking beyond retrieval. Before the weekend was over, we managed a number of bolted sport climbs in the canyon and Patty did her first lead on a route called Zava rated at IVb.

Our flight to Katmandu on Gulf Air involved a 14-hour overnight layover in Bahrain where we expected to spend the night in the airport. We were required to purchase a \$6 transit visa since our layover exceeded the 8-hour transfer time allowance and so we lined up at the transfer desk. After paying for the paperwork, the man handed us an envelope and told us that our vouchers for hotel, dinner, breakfast and transfer to and from the airport were in it and we should proceed to the ground transfer area. We look shocked and a bit in disbelief at each other and then grabbed the envelope and hurried away before he could change his mind.

All this was included in our ticket and I LOVE Gulf Air! Their stewardesses dress in very stylish peach or cornflower blue knee-length skirts, blazers and flat topped hats worn far back on the head with thin veil dropping from the back and draped forward over the shoulder - a look right out of the "I Dream of Genie" sitcom. And their service and food on the flight was top notch!

Didn't have much time in Bahrain, but managed to stumble that night into a festival at the mosque in an otherwise empty and quiet street. The scene was exotic for me: men dressed all in flowing white robes and white or red and white checked turbans topped with a double coil of black cord, colored streamers decorating the buildings. As we stood at the edge observing, a friendly Shiite Muslim named Abdul Wahid took us under his wing and explained some of the goings on as he served us a cup of tea followed by a cup a clove spiced coffee. This straight talker works mornings at the government electric office and afternoons at his clothing shop. He was eager for us to leave with a good impression of Bahrain and of Muslims, well aware that the terrorist activities of some radical fundamentalists cast an ill shadow. Just before we left, some friends of his called to him as they walked by and he laughingly translated: "They tell me I should convert you!" Someday, I'm going to visit the Middle East.

We arrived in Nepal the next day without a hitch, and they gave Patty a visa even though she didn't have one passport sized photo. Exiting into the chaos of taxis, beggars and hustling porters outside the airport, I spotted Pasang waiting for us. He was sherpa for our 1995 trip here to climb Mera Peak and I'd emailed him to let him know we were coming and that we'd like to have him help set up our trek this trip - where ever we decided to go.

Thanks everyone who sent updates, news from home, or invites to visit (especially exotic places like Hong Kong!). Perhaps I'll get the Nepal tales out before Christmas, but if not - Merry Christmas everyone!

Big Al's Big Adventure, continued

The Continuing Travels of Al Baal

Thursday, November 23

The Kanchenjunga National Park in Western Sikkim has become a very popular trek. Including the group with the burning sherpa, we saw 8 or 9 other groups, all heading for Samiti Lake (13,500 ft) and/or Goecha La pass (16,500 ft). Unfortunately for us when we arrived at the pass at 5 in the morning most of the views were covered in clouds. It was my fault we arrived so early - after talking to some of the other groups that just came back from Goecha La, I was so excited by their descriptions that I could not sleep. So, at 11:30 PM, I woke everyone up by eating corn nuts and cracking up.

The first night of the trek we spent in the small village of Tsokha. John Alley and I went in search of beer. Not finding any, we instead tried the local brew, called Bambo (it reminds me of apple wine). The next day we hiked to a place called Dzongri (12,260 ft). Along the way we were treated to many wonderful mountain peaks, but only for a few hours until the clouds and rain tried to dampen our spirits. I was too busy getting to know our guides and porters and enjoying their singing to let that dampen my spirit. The weather was much nicer when we reached Dzougri, and it was nice to get out of the rain into our huts. The outhouse was built right over a creek, which to me is not too nice to anyone down-river. Some of the other outhouses were so bad one had to leave the door open, for fear of the unknown.

Monday, November 27

During the three days that we were on the technical part of our climb up Thinchhen, we had our best weather ever during the month that we were in Sikkim. After our climbing sherpas had set the 25 ropes used to get from camp one (14,000') to camp two (17,000'), we went to check them out. We were very concerned about their condition, because we found 25 spots where the rope had been worn down to almost nothing, and only some of these spots had been fixed with an overhand knot. Even though we fixed the rest of the ropes on the way up, we felt uneasy about the way the sherpas had to re-pound the pitons. On top of that, the seven hours of climbing we had was filled with bad rock fall that cut one of the ropes in half and nearly decapitated Bill! If that wasn't enough, the higher we went, the smaller in diameter the rope got, until it felt we were using clothes line. Needless to say we were all relieved when we were safe and sound in camp two.

The next day we had a 75-foot, near vertical snow wall to check out. Because we only had two ropes left, and a few pickets (our ice screws were of no use), we decide that 18,500 feet and not the summit (19,700 feet), would be as high as we got.

Trekking out from our climb was like a roller coaster ride - a lot of ups and downs along the side of some very steep slopes. One porter fell and dumped his load of pots and pans down the mountainside. We were very relieved that he was not hurt.

The day we made it back to the first village, we regrouped next to the mother load of all leech pits. We had a group total of 30 leeches and one tick that day - I won't go into where we found all of them, or how! The next morning I woke up to John (my tent partner) screaming: 'Oh my God, Al, there's a giant leach on you back! Wait, let me get my camera, so I can get a picture!' After he put on his glasses, I was more than relieved to find out that it was not a giant leach, but just the black cord to my sleeping bag hood!

Friday, December 1

Before leaving Darjeeling, we had a chance to visit Tenzing Norgay's (the first climber to summit Everest) grave site at the Indian Mountaineering Institute. The next day, Bill, Kathy and I said goodbye to the rest of the group before we jumped into our Land Rover and headed off to Up/Ling at the Bhutan border. That afternoon we met our guide, Pelden. He was dressed in a Gho (a skirt),

the traditional dress for Bhutan, which the king has requested all the men to wear. That night we were treated to red rice, which can only be found in Bhutan.

The next day we visited a monastery in the town of Paro. I ended up on my own, hiking past a restricted area, and had a great time visiting some monks that blessed me with holy water and I, in turn, treated them to corn nuts!

We used mules and yaks instead of porters, which has some advantages and some disadvantages. I feel less guilty not having a porter carrying most of my stuff and not having to think about tipping. On the other hand, with porters there is less crap on the trail, and it is more fun getting to know the porters.

Speaking of porters, I forgot to mention what happened when I tried to give a porter a piece of candy on the last trip. Well, my aim is not so good, and the candy ended up way off the trail in some sticker bushes. I felt so bad that I dropped my hiking poles and went looking for the candy with the porter (still carrying his load). After a few scratches we found it. My good friend Rob was kind enough to bring my poles to me, but at the last minute he tossed them even farther into the sticker bushes.

Enchantments in a Day

Bill Frans and Matt Jarmin, Saturday 10/7/00, Enchantment Traverse, WA.
Trip details: Est. 32km, 2150m of vertical gain, 2750m of vertical drop.

Although the Enchantments are among the most beautiful peaks in the state and are loaded with stellar climbing routes, I have tended to shy away from making trips into them because of concerns with the permit process. My friend Matt, who had had the same concerns, proposed doing a one-day hike of the popular Enchantment Traverse to avoid the overnight permit hassle. This hike starts from the base of Colchuck Lake trailhead, continues to Colchuck Lake and up to Aasgard Pass, meanders through the high Alpine Lakes plateau, and finally descends down to the Snow Lakes trail head. By itself, the traverse involves roughly 5000ft of vertical gain, 7000ft of vertical drop, and 18+ miles of hiking. To sweeten the pot, Matt proposed adding in Little Annapurna, Enchantment Peak, and McClellan Peak - all three are found in Washington's 100 highest peak list - to the hiking agenda.

We arrived at the Snow Lake parking just a little after 7:00am on the early fall morning. By 7:15am, we had found a car willing to take us up to the Colchuck Lake trailhead. At 7:45 am, we started hiking with just a light fanny pack. We were wearing most all of our clothes at this point because it was quite cold; iced over creeks descending to Colchuck lake validated this feeling. Three hours later, we had a snack in the sun at Aasgard Pass. The sun was nice but the wind made things brutally cold. From the pass we headed towards Little Annapurna but then decided to bag what we thought was Enchantment Peak. It was only after I had scrambled to the tip top of one of the Black Dwarves that Matt and I discovered we had missed Enchantment Peak by a long shot! Facing a steep traverse over to Enchantment, we headed back to the trail and scrambled up Little Annapurna. By the time we had descended, it was 2:00pm and seemingly too late to commit to the more challenging and lengthy scramble up McClellan Peak. We headed down to Snow Lake, fully enjoying the yellow larches of fall set against the bold lines of Prusik peak and clear blue lakes below. Some trail runners passed us just below Nada Lake on the long hike out. Knowing that there was less than one hour of daylight left, we booked after them. We arrived back at our car at about 7:20pm, just minutes from needing a headlamp, exhausted but not completely beat.

If you are up for an energetic day hike and have always wanted to see the Enchantments, I highly recommend pushing through the Enchantments in one fall day. -- Bill Frans

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<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</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		
Gervasutti's Climbs	Gervasutti	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	Burdsall	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	Desmiason	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 Difficulty	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

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<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</u>	<u>Copies</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Climbing Guide					
A Climbing Guide to Mexico's Volcanoes	Secor	R.J.	1993		
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		
Climbing Mt. Rainier	Beckey; Van Steen	Fred; Alex	1999	1	
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
Mount Rainier -- A Climbing Guide	Gauthier	Mike	1999	1	Great routes expertly detailed by first hand experience.
Rock Climber's Guide to Lumby Ridge	Salaun	Chip	1980		Guide to Lower Rocky Mountain National Park
Rock Climbing Washington	Smoot	Jeff	1999	1	Select guide to Washington rock climbing areas
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
Northwest Trees	Arno	Stephen	1977		
History					
Mountain Fever, Historic Conquests of Rainier	Haines	Aubrey	1962		

BOEALPS Library Inventory

<u>Book Name</u>	<u>Author(s)</u>		<u>Pub.</u>	<u>Copies</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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 Himilaya
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	
Conditioning for Outdoor Fitness	Musnick	Dave	1999	1	Details specific training ideas/approaches for climbers...
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
Ascent: The Climbing Experience in Word & Image	Harris; Roper	David; Steve	1999	1	"Fiction, poetry and true life tales and photos of climbing."
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.
North Cascades Crest	Martin	James	1999	1	Well known writers' tales and fantastic, professional pics
Off the Beaten Track	Smith	Cyndi		1	Interviews with female Canadian climbers

- Book Checkout Policy:**
1. Sign each book out, preferably during each Boealps' General Meeting--1st Thurs. of each month--in the provided binder.
 2. Return book within 1-2 months, at a subsequent General Meeting, by signing it back into the binder.
 3. Special check out arrangements: contact the librarian(s) via given e-mail or home phone.

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: Prash Bhat
Membership Chair
425-266-7531 (w)
prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

"To those who have struggled with them, the mountains reveal beauties that they will not disclose to those who make no effort. That is the reward the mountains give to effort. And it is because they have so much to give and give it so lavishly to those who will wrestle with them that men love the mountains and go back to them again and again. The mountains reserve their choice gifts for those who stand upon their summits." -

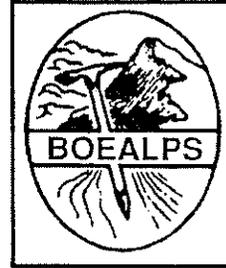
-- Sir Francis Younghusband

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

February 2001



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

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			BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: " On the Summit of Eldorado Peak" by Troy Colyer

From Prash Bhat 04-JJ



Mt. Pandim and prayer flags

February General Meeting

Bill Harrison and crew will be presenting a slide show and talk about their recent trekking adventure through India and Sikkim

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

BELAY STANCE

The Venerable Club Sewing Machine...

Years ago, it seemed like a good idea for the club to invest in a heavy duty, industrial strength sewing machine, with the idea that members could use it to make their own gear, repair tents, etc. Well, no one can seem to remember the last time this beast was actually used, and it's taking up loads of room in Dan Costello's basement, and he thinks it's time for it to go. To quote Dan:

"I want to get the BOEALPS industrial strength sewing machine out of my basement. I first became aware of the machine when I joined the Board in 1989. Before my basement, it was in a storage closet. Before that, it was with Jeff Arnold. As far as I know, the machine has not been used in fifteen year, but it does work, although, there is some slight damage that has occurred in its periodic moves from basement to basement. It weighs about 200 pounds, and, including its stand, it is 3.5 feet tall x 2.5 feet long x 1.5 feet wide."

Is there anyone out there who knows of someone who could use a machine like this (we'll give it to them for free), or would be willing to store it for the club? If not, we'll probably put a quick ad up on the Boeing Classifieds, and if we get no takers there, it will head for the transfer station. Contact any of the board members, and soon, or it's time to junk this...

Basic Climbing Class...

The BCC orientation will be later this month – don't forget to get your instructor commitment forms back to Rich Privett – he could still use more help! The flier advertising this year's BCC is located in this issue - please make copies of it and post it anywhere appropriate – break rooms, bulletin boards, etc. The class is open to non-Boeing employees, although employees are given priority during registration.

Used Gear Sale March 14th...

In conjunction with the second lecture for the Basic Class, we will again be holding a used gear and equipment sale. The class starts at 7:00, so plan on getting to the Customer Service Center by at least 6:30 to put out any gear you'd like to sell for the students to peruse. More details later in this issue...

Intermediate Climbing Class Instructors...

Please set aside the evening of Wednesday, February 21 for the ICC Instructors Planning Meeting. We will be meeting at 7:00 PM, Round Table Pizza, 5111 25th NE in Seattle. I could still use some more instructors - if you're interested in helping out, or if you have questions about the instructor's meeting, please contact Brian at rockmobster@hotmail.com or 425.255.5365

Backcountry Ski Class...

Bill Frans and Rob Kunz are offering the Backcountry/Ski Mountaineering class starting this month. There's still room, so if you're interested see the flyer later in this issue and contact Bill or Rob...

From the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson

March Echo deadline is February 15th

February, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 General Club Meeting	2 Groundhog Day Skiing @ Stevens Pass	3
4 Winter Outing	5	6 MOFA Class; Ski Mountaineering	7	8 Full Moon; MOFA Class; Ski Mountaineering	9 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	10 Abiel Peak
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Ski Mountaineering; MOFA Class @ Camp Long	14 Valentine's Day	15 Echo Deadline; Ski Mountaineering; MOFA Class @ Camp Long	16 Skiing @ Stevens Pass; Ice Climbing Seminar@Lillooet	17 Mt. Hood; Overnight for Ski Mountaineering; Ice Climbing Seminar@Lillooet
18 Mt. Hood; Overnight for Ski Mountaineering; Winter Outing; Ice Climbing Seminar@Lillooet	19 President's Day	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23 New Moon Skiing @ Stevens Pass	24 BoBaby outing @ Cabin Creek
25 Web Mountain	26 BCC 2001 Orientation	27	28 Ash Wednesday			

March, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 General Club Meeting	2 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	3 Cragging trip; Aid Climbing Seminar@Index
4 Winter Outing	5	6	7 BCC lecture	8	9 Full Moon Skiing @ Stevens Pass	10
11	12	13	14 BCC lecture	15 Echo Deadline	16 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	17 St. Pat's Day BCC @ St. Edwards
18 BCC @ St. Edwards	19 ICC lecture	20 MOFA Refresher	21 BCC lecture	22 MOFA Refresher	23	24 BCC @ Mt. Erie; ICC @ Horsetheif Butte; BoBaby outing
25 New Moon BCC @ Mt. Erie; ICC @ Horsetheif Butte	26	27 MOFA Refresher	28 BCC lecture	29 MOFA Refresher	30	31 BCC - @ Stevens Pass

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Boealps Winter Outing Series

1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month, December-March

Just like last year's outings, only more of them! Snowshoes and avalanche beacons required, both of which you can borrow from the club. Trip dates will be December 3rd and 17th, January 7th and 21st, February 4th and 18th, and March 4th.

Mountain/Area	Various locations in the Cascades
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Whatever looks good for the weather and snow conditions
Class	2-3, maybe some 4th
Grade	I-II
Approximate Times	6 a.m. - 8 p.m. or so
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	None
Contacts	Mike Bingle, 206-662-4929(w), 206-935-3992(h) (before 9 p.m.), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

Fridays at Stevens Pass

Fridays starting in January

Do you work 4/10's? Or just feel like having some fun and playing hooky? I have a mid-week pass and plan on skiing often!

Mountain/Area	Stevens Pass Ski Area
Elevation	4000'
Route	Intermediate runs
Skills	Ski or snowboard
Limits	?
Contact	Brian Tryba, 425-255-5365, rockmobster@hotmail.com

Mount Pilchuck

January 27 or 28

Backcountry snowboarding at the old Pilchuck ski area. Climb up using snowshoes and snowboard down! Required equipment: snowshoes, avalanche beacon, probe and shovel. We'll practice avalanche rescue before climbing.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Pilchuck
Route	Old ski area
Approximate Time	Full day
Skills	Basic class grad (preferred), intermediate snowboarder
Limits	8
Contact	Hau T. Pho, 425-342-7145(w), 206-297-1830(h), hau.t.pho@boeing.com

Abiel Peak

February 10

A pretty peak at the south end of the Lake Annette drainage, just off of I-90. We'll snowshoe to Annette Lake, then scope out the routes. The north face will be the main objective, but that will depend on weather and snow conditions. The east and west ridges are not too technical and should be less condition dependent, so they'll be the backup routes.

Mountain/Area	Abiel Peak
Elevation	5365'
Route	North face, east or west ridge
Grade	II
Approximate Time	10-11 hours round trip
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	6
Contact	Prashantha Bhat, 425-294-6792(w),206-546-6032(h), pbbhat@hotmail.com

Mt. Hood

February 17-18

This is your chance to climb Mount Hood in the winter – no chair lifts, damnit!!! Experienced climbers to assist leading are welcome

Mountain/Area	Mt. Hood
Elevation	11,239
Route	South side
Grade	I
Approximate Time	2 days
Skills	Basic class grad or better. Looking for experienced climbers to assist.
Limits	8
Contact	James Schalla, 425-294-0306(w), 206-526-7900(h), james.p.schalla@boeing.com

February BoBaby Outing

February 24

Keep your fingers crossed for a sunny day at Cabin Creek to enjoy some sledding, snowshoeing, XC-skiing and all around snow fun. We'll bring a stove to make hot cocoa, and plan to head home shortly after lunch so that all those who need to nap can!

Cabin Creek requires a Sno-Park Pass with the special grooming permit (available at REI, among other places). We'll meet on the north side of the highway around 10:00, and will walk/ski a short ways to an open area relatively near the beginning of the trail.

Party Limit	None
Equipment	Diapers, snacks, changes of clothes, extra mittens, lunch
Experience	Creative snowman building a plus
Contact	Maren Robertson, 425-867-4396(w), 425-822-0455(h) mnelson@physio-control.com

Web Mountain

February 25

This was a hoot last year, and a bit more challenging than expected – let's do it again! Expect some brush, steep snow, snow covered rock, and a few areas of hard, steep, exposed snow. Snowshoes and crampons required.

Mountain/Area	Web Mountain (I-90, Exit 38 area)
Elevation	5335'
Route	West Ridge
Class	3
Grade	I
Approximate Time	4-6 hours up
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	8
Contact	Matt Robertson, 425-957-5691(w), 425-822-0455(h), matt.robertson@boeing.com

Cragging

March 3

Let's find some rock to climb! I'll go anywhere and try anything within reason. I have leading skills to 5.9, beyond that, I'm following you. Happy to help beginners learn.

Mountain/Area	Index? Mt. Erie? Smith Rock? Suggest a place!
Route	Participants will decide
Class	Somewhere between 5.0 and 5.you're-dreaming
Time	Part or all day
Skills	Basic climbing skills
Limits	6
Contact	Tom Ryan, 425-487-8706(w), 206-527-2724(h), tom-p.ryan@frco.com

March BoBaby Outing

March 24

Not sure where we're going to go yet (maybe Cabin Creek again?), but mark your calendars and let me know if there's someplace you think would be fun to take the kids to!

Party Limit	None
Equipment	Usual stuff for toddler support
Experience	Parent to one or more small people
Contact	Maren Robertson, 425-867-4396(w), 425-822-0455(h) mnelson@physio-control.com

Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa Late August-Early September

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa, and one of the highest volcanoes in the world. Fly into Nairobi and then on to Mushi. The climb is six or seven days on a route that is less crowded than the standard route. The route starts in dense forest, which gives way to heather. The route takes you directly to Uhuru peak, which is the highest point on the mountain. We'll finish the trip with an optional 7-day safari. Please indicate your interest soon, so you can have a say in the trip planning.

Mountain/Area	Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa
Elevation	19,344'
Route	Machame/Mweka
Approximate Time	16 days
Skills	Basic class graduate or better.
Limits	6
Cost	\$3,000 - \$4,000
Contact	Joyce Holloway, 425-888-4434(h),425-477-4393(w), deandjh@halcyon.com or Janet Oliver, 425-413-0298, oliverj2@att.net

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to: David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Volunteer Opportunity

"Girls Rock" is an organization that introduces middle-school aged girls to backpacking, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. They are currently looking for female volunteers to mentor some 11-13 year old girls in rock climbing basics. The commitment will be for one day a week for 8 weeks at the Redmond Vertical World gym. If you are interested, please contact Emily at 425-444-5421.

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremony

February General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on February 1st, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, then the main presentation.

Access policy at the Oxbow:

As of January the card reader was installed but not yet in use. It is likely that it will be operational by the February meeting. The process for a Boeing employee to be able to swipe in is very easy and consists of simply giving the Oxbow staff your name and social security number. Unfortunately the camera was not functional at the January meeting so we don't know how long the process will take for non employee members. You will be able to ring the front desk and be let in by the staff if you have not yet been put on the access list. It might be a good idea to arrive early in case the new policy causes any delays at entry.

Main Show:

Bill Harrison and company will be presenting slides from their recent trekking adventure to India and Sikkim. From new cultures to high peaks the group has chosen the best of their thousands of slides to share with us. Come find out what other countries were explored, what impressive peaks are in the region, if anyone you know was strip searched at the airport! There might even be some stories of encounters with other Boealpers, reported to have been exploring the world for the past year.

Upcoming Programs:

Our April program will feature Rich Lechleitner. Rich climbed Cho Oyu this spring, and he will probably be talking about that, but that hasn't been confirmed.

In May, we're hoping to have Jeff Smoot give a presentation. Jeff's new guidebook on scrambling and easier technical climbing routes in Washington will be coming out this spring, and Jeff will probably be talking about some of his favorite routes from that book.

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Two excellent seminars are on the book – aid climbing and waterfall ice climbing. If you're looking to extend the type of terrain you're comfortable on, sign up for one or both of these.

Aid Climbing Seminar

Date: Saturday, March 3

Location: Index

Tom "Big Bro" Rogers leads this legendary seminar, which in recent years has rotated through deluge, sunshine, and high winds. But it's guaranteed to be educational, thorough, and a lot of fun.

That's all the specifics I have right now. More information will be available at the February General Meeting, the Boealps Web site, and the March ECHO. You can contact Tom at thomas.a.rogers@boeing.com

Waterfall Ice Climbing Seminar

Dates: Friday, Feb.16 to Sunday, Feb.18

Location: Lillooet, BC

Last year's trip was a blast, so come join the fun. If you are interested in climbing ice but have little experience, this seminar is for you – we'll show you the basics of ice tool placement, crampon technique and balance, and how to set anchors for lead and top-rope climbing. The emphasis will be on the basics and will involve a lot of top-rope climbing, but there may be an opportunity for leading short pitches as time allows. Ice conditions are variable, and there is no guarantee the ice will be good in Lillooet.

The plan is to leave Friday after work and carpool it to Lillooet, B.C., northeast of Whistler. The drive takes about six hours, so be prepared for the long haul. We'll make reservations for the Four Pine motel for Friday and Saturday nights (~ \$15 US/person/night). Breakfast and dinner can be done in Lillooet.

Climb all day Saturday, and as late Sunday as you can before heading back. This is President's Day weekend, so some of you may have Monday off and could climb another day.

Required equipment:

- Crampon-compatible leather or plastic boots
- Crampons (make sure they fit and are adjusted to your boots)
- Ice axe (sharpen the pick!)
- Harness
- Helmet
- Belay device
- 2 single slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 double slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 locking 'biners (in addition to 2 locking 'biners on front of your harness)
- One single-rated rope/two people
- 10 essentials

Optional:

- Ice screws
- Ice tools

Borrow if you don't have all these items on the required/optional list, but don't buy anything you don't have – we'll supply the rest. The club has a number of ice tools to borrow, so contact one of our equipment chairs for availability.

Experience: Basic Class or equivalent

Limit: 10 (Must be a club member to participate)

Contact: Len Kannapell

kannapell@yahoo.com

(206)522-7022 h.



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer and Victor Yagi

Mount Rainier National Park Plan

A new General Management Plan for Mount Rainier National Park, now in the draft stage, could result in sizable changes in the way people enjoy the mountain. Alternative 1 outlines a plan to prohibit cars inside the park, using a shuttle service to move people around. The plans outlined in Alternative 2 would still allow people to drive through the park, but they would be restrictions on parking in the park once the available spaces fill up. Alternative 3 would also provide a few changes to the backcountry recreation in the park, but would allow increased vehicular access to the park. Shuttles play a smaller role in Alternative 3. The Park Service will be accepting written public comments through Feb. 9, 2001. You can view the complete 361-page EIS document, or the shorter (68-page) Executive Summary of the EIS online at <http://www.nps.gov/mora/>

Federal Clean Water Act Diminished

Ruling in an important environmental case, the Supreme Court severely and arbitrarily narrowed the scope of federal clean water protection by overturning a time-honored rule aimed at protecting isolated wetlands. The 5-to-4 decision will make it harder to stem the loss of wetlands. It also dismissed wording elsewhere in the statute, as well as the act's voluminous legislative history and decades of judicial interpretation, evincing Congress's intention to comprehensively protect all U.S. waters and wetlands, whether "navigable" or not.

National Forest Road Ban Update

The Clinton administration announced a ban on new roads and most commercial logging in more than a quarter of federally owned land - including large tracts of Alaska's Tongass National Forest - despite strong opposition from Western politicians and logging interests. The plan is the latest in a flurry of last-minute major environmental initiatives by outgoing President Clinton. It would protect 58.5 million acres of some of the nation's most untouched timberlands, including about nine million acres in Alaska that were exempt from controls in previous drafts. Environmental groups hailed the action as a major breakthrough in preserving pristine wilderness covering an area more than seven times the size of Maryland and including the largest U.S. temperate rain forest. All new road construction and logging would be barred except for activity related to existing timber sales and leases or for activities related to maintaining forest health, such as fire prevention, according to White House aides.

Northwest Environmental Issues Course (a repeat from last month)

Highly recommend by your conservation corner advocates is the Northwest Environmental Issues Course offered by the Mountaineers. It is a great way to gain insight into many of the environmental issues that you face all the time. Not only that, it will give you a new ideas on how you can make a difference. From the syllabus: "This course provides lectures and field instruction designed to empower participants to take actions that will protect the natural resources of the Northwest. Students examine the often-conflicting interests of population, lifestyle, forests, water, salmon, growth management, energy, and transportation through lectures by nationally recognized speakers and local environmental experts, group discussions, and other activities. A series of field trips is offered to actively engage participants in the issues they are studying. In addition, students will learn how to influence legislation, write persuasive letters, and determine the most effective forums in which to shape public policy." The entire series consists of nine class sessions, and runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday evening from February 8, 2001 through April 5. The course is being held at The Mountaineers Clubhouse. The cost for the course is \$60 for Mountaineer members, and \$70 for non-members. Keep an eye on the Conservation Currents in the January issue of The Mountaineer for more details. For more information, please contact the Mountaineers at (206) 284-8484, or e-mail Laura Hastings to laurahastings@yahoo.com

January, 2001 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Norene Borg, Glenn Tomchik, Mike Jacobsen, Micah Lambeth, Prash Bhat, Dan Costello, Rich Privett, Len Kannapell and Don Fraser

Finances: Glen reviewed current finances and is in process of closing out FY 2000.

Membership: Prash stressed need to send in renewals ASAP, especially Boeing members.

Activities: Remind people to sign up for X-C Ski outing at Winthrop. Currently 13 confirmed, 10 or so probable. Target is 25 – 30. Don will be out of town next week. Contact Eldon or Dave Hamilton. Len will be bringing keg (donations requested at tap). Paper and plasticware available at Rec. Center.

Education: Len reported that Ice Leading class will move to Feb 17th – 19th.

Aid Climbing Seminar one day on Feb 24th.

Need Instructor for Avalanche Class for this Fall, and are contacting Gary Brill again.

MOFA Class has already started. Would be good to recruit new instructors as current ones could use a break. Prospective instructors need to have taken instructor's class. Add note in Boealps Web Site that new instructors are needed. Len will request Joyce put together a description of qualifications required. Also put note in Echo. People interested in refresher course need to keep their CPR Training current. Boeing Employees can do it for free through Boeing.

Intermediate Climbing Class instructor meeting February 21st.

Basic Climbing Class: Rich has two speakers signed up for weather and safety nights. Book seller will be present first night of class.

Need new location to replace Gas Works Park, looking at several options.

No student count at this time but current estimate is around 20. Orientation is February 26th.

Board members will put posters in main cafeterias. Dan Costello made 8, very nice job but cut and paste method was time consuming. Next time propose Boealps use color plotter to produce. Save posters from cafeterias for use at Recreation Fairs.

Need certificate of insurance for St. Edward's Park.

Instructor meeting Feb. 14th at Oxbow site.

Vice President: Dan submitted expenses from last months meeting.

Sewing machine left over in equipment locker will be discarded if no takers by next board meeting, even though this machine has now got a history with Boealps, and sentimental value for anyone that hasn't had to keep it in their basement or carry it around.

Len volunteered to take cooler.

Programs: Micah reported that speaker needed for mini-show in February. Bill Harrison will be doing the main show.

March presenter is needed. Len suggested Krista Bostock from Mountain Madness.

April and May meetings probably covered.

Oxbow access still in question. May need to have person at door for non-Boeing members.

Equipment: Mike asked if any budget available for new equipment. Feels that avalanche beacons will be most useful to club. Requested help in finding vendors willing to sell equipment to club at cost.

President: Candidate submitted for Agris Moruss Memorial Fund. It is responsibility of past president to review and make recommendation. Will forward to Bill Harrison. Next General meeting Feb 1st. Next Board Mtg Feb 8th at Len's house.

Don Fraser, secretary
(via Norene Borg this month)

Boealps Online

By Rob "Spiderman" James

Weather

Have you tried the weather link on the web page? It features 3 live pix of the local ski resorts (borrowed from the web) and links to a bunch of sites I find useful on the web. Also, have you spotted the doppler radar piccy on the table of contents bar – makes it easy to decide on where to go! How do you like it? Let me know if you've got any favorite links that you think other Boealpers might find useful. Also – I notice that folk aren't updating the current conditions page – isn't anyone getting out there?

Library and Equipment

You've probably spotted the Equipment list online, but did you spot the link to the Library from that page too? Check it out – we've got a bunch of books available for loan.

Cool Links

This takes you to the page with a bunch of different links, mainly of local interest, but hidden at the bottom is a link to another page full of URLs (<http://boealps.org/sites.html>) if you want to surf more widely. Some of those might be broken, let me know if you find any duff ones and I'll weed them out.

Route Guesser competition

OK – here's the full list (7 in all). 1 Spiderman (Smith), 2 Chain Reaction (Smith), 3 South face of Jello tower (Castle rock), 4 Delay of game (City of Rocks), 5 Catapult (Castle rock), 6 Edible panties (Squamish), 7 Toxic (Smith). Guess where I used to hang out? In the near future we'll be changing to a guess the peak competition so try them out quick whilst they're still there.

Cheers ...Rob (errr... where's all the snow?) webmaster James

Hinkhouse Peak Approved

(Editor's note: This is a letter that our past president, Bill Harrison, received, informing him of the successful request to name a peak in the Cascades after Jim Hinkhouse. See the December, 1999 issue of the Echo for more background.)

Dear Bill,

It is with a combination of gratitude, humility, and certainly a bit of pride as well, that I share with you the news that on December 8 the Washington State Board on Geographic Names approved the application to name a peak north of Washington Pass "Hinkhouse Peak", in honor of former BOEALPS member Jim Hinkhouse. As you know, this project ran well over a year. I certainly appreciate your help and the support of the BOEALPS Board for this application.

Thanks to the support expressed by many, the Board and its chairman, Jennifer Belcher, seemed genuinely impressed with the impact Jim had many in the Washington climbing and recovery communities. Comments both on and off the record indicated that they believed Jim was extremely worthy of this honor. I think they voted for it not simply because we met their need for information and justification, but because they genuinely felt this was the right thing to do, and they were pleased to be a part of it.

You may recall that among the difficulties we encountered in this quest was the fact that the original peak nominated to become Hinkhouse Peak abutted a wilderness area. Federal policy discourages naming new features thus situated, and we had to withdraw that application and start anew. Attached is a recent photo of the substitute peak that was nominated and eventually approved. The peak and its summit crag formation have been unofficially referred to over the years by a series of names, including Washington Pass Peak, Fickle Peak, The Hand of the Throat Gripper, and State Crag.

Thanks once again to you and BOEALPS for your help.

2001 BOEALPS BASIC CLIMBING CLASS

The Boealps Basic Climbing Class will be held March 7 to June 13. Orientation will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7:00 pm at the Oxbow Recreation Center, Room 201. The class consists of Wednesday night lectures combined with weekend outings. This year's class will be run by Rich Privett. 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 CLIMBING 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 Rich Privett at (206) 662-1520 to have one sent to you. If you have never instructed for the Basic Climbing Class and would like to, contact Rich to receive information and an application. All instructors are required to have taken MOFA at some time prior to the beginning of 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 14.

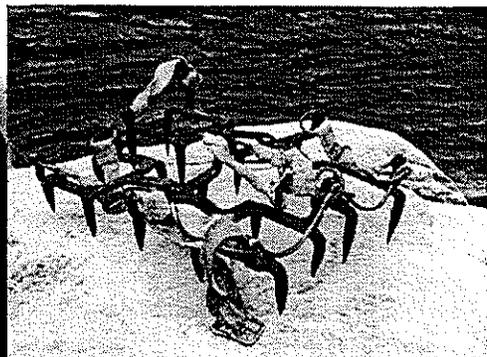
If you can not instruct this year, but would like to help with other tasks that make the class run smoothly, please contact Rich at (206) 662-1520.

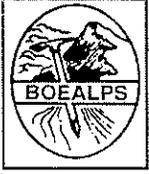
This ECHO includes a poster on the next page for this year's class. Please take it, make copies of it, and post them anywhere that is appropriate.

Used Climbing Gear & Equipment Sale

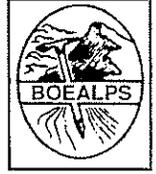
March 14 at 6:30 pm, Customer Service Center Cafeteria, Building 11-14

This is an opportunity for you to shed excess gear, clothes, boots, and equipment and make the Basic Class experience for someone a little cheaper. They need to learn as soon as possible that climbing and cheap are nearly synonymous. You will be responsible for pricing your own items, accepting payment and removing any unsold merchandise at the end of the evening. Any gear that is abandoned will be given a new home with the Basic Class.





Boeing Employees Alpine Society



2001 Basic Mountaineering Course

Orientation & Registration

Monday, February 26, 7:00 PM
Oxbow Recreation Center
9-150 Building Room 201

Class Meetings

Wednesday Evenings
Plus
Weekend Outings
March 7 through June 13

- **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:

Joyce Holloway (425) 477-4393
Dave Hamilton (206) 297-7353

Prashantha Bhat (425) 294-6792
Matt Robertson (425) 957-5691

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society (Boealps) also offers an **Intermediate Climbing Course**. For more information on this course contact Brian Tryba at (425) 255-5365.

2001 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Class

The Intermediate Climbing Class is currently being organized for the 2001 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 Climbing 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 Brian Tryba or Mike Bingle for further class details, specific dates, and a course application and information packet. February 25th is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 3rd.

Brian Tryba
425-255-5365
rockmobster@hotmail.com

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

2001 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Course

Class Schedule

March 19	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Orientation and Basic Skills (Oxbow Rec. Center)
March 24-25	All weekend	Fundamentals at Horsethief Butte
April 2	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Snow and Winter Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
April 7-8	All Weekend	Snow Outing
April 16	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Rescue (Oxbow Rec. Center)
April 21-22	All Weekend	Rescue Techniques and Scenarios at Leavenworth, WA
April 30	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Leading Rock (Oxbow Rec. Center)
May 5-6	All Weekend	Rock Climbing at Smith Rocks State Park, OR
May 14	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Advanced Rock Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
May 19-20	All Weekend	Multi-Pitch Leading at Squamish, BC
June 4	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Alpine Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
June 9-10	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #1
June 18	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Safe Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
June 23-24	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #2
July 9	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Group Dynamics/Leadership (Oxbow Rec. Center)
July 14-15	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #3
July 23	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Ice Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
July 28/29	All Weekend	Ice Climbing Practical
August 6	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Expedition Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center)
August 11-12	All Weekend	Alpine Experience Climb #4
August 20	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Student Presentations (Oxbow Rec. Center)
August 25-26	All Weekend	Student Selected Graduation Climb
September 10	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Class Wrap Up/ Evaluations (Oxbow Rec. Center)



BE PREPARED

BE SAFE



**MOFA REFRESHER CLASS
2001**

Boealps is offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid refresher class in March/April 2001. This course is designed to review what you learned in your original MOFA class, update you with newer techniques, and keep your MOFA certification current. Four classroom sessions 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 Community First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card. The class is available to persons who have taken the standard MOFA class and have a MOFA card that was issued in the last three years.

Dates: Class: March 20, 22, 27, 29, April 3 and 5. (Camp Long dates: April 3 and 5.)

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center

Cost: Approximately \$50 (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 \$50 in the form of a check payable to Joyce Holloway.**

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com		(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) 772-1869

BOEALPS MOFA REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain a syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

Do you have a copy of ARC Community First Aid (CFA):

(If you have the ARC Standard First Aid (SFA) book, you can use that one)

Do you have a copy of Mountaineering First Aid (MFA) Fourth Edition:

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Joyce Holloway") TO: Joyce Holloway M/S 6F-06 or 15704 451st Ave SE, North Bend, WA 98045

BOEALPS
BACKCOUNTRY / SKI MOUNTAINEERING CLASS
WINTER 2001



Learn the techniques and the tools needed to explore the Cascades on skis.

Expect that summertime glacier slogs will be transformed into downhill fun fests and the cold wintry northwest days into powder epics.

ALPINE SKIERS, TELEMARKERS, and SNOWBOARDERS are all welcome.

Course Dates:

Classroom:	Tues. and Thurs., February 6 and 8, 2001
Skiing Skills:	Tues. and Thurs., February 13 and 15, 2001
Backcountry Overnighter:	Sat. and Sun., February 17-18, 2001

Suggested Skier / Snowboarder ability: Intermediate and beyond.

Additional Information:

Please contact course instructors for more information –

Bill Frans: e-mail: bil_eff@hotmail.com

Rob Kunz: e-mail: rob2ski@email.msn.com

OR

See BOEALPS website. Check under Club Activities (<http://www.boealps.org/active.html>)

Favorite trip of 2000

By Steve Fox

Best trip of the year? That's tough. There were many excellent climbs, like Jumbo, Maude, Bedal, Cadet, Fire, Lime, Clark, Gordon, and West Higgins. But, the best summit of all was Hoof Peak near Clark Mt.

2000 was supposed to be my "year of the traverses". All were canceled for various reasons. But in September I was invited on a trip to review some gear. We did a 5-day traverse in the DaKobed range, starting up the White River trail, then the Boulder Creek trail. The fall colors were fantastic, and the berries were plump. Both caused slow progress as we snapped numerous slides and gobbled copious quantities of fruit. We veered off trail towards Clark Mountain and summited on the second day. The third day we crossed the DaKobed range onto the Butterfly Glacier and camped at Moth Lake, from which I climbed Hoof Peak. On the fourth day we ascended the gradual and scenic Honeycomb Glacier to Kololo Peak and grand views of Glacier Peak's SE side. Then down the White River glacier to a large meadow camp and an evening illuminated by alpenglow. The last day we descended to the White River trail. Perfect weather, no bugs, fabulous and pristine off-trail scenery, spectacular glaciers, and great companions made this the trip of the year. Oh, and it's fun to test super light gear as well!

A near tie for trip of the year goes to another trip, done solo. A North Cascades summit, rarely climbed, with easy access and a straightforward class 2 final portion. (I ain't telling where it is, so don't ask!)

The best winter trip was a Boealps Bingle/Saunders led expedition up Gordon (Anaconda) Peak near Silverton. We had great weather, a fun group, and the climb is interesting with great winter views.

The best rock climb of 2000 was on Exfoliation Dome with Bob Packer. We walked up the long "granite sidewalk" - easy enough, but due to its length caution is in order. The rock quality is excellent, as the view from the area. Unfortunately, it began raining slightly and we turned back after only a few pitches. Fortunately, the rain held off as we descended the granite sidewalk.

The best flower display for the year was the Meadow Mountain to Fire Mountain trail. With Glacier Peak as a backdrop, there was an explosion of yellow, purple, white, and red wildflowers. Walking high on a ridge above treeline, the views to Sloan and Pugh only added to the magnificent setting. And, I only got stung by one bee!

Probably the worst segment of all the 2000 trips was when Fred Hutto and I tried cutting across a swampy area on Long Island. The spit was just across the way, and it seemed like the quickest route. Little did we know, the "quickest route" was through (not over!) quick sand-like mud! The quagmire was knee-deep. I'm still amazed we both escaped this with all our shoes still attached. It's a good thing we had those super-strong 11mm shoestrings tied in triple fisherman knots.

But to finish on a brighter note, the best abandoned trail for 2000 was the old Cascade Crest route to Commonwealth Basin, over Red Pass, and down to Goldmeyer Hotsprings. After a soak, climbing up the rarely used Rock Creek trail to Snow Lake and back out to Snoqualmie Pass made for an outstanding loop trip.



Happy climbers atop Gordon Peak

Most Memorable Climb of 2000

NE Buttress of Mt. Goode (North Cascades) – August 12-14, 2000

It was barely one month before Mark Hicks (hereafter referred to as Hickster) would be tying the knot, and he and I had been talking about a pre-nuptial climb for a couple of months. Some choose to honor the seminal event by throwing a bachelor party with the usual accoutrements (reading Genesis and slamming Cokes, as we did), but I knew what else would galvanize the memory: a climb none of us had been on. So we plotted out the NE Buttress of Goode, convinced Victor Yagi and Ilan Angwin (hereafter referred to as the Penguin) to buy into the plan, and off we went in pursuit of the morally redemptive North Cascades.

Sort of. I got us off on the wrong track by taking the turn past the town of Chelan, and putting us on the road to Ardenvoir. As I was laconically showing my mates where we were on the map outside the Ardenvoir store (not “a” Ardenvoir store), I came to the realization that we were on the wrong road. End of laconic behavior: backtracking and racing to Field’s Point on Lake Chelan, we missed the 9:20 am Lady of the Lake II by about five minutes. The effect of this simple blunder rippled through the day: one is now forced to catch the ploddingly slothful Lady of the Lake at 9:45 am, endure a two-hour wait in Stehekin, and then catch the shuttle van and shuttle buses to the Bridge Creek trailhead, all to begin the relatively long approach at the early hour of 4 pm. Oh well – I found out that Brian Tryba had guessed incorrectly at the driving time one week earlier, and was forced to do the same.

I remember thinking, as we stood patiently for the 9:45 am ferry and the boys surprisingly forgiving for my cerebral lassitude, the adage that a wise man learns from his mistakes, and a brilliant man learns from the mistakes of others. So much for self-enlightenment.

But, we put it in high gear on the trail, stormed up the N. Fork of Bridge Creek, bushwhacked, and did a bit of exposed climbing to make it to the 5800’ level, just below the Goode Glacier, at exactly 9 pm, with just barely enough brush of dusk to make it before total darkness. Another sign of brilliance-lacking: Hickster and I made a pact to go without a sleeping bag, and Yag bought into it. The Penguin, wary of the questionable practice (“I actually like to use my sleeping bag”), opted to take his. My red space blanket, a trusted friend for years and now velcroed at the foot and sides, became a cesspool of condensed vapor when I slept. Vera’s down coat helped immeasurably for warmth, but the moisture was reminiscent of the cold dampness that coats the inside of a cave. Zog not happy with shelter.

The approach must have been our atonement, because our karma was good the next day and the climb went well. The glacier was easily accessed through a hidden notch, and a lengthy 8’ rappel off an ice bollard took us across the broken moat to the base of the nearly 3000’ rock climb. The climb went as hard as 5.5 to perhaps 5.6, running belay virtually the whole way. Our eyes beheld spectacular views of Buckner, Booker, Black, Baker, and the Brothers, as even the presence of the Olympic Mountains can grace the openly hostile North Cascades. When we stood on top at 2:30 pm after the long haul, it felt inspiring. It also made me feel somewhat disconcerted when, moments later, the imminently optimistic Hickster turned to me at the summit, and said, “I’ve been looking at this map, and I can’t figure out how the hell to get off this thing.”

But I remembered the monster cairn to the east off a rather exposed ledge. We found the occluded path of descent, which eventually ended up taking us off trail to a meadow, where we bivied for a second night without bags, a thoroughly pleasant thought. While unpacking for the night’s bivy, we were caught off guard when the Penguin announced he had no pump for the fuel bottle. Hickster put in his two cents (actually his \$10 worth) of how this could not be, and we began the search for the missing fuel pump. After a vigilant search, the Penguin sheepishly noted its exact location: turns out he was sitting on it.

I was accustomed to the sweat lodge from the night previous – here I was, wrapped like a burrito, sleeping fitfully, and I could swear I was hearing voices in my sleep when I awoke at 2 am and looked around. It was just the Hickster and Yag talking, and damn if it wasn’t the alpine happy hour (“Free refills on hot water, partner...”). The Penguin, meanwhile, slept comfortably in his “sleeping bag,” which we reminded him of vigilantly. The next day, it was more bushwhacking before we found the Park Creek trail, and there was indeed a God. There was now easy travel from this point east.

Perhaps the grand finale was the shuttle bus stop to the Stehekin bakery – with only spare change in our pockets, we pooled our resources for two scoops of strawberry ice cream. We shared it on that blazing summer afternoon, and I can scarcely remember feeling so rich.

McClellan Butte
Tom Ryan & David Hamilton
January 13, 2001

This trip peaked the interest of only a few, but in the end there were just two. David and I left Seattle before 6:30 am, exiting I-90 at Tinkham Road and pulling into the trailhead parking lot before sunrise. It was no surprise that there were no other cars: it was dark, damp, chilly, and the forecast wasn't enticing. Nor was it intimidating, which is why we followed through to get some exercise on a very accessible peak that feels like a real climb in the winter.

We left the 1500' trailhead at 7:30, traveling snow free on the summer route up and over the Iron Horse Trail, and further to the private road at about 2100'. Snow was on the trail before the intersection with the road, but the accumulation was more evident here without tree cover. At this point we broke out the transceivers, in order to be prepared for the gullies which would need to be crossed above. Following the trail, with a couple feet of firm snow cover, proved to be very easy and required no snowshoes. Given the firmness and lack of fresh snow, there was little concern for avalanches crossing the first few gullies. After crossing the large NE gully, we gave some consideration to our route: either proceed straight up, or continue on the summer route which traverses its way over to the south side of peak before continuing to the summit.

With a firm base underlying the 2" or less of new snow in the gully, we elected to go up the left side. Crampons proved the way to really move, and we ascended the gradually increasing angle without incident. Reaching the base of the rock scramble by 11:15, we had some lunch and spied another pair following our path up. We continued up the rock, which was covered in crusty snow offering good traction w/ crampons. On the summit I had a view of David, and David had a view of me, and not much else. Shortly, the other pair arrived. The one guy said he'd been up there eight times, all in the winter, and the view was always the same. He also mentioned he had tried the north side several times, but that it's even more exposed to avalanche danger and he's never seen it in condition.

Descending to the base of the summit rock, we ate some more and gathered our stuff. The other two, with one pack between them, were ready to head down sooner. First, we managed to learn that they were out to beat their hangovers into submission. "Quite an ambitious undertaking for such a condition," I commented. The one fellow said he absolutely refused to cancel an outing because of drinking too much the night before. "A pathetic excuse to sit on the couch and watch TV." A very impressive stance to take, I thought, enough to almost make me want to go out drinking with him to see if I could provide him more of a personal challenge.

Some snow had fallen since the ascent, and on the way down we kicked off more than a few sloughs. With my crampons balling up, I got some arrest practice in. This I really didn't mind, as there was plenty of runout and a nice surface to slide on with the loose snow. In the right conditions, this gully could be good training for someone looking to get comfortable on steep snow. It definitely gets pretty steep near the top and feels somewhat exposed, although there is plenty of runout almost everywhere.

Jumping out of the gully where the trail crosses, we followed it for a switchback or two. Next we saw a glissade path down a very narrow chute that the other pair had made. We chose to do the same and dropped quite a ways, twisting and turning around small trees, ducking below snow covered branches, enjoying a very scenic and controlled descent. David reached the bottom of the path first to find no trace of where the other pair had gone. No need to go back up to find where they went, we knew we needed to go down and right. Let's just say this wasn't our biggest mistake. That would be the step before: deciding not to follow the trail all the way down. Dumb.

We were able to make our way down a little further, but then needed to negotiate a ravine. Dropping down to it wasn't too big a deal, but going up the other side was absolutely thankless. Steep, loose, slick, exposed, and guarded by tenacious vegetation. After that it was a much easier walk through the forest, including a section of what appeared to be old growth; very cool. Leaving that behind, we dropped into another stream and followed it a couple hundred yards until it bent across our path. With the goal in sight, I didn't feel it necessary to put on my snowshoes following the stream. David was wishing he had a camera to record the ridiculous scene of my obstinance: punching knee-deep repetitively with snowshoes on my back. All right, I eventually pulled them out, and they made life much easier. Another arduous climb out of that streambed brought us to a clear-cut section, then finally out to the private road.

On the road I was able to pick up a GPS signal, which pointed us to the right towards my trail/road intersection waypoint. We passed this point without seeing where we had crossed the road on the trail. Determined not to turn back too soon, we went a lot further, still without seeing the trail. Since my GPS waypoint was a rough guess from the map, we put in the coordinate David pulled off the TopoZone website and navigated to it. This required going back the other way but didn't yield the trail either. Noting we had limited daylight left, we ducked off into the woods again, navigating towards the trailhead. We hit Alice Spring almost immediately, and were faced with another fun climb out of the ravine. Before undertaking it, we finally recaptured our common sense and pulled out the USGS map and noted we were pretty close to the trail. We had gone right on the road where we should have gone left. Climbing out of Alice Spring, we made the trail in about five minutes, and in another half-hour we were back at the trailhead by 5:15. All in all, a descent that could have taken us less than three hours took over five.

This was first usage of my GPS and it yielded the standard lesson you always hear: you still need a map! A map can be much easier to interpret, as was the case with finding our location on the road. I did learn something else as well. When putting in your UTM coordinates, it's essential to have the unit set for the proper map datum. Although I noted the discrepancy between my units default setting of WGS84 and the maps 1927 datum, I didn't know the datum name to which to switch it. In the end, I think the error introduced was enough to cause us to turn right on the road instead of left, and also resulted in some confusing readings near the summit, which location was also off according to the GPS despite a supposedly accurate coordinate from TopoZone. Now that it's been a couple days, my recollection is that the trip was even more fun that it really was at the time.

Big Al's Big Adventure, continued

The Continuing Travels of Al Baal

Sunday, December 17

In addition to having great weather, we have already acclimated to the higher elevation. Most of the trek was at the 13 to 14 thousand foot level. We spent an extra day at the base of Jhomolhari (7,314 meters), where the views went from good to great. Bill and I ran up a 2,000-foot hill to 16,000 feet, in just over one hour. My knees were so sore that I had to limp back to camp. Later that night, Bart, our trusty camp dog, did a fine job of chasing the yaks away from our tents.

We were warned several times to keep clear of the yaks, because some of them are mean. One morning, I paid a six-year-old three red vine candies to clear his family yaks away from the trail. It was fun watching him do what his father does to move yaks, which is to throw rocks at them. And I think he got a kick out of doing a good job, or maybe when he sees trekkers coming by, he gets his yaks to block the trail. I could have been just one of his many suckers. Later that day, I had four kids wanting candy. Normally I try to resist giving candy because it can get out of hand. But these kids were so friendly and they thought I was such a funny guy. They seemed very interested in the fact that I had no hair on my head. When I let them touch my bald head, one of the little girls laugh so hard, she sprayed saliva on it. I didn't want them to think that I had no hair, so I unzipped my shirt to show off my chest hair. They thought that was even funnier than my bald head!

Friday, December 22

Not that I want to complain, but let me share with you some of the problems I am having with my bike, which continues to break down. I first tried to do a little preventive maintenance and got the trailer hitch on the bike re-welded in Katmandu. A few days later my seat cracked on both sides, and finding an aluminum welder in Nepal was not easy. After getting my seat fixed, I arrived in Sedney, really excited to get back on my bike again. 2 k out of the airport, my right pedal strips out the few remaining threads that were giving me trouble in Switzerland. Since it is the right pedal, I will have to replace the whole front sprocket (this is going to cost me). Locking up my bike outside my backpacker hotel, there's a part of me that would not mind if my bike gets stolen.

The Continuing Saga of Dan Goering

December 27, 2000 - Namaste from Nepal!

Lots has happened over our nearly two months here and I've finally written about most of it. This adventure tale got a bit long, which I apologize for but I hope it will at least be entertaining.

In the prime trekking month of November, the narrow streets in the Thamel section of Kathmandu are choked with tourists and locals trying to earn some tourist dollars. Every three feet as you dodge down the street, jumping out of the way of taxis, rickshaws, bicycles, tuk-tuks (smoky 3-wheeled cabs) and Tigerbalm salesman - someone tries to ensnare you into a conversation: "Hello! Where are you from? Have you been trekking??" My favorite street vendor is the walking variety store: chains and padlocks draped around his neck, wallets hanging from his belt, scarves on one arm, socks on the other, bandannas on another ... seemed he must have had about 5 arms with all the stuff he carried!

The beautiful thing about this town is that the locals for the most part try to get your tourist dollar honestly (even those who whisper "Hashhish?" as you walk by seem like nice guys). There seems to be very little crime and most get their cut by acting as middlemen for trekking agencies. Our "in" for cutting out the middleman was Kale Pasang, one of the sherpas from the 1995 Boealps Mera Peak expedition I'd been on. I knew he was a trustworthy guy and after a morning leafing through trekking guide books in a book shop, we sat down with Pasang and negotiated for him and two porters to support a 17-day trek around Dhaulagiri - one of the Himalayan 8000 meter peaks (26,794 ft). The cost was significantly higher than what I'd expected and significantly below what Pasang had first proposed. I was left struggling with feelings of trust for Pasang and the fear that our friendship had led to our paying more than we should have.

Dhaulagiri lies just west of the more famous Annapurna and I found it appealing that our planned route is much less traveled. We would start walking up a valley with some rather basic tea-houses, progress onto a glacier and over several high passes, and finish on a stretch of the cushy Annapurna trail with every town full of tea-houses offering hot showers and apple-pie.

7 am one chilly morning later found us standing at the Kathmandu bus station waiting to depart for the day long ride to Beni from where our walk would start. It is quite an experience! Your ears are assaulted with a cacophony of honking over a continual background of the hawking up and spitting of phlegm. The air is thick with eye-burning diesel exhaust from the hoard of industrial Indian-made Tata buses maneuvering here and there. Drivers back slowly around, missing other buses by fractions of an inch, guided by a steady metallic pounding of a spotter banging on the side to indicate all clear. These buses are high-clearance no-nonsense vehicles designed to get you there over rough dirt roads, mud, landslides and other obstacles common on Nepali roads. The front is always decorated with sparkly streamers, scalloped metal trim and bright paintings of Hindu gods. At a gas stop, I saw our driver pour a quart of motor oil into the fuel tank before filling the rest with diesel! Just before arriving in Beni eight or so hours later, we spotted a roadside boulder sporting a pro-environmental message. Someone had spray painted "SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT" onto it in big letters!

Rice harvest was in full swing the morning we left Beni and began walking up the Mayagdi River valley. Men and women kneeling in the terraced fields cut the stalks with hooked knives and laid them out in bundles to dry. The uncut plots were rippling waves of golden green next to the geometric hatching of the cut rice. A group of kayakers passed us, their porters appearing from behind to be walking kayaks with just their feet visible beneath the bright red and yellow boats. The warm sunny day had us perspiring, especially Kazi - the more junior of our two porters who

had the heaviest load. We had supplies to support ourselves for six days. If locals were still manning some of the higher teahouses, we would only need three days worth.

As we progressed up the valley, our accommodations became ever more basic. After day two, we were staying with local families and sleeping in their one or two room houses, often with roofs of tightly woven bamboo mats. Lunches and dinners were dahl-bhaat - the spicy rice with lentil soup and chili combo that is the national food of Nepal and almost always served on big stainless steel plates. Boring as it might sound, we enjoyed it greatly because of all the local variations: strong and salty dried goat meat, various stewed greens including local nettles which are delicious, and one night pumpkin soup.

After two days of obsessively checking on prices of things and figuring out what living on the trail really costs, I convinced myself that while Pasang was paying himself and our porters very well on this trip, our negotiated price was a fair one. Without him, we would be missing our glimpse into the homes and lives of Nepal's rural subsistence farmers. My conflicting feelings faded and I became ever more satisfied as the trip progressed.

A typical day on the trail starts just after sunrise. Breakfast of hot brown milk tea and noodle soup or omelet or maybe an occasional pancake. Then hit the trail, which is the only means of passage through this roadless area. Waterfalls spill down from the steep sided valley, giant poinsettia trees dot color onto the brown/green hills with their brilliant red leaves, the rice harvest continues and the big snow peaks of the Himalaya peek ever more frequently over the brown tops of the lower hills. At each town or house, small children come running with cries of "Hello! One pen!" or "Hello! Money!" We're not the first ones to pass and the gifts of other well-intentioned trekkers have begun to turn the local youth into beggars.

Seeking a bit of solitude one morning, I raced ahead sweating most of the way up an extremely steep climb where I sat among gold-green tufts of grass waiting for the others. The only sound was the rushing river far below and a distant bird's song - so faint I was hardly aware of it. Hills receded down valley in layer upon layer fading from dark shadow to the hazy gray of the horizon. I love these moments.

There is no motorized traffic, but Patty managed to get rear-ended on the trail. A hit-and-run cow who thought she should be moving faster butted her out of the way and mooved on through. We didn't get the license number. Fortunately Patty escaped with just a bruise from being grazed by the horn. Out of light that evening, we stopped short of Muri at a remote house inhabited by a couple and their young boy. As dinner cooked we sat out front at a rough wood table sipping milk tea and straining to catch a few recognizable words from the scratchy transistor radio Nepali news broadcast that might clue us in to who had won the US presidential election. Our porter Bim was Mr. Music and always managed to locate a battery-powered radio at each stop.

Our pre-dinner snack was toasted soy-beans, prepared by beating the pods and beans off a pile of dried plants with a stick, sifting the beans from the chaff using a flat circular woven basket, and then toasting the beans over an open fire. The usual daal-bhaat was accompanied by sliced fresh radish rolled in millet and a green spice. I watched the woman slice the radish with the same curved knife used to harvest rice and then lay the knife back on the concrete floor. If we didn't get a stomach bug from this, I would consider myself half-Nepali!

We ate sitting on the concrete floor as the family's voices murmured in the other room and the hissing kerosene lantern cast its white light, throwing fantastic shadows onto the floor and walls. One wall was lined with shelves: dusty plastic bottles of Pepsi, empty glass Coke bottles, packages of ramen noodles and "Tee Tee" biscuits, cigarettes, cream crackers, and two complete shelves of stainless plates and glasses and bowls. One corner held burlap sacks of grain, another a large

suitcase with embroidered flower patterns that undoubtedly had made a trip or two up the trail carried with a tumpline. (Most loads here are carried by attaching a rope with a 2" wide strap that runs across the forehead. The weight is supported partly on the porters bent back and partly by the line across the forehead. I've seen incredible loads carried this way, from steel rebar cages full of fresh eggs to duffles of trekking gear weighing 100 pounds or more to giant plastic 500-liter water tanks that dwarf the porter!) Above our heads on a dozen or so wood pegs hung the family's entire wardrobe.

Two days later we reached Boghara just after noon, the last real village in the valley. A man sat on a wood stool combing the dark hair of his two little girls with a faded orange toothbrush. Another was finishing a new tumpline, grasping one end of the woven bamboo with his toes while tying off the other end. We had our own chores. With a big pair of rusty borrowed scissors, Pasang and I gave Patty a haircut to the fascination and amusement all. Most Nepali people have brown skin, dark hair and dark eyes and the silver blond locks falling in the dirt were a novelty. Before evening, we met two other groups also stopping at Boghara - a pair of Germans from Munich and a group of four headed for the Mustang region.

Day six brought us to the Dhaulagiri Italian base camp at 3658 meters. My thrill of the day was sighting a primate with light gray fur and dark face surrounded by a white ruff just at the edge of the treeline: the Common Langur! Hiking far ahead of our group, I surprised him and got a nice look as we stared at each other from about 50 m apart before he disappeared up the slope. The teahouse at Italian camp is a drafty low hut of stacked rocks with a woven bamboo mat roof, turned dark from the wood smoke drifting out. Several Nepali women here would remain selling tea and daal-bhaat to trekkers for another week or so before retreating to lower elevations for the winter. Above towered the SW slopes of Dhaulagiri.

We'd rest here one day to let our bodies adjust to the altitude before continuing onto the glacier above and the main Dhaulagiri base camp (4500 m). Beyond that lay French Pass (5360 m), Dhampus Pass (5258 m) and then the long descent to Marpha on the Annapurna circuit. Patty had a headache - a symptom that her body was struggling to adapt to the thinner air. Such headaches will usually disappear if you drink a lot of water and give your body time to adapt. If they persist, it's best to descend as they can progress to life-threatening conditions such as Cerebral Edema (swelling of the brain) or Pulmonary Edema (fluid in the lungs).

That night I stood shivering outside under a full moon illuminating our camp and the surrounding peaks. Across the valley, the moonlight reduced Tsaubong peak (6395 m) to the simple cold perfection of the high mountains. Snow patches glowed cool white against the smooth uniform blackness of the bare slopes, the night concealing their true brush and rubble strewn nature. This simple world of black and white beauty appeals to the perfectionist in me and put me into a reflective mood. Life on these trips up high is very uncomplicated. Exercise hard, stay warm and enjoy the splendor. Wouldn't it be nice to find a way to stay? Yet I know that eventually I would miss the complexities, the foibles and warmth of human interaction.

Patty's headache still dogged her the next evening and through a second rest day. She'd climbed Mt. Rainier (4367 m) back in Washington without trouble, but altitude illness is rather unpredictable and anyone can be fine one time and have trouble the next. We had a hard decision to make: it would be foolish for her to go higher but in order to complete the circuit in our remaining time, we'd have to continue on the next day.

The headache remained the next morning and we enacted our backup plan: Patty would return to Beni with Bim while Pasang and Kazi and I would continue over the circuit. In one week, we'd all meet back up in Tatopani on the other side of the mountain and walk two more days from there to

intersect the road back to Pokhara. A storm that night had covered the ground in an inch of fresh snow. It was 9 am by the time we'd re-sorted loads and gear and waved our sorrowful good-byes.

Above Italian camp, the valley grew quite steep and narrow before opening back out where we scrambled up the snout and onto the rock-strewn Chhonbardan glacier. Just as the ice leveled out and we turned for the view behind, a rumble high up the slopes of Dhaulagiri caught our ears. We watched as a big cloud of avalanching snow grew to enormous proportions, plummeting from above, the white billows completely obscuring the view as they swept through the narrow valley and rose a hundred meters or more up the far slope. We had walked the trail through the avalanche zone just 30 or 40 minutes ago and looked at each other with a mix of horror and relief. We'd been lucky.

Part of my horror was that I hadn't recognized that the previous night's snow, and the big steep slopes above and the narrow valley pointed to significant avalanche danger. I'd considered the hazard of ice fall from the cliffs over which the snow plummeted and had been glad we were moving quickly through the exposed area, but had I been thinking the night before as the snow fell, I would have insisted on a much earlier start and transited the valley before the sun reached the slopes above. I'd been distracted worrying about Patty and also lulled into false security by being on a trail and with a guide. Mistakes like that in the high mountains eventually catch up to you. I won't make this one again.

It was a long day's walk on to Dhaulagiri base camp (4500 m) and light was fading when we arrived at 5 pm. The valley had been windless and warm in the sun but far above, we had listened to the steady roar of the high altitude wind scouring loose snow off the summit. The camp is a desolate rock and dirt patch on the edge of the glacier with a nice view of the standard route up Dhaulagiri. All three of us pitched Pasang's tent and were then happy to accept the invite of the two Germans, Robert and Karl, to join them for dinner. Their cook staff had prepared a feast: pizza, fresh vegetables and a creamy sweet bean dish. I was too tired to eat much and retired early, stuffing my frozen boots into the toe of my sleeping bag so I wouldn't have to pull on ice blocks in the morning.

Another perfect weather day took us over the broad French Pass (5360 m) and to a camp just below Dhampus Pass (5258 m). By now, Pasang had struck a deal by which he gave the German's big support crew all our remaining food and fuel and we joined them for more gourmet meals prepared by their cook crew. Robert, Karl and I walked up to Dhampus Pass just prior to sunset and were treated to an incredible panorama of the entire Annapurna group as well as Machupuchare and Manaslu. We gazed shivering in the stiff wind and also scoped out Dhampus Peak (6012 m), which we hoped to ascend. It looked to be fairly straight-forward (lots of nasty scree) but I'd want good weather as my clothing was marginally warm enough at these altitudes.

After a "rest" day of exploring the area, we were trudging up to Dhampus at 5 am the following morning as dawn washed out the stars. Pasang, who seldom climbs, had borrowed a pair of crampons from the German group and was coming along. I felt a bond had been growing between us as the trip continued. He shared the love of being outside and a keen sense fun. It had been great learning more about him this trip. He grew up in a Tamang village high up the Khumbu Valley (leading to Everest). At age 12, he asked his father permission to leave so he could see more of the world. Told that he must stay and work, he left anyway, wandering several day's walk down valley to Lukla where he found work herding sheep. Five years later, his father got wind of his whereabouts and fetched him back home. A year passed and he left again, this time making his way to Kathmandu, earning a living the hard way as a trekking porter. Eventually, someone recognizing his intelligence and good nature helped him learn English and gave him a chance as a guide. Now 33, he's been guiding ten years and has a wife and two kids. I also learned that Pasang

means Friday and that its common practice to name children after the day of the week they are born.

The wind relentlessly blasted away any warmth from the sun as we left the horrid scree slope and moved along the rocky ridge. Finally dropping over a 5 m step into a sheltered pocket, we rested as we pulled out our crampons. The summit seemed near. The Germans and their guide arrived as we were about ready to depart. Karl had summited Cho Oyu in 1996 on the same day the now infamous disaster struck on Everest. He had descended in time to avoid real trouble but was the only client to return unscathed on a trip in which their guide had died from altitude sickness and the other client had lost a couple fingers to frostbite. His friend Robert had never worn crampons before. I helped Robert with his crampons but declined their invite to rope up with them. The terrain above was snow and ice covered but looked easy and I didn't want to be stuck on a slow rope freezing in the icy gale. Pasang and I set off and at 9:30 am were treated to the stunning Annapurna panorama from nearly 20,000 ft. The view north revealed the dry valleys snaking their way into the Mustang region. Behind lay Dhaulagiri and the icy summit of Thukchue peak - an impressive yet reasonable objective for any suitably equipped amateur mountaineer with a moderate amount of ice and snow experience!

The descent from Damphus to the village of Marpha that evening was an enduro drop of 3345 vertical meters. The beginning not far below the summit was exhilarating as Pasang and I ran down several hundred meters of 35 degree soft dirt and rock until I could barely catch my breath and was overheated for the first time that day. Back on snow covered trail about 90 minutes later, I stopped to take a photo and reached into the side cargo pocket of my pants. Empty. I groped inside my coat, hoping I'd left the camera hanging around my neck but knowing it should be in the cargo pocket. Nothing. With a sick feeling, I checked the pocket again and stuck my fingers out the bottom where the stitching had ripped. We'd just descended 1000 meters or so, traversing scree slopes and none of it on trail. The camera was gone. Fourth camera since I started my trip: one split open when the neck cord broke, the replacement was purloined in the mail, the 2nd replacement stolen in Turkey and now this. Thankfully, I'd finished a roll of film on the summit and loaded a new one despite the wind. I trudged on down the trail to catch up with Pasang.

As you drop the final hundred meters into Marpha though eroded slopes reminiscent of the Badlands, you get a nice view down onto the flat dirt roofs decked with stacks of orange/yellow ears of corn, mounds of corn stalks drying for animal feed, and the meter high stacks of firewood ringing the perimeters. Sun-faded prayer flags flutter on numerous poles and the jingle of bells on passing donkey trains blends with rustle of the apple orchards. The earth colored stone and mud buildings blend with hillsides from which they were constructed. We reached the main street through town paved with huge slate flagstones to cover a small stream/sewer beneath and proceeded to the Paradise Guest House for a welcome hot shower. Back to civilization!

