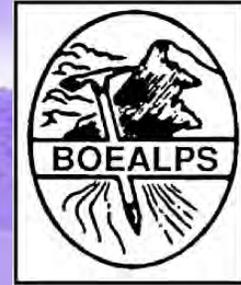


ALPINE ECHO

JANUARY 2005



www.boealps.org

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JANUARY PRESENTATIONS

Silas Wild: Patagonia

Silas Wild will be presenting a slide show on his many excursions to Patagonia. Silas is a long time Boealps member and has achieved the "100 Highest" in the state of Washington. His presentation will highlight his numerous trips to the Patagonia region of Chile and Argentina.

Meredith Harbour: North Cascades Institute

Meredith Harbour will present a short program on the North Cascades Institute. The Institute is a 20 year old non-profit organization dedicated to Environmental Education and inspiring people of all ages to get active, get outside and get connected to the land.

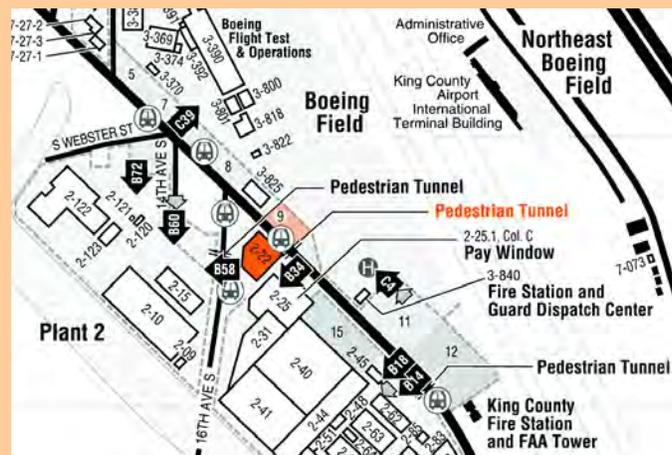
The Institute offers hands-on, field based learning programs for people of all ages - from elementary school children to adults and is currently launching a state of the art Learning Center in North Cascades National Park. Sitting on the shores of Diablo Lake, the Learning Center will be a hub for people to explore the natural world.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday,

January 6, 7PM

At BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

BRRR!! The cold this week should clue you in that, yes, winter is finally here! The dirt of snow in the mountains has made skiing and snowshoeing a challenge thus far, but fear not, that is sure to change when the first big dump hits. That should get you all primed up for the annual Boealps cross country ski trip to Winthrop! Be sure to check out the flyer in this issue for the trip from Jan 21st-23rd. This is a great annual sojourn to a x-country skiing Mecca with loads of backcountry skiing to boot. And if you wake up to too sore to ski the next day you could just head straight to the hot tub.

MOFA refresher class will be held beginning February 7th. Everything you need to know to sign up is in this issue.

The holiday shopping season has come and gone. Tom Johnson contributed a writeup on his shopping experiences at REI from the grand opening of the store a few years back. Read about Tom's claim-to-fame from opening day.

The Echo was starting to look pretty thin this month, so I went out created some material myself. With the help of two fellow knuckle bashers, we made a trip up to frigid Lillooet this past weekend in search of ice to be climbed. We froze our bloody @\$ off!!! Check out the photos and short narrative, happy climbing!

Your Editor,
John



January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3	4	5	6 General Meeting	7	8
9	10 New Moon	11	12	13	14	15
16 Snowshoe Outing	17	18	19 Echo Deadline	20	21 Winthrop Trip	22 Winthrop Trip
23 Winthrop Trip	24	25 Full Moon	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2005



February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3 General Meeting	4	5
6	7 MOFA Refresher	8 New Moon	9 MOFA Refresher	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday
13 Snowshoe Outing	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 MOFA Refresher	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day	22	23 Full Moon Echo Deadline	24	25	26
27 Snowshoe Outing	28 MOFA Refresher					

2005

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address City State Zip Code

Mail Stop () Work Phone () Home Phone

e-mail Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

____ INDIVIDUAL (\$20.00)

____ FAMILY (\$25.00)

____ RETIRED (\$10.00)

NON - EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

____ INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00)

____ FAMILY (\$30.00)

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

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

____ BOEALPS Intermediate

____ Mountaineers Basic

____ Avalanche Awareness

____ Aid Climbing Seminar

____ Standard First Aid/CPR

____ Other (please describe) _____

____ Mountaineers Intermediate

____ Ice Climbing Seminar

____ Rock Leading Seminar

____ MOFA

How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Winter Outing Series

Dec, Jan, Feb

Winter Outing Series

December 5, 19

January 2, 16, 30

February 13, 27

SR: Basic Class or equivalent

GR: Snowshoes and avalanche beacons, but you can borrow these from the club

PD: These outings are intended to be available to all club members

Climb all winter long!

These are snowshoe climbs of nearby peaks. In the past we've climbed peaks such as: N Ridge of Granite, Persis, Silver, Dickerman, Windy, Townsend, Surprise, Pratt, Defiance, McClellans Butte, Lichtenberg, Lewis, Long and Beckler.

Arrangements are made via email, so drop Mike Bingle (mbingle@comcast.net) a note and he'll add you to the list.

Winthrop X-Country Ski Trip

Jan. 21-23, 2005

Yes, we've reserved the lodge for another great weekend, and one of the best bargains in Washington. Jake Grob will be leading the event again this year. Some specifics:

Boealps has a gem in Winthrop: the Westar Lodge, located off the W. Chewuch Road. Come on out for some incredible skiing on one of the best trail systems in the U.S. The cost will be **\$65/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, and there may actually be room on the basement floor in the case of overflow. 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. 2003-2004 trail fees were \$15/day and \$35/3 days (note: prices may vary for 2004-2005), but there are also opportunities for free backcountry skiing (but you'll probably need a Sno-Park permit for those).

Beds will be assigned in order of payment received. A short waiting list will be made but there is no guarantee we can make refunds, though we'll do our best. **Yes, there is a hot tub.**

Contact Jake Grob	email jacob.w.grob@boeing.com
Work	425-234-2664
Home	253-813-3809

Make checks payable to Boealps and send to Jake @ MC 73-09
or 5408 South 236 Street, Kent WA 98032-3389

Please note if you would prefer vegetarian meals or if you would like assistance in arranging carpools.

For more info on the Methow Valley ski routes and rates, go to
<http://mvsta.com>

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 6, 2005
Boeing Theater Bldg. 2-22
7:00 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Silas Wild: Patagonia

plus

Meredith Harbour: North Cascades Institute

Silas Wild will be presenting a slide show on his many excursions to Patagonia. Silas is a long time Boealps member and has achieved the "100 Highest" in the state of Washington. His presentation will highlight his numerous trips to the Patagonia region of Chile and Argentina.

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BE PREPARED

BE SAFE



**MOFA REFRESHER
2005**

MOFA is designed to prepare you to deal effectively with accidents which can occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available. The refresher class consists of five classroom sessions, including hands-on scenarios held outdoor and one evening of practical exams.

Location: Boeing Theater (same place as the basic climbing class sessions).

MOFA Refresher	Five class sessions in February (Monday and Wednesday night, 6:30 to 9:30). The class will only be offered if there are enough students. Your MOFA card cannot be more than 3 years old. If it is older than 3 years, other counties may allow you to take their refresher class. Contact joyce@solarhacker.com for more information.
	Dates for the refresher are 2/7, 2/9, 2/16, 2/28, and 3/2

Text: Mountaineering First Aid (MFA) Fourth Edition)
Community First Aid and Safety (2002)

Action: Send an e-mail to Joyce Holloway at joyce@solarhacker.com to have your name put on the class roster. If you have more questions, you can e-mail Joyce or phone her at 425-888-4434.

Boealps Annual Banquet
November 5th, 2004
Featured Speaker Ed Viesturs
Photos by Photography Chair Richard Humbert

There was a great turnout this year for the annual banquet, 139 people attended. Ed Viesturs was the keynote speaker. This year Ed will be trying to knock off his last 8,000m peak, Annapurna.



MY REI EXPERIENCE

By Tom Johnson

It seemed fitting that the new Seattle REI flagship store was opening on a Friday the 13th. I've never found those particular Fridays to be any weirder than the other Fridays in my lifetime, but then I've never attended a grand opening like this one. Actually, I don't think that I've ever attended a grand opening of a store before, or at least one that I will never forget - try as I might. This one will certainly remain etched in a corner deep inside the recesses of my brain, right next to the time that I shook Bill Clinton's hand in 1992, or the time I knelt before a toilet in a Hungarian bathroom drunk on East German beer, and threw up. I think I was the only cynical person present, or at least it felt that way, what, with the manufactured enthusiasm of the crowd, documented by every major TV and radio station in the city (a few minor ones as well, I'm sure) and maintained by a sense of some impending retailing cataclysm we were all about to become a part of, forever. I chose to not camp out the night before, which as it turns out was a terrible mistake on my part, for those people who did camp out will forever be able to say, "I camped out the night before REI opened" to which some will hopefully respond, "Get a life. It's a store."

It started with the requisite speeches by local politicians, including King County Executive Gary Locke, and Seattle Mayor Norm Rice. Both warmed up the crowd with short speeches on the importance of REI and their own qualifications for being present (the fact that both happen to be running for Governor of the state of Washington was conspicuously not mentioned - I'd have appreciated a little spontaneous debate on the issues. "I'm for trees." "I'm for trees and squirrels."), and the ribbon cutting, followed by the dividing of the crowd into two streams entering the store, one shaking Gary Locke's hand, and one shaking Norm Rice's hand. I shook Gary Locke's hand. It was a firm handshake, and quite satisfying. Not like Bill Clinton, who didn't even go to the trouble of grasping my hand at all, as if the contact of skin were enough to vote for him. It wasn't; I voted for Perot.

After filing past the politicians and the green-shirted enthusiasts ("Salespeople" doesn't seem appropriate, nor does the Wal-Mart inspired "Associates") I got my tickets to the free talks of Todd Skinner, Tim Cahill and Magda King. My main mission accomplished, I went inside. It took a while for it all to sink in, but I must say, it is pretty cool.

Wood and rock textures abound, filing up the stairwell was almost identical to the experience of climbing Mt. Si, only less crowded. You could test boots on a test track of simulated rock (or maybe it was real rock, I didn't check), you could test drive a mountain bike on a simulated trail, and, my personal favorite, test a Gore-Tex jacket in a booth of simulated rain. I think I was the first customer to get in the booth, a distinction I will claim for the rest of my life, whether or not it is true. I asked the sales-guy if anyone had been in there yet, and he indicated that, yes, there was a good chance that I would be the first customer inside. I jumped at the chance for my own little piece of REI history, and requested entry to the booth of simulated (OK, I didn't check) plant life, and simulated (I'm certain of this) rain, and simulated rock (see above re: plant life and simulation and stuff). This moment did require me cutting in line ahead of a Kiro radio reporter who was donning a new Gore-Tex jacket. I, of course, was already wearing my own REI jacket with Gore-Tex lining, four years old and counting, and after convincing the salesman that I was aware that, yes, I might get a little wet, I stepped inside.

There wasn't much room to do anything inside the booth, and it felt like a shower, only I was fully clothed and there were people looking at me. I think I had that dream once, only I was naked in the dream. My jacket kept most of the rain off, and even though I was wearing pants of cotton, I remained relatively dry, because I wasn't moving around much, and the water dribbled off of me to the ground without hitting the pants. Turning around I noticed that a crowd of approximately 18 people were all watching me standing in this simulated rainstorm, doing nothing. I waved. Some waved back. I waved again. My point made, I exited the booth. That Kiro radio reporter asked me how it was. I answered, "It was just like outside, but better. No bugs." Imagine how

popular outdoor activities would be if there were no bugs. My feet were dry thanks to my Gore-Tex Timberlands, bought at Nordstrom, and my torso was dry thanks to my Gore-Tex parka, bought at REI. It was raining outside, but when I was standing in the real rain, no one was looking at me, or at least not because I was standing in the rain. One would be about as likely to predict the performance of a Gore-Tex jacket by standing in this booth-o-rain as one would be predicting the position of the sun by analyzing the light patterns of the spotlights on the climbing pinnacle.

Wait a minute. I'm getting ahead of myself.

We then moved on to the climbing pinnacle, where novices can climb to the top of a 65-foot structure and see the Olympics. It is encased in glass, visible from outside the store and is fully climate controlled. Spotlights light it, and these lights mimic the path of the sun throughout the day. Did I mention that this thing is encased in glass, and the sun is visible from the structure for most of the day? I suppose on those days when the sun does not shine in Seattle and you cannot tell whether it is 9 in the morning or 4 in the afternoon, you can hold up a sundial in the climbing room and tell what time it is. Either that, or those who decided to put the structure in a glass room did not tell those in charge of lighting. The concrete is cast in such a way as to simulate real rock.

Then I left, met with a cheery "goodbye" from every green shirted enthusiast I saw on the way to the door, and Dave paid for his webbing and his video. There was this really cute enthusiast who checked out Dave, but she did not notice me. I'm not sure what all of this means for the future of Seattle outdoor retailing, but it was clear by the level of excitement and attention of the crowd that this was a watershed event in Seattle retailing history.

In Search of Ice in frigid BC

Dec 31st-Jan 2nd

Tom Ryan, Micah Lambeth, John Gowan

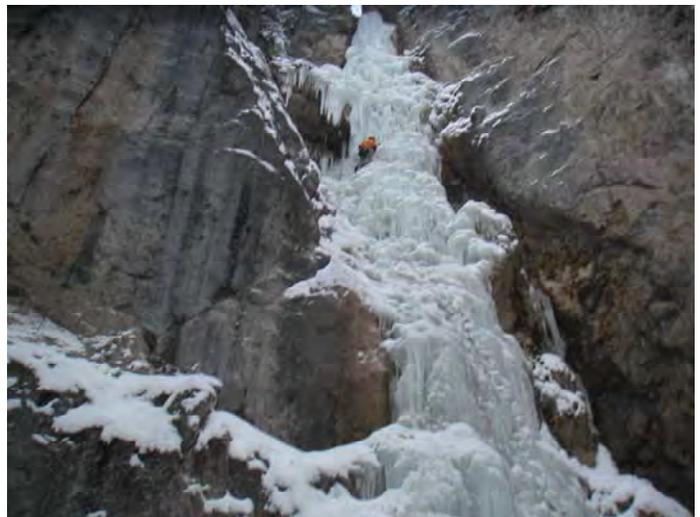
Here are some photos from a trip up to Lillooet and the surrounding area to get some good tool swinging time in. The high temperature during the trip was about 8 degrees F. It was dang cold enough for good ice to form, but not long enough yet for a lot to be good. Oregon Jack was the first climb we checked out, it was climbable but in early season form. John was a bit concerned after removing a tool from the ice and then seeing water start to gush out from underneath.

Saturday, after extensive scouting of routes along the Bridge Creek Road (from our warm vehicle), we made the really heinous approach to Michel Moon Falls. The ice was good enough to do some bouldering, but that was it. Sunday we returned to Bridge Creek to make an attempt on Salmon Stakes. After his initial plunge into the creek, outfitted with garbage bag gaiters, Micah reported the creek to be deeper and swifter than anticipated. John and Tom looked for a better crossing upstream and all were rewarded with a rock dam about 1.5 ft. below the surface that *nearly* reached each side. After getting one very wet boot out of the crossing, John decided to wait while Micah and Tom checked out the climb. Many hours later, after an extremely steep and loose approach and descent, and a half pitch of thin, brittle, air-pocketed white ice, we wondered why John didn't want to come.

Saturday night two Vancouver climbers told us that a couple Marble Canyon routes were in shape for top-roping, and that people were leading the first two pitches of Icy BC--perhaps it was good fortune that another group beat us Sunday morning to the brittle -5F lead. A couple top-roped climbs, some bouldering, and the cold, cold weather made us content to leave for home before 2:00. Despite the lack of plentiful ice, the three of us agreed it was a good road trip and better than traveling an additional 12 hours to and from Banff to enjoy the -30F weather in the Rockies!



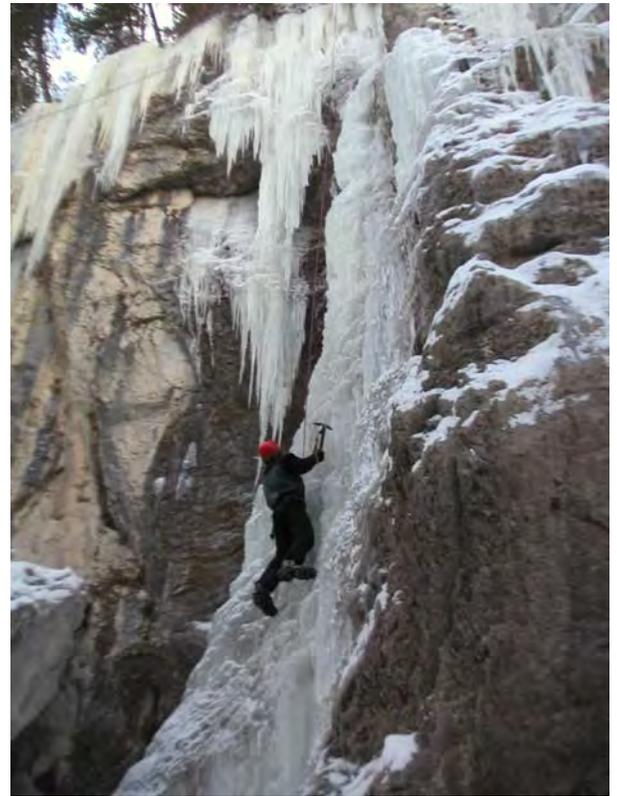
Oregon Jack near Cache Creek, BC.



Micah on a particularly sketchy section



-5 degrees F at Marble Canyon....GOOD TIMES!



John on the corner of Dihedral at Marble Canyon



Tom takes on Dihedral, thin enough to be mixed



Micah on the same



A thin section of Waite for Spring



Tom on the same



Tom topping out on Waite for Spring



Back across the lake, climbs are on the cliff behind

ALPINE ECHO



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 14-MC
OR: 1208 10th Ave. W., B4, Seattle, WA 98119
OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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THE BOEING COMPANY**

January Echo staff

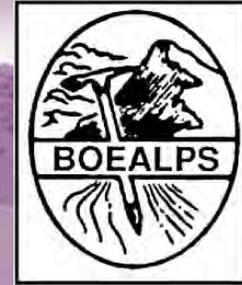
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John Gowan

Contributors: Richard Humbert
Tom Johnson
Tom Ryan

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

MARCH 2005



www.boealps.org

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Membership	Prash Bhat 206-655-8141 prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com		

MARCH PRESENTATIONS

Brook Alongi will have a presentation on his current exploits and mountain climbing experiences around the world. Al Baal will be presenting the short program on how to traverse the world as the "Frugal Traveler" and the caveats of international travel.

Both speakers have a wealth of information to share gained from extensive personal experience as climbers, travelers and adventure seekers.

MARCH MONTHLY
MEETING
Thursday,
MARCH 3rd, 7PM
At BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

In one of the few times in the history of Boealps, a group of club members are going on an expedition to Mt Everest. No expedition with Boealps climbers has ever attempted the North Ridge route out of Tibet. At the end of this month Ryan Allen, Michael Frank, Al Baal, and Ambrose Bittner will be leaving for Nepal and then travel to Tibet for the climb. In this issue you will find a flyer for a send-off party and fundraiser for the Everest climbers on Friday, March 11th. Let's give them a rousing send-off as they take on the world's highest peak!

Brook Alongi and Al Baal will be the featured speakers at this month's club meeting on Thursday, March 3rd. Brook has participated in and led mountaineering expeditions to Asia and South America and will be sharing his experience on what it takes to pull this off. Al Baal has many international trips under his belt and learned how to make the dollar go far in different countries. If you are considering an international trip for climbing or leisure, this will be a great meeting to attend!

In this issue you will find a two trip reports from Boealpers who actually managed to find snow this winter. Tony Olejnicki on his solo climb of Aconcagua (22,835 ft) in South America. Being Polish, Tony naturally chose to climb the mountain by the Polish Route. The Polish Route is a steep glacier climb above 20,000 ft. Also Tim Bartholomaeus did a ski mountaineering ascent of Mt Baker over President's Day weekend.

The Basic Class has 85 students signed up!. With so many students there is a need for more instructors, if you are considering helping out please contact head instructor Jerry Baillie at jbaillie@mac.com for a sign-up form. The Intermediate Class will be starting up on March 14th. If you are interested in helping out please contact head instructor Tom Johnson at tomis@thebelay.com.

People in the club are out there climbing now that the seasons are changing. If you've been out on a climb, don't wait for Sarah or me to contact you for a writeup. Please put something together and send it in! As always, happy climbing!

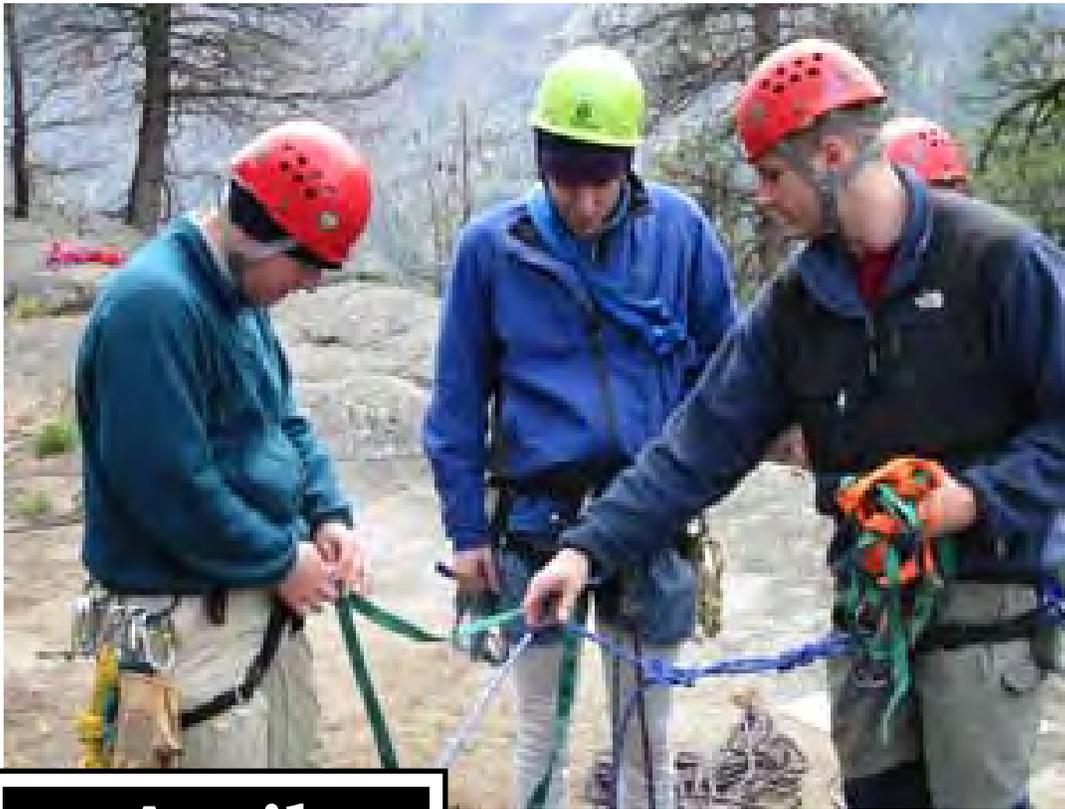
Your Editor,
John



March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 BCC lecture	3 General Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9 BCC lecture	10 New moon	11	12 BCC: St. Ed's
13 BCC: St. Ed's	14 ICC lecture	15	16 BCC lecture & gear swap	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 BCC: Mt. Erie, ICC: Horsethief
20 BCC: Mt. Erie, ICC: Horsethief Spring begins	21	22	23 Echo Deadline, BCC lecture	24	25 Full moon	26 BCC: Stevens
27 Easter BCC: Stevens	28 ICC lecture	29	30 BCC lecture	31		

2005



April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 April Fool's Day	2 BCC: Snoqualmie, ICC: Snow
3 BCC: Snoqualmie, ICC: Snow Daylight Savings Time	4	5	6 BCC lecture	7 General Meeting	8 New moon	9 BCC: Snow Camping
10 BCC: Snow Camping	11 ICC lecture	12	13 BCC lecture	14	15	16 BCC & ICC: Leavenworth Campout
17 BCC & ICC: Leavenworth Campout	18	19	20 Echo Deadline, BCC lecture	21	22	23 BCC: Snow Camping
24 Full moon Passover BCC: Snow Camping	25 ICC lecture	26	27 BCC lecture	28	29	30 BCC: Tatoosh, ICC: Smiths

SEATTLE BOEALPS **EVEREST** **NORTH RIDGE**

Expedition Fundraiser and send off party

This spring, a team of 6 climbers from the greater Seattle area will attempt to climb the worlds highest mountain.

**Support the Expedition:
Proceeds from t-shirt sales
will benefit our Nepalese
sherpa support team.**

**Friday March 11, 2005
7:00 PM
Tully's Coffee
(Former Rainier Brewery)
In the Mountain Room
3100 Airport Way South,
Seattle WA**



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**EVEREST
TEAM OGAWA
2005**



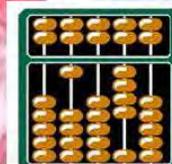
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Photo by Brook Alongi, Ogawa Mountain Adventures

Conservation Corner

By Len Kannapell

Got a beat-up bike that barely bobbles? Recycle it at Bike Works (White Center), which features a number of community projects including Earn-A-Bike, dedicated to educating youth about bicycle repair by transforming the sorry state of your bicycle into something respectable. Here's how Earn-A-Bike works:

1. You bring in your hopeless old bike.
2. Bike Works assigns it to a child to repair, under the tutelage of a trained Bike Works adult.
3. When the bike is restored, the child is issued a helmet, a lock, and a bike of their choice (not necessarily your useless old bike that should probably be incinerated).

I found out about this program through Montlake Bicycles, and it sounds like a superb program. For more information:

<http://bikeworks.org/>

Bike Works
3709 S. Ferdinand
Seattle, WA 98118
206 - 725 - 9408
info@[bikeworks.org](mailto:info@bikeworks.org)

BOEBABIES!

Berry and Zack Thunemann are the proud parents of Caleb, born on Saturday, February 19th at 7:24 AM. He weighed 6 lbs 14oz and was 19.6 inches long at birth. He's a sick little guy and will be at the hospital for a couple of weeks. It looks like he's going to make a full recovery. Expect to see Caleb at Vertical World someday soon learning bouldering moves from dad. Congratulations Zack and Berry!

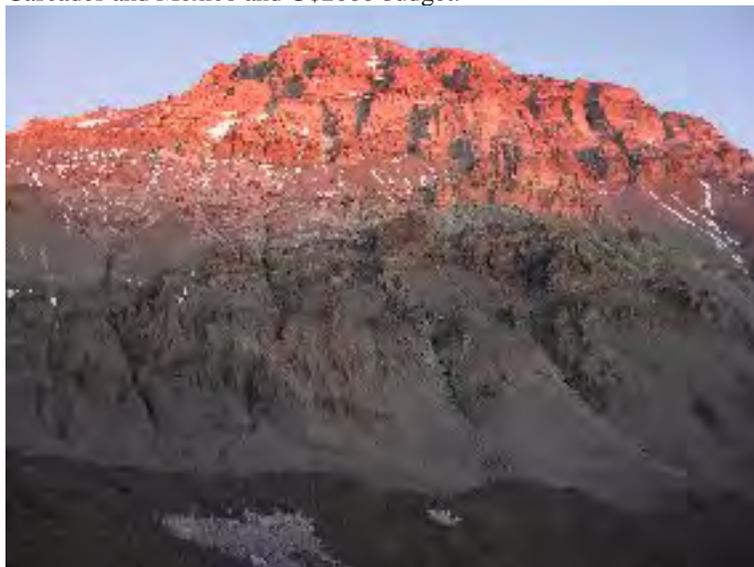


Aconcagua Polish Glacier - Solo Unsupported Climb of the Direct Route

December 24, 2004 –January 4, 2005

Tony Olejnicki, BOEALPS

INTRODUCTION. It was December 2002 and I was cycling from Santiago de Chile to El Calafate in Patagonia. Crossing the Andes along the road connecting Santiago and Mendoza through Caracoles pass (11000ft), the weather was sunny and the view of Aconcagua, the highest peak of the Andes 6960m (22,835 ft) and within both American continents, was superb. I have decided to climb it in the near future. January 2005, I have completed the climb of Aconcagua solo and unsupported along Polish Glacier on the Direct (Argentinean) Route. What made it possible is the experience of over 40 climbs in Cascades and Mexico and US\$2000 budget.



Aconcagua West Wall from Plaza Argentina

I want to share my experience to encourage and help other BOEALPERS to climb this great mountain. It is a sensible goal for the Basic Climbing graduate with a solid experience in Cascades and a honest year of aerobic training. Of course one can do a normal route, where only hiking experience and only a reasonable fitness level is required or one take a guided tour to the summit along a normal route without any experience required.

It is of course an individual choice and mine was to do Polish Glacier Route solo (when my friends pull-out due to work commitments) and unsupported (I did not hire mule transportation to carry my 90lb pack to the Base Camp, I did it myself). I used mule transportation on my way down from Plaza de Mulass to the Horocones Trailhead to allow me to walk out fast (23 miles in 5 hrs). This report attempts to summarize the practical information on the logistics and resources essential for a successful planning and conduct of the trip and facilitate a simple orientation of the mountain. I have included my climbing diary with some personal comments to give the reader a feeling of a

typical climbing experience. Aconcagua, is located in Argentina 180km from Mendoza, some 20km from the Chilean border and 20km north of the international highway connecting Santiago de Chile and Mendoza. Due to its location it presents a very simple logistics for climbers. It is a versatile mountain due to a mix of climbing routes ranging from a very simple, non-technical normal route, which can be hiked by an experienced hiker to technical routes of the Polish and East glaciers and the South Wall being a mix of technical rock climbing and icy couloirs depending on time of the year and snow conditions as well West Wall. The mountain can be approached through one of the two trails either starting from Punta de Vacas (7900ft) and following The Vacas river valley and the Relinchos valley to Plaza Argentina Base Camp or starting at Puente de Incas (9000ft) and following the Horocones river valley, which leads to Plaza de Mulass Base Camp. Horocones valley is also used by the climbers attempting the South Wall routes from Plaza Francia Base Camp. As the route difficulty increases the number of climbers attempting and succeeding it decreases. Horocones valley is by far the most popular approach as it leads directly to the normal route. I have crossed over from Polish glacier camp two to the normal route in order to experience the other side of the mountain. On the last day from Plaza de Mulass to Puente del Inca, I stopped counting people coming up at 300. Fortunately not all of them make to the top. The Vacas and Relinchos valleys approach is much less crowded by the factor of 10 or so.

Each approach is different and beautiful in its own way. Horocones approach is from the west and it is much dryer then Vacas/Relinchos eastern approach, which benefits from some limited precipitation generated by the coastal fronts approaching from the Pacific Ocean on the west and precipitating on eastern slopes of the massive. The precipitation on eastern side helps to sustain Polish and East Glaciers and snow fields (vro.=ventisquero) of Horocones, Relinchos, Vacas and Ameghino.

The site www.aconcagua.org is an excellent source of information useful for the planning and understanding of the climb. This site contains description of the routes as well as variety of up-to-date information about Aconcagua's history, geology, environmental conditions, prices, logistics, contacts, discussion forum etc. There is also a number of books available including Mountaineers Aconcagua – a climbing guide. 'Aconcagua expedition' search leads to numerous sites of various commercial operators and may be also useful and informative.

There are two very good topographical maps of Aconcagua (1:50000 & 1:100000) available in Mendoza for U\$10 each from El Refugio mountaineering shop located at the end of pedestrian Mall (Peatonal) near Plaza Independencia. These maps have been produced by Infotrekking de la Patagonia and can be also acquired on line by e-mailing infotr@speedy.com.ar or by phone +54 (2944) 527966.

HOROCONES APPROACH. This approach starts from Puente del Inca, a township about 180km from Mendoza, the boarder checkpoint and the gateway to Horocones Valley. The trailhead itself is at Horocones, where the ranger station is located. Here all the climbers approaching Plaza de Mulas or Plaza de Francia must register and present their permits. The approach offers dramatic views of Aconcagua right from the trailhead for some 4 hrs hike to Confluencia camp (3395m). After that point, the view of Aconcagua hides behind towering walls of the valley and instead the views of peaks surrounding Plaza de Mulas (cerro Catedral 5254m, c. de los Horocones 5383m and c. Cuerno 5400m) open up with the view as spectacular as Aconcagua itself.

Plaza de Mulas is an enormous tent city hosting many hundreds of climbers attempting the normal route, from there is a large scree field with the switchback path to concur 3000ft elevation gain to the 'Portezuelo del Manso' (5.200 m) camp and another 2000ft to Nido de Condores, from which one can summit in a long day. Most people however would head for final camp at camp Berlin or even Independencia for a shorter climbing summit day.



Horocones Approach Trail Head



Horocones Approach/ Laguna de Horocones

VACAS/RELINCHOS APPROACH. This approach begins at Punta de Vacas, an outpost for truck customs control and Carabineros checkpoint. Punta de Vacas is located 150km from Mendoza. The approach is slightly longer than Horocones but much less crowded. First stage to Casa de Piedra is quite timid in comparison to Horocones approach and takes one through gentle climb via a charming valley of the Vacas river with some tributaries sipping much longer in to the season than in Horocones valley. However one should not be relying on them for water. All the rivers are very micacious in the morning and outright muddy and unsuitable for drinking in the afternoon due to heavy snowmelt.

Most of the climbers take 3 days to reach Plaza Argentina, camping at Pampa de Lenas and at Casa de Piedra. At Lenas there is ranger station where all climbers approaching Plaza Argentina must register and present the permit.

At Casa de Piedra the route changes direction from north to west and enters Relinchos river gorge, which changes later to a wide valley with scenic

views of Aconcagua and Ameghino. The gorge is very spectacular with amazing sight of the muleteers herding their mule caravans down the hill. Upon reaching Plaza Argentina (14500ft), located at the bottom of the East glacier moraine, the view on the Polish and East glaciers open up and the shadow of Aconcagua dominates during sunsets. There are two camps above Plaza Argentina: Polacos 1 and Polacos 2 with two climbing options from Polacos 2, the Polish glacier and the False Polish traverse, which is an alternative approach to the normal route from east rather than west. Some people select this approach because it is by far less crowded than Plaza de Mulas approach. Polish glacier has two routes: the classic and direct. The classic route is a glacier climb 30-40° of inclination. It is a long route and can take up to 12 hrs to climb, some people do it in 2 days approach by using an intermediate camp



Vacas/Relinchos Approach Trail Head

at 2/3 of the route (Piedra Bandera); there maybe some small crevasses along the way. The Direct (Argentinean) route is a wall of snow and ice 3300ft high 40-65° inclination and it is much shorter then the classic route. The challenge of this route is the steepness,



Rangers at Pampas de Lena



Camp day 3 / Vacas Valley

possible ice conditions, possible strong wind and the length at the elevation from 19500ft to almost 23000ft. In order to approach safely this route the skill and fitness are of equal and paramount importance. One should be able to climb 400-500ft per hour with short breaks. It is a free climb using crampons, ax and an ice-tools and the 100% confidence of not coming off the wall is essential. There is a body of the climber about 1200ft

above camp Polacos 2, reminding one of the danger and a need for extreme concentration. During sunny and windless day all appears to be so easy for a fit climber. However with a strong wind it would be a dangerous climb. This route was conquered for the first time in February 1978 by Argentine climbers Guillermo Vieyro, Jorge Jasson and Edgardo Porcellana.

FLIGHTS, PERMITS AND LAND LOGISTICS. Mendoza is the gateway for Aconcagua, where the Aconcagua National Park Headquarter issues the climbing permit. There are two ways to get to Mendoza from the USA either through Santiago de Chile or Buenos Aires. There are some advantages to travel through Santiago:

There are more flights options to Santiago from USA (LAN-Chile, AA, Delta, Continental) and hence more flexibility and possibly cheaper fares;

- One can take 5 hrs bus trip from Santiago, while 14 hrs bus trip from Buenos Aires is hardly appealing adding to the trip cost with domestic airfare;
- Bus route goes next to Aconcagua, hence one can get an initial orientation;
- The bus trip is spectacular, comfortable and inexpensive;
- Arriving on the bus to Mendoza gets one right to the center of town; bus station has tourist agency (Turismo Estacion del Sol www.turismoestacion.com.ar reserves@turismoestacion.com.ar), which can assist with finding an accommodation without a fuss and provides a free map of Mendoza. There are usually hotel agents at the bus offering variety of inexpensive accommodation and transportation to their hotels;

I have left Seattle 12/19/04 on Delta flight to Santiago arriving there at 10am on 12/20/04. The TUR-BUS bus company operates the airport service for \$2.50 to its terminal. From there they operate a service to Mendoza departing every 1-2 hrs, which takes approximately 5 hrs duration. There are 2 other bus terminals in Santiago. One is located next to TUR-BUS and the other one (Borje) is located 500yards west and just one metro station away or 15 minutes of comfortable walk. There two other major bus companies, Pulman and El Rapido departing from these terminals and servicing Santiago-Mendoza route. Bus follows the road connecting Santiago and Buenos Aires through Andean pass Coracoles, it actually uses the tunnel under the pass at 10500ft. It is very cool ride in the valley with rock walls towering some 2000ft above and passing through two skiing resorts Portillos 9500ft (Chile) and Penitentes 8500ft (Argentina). Penitentes having ample accommodation is used by some climbers for acclimatization and is located ½ way between two trailheads Punta de Vacas 7900ft and Puente del Inca 8800ft. Puente del Inca is also a touristy place due to Inca ruins and contains a reasonable accommodation and is also used by Horocones valley climbers as a first acclimatizing stop. In order to obtain permit (\$200 in 2004/2005 season) one needs to visit the Aconcagua Park Headquarter located in the northeast corner of the Park at the extension of the pedestrian Mall, west of the Plaza Independencia.

They issue a bill, which can be paid in pesos (\$) or U\$ in the bank located 0.5mile from their office. Upon payment HQ issues the permit and you are ready to proceed with the climb. I obtained permit on 12/21/05. Mendoza is a very compact town. There are a number of outdoor shops located at the pedestrian Mall with the original being 'El Refugio'. The white gas is available from any of these shops. Some provisions can be purchased in Mendoza such as 'trail mix' and fresh foods. However there is no freeze dry food available in Argentina or Chile and it should be carried from the USA. Please note that the fresh cooked meals are available at base camps for around \$15(diner) and \$10(breakfast and lunch) and for me it was really a welcomed break from the freeze dry. Mountaineering shops in Mendoza offer many packages from equipment rental, organizing a mule-transportation (\$200/60kg load on the way up and \$120 on the way down, these prices can be somewhat negotiated on the way down, where they have fewer customers) to a guided tour. All these arrangements are being done easily and efficiently; the shops are used to it and are very helpful. There is always someone in the shop who

speaks English. In the base camps there are also porter services to take your load to higher camps, if you wish, as well as there are showers available. Self-respected climber however doesn't use them but if that is going to help you with staying strong, why not. There is an advantage of resisting shower temptation, your own BO is a good indicator whether you have been there too long and it is time to get along with the summit attempt and get out.

Shops also offer you an efficient transportation to the trailhead. There is also a local bus, Uspallata Express, operating two daily schedules to Las Cuevas, the outpost at the Argentinean side of the Coracoles tunnel at 6am and 10am for U\$3. It takes some 4 hrs to get to the trailhead using this bus. The bus returns at about 12pm and 4pm from Puenta del Inca and some 20 minutes later from Punta de Vacas. On the way out some of mules operators will arrange a pick-up from the Horocones trailhead to Puenta del Inca by car hence saving 3 miles walk on the road.

If you miss the bus from Puenta del Inca don't despair, there is boarder control at Puenta del Inca, where all international busses must stop, and they will allow you to catch an international bus there (international bus will not stop on the road on-demand). Boarder control people are used to it and are very friendly and helpful to climbers, it helps to speak Spanish and being polite and friendly. The driver will accept you for the ride to Mendoza for around \$20 (about U\$7).

Punta de Vacas TH is very close to the bus stop (500yards or so), so no transportation to the bus is necessary, however international bus will not stop there, and you must be on time to meet Uspallata Express.

Argentina is a meat eating country and doesn't really care much about us vegetarians, so one has to be prepared to compromise on the diet within Argentina by accepting fish (river trout is excellent there) and occasional meat dish. It is interesting though, that one can get easily a vegetarian food in the base camp, you will be asked whether you prefer vegetarian meal. Say yes, it will be delicious especially after few days on freeze dry diet. All carnivores are in paradise in Mendoza in numerous parillas (grill restaurants, where they roast the whole animal in a charcoal open fire). In general food in Argentina is nice and tasty with the Spanish and Italian influenced cuisine. For those who cannot stay a day without a burger, there is a plenty of them and there are also McDonalds for those feeling homesick.

THE CLIMBING DIARY

December 22,2004 Wednesday. I have arrived to the trailhead at Punta de Vacas 12/22/04 at about 2pm. The bus stop is some



TH Punta de Vacas

300yards west of the trailhead. There are two restaurants near the bus stop and one can purchase water there, food is not recommended unless you are desperate. Punta de Vacas is a Carabineros checkpoint and they ask you what you are doing there even if you carry 90lb pack with the climbing gear.



Punta de Vacas TH and shelter

It probably is not obvious enough. They will also give you contradicting information. Don't despair, ignore them and just continue on the road for 300 yards back towards Mendoza and before you get to the Vacas river you will

see the trailhead sign and the shelter on the left. Don't use this shelter unless it is raining (very unlikely). Continue for about 1000 yards until you get to another shelter (it is much better) or set your tent anywhere there. It is good acclimatization overnight at 7900ft



Pampa de Lenas

December 23,2004 Thursday. It was a very tough day for me with 90lb pack on my shoulders despite gaining only 400ft over 6 miles. It took me 7hrs with countless rest stops. I was passed by several hikers with light packs and several caravans of mules.

The walk itself is very pleasant for the first day with the pack, gentle climb and very nice scenery with some 12000ft peaks towering on both sides of the river gorge and some smaller with interesting rock formation and low vegetation of grasses, small bushes and lots of colorful flowers.

There are various tributaries supplying the Vacas river, most of them did not flow however. There was one creak half way with clear water, which was very welcomed as I ran out of water at this stage. There was another active tributary just before Pampa de Lenas camp. I left trailhead at 10am and was at Lenas at 5pm. It was interesting and unusual camp with flushing toilet.

There were 4 groups in the camp: Guided group from USA, two young Danish climbers, who failed to summit due to bad weather, and large Chilean and Italian groups, some 30 climbers. The temperature dropped overnight to 30°F with a clear starry sky and dominated by majestic Southern Cross.

December 24,2004 Friday. I left Las Lenas Latino style at 10pm and I was the last to leave the camp. I dreaded 90lb pack on my back again. The plan was to camp at Casa de Piedra, only 7 miles and 600ft of the elevation gain. The going was tougher then day before and 6 miles took me 7hrs with very frequent stops. Finally I got within less then a mile to the Casa de Piedra, I could see it. I have spotted a nice camp right on the river and decided to set-up the camp. It turned out to be a right decision as Casa de Piedra is a dreadful spot, with lots of March flies breading there due to presents of mules. At this stage I reached 9800ft and feeling really strong.

December 25, 2004 Saturday. I had another day Latino style leaving the camp at 10am. I was at Casa de Piedra at 11am and decided to have some food there to replenish my energy for next steep section despite the March flies annoying me, over next 90 minutes lots of them died in the battle for my blood. There is a running water at the camp. Two young muleteers arrived with climbers' packs. I started talking to one of them. He wanted to take my pack to Plaza Argentina, it was an evil temptation, which I was proud to resist being in a very vulnerable position and maintained my solo and unsupported effort.

I have put my gaiters on and crossed the Vacas river with dry feet, it was less then 6 inch deep (at midday rivers are still relatively calm and shallow) and started a steep assent in the Relinchos gorge. Again I have found going really hard, however my body started get used to the load. I did about 1.5miles to the middle of the gorge and found a very nice campsite about 3pm. I have decided to stop for overnight to have a good rest and to cleanup in the tributary creak with the water coming from the spring just above my camp. It was a good and sheltered camp and temperature stayed at high 30's the whole night. I looked at caravans of mules coming down at tremendous speeds on a very steep path through the gorge and passing just 50 ft below me.



Mules view from the Campsite in the gorqe



Relinchos Gorge



Aconcagua from Relinchos Valley

December 26, 2004 Sunday. I had only 4 miles or so to the base camp at Plaza Argentina but 3400ft of elevation gain. I was not looking forward to attack about 1500ft of the steep gorge next morning. However all turned out to be much easier than anticipated. I was definitely getting used to the load. Once reached the top of the gorge, the path became gradual until the Plaza Argentina with tremendous views of Aconcagua and Ameghino. The same routine with muleteers shuttling up and down. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm with a slight cooling breeze. The scenery was beautiful in the valley with different rock formations and rich colors of the soil contrasting with green, yellows and purples of the vegetation. Again hikers caught up with me somewhere within the mile of Plaza Argentina. There was the Californian couple with the girl suffering with sinus congestion, my Sudafed came really handy here. There was a Swedish group as well (two males and one female). I have arrived to Plaza Argentina at 5pm and decided to have dinner with outfitters rather than facing freeze dry again,

it was very nice, it is amazing how deprivation improves taste of ordinary food. I have setup my tent next to two Germans and large group of Italians, all doing False Polish route.



Plaza Argentina Base camp

December 27, 2004 Monday. Rest day at Plaza Argentina. The weather deteriorated with an overcast and strong cold wind. I have explored the camp, talked to different outfitters and climbers, all of them really friendly and helpful. There were no American climbers doing Polish glacier, all were doing normal route. So were my German neighbors. I have discovered that only 3 people so far did Polish glacier; one solo Argentinean climber and 2 Austrians. There was some kind of fear and awe when I was talking to these people about Polish glacier or maybe it was a respect to the mountain, don't know.

I started to talk to other climbers, there were four Chileans, six Mexicans and four Italians thinking Direct route, so I had a chance for a company and at minimum I had a good conversation in German, Spanish and Italian.

The day rest was very beneficial. I felt slightly affected by 14,000 ft, when I have arrived to Plaza Argentina but after spending day and night I felt great and ready to proceed to camp Polaco 1.



East Glacier

December 28, 2004 Tuesday. I started the day with an early breakfast, pack-up my gear for camp 1 and started climbing at 9am arriving at camp 1 at 1pm. The weather turned really bad with strong wind and blowing snow. There was lots of a fresh snow at camp one already.

Concerned about the weather I have decided to get to Plaza Argentina as quick as possible. It took me only 1hr20 to get down, a bit too fast and I developed a headache. Some rest however and Ibuprofen helped to ease it.



Snowfield Approach to Polacos 1

I had a dinner at the outfitters (Daniel Lopez Expeditions) and was ready to move to camp 1 following day.

December 29, 2004 Wednesday. The weather has improved overnight and the pressure was on the way up. I have moved to camp 1. Also Italians, Mexicans and Chileans moved up. They had a discussion and Chileans lost confidence and decided to do a normal route as two of them developed symptoms of high elevations and decided to descend to Plaza Argentina. Same with Mexicans, the only people talking still Polish Glacier were four Italians. There were two people who were evacuated with Pulmonary Edema, one late 40ties Alaskan man and one Russian Canadian in his late 20ties. I discovered now that the helicopter rescue is free, basically U\$200 climbing fee covers the rescue insurance. Argentinean rescue is very effective. The rangers came up to camp one and evacuated the injured to Plaza Argentina from where the helicopter picked them up for a short flight to Puente del Inca followed by the 150km ambulance ride to the hospital in Mendoza.



Camp Polacos 1



Ameghino Basin above Polacos 1



Polish Glacier from Plaza Argentina

December 30, 2004 Thursday. I have developed severe nasal congestion during the night and got no sleep at all. It was only in the morning, when I have diagnosed as Aerosinusitis, being a combination of drying mixture of blood and mucus due to extreme low humidity and high elevation. I was too tired to proceed to camp Polacos 2 and I have decided to take an additional rest day. There was a perfect day and I was wasting time by not proceeding to next camp, however on the other hand a rest day helped me to get stronger and better acclimatized for the summit day. It also gave me chance to meet other climbers and practice more Italian and Spanish.

December 31, 2005 Friday. The weather turned really bad again with strong wind and blowing snow. No one left camp this day, we all were waiting, resting and hoping for a better weather for the next day.

January 1, 2005 Saturday. The weather cleared to a beautiful and sunny day. I have packed up ½ of my gear and headed up at 8am to camp Polacos 2. First 1500ft were very easy up the snow and scree switchback path of the spectacular Ameghino basin. Above 18000ft the effects of high elevation kicked in and the going was much slower and harder with frequent breaks. I have achieved a good timing to camp 2 of 4 hrs, usually takes 4-6 hrs for this trip. The views from camp 2 are stunning on the Ameghino summit and the range of mountains behind with peaks 18000-20000ft. Very interesting range of dramatic peaks covered with glaciers and snowfields, definitely worth exploring in the future. I felt elevation effect now with a slight headache and tiredness. On the way down headache intensified due to jarring effect of stepping on uneven and steep path and plunge-stepping down the snowfield. However good dose of Ibuprofin and a couple of hours rest helped me to overcome the headache in the late evening. I was feeling strong again for another climb to camp 2 the following day.



Ameghino from Polacos 2



Climbers leaving Polacos 1 for Polacos 2

January 2, 2005 Sunday. Not taking any chances I started climbing very slowly to camp 2 with the rest of the gear. It took me 6 hrs but no headache at the top. I have setup my camp with perfect weather and pressure on the way up, looking forward to an exciting climb. Two of Italians were also in the camp, the other two developed elevation symptoms and down-climbed to back to Plaza Argentina.

