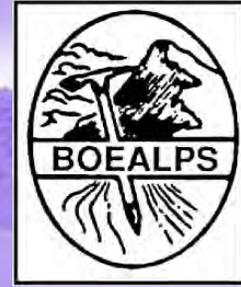


# ALPINE ECHO

FEBRUARY 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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## 🔴 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING 🔴

Are you tired of sitting on the couch?

Are you ready to get out in the mountains but are just not sure where you want to go? Not sure who's done what and when they plan on doing it again?

Are you tired of climbing with the same old people and looking for some new climbing partners?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we can help. Come join the fun at the February BOEALPS General Meeting.

The meeting will be held in a "Bag-it" night fashion to provide people the opportunity to discuss and plan winter and early spring outings.

For those of you that may not be familiar with Bag-it night, it is an informal meeting to which people bring their climbing books, maps, peak wish lists, and experiences and spend the evening talking with others, planning upcoming trips, and sharing knowledge and experiences (telling old climbing stories : ). Light snacks will be provided.

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY,**  
**DEC 2, 7PM**  
**AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG**  
**7755 E MARGINAL WY S**



# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Welcome to the February Echo! We've got a pretty full issue—lots of announcements and upcoming events—despite having no trip reports this month. A great trip report starts with a great trip, so why not come down to the February 2 general meeting at the 2-22 building and plan something? This month's meeting will be done in "bag-it" style, which means that you should bring an armful of climbing guides, your tick list, and your 2006 calendar. Meet up with others eyeing the same peak or just get inspired to join someone else's trip—it's up to you.

In this issue you'll also find flyers for the Basic Climbing Class and Intermediate Climbing Class, both of which will be in full swing soon. If possible, please post the flyers at work, at your gym, or in other places where they'll be seen by interested folks.

If you're planning on instructing the BCC or ICC this year, be sure to check the calendar for instructor meetings, which will be held in February. The BCC meeting will happen on February 15 at the 2-22 building at 7pm, and the ICC meeting will be held February 21 at 7pm at Round Table Pizza in the U District.

For those who will instruct this year, or those who just want to climb more safely, please consider taking a MOFA class this spring. **It's important that all class instructors have current MOFA and CPR certifications, or that they be working toward them.** The Boealps MOFA class is already in session, but the Mountaineers are holding several classes over the next couple months. More information on those is on page 8.

Other announcements for this issue include information on a talk about Aconcagua by Tony Olejnicki and information on how you can win a date with Ed Viesturs and others.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the March issue is February 20. Email submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
Sarah



Front row of the theater – photo by Mark Swalinski

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Boealps general meeting Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Winter Outing	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>8</b> High- altitude illness talk at REI	<b>9</b> Tony Olejnicki Aconcagua presentation	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Lincoln's birthday	<b>13</b> Full moon	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> BCC Instructor Mtng at 2- 22 bldg	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Winter Outing	<b>20</b> Echo Deadline	<b>21</b> ICC Instructor Mtng at RoundTable	<b>22</b> BCC Orientation, Washington's Birthday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> New moon				

**2006**



Colchuk Peak and Mountain Goat – photo by Tom Hansen

# March

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

**2006**

# hikes ● scrambles ● ski trips ● climbs ● other

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

## Winter Outing Series, Dec-Feb

Skills Required: Basic Class or equivalent

Physical Difficulty: typically 3-4,000 ft. elevation gain plus x-country travel on snowshoes

Gear Required: snowshoes, shovel, avalanche beacon, ice axe, ski poles

Where: it depends, but somewhere higher than home and within a 2 hr. drive.

When: 2/5 and 2/19

Contact: Mike Bingle at [mbingle@comcast.net](mailto:mbingle@comcast.net)

## Winter Outing Series



Come join us for a Winter Climb, or two, or six.

Skills Required: Basic Class or equivalent

Physical Difficulty: typically 3-4,000 ft. elevation gain plus x-country travel on snowshoes

Gear Required: snowshoes, shovel, avalanche beacon, ice axe, ski poles

Where: it depends, but somewhere higher than home and within a 2 hr. drive.