Two days later, we strolled into Tatopani and found Patty and Bim waiting for us. The walk along the Khali Gandaki River is quite pleasant and full of interesting people on the well traveled Annapurna circuit. People like Peter, the banjo player for a Swedish country band called "The Jim Bob Convoy". On the walk, I figured out that two people staying in the typical double rooms and eating noodles and daal-bhaat could spend three weeks rather leisurely walking the Annapurna circuit equipped with only a sleeping bag, some warm clothes and about \$200 worth of rupees. I think I'll be back.

Pokhara, the other big tourist town in Nepal, lies on the shore of Lake Fewa. The streets are wider and with less traffic than Kathmandu, the air is cleaner; the mountain views better, the restaurants equally good and the pace much more relaxed. We hung out a couple days, mucking about on the lake in a rented bright red and yellow wooden boat and gorging at a special Thanksgiving buffet put on by Mike of the well-known Kathmandu spot "Mike's Breakfast". Mike is the cousin of

either Seattle Mountain Rescue guru Al Errington or his wife Ann (can't remember which). I'd tried to look Mike up last visit in 1995 and finally met him here in Pokhara at his new place.

On November 24th we hurried back to Kathmandu, excited to meet Al Baal and Kathy Hasagawa arriving from India. Over the next week, we toured the sights of Kathmandu together and shopped for a trip to Tibet. Our first night back, we reunited with Pasang and our porters at The Kiosk Cafe to thank them for doing such a good job on our trek. The beer flowed, plates and plates of buffalo mo-mo's (steamed dumplings) and fried rice filled the table and all seven of us left absolutely stuffed for a total of only \$17 US!

Al is still traveling with his foldable recumbent bicycle and got the same stares in Kathmandu as he had all over Turkey. After six months on the road in a multitude of countries, Al's bike is showing some wear. On a ride (most of us on rented bikes) to Bhaktapur and its ornate temples, he stopped at a welding shop to fix the trailer attach point on his frame which was cracking loose. On the return trip, his seat (on a recumbent, this looks kind of like a stylish tapered lawn chair without the legs) broke where the frame curved upwards from the seat bottom to the back support. We borrowed some short sections of steel rebar from a house construction site to rejoin the two sections and then with some twine lashed a piece of scrap wood between the seat back and his back rack to provide extra support. It was fairly sturdy and he was even more of a sight on the rest of the ride!

December 2nd, the four of us departed overland for Tibet and the city of Lhasa, but I'm going to save that for another adventure update. Two weeks later, we flew back to Kathmandu and Al departed for Australia and Kathy for home in Seattle. She graciously carried two large bags of warm clothes, climbing gear, carpets and other souvenirs that Patty and I didn't want to carry to India. Thanks Kathy!

The past week including Christmas, Patty and I just relaxed in Kathmandu and worked on getting our visas for India. It's quite a process and the joke among our fellow travelers also applying is that if you can't handle the inefficient bureaucratic process of getting the visa, you aren't ready for India! This screening might save them dealing with many an unprepared traveler totally losing their sanity once in the country. Suffice it to say that after starting the process on Dec. 18, we finally got our visas yesterday afternoon (Dec 27) after making four separate trips to the embassy, waiting in 13 different slow moving lines over a total of nine hours, and paying \$64.50 US each.

The last couple of embassy trips were made more exciting by the riots here that have shut down most of the businesses over the past two days. Why the riots? The reason cited by most locals and the local press is that Hrithik Roshan, some Indian film actor currently all the craze, apparently made comments on TV that he hates Nepal and the Nepali people. Protesters here responded by trying to burn down theaters screening Hrithik's films, vandalizing Indian owned businesses and roughing up visiting Indian citizens. The response seems a bit overboard. Why not just ignore the guy? I get the impression that India often treats Nepal with little respect, sort of as a colony or something, and the comments just prodded an already sore spot. In addition, the Maoist radicals may be using it as an excuse to stir up trouble for the government. Is it a coincidence that the King's birthday is tomorrow? We waited this morning in vain for our 6:30 am bus to Chitwan Park for a couple days of rhino and perhaps tiger spotting from elephant back and from a jeep. On Dec. 31st, we'll cross into India sometime before midnight when our Nepali visas expire. Meanwhile, it's impossible to get out of Kathmandu due to the national protest strike. Maybe tomorrow? If I ever get to India, I'll have to ask around to see what some average Indian citizens think of Nepal.

Tour du Mont Blanc 2000

By Gordon Blecher

(Ed. Note: Gordon is a friend of our webmaster, Rob James, and sent him this recollection of a walk he did this summer)

This year's trip was the Tour du Mont Blanc. The tour is a designated walk around the Mont Blanc Massif below the normal summer snow line. It has great views of the Massif including the summit, the Aiguilles, the glaciers and the surrounding valleys. It passes close to Chamonix, Courmayeur and Argentiere where many famous alpine climbs began. It is some 100 miles long and involves about 30,000 feet of elevation gain.

My friend, Brian Paxton, and I choose to go with the UK Rambler's Holidays to take advantage of their knowledge of the accommodations, to get support should we hit problems and because of the reasonable charge they made.

The Ramblers take the Tour in a clockwise direction. They consider that the slopes are easier that way round but the differences are not major and the majority of parties go round anti-clockwise.

The route was not very crowded, we saw other walkers but fewer than one sees on routes such as the Pennine Way or the West Highland Way.

We choose early July to fit in with Brian's Open University Artificial Intelligence Course. Because of a warm June the snow had cleared from virtually all the paths and we had no problems with snow. In other years, more care may be needed during the earlier part of the summer. September is the latest time for normal tours due to the short days and availability of hut accommodation.

We had great weather in the first week but a lot of rain in the second week. Whilst the rain caused few significant problems, it severely restricted the views and meant we had to walk in over-trousers for many hours.

The food was good throughout and the accommodations were better than most UK Youth Hostels and very friendly at times.

Cast of Characters

Paul Masters-the leader, a former deputy school head. In his early fifties he had gone for a change of life style; in the summer he leads Rambler's tours, during the remainder of the year he is a cabinet maker.

Pat and Allan Miller-Allan is a retired lecturer in accounting at an Australian University. Pat is a retired school teacher. They looked fit and had competed at many cross country ski championships including several in Europe.

Ann and Richard Barnes- Richard had just retired from an Australian brewery, he is a great fan of Guinness. This was his first major walk. Ann is an experienced walker. Ann was a school teacher in Australia and had walked the Tour on a previous occasion. She had been to Nepal during the Australian school holidays, around December and had camped out in temperatures below - 30 degrees C.

Tracey Hutchinson - Tracey is a young Quantity Surveyor. She has just started climbing and has booked up to go to Plas-Y-Brenin on a leading course. This was her first major walk but she was strong and fit and soon got over her apprehension about slipping at awkward places downhill.

Alex MacDowell - Alex is a retired local government officer who now has a part-time job driving disabled people between accommodation and day-centres. He is an experienced rock climber (up to E2 standard) and has climbed many of the Scottish Monros.

Andrew Nash - Andrew is a librarian at St Hilda's college Oxford. He is an orienteer who takes part in many orienteering championships. He was the youngest and fittest and strode up the hills at high speed. His navigation was immaculate and he became a reference source for Paul.

Bill Lynch - Bill is Scottish. His daughter married Alex's son (or vice versa). Bill has retired from the oil rig business which he had joined from the electrical power industry. He is an experienced walker but unfortunately he suffered from a recurrence of an ulcer which affected him particularly during the first week.

Bob McKelliget - Bob is a TV and Video repair man. He is a strong walker who has been on similar trips.

Brian Paxton - Brian is a friend of many years. He retired in April 1999 and he and I have walked with the Maidstone Ramblers regularly since then. He is a keen photographer and carried a large camera bag in addition to his rucksack. He was fast on the level and downhill but suffered on long climbs up steep hills.

Gordon Belcher - This is my third year of retirement from avionic engineering. I am gradually ticking off my wish list of walks. The Tour du Mont Blanc was a trip I promised myself 15 years ago. I wanted to see the Massif particularly from the Italian side. Every time I had been there previously, I was too close to get an overall perspective. Now I could see the Grandes Jorasses, the Rochefort Ridge, the Dent du Geant, and the Brenva Ridge from superb locations without the need to concentrate on the climbs to come.

The Trip

Saturday 1/7/00 Home to Col de la Forclaz (1526m)

The trip for Brian and I started with a rail journey to London then a tube trip to Heathrow. A quick dash round the Duty Free resulted in more film and a pair of Rohan shorts. On the crowded British Airways flight to Geneva we had a rather poor snack. At Geneva Airport we met the other walkers.

We took the train to Martigny and then taxis to the hotel at the Col de la Forclaz. We were allocated the dortoir at the top of the hotel. Here we had 12 places in a single room. As for the rest of the trip, the sleeping accommodation was shared by all regardless of gender.

The evening meal was good and set the pattern for the rest of the trip.

Sunday 2/7/00 Col de la Forclaz to Champex (1466m)

It was a sunny morning as we started from the Col de la Forclaz. The path was easy as we took the route via Bovine; the more spectacular alternative via La Fenetre d'Arpette was ruled out by Paul since he did not know our capabilities at this stage.

Paul introduced us to a new phrase, "active contouring" which means lots of uphill and downhill but finishing at the same height as the start.

We made our way up through the pine trees with views down and across the Rhone valley. We had our first tea stop at the farm at Bovine. The interior remains that of a working farm rather than a tea house. For lunch we had an al fresco picnic, consisting of bread, cheese, tomatoes, ham and apples.

Then down to Champex. Champex is an idyllic alpine village scattered around a lovely lake. We stayed in the Plein Aire Hotel, more up market than normal mountaineering huts. Our time was spent wandering around the lake, drinking beer on the hotel's terrace, washing socks and vainly trying to get them dry.

Monday 3/7/00 Champex to La Fouly (1594m)

Another bright and sunny morning. Brian and I set off early down the trail to get ahead of the others whilst they waited for the supermarket to open. We waited in the only bar in Issert, drinking tea. Issert is a traditional village with barns on stilts topped by stones to keep out the rodents. The others were late due to a trip into Orsieres to get Bill's medication.

We had our picnic lunch outside Issert before making our way up to La Fouly, which I remember as one of the places where we started the walk in before climbing the Grande Lui on the Simon Jenkins Alpine fortnight.

The hotel in La Fouly, the Edelweiss, is rather nice and well worth another visit. As usual, we were in dortoir on the upper storey. The accommodation is not as sophisticated as the lower floors but it is cheaper, clean and friendly. Again the evening meal was excellent and the breakfast matched the best I have had in any Swiss hotel.

Tuesday 4/7/00 La Fouly to Pre de Bar – Refuge Elena (2060m)

This was a good day. We bought our picnic at the supermarket, then made our way up the hill. Brian, Bill and I took the regular route up the road whilst the others took a steep alternative. I lost my navigation credibility by getting lost 5 minutes after separating from the others. It later turned out that the footpath we were on was not on the 15 year old map I was using.

We made our way up through short heavy showers to meet the others at a farm where they make cheese in the traditional way. It was difficult to see how they would cope with EU regulations but since we were in Switzerland there was no need. Then on to the Grand Col Ferret (2537m) and down to the new refuge Elena. It replaces one swept away by avalanche about 20 years earlier.

In the evening, Alex and I walked to the snout of glacier and saw the changes in its length. If we understood the marks correctly this glacier has grown during the last 15 years. After dinner the other groups in the refuge, French and Italian, started singing songs and in response to great and persistent demand I sang three verses of "On Ilkley Moor B'at". The too-ready applause may have been to stop me singing more incomprehensible verses. Apparently "On Ilkley Moor B'at" is big in Australian rambling circles.

It was a good clean refuge with good food

Wednesday 5/7/00 Pre de Bar to Rifugio Bertone (1991m)

Another good day with great views, good weather and lots of active contouring. We passed through spectacular valleys and over a col before the final push up a steep path to a ridge before walking down along the ridge to the refuge.

At the refuge we enjoyed the company of a couple of Basque guys, one of whom had lived in Brighton. He was a laugh a minute.

By observation we were beginning to grasp Paul's Law of Economics, namely "There is always sufficient funds spare from the lunch budget to pay for a glass of red wine at the evening meal for each Rambler."

Thursday 6/7/00 Rifugio Bertone to Rifugio Elisabetta Soldini (2030m)

This was a key day. We walked down into Courmayeur. It is a very beautiful town with many nice houses. Paul showed his school master technique as he stopped us at the pavement and then signalled for us to cross a road where there was no cars in sight or within hearing

The walk out of town was very hot and steep. Some of the group took the telecabine. Because of the heat Paul decided that the entire group should take the telesiege up the second stage of the hill. I persuaded him to let me walk up so that I could have the satisfaction of walking all the way round the TMB. I arrived at the top of the hill at the same time as the others who had gone on the telesiege.

We had our picnic lunch near the beautiful Lac Checroui. Brian had one of his after-lunch spurts and led us along the hill and down to the valley.

The Elisabetta Rifugio is part way up the next hill on the way to the col. Brian suffered for his earlier spurt, and an American from Texas who had been in a special forces unit saw the problem and came down from the hut to carry Brian's rucksack up the final 100 feet.

The Rifugio is undergoing modernisation, and the builders are in. Our dormitory had three levels of bunks. We occupied the lower level; the upper levels were occupied by French. Here Paul, who has a degree in French, excelled himself after lights out by silencing the chattering French. He politely asked them to keep quiet; they were so surprised at an Englishman speaking in immaculate French that they stopped speaking instantly. Perhaps the chatter had been about perfidious Albion.

Friday 7/7/00 Rifugio Elisabetta to Refuge du Col de la Croix du Bonhomme (2443m)

Today was a great day's walking for the views and for the interesting terrain even though the weather started to deteriorate. In the morning we made our way up to the Col and then down to the refuge which provides soup, teas and coffee. The refuge has a large collection of old farm implements in what must have been the original barn. We then made our way up through some fascinating valleys and past a unique slate formation. At the Col there was a small snowfield. Some of us made a detour to a nearby summit which at 9,000 ft was one of the highest points of the tour. We crossed a couple of small snowfields as we made our way down to the refuge.

The Refuge de la Croix du Bonhomme was the place for our first rest day. The weather was beginning to look rather bad and we were glad to be inside as others arrived in a very wet state.

After dinner Tracey surprised everyone by producing a bottle of Vodka which she had carried from the Heathrow Duty Free Shop. The evening was even jollier than usual.

Saturday 8/7/00 Rest day at Refuge du Col de la Croix du Bonhomme

We spent the morning trying to get clothes dry in a rather cold hut with rain outside. Bob and I tried to mend Richard's pedometer. (The worm was not making contact with the wheel).

In the afternoon three of us went for a short walk back to the Col. The cloud was down and navigation was tricky even though we had been there the day before. We came across an Italian, Christos, who had gotten lost and was wandering about aimlessly. We led him back to the refuge and no harm was done.

Sunday 9/7/00 Refuge du Col de la Croix du Bonhomme to Chalets du Truc (1125m)

The weather was fairly good today. We had a long walk down past an area where the Romans used Welsh miners to mine ore. Then lunch in a park beside the attractive church.

As we walked along the valley we could see climbers on the nearby rocks. One group was beginners and were having difficulty going up a fairly easy crack. Another group was tackling a far more difficult pitch. Their leader had got to an over-hang and was struggling to get above it. He made several attempts but had not succeeded by the time we had to move on.

We spent some time in Les Contamines Montjoie waiting for the shops to re-open. Brian, Bill, Pat, Alan and I started off early to ensure we arrived at the hut in reasonable time.

Le Truc is a very nice refuge. It is remote, small with only some fifteen beds in a single dormitory that has no lights. The dining area is also small with tables made from horizontal sections of tree trunks which fit together like a jig saw when a group is having a meal. The only other walkers there were three Germans.

The hut is vegetarian and provided an excellent meal based on omelettes and macaroni.

By this stage of the tour Alex's snoring had become a problem and he had become sensitive to it. He now sought the furthest corner of the bedroom.

Monday 10/7/00 Refuge du Truc to Les Chavants (1100m)

This was a difficult day. It rained for a large part of the day.

Le Truc refuge has a new area for washing; whilst I was quietly shaving the German lady came in, took off her top and began to wash her very ample breasts in front of a very embarrassed Englishman.

The walk up to the Col de Tricot was particularly difficult. The path was steep, long and slippery. By the time we got to the Col a gale was blowing and it was necessary for the leaders to shelter in a nylon survival shelter whilst the remainder struggled to reach the Col. (Later in Geneva Airport when Paul asked us for our best moment of the Tour, several gave the time spent in the shelter as their high-point.)

Then a long walk down to the snout of the glacier and across the swaying bridge (Was this the prototype for London's Millennium Bridge?).

Paul again excelled himself, this time persuading the owner of the cafe at Bellevue to allow us to have our picnic in the cafe out of the pouring rain.

After lunch we walked down to the Col de Voza and to the hostel. On the way down Ann had trouble with the recurrence of an old knee injury. Paul took her rucksack from her and carried it (as well as his own) for the last mile or so.

The Les Amis de la Nature hostel is large. It caters for a wide variety of interests. Again we were on the top floor in the most basic type accommodation. The showers were a challenge to our modesty, they were for men and women and there was no where for clothes inside the shower. Getting out of the showers without revealing too much was an exercise in ingenuity.

Tracey's bed broke as she laid on it after lights out. Richard in his under pants spent considerable time unsuccessfully trying to repair it by the light of his head torch. Bill and I fixed it next day - once an engineer always an engineer.

Tuesday 11/7/00 Les Chavants to La Flegere (1877m)

Another difficult day because of the weather. Many of our clothes were still damp and we had a late start due to buying supplies for the picnic from the supermarket in Le Houches. (The Guides Office at Les Houches offers climbs up Mont Blanc du Tacul for 1200 French francs. The Mont Blanc du Tacul Triangle, a difficile climb, costs 1300 French francs. Both look like very good deals.)

We walked up through over-grown and very wet paths to Merlot Zoo, trying to walk along the petite balcony to La Flegere. We arrived at the zoo just before lunch, and by each paying the 20 French francs entrance fee we were able to buy a hot drink and have our lunch under an animal shelter.

After lunch we tried to continue along the Petite Balcony, but a landslide forced us down to the valley bottom at Lac Gaillands. Because it was getting late, Paul took us into Chamonix where we caught a bus and then one of the last telepheriques to La Flegere. (I find it hard to justify wimping out of this section after years of dogged walking through the rain and never taking buses or lifts. The only excuse I can make is that the group had to stay together and I already had plans to come back and fill in the gap by walking it on the rest day.)

The Refuge at La Flegere has changed hands this year and the new manager is a young woman with an even younger assistant. When we arrived the dining room was very warm but it quickly cooled down and it was some two hours and a lot of complaining before the heating was turned back on again. The meal was reasonable but the standard of the hostel accommodation was the lowest of the tour. Paul complained to the manager and later by telephone to the owner. I expect that the problem will be resolved fairly quickly because otherwise the hostel will lose a lot of business.

Wednesday 12/7/00 La Flegere to La Tour (1470m)

This day's walk was the easiest of the tour. I managed to dismantle the bed as I executed a 5a move getting down the ladder but the bed engineers quickly repaired it.

The walk was short and downhill or nearly so. The best feature was the tea stop with reasonably priced teas and coffee in a very charming environment.

We then had a short walk up to the hostel at La Tour. La Tour is the site of one of the avalanche disasters that hit the Alps in 1998-1999. It is also the location of the Bec Rouge Hotel, the hotel we stay in when visiting the Chamonix area. The hotel is a major centre for the French Alpine Club in this area.

In the afternoon we went down to Chamonix to explore the town and buy presents. We spent a couple of hours looking in vain for TMB tee shirts. Brian ended up with an appropriate "Do or Die" motive for himself and a tee shirt for his son which he later needed to censor. I bought a big black hat to keep out the rain and try to change my image from conformist to bad guy.

The rather poor weather had kept many of the visitors away and Chamonix was its usual mixture of interesting places, people and goods and rip-off prices.

The evening meal at the hostel was great, the best Lasagne I have ever had.

Thursday 13/7/00 Rest day at La Tour

We were lucky with the weather for the rest day. It improved as the day went on and the majority of the group were able to go to Chamonix and to go up the Aiguille du Midi and see the unparalleled mountain scenery.

I had been up the Aiguille du Midi several times on previous trips and I wanted to partially restore my reputation by completing the missing link.

I took an early bus back to Chamonix. When I started the cloud level was 1800m but as I climbed it lifted and my plan changed from walking the Petite Balcony to walking the Grand Balcony and then to walking the Grand Balcony via the summit of the Brevent. I took the path straight up to Plan Praz and on, via the Col de Brevent to the top of the Brevent. 150m above Planpraz the path was covered in snow and the exposure in places made it rather tricky without crampons or an ice axe. There is a small café right at the top of the Brevent. It was closed and I had a snack on an upturned box alongside an even older climber who put me in my place by revealing that he was 84 years young!

Visitors were still coming up the telepherique despite the top being in cloud. There was an elderly Japanese couple trying to get down from the top back to the telepherique; she had a walking stick and flat casual shoes and was slipping about on the easy snow slope.

I took the telepherique down from La Brevent to Planpraz, partially to avoid the slippery path and partially to save time. I had lunch sitting outside the refuge at La Flegere before walking NE along the Grand Balcony to the Col des Montets and then to La Tour.

I had not been along the NE end of the Grand Balcony beyond La Flegere before and found it to be great walking with views of the Aiguille Verte, the Drus and the glaciers coming down into the upper part of the Chamonix valley.

Friday 14/7/00 La Tour to Col de la Forclaz (1526m)

Again the weather was unkind and as we walked up to the Col des Posettes and on to Col de Balme it started to rain. The refuge at the Col de Balme is small and it was crowded with walkers sheltering from the rain and wind. Places like this with barely enough room to move, with dozens of walkers of many nationalities all steaming after taking off the top layer of clothes make unforgettable pleasant memories.

We then had an easy walk down to the valley bottom, past the strawberry fields and had a picnic lunch in a new rather grand picnic shelter specially built for walkers near Trient. Then up the final slope back to the Col de la Forclaz. The circuit was now complete and all that remained was to buy presents and to catch the train back to Geneva and home

Saturday 15/7/00 Col de la Forclaz to home

We made an early start to catch the taxis down to Martigny, then the train to Geneva Airport. Here the group split up with Pat and Alan going back to Australia and Paul taking a cheap flight back to UK.

The rest of the group rediscovered normal life with an hour's flight delay followed by a packed tube train into central London and a reduced Saturday service back to Kent.

It had been a good trip with a very pleasant group of people. We had seen most of the Massif; the south side in good weather, the north side on the rest day. For me it was worth doing once but the urge to climb the peaks rather than look at them makes me plan to make the next trip a climbing trip rather than a walking trip.



Mont Blanc

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PRASH BHAT, M/S 04-JJ
OR: 23227 97th Avenue West, Edmonds, WA 98020
OR: prashantha.bhat@pss.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

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Contributors: Al Baal, Dan Goering,
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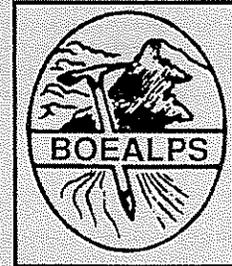
*If you have any submissions - anything vaguely
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email them to me at
matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in
inplant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices
will work, give me a call at
(425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

March 2001



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Photo: "Lobuche Peak, Nepal" by Shawn Paré

From Prash Bhat 04-JJ



North Face of The Grand Teton

March General Meeting

Two Mini-Shows:

Dave Hamilton: "Sex, Rope, and Plenty of Protection"
Marina Rockinger: "The Climb To Fight Breast Cancer"

Main Show:

Bill Frans: "A Weekend of Climbing in the Tetons"

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

BELAY STANCE

Climbing Classes Starting...

The BCC and the ICC are both ready to kick off their classes this month. We'll try and get regular class updates posted here so everyone can follow the progress of the students. Also, we'll start a class photo section on the Bocalps web site – we collected pictures from the students last year and posted them to the web and it was a big hit. Not only did the other club members get to see some of what was happening during the classes, but it made it easier for the students to share their pictures with each other. Check the web site later this month for those...

Used Gear Sale March 14th...

In conjunction with the second lecture for the Basic Class, we will again be holding a used gear and equipment sale. Class starts at 7:00, so plan on getting to the Customer Service Center by 6:30 at the latest to put out any gear you'd like to sell for the students to peruse. There's more details in this issue listed with the information on the Basic Class...

Winter Climbs by Dallas Kloke...

Does anyone have a copy of "Winter Climbs: One Day Ascents" by Dallas Kloke that they'd be willing to part with? If so, Joyce Holloway is looking for a copy. The latest information I have is that folks who contact Dallas for a copy of his book are told that he has no more, and isn't planning on printing any more. He's busy setting new routes at Mt. Erie and working on a new guide book to that area, so it's not likely that we'll see any new reprints surfacing soon. If you'd like to help Joyce out, you can contact her at (425) 888-4434 or deandjh@halcyon.com

Missing Library Cabinet Keys...

We seem to be missing some of the keys to the library cabinets at the Oxbow Rec Center. Andrew Keleher, our new librarian, would very much like to have his own copy of the key so he can access the books, and open the cabinet up for others. If you have a key, or know of anyone who does have one, please contact Andrew at (425)342-1320 or andrew_keleher@beaerospace.com...

New Photography Chair...

The club is looking for a new photography chair. Jim Weisman is getting too busy to be active in this position, so here's another volunteer opportunity. Your responsibilities would be to organize the yearly photo competition in July, and help coordinate collecting pictures taken during the Basic and Intermediate climbing classes and getting them on our web site. If you're interested, please contact our prez, Norene Borg, at (425)237-6991 or LilBiner@hotmail.com...

Free Vertical World Membership...

Okay, so this also involves a volunteer opportunity. Emily Pray, of "Girls Rock!" is looking for some female mentors to help teach 11-14 year old girls how to rock climb. The teaching will take place in the Redmond Vertical World gym between April and June in a one-on-one setting, and if you sign up to be a mentor you will receive a free membership to both Vertical World gyms during that time. If you are interested, see more details later in this issue, or give Emily a call at (425)444-5421

Don't Like the National Forest Service Fee Demo Program?

Signatures are being gathered at an online petition to tell Washington to drop the program and let us enjoy our forests without paying for them a second time. If you'd like to add your name to the list of those who would like this program terminated, point your favorite browser to <http://www.petitiononline.com/feedemo/petition.html> and sign the petition!

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

April Echo deadline is March 15th

March, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 General Club Meeting	2 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	3 Cragging trip; Aid Climbing Seminar@Index
4 Winter Outing; Chair Peak	5	6	7 BCC lecture	8	9 Full Moon Skiing @ Stevens Pass	10 Devil's Peak
11 Devil's Peak	12	13	14 BCC lecture	15 Echo Deadline	16 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	17 St. Pat's Day BCC @ St. Edwards
18 BCC @ St. Edwards	19 ICC lecture	20 MOFA Refresher	21 BCC lecture	22 MOFA Refresher	23	24 BCC @ Mt. Erie; ICC @ Horsetheif Butte; BoBaby outing
25 New Moon BCC @ Mt. Erie; ICC @ Horsetheif Butte	26	27 MOFA Refresher	28 BCC lecture	29 MOFA Refresher	30	31 BCC @ Stevens Pass

April, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Begins BCC @ Stevens Pass	2 ICC lecture	3 MOFA Refresher @ Camp Long	4 BCC lecture	5 General Club Meeting; MOFA Refresher @ Camp Long	6	7 BCC@Snoqualmie Pass; ICC Snow Outing
8 Full Moon ICC Snow Outing	9	10	11 BCC lecture	12	13	14
15 Easter Sunday	16 ICC lecture	17	18 BCC lecture	19 Echo Deadline	20 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	21 BCC@ Devil's Peak; ICC High Angle Rescue Outing
22 BCC@ Devil's Peak; ICC High Angle Rescue Outing	23 New Moon	24	25 BCC lecture	26	27	28 BCC@ Devil's Peak
29 BCC@ Devil's Peak	30 ICC lecture					

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Boealps Winter Outing Series

1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month, December-March

Just like last year's outings, only more of them! Snowshoes and avalanche beacons required, both of which you can borrow from the club. Trip dates will be December 3rd and 17th, January 7th and 21st, February 4th and 18th, and March 4th.

Mountain/Area	Various locations in the Cascades
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Whatever looks good for the weather and snow conditions
Class	2-3, maybe some 4th
Grade	I-II
Approximate Times	6 a.m. - 8 p.m. or so
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	None
Contacts	Mike Bingle, 206-662-4929(w), 206-935-3992(h) (before 9 p.m.), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

Fridays at Stevens Pass

Fridays starting in January

Do you work 4/10's? Or just feel like having some fun and playing hooky? I have a mid-week pass and plan on skiing often!

Mountain/Area	Stevens Pass Ski Area
Elevation	4000'
Route	Intermediate runs
Skills	Ski or snowboard
Limits	?
Contact	Brian Tryba, 425-255-5365, rockmobster@hotmail.com

Cragging

March 3

Let's find some rock to climb! I'll go anywhere and try anything within reason. I have leading skills to 5.9, beyond that, I'm following you. Happy to help beginners learn.

Mountain/Area	Index? Mt. Erie? Smith Rock? Suggest a place!
Route	Participants will decide
Class	Somewhere between 5.0 and 5.you're-dreaming
Time	Part or all day
Skills	Basic climbing skills
Limits	6
Contact	Tom Ryan, 425-487-8706(w), 206-527-2724(h), tom-p.ryan@frco.com

Chair Peak

March 4

Depending on ice and snow conditions, and who signs up, I'd like to go for the north face, but the NE buttress or the southeast route are options

Mountain/Area	Chair Peak – North Face, NE Buttress, or other
Route	Participants and conditions will decide
Class	WI3 or less
Skills	Basic class grad, some ice experience desirable
Limits	6
Contact	David Hamilton, 206-297-7353, dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Devil's Peak

March 10-11

Get off yer ass and get out in the snow! This is the same trip you did (or tried to do) when you took the BCC, just a little earlier in the year (might be a good idea this year, with the low snow pack). Come on out, knock off a couple of easy peaks, and leave strange snow sculptures for this year's BCC to discover!

Mountain/Area	Devil's Peak, Devil's Thumb
Route	Standard BCC routes
Class	3 rd or less
Skills	Basic class grad
Limits	8
Contact	David Hamilton, 206-297-7353, dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

March BoBaby Outing

March 24

Not sure where we're going to go yet (maybe Cabin Creek again?), but mark your calendars and let me know if there's someplace you think would be fun to take the kids to!

Party Limit	None
Equipment	Usual stuff for toddler support
Experience	Parent to one or more small people
Contact	Maren Robertson, 425-867-4396(w), 425-822-0455(h) mnelson@physio-control.com



BoBabies at Cabin Creek, March 1999

Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa Late August-Early September

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa, and one of the highest volcanoes in the world. Fly into Nairobi and then on to Mushi. The climb is six or seven days on a route that is less crowded than the standard route. The route starts in dense forest, which gives way to heather. The route takes you directly to Uhuru peak, which is the highest point on the mountain. We'll finish the trip with an optional 7-day safari. Please indicate your interest soon, so you can have a say in the trip planning.

Mountain/Area	Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa
Elevation	19,344'
Route	Machame/Mweka
Approximate Time	16 days
Skills	Basic class graduate or better.
Limits	6
Cost	\$3,000 - \$4,000
Contact	Joyce Holloway, 425-888-4434(h),425-477-4393(w), deandjh@halcyon.com or Janet Oliver, 425-413-0298, oliverj2@att.net

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to: David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

House for Rent

Sukhui and I have a rental place in Newcastle available to any climber types. It's has 1450 square foot, with 2 bedrooms, 1 gear/storage/computer/whatever room, a fireplace, a partial view of the lake, its own private entrance, washer/dryer, kitchen (all new appliances), new paint, new carpet, and it's close to a Park and Ride. No pets that smoke. Or smokers with pets too large to flush down the toilet. Any interested people should call Allen at 425.254.1529 or email me at allenerie@yahoo.com to view the rental, or just send your Visa # with expiration date!

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to
David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

March General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on March 1st, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, then two(!) mini-presentations, followed by the main presentation.

Mini-Show #1: Dave Hamilton presents "Sex, Rope, and Plenty of Protection"

If you want to find out what this one is about, you'll have to show and see for yourself! Suffice it to say, it won't be boring!

Mini-Show #2: Marina Rockinger from The Climb To Fight Breast Cancer Committee

On a more serious note, Marina will be talking about the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Climb to Fight Breast Cancer event. They are offering three choices of peaks for the year 2001. For more information, see the full article later in this issue, or, of course, come listen to Marina's presentation at the club meeting.

Main Show: Bill Frans presents: "A Weekend of Climbing in the Tetons"

The Tetons, located near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, are home to some excellent alpine scrambles and climbing routes. For an extended weekend, they are even "road trip" accessible. I road tripped to the Tetons over the 2000 Labor Day weekend. We scrambled up a few of the lesser Tetons and made an attempt up the Grand Teton via the Petzoldt Ridge, one of the classic Teton multi-pitch rock routes.

Upcoming Programs:

Rich Lechleitner will be presenting the main show at our April meeting. Rich climbed Cho Oyu in spring of, and will be showing slides of that expedition. Our mini-show in April will be Rob Kunz presenting a program on backcountry skiing. Jeff Smoot will be our featured presenter in May, and will likely be talking about some of the climbs covered in his new Cascade climbing guide.

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Aid Climbing Seminar

Dates: Lecture on February 25; Field trip on March 3

Tom "Big Bro" Rogers leads this legendary seminar, which in recent years has rotated through deluge, sunshine, and high winds. But it's guaranteed to be educational, thorough, and a lot of fun.

The classroom session will be held at Tom's house on February 25 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon. The aid climbing field trip will be on March 3rd at Index, Lower Town Wall. We will meet at the Monroe smokestack at 08:00 to car pool if desired.

Directions to Tom Rogers home :

Tom & Shelley Rogers
23907 SE 46 Place
Issaquah WA 98029

425-837-0598

Go East on I-90 to Issaquah.

Take Front Street Exit (2nd exit for Issaquah).

Stay in left-hand lane while taking the Front Street Exit.

Go left (North) at the bottom of the Front Street Exit.

Turn right on Issaquah-Fall City Road (immediately after Union 76 gas station).

Go up hill for approx. 2 miles through two traffic lights

Stay in the left-hand lane.

Turn right on to 238 Street (SW?) (this is the first right turn after the 2nd light).

Turn left on 46th Place (first left).

3rd house of the right.

Boealps Online

By Rob "Spiderman" James

Conditions Bulletins

Come on all! Someone must be getting out at weekends? Not too many folk have been updating the bulletin board though. It's dead easy to use, just click on the 'add a message' link and type in the next page. You might save your friends a long drive to find the ice isn't there, or that the road has been washed out.

Some Cool Links

Here's a few links that I've seen of late that might interest ya'll.

<http://www.potrerochico.com>

Ambrose just got back from Potrero Chico and highly recommends it for moderate multipitch climbing in the sun. It's all bolt clipping on limestone with the campsite and showers just minutes from the routes. And all for just \$4 per night.

<http://wsdot.wa.gov/rweather>

<http://www.barrabes.com>

The latest site from the WSDOT gives some nice clues on road/snow conditions. Hey – it's a global market! Try online shopping for climbing gear. This is Barrabes in the Pyrennes. Climbing shoes in particular are way cheaper in Europe. Also checkout some of the other shops listed in the <http://boealps.org/sites.html> (linked from the cool links sidebar).

Club Activities

You can check out the latest activities by following the sidebar link to club activities and then the link to 'planned outings and seminars'. You'll need the password (Slesse). If you need folk for a trip you're thinking of let David Hamilton know or even just put an ad on the noticeboard. The schedules for the basic and intermediate classes are also under the links to those classes.

Cheers ...Rob (we have a snowpack?) webmaster James

MOFA Instructor Class

A MOFA Instructor Class is being offered by the American Red Cross. The class will run from April 9th through May 7th on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm until 10:00pm, and will be held at the American Red Cross. The class number is #19741, and the cost is \$40, with the fee being refunded after you have completed teaching one course for the Seattle Mountaineers MOFA program. For more information, you can contact the instructor, Karl Brackmann at karlb@seanet.com, or contact any of our own MOFA instructors, Kathy Hasagawa, Chris Rudesill or Joyce Holloway.

This class certifies you to be a MOFA instructor as well as Red Cross First Aid and CPR instructor. It would be fun to have more MOFA instructors to teach for Boealps so that we can offer the classes in more locations, offer it at different times, and spread the responsibility. This certification allows you to teach any of the MOFA classes the Mountaineers offer. They are always short on instructors and sometimes have to cancel classes. At their Meany Lodge weekend class, they feed you! For the classes organized by the Mountaineers, they take care of registration, reserving the room and ordering the materials. You can also organize a class for any other group that you want to teach (Scout troop, church, work, etc).

Joyce Holloway - (425) 888-4434, deandjh@halcyon.com



BE PREPARED

BE SAFE



**MOFA REFRESHER CLASS
2001**

Boealps is offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid refresher class in March/April 2001. This course is designed to review what you learned in your original MOFA class, update you with newer techniques, and keep your MOFA certification current. Four classroom sessions 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 Community First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card. The class is available to persons who have taken the standard MOFA class and have a MOFA card that was issued in the last three years.

Dates: Class: March 20, 22, 27, 29, April 3 and 5. (Camp Long dates: April 3 and 5.)

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Locations: Boeing Customer Service Center

Cost: Approximately \$50 (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 \$50 in the form of a check payable to Joyce Holloway.**

If you have any questions, please call:

Name	E-Mail	Work Phone	Home Phone
Kathy Hasegawa	Khibachi@aol.com		(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) 772-1869

BOEALPS MOFA REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Mail Stop:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-Mail:

(Required to obtain a syllabus in advance for reading assignments)

Do you have a copy of ARC Community First Aid (CFA):

(If you have the ARC Standard First Aid (SFA) book, you can use that one)

Do you have a copy of Mountaineering First Aid (MFA) Fourth Edition:

COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT (check payable to "Joyce Holloway") TO: Joyce Holloway M/S 6F-06 or 15704 451st Ave SE, North Bend, WA 98045

February, 2001 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Glen Tomchik, Micah Lambeth, Prash Bhat, Dan Costello, Len Kannapell, Don Fraser, Bill Harrison, Silas Wild

President: Dan Costello is sitting in for Norene this month. Noted the need for volunteers for the upcoming Recreational Fairs. Dan will post a flyer in this month's Echo with more information. Agris Moruss Fund submittal has not yet been determined. Grant criteria still being evaluated against applications. Andrew Kelleher needs key to the Library cabinet, Glen might have an extra.

Finances: FY 2000 has not been closed out yet. However, some cash is available for urgent equipment needs, as in it would be nice to have a new ice tool before all the ice melts, along with emergency equipment to pick the guy still holding the ice tool up off the ground. Lengthy discussion on the need to file with the Secretary of State for Non-Profit organizations. Apparently there is a \$13,000 threshold above which an organization needs to pay an excise tax to the State. Then there's a \$25,000 threshold above which a \$500 fee is imposed. The Club needs to understand what funds need to be included in those figures and where the Club sits.

Membership: Need to maximize the number of Boeing employees in the club to keep the required ratio (90%) so we can retain non-Boeing employees who are active participants. Prash will send email to recent Boeing club members encouraging them to continue their club support. Thanks to all members who have already renewed. Note that Social Security # is not required by the club and will be removed from the application.

Activities: Needed alternate to buy food for March meeting. Don will fill in for Micah this month. Bill Frans will be main speaker in March, Rob Kunz in April, Jeff Smoot in May. Question arose as to what was more important, food or equipment. Club concluded that since beer wasn't one of the choices, the question was irrelevant. Julie Bruger was suggested as a possible speaker for future meetings.

Secretary: Submit copy of meeting notes to President and Echo Editor.

Education: Avalanche seminar went well last weekend. Ice Climbing Seminar coming up. Aid Climbing Seminar will be in March. Crevasse Rescue Refresher went well last year (I went there just to hang out) and one will be planned for this summer also.

Equipment: Need for another Ice Tool. The ones we have are well used and getting to be antiques. Silas will proceed with purchasing one new one. Black Diamond Rage seems to be the tool of choice and best value on the market right now, with an improved leash available also. Size 10 Asolo Plastic boots available from always Friend of Club Fred Becky. \$250 negotiable. Contact Len Kannapell.

Basic Climbing Class: Will be advertised in the Boeing Rec News. Sixteen firm sign ups already which is about average. Most of the signups expected during or shortly after the Orientation Meeting scheduled for February 26th.

Vice President: Sewing machine has been picked up by a deserving club member after a surprising number of inquires which required an evaluation process to be developed for competing requests. Although much relieved, a teary eyed moment of silence lingered several minutes after we realized we wouldn't have the sewing machine to talk about anymore.

Next board meeting will be at Prash's place, Glen's as alternate. Directions will be forthcoming.

Don Fraser, secretary

Winthrop XC Ski Weekend

The XC ski weekend was great. We had 31 attendees, for a slight \$ excess for the treasury. While the snow was not deep, the conditions were good. Fresh snow over Saturday night added to the atmosphere. Many people have asked me for this recipe that I use for a breakfast on the XC ski weekend, so here it is:

SKIERS FRENCH TOAST (For 6 People)

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons corn syrup
½ cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 loaf white bread (1 pound)
5 eggs
1 1/2 cups milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
¼ teaspoon salt

Mix first three ingredients together, heat until syrupy. Pour a layer into a pan with sides. Place a layer of bread and spread another layer of syrup. Repeat up to three bread slices thick. Leave the top layer of bread bare on top. Beat the remaining ingredients and pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate over night. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes. Flip over when serving so the syrup side is on top. Side dish of apple sauce compliments the "toast".

-- Elden Altizer

(Dave Hamilton's comments on the weekend: Great to drink firewater by the mouthfulls. Also great to be sitting in the hot tub at night with a glass of Chianti in one hand and the other wrapped around a bikini laden maiden.)

Access Fund Donations through the Boeing Employees Community Fund

Members of the club who participate in the "Boeing Employees Community Fund" and who want to make a difference in access issues can positively designate a portion of their ECF money for the Access Fund. The Access Fund is the most effective national group in terms of climber advocacy, and local examples of some of the work the Access Fund has done include:

- The Mt. Hood access policy
- Planned purchase of the property containing the Index Town Walls
- Publicizing the potential road closures in Darrington for access to the Green Giant Buttress
- Trail improvements at Little Si, Tieton River, Exit 38, Smith Rock, and pit toilets at many of these locations.

Nationally the AF does even more. Perhaps even more important than the money the Access Fund would get is the addition of local climbers to the Access Fund roster - added numbers of members means the Access Fund can better negotiate with the land managers and politicians.

Thanks for your consideration.

-- Douglas Grose

2001 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Class

The Intermediate Climbing Class is currently being organized for the 2001 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 Climbing 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 Brian Tryba or Mike Bingle for further class details, specific dates, and a course application and information packet. February 25th is the last date to request information packets, and completed applications are due no later than March 3rd.

Brian Tryba
425-255-5365
rockmobster@hotmail.com

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

2001 BOEALPS Intermediate Climbing Course

Class Schedule

March 19 March 24-25	6:30 – 9:00 pm All weekend	Orientation and Basic Skills (Oxbow Rec. Center) Fundamentals at Horsethief Butte
April 2 April 7-8	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Snow and Winter Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Snow Outing
April 16 April 21-22	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Rescue (Oxbow Rec. Center) Rescue Techniques and Scenarios at Leavenworth, WA
April 30 May 5-6	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Leading Rock (Oxbow Rec. Center) Rock Climbing at Smith Rocks State Park, OR
May 14 May 19-20	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Advanced Rock Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Multi-Pitch Leading at Squamish, BC
June 4 June 9-10	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Alpine Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Alpine Experience Climb #1
June 18 June 23-24	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Safe Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Alpine Experience Climb #2
July 9 July 14-15	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Group Dynamics/Leadership (Oxbow Rec. Center) Alpine Experience Climb #3
July 23 July 28/29	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Ice Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Ice Climbing Practical
August 6 August 11-12	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Expedition Climbing (Oxbow Rec. Center) Alpine Experience Climb #4
August 20 August 25-26	6:30 – 9:00 pm All Weekend	Student Presentations (Oxbow Rec. Center) Student Selected Graduation Climb
September 10	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Class Wrap Up/ Evaluations (Oxbow Rec. Center)

2001 BOEALPS BASIC CLIMBING CLASS

The Boealps Basic Climbing Class will be held March 7 to June 13. Orientation will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7:00 pm at the Oxbow Recreation Center, Room 201. The class consists of Wednesday night lectures combined with weekend outings. This year's class will be run by Rich Privett. 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 CLIMBING CLASS INSTRUCTORS

Everyone who instructed last year should have received a commitment form by mid-January. If you did not receive a commitment form and would still like to instruct, please contact Rich Privett to have one sent to you.

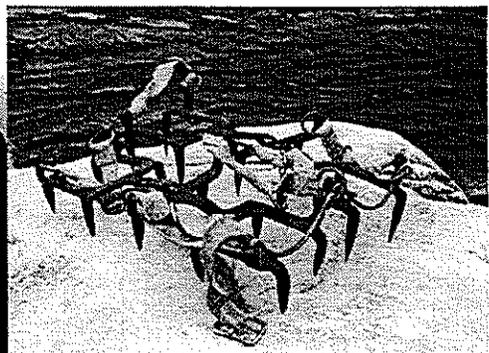
If you can not instruct this year, but would like to help with other tasks that make the class run smoothly, please contact Rich at (206) 662-1520.

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

Used Climbing Gear & Equipment Sale

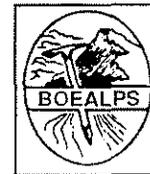
March 14 at 6:30 pm. Customer Service Center Cafeteria, Building 11-14

This is an opportunity for you to shed excess gear, clothes, boots, and equipment and make the Basic Class experience for someone a little cheaper. They need to learn as soon as possible that climbing and cheap are nearly synonymous. You will be responsible for pricing your own items, accepting payment and removing any unsold merchandise at the end of the evening. Any gear that is abandoned will be given a new home with the Basic Class.





Boeing Employees Alpine Society



2001 Basic Mountaineering Course

Orientation & Registration

Monday, February 26, 7:00 PM
Oxbow Recreation Center
9-150 Building Room 201

Class Meetings

Wednesday Evenings
Plus
Weekend Outings
March 7 through June 13

- **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:

Joyce Holloway (425) 477-4393
Dave Hamilton (206) 297-7353

Prashantha Bhat (425) 294-6792
Matt Robertson (425) 957-5691

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society (Boealps) also offers an **Intermediate Climbing Course**. For more information on this course contact Brian Tryba at (425) 255-5365.

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Climb to Fight Breast Cancer

Dear friends and fellow climbers:

We hope to interest you in the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Climb to Fight Breast Cancer event. We are excited to offer three choices for the year 2001: Mt. Adams, Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier (Emmons Glacier). The fundraising minimums for the climbs are as follows: Mt. Adams, \$2,500; Mt. Baker, \$2,500; Mt. Rainier, \$4,000.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in Seattle today. It will affect one in eight women in the United States in their lifetime and it will take the lives of 44,300 women across the globe this year. Breast cancer also affects men, in smaller numbers, and greatly affects the lives of family members and friends of those diagnosed. The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is on the forefront of breast cancer research, with numerous breast cancer research projects ranging from genetic mapping in the Basic Sciences and Molecular Medicine Division, to dozens of trials within the Public Health Sciences Division that examine such issues as risk factors, life-style choices, and prevention.

We hope you will join us this summer for an adventure up one of Washington's most prestigious peaks!

For detailed information, please join us at our Informational Meeting on Thursday, February 22nd, or call Tori Griffith at (206)667-5096.

Informational Climber's Meeting: @ FHCRC
1100 Fairview Avenue N. - Day Campus
Weintraub Building, Pelton Auditorium
Time: 6:30-8:30pm
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2001

Mandatory Registered Climber's Meeting:
Same Location
Time: 9:00am-1:00pm
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2001

Girls Rock!

Girls Rock! is a mentoring program for girls ages 11-14. This particular mentoring program will be held on Tuesdays, from 4-7 pm at the Vertical World gym in Redmond. The program will start on April 10 and will end June 23. June 23 will be an outdoor day for the mentors and girls at Vantage (Frenchman Coulee). The program consists of 2 mentor training days to prepare the mentors for the job prior to meeting with the girls, then one day of a ropes course to get everybody together. The mentoring session itself will then run for 8 weeks. We will finish the course with a graduation ceremony, and then spend a day at Vantage.

The program will consist of 10 mentors and 10 girls. We start each session with a half-hour mentor meeting to talk about the previous session and go over what should be covered that evening. The girls will arrive at the gym at 4:30 at which time we will do some group discussions and activities and then the girls and their mentors will climb in the gym in a one on one situation. At the end of the evening, we gather together again as a group, go over what we've done, and say our good-byes until the next week. The program is aimed not only at teaching the girls how to climb, but to instill positive personal qualities, such as how to challenge themselves, how to trust others, how to develop good communication skills, and to learn how to develop a relationship with an adult when the going gets tough for them. Girls Rock! is a program of a non-profit organization called Passages Northwest. (There's more information about this organization at <http://www.passagesnw.org>.) In return for volunteering, all the mentors will receive a full membership to both the Seattle and Redmond Vertical World gyms for the duration of the course. If you would be interested in volunteering for this program, or have any questions about the program or the organization that sponsors it, please feel free to call me at (425)444-5421.

-- Emily Pray

Short Trip Reports

By Steve Fox

2/10/01 Round Mt (USGS Fortson)

Although the weather report wasn't super promising, the skies were clear as our group of 4 met in Arlington. We drove up to Swede Heaven and up road 1890 until snow stopped us just before a bridge (1650'). There were already two cars there and footsteps trudging up the road. Later I found out that was Stefan and Pilar and company, climbing East Higgins. We took the route described by Dallas Kloke in his Winter Climbs book. Walking up road 1890 until it starts downhill at about 1900', we headed north through a small amount of brush to mostly open forest. The ridge becomes more distinct at about 3400'. Here we put on snowshoes, and turned northwest to follow the ridge, avoiding some rocky areas by staying left in one or two places.

The ridge tops out at 4400' at a perfect break spot, with great views of Higgins and Round. Too bad the weather was so perfect, but someone had to be there! A short steep descent put us back on reasonable gradient and we snowshoed to about 4600' or so. A section of slightly exposed rock begged for a short belay, so I pulled out my 60' rope and we easily got around that area. We snowshoed the rest of the way to a nice flat summit area, where we basked in the sun and admired the Olympics, Puget Sound, and thousands of peaks from Canada to Mt Rainier. On descent we boot-axe belayed with a simple bowline-on-a-coil past the one difficult section, then sashayed our way to the car. A spectacular day, perfect weather and great companions made for a 4-star trip!

2/11/01 Mt Defiance

Wow, the incredible weather held out for both days this weekend! So our party of three drove up to the Mason Lake trailhead, only scraping the bottom of the car on the snow a few times. There was only a bit of snow at the trailhead, so we walked up the old road and the Mason Lake trail in boots. Shortly after the trail splits (we took the Mason Creek option), the trail became slippery due to packed ice. But we made it to the boulder field, where the deeper snow dictated snowshoes. We skirted the bottom of the snowfield and then up the far side, which got steep in a few places. Once at Mason Lake the sun was shining and we were in a napping mood. So we lounged and scarfed down some of our lunch.

After a half hour of leisure, we headed up the ridge to Defiance. Somehow we drifted off course, and to get back on the ridge we climbed up some very steep forested slopes. That was difficult due to the soft snow. But once on the ridge it was fairly easy going until we broke out into the open slopes on the high portion of Defiance. By staying just under trees, or walking the ridge, the avalanche hazard was minimized, and we topped out in glorious sunshine and fabulous views. Once again, it was time for a half-hour nap and food frenzy session. How anyone can nap during a food frenzy is difficult to imagine, but we managed.

The descent was more straightforward, since we followed the trail route down the ridge to Mason Lake. Time for a last half-hour nap in the sun before heading down the slippery trail along Mason Creek. All in all, it was another great 4-star trip!

Beckey's Boots

Here's a chance for you to own a pair of Fred Beckey's boots! Size 10 Asolo Plastic boots available from the eternal "Friend of the Club" Fred Beckey - \$250, but negotiable. Contact Len Kannapell at (206)522-7022 or kannapell@yahoo.com

Skiing Accident at Whistler – Two Viewpoints

(Editor's Note: Sharon Sasai was involved in a skiing accident up at Whistler on January 6th. Here are her and Micah Lambeth's accounts of the accident. The skier who hit Sharon was about 13 years old, and was pretty shaken up himself. He did remain at the scene of the accident and talked to the ski patrol when they arrived. He ended up with a sore back and a cut on his nose.)

Sharon Sasai:

Looking at the Polaroid Dr. Wallman, of Whistler ER, took of my gooey red arm mess reminds me of sushi. Although I find nothing appetizing about it, nor does my sushi regularly contain bone. I have to keep reminding myself that it actually is my arm, not something on the television.

After the impact of the skier knocked me to my knees, put my helmet askew and wrenched my neck, I was just curious why my left hand wasn't helping out my right. Looking down at it, I saw a tear in my sleeve and blood, so I quickly moved off trail, covered it with my right hand and waited for the pain to recede so I could make a move. By then Micah and Jeremy had boarded past and noticed I was down.

The whole time we waited for ski patrol, the only thing I could think of was could I ski tomorrow with stitches... I guess not - after surgery I found out the ski cut the muscle where it starts joining with tendon, and both tissues had been severed to my fingers. Also, the two major tendons that control the wrist were cut, so those too needed to be reattached. Thank gosh, he only nicked the bone.

The one memorable thing about this whole incident is how Micah, Jeremy, Mark and Prash helped me keep my cool, Micah freezing his hands off as I bled into his polypro.

Micah Lambeth:

The weekend started out with a confusing drive up to Whistler. Someone flying in from Reno, one person working until late on Friday, and another needing to be back Sunday night meant that we had three different cars for just 5 people. By lunch time on Saturday, everything was straightened out and we were snowboarding in 2 separate groups. Searching out the little bits of untracked snow still left and trying to avoid the icy areas, Sharon Sasai, Jeremy (the guy from out of town), and myself had just finished a run down Ruby Bowl and were expecting a boring traverse back to the lifts. The cat track turned out to be icy, narrow and very fast with many people not skiing carefully enough for the crowded conditions. When I came around a corner I found that Sharon had been involved in a collision with a skier who had run into her and cut the top of her forearm with his ski. Someone else had stopped and called ski patrol with his cell phone, so I spent the next 30-40 minutes holding a shirt on Sharon's arm, waiting for ski patrol to arrive. Eventually they arrived and got Sharon's arm bandaged up. The next few minutes were spent waiting for a sled and trying to warm up. After a fast sled ride down (looked better than a roller coaster) and a long wait, Sharon was treated at the Whistler Health Center and told to go back to Seattle for surgery immediately. The X-rays and close investigation while the doctors were cleaning out the wound showed that all of the muscles and tendons in the top half of her forearm had been severed and there was a slight chip in the bone. We got a couple of pictures in the medical center, one from a distance so as not to be in the doctor's way and the other was taken by the doctor for the surgeon in Seattle. In the picture I took you can see Sharon laughing even though they hadn't given her the heavy medication yet. In the doctor's picture you can actually see the bone that was chipped. Definitely an exciting day, just not the way I had expected.

(Another editor's note: the black and white photos on the next page are fairly graphic. Going through the repro process has probably blurred them enough not to be too upsetting, but if you prefer not to see graphic pictures of injuries, you may want to avoid looking at the next page. On the other hand, if you want to see the original color photos, they'll be up on the Boealps web site!)



Sharon being a good sport, even before the medication had kicked in



Sharon's arm during the cleaning. The white showing through is her bone.

The Continuing Saga of Dan Goering

January 16, 2001 - Namaste from Jaisalmer, India on the edge of the Thar Desert!

Patty and I considered skipping India altogether when getting the visa in Katmandu was expensive and a hassle. Now half way through our month here, I'm glad we came. Our new motto? "India - never a dull moment!" Some moments are very unpleasant but on the whole, this place is amazing! I can tell already the adventure tales from here will take a few pages. But for the moment, I've finished up the Tibet tales so here they are.

=====

Describing Tibet in one word or less, I would have to pick dusty. This is certainly not fair, for the immense 4000 meter plateau nicknamed the "roof of the world" holds stunningly immense valleys of frozen rivers, a hardy and very spiritual Buddhist population adept at adding their unique style and color to the dry stark landscape and a horizon of surreally blue sky punctuated with towering snow peaks. Never the less, your first impression on arriving overland from Nepal will be dust. Walk across the Friendship bridge, under the arch adorned with meter high Chinese characters, show your passport/visa and board one of the U-Haul sized cargo trucks waiting to collect your 300 rupees (around \$4) and haul you the steep 7 km up to the border town of Zhangmu.

Our driver set out over the rough dirt road apparently unconcerned that his human cargo standing in back were being tossed about and frequently launched airborne despite hanging onto the sides and to each other. Forty minutes later, we emerged from the open backed truck covered in a thick layer of brown dust. An immediate battle ensued between aggressive porters eager to grab your bag and backpackers jostling to protect their gear. Al emerged from the truck with a panicked look - his bag was gone! I scanned up and down the road for someone hurrying away with the big black duffel. We began to realize the bag was probably gone. Just then, someone spotted it on the back of one of the porters standing behind the truck and Al managed to reclaim his gear.

The real start to all the border excitement actually begins with changing money while you wait to board your truck. Our Nepali guide briefed us before we left the bus for the walk across the border: the freelance money changers will offer you 8.07 yuan per dollar but if you bargain well, you can get 8.2. The changers count on you being nervous about missing the truck and taking their first offer. Wait a bit and they come up to 8.15. We stayed cool and got 8.2 just before the truck pulled out, but not before two changers got into a fist-fight over something (not us, thank heavens!), knocking over displays of the souvenir stands while we scrambled to get out of the way on the muddy road. It turned bloody when one of them picked up a rock and began trying to bludgeon the other. I held up my pack as a shield, Patty and I completed our transaction with the woman we were dealing with and we escaped into the truck as the fight ended without serious injury.

In Zhangmu, we met our 24-year-old Tibetan guide Jhampa and our driver Nima Tsering. We'd spend the next eight days with them driving the Friendship Highway to Lhasa, including a side trip to north side Everest base camp. Our vehicle was a tan Chinese manufactured Toyota Landcruiser. At least I think it was tan - could have just been a thick layer of dust! The left rear tire was flat, delaying our departure. Before reaching Lhasa, we'd have another flat, lose the clutch, be forced to pry open the locking gas cap cover with a screwdriver and lock the keys in the car. All accompanied by good-natured speculation about what would break next.

The Chinese are a bit preoccupied with control in Tibet. Our tour operator in Nepal had warned us not to talk to any Tibetans or to visit their homes, even if invited. Such visits could result in our

being deported and the Tibetans being punished. We'd even been warned to stay away from Tibetan dogs (They'll bite without warning. CHOMP!). It's also forbidden to bring in photos of the Dalai Lama. Apply for a Chinese visa in Nepal and state that your destination is Tibet and you will be denied. The only officially legal way to visit is on a packaged tour with a special permit that allows just a short stay in limited areas. These rules don't deter most travelers. Just follow the warning in all the guidebooks to studiously avoid any mention of Tibet (state any other destination in China) and you'll have your unrestricted visa in three days! Then hire a tour company to put together a "package" for you. They'll take care of your special permit to enter from Nepal and once in Lhasa, you're free to stay for the 30 days your visa is valid. Since the four of us could fill one jeep, we were able to set up our own custom itinerary taking eight days for the drive instead of the usual five. We'd been told we couldn't vary from our pre-approved itinerary. We'd also been told not to discuss the itinerary with any Chinese, presumably because parts of it were not strictly legal.

We awoke our first morning in the town of Nyalamu. We were to be ready to roll by 9am and 8:30 am found us lounging awake in bed, reluctant to leave the warm covers for the cold room. Someone knocked and Jhampa peered in with an amazed look on his face. Turns out we'd missed resetting our watches. Tibet is on the same time as Beijing despite being at almost the same longitude as Katmandu. It was actually nearly 10:45 am! (Don't know why they dislike whole hour increments between time zones in this part of the world.) The odd time zone means the sun doesn't rise until around 8:30 am and sets around 8 pm. Locals seem to just get up with the sun, probably as they've always done. 15 minutes later, we hit the road, wondering why Jhampa had waited so long to knock. Later experience makes me suspect he'd just gotten up himself.

Most of the Friendship Highway wouldn't qualify as such by first world standards. Imagine the roughest dirt road you know near your house, double the number of ruts and potholes, and throw in plenty of steep drop-offs to frozen rivers far below. Most of the Friendship Highway is worse than that. There are a few paved sections, but generally only near major towns and the scattered Chinese army outposts. The road would be impassable after a heavy rain but most of Tibet is an arid high altitude desert and what little precipitation falls most often appears as snow. December is cold but clear. Walking in the sun can be quite warm and pleasant but puddles in the shade stay frozen and rural kids glide across the bigger ones on small ice sleds made from scrap wood and two lengths of #9 wire stretched around the bottom to serve as runners. They push themselves along with two small ice picks also fashioned out of wire.

A typical day's driving started with us loading the jeep at our 9 or 10 am departure time. An hour later, Jhampa would appear and we'd drive off to fill with gas. Finally we'd actually start for our next destination. Within a short time, Jhampa would nod off in the front seat and display an amazing capacity to sleep as his unsupported head bobbed about every which way on a road so rough we couldn't drink out of our wide mouth water bottles while underway. Turns out we'd been assigned a nocturnal guide! Drinking, gambling and consorting all night with his girlfriends in each stop along the way, he'd finally sleep around 6 am and not wake up until our agreed-on departure time. Initially, we'd bother to wake him for questions about what we were seeing along the road but quickly found he knew very little and was not creative enough to at least make up interesting answers.

On the road, dust permeates everything. The bigger ruts launch you and your gear in the back airborne as you bump along a strip of dirt bulldozed across some pretty rugged country. The Chinese drive on the right. Our driver Nima preferred driving on the left, the Nepali norm we had become accustomed to over the previous weeks. He also liked to drive fast but seemed quite competent, though he apparently enjoyed playing chicken with oncoming horse or tractor-drawn carts, swerving to the right at the last moment to avoid them by the narrowest of margins. Fortunately, he gave a bit more respect to the big blue Dong-Feng trucks plying the roads loaded

beyond reason with rolls of Chinese carpets headed for Nepal and India. Even more fortunately, HE did his sleeping at night!

Guest houses in the villages and towns outside Lhasa are like ice-boxes: unheated rooms with concrete floors, two or more rough-made beds topped with a foam mattress and one or perhaps two thick, dusty cotton batting comforters, and a colorful Tibetan table or two painted in bright greens, reds and yellows with at least one pink flower blossom per side. A bed costs from 20 to 40 yuan and includes unlimited hot water supplied in big floral painted thermoses.

Al, Patty and I were all suffering colds when we departed Kathmandu and still had them two weeks later when we returned. The continual cold, high altitude and dust were too much for our weakened bodies to recover. As such, I was really looking forward on day two to our stop at the Tsamda hot springs. I'd feel really warm for the first time in days and the hot water would be good for my sinuses.

The road to Tsamda took us over a 5050 m pass and offered views of Xhi Xhi Pangma as well as our first glimpse of Everest. The hot springs were in the courtyard of a concrete building just off the highway. The pools steamed and bubbled, looking plenty warm. Unfortunately the residents of the house used the water to wash clothes and dishes as well as themselves, giving the water a soap and grease sheen in which floated a few bits of pasta and a couple of empty beer cans. Patty and Kathy decided to forego the bath. Al and I wavered, concerned with the hygiene risk and not keen on paying 10 yuan to boot. Finally, the proprietors offered to clean up a bit and we along with a couple passing truck drivers slipped into the water as a small crowd of locals watched. Nice sandy bottom, perfect temperature and we were finally able to scrub off the thick layer of dust we'd been accumulating! I emerged light-headed and weak-kneed (we were after all above 4000 m elevation) and very relaxed. Locals told us Al and I were the first tourists they could remember entering these springs!

We stayed put just down the road in Dingre the next day to acclimate before heading to Everest base camp. The town is nothing more than a couple hundred meters of houses and stores lining the highway. Traffic (but for the occasional ceaselessly honking tourist jeep) consists mainly of two wheel wooden carts pulled by the small, very fuzzy Tibetan horses. Most sport a small pair of bright red or yellow triangular flags fluttering from 10 cm masts attached to their harness and a bell or two around their neck. The men driving them are equally colorful: long black hair braided with red tassels and then looped over the top of their head. Heavy sheepskin coats with the fur on the inside and buttoned at the shoulder keep them warm, as do the large sporty hats of fox fur with red and gold fabric. Women wear full length wool skirts, heavy wool blouses and colorful waist sashes held at the front with giant embossed silver buckles that would make any rodeo champ jealous. I found them to be a handsome people, their deep tanned faces featuring flat noses, high cheekbones rosy from sun and wind exposure and open, deep brown eyes full of curiosity and not afraid to look you over. Their demeanor exudes a calm strength and confidence and most are quick to smile.

I wasn't so impressed with their treatment of animals. I saw an older man in Dingre pick up a large stone and throw it with force into the ribs of a dog sleeping in the road. A small boy in front of our room took great delight in bombarding a grazing cow with the biggest rocks he could manage. Later that day, we found ourselves surrounded by small children in the town of Gonphuk arriving after a long walk across seemingly limitless plateau. They were all screaming "Hello! Money!" and grabbing at our pockets and fanny packs. They'd been at it for 15 minutes now and were following us back out of town as we tried to make our escape. I was joking with them - anything to distract them onto another theme. Without thinking, I stooped to pick up a rock so I could jokingly put it in the yak dung collection basket of the nearest little boy. The kids scattered as I reached for the rock and I realized that I'd unwittingly just spoken part of the local language.

The road to Everest base camp leads over a 4800 meter pass before snaking its way back down into our lunch stop at Tashi Zong - a remote but rather large town beautifully situated at the junction of two large valleys. The immensity of these huge U-shaped glacial carved valleys made our jeep on its ribbon of dirt seem tiny and out of place. The Chinese constructed the road in 1960 to facilitate their attempt to be the first to summit Everest from the north side.

Our lunch of rice and vegetables at the guesthouses was typical. Other local standards are fried rice or noodles, steamed mo-mos or Thukpa - a hearty noodle and vegetable soup. The price includes an endless cup of jasmine tea, a pinch of loose leaves dropped into a short glass and topped off with hot water from a big floral thermos every time you empty it. Occasionally, we were also served rich salty butter tea - tasty in small doses! At this stop, we discovered another Tibetan delicacy: frozen raw sheeps liver. Jhampa and Nima Tsering cut off hunks and stuffed them into their mouths but didn't offer us any. We weren't disappointed.

We pulled into the Rhongbuk Monastery just as the sun faded over the huge north face of Everest a mere couple hours hike away. After her Dhaulagiri experience, Patty was worried about having trouble acclimating in Tibet but here we were at over 4900 m and she felt fine despite her lingering cold. The night was quite chilly and we waited until after sunrise the next morning to walk up to base camp proper, accompanied by the friendly monastery dogs we christened Sam and Petunia. A cluster of abandoned monastery buildings and stupas along the way attracted our attention and we paused for a bit of poking around. The Chinese after their 1959 invasion destroyed many monasteries dotting the plateau. Some of the bigger more impressive ones were declared cultural heritage sites and preserved for tourists.

Our schedule required us to drive back out to the Friendship Highway that afternoon, but Jhampa had told us not to hurry on our walk. However when we reached base camp, Nima Tsering was waiting for us with the jeep and eager to leave. We stalled him one more hour for the chance to hike up to the edge of the glacier but the Everest views from there were really no better than from the monastery. I would have enjoyed more time to look around and perhaps walk out onto the glacier.

On the way out, we lost the clutch. It had acted up just before arriving at Rhongbuk, but Nima Tsering had declared it fixed the next morning. Now, the only way to proceed was to turn the motor off and restart it with the car in low gear. The battery and starter were strong enough to get the motor going but only on nearly level or downhill terrain. Those of you who have tried it will know that you can then shift a manual transmission up without using the clutch but most certainly not back down. We made it through the level valley bottoms back to Tashi Zong where Nima purchased a bottle of 45 proof Chinese grain alcohol and dumped some into the clutch fluid reservoir. This didn't seem to do much. We still had the long switchbacked climb up and over the pass before we could regain the Friendship Highway.

Nima didn't like to drive in low gear. We'd make a lurching in-gear start and then he would soon shift into 2nd and then 3rd. Slowing for the switchback curves, the motor would struggle in this higher gear and on the steep grade as we urged it on. Finally, we hit a curve that was too much and the motor died. Nima dumped some more alcohol into the clutch fluid reservoir but couldn't shift into gear with the motor running. The road was too steep for an in-gear start and Nima was forced to roll back down to a more level section. Underway again, we urged him to just stay in low gear but were blithely ignored. Jhampa began nipping at the remaining alcohol. Nearing the pass, we overtook one of the big blue Dong-Feng trucks. The distance between the tires on this big truck and the edge of the road was sufficiently small to convince me that the people riding in back on top of the huge load of firewood, furniture, carpets, farm implements and who-knows what else were the smart ones. They'd at least have a chance to jump clear if a wheel strayed over the edge

and the truck began rolling over and over and over and over again down the steep slope before stopping WAY down below. Passing this truck was out of the question and Nima was forced to brake. The motor died. We were stuck.