Italians were not very confident and were asking me lots of questions about the climb, I could sense that they were a little concerned with the difficulty of it, not sure of the conditions on the top. The major concern was the amount of snow and ice. Just looking at the glacier it

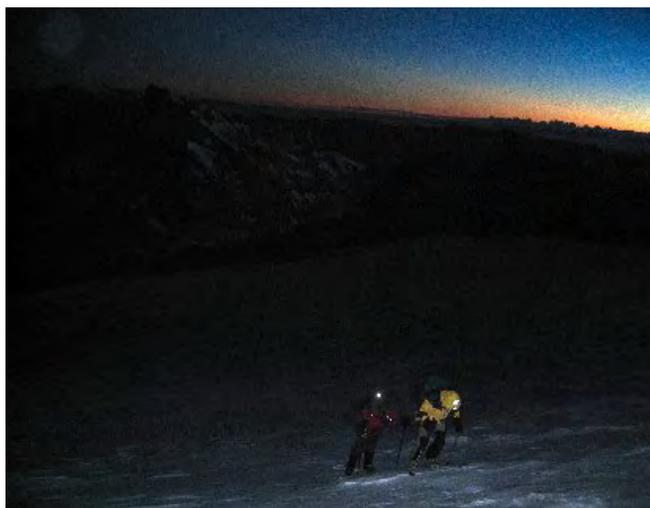


Sulphur Lake at Ameghino Pass

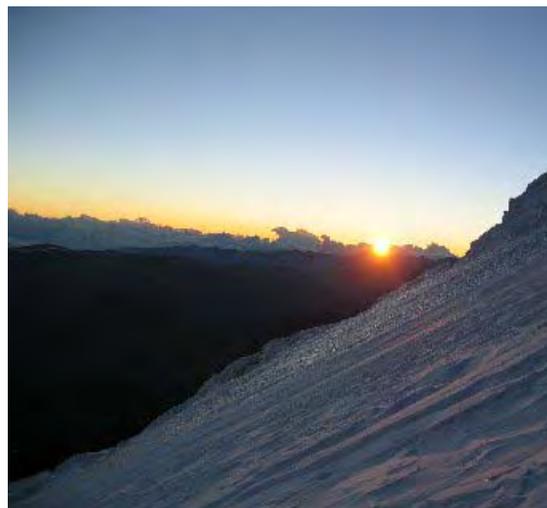
did not look that difficult to me. The beginning of it is about 30 deg and then steepens up to 50° and 55° with middle section of 600ft or so 65°. The snow conditions looked quite good with some ice glistening about ½ way the glacier. Past that the view was obstructed by steepness and the rock.

January 3, 2005 Monday. The climbing day. I woke up at 4am, dressed-up, put my forty below gaiters and the crampons, breakfast and started going at 5am. Italians followed me some 100ft behind. One of them seemed to be stronger than the other.

I kicked the steps at constant pace of 500ft/hr for 3hrs with Italians dropping about 20 minutes behind. I have decided to have a rest on a small rock outcrop sticking from the snow and allow Italians to catch-up. When they arrived I focus my attention on the other outcrop slightly below with some parts of cloth and strange looking bits sticking out. On a closer look it turned out to be a human skeleton. It certainly focused my concentration for the rest of the climb. The stronger Italian offered to share step-kicking but he gave up after 50ft or so and I was again up the front. I'd rather do this then having to rescue them exhausted. It is a double edge sword climbing with other people, it is safer on one hand but sometimes it can be risky with unknown people.



Start of the climb at 5am



Sunrise on Polish Glacier

Next 600ft or so were very icy but with some patches of blown in snow, so for the most part it was possible to kick meager steps. After this patch of 600ft the condition improved when the inclination got back from 65° to 55-50°. The snow was holding better at smaller inclinations. Finally when we came closer to the ridge, at some 300ft from the summit the inclination dropped back to 30° and for a moment snow become 1 ft deep. It did not last too long, and we got to summit plateau and snow turned hard again, comfortable for about a 1km slog to the summit via small false summit. On the summit there was a zoo. Lots of people popping up from the normal route to take their photographs, lots of Latino and Japanese guided groups.

And what really pissed me off was when my two Italian friends popped a dozens of sponsorship flags and asked me to take pics of them with their flags. I do not mind to kick the steps for other climbers, who pay their own way but I have found difficult to comprehend that they accepted the sponsorship money without being able to do the climb on their own. The day was so beautiful and I had plenty of time so I could afford an hour on the summit. It is unusual for the mountain to cooperate to this extent but I guess I was lucky and I really appreciated it.

Down climb from the summit was a big let down after adrenaline pumping excitement of the climb. It took me 3hrs to drop down to Independencia camp and to traverse back to the tent for some dry freeze diner.



In the middle of Polish Glacier

It was a time for a short reflection:

This was the end of Anconcagua adventure. What was left was the descent on the normal route. I had really great feeling of satisfaction. I know I had an easy run because the mountain cooperated really well. I did not find this climb to be technically challenging but certainly it was a serious physical challenge. The BOEALPS training and the experience of 40 or so climbs behind me in Cascades and Mexico, some of which were much more technical then the Polish Glacier, certainly paid off. At the same time scores of climbers climb to Polacos 2 camp, looked at the route and said 'No way' and followed a traverse to a normal route. Not being dismissive of these people, I did not come across experienced climbers and the fact that being only 4th climber this season to do this route clearly confirms this. I saw lots of noise in the base camp but no action at camp 2 especially from large group from Oregon celebrating a successful climb of the normal route. You would've thought that they just came of Mt. Everest. If I was to compare this climb to Cascades it reminded me so much on the Adams glacier, which I did with Jon Baker last year, but physically was much more demanding due to its length and elevation.



Approaching the summit Ridge



Mountaineer's Grave



Summit picture

January 5, 2005 Tuesday. The down climbing day. A strong wind started at night and did not stop when I got up at 7am. I had difficulties to break the camp and pack-up properly. Took me 2 hrs to get going. It was supposed to be an easy day with 300ft climb to Nido de Condores and then some 5000ft down to Plaza de Mulas. I have dropped down to False Polacos camp 2 and it supposed to be up hill from there. The wind was strong with blowing snow causing poor visibility, I took an obvious path and followed it, it was very easy and it dropped me some 200ft in no time to a very steep slope near the ridge, I knew I was in a wrong place. I have decided to stop regroup and have a rest for a while, I had my heavy pack again but this time at 20000ft instead 14000ft and it was painful. The wind slowed down and I saw Nido de Condores now some 500ft above me, depressing, as it was I picked up my pack again and started climbing on a steep slope but in the right direction this time. Surprisingly it did not take me that long; I have lost only 2 hrs through this mistake, but it was not a big deal, from Nido it was only a down climb, even with a heavy pack it was a 'piece of cake' relatively speaking.

Nido de Condores is a very spectacular camp and worth the trip anyway. The down climb with a heavy pack to Plaza de Mulas on the lose scree was ugly. I was glad that it was not the up climb. Bird view on the Plaza de Mulas and the Horocones valley is spectacular as well as it is the view on Aconcagua and towering peaks around Plaza de Mulas.

I have decided to stay in the Plaza de Mulas hotel to have a shower and walkout light the following day. For me the climb was over and I personally do not care much about hiking, it is just a necessary evil to get to the climb.

The hotel is located 20 minutes walk from the Plaza de Mulas, slightly up and crossing two creeks. But with the heavy pack and at the end of a long day, it was the long way for me. It was worth it to experience the hotel despite not being able to have a shower as I arrived too late; they allow showers from 2-7pm only. I got there at 7:15pm and had to satisfy myself with the wash-up only; it was nice to wash-up in warm water though (depravation can change perception and standards in a dramatic way); I had to postpone a proper shower for Mendoza on the following day.

The hotel itself is very cool, with nice people, reasonable food and lots of memorabilia from different groups staying there. It was worth it spending U\$48, although I could have got better shower and food in the camp itself.

January 5, 2005 Wednesday. The down-climbing day to Puente del Inca. It was truly relaxing day, down-hill and no pack, just some water, some energy food, light windbreak just in case and of course the camera. I had my breakfast Latino style at 9am, talk to new Italian and Brazilian friends I have met in the hotel, speaking a mixture of Italian and Spanish. I have packed my gear for mule transportation, it was collected at 10am; I have paid my bill and strolled to the Plaza de Mulas to see rangers and to report on the glacier condition. I have decided to do so because there are so few people doing the route and the ranger just doesn't have enough information to advise the climbers and it was really appreciated. And I wanted to explore the camp. I was feeling terrific without the heavy pack, like a bird just released from the cage. Also at low elevation of 14000ft there was so much O₂ I could run without any problems. Acclimatization at high elevation makes one very energetic at low elevation, it is a great sensation. I wasted too much time at the camp and left only at 11:30am. I was aiming to be at the Horcocones trailhead at 4pm to catch the bus at 4:45pm i.e. 23 miles in 4 ½ hrs. It took me 5hrs and then mules didn't arrive until 5pm so I missed the bus.

The agent picked me up from the trailhead and took me to the border control, where I got on international bus at about 7pm arriving to Mendoza at 9:30pm.

PHYSIOLOGY - HIGH ALTITUDE CLIMBING PROTOCOL ON POLISH GLACIER. Aconcagua is definitely a high elevation climbing, where one can experience adverse high elevation effects on the body especially when not following appropriate climbing protocol. There are some individuals, who may not be able to adjust at all. There are 3 major medical conditions associated with ascend to high altitudes (check your mountaineering book for details):

1. Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), which is most common and usually 300m descend alleviates the symptoms;
2. High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE); and
3. High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE), which is a potentially fatal neurological syndrome, that develops within hours or days in individuals with AMS.

The risk of developing any of them can be only minimized by acclimatizing using an appropriate high elevation climbing protocol resting and keeping hydrated. Typically Polish Glacier climbing protocol is implemented in four stages.

First stage is acclimatization at 8000ft. Most of climbers do it at Penitentes or Puente del Inca by spending a couple of days in a hotel there. People who acclimatize well arrive to the trailhead in the afternoon and spent one night at the trailhead of Punta de Vacas.

Second stage is a hike to Plaza Argentina base camp, which can be done in 3 days with a light pack. I was doing unsupported approach with 90lb pack and I took 4 days to do it, camping at Lenas, 1 mile before Casa de Piedra and 1.5 mile past Casa de Piedra before arriving to Plaza Argentina. The second stage is followed by a rest day at Plaza Argentina. If affected by elevation it is advisable to spend extra time in the base camp to build up response to high elevation.

The third stage is to build up camp 1 and camp 2 by carrying ½ of gear on the first day and returning back to lower elevation and carrying the remaining gear the following day. Rest day should be implemented at camp 1.

Fourth stage is the climb to the summit from the camp Polacos 2, follow by the down-climb. The Direct route takes typically 6-10hrs and the Classic Polish Glacier at least 10 hrs. If down-climbing via Plaza Argentina one should break-out the camp on the climbing day and camp at Plaza Argentina.

This is a general idea and final timing depends on an individual person, some climbers will require a longer rests. If the elevation symptoms are strong the climber needs to descend to a lower camp and start climbing again after rest day or two.

COSTS AND LOGISTICS. I completed Aconcagua climb within my budget of U\$2000 including airfare from Seattle (Delta Airline Seattle to Santiago U\$1100), climbing permit (U\$200), Chile Entry Visa (U\$30), Bus fares (\$60), 4 nights accommodation in Mendoza (\$70), Food in Mendoza and Santiago including drinks (\$200), Hotel Plaza de Mulas (\$50), Food at Plaza Argentina (\$65), and mule transportation (\$120) totaling to **\$1895**.

**Park Glacier Headwall
Mount Baker**
Tim Bartholomaus (scribe) and Chris Meter
February 19-21, 2005

In order to celebrate the birthdays of our great presidents, Chris Meter and I skied and climbed to the top of Mount Baker via the Park Glacier Headwall route.



Mount Baker's Park Glacier, showing our ascent in red and, where different, our descent in green. Ski/crampon transitions marked with an 'X'

When we arrived in camp, we found that we had burned through the last of our fuel during breakfast (although I've found an 11 oz bottle sufficient for a week-long summer climbing trip, it only lasted 24 hours when melting snow). A bagel, a couple fist-fulls of gorp and several slices of frozen summer sausage later, we called it a day and contentedly hit the sack. Chris and I were looking for a bit of an adventure over the three day weekend. With the snow from the previous weekend's storm still lingering and the forecast solid, the options abounded. We were looking for something a little unconventional, that would take full advantage of the three days we had available, and where the summit would not be guaranteed when we pulled up at the trailhead. Both proponents of the vague idea that a trip is made more exciting by combining different alpine disciplines, we decided to throw skiing into the traditional alpine mix and set our destination as Baker's Park Glacier.

What the route lacked in actual technical difficulty would be made up for by completing almost the entire trip on skis

On Saturday, we met at the 65th St Park and Ride and high-tailed it up to the Mt. Baker Ski Area. By 9:45, we had attached climbing skins to the bases of our skis and clicked into the bindings (Chris wearing the rental boots that almost proved to be his undoing). Shortly after skiing through the area boundary sign that warned that our heirs would be charged for any body recoveries, we were up on Ptarmigan Ridge and steadily making our way closer to the volcano we had set out sights on. This was my first time attempting an overnight tour and Chris's first time ever on backcountry skis, so the high center of balance of our 35-40 lb packs required getting used to, but we quickly learned the limits of our equipment and our abilities and set about skinning along the rolling, alpine ridge.



After roughly seven miles of skinning, we left behind the last ski tracks of the day trippers as clouds started to mount around Baker. As we skinned through the Portals and looked down over the broken Rainbow Glacier, we knew we were out on our own. For me, this was a real psychological milepost. The first five hours of our trip had gone comparatively easily. The sun was shining brightly and every now and then, we would see another skier dip his tips into an untracked powder bowl. When we left that behind, the unknown began to creep into my thoughts. What would the skiing be like at 10,000 feet? Were we taking undue risks by traveling as a group of two? Would our route be cut off by crevasses? And if adversity did rear its head, would we have the strength to work around it, climb carefully, and still summit, or would we

simply retreat back to camp and report to our friends with stories of high winds, avalanche danger and bergshrunds? When we passed through the Portals and began breaking our own trail, our trip moved beyond ski touring. We were now mountaineering.



Just as the alpenglow grew over Mt Shuksan's broad west face, we arrived at Glacier Divide, an expansive plain on the northeast side of Mount Baker, where an arm of the Park Glacier cleaves into the Mazama and Rainbow Glaciers. We dug my small tent into the gentle slope, melted snow and cooked up our macaroni and cheese. Finally, after hours of stove tending, we withdrew from the single digit temperatures to the warmth of our sleeping bags. Morning dawned beautifully and we had grown confident about summiting, so after leisurely preparations, we were moving out of camp around 8:45.

Traveling unroped, we made long switchbacks across the lowest face of the Park, generally successful at avoiding the gaping crevasses by maintaining a southward tack. Chris and I made smooth progress over the lowest three-quarters of the climb. The slope was quite gentle and the glacier's surface was generally 3 to 6 inches of powder over firm neve (with patches of slippery wind scour and pockets of deeper powder). Higher up, we were faced with the decision of how to tackle the upper mountain. We could either take the gradual cockscomb ridge from the north, or the steeper, more sustained, and uncertain headwall directly to the summit. We had planned on the easier option, but as we skinned higher, the headwall appeared to be a reasonable alternative.



I suggested the possibility and we soon agreed, even deciding to carry our skis up over the summit, rather than leave them lower down on the glacier and save ourselves the burden. After quickly exchanging skis for crampons, we shouldered our now substantial packs (Chris hoisting the 15 pound twin-tip half pipe skis he had been rented), and moved out onto steeper terrain. One sketchy snow bridge and 400 feet of 45 degree neve later, we stood at the base of the headwall. The hour was 3 o'clock and we had slowed down substantially since deciding to ratchet up the difficulty of our summit attempt, but we took our first and only true break, delaying the impending bonk with precious calories and water.



Ascending the upper Park Glacier

Two days of intense exertion finally took their toll on the last 500 foot push up the 50 degree headwall. Our pace slowed and we took frequent breaks to rest on the heads of our ice axes, but the snow was in great shape and the steps we kicked were solid. Despite the angle, we were quite comfortable with the climbing and, at the top-out, were rewarded with a blast of late afternoon sunlight when we poked our heads over the lip of the headwall. A final swing of the ice axe out into the rime and windblown ice-covered-snow and a last kick-kick of the crampons and we were on the summit. Wasting no time, Chris and I headed north down the cockscomb with the Roosevelt Glacier on one side and Park on the other. When the descent angle mellowed, we dropped down through 100 feet of steep, thigh-deep powder until we could put our skis back on. By the time we were clicked in, Mt. Baker's shadow had already faded into the flat evening twilight and we made wide, cautious turns back towards where we would find our skin track. I got a bit of a surprise when, skiing across the unfamiliar upper slopes, a pole plant punched right through the thin snow bridge covering a hidden crevasse. When I turned back to warn Chris, I noticed that the snow in my ski tracks had fallen away, revealing a series of two snow bridges, one of which was several feet wide. Chris followed me gingerly and we made it the rest of the way back to our tracks with nerves on edge. The rest of the ski down was blissfully uneventful.

Soon the remaining traces of sunlight had drained from the sky, allowing the brilliant, almost-full moon to cast shadows over the glacier's surface, sharpening the previously unknown textures. We made our best turns of the trip on the mellow lower half of the Park and were soon schussing our way across Glacier Divide. When we arrived in camp, we found that we had burned through the last of our fuel during breakfast (although I've found an 11 oz bottle sufficient for a week-long summer climbing trip, it only lasted 24 hours when melting snow). A bagel, a couple fist-fulls of gorp and several slices of frozen summer sausage later, we called it a day and contentedly hit the sack.



At the summit of Mt Baker

The next morning we woke with the sun, packed, and began our long trip out. Chris was almost crippled by the three-inch stacked blisters on his heels and we were both sapped by dehydration, but we managed to get at least a few wide turns in on the trip back down Ptarmigan Ridge. As we approached the ski area, temperatures rose above freezing for the first time all trip, glomming wet snow to the bottoms of our skins and reducing the effectiveness of our skis to that of enormous snow shoes. However, we still cut two hours from our approach time and were soon on our way to Milano's for a delicious meal. The drive home went smoothly until the exhaust system fell off of Chris's pickup. Keep an eye out for it when you're returning from your North Cascade adventures this weekend. The parts should be in the left-most lane of I-5 South, just north of Mount Vernon.



This was a fantastic trip and a great introduction to ski mountaineering. We were tremendously fortunate to have absolutely perfect weather and the skiing element really made the trip a lot more exciting than the slog it could have been. It was an excellent, full use of the long weekend and left us totally satisfied and exhausted at the end of each day.

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address City State Zip Code

Mail Stop () Work Phone () Home Phone

e-mail Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

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NON - EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

- _____ INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00)
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Club membership is only for those who sign up as an individual member, or are listed on the back of this form as dependents.

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

- _____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)
- _____ BOEALPS Intermediate
- _____ Mountaineers Basic _____ Mountaineers Intermediate
- _____ Avalanche Awareness _____ Ice Climbing Seminar
- _____ Aid Climbing Seminar _____ Rock Leading Seminar
- _____ Standard First Aid/CPR _____ MOFA
- _____ Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

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

- Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing
- Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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March Echo staff

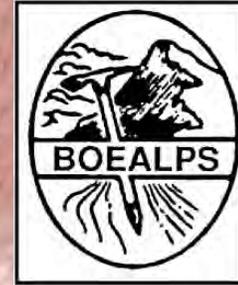
Editors: Sarah Sternau &
John Gowan

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki
Tim Bartholomaus
Len Kannapell

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

APRIL 2005



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APRIL PRESENTATIONS



Boealper Tony Olejnicki presents slides of his recent summit of Aconcagua (22,841 ft) in Argentina via the Polish Glacier route. Tony accomplished this alone, without the use of a mule or local guide.

and

There will be a short presentation by Andrea Imler of the American Lung Associations and its centennial year (2006) sponsorship of "The Big Hike."

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH, 7PM AT BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

You can tell it's spring when the Echo starts to grow again! This month we're tipping the scales at a whopping 22 pages, with trip reports from Tony Downs and Tony Olejnicki, Chris Meter, and Robert Fisher, plus a write-up from new BCC student Jay Bradshaw on the first snow outing of the class. In case you hadn't heard, the BCC students had to drive all the way to the Washington Pass area in search of snow, only to be buried in an all-day flurry and have the Mountain Loop Highway up to the Pass literally closed right behind them. Especially for the Texans in the group, this was quite an experience. Read the report and see the pictures on pages 5 and 6 below.

We've also got our first word back from the Boealps Everest team, who are blogging about their trip in real time at this website: <http://everest.myblogsite.com/>. Keep track of their progress by checking the site often!

On a tangent—but a climbing-related one—anyone who's been to Elliott Bay Bookstore in the last year or so will have noticed that there are often mountaineering books on the bargain table downstairs or in the loft upstairs. (Many of them are closeouts of books published by the Mountaineers.) This month there seems to be a bumper crop of bargains, and among the booty I found on my last visit were copies of Joe Simpson's *Touching the Void*; *The Mystery of Mallory and Irvine*; *Poets on the Peaks: Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen & Jack Kerouac in the North Cascades*; and *The Mountaineers Anthology, Volume I: Glorious Failures*, all for approximately \$5-8 each. Run, don't walk—because it *is* spring and you need to get in shape—to Elliott Bay to get your copies before they're gone.

In other news, I wanted to point out that Boealps turned out in great numbers—those numbers being a 2 and a 0 right next to one another—in response to the Mountaineers' invitation to attend their Physics of Climbing lecture. We actually outnumbered the Mountaineers by a wide margin, and the education coordinator stayed to the lecture's end and thanked us for coming when it was over. Any ideas on how to return the favor or keep the dialog open? Pass them on to a board member, or come to a board meeting—now scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, from 6-7pm at the Blue Star Cafe—to let your thoughts be heard.

Also, as always, our monthly general meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month in Boeing's 2-22 building. Check out the Echo's cover (above) for details.

Finally, please note that the deadline for the Echo's May issue is April 20. If you have trip reports, event announcements, or climbs for which you'd like partners, please submit the details to editor@boealps.org by then and we'll make sure to get the information into the next Echo.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

Sarah, one of your Echo editors



Ron Risher

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 April Fool's Day	2 BCC: Snoqualmie, ICC: Snow
3 BCC: Snoqualmie, ICC: Snow Daylight Savings Time	4	5	6 BCC lecture	7 General Meeting	8 New moon	9 BCC: Snow Camping
10 BCC: Snow Camping	11 ICC lecture	12 Board Meeting	13 BCC lecture		15	16 BCC & ICC: Leavenworth Campout
17 BCC & ICC: Leavenworth Campout	18	19	20 Echo Deadline, BCC lecture	21	22	23 BCC: Snow Camping
24 Full moon Passover BCC: Snow Camping	25 ICC lecture	26	27 BCC lecture	28	29	30 BCC: Tatoosh, ICC: Smith



May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 BCC: Tatoosh, ICC: Smith	2	3	4 BCC: Gasworks	5 General Meeting	6	7 BCC: Crevasse rescue
8 BCC: Crevasse rescue	9 ICC lecture	10 Board Meeting	11 BCC lecture	12	13	14 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance ICC: Squamish
15 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance ICC: Squamish	16	17	18 BCC exam	19	20	21 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance
22 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance	23	24	25 BCC grad Echo Deadline	26	27	28
29	30	31 ICC lecture?				

2005

Ice Axe Arrest at Washington Pass—The BCC Student Perspective

Jay Bradshaw (scribe and photographer)

Photo captions by Sarah Sternau

3AM I wake up before my alarm goes off, got a good 5 hours of sleep. The last time I was up at this time I was going to bed. It was an odd feeling, but a good feeling--I've always been a morning person. I have been watching weather reports for the past week. After living here for 2 months, I am finally learning to put absolutely no faith in them unless it is the morning of the day in question. And even then, you're looking at a 50/50 chance of it being correct. The weather report says it's raining, and as I step outside I see that the report is right. I'm hoping that if there is precipitation where we are going, it is in the form of snow. I spent \$600 in preparation for this trip, and I'm hoping that money will go a long way toward keeping me warm today. I have been told that the hardest thing to figure out is how to effectively regulate your body temperature in the constantly changing elements. And I know what it is like to be cold, wet, and miserable, so I decide to err on the side of caution and pack some extra clothes.

4:15AM I meet up with my friends and we begin the two-hour drive up to Newhalem. 60 minutes later we discover that it is not the best idea to take a small country highway shortcut when it is still pitch black out and you don't have a detailed map of the area. 10 minutes later we discover a dead end in a random neighborhood in a random town and become fairly certain that we are not on the small country highway any more. After some backtracking we find our way back onto the main road and are headed in the right direction again.

6:30AM We arrive at Newhalem and it is raining. The rest of our team arrives soon after and we consolidate our group into a few cars and head out at 7AM towards Washington pass. Twenty minutes later the rain turns to snow as we climb higher into the mountains. At around 7:15AM we finally arrive at our destination, and after some searching for parking spots that wouldn't involve having our cars covered in snow by snow plows, we park and unload. After hiking about a mile east on the road we find a section of trees north of us that looks fairly amicable to travel. The slope that we are headed to is almost directly north of us. All that lies in our path are the trees, a stream, and some heavenly powder. In order to get from the road to the trees we must go down a steep 40 yard slope and it is here that we are first introduced to plunge-stepping. At the bottom of the slope, where the trees began, one of our team members was promptly introduced to tree wells when they came a little too close to the first of the trees. We have a quick talk about tree and rock wells and then begin to pick our way through the trees. After carefully crossing a snow bridge, we reach a tame-looking stream. Other than the slippery first step, which gave me a firsthand account of the temperature of the snow-melt-fed stream, crossing was not a problem.



The stream crossing. This picture's from the return trip, but you get the idea.



Black Team's Texas/St. Louis contingent.

10 AM(ish) We are now in an open valley that has knee-deep powder and a very mild slope that gets steadily steeper as we climb. It is beginning to snow a significant amount, or at least what appears to be a significant amount for someone who just moved from south Texas. As long as we keep moving, I am completely content, even a little hot. As the hill gets steeper, we get our first real introduction to kicking steps. Step-kicking is the technique used to traverse steep snow slopes and to otherwise make travel as efficient as possible for the group. The group travels in a line and it is the lead person's job to step up, swing their foot forward, and literally kick steps into the snow so that the rest of the group can use the 'steps' to climb up the slope without having to kick unnecessary steps. That person kicks step for a little while and then steps out of line and takes a break. This break time is where I first learned that my pack is not organized very well. Getting to my water and food was almost more trouble than it was worth. I spend my next break correcting this problem. One lesson I learn while step-kicking is that I tend to take big steps. Seeing as I am kicking the steps for my group, I need to pay special attention to keeping the steps small enough that my whole team can use them without difficulty.

11AM...or 12PM...Okay, now I'm totally guessing

We make it up to a decent slope that is fairly void of visible brush or rock. The instructors begin to create chutes that we will use for our ice axe arrest training. After a couple of runs down the chute to help pack down the snow, we were ready to do our ice axe arrest training. The idea behind ice axe arrest is fairly straightforward: Use your body weight to lean on the axe point. Getting your body to commit to the fairly simple concept is a different story. I actually had an easier time on the more difficult ice axe arrest positions (head first) than I did on the easier positions as my body got used to the actions. One important thing I learned during the ice axe arrests is how important it is to get a decent pivot arm when you are going head first and need to swing yourself around. I need to remember to put that axe point in well away from my body to make it easy to pivot myself around and then pull myself in to put all my weight on the head of the axe.



Some people build snow anchors, some people stand around.

After the ice axe arrest training, we move on to snow anchors. We go through pickets, deadman anchors using everything from pickets to a small pack filled with snow, and bollards. It was quite surprising to see how strong the deadman anchors were. Watching six people throw their full weight onto a rope being held up by a well-made deadman anchor was quite impressive.

3PM

We are introduced to several quick belay methods in snow. The simplest and quickest method is the boot axe belay. It can be done in just a few seconds and is effectively used when a ropemate is probing a cornice or crevasse edge. You merely swipe the rope around to the side of your foot with your ice axe, jab the axe in the ground, and then reach through your legs and pull the rope back behind you. Okay, so it is a little confusing in text, but it can be easily seen on page 336 of the *Freedom of the Hills* textbook. The next technique we learned was the carabiner-ice axe belay, also called the stomper boot belay. This method takes a little more time to set up, provides the same protection, but is easier on the back and can be used in situations when a longer duration

belay is needed. A girth hitch is attached to the ice axe head, the ice axe is planted into the snow and a carabiner is attached to the end of the hitch. The belayer then feeds a rope through the carabiner to their belay device, steps firmly on the girth hitch near the ice axe head and belays the rope normally. For both techniques, positioning of the feet in relation to the hill and climber is important. You want to be standing perpendicular to the fall line facing the same side as the climber's route.

4:30PM

Our final training of the day is rope team travel. Rope team travel is a necessity when traversing areas that may have crevasses, such as glaciers. Rope teams are not recommended when you are walking through thigh deep powder in a benign area and your instructor is Robert Fisher. I ate more snow being pulled down into *and through* the powder in what he called "team arrest training" than I ever ate taking spills while skiing. But, the important thing is that I got a lot of practice doing team arrests.



A rope team prepares for Robert (orange splotch) to give them another snow mask.

6PM

We make it back to the cars in one piece. It has snowed around a foot since we left at 7AM and we have some minor digging to do before the cars are drivable. On the way out we learn three valuable lessons. #1 Do not take a two-wheel drive vehicle into the mountains without snow chains. #2 When a sign says "last gas for 70 miles"...get gas. #3 Pushing a car up a snowy hill is not the most enjoyable activity.

All in all, the trip was a blast and I am really looking forward to spending more time with Team Black over the next six weeks.



You can tell it's a car by the telltale side mirror.

San Pedro de Atacama
Climbers: Tony Downs (scribe), Tony Olejnicki

Last summer, a fellow Boealps climber and friend of mine (Tony Olejnicki) approached me with the idea of doing some rock climbing in Chile during the month of January. At the time I didn't really think about it and I gave him a tentative "maybe," since although it sounded like a lot of fun I would never be able to go because of my busy work schedule.

Well things changed and I ended up quitting my job so any potential "work" conflicts were quickly eliminated. Luckily, I had a couple of months of vacation/unemployment time before I started my new job. Fortunately, it coincided with the time that Tony wanted to go rock climbing in Chile! Fate was on my side.

I arrived in Santiago Chile and made my way up north to the city of Copiapo to meet up with my climbing partner, which was quite the adventure in itself considering I speak very little Spanish and hardly anybody outside of Santiago speaks English. After meeting up with Tony, we piled all of our gear into an old Chevy 4x4 and drove north to the driest desert in the world--the Atacama Desert.

The rock climbing area that we camped at is about 10 miles east of the little village of Socaire, near the Bolivian border in an old dried-up river valley situated at an altitude of over 11,000 ft. With the exception of a small sliver of green grass adjacent to a tiny nearby stream, there was virtually no vegetation to be seen. The landscape consisted of old volcanic rock (courtesy of the nearby range of enormous volcanoes), sand, dust, and more rock. Because the campground was in a desert, the temperature variability was extreme and ranged from over 90 deg F in the daytime to as low as 30 deg F at night. Our campground had a fantastic southern view of the 18,000 ft volcano Licancabur, which was framed between the red walls of the river valley. It amazed me how little snow this behemoth and its equally big nearby

sibling volcanoes had, especially since I am accustomed to the snow-capped peaks of the Cascades.

The actual rock climbing area extended for about a half mile before the walls collapsed into rubble on both sides. Fortunately, we had two walls to work with and lots of places to set up a top-rope (using either pre-existing anchors or rock pro). There were many crack climbs of various ratings and many face, slab, and overhanging climbs, so we never got bored. The red rock doesn't have the gigantic crystals like the granite rock of Exit 38 or Leavenworth do, so crack climbing wasn't very hard on the hands--a pleasant surprise. Most of the routes seemed to be of the harder variety, but there were also a good number of easier routes (5.7 to 5.10a), so we were always challenged. The climbing area is at 11,000 ft so rock climbing even a single pitch was very strenuous. I found myself gasping for air after almost every climb but we kept going back for more.

The rock climbing area wasn't very crowded due to its remoteness, but we did meet a few Chilean climbers and even a group of granola-eating vegetarian types from California. Tony O forced me into becoming a "temporary" vegetarian since fresh meat doesn't keep for very long and isn't practical. Fortunately, Tony O is a good chef, so we always ate well.

I would absolutely recommend a trip to San Pedro de Atacama if you want to do some great rock climbing among breathtaking scenery and you have a serious need to travel and to do something different. If you go to Chile, always remember to keep 100 pesos on you since you have to pay to use the bathroom unlike here in the good ol' USA where it is a god-given right. Furthermore, if you do decide to partake of the coca leaf tea (which is very popular among South Americans for treating altitude sickness), don't forget to throw it out before you come back home.

Climbing Ojos del Salado-Chile, January 2005

Climber: Tony Olejnicki (scribe)

Introduction

I enjoy summer in Seattle but when winter arrives I prefer to be on the other side of the globe somewhere in warm climes and high mountains. So climbing in the Andes over Christmas and the month of January makes perfect sense to me.



Ojos del Salado

After climbing Aconcagua's Polish Glacier last Christmas I was well acclimatized to high elevations, so I decided to do a quick dash to climb Ojos del Salado, a volcano 6880 m high and only 80 m lower than Aconcagua itself. To the best of my knowledge, Ojos del Salado is the second highest peak in the Andes after Aconcagua (6960 m). It is also the highest peak in Chile and the highest volcano (though dormant) in the world.

High elevation climbing, even if not technically challenging, always presents a physical challenge due to the need for an appropriate acclimatization period. Once acclimatized, it is usually easy to bag several of these high, non-technical peaks. Acclimatization effects wear out very quickly and after approximately 2 weeks one needs to start from scratch.

After climbing Aconcagua, I journeyed immediately from Mendoza to Santiago de Chile and then to Copiapo, a mining township approximately 700 km north of Santiago. Copiapo is the gateway to the Atacama desert from the Chilean side. It is also the largest town reasonably close to Ojos del Salado. Being acclimatized, it took me only four days from the time I left Copiapo to reach the summit. I was lucky here with the weather as well, so I gained two free days for relaxation at Pan de Azucar, an interesting beach and desert park some 150 km northwest of Copiapo. I was waiting for Tony Downs to arrive to rock climb with me near San Pedro de Atacama, which is known as one of the more interesting rock climbing areas in Chile.

Logistics

Copiapo is accessible from Santiago de Chile by either bus or plane. The bus is really the preferable means of transport in Chile; the bus network is excellent with comfortable and cheap buses even with the US\$ devaluing like crazy. So the prices I quote in this report will be most likely higher next year.

The bus trip from Santiago to Copiapo takes 12 hrs and the best way to do it is to take an overnight cama (full reclining seats) type of bus, the fare being about US \$30. The advantage of arriving in the morning is the convenience in finding accommodations during the day rather than at midnight. Copiapo has lots of accommodations, ranging from a simple backpacker type for US \$10 a night to 4-star places for around US \$80. I stopped in the San Francisco de Vela Hotel next to the main city square; in Chilean and Argentinean towns the main city square is usually called Plaza de Armas.

The hotel cost US \$50 per night and it was a very comfortable and pleasant place after 2 weeks in the tent and 12 hrs. on the bus. It also included a nice breakfast. The staff was very helpful - the night attendant spoke very good English, but the day staff spoke only Spanish (you would think it would be other way around but this is Chile so expect things being a little different). They helped me to arrange a truck (a single cabin 4WD utility) for my trip to Ojos del Salado.

The truck was US \$100 per day and I thought that in a US context it was expensive. However, talking to various tourists I found that some of them paid up to US \$160 per day for a similar truck. It is advisable to book the truck in advance because in season the demand for trucks is huge and booking in advance may be cheaper.

There is also transportation from Copiapo to Laguna Verde and then to higher camps. It will save a considerable amount of money, but if time is of the essence it may not be viable. I believe the transportation service costs about US \$100 per person. There may be a minimum number of passengers required for the service to run, or perhaps a minimum per-person charge. These things are negotiable and flexible.



The permit to climb Ojos del Salado used to be free. However, a fee of US \$160 was introduced in the 2004/2005 climbing season. The government has privatized and improved services on the mountain by having in the huts a permanent staff that is responsible to ensure climber safety and maintenance of the road. These people are very helpful and provide a very good service.

At the first camp, Laguna Verde (14,000ft), one can use the gas stoves provided to cook meals and eat inside when the weather is bad. When I was there they were working on the 24 km access road and planning to have it properly graded within a couple of months.

The permit can be obtained on line, www.adventurismo.cl, or can be arranged on the spot in Copiapo in the Adventurismo office located on the first floor of the Mall building at Plaza de Armas. Copiapo is the place to get provisions as well. There are well-stocked supermarkets and very good quality products are available. Considering that the entire trip is of the car camping type, there are no really restrictions on weight, so fresh food can be purchased and cooked during the trip. The food in Chilean eateries outside the touristy areas is fairly basic and bland so doing your own cooking is a good idea.

The road to Laguna Verde is International Road 31, which goes to Argentina via San Francisco pass, 15,000ft. However, do not expect much from the international roads in Chile; they can be good and they can be bad. This one is bad, about 250 km of unpaved road. Part of it is oiled by a mining company, so the ride is reasonably smooth but once past the mining territory there was not much maintenance visible at all.



International Road 31

Just 30 km from Copiapo, International Road 31 starts and quickly changes into an unpaved track. The surrounding mountains and intense colors create a true sense of adventure.

The road climbs very quickly, attaining 10,000 ft within 2 hrs. Therefore it is a good idea to leave Copiapo late and camp overnight at 10,000 ft for acclimatization purposes, rather than driving directly to Laguna Verde at 14,000ft. This enables one to spend a night in the desert with spectacular sunset colors and clear starry skies.

It is safe to camp in the desert; there are lots of mining tracks to get off the road, allowing one to be inconspicuous. Camping here leaves just 2-3 hrs to arrive at Laguna Verde Camp the following day. It is a spectacular drive through beautiful and colorful desert with salt lakes and yellow grasses. There is no water available so one needs to carry sufficient bottled water from Copiapo to last the entire trip. The road climbs to 4000 m at Cuesta Codoceo pass and drops to 3700 m at the entrance to the Parque Nacional Nevado Tres Cruces.



Colors of Atacama Desert

The Atacama desert is a mining area resulting from a plentitude of various minerals such as gold, silver, tin, copper, and sulfur, to name just a few. These minerals give the rock amazing colors, which contrast with the dry, yellow vegetation.

Ojos del Salado is situated right on the border between Chile and Argentina. To get there one has to cross the Carabineros border checkpoint at Complejo Fronterizo San Francisco, about 150 km from Copiapo at the entrance to Parque Nacional Nevado Tres Cruces. Past that checkpoint one is basically in no man's land.



Maricunga Salt Lake



Tres Cruces

Beyond the checkpoint the view opens onto the spectacular Tres Cruces, a complex of 3 peaks - Cerro Tres Cruces Norte (6030 m), Central (6629 m), and Sur (6748 m), all covered with permanent snowfields. Cerro Tres Cruces Sur is right on the border with Argentina. Following the road past Tres Cruces, the view opens onto the beautiful peaks of Barrancas Blancas (6100 m) and Vicunas (6067 m). Beyond Barrancas Blancas is the turn-off to Ojos del Salado.

Continue for another 10 km past the turn-off for the camp at Laguna Verde. Here there is another Carabineros checkpoint. This is a proper frontier checkpoint and one is supposed to visit it, but if one doesn't hang around Laguna Verde for too long, it is possible to move on and not to register there. I was acclimatized and spent only one day and night at Laguna Verde; I did not visit the Carabineros. During registration your passport is impounded until you finish the climb and return to reclaim it. Just leaving my passport in the shed in the middle of the desert really did not appeal to me. Laguna Verde is the salt lake containing some sulfur salts but not enough to make the smell offensive, yet strong enough to prevent vegetation from growing while creating a beautiful azure color to the water.



Camp Laguna Verde and Cerro Laguna Verde

This is an area of thermal activity - one cannot forget about it when looking around and seeing volcanoes everywhere. There are also hot springs, making for a pleasant couple of days while enjoying the spas. Cerro Mulas Muertas (5897 m) towers over the Laguna Verde and it is a pleasant acclimatizing climb of 1500 m. There is also Cerro Laguna Verde (5872 m) on the other side of the Laguna with climbing trails to the top. If you need further acclimatization climbs there are a few other 6000 m volcanoes in the vicinity. With proper acclimatization at 14,000ft it is time to tackle Ojos del Salado. Just head 10 km back towards Copiapo and turn left toward the obvious hut, Refugio Murray about 1 km from the main road.



Road to Ojos del Salado

The access road to the trailhead definitely requires 4WD, having lots of sandy patches, unsuitable for a non-4WD or a low suspension 4WD. Admittedly, they were working on the access road and hopefully those going there next year will have much easier access. From Refugio Murray take the road SE and continue for 24 km to the Refugio Universidad de Atacama at Jorge Rojas (5200 m). This should be another acclimatization station.

There is a ranger station at Jorge Rojas. The rangers are very nice and helpful and you have to present them your climbing permit. In exchange, they will offer you comms radios for the duration of the climb, as well as useful local and weather information. The area can experience bouts of severe, dynamic weather and the rangers are there to help. Again, it is a good idea to speak some Spanish as it is easier to communicate with them. Someone there usually speaks English but basic Spanish goes far, especially for social purposes. It is nice to meet your interlocutor half-way with the language.

The road to Ojos del Salado goes left of Cerro Barrancas Blancas and Cerro Vicuna (6067 m). It follows a winding, sandy road towards Cerro El Muerto's base at Jorge Rojas. Cerro El Muerto is the first peak visible and Ojos del Salado appears just behind, unimpressive from that distance. One gets a full appreciation of Ojos at the high camp, Refugio Tejos (5825 m).

To reach Refugio Tejos takes a 3-4 hr. climb from Jorge Rojas. It is a good acclimatization practice to climb to Tejos the second day and return to Jorge Rojas for an overnight stay. Then it is possible to climb Ojos in one long day from Jorge Rojas in approximately 9-10 hrs, leaving Jorge Rojas at 5am and returning at 6-8pm or so. With a good 4WD it is possible to drive to Tejos. I managed to drive only halfway up, got stuck, and camped there; it was a good compromise. Hopefully starting next season the drive-up will not be as harrowing.



Cerro El Muerte

From Tejos it takes only 6 hrs on a steep snow field to summit. The terrain is a mixed bag of snow and ice and in places can be steep with difficult step kicking. Close to the rim it gets very steep for about 500-600 ft, with very powdery snow under a thin crust of ice. This makes it seem like kicking steps on a sand dune - very strange, nothing like that in Cascades.

The map shows several different approaches to Ojos but I did not explore them; I don't think it is worth it. Just get the sucker from the normal approach and move on to Tres Cruces if you are yearning for another volcano.

These 3 peaks look very interesting and beautiful. While you are in this area it would be interesting to climb Mt. Pissis on the Argentinean side, but I am not sure about the relevant logistics.

Maps are available in Chile from the Instituto Geografico Militar in Santiago but they are really a waste of time; I have never seen such bad maps. They are only approximate and definitely not worth the price and effort to get them.

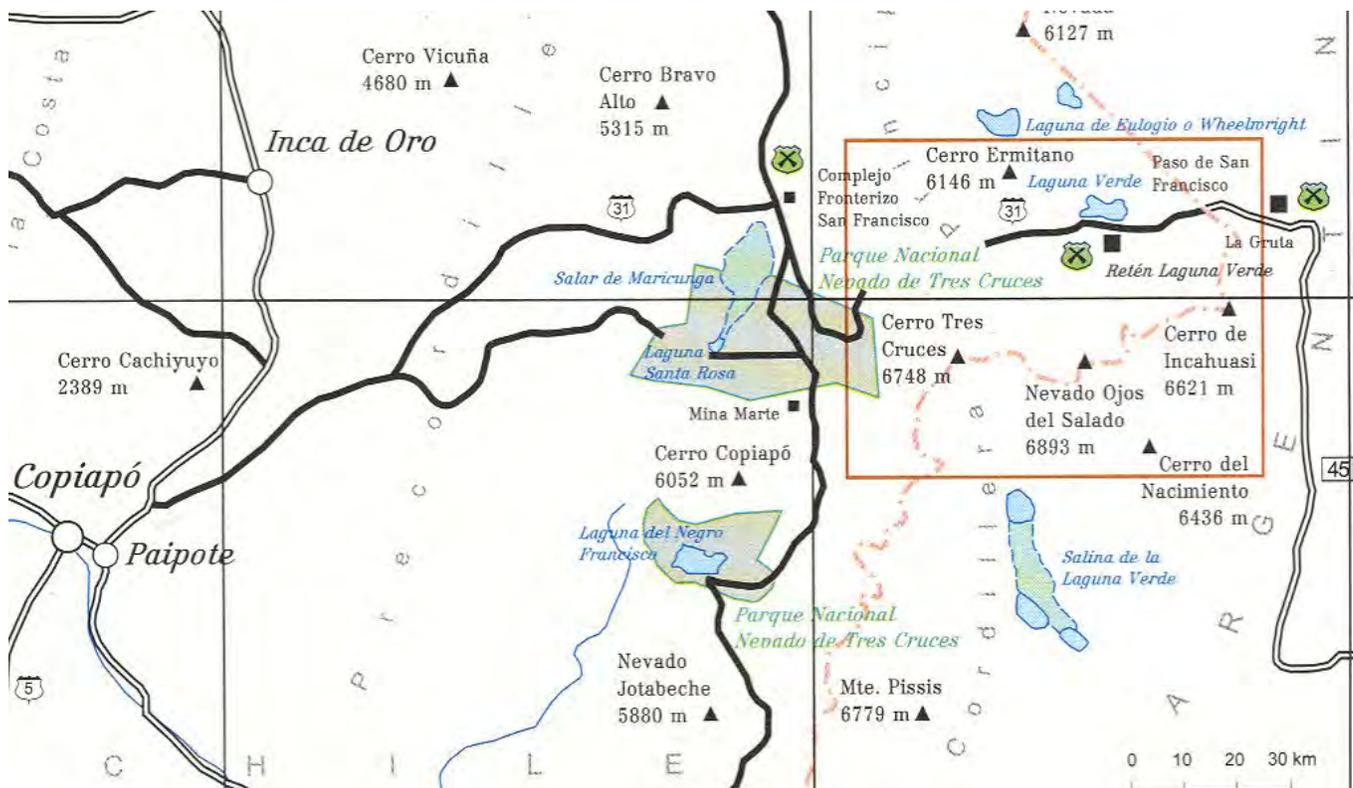
There is, however, a superb map (1:100000) published by Deutschen Alpenverein and it is called Nevado Ojos del Salado Alpenverein karte 0/13, ISBN 3-928777-94-7. You can purchase it online and it is worth every penny of its US \$25, probably more next year.

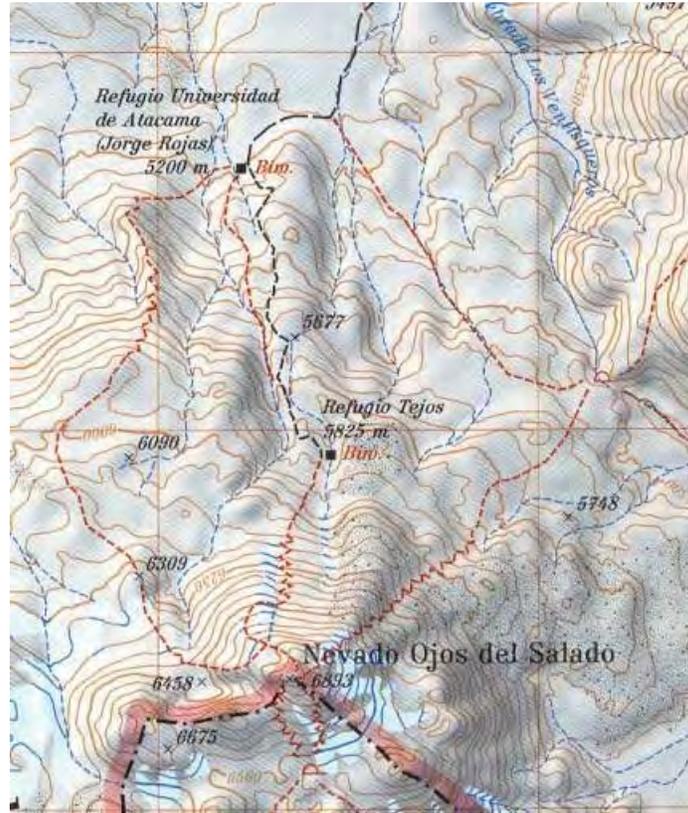


Ojos del Salado from Jorge Rojas



Refugio Tejos 5825m





A Month of Gaper Aid Climbing

Episode One: Mullets and Nuts

Climbers: Robert Fisher (scribe), Chris Meter

Chris Meter and I took a field trip to the Lower Town Wall at Index to check out City Park. Neither of us had any appreciable aid climbing experience, but we did have male bravado and just enough knowledge gleaned from *FOTH* and John Long's *Bigwalls* book to be dangerous. The weather was very cooperative, enticing us with scattered rain which turned to steady rain and temperatures in the upper 30's to low 40's.

City Park is rated 5.13c as a free climb and C1 as an aid climb. This means that it's superman-hard as a free climb, and as easy as it gets for aid. The route itself is a vertical crack system leading up a blank cliff face for about 100 feet. It has been an aid climber's trade route from the days of yore when pitons were the norm, and as such, is pock marked with pin scars. These pin scars are what make the climb possible for superhuman free climbers (Todd Skinner) and double amputees (Huge Herr). They are also what make the climb so easy for aid climbing. You can throw a set of nuts at the crack and have one of them stick.

Chris met me at my apartment at 7:00 am. We stopped for coffee at Starbucks, and stopped again at the Fred Meyer in Monroe for provisions. We had a little trouble finding the Clif bars, so Chris asked one of the employees for assistance. He was a tall, mullet-clad gentleman who walked with a speed and intensity that addled our caffeine-bolstered minds. The long half of his hair billowed out as he walked, somewhat reminiscent of a Fabio romance novel cover shot. The short half of his hair stood like R. Lee Ermey, stoically opposed to everything, thus confirming the idea of "business in front, party in rear." When he finally came to a "rest" (if you can call a half second for a gesture at the Clif bars a rest), the tips of his perfectly coiffed bi-level haircut were steaming. We grabbed some bars and got the hell out of there.

After discussing the surreal department store experience, we were well on our way to the lovely town of Index, Washington. This is the kind of place where directions to the Jones's involve phrases like: "turn right at the sleepy dog" and "go straight at Bubba's old shack." It was a little unnerving going past "The Index Sportsmen's Club" when it was clearly labeled "The Gun Club" on our map.



"I live in a van by the river!"

After a little bit of map interpretation, we pulled into the parking lot for the Lower Town Wall. Oddly enough, we were the first people there on this overcast and frigid morning.

We quickly located our climb, and being the protagonist of this trip, I was up for the first lead. The route starts with two moves of 5.6 to a bolt ladder. It was a wet day and I was in boots, so I elected to aid the two moves to the bolt ladder. The bolt ladder went smoothly and I arrived at my first placement. A nut was sunk into the crack and I very cautiously weighted my aiders. Not surprisingly, it held. I moved up, ever so cautiously and it continued to hold. Hell, this might just work out.

The climb went fairly easily, if not slowly, after that. Place nut, move daisy, move aider, move aider, step up, repeat. At one point I attempted to place a small cam just above one of the few nut placements

that I was hesitant to trust. It seemed like nothing more than a shifting in my lower intestine might dislodge what I perceived to be a tenuously placed stopper. I attached one of my easy daisies to the cam and slowly weighted it. It shifted a bit then popped, sending a shudder through the tenuous nut placement. My breathing went from a casual 20-30 a minute to 120 a minute almost instantly. To my relief, the nut held. To my belayer's relief, my bowels held.