When: 12/4, 12/18, 1/8, 1/22, 2/5 and 2/19

We handle all arrangements via the web. Jump on the distribution list by dropping a note containing your preferred email address to Mike Bingle [mbingle@comcast.net](mailto:mbingle@comcast.net). The week before the trip an announcement comes out with details on destination, where to meet, and all that good stuff. Sign ups are on line via a Yahoo Group poll.



# BOEALPS

Boeing Employees Alpine Society [www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

## Basic Climbing Class 2006

Learn mountaineering skills

- Equipment Selection
- Route Finding
- Belaying, Rappelling and Rope Use
- Basic Rock Climbing
- Snow Climbing and Ice Axe Use
- Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue

Make great friends, exercise and see spectacular views!

Class runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 24<sup>th</sup>



### Sign-Up Today!

Send forms & checks to Eric Bultemeier at MC 67-ML  
(The Boeing Company, P.O. Box 3707 MC 67-ML, Seattle WA 98124-2207)

### Orientation and Registration Meeting

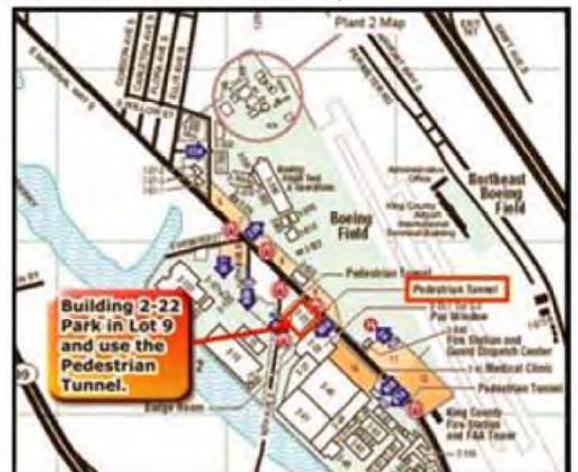
This is an informational meeting for everyone. It is also when the undecided can learn more and register for the class.

Wednesday

February 22, 2006

7pm - 9pm

Building 2-22 Cafeteria



# Boeing Employees' Alpine Society

## INTERMEDIATE CLIMBING CLASS

Call for students

---



### Take your climbing to the next level!

Join us for the 2006 class (March through August) as we tackle classic climbs in amazing locations in search of your personal limits.

Learn how to lead both on and off the mountain with an experienced set of accomplished climbing instructors.

- 11 evening classes
- 11 full-weekend outings
- Low student-to-instructor ratio

### Push yourself farther, higher, faster.

More information is at: <http://www.boealps.org/classes>

To apply contact **Ambrose Bittner**:

[ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com](mailto:ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com)

Phone: 206-568-0710

**Application Deadline: March 3, 2006**

**First Class is Monday, March 20**

**Price:** \$300 Boealps members, \$330 Non-Boeing employees

To be eligible, BOEALPS Basic Climbing Class or equivalent experience is required. You do not need to be a Boeing employee to take this class.



**BE PREPARED**

**BE SAFE**



**MOFA REFRESHER  
2006**

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 2-22 (same place as the basic climbing class sessions).

<b>MOFA Refresher</b>	<p>Five class sessions in February (Tuesday and Thursday 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 <a href="mailto:joyce@solarhacker.com">joyce@solarhacker.com</a> for more information.</p> <p>Dates for the refresher are (Tuesday/Thursday) 2/7, 2/9, 2/16, 2/21, and 2/23  Time: 6:30 to 9:30pm  Cost: \$60, includes texts</p>
-----------------------	--

**Text:** Mountaineering First Aid (MFA) Fifth Edition)  
ARC Community First Aid and Safety (CFAS)

**Action:** Send an e-mail to Joyce Holloway at [joyce@solarhacker.com](mailto: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.