The rest of the alcohol went into the clutch fluid but to no avail. Nima made many valiant efforts at an in-gear start but the road was too steep, even with all of us out of the jeep and pushing. The Dong-Feng had meanwhile rumbled slowly on out of sight (in LOW gear). We hadn't passed a level section of road for some time. The clutch trouble had slowed us and the late afternoon sun was sinking very low. I began eyeing the terrain for where we might be able to pitch the tents.

With no other choice, Nima began rolling back down the hill. Up to this point in the trip, I'd always been careful to lock my door so I wouldn't accidentally be bounced out of the jeep. Now, we all made sure our doors were unlocked and kept a hand on the latch so we might escape if we backed over the edge. All necks craned backwards as we tensely followed Nima backwards maneuvering down the steep narrow road, switchback after switchback until he found one that was wide enough to offer a tiny level section. Shift into first. Turn the key. The jeep lurched forward and we all cheered as the engine suddenly caught. Back up the hill we went, all of us chanting at Nima "LOW GEAR! DON'T SHIFT! LOW GEAR!". Jhampa had waited up the hill and had to climb back in on the fly. Miraculously, Nima didn't try to shift again and we soon made it over the crucial pass. From here, it was all down hill back to the highway, which was really no better than the base camp road but at least offered flat tent terrain and many more towns. We reached the highway just before dark. The Dong-Feng trucks seem to be nocturnal and our encounters with them quadrupled in number during the rest of our long, exciting, clutchless, moonlight ride onto Lhatse. Nima gave a cheer of relief as we parked at the hotel. He'd done a great job.

Two more days driving including stops at the impressive monasteries in Sakya and Gyantse brought us to Lhasa and we gladly climbed out of the Landcruiser after eight days of rough riding. The bargain rooms at our hotel were again unheated and I was very run down and struggling to stay warm. Fortunately, Al and Kathy located a much nicer room with heat in a hotel undergoing some major renovation and we were able to significantly upgrade our accommodations for the same price.

Lhasa did not impress me. It didn't help that I spent several days just resting in the room with the heat full on, but the Chinese seem to have blunted much of Lhasa's fabled magic. Potala Palace still towers impressively over the city and the town is full of visiting Tibetan who parade continually from before dawn to after dusk around the palace circuit, some fully prostrating themselves at each step and others twirling prayer wheels. But most of the storefronts now carry Chinese characters above the doors and enough Chinese have been encouraged to settle here that the Tibetans in Lhasa are a minority. One find in the market was a big string of bright brass jingle bells. I'd always secretly wanted my own string after Christmas caroling in Colorado with the Farnsworth family. Barb owned a big leather strap with numerous bells attached and the sound was wonderful as she'd jump up and down out front of our chosen house making a cheery racket, drawing the occupants to their porch before we broke into song. Kathy Hasagawa and I bought two strings to be divided later and their jingle helped put us all in the Christmas spirit. Seattle better look out for Christmas 2001!

My most memorable part of our trip was witnessing a sky burial - the Tibetan's unique practice of feeding their dead to the vultures. We left Lhasa early one morning for the five-hour drive to the Drigung Monastery where burial ceremonies take place. Our plan to first visit the nearby Tendrom nunnery and the nearby hot springs was aborted when our jeep broke through thin ice over the road and bogged down. Ninety minutes later, our driver managed to extract us and declared the road impassable. We would have to settle for spending the afternoon and next day at Drigung.

Not long after sunrise in early morning chill, we left the guestroom at the monastery and hiked the short path to the burial site. Arriving at 9 am, we sat down to wait on a small rise just outside the iron fence surrounding the burial area. A ring of dark rounded stones surrounded by rough flag stones lay inside the fence below. Beside the ring were a cluster of low whitewashed stone buildings and a small stupa (stone Buddhist shrine with a rounded top). Vultures, perhaps 60 or more, were already waiting on the slope outside the fence with new arrivals occasionally soaring gracefully over before dropping to the ground amidst much flapping and an awkward series of hops.

The "old boys club" of eight or so birds perched on the ground inside the fence were harassed by a shiny black raven. We'd been told the ceremony would begin at 9 am but at nearly 10 am, no one was there but the young monk who emerged from another stone building behind us and circled a larger stupa three times, fully prostrating himself at each step. Small doubts as to whether there would be a ceremony crept in but we took the presence of the vultures as a favorable sign. They hadn't been there the previous evening when Al and Kathy hiked up to have a look around.

Around 10:30 am, men from the monastery opened the gate and people began to arrive. Bags of juniper branches were carried in and a fire started in the large meter diameter crucible adjacent to the burial ring billowed pure white smoke. A monk waved his arm at us. Were we being asked to leave? We looked uncertainly at each other and he waved again, apparently inviting us to come down inside the fence. We would get a very close view of what was to come.

Standing against the white stone building, I tried to avoid getting in anyone's way and couldn't help coughing when the thick white juniper smoke enveloped us. Over the rhythmic metallic hiss of a young monk sharpening a machete-like knife against a whetstone a few feet away, the faint drone of a tractor motor became audible. My feelings of excitement and curiosity mixed with apprehension grew along with the approaching sound of the tractor, surely bringing the bodies up from the monastery. The monk beside me finished his sharpening and laid the knife down next to a metal shaft ending in a sharp pointed hook. The vultures on the hill above began short transfer flights, swooping low overhead before banking sharply to drop among the growing crowd of birds inside the fence.

I'd only seen three dead bodies to this point in my life. Both my grandparents on my mom's side had been old when they died and viewing the preserved and made-over bodies wasn't really a shock. My grandmother had been in poor health for years and the change in appearance from life to death had not been extreme. Grandpa was healthy until his end by pneumonia and looked as dapper as ever in the casket, though I knew the usual twinkle in his eyes was missing beneath the closed lids. My friend John McCown was different. For some reason, shortly after his 30th birthday, he'd taken his life with his .44 caliber pistol. The morticians must have put in long hours making his body presentable for the open casket. John looked like a bad wax dummy. Artificial. Creepy. It was very disturbing, especially given the open, hovering question of why he'd done it. I'd soon be seeing bodies in their natural state after their perhaps several days journey to the monastery. I'd see them eaten by the waiting vultures. Would they be old? Children? I wasn't sure what to expect. At least they would be strangers.

The tractor motor cut off and three bodies wrapped in strips of white cloth were carried into the dark stone ring. Two old men began chanting from their seat below the small stupa. One was dressed in maroon robes and a fantastic tall hat swept forward to a point like half a crescent moon emerging from his head. With no other ceremony, three monks picked up their knives and metal hooks and stepped into the circle, each efficiently cutting away the cloth from the bodies. Freed of the carrying poles to which they were bound, the dead were dumped sprawling onto the stones. All three had lived to old age. Any remaining clothing was tugged or cut off and the monks set

about filleting the flesh from the bones, using the hooks to pull up the flaccid yellowing skin before slicing off slabs of flesh.

To the side, ten or so locals or perhaps relatives kept the mass of waiting vultures at bay, herding them gently with long sticks. A few eager birds slipped through and ran into the circle only to be shooed back by the patient monks. One monk put down his tools briefly to pick up a particularly persistent bird and carry him back out of the ring. At 11:30, the vultures could wait no more and rushed the circle, 80 to 100 of the brown and white flecked giants covering the bodies as the monks waded out. The birds chattered and hopped about, gulping down gobs of flesh. An arm stripped of flesh but for the hand was dragged outside the circle by a cluster of competing birds until a monk retrieved it and returned it to the ring.

25 minutes later, the vulture crowd thinned and the monks shooed off the rest to reveal nothing but bones. One red flecked skeleton was still intact from skull to feet - a testimony to the strength and durability of the tendons that hold us together. To dispose of the bones, one monk began cutting the skeletons apart while the other two laboriously mashed them into a paste with stone hammers. The resulting paste is then thrown back into the ring for the vultures to finish off. Around the circle, families stood chatting while little boys played, chasing about a few unlucky vultures. It seemed like the same behavior that occurs during visitations back home, but for setting. The thud thud of the pounding hammers continued as a late arrival body was deposited in the ring and the process began again, this time the vultures barely waiting for the monks to start cutting before they rushed in.

For me, the macabre process cemented in my mind that the body after death is just a shell of flesh, no different than the flesh of any other animal. It is the life inside which makes it special and sacred, that makes someone who they are. This life is transitory and pumping a body full of preservatives and sealing it in a casket doesn't change that. Our society might be shocked by the rough treatment these bodies received as they were dumped from their carrying pallets into the circle - face up or face down irrelevant. No gentle, reverent placement. But gentle treatment would seem silly here given that the bodies are hacked to bits just after. More impressionable to me was the gentle treatment with which the vultures were treated. No frustration or anger when they rushed in prematurely, just acceptance. The birds just follow their nature. Tibetan Buddhists revere life and it seems clear to me that the sky burial displayed their priorities.

Also impressionable to me was the absence of wailing or crying and that there was no resentment of our presence. Everyone there smiled at us as they passed. Despite some initial misgivings about attending, I felt welcome and comfortable at the ceremony.

The other incredible opportunity offered by a sky burial is the chance to observe these large birds from less than a meter away. I've always been a bit fascinated with flight and like watching large birds but generally they are shy and I've always had to watch from some distance. From up close, you can really see the details of their yellow-scaled feet, each of the four toes ending in a talon. Their bald heads and necks emerging from a downy ruff of white feathers. The curve of the sharp ivory/bone colored beak and the deep brown color of their alert eyes. Their size also becomes apparent, their wings when extended nearing two meters in span. After the ceremonies were over, I stood watching as one after another took to the air again. Their initial run would turn into a series of awkward foot thrusts to keep them from a belly landing as the great wings flapped wildly to lift their mass. The wild flapping would continue as they just cleared the fence and then suddenly, the ground beyond dropping sharply to the valley below, they transform instantly into graceful soarers, wings arched, circling off into the blue skies of Tibet.

(Editor's note: Many of us were concerned for Dan, Patty and friends when we heard about the large earthquake that hit India on January 26th. I received email from Dan on the 27th assuring us that they're all fine, and that they didn't even feel the quake.)

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DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO

March ECHO staff

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Micah Lambeth, Sharon Sasai

*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!*

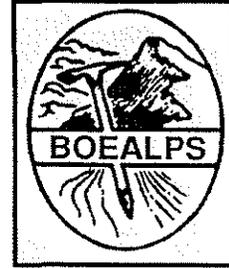


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

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April 2001

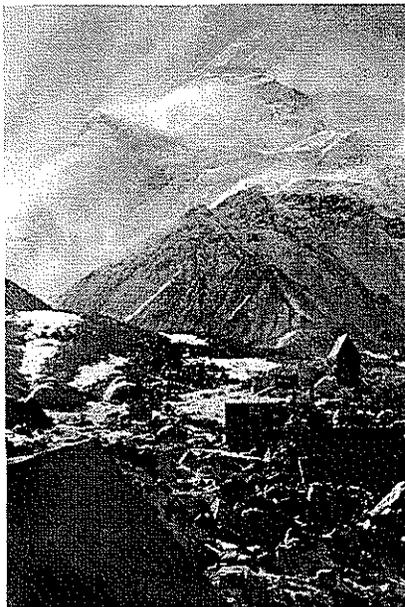


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Photo: "Lobuche Peak, Nepal" by Shawn Paré

From Prash Bhat 6X-ME



Cho Oyu – 8201 meters

April General Meeting

Main Show:

Rich Lechleitner will present a slide show on his successful climb of Cho Oyu during the Spring of 2000

Thursday, April 5th

Oxbow Recreation Center

Social half hour starts at 7:00 pm

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm

BELAY STANCE

BoBaby Edgar...

Congratulations to Steve and Nancy Edgar on the birth of their son, Maxwell Robert Edgar! Max was born on February 10th (what a wonderful Valentine's Day present!), and weighed in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. I hope we'll all get to meet him at one of the Boealps activities or BoBaby outings soon!



Climbing Classes...

The BCC and the ICC for 2001 are both off and running. We had a total of 62 students register for the Basic Climbing Class, and 14 register for the Intermediate Class. The Basic students have already made it through the Mt. Erie outing, with not a single one getting lost on the compass course! They're setting a high standard for those ICC students to match! We'll try and get regular class updates posted here so everyone can follow the progress of the students, and we'll start a class photo section on the Boealps web site - we collected pictures from the students last year and posted them to the web and it was a big hit. Not only did the other club members get to see some of what was happening during the classes, but it made it easier for the students to share their pictures with each other. Check the Boealps web site later this month for those...

Opportunity to meet new people, and help the club...

BOEALPS is required to keep the ratio of Boeing employee to non-Boeing employee members at 9:1. We are having a lot of trouble keeping enough Boeing employees in the Club, to let in all the non-Boeing employees who want to join. The Employees' Community Fund has provided us with an opportunity to bump up our number of Boeing members. The Employees' Community Fund is putting on a fair (music and games) May 2nd and 4th in Everett. They are giving clubs the chance to set up display tables. This is a good opportunity for us to find a few new members. The fairs will be given May 2nd first shift from 10:30am to noon and second shift from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the 40-26 and 40-21 buildings. On May 4th the fair will be repeated in the 40-56 building at the same times. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dan Costello (425-342-0477 / daniel.m.costello@boeing.com)

New Column...

Victor Yagi has suggested that maybe the Echo could use a book review column each month. He's also sent in the first review to get things rolling. Anyone else out there read anything outdoors related they'd like to recommend and write up? Send it my way!

Olympic Beach Clean Up...

Last year 17 tons of debris was removed from the Olympic beaches during their spring cleanup. It was so successful that it is being sponsored again this year, with an emphasis on some of the more remote beaches, many of which will require an overnight backpack to reach. There's more info later in this issue, but if you're interested in volunteering for this wonderful community program, contact Jan Klippert at (206)364-2689 or jpklippert@aol.com

Boealps Web Site...

It's still located at <http://www.boealps.org> - the password (needed for activities and the member's roster sections) is SLESSE...

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

May Echo deadline is April 19th

April, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Begins BCC @ Stevens Pass	2 ICC lecture	3 MOFA Refresher @ Camp Long	4 BCC lecture	5 General Club Meeting; MOFA Refresher @ Camp Long	6	7 BCC@Snoqualmie Pass; ICC Snow Outing
8 Full Moon BCC@Snoqualmie Pass; ICC Snow Outing	9	10	11 BCC lecture	12	13	14
15 Easter Sunday	16 ICC lecture	17	18 BCC lecture	19 Echo Deadline	20 Skiing @ Stevens Pass	21 BCC@ Devil's Basin; ICC High Angle Rescue Outing
22 BCC@ Devil's Basin; ICC High Angle Rescue Outing	23 New Moon	24	25 BCC lecture	26	27	28 BCC@ Devil's Peak
29 BCC@ Devil's Peak	30 ICC lecture					

May, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 May Day	2 BCC lecture	3 General Club Meeting;	4	5 BCC @ Leavenworth; ICC @ Smith Rock
6 BCC @ Leavenworth; ICC @ Smith Rock	7	8	9 BCC lecture	10	11	12 BCC @ Tatoosh
13 BCC @ Tatoosh	14 ICC lecture	15	16 BCC crevasse rescue practice	17	18	19 BCC@ Nisqually Glacier; ICC @ Squamish
20 BCC@ Nisqually Glacier; ICC @ Squamish	21	22	23 BCC lecture	24 Echo Deadline	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30 BCC lecture	31		

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to:

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Hey folks, now's the time to start thinking about a trip you might like to lead for the upcoming summer. Whether for the more experienced or for the BCC grads, the fair weather is approaching.



Book Reviews

-- Review by Victor Yagi

"A Sand County Almanac", by Aldo Leopold

A Sand County Almanac is a conservation classic and should be required reading for anyone who values conservation and especially by those who do not. It is not only a conservation classic; it ranks high in literary merit. Leopold paints a vivid picture of the natural world and man's place in it. The forward of the book draws you in and won't let go. He starts with; "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot." The book starts by describing the changing seasons at his family's sand farm beside the Wisconsin River, then he takes you on a 40 year journey around the country describing the landscape and man's interaction with the environment. The last section of the book lays out his land ethic philosophy and challenges the reader to confront their own view of the world. The forward to the book concludes eloquently by offering a framework to view the world in a different light. He writes:

"These essays attempt to weld these three concepts. Such a view of land and people is, of course, subject to the blurs and distortions of personal experience and personal bias. But wherever the truth may lie, this much is crystal clear: our bigger -and-better society is like a hypochondriac, so obsessed with its own economic health as to have lost the capacity to remain healthy. The whole world is so greedy for more bathtubs that it has lost the stability necessary to build them, or even turn off the tap. Nothing could be more salutary at this stage than a little healthy contempt for material blessings.

Perhaps such a shift of values can be achieved by reappraising things unnatural, tame, and confined in terms of things natural, wild, and free."

These words, published 1949, are only more relevant today. Pick up "A Sand County Almanac", because it is required reading.

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) was a forest ranger, professor, writer, conservationist, and spokesman. In 1921 he convinced the Forest Service to protect 500,000 acres of New Mexico's Gila National Forest as the nation's first officially designated wilderness area. In 1935, he and seven others founded the Wilderness Society.

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

April General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on March 1st, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, followed by the main presentation.

Main Show: Rich Lechleitner and Cho Oyu

From April 23 through May 29, 2000 Rich Lechleitner joined an expedition to Cho Oyu (8,201 m; 26,906 feet). Rich was part of a seven member team organized by Jagged Globe, a British Company that has guided several expeditions to Cho Oyu. The team left Kathamndu on April 25, 2000 and spent four days driving to "Chinese Base Camp", the end of the road at 15,000 feet. After two days of rest at Chinese Base Camp the team continued onto Advanced Base Camp (18,000 feet). They spent 25 days at or above ABC during the expedition and utilized three camps on the upper mountain. After a successful summit, they returned to Kathmandu on May 29. Rich will show slides and discuss his trip on April 5, 2001.

Rich is in charge of backcountry human waste management at Mountain Rainier National Park. He enjoys telemark skiing and has done several trips with our own Rob Kunz. Rich has made seven trips to Nepal, climbing several trekking peaks.

Upcoming Programs:

Jeff Smoot will be the main presenter at our May General meeting. Jeff has a new guidebook coming out this spring on climbing some of Washington's finest peaks by moderate routes, and will no doubt focus his presentation around that.

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Crevasse Rescue Refresher – Nisqually Glacier

Saturday, May 20th

Whether you just took the Basic Class last year but have short term memory loss or you do a lot of head scratching ("Well, I think you're supposed to...uh..."), this seminar is for you. We'll review the basics of crevasse rescue, assuming three on a rope with one victim. Everyone will get a chance to practice setting up a z-pulley and prussik up the rope. We'll try to make this as real as possible, but the emphasis will be on safety.

We'll meet at the Paradise Ranger Station at 7 am. Be ready to go at 7 am, as the Basic Class will be out there the same day and we'll out hustle them to get the "best" crevasses.

Equipment required: (standard glacier gear):

- Ice axe
- Harness w/2 locking biners
- Helmet
- Crampons
- Picket (if you have one)
- Prussiks
- 2 single slings w/one biner each
- 2 double slings w/one biner each

I'm going to limit the class size to 12, so contact me soon if you are interested in signing up. Also, contact me if you are interested in instructing – I need at least two more instructors if we have a full load.

Len Kannapell, (206)522-7022(h), kannapell@yahoo.com

March, 2001 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Glen Tomchik, Prash Bhat, Don Fraser, Bill Harrison

A small but well disciplined and tightly knit group of Boealps Board Members tackled several challenging and elusive objectives:

How to maintain member non-member ratios?

What words spoken by our members are appropriate enough to print in a forum that goes through Boeing mail?

How do we get our taxes done?

As we approached the summit on each of these issues we were forced to evaluate whether we were putting our physical and mental health at risk to blindly pursue an objective, and decided it was best to retreat at this time and attempt it another day, with more meticulous planning and greater support.

Other news?

Basic Class sign-ups are close to maximum. Nice job Rich, now the fun begins.

Ice Seminar on February 17 exceeded expectations. Got 11 students and had good ice conditions, particularly on Sunday. A true blast, and enthusiasm seems to be growing within the club for the waterfall ice/glacier ice seminars. This rationalizes the Black Diamond Cobra purchase, of course...

Aid seminar on March 3rd was less successful. The lecture for the aid seminar was going to be held at Tom Rogers' house, but it got canceled due to lack of sign-ups. At the Index outing on Saturday, Tom had exactly one student (Dave Hamilton). I think Tom was pretty disappointed. A few comments:

Lectures should be done at the Oxbow or Customer Services Center, whenever possible. People will be more likely to show if the lecture is held as part of a club-sanctioned event than at someone's house.

We need to advertise more. Word of mouth, getting people jazzed up, whatever. But if people don't want to do this seminar, maybe we have our answer already.

We need to set aside specific dates earlier so people can plan on taking the seminar. The earlier people know, the better.

Proposed date for Crevasse Rescue Seminar is Sunday, May 20th

New ice climbing book "West Coast Ice" by Don Serl now available through Library, thanks to Len Kannapell.

Next board meeting location not established yet, but should be on April 12th.

Don Fraser, secretary



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Victor Yagi

Reminder: April 22, is Earth Day

Is the Bush Administration sacrificing the environment and the health of the public for the benefit of industry? You decide.

Bush Administration withdraws EPA standard for lower levels of arsenic in drinking water. The EPA under President Bush is withdrawing the revised standard for cancer-causing arsenic in drinking water. After 25 years of public comment and debate, millions of dollars of research, and several missed statutory deadlines, the EPA, under the Clinton Administration, lowered the standard for arsenic in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 ppb. That would have brought the U.S. standard in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) standard of 10 ppb. WHO states that if based on health effects alone, the standard would be lower. The U.S. standard is five times the current WHO standard. The EPA under the Bush administration has withdrawn the new standard saying that the cost is high and the science flimsy.

Arsenic is one of the most prevalent contaminants of health concern in drinking water, and is present in the tap water of over 26 million Americans. Studies have linked long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water to cancer of the bladder, lungs, skin, kidney, nasal passages, liver, and prostate. Non-cancer effects of ingesting arsenic include cardiovascular, pulmonary, immunological, neurological, and endocrine (e.g., diabetes) effects.

Sources: Seattle Times, CNN, Sierra Club, WHO, National Council on Science and Environment
More Info:

World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact210.html>

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/Arsenic/arsenic.htm

National Council on Science and Environment

<http://cnie.org/NCSEconference/bp/7.htm>

Sierra Club

http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater/waterquality/arsenic_release.asp

The Bush Administration delays implementation of the Roadless Areas Conservation Rule signed into law during the Clinton Administration. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects the last remaining one-third of unspoiled national forest land from commercial logging, road construction and other damaging activities. More than 50 percent of the roughly 190 million acres of national forest land is already open to logging, mining and other extractive industries. The Forest Service issued the rule to protect 58.5 million acres of forestland after a three-year administrative process that involved more than 600 public meetings (including more than 40 in Idaho) and that drew a record-breaking 1.6 million public comments.

Sources: Wilderness Society, US Forest Service

More Info

US Forest Service

<http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>

Wilderness Society

http://www.wilderness.org/standbylands/forests/roadless_area.htm

President Bush backs away from campaign promise to curtail carbon dioxide emissions, two weeks after EPA administrator Christine Todd Whitman assured European environmental leaders, at a meeting in Italy, that the administration would curtail carbon dioxide emissions. Rep. George Miller, a California Democrat who sits on the House Resources Committee, took issue with Bush's explanation. "It is insulting to the American people that President Bush is using the electricity crisis in California as an excuse to allow old, inefficient power plants to continue polluting our air," Miller said in a statement. "It is a strong indication that the Bush administration is kowtowing to the oil and coal industry and is not listening to science or public opinion." Miller noted that

even Bush's treasury secretary, Paul O'Neill, has cited the dangers of global warming. "I find it alarming that rather than listen to his own advisers, the president instead is listening to the lobbyists for the coal and oil industry who seek to continue to contaminate our air," Miller said.

Sources: CNN, Environmental Protection Agency

More Info:

US Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/emissions/national/co2.html>

Center for Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change (disputes global warming)

<http://www.co2science.org/>

Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center

<http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/>

Bush Administration supports drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski introduced a bill which includes a provision to drill in the refuge. Murkowski with the support of President Bush is portraying his plan to drill in the Arctic as a way for the country to gain energy independence. The USGS estimates that ANWR contains less than a six-month supply of oil for America. Murkowski's bill is mainly tax breaks for refinery construction and other industry-friendly activities. California derives only 1 percent of its electricity from oil, yet the California energy crisis is being used to promote the plan.

President Bush's budget contains 1 billion in funding for renewable-energy research, but the funding would come from taxes and fees on Arctic oil leases.

Sources: US Forest Service, US Geological Survey, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club

More Info:

US Forest Service

<http://arctic.fws.gov/refinfo.html>

US Geological Survey

<http://energy.usgs.gov/factsheets/ANWR/ANWR.html>

Wilderness Society

<http://www.wilderness.org/arctic>

Do you care about these issues? Let your voice be heard.

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

President George W. Bush: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice President Dick Cheney: vice.president@whitehouse.gov
Phone: 202-456-1414

Find your legislator's phone numbers and email addresses:

(You can search for your representative by zip code.)

<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/cgi-bin/buildpage.cgi?state=wa>

Find out more about these issues and easy ways to contact your legislators. Visit the Sierra Club take action webpage.

<http://whistler.sierraclub.org:8080/takeaction/index.jsp>

Helping Hands Needed to Clean Up Olympic Beaches

Volunteers will converge on Olympic National Park beaches April 28, 2001, to remove marine debris washed ashore from winter storms. The clean up is energized by a partnership of community service organizations, businesses and government agencies including the Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Volunteers will comb 60 miles of Olympic National Park coast from Shi Shi Beach on the north to south Kalaloch Beach. Marine debris such as bottles, ropes, floats and buoys are to be hauled off the beaches and collected at trailheads or cache sites for later removal. This volunteer effort will help preserve the natural beauty of this unparalleled Washington wilderness resource.

Volunteers are urged to select a beach and register their participation with Jan Klippert, 206-364-2689, jpklippert@aol.com by April 16, 2001. Beaches will be accessed only from Park Service and Tribal trailheads in order to respect the wilderness character of the National Park. Beaches easily accessible by car or short hikes are appropriate for a one-day outing. Some beaches will require a single overnight stay. Remote beaches will require a several day commitment from volunteers with no-trace wilderness backpacking skills.

Emphasis of the 2001 clean up will be on remote, difficult-to-reach wilderness beaches. Because of their remoteness, many of these beaches have never had a thorough beach clean-up before. Hardy wilderness-savvy volunteers are needed. Volunteers will cache debris at sites identified by Olympic National Park staff. ONP staff will manage removal of debris from the cache sites at a later date.

Volunteers will register at one of five ONP field operation sites including the Forks Information Center, Oil City trailhead and ranger stations at Mora, Ozette, and Kalaloch. At these sites volunteers will receive information about the beach they will be working. Volunteers are also being asked to select team members who can collect data on the marine debris that is collected. This information will provide a snapshot record of the coast and help identify sources of the debris. The data will be used for oceanographic research of interest to naturalists and marine scientists from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park.

There will be two orientation sessions for volunteers: Tuesday, 7:00 pm, April 10, 2001 at River Center (new Audubon Center), 2151 Hendrickson Road Sequim, and, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., April 11, 2001 at REI Second floor Meeting Room, 222 Yale North, Seattle.

Volunteers should call Jan Klippert, 206-364-2689, or email jpklippert@aol.com to register or receive additional information about the clean up.

Note: A clean up of the Olympic National Park coast was held April 29, 2000 in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. 360 volunteers collected seventeen tons of debris. ONP staff removed the trash from trailhead and cache sites during the months that followed.



Sea Stacks at Shi Shi Beach

Mt. Rainier, Gibraltar Ledges March 1998

Climbers: Dan Goering, Len Kannapell, Mike Glain, Elaine Worden, Steve Edgar, Mark Hicks, Victor Yagi (Scribe)

Accomplishment or Experience? A Winter Ascent of the Gibraltar Ledges on Mt. Rainier.

Winter had arrived, so it was time to sound the call to a merry band of Boealpers to prepare themselves for a winter ascent of the Gibraltar Ledges on Mount Rainier. Amongst a sea of cubicles, on a desk notable only for its lack of compliance to Boeing 5S standards, sat an accidental weather shrine. Perched atop an orange juice bottle, its label obscured by a lime green "No Hazardous Materials" sticker, sat a cinnamon and raisin bagel. Hole punches scatter around the base of the bottle mocked rice tossed into the wind as a blessing. The winds of good weather were summoned. Now all we could do was hope that the Kannapell convergence zone would be diverted South to California.

"Are you going for the experience or the accomplishment?" our compatriot Len was asked by an inebriated man, as he sat in Talkeetna's Fairweather Inn, waiting to catch a flight to the Kahiltna glacier on Denali. The inebriated man was Keith Nyad who had completed a nine-month crossing of the Brooks Range four years earlier. What prompted this rhetorical outburst is not known, yet the sageness of his words hang like a plaque on the wall. I generally consider myself as someone who climbs more for the experience than the accomplishment. I like to think that my measure of a successful climb is what I have learned or how many memorable moments I collect on the trip - the summit is the icing on the cake. Yet somehow this climb was shaping up differently.

As I organized the trip, my "brilliant" suggestion was that we could use the hut at Camp Muir to save the weight of hauling tents up the Muir snowfield. I was looking for any edge to help make it to the top. I had never stayed in the huts at Camp Muir and although I generally opposed staying in the huts, I proceeded with the plan. Usually I look forward to the opportunity to face the elements and the experience gained with each endeavor. The weekend before, Mike Glain and I hiked up to Camp Muir to check things out and get acclimated to camping in the harsh winter elements. The hut was open, but I wanted to sleep in the tent for the experience. On that trip, I gained confidence that my sleeping bag would keep me warm, that my tent would hold up to the wind, and I learned that my gloves would not keep my fingers warm, even on the hike up to Camp Muir. The weekend stoked my enthusiasm for the climb and eased the doubts of my fitness and preparation for the actual climb. But hiking to Camp Muir is not like kicking steps to the summit.

We had assembled a strong crew assuming that the going could be difficult if we had to break a new trail. That would prove to be a wise decision. As we organized our gear at the parking lot. We made our last check of group gear. "I guess we'll stay in the hut since we didn't bring tents", I said. Mark asked if someone wanted to share the tent he had brought. He remarked, "I'm not staying in no damn hut, that's not why I go climbing". His remark hit home and it caused me to pause. I sometimes bemoan my increasing reliance on gear and technology for my wilderness experiences. The Sourdoughs only had wool to keep them warm on their first ascent of the North summit of Denali in April of 1910. I'd like to think that I could get along without the Dryloft, nylon and Gortex, but I had bought along a down jacket, just in case. Never the less, the stage had been set by leaving the rest of the tents at home. I turned my thoughts to making sure that we had the rest of the gear and got ready for the trudge up to Camp Muir.

The temperature felt pleasantly crisp even with a slight breeze at Paradise. A puffy white blanket hid the upper mountain from view; however there wasn't any problem finding the tracks and wands leading to Camp Muir. As we climbed above Panorama Point the visibility worsened, the wind picked up, and it seemed a lot colder. I was more tired than I hoped I would be. As the wind swirled around us and the weather worsened, I still had a consistent feeling that the climb was going to go - that the weather would clear. I kept thinking back to the weather shrine on my desk.

There was one group in the hut when we arrived, but there was still plenty of space. We dibbed our spots by laying out some of our gear. Mark, Dan, Len, and Steve decided that they were going to build a snow cave instead of staying in the hut. I was surprised to find out that Mark had left the tent behind after he didn't get a definitive response to his query about sharing the tent. No matter what, adding five pounds to your pack isn't an appealing idea. He planned on camping in a snow cave. My confidence in my conditioning had waned and I concerned myself with rehydrating and getting prepared for the early morning wakeup. All the while, four manly men were hard at work excavating a snow cave.

The hardpacked snow made work on the snow cave a slow process. After well over an hour of hard work Steve came by the hut for some water and to check out a space just in case they weren't able to dig a cavern built for four. By now the hut was full of people and fumes from multiple stoves going full blast. We had to shuffle things around to find space for Steve. He went back out to finish working on the cave, but I could tell he was feeling the effects of the hard work. I finally took a water bottle out to the crew and did a token level of work to help out. As I shoveled, I felt the pangs of guilt for not helping sooner. I had focused on getting myself ready first and preserving my strength. I guess I conveniently forgot that we were all in this together as a team. The cave was as big as it was going to get as darkness approached. With space for only three, Steve joined the rest of us in the hut. The wind picked up and the clouds were blowing in and out. During periods of clearing, a stream of clouds could be seen advancing from the west. The weather wasn't looking too promising and thoughts of the recent tragic events on Everest crept from the recesses of my mind. Amidst the din of people talking to pass the time, we heard that the other groups set a 3:00 am departure time. We wanted to get out in front of the crowd and decide to leave at 1:00.

It was an interesting group assembled in the hut. One man had enough gear for an arctic expedition. Amongst his gear was a gourmet meal to warm his insides and a full gortex suit to keep the warmth in. He was well prepared for his trip to Camp Muir - he had no plans to go any higher on the mountain. Without the impending call of an early rise, he found an adversary to debate into the night the superiority of the Marines over the other branches of military service. His enthusiasm and dedication to his credo struck me as comical. He seemed thoroughly entrenched in his view, but I wondered what vestiges of self-doubt he was trying to salve. Every aspect of this large man seemed exaggerated: the excessiveness of his gear, his gestures, and his dogma. The entertainment factor was almost enough to over shadow the inconvenience of being kept awake. But with our objective at hand, it was a sideshow that I could have done without. I learned that it is folly to expect a sound sleep at Camp Muir - no matter what time of year.

Once again, I had the feeling of finally drifting off to sleep, only to be interrupted, as my eyelids were just about to meet. Beep, beep, beep. It was 12:00 am. Not knowing what to expect for weather, a tingle of anticipation raced through me. As I poked my head out of the hut, I was treated to a view of stars shining overhead. Below us was a sea of clouds, but it didn't matter we could see the dark silhouette of the mountain looming above us. We were heading for the top.

We headed up towards the Ledges. The snow turned soft and deep and the cold seemed to slowly leach the strength from my body. I could only manage a short time out front before the heaviness of my legs beckoned me to step aside and let the others make a staircase to follow. I was not the only one feeling the pull of the gravity as others in the group shortened the length of their leads. Only super Mike Glain seemed fresh of legs and he pulled us along in his wake. As we approached the Ledges we picked up the windblown tracks of the groups that passed since the last snowfall. We descended a ramp of snow down to where we traversed the Ledges. Footprints made crossing the Ledges uneventful, but the exposure was a constant reminder to pay attention. Once across the Ledges, we headed up a steep chute towards the slopes leading to the summit.

The wind was blowing steadily and the cold seeped through my jacket and fleece. My face felt the sting of the wind and cold, so I fished a neoprene facemask out of my pack for protection. Fatigue and the effects of altitude were taking their toll. I was tired and a slight chill persisted even while we were moving. The thought of heading down crossed my mind. Just keep going I told myself. At about 13500, Mark and Steve decided to head back down. I thought about joining them, but I decided to go on, although I wondered if I was pushing past my limit.

The remaining group moved slowly, but steadily, on towards the summit. At the rim we dropped our packs and marched to the summit. The wind was blowing consistently above 25 mph. The occasional gusts would make us tip and quickly step to keep from losing balance. We wobbled, but we didn't fall down. We could see a thick sea of clouds below Camp Muir. Would the clouds rise up and engulf us? We didn't stay around long enough to ponder. It was too damn cold! We stayed only long enough to snap a few pictures before heading down. The gusts of wind pushed us as if to hint that we had stayed long enough. I wanted to savor the moment, but a chill and dull headache had me prompting the others with, "Let's get outta here."

We descended quickly and the warmth returned to my body and my headache subsided. It was a fine day to be out in the mountains. We passed some of the people that stayed in the hut. It seemed a bit late and I wondered if they would make it to the top. We moved down the chute we ascended earlier. Again, the exposure was quite noticeable. Once we passed the Ledges, we perched ourselves on the rocks for lunch and basked like lizards in the sun: relaxing contentedly in the now seemingly balmy conditions. After a short stay, we grudgingly got up and completed our descent to Camp Muir. We reunited with Mark and Steve and headed back to Paradise.

Leaving Camp Muir we were soon enveloped in the fog. Visibility was about 150 feet and wands marked the way. The group spread out as we descended at our own pace. Half way down the Muir snowfield the fog thickened. As I continued, I realized I could not see the next wand, nor could I see the previous wand. The path of footsteps that I had been following had also disappeared. About that time I saw Len emerge from the fog. We got out the compass and plotted a bearing. We followed the bearing until we were able to pick up the old trail and make our way down to paradise. A storm was coming in and it blanketed the mountain with fresh snow. Our timing was perfect.

It was a successful climb, but for me it was not entirely satisfying. Philosophically, I was opposed to staying in the hut, but I had compromised out of fear, or desire for the summit. Mark and Steve had turned back from the summit, but they had attempted to climb the mountain on fairer terms. I'm sure that digging the snow cave had zapped their energy causing them to turn back. Their appetite whetted, Mark and Steve along with Andy Roth returned to the mountain on Wednesday of the same week. They were treated to untracked snow and solitude on the mountain. When I heard that they had returned to climb the mountain, I was a bit envious. They experienced solitude and the adventure of making their own tracks to the summit. And, they didn't rely on the damn hut! Now that I have accomplished getting to the summit, I think I'll head back - for the experience.



Mount Rainier

The First Sunrise of the Third Millennium

Long time readers of the *Alpine Echo* may recall it was back in 1996 when I first suggested a club trip to the site of the first sunrise of the 21st century. Unfortunately for all us mountain travel enthusiasts, the first point of land to bear witness to the event turned out to be a desolate, ice girt skerry in the Balleny Islands – an Antarctic maritime archipelago 600km from Cape Adare off Victoria Land's Borchgrevink Coast. Near as I can determine, only one present day party has visited the Ballenys since its first landing back in 1839. On 9-10 January 1978, eight Australian expeditioners from the Oceanic Research Foundation spent 20 hours on Sturge Island, the largest and southernmost of the group. Seaborne landings through the surge are not altogether easy, and all subsequent attempts to set foot on the Balleny Islands have been unsuccessful. Safe to say, mankind has yet to be illuminated by First Light.

A more attainable objective, and one that might arouse considerable local interest, was a trip to Washington's point of first light; a location that, to my great surprise, had heretofore gone unidentified.

The computations for the precise determination of sunrise are quite tricky, and in view of our observations this New Year's Day, Lizard is not at all certain he got it right. In any event, Mount Wilson, a prominent 4913' summit near the confluence of the Snake and Grand Ronde rivers in Washington's far southeast is where Don and Natalia Goodman, Juan Lira, and the Liz witnessed the arrival of the 21st century. And what a grand entrance it was! With views extending eastward into Idaho; and southward, over Hells Canyon to the Seven Devils and the Wallows, our summit party stood transfixed as the alpine glow of a new day gave way to the brilliant glory of a new millennium.

My forecasted time for the solar apparition was 7:21:53am – a calculation that took into account the sun's apparent semidiameter 5 days from perihelion, atmospheric refraction, our elevation, and precise horizontal coordinates. Unfortunately, the first rays of direct sunlight were scattered by a thin veil of cloud on the horizon, and it was not until around 7:30 that the solar disk rose cleanly above the interfering layer. Nevertheless it was a joyous moment amply recorded on film and indelibly impressed into everyone's memory.

After months of planning and many hours of map study, Lizard was a bit disappointed in the time discrepancy and consequent possibility of having targeted the wrong peak. A previous mountain bike ascent of Mt Wilson during last Memorial Day weekend had revealed a relatively smooth eastern horizon with no obvious gaps or obstructions. However upon closer investigation it was determined that at azimuth 121.7 degrees east (the sun's bearing at 7:22am 1/1/2001), 7966' Hanover Mountain in Idaho's Gospel Hump Wilderness had reduced the visible horizon from 92.2 to 58.9 miles – an effect that adds 5min 38sec to the sunrise time. This correction, coupled with the minute or so it took the sun to rise above the skein of cloud, resolves the time difference, but leaves open the possibility that other summits such as Oregon Butte or Diamond Peak might have had a line of sight through a break in the Clearwater Mountains that could have permitted those peaks to catch the first glimmer of third millennium sunlight.

However, having spent enough time on the problem for one millennium, I leave these considerations to the cyber-climbers of a future generation who will no doubt occupy all the sites of first light for their New Age.

Credits

First and foremost, I wish to thank the Magden family for allowing us to use their farmhouse and private access road to Mt Wilson. Their kind hospitality, interest in our project, and knowledge of the Joseph Creek area added immeasurably to the enjoyment of our trip. Thanks also to George Duncan, chief counsel for Duncan, Tiger & Tabor, for alerting me to the existence of the Alkalie Creek road and for his introduction to Diane and Karl.

Kudos also to Don and Natalia Goodman for rescuing Juan Lira in his moment of need and for Don's careful driving on this potentially hazardous trip. (see next item)

And finally, for imperturbability in extreme situations, I'd like to nominate Juan Esteban Lira for the Sangfroid Award of 2000. Juan hit an icy patch on I-90 near Odessa and totaled his Isuzu Trooper after rolling it three times. The car was given to a local scrap dealer in payment for the towing fee, and Juan continued on to complete the trip with hardly a mention of his loss or close brush with death. Here's the kind of guy you'd like to have anchoring a rope team!

Apology

I wish to apologize to those disappointed club members who tried to sign up for this New Year's outing. My notice for the November *Echo* was received too late for inclusion in that issue; while the December notice appeared on the day of my departure for a Christmas trip to Chicago. I have tried to personally express my regret to all those who left messages on my answer machine.

Route Description

The best high level, summer route to Mount Wilson is from the Frog Pond, north along Cold Springs Ridge. On foot, it is best done as a two day trip, allowing time for side trips to Deadhorse Butte, Downey Butte, and Jim Creek Butte. It is essentially a cross-country hike occasionally aided by elk trails along the crest. A shorter, one day climb can be made from Jenny Corral Gulch, up from Horse Creek road; while the best off season approach is probably via the game reserve at Green Gulch (30 miles in from Asotin, along the Snake River road). Our route up Alkalie Creek is well hidden from view and crosses private property – this route is **not** recommended unless prior permission has been obtained. Our ascent took 5 hours and high camp was established on a sheltered bench a few hundred feet from the summit. Two film-can registers were buried in the snows of Mount Wilson to mark our passage into the Third Millennium.

Lizard

10 February 2001



**First Washington sunrise of the new millennium!
L to R: John Lixvar, Don Goodman, Natala Goodman**

Big Al's Big Adventure, continued

The Continuing Travels of Al Baal

Monday, January 29

I started biking 2 days ago from Bateman's Bay. It was nice to get back to touring again with all my gear, but it will take time to adjust to a full load on my bike. I wanted to spend my first night next to the ocean, so I biked an extra 8K away from my route back to Sydney. The road to Depot Beach is mostly gravel and very hilly. A local stopped and told me that if I took the trail around Depot Lake it would be much more scenic and not very hard. After 3 hours of mostly pushing my bike through mud and over logs, up and down hills (he told me it was flat!), I finally got to a nice camp next to the beach. This place had 50 to 60 kangaroos living there, and they were very tame and would come right up to you. I loved watching them hop around! The place was also full of very colorful birds.

The next day I biked 45k to Ulladulla, where I am spending today waiting out the rain. I was thinking about spending an extra day here anyway because the campground (\$4.50 US) has a covered cooking area (with cooking pots), a swimming pool, and it is on a bluff overlooking the coast line. This morning I was awakened by 20 to 30 different sounding birds that, when all added together, made it seem like I was in the depths of the jungle.

Tuesday, March 23

A lot of the tramps here in New Zealand are set up to be done in 4 to 5 days. This was the case for the first 3 tramps that I have done. I am writing now about my 2nd tramp, a trip through Egmont National Park. I hiked around the base of Mt Taranaki - the near-perfect symmetry of its cone makes Mt. Taranaki like a twin to Japan's Mt. Fuji. I was planning on making it to the top if it didn't rain, but it rained on me for most of the 5 days while I was circumnavigating the mountain.

The first night I skipped the first hut called Holly Hut, and stayed in the next one called Kahui Hut. The reason for this was to save \$2.10 (US). The way the hut system works is like this: if the hut has a heating stove, they charge you \$4.20 (US). The ones without a stove are only \$2.10 (US). After the first night I decided to fork over the extra money, so I could dry my clothes! I think the warm cozy feeling I got from having a stove was well worth the extra money.

I spent the next night at the Waiaua hut, where I stayed up until 2 AM talking and playing card with 12 Maori kids that were around 19 years of age. They invited me to join them for dinner and breakfast the next day. Somehow they talked me into playing strip poker late that night. It had been so long since I had played strip poker that I forgot the most important thing about it - I forgot to add extra clothes! The kids I played with had 10 layers of clothes, and all I had was 4. And so it is not hard to figure out who was first one to get buck naked!!

I left the Maoris the next day, having had a great time, getting to know the real locals of New Zealand, and headed off to the next hut called Lake Dive. The views here were outstanding as were the views from the last hut that I stayed at (Waingongoto).

Even though I spent 5 days in the rain, having the hut to warm up in and share a story or two with others staying in the huts made a big difference. Now I just need to remember to put on more clothes the next time I play strip poker!



Mt. Taranaki, New Zealand

The Rigid Designator and the Fang
Todd Bauck (scribe) & Elaine Worden
Feb 23, 2001

Vail, Colorado is a popular scene for waterfall ice climbing. Elaine and I hiked up to the Rigid Designator amphitheater on a Friday morning, arriving just ahead of the crowds to come. On weekend days, this area can be a mob scene. At the left end of the amphitheater is the Rigid Designator – a 120' WI4+ waterfall ice climb. The other striking feature is The Fang – a 130' WI5+ freestanding ice pillar. Several other desperate mixed climbs are also found there.

We headed for the base of the Rigid Designator. In the time it took me to rack up, two other parties arrived. The lower portion of the Rigid Designator turned out to be quite wet as it was above freezing. I slung a pillar and traversed up and to the left to where it was drier. From that point on it was clean and steep – but pocketed where previous climbers had climbed. At the crux about 2/3 the way up I was even able to use pre-existing screw holes for protection (the lower screw placements I had to drill on my own). Towards the top, the ice became thin and I could see the water flowing behind the formation. At one point, I pulled out my ice tool and opened up a hole to the flowing water underneath. The noise of the waterfall came through in a loud and disconcerting way. After I finished climbing, Elaine cleaned the route, and we both top roped the right side of the formation which was steeper but more pocketed.

By this time, several other parties had shown up and they all seemed interested in doing the Rigid Designator. So we went over to The Fang. The Fang used to form up about once every three to four years – it is hard for ice to span that great of a distance as a freestanding pillar. However several years ago, some locals hung a cable down the route. Now the pillar forms up regularly. When fully formed, it is an amazing sight. The amphitheater lip at the top is very overhung, allowing the pillar to be about 20 feet away from the wall for most of its span. The lower half is cauliflowered ice that looks like a series of petals on a rose, only much larger - each petal is not quite a foot thick and several feet wide. Towards the bottom of the climb where they are the largest, each petal is about three or four feet above the previous one. At about halfway up, the formation transitions to a vertical ice pillar.

When we arrived, a guide was almost finished with leading it for his client. Although I had not planned on leading the Fang, now I wanted to try it. Often this pillar is hard to protect, but the guide seemed to have found an adequate number of screw placements. We ate some and re-racked, and then it was my turn.

The bottom part turned out to be the crux, even though it was not overhung. I had to make a series of awkward and bouldery moves to climb from petal to petal on the cauliflowered ice. When my feet were on top of one petal, the next layer was above waist height. I couldn't reach the layer above it with my tools, so to progress upward, I had to either do a very high step with my hands next to my feet or I had to climb up the underside of the petal which was quite overhung and smooth. About ten feet off the ground I was able to sling one of the petals but for the next fifty feet, the petals appeared too small for a screw placement that would hold a fall, so I ended up running it out until I found a screw placement.

About halfway up the formation was a great alcove where I was able to stand without hanging on to my tools. I took this opportunity to place two ice screws in existing holes. I was a little leery of using old holes, so in one of them, I placed a fat Lowe aluminum ice screw and in the other one I placed a long (22 cm) screw. The steeper upper portion of the climb was actually very straightforward. The line of climbing started out with a short chimney where I actually had my back to some ice, which really saved my arms. Then it moved out to some pocketed face climbing. I used several preexisting screw holes, placing my longest screws in them to make sure they would bite. Towards the top, the pillar had broken and resettled, leaving a gap of a few inches, and reminding me of how unlikely The Fang was. After Elaine followed, we rappelled off, packed up and did part of the return to the car using a snow chute that was established.

Short Trip Reports By David Hamilton

The Tatoosh Saint Patrick's Day, 2001

Steve Behrend, his friend Chet and I headed up to climb Pinnacle Peak near Rainier. After being told by the Ranger after Longmire that we had to put on our chains, we proceeded to drive at 20mph down a perfectly driveable road (without chains). Welcome to the Northwest. I've never put chains on (the car) before in my life. We picked up a guy from New Mexico who couldn't drive his car any further because of the Law. So we dropped him off after verifying the road to Reflection Lake was closed. The steep hike up to the road was wonderful. The day itself was pretty much overcast with limited visibility. We hiked up to the correct side of Pinnacle this time. Were we, as BCC, going for Plummer last time? I hope so, because we went on the other side of the ridge and accessed Pinnacle's base in no time flat. The snow was nice and we wisely used SNOWSHOES. They do exist, BCC folks.

Anyhow, we chose to ascend Castle first and it was pretty easy. We got up to the rocky ridge summit and threw on the ropes and harnesses for some rock work, about forty feet. Here I would like to express great appreciation to Chet for his insight and perception coupled with suggestions and positive reinforcements while I slowly lead. Thanks Steve, for your patience. It was a bit tough getting back into going on point. I hate how the rock looks so easy from below and it's another story climbing. So it was wet and cold, we made it up there and rappelled down from some nice slings. Since it was whiteout and I took a while getting up that thing, we decided not to go look at more white on top of Pinnacle. This was a pretty cool trip and I had a good time. Both peaks are easily accessible and we even got back in time, 7ish, for some green beer.

Lessons Learned March 10-11

Goal: Devil's Peak and Thumb, March 10-11.

Well, I was thinking of the trophy before I caught the ball. I thought this would be a cool trip to do mainly because we'd do it without the instructors holding our hand. If you're wondering why this isn't sounding good already, you're right. I didn't bring a map. Yup. I really didn't think it'd be bad or anything either. We had been there last year and it seemed very straightforward. The weather forecaster said great weather for Seattle. Well, we found the trailhead and I glanced quickly at the Washington Gazeteer and incorrectly misjudged the direction we should go. The weather was socked in, light rain with about quarter mile visibility. Oh joy. Still, I wasn't feeling too bad about not bringing a map. Actually, I was pretty darned happy to have gotten out that weekend. So, at around 2300 feet we threw on the snowshoes. We figured correctly on which switchback to take up (sorry BCC folks, figure it out for yourselves!) but not having a map made things a little more difficult than they should've been. Especially when we came upon the creek that we were going to use as our handrail. My brilliant observation from the Gazeteer was to head north to get to the bowl. Well, the creek had a mind of it's own and was flowing down from the west where we came across it. So we followed it up for a bit to 3500 feet or so and then the seeds of doubt began to grow. I had scouted downstream earlier to see if this creek was a tributary to the one we were using as a handrail but neither of us thought we had crossed a creek this big last year and I couldn't find another. We couldn't see beans and I didn't know what elevation the bowl we were going to was at (brilliant!). So, we back-tracked to the creek crossing and tried to find another, bigger creek that the one we were at fed into. We couldn't. I was convinced if this wasn't the creek, then the real one was further NE. I bushwhacked like a madman while John took it easy (he probably knew better). After much effort I came to a creek with 80 foot cliffs on either side. That definitely wasn't the creek we were looking for. I came back to John and we decided, not knowing where the heck we were or where to go, to camp out and enjoy the snow. For camping in the winter, this was a better experience. Everything got wet as usual, but it wasn't bitterly cold either. I was a bit wet from my bushwhacking. We ate dinner and then hit the sack, too tired to light the

firelog. Yeah, humping a rope and plenty of protection, along with all my other gear wasn't a walk in the park. I didn't even have time to zip up my sleeping bag before the z monster got a hold of me. Oh, and putting on my gaiters the next morning, I noticed a white worm, real small, moving about in the snow. Y'all might want to boil that water. I suppose your stomach acid will kill it just the same, but I'd prefer to eat a dead worm versus a live one. Same goes with porcupines. I'm still the ignoramus for not bringing a map. We didn't wander aimlessly, but we wasted a lot of time, effort, and lost-climbing time because I didn't bring that simple piece of paper. Even just reading Beckey to find the bowl's elevation or plopping some coordinates into the GPS (please, no hate mail) would've helped. I did neither. Label me. But repeat my mistakes after you've read this and you'll be kicking yourself. About the time I knew I didn't have a clue out there, man, that was the pits. Turns out, that was the correct creek but it headed more westerly/NW to the bowl at 3800 feet. The website www.topozone.com is excellent because the mouse pointer gives you UTM coordinates as you scroll around on the map. The map goes down to 1:25,000 and you can center it wherever you desire; great for that, dare I say, GPS.

Aid Climbing Seminar March 3

City Park, Index, March 3rd. Nobody showed up to go aid climbing with Tom Rogers so I was the only student. Tom asked to make sure I was part of the club and that I had signed the waiver form. He also made sure I had health insurance. This, and it was advertised in the Echo as learning the, "...dark side of climbing." We spoke of aid climbing and such on the way to Index. Upon arriving in the parking lot, again the question about signing the waiver form. He had brought along plenty, visible through his back window. Man - aid climbing is gear intensive!! I brought along 50 biners that I had amassed, borrowing from two friends. Other gear I had borrowed and I brought most of my own. It still paled in comparison to what Tom had. We were the first ones there that morning, so Tom showed me what I needed to do and did a real good job explaining it all. He even let me use one of his daisy chains. These are the best things since sliced bread! Rather than hooking into your chain, this tie-down strap (meant for aid climbing) works great. Stand up, pull on all the slack and it keeps you there. Badda bing, badda boom. I did what he told me and got up to the bolts putting aid pieces in. I think Tom rather enjoyed my dismay whenever one of my biners would "pop" by remarking, "The dreaded biner pop," which did nothing to alleviate my uneasiness. Granted, I had chicken stamped all over my forehead that day. I aided on up the bolt ladder and got to that crack and just looked at it. About that time I thought I'd rather enjoy what I was doing, rather than being death-scared of it and putting pieces in this crack and then jumping up and down to seat the piece sure wasn't looking enjoyable to me. I was sorry to let Tom down, but I chickened out there and went down. Tom suited up and said, "Now if I go up there and aid this you ARE going to go up and clean it, right?" Well, of course, Tom. Little did I know. So ol' Tom made short work of the bolt ladder and then, slowly and methodically, made his way up that crack. My neck was sore and I could see why he preferred for the students to have him on belay with a grigri. He chatted with some nice guys and then came back down to give me the lowdown on cleaning while ascending with jumars. Part II of being scared to death. I had it in my head the whole time that, "What if the rope breaks?" and I was sure my harness was coming undone (it wasn't). For brief periods, I think I may have enjoyed parts of the cleaning bit. But going up the rope (and being the only student) wasn't working too well for me. I cleaned that damn route and got up to the top with everything and the grocery store attached to me. This is why aid climbers organize their gear. I had biners hanging from anything and everything. I wish I would've taken in more of the views up there but really, all I wanted to do was get the heck down. In retrospect, I think I could go back there and aid up that thing, seeing what Tom had placed and his climbing at work. Jumaring up the rope will just have to be something I try and get used to. Tom, I'll give you and your instruction a big thumb's up and I'd sure like to give that City Park another try. So I hope you'll continue to teach this aid climbing to us and I hope those reading will push ol' Tom into doing another Aid Seminar.

Short Trip Reports By Steve Fox

A Tale of Two Clubs February 17-18, 2001

It was the best of climbs, it was the worst of climbs... it was the winter of our despair... we had everything before us, we had nothing before us. What the dickens am I talking about? Why, the mighty and feared Cleveland Mountain, world renowned for its magnificent setting west of Skykomish. And how it took 17 people to drag me to the summit.

Part I -- Worst of climbs, Winter of despair, Everything before us

On Saturday 2/17/01, I joined a group of Mountaineers at the Monroe P&R at 6:30 after an icy drive from our homes. Our plan was to climb Evergreen Mt. However, snows at sea level led us to think the Beckler River road was impractical. So we changed our destination to Cleveland Mt. We slipped and slid east on Hwy 2 until we were parked at the bridge just before Money Creek on road 6420 (el. 960').

We walked up logging road 6422 to the first switchback at 1200'. Already the snow was deep enough for snowshoes, so we donned them and continued up the switchback. By the 4th switchback at 2300' we were getting discouraged by the arduous fluffy snow that was taxing our energy. Fortunately we had several strong members who enjoy a good workout, and continued to make progress. But after the 5th and 6th switchbacks our patience wore out and we headed straight uphill. Still the progress was very tough, even in the trees. John "Snowplow" Tolan was our hero, doing far more than his fair share of kicking through the infernal frosting. A few others also took some long pulls in an effort to get their lactic acid highs, and give Snowplow a brief rest.

After crossing the logging road numerous times the terrain became more gentle at about 4000', but still deep in powder. Somehow we missed the lofty and precipitous Temple Mt in our quest for higher points... and why Temple with it's whopping 80' of prominence even deserves a name we couldn't say.

We continued along the ridge as described in Kloke until we ran into the notch that several people described to me. This notch was easy to bypass with all the snow cover. Half the party elected to rest before this notch while the rest of us continued another 1/4 mile in more arduous and slow travel to a sharp ridge where the route seemed to fizzle out. With energy nearly spent, the summit still far away, and time running out, we retreated with our tail between our legs. We had everything before us during this winter day of despair. However, the views were fantastic, and the descent was a blast running down the powder like hotdog snowshoers. This was one of the most energy intensive winter trips I've ever done, due to the snow conditions. 9 hours, 3900 gain, 9 tired bodies.

Part II -- Best of climbs, Nothing before us

The next day I joined a Boealps trip led by Signe Franzen. We were scheduled to go up East Long (Silverton area). Poor avalanche conditions nudged us to another location. One avalanche-safe route is... Cleveland Mt. Oh no! Not again! I can't take it any more! Well, ok, why not. Too late to go back to bed anyway.

So off we zoomed to the same parking area and up the packed trail we went. Joyce "VOMax" Holloway charged up the path while the peloton gasped far behind, hopelessly deep into anaerobic debt. I was "trashed", as they say in the climbing vernacular, and hung out in the back like a weak duckling unable to keep up with its siblings. After downing some food, some energy came back. By the time we got to our previous high point, we were 1.5 hours ahead of the previous day. We skirted to the left of the ridge on fairly stable snow and easily made it above the basin NNW of Cleveland.

At this point, Louis "Moses" Frank unleashed his humongous snowshoes, parting the white fluffy sea with a wave of his poles. (Thank God there were no burning bushes around, but he did come off the top with stone tablets listing the 10 essentials.) Powering his way through the powder and up the mighty hill, he awed all with his ferocious determination. Staying close to some trees on a suspect slope, we made it to the saddle at 5200' W of the summit. Then after a short steep scramble grabbing dead trees and a nice step sliding on powder covered rock, we made it to the top. Ah... the best of climbs, nothing before us but air. Quite nice! We enjoyed the magnificence of the summit for about 1/2 hour, then found an easier descent route south that corkscrewed around to the saddle area. The descent was uneventful (and long on the road walk), but fun when it was steep enough to enjoy the effects of gravity. 8.5 hours, 4300 gain, 8 satisfied climbers.

Score: Boealps 1, Mountaineers 0

(Editor's note: For those of you unfamiliar with the "peloton":

An independent group in Mountain View, CA has announced the discovery of a new subatomic particle, dubbed the peloton. This particle has the unique property that it is never found alone. When generated in boson-boson collisions, up to 120 pelotons are emitted. Although the group direction is random, the particles in the group travel coherently, with a group velocity which increases with the number of particles. The peloton comes in flavors similar to those of quarks, although strange pelotons are much more common than those with charm. The peloton also has spin, like the electron, but with a third state, known as "hammer".)

Prairie Mountain March 4, 2001

Led by Brian Trybo were Joyce Holloway, Bob Condor, Matt Robertson, Ron Fleck, Doug Sanders, and Steve Fox

Dallas Kloke writes in his "Winter Climbs" that Prairie is an excellent winter climb. Ditto! This is another 4-star trip in a great winter of 4-star destinations. We drove up the Suiattle 10 miles to road 25, then 2510, then 2511 to elevation 2100 feet where snow stopped us. We followed road 2511 to its end at about elev. 2500 feet (not using the road 2512 spur). The gate shown on the Green Trails map was not there. At the end of the road, and end of the clear cut, we traversed a short distance and then headed up the fall line.

Except for the first couple hundred feet, the forest was relatively open and pleasant travel. Eventually the terrain becomes a distinct ridge with steep drop offs on the right side. But it is not unreasonable to stay on the ridge or slightly left. The ridge tops out at 4734, providing a grand viewpoint and excellent rest stop. We descended slightly along the ridge, then traversed to more gentle terrain. This led uphill to the summit block area. We climbed back to the ridge and easily scrambled up the snow to the summit.

On top the summit is a plaque for the "Prairie Boys". Also there appears to be a lightning rod. Was there a lookout on this peak? On the ascent and descent of this route we noticed possible blazes on trees. Was there an old trail to the lookout many years ago? With these questions burning, we descended the nice fluffy snow from summit to cars in only 2 hours. Total time: 7 hours.

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Tessmer, Kevin L.	(206) 525-4177	(206)766-2327	6549 38th Ave. NE	Seattle	WA	98115	kevin.l.tessmer@boeing.com
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Vetter, Eric	(425) 226-9492		15633 SE 178th Pl.	Renton	WA	98058	
Vetter, Scott	(425) 226-9492		15633 SE 178th Pl.	Renton	WA	98058	
von Doenhoff, Roger C	(253)927-3756	(425)717-7526	1414 S. 376th St.	Federal Way	WA	98003	roger.c.vondoenhoff@boeing.com
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ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PRASH BHAT, M/S 04-JJ
OR: 23227 97th Avenue West, Edmonds, WA 98020
OR: prashantha.bhat@pss.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
Contributors: Steve Fox, Al Baal,
David Hamilton, John Lixvar,
Todd Bauck, Victor Yagi

*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!*

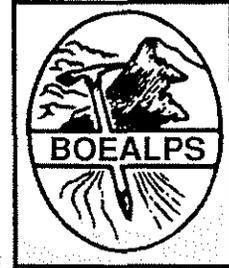


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

May 2001



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

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			BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: "On the Summit of Eldorado Peak" by Troy Colyer

From Prash Bhat 6X-ME



Alan Watts on the second free ascent of "The Stigma"

May General Meeting

Mini Show: Bill Frans - The Tetons
Main Show: Jeff Smoot - Rock Climbing in the Northwest in the 1980's - an Historical Perspective

Thursday, May 3rd
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour starts at 7:00 pm
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm



Todd Skinner on the first free ascent of "City Park"

BELAY STANCE

More BoBabies!

Congratulations to Pam and Shawn Pare on the addition of Mallory to their family! Mallory Irene Paré was born on Tuesday, March 27 at 4:08 PM. She weighed 8 lb., 9 oz and was 19.5 inches long. For more pictures of mallory, point your web browser to Pam and Shawn's web site:
<http://www.seanet.com/~pare/Mallory.htm>



Mallory Paré

Climbing Class Updates...

The BCC has had a few drop outs already, but there are still 57 students that can graduate at this point. The class have been divided up into four teams, and the teams are being capably led by Marty Jolly, Aggie Christie, Chris Gronau and the dual team of Rich Baldwin and Jerry Baillie, who are sharing a team this year. As teams, the basic students have finished the snow skills outing at Stevens Pass, and have put everything they've learned so far to good use at the first experience climb at Snoqualmie Pass. Low clouds and deep, soft snow frustrated some of the summit attempts, but all the teams had good learning experiences, and are all set for the Devils Basin outing.

The ICC has already had their first few outings, going over climbing fundamentals at Horsetheif Butte and practicing winter climbing and camping skills at various locations. Next up is high angle rescue practice at Leavenworth, and then on to the real climbing at Smith Rock and Squamish!

A note to all the students – I'd love to have some trip reports from you! Send in anything you're willing ot write up, and we'll run it in the Echo!

Welcome home, Al Baal!

I'm sure many of you have been following the travels of Al over the last year as he sent in trip reports from around the globe. Al returned home in mid-April, looking tan and very lean. I want to personally thank Al for the articles he provided for me to publish – the rest of you are going to have to start taking up the slack now! I've also heard a rumor that there will be a slide show sometime in the future so that everyone can see all the sights all saw while he was away. Goo to have you back, Big Al!

New Photo Chair Needed...

The photo chair position is still vacant – anyone interested in volunteering? This is a pretty easy job, and a great way for someone to become more active with the club without volunteering to contribute huge amounts of time. The biggest responsibility is that of shopping for the prizes for the annual photo competition (coming up in July), and acting as that events judge. Coordinating the collection of pictures from the Basic and Intermediate classes for display on our web site is another optional part of the position. If you've got a photography bent, and would like to get more involved, drop our Prez an email at Lilbiner@hotmail.com

Boealps Web Site...

It's still located at <http://www.boealps.org> - the password (needed for activities and the member's roster sections) is SLESSE...

From the desk of your editor,

Matt Robertson

June Echo deadline is May 24th

May, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 May Day	2 BCC lecture	3 General Club Meeting;	4	5 BCC @ Leavenworth; ICC @ Smith Rock
6 BCC @ Leavenworth; ICC @ Smith Rock	7 Full Moon	8	9 BCC lecture	10	11	12 BCC @ Tatoosh
13 BCC @ Tatoosh	14 ICC lecture	15	16 BCC crevasse rescue practice	17	18	19 BCC@ Nisqually Glacier; ICC @ Squamish
20 BCC and Crevasse Rescue Seminar @ Nisqually Glacier; ICC @ Squamish	21	22	23 New Moon BCC lecture	24 Echo Deadline	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30 BCC lecture	31		

June, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker
3 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker	4 ICC lecture	5	6 Full Moon BCC final test	7 General Club Meeting;	8	9 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker; ICC Experience Climb #1
10 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker; ICC Experience Climb #1	11	12	13 BCC graduation	14	15	16 June Campout - Leavenworth?
17 June Campout - Leavenworth?; Rock Leading Seminar	18 ICC lecture	19	20 BAG-IT @ University Place Roundtable	21 New Moon Echo Deadline	22	23 ICC Experience Climb #2
24 ICC Experience Climb #2	25	26	27	28	29	30

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to:

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

We need more trips offered! Come on – think up just one trip you'd be willing to lead and send it in!



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Victor Yagi

(Editor's note: Last month's Conservation Corner actually generated a little controversy. Boealps member Bernie Bolton sent the following "Letter to the Editor" to me – this month, instead of the usual conservation column, I'm running Bernie's letter, and Victor Yagi's response to it.)

To the editor and conservation chairs:

"We all need to extend our appreciation to anyone who provides input to the Alpine Echo. I feel, however, that the topics in the April "Conservation Corner" were out of place for a mountaineering organization. Although a number of us do feel very strongly about environmental and political issues, the Alpine Echo is just not the appropriate forum for airing the particular issues discussed [in April]. One of the reasons I am a member of Boealps is because of its focus on mountaineering. We can align ourselves with other organizations to address environmental and political concerns. There are some great organizations to choose from for that. Let's not take Boealps down that road."

-- Bernie Bolton

In Response to Bernie's Letter.

"I realize that people frequent the outdoors and climb for many reasons. They bring with them many different ethics to the outdoors. I hope that Boealps chooses to be an organization that actively promotes conservation and responsible use of public lands. We can try to isolate ourselves from the issues and be only a mountaineering organization, but we would be making a statement, for inaction is action. Many members may "do their part" through other organizations, but that does not abdicate us from our collective responsibility of "doing our part." As individuals and an organization, I feel that we should take a stand on the issues. CC is a very small effort to provide information for the members so they can be informed and take action about important issues if they choose to do so. No one is obligated to read the column or act on what they read. I hope that those who agree with what we write, and especially those that disagree with what we write, will read the articles critically and take the time to point out errors, omissions, and changes that they would like to see. Thanks for taking the time to voice your opinion. I encourage everyone to let us know how they feel about this issue or other issues with CC."

-- Victor Yagi

(What do the rest of you think? Has the conservation corner become too "politicized"? Is it covering appropriate issues? Send your comments or responses to your editor at matt.robertson@boeing.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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

May General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on May 3rd, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, followed by the presentations.