After my lesson in cam placements, the climb went smoothly. I gained the anchor and spent some time setting up a haul and a fixed line for my second. All said, I took about 2.5 hours to lead what the professionals would spend 30 minutes on, assuming they would waste their time on such an easy pitch.

While I was scaring myself on the route, Chris was busy freezing his tookus off down below. According to Chris, ascenders are difficult to operate with



Robert, sewing it up on City Park.

frost-bitten hands. In an effort to show him that I cared, I made an offhand remark assailing his masculinity and got to hauling the pack.



Chris, sporting his sling skirt.

It was Chris's turn and he launched into the climb with gusto. Only last year, Chris was a student in the basic class. Now he was teaching himself how to aid climb. All you have to do is hand him a rack and stand back as he climbs something.

Chris aided to the bolt ladder as I had. He spent a little time getting the sequence of movement down, but after that, made slow, but easy work of the lead. In a turn of luck, the weather had turned to steady rain while Chris was on the route. It was quite the privilege to stand below,

belaying my climbing partner through 38 degree rain. On a positive note, I was too busy trying to keep warm to get bored during Chris' 2.5 hour lead.



Chris surveys his fiefdom (aka, Robert).

Chris fixed a rope and I cleaned the route while he hauled the pig. By this time, it was 5:00 pm and getting dark. Each of us had spent more than 2 hours leading the easiest of the easy aid routes. We needed to get faster.

Supplement: Take Your Nuts Climbing

I would imagine that there are some folks out there who are curious about aid climbing, but are a little intimidated by the gear and the enormity of it all. City Park is a great first lead. It's very easy to find and close to the parking lot.

Before you even leave the house, break out *Mountaineering: Freedom of The Hills* and read the chapter on aid climbing. It will give you a good idea how to move and clean the gear. After you have done that, check out this webpage: <http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/index/> for a free climbing guide to the Index Town Wall. More specifically, check out this page: <http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/index/roadmap.gif> for a road map, this page: <http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/index/trailmap.gif> for the trails, and this page: <http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/index/ltwcl.gif> for the City Park topo. City Park is route 170 located in the middle of the page. Also check out the guide-book page at the end of this report (reprinted with the author's permission).

Gear:

- 2-3 sets of stoppers
- 3-4 cams 1"-4"
- 2 Aiders (can be tied from webbing)
- 2 Daisy Chains (can be tied from webbing)
- 15 single slings
- 10 free 'biners
- 3-4 lockers
- Hammer (any kind, with tether)
- 2 ropes
- Nut tool
- Boots
- Texas Prusik (or ascenders)
- Very patient belayer
- Kneepads (nice, but not needed)
- Fingerless leather gloves (nice, but not needed)

The setup: get on your harness, boots, kneepads, and gloves. Tie into the rope. Girth hitch both daisies to your harness at the tie-in point. Tie the extra rope to the back of your harness either through the grab loop or around the

waistband. You will trail this rope. Why a trail line? It keeps you connected to your belayer, and it's an easy way to get a second rope to the top of the climb for the rappel.

The climb starts with a couple of free moves to the bolt ladder. Don't worry about the free moves, they are probably around 5.6 or so. The bolt ladder gives you an opportunity to get used to the system of movement with bomber placements. Don't leave a quickdraw or sling on every bolt. It will piss off your follower. Only protect two or three of the bolts. This reduces the amount of gear you have to bring and the amount of gear your follower has to clean.

Bring on the nuts!

The crack is pretty thin, requiring a lot of #5 and #6 stoppers.

"But I only have two of each!" you whine.

As you move past a piece, remove it and re-rack it. Only leave every third piece or so as protection. Sometimes the stoppers are difficult to extricate from the oh-so-happy crack. That's why you have the hammer. Tap them out GENTLY if they get stuck. You will notice that the #5 and #6 fit everywhere. Try not to leave those as pro, keep them on your rack for progression.

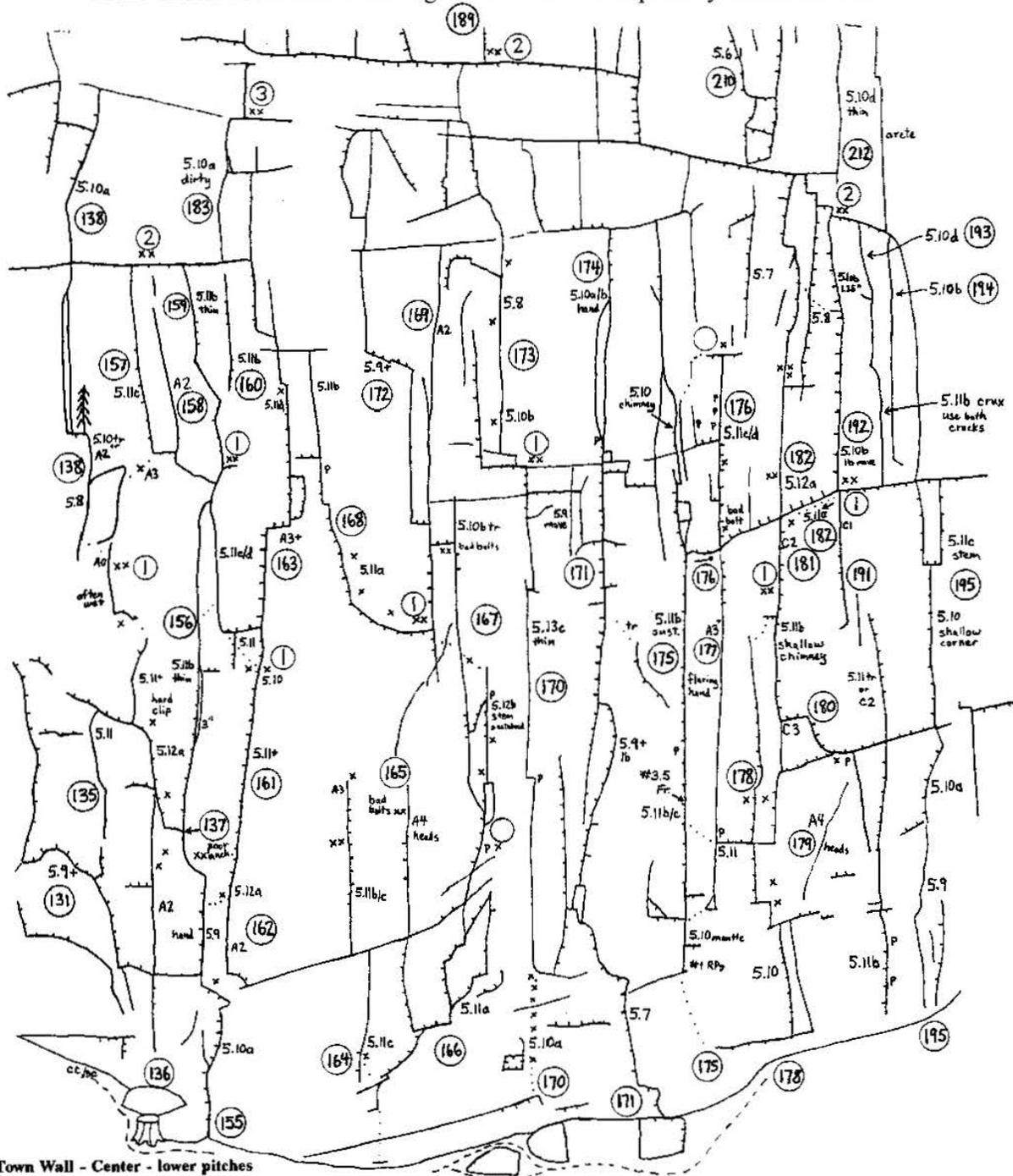
There is a slight joggle to the left about 1/3 of the way up the route. It looks tricky, but it's pretty easy. Step high in the aiders and sink a nut as high as you can. The second joggle to the right also looks tough, but it isn't. The most interesting part is just as you come up to the belay ledge. You need to put a big cam behind the block and step out of your aiders. Finish with a high step (free) to get to the chains.

...and voila! You have just led your first aid pitch. Set up an anchor on the chains and fix the rope to it. Make sure that it is a bomber backed-up anchor. Your partner will be hanging from it shortly.

"Who is going to clean the gear?"

The nice person who just listened to you curse your way up the crack for the last two hours, that's who. The follower will need to use their Texas Prusik to inchworm their way up the lead rope, removing gear as they go. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Don't worry, it's their turn to lead and you can return the favor! You should probably use the trail line to send the hammer down to your follower before they get going so they can remove the nuts you pasted into the rock with your considerable bulk.

Once it's all said and done, rappel the route and call it macaroni. NOTE: The route is too long for a single rope rappel. Switch leaders and repeat.



Lower Town Wall - Center - lower pitches

- 154. Japanese Gardens to upper Ten Percent 5.11c/d ****, a classic combo
- 155. Japanese Gardens p1 (short) 5.10a ***, hand, bad belay anchor
- 156. Japanese Gardens p1 (full) 5.11c/d ***, thin crux, pro to 4'
- 157. It's a Dog's Life ... 5.11c *, LAs, [but you can Picnic with us]
- 158. If God Wrote ... A2, [you a letter, would you read it?], free pr.
- 159. Japanese Gardens p2 5.11b **, thin
- 160. Trout Farm Massacre 5.11b, thin
- 161. Stern Farmer p1 (free version) 5.12a **
- 162. Stern Farmer p1 (original) A2 **
- 163. Stern Farmer p2 A3+ *
- 164. Bwana Dick 5.11c PD R, face, RPs, 1x
- 165. Artifice p1 A4, copperhead seam
- 166. Bat Skins p1 (short) 5.11a *, x, p
- 167. Bat Skins p1 (full) 5.12b *, sustained pure stem
- 168. Bat Skins p2 5.11b or 5.11d *, 3-4x, P, RFC
- 169. Artifice p2 A2, loose roof to thin crack, 5.10b tr to City Park ledge

- 170. City Park p1 5.13c or C1 ***, unrepeated free by anyone with real feet?
- 171. Godzilla 5.9+ ****
- 172. Gold Bar Girls 5.9+ *, flake L of City Park p2, long runners
- 173. City Park p2 5.10b **, 3x, 5.10c if short
- 174. Leapin' Lizards 5.10a/b, dirty, p2 of Godzilla
- 175. Deal with it Ranger 5.11b/c PD **, 2P, corner to flare, #2-2.5 Fr.
- 176. Natural Log Cabin 5.11c/d **, above DwiR, 2 ropes, unrepeated?
- 177. NA Overhang Far Left A3+, seam to Natural Log Cabin
- 178. Narrow Arrow Overhang p1 Left 5.11b **, 4x
- 179. Narrow Arrow Overhang p1 Center A4 *, copperhead seam var.
- 180. Narrow Arrow Overhang p1 Right 5.11b C3 **
- 181. Narrow Arrow Overhang p2 (aid start) 5.12a C2 ***
- 182. Narrow Arrow Overhang p2 (free start) 5.12a ***, trav. from NA Direct

10K in a Day

Climbers: Chris Meter (scribe), Robert Fisher, Sarah Sternau

Earlier this month Robert Fisher, Sarah Sternau, and I decided to start the long road getting back into shape for the season by having a go at 10K in a day. We chose Tiger, Granite, Si, and Rattlesnake Ledges for slightly over 10,100 feet in elevation gain and around 25 miles of hiking.

We started at 7:00 with Tiger, making quick work of it on fresh legs. Then we drove over to Granite, where we realized that our day might not be as easy as we thought it would. On Granite everything began to slow down. In the early afternoon, we got back to the cars and made our way to Si.



So fresh and so clean at Tiger base



I'm lactating on Tiger summit



Happiness at Granite top

Si kicked our butts. It was slow and tough going. We got passed by many, many people...young and old. A pair of joggers lapped us. If we ever could have caught our breath, we would have let all the passers know that we looked like such a sorry lot because we'd been climbing all day. By the time we got up and down the hill, the sun was starting to sink pretty low.



Staring at Robert on Si summit



Staring at Sarah's Blue Steel impression at base of Rattlesnake. Robert looking to the heavens for guidance.

It set while we were in the car on the way to Rattlesnake Ledges. We put on our headlamps and made our way up to the look out. We got back down in good time, anxious to be done. We reached the cars a little after 8pm.

The trip was a workout. I haven't let Sarah and Robert know yet that our next step is 10K in half a day.



Look at how red Robert is after Rattlesnake.

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)

ALPINE ECHO



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NEW WORK PHONE: _____ NEW HOME PHONE: _____

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OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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April Echo staff

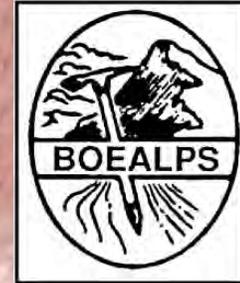
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John Gowan

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki
Tony Downs
Robert Fisher
Chris Meter
Jay Bradshaw

If you have any submissions—anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do—email them to us at editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a call (our numbers are on the front cover) and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

MAY 2005



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MAY PRESENTATION



The topic of the May General Meeting will be "Climbing Mount Rainier 101" conducted by a Boealps panel of experts. Come hear from club members who have been up the peak several times what it takes to scale Washington's highest summit. Among the topics to be covered are:

- Ideal team size
- Stuff to bring and stuff to leave behind
- Best time to climb the mountain
- What route to choose

If you are considering a climb soon this will be a great chance to gain some insight.

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday,
MAY 5th, 7PM

At BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Call this the Basic Class Issue of the Alpine Echo. I received several writeups from BCC students with their take on the Leavenworth outing. Also a good article from BCC student Marna Kegele on how to care for your rubbers. The article has some good info and after all, you should handle them with care because your life could depend on it!

Our Boealps Everest Expedition team members are making carries up the mountain and establishing camps. Read their reports in this issue and keep up with the latest dispatches from Everest Base Camp at <http://everest.myblogger.com>.

Dan Goering was off to the East Coast recently and made an ascent of Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Check out Doug McCarville's review of Aron Ralston's book "Between a Rock and a Hard Place".

The Spring Campout will be held at Lake Wenatchee State Park on June 11th and 12th. We had a joint ICC&BCC campout there on the Leavenworth outing. Mark your calendars and plan for a fun weekend of camping and climbing at Leavenworth. The group site is reserved for Saturday night. It will be a potluck, e-mail Gustavo Unguez at Gustavo58@lycos.com if you are going for potluck info.

The Basic Rock Class will start in June! This class is geared for BCC graduates and intended as a stepping stone to the ICC. There is an announcement in this issue with everything you need to know to sign up for the class. Contact Chris Meter (ccmeter@yahoo.com) or Sarah Sternau (sternau@yahoo.com) for more info. Get your application in ASAP as space in the class is limited!!!

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
John



May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 BCC: Tatoosh, ICC: Smith	2	3	4 BCC: Gasworks	5 General Meeting	6	7 BCC: Crevasse rescue
8 BCC: Crevasse rescue	9 ICC lecture	10 Board Meeting	11 BCC lecture	12	13	14 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance ICC: Squamish
15 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance ICC: Squamish	16	17	18 BCC exam	19	20	21 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance
22 BCC: Grad climb/trail maintenance	23	24	25 BCC grad Echo Deadline	26	27	28
29	30	31 ICC lecture?				

2005



June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 General Meeting – Bagit Night	3	4 ICC: Alpine 1
5 ICC: Alpine 1	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 BRC: Leavenworth Spring Campout
12 BRC: Leavenworth Spring Campout	13 ICC Lecture	14	15	16	17	18 ICC: Alpine 2
19 Father's Day ICC: Alpine 2	20	21	22 Echo Deadline	23	24	25 BRC: Squamish
26 BRC: Squamish	27	28	29	30		

2005

ANNOUNCING THE BRC!
(Boealps Basic Rock Class)

Are you fresh out of the basic class and looking to get on some rock and start climbing?

Are you considering the Intermediate Climbing Course but need more experience climbing on rock?

Has it been a while since you've led or followed on trad routes and need a refresher?

If so, get ready for the Basic Rock Class! In the BRC you will have the opportunity to travel to such exotic locations as Leavenworth, Smith, and Exit 38. Knowledgeable instructors will work with you, teaching you how to follow a lead climber on trad routes. Later those instructors will travel with you into the hills where you will follow them on multi-pitch alpine climbs.

"Oh my! The BRC sounds amazing! It's exactly what I need to become a better climber! With the BRC, I can open the door to a whole new world of climbing!" Yes, indeed. If the BRC sounds like the next step in your climbing career, apply today! Space is limited.

Important Info:

The course runs from June through September with outings roughly every two weeks.

There will be 3-4 mandatory skills outings followed by 3 Alpine Experience climbs that will be determined by students and instructors.

Previous experience climbing on rock is required (you don't have to be a pro!) as is the BCC or equivalent.

For more info or to find out how to apply for this amazing class, contact Chris Meter (ccmeter@yahoo.com) or Sarah Sternau (sternau@yahoo.com).

Dispatches from Everest Advanced BaseCamp

Editor's Note: Here is the latest from the Boealps Everest Expedition. Boealpers Michael Frank, Ambrose Bittner, Al Baal and Ryan Allen are in Tibet to climb the North Ridge route. For the latest reports from the team, check their website: <http://everest.myblogs.com>

Untitled

by [Scott](#) at 11:02PM (PDT) on April 19, 2005 | [Permanent Link](#)

Hello Everyone,

Sorry about the lack of communications. One computer was unhappy with the altitude at Base Camp and this computer is only happy when it is nice and warm at Advanced Base Camp (ABC). And the sat phone takes a lot of power from the solar panels and thus is only operable part of the day. Well to catch everyone up with our progress: We have now been in ABC~21,000 ft for a week. I have been feeling pretty good. I was slightly surprised by the difficulty of the climbing up to the North Col but so far I have carried two loads up there. Michael has been very strong carrying heavier loads than myself and Brook has been very solid as well. Al went back down to base camp a couple days ago to get stronger and Ambrose and Ryan joined Al at base camp yesterday. I think all the other guys are doing fine and many strong, experienced climbers go down to lower altitudes to acclimatize better. I am just feeling comfortable here so I don't see any reason to take the long walk back to base camp. But as for me and ABC - the weather has been good. We had a little too much wind when we first got to ABC but it was nothing more than a hassel. Last night the temperature in my tent was -5F. I started using my -40F sleeping bag which lets one get into the bag slightly chilled and still warm up and have a comfortable night. The two trips I made to the North Col take most of the day and are fairly hard days. The second trip went better because I knew what I was getting into and left earlier. The sherpas have set up fixed ropes to the North Col and beyond but there is one section of vertical ice climbing and many others of high angle hard water ice. On our trip yesterday one of our sherpas, Lakpa went up to camp 2 above the north col and got us a good spot to camp. Also yesterday our oxygen arrived in ABC so now we have most of the group gear at the North Col or above and need to add the oxygen and personal gear. After a couple of rest days here we will attempt to sleep at the North Col and push higher to camp 2 or 3 before going back to base camp to have a long rest before any summit push. So to wrap up everyone is doing well and we seem to be on schedule with getting the gear in place and our bodies acclimatized.

With kind thoughts from ABC,

Scott

Vacation at ABC

by [michael](#) at 11:03PM (PDT) on April 19, 2005 | [Permanent Link](#)

This is just another quick blog to add to what Scott had just posted. It has been interesting living now for over a week at 6405 meters. I was actually thinking about work the other day as I was carrying a load to the North Col. It takes about 6 hours up and 2 hours down and it is a lot f*****g harder of a day than a day in the office. Of course the views are better. It takes a tremendous amount of energy and anything you eat usually just sits in your stomach because your body doesn't have enough energy/oxygen to digest it until you get back to ABC. The morning ritual includes an extremely dry/raw throat and blowing out some choice bloody snot which feels great to get out. The bathroom facilities at ABC are unique as well. The wind often super cools your backend which is mooning the Finish camp across the way. The food is quite good but it is often hard to eat much. Last night we had a great chicken dinner. Unfortunately for Ryan (who was craving chicken) he missed it as he and Ambrose went down to BaseCamp to recover a bit. Ryan has been feeling okay just unable to sleep at ABC which has been wearing on him. They plan on coming back to ABC in a few days. This is a very common practice and we will all be going back to BaseCamp for probably a week before the summit push. Brook has made a couple of posts to EverestNews.com and to his Ogawa-mtnadv dispatch page you may want to check out. There is a picture of our Sherpas, Lakpa and Dangima establishing the final ladder crossing near the top of the North Col. We've been socializing a lot with a couple of other groups here who traveled here with us

and some of the people share our ABC and BC meals with us. Their websites are www.alonetoeverest.com and www.sigridhammer.no . The websites are from memory so don't be surprised if they don't serve up what is expected. When we are pushing higher on the mountain we will not be able to send email or make phone calls. Sorry but the electronic equipment only goes as high as ABC. Hope everyone is doing well. Thanks to Karin for helping out with the blog posts, hope you are surviving Mr. Pounders class. Rebecca, please give Justin a hug for me. I love all of you!

Take care!

michael

Camp 2

by [michael](#) at 03:07AM (PDT) on April 26, 2005 | [Permanent Link](#)

So we are back at ABC after having spent 2 nights at the North Col. Scott and I have carried a number of loads prior to sleeping there so the transition wasn't too bad. It is a bit of a mind trip to be sleeping higher than any peak in North or South America. Hiking up to camp 2 (7500m) yesterday was a bit of a challenge. I don't think I've ever hiked slower in my life and the wind was constantly blowing quite strong. The Feathered Friends down suit came in quite handy and kept us very warm in what were unfavorable conditions for going high. It took us about 4 hours up and 1 hour down which our Sherpas think was pretty good for our first time. Lakpa and DaNgima have established camp 3 at 7900m. If the weather is good they will start establishing camp 4 at 8300m in the next few days. Ambrose, Ryan, and Al arrived back at ABC from BC yesterday. They are feeling quite strong now and are ready to carry some oxygen to the North Col tomorrow. It is nice to have everyone (almost) back together. The other big news is Brook is headed back to Seattle. Everyone is going to have to wait for Brook to post for his perspective on this. He took his computer and Sat phone with him. This email is being sent from Jamie McGuiness' computer so there may be a few glitches with it getting to the blog site. Brook will still monitor his Sat phone in the case someone leaves an emergency message for one of us on it.

Best Wishes and we love you all!

michael

Galactic Prophylactic

By Marna Kagele

My fingers were dug into minute handholds on the sharp rock as the perfect storm descended. With wind gusting, rain sprinkling, and nose running I pondered how to make the next move before my feet gave way below me. Fellow Basic Class student Eric Fjellanger had been coaching me on the route, but now he was too far below to offer advice. I was on my own. And then from below, I heard the voice of my instructor Robert Fischer. Welcoming any words of wisdom, I strained to hear through the howling wind. "Trust your Rubber," he shouted.

The Team Black adventure continued on Sunday at Leavenworth as Chris Fering and I went through a make-up session while the rest of the team slept in. This was after Robert dragged us from our warm sleeping bags at 5:15am with the promise of a hot greasy breakfast at Kristall's restaurant in Leavenworth. By 6am we were poised outside Kristall's, with faces pressed against dark windows. We ended up taking our greasy breakfast quest to McDonald's where we successfully ingested a breakfast of champions. Feeling slightly ill, we drove on to the climb site.

Chris and I set up anchors around rocks and trees and then practiced rappelling past a knot. We are both here to tell about it, so it worked and once again the usefulness of the prussic became clear. A few other team members managed to drag themselves out to the mountain for a little climbing practice in rock climbing shoes, although I think it was a skillfully planned recruiting day for the Basic Rock Class. Chris took on the challenging routes in his mountaineering boots while the rest of us opted to try climbing shoes. We all practiced on the routes until the last climb of the day which was me climbing in the storm. Ok so it wasn't a storm, but it felt like one!

Although this is a mountaineering class, all this climbing and rubber talk got me to thinking about rock climbing shoes. The rubber sole of your shoes is your climbing prophylactic and indeed you should trust your rubber as Robert suggested. Prophylactic is defined as acting to defend against or prevent something, which in this case means shoes preventing you from falling off a giant rock which is a truly amazing feat. This began my exploration of rubber as follows.

What to look for in your prophylactic:

Fit is the most important aspect of your rock climbing shoe but the friction holding you in place comes from the rubber. All climbing specific shoes have a sticky rubber on the bottom and the differences come in the quality and consistency used by each manufacturer. Soft rubber will be more sticky offering better traction, but it also wears out faster. Harder rubber will not maximize traction, but will last longer.

Three top prophylactics:

Five-ten was established by a climber named Charles Cole with an engineering background. He set out to use directed research to improve climbing shoe rubber. Today, the company uses Stealth rubber which is a series of rubber formulas, each developed to provide the highest possible performance in its application. The climbing formula is said to improve climbing ability by increasing the amount of body weight rubber can bear before its bond breaks from the rock. They claim to have the best friction on earth.

Mad Rock has been making rock climbing shoes for over 10 years, and they have developed an extremely sticky rubber in their own rubber factory. They claim it is the stickiest rubber for rock climbing shoes ever.

La Sportiva North America is a company of climbers who use two types of rubber on their shoes. FriXion is their proprietary sticky climbing rubber that has versatile manufacturing abilities. XSV is a rubber made by Vibram for La Sportiva and it is claimed to be the hardest and stickiest climbing rubber on the market as well as having high edging ability and smearing performance while remaining durable.

Prophylactic Care:

Experts agree that no matter which type of rubber your shoes use, performance is directly related to cleanliness. Sand and dirt can cause shoe slippage, while oil can accelerate rubber degradation. Try to minimize length of approaches or descents done in your climbing shoes. Inevitably you will get some dirt on your shoes. Cleaning them before stepping onto rock will increase friction and your chance of climbing success and also decrease wear. To clean your rubber, scrub it with a stiff, nylon-bristled brush. You may choose to use a wire brush which is more effective, but it also abrades the rubber. Mud can be washed off with water or a small amount of rubbing alcohol, brush clean and dry them on your pant leg. Don't have water or alcohol? Spit works well, too, according to Rock and Ice Magazine.

When you're not out on the rock, store your shoes in a dry well-ventilated place (not at the bottom of your pack under all your sweaty dirty gear). Mountain Equipment Co-op advises never keep them in a hot car trunk unless you've always wanted a pair of curly-toed elf shoes. High temperatures can also loosen the adhesive bonds on the sole.

The average climber goes through two pairs of rock shoes a year so it is important to check them regularly for wear. If you notice the performance of your rubber has decreased, you may want to consider having your shoes resoled. [WWW.cobcord.com](http://www.cobcord.com) offers the following signs to look for:

1. Resole when you feel less confident in the holding power of your shoes. Rounded, thin edges, or old rubber may cause this. Resole before you develop holes, to prevent damage to the shoe.
2. Inspect the forefoot edges for holes in the rubber. A hole (yes even a "pin hole") means you will need to have the rands repaired.

Armed with this information you can now have a confident climbing experience knowing you can trust your rubber. I am looking forward to future rock climbing outings and maybe even the Basic Rock Class. For now I will have to face my hiking boots and try to trust them for the climbing on our next Black Team outings.

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<http://www.cobcord.com/rockshoeevaluate.html>

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http://www.indoorclimbing.com/climbing_shoes.html

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<http://www.madrockclimbing.com/>

<http://www.sportiva.com/>

A Tour of Mt Washington

April 16 – 17, 2005

Dan Goering

"I've got some things to learn about climbing in the Northeast" I realized, pausing at the first view point afforded by the Boott Spur trail and gazing over the famed Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines of Mt Washington with some dismay.

Just an hour earlier, east coast Boealpers Ian Angwin and Maren Flynn and I had pulled into the Pinkham Notch visitor's center off highway 16 at the northern end of the White Mountains. The snow banks on the fringes of the dirt and gravel lot were rapidly dwindling and the place was positively inundated with humanity! The folks behind the information desk informed us this was not because of the Tuckerman Headwall ski race that had happened earlier in the day. Only six or seven hundred had shown up for that event. The other 2000 people were there just because it was a warm, sunny day on the highest peak in New Hampshire!

Mt Washington (6288 ft) is fabled for its high winds and nasty weather. Since Darby Field's first ascent back in 1642, over one hundred people have died on the mountain, many succumbing to either avalanche or exposure. As I write this, the summit wind is blowing 52 mph. (See <http://www.mountwashington.com/weather/current/index.shtml>) Mt. Washington's mean wind speed is a gale-force 35.3 mph, with 100 mph winds occurring every third day during the winter season. The world's highest recorded wind speed occurred here on April 12th, 1934: 231 mph! Forewarned, the three of us had arrived well equipped with warm clothing and a solid tent despite the sunny day and the excellent forecast.

We were also equipped with two ropes, crampons, ice tools and a dozen ice screws. Our intent: an ascent of the classic Pinnacle Gully in the Huntington Ravine. This moderate ice route was considered an extreme ice climb in 1930 when Yale students Julian Whittlesay and Sam Scoville, novice climbers, cut steps all the way to the top one day in early February. This feat was impressive due not only their lack of experience but also because of their equipment. Crampons in that day had no front points! Their single day ascent would not be repeated until 1948!

Fred Beckey himself had advised us to camp nearby and get an early start so as to avoid being bombarded by ice from climbers above us on the route. Alas, the weekend crowds had filled all available camping space within the ravines and our best apparent option was to hike the Boott Spur trail (named after a botanist) along the southern boundary of the restricted area and find a camp somewhere around 3000 ft. We'd have to traverse into Huntington Ravine from there. I'd asked in the visitor's center if off trail travel was permitted. "If you're comfortable with that" was the woman's reply. "No problem!" I countered confidently, envisioning a quick pre-dawn alpine traverse on patchy snow.

Now, an hour later, gazing over the densely treed slopes separating us from Huntington Ravine, it was clear my traverse would in reality be a desperate brush bash through tightly packed bristly pines. The odd look the woman behind the information counter gave me was making sense now.

The next morning, we set off from camp at 7 am liberated from our technical ice gear and headed for Boott Spur at the top of our camp ridge. We'd abandoned our Pinnacle Gully plan and were now on a grand tour of the mountain, which would take us up and over the summit and down to the Alpine Garden, a large plateau above Huntington Ravine where perhaps we could scope Pinnacle Gully from the top side.

Shortly after passing a sign announcing our entry into the "Alpine Zone", we found ourselves in the middle of a fairly unpleasant on-trail bushwhack! The pines up there have to be tough and wiry to survive the extreme winds and the trimmer-of-branches along this trail was either squeamish



about hurting a living thing or only 3.5 ft tall. Chest and face level boughs protruded nearly to the center of the trail and this hiking was akin to squeezing between giant, tightly spaced wire brushes. Despite continuous bobbing and ducking, we all soon had a multitude of scratches and I had acquired a cut on my lip and one on my forehead. I think an old adage that "'God Makes Mountains...New Hampshire Makes Men" may have originated along this trail.

A row of giant cairns, looking from a distance like a line of step-kicking Boealps basic class students led us across the broad saddle between Boott Spur and the summit as a stiff 25 mph breeze picked. Above us looming large against the cloudless blue sky was the small city of buildings and radio towers clustered on the top.

Topping out onto the summit plateau, the wind picked up a notch as we wandered around a small building held down to the mountain by two large chains draped over the peak of the roof. A sign marking the official high point is somewhat lost, surrounded by taller buildings used for research or to accommodate summer tourists. In the summer, you can drive to the top or ride the cog railway. We strolled across a large flagstone terrace to find a 50 mph wind ripping over the railing on the windward site of the mountain. It must be deafening to listen to your hood flap in a 100 mph breeze!

We foot glissaded a good bit of our rapid descent to the Alpine Garden, passing the front ranks of the ascending hoards. After a bit of poking about, Maren and I found the top of Pinnacle Gully just as two French Canadians were topping out - the only party on the route this day. They had wisely camped at the car and then got an early start, taking just 4.5 hours for the approach and climb. The route was still in good shape, though very wet with running water.

On the descent down the Lions Head route into Tuckerman Ravine, we got good views of the hoards of skiers hiking up the Tuckerman headwall for the privilege of skiing its steep slopes. The majority of these people don't bother to visit the summit but just yo yo ski the headwall, with four runs being considered a good day.



The mountains of the northeast hardly seem like mountains when compared to the Cascades. Their rounded summits seldom poke above tree line making sweeping alpine views rare. But this trip revealed that they have their own challenges. Unlike the Cascades, they offer frigid winters and some wicked ice climbing. I'd like to get back to try Pinnacle Gully sometime and I should have my chance this winter as I'll be moving to New Hampshire for about a year starting this fall to be with Maren while she finishes her second year at Dartmouth medical school. Maybe I'll learn to be a real ice climber!

Leavenworth Outing- An Account by Team Black
Written by: Melanie Lehman

Leavenworth was hyped up by many because of the opportunity to climb rock and of course because of the infamous potluck at Wenatchee State Park. Throughout the week leading up to the outing, the forecasters had sorry news for the weather which we BCC students have come to expect- 80% chance of precipitation. At least all likelihood pointed to the precipitation being in liquid rather than crystallized form. Hoohoo! We might not freeze when using the facilities.

Team Black was encouraged by their fearless leader (Robert J. Fisher- what does the "J" stand for we wonder) to meet early at the rendezvous location Saturday morning. So, we were all shooting for 6:15 to be ready to embark at 6:30. Many of us decided to make the 2.5 hour drive (which turned into 5 for some) Friday night in order to avoid the stress of waking at 3 am and having to make the drive the morning of the outing as was the case for Washington Pass. Suzi and I stayed in a van by the river (Icicle Creek) Friday night which wasn't as daunting as one might expect. The sound of the creek and the warm weather were quite conducive to sleep.

We awoke before the rest of the BCC camping contingent and readied ourselves for the day ahead. Pee in the woods... check. Drink water...check. Eat banana...check. Put a kazillion layers on...check. It was overcast and cool, but there's always hope for a change in weather in the mountains.

Team Black was faithful to their goal of taking off before 7:00. I began my brown nosing early by unveiling the instructor and student treats in the parking lot. Oatmeal chocolate chip cookies anyone? Only a few takers. Then the distraction of a broken shoelace. What in the world! Aren't those hardcore, full shank mountaineering boots?! Later in the day when Sarah shared a story of a group rappelling with all possible gear down to their shoelaces, Jay and company were uncertain they'd trust their lives to such devices.

Robert, Sarah, and Dennis did their duty to mentally prepare their team for the day's events. A 20-step procedure outlining Rappelling Past a Knot had been sent via E-mail before the trip to get the students ready to entrust their lives to a prussic knot in order to remove the beloved belay device while suspended 20+ feet above the ground. The team was also informed that the approach to the day's climbing area Playground Point would be a mere 6 miles uphill. Glad they got us to set our expectations for a challenge. That 6-mile stretch was a breeze lined with Eastern Washington wildflowers: bluebells, spring beauties, mule's ear, phlox...

The hike in to Playground Point was actually a short jaunt. When we arrived, we were pleasantly surprised that we had and began constructing natural anchors at Dennis' command. Girth hitch around a chock stone. Tie around a rock horn. Would you trust your life to these? Or more importantly, would you trust someone else's life to them? We'll see.

The weather was still cool, overcast, and cloudy rendering a hushed, mellow, and perhaps uncertain tone to the morning. And the time had come to do a rappel with pack on. After Robert took a test rappel on the rope, he came up and gave a report. Then, Moselle was the upbeat, go getter to start the task. I also went near the beginning of the group and despite my enthusiasm had forgotten the strong, brave, "don't think too much" mentality that is of high value. Yes, the rope will hold. Just sit back, way back. And hang on to that brake hand.

The first four to five steps downward were fine, and my heart calmed. But then, what's this? ...The rock drops away into a cave.... I'm swinging... feel like I'm falling and going to crash into rock.... No, don't do it!... Yep, I let go of the brake hand in order to shield myself from the rock face. Robert yelled, "You just died! You're dead!" which could have been the case. He was at the bottom of the rope and demonstrated the fireman pull to arrest my fall, but also I was stopped by the level rock surface below me. Glad I could show the fireman technique really works. No, actually I felt terrible. Where's Shella when you need to do several rounds of pushups? Moral of the story (please learn from me): never, never let go of the brake hand.

After the disheveling rappel, it was time to join the ladies in making an anchor we were actually going to use. With orange webbing, we tied around two boulders and adjusted the lengths with water knots and additional

webbing until the angles were right. We felt confident in our setup and were glad to rappel off it. Upon examining the other three unique anchors, there were doubts about only one. The multicolored, girth-hitched webbing that was tied around a movable boulder and designed by the southern engineers looked like something a magician had slowly pulled out of his sleeve, and my initial assessment was that its sturdiness was in kind. Dennis had said, "Less is better" meaning the less points of possible failure there are in an anchor system, the more reliable it tends to be. Yet, Sarah explained why they had no better alternative for the area, and I admit I ended up rappelling off it, and it held up fine.

At this point in the day, around noon, the periodic mist and dampness was sinking in and making some of our team cold. Time to put the hats and layers back on. Time to jog in place. Time to eat peanut M&Ms and to show appreciation for the fireman's pull by getting the instructor treats out again. Hey, I'm on my second life, might as well live it up. In just moments we would be tackling THE challenge for the day: rappelling past a knot.

As is hoped and expected, our team leader demonstrated the technique in smooth fashion instilling confidence in us as we broke into pairs to begin. Suzi and I teamed up. She went first and was a natural. Hoo-hoo! Unreal. I was quite certain my turn would look much different, and so it did. I started well enough, even if not picture perfect, with a leg wrap, waist prussic and foot prussic. In fact, I got through the whole procedure without slipping down, turning upside down or anything like that. It was just slow and frustrating. And it was rather scary to remove the belay device. Was I weighted on the prussic? Will it hold? It did and I thought I was home free after unwinding the leg wrap for the last time. There was just the small matter of rappelling past the instructor's safety anchor (sling and carabiner). Somehow I managed to get off balance and swing past the instructor who was clipped in, nearly causing him to fall against the rock. Ugh! Sorry many times over!



Well, the good news in this trip report is that the afternoon was much brighter than the morning in several respects. The sky kept lightening and the wind blowing until there were patches of blue and warmth. Sigh. And the climbing portion was ahead. Again, Suzi and I partnered to perform the Tying Off a Fallen Climber technique. This was demonstrated by Sarah and Dennis with finesse. We did fine and finally were free to climb.

I realized that I could get into this sport when I envisioned a crazy move, went for it, and stuck it. It was a portion of rock wall leading up to what appeared (to a 5'0" person) to be a significant overhang. I saw a foothold that was whispering my name but normally I would not have gone for. I even mentioned to Dennis that I saw something crazy. My teammates encouraged me to go for it, so I did and it held! From that move on, they were my cheer and advice squad. They are so great! I got up to the overhang and had both hands inserted in a crack above it. The defining moment was when I mustered my strength and heaved myself up on top of it. I didn't have a stable position and fell back, but I still felt high and accomplished. In total, I must have

been fighting that spot for 15-30 minutes until my energy was waning and I was SICK of looking at the beast. Then, Team Black united and, dare I say, was actually going to aid my ascent with brute force. Although victory wasn't to be with all the friction in the system, the yet wet rock, and my exhausted strength, it boosted my spirit and my fondness for this group of people.

The time winded down at Playground Point with many successful climbs of various routes, smiling BCC students, and continued sunshine. We came as a team and left as a team. And as the Saturday sun went beyond Lake Wenatchee, there was more adventure and camaraderie to be had at Leavenworth in the eve and in the morrow.

My Own Private Leavenworth
A Re-Telling of the Basic Class Outing of 16-17 April
by Gold Team Member François “Freaky Frankie” Godcharles

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

For me, this outing began as all the previous ones: rushing out of the workplace late Friday afternoon and navigating madly through traffic to REI and Larry’s Market for last-minute equipment and supplies; frantically packing and preparing the gear and food before the short, anxious night sleep; getting up at 4:15am to load up the car and finally getting under way just before 5:00; sliding off the road at the mountain pass for that early-morning adrenaline rush; and, at last, meeting up with my teammates at the rendez-vous point.... 2 minutes late...

The day started off dreary and miserable, with low clouds and misty rain, but nevertheless the team was in good spirits, as usual. Why shouldn’t we be ? After all, our team leader Chris brings the sun with him wherever he goes. Literally. On a leash. A big, smiling, helium-inflated sun. No kidding. You have to be there...

A short hike up the hillside brought us to our natural classroom, a nice cliffside with many crags, cracks, holes and rocks, and a few of the highly cherished BFT’s and BFR’s (all students should be familiar with those by now). And so the learning began.



“Alex and Seth, ready for action”



“Matt, nominated for “Best Fake Injured Climber”

First came the anchor set-ups. Chris showed us how our life could depend on the smallest tree or a well-placed rock wedged in a crack – oddly enough, it works ! Then, it was up to us to impress the instructors with our imaginative anchors: “Go, ye of little faith, and find thy anchor !”. And we did. And all was good.

Second came the “tying off an injured climber” demo and practice, involving the star of the day: the prussik knot (that thing is just amazing).

Third came the “rappelling past a knot”, with an amazing display by our instructor Scott who re-enacted an actual scenario with great thespian skills: “I am rappelling down. Oh no... (pause for dramatic effect), there is a knot in my rope (pause). What do I do (pause). First, tie a leg wrap....”



"oh no, says Scott, there is a knot in my rope !!!"



"Dirk, showing here how much he prefers this rappel method to the Dulfersitz"

Then, finally, came the "ever pleasant" practice of the hip belay which I will personally campaign to rename the "hip wedgie"... I still bear the marks from the practice runs...

We did so well at these skills, and our instructors were so impressed at our uncanny abilities to NOT die, that we were rewarded with a little improvised session on setting up friends for lead climbing (not in the course curriculum – shhht ! don't tell Jerry). And then came the icing on the cake: Scott set up a free rappel down an overhanging outcrop. That gave everyone on the team a sense of what it's like to have your life hanging by a thread (oh, the pun !). An interesting side effect of rappelling down is also that it brings emphasis on specific parts of the human anatomy. This was pointed out as team member X was sliding down the rope and the following comment was heard from the onlooking team: "damn, that's a sweet a.. !" - LOL... After such a good one-liner, there was no other way to go but down, and so we gathered up our gear and started back down to the cars. The learning part of the day was over, and it was time to relax at the camp site.



damn, that's a sweet

I won't go into much detail here as to what went down for the remainder of that fateful day. It has more to do with "team bonding" than climbing and it may not be of interest to all readers... Let's just say that the combination of physical fatigue, alcohol, and the mystical powers of an oversize bonfire can result in memorable events. It also tends to bring out interesting traits in people you think you know... From gymnastics on a beached tree trunk at the edge of Lake Wenatchee, to rehearsing showtunes at the camping amphitheater, I quickly realized that my teammates are... uh... a very versatile bunch. Although I briefly contemplated switching teams at some point in the evening (more precisely, when the trend switched from showtunes to Garth Brooks...), that thought quickly evaporated as some serious effort was put into writing our team song... Team Gold rocks, that's all I have to say.



“Keanu Reeves meets Anna Pavlova on the edge of Lake Wenatchee at sunset”

Despite the fact that the formal teaching was done for the day, a lot of valuable information was passed on around the campfire as the night wound down. We learned about the on-going debate regarding the nobility of cheat-climbing. I mean aid-climbing. We learned how to properly refer to many of our instructors by their acquired nicknames. We learned about the dangers of malfunctioning voice-activated artificial limbs. Just priceless information. Slowly, people retired to their tents for some well-deserved rest. I'll proudly add that I managed to find my way back to my tent by triangulating my position based on the sounds from three snoring climbers.

The rise on Sunday morning was a difficult one. Spirits were also dampened by the desolation all around: the Sunday teams had already left for their class day, few tents were left, and lonely souls hung around the bonfire that was still digesting dead wood. A reduced Gold team – four of us – elected to go on a short hike to stretch our legs before heading back to Seattle.

After quick pancakes at Kristall's (the pronunciation of which still remains a mystery), and a hard time finding the trailhead, we got under way towards Stuart Lake. The trail was more challenging than we expected but good up-hill training. We never got to the lake, as time ran out and the weather started to turn on us. We wisely turned back and retraced our steps back to the trailhead, agreeing that this trail would make a nice trip for a summer outing.

As my fellow Gold-teammates drove away back to civilization, I was left with a hunger for rock-climbing. I had bought climbing shoes the week before and was dying to try them on rock. Heck, it was still early in the day (around 14:00) so I decided to try and join up with some of the Black team who I knew were out there somewhere hugging rocks.

After spotting the “Fisher-mobile” along Icicle Road, I parked close-by, packed up my gear and headed up the nearest trail. I was running up the hill, wishing to reach the Blacksters as soon as possible to take in as much climbing as I could. I came upon a group of returning climbers who told me that a BoeAlps team was indeed up ahead, “just turn left and keep going up”, they said. And so, left and up I went, following full-speed ahead what I thought was a trail, motivated by the promise of some rock-climbing action. No sign of any climbing party. Still going up, looking around for them.

After climbing up through a shrub-infested gully (NOT a good idea...), I stopped to catch my breath and looked around: I was pretty high up, with a breathtaking view of the opposing peaks washed in the late-afternoon sunlight. No Black climbers on any of the rocks below, above, on either side...

A quick survey of my situation: it was getting late, I was drained, I was hungry. Well, that's it then... Rock climbing was just not meant to be this weekend... I found a nice flat rock, sat down and munched on some bread, italian salami and emmenthal cheese, admiring the landscape. I felt like I was back in France, picnicking in the Alps, slicing salami with my Opinel knife...

Was I going to leave it at that then, and head back home ? Would I be able to live with myself, putting back my new rock shoes in the back of my Rav4 without a scratch or hint of mountain rubbing ? No ! I stood up and at that moment, it felt like I was standing on top of the world and all mountains dwarfed below me (I'm guessing it was probably the cheese). A new-found energy took hold of me. I put my backpack back on and headed back down to a nice short rock wall I had spotted before. Once there, I put the shoes on and staring the wall down, I thought “this is it, my moment, my wall”. I don't know how long I stayed there. Time just disappeared as a concept. I practiced footholds and handholds at the base of the wall, did some bouldering as the sun was lowering towards the west. Everything felt good. A great ending to a great weekend. And yes, the rock shoes fit perfectly and now have scratches and scars.



“Ze Gold Team, version 2005, - minus Evan (you were there in spirit man !);
Seth, Preston, Alex; François, Lawford, Matt, Andrea, Team Leader Chris, Dirk”

A Book Report
"Between a Rock and a Hard Place" - Aron Ralston
Doug McCarville

Winter slipped by and I have little to show for it.

It would be easy to blame it on the lack of snow, OT, life intrusions or better yet the fact that I tore my big toenail out by the root in a drunken foray with a coffee table. Still, there were moments: 1) Alone in February at 6,000 feet on Black Butte with the wind gusting and angry grey thunderheads approaching from the Sisters threatening whiteout; suggesting a swift summit or a hasty retreat, 2) Step kicking through virgin powder, Shiloh shoulder deep (if dogs have shoulders) nose trust skyward summit scent seeking - the Bear's Head, his fifteenth, 3) Stopping halfway up a long quested ridge route to reflect on life with a twenty year friendship forged on rock and wave.

Still, no matter how much I romanticize these outings they are insufficient to cleanse Boeing induced stress: SIXA, 787, outsourcing. Lacking my own deep play (the stakes are so high that it is irrational for anyone to engage in it at all, since the marginal utility of what you stand to win is grossly outweighed by the disutility you stand to lose – Jeremy Betham), I sought such in literature. And, after eight months on King County Library reserve, my number came up. Hence my latest reading, a book by the guy who got his hand caught under a rock while canyoning: Aron Ralston's, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place".

The good news, there is a Northwest connection. Aron spent six months in Seattle and makes mention of Baker, Shuksan and Rainier.

The bad news, his writing is overbearing and arrogant, trivializing our peaks in an effort to engrandize his capabilities. As evidence I offer the following:

1. Referring to an ascent of the Kautz with descent along the Cleaver, the author brags of a bivy at 10,000 feet (which we recognize as the "Muir") he states, "I had put forth a monstrous effort that showed new depths to my strength."
2. On Shuksan (the only peak in 352 pages which he admits to attempting without summiting), he belittles his partners with the following, "My run-down teammates arrived one by one with compliments for my step kicking and camp selection."

Aron does not confine his ego to the Cascades. Buried in his quest to be the first person to summit the Colorado 14,000'ers in winter – solo, he reflects on the failings of friends who are stupid enough to follow him into an avalanche.

- "Chadwick, you're not even hitting the snow, start high and scoop the snow down."

Not surprisingly Chadwick and the other guy buried in snow with Aron on this occasion never spoke to him again.

At this point the BCC reader may ask, why pursue such drivel when I am prenticed to a giant of a man (J. Baillie) who's tackled the Washington 100, carries himself with grace and poise, and hasn't been stupid enough to play life or death with a chockstone?

So in, I offer the following:

1. "With the sunlight's presence, my emotional status lifts, and I feel rejuvenated for a time" – p. 70
2. "I want to keep smashing at the chock stone with my hammer rock, but I can't bear the suffering it imposes on my left hand."
3. "Its garbage (the hand). Throw it away Aron. Be rid of it." – p. 279.

Cool, ugly, train wreck type stuff.

Thus my book report comes to an end. I'll make no attempt to transcribe the text for we all know the scope, gist and conclusion of the story. I can not recommend the read, but suggest you must. The following are beautiful:

1. Fraying contrails streak another bluebird sky.- p. 1.
2. Water is time. – p. 194.
3. My smile is cracking my dry lips – p. 208.
4. Nothing compares to the anguish of my thirst: unslakable, unquenchable, insuppressible, inextinguishable.