**Volunteers needed on Monday, 2/6 to be victims for the MOFA class final at Oxbow from 6 to 9pm. Contact Joyce.**

**CONSIDER TAKING THE MOFA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING THIS SPRING or next fall!**

**If you would still like to take the full MOFA class this year, please note that the Boealps class is in progress, but several additional classes are offered by the Mountaineers. Information on those classes can be found here:**

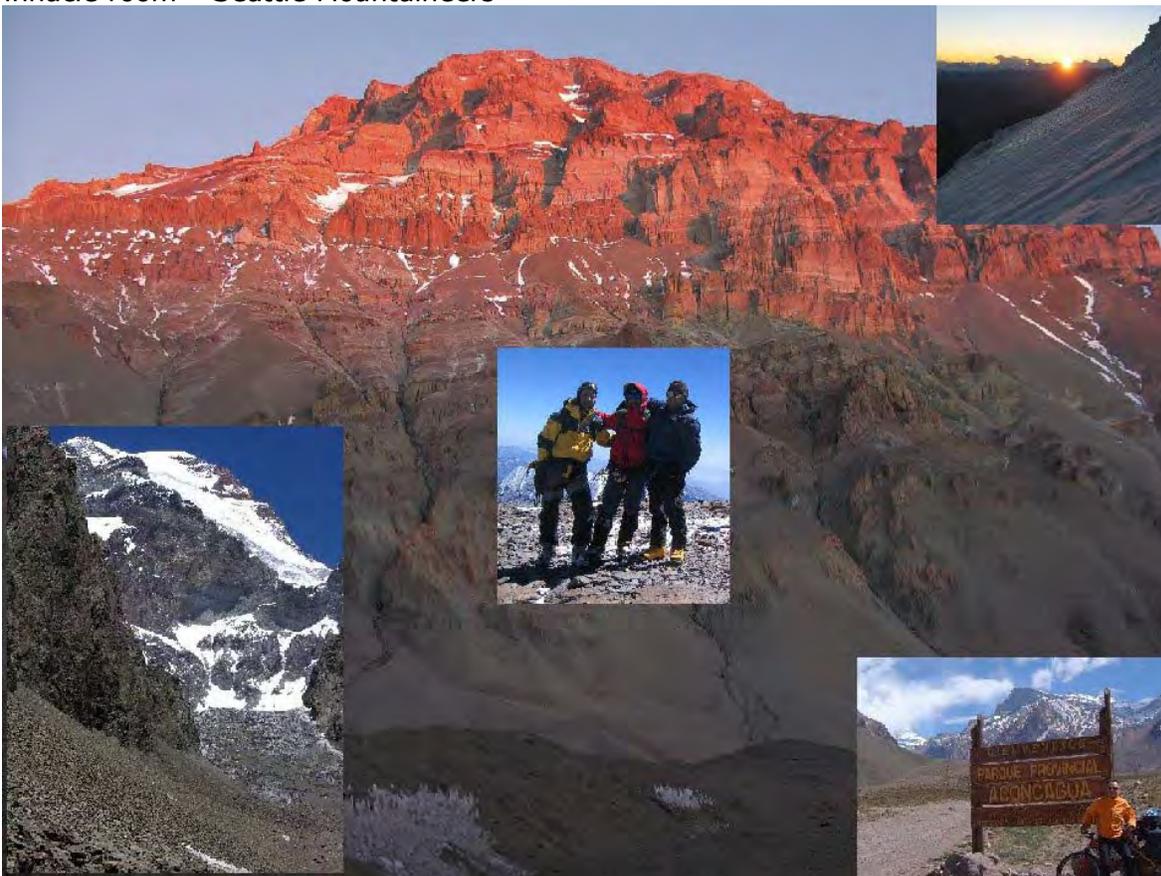
<http://www.mountaineers.org/mofa/>

Information on CPR classes can be found here:

<http://www.seattleredcross.org/health/classes/calendar.asp>

## Aconcagua – Logistic of non-guided climb via Polish Glacier Free presentation by Tony Olejnicki

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006, 7pm  
Venue: Pinnacle room – Seattle Mountaineers



Truly the "Roof of the Americas," Cerro Aconcagua, at 22,834 ft. (6,960 meters) is not only the highest mountain in South America, but also the highest peak outside of Asia; it ranks as 57<sup>th</sup> highest peak in the world.