Mini Show: Bill Frans - "A Weekend of Climbing in the Tetons"

The Tetons, located near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, are home to some excellent alpine scrambles and climbing routes. For an extended weekend, they are even "road trip" accessible. I road tripped to the Tetons over the 2000 Labor Day weekend. We scrambled up a few of the lesser Tetons and made an attempt up the Grand Teton via the Petzoldt Ridge, one of the classic Teton multi-pitch rock routes.

Main Show: Jeff Smoot - "Rock Climbing in the Pacific Northwest in the 1980's – an Historical Perspective"

This show focuses on the old days, when dinosaurs the likes of Todd Skinner and Alan Watts roamed the land. Come listen to Jeff's historical (hysterical?) tales and see pictures of climbers actually climbing in multi-colored lycra tights!

Upcoming Programs:

June - Dave Hamilton will present his mini-show: "Mr. Hamilton's Neighborhood: Wouldn't ya' like to be my neighbor too?" On a more serious note, Erich Koehler will present our main show, which will be a retrospective on the climbing career of our recently departed friend, Al Wainwright.

July - Get your pictures ready for the annual Boealps photo contest. It's never too early to start looking for that perfect shot so get that film developed and make sure you take your camera on that next trip.

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Crevasse Rescue Refresher – Nisqually Glacier

Saturday, May 20th

Whether you just took the Basic Class last year but have short term memory loss or you do a lot of head scratching ("Well, I think you're supposed to...uh..."), this seminar is for you. We'll review the basics of crevasse rescue, assuming three on a rope with one victim. Everyone will get a chance to practice setting up a z-pulley and prussik up the rope. We'll try to make this as real as possible, but the emphasis will be on safety. We'll meet at the Paradise Ranger Station at 7 am. Be ready to go at 7 am, as the Basic Class will be out there the same day and we'll outthistle them to get the "best" crevasses.

Equipment required: (standard glacier gear):

- Ice axe
- Harness w/2 locking biners
- Helmet
- Crampons
- Picket (if you have one)
- Prussiks
- 2 single slings w/one biner each
- 2 double slings w/one biner each

I'm going to limit the class size to 12, so contact me soon if you are interested in signing up. Also, contact me if you are interested in instructing – I need at least two more instructors if we have a full load.

Rock Leading Seminar

Sunday, June 17th

This is still in the planning stages, and will depend on where we end up having the June club campout. If we end up in an appropriate place (Leavenworth? Royal Arches?) we'll try and set something up if there's enough interest. Contact me if you're interested so I can start lining up instructors...

Len Kannapell, (206)522-7022(h), kannapell@yahoo.com

Boealps Online

By Rob "Spiderman" James

Pacific NW climbing sites

There are a bunch of useful sites out there these days, try some of these for local climbing info;

http://wac.icomm.ca/routes/scrambles_guide	Cascade scrambles
http://www.climbingwashington.com	Jeff Smoot's site
http://www.cascadeclimbers.com	Web based community of many active local climbers
http://students.washington.edu/climb	UW climbing club
http://www.mountaineers.org	The Mounties
http://www.washingtonalpineclub.org/	Washington Alpine Club
http://www.wta.org/	Washington Trails Association
http://www.nwac.noaa.gov/	Northwest weather and avalanche center

Most of these are linked from the Boealps page under the cool links section. Here's a few personal homepage links by PNWesteners that might be of interest - they have loads of reports and pix. Some folk seem to get out a lot more than I do!

<http://members.tripod.com/~Schryer/>
<http://www.mountainwerks.com/cma/>
<http://staff.washington.edu/gregm>
<http://students.washington.edu/~dbb/index.html>
<http://www.summsoft.com/people/jim/index.htm>
<http://home1.gte.net/mandm/index.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/4424/hikes.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/~rangermike>

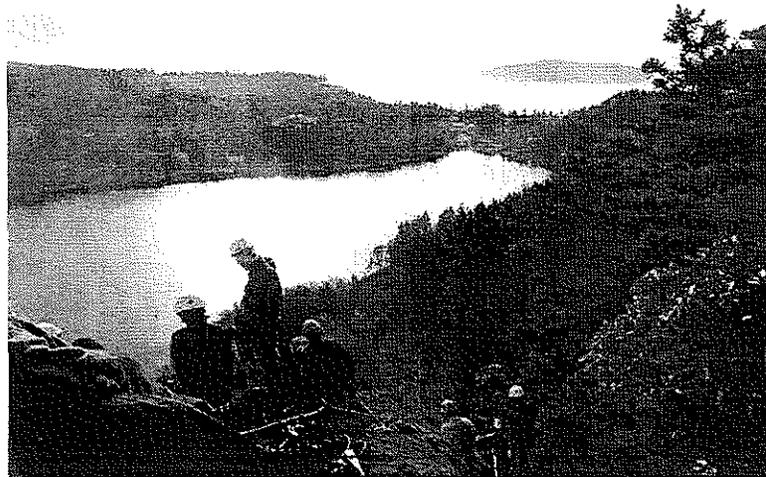
Basic class of 2001

There is now a page of photos from the basic class activities this year - check them out on;

<http://boealps.org/basicpix2001.html>

If anyone else out there has photos they'd like put there just email them over to me at robert.james@baesystems.com or send me a link to where you have them. As a rough guideline a picture should be a .jpg and be about 30-60K in size. This gives reasonable resolution on the web page but isn't so big it clogs up the system.

Cheers ...Rob (hey - how come all the resorts are shutting? We've got more snow now than we've had all season)
"Webmaster" James



Beautiful weather at Mt. Erie, Basic Class 2001
(Photo by Charlie Soncrant)

April, 2001 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Norene Borg, Bill Harrison, Len Kannapell, Micah Lambeth, Glenn Tomchik

Treasurer Report: April has arrived and that brings to mind taxes. State & Federal Tax filing for 2000 was discussed. The club is required to file in June.

Activities: The June Campout will soon be upon us. The weekend of June 16-17 was picked in order to avoid overlaps with the BCC & ICC schedules. Activities chair will find a location that's available and make the appropriate reservations.

BAG-IT (Basic Graduate-Intermediate Training) night suggested for Wednesday, June 20th. This is a chance for members of the club to write up activities to help the recent basic graduates continue with their climbing careers – we need lots of participation please!

Education: The Crevasse Refresher class will be held on Sunday, May 20th to coincide with the BCC.

Coordinating a Rock Leading seminar with the June Campout was also discussed. Further information will be provided once a location for the campout has been chosen.

Looking forward, the Avalanche class was also discussed - possibly a December/January time frame. This also brought a suggestion for acquiring more avalanche beacons.

Membership: Once again membership ratios (Boeing members vs. non-Boeing members) were discussed. The ratio is tied to club insurance policies and has been reviewed frequently.

Programs: Jeff Smoot has been confirmed as the main speaker for the May General Meeting. Bill Franz will do a mini-presentation. June will have Dave Hamilton doing a mini-presentation and Eric Koehler will do a retrospective of Al Wainwright's climbing career.

Photography: We are still need a photography chair. Any volunteers for this position? The job is really easy, and mostly consists of organizing the photo competition in July. This is a great opportunity for a new member of the club to get more involved, without having to commit to a position that takes much time. Please contact Norene if you're interested.

Norene Borg, president

Weather and Avalanche Conditions on the Web From Marty Jolly

I found a great weather site at www.noaa.gov and wanted to share it with everyone. The site also has links to local mountain weather and avalanche reports. It looks like they are in the process of changing the web site, but I think these links still work. There are a lot of really good links at the main site, but the weather is found at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> and <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/seattle/>

The really cool part is the access to local weather radar all across the country
<http://weather.noaa.gov/radar/mosaic/DS.p19r0/ar.us.conus.shtml>
and local mountain forecasts at <http://weather.noaa.gov/pd/waframes.html>

Local avalanche reports are at <http://www.seawfo.noaa.gov/products/SABSEA>

The main northwest weather and avalanche site is <http://www.nwac.noaa.gov/>

Enjoy!

THE BOEALPS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Thursday, July 5th, 2001
Oxbow Recreation Center
7:00-9:00 pm

Start rounding up your slides and prints - the Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the July general meeting at the Oxbow Rec Center!

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.

Categories
Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
People
Sunsets & Sunrise
Boealps Climbing Class
Most Embarrassing
Echo Cover*

For each category, there will be two sets of prizes, one for prints and one for slides.

(*except for the Echo Cover, which will be a combined category. All entries in this category must have high contrast and a horizontal orientation - vertical orientations will not fit on the cover.)

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.

The Continuing Saga of Dan Goering

April 17, 2001 - Sawadee Kap from Chiang Khong, Thailand!

This is day two in this medium sized town across the Mekong River from Laos and this afternoon, we'll cross into Laos and then start a five-day wooden canoe paddle down river to the village of Pakbeng. On the bus ride here, I met a Canadian from Ottawa who mentioned he was planning to buy a canoe and float down the Mekong instead of taking one of the tourist laden power boats. I liked the idea and became the proud owner of a flat-bottomed wood canoe around 6 pm the next evening when I handed 5000 Bhat (\$150 US) over to "Scott", the boat repair guy. I call him Scott because he wore an obviously inherited blue and white striped "SMC" auto-repair mechanic shirt with "Scott" emblazoned in large blue letters over his left breast. His repair shop appeared to be little more than a couple of sawhorses on the mud bank of the river. Anyway, Scott kindly gave us a couple of paddling lessons which went well, since my friend Dean and I have both done a bit of canoeing in the past, but we did discover our boat is more tippy than a regular canoe (no we didn't go over yet) and we'll have to be a bit careful on the trip downstream.

A lot has happened in the past three months during which I haven't sent out any updates. My friend Dean Carroll who was supposed to have come on this entire world adventure finally met up with me in Bangkok the second week in February and we've been touring Thailand together for the past two months. Patty is now back in Hawaii and due back in Seattle the beginning of May. In India, after 7 months of travel together, we decided it would be better for both of us to move on to other relationships. A very hard decision, and very muddled in lots of issues, but it seemed the right thing to do. I spent most of my first month in Thailand on the isle of Ko Phagnan lying on beach or in the hammock out front of my bungalow reading and thinking about life in general. The time has gone by fast and I realized it has been quite some time since I sent out an update. India tales are in the works but going slowly, and I still would like to complete the story of meeting up with my father for a week in Korea where he spent two years in US army back in the mid 1950s. And of course, Thailand tales are accumulating.

During the past three weeks, I have been in the north of Thailand and much more active. My adventures included a 12 day "Honda Dream Express 110" motorbike trip through some very back roads. During this trip we made several great visits to Karen tribal villages where these incredibly hospitable people made us feel welcome and included us at various times in a wedding and a Buddhist festival. They also invited us into their homes for some good food and local whiskey. Then it was three days of water mayhem in Chiang Mai during the Thai New Year "Songkran" festival. You stay soaked to the skin as citizens and visitors alike soak everything that moves with squirt guns, water sticks, and buckets - probably moving enough water to generate quite a bit of hydro-electric power if only it could all be coordinated! And finally the bus to Chiang Khong where the Giant Catfish Festival is starting today with a ceremony to bless the fishermen who cast nets for the two to three meter, 300 kg monsters that swim up the bottom of the Mekong this time of year for breeding.

The end of this trip is also in sight: I have a ticket back to the US from Bangkok on May 1st. I'll spend a couple days with my little sister, Sara, in LA before continuing on to Urbana, Illinois to visit Mom and Dad, who I haven't seen enough of these past two years. I should be back in Seattle around mid-May, although I'm not sure yet where I'll end up living. My house is rented out until the end of this year and, quite frankly, I'm happy to have the renters keep paying my mortgage until I get my savings built back up a bit. One thing that has become clear on this trip is that time is not money; instead, time is freedom to do whatever inspires you. It will be a big change returning to the working world after two years, but I am looking forward to being home and spending time with friends and family. I've found it difficult on the road to pursue my goal of getting some travel articles published somewhere but I'm getting excited about pursuing it back where I speak the local language. And of course, all of you who I met in various places around the world can now take advantage of the standing invite for a place to stay if you visit Seattle!

Gotta go as the Mekong is calling and that plane ticket home means I only have 11 days to spend in Laos. Thanks again to everyone whose supported me on this trip and especially Rick and Kristy Berg who once again filed an income tax extension for me! See some of you very soon!

Big Al's Big Adventure, concluded

The Continuing Travels of Al Baal – Welcome home, Al!

Sunday, March 25

Even in a country as rugged and mountainous as New Zealand, where towering peaks are commonplace, the Southern Alps are mind-boggling. This great range, loved by climbers throughout the world, stretches along the length of the South Island, forming a backbone of greywacke and granite from Fjordland to the Nelson Lakes. The heart and soul of the Southern Alps lay in a pair of national parks that straddle the Main Divide: Mt. Cook National Park (69,923 hectares) and Westland National Park (117,547 hectares), which rises dramatically from the Tasman Sea at Gillespies Point and extends to the Main Divide.

The first day of the Copland track is spent following the Karangarua River with many contributory streams that were fun to cross. Most of the deeper streams had cable swing bridges that moved around on you as you crossed (only one at a time). I had met two nice German women on the ferry between the North and the South Island, and after 4 hours on the boat, I had an invite to join them on the Copland and the Kepler tramps. They had a car, so it was nice not to try anymore hitchhiking. The 6 hour hike to the first hut at Welcome Flats, took us more like 8 hours, when you factor in all the time it takes to photograph the great scenery and bird life. After dinner that night we went to the very popular Hot Springs near the hut. As we soaked our travel tired bones, the near full moon started to rise illuminating the spectacular mountains of the Southern Alps. Shooting stars were seen, and we used them to wish for continued good weather to be able to have a good look at Mt. Cook. The next two nights we spent at the Douglas Rock hut, a small, cozy cabin with 8 bunks. During the day we hiked up to Copland pass which included a fun 2-hour scramble to the top. We spent 1 1/2 hours enjoying the views and lunch. The last night we spent back at Welcome Flats. This time we soaked in the hot springs in the rain, and hiked out in the rain as well. But, we had the good weather when it really counted – thank the stars!

Monday, April 9

The Kepler, a 67 km tramp, begins and ends at the south end of Lake Te Anau. We didn't get a very early start (2 PM), so we decided to take a boat across Lake Te Anau, instead of starting at the visitor center. This saved us an extra hour that we used to enjoy the views at the Luxmore hut. This hut was one of the nicer huts that I have seen in NZ. It has a large deck and picnic tables that were nice to sit at as we watched the beautiful sunset with the panoramic view of Lake Te Anau and Lake Manapouri in the foreground surrounded by mountains on all sides.

The next morning we spent a few hours exploring one of the many caves that are near the hut. The caving did require some squizzing through some pretty tight places and around the stalactites we were careful not to knock down. Coming out from the damp cave, we enjoyed the warm sun as we set off for the next hut called Iris Burns. This was for sure the best section of the tramp. Most of the time we were on a high ridge with 360 degree views that included the Darran Mountains, and a fun side trip to go to the top of Mt. Luxmore. The next two nights we stayed at the Iris Burns hut. This rustic hut is nestled near a waterfall, a lake and many interesting rock formations. Add this to the spectacular sunsets, and you might understand why we stayed two nights there.

The last night we stayed at the Shallow Bay hut, which was very primitive. We boiled lake water to drink. But we did this after the three woman I was hiking with talked me into skinny dipping with them in Shallow Bay on Lake Manapouri. I got a good laugh as a fishing boat went by just as two of the woman were getting out of the water. The boat suddenly found itself run aground! There is a good reason why they call it Shallow bay, and boats need to pay closer attention to the shoreline and not the scenery! The swimming was nice but I had to wonder if our food and drink that night had any extra flavouring in it.



Lake Te Anau and surrounding mountains

BY - LAWS
of the
BOEING EMPLOYEES' ALPINE SOCIETY

Revision 6 15 September, 2000

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 protem 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.
- c. Disbursement shall be made by check only. A checking account will be set up and the bank will honor only checks 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.

Article II - Officers: (Cont'd)

Section 5. Treasurer (Cont'd)

- 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.
- g. The Treasurer shall file all state and Federal tax statements required by law annually.

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.
- 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 newsletters.

Article III - Standing Committees: (Cont'd)

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 newsletter 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.
- 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.

Article III - Standing Committees: (Cont'd)

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.
- 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.
- c. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once every three months. The President shall set the date and time of the meeting.
- 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. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings.

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.

Article V – Meetings (Cont.):

- Section 4. Quorum (Cont.):
- 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.)

Section 1. (Cont.)

- 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 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. The Board of Directors shall determine dues. 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. The Board of Directors may expel members from the organization for cause. 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 has 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. The Membership chairperson must notify this Person that current dues are payable and 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. Board members may be re-elected to the same position for up to three years.
- 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 handle in a suitable manor until further group interest and use is indicated.
 - 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 15th day of September, 2000.

Norene Borg, President

Dan Costello, Vice President

Glenn Tomchik, Treasurer

Don Fraser, Secretary

William Harrison, Past-President

Dated _____
at Seattle, Washington

Jacob Davis
Recreation Advisor
The Boeing Company

Date

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PRASH BHAT, M/S 04-JJ
OR: 23227 97th Avenue West, Edmonds, WA 98020
OR: prashantha.bhat@pss.boeing.com

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

ALPINE ECHO

May ECHO staff

Editor: Matt Robertson
Contributors: Dan Goering, Al Baal,
Marty Jolly

*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!*

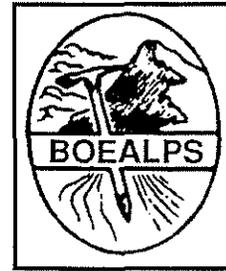


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

June 2001



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

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			BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: "October Sunrise, Columbia Crest" by Mike Jacobsen

From Prash Bhat 6X-ME

June General Meeting

Mini show by David Hamilton

Main Show:
Remebering Al Wainwright –
Reflections on a Climbing Career and
Friendship

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



Al Wainwright preparing to descend from the Plaza Argentina basecamp on Aconcagua in January, 1993

BELAY STANCE

Even More BoBabies!

They just keep poppin' out! Congratulations to Kurt and Diane Nelson on the birth of Brooke Elizabeth on April 19th. Brooke was born at 3:03 in the morning, weighed in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and measured 18 ½ inches tall. We're looking forward to Brooke bringing her folks along on some of the BoBaby outings soon!



Brooke Elizabeth Nelson

Content Ownership...

Last month I asked for some feedback on what the general membership thought of the content of some of the previous Conservation Corners. There were only a total of five(!) responses, two in favor of, and three against – see this month's Conservation Corner for Victor's response and his stated future direction. One of the notes, however, asked if the membership could assume that any opinions or views printed in the Echo should be assumed to be that of the Boealps board members. My answer to that is a rather emphatic "Absolutely not!" Your board members see their copy of the Echo at the same time you get yours – no one reviews or previews any of the content of the newsletter except for yours truly. With that said, the content of any articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of: (1) The Boeing Company; (2) the Boealps board members; (3) the Boealps membership in general; or (4) the Editor of the Echo. Any content that I include in the Echo may be assumed to be the opinion of the content creator only. Early on in my editorship I determined that I would be a copy editor only. I correct (most of) your typos and spelling mistakes, try to fix bad grammar, and rewrite the occasional awkward phrase. Other than that, I don't let my personal views bias whether or not to include any submission. I intend for the Echo to be an open forum for all members of Boealps – you don't have to be a committee chair or board member to get newsletter space. If you've got an article of interest, or an opinion about a piece that has been published, send it in. I'll do my best to make sure every submission you take the time to create gets printed, whether I agree with you or not!

New Photo Chair Welcome...

Thanks to Debbie Brannigan for volunteering to be our new photo chair! Check out some of the photos she's collected from this year's Basic Class later on in this issue. If any of the Basic students have other pictures they'd like to see in print, get them or a copy to Debbie, and she'll do the rest. And don't forget to come out and support Debbie at this year's annual Photo Competition, on July 5th!

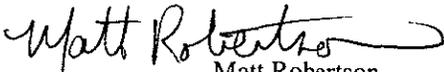
PDF of the Echo online...

Last month I played around with converting the Echo to PDF format for posting on the web. (I've tried several automated ways to convert the various Word documents that make up each Echo to web pages with little to no success – anyone out there want to take a cut at it?) Other than being fairly large (cable modem or a DSL connection is a good idea if you don't want to wait forever for it to download), I think it came out pretty nice. You can find a link to the PDF version under the Newsletter section on our web site. Check it out, and let me know if you think it could replace a paper copy (the pictures are in color!) – we might be able to save the club a bunch of costs in printing, and you'd get to read your Echo little earlier! Drop me a line if you look at it and let me know if you think it's worth doing each month...

Boealps Web Site...

Speaking of our web site, it's still located at <http://www.boealps.org>, although you may have had problems accessing it the last few weeks. The server our site was hosted on crashed, and it took the hosting service several days to get things back up and running again. Our web master, Rob James, assures me he gave 'em hell, and that we're now hosted on a (slightly) faster server for your troubles. The password (needed for activities and the member's roster sections) is SLESSE...

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

July Echo deadline is June 21st

June, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker
3 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker	4 ICC lecture	5	6 Full Moon BCC final test	7 General Club Meeting;	8	9 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker; ICC Experience Climb #1; BoBabies to Franklin Falls
10 BCC Graduation Climb @Mt. Baker; ICC Experience Climb #1	11	12	13 BCC graduation	14 Evening climb of The Tooth	15	16
17	18 ICC lecture	19	20 BAG-IT @ University Place Roundtable, 6:30pm	21 New Moon Echo Deadline; Evening climb of The Tooth	22	23 June Campout @8 Mile Campground; ICC Experience Climb #2
24 June Campout @8 Mile Campground; ICC Experience Climb #2	25	26	27	28 Evening climb of The Tooth	29	30

July, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 Full Moon General Club Meeting; - Annual Photo Competition	6	7
8	9 ICC lecture	10	11	12	13	14 ICC Experience Climb #2
15 ICC Experience Climb #2	16	17	18	19 Echo Deadline	20 New Moon BoBabies in the North Cascades	21 BoBabies in the North Cascades
22 BoBabies in the North Cascades	23 ICC lecture; BoBabies in the North Cascades	24	25	26	27	28 ICC Ice Climbing Practical
29 ICC Ice Climbing Practical	30	31				

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Franklin Falls with the BoBabies

June 9

Join the BoBabies and parents for a kid friendly walk to Franklin Falls! The walk is 0.25 to 1 mile long (the plan is to do the 1 mile hike but plans can change) with a 100 foot elevation gain. The trail is part of the old Snoqualmie Pass wagon road complete with wagon wheel ruts. There are also short trails around the falls to hike in the woods, and a number of picnic tables. We'll meet at 10am next to the wagon wheel (the first trail head). Bring wading shoes, a change of clothes, a picnic lunch, snacks, and a child carrier (and child!) of your choice!

Directions: I-90 east to Exit 47. Turn left at the stop sign and then right at the T intersection. In 0.25 mile turn left on Denny Creek road (No. 58) and pass Denny Creek campground in 2 miles. At 2.25 miles at the junction of road 5830 is the Melawkwa Lake Trail; the wagon wheel should be on the right side of the junction.

Mountain/Area	Franklin Falls
Elevation	Not much
Class	Some wet rocks around the falls, otherwise easy trail
Skills	General parenting skills should suffice
Limits	12 or so
Contact	Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455 or maren.nelson@physio-control.com

"Tooth Ache"

June 14, 21 and/or 28

Any of you BCC grads looking to climb some rock and use those skills you've been taught? Well this is a relatively easy four-pitch climb near Snoqualmie Pass. Bring your headlights because we'll leave Alpentel around 5pm. We should reach the summit before nightfall. Any additional helpers/leaders are invited. Rain cancels.

Mountain/Area	The Tooth, Snoqualmie Pass
Class	up to 5.4
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent; competence on easy rock
Gear	Standard rock gear, including rock shoes – bring a cleaning tool. Ice axe optional for approach and descent, depending on snow conditions.
Limits	Depends on interest
Contact	David Hamilton, (206)297-7353, dhamilton@museumofflight.org

BoBabies do the North Cascades

July 20-23

Having trouble getting out into the mountains now that you have kids? Come join us for 4 days of shared baby sitting, hiking and climbing in the North Cascades! The plan is to car camp at Lone Fir campground (just east of Washington Pass on the North Cascades Highway). You can't reserve camp spots, so plan on getting there early on Friday to get a spot (or Thursday evening like we're planning on doing). Klipchuck and Early Winters campgrounds are just a bit further down the road in case Lone Fir fills up. From our base camp there are tremendous opportunities for outdoor activities. Family friendly hikes like the Lake Ann loop or Cutthroat Pass; easy sport cragging with a 40 foot approach at Fun Rock in Mazama; "alpine sport" routes (all bolted routes in an alpine setting) on Goat Wall; great alpine routes on Cutthroat Peak, Silver Star or Black Peak; or, just sitting around camp playing with the kids!

Mountain/Area	Lone Fir campground and environs, Washington Pass
Elevation	As much as you want
Class	Short kid friendly day hikes, bolted sport climbs or classic alpine routes
Skills	Willingness to trade baby-sitting time for mountain time; tolerance of car camping instead of backcountry camping.
Limits	The more the merrier!
Contact	Matt and Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455 or matt.robertson@boeing.com

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530,ggryder@msn.com

Submit activities to:

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

This year's BCC is almost over – submit an activity for those eager BCC grads to continue their climbing education on!

Mountain Rescue Association yearly conference

The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) is having it's yearly conference at Snoqualmie Pass, this year on June 22-24. According to the registration form, this conference is open to non-MRA members. The scheduled speakers are:

- Wolf Bauer (founder of MRA)
- Tom Hornbein, MD - high altitude physiologist, one of first Americans to summit Everest, doing so days after Whittaker and via an unclimbed Western Traverse
- Jed Williamson - editor of ANAM.

There are also pre-conference workshops on snow anchor strength, and crevasse rescue. Lots of other interesting stuff, even for climbers not involved in SAR work...



Book Review

-- Review by Pam Richards

Endurance, by Alfred Lansing

Just in case I wasn't the last person on the planet to read this, here is a "must-read", "two thumbs up", "five star" (get the drift?) book recommendation. Endurance, written in 1959, details the 1914 trans-Antarctic expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his 27 member crew. Setting sail from England, they aimed to be first to cross the entire Antarctic. The book draws largely from journals that the crew, in fascinating detail, kept throughout the journey. It is a true page-turner, even while the reader is fully aware of the final outcome. Once their ship, the Endurance, is trapped, and then crushed, by ice in the Wendell Sea, the journey becomes one of basic survival in the harshest of conditions. How these men adapted to their constant and evolving challenges is stunning. Led, unflinching, by Shackleton, they persevere with an endearing sense of camaraderie and optimism, through situations that seem absolutely assured to do them in. As harrowing as this story is, it is charmed by the clever, quirky and tender traits of the crew. Think you've ever had it bad? Read this book!

(Editor's note - Everyone is encouraged to send in book reviews – let me know what you're read lately!)

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Board Meeting
May 10, 2001

Attendees: Norene Borg, Dan Costello, Prash Bhat, Don Fraser, Bill Harrison, Micah Lambeth, Silas Wild, Dave Hamilton, Len Kannapell

President's Report: Debbie Brannigan was nominated and elected to position of Photography chair. Talus Development inquired as to whether or not the Club was interested in giving financial support to building a climbing wall in their development; the request was voted down. Request received for Club to lend equipment to Boealps group on Africa expedition; approved.

Programs: Miles Smart is proposed speaker for October Banquet. Will check his schedule availability for October dates. Treasurer should have records for past banquet attendance levels, cost, etc. Dave Hamilton will be doing June mini-show; Erich Koehler main show. July will be Photo show. New Photo Chair needs to be briefed on how it usually runs. July mini-show will be by Cascade Conservation Coalition. No general meeting in August, Club picnic only. Suggestions needed for where Club elections will be held.

Equipment: Request received for use of Club equipment for Alaska expedition; approved.

Education: May 20th will be Crevasse Rescue Refresher Course. Rock Leading Seminar proposed for June 24th Campout. Ice Climbing Seminar proposed for October, sometime after Banquet. Avalanche Seminar planned for December 13th.

Activities: Bag-it night proposed for June 20th. Let Basic class student know about this activities planning session. June campout scheduled for June 22nd – 24th. Need location for October campout, tentatively scheduled for October 12th and 13th.

B. Harrison: Need to verify tax status; Treasurer will investigate. Other Boeing Clubs have had problems with this issue. Controversy arose from conservation article in Echo. Caution urged against expressing political viewpoints in a Boeing sponsored Club. Concern expressed for filling some critical positions on the Club Staff as three-year terms end.

Vice President: Washington State Parks is proposing day use parking fee; giving public a chance to comment. Fee will be implemented at selected parks this Memorial Day weekend.

Membership: need to increase Boeing Employee membership in order to allow non-Boeing members to join. Various ways of boosting membership discussed.

Next Board Meeting location not established yet, but should be on June 14th.

-- Don Fraser, secretary



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Victor Yagi

Controversy Corner - Conservation Chair Willing to Eat Crow

First, I'd like to state that the content over the last few months has been the responsibility of me alone, and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of other Conservation Chairs, the Echo editor, the Boealps board, nor the members.

Last month we asked for people's opinion to the April Conservation Column. Matt and Norene received letters on both sides of the issue. The letters, especially those opposed to the April issue, were worded quite strongly. I felt that all the letters should be printed, but the Boealps board decided that it would be divisive to do so. With that said, I am willing to swallow some crow (even though it is probably tainted with pesticides) and admit that I overstepped the bounds of the CC. I unnecessarily politicized the issues by reporting the actions of the current administration in an accusatory manner. I should let the record speak for itself and let the readers judge the issues on their merits. CC is not the place for me to air my political laundry unless I label it as such. On the same token, the information I presented, except for the titles, was not my opinion, but was from other published sources. I listed the sources so that the reader could make a judgment on the credibility of the information and, if they choose, they can check it out for themselves.

Even though I disagree with ideas of some of the respondents, I've learned things from talking to them in the past. I think that you often learn the most from those you disagree with. While there are certainly ways I think you should not do things, I don't think there is often only one way you should do things. I do not hold exclusive claim to the content of this column. If anyone else wants to submit an article, I would have no objection to having it published. Discussion of the issues is healthy. You are not going to find the truth if you are not willing to put forth an idea and consider other perspectives. I just happen to believe we need to give much more thought to conservation, but I am willing to listen to other perspectives. To quote Albert Einstein, "The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has created problems that cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them." I hope the current controversy has stimulated some thought and not just raised blood pressures.

When we look back, there has always been opposition to efforts aimed at preserving the natural heritage of the country. There was opposition to the first National Parks. In 1872 there was opposition to creating Yellowstone NP as an unnecessary restriction on settlement. In 1891 the cavalry was deployed to protect the newly created Yosemite National Park's forests, meadows, and animal life. Establishing wilderness areas has received similar opposition. I do not think that the National Park system, wilderness areas, or current efforts to protect public lands represent locking up the land in unnecessary land grabs by the government. I happen to think we should thank those that had the foresight to set aside these national treasures for future generations to enjoy. There are others that disagree with me. Some feel that all public lands should be kept open to mining, drilling, and logging. Is there any common ground? Perhaps. The Mountains to Sound Greenway (www.mtsgreenway.org) is an example. Working forests are part of an agreement between local governments, state and federal agencies, corporations, and private citizens to protect wildlife habitat and protect green spaces. Although it isn't perfect, it is a cooperative effort. I do not have blind faith in government regulations or subscribe exclusively to one particular party; however we no longer live in a world where we can use the planet's resources without careful consideration of external costs and future consequences. I may disagree with some of the respondents on principle, but I hope we can put aside the vitriol and seek to understand the true implications of the issues. CC will try to keep the politics out of the column in the future. Let's get back to focusing on mountaineering and making Boealps a better club. I continue to welcome feedback on this and any other issues.

-- Victor Yagi

Decaying State Parks to Implement Vehicle Parking Fee

Decades of inadequate funding and increasing visitation have left Washington State parks in an advanced state of decay. Addressing this situation, the State Parks Commission has set a fee for parking in some state parks at \$5 daily or \$30 annually, effective January 1, 2002. The commissioner followed the vote with a unanimously approved resolution that the commission reluctantly took action to approve a parking fee because they do not believe there is a viable alternative to obtain necessary funding to maintain parks for citizens.

The fee is part of a fee implementation plan recommended by agency staff and approved by the commission. The plan offers visitors the option to buy a \$5 daily parking permit, valid at 98 state parks on the day of purchase or to buy a \$30 annual vehicle parking pass, valid at 98 state parks for the calendar year it purchased. Details of when and where the passes will be available for purchase have yet to be confirmed. Revenue generated from the fee will be returned to parks for maintenance and repair needs within the parks.

Washington State Parks - with 125 parks and 7,000 developed campsites - is one of the most-visited yet least-funded of all state park systems in the country. The 87-year-old park system, which receives more than 46 million visits a year, nationally ranks fourth in day-use attendance, eighth in overnight attendance and 47th in state budget expenditure per visitor.

Since 1991, park visitation has increased by 31 percent. But in the past eight years, the state parks operating budget has decreased by \$4.3 million, after pass-through funds and new responsibilities are subtracted. The system currently spends about \$30 million a year from the general fund, plus another \$10 million of its own revenue that's generated from camping fees and other charges and that the Washington State Legislature appropriates back out of a dedicated account. Over the last 10 years, the system's self-generated funds are up about 70 percent, but the system lost ground on general fund money.

The commission's intent in charging a vehicle parking fee is to better maintain and improve the facilities of the state parks system. Washington was the last state in the Western United States that didn't charge day fees, and this is the last significant revenue source the commission can generate to help the park system. Currently, overnight camping fees account for approximately 70 percent of State Parks' total revenues, but day use comprises more than 90 percent of the system's total visitation. The parking fee will more fairly distribute the costs of operating the park system.

Washington Trails Association

Want to sport this year's Trail Park Permit, but don't want to pay the fee? (*Editor's note: Keep in mind that the way the government is counting "acceptance" of this "demo" program is by assuming everyone who purchases a permit is in favor of the program. Something to think about before buying one.*) Washington Trails Association is again hosting a multitude of opportunities to help care for some of our trails, and if you volunteer for two or more trail sessions, you'll be rewarded with a 2001 Trail Park Permit. In addition to one day outings, the WTA is also offering several weekend long projects, as well as some week long projects. (The week long projects are quite popular and fill early, so sign up now if you'd like to spend some vacation in the wilds while helping maintain our trails). To sign up for an outing, call the WTA at 206-517-7032 or visit their website at <http://www.wta.org>. The schedule for trail maintenance can be found by clicking on the "Trail Teams" link on the left hand menu bar.

Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

June General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on May 3rd, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, followed by the presentations.

Mini Show: Dave Hamilton - "Mr. Hamilton's Neighborhood: Wouldn't ya' like to be my neighbor too?"
Who knows what David will cover in this one, but you can bet it'll be interesting, entertaining and probably G rated!

Main Show: Erich Koehler Remembering Al Wainwright: Reflections on a Climbing Career and Friendship"

On a more serious note, come join Erich Koehler as he pays tribute to friend and long time Boealps member, Al Wainwright. Al passed away recently, and his contributions and personality will be missed greatly by the club.

Upcoming Programs:

July - Get your pictures ready for the annual Boealps photo contest! It's never too early to start looking for that perfect shot so get that film developed and make sure you take your camera on your next trip. In addition to the photo contest, Julie Albertson, with the Cascade Conservation Partnership, will be giving a presentation that will cover some of the efforts being made to preserve Washington's wilderness and opportunities where we can help. For more detailed information about the organization's goals and plans see <http://www.ecosystem.org/tccp/>

August – The August general meeting will be the annual club picnic, held at the Marymoor climbing rock. We'll provide some beverages, you provide the food, ropes, and quickdraws!

September – No location has been set yet, but the September meeting will be the election of a new board of officers for the club. Come join us for food and drink, and an opportunity to nominate someone else to a volunteer board position, or a chance for you to become more active in the club by volunteering for one of those positions yourself!

Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Rock Leading Seminar

Sunday, June 24th

Given in conjunction with the annual June campout, this seminar will focus on the placement of artificial clean protection for traditional climbing (no pitons), and will give the participants plenty of time to practice what they've learned on some of the easy cliffs around Icicle Creek and under the watchful eyes of the instructors. Contact Len to let him know how much interest there is, so he can line up the appropriate number of watchful instructors! You will need all the gear you use to follow on rock climbs – all pro and ropes will be provided by the seminar leaders. Providing your own nut cleaning tool would be appreciated.

Len Kannapell, (206)522-7022(h), kannapell@yahoo.com

Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Web Site

Meth labs, trophy homes, illegal helicopter excursions and wilderness solitude – what do all these have in common? They can all be found in our own back yard, in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River valley. I ran across an interesting web site at <http://www.midfork.org> which is devoted to providing information on recreational opportunities in the Middle Fork valley, as well as opportunities to help protect and clean up this unique area so close to the urban sprawl of Pugetopolis. In addition, it covers some interesting news stories on how some folks are intent on abusing this area as well. Worth a browse!

Boealps June Campout

Where: Leavenworth, 8 Mile Campground
Group Campsite – first one on your right as you enter the campground

When: June 22-24, 2001

Who: All club members, family, friends.

What: Rock Climbing, Hiking, Cycling, Bragging, Lounging. Rock Leading seminar will be offered on Sunday.

How: Return the attached form by June 15th. 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 June 15)

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Potluck Dish: _____

E-mail this form to David Hamilton at dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org, or give Dave a call to let him know you're coming (so we know how many to expect!) at 206-297-7353

THE BOEALPS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Thursday, July 5th, 2001
Oxbow Recreation Center
7:00-9:00 pm

Start rounding up your slides and prints - the Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the July general meeting at the Oxbow Rec Center!

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.

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
People
Sunsets & Sunrise
Boealps Climbing Class
Most Embarrassing
Echo Cover*

For each category, there will be two sets of prizes, one for prints and one for slides.

(*except for the Echo Cover, which will be a combined category. All entries in this category must have high contrast and a horizontal orientation - vertical orientations will not fit on the cover.)

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.

2001 Boealps Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 2nd

At the Marymoor Climbing Rock

From After Work Until Dark

Bring some food to share and your quickdraws – there's only bolts in this rock!

If your last name starts with:

A-L Bring a Main Dish

M-R Bring a Side Dish

S-Z Bring Desert

Beverages will be provided by Boealps

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY in the

**Mountains to
Sound Greenway**

Sat. June 9th "Day in the Greenway"

The Mountains to Sound Greenway stretches from Seattle 100 miles east along I-90. This scenic landscape provides recreation opportunities, habitat for wildlife, clean water and air for our communities, and many parts of our cultural and natural history. The Greenway vision is a product of a remarkable coalition of people, including land owners and managers, foresters, business representatives, recreation groups, environmentalists and government agencies. On June 9th, learn more about the Greenway, and do your part to keep the it green!

Bring a team from your workplace, your family and friends, and make a difference!

Projects from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Free picnic 1 - 3 p.m. - all volunteers invited!

- **Tradition Lake, south of Issaquah:** What is stinky, pink, and taking over Tiger Mountain? Herb Robert! Obliterate this noxious weed that is endangering native plants in Tiger Mtn. forests.
- **Mountains to Sound Nursery, Lake Sammamish:** Help us start to remodel our facility, pot a few trees and do some light weeding.
- **King County Nursery, Maple Valley:** We have thousands of trees that must be potted—an excellent project for teams! This event is also great for kids and families.
- **Squak Mountain, south of Issaquah:** Help maintain this beautiful trail by clearing brush, and other general trail maintenance.

For more info. or to sign up, please contact Kelly Kirkland at 206-812-0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org

*"Day in the Greenway" is a collaboration between **EarthCorps** and the **Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust** and is sponsored by:*



**Puget Sound Energy
A Splundh Tree Expert Company**

Thank you!

books for nepal

1441 Jones Street #403, San Francisco, CA 94123 415-235-5243
booksfornepal@yahoo.com; www.booksfornepal.org

Boealps Can Help Books for Nepal Build More Schools

Books for Nepal will be hosting a special event June 13 to raise funds to build two Seattle-sponsored schools this summer -- one outside Katmandu and another in a rural village.

The fund raising party will be June 13, 7 p.m., at the Mountaineers clubhouse (300 3rd Ave. West) and include a cheese/wine/beer social, photos/video of BFN Founder John Wood's most recent school-building trip to Nepal, and a plethora of door prizes. RSVP and find more information at <http://www.booksfornepal.org/event.html>.

Christine Boskoff, owner of Mountain Madness and North America's premier female alpinist, will open the event and be available for questions before and after the presentation. Christine is the only living woman to have climbed six of the world's fourteen 8000-meter mountains, including Mt. Everest.

Two local filmmakers also will be speaking about a documentary/educational video they will be creating in the fall out of the experience. They are planning to set up "sister schools" between the Nepalese schools we build and Seattle schools... and to highlight the differences in education.

Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries, with a gross national product of less than \$400 per person per year. The illiteracy rate among Nepalese males is 60%; and females is 86%. This cycle of poverty will be impossible to break without educating citizens and reducing the illiteracy rate. Building a school through Books for Nepal's challenge grant program costs \$2,500. The organization can add a library for \$1,500 and guarantee a child's education for \$200 a year.

To date, Books for Nepal has provided more than 30,000 books to Nepal, built six schools with five more under construction, established 50 libraries, and funded more than 30 scholarships. Almost 100% of their donations go directly to the projects.

#

Contact: Tamara Plush, Seattle Event Coordinator
tamarafilm@aol.com; 206-898-0341

BCC 2001 Photo Album

Editor's note: Our new photo chair, Debbie Brannigan, has been on the ball and collected these pictures to share with the club members. If you've got other good pictures from the Basic Class, get them to Debbie or me, and we'll run another "album" next month! By the way, the pictures look much better in color – check 'em out on the Boealps web site – <http://www.boealps.org>)



"Plum Topping"

"Looking for Gold"
Gold team
members prepare
for crevasse rescue
practice



"Aggie's Angels"



Rock Lesson at Mt. Erie

Stream Crossing on the way to Devils Peak



"Jen Descends"
Crevasse rescue practice on the Nisqually
Glacier



"Our Leader"
Rich Privett being sacrificed to the crevasse
gods

An Interview with Len Longmire By Alton Lindsey, September, 1933

(Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from an interview with Len Longmire, son of James Longmire, given to Alton Lindsey, a ranger and naturalist at Mount Rainier National Park. The interview appears in the September, 1933 issue of "Mount Rainier National Park Nature Notes", an early monthly publication that was handed out to park visitors. I found his comments about how Mt. Rainier had been easier to climb in the past, and the fact that he noted the climate was getting milder even then to be an interesting counterpoint to David Spring's article elsewhere in this issue.)

"How did Paradise Valley get its name, Len?" I inquired.

"My mother named it. She and Grandmother were the first white women to see the place. We all went up there in '85. It was my first summer in the region that's now the National Park. I remember that when we first saw the valley with its thick carpet of wild flowers everywhere, Mother said, 'This must be called Paradise!'

"You know, the first woman to climb Mount Rainier was Fay Fuller, now Mrs. Briesen. Well, I was along on that trip in 1890, in charge of Rev. Ernest Smith. Fay was the only girl, and there were four men. We were not roped together, and Fay wouldn't let us help her in the least. At one real dangerous place one of us offered her a hand, but she said, 'No thanks, I want to get up there under my own power or not at all'. And you should have seen the climbing costume she had rigged up. Baggy black bloomers that fastened around her ankles, with a skirt over them that went to about eight inches from the ground. Since this was before bloomers were being worn, this outfit was considered very immodest. We had to spend the night in the crater, for that day the ice above Gibraltar was so bad we had to cut steps in it. Yes, Fay Fuller was a pioneer in more ways than one. She shocked everyone around here by riding horseback like a man, in a bloomer costume she had made, instead of riding side-saddle. She was the first woman harbor-master in the world, at Seattle. Fay Peak, up near Mowich Lake, is named in her honor."



Fay Fuller on her 1890
climb of Mt. Rainier

"But, say," I broke in, "How could anyone make the climb in a family-album garb like that, when today we need special mountaineering equipment to be at all safe? Are you going to heave a sigh about the softness of our younger generation?"

"Not on that score. In the old days it was a much easier mountain to climb than it is now. Since then the snow has become a good deal thinner, leaving more ice and crevasses exposed. You have to strap crampons on your feet now, and be tied to the other climbers. We used to wear ordinary shoes, not even hob-nails, and for an alpenstock I carried a stick with a nail in one end. Columbia Crest is just a big mound of snow at the very top of Mt. Rainier. When Emmons and Wilson took the first altitude measurement in October, 1870, they made it 14,444 feet, using a thermometer in boiling water. Now, judging by the glaciers it seems possible that their figure was fairly accurate, and the snow at the summit could have lowered about thirty-six feet since then."

Thousands of visitors each summer marvel at the rapid recession of the glaciers, learning that the snout of the Nisqually is backing up the mountainside about seventy feet annually. Len Longmire was the first man to realize that our glaciers are losing ground. He noticed this in 1893, when the Nisqually reached well below the site of the present Glacier Bridge. It has since receded about three-quarters of a mile, due to the excess of melting over downward flow.

"Yes, the climate in these parts must be gradually getting milder. There's a lot less snow falls in Paradise Valley than there used to. Reece had his big tourist camp there, and kept his meats in a nearby snowbank which lasted all summer. Year by year he had to put the meat farther up the hillside to keep it in the snow. In 1910 it was so far from camp that the bears got it. Then he bought a refrigerator. Today the bears would get it if he slept beside it, but then they didn't have the taking ways of modern bears. They were as wild as the cougars and mountain goat are now. Bears were never seen near any camp in those days. I never saw one fed by man until 1927, and was sorry to see it. Some folks will take chances like that in spite of the rules."

This part of our conversation reminded Len of his intention to hunt mountain goat on this Sunday afternoon. He hunts birds and animals with binoculars instead of a gun, and when off duty is seldom without them. With an intelligent interest in the wild animals and plants of the park, he enjoys the ever-changing pageant of nature throughout each year. As he walked away, with his binoculars slung from his shoulders, I was struck with the contrast between him and all those visitors who are satisfied to spend a Sunday afternoon here, and tell their friends back home that they have "seen" Mount Rainier National Park.

Global Warming & Wilderness Travel

By David Spring

(Editor's Note: David Spring is an instructor of various wilderness courses at Bellevue Community College. He has also been a guest lecturer at the BCC for the past several years, speaking on weather prediction and avalanche safety. Not to stir any more conservation flames, but I thought this was an interesting piece of personal observation on David's part, and I wanted to share it with the general membership. Opinions expressed in this piece are David's, and not necessarily anyone else's.)

Although few folks seem to realize it, Global Warming has already had dramatic effects on wilderness travelers here in the NW. The increase in strength and frequency of both El Ninos and La Ninas can be seen as a consequence of our global atmospheric experiment with the planet. In just the past ten years, we have endured record floods that wiped out millions of dollars of roads and trails. We have suffered record snowfalls and destructive avalanches that further damage roads and trails, not to mention people. There have also been record droughts that have caused fierce forest fires and major bug infestations. The spread of Lyme Disease to the NW may have been caused by these erratic weather patterns. Global warming has led to increased strength and frequency of wind storms, Arctic cold fronts, Pineapple Expresses and splits in the Jet Stream.

Perhaps a more accurate term to describe this weather threat would be "global extreming". It has made predicting the weather substantially much more difficult than it was just a few years ago. Right now, about the only thing we can be certain of is that the weather is going to become even more erratic, damaging and unpredictable in the coming years.

Climbing Mount Rainier ... For 20 years, I have taught courses in Glacier climbing at Bellevue Community College. As part of this three month long course, I bring groups up Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier. In recent years, the outings have been getting progressively more difficult due to Global Warming. Weather patterns have become more erratic. Wind speeds have increased. The Glacial Nevi has melted sooner in the year exposing sections of hard glacial ice that is much more hazardous to climb. Unlike the nevi, you can't kick steps in the ice. Even chopping steps in the ice offers little security, as it is all but impossible to arrest a fall on a steep, icy slope. So instead, we now bring both pickets and ice screws to anchor our ropes. As we climb, I show students the place where a young ranger fell to his death a few years ago on a now icy section of the route. Placing protection at this spot slows down the climb, but the students don't mind. They needed a water break anyway. Last July, during our first Rainier climb, we arrived at Camp Sherman and saw a few wands blocking off the upper fringe of the camp. Camp Sherman is located on a glacial ridge and in theory there aren't supposed to be any crevasses there. I've been going up to Camp Sherman for 25 years and indeed there have never been any crevasses on the north side of the ridge. The ranger at camp said the wands were put up because a climber had discovered a crevasse in that area while digging out a tent platform. Two weeks later, I came back with our final team of BCC Climbing students and discovered that the small crevasse had grown to amazing proportions. It now ran almost the full length of Camp Sherman (about 100 yards long and in places over 15 feet across). Moreover, for the first time in all of my trips up there (I've climbed this route almost 60 times in the previous 20 years), we were not able to climb the route via the Corridor... another glacial ridge that is supposed to be free of crevasses. Evidently, the crevasses were now so big on the Corridor that it was impassible. Instead we ascended north of the Corridor on a route that wasn't much better. I enjoyed seeing some different terrain. But I wasn't happy about the cause of our change in plans. The routes are more "broken up" every year. Getting over crevasses is now a major challenge. These cracks are getting wider as the glacier speeds up. Meanwhile, the snow bridges which we have always used to get over them are getting smaller... victims of the same warming which is widening the crevasses. Last year for the first time we started experimenting with "crevasse ladders". I would have scoffed at this idea just a few years ago. Ladders are only used on major expeditions like climbing Mount Everest. We'd be the

laughing stock of the mountain if we brought one to Mount Rainier. The Rainier Guide Service has been using ladders for two years now. This year so will we.

A High Alpine Traverse... I led a group on a five day outing through the heart of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness last summer. This off-trail route is referred to as the "High Alpine Traverse". This was the tenth time in the past twenty years that I had led a trip to this area. In previous years, the mosquitoes had been so thick that mosquito suits (jackets, pants and headnets) were essential if one wished to have any blood left by the final day. Amazingly, this time there wasn't a mosquito anywhere. At Big Heart Lake, we encountered a ranger who told us that the record drought the previous two months had killed them all off. We were ecstatic! Imagine...five whole days in the middle of summer and no bugs! It wasn't until we got to Chetwood Lake that I began to notice another difference...we had seen almost no wildlife. No deer, no elk, no bear and most importantly no birds. We were now two days into our trip and far from any roads, cars or other people. In the past, we would be seeing lots of wildlife by now. Instead there was a strange quite in the air. Nothing was moving. Lacking any breeze, even the trees were still. Their branches drooped from the strain of their thirst. Slowly it dawned on me that maybe the absence of mosquitoes wasn't such a good thing after all. They were the base of the food chain (of course, they look at us as the base of the food chain). No bugs meant no birds. We were witnessing first hand the silence Rachel Carson had predicted in her book "Silent Spring". No rain also meant no plant growth and no food for grazing animals. On past outings, we had feasted on endless huckleberries. This time there were none. Unlike the other animals, we at least had food bags to fall back on. I began to look at mosquitoes in a totally different light. Instead of being merely worthless parasites, I saw them as an "indicator species" of the health of the entire ecosystem. They were an early warning system that something might be wrong...much like canaries in a coal mine or spotted owls in an old growth forest.

We got to Tank Lakes and found that many of the smaller ponds had dried up. The massive snowfields of previous years had all but disappeared. This reminded me of an outing a couple of years earlier in about the same area. I was leading a group up Mount Hinman. We climbed up to the Hinman Glacier and were shocked to discover that the lower glacier had completely melted away. It is still shown as a glacier on the topo map, but it is now a barren boulder field with a small lake in the middle of a steep canyon. It was nice to be on the High Alpine Traverse for several days without the need to wear a bug suit. But our comfort had come at a terrible price for the rest of the wilderness. Tank Lakes are perched at 6000 feet, just above timberline on a high plateau. That night was pitch black. The stars shown brilliantly in the Eastern sky. But they faded in the west, obscured by the dull glow of Seattle plainly visible from a hundred miles away. I understood the connection between those city lights and the absence of mosquitoes. Over consumption of energy is a major cause of global warming. But I don't understand why those lights have to be on at three in the morning. Those lights prevent folks in town from seeing the stars at night. I realized that night there are a lot of other things people can not see if they stay down there in town too much. I was glad I had climbed up to this high place. But because I could now see things more clearly, I wasn't glad about the absence of mosquitoes.

A Holiday Ski Tour.. My wife and I went skiing with her sister and husband over the holidays. This past year we went to Lake Wenatchee State Park. While we were out skiing, the wind picked up and a big storm came in. After we were done skiing, we drove out to Highway 2 and found a big traffic jam going Eastbound. A driver going westbound said that cars were lined up all the way to Stevens Pass, almost twenty miles away. The Pass itself was closed due to avalanches. No one knew when it might open again. Being the experienced person I thought I was, I decided to simply go the other way through Leavenworth and take I-90 over Blewett and Snoqualmie Pass instead. We went over Blewett/ Sauk Pass in a snowstorm. By the time we reached Cle Elum, the winds were blowing cars right off of the road. We heard on the radio that I-90 was closed so we decided to stop and get a bite to eat at a local restaurant. The waitress informed us that I-90 had been closed for hours. Traffic was being diverted at Ellensburg and thousands of holiday motorists had been stranded. The couple sitting next to us had a two-year old boy who was critically ill. They

were from Spokane and had been attempting to drive to Children's Hospital in Seattle when the storm hit. The father was now on his cell phone trying to line up a helicopter or airplane out of Yakima. Because of the bad weather, he wasn't having much luck. The four of us wound up spending the night on the floor of a Red Cross Shelter at a local Elementary School (together with several hundred other people). I never found out if the little boy made it to Children's Hospital. I wonder if his parents understood what had really happened with that storm and why. That trip reminded me that it's not just wilderness outings that have become more erratic. Global Warming is making everything more challenging. Extreme, unpredictable weather affects everyone and everything.

Global Warming is caused by several factors. The main ones are:

1. Increases in carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. From driving cars, heating houses and industry.
2. Increases in methane gas. Caused primarily by beef production and the family dog (there are now almost as many dogs and cows on the planet as people... each cow puts off 20 times the amount of methane as each person). There is also a complex feedback loop associated with melting of the Canadian permafrost. This will release even more methane into the atmosphere and will be doubling the methane problem in the next twenty years.
3. A reduction in conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen. This reduction is caused by the destruction of our planet's forests. Each tree converts enough carbon dioxide for 100 people. Unfortunately, we have now destroyed over 90 percent of the world's forests, with most of that destruction having occurred in the last 50 years. Despite the slick ads by Corporate America, the truth is that our forest practices are not sustainable over time. This is because a forest is much more complex than a crop of corn. Tree farms cannot resist fires and bug infestations like the original forest. They are therefore almost certain to fall victim to catastrophe in the next century. Moreover the forest has a growing season over 200 times longer than a crop of corn. Our current use of pesticides is therefore doomed to failure with the only winners being the same corporate animals who created this mess in the first place. In the long run even they will lose. There is no way to get around the first law of ecology... "everything is connected to everything else"
4. Carbon Dioxide conversion is also being reduced by holes in the Ozone layer, which has killed off much of the plankton which are the base of the food chain in the ocean. This is dangerous because the loss of oxygen due to fewer trees and fewer ocean plants may lead to less ozone, more ozone holes and even greater loss of trees and ocean plants (a kind of downward spiral which will result in a planet fit only for cock roaches).

It should be noted that none of these problems have to do with over population. Instead they have to do with over-consumption by a very small percent of the planet's population... namely Americans. As Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Americans consume goods and create global warming gasses at a rate that is 10 times greater than anyone else. This is why the rest of the world looks at us as a bunch of hypocrites – we want them to stop logging in Brazil, yet we have logged dramatically more of our trees than they have of theirs. Even worse is our desire for hamburgers that is bankrolling rainforest destruction to begin with.

Potential solutions include mass transit (anything else should be looked at as mass suicide); become a vegetarian – this is good both for your health and the health of the planet. (Read "Diet for a New America" by John Robbins or attend a local Earth Save potluck for more information on this important topic); getting informed and getting involved. Corporate criminals can only get away with destruction through public ignorance and apathy. Read a lot of books. Join the Sierra Club. Support environmental candidates. Write your Representatives. Make it clear to them that we've got to end the corporate welfare policy of giving away the public's trees for pennies on the dollar. The reason so many people now support a "zero cut" policy is because folks are finally starting to realize that our trees are worth much more to us standing than if we cut them down (a fact any squirrel already knows).

Olympic Beach Clean-up April 27-29 by Prash Bhat

A couple of co-workers wondered if I was interested in helping with the Olympic beach clean-up (advertised in the Echo last month). Having never spent more than a few hours on the Olympic coast, I was eager to go, having heard only good things about it. So we left on Friday in moderate rain. On the way to the Lake Ozette campground, the intensity of the rain steadily increased, such that when we arrived at our campsite, we pitched the tent in the most shallow puddle we could find. Luckily, it quit raining sometime overnight, and we awoke to partly cloudy conditions. At the Lake Ozette ranger station, they gave us about a dozen large plastic trash bags. After a leisurely hike on the boardwalk, we arrived at Sand Point, where 2 of the trash bags quickly became pack covers while we set up camp in case it rained again. Stepping out onto the beach, it was evident that we wouldn't get very far. Trash from ships was washed up on the beach - plastic bottles, ropes, floats, crates, shoes, bottles, etc. It took the 4 of us about 2 hours to fill 10 bags, venturing all of about 200 yards from our campsite. By this time it was clearing up and the views were getting very nice, so we went for a stroll down the beach, where we ran into a bald eagle devouring a seagull or some other whitish colored bird (Some white feathers and entrails were the only clue). Several loud shrieks and a couple of low passes over our heads indicated our presence was not welcome. With the tide coming in, we headed back to camp. On Sunday, we carried out as much trash as we could, and cached the remainder of the bags in the trees near our campsites. The rangers said that they would make trips during the summer by boat to come pick up larger items and the trash caches.

Oh Say, Can You See the ICC by David Hamilton (ICC '01 student)

We've been on a few outings now with the ICC. Leavenworth brought rescue applications and some lead practice. The weather was fair and the night was clear. The potluck brought apple juice, firewater, and pheasant/bacon strips. We've been to Smith Rock in Oregon where we put in some time on the rock. Super Slab seemed to be a favorite while Moscow was agreeably tougher. Some folks headed up that really steep stuff like Peking and Insane Brain (I made this up, but it sounded pretty tough). Despite what everyone said, Len got us back down while there was still light out. Heck, it was still light out when we arrived at the potluck. Next outing I will put non-slip tape on my large hexes. Somewhere along the way we lost a couple of our fellow students. I heard Hau got seriously hurt while mountain biking. Hope he gets better soon. Until then, could I borrow your Jeep, buddy?

This past weekend we went to Squamish, BC., where they have the Loonies and Tunies. Little do they know Tunies come from Kentucky, eh. Saturday brought some rain, but we climbed anyway, eh. About 11am, the sun broke through the clouds and the climbing became excellent, eh. Doug Sanders and I climbed some nice rock in Murrin Park. We were at the Sugarloaf area and we saw, as stated in the Squamish guidebook, the tower above is a rather modest belay. The potluck brought food galore. More fried chicken than you could shake a stick at. Huge stories of grand climbs. The campground there is nice, and I think there's a trail from there to the top of Big Chief. Sunday we invaded the Apron en-masse. We did the jungle-scramble up to the base and went on a variety of routes. Most of us went up Banana Peel, Sickle, and Diedre. Friction climbing at its best. Sunshine all day with great views. The climbing was very different than anything I've climbed before. I couldn't tell if it was tougher leading or bringing in the rope on belay while Brian laughed as he ascended quickly. There were reports that the friction of the wet rock on Diedre wasn't so good. I thought Banana Peel was a great climb and a good confidence builder. The "exposed" descent wasn't all that exposed and was quite easy. Good times had by all. Another thing, if you climb any of these routes, don't leave anything at the base of the routes. If you do, you'll find out why I warned you. I inadvertently knocked off a rock on one of the pitches, we yelled "Rock!" a few times, and I watched it go down over the bulge of the Apron. Not thinking any more of it, I was surprised when we got down to the parking lot a few hours later and then the instructor Gary pulls out that rock and asks if I want it back. Turns out the rock landed a few feet away from him.

Llamas up the Butt

by Michael Anderson

The journey begins with me staying up until 3:20 am finalizing packing; Shuttle express was scheduled to pick me up at 5:30 am. Does this sound familiar? Could there be any excuse? No. We'd only been planning this May-June 2000 Denali climb for 14 months.

Fresh, fit and fat we get to Sea-Tac with our packs, overstuffed duffels and sleds. After check-in, lattes were in hand and we were on top of the world. Upon arrival at Anchorage, score, Cinnibon! Things are going good, the sun's shining, all the gear arrives, the van driver finds us and we're on our way.

The van is a 1978 era Ford 15 passenger type that's seen many miles, but, who can complain, it's 40 bucks each for a one way ride to Talkeetna and you're allowed one stop for gear, groceries, etc. We stopped at a big grocery in Wasilla to pick up some celebratory stuff, about 35 pounds in all, to leave at the Kahiltna Glacier basecamp for our return from a successful summit. We also picked up pounds and pounds of smoked salmon to eat low on the glacier.

After more than three hours on the road we're in Talkeetna, probably around 4:00 pm. First thing we do is drop our gear at Geetings, the glacier air service we booked with. One of the pilots was hanging around and says, "...well, are you guys ready to go..." he meant now! We said we planned on going in tomorrow to which he replied a storm was moving in and we might not get in tomorrow. Decision time! We said, "Let us go into town, go through orientation at the Ranger station and get something to eat; we'll think about it."

Walking down the dirt road into town from Geeting the sun was still high in the sky and warm on the face; the air was just chilly enough for fleece. The ranger station is a beautiful new building of beam and river rock construction. A very appropriate design with the town being the confluence of three rivers; I can't pronounce them let alone spell them. The orientation was at just the right level of professionalism and friendliness. We sat around a table, with a computer monitor on top, in a small conference room and watched as the Ranger paged through photos of The Mountain; the route magically appeared and wandered across the screen much like the old adventure movies which show an airplane traversing continents. We paid the balance of our deposits, which was not rescue insurance they reminded us, and were on our way to supper. We find this place and get a table outside, and some beers. Burgers mostly filled the menu, Musk Ox, Wapiti and Moose if I remember correctly. We're excited, can't believe we're here. Back to Geeting with overstuffed bellies, we've decided to stay overnight. Doug, THE MAN, is there himself, wearing those trademark Wayfarer sunglasses. The desk clerk is standing there, as is the pilot who wants to get us on the glacier. We tell him we're the Denali Llamas and he says "...so, you're...back?" Pat, Marshall and I look at each other and think "... what is he talking about?" Only later did we find out that just that day Geeting delivered a team of three, also named the Denali Llamas, to the Glacier. He thought that we had been to the Glacier and back. We resisted the pilot's last offer to get us on the Glacier and Doug said we could sleep on the floor in the office of this sheet metal building. The first thing you notice when entering the office is the single row of 8 by 10 framed and unframed b&w photos that span the length of the wall at ceiling height. You take it that these are folks Doug holds in high regard; most have autographs addressed to Doug. Two stand outs are Ramblin' Jack Elliot and Mississippi John Hurt who play the walking blues. Turns out Doug plays a mean 12 string acoustic and has two recordings himself; he sells them right there in the office. The office was new with clean carpet and a shower; what more could a person want? Plus, we were next to our gear and could do some last minute organizing. What does that mean?

The next day broke clear and sunny, just glorious. We packed up everything as "flight seers" were showing up in the office. Back into town to the best eatery there, the Roadhouse. This time we took a beat up Volvo station wagon, one of those million milers; Doug had it parked outside. Only one of the back doors worked and I don't remember if it had reverse; what a beater, with empty oil cans, jumper cables, antifreeze bottles and other junk in the back, but a welcome gesture from Doug. The Roadhouse is a hand hewed log building from way back. On the menu are about 6 items, each in a half plate or full plate version. I tell you what, it'd be a mighty big man that can put down a full plate. The place seemed to be a central meeting location for outbound and returning climbers. We felt eyes fall heavy on us from a table ringed by climbers as we walked in the door. Kind of like the strangers walking into a saloon in the old West. We had on our white polypros and supplex shorts with fleece jackets, seemed pretty normal to us. We were finishing up just as our pilot came in. He said we'd need to wait to fly out since the weather was poor around the Mountain,

maybe by noon it would clear up. The news was a bit of a disappointment, but, the food was good, the coffee excellent, we were on vacation for a month and the Mountain wasn't going anywhere.

Back to Geeting to stage our departure. We lay out our boots and gaiters and stow our street clothes in the hanger amid a floor covered with duffels from other teams. Our pilot instructs us to start weighing our gear bags and individually labeling them. The pace picks up and we're weighing, labeling and loading as fast as we can. Marshall takes off with most of the gear while Pat and I wait at the hanger. About an hour later Doug flies in with his turbo Cessna. It's the only one that flies out of Talkeetna in iffy weather since it has the horsepower to climb over the clouds. On his way to the office, most likely to check e-mail, he professionally barks out "...get ready to leave, the weathers closing in..." As we load the remaining gear and sleds in the belly pod, Doug makes some comment about our home made 60 inch plastic sleds to the effect "...what the #\$@% are you guys doing...those are not coming back..."

Day one: Once on the Glacier we meet Marshall and dig a hole for the basecamp cache and load the sleds. As I get ready to hook up my sled to the pack I discovered that the two mini biners required for the task are missing; full size biners were never intended to work. I scrambled, looking into all the pockets of the pack, no luck. I went to the Ranger's hut at basecamp and radioed in to Geeting; no one knows anything about it. Time to deal with the neighbors. I had some primo pepperonis from Larry's Smokehouse in Mukilteo. Walking around the camp I found this young foreign guy and gal, looked 15, who jumped on the deal saying they hadn't eaten in 3 days or something. This guy hiked in across the Tundra and had climbed Foraker and some other peaks in the area in the last few days. We're off at about 4:30 pm, lesson learned. Of all the spare gear we brought, this escaped our list.



Mt. Foraker

We intended to get to the 7,800 ft camp at the base of Ski Hill but nothing doing. The 535 lbs between us took its toll. We probably had only 500 lbs with us based on what was cached at basecamp. We've come to understand first hand why climbers recommend limiting loads to 100 pounds each on this route. So, we camped at about 7,000 ft.

Day two: we cached a little ways up Ski Hill, about 8,200 ft; the day was sunny and just cool enough to not sweat but the sleds were a drag. The front of our hip bones were black and blue and sore from the hipbelt already.

Day three: we moved up to a camp at about 9,400 ft, just below the upper Kahiltna. Just like Shawn Paré had said, there's a nice protected spot below an incline to the upper Kahiltna.

Day four: back to get the cache at 8,200 ft. By the time we got back to camp I'd had enough of the excessive sled drag caused by some razor thin, one inch high runners I had riveted to the back of the sled for stability. Both were only a foot long but I suspected they were causing substantial drag. As I dropped the pack, before even unloading, I pulled out the small claw hammer we'd brought to pound in anchors up high and ripped off the runners. Man that felt good. I let out a maniacal laugh "HaHaHaHaHa you #@&!" Sure enough, the next day the sled moved like nothing! Well, as much as 60 lbs of nothing feels like.

Day five: we took a reality check and decided to lighten our loads. The heavy energy bars, gorp and fruit simply were not being eaten at the rate we anticipated so we cached a big bag of stuff. Later that day we're finally in the mountains after turning right at Kahiltna Pass, 10,000 ft. Up until now it has been glacier

travel, no crevasses to speak of, and miles of slogging with snowshoes. About half way to Kahiltna Pass we found an unoccupied camp with high walls and decided to have lunch. After lunch we took a nap, the warm sun was so pleasant on the face. I could have slept much longer, it was so comfortable on a tired body. But, Pat, our taskmaster, whipped us up and we were off again. We cached at 10,500 where there is quite a camp complex, with 10 or more tents; looks like something out of star wars. On the return the wind picked up enough for us to don goggles and look for wands. The challenge was growing.

Day six: we moved camp to 11,200 ft, just below Motorcycle Hill. We got there pretty late and found one spot in this large camp that had been leveled for placement of about 4 tents. Score! All we needed to do was sweep off some powder and we're set. This was also the first time we cut out a pit for the pyramid shaped cook tent, a Black Diamond Megamid. A cook tent is absolutely required. It offers a refuge from the elements where you can stretch out, fill your bellies, spill, drain cooking water, relax, talk and plan the next day.

Day seven: we picked up our cache at 10,500; the day was easy.

Day eight: was a snow day, we got to rest, which was good for day nine was to be huge! The storm came at just the right time. I was the first one up the next day and tried to quietly push up on the sagging tent roof to dislodge the 8+ inches of snow, but I only ended up startling my half awake teammates.

Day nine: up Motorcycle Hill, traverse Squirrel Hill and around the infamous Windy Corner for a cache. The sun seemed to be crushing as we went up Motorcycle Hill with our sleds. For the first time we were without snowshoes having cached them at 11,200. We met this local guy at the top of the hill coming down with his one partner. He was frustrated with his inability to once again get past altitude sickness at the 14,200 camp, this being his third attempt. Reality was beginning to set in. Squirrel Hill is aptly named. You traverse down a slope that falls off to the left and then climb out of it and turn to the right. The upper part is similar to driving around a curve on a road that isn't banked correctly, tending to pull you into the oncoming traffic's lane. Mind you, we're doing this with loaded sleds behind us and full packs!