Aron's text frustrates, but entertains. The following verbiage struck my heart:

- What will remain of today's ostensibly advanced societies five thousand years hence? Probably not our artwork. Not any evidence of our recorded amounts of leisure time (if for no other reason than most of us fritter away this luxury in front of our television sets.) – Aron Ralston

In betwixt "Yes Dear" commercials I finished the book and plan my next outing. A solo into the Clearwater. A three thousand foot ridge leading to a class 4/5 scramble. Peak name ----- . A mountain of modest scope requiring ugly bushwhacking, minimal skill and blood deposit. Untrod for years, perhaps decades (clearcutting date unknown). I hope there's snow! Trivial by mountaineering standards:

- unreasoned, uncovetous, unworldly - F. W. Bourdillion

Indeed whatever agonies and miseries the sufferer may endure on his pilgrimage of the heights and however often he may swear never to return there, longing to do so is certain to recur. - C. F. Meade

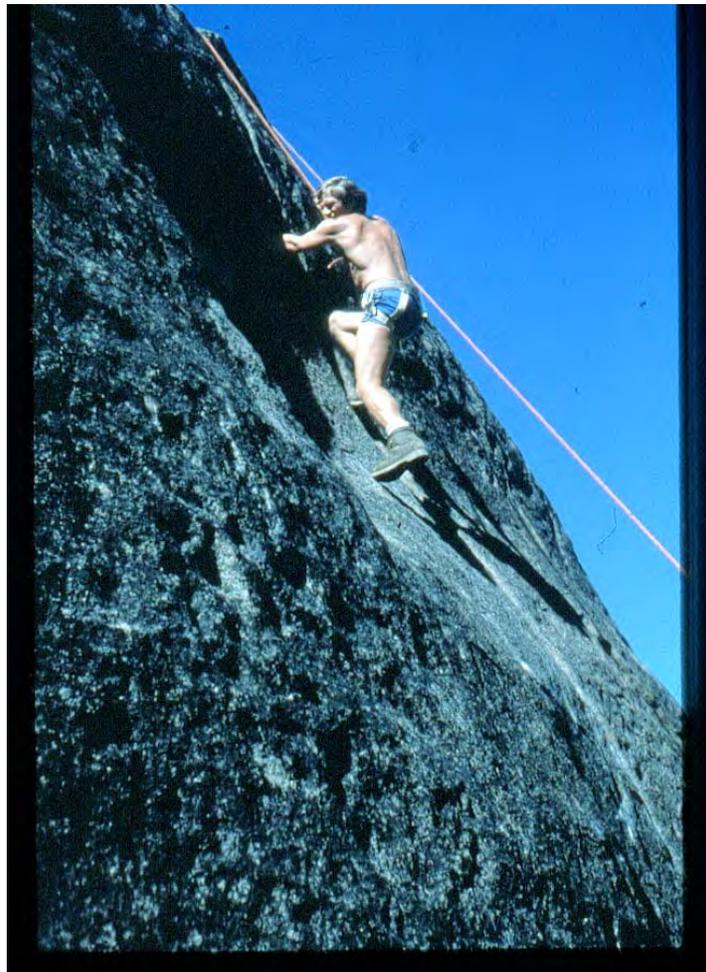
Don't buy this book.

Check it out from the library and read it. The dude is crazy-ill.

Agris Moruss Tribute

Editor's Note: I received this photo and note from Jack Leicester, one of founders of Boealps on Agris Moruss. Agris had a reputation as a very strong climber and was an active member of Boealps. He died in a climbing accident as an instructor with the Basic Class. In his memory, a fund was established so that each year an award could be made to a Boealps club member who has taken on a mountaineering challenge much like Agris would have. The award for 2005 will be made soon.

From Jack Leicester: Briefly, here's what happened to Agris. Two weeks before his death he had taken time off from his climbing class instructor's duties to run the Boston Marathon. His goal achieved, he returned and, at the end of the following week, he volunteered to take my place (I had to fly out of town) on my red team as an instructor. At the time, he looked pretty washed out and was way off his normal weight as a result of the intensive training and the race effort. John Pollock suggested he take another week to recover. He insisted he was OK, so he took my place and, along with the other team instructor, Dee Urbick, they led the red team up Lundin Peak. I personally believe that, if he had taken time to recover, he never would have slipped, or, at least he would have recovered after the slip. Anyway, we lost a good friend that day, something that I'll never forget. I had the privilege of delivering one of the eulogies at his memorial service.



Agris Moruss climbing at Icicle Creek in 1978

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

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

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

_____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

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How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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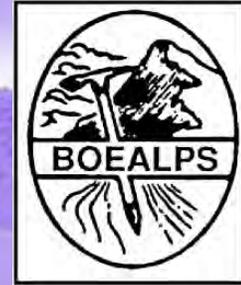
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vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

JUNE 2005



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**NO BOEALPS GENERAL MEETING
IN JUNE OR JULY.**

**GET ON OUT THERE
AND CLIMB!**

**(AND BE SURE TO COME BACK FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS
WHEN THEY RESUME IN AUGUST.)**

BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Lots to report this month! Most exciting, I think, is that a member of the Team Ogawa expedition summited Everest on May 21. Michael Frank and two Sherpa climbers topped out at 10:34am. We've got a few photos of the expedition team, the mountain, and Michael himself—check page 8 for those. Congratulations, Michael and Team Ogawa!

In other news, we've got several outings coming up: Ron & John's Annual Mt. Adams Extravaganza in mid-June, a BoeBabies outing headed up by Len and Vera, and the Boealps spring campout in Leavenworth. The campout will be held at Lake Wenatchee State Park on June 11-12. The group site is reserved for Saturday night. It will be a potluck—e-mail Gustavo Unguez at Gustavo58@lycos.com if you are going, so he can coordinate the food.

The campout will also serve as a celebration of the first full day of the 2005 Basic Rock Class! The weekend of June 11-12 marks the class's beginning, and we'll kick off with a weekend of trad following fundamentals. We've got a great class—a large class—and are still looking for instructors. MOFA training, no MOFA training, only available for a single day trip—we can still use you. You'll find an instructor commitment form and additional instructor information about the class starting on page 10. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (sternau@yahoo.com) or Chris Meter (ccmeter@yahoo.com) for additional information. We are looking forward to re-launching this class with the excellent group of students that will be part of it, and we hope you'll share some of the fun of keeping these new Boealpers engaged with the organization.

Finally, as you might have heard, the newest graduating class of the BCC had a number of adventures toward the end of the class—including retreating off a grad climb when inclement weather snapped three poles of three different tents—and we're sure to receive trip reports from all the post-class climbs that have already occurred (some Black Teamers summiting Little Tahoma) and those that were planned at the recent bustling Bag-It Night. Look for those in the July issue of the Echo, and be sure to send us your trip reports, event notices, and news items, as well.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
Sarah



The 2005 Black Team marches toward camp at the top of Little Tahoma's Fryingpan Glacier. Photo by Sarah Sternau

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Bagit Night	2 No General Meeting	3	4 ICC: Alpine 1
5 ICC: Alpine 1	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 BRC: Leavenworth Spring Campout
12 BRC: Leavenworth Spring Campout	13 ICC Lecture	14	15	16	17	18 ICC: Alpine 2 Ron & John's Annual Mt. Adams climb
19 Father's Day ICC: Alpine 2 Ron & John's Annual Mt. Adams climb	20	21	22 Echo Deadline	23	24	25 BRC: Squamish
26 BRC: Squamish	27	28	29	30		

2005



Jay Bradshaw, of BCC's 2005 Black Team, enjoys the amenities of camp on a Little Tahoma grad climb. Photo by Sarah Sternau

July						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Canada Day!	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6 New moon	7 No General Meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 BRC Alpine 1
17 BRC Alpine 1	18	19	20	21 Full moon	22	23
24	25 Echo Deadline	26	27	28	29	30 BRC Alpine 2
31 BRC Alpine 2						

2005

RON AND JOHN'S ANNUAL MT. ADAMS (12,276 ft.) EXTRAVAGANZA



Join Ron Fleck and John Alley for a post graduation climb of Mt. Adams, especially if you are planning a trip to Rainier. Prepare for #1 by mastering #2.

Become part of the ongoing lore of Tales of Mt. Adams: be an eyewitness to the real-time mountain idiocy of people who are unprepared for the mountain, hear stories of past life saving MOFA moments and mountain rescue of injured and hypothermic climbers whose lives were saved by recent BCC graduates...and more.

Date: June 18th & 19th, 2005

Requirements: BCC graduate

Equipment: The usual overnight climbing/camping gear, ice axe, crampons; no glacier gear necessary. Bring glissade pants for a rapid descent from the near top to the lunch counter camping spot (9,000 ft.).

Party Size: 10 to 12 members, climbing pass required which can be picked up at the Trout Lake Ranger Station for \$15.

Route: The South Climb from Cold Springs campground 5,600 ft.

Maps: USGS Mt. Adams East

Contact: John Alley johndalley@juno.com, Ron Fleck ronald.k.fleck@boeing.com

BoeBaby Outing

Alpaca Shearing in the Skagit Valley

Sunday, June 12

10 AM to 4 PM

Meet there at 10 AM

www.alpacaranch.com

19889 Cedardale Road

Mt. Vernon, WA

I-5 north to exit 221,
north on Cedardale Road

(about 1 hr drive from Seattle)

Petting zoo, alpaca shearing,
balloon jumper, BBQ

More info, call Len or Vera at (206) 522-7022

Engineers Without Borders present a
Tsunami Relief Fundraiser
featuring alpinist
STEVE SWENSON

Thursday, June 9
7:00 pm

Seattle Central
Community College
Room 1110

Admission: \$5

Featuring:

A presentation by EWB member Steve Swenson, one of America's leading alpinists, who summited with the second American expedition to climb K2, made a solo ascent of Mt. Everest without oxygen, and recently pioneered a new route on Nanaga Parbat.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Puget Sound Professional Partners Chapter of **Engineers Without Borders** (EWB) and Asiana Education Development efforts to rebuild nine Sri Lankan schools destroyed by the tsunami and build three new boarding schools for orphaned children.

The event is sponsored by:
Herrera Environmental Consultants and R.W. Beck and others.

Michael Frank

--Boealper, BCC & ICC Grad, and Team Ogawa Expedition Member--

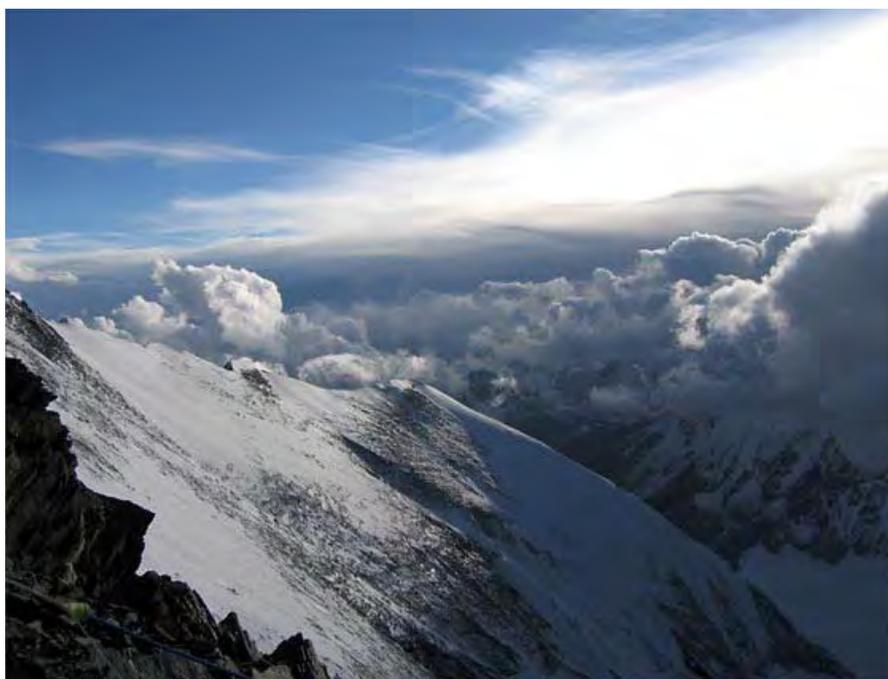
Summits Everest!

Photos by Jamie McGuinness - Project-Himalaya.com



Team Ogawa, in a picture taken the week prior to the successful summit attempt.

The weather moving in on the morning, 20 May. It was obvious it was going to snow, and that there were several weather systems meeting.



Everest from North Col as Michael Frank from Seattle and others summited at 10:34 (Nepal time).



21 May - the first summits!

Mike, Rosa (Spanish), and the sherpas Da'Nima, Da'Yula, Lhakpa, and Dawa summited around 10:30am Nepali time, along with approximately nine other climbers and sherpas.

Close-up as they were summiting



Michael Frank at Advanced Base Camp after summiting.



BOEALPS Basic Rock 2005 Instructor Contract

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Mailstop _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Boeing Employee? YES NO

If NO, can you provide proof of insurance when asked?

--- Qualifications ---

Date of most recent MOFA certification: _____

ICC Graduate? (yes/no)

What year did you first help instruct the BCC: _____ ICC: _____

Please self rate your skill level in the following categories (1 poor skill, 5 highest skill):

Comfortable Trad-Leading up to:

4 5.0-5.3 5.4-5.6 5.7-5.8 5.9 or more

Comfortable on Hard Snow/Ice:

20 degrees 30 degrees 45 degrees 50 degrees+

--- Commitments ---

Below is the 2005 BOEALPS Basic-Rock outing schedule. Please review it carefully, and mark all the events to which you can commit (Y). Mark climbs that you know you can't do (N). Mark all the "possible" climbs (P). (Note that the first outing date has yet to be finalized, so both possible dates are listed. Please list availability to both and we will announce final dates ASAP.) Please observe the following conditions:

- Commitment **means** commitment. Put these dates on your calendar **RIGHT NOW**. You are expected to help on those dates!
- Remember, a successful class depends upon your participation in the weekend outings. There seems to be a high interest in this class. Your help would be overwhelmingly appreciated.
- Attending a planning session prior to an outing is required! Ideally, this will involve some climbing (at the gym, exit 38, UW Rock wall, Marymoor) but that is not required.
- If you cannot make an outing to which you've agreed, **you are responsible for providing a replacement!** I can help coordinate alternates.

Date	Activity	Locale	Available Sat?	Available Sun?	Could You Go Both Days?
06/04-05	Follow Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth or TBD	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/11-12	Alternate Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/25-26	Experience climb Weekend	Squamish	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/16-17	1 st Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/30-31	2 nd alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/13-14	3 rd Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/27-28	4 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/10-11	5 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/24-25	6 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly

I the undersigned, being of reasonably sound body (and dubious morality notwithstanding), will instruct the BOEALPS intermediate climbing class events noted on the preceding schedule.

Signed: _____

Please make a copy for your records and return this contract to:

Sarah Sternau
901 W. Howe St., Apt. B
Seattle, WA 98119
Home: 206-484-1009
E-mail: sternau@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

or

Robert Fisher
The Boeing Company, MS 02-JX
Home Phone: 206-795-5918
Work Phone: 425-294-2650
E-mail: fenderfour@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

Questions? Feel free to contact us, and thanks!

Basic Rock Class 2005

BRC Instructor Guidelines:

- Helmets are required while climbing with the class
- Instructors supply alpine rack
- Instructors are encouraged to supply ropes.
- No drugs or alcohol while climbing with the class
- MOFA is required for lead instructors
- Assistant instructors should get MOFA certification, if they are uncertified
- Feedback
- Give students feedback during the climb as well as after
- Get feedback from students
- Proof of insurance is required for all non-BOEING employee instructors

Instructor Requirements:

MOFA certified

Able to lead low to mid 5th class rock

Gear needed:

Same as students AND

Light alpine rack

Rope (single rated, in good condition, less than 5 years old)

NOTE: Ropes will be inspected prior to use

Completed Application and Waiver (See appendix III and II)

Alpine Climbs:

The purpose of these climbs is to expose the students to multipitch trad climbing in an alpine environment. These are experience outings, so no specific skills are scheduled to be taught. Instructors are to emphasize the importance of packing light and may want to review the contents of the student's pack.

Format:

Ideally, there would be a team of four climbers, two instructors and two students on any given climb. There can be deviations from this as they approved by the class lead instructor. .

Climb Selection/Preparation:

Climb selection and preparation is the responsibility of the instructors who will be going on the climb. All mountains and routes are to be approved by the class lead instructor.

The students and instructors should meet to discuss the specifics of a climb prior to going out on a weekend. Students and instructors are encouraged to climb together previous to the outing at an indoor climbing gym or similar previous to the weekend outing.

Types of Climbs:

The climbs should be easily led by the instructor. They are not to be leading at their limit. Climbs can be single day crag outings to places like Castle Rock in Leavenworth, single day alpine climbs like The Tooth or multi day mountain climbs like the West Ridge of Forbidden. This is entirely based on the abilities of the instructors and the students.

Alpine 1 and 2:

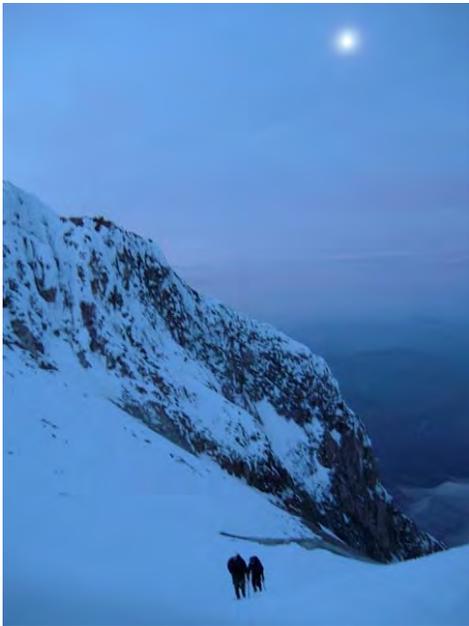
The first two alpine outings will be relatively easy routes with short approaches such as The Tooth, Ingalls Peak, or Cathedral Rock.

Mount Hood: May 28, 2005

Climbers: Sam Largent, Marcus Dunavan, Jacob Young, Lee Hyslin, Ken Cheng, John Gowan (scribe), and Josh Quaade (Sam's brother-in-law)

The scribe joined members of the Maroon Team for an enjoyable climb of Mt Hood via the southside route last Saturday, May 28.

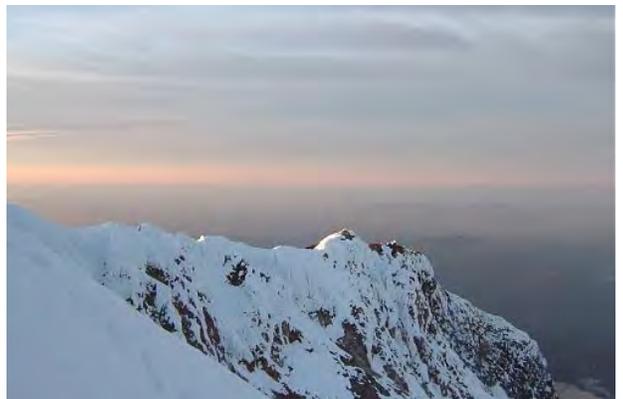
We set off for Mt Hood on Friday afternoon about 4:30PM. Traffic heading south was pretty heavy all the way to Olympia. We did not arrive in the parking lot at Timberline Lodge until about 10PM. Marcus was intent on getting to the summit in time for the sunrise at 5:30AM so he wanted to leave at midnight

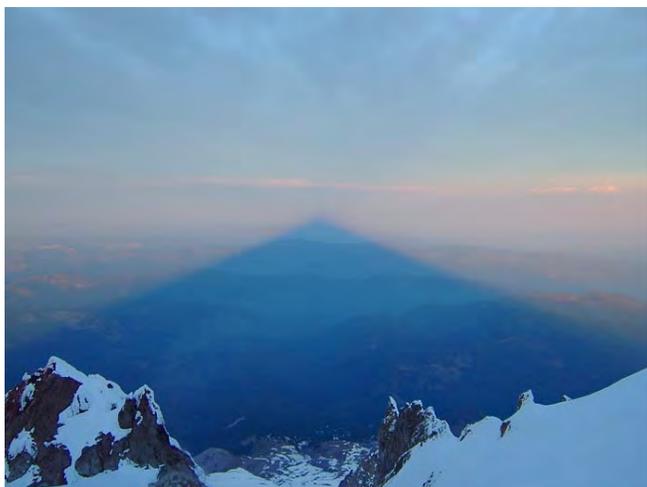


from the parking lot. After two hours of sleep, we managed to wake up about midnight and got ready. It was very warm outside as the freezing level was supposed to be 13,000 ft that day. We were almost the first ones out of the parking lot at 12:30AM, a few people had camped out at about 8,000 ft so they were ahead of us. We tried to stay well to the right of the ski lift on the Palmer snowfield and dodge the snowcats that were grooming the slopes for that day's skiing. We noticed that most everybody else climbing was much further right than we were, and started traversing over towards them, when we came back down later I noted we were actually in the middle of the ski slope, but no snow cat drivers yelled obscenities at us on the way up.



The weather was clear with a little wind, and we could see shooting stars and notice lightning down around Mt Jefferson, even at that early hour. We reached the Hogsback about 4AM. The sulfur smell from Devil's Kitchen was very strong and noxious. Marcus' face turned the same color as the sulfur, yellow, and then he vomited on the snow. We were at about 10,000 ft here. Marcus said he was OK enough to continue. The bergshroud was barely open and despite the large and overhanging rime ice formations in the Pearly Gates area above us, none of it was falling down in the early morning hours. The route seemed in very good condition to me. I thought it was a good idea to be heading down well before the afternoon when it warmed up and the ice could start falling down. It was hard and icy here so a roped team fall without running protection would probably take the entire team down into the bergshroud (like the accident two years ago when the helicopter crashed during the rescue). We passed a roped-up group and then went left through the narrow Pearly Gates and up to the 11,239 ft summit at 6:00 AM. The skies were clear and one could see all the volcanoes except for Baker, which was in the haze.





On the way down we encountered a HUGE group of Mazamas who completely clogged up the route at the Hogsback (there must have been 40 of them). I thought there was a party size limit of 12 on the mountain? Well at least they don't charge you to climb this volcano yet. Thankfully we got to the Hogsback before most of them started heading up as they turned the route above into an interstate highway of climbers. On the way down we saw two people in blue jeans and Woolrich shirts heading up, (at least they were wearing crampons and using ice axes). It was a little windy up high on the mountain, as it's not summer yet. I couldn't believe how many people were skiing at Timberline when we came down; there was some kind of race going on and several hundred people were on the slopes. We had a fun glissade down to the cars and got

there about 10:00AM, in time to get breakfast in Rhododendron down Highway 26. Lee decided to stay in Portland that day and the rest of us headed back to Seattle. Thankfully Jacob, who was driving, could stay awake, as the rest of us couldn't. We got back to Seattle about 4:00PM.

The scribe had a great time on this climb as the weather and route conditions were very good. Members of Maroon Team were rewarded for enduring the poor weather during their graduation climb of Shuksan with a summit of Mt Hood.



Joshua Tree Self-Belay Adventure, Cali, May 6-9

Climber and scribe: Tony Olejnicki

While rock climbing in Chile in January this year I met climbers from California, who told me about climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. It sounded like a really cool climbing area. So I decided to give a try.



For an extended weekend climb, the most obvious solution is to fly to Palm Springs and then drive to Joshua Tree and enter the park at the western park entrance, about 40 miles. However I have found that the more economical option is to take a flight to LA, which is generally \$100 cheaper, then the flight to PS. Also one can get much better car deal in LA (\$15) then in PS (\$30). It all sound cheap, until they hit you with the costs of insurance (\$25).

I have embarked on a solo trip because it is virtually impossible to arrange a climbing partner for this type of trip; climbing bums favor local crags because they have no money and climbers, who have the money, are usually very busy at work and have limited vacation time, so they cannot go, either.

I knew that there would be lots of climbers in JT, especially during the weekend, so I was hoping to hook up with someone for the belay. There are always climber guys bugging non-climber girlfriends to climb, while the girlfriends are scared of climbing and happy to skip it.

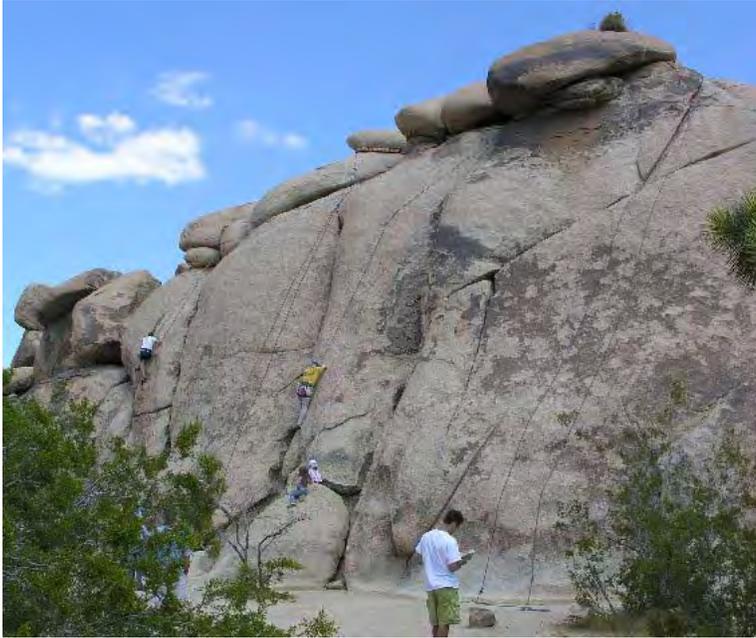
In my experience this is the best bet to get a belayer, when you climb solo. It makes everybody happy: It gives you belayer, you save a non-climber from being forced to climb, you show the climber a good time, and you become a good guy in everybody's eyes. It prolongs the climber/non-climber relationship at least for a little while, so it is a good deed after all. It is like being a noble knight participating in a bloodless crusade.

It is more difficult with serious climbers, because they don't have much time and are trying to get their fix of climbs without being disturbed.

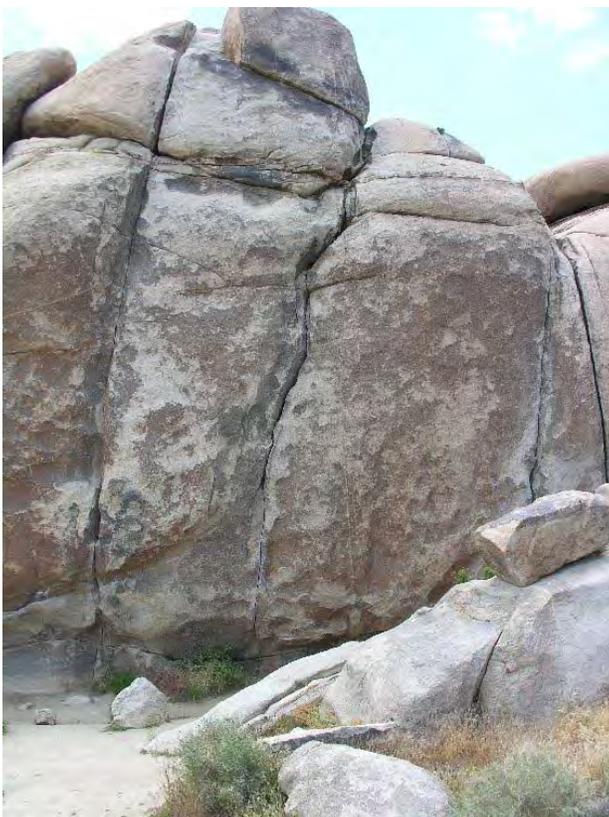
Just in case I could not get a belay, I purchased Petzel Shunt for \$40, to practice self-belaying. This was first time I used the device and, after initial stage of getting used to the technique of self-belaying, I found the device to be really useful, simple to handle, and gentle on the rope. It simply shunts the rope with a clamping action of a locking shaft, loaded by the climber's weight, and clamping it to the shunt's body. There are no corrugated surfaces potentially wearing or damaging the rope, and the device self-feeds the rope when you are 10-20 feet above the ground, depending on the rope weight.

There are few drawback of using the shunt.

- Falling head down does not activate the shunt, so Petzel recommends a chest harness arrangement to prevent it.
- The fall potentially can occur on the gate, so one should consider the use of steel locking biner, or rig it using intermediate U-link between the shunt and the biner. A U-link arrangement, however, is very cumbersome to use.
- Rap set-up is a bit tricky with the shunt but there is instruction included within the documentation.



This was my first self-belaying trip so I was not very confident with the technique and therefore I had decided to start on Friday afternoon with an easy Trashcan Rock, which is the first formation along the road from west entrance to the NP. There are some 5.7 to 5.9 routes about 24ft to 40ft i.e. the length similar to the gym situation. There are some sports routes with sparse clips, so if one is used to Exit 38, it will feel somewhat strange at the beginning. The rock has bouldering access to the top so I set up a TR using slings, rappelled down, rigged the shunt, and did 5.7 and 5.8 from the same anchor. It was a short route only and easy face climbing.



I moved the anchor to the right and TR'ed an easy route consisting of a crack and some face climbing. I thought I was ready for 5.8 crack on the other side but had difficulties with it; I was really exhausted and was defeated by 5.8 crack.

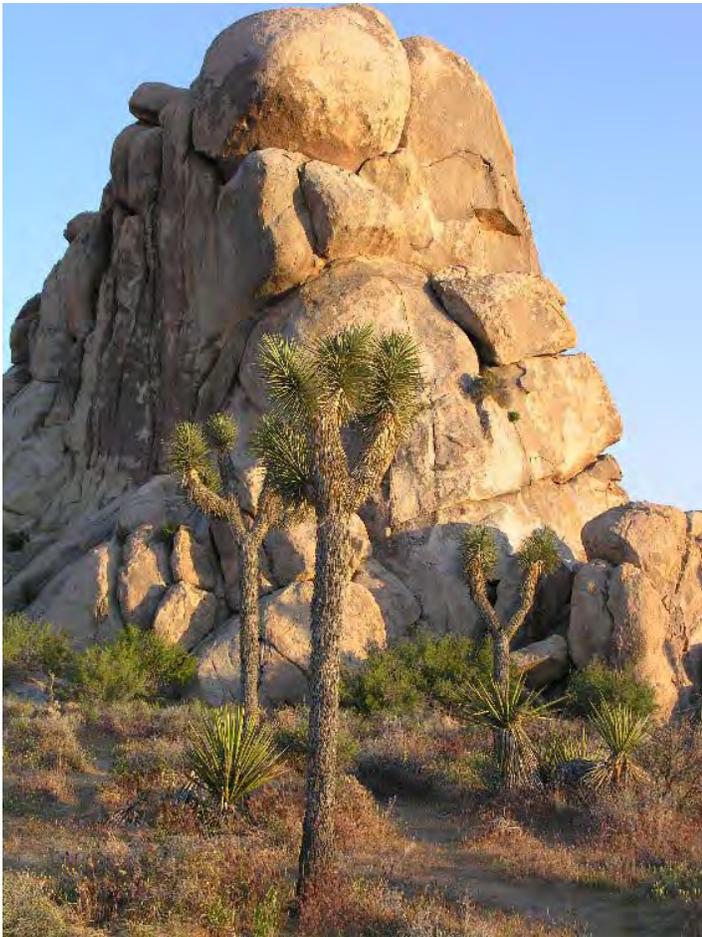
I drove another 3 miles along the road to check stuff for Saturday and camped in Hidden Valley 'Zoo Park.' The place was full and the only spot left was lot 4, which was closed due to the rock fall from the formation nearby. The lot was large and really the only part in potential danger was the table--the camp spot was safe. Not requiring a table, I decided to use the spot, which got me in real trouble with a grumpy Ranger the following morning.

Hidden Valley is really a busy place--lots of routes but also lots of climbers. The place looks very eerie, with huge rocks and boulders and routes 120-150 feet long. It was not a good place for self-belay or aid climbing because of the crowds queuing to do the climb and the pressure to do the route fast and free it for another party. With all those busy and frenzied climbers, I could not see any prospect for a belay either.

Beside the routes, there are more difficult ones, and I was not ready for them in the self-belay mode. I decided to go back towards the park entrance to check some areas that are not so popular.

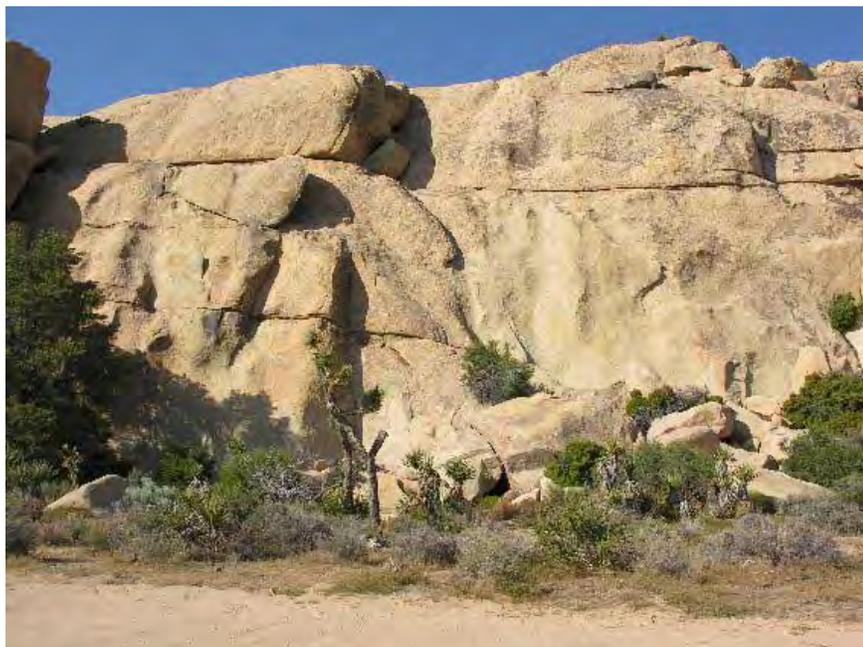


I spent rest of the day on AFPA rock near Trashcan Rock. It is a nice rock for self-belay, with lots of cracks and a mix of crack and face climbing. It was a very sweet choice; fun and interesting climbs about 90 feet long and only few climbers; in fact, there were only two other people, so it was really a very peaceful and beautiful place, despite being close to the road.



There are also many outcrops between AFPA rock and Hidden Valley, which look very good and have interesting names like Erotic Dome, Lemon Dome, Fish Rock, Wonderland of Rocks, Lost Horse, and Hemingway.

The weather was very nice with the sun out and a very strong wind cooling you down, although it felt spooky sometimes on the face with very delicate balance of the feet and hands and strong gusts, despite being TR'ed. The night, however, was very cold, and I was not prepared for it; I decided to leave my down jacket at home because I did not have much room after packing my climbing and camping gear. Besides, weather.com was forecasting sunny and warm summery weather, he..he..he.



Sunday was really a fun day. I talked to a climber, who suggested Echo Rock, located less than a mile from Hidden Valley and with fewer climbers because it is less advertised than Hidden Valley and there are no camping facilities there. It is a nice thing, though, to camp in Hidden Valley and just stroll to your climb.

I met a young couple, Corry and Joanne. Corry was very keen to climb and Joanne was terrified with rock climbing. So they were very happy to work with me. Besides, it was a long climb and required two ropes, so it made sense to cooperate. The rock is amazing, mainly face climbing on one side and bouldering on the other side.

I enjoyed some sport routes on the face. The rock is granite with large grains making your climbing shoes sticking well to the wall; one feels like a Spiderman--sweet.

After 5.8 and 5.9 leads I set up a TR on 5.10 with a slight overhang. I was struggling to get past the overhang, but at the end, after succumbing to the temptation of using a bolt as a handhold, I managed it. Well, I considered the bolt a permanent part of the wall; it wasn't going anywhere, anyway.

At the end of the face-climbing day on rough granite, there was not much skin left on my fingers, and I could hardly coil my rope. So as Buddhist philosophy suggests that through suffering comes wisdom, I hope that I have gained some.

I could not climb rock on Monday because my fingers were too sensitive, so I decided to hike up Mt. Jacinto, 10,200ft. It is an interesting hike starting at 600ft so the elevation gain is almost 10,000ft. It is an unusual feat to be able to hike up 10,000ft in an easy day-climb. There was still plenty of snow above 9,000ft. On the way back, I took a cable car from 8,000ft to 2,500ft, cutting the return by at least 2 hours or so. Catching a cab from the bottom station to Palm Springs makes a pleasant and unusual finish to the climb.



JT is really large climbing area with thousands of routes and sub areas of unusual beauty of high desert country.

Weather patterns determine climbing season; the best climbing time is fall and spring because of the pleasant weather during the day, and it's not terribly freezing at night. In winter, it can be very cold at night, and it can rain also. In summer July to August it is really hot during the day and unpleasant to climb, so I was told.

I definitely recommend JT rock climbing

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address City State Zip Code

Mail Stop () Work Phone () Home Phone

e-mail Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

_____ INDIVIDUAL (\$20.00)

_____ FAMILY (\$25.00)

_____ RETIRED (\$10.00)

NON - EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

_____ INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00)

_____ FAMILY (\$30.00)

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

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

_____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

_____ BOEALPS Intermediate

_____ Mountaineers Basic

_____ Mountaineers Intermediate

_____ Avalanche Awareness

_____ Ice Climbing Seminar

_____ Aid Climbing Seminar

_____ Rock Leading Seminar

_____ Standard First Aid/CPR

_____ MOFA

_____ Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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 14-MC
OR: 1208 10th Ave. W., B4, Seattle, WA 98119
OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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COMMENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION
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THE BOEING COMPANY**

April Echo staff

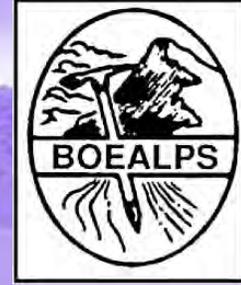
Editors: Sarah Sternau &
John Gowan

Contributors: John Gowan
Jamie McGuinness
Tony Olejnicki

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

JULY 2005



www.boealps.org

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No Boealps general meeting
in June or July.

Get on out there
and climb!

(and be sure to come back for monthly meetings
when they resume with the Picnic at Marymoor in August.)

BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

This month's Echo has a slew of trip reports. Members of two BCC teams returned to their graduation climb objectives that they had been weathered off of and summited. Some Gold Team climbers made it up Mt Baker while a group of Black Teamers found success on Little Tahoma. Members of Maroon team climbed Rainier and Tony Olejnicki turned in two trip reports, from Mt Olympus and the west ridge of Forbidden. Thanks Tony, for being a one-man show in filling the pages of the Echo with some great material.

The ICC and Basic Rock Class are both in full swing. The ICC students completed their Alpine 2 climbs the weekend of June 18th. The BRC had a successful outing to Squamish the weekend of June 25th. They'll be starting their Alpine climbs on July 16th. If you want to help out with the BRC, there are many eager students willing to follow what you lead climb. Contact Sarah Sternau at sternau@yahoo.com or Chris Meter at ccmeter@yahoo.com. The BRC has some t-shirts that can be ordered, see to flyer in this issue. Are the BRC students trying to tell us something?

Our Boealps Everest climbers are now back in town. Congratulations to them all on a successful expedition, capped off by Michael Frank's summit on May 21st. Some of the team members will be at the ICC lecture on July 5th to talk about the expedition.

A club meeting will not be held this month, but mark your calendars now for the club picnic at the Marymoor climbing structure on August 4th. There's a reasonable chance it will have stopped raining by then and the club will provide drinks and snacks. So come on out, do some bouldering or climbing and enjoy the weather.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
John

Basic Rock Class T-Shirts are now available for order!



T-shirts can be purchased online here:

<http://www.cafepress.com/gaperwear>

They are ringer Ts (available in white/blue, white/black, or white/orange). They're \$14.99 each, also. We will expand into coffee mugs and the like if demand from our 16 students is high enough.



Jay Bradshaw, of BCC's 2005 Black Team, enjoys the amenities of camp on a Little Tahoma grad climb. Photo by Sarah Sternau

July						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Canada Day!	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6 New moon	7 No General Meeting	8	9 ICC: Alpine 3
10 ICC: Alpine 3	11	12	13	14	15	16 BRC Alpine 1
17 BRC Alpine 1	18	19	20	21 Full moon	22	23 ICC: Ice
24 ICC: Ice	25 Echo Deadline	26	27	28	29	30 BRC Alpine 2
31 BRC Alpine 2						

2005

Mt Hood at Dusk. Photo by Marcus Dunavan



August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4 New moon Marymoor Picnic	5	6 ICC: Alpine 4
7 ICC: Alpine 4	8	9	10	11	12	13 BRC Alpine 3
14 BRC Alpine 3	15	16	17	18	19 Full moon	20 ICC: Grad Climb
21 ICC: Grad Climb	22	23	24 Echo Deadline	25	26	27 BRC Alpine 4
28 BRC Alpine 4	29	30	31			

2005

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Mt Ruth

July 9th

Destination: Ruth Mt

Planned Date: July 9

Duration: 1 day (long)

Planned Route: Hannegan Pass Trail

Route Description: Trail to Hannegan Pass (4 mi), then short snow traverse leading to a small glacier. Summit is 7106 ft. Great views of the north side of Shuksan. Roughly 15 mi roundtrip.

Difficulty: moderate

Party Limit: 12

Trip Organizer: Charlie Soncrant

Phone: 425-802-2070

E-Mail: cu_soncrant@hotmail.com (note the underscore between the "u" and "s")

Bobabies

Bill & Paula Conchi are the proud parents of a 4 week old baby, William III.



Born on May 18th, the 25th anniversary of Mt St. Helen's eruption. He was 7 pound, 6 oz, and 20 inches long. Baby and family are doing very well, but (as you can see) are a little tired.

Bill will be repeating the BCC with him in 16 years!

Mount Baker: Coleman Route

June 3-4, 2005

Climbers: Preston Few, Alexandra Few, Evan Preston, Francois Godcharles, Matt Norris, Andrea Soth, Team Leader: Preston Few

Summary:

We met at the Glacier Ranger Station at 7:30am Friday morning. We filled out the voluntary climbing register, collected our blue bags and had a safety talk noticing that only two other teams (3 climbers each) had registered previously. To our delight, it was here we learned that vault toilets had been placed at the tent site at 7000 feet. The weather was dank and cloudy so we decided then that the climb would not proceed if the weather was miserable because, after all, this is supposed to be an enjoyable hobby.

We met at the Heliotrope Ridge trailhead, divided up the gear and were on our way shortly before 9am. The trail was long and gradual starting at 3700 feet. It took nearly 2.5 miles to arrive at 5000 feet, which considering our Eldorado Peak experience, was extraordinarily long. It was about at this point that Andrea cited a slight navigation error. Apparently she'd noticed a sign pointing to a climbers trail that we'd passed. We promptly turned around and were greeted, much to our agony, with a climbers' trail taking us up the approach ridge to the base of the snow field. No sooner had we crested the ridge than we were greeted by a chubby marmot calling out for a prospective mate through a cloudbank which limited visibility to about 15 yards. There we encountered the snow field.



In limited visibility we charged up into the clouds to 6000 feet to Hogsback camp and the base of Coleman Glacier. Once arrived we gathered on a sizable mound of rock and dirt glacial debris and roped up. It was then that we realized we had no instruction or words of advice except our own, which added to the excitement of the occasion. Being the seasoned veterans we are we double checked each other's harnesses and prusiks, promptly tangled the rope and started up the glacier planting

wands along the way. Again, visibility was miserable. We could make out the fresh tracks of a team in front of us and on occasion see the crest of Heliotrope Ridge. We did our best to navigate via map, compass and Evan's GPS.

As we climbed through the clouds visibility improved and we made our way to 7000 feet, the vault toilets and an acceptable campsite. While setting camp visibility continued to improve providing wonderful views of the summit, the crevasse field we would eventually cross and the vault toilet. Yes, the vault toilet could be seen from everywhere on the Coleman Glacier. In fact, one of the other rope teams decided to set their tent across a gully from the latrine much to the dismay of Alex and Andrea. The other rope team ahead of us proceeded up to about 8000 feet to camp just below the crevasse field. We made camp, melted snow, ate dinner and hit the sack at 7pm having established a 2am wakeup call Saturday morning. Visibility was OK but we were hopeful.

At midnight, Matt and Andrea awoke to nature's call and were greeted by crampon-worthy snow and the largest, clearest blanket of stars we'd ever seen. The heavens had cleared, at least temporarily. Our hopes were buoyed by the improving snow conditions and weather.

At 2am, the team awoke, dressed and proceeded up the Coleman Glacier in crampons by 3:30am. It was below freezing, the stars were out and our neighbors had already departed. As we left camp we could see the team at 8000 feet preparing for their attempt by the light of their headlamps. The snow was perfect for crampons...cold, hard and sounded like tiny shards of glass as it crumbled under



our footsteps. Visibility was not now a concern but we would see that the cloud level was rising.

We approached the camp at 8000 feet, navigated (with the aid of the teams who'd passed before us) around two large crevasses and were approaching an avalanche field by 4:30am when dawn came. It was below freezing and the cloud level



was holding below us. We crossed the avalanche field uneventfully and proceeded over a broken snow bridge as we approached the saddle between Mt. Baker and Colfax Peak. At the saddle the wind picked up, though not by much, as it had not been blowing at all during our ascent. The sun had risen but Baker's summit cone cast a large shadow over the three climbing teams. We could see the other two teams above us on the ridge and headwall.

We ascended the ridge with only one quickly corrected navigation error. Remember, when climbing a mountain its best to go up! As we approached the head wall, inclined at 30-35 degrees, the breeze picked up and our pace quickened. It was a battle between numb toes and tired legs. The

snow was hard enough that ice axe spikes could penetrate but an inch or two with considerable effort. We realized then that a misstep would make for a very difficult arrest. As we pushed up the head wall using every conceivable crampon technique learned in the BCC (minus strapping them to our hands) the wind died and the sun shown huge!

Summit! Summit! Finally, we band of 2005 BCC Gold Team members summated Baker at 8:30am! Our first summit of a top 100 peak and the first BCC team of 2005 to reach the top of Baker! The views were amazing, the clouds were angelic and the smell was horrendous. At first we believed the sulfur odor to be one of our female teammates but luckily for her it was the volcano, not last night's freeze dried delicacy.



At the plateau we ate, drank and then proceeded to the true summit for pictures, more refreshments and the reward of our efforts. The cloud layer filtered out the lesser mountains as all around us could be seen very clearly the tallest peaks in the Cascades. We enjoyed the view til 9:30am. We followed our wands back to the headwall and were greeted by a train of at least 20 climbers passing us on the approach up. We proceeded down the ridge and saddle passing at least two teams without either ropes or helmets. We thought the may have been ICC instructors.

Just above the avalanche field we removed our crampons because of balling and proceeded back down into the clouds. At 7700 feet the snow deteriorated significantly into the warm sliding mess we were accustomed to in the BCC outings. We arrived back at camp just before 1pm to see herds of climbers trekking up the glacier and another climbing team setting up camp within smelling distance of the toilet. I left them an Oklahoma gift basket!. A steady stream of climbers continued until we left camp at 3:30pm, after having hydrated and fed ourselves. As we approached Hogsback camp, we could see a mini tent city had sprung up overnight with tents scattered across the rock fields. It was there we unroped and proceeded down the snowfield, ridge and trail back to the cars by about 7pm. We changed clothes and ventured to Milano's in

Glacier for a fantastic celebratory Italian feast. If you're in Glacier, go to Milano's!

There you have it...

As an author's note, I'm headed back to Oklahoma soon and want to offer my sincerest appreciation and admiration to the 2005 BCC Gold Team Instructors and students. By the way, I picked up a barista application yesterday!

ones out



Mt Olympus: Crown Jewel of Olympic National Park (May 29, 2005)

Climbers: Jon Baker, Gary Mull (scribe) and Tony Olejnicki

Mt Olympus stands centered in a sea of snow capped mountains near the center of Olympic National Park. It was known to the Indians in their legends as Thunder Bird which lived in a cave and created the sound of thunder when flapping its wings. Mt Olympus is surrounded by several large glaciers – Humes, Hoh, Blue, Jefferies, Hubert, White and Ice Rivers. This makes it the 3rd most glaciated peak in the lower 48 states falling only behind Mt Rainier and Mt Baker for the amount of accumulated ice and snow pack.



This 7965 ft peak falls off the “To Do” list of most climbers when compared to the Top 100 peaks all above 8000ft and looming in the nearby Cascades. Added are the long approaches which don’t create much enthusiasm unless one has a strong desire to make it to the top of this peak. The Olympics rise from sea level taking the brunt of the Pacific storms with the Hoh River valley receiving over 140 inches of rain. The summit of Olympus tops out at an average of 240 inches of precipitation each year. Even today the Blue glacier is studied using a permanent scientific post located on the edge of an Olympic feature called the snow dome. This post has been allowed to remain even though it’s within the National Park boundary.

When I completed my Basic Class with Boealps in 2004, getting to the summit of Mt Olympus was one of my primary goals. Backpacking over half of the park’s trails and having to stare at Mt Olympus, I was left wondering what it would be like to be standing on the top of the highest point in the park. So my desire was very strong to get there. After much talking and almost begging, I finally convinced Tony that the effort in getting to this sub-8000ft peak would be worth it. His thinking though was quite different for it would allow me to focus on more worthy objectives in the Cascade Range. Tony committed and now all I had to do was complete the planning for the trip, find a decent period of weather to make it worth the trek and finally make it to the summit. We both agreed that a forecast of bad weather would be enough to scrub any attempt. So I set the initial dates for May 27th – May 31st and I began patiently watching the Olympic NOAA weather forecasts as the time drew near.



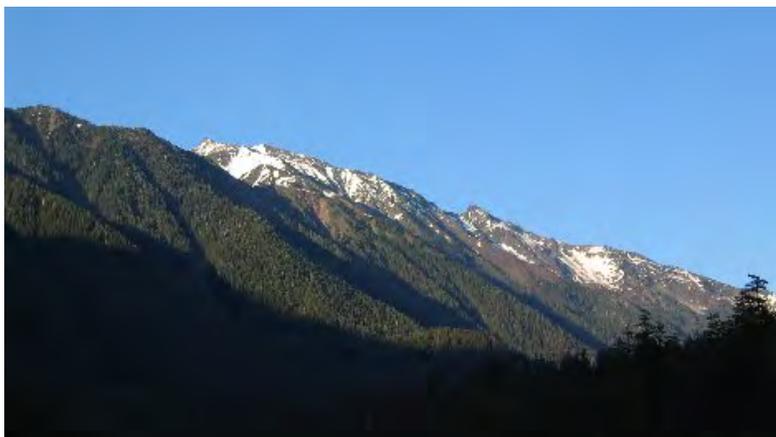
Looking thru the Olympic Mountains Trail Guide (Woods) and the Climber's Guide to the Olympic Mountains (Olympic Mountain Rescue) the approach up the Hoh River valley ends with three possible routes leading to the summit. All were identified and mapped out. It would require us to depart Seattle on a ferry at 7am and 5 hours later reach our trailhead at the Hoh River Valley Visitors Center. The weather was in our favor with high pressure building in after initial reports of a 20-30% chance of precipitation. The outlook was good. Initial contact earlier with the Ranger station indicated the approach was in good shape but other attempts by climbing parties had been foiled by bad weather the week before. I walked into the Ranger station for the permit feeling confident that luck was on our side.

When asked of my destination, I responded back that we planned to climb Olympus. The ranger's reaction was immediate. "We strongly are discouraging anyone from attempting the summit".

A local guide who regularly leads trips there has reported the glacier to be in the worst shape ever. With a low snow pack this year there are many open crevasses and the recent snow fall has left chest deep snow on the snow dome. A recent fly over spotted a huge crevasse which has just opened. You will also have to do a log crossing, stream ford and traverse a section of trail that has been badly damaged by an avalanche. That section of trail may require you to belay in order to cross it safely.

This was not good news. In my mind, how could things go from good conditions to a strongly worded recommendation not to proceed with the climb in only one week's time? It only took a moment of thought knowing the guys outside were already getting their gear together. The decision could only be that we were still going. My response back to the Ranger was we have the weather and we would have to check out the conditions for ourselves. But I must admit that now I was feeling less confident about our chances of getting to the top.