Pulling loads

From the top of Squirrel Hill the terrain gently rises on the level towards the traverse to Windy Corner. By now the sun was at our backs. The traverse to Windy Corner is interminable and falls off to your right. By the time we got there at 8:00 pm, pent up tensions exploded. We hadn't stopped in 4 hours and were hungry and tired. Pat seemed to be pushing on oblivious to our calls for a rest break, calling back to the effect "...I'm looking for a flat spot where we can stop..." Seemed like he'd been looking for an hour now. Marshall and I pulled far off the trail Pat had followed, seeing small boulders peaking out of an icy windswept surface that was on a level and inferred there was no crevasse danger. I don't know who lost their composure first, Pat or Marshall, but both fired verbal barrages at one another. Pat said something to the effect that our move off path was dangerous and Marshall's reply was to "get off that line of reasoning for one could clearly see small rocks protruding from the thin icy crust implying there was no crevasse danger". Marshall and I sat next to one another while Pat was about 25 feet away, just close enough to listen to the weather forecast. This was the first place on the mountain we could hear the daily 8:00 pm broadcast. Refreshed, we were off to finish the cache at 13,500. The trail headed to the left from Windy Corner into the shadows of cliffs, it was getting cold and we still had to make the cache and return to camp; this was going to be a long day. At 13,500 I remember being quite tired and chilled, a bad combination. My fingers were getting numb. We took turns digging the cache as always and on much better relations. All of us were happy to have made the cache and be heading back to 11,200 where food and comfort awaited. All right, it's all a matter of perspective.

Day 10: we moved camp to 14,200. After getting into the shadow of the cliffs past Windy Corner late in the day again we seemed to go on for a long time before finding the camp. This was the longest day so far, yet we all felt good.

Day 11: we rested, washed up with baby wipes and socialized around camp; I think Pat even turned his underwear inside out. It was sunny and warm enough for only long underwear and a vest.

Day 12: we carried a cache to the top of the icy headwall, 16,200 ft. Our plan was to rest a few days at 14,200 camp, however, the weather forecast called for a 5+ day storm moving in later in the week with forecasted 90+ mile per hour winds and we wanted to be in a position to beat the storm. This carry is completely on your back from 14,200 due to the steep terrain. Well worn footsteps in the blue ice lead you up the slope. These steps, each the shape of one left foot and one right, bring to mind generations of heavily laden, tired seekers having been here before, each on their own journey to the majesty above. The first obstacle on the headwall is a bergschrund. It's a little higher than you can reach the top of with your ice axe; with a full pack at this angle its quite a challenge to keep your balance on one foot while lifting the other into the next step. At the 15,500 foot elevation on the headwall are fixed ropes, anchored into fittings in the ice, that you can hook into for your safety. We'd practiced with our ascenders in winter on the steeper slopes of Panarama Point on Rainier so we were prepared. What a beautiful sight from the top of the headwall. You could see East, South and West for miles beyond measure. In the foreground were innumerable untrodden, lifeless snow and ice covered peaks, concealing underlying rock. In the distance was the tundra, flat and dark with meandering silver ribbons and speckles in all directions. This flat place at the top of the headwall was only about the size of a two-car garage floor. To the West the terrain fell off more steeply than the East side which we had just ascended. But on the West side, there were about a dozen snow caves, burrows deep in the snow. People were staying in these caves overnight before moving on to the last camp at 17,200. Just 10 feet down from the saddle, the caves were well out of the wind and the setting sun still afforded welcome warmth to cold faces. Coming down using the ropes to the right we found out why you need both a left and right ascender; you use the opposite one you ascended with. Fortunately we each had brought both, though, when we were in Seattle, couldn't quite figure out why one wouldn't do; now we knew.

Day 13: we moved camp to 17,200. From the top of the headwall the route is narrow as a goat path and well packed. On your right are bare rock outcroppings. On your left is a 40+ degree slope for 50 feet and a 3000 foot drop off. Pat reminded us that this is where a Ranger was blown off the mountain to his death a couple of years earlier; not much imagination is required to believe this. There's virtually no place to tie in pro at this point, however, at some spots there are rope loops one could hook a biner into and work a running belay. We decided not to use any pro. Marshall and I outpaced Pat at this point for some reason, perhaps we wanted to get the day over with and set up camp. At one point, after finding a poor spot with a couple of walls, we became concerned about what was taking Pat so long and considered going back down to find him. The sun was going down in the West and the trail into camp seemed to climb out of the horizon there. We kept seeing climbers in silhouette appear but none had the side to side tottering gate of Pat. He eventually appeared after what seemed like 45 minutes, said he was having a hard time keeping his balance and felt light headed. We didn't associate Pat's condition with altitude sickness at the time. To set up the tent took all three of us, two to stretch the fabric and the third to hook the pole into the grommets. We questioned, "now which poles go in first, the blue, silver or red?" That night I had the most bizarre "black" dreams. I say black since the dreams were as if I was suffocating in darkness...and I was! I'd wake up and find myself gasping for air! Gasping for air wasn't frightening since we all knew the altitude would take its toll.

Day 14: Another place I found myself gasping for air was on the way to the latrine. From our camp we had to traverse this little lemon drop hill, probably 15 feet tall and 40 feet across; I was bent over, hands on my knees trying to catch my breath! It was warm, (zero) and sunny with no wind. All we needed to do today was pick up our cache at 16,200, but that never happened. This French climber was heading down and wanted to lighten his load so we figured we'd accept some of his food and fuel and save us energy by not having to go back to the cache. We rationalized that the 5 days of food and fuel in the cache were not going to be needed since we were not going to be staying at 17,200 that long because of the oncoming storm. My headache was getting progressively worse so before noon I started taking Diamox. In hindsight I started taking it too late for, although I peed like a racehorse, there was not much relief from headache pain caused by swelling in the brain which the Diamox is supposed to relive. Pain killers didn't help either. I was bumming out by the end of day since my partners were going to make a summit attempt the next morning starting at 8:00 am. I knew that my headache was not going to get better in such a short time, although, I'd prepare as best I could in the event a miracle happened. I remember that Pat and Marshall were outside

melting snow for water after supper while I was in the tent, motionless to avoid pain; it seemed like it took them forever to get a few liters. When they were done I dragged myself, throbbing head and all, outside to melt snow and they went into the tent. I couldn't get the stove started and asked them if there was some trick. They replied no and that maybe the stove was out of fuel. I felt let down as if my partners used up all the gas, threw the stove and fuel bottle to me empty and said, "We're all done, you can use the stove now." I was both frustrated and depressed. I changed fuel bottles and couldn't get the stove started. I think I asked my partners for help again and what I remember was that they suggested I pull out the backup stove and try it. So, I pulled out my stove and started melting snow. No one was outside in any of the camps, just me. The air was absolutely still with the sun hanging in the western sky. It wasn't cold. My mind was thinking about how wonderful it will be to head down; summiting was low on my list of things I wanted to do at this point. After about 3 liter bottles were filled I gave up. In my memory it took over an hour.

Day 15: Sure enough, I woke on summit day with a wicked headache. A white flash would happen in my eyes with every heartbeat when they were closed. Still, I had breakfast with my partners; I had to eat anyway and maybe moving around would somehow shake things out. Nothing doing. After a bowl of crunchy puffs and tea I humbled myself to The Mountain. Just before Pat and Marshall headed out at 8:00 am Marshall asks, "Since you're not going, could you spare a couple of liters of water". A part of me was thinking, the audacity to ask after all I went through the night before melting it with no help from you guys. It was pretty easy though, to hand over the water; it was the little I could do at that point to help the team summit. Most of the day



Tentbound

was spent resting and melting water. As the sun was getting as close to setting as it was going to I kept peeking out of the tent looking for my team mates. Books say summit day is 7-10 hours up and 3-5 down so I wasn't surprised to see Pat in his bright yellow North Face (banana man) body suit heading down from Denali Pass at about 8:30 pm. What I was surprised to see were all these people around him and one person out in front. I started making a big supper of spaghetti with home made red sauce, beef flavored soy kibbles and veggies. About an hour and a half later the supper was done. I ate mine and put the rest in a big zip lock and bundled it up with Pat's down sleeping bag, on the outside of course. About a half hour later Marshall reached the tent first and said that Pat got a bad case of ataxia after summiting. Several people had to short rope him since he was unstable walking. When Pat came into camp he was feeling good, but goofy. He said himself it felt like he drank a 12 pack of beer all at once. I wasn't too concerned since we had the drugs Diamox (Acetazolamide) and Halcedron (Dexamethasone) and knew how to use them. Since the Rangers were in a tent next to us, Pat and Marshall went over and the Rangers gave Pat some Halcedron. I didn't think that was necessary since this drug is used as a last resort to stop swelling in the skull and, hence, your death. Plus, Pat didn't have a headache. Tired, the boys crashed into the tent and enjoyed a big meal.

Day 16: we awoke to some wind buffeting of the tent; the big storm we'd heard was coming had arrived. The first problem to greet us this day were frozen water bottles. The one I gave Pat at supper the night before was left out and now was a half liter block of ice. Another one of his was left out, it too full of ice. We figured that a liter of water each would be enough to get back to 14,200, but, later we decide a little over half a liter would do. After Marshall and I had filled our bottles and more water was ready, there were two accidents at the stove. In hindsight, Pat was still suffering from ataxia so we probably shouldn't have let him work alone. What he did was spill about a liter of water directly onto the stove when he was about to fill his bottle. I could have cried because it takes so long to make water at this altitude and we wanted to get off the mountain; everyone was on edge, especially with the blustery wind and swirling snow. I'm not sure of the sequence of events that lead to the stove catching on fire, but here is what I saw. Pat was unscrewing the fuel valve on the bottle until it started scraping against its retainer (the part intended to keep the valve in place) when all of a sudden the valve popped off and it shot about 3 feet into the air ,

followed by a laser-like geyser of flame. We were outside the tent but the stove was inside the open vestibule. Pat was bare handed, again, trying to scrape up loose snow to quench the flame which looked about as effective as sprinkling herbs on food. I dove on the stove and flames with my leather palmed mitts and got the flames out. Pat was mumbling how sorry he was, staring at the mess. I said I'd get the stove going. The pump had melted which required carving away plastic blobs to make it work again. The field repair worked; what a stroke of good fortune. We melted a little more snow, split up the gear and tent pieces and were ready to head down; at least that's what we thought. As we reached the Western edge of camp, with goggles and face masks on to protect from the stinging snow and wind, we met up with even more intense winds. To move forward we had to get on all fours since our packs would turn into sails when we walked upright, catching wind and making walking difficult. After about fifty feet of crawling we circled up and put our heads together like cattle at a watering trough and re-evaluated our situation. Marshall was advocating returning to 17,200. I reminded everyone that this is only the front end of a 5+ day storm, we're out of food and fuel and should go down. Pat said it didn't matter, but he was still in a daze and very tired. There was a crucial moment of this meeting when I got a strong impression that Marshall was not going down. I figured if I lead by example and started down, they'd follow me and this would end discussion and all thoughts of staying. They didn't follow. I stopped and crouched behind a rock after moving about 200 feet down the mountain. Looking back through the swirling snow where we had been circled up there was no movement. After 20 minutes another team came down and I asked if they saw my team mates, they had not. For some reason I decided to continue down; it seemed easier than going that little ways back up the hill with a full pack. The decision was pretty easy for down below was food, fuel and no storm. Movement was difficult among the rock outcroppings with the 40+ mph winds and erratic gusts to 60+ mph, however, for the most part the wind was primarily from one direction. The one time that the wind changed directions, I was taken off balance and off my feet. Crouching in the notch of some rocks in response to an exceptionally forceful blast I found myself picked up from the back and tossed through the air about 10 feet down the steep slope towards the 3000 foot drop off 40 feet away. On my back like a turtle I couldn't move being out of breath from the excitement and altitude. I'd also lost my grip on the ice axe that was tied to my waist harness. To right myself I reeled in the ice axe and threw it uphill driving the pick into the dense snow. It held enough to allow me to turn over and I crawled back up to the notch where I had been before to catch my breath. Keeping my head took all I had at this point. After a while I continued on without incident and made it to the top of the headwall. At this point I was feeling weak and had been out of water for some time. There was no way I could carry any more weight, but I dug up our cache and took out my fair share, thinking the gear bags could simply be tied to my harness and allowed to slide ahead of me on the way down; this was tougher than it might appear.

Going down took every ounce of strength I had left especially with these 10 pound pendulums tied to my waist swaying below me. The Rangers who were taking a break at 16,200 saw me wavering and hollered to cut them loose. Eventually I heeded their suggestion and watched them bounce down the blue icy slope. At times the bags would go far off trail and during many of the 20 or so sit downs along the way I tried to convince myself, between mouthfuls of snow, that the bags could be picked up tomorrow, that my priority was to get down. I never did convince myself and slogged after the bags when they went off course time after time. Parched and weak beyond measure I made it to 14,200 and released myself from the pack's burden at our cache, three plastic orange sleds sticking out of the snow like some mutant crop. After another hour the cook tent was set up and I was inside melting snow stretched out in a down sleeping bag. Aaaaah, I was home.

Day 17: Most of the day was spent laying on top of the sleeping bag in the tent, melting water and listening to National Public Radio (NPR). Late in the afternoon a Ranger poked his head in asking if I was the guy that soloed yesterday. I apologized and said yes, it was me. He said my partners at 17,200 camp were worried since they had not heard from me. I suppose I could have been more proactive the day before by contacting the Rangers at their hut, but I wasn't. Late that afternoon Pat and Marshall could be seen moving down the headwall. I found an open camp and moved the rest of the cache there since there was no more room between the snow walls where I pitched the cook tent. When they got closer I trudged out to meet them with a thermos of hot water and liter of melted water; they downed the melted water and were eager to set up camp. They had some story to tell about how they survived the night at 17,200 without a stove, food, and tent poles; guess who had that part of the group gear.

Day 18: We got ready to leave camp by giving away food and fuel to those who would take it. There were some hungry snowboarder types who had come down from 17,200 to wait out the storm and were living on crumbs; they took all the extra food and fuel we could give them. What many people do is pull their open sled through camp calling out like a carnival barker or street vendor, describing what they have to give away. At about 2:30 we finally had everything packed up and headed out without a plan on when or where we'd camp. By 8:00 pm we were at the 9,400 foot camp where we buried the extra food on the way up to lighten our loads. We fired up the stoves to boil water for freeze dried meals, only the second freeze dried of the entire trip, while we took turns digging up the cache. By now the sun was down below the ridge of mountains to the West which border the Kahiltna; I was getting chilled and very tired. After the meal I didn't want to go any further and neither did Pat. Marshall said that would be fine, he'd take the cook tent and press on. As it turned out we all ended up continuing on through the 24 hour daylight of the Arctic spring night. By 2:00 am we'd turned off the Kahiltna and started up Heartbreak Hill, another glacier that feeds the Kahiltna, towards the landing area. Heartbreak Hill is aptly named. You're tired from walking down hill so long, using muscles you didn't know you had, you're feet hurt from your toes bumping into the front of your boots and now you have to go up hill. It seems to take forever from here. At 3:30 am we rolled into the quiet camp. We set up the cook tent and piled in, but our rest wasn't going to be long. I woke up at about 7:00 and climbed over Marshall to go out and pee and thought I'd get our name on the list at the Ranger's station for a flight out while I was up. She said there were 10 people ahead of us and that we'd probably fly out at 11:00am. I went back to the tent, woke my teammates up and shared the news. We figured we had a lot of time but got up anyway, dug up the cache, dumped fuel at the Ranger's tank and weighed the garbage, 35 pounds of wrappers. As we sauntered back to the tent, three Geeting planes dropped onto the glacier. As soon as they stopped, there was hollering for us to hurry up and get on the planes! What?! We tore down camp as fast as we could but the people hollering said to leave everything, they'd take care of it. All we could do was to put our gear in big piles. At the planes we helped load gear from other climbers like you'd imagine in some military action, jumped in and headed down the glacier into the air. I got to ride one on one with Doug, The Man, Geeting. At one point I was surprised when he let go of the steering wheel, turned towards me as if he was in a swivel easy chair at home and said, "So, how was it?" I'm thinking, "Geez, fly the plane Doug!" After touching down at Talkeetna I remember how wonderful the scents of Spring were that washed over me as Doug reached behind my head and popped open the window. At that moment I wondered if astronauts experience the same sense of joy and calm after returning to earth. What was first on the list of things to do once back? Not food. A shower! We all went through about three cycles of tokens at the showers in the Three Rivers Tesoro gas station/Laundromat. Now food. I had an Egg McMuffin and chocolate milk at the gas station to tide me over for the walk across the street to the Roadhouse for a real breakfast. Pat and I decided to get one of the rooms upstairs from the restaurant in this old hand hewed log building. The beds had handmade grandma quilts had been around for generations. And the beds, aaaah. Life is good!



The West Buttress of Denali

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)

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(Signature)

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DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY**

ALPINE ECHO

June ECHO staff

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Contributors: Prash Bhat, David Hamilton,
Michael Anderson, Pam Richards,
David Spring

*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!*

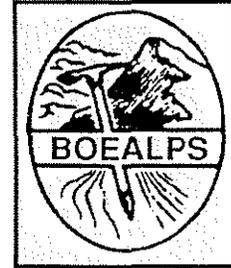


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6C-JM

July 2001



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Photo: "Lobuche Peak, Nepal" by Shawn Paré

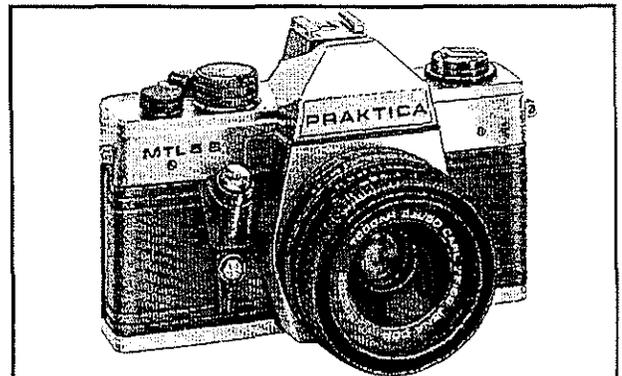
From Prash Bhat 6X-ME

July General Meeting

Mini-show by Julie Albertson of the
Cascade Conservation Partnership

Main Event:
Annual Photo Competition

Thursday, July 5th
Oxbow Recreation Center
Photo submission starts at 6:30
Social half hour starts at 7:00 pm
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm



BELAY STANCE

Surf Report...

Here's a couple of web sites you might find interesting...

<http://www.safeclimbing.org/> is the web site for The American Safe Climbing Association. From their site: "The American Safe Climbing Association is a non-profit organization of climbers who are dedicated to making the sport of rock climbing safer by replacing unsafe bolts and anchors and by educating climbers, land managers and the public about climbing and anchor safety."

<http://www.nps.gov/morningreport/index.htm> is a (mostly) daily updated site with incident reports from all the National Parks. It also includes info on current and pending legislation. Worth a browse!

Activities Galore...

This year's BCC grads made an awesome showing at the June BAG-IT evening, and the results are in the activities section this month – 6 pages of trips being offered! If you want to get out in the mountains this summer, you've got lots of choices with lots of partners! I'm hoping some of the long-time members of the club will take some of these opportunities to get out with some of our newest members, and share your experience, welcome the new grads to the world of climbers, and make sure they stay involved and active with the club. A heartfelt thanks and a round of applause for all the BCC grads who are organizing the climbs!

Annual Photo Competition...

The date this year (the day after the 4th of July) might make it tougher to attend, but let's try and have a better turn out this year than we did last year, when we didn't even get enough entries to give away all our prizes! Pull out your favorite pics from the last year and bring them in to share with the rest of us. Instant fame for the top three pictures in each category guaranteed by inclusion in next month's Echo and on our web site!

Picnic at Marymoor Rock...

This is always a fun and family-friendly gathering. Join us on August 2nd at the Marymoor climbing rock after work (whenever that is for you) for a potluck dinner and a frenzy of bolt clipping. There will be enough folks who lead to put a top rope up for you if you don't – bring your rope, shoes and chalk bag, and a set of quickdraws if you lead. See the ad later in this issue for a list of who should bring what food items to share...

Upcoming Elections...

And you thought the unionization vote was contentious! Plan to be at the Blue Star Café on September 6th (free food!) to watch the politicking, rumor mongering and character assassination that occurs as everyone tries to avoid being elected to a board position. Or, even better, decide you care about the future of the club, and come out planning to volunteer to run for a board position

PDF of the Echo online...

The online version of the Echo will again be available on the club web site – <http://www.boealps.org>. I haven't received any feedback yet on this new feature – is it worth my while to keep putting the issue online? Worth it for the color pictures? Worth it for the convenience? Let me know if you want me to keep providing this... And, speaking of the web site, the password is (as it has been since time immemorial) SLESSE – the password is needed to access the club membership roster and the list of trips being offered.

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

August Echo deadline is July 19th

July, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 Full Moon General Club Meeting; - Annual Photo Competition	6	7 Mount Adams
8 Mount Adams	9 ICC lecture	10	11 Evening climb at Marymoor Rock	12	13	14 ICC Experience Climb #3; Sperry Peak; Mount Shuksan
15 ICC Experience Climb #3; Mount Shuksan	16	17	18	19 Echo Deadline	20 New Moon BoBabies in the North Cascades	21 BoBabies in the North Cascades; Mount Daniel; Rock climbing on Lopez Island
22 BoBabies in the North Cascades; Mount Daniel; Rock Climbing on Lopez Island	23 ICC lecture; BoBabies in the North Cascades	24	25 Evening outings: Climbing at Castle Rock or Mountain Biking on Tiger Mountain	26	27	28 ICC Ice Climbing Practical; Robinson Mountain
29 ICC Ice Climbing Practical; Robinson Mountain	30	31				

August, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting -- Picnic at Marymoor Park	3	4 Full Moon; Whitehorse; Black Peak
5 Whitehorse; Black Peak	6 ICC lecture	7	8	9	10	11 ICC Experience Climb #4; Chair Peak; Maude and Seven Fingered Jack
12 ICC Experience Climb #4; Chair Peak; Maude and Seven Fingered Jack	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 New Moon	20 ICC lecture	21	22	23 Echo Deadline	24	25 ICC Graduation Climb; Mt. Washington (Olympics); North Gardner; Boardman Lake
26 ICC Graduation Climb; Mt. Washington (Olympics); North Gardner; Boardman Lake	27	28	29	30	31	

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Mt. Adams, south spur

July 7-8

Drive down on the 7th, with time for day hikes before hitting the sack. We'll do a summit push in one day on the 8th, counting on the glissade trough to be in good shape for a speedy descent!

Mountain/Area	Mt. Adams
Route	South Spur
Elevation	Lots!
Class	Steep snow
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Geoff Pegler, gpegler@insightful.com

Mount Marymoor

July 11

The approach is short, elevation gain minimal and it's within a half hour of most places in Seattle (Editor's note: at that time of day? Not if you have to cross one of the bridges!) Leave the 10 essentials at home, bring your rock shoes, harness and gear, and whatever else you want. Bolts galore!

Mountain/Area	Climbing structure, Marymoor Park
Route	Lots (http://members.tripod.com/~Schryer/marymoore.html)
Class	5.6 up to 5.too hard
Skills	Basic rock
Limits	6
Contact	David Hamilton, dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Sperry Peak

July 14

Already done Vesper, but haven't tagged Vesper's little sister, Sperry Peak, yet? Come along on this enjoyable approach up Headlee Pass and an easy scramble up Sperry. Great views up north to Big Four, and if there's enough time a quick jaunt to the summit of Vesper could be organized.

Mountain/Area	Sperry Peak
Route	standard route
Class	Class 2/3
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Aggie, christie@ce.washington.edu, 206-543-9689(w), 206-524-5868(h)

Mt. Shuksan, Sulphide Glacier

July 14-15

One of Washington's most beautiful and tallest peaks by a pleasant glacier route. The route finishes with some fun rock climbing to the summit.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Shuksan
Route	Sulphide Glacier
Class	Glacier travel and low 5 th class rock
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Tony Ernst, tonyern@microsoft.com

BoBabies do the North Cascades

July 20-23

Having trouble getting out into the mountains now that you have kids? Come join us for 4 days of shared baby sitting, hiking and climbing in the North Cascades! The plan is to car camp at Lone Fir campground (just east of Washington Pass on the North Cascades Highway). You can't reserve camp spots, so plan on getting there early on Friday to get a spot (or Thursday evening like we're planning on doing). Klipchuck and Early Winters campgrounds are just a bit further down the road in case Lone Fir fills up. From our base camp there are tremendous opportunities for outdoor activities. Family friendly hikes like the Lake Ann loop or Cutthroat Pass; easy sport cragging with a 40 foot approach at Fun Rock in Mazama; "alpine sport" routes (all bolted routes in an alpine setting) on Goat Wall; great alpine routes on Cutthroat Peak, Silver Star or Black Peak; or, just sitting around camp playing with the kids!

Mountain/Area	Lone Fir campground and environs, Washington Pass
Elevation	As much as you want
Class	Short kid friendly day hikes, bolted sport climbs or classic alpine routes
Skills	Willingness to trade baby-sitting time for mountain time; tolerance of car camping instead of backcountry camping.
Limits	The more the merrier!
Contact	Matt and Maren Robertson, (425)822-0455 or matt.robertson@boeing.com

Mt. Daniel

July 21-22

Backup dates are August 4-5 if weather isn't good. Daniel is a massive peak located in the heart of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. We'll camp at pretty Peggy's Pond, with an optional ascent of Cathedral Rock for those so inclined.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Daniel
Route	SE shoulder
Class	A small amount of 3 rd class rock, some snowfield and possible glacier crossings.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	8
Contact	Jed Derickson, jederickson@hotmail.com

Rock climbing on Lopez Island

July 21-22

(Editor's note: I didn't get any other details on this trip for the Echo – contact Jim for more info...)

Mountain/Area	Lopez Island, San Juans
Class	5 th class
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12, maybe more
Contact	Jim Miniken, james.miniken@pss.boeing.com

Welcome to the Rock

July 25

Well, it's a looong drive, but it's a long way to the top if you wanna rock and roll. After work, getting there around 6:00 pm. I figure this may be a way to beat the crowds.

Mountain/Area	Castle Rock, Leavenworth
Route	Lots!
Class	5.4-5.6ish
Skills	Basic rock
Limits	6
Contact	David Hamilton, dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Mountain Biking on Tiger Mountain

July 25

Come out after work on Wednesday for some mountain biking on the trails of Tiger Mountain. We'll meet around 6:00 (place to be determined), and choose an appropriate route for everyone's experience level.

Mountain/Area	Tiger Mountain
Skills	Intermediate mountain biking
Limits	8
Contact	Tony Sanders, tony.sanders@boeing.com

Robinson Mountain

July 28-29

A big peak in the heart of the Pasayten

Mountain/Area	Robinson Mountain
Route	To be determined
Class	Depends on route
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Vicky Larsen, 425-294-1917(w), 206-368-9566(h), vicky.larsen@pss.boeing.com

Whitehorse

August 4-5

A stunning peak, just outside of Darrington, and the northernmost peak of the Front Range.

Mountain/Area	Whitehorse
Route	Lone Tree Pass
Class	Steep snow
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Miller, gary.miller@pss.boeing.com, 425-342-4587(w), 206-526-1313(h)

Black Peak (Washington Pass), south route

August 4-5

A fun climb of a beautiful peak in a wonderful area with incredible views. Nice camp at Wing Lake. One of the best places to watch a sunset in the North Cascades!

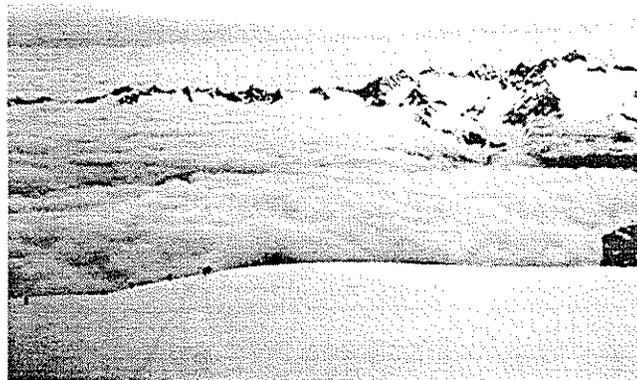
Mountain/Area	Black Peak
Route	South Side
Class	Some steep snow, class 3 scramble to summit. Some loose rock.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Charlie Soncrant, 425-391-1193, cu_soncrant@hotmail.com

Chair Peak

August 11-12

A stalwart at the north end of the Denny Creek sub-range, Chair Peak has a commanding view of the entire Alpental area, as well as looking deep into the Alpine Lakes wilderness area. The route selected will depend on the participants, but be prepared for some fun scrambling and low 5th class climbing. We'll camp at Gem Lake on the 11th and climb on the 12th.

Mountain/Area	Chair Peak
Route	To be determined
Class	Some scrambling, maybe low 5 th class
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Scott Leonard, 425-747-7852, sleonard@oz.net



Early Morning, Mt. Baker

Mt. Maude/Seven Fingered Jack

August 11-12

Two of Washington's "Big Boys", with a possible inclusion of Fernow if weather/group dynamics are amenable.

Mountain/Area Mt. Maude and Seven Fingered Jack
Route To be determined
Class Some scrambling
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 12
Contact Jens Jacobsen, jensj@microsoft.com, 206-632-7880

Mt. Washington (Olympics)

August 25-26

Looking east from Seattle at the Olympics, Mt. Washington is the second peak from the left, with only Mt. Eleanor being further south (apparently) on the skyline. The "trail" is very steep, but a lot of fun, and the views back across Hood Canal from the summit are very nice. An excellent day trip!

Mountain/Area Mt. Washington (Olympics)
Route 1A
Class 3rd class
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 12
Contact Leo Rydzewski, leo.j.rydzewski@boeing.com

North Gardner

August 25-26

One of Washington's "100 Highest", a trip with the Baillies is always entertaining and educational!

Mountain/Area North Gardner
Route Cedar Creek and Shalokum Lake
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 12
Contact Jerry Baillie, 206-283-6870, jandkbaillie@home.com

BoBabies do Boardman Lake

August 25-26

With a ¼ mile approach, this one is short enough for the kids to walk, and at this time of year the water will be warm enough for the adults to wade and the kids to swim. We're going to try this one as an optional overnighter (there's several nice camp sites along the eastern shore), and are thinking that the moms and kids can play in the water while the dads do double (or triple?) hauls to get all the gear in. Come join us and see what it's like to tent with toddlers, or just join us for the day on Saturday!

Mountain/Area Boardman Lake
Skills Able to entertain children around water
Limits ??
Contact Maren Robertson, 425-822-0455, maren.nelson@physio-control.com

Sahale Peak, Sahale Arm

early September

One of the best, if not the best, basic climbs in the North Cascades. Easy trail to Cascade Pass, steep trail up Sahale Arm, a gentle glacier crossing, and a final easy rock pyramid to the summit with stunning views. Exact date to be determined, but the huckleberries should be ripe along the way.

Mountain/Area	Sahale Peak
Route	Sahale Arm
Class	Glacier crossing, 3 rd class rock, one short section of easy 5 th class rock
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	National Park limit
Contact	Ken Walter, 253-631-9129(h), 206-655-6831(w), kenneth.j.walter@boeing.com

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Monte Cristo Peak

September 8-9

Camp in beautiful Monte Cristo basin and explore old mining ruins and relics before climbing the area's namesake peak.

Mountain/Area	Monte Cristo Peak
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Kathy Baillie, 206-283-6870, jandkbaillie@home.com

Mt. St. Helens

September 15-16

Climb up to the crater rim and peer down at the lava dome. Great views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood, weather permitting.

Mountain/Area	Mt. St. Helens
Route	Monitor Ridge
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	8
Contact	Sheila Bukovac, 206-655-0547, sheila.bukovac@pss.boeing.com



Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

July General Meeting:

Social half hour starts at the Oxbow Recreation Center at 7:00 on July 5th, and Norene will start the meeting promptly at 7:30 with club business first, followed by a mini-presentation from Julie Albertson of the Cascade Conservation Partnership. After Julie's presentation, the annual Photo Competition will begin. If you have photos to enter, please arrive early – photo submissions begin at 6:30!

Mini Show: Julie Albertson of the Cascade Conservation Partnership

The Cascade Conservation Partnership is an ambitious capital campaign that aims to purchase and protect 75,000 acres of privately owned Central Cascade forestland containing old-growth, salmon streams and hiking trails on both sides of the I-90 corridor. Please join Partnership staff member Julie Albertson and find out what progress has been made and how you can make a gift to help preserve both habitat and access in the last tracts of native, ancient forestlands connecting Washington's Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and Mt. Rainier National Park.

Upcoming Programs:

August – The August general meeting will be the annual club picnic, held at the Marymoor climbing rock. We'll provide some beverages, you provide the food, ropes, and quickdraws! We're talking with a gear retailer, and may have some new mountaineering gear to play with at the picnic.

September – The September meeting will be the election of a new board of officers for the club at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford. Come join us for food (we buy) and drink (you buy), and an opportunity to nominate someone else to a volunteer board position, or a chance for you to become more active in the club by volunteering for one of those positions yourself!

October – The October program will be our annual banquet. The location, date and featured speaker are still to be announced, but watch this space for details, and plan on joining us and all your other Boealps friends for an evening of food and drink, war stories and reminiscences. This is always a great evening – don't miss it!



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer

The Cascades Conservation Partnership Receives \$3.5 Million Challenge Grant from Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation

The Cascades Conservation Partnership today received its largest private donation to date when the Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation granted the project \$3.5 million. The grant is a challenge that must be matched dollar for dollar with new donations up to \$3 million, at which point the foundation will gift the remaining \$500,000.

"The inspiring generosity of the Allen Foundation will allow the Partnership to keep moving rapidly to save some of Washington State's most spectacular forests and threatened wildlife habitat," said Mitch Friedman, Partnership Steering Committee member and executive director of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. "Now others who donate to the Partnership will have their money matched by the Allen Foundation," he added.

The Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation protects and sustains the endangered forested ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii. Through its grantmaking, the foundation seeks to safeguard the beauty, natural resources, and the recreational opportunities distinctive to the region for present and future generations. Past grant recipients include the Trust for Public Land and the Nature Conservancy. Established in 1997, the foundation is administered through the Vulcan Northwest Inc. office in Seattle.

For more information : <http://www.ecosystem.org/tccp/index.html>

THE BOEALPS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST
Thursday, July 5th, 2001
Oxbow Recreation Center
7:00-9:00 pm

Start rounding up your slides and prints - the Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the July general meeting at the Oxbow Rec Center!

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.

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
People
Sunsets & Sunrise
Boealps Climbing Class
Most Embarrassing
Echo Cover*

For each category, there will be two sets of prizes, one for prints and one for slides.

(*except for the Echo Cover, which will be a combined category. All entries in this category must have high contrast and a horizontal orientation - vertical orientations will not fit on the cover.)

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.

2001 Boealps Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 2nd

At the Marymoor Climbing Rock

From After Work Until Dark

Bring some food to share and your quickdraws – there's only bolts in this rock!

If your last name starts with:

A-L Bring a Main Dish

M-R Bring a Side Dish

S-Z Bring Desert

Beverages will be provided by Boealps

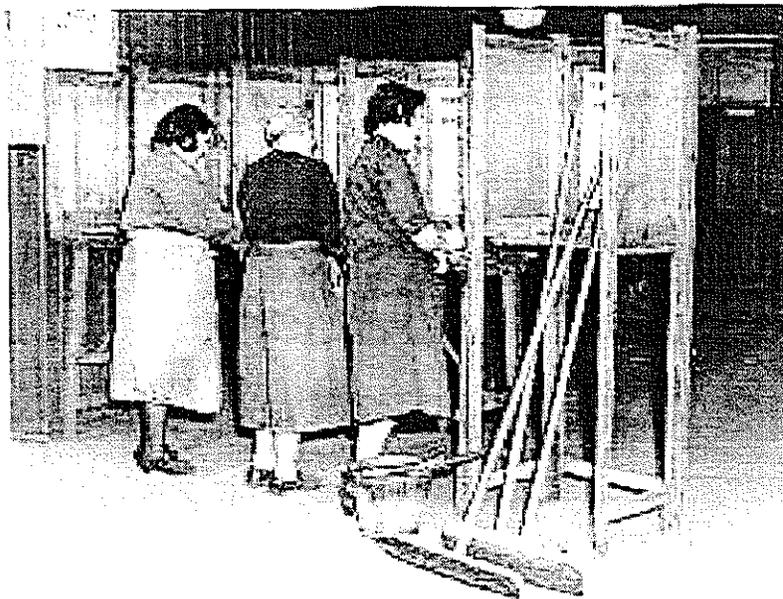


Boealps Board of Directors Election

Thursday, September 6th

**Blue Star Café
4512 Stone Way N
6:30 pm - ???**

The annual club elections this year will be held on Thursday, September 6, starting at 6:30 pm at the Blue Star Café and Pub in Wallingford. (The Blue Star is on Stone Way a block north of N. 45th Street. Stone Way is between I-5 and HWY 99. Use the 45th Street or 50th Street exit off of I-5 or the Zoo exits off of HWY 99.) All board positions are up for election, so if you've got a hankering to help guide the direction of the club, here is your opportunity! Come out and run for the one of the board positions, volunteer to chair a committee, or just come out to vote, but get involved! It is a great way to meet climbing partners, get the inside scoop on club activities, and influence the club to be the way you want it. Arrange to meet your fellow Boealpers and trade stories from the summer. Spread the word. Arrive early to partake in munchies provided by the club. See you there!



If they care enough to vote, so should you!

Boealps Board Meeting
June 14, 2001

Attendees: Norene Borg, Dan Costello, Bill Harrison, Brian Tryba

President's Report: The September Elections will soon be upon us - board positions will be opening up. There is a current need for the Conservation chair. If interested, please contact Norene Borg.

Vice-president: Discussion of Advertising for Elections & the Banquet. An ad will be placed in the Echo for the upcoming September Elections. Once plans have been finalized for the October Banquet, ads will then be placed in the Echo.

Treasurer: Tax deadlines & closure of 2000 finances discussed.

Programs: July is the Photo Competition month. July general meeting will also feature a mini-show by the Cascade Conservation Coalition. No General Meeting in August – Club Picnic only - at Marymoor Park. Possible Equipment representative will be available during the picnic. September elections will be held at the Blue Star (see ad in this issue). Miles Smart is proposed speaker for October Banquet. Speaker's available date has not been determined yet.

Membership: A membership drive was carried out by the board due to previous concern regarding membership ratios. Membership forms continue to arrive.

Education: Rock Leading Seminar to be held at the June 24th Campout.

Activities: Need location for October campout, tentatively scheduled for October 12th and 13th.

ICC class in progress, no major issues.

BCC class held graduation ceremonies. No major issues to report.

Librarian: Request for purchase of equipment. Board will process once finances have been updated.

Next Board Mtg location not established yet.

-- Norene Borg, President

Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities!

Summer Youth Program

It's not too late to sign up for the Re-Greening program! The Greenway Trust and EarthCorps invite youth ages 11-17 to spend 5 or 10 days in the mountains removing abandoned logging roads or fixing up trails. Volunteers go hiking, camp near a river, make new friends, learn about environmental restoration, and have a great time! The following sessions still have space:

- MTS 1: July 23-27
- MTS 3: July 30 - August 3
- MTS Intensive 1: August 1-10
(ages 14-17 only, includes 3 day backpacking trip)
- MTS Alumni Intensive: August 15-24
(for volunteers with experience hiking and with Greenway projects, includes 3 day backpacking trip)

For more information about this program, please visit <http://www.mtsgreenway.org/youth.htm> or call 206-812-0122.

Weekend Volunteer Projects

The first of the weekend volunteer events has been scheduled!

Saturday, July 21st, Trail Work at Mercer Slough

Join this renovation project on the Heritage Trail behind the Winter's House in Bellevue. This 3/4 mile trail, which encircles the historic blueberry farms and winds through Ostbo rhododendron gardens, needs resurfacing. Come move and spread bark, and enjoy this 300+ acre preserve just outside downtown Bellevue.

Other potential dates include:

- Saturday, July 7th: TBD
- Saturday, August 4th: TBD
- Saturday, August 18th: TBD

Volunteer hotline: (206) 812-0122
www.mtsgreenway.org

Upcoming Washington Trails Association Work Parties

The summer season is in full swing! WTA has work parties going out every day, in addition to week-long volunteer vacations. To sign up, go to their website at <http://www.wta.org> and click on "Trail Teams" on the left hand menu, or call their hot line at 206/517-7032. If you've already been out for one day of trail maintenance this year, a second day will earn you a free Annual Northwest Park Pass – good for this year, or, if you've already bought this years, you can get next years for free instead!

BCC 2001 Photo Album

More pictures from this year's BCC. They still look much better in color – check 'em out on the Boealps web site – <http://www.boealps.org>. Thanks to Deb Brannigan, Doug Davies and Jon Balderrama for the pics!



"Rolling Dunes"

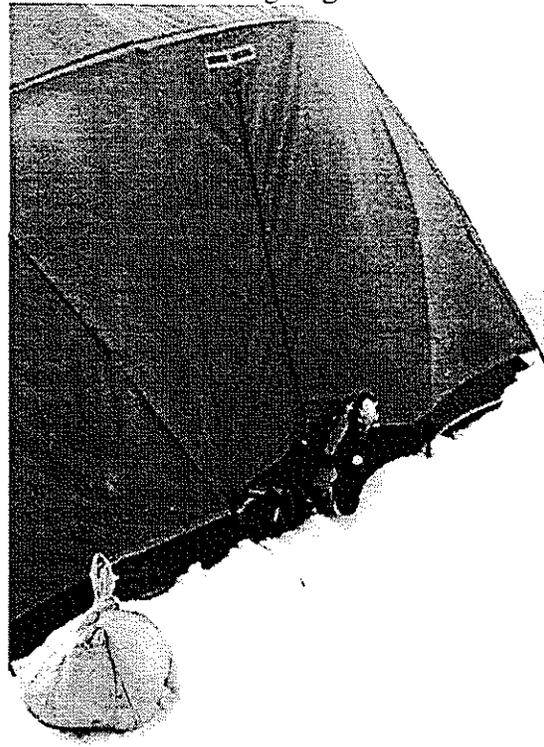
Early Morning, Mt. Baker (this picture looks very cool on the web site)



In Camp on Mt. Baker



Tatoosh Sunshine



Short Tent,
Long Legs

Approaching Pinnacle Peak



Crevasse Rescue, Nisqually Glacier

Kestrel 2



Book Review

-- Review by Doug McCarville

The Second Death of George Mallory: The Enigma and Spirit of Mount Everest -- by Reinhold Messner

On a ten day sabbatical, I needed something I could read naked. A book that would hold up to the rigors of the Jacuzzi, preferably plastic covered and preferably short with big print so as to be easily comprehended by someone drinking Lynchburg lemonades by the pitcher-full.

The Whistler library had just the thing. A new Reinhold Messner book where he channels the voice of the 75 year dead George Mallory and gets him to admit that he and Irvine took one look at the Second Step and said, "*It was obvious: We had to turn back. We can only save ourselves by descending. I wondered how I was to come to terms with yet another failure.*"

For those of you who don't know Reinhold Messner, he lost his brother and his toes on his first Himalayan climb and then went on to become the first guy to climb all the 8,000 meter peaks without oxygen and Everest solo. Pretty much a mountaineering god.

George Mallory was a plucky little English guy who tried to climb Everest 3 times in the early 20's, "because it was there." In 1924 this guy Odell started the classic Mountaineering "did he make it" conundrum with the following sighting:

At 12:50 there was a sudden clearing of the atmosphere above me and I saw the whole summit ridge and the final peak of Everest unveiled. I noticed far away on a snow slope leading up to what seemed to me to be the last step, a tiny object moving and approaching the rock step. A second object followed, and then the first climbed to the top of the step. As I stood intently watching this dramatic appearance, the scene became enveloped in cloud once more.

Over the years about a billion books have been written on Mallory and Irvine's climb; ¾ of them post 1999 when Mallory's body was rediscovered. As detailed by Messner:

About midday, a member of the Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition, Conrad Anker, notices a "strange patch of white" on a ledge at 8,250 meters. When they find the initials G.L.M. stitched into a handkerchief and shirt collar and a letter written by Ruth Mallory in the side pocket, the identity of the body is clear. Later, during the team's summit attempt, Anker manages to "free climb" the Second Step

In every other book one might read on the subject you'll find detailed hypothesis evaluating everything from equipment lists, rate of ascent projections, O₂ depletion rates, time to dump etc., etc., etc.. Reinhold takes a new tack. He digs up a bunch of old journals and letters from 1921, 22, 24 ☺, 33, 53, 60, 75 and 99 Everest climbs and ties them together with succinct administrative text and, oh yeah, quotes from Mallory's ghost.

Pretty silly, huh? But after my third Jack Daniels and 30 minutes of hot bubbles blowing up my ass I was ready to nominate Messner for a Pulitzer. I could ramble on a bit, paraphrasing and summarizing, but more directly, I plagiarize:

Following the 1921 Everest reconnaissance mission where the British reach the North Col and discover what they feel is a viable route to the summit, Mallory says, "*It might be possible for two men to somehow struggle to the summit, disregarding every other consideration.*" The ghost says, "*the first rule of the mountaineer is that he should seek comfort as long as it is possible to do so.*"

In 1922, at an altitude of 7,925 meters Tejbir collapses, exhausted and returns to camp V. Finch and Bruce do not give up. They manage to reach a height of 8,326 meters despite the fresh snow and a broken connection in Bruce's oxygen mask. Twelve days later Mallory decides on one last attempt, then without warning a snow-slab avalanche sweeps the climbing party down toward the abyss. Seven porters die. This accident ends the second attempt.

In 1924 the British have another go at it. On June 4th Norton and Somervell are at the upper edge of the Yellow Band, near the big gully that runs down the huge north face. Somervell's throat complaint is now so bad that he is forced to give up, and he remains behind. Despite violent bouts of shivering and choking fits he still manages, at a height of 8,540 meters to take a photograph of lone Norton heading toward the summit of Everest, which soars above him like an arrow piercing the sky. At the end of his physical endurance Norton must still scale three hundred meters of vertical height to reach the summit. If he does not wish to die, he must turn back.

Four days later Mallory and Irving make their summit bid. Mallory leaves a note at camp V containing, "*so we'll probably go on two cylinders – but it's a bloody load for climbing. Perfect weather for the job.*" In the words of the ghost, "*all the horrors of hell converged beneath the summit. We were far too slow. There was the darkness, the route long since lost in the whiteout. We experienced something deeper than despair as we felt our way through our terrors, and then – a sudden jerk – the release, the fall.*" The next day Odell climbs on, searching, shouting, but the wind rages over the mountain, smothering every sound. He has never been so cold or so lonely. This is a bitter loss. There is nothing that can be done.

Nine years later the Dalai Lama grants the British approval for a new expedition. Harris, who is in the lead, stops briefly. Something is lying on a slanted rock ledge in front of him. It is an ice ax with nick marks in the handle. It could only have belonged to Mallory or Irving. Continuing their ascent, Harris and Wager leave the ax behind. They fear it will bring bad luck. Two days later Shipton and Smythe make their summit bid. Shipton soon returns to camp VI, complaining of stomach pain. Smythe carries on alone. Without oxygen, Smythe suffers from hallucinations. He believes a second person is on the rope with him and that should he fall, this second man would hold him. At his high-point 8,572 meters above sea level, he breaks a biscuit in two, turns and is shocked to find he is alone. Smythe suddenly feels lonely and miserable, in spite of setting the altitude record.

In 1953 the mountain is finally conquered. Edmond Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climb in an extremely exposed position, perched between the monstrous cornices on the right, which jut out like gigantic balconies over the three-thousand meter abyss of the Kangshung Face, and the steep rock precipices of the Southwest Face. The knife-edge snow dome to their right is the highest point. Hillary checks to see if he is standing on a cornice. It is solid. He waves Tenzing up and soon they are both standing on the Roof of the World. Mallory's ghost says the following about the climb; "*The talk of the unconquerable and the unattainable target is stilled. I wondered if ascending Everest would become routine.*"

In 1960 the Chinese find an unidentified corpse on the glacier and an old oxygen cylinder, not quite empty, is discovered near Camp V. Hillary and Tenzing found no evidence that Mallory and Irvine had been on the summit; the Chinese climbers also do not find any proof that the British pair have been there before them. Thus, the Chinese maintain that they are the first to climb the North Flank. Later the Chinese announce that during this disputed ascent the climbers found a stick, a piece of rope, and two oxygen bottles above the Second Step. Given that between 1924 and 1960, only Mallory and Irvine could have climbed beyond the Second Step, this seems to be evidence that one or perhaps both of them either climbed or detoured around the difficult step.

In 1975 a group of Chinese climbers grind to a halt at a steep cliff. This is the second step 20 meters high. The final six meters are nearly vertical. This section of the route is described as the "unclimbable obstacle." The Chinese belay each other and ascend the metal ladder anchored in place by Sodnam Norbu the previous day. This time the Chinese produce an impressive documentary film and the world recognizes that the North Flank was climbed.

That's pretty much it. In the last chapter Messner throws in a couple of sentences stating why he thinks Mallory and Irvine couldn't have made it "*I also know that in 1924, due to lack of time and other difficulties, a summit bid without bivouacking was unthinkable.*" Then as filler he digs up 91 year old Odell who says, "*Considering their position when last seen, I think myself that there is a strong possibility that Mallory and Irvine succeeded.*"

What the hell, did they or didn't they? Don't look to "The Second Death of George Mallory" to give you the answer. No matter, get naked, make yourself a pitcher of Lynchburgs and relive the days of hobnailed boots, tweed jackets, yak dung fires and canned sardines.

Klawatti, Austeria & Eldorado – Memorial Day 2001

Climbers: Rob Dymond, Zac Imboden, Kathy Baillie, and Jerry Baillie (scribe)

The Eldorado Icecap trip has been planned for many Memorial Day trips and finally the weather cooperated. We met in Everett at Rob's place on Friday and drove to the Marblemount Ranger Station before it closed at 6pm. Signed in and headed out for dinner only to have Zac's Jeep produce a very loud bang when he tried to start it! The battery had exploded. We hadn't ever seen such a thing. One side of the battery just blew off. He also had an entertaining car alarm that sounded with the least provocation, even with a defunct battery! Eventually he was able to purchase a new battery, reattach the alarm's anti-theft device and we were off to dinner and finally camp at the trailhead. A quick check of the river crossing showed that a broad log covered 90% of the crossing, but the initial 10% had some makeshift logs that were currently at least a foot under water. We went to sleep dreaming of various Rube Goldberg devices we could construct to cross the approximately eight foot chasm to the broad log. Finally I should mention that a standard park service trailhead notice board has been placed about 50 feet off the road just before the river crossing. It was a good omen, because the route in my mind is now upgraded to a steep trail rather than a bootpath. No bushwacking was encountered on the entire route.

Arising at 6am on Saturday we found the river was low and we quickly crossed and began the long grind up through steep timber. Zac, Rob and Kathy seemed to just roll up the slope as I plodded upward towards the first boulder field. The weather was fine and views of Johannesburg Mountain impressed us all. The first boulder field was short and the short steep "trail" connecting up through the slide alder to the second boulder field had been brushed out. Normally, I prefer a trail that has been brushed, but in this case some of the best hand holds had been chopped out making the rather steep trail the most dangerous portion of the entire approach. The second boulder field was dry at first, but a treacherous transition to solid snow came before we reached its upper end. Finally we ascended the upper left side of the drainage to break out into Eldorado Creek's upper basin at 5500 ft. The ridge crossing and descent into Rouch creek was uneventful except for the small moat at the base of the gully. Rob demonstrated fine glissading technique on a granite slab while narrowly avoiding a gaping abyss while Zac demonstrated his long jumping skills to cross the moat. Kathy and I chose the long jump. We now had 1500 feet of step kicking in soft snow which Rob, Zac and Kathy dispensed with in short order. The concave extreme east side of the Eldorado Glacier was unbroken and led directly to the broad flat saddle between the Eldorado and Inspiration Glaciers. We set up camp at the base of the Eldorado's east ridge. The regular camp sites were about half melted out and this was still May! Dinner was spent admiring the views, particularly of Forbidden's northwest face. Zac did not want me to just name all the peaks so we played "Guess that Peak". Kathy is getting rather good. I thoroughly enjoy looking out at all the peaks and being reminded of all the trips. Looking at Ragged Ridge reminded me of Al Wainwright stitching up his ragged climbing pants every evening of that traverse. The sunset was beautiful with a few clouds to color the reddening sky.

Sunday dawned with high clouds as we set off for Klawatti Peak. Zac kicked all the steps on the 1.5 mile traverse of the Inspiration Glacier to Klawatti Col. A cold wind was blowing through the col as the high clouds thickened. Rob kicked steps up the deep soft snow on Klawatti's south face passing a couple of moats. The cool weather made us feel better about the steep soft snow. The snow was continuous to summit's SW ridge with only a hundred-foot scramble to top. Views were great for the summit photos. Rob, the self proclaimed "Princess of Plum Fierce", had some special studio quality poses to add to his portfolio. All too soon we descended the steep snow. We stayed roped as Zac led the steep descent. A few sloughs were started but it was generally uneventful as we returned to the col. We found some rocks that sheltered us from the wind for a break. We left our crampons at the col since the snow was rather soft. Zac kicked the steps below Klawatti's west face on the McAllister Glacier to the crossover of Klawatti's north ridge. Zac jumped up onto the sharp ridge and announced there was a 20 foot drop with the beginnings of a moat to gain the Klawatti glacier. That got my interest as did the bunch of rapel slings about 50 feet to Zac's left. It had been an easy crossing when I last did it in the 80's. Apparently the Klawatti glacier has receded from the NE side of the crossing. Fortunately we were able to just down climb the short rock with a couple of 5th class moves and a jump onto the glacier. It should be noted we kept the rope taut for this exercise. I kicked the steps down hill to the base of a rock shoulder below Austeria where Zac was again put in front. He just punched on up the glacier to its head at the base of Austeria's slightly lower east summit. The wind had now picked up and the skies were a solid gray. Eldorado Peak's summit was just being enveloped in the cloud layer. There was some discussion about whether we should be satisfied with the east summit and head home. I was not a party to the discussion. So we quickly lightened our loads and scrambled over the east summit and down the short ridge and into the notch between the summits. Consideration was given to climbing the ridge directly from the notch, but further inspection around to the left found the short gully with the chockstone. It was full of snow and ice except for

a 15-foot step. After two days of trail and snow we were now looking at some real rock climbing. I said I would lead the pitch if no one else would, but Rob quickly jumped up to lead it. He was a bit dismayed when I handed him the "rack" of four chocks. I had already placed my favorite hex for a belay anchor. But he made quick work of the chimney past the chockstone with good holds on the left and pushed on the ice on the right. Soon he was belaying all of us to the airy summit. Photos were taken as best we could, but the increasing clouds shortened our time on top. Zac lead the rappel and soon we were scrambling back to our gear at the edge of the glacier. It was now very windy and clouds had covered Klawatti with wisps on Austeria. We roped up and almost ran across the glaciers back to the crossover. Due to potential rope drag in rocks, Zac gave us all a quick sitting belay and we were off again to Klawatti col for a quick bite to eat and a brief rest. Now all the summits were in clouds and even the Inspiration Glacier had clouds pouring across it from the southwest. Moving with all we had left, we pushed across the 1.5 miles of the Inspiration Glacier and back to camp.

Interestingly, a group of young women guided by Alpine Ascents International had set up a base camp in the concave portion of the Inspiration Glacier at the 7000 ft level directly below Eldorado's summit. Fortunately, Rob was restrained (roped up) or that would have been the last we would have seen of him. It appeared they had been conducting a crevasse rescue exercise. There were also several other tents pitched in the middle of the saddle between the Eldorado and Inspiration Glaciers. Probably the windiest spot they could find! Our tent, the old Sierra Design Kingdome had bowed in the wind but was still standing. Quickly we reset the some anchors, added a couple more and built a tall snow wall, then piled into the tent and cooked dinner. It was now a full-blown whiteout with significant precipitation. Rob had a quick pasta meal in a seal-a-meal pouch which he rather quickly dispensed with while Zac, Kathy and I did some more traditional cooking. Then came time to melt snow for the morning and some serious sack time. The storm raged all night.

Morning brought continued wind and clouds, but that did not deter our intrepid young climbers from their appointed duties. Rob and Zac bagged Eldorado's summit while Kathy and I stayed in the tent. The summit was above the weather and the wind! They returned to the tent and piled in while the storm raged outside. Zac didn't understand why Kathy & I, an old married couple, didn't enjoy our quiet time in the tent! We all packed our packs inside the tent. Then we all got out, tore down the tent and started across the saddle. Soon we were dropping down below the cloud deck and stripping off some clothes. Now we were sinking to our knees in the heavy snow with its thick crust. No fun. Rob and Kathy did a couple of short glissades while Zac and I plodded down the slope. We weren't wearing our rain pants. Crossing the small moat at the base of the gully that led to the Eldorado Creek drainage provided a challenging distraction. Soon we were heading down the upper basin towards the boulder fields. These fields were really mine fields as each of us punched through many times. No serious injuries occurred, but it was rather unnerving nonetheless. Once on the trail below the boulder fields we made good time. The river was low at the crossing due to the cool weather, which made for an easy passage.



Our cars were a welcome sight and Zac's, with it's new battery, started like champ.

Good people, good climbs and several summits made for a great trip.

Note from Kathy: No bugs on the entire approach!

Descending
Eldorado, Klawatti
Peak in upper left
(Photo: Michael Stanton)

The Scenic Cruise – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Todd Bauck & Elaine Worden
June 2, 2001

Topo courtesy of George Bell (www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6260/)

Every time I drive up to the Black Canyon, I get the impression it should not be there. It is in the middle of a broad valley with rolling hills and small creeks. A short distance from the rim it seems that you are approaching another small creek. You can see the other side is not too far away, so if this valley is the same as other creek beds, it should be about 100' deep.

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison is our nation's newest National Park. While there are deeper canyons, there are none that are as deep and yet so narrow (at one point, it is 2200' deep and 1800' across). Combine the narrow canyon with the dark colored rock and you get an intimidating place to climb. The climbing here is unique. Every climb starts with the descent hike to the base of the climb. Upon finishing a climb, you are generally only a few minutes from your car. Most of the climbs here are hard, long, and run out on occasionally poor quality rock. The Scenic Cruise is the exception. It is generally climbed as 14 long pitches on good rock with only a bit of run out climbing on the 6th pitch.

I wanted to climb the route the classic Black Canyon way: "A Rope, a Rack, and the shirt on your Back" (to which I might add: "and everything you can fit in your Pack"). We started the descent down the narrow Cruise Gully in the dark. The trip down includes two rappels and a lot of careful avoidance of the Poison Oak that can be found in the lower sections. It got light enough to see without the headlamps about 20 minutes before we arrived at the base of the climb. There was Poison Oak everywhere! Fortunately, there was enough of a clearing at the base of the climb to get organized without touching it. The first pitch starts out with a little bit of 5.9 slab climbing before easing off and becoming a fun dihedral. This lasts for about 100' before you traverse around a corner and climb an awkward (but moderate) V shaped dihedral to a second roof. I set up a belay here and Elaine had the joy of following with the pack. Elaine led the next pitch, which starts out with a 5.8 section to traverse around the roof and then continues up a series of grassy ledges. When I followed, she pointed out that the reason the topo says to belay under the roof is probably to avoid any rock fall (neither of us pulled anything off on this pitch, but, it would be easy to do so).

At this point we would be diverting from The Cruise and doing The Scenic Cruise. The Cruise's next two pitches consist of 5.10+ offwidth climbing – not my idea of fun. The Scenic Cruise avoids this by traversing to the right for 4 pitches before rejoining The Cruise. The third pitch starts out with some traversing to the right before climbing thru a bulgy section on great holds (my favorite pitch of the route). When I reached the belay spot, Elaine told me that I had only used ½ a rope length (of a 60 m rope). Since she was at a good belay spot and this one wasn't so good, I elected to continue on and combine two pitches into one. Unfortunately, this meant that Elaine had to follow for almost 200' of fairly continuous 5.10 with the pack on.

The next pitch was more 5.10 climbing to a Pegmatite band. While most of the rock in the Black Canyon is very dark (created by magma pushing up under the overhead rock 1.8 billion years ago), some of it is pink and very friable (created at a later date by magma and water mix that was squeezed up into the cracks of the older rock). This crumbly rock is called Pegmatite. The last pitch of The Scenic Cruise variation started out with a short climb up the dihedral to a spot where I was able to reach around to my left and clip a fixed piece with a long sling on it. From this point, you follow a downward sloping ramp to a rounded Pegmatite band. A balancy 5.9+ section climbs back up from here to a small point. This pitch is the psychological crux of the whole route. After a lot of back and forth dithering, I finally found a small ledge that let me traverse high between the ramp and the Pegmatite crack. The climbing quickly eased off and I was able to get a good cam in after a few moves.

Pitch 7 is the crux of the route. It started out with a traverse to the right before climbing a continuous and obtuse corner to a roof where I was able to sling a chock stone before traversing to the right to a small stance. This was yet another great pitch! It was becoming apparent that climbing overhanging 5.10+ with a pack on was too much. So I split this pitch into two. From the small stance, I set up a belay and pulled up all the rope. Since I was only 50' above Elaine, I was able to lower the excess rope to her. She tied in the pack and I hauled it up. I then belayed her up and she remarked how much better it is to climb without a pack on. We then repeated this process for the second half of this pitch. It was getting hot, and we were quickly going thru the 6 liters of water and Gatorade we brought. Fortunately for us, some clouds came in later to give us some shade.

Elaine led the next pitch, which started out with some wide and insecure climbing up to a bivy ledge. I followed to find her sitting on the ledge with her shoes off and basking in the sun. We were at the top of pitch 8 and on a great ledge – the first good one since the second pitch. We had lunch here and I could have easily finished off our remaining water (but Elaine was keeping an eye on me). When I set off, Elaine elected to belay me while lying down. We both remembered Mike Bingle's adage "Never stand up when you can sit down, never sit down when you can lie down, never lie down when you can sleep". I was just hoping she wouldn't decide to sleep while I was leading this next pitch! It was a nice 5.9 climbing until I reached a bush with prickly spines on it (which was growing in the middle of the crack). After some grunting, I managed to get around it and continued up to a good belay ledge. Elaine then led the next pitch, which included a wide section that could not be protected. The 10th pitch started out as an enjoyable low 5th class traverse to the left and then some 5.9 climbing past 3 bolts. Unfortunately, only the second was a good 3/8" bolt – the first bolt was an old 1/4" and the final bolt was peg without a bolt hanger (it just had a old prussic tied around its head). This pitch finished at a decent ledge.

The topo described the next pitch as starting out with a 5.10 thutch move leading to 5.9 face climbing on poorly protected rock. We decided that thutch was the combination of the words "thrash" and "crux" (meaning a crux that you had to thrash your way up). This described how I led it. It started out with a bouldery wide move with poor footholds. I got a good #1 Camelot in up high and then showed my lack of style by using my knees to get over the bulge. The face climbing was positive with adequate protection (mostly small stoppers). The final section was a bit run out, but the climbing was easier.

We had only two more pitches left. The next one started out with a few unprotected moves to a fun 5.9 flake. Just before the belay ledge was a bouldery 5.10 section that I was determined to climb clean (I had gotten everything else clean up to this point). But my determination began to wane, as the holds got small – until a reasonable cam placement gave me back enough courage.

Elaine led the final pitch, which had a "Power 5.7" move. (It felt harder than that to me, but I blame it on the pack). From her belay at a tree, a 140' 2nd class traverse to the left brought us to a short 3rd class gully to the top. A one-minute walk brought us back to our campsite and lots of water – a whole hour before it would get dark.

Girls on Gothic

With Anastasia Dunn, Patty Michaud, Vera Trainer (scribe)

Sunday (6/18) was a golden day. Annie, Patty and I went on a girl's climb to Gothic Peak in the Mt. Loop Highway area. We rode our bikes 1 mile down the Monte Cristo road, locked our bikes to a tree, and headed up the path. We made our way up the trail and into the snow of the upper basin. There we saw only 2 guys. From Foggy Lake we had a view of the peaks around us – Gothic, Monte Cristo. We headed toward Gothic and the weather came in. We traveled in a white out, but were fortunate to have seen the route before the skies clouded over. Animal was indeed an animal and kicked a lot of the steps, but we all contributed our share. We found the base of the scramble and proceeded to the top of Gothic. A class 2/3 scramble with a bit of nice exposure got us to the summit. We stayed at the summit drinking Oban and eating chocolate waiting for the skies to clear. We looked through the summit register to find names like Pam Kaiser, Shawn Pare, Dan Goering, Steve Edgar, etc. The skies never cleared, so we headed back to Foggy Pass and over toward Del Campo in hopes that the clouds would dissipate. We took route 3 (Beckey guide) toward Del Campo. Animal was again out front. She kicked steps up the steep snow and over to the final rock scramble to the summit. The rock was manky and as we got higher, it clearly became lower 5th class. I looked over to some bushes, and thought there might be a less exposed way to the top of the ridge through the trees. I checked it out and called to the others. It was true bushwacking, with everything getting caught in the bushes as we crawled like centipedes under the branches. Finally, we broke through to the clearing and made our way to the top of the ridge. There we sat, hoping that the summit of Del Campo would peek out of the clouds. It stayed hidden, so we glissaded and ran back down the mountain, happy for one summit. Dinner at the Mt. View Inn was great. Patty and Animal had pork chops and I had the river trout with baked potatoes. A delicious day.

Short Trip Reports By David Hamilton

West Ridge of Prusik Peak, June 2-3 Climbers: Paul Cook and David Hamilton

Paul "Tarzan" Cook and I went in for a climb of this well known peak, leaving the Snow Creek trailhead at the early hour of 3:45PM, yes, P-M. The views from Nada Lake were very beautiful. We encountered snow patches at the very dry Snow Lakes. From Snow Lakes to Lake Viviane is the trail's twisted joke. It's a bit of a scramble and a ways to get to Lake Viviane. I was pretty darned tired getting there. One thing though, I did this trip under the guise of going light. Going light for my first time meant I carried a sub two pound pack, no frame; sub two pound sleeping bag (35 degree), a plastic ground cloth (bivy bag seemed too heavy. Hey, it seemed like a great idea at the time.), a razor blade in place of a knife, and all sorts of other neat tricks. One was carrying my rain jacket instead of my gore-tex jacket, a substantial difference in weight between the two of them. Anyhow, after passing Nada Lake, some x amount of miles into the trip, I felt amazingly good and impressed at how light everything was and how I was able to keep booking along. I brought a 3/4 foam pad and it was cold up there by the frozen-over lake. Any hopes of sleeping peacefully were dashed when the cold wind started a-blowin. I heated up water for my Leonardo de Fettucine and Paul found a little ledge, somewhat sheltered from the wind for us to sleep. I slept on frozen ground with a little snow. I put my garbage bag over the feet area of my sleeping bag to keep things dry, as far as it would reach. I brought fleece gloves and waterproof socks that would either keep my feet warm or be w/p mittens over my gloves. I put them on my feet. I carried a heavy weight polypro shirt for warmth and put it and my rain jacket on, my fleece balaclava... basically everything I had to wear I was wearing. Slipped inside the bag and rolled my midsection up with the plastic and held it down with rocks. For obvious reasons, I didn't wrap my head area with the plastic. Now I gotta tell you, it was pretty darned cold. I know I slept in fits so at least I got some sleep. I got up at 5ish to make the call and it was even colder outside the bag! Hopped back in the bag and broke out the emergency blanket for warmth. About 7ish, Paul found a nice perch away from the wind and directly in the sun. It was still cold, but the sun felt good. We packed things and made for Prusik Pass. It was 3/4 snow travel to get there. We scrambled up to the balanced rock and Paul led the first pitch. Taco Bell's revenge had me begging for Paul to hurry up so I could get him off belay. Routefinding was a little difficult. I wonder why - I mean, we had Beckey's intricate detailed directions with us. Obvious notch. Well we got to the 5.7ish unprotected face. I was wearing rock shoes and Paul boots. We were both still pretty damned cold. That face isn't too bad with rock shoes. The moves are solid and there's a killer hold if you can just...get...to...it. Paul tried leading it, but that's tough work in mountaineering boots, so he yelled at me to do it. Badda-bing, badda-boom. Lots of rope drag on that pitch. I tried to lead the last pitch and wound up making the cam placement an aid placement by stepping up on two runners in it. Paul finished up the pitch, the muscleman that he is, and we were on top. And it was warm, relatively. I was pretty much in awe at the South Face route, what exposure! Great views of all around and the Flagpole still stands. We rappelled down the north side, which had all kinds of snow and ice all over the place. We got back to the car before midnight and somehow or another managed to drive back.

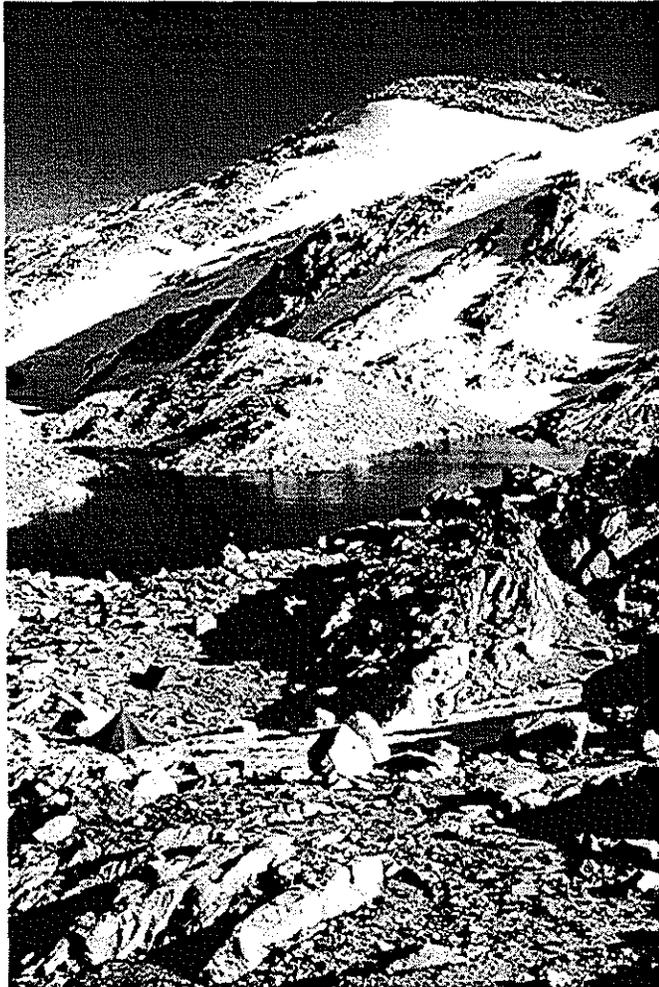
West Ridge and South Face of Prusik Peak



Little Annapurna

June 17

I had to do this hike as sort of a makeup. I went solo and super-light. Light is right, is right! I flew up to Lake Viviane via Snow Creek again. About four hours which is some 9 miles and 5100 feet of elevation gain. From Lake Viviane it was mostly snow travel skirting on through the Enchantments. I came across three people on my way and one of them, I found out later, was a guy doing the same loop, but in the opposite direction. I didn't carry water much as I was always around a water source. I wore hiking boots and I had four point crampons and my ice axe. I brought three Snickers bars, one bread roll, and two other candy bars for the trip. I left the parking lot around 7:30 am, for perspective. Going up Little Annapurna was simple enough. I didn't even have to use the crampons, it was such a nice day. The altitude definitely played a factor and I was sucking wind. The views from Little Annapurna are killer. It was so awesome and the top perch was protected from the wind and in the sun... perfect. I gawked and checked out the various ledges, relaxed a bit, then looked at the watch. Six and a half hours to the summit. Wow, I thought, I had tons of time on my hands. So I decided to head down Aasgard Pass, somewhere I had never been. The trail goes that way and I really didn't want to go back via Snow Creek. I was amazed at the views as I came



down from Aasgard. Looking down, you have two major rock walls on either side and then a blue-green lake surrounded by pine trees far down below, another awesome sight. Unfortunately, going down was treacherous. Rocks, dirt, boulders... all loose. I nearly fell three times, the third after stepping onto this huge boulder that pivoted free and flopped down on its other side. Not too much fun going down Aasgard Pass. All snow free, but loose stuff nonetheless. I passed a few Mountaineers who had gone up Colchuck and Dragontail. I was still flying and they were wearing heavy boots and carrying climbing equipment. I popped the blue pill at Colchuck Lake to alleviate the pain I knew was coming and to keep psyched for the hike ahead. Just getting to the trailhead meant I'd have traveled close to 19 miles and it was still a ways to go, so I was happy to say hello to Mr. Aleve. I flew down the trail and got to the dirt road. From there on out, I tried hitching a ride as I walked/jogged (downhill only on the dirt road) back. Nobody stopped, not even the lone guy in a Suburban who passed me once on the dirt road and once on Icicle Creek. Once I got to Eight Mile campground, I was pissed and figured if I'd made it this far, I'd just finish it off without a damn ride. I got back to the car at 8:30pm, 13 hours round trip and some 27 miles. Went to the gas station and bought a Mr. Ed's ice cream cookie sandwich. Mmmm good! A great trip with excellent views. I just need to do better hitch-hiking.

On a separate note, for all you recent BCC grads - going rock climbing is tough if you don't lead. You need to set up top-ropes and you can't always do it. So what you need to do is either buy or make a cheater stick. It's either a stick or extendible pole that sort of holds a biner that your rope is through. You put the biner through the bolt and voila (!) you're now on top rope. Carry it with you and do the same for the next bolt, you get the point. This will mean you can climb on top-rope most anywhere you want without worrying about leading.

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.

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ALPINE ECHO

July ECHO staff

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*If you have any submissions - anything vaguely
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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!*

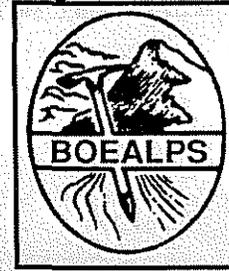


ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

6H-HR

August 2001



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Photo: "On the Summit of Eldorado Peak" by Troy Colyer

From Prash Bhat 67-34

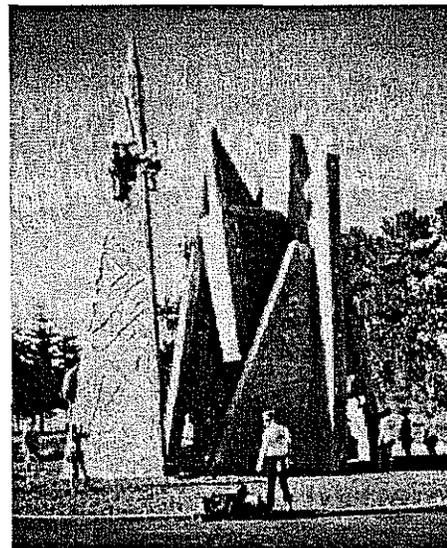
August General Meeting

Picnic at Marymoor Park

Show up after work for a potluck dinner,
and bring your rock gear for climbing
until dusk!

Thursday, August 2nd
Marymoor Park

Park at the Climbing Structure parking area



BELAY STANCE

2001 BCC Wrap Up...

The 2001 BOEALPS Basic Class had their graduation on June 13th. About 53 students completed the class this year out of 58 who enrolled. The students climbed quite a number of peaks this year despite the usual inclement weather on some weekends. Two teams were able to summit Mt. Baker with clear weather while the other two teams were forced to turn back on their summit attempt due to excessive weather conditions.

Our new Head Instructor, Rich Privett, found his experience a challenge and also very enjoyable. "It was made somewhat less painful thanks to many untold hours of organization and preparation by Shawn Pare. Shawn is one of many volunteers who have made this class what it is over the years. The instructors are an amazing group of individuals and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with them." Kudos to Rich on an awesome job!

Membership and Taxes...

We received two pieces of good news from Jake Davis, our Boeing Recreation rep. First, Jake said that we don't have to count any non-Boeing employees as club members if they participate in the club as instructors, yet we still get to give them the same privileges of regular members. This will help tremendously with our non-Boeing membership concern at this time. Secondly, Jake said we don't need to worry about taxes this year. Boeing Recreation is trying to work the whole tax issue for the recreation clubs, and will keep us apprised. If it turns out that Boeing can't do a mass filing for all the clubs, then we will need to file before May of next year. Also, as long as we keep our budget and income below \$25,000 we shouldn't ever have to file for tax purposes.

Don't Forget - Picnic at Marymoor Rock...

The club's general meeting this month will be held on August 2nd at the Marymoor climbing rock. The meeting will start "after work" (whenever that is for you) and will include a potluck dinner (beverages provided by the club), a frenzy of bolt clipping, and some new gear to demo from Exped. There should be enough folks there who lead to put a top rope up for you if you don't – bring your rope, shoes and chalk bag, and a set of quickdraws if you lead. See the ad later in this issue for a list of who should bring what food items to share...

Upcoming Elections...

All the board member's seats are up for grabs! Plan to be at the Blue Star Café on September 6th (free food!) to watch the politicking, rumor mongering and character assassination that occurs as everyone tries to avoid being elected to a board position. Or, even better, decide you care about the future direction of the club, and you want to have some sway in it and run for a board position!

PDF of the Echo Online (for at least one more month)...

The online version of the Echo will again be available on the club web site – <http://www.boealps.org>. I haven't gotten a single response as to whether this is a good new feature or not – is anyone out there? Let me know if you want me to keep providing this... And, speaking of the web site, the password is (as it has been since time immemorial) SLESSE – the password is needed to access the club membership roster and the list of trips being offered.

From the desk of your editor,


Matt Robertson

September Echo deadline is August 23rd

August, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Club Meeting – Picnic at Marymoor Park	3	4 Full Moon; Whitehorse; Black Peak
5 Whitehorse; Black Peak	6 ICC lecture	7	8	9	10	11 ICC Experience Climb #4; Maude and Seven Fingered Jack
12 ICC Experience Climb #4; Maude and Seven Fingered Jack	13	14 Board Meeting	15	16	17	18 Chair Peak
19 New Moon Chair Peak	20 ICC lecture	21 Climbing at Marymoor after work	22 Climbing at Marymoor after work	23 Echo Deadline	24	25 ICC Graduation Climb; Mt. Washington (Olympics); North Gardner; Boardman Lake
26 ICC Graduation Climb; Mt. Washington (Olympics); North Gardner; Boardman Lake	27	28	29	30	31	

September, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Full Moon	3 Labor Day	4	5	6 Club Elections – Blue Star Café	7 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin	8 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin; Monte Cristo
9 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin; Monte Cristo	10	11	12	13	14	15 Mt. St. Helens
16 Mt. St. Helens	17 New Moon	18	19	20 Echo Deadline	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Whitehorse

August 4-5

A stunning peak, just outside of Darrington, and the northernmost peak of the Front Range.

Mountain/Area	Whitehorse
Route	Lone Tree Pass
Class	Steep snow
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Miller, gary.miller@pss.boeing.com, 425-342-4587(w), 206-526-1313(h)

Black Peak (Washington Pass), south route

August 4-5

A fun climb of a beautiful peak in a wonderful area with incredible views. Nice camp at Wing Lake. One of the best places to watch a sunset in the North Cascades!

Mountain/Area	Black Peak
Route	South Side
Class	Some steep snow, class 3 scramble to summit. Some loose rock.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Charlie Soncrant, 425-391-1193, cu_soncrant@hotmail.com

Mt. Maude/Seven Fingred Jack

August 11-12

Two of Washington's "Big Boys", with a possible inclusion of Fernow if weather/group dynamics are amenable.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Maude and Seven Fingred Jack
Route	To be determined
Class	Some scrambling
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Jens Jacobsen, jensj@microsoft.com, 206-632-7880

Chair Peak

(Note the changed dates!) August 18-19

A stalwart at the north end of the Denny Creek sub-range, Chair Peak has a commanding view of the entire Alpental area, as well as looking deep into the Alpine Lakes wilderness area. The route selected will depend on the participants, but be prepared for some fun scrambling and low 5th class climbing. We'll camp at Gem Lake on the 11th and climb on the 12th.

Mountain/Area	Chair Peak
Route	To be determined
Class	Some scrambling, maybe low 5 th class
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Scott Leonard, 425-747-7852, sleonard@oz.net

Mount Marymoor

August 21 & 22

Marymoor Park - (free) rock climbing. We'll meet at 6pm and climb till it's dark. Rain cancels.

Mountain/Area	Climbing structure, Marymoor Park
Route	Lots (http://members.tripod.com/~Schryer/marymoore.html)
Class	5.6 up to 5.10c hard
Skills	Basic rock
Limits	6
Contact	David Hamilton, dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Mt. Washington (Olympics)

August 25-26

Looking east from Seattle at the Olympics, Mt. Washington is the second peak from the left, with only Mt. Eleanor being further south (apparently) on the skyline. The "trail" is very steep, but a lot of fun, and the views back across Hood Canal from the summit are very nice. An excellent day trip!

Mountain/Area	Mt. Washington (Olympics)
Route	1A
Class	3 rd class
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Leo Rydzewski, leo.j.rydzewski@boeing.com

North Gardner

August 25-26

One of Washington's "100 Highest", a trip with the Baillies is always entertaining and educational!

Mountain/Area	North Gardner
Route	Cedar Creek and Shalokum Lake
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Jerry Baillie, 206-283-6870, jandkbailie@home.com

BoBabies do Boardman Lake

August 25-26

With a ¼ mile approach, this one is short enough for the kids to walk, and at this time of year the water will be warm enough for the adults to wade and the kids to swim. We're going to try this one as an optional overnighter (there's several nice camp sites along the eastern shore), and are thinking that the moms and kids can play in the water while the dads do double (or triple?) hauls to get all the gear in. Come join us and see what it's like to tent with toddlers, or just join us for the day on Saturday!

Mountain/Area	Boardman Lake
Skills	Able to entertain children around water
Limits	??
Contact	Maren Robertson, 425-822-0455, maren.nelson@physio-control.com

Sahale Peak, Sahale Arm

September 21-22

One of the best, if not the best, basic climbs in the North Cascades. Easy trail to Cascade Pass, steep trail up Sahale Arm, a gentle glacier crossing, and a final easy rock pyramid to the summit with stunning views. The plan is to do this as a day climb on the 22nd, with car camping by the trailhead on the 21st for an early start.

Mountain/Area	Sahale Peak
Route	Sahale Arm
Class	Glacier crossing, 3 rd class rock, one short section of easy 5 th class rock
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	National Park limit
Contact	Ken Walter, 253-631-9129(h), 206-655-6831(w), kenneth.j.walter@boeing.com

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin

September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area	Gold Creek Basin
Elevation	6000' or so
Class	Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3 rd class.
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Monte Cristo Peak

September 8-9

Camp in beautiful Monte Cristo basin and explore old mining ruins and relics before climbing the area's namesake peak.

Mountain/Area	Monte Cristo Peak
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	12
Contact	Kathy Baillie, 206-283-6870, jandkbaillie@home.com

Mt. St. Helens

September 15-16

Climb up to the crater rim and peer down at the lava dome. Great views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood, weather permitting.

Mountain/Area	Mt. St. Helens
Route	Monitor Ridge
Skills	Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits	8
Contact	Sheila Bukovac, 206-655-0547, sheila.bukovac@pss.boeing.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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org



Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

August Picnic:

The August general meeting will be our annual club picnic, held at the Marymoor climbing rock. We'll provide some beverages, you provide the food, ropes, and quickdraws! See the flyer later in this issue for a list of who should bring which food items.

There will also be a gear demo of Exped equipment by Carl Brody at the picnic. Exped has already given some items to the club on long term loan for people to try out. To find out what equipment the club has available, contact Silas Wild. Carl will have more items at the picnic and is looking forward to answering questions about them. You can also get more information about the products offered at www.exped.com

Upcoming Programs:

September – The September meeting will be the election of a new board of officers for the club at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford. All the board positions will be open this year, so if you'd like to take a hand in determining the course and standards of the club, there is no better way than running for one of those positions. The club will provide munchies, you provide the beverages, and join us for an opportunity to nominate someone else to a volunteer board position, or a chance for you to become more active in the club by volunteering for one of those positions yourself!

October – The October program will be our annual banquet. The location, date and featured speaker are still to be announced, but watch this space for details, and plan on joining us and all your other Boealps friends for an evening of food and drink, war stories and reminiscences. This is always a great evening – don't miss it!



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Troy Colyer

IAC to hold Hearings on NOVA Plan

The IAC (Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation) has released its draft NOVA (Non Highway and Off Road Vehicle Activities) plan. This is the document that will guide IAC allocations for the next several years. NOVA is a statewide program that allocates gas tax revenues generated on non-highway (forest, National Park) roads and trails to motorized and non-motorized recreation. Currently, 80 percent of NOVA funds go to motorized trails and facilities and 20 percent to non-motorized. Recently passed legislation calls for a fuel use study to more fairly reallocate NOVA funds.

IAC will be holding public hearings on the NOVA Plan in several locations around the State. Please come out and show your support for a fuel-use study and reform of the NOVA program. A strong showing from hikers and other muscle-powered trail users will really make a difference.

August 1, 2001 1-3 PM, Spokane City Hall Chambers August 2, 2001 3-5 PM, Ellensburg, Hal Holmes Center
August 8, 2001 2-4 PM, Olympia, Natural Resource Building, 1111 Washington St SE August 9, 2001 12:30-3:30, Seattle REI

If you're out of town on those days, or unable to attend, you can go to the IAC's website, www.wa.gov/iac/, look at the report on line, and fill out their special on line comment form.

Boealps Board Meeting July 12, 2001

Attendees: Norene Borg, Dan Costello, Prash Bhat, Don Fraser, Bill Harrison, Micah Lambeth, Silas Wild, Dave Hamilton, Len Kannapell

The Board meeting was held at the Laurelhurst Beach Club this week, with a sweeping view of Lake Washington and Mt Rainier. Those members able to beat the Mariner traffic got to enjoy a swim prior to meeting time. Thank you to Silas Wild for hosting.

President: The annual Club Picnic is planned for August 2nd at Marymoor Park near the Climbing Wall. The Club will provide soft drinks and the food will be pot luck. Recommended dishes are by the first letter of the last name as listed in the Echo. An outdoor equipment company named Exped would like to be there and offer equipment demos. The club needs to check on whether a tent can be set up at the picnic site. The activities chairperson will call to verify. Exped has already loaned the Club a tent and a sleeping bag for demo by members.

The Photo Contest for the July general meeting went well. A special thanks to Debbie Brannigan for coordinating that activity.

Boealps' annual election for Board members is scheduled for Sept. 6th at the Bluestar Cafe. Apparently a room cannot be reserved beforehand. No problems in getting sufficient space there in the past. We need to get the word out and encourage members to attend. Various positions will have to be filled by new people this year as several officers have reached their maximum of terms.

A request to donate spots in the Basic Climbing Class next year was voted down. Although the cause was deemed worthy, several concerns were raised about setting a precedent and having to gauge multiple requests.

Programs: The Banquet is tentatively scheduled for October 19th. The date may move depending on speaker availability. The planned speaker, Miles Smart, had to cancel because of another engagement. Other potential speakers were proposed and will be contacted. The Banquet room at the Mountaineers facility in Queen Anne is again proposed. As the date gets nearer there will be less flexibility in changing it to accommodate the speaker's schedule. Food and beverage alternatives are being investigated and several options will be proposed to the Board.

Treasury: Because of the demands of this position and the importance of getting the duties performed in a timely manner in order to make decisions on other Club activities, it was recommended and the Board approved re-organizing this position to delegate out responsibilities. There will still only be one Treasurer with voting and check signing authority, but some of the bookkeeping or tax filing duties will be done by club members with specific experience in that area. Micah Lambeth will assume the Treasurer position until the Club Elections in September.

Activities: Campsite needs to be reserved for October 5th - 7th Campout. Credit Card needed to reserve site. Tumwater, 8-Mile, and Bridgecreek sites proposed.

Equipment: Exped has loaned Boealps a two-man 4-season tent (8 lbs) and a zero degree sleeping bag for use by its members. Moss Tents are currently being discounted by forty percent. These tents are well constructed but heavy (make sure you have a porter). Contact Silas Wild for more info.

Education: Rock Leading Seminar proposed for October 7th during the October Campout. The last Rock Leading Seminar on June 24th went well. Ice Climbing Seminar proposed for October 12th, instructor, Alex Van Steen, has been requested to teach again this year. Gary Brill has been booked for the Avalanche Seminar planned for December or January.

Membership: Although response has been good to the recent recruiting drive, there are still several non-Boeing applicants that may be denied membership in order to preserve our Employee/non-employee ratio for insurance purposes. Please continue to encourage Boeing employees to maintain their membership in the Club.

Next Board Mtg location not established yet, but should be on August 14th.

2001 Photo Competition Results

This year's photo competition was much better attended than last, but there was still a category with no entries! If you would have brought an amusing print to enter in the "Most Embarassing" category, you would have scored a first place prize, and the prizes provided by our new photo chair, Deb Brannigan, were great!

We'll only run the category winners here in the Echo and on our web site, so I'd recommend trying to show up in person next year if you'd like to see some of the other awesome shots our club members take. We'll run the print winners in this month's issue, and the slide winners next month, so stay tuned for more outstanding images! As usual, the pictures lose a great deal in the conversion to B&W and the printing process. To see them in all their glory, go to the Boealps web site at www.boealps.org.

Here's the breakdown of the category winners:

"Climbing"

Prints: "Ingalls Peak" by Gary Ryder

Slides: "Kentucky Summer" by Len Kannapell

"Boealps Classes"

Prints: "Aggie's Angels" by Jim Miniken

Slides: "Tony in the Hole" by Geoff Pegler

"Echo Cover"

prints: "Trudging Along" by Joyce Holloway

slides: "The Wall" by Geoff Pegler

slides: "West Rib Of Denali" by Mike Jacobsen

"Mountain Scenes"

Prints: "Canadian Rockies" by Michael Mixon

Slides: "Assiniboine" by Geoff Pegler

"Sunsets / Sunrises"

Prints: "Skiers on Sherman" by Joyce Holloway

Slides: "Mt Foraker in Elegance" by Len Kannapell

"Nature Scenes"

Prints: "Root Glacier" by Joyce Holloway

Slides: "Mountain Goat, Aasgard Pass" by Geoff Pegler

"People"

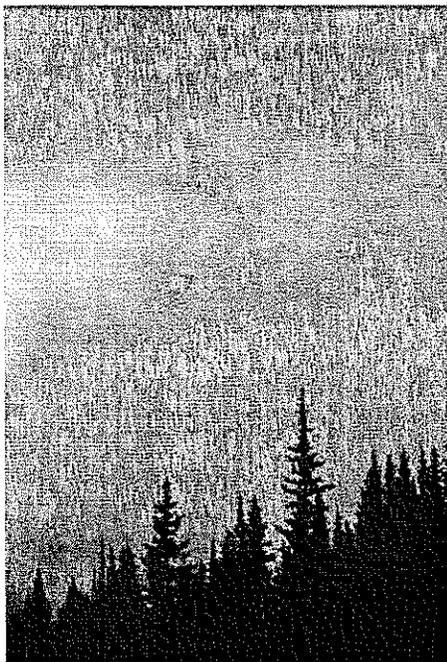
Prints: "Rockers" by Joyce Holloway

Slides: "The Graduate" by Geoff Pegler

"Most Embarassing"

Prints: No entries!

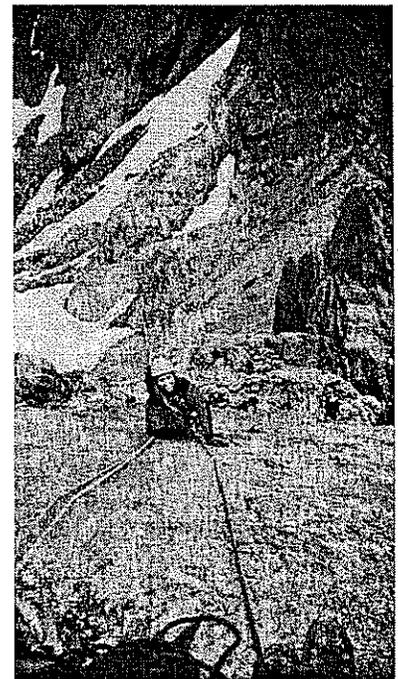
Slides: "2 Arresting, 1 Relieving" by Geoff Pegler



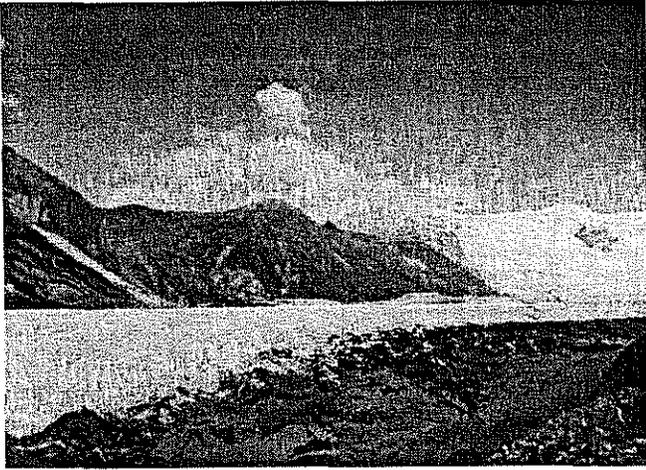
Canadian Rockies
By Michael Mixon



Skiers on Sherman
Joyce Holloway



Ingalls Peak
Gary Ryder



Root Glacier
Joyce Holloway

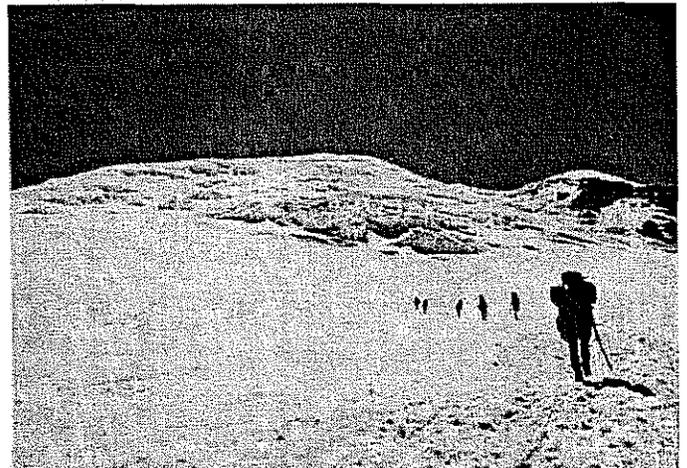


Rockers
Joyce Holloway



Aggie's Angels
Jim Minikin

Trudging Along
Joyce Holloway



2001 Boealps Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 2nd

At the Marymoor Climbing Rock

From After Work Until Dark

Bring some food to share and your quickdraws – there's only bolts in this rock!

If your last name starts with:

A-L Bring a Main Dish

M-R Bring a Side Dish

S-Z Bring Desert

Beverages will be provided by Boealps

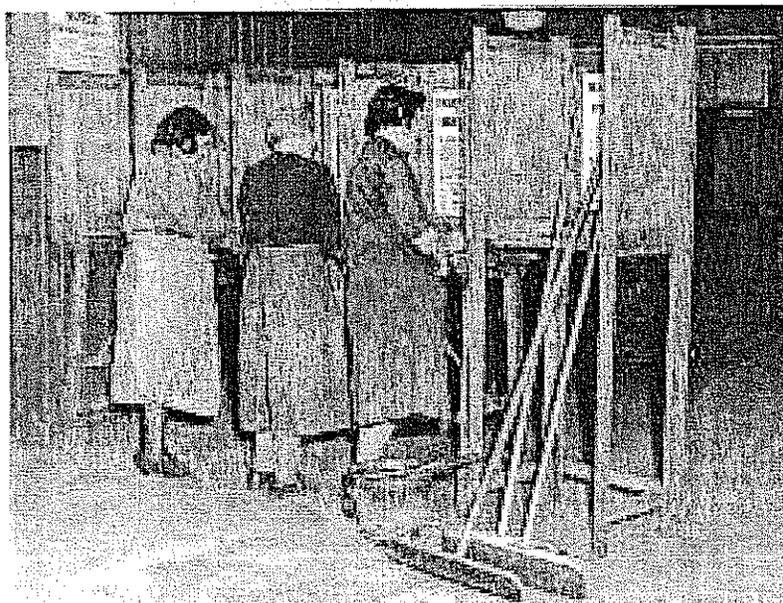


Boealps Board of Directors Election

Thursday, September 6th

**Blue Star Café
4512 Stone Way N
6:30 pm - ???**

The annual club elections this year will be held on Thursday, September 6, starting at 6:30 pm at the Blue Star Café and Pub in Wallingford. (The Blue Star is on Stone Way a block north of N. 45th Street. Stone Way is between I-5 and HWY 99. Use the 45th Street or 50th Street exit off of I-5 or the Zoo exits off of HWY 99.) All board positions are up for election, so if you've got a hankering to help guide the direction of the club, here is your opportunity! Come out and run for the one of the board positions, volunteer to chair a committee, or just come out to vote, but get involved! It is a great way to meet climbing partners, get the inside scoop on club activities, and influence the club to be the way you want it. Arrange to meet your fellow Boealpers and trade stories from the summer. Spread the word. Arrive early to partake in munchies provided by the club. See you there!



If they care enough to vote, so should you!

Mt. Baker, the Rematch

2001 BCC Red Team

June 30-July 1, 2001

Well, another weekend, another mountain. This weekend was the return trip to Mount Baker for most of the members of my climbing team from the BOEALPS class, since we had such unacceptable results from our last attempt. The weather was much more cooperative on this trip, and I'd say it was perfectly ideal.

We started at about 8:00 Friday morning on a trail that was completely different than when we were there three weeks ago for our graduation climb. The trail was free of snow all the way up to the top of the switchbacks just below the Railroad Grade, where there was some snow still on the trail. The Railroad Grade is a trail on the top of the west moraine below the Easton glacier and was also free of snow most of the way up to where we camped at about 6400 ft elevation. We arrived in camp at about 2:00 pm and got set up and organized for the following morning's climb. I went to bed at about 7:00 pm as our wakeup time was planned for 1:00 am. Sleep came pretty easy after the long hike up that day.

I drug myself out of my sleeping bag at about 1:20 am to a beautifully clear night sky. The moon was just setting and the stars were beautiful. After a quick breakfast we put on our gear, roped up and set out up the glacier. Once we found the boot tracks of the previous day's climbers in the dark, route-finding wasn't hard at all. It wasn't long before the glow of the rising sun provided enough light for good visibility. The top of the mountain was shrouded in a light lenticular cloud, but that would burn off by the time we reached the summit. We reached 8900 ft, the base of Sherman peak and the start of the final headwall before the summit, called the Roman Wall, at about 7:00 am. The Roman Wall proved to be the most difficult and taxing portion of the climb. It's 1000 ft of very steep, 40 degree snow. It took almost 2 hours for us to get above this onto the summit plain. From there it was an easy walk to the final summit pyramid, easy except for the cold high winds blowing from the south and streaming clouds across our path. Be sure to check out the summit video on my web site to see what it looked like approaching the summit!

After a few photos and addition of extra clothing to protect us from the wind, we started back down. The trip down the mountain was pretty much uneventful. There was a stretch mid-way down where the sun had warmed the hard crusted top layer of snow enough that it would not hold our weight and we would post-hole badly, so we had to get into other steps and use them until we were low enough that the snow was consolidated and would hold our weight for plunge stepping. Back in camp, we feasted on the watermelon that Jonathan Paul brought and John Balderama so kindly carried up, then packed up our gear and started down the 4.5 mile hike back to the cars. We arrived there at about 7:00 pm, went out for burgers, and then home to showers and comfy warm beds.

I think everyone on the team felt a great sense of accomplishment on completing this trip. Not only had we conquered the mountain that had denied us a summit on our classes graduation climb, but we did it on our own. This trip was planned, organized, and executed completely by the Red Team graduates. I think this says a lot about the training provided by the BOEALPS Basic Mountaineering course, and I would like to express my appreciation to Jerry Baillie, Rich Baldwin, and all the other instructors for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us, and providing the training to make this possible for us to accomplish. We missed having you there to share the moment. Thank you and enjoy the pictures!

-- John Heineman

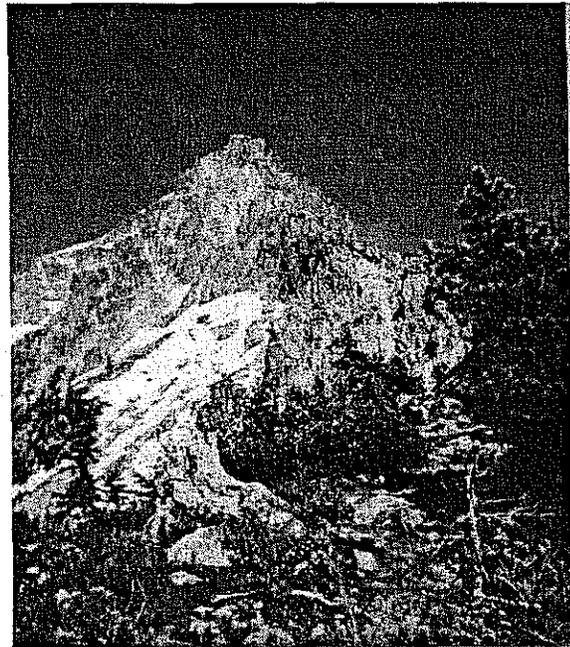
(Editor's note: John's web site is at <http://homepage.mac.com/jheineman/PhotoAlbum6.html>, and has some awesome pictures. Check it out!)

A Long Scramble for Some Short Cake

July 4, 2001

By Anastasia Dunn

It all started with a conversation about great scrambles....Patty Michaud and I were on our way up Kaleetan the Sunday before with Matt Robertson and Frank Sommers, when our fair Echo editor was waxing poetic about the great frictiony rock to be had on the Twin Sisters, particularly the west ridge of the North Twin. Patty and I listened intently as Matt's voice delved into the fantastic details of water soluble minerals, the physics of periodactic rock particles and the superdynamics of magmatic geography, when we heard Frank's voice briefly pierce our concentration: "Yeah, the North Twin was really great," he said. Now for Frank, that's positively gushing. We instantly decided to book it for July 4th....



North Twin Sister
West Ridge on right skyline

Joining us on our little adventure was Mike Wargel and Judy and Steven Clarke, two recent basic class grads. As the day was going to be hot and the approach involved unfamiliar logging roads and mountain biking, we left Seattle at 5:30am. An inordinate amount of time was spent the day before trying to make sense of the Beckey guide's approach descriptions, so we wondered how long the climb would take. To our surprise, at the turnoff to Mosquito Lake Road in the middle of the Acme metropolis, Patty and I spied a big sign that read "Tonight: AcmeNORMOUS Fireworks!" with an arrow pointing down the country road. Well, at least we had some interesting options in case we got out late!

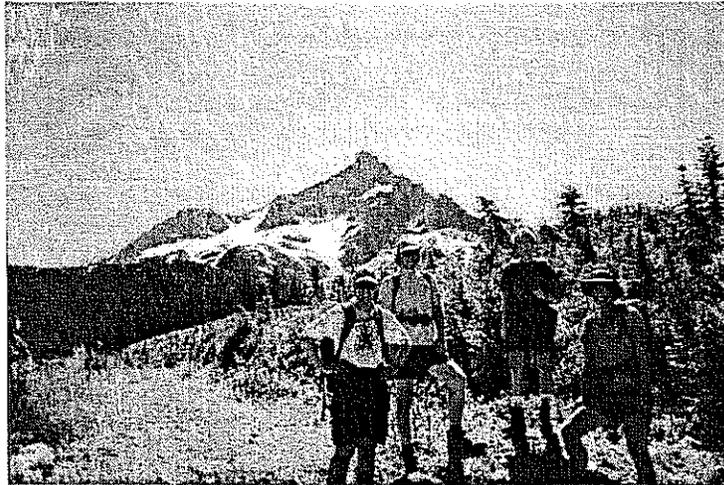


The beginning of the bike in was easily found 5 miles down the Middle Fork of the Nooksak River road, at a juncture where a gated bridge led over the river and into the woods. Over the gate the bikes were carried, soon hopped on and pedaled smartly towards the hilly road on the other side. Of course, no one had bothered to downshift their gears yet as they crossed the bridge, so I watched with hilarity as Judy and Patty desperately tried to keep from hitting each other as they bobbed and weaved their bikes up the short, steep hill. It was like watching an accident in super slow motion, only they always managed to teeter totter out of each other's way just in the nick of time.

Having left the cars at 8:15am, the mountain bike up was undertaken with a casual, we've-got-all-day sort of attitude - which was fortunate because most of us were in some way dying on the way up. A couple of thousand feet in ~4 miles was not something any of us had done in a while, so needless to say lots of time was found for breaks and conversation enroute. I actually walked my bike most of the way, as a few little muscles in my quads would scream bloody murder after about 100 yds uphill on the bike. Luckily for me, I can walk at a pretty fast clip and managed to keep up quite well with my less speedy biking companions. We all joked with Mike about his fancy borrowed bike, as it reportedly cost his friend ~\$2500. We figured for that amount of money it should come with a little suited man willing to push, or if nothing else something to serve us cold drinks along the way.

About two thirds of the way up a fork in the road was found with the right turn marked by a climbing wand. We took that to be a good omen and proceeded up the more overgrown side road. By the time we got to the tank trap mentioned in the description, 4 fellows who left the trailhead before us came blazing through, all cursing the one in front who had convinced them to stay on the main road and rode all the way up to the gravel pit before realizing their mistake. Whoopsie - no wonder the front guy didn't stop to say hi.

One or two miles later, after enjoying the overgrown road that had in some places been reduced to brushy singletrack, we found ourselves at what we figured was the trailhead, with a great view of the North Twin as well as Daillie's prairie below. After some food and locking up the bikes, off we went up the overgrown logging road spur where it soon became trail again as it headed up into a lone group of trees. 12:00 noon found us at the base of the scramble, matching Beckey's notes to the skyline features we could make out.



As it turned out, Matt and Frank's description of the rock was dead-on: downright grippy and sticky it was. But our amazement with the rock and delight with the beautiful day was soon overtaken with solving the puzzle of routefinding. The description says class 3/4 scrambling, with the class 4 stuff being in very specific sections nearer to the summit. Of course, that depends on how well you can tell the difference between class 3, 4 & 5 as you look way up the hill and attempt to decipher where the multiple bootpaths presented could possibly lead. Patty, Mike and I all took turns doing the scouting, mostly managing to stay in the easy stuff up and over the drop-off crag, with only a few times the scout having to call back to "take the OTHER way!" We took our time for the most part, enjoying the scramble and pulling out the description often to make sure we were headed up the right headwall or "obvious gully." Unfortunately, time was a-passing, and 3:00 found us still winding our way up not quite to the false summit yet. Mike had some misgivings about the time it would take to downclimb all the way back, as we had set a turnaround time for 4:00 and it would certainly take us more time than we thought to routefind our way down safely. (We had elected not to bring our axes, as we had planned on descending the way we came and not down the North face.) We agreed to go a little farther, and began pondering the idea of either turning around or plunge stepping 2000 feet without ice axes and Patty the only one in full shank boots.

Luckily, the puzzle of continuing our way up must have entertained us enough to keep our minds off the descent, as we soon found ourselves past the false summit and negotiating the ridge east towards the true summit. Descent was discussed again in earnest a few times, emphasized by some of the definite class 4/5 moves we had executed to get past the false summit. Fun to go up....down not so attractive. We knew we could do it safely, as I had brought a big 15' sling, some biners and some extra slings for makeshift harnesses, and Mike had a cordelette, but we knew that with 5 people no matter what it would take a long time to get down. I decided I definitely wanted to check out the condition of the snow on the north face, and others seemed to agree.

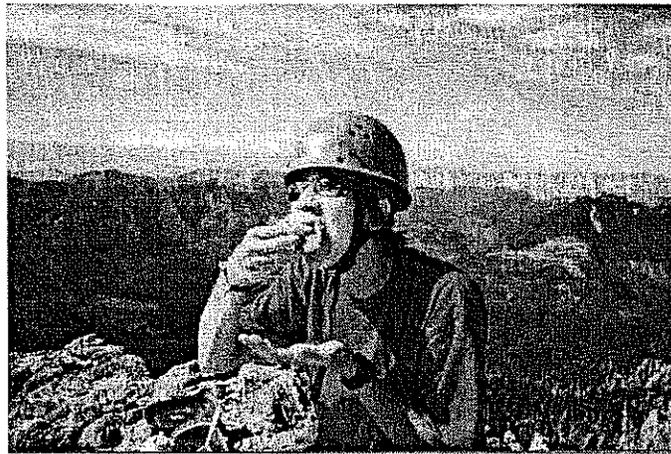
As soon as we arrived at the snow on top, I began checking out the best way to access the steep snow slope while Mike, Judy and Steven tested out their boots plunge stepping down a steep unexposed slope nearby. Snow seemed almost perfect. After discussing what safety precautions we could take in case someone fell (putting on full length clothing/gloves, staying out of each others' fall lines, traversing carefully until we had a clear runout) we decided we would go for it. That settled, I think everyone breathed a bit more relieved and began to settle down for some treats. In the meantime, I decided to see how far away, you know, the summit was. All that decision-making had distracted us to the point that we actually thought about not scrambling the last little bit to tag the actual top! After I assured them it was no more than 5 minutes away, up we all went and high-fived at the easternmost peak after trying to squish 5 faces into a camera shot held an arm's length away.

With the North Twin officially tagged and views of the South Twin and the rest of Western Washington and British Columbia duly admired (from Rainier to the Coast Range of BC and all the San Juans were clear, not to mention Mt. Baker up close and personal), onto the food! A sumptuous feast appeared from the depths of backpacks to rival any lowlander's Fourth of July picnic: fried chicken, 1/2 a cantaloupe,



apple pie and fixings for strawberry shortcake were made complete by an American flag and some fine single malt scotch to mark the occasion. The apple pie even came in a red, white and blue striped box marked "The Great American Apple Pie." Mike's strawberry shortcake stole the show, though, as he brought up a whole angel food cake, a huge container of sugared, sliced strawberries and the piece de resistance: a big can of Redi Whip. The small detail of lacking any utensils whatsoever was swiftly disregarded by Patty, as she demonstrated the fine art

of grabbing a hunk of cake, pouring on a pile of strawberries topped by a final squirt of whipped cream only to shove it in her mouth as quickly as possible to avoid any loss of valuable tastiness. An admirable feat we all did our best to emulate, some with better results than others. By all estimations a fine July 4th celebration was had by all, even the non-natives among us (Judy and Steven moved here recently from Scotland). Of course, maybe they were just enjoying the nice Scotch...



After a few scenic shots of the mountains, some badly sung patriotic songs and forcing the Scots to pose with the flag, we embarked on our careful descent. Patty led the way as we entered the snow slope about 100 feet down from where it ended near the summit, where it looked about 5-10 degrees steeper. The main slope turned out to be a nice ~30 degrees, with only a few icier runnels that were easily stepped out of and the rest of the snow just about perfect for plunge stepping. Judy and Steven gained confidence the farther they went, and were soon sauntering down with no worries. We were

soon beginning our traverse west to the trail, more than pleased with our decision to come down the easy way. After some frantic black-fly wrangling at the top of the trail, 6:45 found us down at the bikes and looking forward to the ride back. Little did we know that we were about to experience almost the biggest thrill of the day: 4+ miles downhill in just over 20 minutes. "Yeeeeeeehaaaw!" is what I was thinking..... "Puredeadbrilliantbytheway" is apparently the Scottish translation. Regardless of how the day began, our utter love for mountain bikes was permanently restored as we cruuised down to the cars. 2 1/2 hours from summit to cars, with breaks, is my kind of descent!

As we were sadly too early to experience the thrills of the "AcmeNORMOUS!" fireworks display, and too late to get back to Seattle in time for the big shows, a food and beer stop in the first local place we could find was deemed the appropriate way to round out the day. Sedro-Wooley provided us with the perfect pizza tavern, complete with red vinyl booths and (to Steven's apparent disappointment) a thong contest on the readerboard for Saturday night. Amazing the things you learn about what really goes on in small towns (...as well as possible answers to that age-old kilt question?) On the drive home the night sky seemed to be merrily celebrating as scores of small fireworks displays dotted the horizon as far as the eye could see, a delightful end to a colorful Independence Day.

Grassy Point – Gamma Ridge

July 1-July 4, 2001

By Steve Fox

This trip was a great loop with mostly abandoned or off-trail travel. One abandoned trail, barely mentioned in Routes and Rocks, heads up towards Grassy Point from Milk Creek. The other abandoned trail is marked on maps, heading down from Gamma Peak to the Suiattle River. In between is the Dolly-Dusty high route. En route are some scrambles up to grand vistas of the North Cascades and Glacier Peak, a hot springs, and beautiful open ridges.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Donna and I started up the Suiattle trail (1600'). We walked the 0.8 miles to the Milk Creek trail junction, then continued for 2 miles up the Milk Creek trail. After passing from a steep cliffy area to a flatter area, we plunged downhill through the relatively open forest looking for the abandoned old Milk Creek trail. 15 minutes later we were standing on the venerable tread. Now the travel was a bit easier and we dropped down the steep old Milk Creek trail to the Suiattle River. Routes and Rocks briefly mentions an old trail heading towards Grassy Point. We eyed the old Milk Creek trail at the junction, which is a carpet of moss and choked with huge downfall. Then we turned upstream to the confluence of Milk Creek where it pours into the Suiattle River. Closely upstream, the creek falls over a beautiful 30 foot falls.

The creek was flowing high. We tied the rope to a tree and dropped our packs. Dragging the end of the rope, we forded the waist-deep flow. With the handline in place it was easy to ferry the packs across. We sat in the sun next to the Suiattle for a half hour to warm up. We filled all our water bottles, anticipating a dry climb up the ridge to Grassy Point.

After poking about in the relatively open forest, we found some of the tread traversing uphill. We slogged up several switchbacks, then promptly lost the trail. The ridge is fairly obvious, so we made our best guess where it must have wanted to be. Sure enough, after a bit we bumped into what seemed like the old tread. Every once in a while we found a sawed log, or a hint of a blaze. Climbing higher and higher, we lost and found the trail quite a few times. Finally at 3600' we lost it for the last time. The terrain steepened considerably in cliff bands and steep forest.

The duff gave a decent grip, but finally the angle was too much. So I switched from my running shoes to boots and used the ice axes. Soon it was getting a little exposed. The rope brought considerable relief to the psyche, but slowed us down. We traded rope pitches and got a little more efficient. Up higher it got brushier and soon our legs and arms were marked with bloody scratches. Oh, magnificent brush, how we love thee!

It looked hopeless to get all the way to Grassy Point that evening, so we found a large flat spot at 5000'. We drank a lot struggling up the ridge, and were low on water. We melted a little snow with our small fuel reserve.

MONDAY, JULY 2

We broke camp, then descended down the rocks and steep forest to a saddle. The easy terrain up snow patches had some brush but mostly open ridge. There was a small stream flowing. Water at last! I grabbed Donna's water filter and pumped some water. It tasted great and I guzzled a whole liter. Then while furiously pumping more, the filter snapped. Uh-oh. A visit from Mr. Giardia? We walked to a high point on the Grassy Point Ridge, summitting the western-most bump. Spread all around is Lime Ridge, the Bath Lakes traverse, Glacier Peak, and tremendous views. It's a glorious place to be. We walked the ridge and summited 6596' Grassy Point and took in yet more views. Then we followed the undulating terrain along the ridge to the PCT.

There was patchy snow on the PCT, but only with marmot prints. At a dry spot we rested and took in the expansive meadows. We could see our ridge route on Grassy Point, with its large grass and heather meadows. The flowers were just started to bloom. With 70 degree temperatures and the sun beaming down, it was nap time. We followed the PCT "northbound" around the corner and down two switchbacks. At 5800' we left it and traversed the Dolly-Dusty high route above the trees to a scree slope. After crossing a stream gully, the terrain became pretty easy to descend. It was mostly scree and a little snow glissading to Vista Creek (4700'). The creek crossing went fairly easily.

Rounding a moraine, we plunged up steep forest and got thoroughly scratched again. The forest got steeper and the duff slippery. So out came the rope again. With new confidence, we traded leads and got above the worst of it. But the energy was sapped and so we began to look for any flat place to lay the sleeping bags. At about 5200' we finally found two single-size places. My spot was slightly exposed, so I slept tied in to a tree. Sliding down a slope inside my claustrophobic sleeping bag didn't seem like "fun". But with a line around my waist, I felt very safe and slept well.

TUESDAY, JULY 3

We started up the snow and forest duff for what we hoped would be easier terrain. After one very steep section we got the rope out again. Donna led up one pitch, with some impressive resolve. Chopping steps in the duff, she managed to struggle up to a solid belay tree. It was easy for me with the rope as backup, and soon we were on nice terrain.

Ah, paradise! I doubt this area is visited much. It's a grand park, with open heather and snowfields in a wide bowl under Gamma Peak. Views of Glacier Peak and marmot heaven are superb. There were goat tracks about and some tracks we could not decipher. Were they cougar, or coyote, or a very large marmot?

Up consolidated snow we walked to the ridge about a mile west of Gamma Peak. We dropped packs and looked over the east side of the ridge. We dropped our jaws at the incredible scene. The Dusty Glacier was a jumbled mess of icy boulders, and the huge Great Fill lay far below. Other glorious glaciers and the summit of Glacier Peak filled the view. Behind us was the parkland bowl. Due to some wind donned jackets ate lunch. Each of us picked our own view and soaked it up for quite some time. There was a family of 7 goats picking there way across steep heather slopes, making for the perfect scene.

Gamma Peak looked intimidating from this vantage. Possibly it would not work out and we'd have to backtrack down the unpleasant steep forest to Vista Creek. So with a little trepidation we walked the easy ridge for about a mile. The closer we got, the less fearsome Gamma Peak appeared. Rounding a corner, it looked better and sure enough, it went fairly well on the south side of the summit. Steep heather with plenty of steps made for safe progress. Soon we were on top, enjoying one of the best views of Glacier Peak and 360 degrees around.

We soaked up the scene, where we could see the route along Grassy Point's ridge, the Dolly-Vista high route, the Bath Lakes area, the Suiattle drainage, the DaKobed range, Entiat mountains, even Eldorado and Baker and thousands of other peaks. Finally we stepped off the summit block onto the snow of the north side and glissaded towards Gamma Creek. Dropping 1500' we hoped to find a passageway to the hot springs. We found a beaten path and followed it down steeply. It went well until it reached a high point above the convergence of three creeks. The drop down was very scary looking and stopped at a cliff. We were tired and hungry, so we backed off and found two flat bivy spots.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

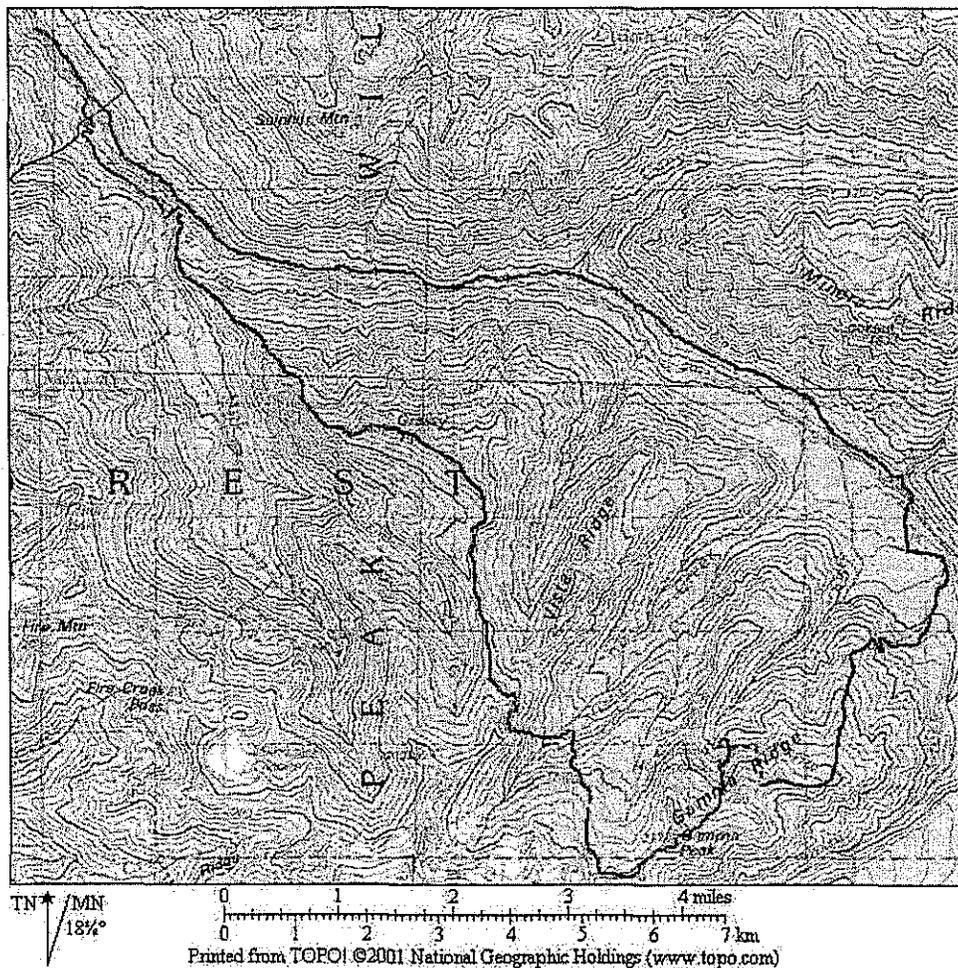
The next morning we climbed back up the creek drainage to the east side of the creek. Oh boy! More scratched legs in the brush, and they were pretty beat up already. But the springs! The springs! Had to find 'em. Using Donna's excellent route finding, we angled down the forest and made a long switchback to Gamma Creek. Then up the creek for a ways where we found the hot springs! We spent a few hours adjusting the temperature and enjoying the springs. I looked for potential campsites, but found no established spots.

We climbed up to gain Gamma Ridge to another 45 minute rest on top taking in the world. It was mid afternoon, and we still had another night planned. So we moseyed down the ridge, losing the old tread a few places in the patchy snow. We stopped for another hour a bit below, not wanting to waste these views. To the east and north are as Fortress, Buck, Tenpeak, Bonanza, and many more.

It's been years since they've logged out the Gamma Ridge trail. One nasty section had a bunch of newly fallen jackstraw timber (4800'). It didn't take long to descend. But the trail was brushy. Our scratched and sunburned shins complained bitterly about the woody brush. Yeouch! Ooh! Ouch! Finally we hit the PCT with it's groomed, wide tread. Ahhhh.....

I suggested in jest that we hike all the way out. It was 6:40pm and we had 13 miles to go. Donna agreed. The grand views were over, so we might as well hike out the easy Suitttle trail. We were low on water. But oh well, I put on my running shoes and she took the rope. We pounded out the miles. En route are several gorgeous streams. We saw people for the first time on the trip, camped at the Suitttle River. By 9pm we were stumbling in the dark and donned headlamps. The trail is mostly flat, losing 1400' in 10 miles.

This trip had it all -- some trail, some long-ago abandoned trail, some high routes, scrambling a couple peaks, hotspings, parkland views, snow travel, ridge walks, great brush, steep forest, sunburn, and only 0.8 miles of repeat on the entire loop. A definite 4-star trip, indeed.



On the web site (www.boealps.org): Green denotes maintained trail, Purple is abandoned or unmaintained trail, Red is off trail

The Tooth, A while ago

(June 14, 21 and 28, 2001)

I scheduled three Tooth outings, all relatively painless. The first one brought Joel Beal and Cody Young, both seasoned vets of the BCC. We met some nice Mountaineers up near Pineapple Pass and got some route info. Despite the dumping of snow, it was now dry. So we suited up, put on our capes, and clambered on up the rock. I went the full length of the rope and set up anchor and belay on a huge flake. Joel and Cody make it up and as I'm standing up to start leading the second pitch, the gloves I had temporarily stuffed inside my shirt came tumbling out. I caught one glove, but the other went down about ten feet. I went down after it and almost became the subject of a goofy SAR when I managed to get myself wedged in between the huge flake and the rock, some four feet from the top of the flake. As I'm standing there contemplating my stupidity, I was wondering what Joel and Cody must have thought with me being the leader of this trip. After Cody pulled with all his might on the rope, and 15 minutes of me becoming one with the rock, I finally managed to free myself, less glove. We got up to the top of the second pitch and bailed due to the light and the fact that we were a three man rope team.

The second outing brought the help of the Tune-ster and the Penguin. Ron Stephenson, JoAnn Kauffman, and Brent Quinton were the victims, uh, I mean followers. We hopped, skipped, and jumped our way to the base. The ladies paired up and Ron and I went together. Brent got there ahead of us all, so he and Ilan were already on the rock. Brent and Ilan summited while the other two teams bailed at the top of the second pitch. We got slightly lost on our way out, but managed to find the yellow brick path back to the cars.

The third outing brought Kathleen Clawson, Tom Ryan, and Prash. We boogied on over to the start and Tom and Prash paired up while I paired up with Kathleen. We got to the top of the second pitch and I pulled out a lightstick and propped it up near the rap anchor and yelled to Tom & Prash that we were going for the summit. Kathleen felt comfortable doing so, and we made it to the top of the third pitch just as dusk was setting in. I lead the catwalk in the dark - it seemed to be easier that way. Kathleen followed up in her mountaineering boots and trailed a rope for Prash to ascend. Tom had already been to the top and didn't have any desire to go up in the dark. I did leave another lightstick at the anchor above the third pitch, so rapping down was relatively easy. I had brought wands which we found on our way out and tied a lightstick to a tree branch on the Source Lake trail as a reference point for all three trips.

All in all, the trips were great exposure for those getting into the rock climbing arena. From Tom's improvised ice axe (a dead tree he carried around), to Brent switching out with Ron on my rope, to us getting lost, and to Joel leaving my POC light (I forgot my headlamp so used the light I carry in my car which went permanently dead in the basin on the descent) in his pack at the base of the climb, I think we all had a great time. BCC taught them well. Thanks to all that helped out.

A quick ICC note - Hey, we climb, we summit, we laugh. Ha, ha, ha. Well, okay, weather permitting. We're still having a dandy time. We've broken down (sob) into teams and are going out with 1:1 teacher/student ratios. Some teams like to climb in graupel, other teams like to bail after seeing one snowflake - we chose to bail after seeing precip in the valleys on either side of us. We even managed to hit DQ and get a Peanut Buster Parfait before getting back to Seattle at 9:30 Sunday night. Now, I understand there are a few folks that might get back from their climbs just in time for work, but how many of you know of folks that get back LATE for work?? I know of one or two now... ;) Bob Conder, Rob Knudsen, Micah Lambeth and I just got back from going up the North Face of the Northwest Ridge of Mount Adams, or in Rob's terms, the NW Face of the North Ridge (inside joke). Hey, it's a long, steep route, and we encountered water ice on it. We climbed it. Campers below were watching us go up. We drank the silty water at 11k, Bob and I punched through a couple of snow bridges. We had oodles of fun, I really like this ICC. I hiked up Mt Stuart somewhere in all of that.

-David Hamilton

The Finger ... in 9.51023 hours

July 3, 2001

By Michael Frank

In case any of you people noticed a few BOEALPers dozing at the fireworks show on the 4th there were a few of us who had a reasonable excuse. I myself was fast asleep while the festivities were going on. It seems that there are a number of people in the club that are into sleep deprivation combined with sudden altitude exposure as something fun to do on a holiday. The climbers were Tuney Piker Kannapell (trip leader), Dan Goering, Victor Yagi, Ambrose Bittner, Annette Mockli, and Michael Frank. As the story unfolds a discussion is ensuing as to when an appropriate time to leave is....

Michael, "How about Fuhrer Finger?"

Tuney, "Is the Finger in condition?"

Annette, "I can't leave until 5pm guess I can't go."

Dan, "Fuhrer Finger, cool I'm game!"

Victor, "I was suppose to bring a harness?"

Tuney, "We're leaving at 3, the Finger may not be in condition."

Michael, "Well me and Annette are leaving at midnight!"

Ambrose, "Can we say we climbed it in a day if we start before midnight?"

Victor, "Do you have some webbing? I need harness."

Michael, "Who's Annette?"

Ambrose, "Yeah, we'll buy permits for Michael and Annette."

So in short Annette and I met at the 272nd street park and ride at 7:30pm with plans to start climbing from Paradise by 10pm while the rest of the "team" was planning on getting up to Paradise by 6pm, registering and sleeping until 8pm. At 10:01pm Annette and I were on our way up a beautiful clear night with a full moon hanging behind us (which continued to be the case the entire night). After a short 30 minutes to Glacier Vista (thought this used to be called Panorama Point) we radioed the rest of the crew (Talkabouts are great, also depressing when we see that they are already at the base of the turtle, or so it looks in the dark). I don't remember much about the next hour or two as I was sleeping and Annette was leading. At some point we entered the base of the finger following some wonderful footsteps in the snow which the first party couldn't locate for some reason.

Michael, "Anyone for bowling?"

Tuney, "Sure!"

Annette, "Ouch!!!"

Michael, "Rock!.. Water bottle!"

Tuney, "Did I hit you? Well if you'd get up here and kick some \$#!?!%! steps!"

We caught up to them as they donned their crampons, what timing and luck, we really did want to help kick some steps... :-). The upper part of the Fuhrer Finger route was in prime condition with hard crust or Styrofoam snow. The visibility was excellent, the weather was great, the company was puking, well Dan was heaving I guess. One of the hazards of ascending quickly without sleep and then downing a chocolate outrage gu pack I guess. We finally get up to gentler slopes and the sun rising. We stop to sunscreen up and put on sunglasses. I pull my shades out only to find the rock I caught with the top of my pack happened to coincide with where my glacier glasses were, luckily I had an extra pair of bicycling glasses.

On the upper slopes we all kind of spread out and trudged up to the summit. And as I lay near the crater rim catching up on sleep waiting to regroup I hear a lovely voice...

"PUT ON WARM CLOTHES! EAT! DRINK! DON'T SHIT! YOU HAVE 15 MINUTES! TAKE OFF YOUR PACKS!..."

First time I've been so close to an RMI group on Rainier, makes me kind of shake my head at what so many people miss "climbing" this mountain.

After descending to Ingraham Flats and shedding layers I realize I still have a plum in my food bag! I pull it out to find it still unblemished, juicy, and quite a treat while standing in what feels like the blazing sun. An uneventful descent finds us back to the cars by noon and in Seattle by 3pm.

Rainier in a day? Maybe next time we'll leave at midnight!

Gear Review

By David Hamilton

Exped WB Sleeping Bag on loan to Boealps. This is a 4 lb 5oz down bag rated to 0F. What is unique is that its shell is some sort of weatherproof fabric, making this bag a combo bivy and bag, all in one. I used it for our Mount Adams trip this past weekend. While I was at first aghast at the size of it, I later reasoned that a bag and bivy bag would probably take up about the same volume. I brought a full length Ridge Rest as well. As it was, we camped at 6800 feet on dry ground. I slept all night long and it was very toasty. The next night was a bit cooler, but I still slept relatively well. At least better than sleeping in my summer bag on frozen ground... I'd encourage Boealps folks to come by during the August picnic and take a look at what Exped has to offer. Besides the discounts being offered, Exped makes sleeping bags that have arm holes, leg holes, and double as a vest, weighing in around two pounds. They also have a bivy bag with full side zip that can mate to another similar bivy bag, weighing 25oz.

Ice Screws for Sale

I have three unused, still in the wrapper, Black Diamond 22 cm tubular ice (not the express) screws for sale. Purchased them for a trip up the Kautz this year but changed the route to the DC. I paid \$129 at Feathered Friends but will let them go for less than that (about \$100). Contact Pat Heidal at 206-935-0660.

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.

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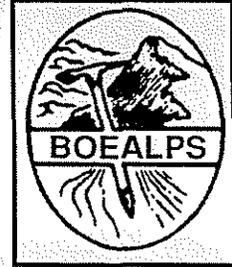
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ALPINE ECHO

September 2001

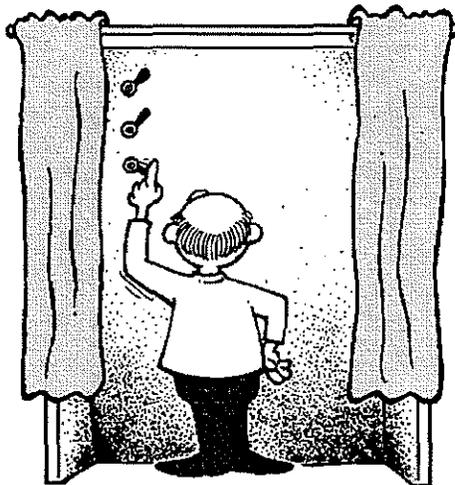


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Education	Len Kannapell	206-522-7022 kannapell@yahoo.com	Web Site Home Page		http://boealps.org/
			BCAG Recreation	Jake Davis	425-342-8369

Photo: "October Sunrise, Columbia Crest" by Mike Jacobsen

From Prash Bhat 67-34



September General Meeting

**Club Elections!
Be There and Vote!**

**Thursday, September 6th from 6:30 pm
Blue Star Café and Pub in Wallingford
4512 Stone Way North**

BELAY STANCE

It's Been Fun Folks...

but it's time for me to turn the reins of the Echo editorship over to someone new. I've been at the helm of the newsletter for three years now, and, for the most part, it's been a blast! There's been a few controversies to weather, and more than a few late nights the day before the Echo has to go to print, but I know of no better way to get involved, meet the members, and help influence the direction of the club than this position. You don't have to be any great grammarian (remember – this is a newsletter for climbers, not English majors!), and you don't even have to hold the position by yourself – many times in the club's past we've had co-editors of the newsletter. You do need access to a computer with an email address, and reasonable familiarity with a word processor, but the only other qualification would be an interest in the position. I'd like to help out with the remainder of the issues this year, but I'd like to do it with the new editor so I can help them through the learning curve. If you have an interest in this (and we do need someone to fill this position – this isn't one that can go vacant) get in touch with me at matt.robertson@boeing.com or 425-957-5691, and we'll figure out how we can co-produce the next few issues...

Upcoming Elections...

Let's see if we can have a good turn out for the board elections this year, which will be held at the Blue Star Café on September 6th (free food!). Remember – this is a volunteer organization, and as such we need volunteers – nothing in the club gets done without them. Put some of your time into the club, and help make it into what you think it should be...

Fall Campout...

This year's Fall campout has been scheduled for October 5-7 at the Bridge Creek campground in the Icicle canyon. I don't know how the recent forest fires will have affected climbing there this year, but the campout is always a good time, so come on out and join us! A rock leading seminar will be held on Sunday as part of the campout.

Annual Banquet...

We've been very fortunate to book Eric Simonson for our annual banquet this year. With Eric's vast worldwide climbing resumé I'm sure he'll present an excellent show, and this should be an awesome evening of food, drink, awards, stories and pictures. Make plans to be at the Mountaineer's Clubhouse on October 12th!

A Note from Our Librarian...

Andrew has just finished reorganizing our club library so that all the volumes are arranged alphabetically by title. Please keep this in mind when you borrow a book, and replace it to roughly its correct position.

The Club's Web Site...

is constantly being updated with new info, particularly the bulletin board. Check it out if you're looking for a last minute climbing partner, trying to find some beta on a climb, or want to sell or buy some gear. The URL is <http://www.boealps.org>, and the password is (as it has been since the beginning of (web) time) SLESSE – the password is needed to access the club membership roster and the list of trips being offered.

From the desk of your lame duck editor,


Matt Robertson

October Echo deadline is September 20th

September, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Full Moon	3 Labor Day	4	5	6 Club Elections – Blue Star Café	7 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin	8 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin; Monte Cristo
9 Backpack around Gold Creek Basin; Monte Cristo	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 New Moon	18	19	20 Echo Deadline	21 Sahale Peak	22 Sahale Peak
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Mt. St. Helens
30 Mt. St. Helens						

October, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Full Moon	3	4	5 Fall campout – Bridge Creek campground	6 Fall campout – Bridge Creek campground
7 Fall campout – Bridge Creek campground; Rock leading seminar	8	9	10	11 Board Meeting	12 Annual Banquet– Mountaineer's Clubhouse	13 Ice climbing seminar – Mt. Baker
14 Ice climbing seminar – Mt. Baker	15	16 New Moon	17	18 Echo deadline	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Backpack around Gold Creek Basin September 7-9

Starting at the Margaret Lake trailhead we'll hike by Lake Lillian and then overnight at Rampart Lakes (great fishing!). The next day we'll pass by Lila Lakes, up and over Alta Mountain, over Alta Pass and pick up the PCT above Park Lakes, where we'll spend the second night. On the last day we'll take the PCT to Snoqualmie Pass.

Mountain/Area Gold Creek Basin
Elevation 6000' or so
Class Mainly 1 and 2, possibly some 3rd class.
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 12
Contact Gary Ryder, 206-655-2019(w), 206-657-8530, ggryder@msn.com

Monte Cristo Peak September 8-9

Camp in beautiful Monte Cristo basin and explore old mining ruins and relics before climbing the area's namesake peak.

Mountain/Area Monte Cristo Peak
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 12
Contact Kathy Baillie, 206-283-6870, jandkbaillie@home.com

Sahale Peak, Sahale Arm September 21-22

One of the best, if not the best, basic climbs in the North Cascades. Easy trail to Cascade Pass, steep trail up Sahale Arm, a gentle glacier crossing, and a final easy rock pyramid to the summit with stunning views. The plan is to do this as a day climb on the 22nd, with car camping by the trailhead on the 21st for an early start.

Mountain/Area Sahale Peak
Route Sahale Arm
Class Glacier crossing, 3rd class rock, one short section of easy 5th class rock
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits National Park limit
Contact Ken Walter, 253-631-9129(h), 206-655-6831(w), kenneth.j.walter@boeing.com

Mt. St. Helens September 29-30

Note new date! Climb up to the crater rim and peer down at the lava dome. Great views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood, weather permitting.

Mountain/Area Mt. St. Helens
Route Monitor Ridge
Skills Basic class grad or equivalent
Limits 8
Contact Shella Bukovac, 206-655-0547, shella.bukovac@pss.boeing.com

Patagonia November 8 – December 11

Join me in a Patagonian adventure! This being my ninth trip to the same area, I have the logistics well worked out. Looking for a total party size of 3-4 adult males, ready to start work very early each day, no matter what the weather. Call or email me if you are interested and the dates of travel work for you. The goal is skiing and moderate mountaineering in a rarely traveled part of Patagonia that is fairly accessible. Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.