Arriving at the trailhead at noon, dealing with the Ranger's bad news and delays caused by their malfunctioning PC to create our permit, we finally got on the trail starting at an elevation of 578 ft. Our 1st stop - Tom Creek in 2.8 miles where we would have our lunch stop. Stopping earlier at Port Angeles allowed us to pick up fresh sandwiches at the grocery and this would be our last fresh food until we reached civilization. At 7.3 miles we hit the first log-crossing obstacle. With an orange flag to indicate the trail we or so we thought, we climbed up and over a root ball and balanced ourselves across 1ft wide log about 5 ft off the surface of deep stream. Each of us passed safely but we would learn on the return that we had passed at the horse crossing and the actual trail was rerouted to the left and behind the root ball. This led to a log that was almost 3 ft across and easily traversed. There's a lot to be said for being able to walk a straight and narrow path carrying a 65lb pack and having a lot of good incentive for not falling and getting totally soaked.



We quickly reached the stream crossing (7.8 mi) and managed in bare feet to cross knee-deep water to the other side. Before long we found ourselves going thru a huge beautiful meadow at the Olympic Guard Station (9 mi) and continuing thru the rain forest to Lewis Meadows (10.3 mi). We would spend our first night camped there. Thankfully most of the Hoh trail is covered in the shade of the rain forest and we were saved from the scorching hot temperatures. Dropping packs in the meadow, we followed a path leading to the edge of the Hoh River and much to our surprise found a large sandy beach perfect for

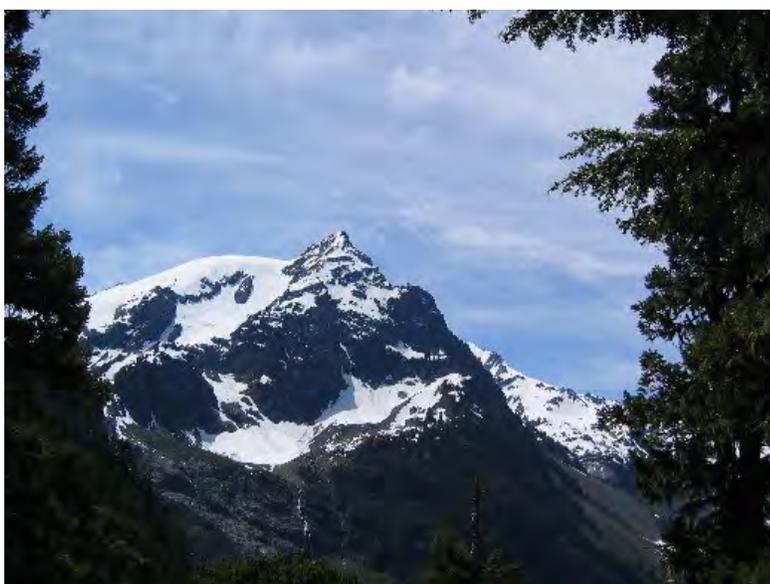
setting up our shelters with views up to the High Divide and summits of Cat Peak and Mt Carrie. It was warm, sunny with a light breeze and mosquito free. You couldn't ask for much more.

Now day 2, we broke camp and again were on our way. The 1st rest stop found us at the Hoh River Gorge Bridge (13 mi, 1357ft) and well worth stopping. Peering down into the canyon and the surging river below was a good photo opportunity. Now our elev gain would begin in earnest. We continued onto Elk Lake (14.6 mi, 2558ft) for our next break. Looking at the map closely we made a guess as to where we would cross the avalanche damaged trail. Still not knowing what to expect when we would get there. Running into some hikers returning from Glacier Meadows we received our first report on the glacier. They had made it up to the upper lateral moraine, confirmed that the trail leading to the moraine was snow free and there were crevasses. As we talked we noticed that one of the



hikers was wearing sneakers and they made no mention of difficulty on the trail ahead. We continued on feeling better about this turn of events. We soon reached the damaged trail and it was obvious that the avalanche had completely destroyed a short section. However the tramping of many feet was quickly reestablishing a tread and we were able to make it across without incident.

The next stop was glacier Meadows (17.5 mi, 4200 ft) varying on distance and elevation based on which book or sign you happen to read. With the discouraging news from the ranger station and unseasonably hot temperatures we decided to set camp. There was plenty of shade in the alpine trees at Glacier Meadows. This seemed a better choice than going out into the midday heat farther up on the moraine.



We discussed our options and set our primary goal to make the summit. Previous discussions ranged from camping on the Snow Dome or near the summit to allow for trying a summit of Mt Tom. It would turn out to be a good decision.

Late that afternoon we hiked approx a mile up to the moraine to scope out the best route down onto the glacier. We also wanted a good look at the lower Blue glacier for ourselves. It took about 40 minutes to hike up and we quickly found a light boot tread leading down on scree to the start of the glacier. Looking across it we could see a foot trail left by a party who crossed earlier in the day. We would find out later that this same party had made it up to the leading edge of the snow dome with no difficulty. Things were definitely improving and maybe luck was really on our side.

Summit day found ourselves waking at 4am and on the trail by 5am. We quickly reached the moraine and made the 150ft descent down to the glacier below (5000ft). Already several rope teams were starting to cross and we found ourselves roping up beside a party of Explorer Scouts. Tony took the lead and we found ourselves moving briskly across the relative flatness of the lower glacier

to reach the other side. The thought of a Gazelle came more to mind as both Jon and I were starting to sweat by the time we reached the other side.



Climbing straight up a snow bank onto a mixture of scree, solid rock and snow we continued working our way to the edge of the snow dome. By this time, we had passed the other teams and continued at a good pace up the steepest part of the dome. The snow was consolidated and even firm in places taking a kick step and providing solid footing. This helped make our progress up the slope go quickly. Cresting the steepest section at 6600ft and continuing up to 6900ft we briefly stopped to evaluate the potential routes. The direct route leading to the saddle near the summit block had a bergschrund completely blocking the route. To the left, our next potential route just to the left of Five Fingered Peak also had a bergschrund leading on a rising angle into the shadows of the peak. It looked possible but if it continued all the way across we would have to retreat and loss valuable time. The 3rd route showed the best promise. This late summer route crosses thru a snow pass (7200 ft). Then continues onto the Upper Blue Glacier just above a steep section of heavy fractured ice and seracs.

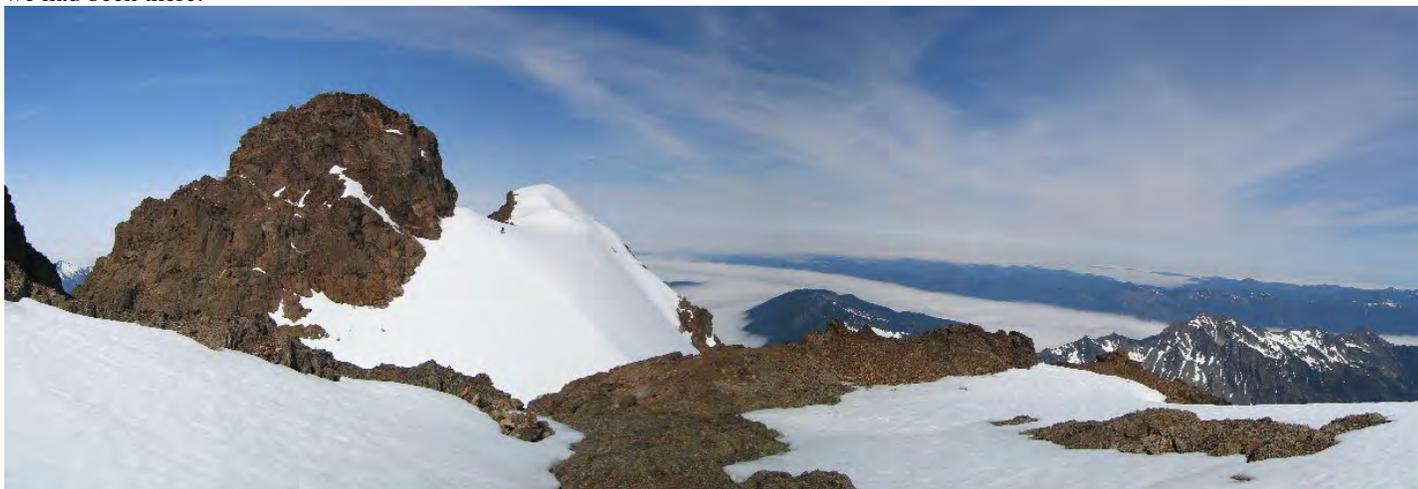
We choose the snow pass and continued moving up the snow dome to cross above a large crevasse which had opened to our left. Traversing upward toward the pass we encountered a short stretch of snow that would not support our weight. This left us post holing up to our thighs in places. Jon who was in the center of the rope team post holed and after retrieving his leg gazed down into the blackness of a gaping hole. At that point we quickly backed up several steps and moved higher onto the slope. We were able to continue safely to the pass. We made it a point to also stay higher on the slope for our return trip.

After a short break at the snow pass, we continued moving upward on the glacier to the saddle between the summit and five fingered peak. Reaching the saddle and continuing up a steep snow slope we found it very icy in places and not wanting to take an ice axe very well. I expected to reach the base of the summit block when I crested to the top. However I was presented with a rocky flat-topped area and a steep ravine leading down approx 150ft to the base of another steep snow slope. This 2nd slope led to the actual summit block. A portion of this ravine was filled with hard icy snow so with some slow carefully placed steps and a little belaying we made it safely down.



Climbing back up the 2nd steep snow slope to the summit block we found the rock route on the backside (NE). From there we quickly changed gears with Tony leading up a class II ramp followed with a 15ft chimney and shelf littered with loose rock. There was located an obvious belay point ringed with a cluster of slings and rap rings. At a minimum, you could protect the route with several slings thrown over 2 horns and 1-2 cams or nuts. From there a short scramble leads to the top and the summit was ours.

Looking around it was totally amazing. We were surrounded on all sides by snow-capped peaks. A marine layer had pushed itself in from the ocean and up the river valleys forming a carpet of white fur below us. To the east lay the Bailey Range and familiar landmarks such as Ferry Basin, Lone Tree Pass, Mt Pulitzer, Mt Scott, Bear Pass and Mount Queets were all easily recognized. The summit box unfortunately had filled with water and the climber's log sopping wet. So we left our mark on the inside lid cover to show we had been there.



We couldn't stay long as it was already 2:30pm. The late summer route had caused us to dogleg around on the approach and crossing over to the upper glacier section This brought us in behind the saddle leading to the summit block. This had taken more time than if we had been able to do one of the more direct approaches. Also the Explorer Scouts could be seen opposite us and it wouldn't take long before they would arrive to ascend the chimney. The summit is only big enough to comfortably hold 6-8 people. We rappelled down the chimney route and were quickly off the summit. I believe it's also possible to rappel of the opposite side of the belay point which would not interfere with climbers who are still ascending the chimney.



Now for the fun. We prepared for the trip down and were rewarded with 2000ft of glissading. Short steep sections near the summit lead us back to the upper Blue Glacier and plunge stepping back to the snow pass. From there we roped up to cross the soft snow embankment and back across leading to the edge of the snow dome. From there rope and harnesses were put away and the best glissade I've experienced. This quickly brought us down to the snow dome's base far below. Regaining the rocky outcrops we quickly continued to the last steep section of snow and a short final glissade to the lower Blue glacier awaiting us below.

At the bottom we briefly discussed crossing the lower section of the glacier back to the lateral moraine. In front a member of another party was already half way across wearing snowshoes by the same route we had taken earlier that day. We reasoned that same route would be safe and decided not to rope up. We quickly crossed toward the other side where sections of blue ice, were visible thru the covering of snow. As we crossed the last patch of blue ice with Tony and Jon in front I felt the ice give way from underneath me. I quickly threw out my arms and ice axe not knowing how far or wide the opening was going to give. I stopped at my waist and yelled forward to the guys ahead. They turned around and Tony's reaction was immediate and very clear "What are you doing in there – Get out of there Now!" I looked down along my legs and saw solid ice with the opening going down but not getting any wider. So I was able to free myself and we quickly cleared the glacier. Climbing up to the top of the moraine we found ourselves back into our camp at 4:30pm. It had been a long day, filled with spectacular views of rock and ice mixed with some excitement at the end. Enough to make us consider carefully our next decision when it comes to roping up and going across a glacier.

We quickly agreed to a decision for spending the night at glacier meadows. We would see how the next day progressed on the walkout. We could tell Tony was secretly pumped for trying to do the entire 17.5 miles in one shot. Leaving at 8am the next morning we quickly descended back to the Hoh river gorge and the miles continued to pass along with the hours. By noon we found ourselves at the Olympic Guard station where we stopped for a well-deserved lunch-break. With 9 miles left to go we agreed to try to make it all the way out. Finding an alternative crossing across a log upstream of the ford avoided wet feet. Finding the proper reroute across a huge log spared us having to walk the plank. At 4:15pm found ourselves less than a mile from the cars and the small ups and downs of the trails (small undulations according to Tony) were in Jon's words "Starting to kill me". We finally made all 17.5 miles and 3600ft elevation loss in 8 ½ hours. Now we could look forward to a stop in Port Angeles for food and beer as a reward for all our efforts and a successful summit.

Out of all this to truly remember - Tony's infamous words about my predicament of falling in a crevasse (he thought I was pulling a joke), Tony's final admission to the fact that this sub 8000ft peak was a remarkable trip and finally to having great climbing buddies to share it with has made it one trip that I will always remember. Maybe even to go back again once Tony forgets how long the approach was to get there. Hopefully you find the time to add this out of the way peak to your own "To Do List". If the weather is good I don't think you will be disappointed.



Little Tahoma Part 2

May 29, 2005

Climbers: Forrest Newton, Stan Zaremba, Dan Morales (scribe)

Team Black had done everything right in order to tackle Little T on our graduation climb but instead we all learned a valuable lesson, you can't control the weather. Unfortunately we had to make the call to pack up camp and head home. We were so close and that feeling stayed with us for 2 weeks. The first weekend after our graduation from Boealps was Memorial day weekend so Forrest Newton, Stan Zaremba, and I decided we were confident enough in our skills and were pretty familiar with the route that we would attempt to summit Little Tahoma. Traffic was a mess Friday afternoon because of the holiday weekend so we didn't leave the Frying Pan Creek trail head until 8 pm.

It was a beautiful cool evening which quickly turned to night as we reached the snow at the bottom of the gully that leads to Summerland. With our headlamps on we continued up and had to make some tricky creek crossings over snow bridges and wet logs. We reach the Summerland camp sight (5800 ft) at 10 pm and the view of Rainer and Little T with all the stars in the sky was killer. We quickly setup camp and all 3 of us squeezed into our 2 man tent for the night. We woke up at 5 am and finally got a good look at our goal. The weather was perfect and we could tell today was going to be a warm day.



By 5:45 am we were kicking steps and kicking butt. I was surprised how fast and efficiently we were moving up the steep slope with only 3 people. 100 steps and then step out for a quick swig of water and back to kicking. We arrived at Meany Crest (6700 ft) at 8:30 am, got a quick bite to eat, roped up for the climb across the Frying Pan Glacier, and at 9:00 am we were off. We could easily see the path we need to take to the Whitman Crest unlike our graduation climb where we never could see our destination. It was getting warm and we were sucking wind pretty good by the time we reached the bottom of the saddle on the Whitman Crest at 10:45 am where the Black team campsite was located on our graduation climb. We decided since it was early enough that we could cross the saddle onto the Whitman Glacier and possibly make an attempt at the summit. We continued on and up to the top of the crest. All of us were pretty beat by the time we got to the top of the saddle so we decided to unrope and catch our breath which turned into a 30

minute nap on a pile of rocks. 11:30 am and we were at the bottom of the crest and on the Whitman Glacier setting up camp. Our plan was to setup camp, eat, and drink some water before we made our way to the summit. The sun was beating down on us and it was very warm as we began to break out the tent. Then we heard a loud roaring sound and looked up to see an avalanche charging down the face of Little T exactly where we had planned to be traveling. It was obvious that it was only going to get warmer and a summit attempt would be too risky. So we made the decision to spend the rest of the day and camp and try again early in the morning when the snow would be frozen. The rest of the day we did the only logical thing there is to do on a glacier, get a much need tan!!!



Its funny how sometimes I get more rest in the mountains then I do on a weekend in Seattle. Well we ate a nice dinner and were finding it hard to go to sleep since it was still light out and we had been napping off and on all day. We woke up at 5 am Sunday morning and the view from our tent was unbelievable. A layer of clouds had settled in at about 7500 ft and we could see Mt. Adams in the distance. The view of Little Tahoma with the light from the sun rise shining on its face was perfect.





The snow was frozen over just as we had hoped so we put on our crampons, for the first time ever, and roped up. We began the adventure and about 200 yards from the tent I realized I had forgotten my watch but we decided to keep going. We wanted to avoid all crevasse areas because we figured any snow bridges were really weak due to the warm weather the last couple days. We reached the base of Little T in about 1 hr. We looked at the slope and checked out the snow layers. Most of the snow seemed to have bonded pretty well but we were afraid that as the day went on the melting snow could make for some tricky conditions. We decided to traverse the slope to reach the other side and make our way up the to snow finger. The original advice we had been given was to go to the very top because it would have made for an easier scramble but that is the point at which the avalanche shown in the picture above had originated so in these conditions it would not have been wise. We dropped our packs about 100 ft below the snow finger and unroped at what we estimated to be 9 am. I put the rope on my back and we continued up to the top of the finger. Once we reached that point we assumed that it was an easy scramble from here on up so we took of the crampons and put down our ice axes. This turned out to be a mistake because most of the scramble up was a mix of snow, ice, and loose rocks. We finally found the right path to the summit ridge and the view was spectacular. I could see 2000 ft straight down to the Emmons Glacier and a few rope teams making their way up Mount Rainier. From the false summit there is a short 10 ft down climb followed by a 20 ft 5th class scramble to the true summit. This is a very exposed climb and a fall on either side of the ridge would bring certain doom. So for this reason we through a sling around a giant horn and Forrest wanted to lead so I belayed him across the ridge. Forrest then threw a 20 ft sling around the summit to create a hand line. The summit has room for 3-4 people so anchor in if possible to avoid any mishaps.



Maybe it was the breath taking views or the lack of oxygen but we were definitely winded. We spent about 30 minutes enjoying the views and reflecting on what he had just accomplished. Then reality set in and we realized how warm it was getting and that it would be a good idea to get of the mountain as quick as possible. The down climb was much easier because we found the scramble which we should have taken, but once we reached the snow finger and triggered a small avalanche that almost buried all our gear the adrenaline really began to pump. We quickly got to our gear, roped up, and traversed directly to the path that the avalanche from the previous day had created. Once we got to the base of the avalanche we continued on across the Whitman Glacier and within no time we were at base camp. I checked my watch and it was now 1:30 pm so it had taken us approximately 7 hrs. This was much longer then anticipated due the dicey slopes and slippery scramble. Before we knew it we were at the cars by 4 pm and couldn't have been

prouder of what we had accomplished as newbie BCC grads. I highly recommend this climb to a BCC grad and anyone else for that matter.



Forbidden West Ridge – A Classic Climb of Forbidden Pleasure 25 June 2005

Climbers: Gary Mull, Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Mark Rozema



Forbidden Peak from High Camp

If you ever wanted to do one of 'Fifty Favorite Climbs: The Ultimate North American Tick List' as compiled by Mark Kroese's book here is your perfect chance to do at least part of one. The route is a ridge traverse from Mt Torment to Forbidden peak, which ends with the climb of Forbidden's west ridge. Doing the whole traverse in perfect weather is a truly remarkable experience. However doing just the west ridge is quite a reasonable first attempt.

This was my second climb of the ridge and I found it just as enjoyable as the first one. The climbing conditions are perfect right now, the gully leading to the ridge is filled with snow and it is just 1000ft of steep step-kicking rather than scaling wet side rocks of the gully.

Ideally this is done as a 2-day trip especially if you don't know the route with camping at the 6200ft high camp of the Boston basin.

Camping in Boston basin is really cool with tremendous scenery overlooked by Johannesburg, Sahale and Boston peaks with awesome lights of both sunrise and sunset. However, due to popularity of the route it maybe unreliable to obtain backcountry permits to overnight. In summer, the area is patrolled by climbing rangers every day so illegal camping is impossible, I experienced this same situation last year.



High Camp - Sunrise over Mt Johannesburg



View from Summit on Sahale Boston and Shark Fin

A one day climb is feasible but TH car camping is a must. Due to the long ridge climb an even number of party members is advised unless you are prepared to do most of the route unprotected. A choice better left to the skill and judgment of each climber to decide for themselves. The route is mostly class 4 with some low class 5 sections so it should be a piece of cake for RCC graduates. However the exposure is considerable on parts of the ridge with south-side drops of over 1000ft and north-side exposure down to 1500ft. Traversing with holds on the knife-edge ridge and smearing on one side has your butt hanging over a 1000ft precipitous in places. If that gets your sense of daring adventure and stirs your imagination stop thinking about it and just do it.

The Route

The TH is at mile 22 from Marblemount bridge on the Cascade river Rd. There is small car park on the left side of the road; this is the beginning of old mining track. There is limited parking there for 6 cars at the most. In summer this is a popular car park for Boston basin climbers and hikers alike.

The trail starts at 3200ft and leads to the low camp at 5400ft on a climber's path of different grades with lots of fallen trees across the path and partly overgrown vegetation. There are lots of loose rocks and protruding roots just waiting for you to step on them with painful consequences. However there is a steep section of the trail where you'll be grateful for these same roots and branches to help you to get up or down. To add to the challenge are numerous creek crossings and muddy sections for your entertainment.



Johannesburg from Access Gully

Above 5400ft there is a well-defined climber's path along a moraine up to 6200ft leading to high camp. From this camp and with good visibility, the summit of Forbidden (8815ft) is obvious as well as both west and east ridges. From here the best way to get to the base of the climb is to either take a snowfield on the right close to east ridge or scramble the rocks directly in front of the basin for about 500ft. You must cross to the left as close to west ridge as possible to avoid obvious open crevasses. It is safe to travel unroped but be aware.

Near 7000ft you head towards a large prominence located at the bottom of the access gully and approach it from the left side if possible. The right side of the prominence leads to a crevassed area which may be possible to negotiate with care. The base of prominence is at 7400ft and the access gully is visible from here. The gully leads to the ridge at 8000ft. Currently the entire gully is covered in snow almost to the ridge so there is no need to rock-climb until reaching the ridge. The real fun begins where the snow ends.

While climbing the ridge try to stay on the top of it all the time. In places it may look easier to traverse on the side but looks are deceiving. The summit consists of two peaks east and west separated by 50ft and a scary looking exposed 5.4 move, which looks more difficult than it is.

All this effort is worth getting the coolest views in North Cascades. You can see Logan, Buckner, Boston, Johannesburg, Sahale and the Eldorado basin with the Sibley creek pass route. In the same direction lies Austeria, Klawatti, Bonanza and the tops of the Picket range. Visually you cannot wish for anything more.

The Trip

We did two wrong things: 1) did not TH camp and 2) had 3 climbers instead of an even number of 2 or 4. This made for cumbersome climbing waiting for both the lead and trailing climbers to meet each time to exchange pro. So it was not very efficient use of the available amount of time.

I met the usual suspect Gary Mull (newbie) at Mercer Island P&R at 4am and we drove to Everett to pick-up our 3rd climber Mark Rozema. We arrived in Marblemount at 6:40am and 40 minutes later were at the TH sorting gear and preparing packs. We started on the trail at 7:40am but little did we know that was far too late a start.

We arrived at high camp at 10:30 am thinking we had made great progress. After a short break we took to the snowfield on the right and traversed to the left just below the glacier to avoid obvious crevasses. I knew the route

from the previous year and started to kick steps up to the gully for almost 1000ft until a cramp slowed me down 50ft below the ridge. By the time we reached the ridge and rigged up for the climb, I had recovered but the cramp had left it's mark and I was tender on the way down.

We started to ridge climb at 1pm and it took us 5 hrs to reach the summit and after multiple rappels down we reached the gully at 9pm. It was late and we were left with a prospect of down climbing in the dark. One hour of down-climbing, which was much more difficult then climbing up, I finally reached a stage where I had to turn towards the slope and down-climb backwards for a while kicking-in the steps in fairly soft snow. We re-grouped at the bottom of the gully and followed the east side of the basin to get down to high camp. From there after some difficulties finding the trail we followed the path back to the TH over rocks roots and creeks, finally arriving back to the car at 2:20am. The drive back to Seattle was a real bitch but we shared the driving effort making sure each other stayed awake. We arrived safely back to Seattle at 5:30am.



Boston Basin at Sunset



Last Pitch before East Summit



Traffic Congestion on the Ridge



Mt Torment from West Ridge



Eldorado from West Ridge

This was first serious alpine and multi-pitch rock trip for Gary apart from our Ingles East Ridge trip last year and

below follows his perspective (very interesting):

"I went with Tony and met up with another guy - Mark who I met for the first time for the climb. Tony picked me up from Mercer Island park and ride at 4am Sat morning and we headed for Marblemount and a climb of Forbidden Peak. It's 2900 ft of elevation gain on a steep climbers path to reach Boston Basin, another 1000ft up snow and glacier to the base of a snow filled couloir. The upper 500ft of the couloir is a 50-55 degree slope leading to the West Ridge. From there we followed the ridge over mostly class 4 but it's rated 5.3-5.5 in difficulty.

Reaching the summit with 8 pitches of climbing on a very narrow ridge most of which is climbed directly over it's top. Most of the ridge has drops of a 1000ft on either side of it to the basins far below. The climbing was great and wasn't difficult going with spectacular views.

With 3 people (we needed either 2 or 4 to make it more efficient) it took us much longer to get everyone belayed. I was the middle guy so I was constantly either belaying Tony up when he was leading or belaying Mark up when he was following up from behind cleaning the route. I found myself very busy the entire time!

We had hoped to be back to the cars by dark. However we actually found ourselves leaving the summit at 6pm. It also took a long time to rappel back down the ridge. Since it's not completely vertical, you have to sort of rappel and down climb parts of it simultaneously. The rope would get tangled and that took additional time to straighten out. We did have one stuck rope during the pull from the rappel anchor which Mark climbed back up to free. But we eventually got down and immediately left the ridge.

Our goal simply at that point was to get down the 500ft of couloir before it got dark! To say it was steep going down was an understatement. The plan was to rappel down but that was out of the question because it was so late. So we put on crampons and basically turned around backwards and down climbed the entire 500ft one step at a time. A short stretch of it was on exposed rock ledges and handholds using only crampon points and hands.

We made it to the base of the couloir just as it got dark and had to turn on our headlamps. We found ourselves still 1000ft above the basin and still to come down across the glacier, snowfield and exposed granite below us. Earlier in the day we had saw foot prints leading around the edge of the glacier/snow field to avoid a crevasse. We had just barely managed to cross it earlier in the day when it was daylight using a snow bridge. So we headed down the direction of the foot path hoping to avoid the crevasse. This route had other surprises awaiting us. Since we had not gone this way on our ascent, this route was totally new and was completely done in the dark except for the short distance lit by our headlamps.

So down we went bypassing the end of the main crevasse and the way eventually put us onto solid granite rock and melting snow. Dry in places and slick where it was wet. Toward the bottom I found myself on an extremely smooth section that was sloped to the point where I could not walk down it. There were no holds or edges to grab onto except for one lone jutting horn shaped rock. I sat down and grabbed it lowering myself as much as I could and then I had no choice but to let go. Away I went down this slick granite which was just like being on a kid's slide only bumpier. I quickly picked up speed but as it leveled out slightly near the bottom it gave me just enough time to prepare my feet to stop in a small stream that was running at the base of it. I made it safely and had to keep going.

Already the guys were ahead of me and not stopping or slowing. The next obstacle we came to was a vertical drop off of about 20 ft to the snowfield below and there was no choice. We had to reach it to continue downward. Tony/Mark found a crack in the snow edge of the drop off which had a chimney like appearance. Initially we looked and then re-looked at it again. Mark said "I think I can do it" and away he went. Climbing down into it stepping on a snow ledge and squeezing thru a constriction in the snow chimney he popped out and landed on his feet dropping free to the snow 5 feet below. Tony was next and then he was gone and I was left standing looking at this. Already the lights of the headlamps were disappearing. No time to think...just go!

Before I knew it I was being spit out at the bottom of the chimney and I landed safely on my feet. I had to keep hurrying to catch the lights which were quickly disappearing in the dark again! At this point we

were not far above the basin but we continued to run into abrupt drop offs. Working our way laterally across we eventually found the places we needed to make our way down to the high camp below.

Mark had cached his head lamp thinking we would be back there before dark. So he was doing all of this only with the aid of our lights. Think I remember words being muttered like "I'll never leave my headlamp back again".

Once there we recollected ourselves, we began to make our way across the basin. We were still not on a defined trail yet and we knew that we had to descend down on a path which followed the remnants of an old moraine. Well there were lots of features that all looked like this. Headlamps pointed out into an expansive darkness and you begin to see anything you wish.

We stopped to look around for what we thought was a trail but ended up only being marmot runs. So we kept traversing the basin and eventually reached a good sized stream, refilled up on water and I got my map out, I had marked this stream with the elevation and looked at my altimeter. If it was correct we most likely were below the point of where the trail was traversing the basin.

I asked Tony and Mark to stay with the packs and I volunteered to climb up and see if I could find the path. I was following up along the edge of the stream and I had a small snowfield on my right. I knew that if the path was above, I should see clear evidence of a foot path crossing it. After a few minutes of climbing up, I eventually found what I was looking plus a cairn to mark the way! I yelled down below to the guys who were nice enough to carry my ice axe and pack up to me:)

It was now 11:30 pm and we were finally on a path. We now only had to cross the basin and go down 2900ft of climbers path back to the car. But everyone was feeling much better now that there was trail beneath our boots. We only had to not lose it in the dark, cross numerous streams and make our way down a path filled with roots, downed trees and other small obstacles just waiting to get our ankles!

Eventually we popped out at the trailhead and the vehicle at 2:40 am. Changing and back in the car we now only had to make it home safely for the drive of 2 1/2 hours back to Seattle.

By the time I got home it was 6am and I had been up for 27 hours. I can honestly say this was the hardest thing I've done so far. Not that any one thing was difficult but being all combined together was challenging to say the least. I had to use just about every skill on this trip that I was taught in the basic class except for crevasse rescue! Thank heavens we didn't need that one.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and the climb was incredible. It's easy for me to understand why this particular climb has been rated as one of the top 50 climbs in the entire United States. The beaten climber's path up to Boston Basin is a sign of all those climbers who thought it must have been worth all the effort as well."

Rainier Trip - Emmons Glacier Route

June 10th , 11th , 12th

Climbers: Jacob Young, Sam Largent, and Ken Chang, John Gowan, Chris Fering, and Clifton Teschke (scribe)

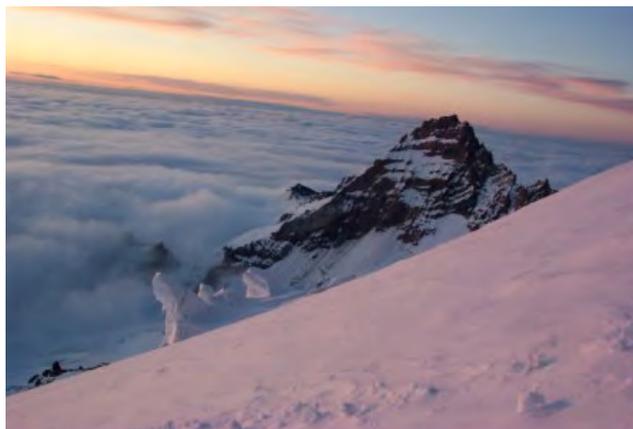
To steal a quote from an 80's classic "I love it when a plan comes together!!". Six of us set out from Seattle on Thursday June 8th to start our adventure. Jacob Young, Sam Largent, and Ken Chang headed down in Sam's truck and John Gowan, Chris Fering, and Clifton Teschke (scribe) headed down in Chris's truck. The plan was to crash at the trailhead parking lot Thursday night so we could head over to the ranger station first thing in the morning.

I had made a reservation a couple of weeks prior to the trip, so we knew that we had a slot to stay at Camp Sherman on Friday night and a place at Emmons Flats for Saturday night. But the weather for the weekend looked to be iffy so it was possible that we would be one of the only groups up there. We arrived at the ranger station at 7:01 sharp and were the first customers for the ranger. He happily switched our second night's camp spot to Camp Sherman, which saved us the hassle of moving camp. As we were filling out the paperwork a call came in to the ranger about an accident that had happened on the opposite side of the mountain. It was the father of one of the climbers calling to relay information that he had received from his son high up on the mountain. The only info that we managed to get was that there was some sort of accident in Gibraltar Chute and that one of the climbers had fallen some distance (we didn't find out until Sunday during dinner that the climber did not survive the fall). This kept the ranger busy for some time but eventually we were able to get everything signed and taken care of. We headed back up the road to the trailhead to start our adventure.



At right around 9am we set out on the trail. There was a large group of mountaineers that headed out just about the same time. We jockeyed back and forth with the group as they gradually spread out. With 12 people they were a big group. The weather had turned very nice with partly blue skies. It was a warm one. We rested at Glacier Basin for a quick 15 minute break and then it was on to the snow. The Inter Glacier was in great shape. The hike up was slow, long and fairly grueling with the heavy packs. The sun and the in & out clouds made it feel like we were in an oven. But we trudged on. Several hundred feet from the ridge line we stopped for a break and decided it was a good time to rope up. We quickly crossed over the ridge and dropped down onto the Emmons glacier. It is depressing to lose hard fought elevation. Both rope teams rolled in to Camp Sherman right around 4pm. We were in and out of the clouds while setting up camp but by dinner the cloud mist dissipated and the mountain camp out. The main cloud layer was sitting around 9000 feet. The weather forecast seemed to say that Friday night/Saturday morning was going to be the time to climb if we had a chance at all. So the team unanimously decided to alter our previous plans and try for the summit that night. The climb up to camp from the trailhead was pretty good for one day so it would have been nice to take the leisure approach and rest all of Saturday, but it seemed smarter to take the weather window if it presented itself. The plan was to wake at 1:00am and see what the weather had to offer.

Alas 1:45 came along and we had all overslept. The Mountaineers team was up and making such a racket, there was no way we couldn't have been woken up. With one look at the stars and the clear skies it was a no-brainer, we were going to make a bid for the summit. We got ready and were on our way at 2:45. The Mountaineers were well ahead of us at this point. At around 11,000 feet the Mountaineers group stopped for a long break. We caught up to them just as the group started moving again, minus two people. The two person team had one person using a golf club instead of an ice axe. One might think this is weird at 5am in the morning but alas we just nodded and pushed on. We found out later that the person with the club had managed to lose their ice axe, the club was all the group had as a substitute to get the team member back to camp.

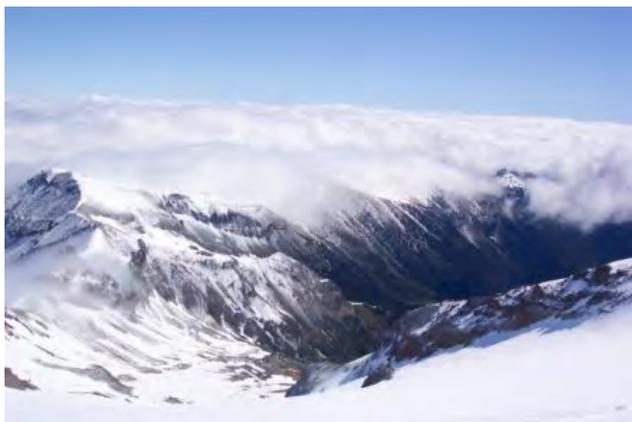


The rest of the climb was uneventful... long, grueling, long, grueling, long, grueling...you get the picture. Everyone was in their own private hell. The wind picked up with the sunrise. It was blowing pretty decently by the time we topped out, around 11:15am. We all collapsed on the crater rim and enjoyed the views. Several of us trudged off to the true summit to make it official. We spent about 45 minutes sitting in the crater soaking up the warmth from the sun and steam vents. It was very nice.



The hike down was particularly difficult for one member of the party, who was likely suffering from some form of altitude sickness. This slowed us down considerably and put us up high late into the day. Luckily the snow never really softened up so we never suffered the dreaded waist deep post-holing. We rolled back into camp at 3:45pm with hot sun and waiting tents. We all passed out for a while.

I decided that heading out that night wasn't in the cards, so we set in for another night. It was a pretty nice evening.... that night on the other hand was a different story all together. It snowed about 6 inches and the wind howled for much of the night. It was a cold one.



Sam and Jacob learned the hard way that a 3 season mesh tent has its hazards at that altitude. The wind blew snow straight through their tent the whole night. They had a layer of snow in their tent by morning. Jacob came calling at 6:45am stating that they wanted to leave ..now. The morning was beautiful with fresh snow in the valley down to 5000 feet. So we packed up (which is particularly hard with 20mph wind gusts), donned the heavy packs and headed out. We roped up for the Emmons and glissaded down the Inter Glacier. Chris had a real shock when he discovered a crevasse along the way. He stood up to move to a different glissade track and punched through to his waist. Not exactly the experience he was looking for. The hike out was uneventful and the burgers at Wally Burger were awesome (see the next page).



Victory tastes like a double cheeseburger from Wally's Drive In!

BOEALPS Basic Rock 2005 Instructor Contract

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Mailstop _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Boeing Employee? YES NO

If NO, can you provide proof of insurance when asked?

--- Qualifications ---

Date of most recent MOFA certification: _____

ICC Graduate? (yes/no)

What year did you first help instruct the BCC: _____ ICC: _____

Please self rate your skill level in the following categories (1 poor skill, 5 highest skill):

Comfortable Trad-Leading up to:

4 5.0-5.3 5.4-5.6 5.7-5.8 5.9 or more

Comfortable on Hard Snow/Ice:

20 degrees 30 degrees 45 degrees 50 degrees+

--- Commitments ---

Below is the 2005 BOEALPS Basic-Rock outing schedule. Please review it carefully, and mark all the events to which you can commit (Y). Mark climbs that you know you can't do (N). Mark all the "possible" climbs (P). (Note that the first outing date has yet to be finalized, so both possible dates are listed. Please list availability to both and we will announce final dates ASAP.) Please observe the following conditions:

- Commitment **means** commitment. Put these dates on your calendar **RIGHT NOW**. You are expected to help on those dates!
- Remember, a successful class depends upon your participation in the weekend outings. There seems to be a high interest in this class. Your help would be overwhelmingly appreciated.
- Attending a planning session prior to an outing is required! Ideally, this will involve some climbing (at the gym, exit 38, UW Rock wall, Marymoor) but that is not required.
- If you cannot make an outing to which you've agreed, **you are responsible for providing a replacement!** I can help coordinate alternates.

Date	Activity	Locale	Available Sat?	Available Sun?	Could You Go Both Days?
06/04-05	Follow Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth or TBD	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/11-12	Alternate Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/25-26	Experience climb Weekend	Squamish	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/16-17	1 st Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/30-31	2 nd alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/13-14	3 rd Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/27-28	4 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/10-11	5 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/24-25	6 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly

I the undersigned, being of reasonably sound body (and dubious morality notwithstanding), will instruct the BOEALPS intermediate climbing class events noted on the preceding schedule.

signed: _____

Please make a copy for your records and return this contract to:

Sarah Sternau
901 W. Howe St., Apt. B
Seattle, WA 98119
Home: 206-484-1009
E-mail: sternau@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

or

Robert Fisher
The Boeing Company, MS 02-JX
Home Phone: 206-795-5918
Work Phone: 425-294-2650
E-mail: fenderfour@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

Questions? Feel free to contact us, and thanks!

Basic Rock Class 2005

BRC Instructor Guidelines:

- Helmets are required while climbing with the class
- Instructors supply alpine rack
- Instructors are encouraged to supply ropes.
- No drugs or alcohol while climbing with the class
- MOFA is required for lead instructors
- Assistant instructors should get MOFA certification, if they are uncertified
- Feedback
- Give students feedback during the climb as well as after
- Get feedback from students
- Proof of insurance is required for all non-BOEING employee instructors

Instructor Requirements:

MOFA certified

Able to lead low to mid 5th class rock

Gear needed:

Same as students AND

Light alpine rack

Rope (single rated, in good condition, less than 5 years old)

NOTE: Ropes will be inspected prior to use

Completed Application and Waiver (See appendix III and II)

Alpine Climbs:

The purpose of these climbs is to expose the students to multipitch trad climbing in an alpine environment. These are experience outings, so no specific skills are scheduled to be taught. Instructors are to emphasize the importance of packing light and may want to review the contents of the student's pack.

Format:

Ideally, there would be a team of four climbers, two instructors and two students on any given climb. There can be deviations from this as they approved by the class lead instructor. .

Climb Selection/Preparation:

Climb selection and preparation is the responsibility of the instructors who will be going on the climb. All mountains and routes are to be approved by the class lead instructor.

The students and instructors should meet to discuss the specifics of a climb prior to going out on a weekend. Students and instructors are encouraged to climb together previous to the outing at an indoor climbing gym or similar previous to the weekend outing.

Types of Climbs:

The climbs should be easily led by the instructor. They are not to be leading at their limit. Climbs can be single day crag outings to places like Castle Rock in Leavenworth, single day alpine climbs like The Tooth or multi day mountain climbs like the West Ridge of Forbidden. This is entirely based on the abilities of the instructors and the students.

Alpine 1 and 2:

The first two alpine outings will be relatively easy routes with short approaches such as The Tooth, Ingalls Peak, or Cathedral Rock.

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Mail Stop

() _____
Work Phone

() _____
Home Phone

e-mail

Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

_____ INDIVIDUAL (\$20.00)

_____ FAMILY (\$25.00)

_____ RETIRED (\$10.00)

NON - EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

_____ INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00)

_____ FAMILY (\$30.00)

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

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

_____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

_____ BOEALPS Intermediate

_____ Mountaineers Basic

_____ Mountaineers Intermediate

_____ Avalanche Awareness

_____ Ice Climbing Seminar

_____ Aid Climbing Seminar

_____ Rock Leading Seminar

_____ Standard First Aid/CPR

_____ MOFA

_____ Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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April Echo staff

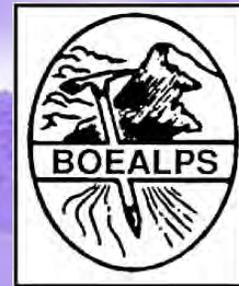
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Tony Olejnicki
Clifton Teschke

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

AUGUST 2005



www.boealps.org

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**THE BOEALPS GENERAL MEETING FOR
AUGUST IS WILL BE A PICNIC AT
MARYMOOR ROCK WALL ON
AUGUST 4.**

**THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE
DRINKS AND SNACKS.**

**BRING ROCK SHOES, SPORT GEAR, AND
FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**

BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

We're cruising into August and I think, if I'm remembering correctly, that I've had exactly one weekend off from climbing in the last four months or so, and maybe one other since the BCC started in late February. It's been an exciting, busy summer!—especially since we continue to have trouble finding instructors to help with the BRC.

If you're curious about the Basic Rock Class and are free September 10-11, please consider coming down to Smith Rock when the BRC takes over for the weekend! We'll be sending out more details as the weekend approaches, but mark your calendars now—it should be fun!

Other climb announcements in this issue include a call for climbers by Tony Olejnicki, who is looking for partners for a New Zealand climb in November. Also, don't forget that this Thursday evening is the Boealps summer picnic at the Marymoor rock structure. The club will provide snacks and drinks, and the weather's looking good.

Also, this month's Echo includes trip reports from Shella Bukovac, who climbed Little Tahoma in a day, and Phil Trifeletti, a recent BCC grad and current BRC student, who wrote up a narrative of his experience on Ron and John's annual Adams climb.

As the summer winds down, please consider recounting some of your adventures for the September issue of the Echo. Got photos? We'll take those, too! The next deadline for the Echo is Monday, September 26, and submissions should be emailed to editor@boealps.org.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
Sarah

Basic Rock Class T-Shirts are now available for order!



T-shirts can be purchased online here:

<http://www.cafepress.com/gaperwear>

They are ringer Ts (available in white/blue, white/black, or white/orange). They're \$14.99 each, also. We will expand into coffee mugs and the like if demand from our 16 students is high enough.



BRC students bike the road to Monte Cristo on the approach to E. Wilmans Spire. Photo by Sarah Sternau.

August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4 New moon Marymoor Picnic	5	6 ICC: Alpine 4
7 ICC: Alpine 4	8	9	10	11	12	13 BRC Alpine 3
14 BRC Alpine 3	15	16	17	18	19 Full moon	20 ICC: Grad Climb
21 ICC: Grad Climb	22	23	24 Echo Deadline	25	26	27 BRC Alpine 4
28 BRC Alpine 4	29	30	31			

2005



A student and instructors on the 2005 ICC ice climbing outing. Photo by Sarah Sternau

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Boealps general meeting	2	3 New moon
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 BRC at Smith Rock—all are invited!
11 BRC at Smith Rock—all are invited!	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Full moon	19	20	21	22	23	24 BRC Alpine 5
25 BRC Alpine 5	26 Echo Deadline	27	28	29	30	31

2005

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Invitation to Climb in New Zealand

November 2005

By Tony Olejnicki

Okay, okay, I have to come clean and declare a vested interest here. I am flying to Melbourne on my Home Leave in November and I am stopping in NZ for 9 days to do some climbing. I was in NZ numerous times skiing, hiking, and cycling, so I know NZ very well and I like NZ.

I stood on the Cascade pass (how appropriate the name is for WA climber) and looked at Matterhorn of the south, Mt. Aspiring (Tititea, 9,924ft).

I looked at majestic Mount Cook (Aoraki, 12,295ft) from east, west, south and north as well as from bird-eye view flying from Christchurch to Melbourne.

I intend to look at Cascade pass from the top of Mt. Aspiring and at the Tasman and Fox glaciers and the Pacific Ocean from the top of Mt. Cook in November this year weather permitting.



Mt Cook



Mt Aspiring

I am looking for a sane and fit climber and I would prefer to do climb with a Boealps climber for obvious reasons.

This is an open invitation for those who are inspired by the beauty of these two mountains and a spirit of adventure. Check the pictures enclosed and if you interested to do these climbs, please contact me by e-mail:

tolejnicki@hotmail.com or anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com.

For guided trip to each of these peaks you would have to pay close to US\$3000, so the opportunity to do it fee free should be an additional motivation.

The airfares from LA to Auckland are low for this period \$860 with Qantas for example. Domestic airfare to Christchurch can be as low as US\$70.

I am interested to do Hooker face on mt Cook, an awesome headwall approaching from Empress hut and return via West Ridge traverse and Poter Col back to the hut. There are other interesting routes, which are technical but not as demanding. Mt Aspiring would be a dessert climb on north-west ridge.

I will be in NZ from Nov 20 till Nov 30 from where I am flying to Melbourne for 5days to visit my family and friends. There are plenty of things to do in NZ so if you have more time you can explore amazing scenery and other adventures in a very friendly country.

Here are few more pictures to whet your appetite if there is any further hesitation:



Mount Aspiring is the highest Peak in Mount Aspiring Park. This beautiful summit is one of the most coveted peaks in New Zealand. On first seeing Mt Aspiring, from the edge of the Bonar Glacier, there is a moment of disbelief that you'll be able to climb it by any means. Viewed however from certain angles the ridges and faces don't look so precipitous and an ascent quite possible. Aspiring, often referred to as the `Matterhorn of the South', is similar to the Matterhorn of the Swiss Alps not only in shape but also in construction. These both peaks been carved by glaciers in a certain way, which causes them to be referred to as horn peaks.

Mount Cook is a serious mountain and not to be under-estimated due to its comparatively low altitude. It is comparable in length and difficulty to Arguille Verte in Chamonix, France and Mt. Huntington in Alaska.

What attracts me to Hooker Glacier is something that hasn't changed since 1913, first climb by female, is the remoteness and lack of air access. This means you climb the mountain in its entirety rather than flying in half way.

On January 2 1913 Freda Du Faur was guided along the summit ridge of Mt Cook by Peter Graham and Darby Thomson. This was a breakthrough ascent, in that doubters said it couldn't be done. Their access to this western side, was via the Hooker Glacier.

LIL' T

In a Day

Sheila Bukovac (scribe), Bern Knoll, Dennis Hicks, Randy Busch, Craig Beaver



Well, that isn't how it started out! The original plan formulated over a beer with the usual suspects one dark February night after we subjected ourselves to rain, wind and the cable line, included an overnight in the shelter at Summerland, however, over the ensuing months life took over and the plan altered a bit.....we dropped a day and added a few other climbers to our party.

So, Friday July 1st found yours truly snagging a campsite at the White River campground. The thought process being that the last time we attempted this, there were no campsites to be had and since I was taking the day off anyway, was elected to be first. I found a site without much effort; seems everyone was put off by the weather report and campers were sparse. The next step in the day was to stop at the Ranger station and sign us all in for the climb. Ranger Stoney was not very optimistic about our chances, citing much rock fall and poor snow conditions. He seemed even more doubtful about our success upon hearing our start time and cautioned me to be careful. Of course I said we

would – and wandered on my merry way. This included a side trip up to Sunrise, someplace I hadn't been before and was interested in checking out.

Back in camp I waited for the rest of the team to arrive. First was Bern with dinner! Pizza and beer – true climbing food! Then Randy and his friend Craig arrived just before dark, as Bernie and I were snoozing by the fire. Last but not least was the Margarita King, who in true form was out partying the night away and swore he would meet us at the trail head bright and early Saturday morning. (Personally I had my doubts about this!)

Five AM arrived much too soon and I realized two things, one my gaitors were not in my car like I assumed they were, and two, neither were my glacier glasses. This however was a good sign – because I knew that the more that could go wrong before we hit the trail the better our chances of success were going to be, that is just my kind of luck! It is a little strange and skewed, but it works. Of course after scrounging around in the trunk I found an extra pair of gaitors, horrible as they were, and I used by sunglasses that I drive with – better than nothing. We left camp and headed off in Craig's vehicle to the Fryingpan Creek parking area, where we found the trailhead Jag already parked. Dennis had arrived, maybe not bright eyed and bushy tailed, but he was there! At 6:03 we headed off up the trail. This was the first time I had been up this trail since I had retrieved Cathy Hawkin's pack a few years ago after her accident. It brought back interesting memories.



We made excellent time to Summerland, arriving at 7:45, where we took 15 minutes to change shoes, all except Bern had worn his boots up the trail, drop poles, get our ice axes out and eat a bit. The snow level was minimal and the fog was heavy. It was difficult to discern just how much snow was ahead of us. We could see a few hundred yards, and that was not very encouraging. Grass and boulders were visible, which meant slow going! The lack of visibility also meant finding the way around the first rock band was going to be interesting; however most of us had been there before so we knew what direction we wanted to go in. After taking a bearing for good measure, we saddled up and moved out.

What we didn't see in the morning!