We will fly to Rio Gallegos, Argentina (~\$1300US), bus to El Calafate and then bus and boat to the starting point for some unexplored country. Total cost should be < \$2000 per person if you bring all your food and gear.

Mountain/Area	Patagonia
Skills	Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.
Limits	3-4
Contact	Silas Wild, 206-527-9453, silaswild@yahoo.com

Submit activities to:

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOffFlight.org

Man – no one is going out in October?
Come on – let's get some more activities listed!

ICC News

The 2001 ICC is just about ready to wrap up, with just the student's graduation climbs left to accomplish. Here's where the ICC students are planning to drag their instructors for their last outing:

Len Kannapell and Brian Tryba with students Micah Lambeth and Paul Cook will be attempting the East Ridge of Mt. Rexford in British Columbia (Grade III, class 5.6 to 5.8 depending on route).

Tom Ryan and Rich Privett with students Greg Mueller and Joyce Holloway will be attempting the West Ridge of Mt. Stuart (Grade II-III, class 5.4, a classic line in a range known for its favorable weather windows).

Doug Sanders, Ambrose Bitner and Bill Frans with students Gary Ryder, Jason Scharf and David Hamilton will be attempting the West Face of Sloan Peak (Grade II, class 5.5, known for it's challenging route finding on the climb).

Rob Knudsen and Brian Tryba with students Eric and Colleen Hunter-Gale will be attempting the Northeast Ridge of Mt. Triumph (Grade III, class 5.6, sure to be a memorable outing on a Cascade alpine gem).

Best of luck to all the students (and the instructors!), and congratulations on completing the ICC! I'm told by a reliable source that we'll have trip reports from ALL the ICC graduates detailing their graduation climb experiences for the October Echo – don't let me down guys (and gals)!

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to
David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Boealps Board Meeting August 13, 2001

Attendees: Norene Borg, Dan Costello, Don Fraser, Micah Lambeth, Bill Harrison, Silas Wild, Rich Privett, Len Kannapell, David Hamilton.

The 2001 Basic Climbing Class went smoothly this year, but St. Edwards Park may make changes in policy that could affect us for next year. There was a disagreement with a Forest Service employee on this year's graduation climb that may result in additional restrictions on future Baker climbs (the Forest Service has since apologized). There was a discussion about restructuring the fee rates to accommodate our finance and membership goals. The BCC will probably incur additional expenses (ropes, etc.) for next year.

There was an emphasis given on keeping the club's operating budget under \$25,000 per year.

A Weather Forecasting class for club will be offered at \$40 per student. The board approved putting an advertisement for it in the Echo.

Our current membership is on-par with Recreation club guidelines.

Three requests were received for the Agris Moruss Grant. Requests should be forwarded to the grant committee.

There was a discussion on possible board nominations and funds to be used for club food at elections.

The annual banquet is Friday, October 12th. There was discussion of possible speakers, cost to be around \$25 per person.

The board approved Silas' request for the purchase of a Moss tent on sale for club equipment.

Vice President: There is room in the Oxbow to store club records. There was a discussion of the possibility of storing data electronically.

Activities: Fall campout, October 6, at Bridge Creek campground in Leavenworth.

Secretary: Need a volunteer to submit minutes.

Treasurer: We need to reconcile accounts and establish/document procedures for future handling of transactions and finances.

Education: October 6 & 7th campout. October 13 & 14th Ice Climbing Seminar with Alex Van Steen. Avalanche Seminar Instructor Gary Brill will be booked for two years so the club will get a reduced rate.

-- submitted by David Hamilton

New Zealand Search and Rescue Nightly Prayer

Seek no wisdom, leave no word;
Common sense is too absurd.
Ignore advice, you don't need skill;
Blokes like you are hard to kill.
Take no extra food or gear,
You'll not need it, have no fear.
But, we ask of you before you die:
Please choose a place that's not too high!



Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

September Board Elections:

The club's September general meeting will be at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford for the purpose of electing a new board of directors. All the board positions will be open this year, so if you'd like to take a hand in determining the course and standards of the club, there is no better way than running for one of those positions. The club will be providing munchies - provide yourself a beverage and join us for an opportunity to nominate someone else to a volunteer board position, or a chance for you to become more active in the club by volunteering for one of those positions yourself! The club is only as good as those that volunteer to run it.

Upcoming Programs:

October – The October program will be our annual banquet. This year it will be held at the Mountaineer's Clubhouse on Friday, October 12th. Eric Simonson will be the featured speaker, the new board will be introduced, great stories will be told, and fabulous food will be provided – don't miss the gala event of the year! There are further details and a sign up sheet later in this issue – get your reservations and check to Prash Bhat before Oct. 9th.

Future shows – Watch this space, but there's rumors floating around about a possible November presentation by the Man of the Mountains himself, Fred Beckey. A "Home Show" consisting of 4 15-minute mini-shows presenting some of the outlandish and not-so-outlandish trips of the past year is being considered for December. More details in future editions of the Echo!



BE PREPARED

MOFA NEWS
2001



BE SAFE

The MOFA Course

Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) is a 30-hour first aid course for the wilderness traveler. The course meets the requirements for the American Red Cross (ARC) Standard First Aid course with 24-hours of additional wilderness focused first aid training. The volunteer instructors are certified by the ARC. Attendance at all sessions is required.

MOFA cards are valid for three years from the date of course completion. If you have a valid card and wish to update your skills and knowledge, you may enroll in a MOFA refresher. The course consists of five four-hour sessions and meets the requirements for ARC Standard First Aid as well as MOFA.

The MOFA Instructor course

WEEKEND OPTION: Eastside at Bio-Rad Laboratories, Class 22555, \$40, Sept. 22, 23, 29, October 6, 7 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.

WEEK DAY OPTION: ARC, Tuesday/Thursday, Class 21003, \$40, October 23, 25, 30, November 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27.

Congratulations to our news Boealps MOFA instructor, Bill Conchi!

Boealps usually sponsors a MOFA and a MOFA refresher class each year in January/February. The usual class format is Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 for 5 weeks starting in mid January. If you think you might be interested in taking one of these courses, send an e-mail note to joyce@solarhacker.com. When more details are available, you will be notified and given the first opportunity to sign up for the class. There is a class size limit. The cost of the course is \$45-\$50, depending on the price of books and equipment rentals. You can also sign up to take the class through the Mountaineers. See their web page at <http://www.mountaineers.org/MOFA/>



Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Lots of great new learning opportunities in this issue! Sign up for one or sign up for all – ice climbing, rock leading, and predicting the mountain weather (that last one sounds like the diciest!)

Rock Leading Seminar

Meet When: Sunday, October 7, 7:30 am

Meet Where: Snow Creek Parking Lot, Icicle Creek Road

Climb Where: Mountaineer's Dome area

Equipment list:

- Harness
- Helmet
- 1-climbing rope/two students (must be single-rated rope)
- Belay device
- Two locking 'biners in front
- single slings w/'biners
- double slings w/'biners
- rock climbing shoes (if available)
- rock protection (if available – make sure it is marked)
- 10 essentials

Basic Class grads and newbies to trad, this one's for you. Any club member interested in learning how to lead natural-protection ("gear") routes is welcome to this annual funfest. We'll cover types of rock pro, gear placement, racking gear, setting up anchors, and belay commands.

The goal is to have each student lead one EASY pitch to go through the mechanics of leading, with another student belaying. Ideally, we'll have a 2:1 student to instructor ratio.

Make sure you have a Forest Pass permit displayed on your car if you park at Snow Creek or you risk being fined. We'll shuttle people to Mountaineers' Dome as necessary, as parking is limited.

Important note: Call or e-mail me to sign up. If we know how many students we have, we can round up the appropriate number of instructors.

Limit: 12 students

Contact: Len Kannapell (206)522-7022 h.
kannapell@yahoo.com

Ice Leading Seminar

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 13-14

Coleman Glacier, Mt. Baker

Where: Heliotrope Ridge trailhead

When: Saturday, 9 am

Lecture: TBD

Cost: \$30

Mt. Rainier and international guide Alex Van Steen heads up this seminar on the great glacial ice of the Coleman Glacier at Mt. Baker, just before the fall monsoons begin. Ice conditions are usually stellar in mid-October.

If you are interested in climbing ice but have little or no experience on ice, this seminar is for you – Alex will show you the basics of ice tool placement, crampon technique, and setting up anchors for lead and top-rope climbing. The emphasis will be on the basics and will involve a lot of top-rope climbing, but there may be an opportunity for leading short pitches as time allows.

Required equipment:

- Crampon-compatible leather or plastic boots
- Crampons (make sure they are adjusted to your boots *before* the trip)
- Ice axe
- Harness
- Helmet
- Belay device
- 2 single slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 double slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 locking 'biners
- One single-rated rope/two people
- Standard glacier gear (chest harness, prussiks, pulley)
- 10 essentials

Optional:

- Pickets
- Ice screws
- Ice tools

Borrow if you don't have all these items on the required/optional list, but don't buy anything you don't have – we'll supply the rest. The club has a number of ice tools to borrow, and we will make arrangements with our equipment personnel for availability.

Note: This is an overnight trip – we'll hike the 3 miles to the bivy spot, drop off gear, climb on Saturday, bivy, climb on Sunday, head home around 3 pm.

Experience: Basic Class or equivalent

Limit: 12

Contact: Len Kannapell
kannapell@yahoo.com
(206)522-7022 h.

Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar

When: November 7 and 14, 7:00-9:30 pm

Where: Marmot Mountain Works, Bellevue

Cost: \$40

Be your own weatherman! Are your recreational plans held hostage by vague local media weather forecasts or weather uncertainty on your part? Are you needlessly canceling trips when weather is turning out to be better than you thought? Now you can make your own weather forecasts. This course will show you how to use the Internet to forecast the weather both locally or at sites anywhere in the world.

The course is directed towards the lay person with outdoors recreational interests. It is more than a simple discussion of how to download text forecasts made by other forecasters. You will learn how to actually generate your own site-specific forecasts for all the weather details that you need. Best of all, you need not be a rocket scientist to take this course. All the data are available on the Internet and easy to interpret. After some instruction you will find that you can

* Forecast clouds, precipitation, temperature, and wind as a function of time and altitude.

* Forecast the weather for many days in advance.

Instructed by Bryan Scott, an avid backcountry skier, and a former atmospheric research scientist with Battelle Northwest Laboratories (Retired 1990). Mr. Scott obtained BS degree in Meteorology at Penn State University in 1967 and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington in 1975. He has been a frequent weather forecasting source for his friends and acquaintances for many years.

The course will consist of two evening sessions on November 7 & 14 lasting from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Marmot Mountain Works, Bellevue. Cost of the course is \$40.00. Advance sign-up required. Sign-up at 425-453-1515. More information is available at www.geocities.com/bc_scott/wxcourse.html

Pre-requisites: you must have access to a computer and the Internet.

Girls Rock! Mentors needed!!

Women needed to volunteer teaching rock climbing and life skills to adolescent girls.

Tuesday evenings from 4-7pm starting September 11 and ending November 13.

Held at the Redmond Vertical World rock gym.

Perks:

- Helping a girl grow in the right direction through developing self-confidence and skills for living.
- A **free** Vertical World gym membership for the length of the program.
- A great opportunity to develop a community of female climbers.
- Teaching and mentoring skill development through 2 days of program training.
- An opportunity to participate in a Ropes Course.

Contact Emily Pray, Redmond Girls Rock! Director at 425-444-5421 or emmie4@juno.com

For information about the Seattle Girls Rock! program or other Passages Northwest courses, please call 206-286-8601 or check out our web site at www.passagesnw.org



Boealps Annual Banquet



Friday, October 12, 2001

**The Mountaineers
300 3rd Ave W
(just west of Key Arena)**

Tickets: \$29 for members/non-members

So we invade the Mountaineers' – big deal! This banquet promises to be better than ever!

- A dual entrée, three-course dinner with your selections from the following:
 - Appetizer (baby reds and macadamia canapé)
 - Second course (tiger prawns, artichoke dip, antipasto, fresh fruit, and wild greens)
 - Main course (alder smoked salmon, tortellini gusto, and herb-crusted peppercorn beef)
- "Where's Mallory?", a 15-minute Boealps play dedicated to our speaker
- Door prizes galore

Guaranteed to be a great evening of fun, or your money back (assuming we haven't spent it)

Banquet Speaker – Eric Simonson

Recently known as the leader of the 1999 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition, Eric Simonson's climbing career has been much more extensive. Since 1973, Eric has been a professional guide with more than 80 expeditions around the world and he is now an owner and operator of 2 guiding companies. Some of his personal climbing highlights include summiting Mt. Everest, Mt. Elbrus, Mt. Vinson, Aconcagua, and Cho Oyu. He has also spent some time climbing a little closer to home with over 260 ascents of Mt. Rainier. Recently, Eric led another expedition to Mt. Everest with hopes of discovering more information about the Mallory and Irvine expedition. In addition to searching for artifacts, half the team sacrificed a summit bid to effect a difficult rescue high on the mountain.

Banquet Schedule

6:00	Arrival/social
6:45	Buffet dinner
8:00	Coffee & dessert - past/new Board, door prizes, etc.
8:45	"Where's Mallory?" a 15-minute play
9:00-10:30	Banquet speaker – Eric Simonson

Banquet Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone (work or home): _____

Mail stop or address: _____

Member/guest tickets = _____ x \$29 = \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to **Prashantha Bhat**

Return to: Prash Bhat pbbhat@hotmail.com
7224 29th Ave NE (425) 237-8883
Seattle, WA 98115 M/S 67-34

Reserve your place by 1) returning this form (with payment) or 2) contacting Prash no later than **Tuesday, October 9**



Boealps Board of Directors Election

Thursday, September 6th

**Blue Star Café
4512 Stone Way N
6:30 pm - ???**

The annual club elections this year will be held on Thursday, September 6, starting at 6:30 pm at the Blue Star Café and Pub in Wallingford. (The Blue Star is on Stone Way a block north of N. 45th Street. Stone Way is between I-5 and HWY 99. Use the 45th Street or 50th Street exit off of I-5 or the Zoo exits off of HWY 99.) All board positions are up for election, so if you've got a hankering to help guide the direction of the club, here is your opportunity! Come out and run for the one of the board positions, volunteer to chair a committee, or just come out to vote, but get involved! It is a great way to meet climbing partners, get the inside scoop on club activities, and influence the club to be the way you want it. Arrange to meet your fellow Boealpers and trade stories from the summer. Spread the word. Arrive early to partake in munchies provided by the club. See you there!



If you don't come out to vote, you never know who might be voting to determining the club's future?!

2001 Photo Competition Results

Here's the winners of this year's photo competition in the slide category (better known as the Geoff Pegler photo gallery!). As usual, the pictures lose a great deal in the conversion to B&W and the printing process. To see them in all their glory, go to the Boealps web site at www.boealps.org.



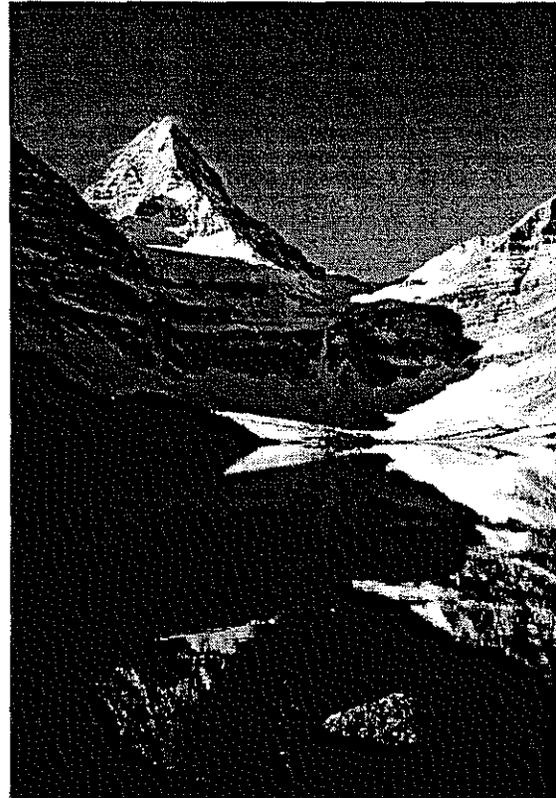
Kentucky Summer
By Len Kannapel



Tony in the Hole
By Geoff Pegler



Mountain Goat
By Geoff Pegler



Assiniboine
By Geoff Pegler



The Graduate
By Geoff Pegler



Two Arresting, One Relieving
By Geoff Pegler

Forbidden in a Day

By David Hamilton

Our Intermediate Class group attempted to go up the West Ridge of Forbidden in one day, September 11. We could not get a permit to camp there, and subsequently left the trailhead at 8am. Five hours later we were on top of the notch, getting ready to begin the climb. The bergschrund presented little difficulty in going around. The rappel slings, however, are a bit out of reach. We simul-climbed about three or four rope lengths and then did fixed pitches. It took me a bit to figure out the moves by the rusty piton, but for the most part the climbing was straight forward and relatively easy. A bonus was the nice exposure along the ridge line. I saw a friend come up from the east side, solo, while I was on the summit. I had climbed up Mt. Maude and Seven Fingered Jack just a couple of weeks earlier with him. Thankfully he brought a rope to rappel down with. We got back to the notch and rappelled down to the couloir. The descent was in the dark and it was made especially difficult for the one person who left his crampons in the car. We had brought one picket, which we now used to begin our simul-descent with "Cramponless" on the bottom of the rope. We got to a rock below the couloir and decided to bivvy. It was rather warm and we were all a bit tired. I left my boots out, rolled out the space blanket, filled up the water bottle with snow, and dozed off. It was a warm night - my boots dried, the snow melted into a jug full of water, and I got plenty of sleep!

A party of five ascending the couloir in the morning snapped the photo below of us leaving that bivvy rock. We bouldered down with Dave Burdick, who showed us a few problems. Then the flies descended en-masse. Running was all I could do to keep them from eating me alive. We ran into Mr. Park Ranger who was fortunately understanding of our late night plight. It was rather amusing for us descending the couloir at night and looking down into the valley below with headlamps looking up at us – I guess we provided for some late night entertainment!

I ran the rest of the way back to the car and then swatted flies while waiting for the man with the car keys. Once he and they appeared we attempted to change clothes, but the flies were so bad it was all we could do to just throw our gear in the truck and flee for our lives.



Leaving the Bivi

Robinson Mountain

By John Heineman

July 28-29 I traveled to the North Cascades to climb Robinson Mountain with some BOEALPS friends. Due to injuries and other health anomalies, our group was whittled down to three people. We were close to calling off the trip altogether due to the weather, as it was raining in Seattle Friday night and Saturday morning, but Vicky Larson, Kathy Baillie and I decided to at least drive to the trailhead and make a decision there, even though it was over 3 hours drive. As it turned out, it wasn't a wasted trip. The rain and clouds thinned as we drove over Rainy and Washington passes, and we were treated to some sunshine by the time we reached the trailhead.

The climb up to camp was an uneventful, but long, 5-mile hike starting at 2600 feet and ending up at an alpine tarn at 6700 feet. The temperature cooled as we climbed and the cold front that was making its way across the state caught up with us. The bulk of the Cascades, however, was protecting us from most of the moisture coming in from the west, and we only had to suffer periods of light drizzle.

Sunday morning we awoke to pleasant, partly cloudy skies. Our climb started with a slog up a talus slope that rose over 1600 feet above camp to the ridge that led to the summit. We traversed over and around a couple of false summits and a few rock buttresses, which provided some exciting Class 3 climbing, to end up at the summit elevation of 8726 feet at about 11:15 am. The cloud layer that had previously partially obscured the summit had lifted enough that we had decent views, and the clouds continued to rise which offered increasingly better views during our trip back down. After a little route finding error that took us a little lower than necessary, we made it back to camp by about 2:15. We then packed up camp and were headed back to the car an hour later. The trip down was highlighted by an abundance of blueberries all along the lower part of the trail that made the 5-mile hike out a little more bearable.

I highly recommend this trip to fellow climbers. The long, steep approach is made easier by a light pack not burdened with climbing gear and a rope. I would recommend taking a helmet for the talus slope and the Class 3 work above, as there is a lot of loose rock. I also learned not to let the weather in Seattle affect climbing plans too much, especially if you are traveling to the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

You can find more pictures from the trip at <http://homepage.mac.com/jheineman/PhotoAlbum2.html> and at <http://community.webshots.com/user/vll123>



Vicky and Kathy on top of Robinson Mountain

Trinity times two

By Steve Fox

John "Toelame" Tolan and I went on a great loop trip near Trinity. In the process we summited not three, but six peaks. The whole area has spectacular scenery, with tall peaks, large meadows, tumbling waterfalls, beautiful creeks, and not too many bugs. It's a 4-star trip!

Saturday, July 21, 2001

John and I shouldered our packs at the Trinity parking lot about 9 am. The trail heads up the Chiwawa River trail towards Red Mt. It's an old mining road, easy to hike and goes fast. The bugs were not bad and temperature moderate with some cloud cover. We climbed up to the end of the mining road and eyeballed Chiwawa Mt across the way. Dropping a little off the trail, we found a great camp overlooking the Chiwawa valley at about 6200'. After setting up camp, we headed straight up for Chiwawa Mt per route described in "75 Scrambles".

The route was open terrain about 1/4 covered in snow. Climbing way up a narrow snow finger, we made it to the ridge east of the summit. There waited a solo climber at a tricky spot. We downclimbed the ridge and looked at a scary notch. The guy asked if we had a rope, belaying with a sun-bleached sling that he found. After looking through the foggy view to the other side, I said I'd belay him with my 60' rope, but wasn't going to follow. It was just a tad beyond my comfort level. He agreed, and so did John, so we all dropped down. John and I decided to climb Red Mt instead, and try for Chiwawa again the next morning via the SW ridge route. The other guy scampered off to the west well below the summit.

While descending the snow, we noticed he was making good progress up the S ridge. So we followed up some loose gullies and steep meadow areas to the ridge. It wasn't appealing to descend that way, and we hoped to find a better alternate. But the ridge was very straightforward. After crossing the ridge up high, it was an easy climb to the summit. There were no views in the clouds, but we were satisfied with a hard-won summit. We descended the ridgeline and stayed slightly west of the ridge in relatively easy terrain to meadows at 6600'. From here, it was no problem traversing back to our camp at 6200' an hour before dark. I would rate our route on the Mountaineer scramble system for Chiwawa as 5 on our ascent route, but only 3 or 4 on our descent route. We were tired after a 6200' day and decided Red Mt wasn't really a peak anyway (due to little prominence). Satisfied with a successful scramble, we enjoyed our excellent campsite.

Sunday July 22

We awoke to partly cloudy skies. We took the Fortress high route (ref: Routes and Rocks) down towards the Chiwawa River. The route looked very intimidating on the flanks of Fortress Mt. After considerable time scoping the route, we decided it wouldn't go safely, and dropped down to the Chiwawa River instead. We planned to take the Massie Lake high route to Buck Creek Pass. But at the river, we found an easier route up to the saddle at 7040'. On one short rock section we dragged our packs up using the rope, but most of it was not technical. The clouds moved in and we were barely able to triangulate our position. We dropped down the other side and found a path of sorts down the easy ridge. Here we bumped into the abandoned Massie Lake trail. From here it was easy trail to Pass No Pass. The terrain has large beautiful open meadows with great potential for wildlife spotting. Terrific stuff! There was a great campsite in grass next to a creek babbling down from Pass No Pass. We set up camp and consolidated our remaining gear into one pack.

I shouldered the pack and followed John up to Fortress Mt. He was climbing at a tremendous rate, and I was at my anaerobic threshold trying to keep up. The first section was steep meadow, followed by a short gully. After that the terrain was semi-steep meadow for a long ways up. We climbed into the clouds and were disappointed with the poor visibility. But we continued anyway. Eventually we reached a steep snow and on the bouldery ridge. John mightily kicked steps as I panted far behind. It was great getting off the steep snow and on the bouldery ridge. From here it was mostly easy scrambling. If only the visibility were better, this would be a great climb. But slogging through the fog we hoped we could find the summit. Suddenly about 50 feet below the summit, we climbed out of the clouds to tremendous views of a few peaks poking out of pillowy sea! Glacier Peak was the outstanding view to the SW, glorious in the sunshine. We basked for a time on the summit, then we headed down the nice grippy snow to the meadows. Our descent path varied to the east of our ascent path to avoid the steep heather. We found a really good set of game/climber paths that skirted above the cliffs and back down to the Massie Lake high route. I'd rate Fortress at 4 for technical difficulty. We got back to camp pretty shortly before dark.

Monday July 23

During the night, the clouds dissipated and we woke to a blue sky treat. We hiked up the short distance to Buck Creek Pass and enjoyed the large meadows in the area. There were still no bug problems, which was a surprise! Dropping the packs, we headed up to Helmet Butte. There were a few paths here and there, but we kept losing them. Finally we headed right up the fall line to the summit block. There was a bit of class 3 rock on our confusing corkscrew route, but we managed to solve the problem and sat satisfied on the summit. There are stupendous views that we had missed during our cloudy trip, so we enjoyed them for a little while. The summit register was quite old - 1970 with all the names from 1966 copied from the original scraps of paper. It's surprising the peak is not climbed often. There are only a few lines left in the register though. We found a more straightforward descent route, almost directly to Buck Creek Pass. There is a profusion of game trails traversing the high meadows.

Loading up the last water we'd find for quite a while, we headed up the trail to High Pass. En route we summited the easy Liberty Cap, only a few hundred feet above the trail. Continuing past the official trail on boot-beaten path, we crossed one steep snow slope where I had to switch from running shoes to boots. At High Pass we dropped off our camping gear and crampons, and set off for Napeequa Peak.

Napeequa is only 1000' higher than High Pass, but is a truly a grand peak. John took off traversing the steep snow slope. Half of it went easily with good steps, but then we stepped onto the previous year's snow. This snow was hard and didn't provide much purchase. Thankful to get across, but wishing I'd taken the crampons, we scrambled up the blocky rock field that leads to the summit. It went quite well on class 3 rock until just before the summit. Here, we were stopped at class 4 terrain. What a disappointment, only a rock throw away from the summit! We summited a bump nearby and called it our summit. But John was not to be denied yet. He wandered around the side and tried another rock gully. Nope, it would not go. Oh well... but John was still eager to get that summit. He wandered even farther and found a decent, relatively safe route. But it also dead ended. Darn the luck! John was still not ready to give up hope and managed to find a 4th route that went quite nicely. On top was a cairn with a film canister with Mike Torok's name from Sept 12, 1998. It's amazing that nobody else has climbed it since! We rated Napeequa at two definite thumbs up. The views are stupendous of the Honeycomb Glacier under the DaKobed Range, Glacier Peak, and thousands of peaks in any direction. I'd rate Napeequa at scramble level 5.

Cirque Mt was so close to Napeequa that we couldn't possibly resist. Besides, four peaks in a day gives one a certain satisfaction. So we descended down safe rock and scree to the bottom of the icy area and crossed on good snow. Before we knew it, we were on the far ridge of Cirque and heading up. It's easier than Napeequa, with a large rock on the summit. Neither of us were willing to stand on top, but we tagged it by hand. No register found. I'd rate Cirque at scramble level 4.

We dragged ourselves back to camp at High Pass, and considered doing Cleator. But we decided to leave it for our September hiking trip. During the late evening, lenticular clouds appeared near many of the peaks. Within an hour we were socked in dense cloud, with visibility only a few hundred feet.

Tuesday July 24

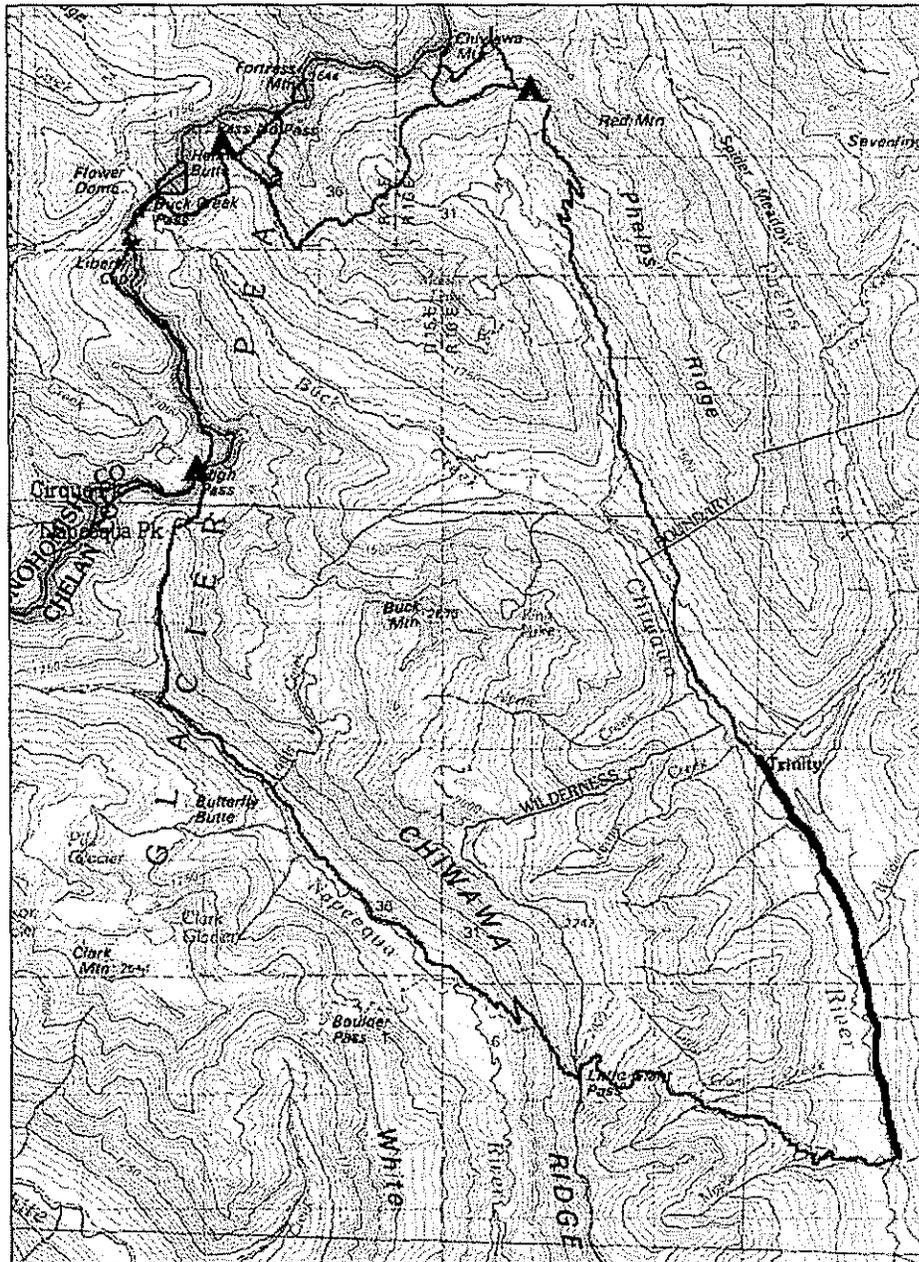
In the morning it was instrument conditions with even less visibility and a bit of light sprinkles. Our plans to climb Cleator, Buck, and Berge fogged over so we descended down the Napeequa valley instead. With some compass, map, and altimeter work and a previous party's tracks we made it below the cloud level to the upper valley below High Pass. This is an incredibly scenic area, full of waterfalls, meadows, glacier views, and grand vistas. A path continues down but disappears in brush where the river drops over a waterfall. At one point we crossed the river on a snow bridge. I doubt it will last too long. We crossed the river again further down, getting our feet wet but at a safe crossing. Then we entered the brush for a 600' drop. Somehow we found a dry streambed that went most of the way down, so the brush wasn't terribly bad, but it ended at an uncomfortable drop off. We found a side trail heading straight through slide alder jungle, but it only lasted a couple hundred feet. Here we found open meadow and a little more brush. Soon we were plopped at the bottom of the wide Napeequa valley next to the river. The old abandoned trail continues downstream for miles.

In a few places, this old brushy trail is lost in the grass. But routefinding is so easy that we managed to re-find the ancient and venerable tread. At one particularly grassy section, I didn't see a 4" log protruding into the trail. My kneecap slammed right onto the end of it. I screamed out in pain and cursed a blue streak. John was way ahead. When I found him at the junction of the Boulder Pass trail, my knee was bleeding and I was limping. I washed it out

in the river, and checked out the ford to the Boulder Pass trail. It looks about thigh deep, but hard to tell in the milky glacier-flour water. It looks not too bad since the water isn't terribly fast.

We followed the trail another couple miles, then lost it. John studied the map while I nursed my sore feet and whined about my knee. We took off uphill because we'd gone too far downstream. It was pretty hard to walk uphill in the grass due to my leg wanting to stay straight. Finally we bumped into the trail heading up to Little Giant Pass. This was much easier on that sore knee, but the trail is very brushy, having not been maintained in 40 years. It was really hot too, and we both wilted on the ascent. Somehow we made it to the dry pass and collapsed.

After a painful downhill, I crossed the Chiyawa River a few minutes ahead of John and ran the 4 miles to Trinity to grab the car. By this time I'd reached the end of my physical limit and collapsed in a jello-like heap in the car. Fortunately, John was unphased by any physical exertion. A stop at the 59er diner revived us, especially their delightful large milkshakes. But what a trip -- six peaks and some of the best scenery imaginable!



Printed from TOPOI ©2001 National Geographic Holdings (www.topo.com)

(Editor's note: This map looks much better in color on the web site)

The Epiphany

A church service on the July 18-26, 1998 Pickets Traverse

Celebrants: Dan Goering, Mark Hicks, Victor Yagi, and Len Kannapell

Sunday, July 19, 1998

It wasn't just like a cathedral. It was one.

Certainly, it was Sunday morning, about 8:30 am, an hour when the masses have filled the well-polished walnut pews of the hallowed hall known as St. James Cathedral. Some parishioners are engaged by the power of ritual and prayers of the faithful; others are absorbed by the amber stroke of light emanating from the center oculus, scarcely conscious they are adrift, oblivious to the temple there and perhaps considering the one here.

Here was a plateau on the Big Beaver trail as we neared Beaver Pass, roughly three miles southwest of its confluence with the Little Beaver trail. The forest was archetypal North Cascades: chaotic, looming, dark, shadowed, teemed with baleful glances of the unknown. Each of our quartet was spaced a few hundred feet apart that morning, our minds to ourselves, our souls to the wilderness, our prayers to God – or more likely, an offering to the gods for a merciful bushwhack up the forthcoming Eiley/Wiley Ridge. This was described in the Beckey bible as “moderately unpleasant,” which does cause one to ponder one’s fate.

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness,” said the Scottish-born naturalist John Muir. I saw that quote on the back of a Sandman tea bag; such juxtaposition struck me that John Muir might never have engaged in the fine art of bushwhacking in the Pickets, as “clearest” and “forest wilderness” are mutually exclusive. I knew this not to be true; but the cathartic solitude of which Muir spoke reverently was evident this day; as there were only two other voices I recall that morning: the bright cacophony of the ruby goldfinch and my inner dialogue of pain, as my heels were causing me sustained anguish. When your feet hurt and you are encountering the solitude of the “the wilderness experience,” the voice of suffering is always a willing, if unnecessary, companion.

Day two of a nine-day traverse, and both heels were raw from blisters earned on the previous day’s 18 mile jaunt. My Fabiano Rainiers, a compliant companion for the last five years, had inexplicably picked an inopportune time to mutiny. Blisters the size of quarters that pressed against duct tape-encased bandages were constant reminders of the difficulties that lie ahead for the next eight days. The great irony is the last six miles of Saturday were absolutely and completely unnecessary: late that day, Dan, Yag, and I reconnoitered three miles up the trail to find the Eiley/Wiley cutoff and a presumed shelter near Beaver Pass (without our packs to “take a look”), found the shelter, and returned three miles. Six miles roundtrip to check out a potential camp at the shelter without one’s pack or one’s team does not an intelligent decision make.

Upon arrival back at our camp that evening, nestled at the intersection of the Big and Little Beaver trails, we sat ourselves each upon a log. A pause ensued as we collected our thoughts. The great Yagwan drank deeply from his water bottle, looked at me, and with scarcely a smile, broke the silence in great sincerity:

“That was pretty stupid.”

But that was yesterday: in this morning, on this plateau, from this austere cathedral of wilderness, what did command my attention was the light, as leaning shafts sifted through the forest, creating a mosaic of darkness and light on the almighty Douglas fir. And as I looked about, I saw, spread erratically throughout the forest floor, small pools of marmalade light, a mixture of orange and yellow hues, as light refracts through a stained glass window. Some pools were more intense, bearing a tinge of red.

It is the color that floods memory and the confessional box. It is me on one side, and Father Stanley Schmidt on the other, and a wall in between. Seated in the dim of crimson walls, it was perhaps a claustrophobic prison; a small picture frame window was open, with a sliding door and a thin white veil allowed communication from one side of the box to the other. It is afternoon but dark, save the scarlet light from overhead, and it is time to deliver:

Fr. Schmidt: For which sins do you wish to repent?

Me: I'm sorry for not obeying my mother and father and not cleaning my room.

What I really meant to repent for was stealing a Three Musketeers candy bar and a pack of Marlboros from the nearby Majik Mart. However, those transgressions would require far too many Hail Mary's. More importantly, I wasn't sure if information in the penalty box was confidential or not; it might make it home. A jail sentence might ensue. Fr. Schmidt seemed convinced I had more to share:

Fr. Schmidt: Is there anything else you wish to repent?

Me: I'm sorry for not being more respectful of my brothers and sisters.

That was as generic as a stale cup of Yuban. But specificity was tantamount to floggings at home if word of some tangible transgression got to my parents; displaying strong sociopathic tendencies, I stood my ground. Priests do keep a solemn vow to keep the discussion of said transgressions within the confines of the box, but I was taking no chances.

I now realized that another sin had been committed by fabricating this story about my brothers and sisters. Since I was at the bottom of the pecking order as the last of eight children, my civil rights (food) were constantly violated; it was me as disrespectee, my siblings as disrespectors. If, on the improbable chance I might "disrespect" their possessions (i.e., steal and destroy the Revell model cars of my brothers), it was richly deserved and thus could not be considered a sin. So what I had just uttered to Fr. Schmidt was an utter lie - with each transgression, I was edging closer to the chasm between heaven and an extended visit to purgatory.

Fr. Schmidt: Recite 10 Hail Mary's and I hereby absolve you of your sins...

I focused on my prayers and hoped to move on before I fell into the chasm. Fr. Schmidt listened as I quickly dispatched the prayers.

Fr. Schmidt: You may now go. Concentrate on God and abstain from your sins in the future...

Relieved, I stood and opened the door to the outside. The light flooded in, the box fading to day, and my eyes desperately adjusted to the newfound light. I walked, engrossed by my new surroundings, the red light fading to gold and turning pale, as the color of old hemlock, roughly hewn:

It was the shelter at Beaver Pass. Yag and Dan were filling their water bottles, and the Hickster neared, whistling on his way. We prepared ourselves, sacrificial lambs for the Eiley/Wiley bushwhack, as an offering to appease the gods and to allow for less than miserable passage.

Sunday's service had concluded. A voice in the wilderness spoke:

The mass has ended. You may go forth and bushwhack in peace, and avoid brushy creeks.

Len Kannapell 8/23/01

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)

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PRASH BHAT, M/S 67-34
OR: 7224 29th Ave. NE, Seattle 98115
OR: prashantha.bhat@pss.boeing.com

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

ALPINE ECHO



September ECHO staff

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Len Kannapell, John Heineman

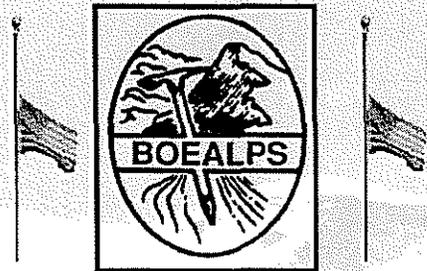
*If you have any submissions - anything vaguely
mountaineering or outdoors related will do -
email them to me at
matt.robertson@boeing.com, or drop them in
inplant mail to 7M-HC. If neither of these choices
will work, give me a call at
(425)957-5691, and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

C. Troy Colyer

~~6C-JM~~
6H-HR

October 2001

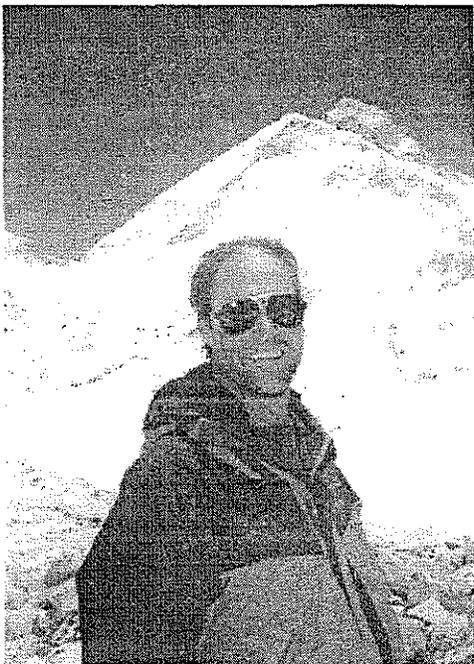


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Photo: "Trudging Along" by Joyce Holloway

From Prash Bhat 67-34



Eric Simonson

October General Meeting

Boealps Annual Banquet

with featured speaker **Eric Simonson**
presenting "Found on Everest",
The story of the 2001 Mallory and Irvine
Research Expedition

Friday, October 12th from 6:00-10:30 pm
Seattle Mountaineer's Clubhouse
300 3rd Ave W (just west of Key Arena)

BELAY STANCE

Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers...

With a little encouraging from our outgoing president, we ended up with volunteers galore at this year's club elections! Our new board of directors will consist of Chris Gronau (president), Ken Walters (vice president), Micah Lambeth, (treasurer) and Haldis Baty (secretary). Congratulations, and thanks!

Flush with arm twisting success, Norene went on to fill all the vacating chair positions as well - special thanks go to Kathleen Clawson and Vicky Larsen who will be taking over my position as Echo editors. Other new chair folks are John Alley and Kathy Baillie (Programs), Judy Clarke (Activities), Patty Michaud (Education) and John Schneider (Conservation). A special thanks also goes to John, who showed up at the elections because he had heard about Boealps, and was interested in learning more about the club. Before the end of the evening, and before he had even joined the club, he already had a chair position! Thanks for being a good sport, John!

Fall Campout...

This year's Fall campout will be held October 5-7 at the Bridge Creek campground in the Icicle canyon. A rock leading seminar will be held on Sunday as part of the campout - let Len Kannapell know if you're interested in taking the seminar, or willing to help out with the instructing. No food will be provided, so bring your own. Come and see first hand what this year's fires have done to the Leaavenworth crags...

Annual Banquet...

We've been very fortunate to book Eric Simonson for our annual banquet this year. With Eric's vast worldwide climbing résumé I'm sure he'll present an excellent show, and this should be an awesome evening of food, drink, awards, stories and pictures. Make plans to be at the Mountaineer's Clubhouse on October 12th!

Boealps Kilimanjaro trekkers return...

after putting 11 out of the 12 of them on top! Congratulations to all, and I'm looking forward to the write up for the Echo (hint, hint!)

New Echo Cover Photos...

After using and reusing the old cover photos for a few months too long, we're finally using the winners of this year's Echo cover photo contest. Take a look later in this issue for what the photos look like before they get faded for the front cover, or, better yet, go check the photos out on our web site, and see them in all their glorious color!

The Club's Web Site...

is where it's always been - <http://www.boealps.org>, and the password is (as it has been since the beginning of (web) time) SLESSE - the password is needed to access the club membership roster and the list of trips being offered. Check it out for updates on a more timely basis than the newsletter gives you, for color versions of the fabulous pictures that get submitted to the Echo, and for setting up last minute trips via the club bulletin board!

From the desk of your outgoing editor,


Matt Robertson

November Echo deadline is October 18th

October, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Full Moon	3	4	5 Fall campout - Bridge Creek campground	6 Fall campout - Bridge Creek campground
7 Fall campout - Bridge Creek campground; Rock leading seminar	8	9	10	11 Board Meeting	12 Annual Banquet- Mountaineer's Clubhouse	13 Ice climbing seminar - Mt. Baker
14 Ice climbing seminar - Mt. Baker	15	16 New Moon	17	18 Echo deadline	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Full Moon General Meeting	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7 Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar	8 Board Meeting; Patagonia trip begins (thru December 11)	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12	13	14 Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar	15 New Moon	16	17
18	19	20	21 Echo deadline	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Patagonia November 8 – December 11

Join me in a Patagonian adventure! This being my ninth trip to the same area, I have the logistics well worked out. Looking for a total party size of 3-4 adult males, ready to start work very early each day, no matter what the weather. Call or email me if you are interested and the dates of travel work for you. The goal is skiing and moderate mountaineering in a rarely traveled part of Patagonia that is fairly accessible. Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.

We will fly to Rio Gallegos, Argentina (~\$1300US), bus to El Calafate and then bus and boat to the starting point for some unexplored country. Total cost should be < \$2000 per person if you bring all your food and gear.

Mountain/Area	Patagonia
Skills	Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.
Limits	3-4
Contact	Silas Wild, 206-527-9453, silaswild@yahoo.com

Submit activities to:

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org

Hey – come on! Do we have to bribe you with pizza to get an activity submitted? Fall's a great time to be in the mountains – write up a trip to share with other club members!

North Cascades X-Country Ski Trip -

Jan. 25-27, 2002

Incredible skiing on one of the best trail systems in the U.S.

Return to the lodge for hot tubbing, drink, and dinner.

Boealps has been at the Anderson Lodge by Mt. St. Helens the last two years, but the previous three years, we found a gem in Winthrop: **the Westar Lodge**, located off the W. Chewuch Road. The cost would be roughly **\$45/adult**, 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 7 double beds + 16 single beds to sleep 30. The Methow Valley Sport Touring Association maintains over 175 km of groomed trails (beginner to advanced) in the pristine wilderness, including hut-to-hut skiing. Recent trail fees were \$13/day or \$30/weekend (Friday through Sunday -warning: prices may vary) There are also opportunities for free back country skiing.

Reserve your spot early to guarantee your January weekend of fun in Winthrop. Write checks payable to Boealps.

Contact: Mike Glain

(206) 772-4627 (hm); (253) 931-5743 (wk), or michael.l.glain@Boeing.com

8040 S. 117th St., Seattle, Wa. 98178

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

David Hamilton
206-297-7353
dhamilton@MuseumOfFlight.org



Boealps University

Len Kannapell, Dean of Admissions

Lots of great new learning opportunities in this issue! Sign up for one or sign up for all – ice climbing, rock leading, and predicting the mountain weather (that last one sounds like the diciest!)

Rock Leading Seminar

Meet When: Sunday, October 7, 7:30 am

Meet Where: Snow Creek Parking Lot, Icicle Creek Road

Climb Where: Mountaineer's Dome area

Equipment list:

- Harness
- Helmet
- 1-climbing rope/two students (must be single-rated rope)
- Belay device
- Two locking 'biners in front
- single slings w/'biners
- double slings w/'biners
- rock climbing shoes (if available)
- rock protection (if available – make sure it is marked)
- 10 essentials

Basic Class grads and newbies to trad, this one's for you. Any club member interested in learning how to lead natural-protection ("gear") routes is welcome to this annual funfest. We'll cover types of rock pro, gear placement, racking gear, setting up anchors, and belay commands.

The goal is to have each student lead one EASY pitch to go through the mechanics of leading, with another student belaying. Ideally, we'll have a 2:1 student to instructor ratio.

Make sure you have a Forest Pass permit displayed on your car if you park at Snow Creek or you risk being fined. We'll shuttle people to Mountaineers' Dome as necessary, as parking is limited.

Important note: Call or e-mail me to sign up. If we know how many students we have, we can round up the appropriate number of instructors.

Limit: 12 students

Contact: Len Kannapell (206)522-7022 h.

kannapell@yahoo.com

Ice Climbing Seminar

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 13-14

Coleman Glacier, Mt. Baker

Where: Heliotrope Ridge trailhead

When: Saturday, 9 am

Lecture: TBD

Cost: \$30

Mt. Rainier and international guide Alex Van Steen heads up this seminar on the great glacial ice of the Coleman Glacier at Mt. Baker, just before the fall monsoons begin. Ice conditions are usually stellar in mid-October.

If you are interested in climbing ice but have little or no experience on ice, this seminar is for you – Alex will show you the basics of ice tool placement, crampon technique, and setting up anchors for lead and top-rope climbing. The emphasis will be on the basics and will involve a lot of top-rope climbing, but there may be an opportunity for leading short pitches as time allows.

Required equipment:

- Crampon-compatible leather or plastic boots
- Crampons (make sure they are adjusted to your boots *before* the trip)
- Ice axe
- Harness
- Helmet
- Belay device
- 2 single slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 double slings, with two 'biners each
- 2 locking 'biners
- One single-rated rope/two people
- Standard glacier gear (chest harness, prussiks, pulley)
- 10 essentials

Optional:

- Pickets
- Ice screws
- Ice tools

Borrow if you don't have all these items on the required/optional list, but don't buy anything you don't have – we'll supply the rest. The club has a number of ice tools to borrow, and we will make arrangements with our equipment personnel for availability.

Note: This is an overnight trip – we'll hike the 3 miles to the bivy spot, drop off gear, climb on Saturday, bivy, climb on Sunday, head home around 3 pm.

Experience: Basic Class or equivalent

Limit: 12

Contact: Patty Michaud
patricia.michaud@attws.com
(206)369-2632 cell

Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar

When: November 7 and 14, 7:00-9:30 pm

Where: Marmot Mountain Works, Bellevue

Cost: \$40

Be your own weatherman! Are your recreational plans held hostage by vague local media weather forecasts or weather uncertainty on your part? Are you needlessly canceling trips when weather is turning out to be better than you thought? Now you can make your own weather forecasts. This course will show you how to use the Internet to forecast the weather both locally or at sites anywhere in the world.

The course is directed towards the lay person with outdoors recreational interests. It is more than a simple discussion of how to download text forecasts made by other forecasters. You will learn how to actually generate your own site-specific forecasts for all the weather details that you need. Best of all, you need not be a rocket scientist to take this course. All the data are available on the Internet and easy to interpret. After some instruction you will find that you can

- * Forecast clouds, precipitation, temperature, and wind as a function of time and altitude.
- * Forecast the weather for many days in advance.

Instructed by Bryan Scott, an avid backcountry skier, and a former atmospheric research scientist with Battelle Northwest Laboratories (Retired 1990). Mr. Scott obtained BS degree in Meteorology at Penn State University in 1967 and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington in 1975. He has been a frequent weather forecasting source for his friends and acquaintances for many years.

The course will consist of two evening sessions on November 7 & 14 lasting from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Marmot Mountain Works, Bellevue. Cost of the course is \$40.00. Advance sign-up required. Sign-up at 425-453-1515. More information is available at www.geocities.com/bc_scott/wxcourse.html

Pre-requisites: you must have access to a computer and the Internet.

Boealps Board Meeting September 13, 2001

Attendees: Norene Borg, Dan Costello, Prash Bhat, Don Fraser, Bill Harrison, Micah Lambeth, Silas Wild, Dave Hamilton, Len Kannapell, Brian Tryba, Vicky Larsen, John Schnieder, Kathy Baillie, John Alley, Ken Walter, Chris Gronau, Patty Michaud

This month's meeting was especially well attended, as it included most of the current and future Club Officers and Chairs. The Board meeting opened with a review of the results of the Sept 6th Club Elections. Thanks are due to new Board members for volunteering to contribute to the ongoing success of the club and thank you to outgoing officers and chairs, elected or interim (that's me), and to those continuing in the same or a new capacity. The new Board members and chairs are:

President	Chris Gronau
Vice President	Ken Walters
Treasurer	Micah Lambeth
Secretary	Haldis Baty
Past President	Norene Borg
Echo Editor	Vicky Larsen and Kathleen Clawson
Web Master	Rob James
Membership	Prash Bhat
Programs	John Alley and Kathy Baillie
Activities	Judy Clarke
Librarian	Andrew Keleher
Education	Patty Michaud
Conservation	John Schneider

The new Club Officers and Chairs will be introduced at this year's Banquet, which will take place on Friday, October 12th, at the Mountaineer's Clubhouse in Seattle. Eric Simonson will be our main speaker this year, and rumor has it that the Boealps Thespian Society may also reappear this year.

A table for book sales ("Ghosts of Everest" by Eric Simonson) and a table for Banquet tickets and Door Prize Tickets will be set up. A budget for Door Prizes was established based on last year's expenditures, as a Club Budget was not available for this year. Norene Borg will purchase the Prizes. A budget was also approved for recognition awards to Club Members. Norene will be accepting nominations. Special guests will be recognized verbally.

Some Club Chairs (Education, ICC Instructor, BCC Instructor) have had trouble getting access to the Boeing Library when needed. A new set of keys will be made and kept by a designated Club Officer.

The Treasurer reminded the Board that we need to keep below \$25K/year total revenue to avoid certain non-profit tax filing requirements. Activities will have to be reviewed for impact of total revenue. A comprehensive review of finances isn't available yet, but there is adequate cash reserves for current operations through the end of the year. Special thanks to Dave Hamilton for assisting. Boealps needs to investigate current tax filing requirements, both Federal and State.

The Membership chairperson advised that Boealps currently has 297 members, and that we meet the Boeing requirement of 90% Boeing employees. We need to keep encouraging Boeing employee memberships, as many non-employee members have been very active in the club and their contributions are much appreciated.

Activities scheduled so far are the Campout on October 5th - 7th at the Bridge Creek Campground in Leveanworth.

Education has an Ice Climbing Seminar on October 13th instructed by Alex Van Steen. 12 students are anticipated. There is an Avalanche Seminar scheduled for January instructed by Gary Brill. The BCC needs to review finances. The ICC instructor position is not decided yet and will depend on current instructor's availability.

The equipment Chair noted that overall equipment spending was down this year, due to lack of a budget being available, but the most pressing need for next year will be new avalanche beacons to support classes.

An Agris Morus Fund grant was not awarded this year. Board members were reminded that this Fund was establish to financially assist members who attempt special climbs which are of note to the climbing community or expand the skills/achievement of a particular climber.

There will not be a Boealps' Board Meeting in October. The next Board meeting location will be established by the new President, and should be on November 8th.

Good luck new Board Members!

– Don Fraser, Secretary.



Boealps Programs

By Micah Lambeth, Master of Ceremonies

Ocotober Annual Banquet:

Eric Simonson will be our featured speaker at this year's annual banquet. Eric's presentation will be "Found on Everest", the story of the 2001 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition.

Many people have heard the story of Eric Simonson's 1999 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition and their discovery of the remains of George Mallory. Using that climb as a starting point, Eric leads us through the adventure of his 2001 team's return to the North Side of Everest, and the results of their search for further evidence from the pioneer climbers, including Mallory's partner, Andrew Irvine. It is a fascinating story of dedication, teamwork, and of the "behind the scenes" intrigue of Everest politics. In addition to conducting the world's highest archeology project, the 2001 Expedition culminated with the highest mountaineering rescue in history.

Come join us for the social highlight of the Boealps year, an evening guaranteed to be filled with friends, climbing stories and a few surprises!

Future Shows:

Nothing confirmed yet, but we're hoping that our final two presenters of the year will be Don Bevon, and the Man of the Mountains himself, Fred Beckey! Who will be presenting which month is still undecided, so check back here next month, or on the Boealps web site, for more information later.



BE PREPARED

MOFA NEWS
2001



BE SAFE

The MOFA Course

Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) is a 30-hour first aid course for the wilderness traveler. The course meets the requirements for the American Red Cross (ARC) Standard First Aid course with 24-hours of additional wilderness focused first aid training. The volunteer instructors are certified by the ARC. Attendance at all sessions is required.

MOFA cards are valid for three years from the date of course completion. If you have a valid card and wish to update your skills and knowledge, you may enroll in a MOFA refresher. The course consists of five four-hour sessions and meets the requirements for ARC Standard First Aid as well as MOFA.

The MOFA Instructor course

WEEKEND OPTION: Eastside at Bio-Rad Laboratories, Class 22555, \$40, Sept. 22, 23, 29, October 6, 7 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.

WEEK DAY OPTION: ARC, Tuesday/Thursday, Class 21003, \$40, October 23, 25, 30, November 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27.

Congratulations to our news Boealps MOFA instructor, Bill Conchi!

Boealps usually sponsors a MOFA and a MOFA refresher class each year in January/February. The usual class format is Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 for 5 weeks starting in mid January. If you think you might be interested in taking one of these courses, send an e-mail note to joyce@solarhacker.com. When more details are available, you will be notified and given the first opportunity to sign up for the class. There is a class size limit. The cost of the course is \$45-\$50, depending on the price of books and equipment rentals. You can also sign up to take the class through the Mountaineers. See their web page at <http://www.mountaineers.org/MOFA/>

Women of Courage – A Speaking Series to Benefit Passages Northwest

When: Speaking Events - October 22nd and 24th, 2001 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Climbing Clinic – October 24th, 2001, time 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: Speaking Events – REI Flagship Store. 222 Yale Ave. N., Seattle, 98109
Climbing Clinic with Kitty Calhoun – Vertical World. 2123 W. Elmore St.,
Seattle, 98199

Speakers:

Monday, October 22nd – Vicki Boriack

Vicki is an 18 year veteran of the outdoor industry and an avid mountaineer, kayaker, and backpacker. Vicki was 39 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in October, 1993. In February of 1995, Vicki climbed Mt. Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere, as a member of Expedition Inspiration. The Expedition, comprised of 17 breast cancer survivors, was created to raise 2.3 million dollars for breast cancer research and to raise awareness of the disease. Vicki has since switched careers, and is now working for Community Health Partnership in San Jose as the manager of the Women's Health Partnership program which helps medically under-served women gain access to health care and education.

Wednesday, October 24th – Kitty Calhoun

Kitty is a world-renowned climber, having tackled such peaks as Thelay Sagar in the Garwhal and the West Pillar of Makalu. Kitty is also a mother, has earned an MBA degree from the University of Washington, has been a guide since 1982, and works for Patagonia.

Individual Event Prices

Public Prices:

One Event - \$20

Both Speaking Events - \$35

Climbing Clinic - \$60

Students - \$10 per Speaking Event

REI Member Prices:

One Event - \$15

Both Speaking Events - \$30

Package Prices:

Climbing Clinic & One Event - \$65

Climbing Clinic & The Series - \$80

Purchase your tickets to the Speaking Series at the REI Front Desk or call Passages Northwest at 206/286-8601. You can also email Passages at Jessica@passagesnw.org.

To reserve a spot for the Climbing Clinic please contact Passages Northwest directly.

Master Card and Visa accepted.



Boealps Annual Banquet



Friday, October 12, 2001

**The Mountaineers
300 3rd Ave W
(just west of Key Arena)**

Tickets: \$29 for members/non-members

So we invade the Mountaineers' – big deal! This banquet promises to be better than ever!

- A dual entrée, three-course dinner with your selections from the following:
 - Appetizer (baby reds and macadamia canapé)
 - Second course (tiger prawns, artichoke dip, antipasto, fresh fruit, and wild greens)
 - Main course (alder smoked salmon, tortellini gusto, and herb-crusted peppercorn beef)
- "Where's Mallory?", a 15-minute Boealps play dedicated to our speaker
- Door prizes galore

Guaranteed to be a great evening of fun, or your money back (assuming we haven't spent it)

Banquet Speaker – Eric Simonson

Recently known as the leader of the 1999 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition, Eric Simonson's climbing career has been much more extensive. Since 1973, Eric has been a professional guide with more than 80 expeditions around the world and he is now an owner and operator of 2 guiding companies. Some of his personal climbing highlights include summiting Mt. Everest, Mt. Elbrus, Mt. Vinson, Aconcagua, and Cho Oyu. He has also spent some time climbing a little closer to home with over 260 ascents of Mt. Rainier. Recently, Eric led another expedition to Mt. Everest with hopes of discovering more information about the Mallory and Irvine expedition. In addition to searching for artifacts, half the team sacrificed a summit bid to effect a difficult rescue high on the mountain.

Banquet Schedule

6:00	Arrival/social
6:45	Buffet dinner
8:00	Coffee & dessert - past/new Board, door prizes, etc.
8:45	"Where's Mallory?" a 15-minute play
9:00-10:30	Banquet speaker – Eric Simonson

Banquet Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone (work or home): _____

Mail stop or address: _____

Member/guest tickets = _____ x \$29 = \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to **Prashantha Bhat**

Return to: Prash Bhat pbbhat@hotmail.com
7224 29th Ave NE (425) 237-8883
Seattle, WA 98115 M/S 67-34

Reserve your place by 1) returning this form (with payment) or 2) contacting Prash no later than **Tuesday, October 9**

Boealps Echo Cover Photo Competition Winners

Although the photographers have achieved immortality by appearing on the front cover of this esteemed publication, you may have difficulty in appreciating the true majesty of these artworks when reproduced in faded pastels. To alleviate this grievous mistreatment, here are this year's four winners, in all their black and white glory! (If ya really wanna do 'em justice, go check out the larger, color version on the Boealps web site – <http://www.boealps.org!>)



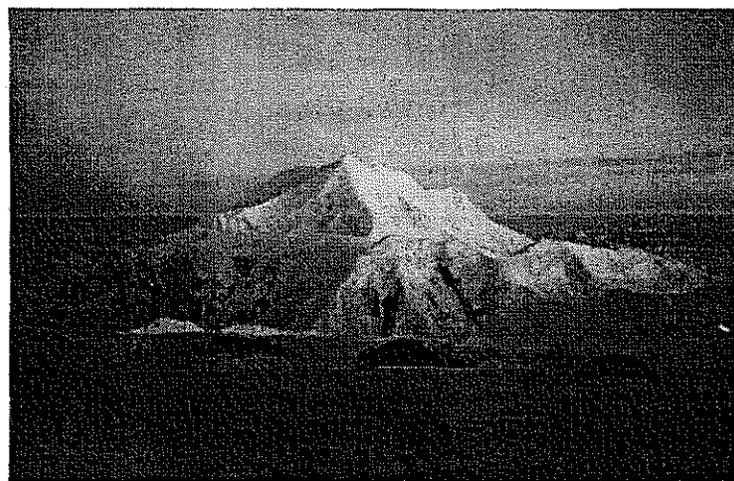
"The Wall" by Geoff Pegler



"West Rib of Denali" by Mike Jacobsen



"Trudging Along" by Joyce Holloway



**"Mt. Foraker in Elegance"
by Len Kannapell**

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: _____

NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

NEW MAIL STOP: _____ NEW EMAIL: _____

NEW HOME ADDRESS: _____

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PRASH BHAT, M/S 67-34
OR: 7224 29th Ave. NE, Seattle 98115
OR: prashantha.bhat@pss.boeing.com

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

ALPINE ECHO



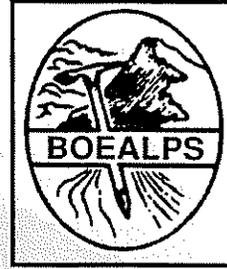
October ECHO staff

Editor: Matt Robertson
Proof Reader: Maren Nelson

*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

November 2001



BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

President	Chris Gronau	425-965-6546 christopher.w.gronau@boeing.com	Equipment South	Mike Jacobsen	206-544-5689 michael.t.jacobsen@boeing.com
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Education	Patti Michaud	206-369-2632 patricia.michaud@attws.com	Web Master	Rob James	robert.james@baesystems.com
			Boealps Home Page		http://boealps.org/

Photo: "West Rib of Denali" by Mike Jacobsen

From Prash Bhat 67-34



Fred Beckey

November General Meeting

Our featured speaker will be the
"Man of the Mountains" himself,
Mr. Fred Beckey

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

BELAY STANCE

November General Meeting...

If you haven't made any other meetings this year, make it for this one. Fred Beckey – the living Cascade Climbing Bible – will be giving a talk and slide presentation. Come on out and show your support for the club, rub elbows with other club members, and maybe even get a trip or two planned! November 1st at the Oxbow Rec Center, 7:00 PM.

BAG-IT...

It's time for another BAG-IT night – we feed, you lead! BAG-IT (which kinda stands for Basic Grad-Intermediate Training) is an opportunity for you to submit an activity for the Echo and get fed in return. We buy the pizza, supply the guidebooks, lists of recommended climbs and sign up forms, you supply one activity you're willing to organize. It's coming up on November 15th at the University Round Table Pizza – there's more info later in this issue – I hope we see a lot of folks there, and get the activities section filled with great winter trips! (I noticed that this month half of the offered trips are BoBaby outings – let's see if the rest of you can better their rigorous outing schedule!)

The Club's Web Site...

is still there - <http://www.boealps.org>, and the password is (as it has been since the beginning of (web) time) SLESSE – the password is needed to access the club membership roster and the list of trips being offered. Check it out for updates on a more timely basis than the newsletter gives you, for color versions of the fabulous pictures that get submitted to the Echo (some of which don't actually make it into the print version), and for setting up last minute trips via the club bulletin board!

Good Bye, and Hello...

Wow – my last Belay Stance! It's been a fun three years, and I'm happy with the progress the Echo has made over that time. When I started out as editor, the issues were actually put together by cutting out pictures and stories, taping them together and running them through a copy machine! No more of that ancient technology – the Echo is now put together entirely on line, and we have the online version on our web site as well – that's progress! I'm leaving the editing of this fine rag in the capable hands of your new editors – please give a warm welcome to Kathleen Clawson and Vicky Larsen! I hope you'll all support them during their tour of duty at least as well as you've supported me – make sure you keep those trip reports and pictures coming! Since Kathleen and Vicky will be co-editing the newsletter, we've set up a new email account for you to send your submissions. From now on, all email to the editor should be sent to editor@boealps.org (thanks to our web master for setting that up!). A special thanks to the dozens of folks that submitted the trip reports, pictures, activities, class flyers, meeting minutes, articles and all the rest of the material that made the Echo what it has been over the last three years – I just put them together – you're the folks that created the Echo!

See ya in the hills!


Matt Robertson

December Echo deadline is November 15th

November, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Full Moon General Meeting	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7 Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar	8 Board Meeting; Patagonia trip begins (thru December 11)	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12	13 Avalanche Seminar – Class Session	14 Alpine Weather Forecasting Seminar	15 New Moon Echo deadline	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BoBabies: Santa Train
2 Winter Outing	3	4	5	6 General Meeting	7	8
9 Hanukkah	10	11	12	13 Echo deadline	14 New Moon	15
16 Winter Outing	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22
23 Matt's Birthday	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 Full Moon Winter Outing	31 New Year's Eve					

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Patagonia

November 8 – December 11

Join me in a Patagonian adventure! This being my ninth trip to the same area, I have the logistics well worked out. Looking for a total party size of 3-4 adult males, ready to start work very early each day, no matter what the weather. Call or email me if you are interested and the dates of travel work for you. The goal is skiing and moderate mountaineering in a rarely traveled part of Patagonia that is fairly accessible. Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.

We will fly to Rio Gallegos, Argentina (~\$1300US), bus to El Calafate and then bus and boat to the starting point for some unexplored country. Total cost should be < \$2000 per person if you bring all your food and gear.

Mountain/Area	Patagonia
Skills	Patience, perseverance, and full competence in basic mountaineering are required.
Limits	3-4
Contact	Silas Wild, 206-527-9453, silaswild@yahoo.com

Santa Train with the BoBabies

December 1

Come join the Boealps Babies and their parents for a ride on the Santa train! This 2 hour jaunt starts in North Bend at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 1 at the train station. A 20 minute ride takes us to Snoqualmie where cookies, hot chocolate, and a chance to talk with St. Nick himself await. There's also a small shop for souvenirs, train engines, and big machines to check out! A 20 minute ride back to North Bend puts us in the station just before 11 am.

Please arrive early, as parking is limited. The 9am is the first train, so we have the best slots for parking. Wear warm clothes and expect to spend some time outside in Snoqualmie. Tickets are \$9 each for those over 3, and can be purchased in person at the Snoqualmie Depot or by calling the Santa Train Hotline at (425) 888-2206, Thursday through Monday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM .

If you'd like more information, please see <http://www.trainmuseum.org/>.

Winter Outings 3.0

December-February

Brief Description: These trips are intended for most any club member who wants to get some exercise over the winter. The goal is always a peak accessible in a day from Seattle. Actual destinations are condition dependent and are chosen the week prior to the outing. All trip arrangements are made via email.

Trip Dates	12/2, 12/16, 12/30, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24
Mountain/Area	Cascades
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Yep
Class	2-3
Grade	I-II, but it's winter so it seems like III
Times	All day
Skills Required	Basic class grad or equivalent
Maps Required	Depends
Limits	None
Contact	Mike Bingle, 206-662-4929(w), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

BoBabies go X-C Skiing

January 31-February 3, 2002

Kids who like to ski and parents that fantasize about still doing it will love this trip. Lots of cross country skiing to be had. Maybe even sunshine. This will be a loosely organized event, with families making their own arrangements for room and board. We'll put our heads together to plan several group activities during the weekend, as the group interest dictates.

We're staying at Wolf Ridge Resort (1-800-237-2388, www.wolfridgesort.com) because we can ski on the trails without having to pack up the kids and drive anywhere and because of the hot tub. They have several kinds of units from hotel-style rooms to 2-brm units. Another good resource for lodging is Central Reservations at 1-800-422-3048, www.mvcentralres.com.

Mountain/Area	Winthrop, Wa
Elevation	If we're really lucky
Route	If we're lucky
Class	Newborn through preschool
Grade	Most parents have graduated with good grades, although you would never believe it now.
Times	Forever to go a mile
Skills Required	Able to keep children warm, dry, safe, and maybe even entertained in snow. (Or at least patience.)
Maps Required	For every potty in the vicinity
Limits	Within reason
Contact	Steven Edgar, 206-285-6864, steve.edgar@faa.gov

Submit activities to:

Judy Clarke
206-729-0201
judy_gclarke@hotmail.com

Come on out to the BAG-IT evening on
November 15th – we'll give you pizza for your
activity submission!



BoBabe and BoBaby
Pam and Mallory Kaiser-Paré

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

Judy Clarke
206-729-0201
judy_gclarke@hotmail.com



Boealps University

Patricia Michaud, Dean of Admissions

Avalanche Seminar with Gary Brill

Learn how to recognize avalanche terrain and potential hazards, and practice using an avalanche transceiver. These are invaluable skills for everyone, and this could be the best investment you could make to enhance your safety and that of your fellow climbers.

Class dates: Thursday, Dec. 13 (Oxbow Rm 202); Wednesday, Jan. 9; and Wednesday, Jan. 16 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Where: Oxbow Center (contact me if you need directions).

Class field trip: Saturday, Jan. 5 or Sunday, Jan. 6 (probably Stevens Pass, Baker or Blewitt). Cannot guarantee which of the two days you get, so be prepared for either.

Student limit: 20

Student cost: Approximate range: \$90-\$115 – depends on class size. More students = cheaper cost (check payable to Patricia Michaud). First come, first serve. I'll make a waiting list if we have an overflow.

Students need a single frequency 457 kHz beacon (Ortovox M1, the new M2, DTS Tracker, Pieps 457 - no earplug type transceivers allowed). If you don't own one, check with one of the Equipment chairs. If unavailable, you can rent from Gary for \$10 additional.

Ice Climbing Seminar wrap up:

Led by fabulous international guide, **Alex Van Steen**, a class of 12 students learned the basics of ice climbing at Mt. Baker's Coleman Glacier. We started the weekend with learning to walk on moderately steep ice, then covered anchors, gear placement & climbing technique, finishing the weekend with a bit o' leading (with top rope). We even had some sunshine on Sunday!! A BIG thanks goes out to our incisive instructor, Mr. Van Steen AND hard working assistants, **Erick Kasiulis** and **David Hamilton**.

If you wanted to take the class but got turned away because it was full, no worries! We have another ice climbing seminar coming up this winter. Stay tuned!



The View from Sahale (looking west)



Boealps Programs

By John Alley and Kathy Baillie, your
Master and Mistress of Ceremonies

November General Meeting:

Fred Beckey – what more needs to be said? The topic of Fred's talk and presentation hasn't been announced yet, but you'll want to make this meeting to hear him!

Future Shows:

There's rumors that Don Bevon might be our December speaker. Check back here next month, or on the Boealps web site, for more information later.



BE PREPARED

**MOFA NEWS
2001**



BE SAFE

MOFA Refresher

Boealps usually sponsors a MOFA and a MOFA refresher class each year in January/February. The usual class format is Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 for 5 weeks starting in mid January. If you think you might be interested in taking one of these courses, send an e-mail note to joyce@solarhacker.com. When more details are available, you will be notified and given the first opportunity to sign up for the class. There is a class size limit. The cost of the course is \$45-\$50, depending on the price of books and equipment rentals. You can also sign up to take the class through the Mountaineers. See their web page at <http://www.mountaineers.org/MOFA/>

BAG-IT Night (Basic Grad-Intermediate Training)

Thursday, November 15th

Here's the idea: You bring an activity to put in the ECHO, and Boealps buys the pizza. The goal is to help the recent Basic Class grads gain more experience and fill the void between the Basic Climbing Class (BCC) and the Intermediate Climbing Class (ICC).

*Basic Class grads, this is a great opportunity to meet other club members and get some experience for the ICC for 2002 or the following year. If you don't know what activity to lead, show up anyway and we'll help you brainstorm some ideas.

*ICC instructors, submit one outing (you should pair up with another instructor) to lead a climb targeting these Basic Class grads.

*Club members, help us out by submitting an activity!

The activities don't have to be difficult climbs, and they don't have to be limited to climbs - any outdoor activity will likely get participants!

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

When: 6:30 -9 PM, 6/21/00

Contact: Judy Clarke (206)729-0201 h.
judy_gclarke@hotmail.com



CONSERVATION CORNER

By John Schneider

For those of you with the will to actively contribute to preserving, protecting, and rehabilitating our natural environment, here is a brief list of ways to volunteer your time to a good cause. This list will be expanded and expounded in the coming months. But for now...

1. EarthCorps, "Creating a global community through local environmental service", is a Seattle-based volunteer conservation organization. Although their primary thrust is placing youths 18-24 years old (many from overseas) in conservation programs, they have a continuing need for people to host international corps members, to help with general office work, and to volunteer technical skills such as lawyers, network administrators, and accountants. Last year's programs included supplying volunteers to the King County Department of Natural Resources, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the Wetland Cooperative nursery in Renton, community plantings in Redmond, Bothell, and Tukwila, the RiverWalk Habitat Restoration, and other projects too numerous to mention fully. Contact them at <http://www.earthcorps.org>

2. Volunteer opportunities in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust include planting trees, building and maintaining trails, caring for seedlings in a nursery, removing invasive plants, and more. Their opportunities, which are continually updated, may be viewed at <http://www.mtsgreenway.org>. Coming up on Saturday, Oct. 27, is nursery renovation at Lake Sammamish State Park. This stage of the renovation involves moving transplanted trees back to their newly renovated home. Besides the reward of working for a good cause, volunteers will learn some basic tree identification, and make take home some free trees.

3. The Volunteer Trailwork Coalition (<http://www.trailwork.org>) and partner groups have, in the past three years, coordinated more than 200,000 volunteer hours on Washington's trails. The Coalition brings together a "broad range of nonprofit organizations, recreation clubs, and land managers dedicated to preserving Washington State's trails and outdoor facilities". Among these organizations are those representing hikers, bikers, equestrians, off-roaders, and snow and watersports enthusiasts: The Access Fund, Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Northwest Motorcycle Association, Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association, Washington State Snowmobile Association, Washington Water Trails Association, and more.

Their Trail Maintenance Work Parties involve tasks such as annual maintenance (cutting brush, improving drainage, etc.), or special projects like roughing in a new trail or building a new bridge. Their schedule of upcoming opportunities may be viewed at http://www.wta.org/scripts/wta/cgi-pvt/vtc_schedule.pl

4. The Washington Trails Association (<http://www.wta.org>) is a volunteer organization chartered to "preserve, enhance and promote" hiking in the state. In addition to providing helpful items like trail reviews and a comprehensive listing of over 300 links to geography, weather, retailers, national parks, wilderness areas, USFS links, and national and local conservation and trail maintenance organizations, they also organize 5-6 trail works parties per week, running both weekdays and weekends. Their listing is too comprehensive to reprint here, but may be accessed at <http://www.wta.org/~wta/cgi-bin/web10.pl?TrailTeams+tt+tt>.

If anyone comes across good websites or volunteer opportunities that they would like broadcast, please forward them to me.

Incredible skiing on one of the best trail systems in the U.S.

Return to the lodge for hot tubbing, drink, and dinner.

Boealps has been at the Anderson Lodge by Mt. St. Helens the last two years, but the previous three years, we found a gem in Winthrop: the Westar Lodge, located off the W. Chewuch Road. The cost would be roughly \$45/adult, 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 7 double beds + 16 single beds to sleep 30. The Methow Valley Sport Touring Association maintains over 175 km of groomed trails (beginner to advanced) in the pristine wilderness, including hut-to-hut skiing. Recent trail fees were \$13/day or \$30/weekend (Friday through Sunday -warning: prices may vary) There are also opportunities for free back country skiing.

Reserve your spot early to guarantee your January weekend of fun in Winthrop. Write checks payable to Boealps.

Contact: Mike Glain

(206) 772-4627 (hm); (253) 931-5743 (wk),

or michael.l.glain@Boeing.com

8040 S. 117th St., Seattle, Wa. 98178

For Sale

I have some gear that I haven't used in several years, so I probably won't use. The gear has been carried in my pack a few times, but not unused. Maybe someone else can enjoy them. Contact Steve Fox: sfox@eskimo.com or 425-353-9508.

- Camp LC480 Aluminum step-in 12 point crampons. Requires a pretty stiff boot with the heel step-in feature. Very lightweight, only worn for a few hundred feet on Icy Peak. Good for the standard volcano routes or other low to medium angle snow travel. Ideal for the ski mountaineer who carries crampons "just in case". Not appropriate for ice climbing. \$35.
- Wired Stoppers: One of each sizes 3, 4, and 6, unused. \$12 takes 'em all.
- Metolius no. 3 and no. 8 cam, unused. \$40 each. Wild Country Friend no. 2.5, unused. \$40.
- I also have some used stoppers if anyone is interested, sizes 7, 10, and 11 (one each). They require 5mm or 6mm perlon (which is included), so these are not "wired stoppers". Also a used Hexcentric size 7.
- Repel Sleep Screen mosquito net, fits over sleeping bag. I'm guessing the weight is about 1/2 pound? Good for those warm and dry, but buggy bivouacs. \$5.
- Dana Terraplane internal frame large backpack, year 2000 model, 5800 cu in, size medium, pumpkin color. Used only 3 times. \$125.
- Extremely used pack, faded, holds 2000 cu in. \$17,599 (has lots of sentimental value).

Two Trip Reports

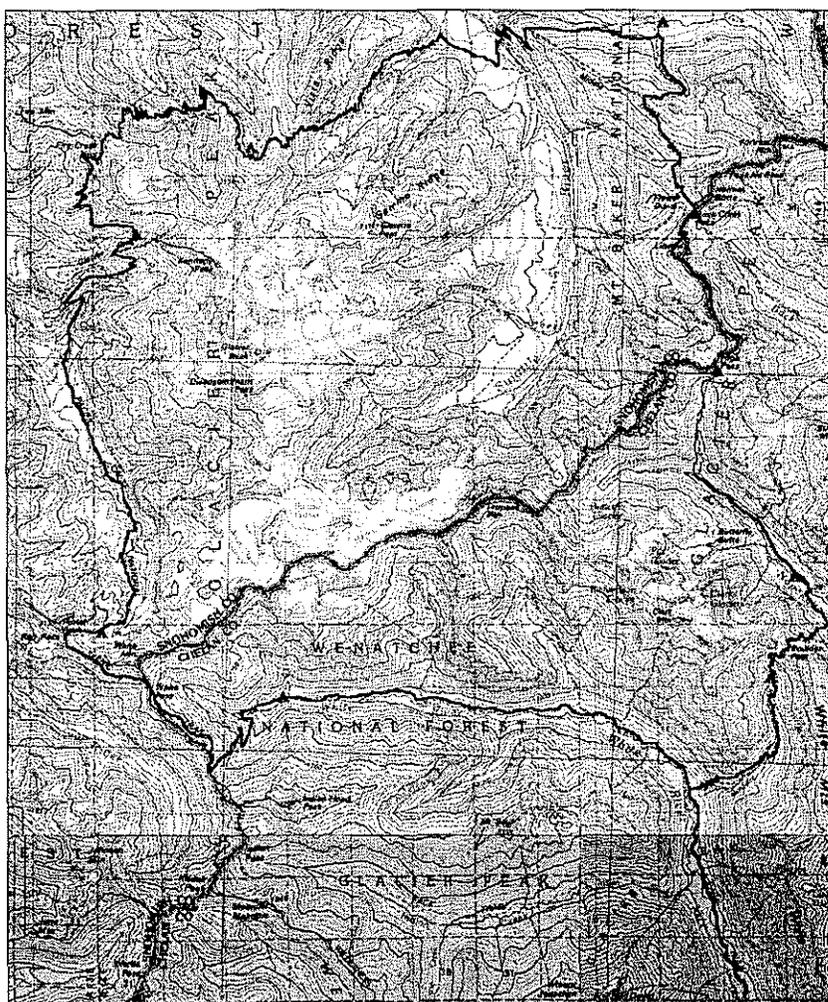
By Steve Fox

Around Glacier Peak

Our party hiked a fantastic 9-day trip around Glacier Peak. I'd rate this circumnavigation even better than Mt Hood's Timberline Trail and Mt Rainier's Wonderland Trail. But expect some brushy or even lost trails, or off-trail navigation.

We started on Sat, Sept 1 up the White River trail. It gets mighty brushy past the Boulder Creek trail, and we all got soaked in the light rain. The first crossing of the White River must be forded, even at this time of year, but was easy. Since our feet were wet, we just stomped through the water. After the second walk-across at 3700' we

camped with soggy boots and dreams of sunny days. Several in the party suffered greatly from heel blisters caused by the wet boots.



Day two had better weather. The upper White River trail is still brushy and unmaintained, but with woody plants instead of annuals. At the 5400' pass we dropped our packs and easily scampered up Indian Head Peak (T2 scramble). Incredible views abound from Rainier to Baker. We hiked northbound on the PCT to White Pass. During the day we heard several reverberating BOOMS. It was three forest service women blasting out rock on the PCT. They halted us and some thruhikers so we wouldn't be blown to smithereens. They sure seemed to be enjoying making all the noise! We headed to Red Pass, where I easily scrambled Portal, Pt 6910 and White Chuck Cinder Cone, (all T2). Our camp below Red Pass was a super site with great views, large meadows, and superb stargazing. But a few sprinkles started early the next morning.

The third day was a long drop down to the flatlands and mossy rainforests of the White Chuck River valley. This gorgeous forest begs slow travel to soak up its ambience. It's a lush green moss-carpet wonderland. We managed the river crossing at Kennedy Creek with no difficulty due to a set of small logs placed 200 feet below the trail. Then up and up Kennedy Ridge to a camp near Pumice Creek. We scrambled up 2500' for a stunning view of Glacier Peak from Kennedy Peak (T4).

On the fourth day we climbed up the PCT to Fire Creek Pass. While there we spent several hours scrambling over to Fire Mt and two other bumps (T3). Back on the PCT we descended to Mica Lake for a quick dip. Then down, down, down to Milk Creek ... and up, up, up to Milk Ridge, staggering very late to our camp on its east fork. That night was very chilly.

Day five we started up in fog with no views to the Grassy Point junction. We continued northbound on the PCT around Vista Ridge and down to Vista Creek. Two thruhikers came blasting by, wishing for cigarettes at their next stop in Stehekin! Hmmm. We continued past the Suiattle River and up towards Miners Creek. I took off for an adventure up the steep, abandoned Middle Ridge trail. Sure enough, it's still there if you look very closely. Start at 3600' on the PCT as it rounds Middle Ridge. Blazes mark the way. There are several dry camps partway to the Buck Pass trail. Closer to the Buck Pass trail the tread becomes very distinct due to traffic from that trail. I dropped down the Buck Pass trail to meet the gang at the large Miners Creek Camp, a half mile north of the PCT.

The sixth day we headed back to Buck Creek Pass to the most splendid blueberry collection on earth. Gorging ourselves on the copious quantity, our lips, teeth, tongues, and fingers became stained dark blue. We camped a bit south of Buck Creek Pass near a spring. We climbed Flower Dome and Helmet Butte during the afternoon. During the night a windstorm came in and blasted our tents. It rained a bit but we managed to get through dinner first. A family of 5 deer entertained us throughout the night.

Day seven we hoisted our packs up to High Pass. There is one steep, hard snow area past the trail marked on maps. But we found an easy rock scramble around it. The weather changed from stormy to glorious sunshine and we enjoyed fabulous views of glaciated ridges and peaks, lovely valleys, and austere high alpine lakes. We tried to climb Buck Mt but got way off route. With too little time, we retreated. So we went up Cleator and Mouse Peaks as penance.

The eighth day we descended down the pretty Napeequa Valley high route and dropped to the bottom of the valley. The crossing of the Napeequa was only shin deep and soon we were slogging our way up the nicely graded, but sometimes brushy trail to Boulder Pass. We dropped down to a nice camp near Boulder Creek, also complete with tons of blueberries. One doe hung around camp like a pet.

Day nine we dropped down the sometimes brushy Boulder Creek trail to the White River and out. A great trip! Stats: 88 miles, 18000' gain (not including extra peaks).

Ptarmigan Traverse

Andy Dappen, John Harlin and I planned to traverse along the high route made famous by the "Ptarmigan" group. These hardy men, out of work during the Great Depression, took off to travel an unknown region in September 1938. The ranger told them the route would not go, but they went anyway. And in the process they climbed numerous peaks, many first ascents. Many parties have duplicated the route and it has become the most famous traverse in our area. The traverse is now mostly trail in between the glaciers due to its popularity. It's the most spectacular scenery I've ever done in the Cascades!

Our less-hardy group of soft men had the benefit of fancy equipment, good route information, and good weather forecasts. In fact, the weather forecast was for rain on the Wednesday we planned to leave. So we postponed a couple days and took off after work Friday August 24. Andy and John met me at my place at 7pm and we took two cars to the Suiattle Road at Downey Creek. We stopped to eat in Arlington, and it was nearly 10pm when we got to the trailhead. So we decided to car camp and finish the shuttle the next morning.

John wanted us to test some gear, and dress up for photographs. So he passed out bright shirts, jackets, and rain gear. He also handed me a sleeping bag. It was an interesting down bag, with jacket sleeves built in, and a drawstring at the foot end. Hmmm, that's interesting! A down jacket/bag. I tried it on. It felt a little wet. Sniff... sniff... what's that smell? "Hey John, this bag is pretty wet", I whined.

He uttered a groan and came over. "Uh oh, my cat's peed on this bag!"

"Yikes!" I quickly took it off. Fortunately, John had another bag to test. So I took it. It was nice and dry. Ahh... nothing like a nice, non-cat urined sleeping bag. It had zippers in the shoulders so you could poke out your arms, and a drawstring at the bottom. So I had a giant down vest instead of a jacket. Things were starting out pretty good.

After a nice sleep, dreaming of cats marking their territory, I woke up refreshed. We put all the gear in John's car and in two hours drove back out the Suiattle, then up to Cascade Pass. After a bit more gear fussing we hoisted our packs, each weighing about 40 lbs for our planned five-day journey.

The 1.5 hour Cascade Pass trail was in excellent condition to the pass, with splendid views of Johannesburg, Sahale and other famous peaks. En route we briefly checked out an abandoned trail that heads towards Boston Basin. We continued up the path toward Cashe Col, then cramponed up the glacier to the col. There was a bit of a moat



problem. John and Andy are both highly experienced and confident, and easily stepped across. I took a much more careful route, hugging the ice and firmly planting the axe pick. After several false attempts, I managed to inch my way over the gap and up the gravelly slope to the top of the col. There was a grand scene of peaks and Koolade Lake.

Magic Peak seemed like a good objective for the day. Instead of dropping down to the lake far below, we decided to climb it from the col. So we dropped our packs, and scrambled up the easy ridge. After a few class 3 moves we summited the mighty and feared "Not Magic Peak". Dang! Oops! There was Magic Peak across an unpleasant serrated class 4 ridge from our false summit. C'est la vie. So we dropped back to the col and took the trail to demure Koolade Lake, our first camp. While in camp we spotted a grey colored bear under Johannesburg, and were visited by a friendly doe.

The next morning we scrambled Magic (T4) -- yup, the real peak this time. The route is mostly straightforward, with a little slippery class 3 travel near the top. By 12:15 we were out of camp and hiked to Red Ledge. From a distance, Red Ledge looks difficult. The snow was steep and hard just before the ledge, but not a problem in crampons. The ledge turned out to be an easy wide ramp. The trail continues to the Middle Cascade Glacier.

On the glacier there was one crevasse problem with a 10 foot, 80 degree angle ice climb. Andy and John scampered up in their cramponed approach shoes, using their poles with arrest device. I borrowed John's ice tool along with my axe, and somehow barely made it up the pitch without tumbling deep into the crack. At the top, there was a steep descent down the other side on a snowfield. There we saw four geologists, the only people we saw in four days. We traversed on talus and snow to Yang Yang lakes for the second camp. This pair of lakes is in a spectacularly serene setting, with trees and heather and grass.

On day three, we took the trail up the ridge, passing a superb campsite, then traversed along the Le Conte Glacier. One crevasse crossing I asked for a belay and the ice tool. It was a spread-eagle step that really wasn't as hard as I made it to be. We easily scrambled Old Guard Peak (T3) on some rotten and some good rock. Then down some snow and talus to the South Cascade Glacier (easy travel), then pretty steep snow and talus to White Rocks Lake for our third camp. This lake is quite different from Koolade and Yang Yang. It's in a barren rock-filled area. One of the lakes was choked with ice. Clearly the glaciers had recently retreated from this area. There is a grand view of Dome Peak and glaciers to the south.

The fourth day, we followed a trail that seemed to descend way too low. So we stayed high and traversed on heather, talus, and snow to the Dana Glacier. It was a straightforward ascent to the base of Spire Point. We climbed up Spire (class 4), then dropped towards Cub Lake. The trail is in good shape to the lake. Beyond the lake is a fabulous blueberry patch, which severely restricted travel. Much stained, we continued to a camp at the upper end of Bachelor Creek.

The trail down Bachelor is very brushy in sections, but easy to follow. We got wet from the dew. The Downey Creek trail is in very good condition, with a few muddy sections and some possibly slippery bridges. That area was a nice contrast to the high country, with superb rain forest moss carpeting and some huge trees.

We drove my car back to Cascade Pass to get the other car, stopping at Cascadian Farms for some incredible milkshakes. Six thumbs up for the milkshakes!! On the way back, we got round two of milkshakes! Wow, what a way to end a fantastic trip.

Project Huckleberry "I" is Gary Hehn

The whole little project got started when I read the description for Huckleberry Mountain in Fred Beckey's Cascade Alpine Guide and noted the statement "The only known route is still the original one". These words, seeming to offer an open invitation, sparked my interest. So, after climbing Mount Thompson and gazing over at the west face of Huckleberry, I talked Steve Kness into making a foray with me to give it a closer look.

A couple weeks later we went to take our look. When we did it was late in the day and getting late in the season, sometime in the fall. We worked our way into the pleasant little basin west of Huckleberry and climbed a small ridge opposite the west face to attain a good vantage point. The upper wall looked intimidatingly overhung, but we figured that in the morning we could get to the large ledge that separates it from the lower wall and if necessary there appeared to be plenty of rap potential.

The air got grey and wet, clouds slipped quietly in. Steve had a bivy sack and I covered up with a space blanket. The morning saw us wet and chilled. Huckleberry, shrouded in cloud, just didn't look inviting - we bailed. Soon after we got back to the trail, still about ten miles in, we came upon a trail runner wearing skimpy running shorts, a T-shirt, and a minimal fanny pack. I remember us thinking, "one sprained ankle and that guy is epic potential if not a statistic!"

Four years passed and I went back to Huckleberry with my nephew, Ben Witzenman. Steve didn't join us. His wife, Karen, had fallen ill and so he was staying closer to home. She and Steve and their two children had hiked up Mount Saint Helens with a group of us within the previous month, immediately after she had finished a barrage of chemotherapy treatments. She was an inspiration to us all and Steve's brother echoed our thoughts when he told her that she was his hero.

It was a beautiful late September day when I returned to Huckleberry with Ben. We climbed a wide chimney to attain the large ledge separating the lower and upper west face. The climbing in the chimney was terrible; one of those pitches that a person would like to never repeat. I was afraid that because of it I wouldn't be able to recommend the climb. We did a good bit of exploring and found a section that we felt would go but we couldn't tell how much further we had to go and Ben had to pick his wife up from the airport that evening. So, we backed off and in doing so found a way to avoid the perilous chimney.

Another year passed and I returned again, this time with Dave Stephens. We'd had a sporting time of it volleying emails back and forth. I started by telling him that I thought I had a potential first ascent but didn't want word to get out for fear of sparking interest. I couldn't tell him where it was, he had to show up at the meeting place, and I would possibly have to blindfold him for the approach! He had fun coercing me into giving him enough hints to eventually make the correct assumption. So, I bagged the blindfold idea.

It was another perfect September day when Dave and I made our way to the spot where Ben and I had turned around. This was the weekend following terrorist attacks on the United States so we were considering it a day to escape the madness of the world. We studied the wall above, found a route that we felt might go, and sat down for a snack break before making our move.

As I worked my way up our route Dave suggested that we might be surprised at how close we were to the summit and he was right. Ninety feet from his belay stance and I was standing on top! Ben and I were only ninety feet from the summit when we turned around the previous year. Ben would have joined us on this outing if not for a basketball induced ankle sprain.

Dave and I got some quality summit time; the air was calm and the temperature near perfect. It was exiting to think that we most likely were the first ones on the route that got us here. Suddenly, our thoughts were jolted back to the world below and the horrific terrorist events of the past week when we heard a loud explosion and its echoes careening along canyon walls! We probably will never know where it came from. Fortunately, it wasn't the sound of some far off building in Seattle collapsing.

Soon, our thoughts returned again to the task at hand and we worked our way down. It was a banner year for huckleberries; the season was at its height. And so, our indulging slowed our descent back to the world below.

The completion of our "project" prompted the following email to Fred Beckey to have the route documented:

Greetings Fred,

Dave Stephens and I would like to report a new route on Huckleberry Mountain. Completing it this past weekend offered a welcome reprieve from the madness of the world following the terrorist attacks on the United States.

I believe that this new route is well worth documenting as it is quite pleasant. I haven't climbed the original route but, after rapping the upper section, viewing the messy gully leading up to it, reading the route description and the reports in the summit register I suspect that this new route is of better quality.

Here is our description of the route:

West Face of Huckleberry Mountain First ascent by Gary Hehn and Dave Stephens, 16 Sept 2001

Soon after crossing the saddle between Edds Lake and Joe Lake when coming from Snoqualmie Pass leave the Pacific Crest Trail and work up a draw into the small basin located west of Huckleberry Mountain.

Ascend the scree slope from the basin to near the base of the west face of Huckleberry Mountain. The wide

chimney on the left side of the lower face is best avoided; it is very loose with few opportunities for placing good protection. Start left of this chimney working up and left to the ridge (80-ft, class 3). Climb on the right side of the ridge to the large ledge that horizontally bisects the west face (200-ft, class 3). Traverse south/right across this large ledge populated with conifers to its south end. From here ascend a small ramp that rises to the left to a bench at its upper right and located on the south edge of the upper face (80-ft, class 4).

Immediately left of the bench locate a series of two right facing open books with a small ledge separating them. The upper open book has a large loose block resting at its top, assuming it is still there. Ascend these (70-ft, 5.5/5.6), the crux is at the bottom of the first open book. Another twenty feet of scrambling leads to the summit. Gear: small rack to two inches. Time: 6 hours from Snoqualmie Pass. Class 5.6.

The ascent route can be used on the descent.



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)

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OR: 7224 29th Ave. NE, Seattle 98115
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DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF
THE BOEING COMPANY

ALPINE ECHO



November ECHO staff

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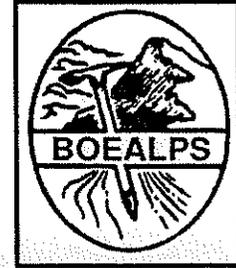
*If you have any submissions - anything vaguely
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email them to us at
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a call (our numbers are on the front cover)
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ALPINE ECHO

Brad H. Brooks

7M-HC

December 2001



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Photo: "Mt. Foraker" by Len Kannapel

From Prash Bhat 67-34

The Home Show

Four 15-minute shows by your fellow Boealpers. Don't miss this multimedia event featuring slides, PowerPoint presentations, and viewfoils:

David Smith - "Mt. Baker in Good Weather"

Ryan Allen - "North Ridge of Mt. Stuart: The Ice Climb"

Greg Mueller - "Alpine Ascents in the Cascades"

Dave Hamilton - "Hex, Ropes, and Placing Pro"

And a surprise....

Be there!

December General Meeting

Featuring:

The Home Show

Thursday, December 6
Oxbow Recreation Center
Social half hour starts at 7:00 pm
Meeting start at 7:30 pm

BELAY STANCE

It's that time of the year again...

Your Boealps membership will be expiring in December! Fortunately, you can remedy this situation by filling out the membership renewal form conveniently located near the back of this issue! Send it in along with your check for membership dues, 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!)

Don't Miss the BOEALPS Monthly Meetings!

I hear Mr. Beckey's presentation at the November meeting was a well attended success. Come on back for the "Home Show" this month – an exciting series showcasing trips taken by some of our Boealps friends. January will feature highlights from Boealps International! At 19,400 feet, Uhuru is Kilimanjaro's highest point and the highest peak in Africa. Join us January 3 for slides, photos and stories from a recent climb and safari to Africa by a large group of Boealpers.

Basic Climbing Class 2002...

Rich Privett has signed up for a second year as the lead instructor of the Basic Climbing Class (wow! I can't believe we didn't scare him off last year!). Rich will need the usual gaggle of Basic Class instructors – if you haven't taught before, and you'd like to help out, there's more info elsewhere in this issue on how to contact Rich...

Are You Harboring Overdue Library Books????

If you've borrowed books from the Boealps library, how about returning them at the December 6 meeting? How about equipment? Please consider returning borrowed club gear also.

Winter Activities Galore!!

Looks like the BAG-IT night was a raging success! You'll notice a plethora of tantalizing activities advertised in this month's Echo. Get some exercise! Get some fresh air! Keep that extra holiday flesh from creeping onto your bones... Get out of your lazy-boy recliner and sign up now!

Avalanche Safety Seminar...

Patty Michaud has enlisted the services of Gary Brill to offer an outrageous deal on one of the best (if not the best) avalanche safety seminars given in the Northwest. If you get out in the mountains in the winter, and you haven't taken Gary's class yet, sign up for it this year. There are still spaces available, so contact Patty now. Details elsewhere in this issue. Thanks for organizing this, Patty!

Our web site's password is still SLESSE – you'll need it to access the activities page.

From the desk of your editor,

Kathleen Clawson

January Echo deadline is December 13th

December, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BoBabies: Santa Train
2 Winter Outing	3	4	5	6 General Meeting	7	8 Mt. Adams
9 Hanukkah Mt. Adams	10	11	12	13 Echo deadline	14 New Moon	15
16 Winter Outing	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22
23 Matt's Birthday	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 Full Moon Winter Outing	31 New Year's Eve					

January 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 General Meeting	4	5 Amabalis Mt Avalanche Class Field trip
6 Amabalis Mt Avalanche Class field trip	7	8	9 Avalanche Class	10	11	12 Mt. Persis
13 Winter Outing Mt. Persis	14	15	16 Avalanche Class	17	18	19 Web Mtn
20	21	22	23	24	25 X-Country Ski trip	26 X-Country Ski trip
27 X-Country Ski trip & Winter Outing Silver Peak	28	29	30	31 BoBabies X- C Ski		



Boealps University

Patricia Michaud, Dean of Admissions

Avalanche Seminar with Gary Brill

Learn how to recognize avalanche terrain and potential hazards, and practice using an avalanche transceiver. These are invaluable skills for everyone, and this could be the best investment you could make to enhance your safety and that of your fellow climbers.

Class dates: Thursday, Dec. 13 (Oxbow Rm 202); Wednesday, Jan. 9; and Wednesday, Jan. 16 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Where: Oxbow Center (contact me if you need directions).

Class field trip: Saturday, Jan. 5 or Sunday, Jan. 6 (probably Stevens Pass, Baker or Blewitt). Cannot guarantee which of the two days you get, so be prepared for either.

Student limit: 20

Student cost: Approximate range: \$90-\$115 – depends on class size. More students = cheaper cost (check payable to Patricia Michaud). First come, first serve. I'll make a waiting list if we have an overflow.

Students need a single frequency 457 kHz beacon (Ortovox M1, the new M2, DTS Tracker, Pieps 457 - no earplug type transceivers allowed). If you don't own one, check with one of the Equipment chairs. If unavailable, you can rent from Gary for \$10 additional.



WANTED – BASIC CLIMBING CLASS INSTRUCTORS

If you are interested in helping out with the 2002 Basic Climbing Class, and did not instruct in the 2001 class, please contact Rich Privett at (206) 544-1168 (w), (206) 988-6921 (h) or richard.t.privett@boeing.com. Everyone who instructed in 2001 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.

Here's a note from Boeing Recreation regarding membership status of instructors:

Those that are considered instructors would be in a separate category and would not count against the ratio. Other non-employees, even though they may hold a chair position would be part of the ratio. The regular membership category is made up of employees, spouses, dependents, retirees, and contract personnel with a badge. So yes, retirees would be grouped with employees for the ratio.

More on membership....

Time to renew your Boealps membership. Here's the form – fill it out!



BE PREPARED

**MOFA NEWS
2002**



BE SAFE

The MOFA Course

Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) is a 30-hour first aid course for the wilderness traveler. The course meets the requirements for the American Red Cross (ARC) Standard First Aid course with 24-hours of additional wilderness focused first aid training. The volunteer instructors are certified by the ARC. Attendance at all sessions is required.

MOFA cards are valid for three years from the date of course completion. If you have a valid card and wish to update your skills and knowledge, you may enroll in a MOFA refresher. The course consists of five four-hour sessions and meets the requirements for ARC Standard First Aid as well as MOFA.

The class dates are January 22, 24, 29, and 31, February 5, 12, 19, 21, Camp Long on February 26 and 28 (no class on 2/7 for Boealps and 2/14 for Valentine's Day). Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 at Boeing Customer Services Center. If you think you might be interested in taking this course, send an e-mail note to joyce@solarhacker.com. There is a class size limit. The cost of the course is \$45-\$50, depending on the price of books and equipment rentals. You can also sign up to take a MOFA class through the Mountaineers. See their web page at <http://www.mountaineers.org/MOFA/>



BE PREPARED

**MOFA REFRESHER CLASS
2002**



BE SAFE

Boealps is also offering a Mountaineering Oriented First Aid **refresher** class in March/April 2002. This course is designed to review what you learned in your original MOFA class, update you with newer techniques, and keep your MOFA certification current. Four classroom sessions 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 Community First Aid and CPR certification cards and a MOFA card. **The class is available to persons who have taken the standard MOFA class and have a MOFA card that was issued in the last three years.**

The class dates are March 19, 21, 26, and 28, Camp Long on April 2 and 4th. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 at Boeing Customer Service Center. If you think you might be interested in taking this course, send an e-mail note to joyce@solarhacker.com. The cost of the course is \$45-\$50, depending on the price of books and equipment rentals.

More Upcoming Events!!!

We don't have all the details yet, but here are some great upcoming activities to start thinking about...

Winter Campout at Paradise... this used to be an annual event, and some masochists may get a kick out of it again. This usually takes place in the January -February time frame. Stay tuned for more info!

Ice Climbing Seminar - we've got another one coming up in late February, this time in Lillooet, B.C.

X-Country Ski trip - Jan 25-27 in Winthrop... see note below.

Aid Climbing Seminar - February.

Avalanche Seminar - December - January. There's still space available in this awesome seminar. Save yourself from an untimely death in the mountains this winter - sign up now!

Submit activities to:

Judy Clarke
206-729-0201
judy_gclarke@hotmail.com

Thanks for all the great activities! You don't have to wait for the next BAG-IT night to send in more!

North Cascades X-Country Ski Trip -

Jan. 25-27, 2002

Incredible skiing on one of the best trail systems in the U.S.

Return to the lodge for hot tubbing, drink, and dinner.

Boealps has been at the Anderson Lodge by Mt. St. Helens the last two years, but the previous three years, we found a gem in Winthrop: the Westar Lodge, located off the W. Chewuch Road. The cost would be roughly \$45/adult, 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 7 double beds + 16 single beds to sleep 30. The Methow Valley Sport Touring Association maintains over 175 km of groomed trails (beginner to advanced) in the pristine wilderness, including hut-to-hut skiing. Recent trail fees were \$13/day or \$30/weekend (Friday through Sunday -warning: prices may vary) There are also opportunities for free back country skiing.

Reserve your spot early to guarantee your January weekend of fun in Winthrop. Write checks payable to Boealps.

Contact: Mike Glain

(206) 772-4627 (hm); (253) 931-5743 (wk),

or michael.l.glain@Boeing.com

8040 S. 117th St., Seattle, Wa. 98178

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

Mount Adams December 8-9, 2001

Climb one of Washington's highest peaks via the South Spur or North Ridge, depending on road closures. The south spur has been done by four-legged dogs – probably the north ridge, too.

Mountain/Area	Mt. Adams
Elevation	12,276'
Route	South spur or North ridge
Class	2
Grade	II
Times	2 days
Skills Required	Basic class grad, winter travel. Bring ice axe, helmet and crampons. We may rope up approaching the summit.
Limits	8
Contact	David Hamilton, 206-297-7353, pencil_pusher@hotmail.com

Winter Outings 3.0 December-February

Brief Description: These trips are intended for most any club member who wants to get some exercise over the winter. The goal is always a peak accessible in a day from Seattle. Actual destinations are condition dependent and are chosen the week prior to the outing. All trip arrangements are made via email.

Trip Dates	12/2, 12/16, 12/30, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24
Mountain/Area	Cascades
Elevation	Higher than home
Route	Yep
Class	2-3
Grade	I-II, but it's winter so it seems like III
Times	All day
Skills Required	Basic class grad or equivalent
Maps Required	Depends
Limits	None
Contact	Mike Bingle, 206-662-4929(w), michael.g.bingle@boeing.com

Santa Train with the BoBabies December 1

Come join the Boealps Babies and their parents for a ride on the Santa train! This 2 hour jaunt starts in North Bend at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 1 at the train station. A 20 minute ride takes us to Snoqualmie where cookies, hot chocolate, and a chance to talk with St. Nick himself await. There's also a small shop for souvenirs, train engines, and big machines to check out! A 20 minute ride back to North Bend puts us in the station just before 11 am.

Please arrive early, as parking is limited. The 9am is the first train, so we have the best slots for parking. Wear warm clothes and expect to spend some time outside in Snoqualmie. Tickets are \$9 each for those over 3, and can be purchased in person at the Snoqualmie Depot or by calling the Santa Train Hotline at (425) 888-2206, Thursday through Monday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM .

If you'd like more information, please see <http://www.trainmuseum.org/>.

Somewhere in Washington January-February, 2002

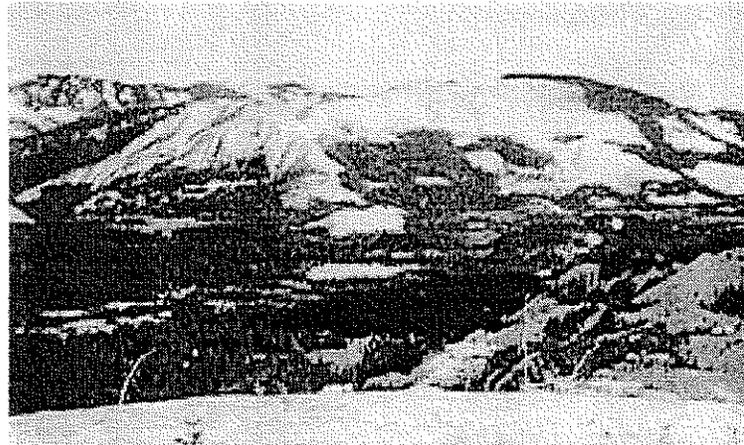
Destination unknown, but we'll have a great time! Contact me!

Mountain/Area	Washington State
Elevation	Relatively high
Route	TBD
Class	1-5
Grade	I-V
Times	Full day
Skills Required	Winter travel
Limits	8
Contact	Anastasia Dunn, 206-522-7022, anastasia.m.dunn@boeing.com

Amabalis Mountain January 5, 2002

This is a great ski tour, and a great opportunity to work off the winter/holiday adipose. X-country skis are best, but opportunities for telemark/AT are there as well. This is 8 miles RT, but you can bail easily. Meet at the Cabin Creek Snow Park (Exit 60). Must have Sno-Park permit with the grooming permit as well. Contact me for more info.

Mountain/Area	Amabalis Mountain
Elevation	4554'
Route	Ski route
Class	1
Grade	I
Times	4-5 hours
Skills Required	Functional brain
Limits	12
Contact	Len Kannapell, 206-522-7022, kannapell@yahoo.com



Amabalis Mountain

Mt. Persis **January 12 or 13, 2002**

An easy snowshoe trip through relatively safe avalanche terrain leads to one of the prettiest summits with one of the best views in the western Cascades. Any interest in doing an overnight and traverse to Index?

Mountain/Area	Mt. Persis
Elevation	5452'
Route	West ridge
Class	2
Grade	I
Times	6-8 hours
Maps	USGS Index
Skills Required	Winter travel, snowshoes
Limits	8
Contact	Judy Clarke, 206-729-0201, judy_gclarke@hotmail.com

Web Mountain **January 19, 2002**

Not on any maps, Web Mountain is close in (Exit 38 off of I-90) and provides many fun challenges including steep snow (ascending and traversing), some easy rock, old logging relics and a beautiful north bowl to play in, if snow conditions are solid. For some pictures and a route description, see http://home1.gte.net/mandm/web_mountain.html

Mountain/Area	Web Mountain (reference Dallas Kloke's Winter Ascents book)
Elevation	5335'
Route	Full west ridge
Class	3
Grade	I
Times	6-8 hours
Skills Required	Basic class grad or equivalent, winter travel, snowshoes, scrambling
Maps Required	USGS Bandera
Limits	8
Contact	Steven Clarke, 425-705-5978(w), steven_clarke@hotmail.com

Silver Peak **January 27, 2002**

Although this is a just a hike in the summer, a winter ascent of Silver Peak provides substantially more interest and challenge. The north ridge will be the preferred route, but depending on snow conditions the west face from Lake Annette might be used instead.

Mountain/Area	Silver Peak
Elevation	5600'
Route	North ridge or west face
Class	3
Grade	I
Times	6-8 hours
Skills Required	Basic class grad or equivalent, winter travel, snowshoes, scrambling and steep snow (30-40 degree) needed.
Maps Required	USGS Snoqualmie Pass, Lost Lake
Limits	6
Contact	David Smith, 206-283-8802, dsmith@insightful.com

BoBabies go X-C Skiing

January 31-February 3, 2002

Kids who like to ski and parents that fantasize about still doing it will love this trip. Lots of cross country skiing to be had. Maybe even sunshine. This will be a loosely organized event, with families making their own arrangements for room and board. We'll put our heads together to plan several group activities during the weekend, as the group interest dictates.

We're staying at Wolf Ridge Resort (1-800-237-2388, www.wolfridgesort.com) because we can ski on the trails without having to pack up the kids and drive anywhere and because of the hot tub. They have several kinds of units from hotel-style rooms to 2-brm units. Another good resource for lodging is Central Reservations at 1-800-422-3048, www.mvcentralres.com.

Mountain/Area	Winthrop, Wa
Elevation	If we're really lucky
Route	If we're lucky
Class	Newborn through preschool
Grade	Most parents have graduated with good grades, although you would never believe it now.
Times	Forever to go a mile
Skills Required	Able to keep children warm, dry, safe, and maybe even entertained in snow. (Or at least patience.)
Maps Required	For every potty in the vicinity
Limits	Within reason
Contact	Steven Edgar, 206-285-6864, steve.edgar@faa.gov

Mt. St. Helens

February 3, 2002

Join us for a winter ascent up this timeless classic! Arrive and camp Saturday afternoon/evening – final camp spot and route TBD based on conditions.

Mountain/Area	Mt. St. Helens
Elevation	8365'
Route	Climber's Bivy to summit, or Worm Flows route
Grade	I
Times	8 hours
Skills Required	Basic class grad or equivalent, winter travel, snowshoes or skis
Maps Required	Mt. St. Helens
Limits	12
Contact	Jonathan Paul, 425-349-4442, jonathan.j.paul@boeing.com



Mt. St. Helens in Winter

Abiel Peak

February 9, 2002

The north face of Abiel sometimes comes into condition and provides an interesting mixed climb. Reference Dallas Kloke's "Winter Ascents" book, and the north couloir route. If the route isn't in condition, the west ridge and east flank are backup routes.

Mountain/Area	Abiel Peak
Elevation	5365'
Route	North face couloir (west ridge or east flank in the route isn't in condition)
Class	Steep snow and water ice
Grade	II
Times	10-12 hours
Skills Required	Two tool experience required. Expect a very early (4am-ish) start.
Maps Required	USGS Snoqualmie Pass
Limits	4-6
Contact	David Hamilton, 206-297-7353, pencil_pusher@hotmail.com

Longmire to Paradise

February 17, 2002

A traditional snowshoe route to the Paradise lodge used before they plowed the road. We'll go along a section of the Wonderland Trail, by (maybe frozen) Narada Falls, and up Paradise Valley to the lodge.

Mountain/Area	Mount Rainier, Longmire to Paradise
Elevation	5200'
Route	Snowshoe trail via Mazama Falls
Class	1
Grade	I
Times	6-8 hours
Skills Required	Winter travel, snowshoes
Maps Required	USGS Mount Rainier West
Limits	12
Contact	Matt Robertson, 425-822-0455, matt.Robertson@boeing.com

Mt. St. Helens

March 23-24, 2002

Ski or snowboard Mt. St. Helens! We'll snow camp one or two miles from the snow park near the tree line on Saturday. Saturday will be spent skiing, brushing up on skills, and power lounging. Sunday climb and ski or ride down. Mt. St. Helens is a great destination for those wanting to try ski mountaineering as the slopes are moderately angled and the access is easy. A few experienced backcountry skiers will be available to provide some coaching if needed. Each member will need to carry a shovel and an avalanche transceiver.

Mountain/Area	Mt. St. Helens
Elevation	8200'
Route	Marble Mt. Snowpark via Worm Flows
Times	Depart Seattle area March 23, 7 am
Skills Required	Ski or snowboard at the intermediate level, avalanche, crampon & ice axe use
Limits	12
Contact	Rob Kunz, rob2ski@hotmail.com , (206)655-4539 (w), (206)933-8778(h), MS: 4C-00

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! A signed release form (see the back of this issue) is required for all non-Boealps members participating on a club outing. Send the signed release form to the activities chair.

Submit activities to

Judy Clarke
206-729-0201
judy_gclarke@hotmail.com

Boealps Board Meeting

November 7, 2001

Attendees: Chris Gronau, Ken Walter, Haldis Baty, Kathy Baillie, John Alley, Patti Michaud, Rich Privett, Jerry Baillie

The Board meeting was held at Kathy and Jerry Baillie's house this month. Thank you Kathy and Jerry for hosting.

Treasury was brought up again at this meeting reminding us that for tax purposes we need to keep gross income under 25K a year. We talked about possibly filing non-profit paperwork with the IRS. The only decision was to reduce the cost of the basic class for Non-Boeing students to \$165. This would be 10% more than Boeing employee students.

Rich Privett agreed to be head instructor again this year for the Basic Climbing Class. Thank you Rich!! The contract between Rich and the board was reviewed and only revised to reflect the new cost for the Basic Class students. Chris Gronau will find out if Non-Boeing employees have to show proof of insurance before taking the class.

There are 2 Boealps cabinets at the Boeing Oxbow Recreation Center which has the Boealps Library in it along with some food, cups, etc that are used during the general meetings. It was decided that there would be 4 sets of keys. The 2 program chairs (Kathy Baillie and John Alley), the President, Chris Gronau and there would be a set kept at the Oxbow Rec Center.

Chris Gronau will find out how to get a Non-Boeing employee into the general meetings and the Basic Class lectures.

Oxbow is now taking reservations for 2002. Chris Gronau scheduled all of the general meetings to be the first Thursday of the month with the exception of July because it falls on the 4th. We will let you know the final date for the July meeting when it has been rescheduled.

Equipment: There was a request from a member to have the club to purchase a sled. It was decided that any requests for club purchases should be requested in person at a board meeting. The person making the request should bring reasons why the club should make the purchase.

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.

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 one week, and the equipment must be used within Washington. Loans for equipment to be used on a trip outside of Washington, or for a period of more than one week can be made with prior board approval. 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)	1	3	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
Charlet Moser	Quasar	Ice 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
Black Diamond	Cobra	Waterfall Ice Hammer	0	1	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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Kilimanjaro Climb

Aug. 30 - Sept. 5, 2001

Expedition Approx. Aug. 25 – Sept. 17, 2001

By Rich Humbert

Kili Team:

Joyce Holloway, Dave Lyttle, Janet Oliver, Mike Brady, Mike Anderson, Haldis Batty, Tom Glasenapp, John Gowan, Sukhui Johns, Steve Robinson, Rich Humbert

Most of us flew to Amsterdam a couple of days early and spent time doing canal cruises, visiting museums and enjoying the old section of the city, much of which was built during the 1600's. We flew from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro International Airport.

We had arranged for guides via the internet and representatives of the company picked us up at Kilimanjaro International Airport and took us to our hotel in Moshi. We spent one day relaxing and walking around town, accompanied by persistent "tour guides" who accosted us at the hotel entrance and followed us around town. We observed street scenes and local culture. Commerce is mostly through small mom and pop stores or street booths selling clothing, food and other essentials. Men were typically dressed in what appeared to be cast-off western pants and t-shirts, while women dressed more stylishly in colorful print wrap around dresses and scarves. Most women kept their heads covered with scarves.

In the hotel, we met a German couple who had just returned from the summit. They thought the trip was spectacular, but mentioned that it had been very cold -25°C at the summit. We also met an American couple from Florida who were in the process of sailing around the world and had taken a break to climb Kili. They had not yet arranged for guides and asked our opinions on the matter.

Kilimanjaro is an enormous volcano, about 60 miles by 25 miles wide at the base, extending from about 5,000 ft. to the summit at 19,340 ft. (5898m). There are three, widely separated summits, the broken up Shira to the west about 13,000 ft., Kibo in the center with the highest summit, and the rugged Mawenzi to the east at 18,000 ft. Kibo is a fairly symmetrical crater over a mile wide. The highest point on the crater rim is called Uhuru Pk. We took the Machame route up a low point in the crater rim called the Western Breach over Uhuru Pk. and down the Mweka route. Our route is called the "Whisky route" and is climbed much less often than the main route on the other side of the mountain, the Marangu route, also known as the "Coca Cola route".

Day 1. On the first day of the climb we loaded our gear into Toyota Land Cruisers. We each carried a daypack and had packed a duffel with 25 - 30 pounds of gear to be carried by the porters. We drove past dry cornfields, then banana farms up a rough road to the Machame gate to Kilimanjaro National Park. The road was steep and muddy enough that the tour service representatives had to get out of the vehicle and push at one spot near the park gate. We met the chief guide, Franco, who was very personable and helped make the climb a memorable one. We registered, had our guides pay the

required fees (we think \$300 US per person) and started up the trail around noon. The weather was cooler than we expected, probably not too much above 60 °F. There was a light mist when we arrived at the gate, but it had dissipated by the time we started and this was the last rain we saw on the climb. We headed up the trail through dense forest. Tree ferns, vines, and hanging lichens gave the forest an exotic look. Guide Franco was very good in interacting with the group. He gave us all Swahili nicknames, mine was Babu "Grandfather", Joyce was Dada "Sister", Mike Anderson was Twiga "Giraffe", Mike Brady was Chui "leopard". The group decided that Sukhui was Mbu, "Mosquito". We reached the Machame camp around 5 PM. The porters had started after us, but passed us on the trail even though they carried much more weight than we did. The porters set up the tents for us, and the cooks prepared dinner. For dinner, a sheet of plastic about 6 ft. x 8 ft. was spread on the ground and a batik tablecloth over this. Sturdy plastic plates and cups, metal cutlery, and paper towel napkins gave the "table" a reasonably elegant appearance. The food was remarkably good, given the difficult conditions on a climb. Dinner started with a soup course, then a starch course with sauce, fruit, tea, coffee, or chocolate. The starch varied with the day, potatoes, rice, or pasta. The sauce also varied with beef or chicken, but usually had spices like cloves and cinnamon. Fresh vegetables included cucumber and tomato. Different members of the group had different strategies for avoiding intestinal ailments. Some trimmed the skin off vegetables, others avoided them. Fruit included papaya, watermelon and orange. Mike Anderson was disappointed because he had started to come down with a cold or flu. We went to bed not long after dark, probably about 8 PM.

Day 2. We woke up around 7 AM about the time the sun was rising. The cooks prepared breakfast, which consisted of toast, eggs, sometimes sausage, fruit, and tea, coffee, or chocolate. We hit the trail around 9 and continued up the mountain. The vegetation changed as we climbed higher and turned from forest to desert scrub. There was a sea clouds most of the day from 6,000 ft. to about 10,000 ft. ringing the mountain and clouds around the summit. We reached Shira cave camp 12, 000 ft. in mid-afternoon. Shira cave was a large grotto where guides used to camp. Shira plateau is a vast expanse of several square miles of desert scrub extending from Shira peak to the base of Kibo.

Day 3. This was a conditioning day, guides Franco and Gerald led a hike up Shira plateau toward Lava Tower to just about 14,000 ft. We remarked that we were about the same elevation as the rim of Mt. Rainier. Everyone was tolerating the altitude well. Some of us had started Diamox to reduce altitude problems before reaching Shira. We returned to Shira cave camp via a different route, passing by Shira hut, another camp. Huts are green metal buildings where guides sometimes stay and they frequently have men selling water, soft drinks, and beer. The price rises with the elevation of the hut. Water, which was 500 - 600 shillings (\$0.75) in Moshi, was 2500 shillings at 12,000 ft. We continued back to Shira cave camp, perhaps a mile from Shira hut camp. A party in an adjacent camp was on a high budget tour with tables set up for dinner, in contrast to our more modest service on the ground. On the Marangu route, there are apparently quite extravagant luxury tours. Someone mentioned that Martha Stewart had done Kilimanjaro and we speculated on how much luxury gear she brought for her trip. We our first good view of the summit when the clouds cleared. At night, the moonlight shining on the crater rim was an impressive sight.

Day 4. We broke camp and headed up a trail parallel to the one we had taken the previous day. We continued up Shira plateau to Lava Tower, at 14,700 ft. For many of us, this was the greatest

elevation we had experienced to date. The Lava Tower camp was cold and windy, but scenic. Overall on the climb, we were pleasantly surprised to find that all the camps had outhouses, although conditions of some were less than ideal. The outhouses were Turkish-style squatters with a rectangular hole about 7 x 10 inches in the floor. The small hole placed a premium on marksmanship. When we arrived at Lava Tower, we found that the two outhouses had blown over. We righted them and put some stones around them to hold them down. The wind at Lava Tower made it easy to turn in early and rest for the next day.

Day 5. Mike Anderson decided his respiratory illness made it inadvisable to attempt the summit and returned to Shira hut for evacuation with one of the porters. The rest of the group headed up the trail to Arrow Glacier camp at about 15,700 ft. It was only a short distance from Lava Tower to Arrow Glacier camp so we arrived around noon. The camp was at the base of the Western Breach, a low point in the crater rim. Across Arrow Glacier from the camp was a sheer vertical cliff, the Barranco Wall. Some members of the group took a conditioner hike up the route to about 16,200 ft. in the afternoon. We could see a band of cliffs above and it was not clear exactly where the route went at the cliffs. We headed back down to camp, and heard from the folks who had not gone on the afternoon hike that a member of a team from an adjacent group had been evacuated with pulmonary edema and had appeared to be in bad shape. The views from Arrow Glacier camp were exceptional.

At sunset we could see Mt. Meru rising above the clouds surrounding Kilimanjaro. Meru is a volcano greater than 14,000 ft. in elevation and about 40 miles west of Kili. The red light of sunset on the Barranco Wall enhanced the naturally red rock and was another spectacular sight. We ate dinner early and tried to get some sleep before leaving for the summit. During the evening we heard at least three instances of rockfall from the slopes above. This made us a bit apprehensive about the summit attempt.

Day 6. We got up around midnight and left for the summit about 1 AM. The porters were left to strike camp and went around the mountain with the tents and the rest of our gear. Above the high point at 16,200 ft. we had reached during the previous day's hike, the route became a class 2 - 3 scramble rather than merely a hike. The difficulty was magnified by the lack of oxygen above 16,000 ft. There were a few places where a slip could have proved fatal and several spots where we had to avoid dislodging loose rock. In the U.S. we would likely have worn helmets. We were extremely fortunate with the weather on summit day. It was probably only slightly below freezing with little wind, clear skies and one day past the full moon. It was light enough that the majority of the group climbed without headlamps. The route was entirely up rock, weaving a bit to take advantage of natural steps leading up a small spine toward the center of the Western Breach. We pressed relentlessly onward, seldom pausing for breaks. The difficulty became greater as we pressed upward through the cliff band towards 18,000 ft. Finally, we reached the crater rim at about 18,700 ft. elevation about 7 AM, just as the sun was rising. Next to us in the crater was a wall of ice over 50 ft. high. On the way up, we had passed some snowfields, but we did not cross any snow until just before the summit. Just before the summit we crossed a field of nieves penitentes, small icy spires, a foot or two high. With only the briefest of breaks, we continued on to the summit at 19,300 ft. The first members of the group reached the top at 8 AM, I was the last straggler, reaching the top at 8:30.

All ten members of our party and our guides reached the summit. Near the top, the trail was not steep, but progress was slow because of the elevation. I was running at about 3 breaths/step just

before the summit. We had great views of the enormous summit crater, about 1 ½ miles in diameter and of glaciers extending down on the south side of the crater rim. In addition to our party, several other parties arrived from the more commonly climbed eastern routes, so there was a crowd at the top. We had to wait in line to take summit photos with the sign marking the highest point in Africa. It was calm and mild on the summit after sunrise, much better conditions than the German couple we talked to in Moshi had experienced. About 9 AM we started heading gently down toward Stella Pt. where we reached the turnoff toward Barafu camp. The route became much steeper and was in loose volcanic gravel with some larger boulders. We continued down, heading out of the summit sunshine into clouds. The Barafu route was a bleak, dusty, barren path down the SouthWest Valley. The route down was much less interesting than the route we had taken up and we were happy on our selection of route up. We continued down and down, after what seemed like a long time, I looked at the altimeter which still read above 16,000 ft. Eventually, we reached Barafu camp, 14,700 ft. where we took a break for lunch. We continued down, down to Mweka camp at 9,700 ft. back in the forest.

At Mweka, we met the porters who had come around the mountain with most of our gear. Summit day was quite a long one for the porters, the last tent arrived just before dark.

Day 7. Franco led the porters in singing the song “Kilimanjaro” for us just before we left camp. Tips apparently are a major portion of the income for guides and porters. There was a request by the porters for tips before leaving Mweka camp. Our agreement with the guide service was that tips were to be done back at the hotel following the climb. We stuck to that protocol, but it was clear the porters were disappointed and suspected we would stiff them on the tips. The route down from Mweka was muddy and steep. In some cases, the trail had eroded to 5 or 6 ft. below the original grade. Haldis and I competed to see who could slip the most often on the steep mud. Our guides said the Mweka route would be closed a week later for major renovation. Day 7 was entirely in the forest, some folks sighted Colobus monkeys in the trees. Columns with hundreds of thousands of ants 2 or 3 inches wide were observed crossing the trail. Around noon, we reached Mweka gate and bid farewell to the porters. We posed for photographs with the guides and waited for representatives of our outfitter to arrive for transportation back to Moshi. While waiting at the gate, we met a retired surgeon from Tacoma who had climbed with his wife and daughter. They made it only to Stella Point where the daughter had altitude problems and had to turn around. At the hotel, we put tip money in envelopes for the guides, porters and cooks. We left the money with guide Franco and hoped it was delivered to the people we had designated.

It was a great climb. Except for the summit day, the trip was more relaxing than Cascade mountaineering. It made a great difference to have most of the gear carried by porters and to have cooks. We generally covered less mileage in a day than we would in Washington, since our goal was to acclimate slowly. Most of us were happy we had chosen to do the climb in 7 days to allow acclimatization rather than 5 or 6 days. We reencountered the couple from Florida in our hotel in Moshi. They also made it to the top. They mentioned that on one of the luxury tours up the Marangu route that only 2 of 10 people in the group made it to the summit.

The group split up in Moshi. The next day eight of us, two cooks and two driver/tour guides left for a safari to Tarangire National Park, Serengeti National Park, and Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. We had two Toyota Land Cruisers with hatches on top, which could be opened so we could stick our heads out to look at wildlife. We drove to Arusha, then on to Tarangire. Once we got off

the pavement the roads were very rough. What had appeared to be a fairly short distance on the map seemed much longer bouncing on rough dirt roads. We arrived at camp fairly late and only got to the park gate about 4:30. At the entrance we saw colorful birds, zebras and giraffes. A few miles up the road we found a lion, lying next to a freshly killed wildebeast. After a few minutes, the lion got up and started chewing away at the entrails. We were fairly close, maybe 200 ft. from the lion. Although we spotted a few animals ourselves, the best sights were to be found by observing where other tour vehicles were stopped. We would pull up next to them and see what they had found. We had a close encounter with a herd of elephants crossing the road, saw a troop of baboons cross the road directly in front of us, and generally were most impressed with Tarangire. Our guides stayed a bit later than they were supposed to and had to fabricate an explanation for the guards at the gate as we left. In the camp just outside the park, the pleasure of having sitters rather than squatter toilets was diminished by the cockroaches running amok. We did appreciate the showers in the camp. The next morning we went back to Tarangire and found that hyenas and jackals had taken over the wildebeast carcass. We saw more elephants, giraffes, ostriches, and antelope.

In the afternoon, we headed out, past Lake Manyara National Park (where we did not stop) toward Lake Eyasi. Along the road we saw many herds of goats and goatherds. For most of the locals it appeared that the goats were their entire sustenance, since there were few fields of crops. People lived in very small stick and mud huts. The road heading toward Lake Eyasi was even rougher than earlier and we were relieved when we reached camp. The most bizarre feature of campsite was the bats flying around inside the vault of the toilet. We were relieved none actually flew out while we were squatting above the hole. The next morning we went hunting with the bushmen. When we arranged for the safari, the tour company had suggested spending a full day with the bushmen. This was totally the idea of the outfitters, we had little idea why or whether we wanted to see them. We agreed to spend half a day with the bushmen. We suspected that the operators saved money since park entry fees were high, \$25 per person with additional vehicle fees, and payable in dollars. We met a local man, Moite?, who served as liaison with the bushmen. He spoke their language, which was useful, since they apparently did not know any Swahili. We drove a few miles back up the rough road, then off the road about a quarter mile into the bush. We wandered around a bit, and eventually found them, a band of about 15 people, sitting on skins or on the dirt, with no house and few material possessions. The bushmen move to caves or rocky shelters in the rainy season. They seemed a rag-tag group dressed in tattered western shorts with animal skins on their torsos. We spent a few minutes observing them and seeing how they lived. Their weapons did not impress us. Some bows were lying around which looked a bit like children's toys. We watched one man crafting arrows. The arrows used for small game had only wood points, others for large game had steel points and apparently poison as well. The tribe had several small skinny dogs, which were remarkably well behaved. At this point we were not sure if these were just locals posing as more primitive tribesmen for our entertainment. Tom found a cache of cloth a few feet away and this made us more suspicious that this was all a show.

The advantage to the bushmen from hosting us was the tobacco, possibly laced with other substances, provided by the local guide. The bushmen spent a few minutes passing a pipe before heading out for the hunt. We were told not to make noise on the hunt. Five or six men and boys with about the same number of dogs, our local guide and our party of eight headed out on the hunt. The area was savanna, patches of grass, small trees, a few large trees, areas of bare sandy soil. The

bushmen moved rapidly and it was a challenge to keep pace. It would not have been easy to find the way back to the vehicles if one became separated from the party. When an animal was sighted, the bushmen moved even more quickly and fired arrows at it. They sighted some baboons and, out of my sight, shot one large male with an arrow. The baboon climbed high in a tree. More arrows were fired and eventually the baboon appeared to die in the tree. Unfortunately, the baboon did not fall as expected, and the tree was so large and covered with vines that it could not be recovered. We felt sad the baboon had died for no reason.

The hunt continued, two impala were chased, but not caught. Finally there was success as one guineafowl from a flock was killed with an arrow. Guineafowl are large quail-like birds slightly smaller than a chicken. We walked a short distance to a place less windy and one of the bushmen proceeded to make a fire using a vertical stick rolled between the hands against a flat stick with a hole in in with tinder beneath. In not much more time than it would take us to start a fire with a match, the bushmen had a small fire going. The bushmen plucked the large feathers off the bird and tossed the whole bird on the fire a few minutes to burn off the feathers. They then removed the bird from the fire, quartered it and tossed it back to cook further. They periodically removed pieces and ate the outer cooked portion until the entire bird was consumed. They offered us bits, but Mike Anderson was the only one brave enough to try any. The entire process from feathered bird to the end of the meal took less than 30 minutes. Given the small yield, no food was left for the women and children back at camp, who may have been foraging for edible plants. There was to be another hunt in the afternoon. We left the bushmen believing in their authenticity as hunters, with more respect for their seemingly primitive technology and with insight into lives of our ancestors who probably lived much like them.

Originally we were scheduled to continue to Lake Eyasi, but the hunt had lasted too long so we decided to head back to the road to the Serengeti. We spent the night in a modern campground in the town of Krateru. The next morning we took another long ride on rough roads past Ngorongoro crater to Serengeti National Park. The Serengeti is a large plain extending from the northwest base of Ngorongoro Crater into Kenya. We arrived toward the end of the cool dry season, the sea of grass was mostly brown with only hints of green. We continued on to the middle of the park near a stream where the wildlife concentrated in the dry season. We got a long-distance view of a leopard perched on the limb of an acacia tree, and observed hippos, elephants, giraffes, gazelles, cape buffalo (aka water buffalo), crowned cranes, herons, a bustard, and ostriches as well. With lions and leopards about, we had expected some sort of fence around the campground. This was not the case. We could hear lions or leopards calling, but the ones we heard were at least half a mile away. Nonetheless, we postponed middle-of-the-night trips to the toilet until dawn. I shined a light out the tent and saw two pairs of green eyes on animals about the size of a racoon. They may have been civet cats. The next morning we noted a rock hyrax, a muskrat like creature in the rocks next to camp. The morning game drive yielded the usual ungulates, giraffes, etc., three male lions, two very small crocodiles, and the piece de resistance, a pair of cheetahs on a hillock, facing away from each other surveying the plain. We spent the afternoon returning to the rim on Ngorongoro Crater, observing one more cheetah and a male lion perched magnificently on a rocky outcrop in the middle of the plain a quarter mile or so away.

The remainder of the day was spent getting back to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater. The group made a stop at a Masai village to be hustled by the villagers. The Masai are a famous tribe of herdsmen who tend cattle and goats and have a distinctive kilt-like style of dress. At one time, they were apparently feared warriors, now they stand next to the road and hope to be paid for photographs. One of the customs of Tanzania is that, in general, it is inappropriate to photograph people without compensation. The admission fee to the Masai village included the right to take photographs. Some of us decided the money was better spent on beer. Speaking of which, several of the local brews were quite tasty. Kilimanjaro and Safari were quite popular, not just because the names seemed appropriate to the expedition. Moshi was a brewing center, producing Guinness under license in addition to Kilimanjaro and Safari. Tusker was also good.

Ngorongoro Crater is a huge extinct collapsed volcano, about 10 miles in diameter inside, the floor about 6,000 ft. elevation and the rim around 8,000 ft. We climbed back to the rim (in the Land Cruisers) and found the campsite. A dump at the camp attracted bush pigs which I saw dimly in the dark when I shined my light that way just after twilight. In the night, a herd of zebras, something very large, either a cape buffalo or rhinoceros, and a bush pig all came through camp, if the reports by other members of the group are to be believed. I slept through it all. Tangible evidence of the intrusions included an extremely large fresh "cow pie" and a rip in Janet Oliver's and Joyce Holloway's tent (actually Boealps' tent).

The next morning we went down into Ngorongoro Crater via a steep winding road. The crater is a good place for wildlife because many animals remain in the crater year round. The steep crater walls don't prohibit movement, but it is easier for the animals to stay put. Lakes and streams inside the crater provide a year round water supply. In the crater we saw more zebras, quite close up, then a pride of six female lions right next to the road. We spent a long time watching the lions. Eventually, one yawned, got up and came over to our Land Cruisers. The lion walked by so close I could have touched her had I wanted to open the window. The lion encounter was made more interesting by the open hatches on the top of the Land Cruisers. We were aware that it would be very easy for the lion to hop on top of our vehicles. Within a mile of the lions, we observed a hyena and a flock of vultures picking at something in the distance, perhaps a lion kill. We also saw a very large herd of wildebeast, a pair of bat-eared foxes, hippos, very large flocks of flamingos, and two possible rhinoceros a very long way away. We observed rangers and Masai tribesmen doing a large controlled burn of a portion of the grassland in the crater. It appeared likely that deliberate burning of the grassland was a common practice as we had seen several burned areas during the course of our trip. We saw several vervets (a type of monkey) in a stop at a picnic area just before the exit. Following lunch back at camp, we packed up, had another long bumpy ride and headed back to a hotel in Arusha.

In Arusha, the other car had the radio on and heard the news of the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks had just happened. From this point on we stayed in hotels which all had CNN coverage of the unfortunate incidents. We left America expecting possibly an adventure that would somehow leave us changed but had no inkling of the possibility that the entire country could have changed in such a profound way when we returned.

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ALPINE ECHO



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