The going was steady as we moved up thru the soup and over the boulders. Before we knew it we were at the campsites above Meany Crest. We paused and took 5 minutes for GU and food. Then moved out again, next was the Whitman Crest. We had discussed in camp about going right over the crest, as the Whitman Glacier on the other side looked flatter – easier to travel on and a lower chance of snow slides (yes, small avalanches). When I had done my recon the day before I saw many many slides coming down onto the Frying Pan in the direction we would have to travel to reach the notch, however the snow was firm and quite good, giving us a high comfort level that the possibility of a new slide was low. After a brief discussion, arm waving and head nodding, we decided to go for the notch, following the set of tracks that must have been set a day or two ago. We were traveling fast and un-roped – there were few crevasses open and we saw no fissures on our course of travel; all of us felt comfortable with our mode of travel (which doesn't mean that anyone following shouldn't rope up!). The traverse was

long; we stopped just under the slope to the notch – ironically under the only one that hadn't slid yet! As the fog rose and we saw our surroundings, we realized this! Slinging our packs we headed up to the notch with a slight detour for one of our party. Seems he hadn't gotten enough exercise yet. Half way up the slope Bernie lets out a despairing groan. Looking back down to our rest spot, a lone ice axe was stuck in the snow!! *sigh* he headed back down to retrieve his pal! Just at that moment, Little Tahoma decided to let us know she was there, by releasing a large amount of rock and ice that came crashing down the adjacent slope. With great speed the stove size rocks were bouncing easily across the snow. Looking up our path, I decided the heck with waiting for Bernie! I was moving to a safer spot! Randy and I finished kicking steps up the slope to arrive at the notch by 11:30.



We were doing excellent on time and felt we should surely be on the summit by 1pm; however we underestimated a few conditions. One was the snow conditions on the south side, it was much softer than the north side and the going was a bit slower. We also underestimated how long the snow field up to the summit block was!

After crossing a few open fissures and

scratching our way up some seriously bad snow, we found a great spot just under the rock of the summit pyramid and dropped our packs. Bernie slung the rope, we put snacks into our pockets and water on our harnesses and headed out (we had already put our harnesses on at the notch, wanting to be ready for



anything without having to dig in our packs and put the harnesses on in a spot that could be steep and dicey).

So up the last 100 feet of snow to the rock we wentof course it was at this point we all realized our last mis-assumption, the rock was total choss which made our going extremely slow – Randy believes at this point we have earned our choss badges for the year! It was 1 pm by now, and I still thought we could be on the summit in an hour; we had been taking a left line from the time we exited the snow (taking us completely to the SE side) and with a bit of luck the summit block had peaked out from behind the clouds and Bernie caught a glimpse. So moving in the direction that he had seen, we traversed the SE side until we found a low 5th class gully. Of course this took more than the hour I thought it would. As a party of five we moved with great caution so as not to knock rocks down on our fellow climbers below. I was impressed at how well we did considering how lose everything was. Only three or four times during the last 1000 feet did you hear “ROCK!”

It was now closing in on 2:30 but Bern and I knew the summit was right there. We were in the lead and as he scrambled up the first three moves of the last 30 feet, I realized that I wasn't going to be able to climb that without the rope. The consequences of falling were too great for me. So Bernie tied off the rope and tossed me the other end, leading the rest of the way up. Once he set an anchor, I tied in and went up. Cresting the top was a sight I won't soon forget.....Rainier right there! You could see Camp Shurman on the right, Muir on the left, the Ingraham direct, it was just fantastic!



Dropping the rope for the rest of the team, Bernie became the belay slave until all 5 of us stood/sat on the summit of Little T – it was the most fantastic moment. Though Dennis and I had summited Rainier earlier in June with Bob Magers, it was miserably cold! This summit was warm albeit a stiff breeze was blowing; we lounged like marmots. All of us signed the summit registry, noting several black team members that had summited earlier this summer (Dan Morales and Forrest Newton and Stan Zaremba), took a few photos, grabbed summit rocks for my kids, and then rappelled back down. Only one small mishap on the rappel was when Craig exited the rappel the rope loosed a rock which came down on his hand. Bruised and scraped up, it wasn't broke!

A few standing scree glissades and one camera retrieval later (Randy, standing at the tie in spot for the final 30 feet had dropped his camera!

Tink tink tink, down the slope it went!) we were back at our packs. Tossed those on our backs, and headed for the notch. We arrived at the notch at 5:06 nearly 5 ½ hours after we had been there and 10 hours almost to the minute from the time we left the cars. We were tired! The thought that we still had 5000 feet to go was a bit daunting; however, it was all down hill from there! Sitting on our butts, we glissaded off the notch and back to the long traverse. Several more glissades, a few boulder scrambles and one near accident later we were back at Summerland retrieving our shoes. It didn't take long to change



shoes and put everything back in our packs. Everyone was anxious to move out and be done! Besides, coolers were in the car, and beer was in those! Quickly downing a candy bar we headed out for the last hour of our day.



The clouds had lifted at Summerland and the view of Little T and Rainier were spectacular. All of us took in the sight, lost in our own thoughts of what it was we had just accomplished. I still found it hard to believe we had done it in a day!

Fourteen hours from the time we left the cars, we were back at the trailhead, tired yet extremely satisfied! We had traveled 18 miles, gained 7500 feet of elevation, over boulders and thru heavy fog, into the sun, and up the biggest choss pile in the state of Washington to summit the third highest peak. Nothing could be better than sharing it with good friends and great climbing partners.

Of course we all agree that we aren't going back!





Up the creepy snow we go!
That was tough going!!



Our day's objective





The Great Equalizer

Mt. Adams Trip Report – July 18-19, 2005
by Phil Trifeletti



Nearing completion of the BCC, most of my classmates and I began our search for brilliant climbs to expand our experience levels, so when word of an annual trip to one of Washington's highest peaks was announced, we jumped at the invitation. John Alley and Ron Fleck desired to return to Mt. Adams, and were looking for students to climb with, along with a team leader to organize the trip. I volunteered.

Having never led a climbing expedition before I felt this to be the perfect opportunity. The mountain's popularity gave me reason to believe that gathering beta would be no trouble. It was also comforting to know that there were two veteran Mt. Adams climbers on the team willing to assist me should I require it.

John e-mailed me the names of those who were interested and an old trip report to help me get started. As suspected, researching the chosen route, the South Climb, wasn't very difficult. There was information available in almost every Washington climbing guide and also plenty of beta on-line. The next step was to share this information and start assigning group gear responsibilities. A really simple but very helpful suggestion led us to holding a meeting at a central restaurant, The Blue Star Café & Pub.

Ten days before the trip and with only a few days notice, more than half of the total twelve were able to meet at the restaurant. With a few assumptions for those that weren't present, we were able to answer all questions on what was needed and who was bringing it. A follow-up e-mail provided the group with a summary of the meeting along with directions to the trailhead, where we decided to meet.

During the next ten days a close watch was kept on the weather and the team size. As the climb got closer, the team was decreasing and the chance of bad weather was increasing. By the day of the climb we were down to six team members and a 30% chance of rain with possible thunderstorms. It's a good illustration on how things don't always go the way you plan.

July 18, 2005. Roger Ubbi, Larissa Trevett, and I (Phil Trifeletti), drove the 4 hours south of Seattle to the Trout Lake Ranger Station. Here we bought our volcano day pass and checked in with the ranger. When we asked about the weather we were told that it mimicked the previous days report, which turned out to be just the opposite of what really happened, so we should exercise caution but plan for any conditions. My only concern was that of lightening. I know that once you pass the tree line you are at much higher risk and had no desire to become a human light bulb.

We continued on until we reached the trailhead where we met up with John Alley, Ron Fleck, and Jim Thompson. They camped at the trailhead the night before, a decision I would personally make in the future, for they had a little more time to acclimate than those of us coming from Seattle.

The South Climb – not a very technical route; no ropes, harnesses, pickets, or helmets required, but it offered a different kind of challenge: altitude. The trailhead (~5500 ft in elevation) was still below the snowline and above us was some cloud cover. We decided that should the weather turn bad we would turn back, and then off we went. At the start of the journey I felt like one of the strongest amongst the group. Well, that notion didn't last but a few hours.

By the time we reached 8,500 ft the altitude had started to take toll on me. My pace was slowing down while my heart rate was rising. Breathing normally became more difficult than I imagined. I would walk a few steps then stop for a breath. Ron was nearby and witnessed my struggling effort to keep up. He advised me to keep my pace constant even if it meant going slower. He also mentioned a technique, which I remember reading about, where as when you exhale you do so forcefully through slightly pursed lips, making a hissing sound. This has been known to help at higher altitudes for scientific reasons that I won't attempt to reiterate here. But it was a breathing technique I was familiar with from a kung-fu class I taught in college, so I used it, and continued to use it for the rest of the climb. If anything, it reminds you to keep breathing hard even when you stop moving.

We reached our camping spot, the Lunch Counter (~9,200 ft), within in reasonable time and began setting up camp quickly after watching some clouds approach our position. It was here we met up with Sorin Beschia, Clifton, and his wife Jennifer. They had left from the trailhead shortly before we arrived. We climbed as a group of nine from this point on.

After the tents were set up it was apparent to everyone that I was having some issues with the altitude. I didn't have a headache and I kept up with my nutrition and hydration, but I just didn't feel right. I was nauseous and it was difficult to catch my breath. I was told that a hot water enema would solve all my problems as prescribed in some alleged emergency guidebook, but drinking some lemon ginger tea John was carrying and some rest amazingly seemed to help me feel better. Despite my temporary relief I was still concerned about the next day. We still had about three thousand feet of elevation to reach the summit. It was something I would have to face in the morning.



July 19, 2005. We woke up about 5am to a gorgeous view. We were right next to Mt. St. Helens blowing off steam, Mt. Hood, and it was said the mountains sighted in the distance could be the Sisters in central Oregon. I was told in order to see Mt. Rainier I would have to reach the summit. But to that point our weather held out beautifully and to our good fortune stayed beautiful for the rest of our journey.

It might have been the beautiful weather or the sheer determination (a.k.a. stubbornness) but I had to at least attempt the summit climb. So we all strapped on our crampons (except John, because they broke), and began our ascent up toward Pikers Peak (false summit, ~11,700 ft) and onwards to the true summit (12,276 ft).

It was a long slow climb up the side of the mountain, but our packs weighed significantly less, the snow was perfect for crampons, and we even had a staircase to walk in. The group started to separate but nothing too serious. Some of the group simply were able to ascend faster, but were able to keep in touch via walkie-talkies. Amazing little radios, except these particular devices didn't like to be turned off. They had a large unprotected button that turned them on. In fact, I remember being really confused for a while when in the middle of the night I thought someone was standing right outside our tent with a walkie-talkie on, when in fact it was from the device I placed inside my sleeping bag so the batteries wouldn't die.

A little before 9am we heard on the radio that the front of the group had reached the summit. I knew I wasn't far behind but it still seemed far, far away. At this point I was cold and still altitude sick but encouraging words from Ron kept me going. The wind wasn't too bad at the summit so the rest of the team was going to wait there for everyone to arrive. Around 9:30am arrive we did. The nine of us had the summit of Mt. Adams all to ourselves. 12,276 ft, and a view so spectacular, it could only be topped by the sense of achievement to reach it.

We celebrated our summit in the traditional manner, treats, snacks, and shouts of excitement. After a short while we decided to head back down to camp. It was a well-known fact for us that that Mt. Adams had a pretty sweet glissade path leading down from the false summit, Pikers Peak. By sweet, I mean a two thousand-foot elevation drop and a decently conditioned snow path already in place. After repeated reminders to remove our crampons before any glissade attempt, we began our descent.

Saying that our descent was easier and faster than our ascent would be silly, and a serious understatement, but the bulk of our descent was in the form of a glissade that took at a good speed seven and a half minutes. What a rush that was. It was certainly a thrill ride coming down the mountain that fast. However, it took a lot more arm strength than I would have thought. For over seven minutes you're fighting with your ice axe to maintain a safe velocity. Still, it is an amazing ride.

By the time we reached camp I no longer felt the grip of altitude attacking me. And by the time we reached the cars I was ready to go back up and do it again. Well, maybe not right away, but I will someday.

After our climb we all went out to grab some food near the ranger station and shared our thoughts on this and other climbs. It was a nice entertaining meal before our long drive home. We also played tourist and stopped at some lookout points on the way back to bring into perspective what we accomplished. But there was one other stop we made before our meal stop. On our way out from the campground there was the Big Tree. We stopped to see one of the largest known Ponderosa Pines, standing at 202 ft tall and 84 inches in diameter. It is definitely a site to see if you are down in that next of the woods.

This was definitely a great experience. I want to thank John and Ron for helping me through this climb. They were able to pick up the leadership role in moments when I was not physically up to it, and I can say I learned a great deal out on that mountain. The words that hit me the most were those of Ron's when he told me that altitude was the great equalizer. I know that to be true now. But it will not deter me from high altitude climbs. It is just one more hurdle to prepare for.



BOEALPS Basic Rock 2005 Instructor Contract

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Mailstop _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Boeing Employee? YES NO

If NO, can you provide proof of insurance when asked?

--- Qualifications ---

Date of most recent MOFA certification: _____

ICC Graduate? (yes/no)

What year did you first help instruct the BCC: _____ ICC: _____

Please self rate your skill level in the following categories (1 poor skill, 5 highest skill):

Comfortable Trad-Leading up to:

4 5.0-5.3 5.4-5.6 5.7-5.8 5.9 or more

Comfortable on Hard Snow/Ice:

20 degrees 30 degrees 45 degrees 50 degrees+

--- Commitments ---

Below is the 2005 BOEALPS Basic-Rock outing schedule. Please review it carefully, and mark all the events to which you can commit (Y). Mark climbs that you know you can't do (N). Mark all the "possible" climbs (P). (Note that the first outing date has yet to be finalized, so both possible dates are listed. Please list availability to both and we will announce final dates ASAP.) Please observe the following conditions:

- Commitment **means** commitment. Put these dates on your calendar **RIGHT NOW**. You are expected to help on those dates!
- Remember, a successful class depends upon your participation in the weekend outings. There seems to be a high interest in this class. Your help would be overwhelmingly appreciated.
- Attending a planning session prior to an outing is required! Ideally, this will involve some climbing (at the gym, exit 38, UW Rock wall, Marymoor) but that is not required.
- If you cannot make an outing to which you've agreed, **you are responsible for providing a replacement!** I can help coordinate alternates.

Date	Activity	Locale	Available Sat?	Available Sun?	Could You Go Both Days?
06/04-05	Follow Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth or TBD	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/11-12	Alternate Trad Fundamentals Weekend	Leavenworth	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
06/25-26	Experience climb Weekend	Squamish	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/16-17	1 st Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
07/30-31	2 nd alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/13-14	3 rd Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
08/27-28	4 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/10-11	5 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly
09/24-25	6 th Alpine Climb	TBD by you	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly	Yes No Possibly

I the undersigned, being of reasonably sound body (and dubious morality notwithstanding), will instruct the BOEALPS intermediate climbing class events noted on the preceding schedule.

signed: _____

Please make a copy for your records and return this contract to:

Sarah Sternau
 901 W. Howe St., Apt. B
 Seattle, WA 98119
 Home: 206-484-1009
 E-mail: sternau@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

or

Robert Fisher
 The Boeing Company, MS 02-JX
 Home Phone: 206-795-5918
 Work Phone: 425-294-2650
 E-mail: fenderfour@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

Questions? Feel free to contact us, and thanks!

Basic Rock Class 2005

BRC Instructor Guidelines:

- Helmets are required while climbing with the class
- Instructors supply alpine rack
- Instructors are encouraged to supply ropes.
- No drugs or alcohol while climbing with the class
- MOFA is required for lead instructors
- Assistant instructors should get MOFA certification, if they are uncertified
- Feedback
- Give students feedback during the climb as well as after
- Get feedback from students
- Proof of insurance is required for all non-BOEING employee instructors

Instructor Requirements:

MOFA certified

Able to lead low to mid 5th class rock

Gear needed:

Same as students AND

Light alpine rack

Rope (single rated, in good condition, less than 5 years old)

NOTE: Ropes will be inspected prior to use

Completed Application and Waiver (See appendix III and II)

Alpine Climbs:

The purpose of these climbs is to expose the students to multipitch trad climbing in an alpine environment. These are experience outings, so no specific skills are scheduled to be taught. Instructors are to emphasize the importance of packing light and may want to review the contents of the student's pack.

Format:

Ideally, there would be a team of four climbers, two instructors and two students on any given climb. There can be deviations from this as they approved by the class lead instructor. .

Climb Selection/Preparation:

Climb selection and preparation is the responsibility of the instructors who will be going on the climb. All mountains and routes are to be approved by the class lead instructor.

The students and instructors should meet to discuss the specifics of a climb prior to going out on a weekend. Students and instructors are encouraged to climb together previous to the outing at an indoor climbing gym or similar previous to the weekend outing.

Types of Climbs:

The climbs should be easily led by the instructor. They are not to be leading at their limit. Climbs can be single day crag outings to places like Castle Rock in Leavenworth, single day alpine climbs like The Tooth or multi day mountain climbs like the West Ridge of Forbidden. This is entirely based on the abilities of the instructors and the students.

Alpine 1 and 2:

The first two alpine outings will be relatively easy routes with short approaches such as The Tooth, Ingalls Peak, or Cathedral Rock.

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Mail Stop

(_____) _____
Work Phone

(_____) _____
Home Phone

e-mail

Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

____ INDIVIDUAL (\$20.00)

____ FAMILY (\$25.00)

____ RETIRED (\$10.00)

NON - EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

____ INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00)

____ FAMILY (\$30.00)

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

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

or: Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

Additional information for membership database - optional but appreciated!

Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

____ BOEALPS Basic (team color: _____)

____ BOEALPS Intermediate

____ Mountaineers Basic

____ Mountaineers Intermediate

____ Avalanche Awareness

____ Ice Climbing Seminar

____ Aid Climbing Seminar

____ Rock Leading Seminar

____ Standard First Aid/CPR

____ MOFA

____ Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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 14-MC
OR: 1208 10th Ave. W., B4, Seattle, WA 98119
OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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

August Echo staff

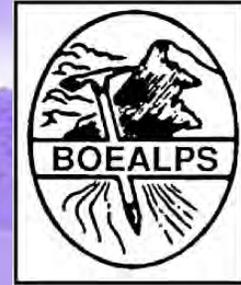
Editors: Sarah Sternau &
John Gowan

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki
Shella Bukovac
Phil Trifeletti

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

SEPTEMBER 2005



www.boealps.org

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BOEALPS ELECTIONS

Thursday, September 1, 2005

6:30 - 9:00 PM

Blue Star Cafe
4512 Stoneway Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103



Boealps elections format will be different from last year. Those eligible to vote should have received a ballot by e-mail. You can vote absentee or bring your ballot and vote in person at the Blue Star. Ballots will be counted at 7:00 PM. Chair positions will be appointed by the executive board. If you are interested in a chair position, come to the Blue Star and find out about volunteer opportunities in the club.

BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Boealps Elections are being held on Thursday, September 1st at the Blue Star in Wallingford. Those eligible to vote should have received a ballot by e-mail. You can vote absentee or come to the Blue Star and vote in person. Things get underway at 7:00PM.

The Boealps Annual Banquet will be held at the Mountaineers in Queen Anne on Friday, October 7th. This year we are honoring our Boealps Everest Climbers by having them as the featured speakers! Ryan Allen, Ambrose Bittner, Al Baal, and Michael Frank will be showing slides and talking about their expedition to the North Ridge this past Spring. You can find a sign-up form for the banquet in this issue and they're due back to Tony Olejnicki by September 18th.

The Basic Rock Class is heading into the final stretch. On September 10-11, the class will descend on Smith Rock for the weekend. Enjoy some late summer rock climbing down in Terrebonne, it will have cooled off by then. Contact Sarah Sternau at sternau@yahoo.com or Robert Fisher at fenderfour@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out.

We are teaming up with Skibacs for a Buster Keaton silent movie night at the Paramount Theater in downtown Seattle on Monday, September 17th. The show gets underway at 7:00PM. There is a 2 for 1 coupon you can use for admission in this issue of the Echo.

Also, this month's Echo includes some fantastic trips reports. Bob Bautista and Mike Zalewski made the journey north to the Bugaboos. Climbing maniac Tony Olejnicki scaled Prusik Peak, and Vlad Popa made it up Mt Daniel. How did wayward Boealper Vlad manage that feat when he's still in Africa? Read the story and find out. And it's been a while since we had some good Boealps karaoke, so Ron Fleck sent in his latest rendition.

An announcement about up-coming Boealps MOFA classes will be in next month's Echo. If students want to get on a pre-list, they can send an e-mail to joyce@solarhacker.com. The Washington Alpine Club (WAC) is holding a MOFA class the first two weekends in November. The first weekend class is held in Seattle. The second weekend (including Friday evening), the class is held at Snoqualmie Pass at the WAC cabin. The cost is \$80. Contact Jim Patton, James4337@comcast.net, to sign up.

As the summer winds down, please consider recounting some of your adventures for the October issue of the Echo. The next deadline for the Echo is Monday, September 26, and submissions should be emailed to editor@boealps.org.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
John



A student and instructors on the 2005 ICC ice climbing outing. Photo by Sarah Sternau

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Boealps general meeting	2	3 New moon
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 BRC at Smith Rock—all are invited!
11 BRC at Smith Rock—all are invited!	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Full moon	19	20	21	22	23	24 BRC Alpine 5
25 BRC Alpine 5	26 Echo Deadline	27	28	29	30	31

2005



Mount Adams and wildflowers. Photo by Laurie Nye

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3 New moon	4	5	6	7 Boealps Annual Banquet	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15 Ice Seminar
16 Ice Seminar	17 Full moon	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Echo Deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

2005

2005 BOEALPS ANNUAL BANQUET

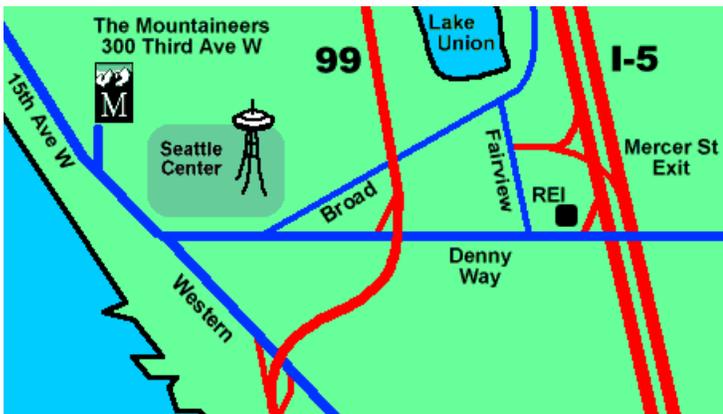
FEATURED SPEAKERS: THE BOEALPS EVEREST TEAM 2005



- DATE:** Friday, October 7th
- TIME:** Social hour starts at 6:30 PM with a no-host bar.
Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM.
- LOCATION:** The Mountaineers Headquarters:
300 Third Ave. W.
Seattle, WA 98119
- PRICE:** \$40 Boealps members / \$45 non-Boealps members
- SEND PAYMENT TO:** Tony Olejnicki
Boeing Mail M/S 87-68
- Or
- Tony Olejnicki
339 Burnett Ave. S. Apt 312
Renton, WA 9805

Please return your reservations no later than September 18th. Use the sign-up form on the next page.

Map to the Mountaineers Headquarters:



2005 BOEALPS ANNUAL BANQUET

Featured Speakers: The Boealps Everest Team 2005

PLEASE RETURN THIS PART WITH PAYMENT

Name: _____

Contact e-mail or phone number: _____

Number of Boealps members x \$40 = _____

Number of non-Boealps members x \$45 = _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = _____

Make checks payable to Boealps

Send payment before September 18th to:

Tony Olejnicki
M/S 87-68

or

Tony Olejnicki
339 Burnett Ave. S. Apt 312
Renton, WA 98055

2005 BOEALPS ANNUAL BANQUET MENU

CELEBRATION BUFFET

Hors d'oeuvres passed on trays
DUNGENESS-STUFFED MUSHROOMS
Crab and artichoke-heart stuffing with three cheeses
SPANIKOPITA
Phyllo stuffed with spinach, feta, and fresh oregano

Followed by a magnificent buffet featuring a custom ice sculpture...

ANTIPASTO GARDENIA
Grilled, marinated and fresh vegetables
Chive-herb dipping sauce
TRIPLE-TIER CHEESE
Cambazola, smoked cheddar, gorgonzola, gouda,
chevre and smoked mozzarella with champagne crackers
PIKE PLACE FRUIT
Seasonal hand-picked fresh and dried fruits
CAESAR SALAD
Romaine, garlic-anchovy dressing, croutons, and parmesan
CHICKEN SATAY
Thai-peanut and ginger dipping sauce
TORTA FETE
Layered sun-dried tomato and basil-pesto cream cheese spread with sliced baguette
ALDER SMOKED SALMON
Chive cream cheese, capers, and glazed red onions
PENNE PRIMAVERA
Grilled vegetables, fresh herb marinara, parmesan cheese
BOWTIE GORGONZOLA
Roasted red peppers, fresh basil, pine nuts, gorgonzola cream sauce
CLASSIC BARON BEEF
Slow-roasted and carved table-side, served with creamy horseradish sauce
HEARTH BREADS
Potato, black olive, and rosemary breads with sweet butter
The finishing touch....
TULLY'S COFFEE
CHOCOLATE-DIPPED STRAWBERRIES

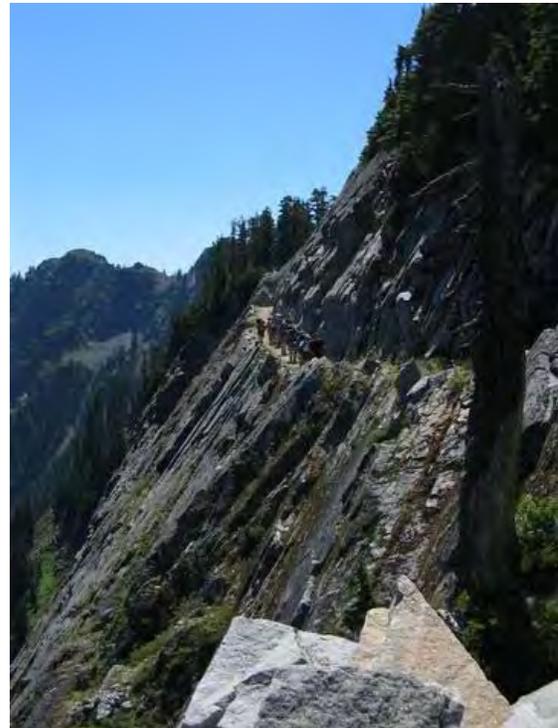


In 2006, the American Lung Association of *Washington* will celebrate 100 years of fighting lung disease and helping the citizens of Washington State live healthy, productive lives. The Big Hike takes place in July 2005 and end in early September and will help to kick-off the centennial. Hikers will travel approximately 500 miles in relay style with 20 local companies participating in the one-time corporate fundraising event. This event is expected to raise \$250,000 for the American Lung Association of Washington.

Five members of Boealps volunteered as guides/assistant guides for the Big Hike: John Alley, Ron Fleck, John Gowan, Joyce Holloway, and Charlie Soncrant. Below are write-ups from their segments of the hike:

Joyce Holloway and Charlie Soncrant were the guides for Segment F of the Big Hike, August 5 - 8. This segment started at Snoqualmie Pass and went north and east on the PCT to near Pete Lake, exiting out to Cooper Lake. Our hikers included a couple from Anchorage, a couple from San Francisco, a former Army Ranger from Savannah, Georgia, and 4 others from the Seattle area. To complicate things, we had three "Jim"s, so everyone was given the unofficial name of Jim. Skill levels ranged from novice to very capable. The teamwork and attitude of the people throughout the hike was outstanding. Everyone eagerly jumped in to do the various camp chores that were needed and to help out anyone who was struggling. We laughed a lot and learned a lot from each other.

After meeting at 5:30 on Friday morning, we boarded a bus and promptly drove 2 miles to a Starbucks for some coffee. From there we went to Snoq Pass where the Lung Assoc had arranged a media event since this was the "halfway point" of the Big Hike. King5 had their mobile unit there for interviews (none of us), and there was breakfast food and drinks. Yumm!



In terms of the hike itself, the first day we went from Snoq Pass to Ridge Lake, about 7.5 miles and 2500' elevation gain. Day 2 took us to Spectacle Lake,



10.5 miles with a 1200' elevation loss although there were lots of ups and downs which made it seem harder than day 1. The last day was another 10+ mile day with 1400' elevation loss to the Owhi Campground at Cooper Lake. The weather was generally as good as you could hope for . . . lots of sun, but usually not hot. We had a fabulous variety of views and most people managed to go for a swim in the lake each day. The swims were very refreshing! Two of our hikers brought fishing gear and had good success catching fish. The only problems the group had were somewhat predictable . . . blisters and fitness level . . . but we kept the pace a bit slow and with the aforementioned teamwork, everyone made it.

John Gowan was guide for Segment C of the Big Hike from July 25-30. This was a 70 mile segment of the PCT from Steamboat Lake south of Mt Adams to White Pass. The route took us through the Mt Adams and Goat Rocks Wilderness areas, at the peak of the wildflower season! We started out with 3 hikers and finished with two. Our hikers were Mark, a Washington DC lawyer, Leonard, an executive with a Seattle shipping company, and Laurie, a shipyard supervisor from Long Beach. The length of this segment must have scared off a lot of people which explains the low turn out. Megan, a UW grad student, was the assistant guide.



We highly recommend both the hike and the role of guide.

Being guide, I felt pressured a lot since the hikers thought I knew the PCT like the back of my hand, where all the camps were and the

names of all the mountains in sight. At the end of the first day I had trouble finding the camp, since the water source was a hidden spring on the slopes of Mt Adams. The hikers gave me that 'does he really know what he's doing?' look. But after those first day jitters everything went smoothly.

We had beautiful weather for the entire 6 days of the hike, only saw a cloud in the sky once. Mark didn't make it past Day 4 of the hike and dropped out at Lake Walupt. He was having stomach trouble, but I suspect he was really suffering from Blackberry e-mail withdraw symptoms and wanted to get back to his old life in DC.

We had a good routine each day when we got to our camping spot. I would setup and light the stoves. Laurie and Megan would get water or supervise me as I tried to burn dinner and Leonard would do the dishes. We had two water filters along and managed to clog them both before the trip was over, that left us boiling water for drinking and using iodine tablets.



My favorite camp spot was Sheep Lake at the end of Nannie Ridge in the Goat Rocks Wilderness area. It had a beautiful setting near a pristine alpine lake. After 4 days on the trail we all managed to wash the dirt from the trail off and feel human again. The wildflowers in the Mt Adams and Goat Rocks wilderness areas were at their peak.



The most exciting part of the trip was traversing the Egg Butte ridge trail after Old Snowy in the Goat Rocks Wilderness. It was here that Leonard told me he was terrified of heights and had vertigo. Great! The ridge trail was very exposed for a hiking trail and dropped off sharply on both sides. It's hard to believe that pack horses use this same trail. Leonard insisted that he be allowed to follow me so closely that he couldn't see the dropoff on either side of the trail. After it took us two hours to travel about half a mile, we got back to 'normal' PCT terrain near Mount Tieton. Leonard said he had resigned himself to the fact he was going to die and had decided to peak out and enjoy the view occasionally.



The trip ended the next day as we arrived at White Pass and were shuttled back to Seattle. It was a great trip! The wildflower scenery was some of the best I've seen in the Cascades. The weather was stellar and the hikers got along great. I'd go again next year.

A Saga of Prusik Peak - Trip Report

August 6-7, 2005

Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe), Jorg Pilchowski

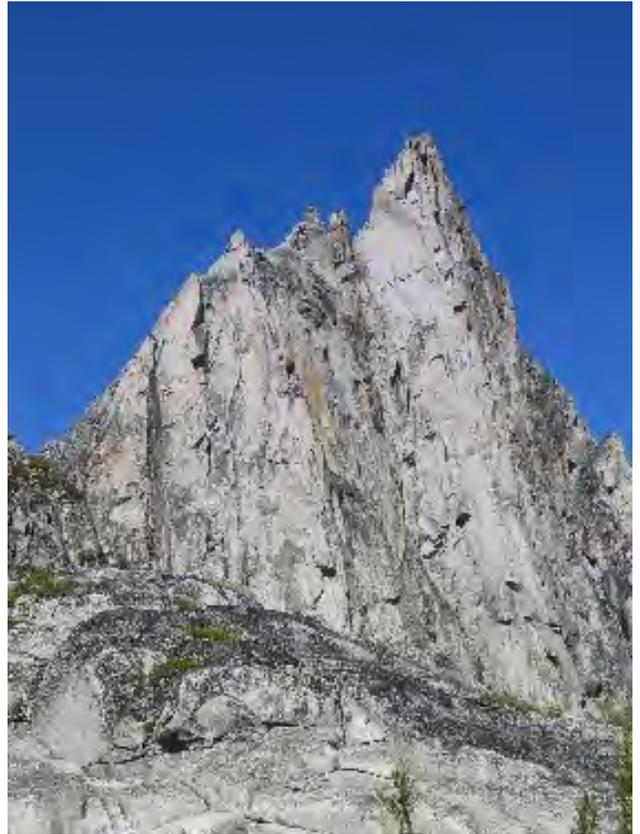
I had my eye on Prusik peak for a while.

Prusik is a part of Enchantments so the camping permit is on the lottery basis. If you wish to camp you have to turn-up at the ranger station at 7:30am, enter your name and hope that your name comes up at the lottery at 7:45am. If you are unlucky with the permit draw, by the time you get to TH is already close to 9am, too late for one-day climb.

So basically you're toasted because this would put you back at Asgard after dark and down-climbing this mean section of the trail to Lake Colchuck after dark at the best scenario it sucks and at the worst you can injure yourself quite seriously.

It is difficult to find a rock climber willing to do it in one day due to long (10miles) access hated by rock climbers, unless you are ICC student and have no choice on the matter.

We came across ICC class led by John Gowan and Gary Hehn and it was nice to see them and talk to them even from the wall. It makes the world feeling very friendly and compact. Fancy meeting your friends in the wilderness unplanned like that. Being occasional climbing buddy with Gary, it wasn't totally unexpected as I knew they would be there on Saturday.



Prusik-A classic View from SW



Lake Colchuck from Asgard Pass

My

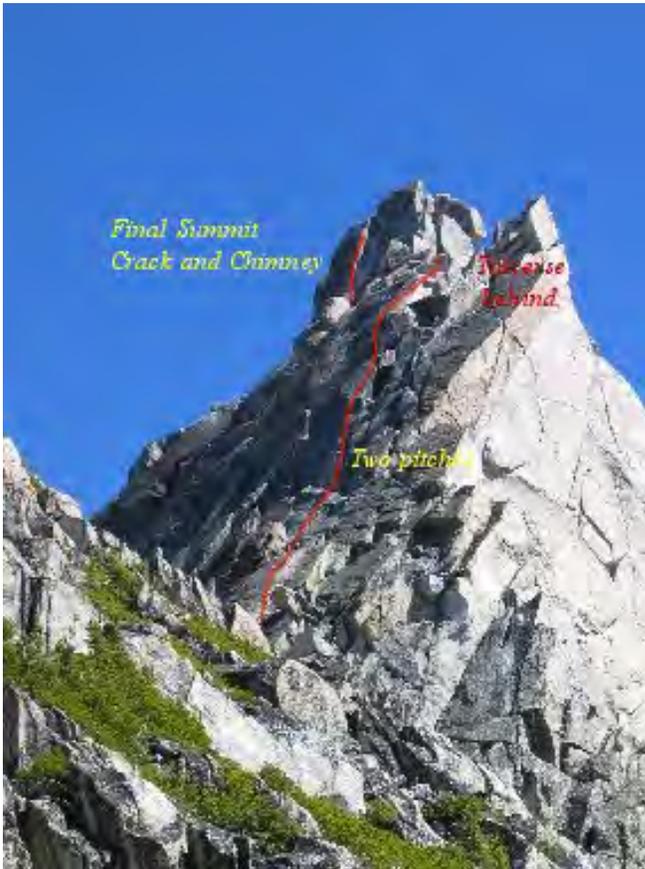
Prusik saga started on Sunday July 31, when I have decided to have a go at it solo. I packed up my climbing gear some food and left the TH at 7am. I was at the Prusik pass at midday. It took me an hour to find my way around the Gnome Tarn and identify the route on the west ridge.

The route was supposed to be easy 5.7 although exposed at the traverse and at the summit pitch so I thought I could climb-up solo with self-belay through tight spots.

There I have discovered that I have left my self-belay shunt at home, so I have decided to give free climb a shot at least up to the summit pitch. Unfortunately I have started slightly off route; as you probably experienced Becky's route descriptions you can

appreciate the dilemma of finding an obvious tree on the obvious ledge to the left and to follow the obvious crack to the right. Yes I could see the ledge from above and there were remnants of the tree, which was obvious in 1957. The obvious tree succumbed to the age or fire or vandalism and it was not that obvious anymore.

So I tried to follow the ridge, whereby the ridge route was some 40ft farther to the left. I did 100ft to a point where I really wish for the protection. I could see the summit from there quite far and the knoll, where you have to traverse to the summit pitch. However I was off route and could not cross to the route safely. I have decided to repel to the point from which I could down climb using some of natural shelves.



West Ridge Route



Jorg on the top of summit chimney

The good thing I have achieved was the orientation on the rock and the better way to get to the start of the climb without actually going via Prusik pass.

I have left the base of the climb at 5pm for a quick down-climb reaching TH at 8:30pm. I was definitely ready for the climb next weekend and hoping to lure a climber with a promise of easy and nice climb down-playing the issue of 10 mile access, emphasizing the beauty of the area and also promising to carry the rope, which is a real problem for lots of climbers. Really devious plan, which actually worked-out in the end with the victim enjoying the adventure.

I talked my friend Jorg to do it on 6th of August. We started at 7:15am at TH, got to the base at 2pm and started climbing just before 3pm finishing at 6pm. West ridge is a great climb, it is only 5.7 and the last section is maybe 5.8. I found it very easy being comfortable with exposure, certainly at 5.8 or 5.9 levels. It was somewhat exciting to Jorg, who has not climbed outdoors TRAD routes for a while.



Crystal Lake below McClellan



Shield Lake from Prusik

If you start the route correctly, there are two short $\frac{3}{4}$ rope pitches along the crack and then there is a slab 5.7, which you lead unprotected and exposed.

I found it easy to climb once on the correct route. To get to the start of the climb head towards Gnome Tarn and approach it from either side. Approach via Prusik pass is really obvious on the well-defined path being signposted. From the pass make your way up on the north side and close to ridge on class 3 rocks until you get to a notch on the ridge, where you can leave your packs and start the climb.

The route goes about 40ft to the left of the actual ridge through a narrow gully class 4 turning to a crack with a handy flake. This leads to an exposed and unprotected 5.7 20ft slab. There are handy horns for protection before the slab. We took 2 short pitches to the slab. Following the slab and short crack leads to a notch from which you traverse about 30ft on a fairly exposed ridge; it can be thrilling if you are not used to the exposure.

From the end of the traverse all you have to do is a final pitch about 100ft of a crack off-width and semi-chimney. It was really fun to climb; I had difficulty to put my 1st protection there and used a flake next to it for 10ft to get me to the position, where I could put a piece of protection; from there it was a wide crack, so with some elbow and food jams I got up through the final chimney followed by Jorg cursing the crack.

The summit is surprisingly big and safe, although exposed, with tremendous views. You can see the entire Enchantment basin including McClellan with the reflection lake in front of it, Little Anapurna, Dragontail, Shield Lakes, Snow Lakes and the range of spectacular Enchantments.

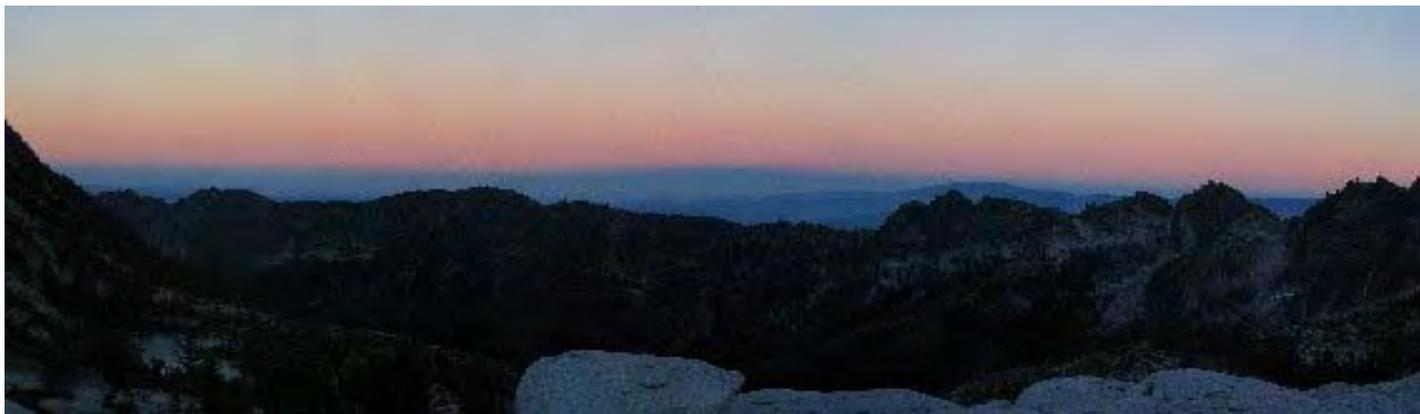


McClellan



Little Anapurna

We stayed on the top for 20mins or so taking pictures enjoying views and perfect weather; it was very warm with a slight cooling breeze making you really lazy at the summit. We did 4 reps ½ way the summit on the north side and traversed back to our packs.



Sunset from the Campsite below Prusik



Visiting Goat

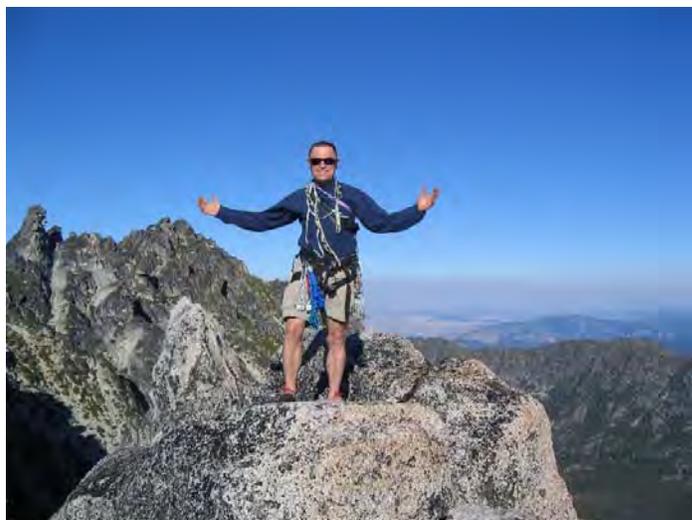
Overall it was a great trip; the weather was fantastic despite having a whiff of smoke from the fire somewhere near Stuart but it was only for ½hr and it went away with the wind changing direction. Visibility was great and the sunset very spectacular with the lights of Wenatchee shimmering in the distance.

I would like to do south face of Prusik next time, it looks very exciting. We have to get Jorg to get used to these chimneys and cracks before next summer and definitely leave the TH at 5am.

I really recommend this climb. It can be definitely done by ICC or BRC graduate as a belayer.

It was really late by the time we got off the mountain, so we have decided to bivy at a small lake near the Prusik base located on the left of the Gnome Tarn, in-between the rocks protecting us from the wind, discretely hidden away from the lakes to avoid unnecessary contact with the ranger and not to take-up premium spots designated for permit hikers. My ultra light emergency 2Lb Black Diamond tent worked perfectly.

The sunset was spectacular and we had a visiting goat checking all the commotion. We got up at 6am and walkout by midday just in time for lunch in 'Ducks and Drakes' and an early beer followed by Starbuck coffee to complete the drug fix.



Prusik Summit Victory Dance

Bugaboos, B.C.

July 8 – 13, 2005

Climbers: Bob Bautista and Mike Zalewski

Summer was here and I hadn't taken a vacation of any real length in a long time so Bob Bautista and I (Mike Zalewski) decided to escape the cubicle cages and take some time off for a mini-adventure. After some earlier research we decided on visiting the Bugaboos. We heard a lot about the place and read through some trip reports on the internet. It was more than just a weekend trip, we had never been there, and there appeared to be routes within our ability on some amazing looking spires. So we thought, what the heck, let's give it a go, because at least we would be away from work and in the mountains. Going into the trip we understood the whole thing could be for nothing if the weather didn't cooperate, which had a good chance of happening since the Bugaboos are notorious for bad weather. Also being the first trip out there and not completely knowing what to expect we decided to keep things simple as far as our climbing objectives.

Friday and Saturday, July 8-9, Travel Days

We started off our adventure by skipping out of work early on Friday, July 8 in order to cover some mileage before dark. We packed everything for standard alpine climbing; glacier gear and rock gear, hopped in Bob's truck, and headed for Sandpoint, Idaho for the first night. Nothing really exciting happened on the 6-hour drive over to Idaho, except for the fact that Highway 95 has really bad road lines and the rain at night made it a bit white knuckle. We woke up the next morning and headed out for the second leg and the Bugaboo trailhead. In all, it took about 14 hours of driving to get to the trailhead outside of Brisco, BC.

There is a 28-mile gravel road to the trailhead with lots of potholes, fox, deer, squirrels, and logging trucks to avoid. Once at the trailhead we had the pleasure of being eaten alive while packing our gear by gigantic Canadian mosquitoes. I think I saw one flying away with a squirrel. Before we could leave the car we had to fortify it with the chicken wire, stones, and logs to protect against the fierce Canadian, rubber-eating porcupines. It was interesting to see the various styles of car protection. We saw everything from an intricately constructed double chicken wire wall to a car that was actually wrapped in shrink-wrap reinforced with chicken wire.



Bob posing in front of our handiwork

Anyway, we finally got our packs filled with 5 days worth of provisions and trugged our 60 pounds up to the Conrad Kain hut 3 miles away. We probably could have paired our packs down to 50 pounds but at that point it's all heavy and we might as well bring some luxuries along as far as food and clothing was concerned.

Right at the trailhead you can see your first spires and the busted-up Bugaboo Glacier. The Hounds tooth and Snowpatch Spire are the first visible peaks. The hike up was not bad; it took us about 2 hours and 15 minutes with some stops. At one point on the trail there is a ladder to scale up a slab, which made things kind of interesting and there are also some fixed cables along the trail that really don't need to be used. I found them more useful hiking down than going up.

I'm glad we decided to stay in the hut because the place is like a Four Seasons when it comes to being in the wilderness. The Kain hut can hold up to 40 people (the whole time we stayed, there were no more than about 15 people, making it quite comfortable); it has running hot and cold water, electricity, heat, electric and gas ranges, all the cooking pots, pans, and utensils, and sleeping mattresses.

It was great because not only did it save us on gear weight but also it was nice during those occasional downpours that we were happy to be inside. There is also a really nice camping area called Applebee Dome about 800 feet above the hut that many people were at. The advantage with the campsite is it cuts about an hour off your approach if you are doing a long route.

So after we arrived at the hut we figured out what we would climb during our three days there. We decided we would attempt the West Ridge of Pigeon Spire the first day, which goes at about 5.4 and is a classic route in the range, the second day we'd leave up in the air depending on how we feel after the first day. Then to finish things off we decided we would try Bugaboo Spire via the South Ridge (Kain Route), also a classic route, which goes at about 5.6, but in my opinion was a little stiff.

Sunday, July 10, Pigeon Spire

In the guidebook, Bugaboo Rock by Green and Benson, they recommend alpine starts for all routes due to the length and frequent afternoon weather that rolls in, typically thunderstorms. We woke up this day at 4am and got going by 5am, not too alpine. We headed up to the Snowpatch-Bugaboo Col where about halfway up we chatted with a party of two on the descent, who turned out to be two guys from Canmore we met in the hut earlier. They were also going to attempt Pigeon but turned around because they said it was winter conditions over there, so they were heading over to Crescent Spire to climb the McTech Arête, so these guys were obviously more hardcore than us. Bob and I had no plans for anything else so we decided to push on, see the peak for ourselves and climb as high as we could. We topped out at the col and those guys were right, both Pigeon and nearby Howser Massif were covered in snow and ice. It was 7am; the weather appeared to still be holding so we decided to push on over the upper Vowell glacier where we decided to rope up. Most people don't rope up on this glacier, but I'm glad we did because Bob punched a leg through a snow bridge coming back down later in the day.



Bob and Pigeon Spire covered in snow (right skyline is the West Ridge)



Bob checking out the massive wall on South Howser



Snowy ridge climbing on Pidgeon

So after about three hours we finally reached the base of the ridge. The weather was still good, so we decided, let's see how high we can get and turn around at 12pm or 1pm. The ridge was full of snow and ice so we decided to climb in boots and crampons. Bob gave me the lead for the first pitch, which really could have been scrambled with rock shoes in normal, dry conditions. For safety sake we decided to pitch everything out. All said, after four hours or so and four and half pitches we topped out on the first false summit and decided to call it a day. The views of Snowpatch, Bugaboo, and especially the backside wall of South Howser were incredible! We were quite happy with our accomplishment on our first day with marginal weather in the Bugs. We went ahead and downclimbed the route and were back to the hut in about 12 hours round trip. Velveeta shells and cheese and Pringles never tasted so good.



Heading back across the Vowell Glacier admiring Snowpatch Spire

Also, when we got back to the hut we had a chance encounter. Of all the places in the world to climb it just so happened four guys from the Mountaineers show up at the hut, of which two we know from a mutual friend and a previous skiing trip. What are the chances? This chance meeting turned out to be nice though because there were some more familiar faces around the hut to chat and compare beta with.

Monday, July 11, Rest Day and Scramble of Eastpost Spire

Bob and I woke up late today after deciding to sleep in and rest since we were a little whipped from Pigeon and it was raining outside. We all lounged around the hut in the morning killing time talking with Les, the Alpine Club of Canada hut custodian and continuing our Cribbage grudge match. So around lunchtime the weather started to look a little better and Les was going to hike up to Applebee Dome to check in some climbers and then mentioned scrambling Eastpost Spire. The six of us sitting around then suddenly had some motivation to get outside and scramble Eastpost Spire too. I'm glad we decided to go because it was a nice peak and it would have been a shame to waste a day bumming around the hut.



Eastpost Spire with the fickle weather



Weaving through the snow moat on the way to the summit block

All six of us headed up to the Crescent-Eastpost Col, which only took about an hour and a half. While there, drinking and snacking, Les showed and up and we all carried on together. For the most part the easiest climb up Eastpost is just a scramble; however, like all of the other spires there are much harder routes available. In and out of the drizzle and sun we made the summit in another hour where there was a little bit of interesting 4th class scrambling at which time we found out Les had never climbed a mountain. Good thing for Les though, he was in good company, our four Mounity friends and Bob are all intermediate instructors, and me, well I guess I could offer moral support after being a basic class instructor, ha! We all made it to the top safely, snapped some shots and had an uneventful downclimb and hike back to the hut for a 4 hour round trip climb. About thirty minutes later it started to pour out so we timed that one right.

That night the daily forecast sounded promising for the next day so we all (Bob, myself, and the Mounties) decided to attempt the South Ridge (Kain Route) on Bugaboo Spire.

Tuesday, July 12, Bugaboo Spire

Bob and I woke up again at 4am and were walking by 5am. We headed up the Snowpatch-Bugaboo Col a second time, which is where the route starts. We were about thirty minutes ahead of our Mounity friends but they eventually caught up to Bob and me when we began the technical portion of the climb. The bottom half of the ridge is basically 3rd class scrambling with a good amount of cairns for route finding. Like Pigeon, there was an above average amount of snow on the route; however, it was not much of an issue on the technical pitches. At this halfway point, Bob laced up his rock shoes starting things off and eventually lead all of the pitches as my ropegun since I was not at the point for leading such an exposed, committing route, and a darn good job he did. I'm not sure why, but I decided to leave my boots on and I continued to climb the whole way in my boots. I guess it was my "ode-to-Conrad" to keep it 1915-style with the boots. Everything else we kept modern, we're not that stupid.



Bugaboo Spire in the early morning sun (left skyline is the Kain Route)



Contemplating the technical upper ridge above



Belaying on the ridge with plenty of exposure (Snowpatch on the left, Pigeon on the right)

After about 4 pitches we hit the infamous gendarme that must be surmounted on the way to the summit. This is probably the crux of the whole climb. Bob did a superb job of leading this crux by making it interesting doing an acrobatic foot traverse along a horizontal crack with no handholds, not seeing the somewhat “easier” (I use that word loosely) traverse a few feet lower. Bob passed around it and put me on belay. I climbed up and approached the crux, not too happy I was in boots now because the “easier” traverse had nice handholds but involved friction climbing with the feet where rock shoes would have come in oh-so-handy. At this point it was too late, so I pushed on eventually making it across by trusting my boots just like way back in basic class.



Ah, the gendarme crux, gotta love the exposure – yikes!

So we made it to about fifty feet and one pitch below the summit. Bob and I sat on the ledge, drank some water, ate some food, caught our breath and waited for our friends. We waited for about thirty minutes and they still didn't show up. At this point, we were already an hour and half past our turn around time of 1pm. The weather was still looking good albeit windy, but after that extremely exposed gendarme move we were both a little trashed and decided to call it a day and turn around rather than lose another hour or two going to the summit.

The descent of the upper ridge involves about six or seven rappels depending on how much you want to downclimb, two of which are a bit tricky because you need to rappel-traverse a little. After the first rappel we finally saw our buddies eventually getting around the gendarme. They all decided to keep heading up to the summit so we were down long before them and thankfully the weather held until late in the day so everyone did get down safely. Once down from the upper ridge it was just routefinding and scrambling, with

some exposure thrown in there for good measure back down to the Snowpatch-Bugaboo Col. All in all, the round trip hut-to-hut was 14 hours.



Bob on rappel down Bugaboo with Snowpatch Spire in the background

It was a great place high up on Bugaboo, you are definitely up there. Every route up Bugaboo has a decent amount of commitment and exposure. I remember on the third pitch there was a lieback traverse about ten feet in length that consisted of a great horizontal hand crack, friction with the feet and literally 2000 feet of free air under you. Needless to say that was probably the first time I had to take a deep breath before climbing.

Wednesday, July 13, Hike Out and Final Thoughts

Today we woke up early again so we could hike out and drive home in one big push back to Seattle. Once out of the park we stopped at the first place we could find for food and proceeded to destroy the lumberjack breakfasts we ordered. A great end to a great trip.

Some final thoughts about the Bugaboos:

- We would definitely like to go back, especially after I take the ICC and have some more experience to tackle these committing routes. August may be a better time to visit to ensure less snow on the routes.
- There are routes for everyone in the Bugaboos ranging from scrambling to as technical as you want to get.
- It appears the routes on spires like Bugaboo and Snowpatch are quite long and committing, these are no small peaks.
- We brought an assortment of gear both rock and ice because we weren't sure what to expect. We brought a second ice tool because we heard about a tricky bergschrund crossing on the Snowpatch-Bugaboo Col that turned out to be non-existent due to the high amount of snow.
- Our rack: Set o' nuts, 4 smallest tricams, 8 cams (from green alien to 3 inches) and 2 big hexcentrics. A bunch of singles and just as many doubles (doubles were nice on some of the ridge traversing).

Miscellaneous pictures:



Howser Massif as seen from Bugaboo (South Houser on left and North Howser on right)



Snowpatch Spire in the early morning sun (for perspective, the snowpatch on the peak is actually 8 acres in area, wow!)

Mt Daniel

Peggy's Pond, East Route, Subway Variation

June 25, 2005

Climbers: Mike Zalewski, Mandy Paul, Jonathan Paul (scribe), Vlad Popa (in effigy)



On a tight budget, Vlad bummed a lot of food and drink off us.

his traditional pumpkin snowsuit headlamp, had to sleep in the car would be no bumping heads for

The next morning, our groggy Peggy's Pond at 6am. The easy over the ridge toward Cathedral

With a nice weekend of weather finally in the forecast, Mike, Mandy and I decided to do a day climb of Mt Daniel (7,960 ft). We were lucky to be joined on this trip by Vlad Popa, who flew back to the States in between his time in Europe and Africa on his world travels.

Out east we drove, through Roslyn, Salmon finally down one of the worst forest roads in to the Cathedral Rock trailhead. We were see mini-vans and sports cars had made it to near the end of the road – who says you clearance? Huge church groups added to wilderness experience – we joked that there probably be a big group of Mountaineers at Can you guess who was also planning to that weekend?



Mandy helps Vlad into waterproof gear.



A familiar car at the trailhead...

la Sac, and the Cascades shocked to campsites need ground the would the trailhead. climb Daniel

We bivied at the trailhead that night. Vlad, having only brought and a Tikka – there him tonight!

party started the roughly five mile, 2,500' ascent to trail switchbacks up to Squaw Lake and traverses Rock – an impressive hulk of rock.



Cathedral Rock through the lifting morning fog.

Rays of sun piercing through the lifting valley fog and forest cover raised our hopes that we would have some views on the summit that day. We were treated to some amazing views of Cathedral Rock through the clouds prior to traversing under its steep southwest face. There were wildflowers everywhere and good views of Deep Lake and the Spinola Creek basin.



Looking across the Spinola Creek basin with Pt 6506 in the distance and Deep Lake below.

Peggy's Pond, we traveled NW into Hyas Creek Basin where the east Mt Daniel came into view. There are numerous options for getting up to the basin – we chose a narrow and steep snow finger on the northwest cirque to minimize the distance we had to travel. We were glad to find

We made a quick stop at Peggy's Pond to filter water, snack, and photograph marmots prior to beginning our



Jon had to carry Vlad's sorry butt up yet another mountain.

ascent of Mt Daniel. Vlad complained about the breathability of the waterproof gear we provided him, so we cracked open the ziplock seal to allow him to vent a little.

From summit of the top of wall of the this

particular route was still “in” as the snow was melting rapidly in the basin and was probably a few weeks away from becoming a scree field.



Hyak Creek Basin, East Summit of Mt Daniel, and our route.

Mike plowed ahead, making good time up to the top of the basin with Mandy, Vlad and myself not far behind. At some point, Vlad decided my pace was too slow and said he was going to catch up to Mike. Unfortunately, he slipped and glissaded into a moat! – this seemed all too familiar. Vlad looked terrified, but he was in no immediate danger. After making fun of him for a few minutes, Mandy pulled him from the hole and reattached him to my back – reminding him of the dangers of the mountains. This of course drew a very angry “Oi!” (celebrity voice impersonated) from our Aussie friend.

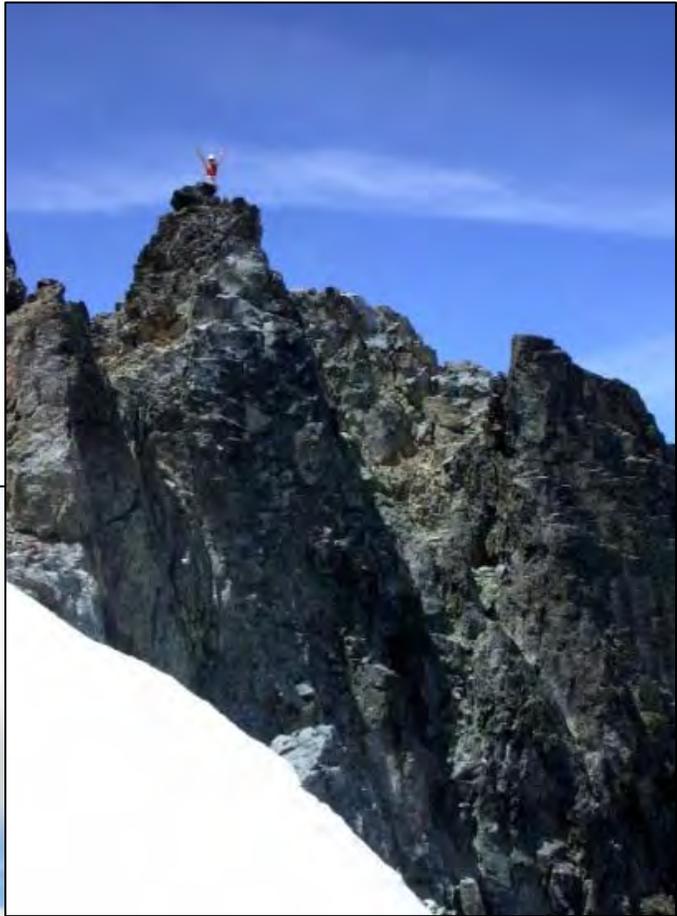


Mandy rescues Vlad from the moat.

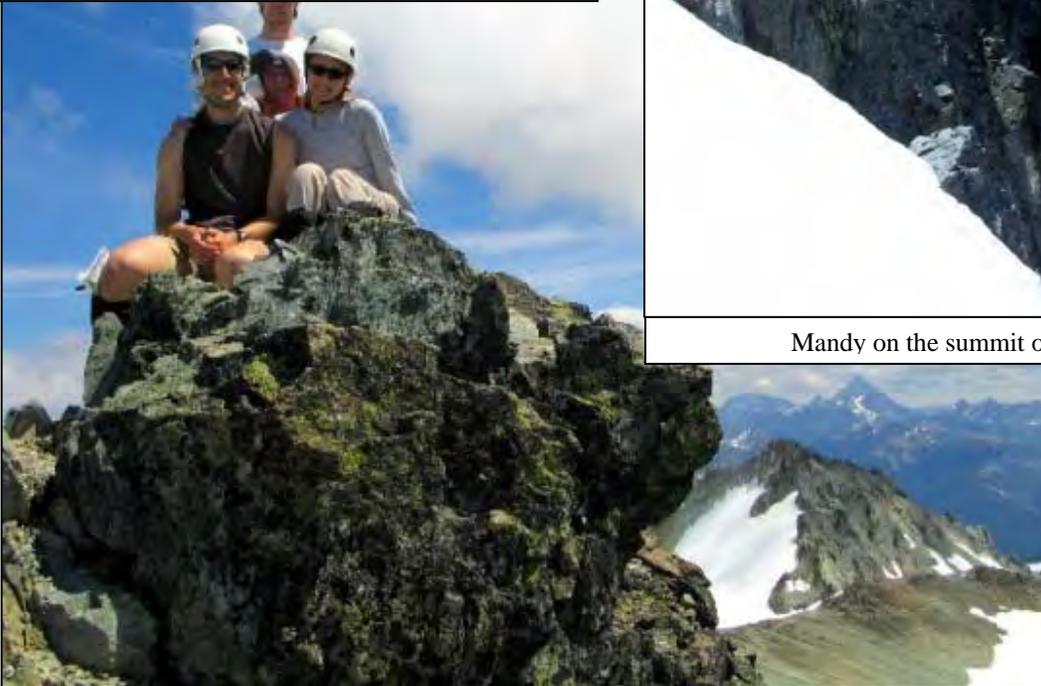
The standard route traverses a scree slope to the south of the East Summit. We took a different route that traversed around the north side of the East Pyramid and across the upper portion of the Daniel Glacier. The conditions were fairly kind to us that day, but in hindsight, we probably should've taken the standard route to avoid the rockfall we encountered, and the crevasses we didn't see. A short traverse past the Smoke Stack and Middle Peak, followed by an easy class 3 scramble and we were standing on the true summit of Mt Daniel.



Looking across the Daniel Glacier at the Middle Summit and Smoke Stack.



Mandy on the summit of Mt Daniel



On the summit of Mt Daniel

The views were outstanding – Mt Hinman, Bears Breast Mountain and the Cascade crest (doing its job that day of holding off the clouds to the west), Venus and Spade Lakes, the Lynch Glacier and the ever growing Pea Soup Lake – and I think Mike summed it up best when he said “Think about what a small percentage of people actually get to see something like this in their lives.” Indeed, the beauty of the mountains even left Vladster speechless – a phenomenon not too often experienced around our friend.



View to the north from the summit of Mt Daniel. The Lynch Glacier and Pea Soup Lake below.

After about 30 minutes on the summit taking in views and munching on well earned footlong subs, we headed back toward Peggy's Pond, kicking off a couple long glissades down the cirque of Hyas Creek basin. There's nothing like a fine glissade to top off a great climb! Unfortunately for Vlad, I completely forgot we left his waterproof jacket open, thus he got soaked in his 600' faceplant down the slope. Doh! Sorry dude.



As you can see by the look on his face, Vlad was most displeased when I changed my socks after we returned to Peggy's Pond.



Peak-a-boo!



Cathedral Rock and Peggy's Pond

Route stats: 5,500' elevation gain / 12 miles RT / 12 hours car to car

The Ballad of **Team Azure**
Lyrics by Ron Fleck
(Tune of *House of the Rising Sun* by “The Animals”)

There is a group in old Boealps
Of whose name folks are unsure
They thought we were the sky blue team
But NO – We’re “**Team Azure**”

Our leader’s name is Signe
Along with husband Greg
Instructors four – and maybe more
Just stretching out their legs

Janine, Colleen, Melinda,
And Larissa are treasures
And no surprise – some horny guys
Just for good measure

We kicked some steps at Stevens
Beside the idle lifts
We spent the day, flailing away
In light, hip-deep snow drifts.

Then, next it was Snoqualmie
Our sights fixed on Guye Peak
Before you stop, way at the top
Stay out of the damn creek

We spent a day at Leavenworth
And our anchors were secure
So when you need a strong belay
Rely on **Team Azure**

For Gothic we had a mission
Just find the right trail head
Before you climb, please take the time
To tie down tent and beds.

The Tatoosh was a bonus
Three peaks we bagged that day
On summit One, we had some fun
Cause it was Signe’s birthday

Now when you cross a glacier
Attach those prussiks on top
You feel so dumb, when hands get numb
And you watch those suckers drop

Our grad climb was a thriller
It was glorious at the camp
But we climbed the night, in gray and white
And MAN, we got so damp

So that's our tale of **Team Azure**
And all We've said is true
Come climb with us each weekend
And kiss the sky so Blue

2005 BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please print: Name (First, MI, Last)

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Mail Stop

(_____) _____
Work Phone

(_____) _____
Home Phone

e-mail

Age

New Member: ___yes ___no

EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP

Boeing employees or contractors and their dependents.

_____ INDIVIDUAL (\$20.00)

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

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

Prashantha Bhat M/C: 14-MC
or: 1208 10th Ave W Apt B4
Seattle, WA 98119

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Year joined BOEALPS _____

Enter the year for any courses completed:

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_____ MOFA

_____ Other (please describe) _____

How often do you climb? _____

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

Ice Climbing Snow Climbing Rock Climbing Alpine Climbing

Other: _____

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

Additional Family:

(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

ALPINE ECHO



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September Echo staff

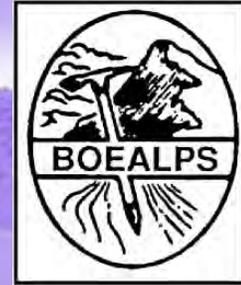
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vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

OCTOBER 2005



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The Boealps Banquet is Friday, October 7. There are a few slots still available if you are thinking of attending. Don't get turned away at the door--reserve your seating today (if you haven't already done so)! Come and spend an evening with the first rubber chicken to summit Mt. Everest!

Hear the chicken's harrowing tale of scaling the world's tallest mountain! Hear how fellow Boealpers helped him in this incredible feat!

On behalf of the Boealps Everest North Ridge 2005 Expedition, we formally invite you to this once-in-a-lifetime event as four Boealpers and a rubber chicken share their story. It is guaranteed to be an evening of fun. And if that isn't enticing enough, there will be \$500 worth of door prizes given away!

BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

It's time for the annual Boealps banquet! We are proud that the club will be addressed this year by four of its own—the climbers who made up the Boealps Everest North Ridge 2005 Expedition. The group will show slides and discuss their adventures. If you've not already registered, RSVP by emailing Tony Olejnicki at anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com, then fill out and mail in the form on the following page.

Ever considered being a MOFA instructor? Now's your chance. Instructor training is being offered this November and December. Details can be found on page 8.

Also in the Echo this month are a climb recap from a New Hampshire-dwelling Dan Goering and an anonymous spoof of trip reports. Also, mark your calendars for November 3, when the annual photo contest takes place. More info is on page 9.

In other Boealps news, I am pleased to report that the Basic Rock Class successfully concluded its first full year with 14 graduates. A photo review of the class starts on page 10; here's one pic from Smith to kick things off:



Got a trip report? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the November issue is October 24. Email submissions to editor@boealps.org.

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
Sarah

2005 BOEALPS ANNUAL BANQUET

FEATURED SPEAKERS: THE BOEALPS EVEREST TEAM 2005

DATE: Friday, October 7th

TIME: Social hour starts at 6:30 PM with a no-host bar. Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM.

LOCATION: The Mountaineers Headquarters: 300 Third Ave. W. Seattle, WA 98119

PLEASE RETURN THIS PART WITH PAYMENT

Name: _____

Contact e-mail or phone number: _____

Number of Boealps members x \$40 = _____

Number of non-Boealps members x \$45 = _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = _____

Make checks payable to Boealps

Send payment before September 18th to:

**Tony Olejnicki
M/S 87-68**

or

**Tony Olejnicki
339 Burnett Ave. S. Apt 312
Renton, WA 98055**

For more details check latest issue of ECHO on line: www.boealps.org



The view from Camp Muir in mid September. Photo by Sarah Sternau.

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3 New moon	4	5	6	7 Boealps Banquet	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11 Boealps Board meeting	12	13 Yom Kippur	14	15 Fall Ice Outing
16 Fall Ice Outing	17 Full moon	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Echo Deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30 Daylight Savings ends	31 Halloween				2005	



Robert Fisher and two of climbing's eleven essentials: sunglasses and a sense of humor. Photo by Sarah Sternau

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 New moon	3 Boealps general meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Boealps Board meeting	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
13	14	15	16 Full moon	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Echo Deadline	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2005

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Invitation to Climb in New Zealand

November 2005

By Tony Olejnicki

Okay, okay, I have to come clean and declare a vested interest here. I am flying to Melbourne on my Home Leave in November and I am stopping in NZ for 9 days to do some climbing. I was in NZ numerous times skiing, hiking, and cycling, so I know NZ very well and I like NZ.

I stood on the Cascade pass (how appropriate the name is for WA climber) and looked at Matterhorn of the south, Mt. Aspiring (Tititea, 9,924ft).

I looked at majestic Mount Cook (Aoraki, 12,295ft) from east, west, south and north as well as from bird-eye view flying from Christchurch to Melbourne.

I intend to look at Cascade pass from the top of Mt. Aspiring and at the Tasman and Fox glaciers and the Pacific Ocean from the top of Mt. Cook in November this year weather permitting.



Mt Cook



Mt Aspiring

I am looking for a sane and fit climber and I would prefer to do climb with a Boealps climber for obvious reasons.

This is an open invitation for those who are inspired by the beauty of these two mountains and a spirit of adventure. Check the pictures enclosed and if you interested to do these climbs, please contact me by e-mail:

tolejnicki@hotmail.com or anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com.

For guided trip to each of these peaks you would have to pay close to US\$3000, so the opportunity to do it fee free should be an additional motivation.

The airfares from LA to Auckland are low for this period \$860 with Qantas for example. Domestic airfare to Christchurch can be as low as US\$70.

I am interested to do Hooker face on mt Cook, an awesome headwall approaching from Empress hut and return via West Ridge traverse and Poter Col back to the hut. There are other interesting routes, which are technical but not as demanding. Mt Aspiring would be a dessert climb on north-west ridge.

I will be in NZ from Nov 20 till Nov 30 from where I am flying to Melbourne for 5days to visit my family and friends. There are plenty of things to do in NZ so if you have more time you can explore amazing scenery and other adventures in a very friendly country.

Here are few more pictures to whet your appetite if there is any further hesitation:



Mount Aspiring is the highest Peak in Mount Aspiring Park. This beautiful summit is one of the most coveted peaks in New Zealand. On first seeing Mt Aspiring, from the edge of the Bonar Glacier, there is a moment of disbelief that you'll be able to climb it by any means. Viewed however from certain angles the ridges and faces don't look so precipitous and an ascent quite possible. Aspiring, often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of the South', is similar to the Matterhorn of the Swiss Alps not only in shape but also in construction. These both peaks been carved by glaciers in a certain way, which causes them to be referred to as horn peaks.

Mount Cook is a serious mountain and not to be under-estimated due to its comparatively low altitude. It is comparable in length and difficulty to Arguille Verte in Chamonix, France and Mt. Huntington in Alaska.

What attracts me to Hooker Glacier is something that hasn't changed since 1913, first climb by female, is the remoteness and lack of air access. This means you climb the mountain in its entirety rather than flying in half way.

On January 2 1913 Freda Du Faur was guided along the summit ridge of Mt Cook by Peter Graham and Darby Thomson. This was a breakthrough ascent, in that doubters said it couldn't be done. Their access to this western side, was via the Hooker Glacier.

FALL MOFA INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Do you want to improve your first aid knowledge and skills?

Would you like to help out your fellow mountaineers
and give something back to the club?

Become a MOFA instructor!

If you have a current MOFA card, join a fall instructor course to be held
weekday evenings and one Saturday.

Dates: November: Thu. 17, Sat. 19, Tue. 22, Tue. 29 and
December: Thu. 1, Tue. 6, Thu. 8

Times: Thur/Tues 6p-10p and Sat 8:30a -5:30p.

Location: American Red Cross serving King and Kitsap Counties
1900 25th Ave. S.
Seattle WA 98144

The course tuition of \$70.00 will be reimbursed after you teach your first
course for the Seattle Mountaineers. (If you are already an American Red
Cross instructor you may be excused from the Nov. 17 session and part of
the Nov. 19 session.)

For questions or registration for Instructor Course # [60945](#), call the
American Red Cross Safety Services at 206.726.3534. NOTE: Enrollment
minimums will be required for the courses to be held.

The BOEALPS Annual Photo Contest
Thursday November 3, 2005
7:00 - 9:00 PM (entries should arrive before 7:00)
Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Start rounding up your photos - The Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the November general meeting at the Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Prizes will be given out for the first place winner of the categories listed below. First, second, and third place entries will be displayed in the Alpine Echo (w/ permission of the photographer).

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
Sunrises and Sunsets
People
Most Humorous
Boealps Climbing Class

We did not receive many slides last year so only prints will be judged this year. If you have digital images, print them and bring the print for judging.

How to enter:

Show up before 7 PM if you plan on entering any prints.

Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.

Your name should appear on each entry. (Write or attach a label to the back of the print.)

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

We are not yet ready for projection of digital photos. People with digital photos should make a high-quality print.

Larger sizes of prints typically do better in the competition. If you have a great photo, it is worth paying to get it enlarged.

Suggestion:

Typically images reproduced in larger sizes are more impressive than smaller prints. If you have a great shot, your chances of winning are greater if you enlarge the print.

Rules:

Do not enter photos that have won in previous years.

You must be the photographer of your entry.

Entries must be of club interest.

Any final arbitration rests with the club photography chair.

Basic Rock Class Version 1.5 Pictorial Review

Leavenworth skills outings



Our awesome student/instructor ratio—3:1 in this picture. (Seven other students are entertaining themselves, instructorless, off camera.) Photo by François Godcharles.



Looking rather like a finger puppet in this picture, Robert supervises an early rappel. Photo by François Godcharles.



Liam O'Sullivan and Phil Trifeletti wear sunglasses to shield their eyes from the brightness of the day-glo rope. Photo by François Godcharles.



Chris schools Phil on the Munter. Photo by François Godcharles.



Students rappelling off an anchor that included a stripped bolt slung with a small nut. Foreheads were furrowed and eyebrows were raised, but all were game for the rappel.
Photo by Phil Trifeletti.



The Munter never quite looks right on the first rappel.
Photo by Phil Trifeletti.



The first lead belays of the class. Photo by Phil Trifeletti.



A duffersitting Chris Rudesill. Photo by Phil Trifeletti.



James Fugate gets the kinks out of the system on an early lead belay. Photo by Phil Trifeletti.

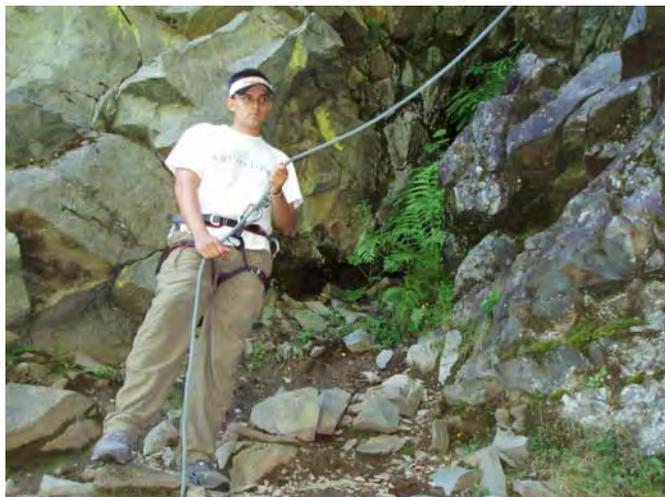


Instructor, instructing. Photo by Phil Trifeletti.



A short cordelette, a long rope, and an off-camera zipper stopper (we hope). Photo by François Godcharles.

Exit 38



Oscar wonders why anyone's climbing this crappy route at Exit 38. Photo by Sarah Sternau.



Dan wonders, too. Photo by Sarah Sternau.



Dan Morales catches a lead fall by Lobert Misher at Exit 38.
(Lead climber's name changed to protect the innocent.)
Photo by Sarah Sternau.

Alpine outings



Two innocent young students whose worlds are about to be rocked—or chossed. The BRC learns running belay on Guye Peak. Photo by Sarah Sternau.



Robert does the camcam, a French climber's dance. Photo by Sarah Sternau.



A glorious day at East Wilman's Spire. Hey, didn't the ICC attempt this climb this year, too? Heh heh... Photo by Sarah Sternau.



Students biking to Monte Cristo on the approach to East Wilman's Spire. Photo by Sarah Sternau.

NO
FIREWORKS
ALLOWED
AT ANY TIME
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

 **Danger!** 
¡Peligro!

Abandoned Mine Hazards
Peligros de Minas Abandonadas

-  **Unsafe Mine Shafts & Highwalls**
Pozos de Minas Peligrosos
-  **Deadly Gas & Lack of Oxygen**
Gases Mortales y Falta de Oxígeno
-  **Unsafe Ladders**
Escaleras Peligrosas
-  **Unstable Explosives**
Explosivos Inestables
-  **Deep Pools of Water**
Charcos de Agua Profundos

You are located here:
Ud. está aquí:
MONTE CRISTO TOWNSITE

In an emergency call:
En la emergencia llame:
911 OR 360-691-7791

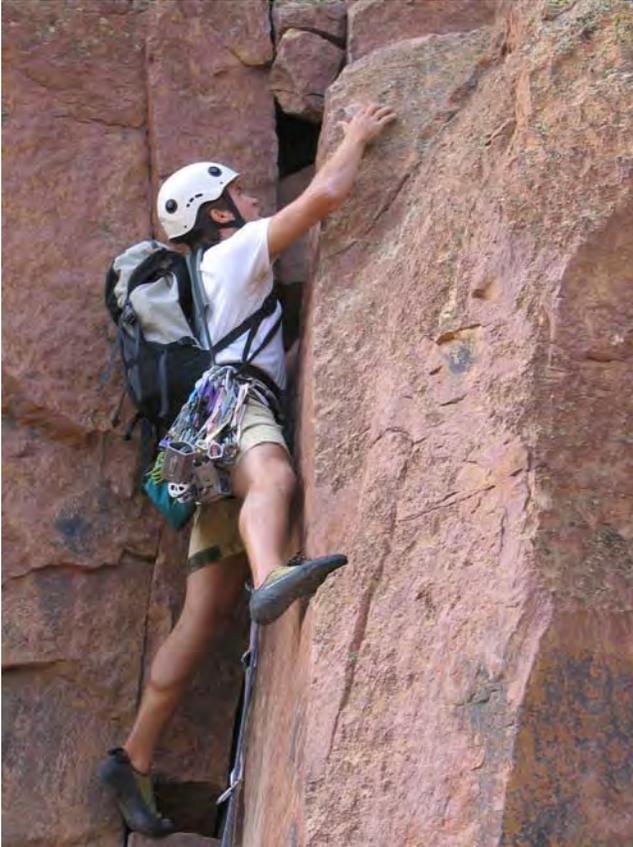
 **Stay Out**
No Entre

Stay Alive
Proteja Su Vida

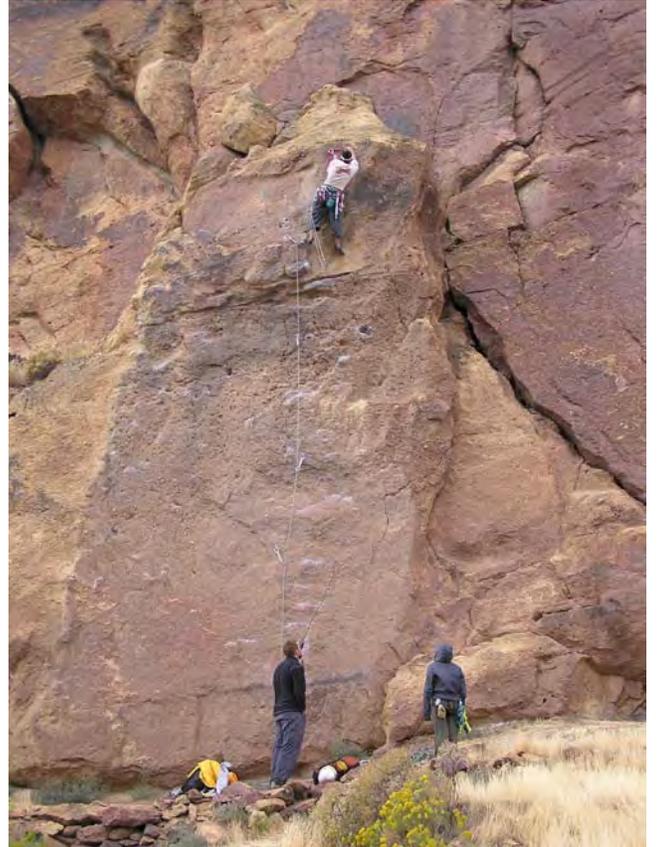
P61-22 United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Welcome to Monte Cristo! Its charms are many, its entertainments exotic. Photo by Phil Trifeletti.

Smith Rock—Just for fun



Chris flexes as many muscles as he can on the first pitch of Moscow. Photo by François Godcharles.



Oscar Montoya sets a rappel after an awesome 10b climb. Photo by Sarah Sternau.



The hills are alive with...people who should pay attention to the "stay on the trail" signs. Photo by François Godcharles.



The BRC rocks!

Photo by François Godcharles.

Congratulations to the following BRC 2005 graduates:

Jay Bradshaw
Marcus Dunavan
Eric Fjellanger
James Fugate
François Godcharles

Marna Kagele
Janine McIlwraith
Oscar Montoya
Dan Morales
Micah Nolin

Mark Sliwinski
Phil Trifeletti
Nathan White
Stan Zarembo

Thanks to all the students and instructors who contributed to the success of the class! Robert Fisher, Chris Meter, and I very much appreciated the help of **Chris Rudesill, Vicky Larsen, Liam O'Sullivan, Zack Thunemann, Ryan Allen, Marty Jolly, and Joan Lawry** on BRC class outings. Your involvement was very much appreciated by class organizers and students alike.

Classic New Hampshire Climbing: The Whitney-Gilman Ridge

Maren Flynn and Dan Goering (scribe)

September 11, 2005

The realization popped suddenly and unexpectedly into my brain and brought my rock hopping up the long talus field approach to an abrupt halt: my helmet was not in my pack but back in the trunk of the car! Maren and I had started at 6:30 am from the parking lot 30 minutes earlier and were now nearing the base of New Hampshire's Whitney-Gilman ridge with the intent of being first to queue up for this six pitch classic on a beautiful fall Sunday.

Gazing up to the base of the ridge, I let this new piece of knowledge sink in and began to assess the ramifications. The choices seemed simple: Go back and fetch the helmet which would delay our start by at least 45 minutes and likely strand us somewhere in the middle of a parade of potentially slow and rock loosening climbers, or push on and risk climbing with no helmet. Argggggg!

The Whitney-Gilman ascends 600 feet up a distinctive arête formed by the edge of the Black Dike, a large dark gash in the otherwise unperturbed granite of Franconia Notch State Park's Cannon Cliff. Harvard mathematician Hassler Whitney and his cousin Bradley Gilman made the first ascent on August 3, 1929, in 17 short pitches and without using pitons. At the time, it was considered the hardest rock climb in America. The route has now become one of New England's most famous climbs and a classic moderate (5.7) test piece for northeast climbers. The previous afternoon, while scouting the approach, Maren and I had observed a veritable parade of climbers on the Whitney-G, inching their way upwards to each crowded belay. Our early start to beat the crowds appeared to be working beautifully up until now.

Cannon Cliff is more famous as the home of the Old Man rock formation. His craggy granite profile has long defined the character of New Hampshire for many residents, starting as early as 1831 with Daniel Webster who wrote, "Men hang out their signs indicative of their respective trades. Shoemakers hang out a gigantic shoe; jewelers, a monster watch; even a dentist hangs out a gold tooth; but in the Franconia Mountains God Almighty has hung out a sign to show that in New England He makes men." New Hampshireites have expressed their pride in the Old Man by plastering his profile all over the state on highway signs and more recently all over the US on New Hampshire's commemorative quarter.

Much to the state's general consternation, the Old Man came crashing down on the night of May 3rd, 2003 to become just another part of the large boulder field at the base of Cannon Cliff. This despite long-term efforts and creation of a state office to prevent such a tragedy. Heavy cable and iron turnbuckle supports were installed in 1916 and again in 1958. They even glued his sagging Adams apple back together in

1991. Residents were so distraught following his tumble that for a brief time before better sense prevailed, they considered attempting to glue and strap the Old Man back into place.

Bent remnants of the failed support turnbuckles were visible at the far upper end of the cliff as we launched into our first pitch about 7:30 am. I was climbing sans helmet, having assessed that rock fall danger was minimal on the arête since I would be leading every pitch and no one was above us. Maren reluctantly bought into this decision, but pointed out that she had zero interest in having to care for me the rest of my days should I bonk my head and join the zucchini family. I too had no interest in this, but I knew the chief danger would be a fall on lead and was confident this would not happen. I wanted to do this climb and really wanted to avoid being stuck beneath other parties. Wise or no, we proceeded.

Soon Maren's smiling face popped into view on the large first belay ledge, though not before a large rock came crashing down the center of the cliff off to our right and sprayed the boulder field below with pulverized debris. I'd certainly insist on a helmet anywhere off of our arête!

A short steep hand crack 20 feet into the second pitch led onto the edge of the arête where I stood with the dark abyss of the Black Dike's dark directly below my feet. The sun was now on us, warming away the early morning chill. I pushed upwards through exposed and exhilarating climbing on clean granite and with many old fixed pins to clip. We'd managed to leave the guidebook in the car with my helmet so I just stayed right on the arête as the climbing remained very good. I passed a short section of steel pipe wedged vertically into a crack and paused to wonder whether I could already be into the classic "pipe pitch". This pitch got its name after legendary local climber Kenneth Henderson hammered in a pipe to protect the airy moves over the Black Dike during a 1931 ascent. I seemed to recall the guidebook labeled this as pitch 3 and touted the moves past the pipe as the route's "psychological crux," though I wasn't finding it any more airy and scary than what I had just climbed. Soon after, the climbing eased and with most of the rope out, I established our second belay on a large sloping ledge.

The third pitch ascended just left of the arête on easier and less exposed rock. I quickly ran out most of the rope and stopped to belay on a protruding doormat-sized block with some rather steep-looking climbing directly above.

Maren joined me on the belay block and I was soon fumbling about just five feet above her head for an easy way though the steep section. I moved left and clipped a reassuring pin, but the next committing moves off a steeply sloped ledge lacked good

handholds and some loose rock was making me nervous. I had been groping the rock for some minutes with no upward movement when Maren suggested the right side of the arête might look better and so I stepped back down and crept around to investigate.

The Black Dike gets its name because black lichen flourishes on its sunless north-facing wall. From my stance on a small ledge high above the chasm, the dark wall rose precipitously above me for about 15 feet, split by a thin finger crack. Above that, there appeared to be a nice stance on the arête crest. This climbing looked stiffer, but the rock was solid. Creeping upwards a foot or so, I explored the crack for holds and managed to slot a high, bomber “courage” stopper. This was looking better! But first I had to straighten my rope line and crept back around the corner to retrieve the sling from the pin I had clipped.

Back on my small ledge, I was ready. I stepped up on small features and stuffed my fingers into various parts of the thin crack. Nothing felt secure. I stepped back down to rest my arms and examine the rock some more. Once more up. And back down. Hmmmmm. Maybe the other side WAS better ...?

I quickly banished this thought and stepped up again. Finally, reaching high, I found a solid finger placement. A strenuous lieback move got me to a good mid-wall foothold and I was up. The rest of the pitch was a romp up to trees at the top of the cliff where I belayed Maren .

That last steep wall had seemed stiffer than 5.7, though Maren followed it fairly quickly despite still being in the phase of learning about crack climbing. We’d completed the route in four hours and as four pitches instead of six. A steep descent trail led us back to the cars an hour later where we learned that we had climbed the 5.8 variation by staying on the arête crest during our second pitch, as well as including the alternate 5.9 “Right Hand Finish” on the Black Dike wall. Amazingly enough, the expected hoards had not materialized and only one other party had signed in for the route.

The Whitney-Gilman deserves its classic status and is well worth seeking out if you ever find yourself in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Numerous other good routes can be found on the cliff as well, including Reppy’s Crack—a 5.8 pitch every bit as good as the upper pitches of Outer Space on the Snow Creek Wall. Cannon Cliff is known to shed rocks periodically, so remember that helmet!

The Ascent Up Hum-Dinger (by Anonymous)

(Author's note - the ensuing article that follows is a spoof on trip reports submitted to the Echo. I chose the title based on The ascent of Rum-doodle, a parody of climbers in general. I've never read that book, but thought I would use it as a model for my diatribe- why not use something I know nothing about. After quite a number of years reading trip reports in the Echo, I've become discouraged with the improper choice of words, bad grammar, redundancies, etc. ad nauseam. But it seems pervasive in society, wherever you go. So I thought I'd do a spoof myself just too excessively overemphasize the point.

Therefore this fictitious, untrue, and totally made-up article will be peppered, sprinkled, yeah verily inundated with homonyms (words that sound alike but are spelled differently – NOT a type of song that gay men sing in church), repetitive redundancies, mixed metaphors, and maybe even a didactic sesquipedalian anthropomorphism (don't ask me what that means, but it sure sounds impressive) just to illustrate the point – heck there are all ready some examples of those type of faux pas's this far in my article.

You may be wondering how I have the thyme (or the parsley, sage, and rosemary, for that matter) to right such an article, but once your inspired, you just have to go with it. See how many goofs you can find in the article and how many times you groan with the bad puns and mixed metaphors. And so, with tongue in cheek, hoof in mouth, and head definitely up my donkey, let us commence to begin.)

The alarm rang out at 3:15 a.m. in the morning. I used the slits that passed for my eyes to look at the time and new that I just didn't want to rise up out of bed. I felt half-dead, half-alive, and one-third comatose. Yes, some days it takes 133% to get out of bed at oh-dark-fifteen in the mourning, regardless of how well on sleeps. Last weak the group had planned ahead what the trip wood bee – an ascent up the fabled "Hum-dinger". The synopsis in a nutshell of the climb was that we would start at the beginning, ascend up, traverse across, rappel down, descend down, and return back to the cars safely, all in one long day. Talk about a nutshell! Along the weigh no won wanted to lag behind (of course, were else is one going to lag, butt behind – now isn't that a double redundancy, or one vary big BUTT). As a group we were joined together in hour determination to knock off this apex, acme, and summit - all at the same time.

As part of my planning ahead I had pre-packed the knight be four and my gear was resting fore me in the garage, just weighting for me to load it into the car. All I had to dew was don my climbing clothes, throw some OJ in the direction of the mouth located on my face, down a banana or too, and be on my weigh – gosh this was getting heavy already.

Simple, n'est ce pas (I love it when I talk foreign). The group of six met together at the park n ride, shuffled around the gear, and headed out on the highway like a wolf band from the 60's.

From previous experience that we historically had, we new that as we drove threw the towns of Shah_Iran (now where else would one find a town with an underscore in it), Shutdown, and Silver Dollar, we had to be especially care full since the local gendarmerie (theirs that foreign thing again), loved to catch touristas speeding threw town on there way to somewhere else. From what I here, the fines can be exceedingly exorbitant. With that forewarning already in our still groggy heads, we maid it safely through the speed trap trio mentioned above. We were now careening our way toward Hail Mary Pass (where the basic class typically holds it's ice axe police action, i.e. arrest) and beyond wear wee would have to exit off the main road and turn onto the logging road LR 42. From their it is just $\sqrt{49}$ (i.e. 7) miles down the road to the trailhead, where the hiking starts. All was going according to the plan that we had made ahead of time.

We arrived at the start of the trail head (elev. 3,000 ft) at oh-dark-fifteen + three, namely 6:15 a.m. in the

morning. After redistributing the group gear that we were planning to use together, we set out like salmon heading up river for our spawning destiny – of course, we had no plans to dye once we reached the top summit. It is just an image that came to mind, highlighting how determined a bunch of resolute climbers can be to achieve their destination. I'm sure that you're mined boggles at the imagery.

The hike in was a stout 4,000 ft. up in just four miles (I'd do the math but it's been years since I left engineering school – when I first arrived there I couldn't spell E N G I N E E R, but now I am one, or something like that; but I digress). We encountered snow (hello snow) after approximately 2.457 miles at an elevation of 5,457 ft (well I guess I can do the math after a while, but it's really kind of boring doing those sort of calculations). So out came the ice axes. Funny, but on a trail that kind of elevation gain seems steep, but on snow it seems very gradual. Why is that? Anyway, with six of us all kicking steps, the remaining 1,543 ft. of snow to the bottom base of the rock climb took just one hour, more or less. Here we were, at the bottom base of the west ridge of Humdinger. And considering our early departure from the homes where we live, we were the first ones to be on the root – yes there is some vegetation to overcome at the bottom base where one begins the start of the climb.

Considering that we had a group of six and we were concerned about the thyme that three rope teams of two (there's that math thing once again) would take, and also considering that we wanted to descend down and get off the snow before night fell down (Bud was traveling lite and didn't want to bring crampons, so he convinced the rest of us to mountain dew the same), Bud and Lou decided that they would traverse around the bottom base of the rock to the South ridge, ascend up that, and meet the rest of us on the top summit with the special pepperonis they were carrying (well maybe they weren't traveling sew lite, after all). Bud and Lou always had trouble deciding whose on first pitch and we sort of wanted to anchor a weigh from

them as they decided who was on first and what the second pitch would be, etc. The S. ridge was somewhat easier and we were not concerned about Bud and Lou. Once they got past first base, it was all up a gentler hill from there. That left us four - Stan and Oliver, and Thelma and Louise as the two remaining teams ascending up the west ridge.

Knot wanting to be mail chauvinist pigs, we tossed a coin into the air to decide who lead the route. As luck would (something to knock on) have it, Thelma and Louise won the toss and would be chossing out the first pitch (much as our President chossed out the first pitch on opening day of baseball season), not to mention being ahead every step of the way-up, or was that a weigh-in? Each team arranged a small pack for the follower to carry, as the forecast was predicting a change in the whether or not we could make it to the top summit. So we wanted to be prepared ahead for any eventuality that might occur later on the root of all evil, as Humdinger is sometimes referred to.

Louise, coming alphabetically before Thelma, usually wanted to lead the first pitch. On this occasion, Thelma went along with her since it meant that Thelma would top out on top first, this root having an even number of pitches, or was that branches? At about this time, somewhere off in the distance, I thought I heard "ABBOTT!", but I convinced myself that I was just hearing things. Thelma anchored to one of the big roots at the base and we then watched Louise lead up the steeply ascending acclivity of the first pitch. What makes Humdinger a classic is that you never know what is going to hit you next, literally. It's not that rocks want to fall on you, though sometimes the mother mountain goats aide them when they get scared for there kids, it's more that you have to will the rocks to hold their position with your deaf touch of hands and feet – On outer space no one can hear you scream.

The first 50-60 feet went smoothly and Louise was gliding up the route with ease. She was all over that rock like stink on a cheap suit and yelled down

below that it was easy to protect, much like a – well I don't want to go there. At this point she reached the crux (or was that crutch) of the first pitch – an overhanging, off-with, lie-back finger traverse that all of a sudden was NOT so easy to protect. Even though she saw a mountain goat grinning at her from just the other side of the crux, the difficulty of the next couple moves gave her paws to reflect – if only she had paws like a goat, this might not be so hard. Nevertheless, Louise set about trying to solve this puzzle. Inserting a number 3.625 cam into the base of the off-with she managed to ascend up another paw and jammed an elbow into the ever flaring crack. At this point it started to go beyond vertical and Louise took a long breather.

From down below it was a little difficult to see just what she was up against, though we heard some sort of faint expletives wafting down from up above. Louise made the next move and BAM – the rope was as taught as a full-time “A” student. Thelma got yanked pretty hard, but considering how solid the root anchor was, she just grimaced at the hard pull on her harness. Thelma then made a snide comment about how gravity is a female dog (or a word that rhymes with witch, or is it which, I have trouble telling them apart. Hay – it rhymes with both of them!), while keeping the belay tight (I think that I once heard someone chant that “Happiness is a tight belay” and it was never more true than at this vary moment). However, since the pitch was overhanging at this point, Louise had to be lowered down about 5 feet so that she could pendulum a bit and regain the root. Once the adrenalin rush from the fall subsided, Louise once again gathered her wits about her and climbed up again. Of course, since there was a piece of pro above and overhanging from her, it formed a sort of rope triangle – as Louise regained her high point, Thelma would have to initially leave slack in the line, otherwise taking up the slack would put too much tension on the upper piece and pull on Louise from the wrong direction. Of course, if Louise where to fall now, that extra slack would make it quite a whipper.

Louise composted herself and once again got back to the crux. This time she tried a variation on the move, but sad to say, the end result was the same – hang time that she hadn't planned ahead for. After a repeat of the lowering and getting back on route, Louise gave it one more shot. Alas, it was knot to be. Once returning back on the rock and taking a long breather, Louise yelled down that she was pretty waisted (don't go there) and wasn't sure that she could make another attempt. Thelma yelled up and asked if Louise thought she could either repel down or down-climb on belay. Louise yelled back that the 3.635 cam was in an awkward spot and she wasn't sure if she could safely remove it. But she was going to give it the old college try. She ascended up one more time, lightly leaned weigh out, grabbed the cam, released it, and then yelled TENSION at the top of her lungs that were panting profusely. Thelma quickly reeled in the slack and you could here that audible sigh of relief from up above.

While all of this was happening, the whether or not was slowly deteriorating, and the earlier ivory clouds were well on there way to ebony. As Louise was fortifying her top anchor, all of a sudden there was a HUGE flash of light and what sounded to our ears like a sonic boom just nanoseconds behind it. We were concentrationing so hard on Louise that we weren't paying attention to the weather – big mistake. Just milliseconds after the sonic boom we heard this thunderous ABBOTT from across the way – it just had to be Lou.

Needless to say, things were looking mighty Grimm at the moment. The lightning was apparently so close that the rock started to rattle and hum (perhaps the name Humdinger) and U2 would be as nervous as Hades as we were. We quickly snatched the foam pads off our packs and squatted on them legs together, looking as if we were making our own compost. We also had to scootch a pad under Thelma to insulate her. Pour Louise – she had to make mountain dew 60 feet up, but at least we reasoned that she did have the overhand to protect her. We didn't have a clue about Bud and Lou, other than all the muffled shouting our ears

heard in the distance. After another crack and boom, the hail started plummeting down from on high. Thankfully our helmets protected us from the near golf ball sized hail. At this point all we could do was sit it out and hope to heaven on high that we emerged unscathed and that our helmets held up.

After 15 minutes of cowering, the thunder seemed to be more distant and while the hail abated the rains started a-coming. At this point we all agreed that this climb was over. Louise "just" had to set up a repel so that she could descend down the declivity and return back to safety. She built a triply solid anchor, went off-belay, and with water gushing down on her, managed to set up a repel – amazing, under the conditions, but there was no other choice to be selected in the matter. While we got ready to bust on out of their once she got down, Louise calmly set up her repel, executed it, and cleaned the root as she repelled down the face. Just as she touched bottom (of the route, not anyone else's bottom) we saw Bud and Lou racing toward us.

It seems that getting to the S face took Bud and Lou longer than they expected and after their usual banter of whose leading off first, they had just got they're anchors all set up when the heavens started splitting their seams. So they were never off the ground (See sometimes all that confusion about who's on first can actually be beneficial). They just had to stay away from the wrath of Thor and his lightning bolts. Man, were we ever glad to see those two guys!!

Now that all of us were together and the lightening was moving away, we could zip down the snow slope in our frantic glissades, while gingerly clutching the lightening rods that passed as ice axes. Much like F-14's on an aircraft carrier, it was touch n go as we descended down the glide path to the trail a-weighting us below. Yes, our thoughts were very heavy as we raced headlong, one person literally on the other person's tail in the glissade shoot, to get under cover of the forest – please don't let any of us become "former" climbers, and don't

anyone screw up the glissade such that we had to stop. Speed was definitely of the essence, though we didn't want to make any mistakes getting off the snow. The glissade was non-stop and even faster than the continuous glissade down Adams' south face. In fact the slide was so fast it seemed as if we arrived before we departed. At the edge of the snow, they're was no hesitation as we stood up in one continuous move and darted toward the cover of the trees. WHEW – safe at last!!

Now that we were in the forest, our hearts stopped racing at Mach 3 and we could relax a bit. The look of relief on all our faces was something that no words can describe – you had to be there. We all resolved that this was not the last that we wood see of Humdinger, but that next thyme we would ensure our recipe for success by only making the second attempt under crystal clear, azure skies. Then and only then will we be singing a happy tune.

ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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OR: 1208 10th Ave. W., B4, Seattle, WA 98119
OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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COMMENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION
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THE BOEING COMPANY**

October Echo staff

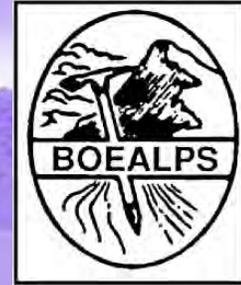
Editors: Sarah Sternau &
John Gowan

Contributors: Dan Goering
François Godcharles
Phil Trifeletti

If you have any submissions—anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do—email them to us at editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a call (our numbers are on the front cover) and we'll arrange something!

ALPINE ECHO

NOVEMBER 2005



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BOEALPS PHOTO CONTEST

Start rounding up your photos!- The Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the November general meeting at the Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
Sunrises and Sunsets
People
Most Humorous
Boealps Climbing Class

How to enter:

- Show up before 7 PM if you plan on entering any prints.
- Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.
- Your name should appear on each entry. (write or attach a label to the back of the print).

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

We are not yet ready for projection of digital photos.

People with digital photos should make a high quality print.

Larger sizes of prints typically do better in the competition. If you have a great photo, it is worth paying to get it enlarged.

PHOTO CONTEST

Thursday,
Nov 3rd, 7PM
At BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Got some great photos from climbing the past season? Well then enter them in the Boealps Photo Contest on Nov 3rd! As Echo editor, I have seen quite a few submissions worthy of entry. There are prizes for the winners in each category! (and yes, that's something on top of getting your photo appear in the Echo!!!). Any questions concerning the contest can be e-mailed to club Photography Chair, Richard Humbert at richhumbert@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendars now for the December General Meeting on December 1st, as Boealps is proud to welcome back 'the man' of Cascade Mountaineering, FRED BECKEY! We're not sure yet what Fred has in store for us, but in the past this denizen of the local peaks has shown slides and discussed his latest exploits peak-bagging around the world. Yes, he's still out there searching for first ascent peaks, and he will literally travel to the ends of the earth to find them. This is never a disappointing show, don't miss it!

François Godcharles turned in a writeup on the Ice Climbing Outing to Mt Baker this month. This turned into a far-from-ordinary club outing as it became a MOFA rescue mission! Read for all the details. Tony Olejnicki completed a climb of Burgundy Spire in glorious August weather, just a memory now as November rains set in.

Ever considered being a MOFA instructor? Now's your chance. Instructor training is being offered this November and December. It's not too late to sign up! Details can be found in a flyer in this edition of the Echo.

Got a trip report? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the December issue is November 21st. Email submissions to editor@boealps.org.

Thanks, and happy (gym) climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
John

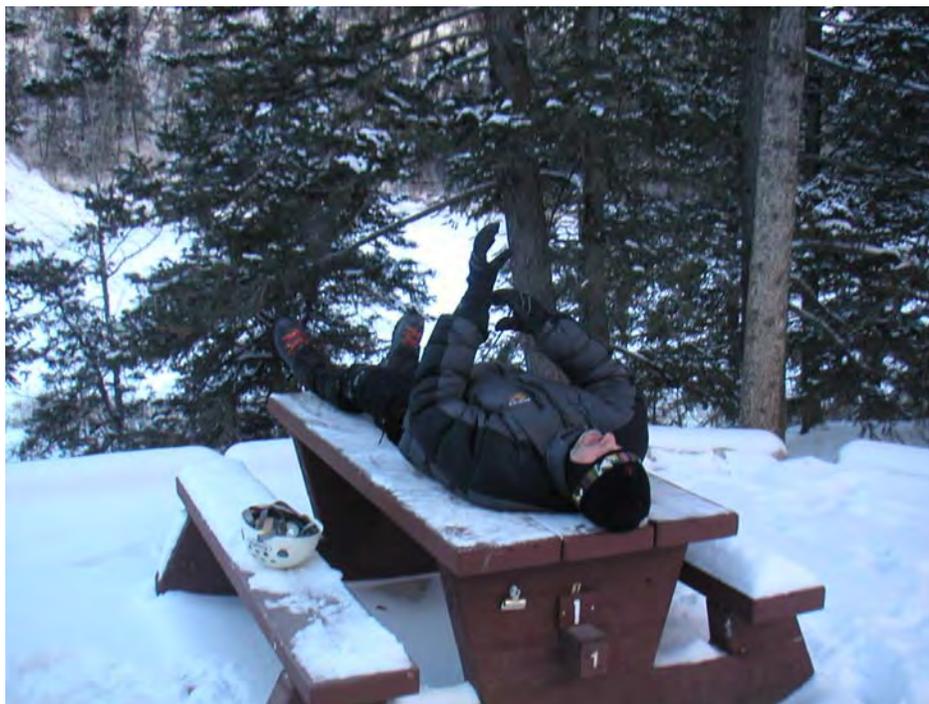


Time to start thinking ice! Micah Lambeth takes on a climb in Marble Canyon, BC in January 2005

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 New moon	3 Boealps general meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Boealps Board meeting	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
13	14	15	16 Full moon	17	18	19
20	21 Echo Deadline	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2005



Tom Ryan tries to straighten his back after ice climbing at Marble Canyon, BC

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 New moon Boealps general meeting	2	3
4	5	6 Boealps Board meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Full moon	16	17
18	19 Echo Deadline	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26 Hanukkah	27	28	29	30	31

2005

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Invitation to Climb in New Zealand

November 2005

By Tony Olejnicki

Okay, okay, I have to come clean and declare a vested interest here. I am flying to Melbourne on my Home Leave in November and I am stopping in NZ for 9 days to do some climbing. I was in NZ numerous times skiing, hiking, and cycling, so I know NZ very well and I like NZ.

I stood on the Cascade pass (how appropriate the name is for WA climber) and looked at Matterhorn of the south, Mt. Aspiring (Tititea, 9,924ft).

I looked at majestic Mount Cook (Aoraki, 12,295ft) from east, west, south and north as well as from bird-eye view flying from Christchurch to Melbourne.

I intend to look at Cascade pass from the top of Mt. Aspiring and at the Tasman and Fox glaciers and the Pacific Ocean from the top of Mt. Cook in November this year weather permitting.



Mt Cook



Mt Aspiring

I am looking for a sane and fit climber and I would prefer to do climb with a Boealps climber for obvious reasons.

This is an open invitation for those who are inspired by the beauty of these two mountains and a spirit of adventure. Check the pictures enclosed and if you interested to do these climbs, please contact me by e-mail:

tolejnicki@hotmail.com or anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com.

For guided trip to each of these peaks you would have to pay close to US\$3000, so the opportunity to do it fee free should be an additional motivation.

The airfares from LA to Auckland are low for this period \$860 with Qantas for example. Domestic airfare to Christchurch can be as low as US\$70.

I am interested to do Hooker face on mt Cook, an awesome headwall approaching from Empress hut and return via West Ridge traverse and Poter Col back to the hut. There are other interesting routes, which are technical but not as demanding. Mt Aspiring would be a dessert climb on north-west ridge.

I will be in NZ from Nov 20 till Nov 30 from where I am flying to Melbourne for 5days to visit my family and friends. There are plenty of things to do in NZ so if you have more time you can explore amazing scenery and other adventures in a very friendly country.

Here are few more pictures to whet your appetite if there is any further hesitation:



Mount Aspiring is the highest Peak in Mount Aspiring Park. This beautiful summit is one of the most coveted peaks in New Zealand. On first seeing Mt Aspiring, from the edge of the Bonar Glacier, there is a moment of disbelief that you'll be able to climb it by any means. Viewed however from certain angles the ridges and faces don't look so precipitous and an ascent quite possible. Aspiring, often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of the South', is similar to the Matterhorn of the Swiss Alps not only in shape but also in construction. These both peaks been carved by glaciers in a certain way, which causes them to be referred to as horn peaks.

Mount Cook is a serious mountain and not to be under-estimated due to its comparatively low altitude. It is comparable in length and difficulty to Arguille Verte in Chamonix, France and Mt. Huntington in Alaska.

What attracts me to Hooker Glacier is something that hasn't changed since 1913, first climb by female, is the remoteness and lack of air access. This means you climb the mountain in its entirety rather than flying in half way.

On January 2 1913 Freda Du Faur was guided along the summit ridge of Mt Cook by Peter Graham and Darby Thomson. This was a breakthrough ascent, in that doubters said it couldn't be done. Their access to this western side, was via the Hooker Glacier.

FALL MOFA INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Do you want to improve your first aid knowledge and skills?

Would you like to help out your fellow mountaineers
and give something back to the club?

Become a MOFA instructor!

If you have a current MOFA card, join a fall instructor course to be held
weekday evenings and one Saturday.

Dates: November: Thu. 17, Sat. 19, Tue. 22, Tue. 29 and
December: Thu. 1, Tue. 6, Thu. 8

Times: Thur/Tues 6p-10p and Sat 8:30a -5:30p.

Location: American Red Cross serving King and Kitsap Counties
1900 25th Ave. S.
Seattle WA 98144

The course tuition of \$70.00 will be reimbursed after you teach your first
course for the Seattle Mountaineers. (If you are already an American Red
Cross instructor you may be excused from the Nov. 17 session and part of
the Nov. 19 session.)

For questions or registration for Instructor Course # 60945, call the
American Red Cross Safety Services at 206.726.3534. NOTE: Enrollment
minimums will be required for the courses to be held.

The BOEALPS Annual Photo Contest
Thursday November 3, 2005
7:00 - 9:00 PM (entries should arrive before 7:00)
Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Start rounding up your photos - The Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the November general meeting at the Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Prizes will be given out for the first place winner of the categories listed below. First, second, and third place entries will be displayed in the Alpine Echo (w/ permission of the photographer).

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
Sunrises and Sunsets
People
Most Humorous
Boealps Climbing Class

We did not receive many slides last year so only prints will be judged this year. If you have digital images, print them and bring the print for judging.

How to enter:

Show up before 7 PM if you plan on entering any prints.

Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.

Your name should appear on each entry. (Write or attach a label to the back of the print.)

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

We are not yet ready for projection of digital photos. People with digital photos should make a high-quality print.

Larger sizes of prints typically do better in the competition. If you have a great photo, it is worth paying to get it enlarged.

Suggestion:

Typically images reproduced in larger sizes are more impressive than smaller prints. If you have a great shot, your chances of winning are greater if you enlarge the print.

Rules:

Do not enter photos that have won in previous years.

You must be the photographer of your entry.

Entries must be of club interest.

Any final arbitration rests with the club photography chair.

OF ICE AND MEN

- *A Fable of Hardships and Valor, Revisiting the BoeAlps Ice Climbing Outing of 2005*

- *By Francois Godcharles*

T was the Friday before the ice outing, and not a creature was stirring in the Boeing plant. The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat grew discontent and disconcerted, for two of his enrolled pupils had opted out of the weekend event. Resolutely, his fingers flew over the keyboard and his call for last-minute substitutes was sent out to the world... And thus it came to be that, unexpectedly, I traded in my planned quiet weekend at home for yet another outdoor adventure that turned out to be more eventful and enriching than originally advertised...

∴

As the merry band of students gathered at the Heliotrope Ridge trailhead that early Saturday morn, under a thick veil of clouds and the promise of rain, one unspoken question haunted them all: where are the instructors ? The answer finally materialized in a cloud of dirt and blood-curling growl of tires on gravel. The Fishermobile came to a screeching halt, smoke spurting out from the hood, straight out of a Blues Brothers epic. It spitted out the instructors and followed the usual greeting that by now comes to be expected by any BoeAlps recruit: "Who's got room in their backpacks, there's lots of gear to haul up". Ah, there's nothing like an extra five pounds of gear on his back to brighten up a climber's day !

And so up and up and up the trail our merry band went, as the clouds occasionally allowed glimpses of Mount Baker and its icy sides that would soon welcome them. At last, a final creek crossing brought them to their home for the weekend: a beautiful plateau overlooking the Coleman glacier, protected by pine trees and complete with running water and "state-of-the-art" bathroom (...). Each picked a spot and started setting up camp. Soon, the brown and grey plateau lit up with colors as tents sprung up and tarps were layed out to offer protection from the expected rain. A short break and then, the group headed down to the base of the glacier to begin their lessons in ice climbing.

A steep and muddy hillside descent, followed by a muddy scramble over the moraine, and it was time to put on crampons and take out the ice axes to move on to the wet and muddy glacier. Some mud was spotted along the way. This first part of the day would be spent going over the various techniques of moving on ice slopes. The-Man-With-The-Cowboy-Style-Trekking-Hat and The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat took turns demonstrating "Le French technique", "Zi German zechnique", and the yankee style (?), and the students practiced all, under the watchful eye of The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat who offered helpful advice as needed. The rain was staying away, the sun was occasionally peeking through, the ice was friendly, all was good on the glacier. Finally, the long-awaited signal was heard: "OK, take out your ice tools !" Another lecture took place on how to use these weapons of ice destruction, and on front-pointing, followed by some practice runs going up, going down, and traversing the small serac adopted for the class. The students were then given the go-ahead to practice this new knowledge around the surrounding glacier. Let the games begin ! Oh, one more piece of advice: if there is an open crevasse just below a serac, throw a small rock into it; if you can't hear the rock hit the bottom, choose another serac... For a while, the glacier seemed alive with these odd creatures, happily hammering, front-pointing, and climbing up sheer ice faces. This is why all had come, and nothing could spoil the moment. Well... except maybe a callback from The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat, who had yet one last item to go through on the day's agenda: the all-important ice anchors. The art of placing ice screws, creating a V-thread anchor and an ice bollard was passed on, and brought an end to the day's teachings. The time had come to head back to camp, relax over a hot meal, and crawl into the cozy warmth of down at the coming of nightfall... which this time of year occurs pretty darn early.

As the first rays of dawn hit the camp..., well, nothing happened. Then came the second, and third rays, and all was still. Then, finally, after an unprecedented 12 hours of naptime, heads peaked out of tents to gaze in childish wonder at quiet snowflakes hovering in the stillness of the plateau. To add to the magical feel of this awakening, The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat crawled out of his tent (with his Santa hat on) and started strolling around camp: truly, Christmas morning had arrived ! Alas, no gifts awaited the climbers under the giant pine trees, save for hot oatmeal to start the day. After breakfast and gearing up, it was time again to hike down to the glacier for the real deal: today, top ropes would be set up on ice walls of dizzying heights (!) and climbers would have their first true taste of ice climbing, using the skills reviewed the day before. The anticipation and eagerness was such that no one was paying attention to the weather which was turning out cloudy with a constant drizzle. Nothing could dampen the spirits of our merry band.

And then it happened. The first climbers in the group had reached the lower edges of the "serious" glacier and started climbing up some smaller ice walls, with their ice tools and crampons. Suddenly, so quickly, before anyone realized what had happened, one man was down: Dan had lost his hold on the ice wall, fell and slid some ways before stopping. I, like most, froze for a moment and looked on, expecting Dan to get back up on his feet and yell out "I'm OK". But it was not to be. He was injured.

What followed for the rest of the day was a team rescue operation and evacuation, a tremendous experience for all present, most of who had never been part of a mountain accident scene before.

Robert was first to rush to the injured, making a quick assessment of the situation, and taking control. His commanding presence snapped us all back to reality and we all made our way to where Dan was laying. He had an ankle “out-of-commission” and walking was clearly discarded (only the following day would we find out that his ankle was actually broken, requiring the works: surgery, metal plate, bolts, a cast for weeks, crutches and therapy for months...).

The group was quickly dispatched into smaller teams. Some attended to Dan, doing all they could to keep him warm and dry – not an easy task when on a glacier and under constant drizzling rain, while Robert figured out a way of bracing the injured ankle, using ice tools and Angie’s nice fleece for padding ! Others got busy building a rope litter. Eric was sent back to camp to fetch a tarp to use as rain cover. Others still gathered the gear lying around.

As the weather was getting nasty, and all were quickly getting wet and cold, it was decided to get moving and get Dan off the glacier and back to our camp. The quickest way to do this ? Brute force... Robert slipped on a chest harness, Dan was helped up and clipped into the harness on Robert’s back as he became a 175lbs human backpack. Using poles and fellow climbers for balance, Robert slowly inched his way on the ice, with more climbers behind him taking turns tending to Dan’s injured leg, making sure it would not drag or hit any obstacles. A few were still behind, struggling to complete the rope litter and packing the leftover gear. A few rushed ahead to set up static lines up the dodgy moraine, which was getting dodgier by the minute under the falling rain. Resting periodically but making good progress on the glacier, the team carrying Dan finally reached the edge of the moraine. It suddenly felt better to be off the ice, out of our crampons and closer to camp. Confident that carrying Dan on his back was still the quickest and safest way to get up the steep trail back to camp, Robert carried on. The dirt of the moraine was loose, with frequent rockslides and mudslides. We tried as best we could to clear the trail of any loose material ahead of the group. Chris and Eric did some outstanding work setting up static lines along the way in record time. Finally, the last gentle slope of the trail opened up to our camp – a welcomed sight indeed ! - and Dan was laid down under our makeshift rain shelter and handed some hot chicken broth. It felt positively better to have the glacier behind us but, as we settled down for a short respite, we were all aware that there was still a lot of trail left between us and the cars.

We started to break camp as efficiently as we could, while our injured climber was securely tied to the completed rope litter. In the end, it looked like we were getting ready to carry a fallen Egyptian pharaoh, so wrapped up in padding and webbing and ropes was he ! We geared up, wincing at the increased weight of our backpacks now soaking wet and stuffed with redistributed gear, as our fearless instructors were directing us on how the litter would be carried. As we set off from the campsite, this turned out to be quite a challenge, as that first part of the trail was more like a narrow trench, not well-suited for a party carrying a litter... We stepped and bumped on each other, slipped and tripped, struggled to rush forward of the litter as people were taking turns and passing the load onward. The heavy packs were a hindrance. And still the rain fell. Frustration settled in, tempers fell short, but still we forged ahead and finally cleared that narrow trail to the first creek crossing. There, we unloaded the heavy backpacks and lined up across the stream, passing the litter from hand to hand above the rushing waters until Dan rested safely on the other side. A short pause there to re-evaluate the situation: the rope litter was quickly coming apart from all the jostling and wet webbing, the whole carrying process was not going as smoothly and efficiently as it should, the heavy packs were clearly slowing us down...

We moved on nevertheless, focusing on reaching the trailhead and the cars. The litter held for a little while more, and it was now easier to carry through the main trail. Some ran ahead up the trail to ditch their backpacks and come back to take turns on the litter. Eventually, as the trail conditions improved, Dan was released altogether from the litter and step-walked for a bit on his good leg, using trekking poles and climbers for support. From then on, people naturally formed two efficient teams: those helping Dan move along (The Crutches !), and those carrying all the gear and backpacks (The Mules !). After hobbling for a while, it was decided to revert back to the “back-carrying” method. The three biggest guys in the group took turns loading our injured climber on their backs and going for a stretch on the trail. Good time was made this way. “The Mules” were first to reach the cars, unloading gear and going back for more. Spirits raised to a cheerful level again, as it became obvious that our ordeal was coming to a happy ending. “The Crutches” finally appeared out of the woods for the final wooden bridge crossing, past the sign-in station of the trailhead, and at last Dan was back, ready to be shuffled back to civilization and medical care. We were drenched to the bone, muddy and spent, gear all mixed up and all over the parking, but all were smiling. We had done it. We were back safely.

And so, the 2005 Ice Climbing Outing drew to a close. Dan was rushed to a hospital, while the remaining team let the day’s adrenaline rush dissolve at Milano’s, over the best Italian food west of Mt Baker. As for me, although I am left with somewhat of an appetite for ice climbing, I feel extremely privileged to have been part of this adventure. It became one of those experiences that will forever stay with me as I continue my apprenticeship of the mountains. If anything, it has made it clear to me that my next training has to be the Mountaineering Fist Aid class. I realized during that weekend that, as “students” on these outings, we take it for granted that instructors have the MOFA training and we can rely on them in case of emergency. I would like any climbing partner I go out with to be able to rely on me, just as I rely on them, when something unexpected occurs.

MORAL :

One cannot rely on the mountain, for the mountain can welcome you sometimes, but is at all times unpredictable and capricious;
But one can always rely on his climbing partners, for the unspoken promise bonding climbers as feet start up a trailhead says it all: "If you fall, I will bring you back"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS :

Sincere thanks to Robert Fisher, Chris Meter, Ben Leishman, for again devoting their time and efforts to pass on their knowledge of the ice and, unexpectedly, their rescue skills !;

Kudos to fellow students Marna, Angie, Eric, Micah, Stan, Forrest, for making the whole experience as enjoyable as it could possibly get. This is what we trained for: are you having fun yet ? !!! (hey Marna I borrowed one of your photos... uh... thanks !!!);

...And "hats off" to Dan, who showed us all how to cope gracefully with a serious injury ! You're the "real deal" dude. All wishes for a full and prompt recovery and, in the meantime, we'll miss you out there.



The-Man-With-The-Cowboy-Style-Trekking-Hat demonstrating the French technique (here not wearing said cowboy-style trekking hat)



Our “classroom” for the day !



Ice tools are awesome !



Heading back to camp after a hard day of learning and practice, looking forward to that hot cocoa !



The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat and The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat enjoying a Christmas breakfast



Our injured Dan, ready to be “rope-littered” out. One of the perks of being injured is that you get to wear the Russian hat... (photo by Marna Kagele)

Burgundy Spires Challenge - Trip Report

August 13-14, 2005

Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe), Jon Jumnoodoo

The perfect summer calls for the perfect rock climb. Wine spires with Silver Star dominate the view from Cascade highway (route 20) as soon as you over the Washington pass and crossed the hairpin turn.



The TH is 2 miles past the hairpin turn; it starts from the first car park (Spires Vista) on the right hand side roughly in the middle of the car park. The trail is not obvious at first but with a careful look one can locate the climber's path leading through the rocky embankment down to the Winter Spires creek.

The path has been well established with various cairns marking it all the way to the Burgundy pass. The creek crossing was very good due to low water level. The path gets very steep over 2000ft to the elevation of 6500ft, where the terrain flattens forming a perfect camp area.

It is quite treacherous on the way down

having to walk on the dirt and rocks covered with scree and gravel. It does minimal switching and it is mostly straight up allowing you to climb-up fast.

We have left the TH at midday and arrived to our camp within 2hrs; setup out tent, had some rest and headed up to the Burgundy pass with the climbing gear only. It takes about 1hr20, if you lucky, or 2hrs if you take a wrong turn, to get to the pass on even steeper scree path. The trail is very confusing in places with cairns being placed in misleading positions.



We have met a couple just getting of the rock after successful climb of 9hrs. It sounded like a long time for 4hrs climb but as we found out next day it was just about right; it took us 10hrs. We also met a group attempting Chianti Spire; they did not summit as they had difficulties identifying the route.



It was too late for us to start climbing and with Jon suffering slightly from elevation effects and sun exposure we have decided to leave our climbing gear at the pass and to return down to the camp.

The evening was very pleasant; not too many bugs and the sunset was truly spectacular.

We have decided to call an early night and get up at 5:30am aiming to start

the climb at 8am.

On Sunday morning we started the climb on schedule and were hoping for 6hrs climbing time or so.

The climb is very obvious once you have done it but it took us two false attempts to get on the proper route on the upper section, robbing us of two hrs of the climb.

The repel was also disastrous.

Firstly I have selected my 50m rope instead of 60m one, which make reps slightly short. We had to down climb short sections and build one intermediate rep station.



Secondly I have switched to using Munter for both belay and repel. It worked perfectly well in belay mode but it was a disaster on the repel with the rope coiling and twisting to the point that I had to untangle it during repel just to be able to get down.

Once on the bottom I had to untangle it again before Jon could repel. I knew I was doing something not quite right but I could not figure it out. Not until I have spoken to Gary Hehn on our x38 climb two days later before I got the technique 100% correct and I do not experience rope-coiling problems anymore and stand by Munter repel 100%.

The route starts about 30ft below the Burgundy pass with 2 pitches of class 4/low class 5 gully, some sandy flat patch and some more class 3 (and class 4) rock to the first honest 5.8 section of two pitches on the set of flakes, cracks and a choice of narrow chimney, or a crack section to the left of the chimney to top the section.

This is a pretty obvious section and leads to a wide shelf and traverse to the right on a sandy path. In here I have attempted a wrong route, straight-up, which looked promising but landed me in a dead end.

So after 150ft of the traverse, we found ourselves looking up towards the summit rocks farther away we wished to see them.

The face has a wide chimney on the left side, lots of flakes followed by a V-shaped 5.8 finger crack in the middle and 5.7 route on the right hand side.

I had a stab at the chimney, which looked sensible and had some repel station along it.

I did a short pitch on it just over $\frac{1}{2}$ the rope and found it impossible from there to place protection above. I had option to cross to the finger crack; unfortunately I did not have small pro with me. All route descriptions suggested larger pro so I have left my small size nuts and micro cams at home, very clever.

The crack looked like fun and it was reasonably well protected but I certainly did not feel confident to climb it free. I have decided to repel and start on 5.7 side.

5.7 ridge is exposed as in contrast to the protected 5.8 finger crack but it is very messy with the lichen not being cleaned by climbers. It looks like it is not a preferred route. We did 3 short pitches on it due to a complex shape and rope drag and we have finished on the shelf 30ft from the summit spires.





The summit was only a 15ft chimney away and then some class 4 rock on the top ridge. However we were 30 minutes past our turn around time and decided to terminate climb right there.

We decided to walk-out in the daylight rather than spending another 1hr+ finishing the climb. I guess safety for both of us is a priority not to be compromised. We can always go back and repeat the climb (as it is a worthwhile climb to do), rather than risk injury on the way down. I must admit it was a hard decision to abandon the climb being so close to the summit. It was a good sanity check. I think we both passed it.

So again I had another great weekend of spectacular and memorable climbing in Cascades hoping for few more before the end of this exceptional summer.

I recommend this climb for those looking for a combination of a spectacular and easy alpine climb with a moderate level rock finish.

ALPINE ECHO



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OR: 1208 10th Ave. W., B4, Seattle, WA 98119
OR: prashantha.b.bhat@boeing.com

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COMMENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION
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THE BOEING COMPANY**

October Echo staff

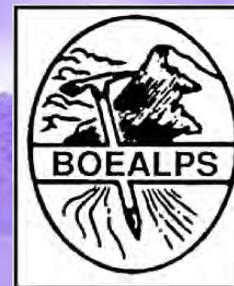
Editors: Sarah Sternau &
John Gowan

Contributors: François Godcharles
Tony Olejnicki

*If you have any submissions—anything
vaguely mountaineering or outdoors
related will do—email them to us at
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a
call (our numbers are
on the front cover)
and we'll arrange something!*

ALPINE ECHO

NOVEMBER 2005



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BOEALPS PHOTO CONTEST

Start rounding up your photos!- The Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the November general meeting at the Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
Sunrises and Sunsets
People
Most Humorous
Boealps Climbing Class

How to enter:

- Show up before 7 PM if you plan on entering any prints.
- Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.
- Your name should appear on each entry. (write or attach a label to the back of the print).

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

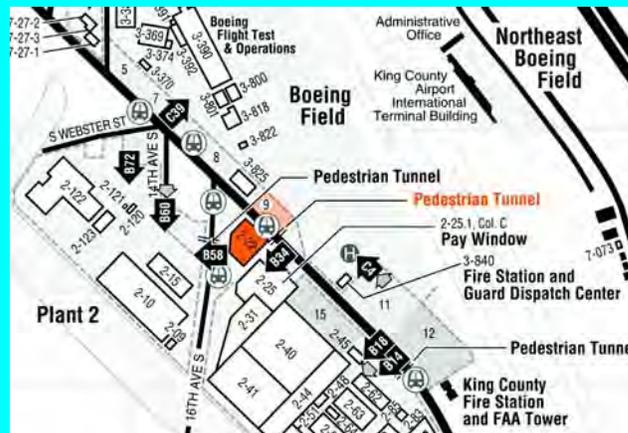
We are not yet ready for projection of digital photos.

People with digital photos should make a high quality print.

Larger sizes of prints typically do better in the competition. If you have a great photo, it is worth paying to get it enlarged.

PHOTO CONTEST

Thursday,
Nov 3rd, 7PM
At BOEING 2-22



BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Got some great photos from climbing the past season? Well then enter them in the Boealps Photo Contest on Nov 3rd! As Echo editor, I have seen quite a few submissions worthy of entry. There are prizes for the winners in each category! (and yes, that's something on top of getting your photo appear in the Echo!!!). Any questions concerning the contest can be e-mailed to club Photography Chair, Richard Humbert at richhumbert@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendars now for the December General Meeting on December 1st, as Boealps is proud to welcome back 'the man' of Cascade Mountaineering, FRED BECKEY! We're not sure yet what Fred has in store for us, but in the past this denizen of the local peaks has shown slides and discussed his latest exploits peak-bagging around the world. Yes, he's still out there searching for first ascent peaks, and he will literally travel to the ends of the earth to find them. This is never a disappointing show, don't miss it!

François Godcharles turned in a writeup on the Ice Climbing Outing to Mt Baker this month. This turned into a far-from-ordinary club outing as it became a MOFA rescue mission! Read for all the details. Tony Olejnicki completed a climb of Burgundy Spire in glorious August weather, just a memory now as November rains set in.

Ever considered being a MOFA instructor? Now's your chance. Instructor training is being offered this November and December. It's not too late to sign up! Details can be found in a flyer in this edition of the Echo.

Got a trip report? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the December issue is November 21st. Email submissions to editor@boealps.org.

Thanks, and happy (gym) climbing!

One of your Echo editors,
John



Time to start thinking ice! Micah Lambeth takes on a climb in Marble Canyon, BC in January 2005

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 New moon	3 Boealps general meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Boealps Board meeting	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
13	14	15	16 Full moon	17	18	19
20	21 Echo Deadline	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2005



Tom Ryan tries to straighten his back after ice climbing at Marble Canyon, BC

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 New moon Boealps general meeting	2	3
4	5	6 Boealps Board meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Full moon	16	17
18	19 Echo Deadline	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26 Hanukkah	27	28	29	30	31

2005

hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

PD: Physical Difficulty SR: Skills Required GR: Gear Required

Invitation to Climb in New Zealand

November 2005

By Tony Olejnicki

Okay, okay, I have to come clean and declare a vested interest here. I am flying to Melbourne on my Home Leave in November and I am stopping in NZ for 9 days to do some climbing. I was in NZ numerous times skiing, hiking, and cycling, so I know NZ very well and I like NZ.

I stood on the Cascade pass (how appropriate the name is for WA climber) and looked at Matterhorn of the south, Mt. Aspiring (Tititea, 9,924ft).

I looked at majestic Mount Cook (Aoraki, 12,295ft) from east, west, south and north as well as from bird-eye view flying from Christchurch to Melbourne.

I intend to look at Cascade pass from the top of Mt. Aspiring and at the Tasman and Fox glaciers and the Pacific Ocean from the top of Mt. Cook in November this year weather permitting.



Mt Cook



Mt Aspiring

I am looking for a sane and fit climber and I would prefer to do climb with a Boealps climber for obvious reasons.

This is an open invitation for those who are inspired by the beauty of these two mountains and a spirit of adventure. Check the pictures enclosed and if you interested to do these climbs, please contact me by e-mail:

tolejnicki@hotmail.com or anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com.

For guided trip to each of these peaks you would have to pay close to US\$3000, so the opportunity to do it fee free should be an additional motivation.

The airfares from LA to Auckland are low for this period \$860 with Qantas for example. Domestic airfare to Christchurch can be as low as US\$70.

I am interested to do Hooker face on mt Cook, an awesome headwall approaching from Empress hut and return via West Ridge traverse and Poter Col back to the hut. There are other interesting routes, which are technical but not as demanding. Mt Aspiring would be a dessert climb on north-west ridge.

I will be in NZ from Nov 20 till Nov 30 from where I am flying to Melbourne for 5days to visit my family and friends. There are plenty of things to do in NZ so if you have more time you can explore amazing scenery and other adventures in a very friendly country.

Here are few more pictures to whet your appetite if there is any further hesitation:



Mount Aspiring is the highest Peak in Mount Aspiring Park. This beautiful summit is one of the most coveted peaks in New Zealand. On first seeing Mt Aspiring, from the edge of the Bonar Glacier, there is a moment of disbelief that you'll be able to climb it by any means. Viewed however from certain angles the ridges and faces don't look so precipitous and an ascent quite possible. Aspiring, often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of the South', is similar to the Matterhorn of the Swiss Alps not only in shape but also in construction. These both peaks been carved by glaciers in a certain way, which causes them to be referred to as horn peaks.

Mount Cook is a serious mountain and not to be under-estimated due to its comparatively low altitude. It is comparable in length and difficulty to Arguille Verte in Chamonix, France and Mt. Huntington in Alaska.

What attracts me to Hooker Glacier is something that hasn't changed since 1913, first climb by female, is the remoteness and lack of air access. This means you climb the mountain in its entirety rather than flying in half way.

On January 2 1913 Freda Du Faur was guided along the summit ridge of Mt Cook by Peter Graham and Darby Thomson. This was a breakthrough ascent, in that doubters said it couldn't be done. Their access to this western side, was via the Hooker Glacier.

FALL MOFA INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Do you want to improve your first aid knowledge and skills?

Would you like to help out your fellow mountaineers
and give something back to the club?

Become a MOFA instructor!

If you have a current MOFA card, join a fall instructor course to be held
weekday evenings and one Saturday.

Dates: November: Thu. 17, Sat. 19, Tue. 22, Tue. 29 and
December: Thu. 1, Tue. 6, Thu. 8

Times: Thur/Tues 6p-10p and Sat 8:30a -5:30p.

Location: American Red Cross serving King and Kitsap Counties
1900 25th Ave. S.
Seattle WA 98144

The course tuition of \$70.00 will be reimbursed after you teach your first
course for the Seattle Mountaineers. (If you are already an American Red
Cross instructor you may be excused from the Nov. 17 session and part of
the Nov. 19 session.)

For questions or registration for Instructor Course # 60945, call the
American Red Cross Safety Services at 206.726.3534. NOTE: Enrollment
minimums will be required for the courses to be held.

The BOEALPS Annual Photo Contest
Thursday November 3, 2005
7:00 - 9:00 PM (entries should arrive before 7:00)
Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Start rounding up your photos - The Boealps Annual Photo Contest will be held at the November general meeting at the Building 2-22 Cafeteria Meeting Room

Prizes will be given out for the first place winner of the categories listed below. First, second, and third place entries will be displayed in the Alpine Echo (w/ permission of the photographer).

Categories

Mountain Scenes
Climbing
Nature Scenes
Sunrises and Sunsets
People
Most Humorous
Boealps Climbing Class

We did not receive many slides last year so only prints will be judged this year. If you have digital images, print them and bring the print for judging.

How to enter:

Show up before 7 PM if you plan on entering any prints.

Entry forms will be provided at the meeting.

Your name should appear on each entry. (Write or attach a label to the back of the print.)

Each person may have a maximum of 2 entries per category.

We are not yet ready for projection of digital photos. People with digital photos should make a high-quality print.

Larger sizes of prints typically do better in the competition. If you have a great photo, it is worth paying to get it enlarged.

Suggestion:

Typically images reproduced in larger sizes are more impressive than smaller prints. If you have a great shot, your chances of winning are greater if you enlarge the print.

Rules:

Do not enter photos that have won in previous years.

You must be the photographer of your entry.

Entries must be of club interest.

Any final arbitration rests with the club photography chair.

OF ICE AND MEN

- *A Fable of Hardships and Valor, Revisiting the BoeAlps Ice Climbing Outing of 2005*

- *By Francois Godcharles*

T was the Friday before the ice outing, and not a creature was stirring in the Boeing plant. The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat grew discontent and disconcerted, for two of his enrolled pupils had opted out of the weekend event. Resolutely, his fingers flew over the keyboard and his call for last-minute substitutes was sent out to the world... And thus it came to be that, unexpectedly, I traded in my planned quiet weekend at home for yet another outdoor adventure that turned out to be more eventful and enriching than originally advertised...

∴

As the merry band of students gathered at the Heliotrope Ridge trailhead that early Saturday morn, under a thick veil of clouds and the promise of rain, one unspoken question haunted them all: where are the instructors ? The answer finally materialized in a cloud of dirt and blood-curling growl of tires on gravel. The Fishermobile came to a screeching halt, smoke spurting out from the hood, straight out of a Blues Brothers epic. It spitted out the instructors and followed the usual greeting that by now comes to be expected by any BoeAlps recruit: "Who's got room in their backpacks, there's lots of gear to haul up". Ah, there's nothing like an extra five pounds of gear on his back to brighten up a climber's day !

And so up and up and up the trail our merry band went, as the clouds occasionally allowed glimpses of Mount Baker and its icy sides that would soon welcome them. At last, a final creek crossing brought them to their home for the weekend: a beautiful plateau overlooking the Coleman glacier, protected by pine trees and complete with running water and "state-of-the-art" bathroom (...). Each picked a spot and started setting up camp. Soon, the brown and grey plateau lit up with colors as tents sprung up and tarps were layed out to offer protection from the expected rain. A short break and then, the group headed down to the base of the glacier to begin their lessons in ice climbing.

A steep and muddy hillside descent, followed by a muddy scramble over the moraine, and it was time to put on crampons and take out the ice axes to move on to the wet and muddy glacier. Some mud was spotted along the way. This first part of the day would be spent going over the various techniques of moving on ice slopes. The-Man-With-The-Cowboy-Style-Trekking-Hat and The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat took turns demonstrating "Le French technique", "Zi German zechnique", and the yankee style (?), and the students practiced all, under the watchful eye of The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat who offered helpful advice as needed. The rain was staying away, the sun was occasionally peeking through, the ice was friendly, all was good on the glacier. Finally, the long-awaited signal was heard: "OK, take out your ice tools !" Another lecture took place on how to use these weapons of ice destruction, and on front-pointing, followed by some practice runs going up, going down, and traversing the small serac adopted for the class. The students were then given the go-ahead to practice this new knowledge around the surrounding glacier. Let the games begin ! Oh, one more piece of advice: if there is an open crevasse just below a serac, throw a small rock into it; if you can't hear the rock hit the bottom, choose another serac... For a while, the glacier seemed alive with these odd creatures, happily hammering, front-pointing, and climbing up sheer ice faces. This is why all had come, and nothing could spoil the moment. Well... except maybe a callback from The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat, who had yet one last item to go through on the day's agenda: the all-important ice anchors. The art of placing ice screws, creating a V-thread anchor and an ice bollard was passed on, and brought an end to the day's teachings. The time had come to head back to camp, relax over a hot meal, and crawl into the cozy warmth of down at the coming of nightfall... which this time of year occurs pretty darn early.

As the first rays of dawn hit the camp..., well, nothing happened. Then came the second, and third rays, and all was still. Then, finally, after an unprecedented 12 hours of naptime, heads peaked out of tents to gaze in childish wonder at quiet snowflakes hovering in the stillness of the plateau. To add to the magical feel of this awakening, The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat crawled out of his tent (with his Santa hat on) and started strolling around camp: truly, Christmas morning had arrived ! Alas, no gifts awaited the climbers under the giant pine trees, save for hot oatmeal to start the day. After breakfast and gearing up, it was time again to hike down to the glacier for the real deal: today, top ropes would be set up on ice walls of dizzying heights (!) and climbers would have their first true taste of ice climbing, using the skills reviewed the day before. The anticipation and eagerness was such that no one was paying attention to the weather which was turning out cloudy with a constant drizzle. Nothing could dampen the spirits of our merry band.

And then it happened. The first climbers in the group had reached the lower edges of the "serious" glacier and started climbing up some smaller ice walls, with their ice tools and crampons. Suddenly, so quickly, before anyone realized what had happened, one man was down: Dan had lost his hold on the ice wall, fell and slid some ways before stopping. I, like most, froze for a moment and looked on, expecting Dan to get back up on his feet and yell out "I'm OK". But it was not to be. He was injured.

What followed for the rest of the day was a team rescue operation and evacuation, a tremendous experience for all present, most of who had never been part of a mountain accident scene before.

Robert was first to rush to the injured, making a quick assessment of the situation, and taking control. His commanding presence snapped us all back to reality and we all made our way to where Dan was laying. He had an ankle “out-of-commission” and walking was clearly discarded (only the following day would we find out that his ankle was actually broken, requiring the works: surgery, metal plate, bolts, a cast for weeks, crutches and therapy for months...).

The group was quickly dispatched into smaller teams. Some attended to Dan, doing all they could to keep him warm and dry – not an easy task when on a glacier and under constant drizzling rain, while Robert figured out a way of bracing the injured ankle, using ice tools and Angie’s nice fleece for padding ! Others got busy building a rope litter. Eric was sent back to camp to fetch a tarp to use as rain cover. Others still gathered the gear lying around.

As the weather was getting nasty, and all were quickly getting wet and cold, it was decided to get moving and get Dan off the glacier and back to our camp. The quickest way to do this ? Brute force... Robert slipped on a chest harness, Dan was helped up and clipped into the harness on Robert’s back as he became a 175lbs human backpack. Using poles and fellow climbers for balance, Robert slowly inched his way on the ice, with more climbers behind him taking turns tending to Dan’s injured leg, making sure it would not drag or hit any obstacles. A few were still behind, struggling to complete the rope litter and packing the leftover gear. A few rushed ahead to set up static lines up the dodgy moraine, which was getting dodgier by the minute under the falling rain. Resting periodically but making good progress on the glacier, the team carrying Dan finally reached the edge of the moraine. It suddenly felt better to be off the ice, out of our crampons and closer to camp. Confident that carrying Dan on his back was still the quickest and safest way to get up the steep trail back to camp, Robert carried on. The dirt of the moraine was loose, with frequent rockslides and mudslides. We tried as best we could to clear the trail of any loose material ahead of the group. Chris and Eric did some outstanding work setting up static lines along the way in record time. Finally, the last gentle slope of the trail opened up to our camp – a welcomed sight indeed ! - and Dan was laid down under our makeshift rain shelter and handed some hot chicken broth. It felt positively better to have the glacier behind us but, as we settled down for a short respite, we were all aware that there was still a lot of trail left between us and the cars.

We started to break camp as efficiently as we could, while our injured climber was securely tied to the completed rope litter. In the end, it looked like we were getting ready to carry a fallen Egyptian pharaoh, so wrapped up in padding and webbing and ropes was he ! We geared up, wincing at the increased weight of our backpacks now soaking wet and stuffed with redistributed gear, as our fearless instructors were directing us on how the litter would be carried. As we set off from the campsite, this turned out to be quite a challenge, as that first part of the trail was more like a narrow trench, not well-suited for a party carrying a litter... We stepped and bumped on each other, slipped and tripped, struggled to rush forward of the litter as people were taking turns and passing the load onward. The heavy packs were a hindrance. And still the rain fell. Frustration settled in, tempers fell short, but still we forged ahead and finally cleared that narrow trail to the first creek crossing. There, we unloaded the heavy backpacks and lined up across the stream, passing the litter from hand to hand above the rushing waters until Dan rested safely on the other side. A short pause there to re-evaluate the situation: the rope litter was quickly coming apart from all the jostling and wet webbing, the whole carrying process was not going as smoothly and efficiently as it should, the heavy packs were clearly slowing us down...

We moved on nevertheless, focusing on reaching the trailhead and the cars. The litter held for a little while more, and it was now easier to carry through the main trail. Some ran ahead up the trail to ditch their backpacks and come back to take turns on the litter. Eventually, as the trail conditions improved, Dan was released altogether from the litter and step-walked for a bit on his good leg, using trekking poles and climbers for support. From then on, people naturally formed two efficient teams: those helping Dan move along (The Crutches !), and those carrying all the gear and backpacks (The Mules !). After hobbling for a while, it was decided to revert back to the “back-carrying” method. The three biggest guys in the group took turns loading our injured climber on their backs and going for a stretch on the trail. Good time was made this way. “The Mules” were first to reach the cars, unloading gear and going back for more. Spirits raised to a cheerful level again, as it became obvious that our ordeal was coming to a happy ending. “The Crutches” finally appeared out of the woods for the final wooden bridge crossing, past the sign-in station of the trailhead, and at last Dan was back, ready to be shuffled back to civilization and medical care. We were drenched to the bone, muddy and spent, gear all mixed up and all over the parking, but all were smiling. We had done it. We were back safely.

And so, the 2005 Ice Climbing Outing drew to a close. Dan was rushed to a hospital, while the remaining team let the day’s adrenaline rush dissolve at Milano’s, over the best Italian food west of Mt Baker. As for me, although I am left with somewhat of an appetite for ice climbing, I feel extremely privileged to have been part of this adventure. It became one of those experiences that will forever stay with me as I continue my apprenticeship of the mountains. If anything, it has made it clear to me that my next training has to be the Mountaineering Fist Aid class. I realized during that weekend that, as “students” on these outings, we take it for granted that instructors have the MOFA training and we can rely on them in case of emergency. I would like any climbing partner I go out with to be able to rely on me, just as I rely on them, when something unexpected occurs.

MORAL :

One cannot rely on the mountain, for the mountain can welcome you sometimes, but is at all times unpredictable and capricious;
But one can always rely on his climbing partners, for the unspoken promise bonding climbers as feet start up a trailhead says it all: "If you fall, I will bring you back"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS :

Sincere thanks to Robert Fisher, Chris Meter, Ben Leishman, for again devoting their time and efforts to pass on their knowledge of the ice and, unexpectedly, their rescue skills !;

Kudos to fellow students Marna, Angie, Eric, Micah, Stan, Forrest, for making the whole experience as enjoyable as it could possibly get. This is what we trained for: are you having fun yet ? !!! (hey Marna I borrowed one of your photos... uh... thanks !!!);

...And "hats off" to Dan, who showed us all how to cope gracefully with a serious injury ! You're the "real deal" dude. All wishes for a full and prompt recovery and, in the meantime, we'll miss you out there.



The-Man-With-The-Cowboy-Style-Trekking-Hat demonstrating the French technique (here not wearing said cowboy-style trekking hat)



Our “classroom” for the day !



Ice tools are awesome !



Heading back to camp after a hard day of learning and practice, looking forward to that hot cocoa !



The-Man-With-The-Russian-Hat and The-Man-With-The-Santa-Hat enjoying a Christmas breakfast



Our injured Dan, ready to be “rope-littered” out. One of the perks of being injured is that you get to wear the Russian hat... (photo by Marna Kagele)

Burgundy Spires Challenge - Trip Report

August 13-14, 2005

Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe), Jon Jumnoodoo

The perfect summer calls for the perfect rock climb. Wine spires with Silver Star dominate the view from Cascade highway (route 20) as soon as you over the Washington pass and crossed the hairpin turn.



The TH is 2 miles past the hairpin turn; it starts from the first car park (Spires Vista) on the right hand side roughly in the middle of the car park. The trail is not obvious at first but with a careful look one can locate the climber's path leading through the rocky embankment down to the Winter Spires creek.

The path has been well established with various cairns marking it all the way to the Burgundy pass. The creek crossing was very good due to low water level. The path gets very steep over 2000ft to the elevation of 6500ft, where the terrain flattens forming a perfect camp area.

It is quite treacherous on the way down

having to walk on the dirt and rocks covered with scree and gravel. It does minimal switching and it is mostly straight up allowing you to climb-up fast.

We have left the TH at midday and arrived to our camp within 2hrs; setup out tent, had some rest and headed up to the Burgundy pass with the climbing gear only. It takes about 1hr20, if you lucky, or 2hrs if you take a wrong turn, to get to the pass on even steeper scree path. The trail is very confusing in places with cairns being placed in misleading positions.



We have met a couple just getting of the rock after successful climb of 9hrs. It sounded like a long time for 4hrs climb but as we found out next day it was just about right; it took us 10hrs. We also met a group attempting Chianti Spire; they did not summit as they had difficulties identifying the route.



It was too late for us to start climbing and with Jon suffering slightly from elevation effects and sun exposure we have decided to leave our climbing gear at the pass and to return down to the camp.

The evening was very pleasant; not too many bugs and the sunset was truly spectacular.

We have decided to call an early night and get up at 5:30am aiming to start

the climb at 8am.

On Sunday morning we started the climb on schedule and were hoping for 6hrs climbing time or so.

The climb is very obvious once you have done it but it took us two false attempts to get on the proper route on the upper section, robbing us of two hrs of the climb.

The repel was also disastrous.

Firstly I have selected my 50m rope instead of 60m one, which make reps slightly short. We had to down climb short sections and build one intermediate rep station.



Secondly I have switched to using Munter for both belay and repel. It worked perfectly well in belay mode but it was a disaster on the repel with the rope coiling and twisting to the point that I had to untangle it during repel just to be able to get down.

Once on the bottom I had to untangle it again before Jon could repel. I knew I was doing something not quite right but I could not figure it out. Not until I have spoken to Gary Hehn on our x38 climb two days later before I got the technique 100% correct and I do not experience rope-coiling problems anymore and stand by Munter repel 100%.

The route starts about 30ft below the Burgundy pass with 2 pitches of class 4/low class 5 gully, some sandy flat patch and some more class 3 (and class 4) rock to the first honest 5.8 section of two pitches on the set of flakes, cracks and a choice of narrow chimney, or a crack section to the left of the chimney to top the section.

This is a pretty obvious section and leads to a wide shelf and traverse to the right on a sandy path. In here I have attempted a wrong route, straight-up, which looked promising but landed me in a dead end.

So after 150ft of the traverse, we found ourselves looking up towards the summit rocks farther away we wished to see them.

The face has a wide chimney on the left side, lots of flakes followed by a V-shaped 5.8 finger crack in the middle and 5.7 route on the right hand side.

I had a stab at the chimney, which looked sensible and had some repel station along it.

I did a short pitch on it just over $\frac{1}{2}$ the rope and found it impossible from there to place protection above. I had option to cross to the finger crack; unfortunately I did not have small pro with me. All route descriptions suggested larger pro so I have left my small size nuts and micro cams at home, very clever.

The crack looked like fun and it was reasonably well protected but I certainly did not feel confident to climb it free. I have decided to repel and start on 5.7 side.

5.7 ridge is exposed as in contrast to the protected 5.8 finger crack but it is very messy with the lichen not being cleaned by climbers. It looks like it is not a preferred route. We did 3 short pitches on it due to a complex shape and rope drag and we have finished on the shelf 30ft from the summit spires.





The summit was only a 15ft chimney away and then some class 4 rock on the top ridge. However we were 30 minutes past our turn around time and decided to terminate climb right there.

We decided to walk-out in the daylight rather than spending another 1hr+ finishing the climb. I guess safety for both of us is a priority not to be compromised. We can always go back and repeat the climb (as it is a worthwhile climb to do), rather than risk injury on the way down. I must admit it was a hard decision to abandon the climb being so close to the summit. It was a good sanity check. I think we both passed it.

So again I had another great weekend of spectacular and memorable climbing in Cascades hoping for few more before the end of this exceptional summer.

I recommend this climb for those looking for a combination of a spectacular and easy alpine climb with a moderate level rock finish.

ALPINE ECHO



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