Located on Argentinean side of the Chilean- Argentine border some 15 miles from the international highway connecting Santiago de Chile with Mendoza and Buenos Aires, Aconcagua is easily accessible from the Argentine city of Mendoza. Due to its location and geometry Aconcagua is technically and logistically a very simple high elevation climb and it should be doable by any reasonably fit alpine climber with an adequate training and experience. It is a perfect climb for the first high altitude summit.

I summited Aconcagua via the Polish glacier on January 3, 2005, a reasonably difficult technical route. I found that the most difficult part of the trip though was finding about the logistics of the climb and sorting out what is true and what is a commercial muddle produced by various American, Argentinean, and Chilean guiding companies trying to fish-up unsuspected customers.

I am going to present a non-commercial version of climbing logistics experienced during my solo unguided and successful climb. It is really worthwhile and satisfying goal to try a non-guided climb and of course using a guided service is always the option.

# EXtreme LUNCH

## YOUR CHANCE TO **DINE WITH AN OUTDOOR LEGEND**

*-all to help kids succeed in school.*



Jim Whittaker

Danielle Fisher

Sally Jowell

Ed Viesturs

Mike Gauthier

Art Wolfe

Bid for a lunch date with an outdoor legend who has overcome great challenges. In the process, you'll help Washington kids conquer their own challenges. Leaders from the outdoor community have generously volunteered their time to help our organization raise funds that can turn the tide for Washington youth.

*At Communities In Schools we're working hard to connect kids with the support they need to succeed in school and realize their full potential.*

For a complete list of leaders visit [www.lunchwithaleader.com](http://www.lunchwithaleader.com).  
Bidding opens February 10th and closes February 20th, 2006.

[to learn more climb on to CISWA.org](http://www.CISWA.org)

 **Communities In Schools**  
**LUNCH WITH A  
LEADER**



ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
OR: micah.nolin@boeing.com

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

**February Echo staff**

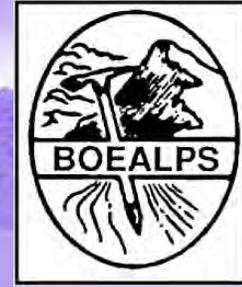
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John Gowan,  
& Cathy Hawkins

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki  
Joyce Holloway

*If you have any submissions—anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do—email them to us at [editor@boealps.org](mailto: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 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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				Angela Bultemeier	<a href="mailto:anjie.bultemeier@alumni.purdue.edu">anjie.bultemeier@alumni.purdue.edu</a>

## ✪ MARCH GENERAL MEETING ✪

### *Big Mountains! Glaciers! and Penguins!*

Come hear the recently-returned Boealps Patagonian expedition members show slides and talk about their trip. The group will talk about the climbing and logistical aspects of the journey. Anyone considering a trip to Patagonia might want to attend to learn about their experiences. Snacks and drinks provided!



**General Meeting**  
**Thursday,**  
**Mar 2, 7PM**  
**At BOEING 2-22 Bldg**  
**7755 E Marginal Wy S**



# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

Boealpers Bob Bautista, Vlad Popa, and Mike Zalewski traveled to Chilean and Argentine Patagonia from Dec. 3 to Dec. 31, 2005. During that time they explored possible climbs for mortals in the Fitzroy and Cerro Torre area, backpacked in Torres Del Paine park, visited the Perito Moreno glacier and the Isla Magdalena penguins in the Strait of Magellen. Read their story in this edition of the Alpine Echo and don't miss their talk at the March General Meeting. The presentation will share photos of the trip while focusing more on the climbing and logistical aspects of the trip. Learn some practical information from a beginner's point of view for those that may want to travel to this area in the future."

The Basic Climbing Class class starts on March 1st! The BCC has another full class of students. Head instructor Jerry Baillie can always use some more help with so many students to teach. If you have mountaineering experience and your MOFA training is current, please contact Jerry at [jbaille@mac.com](mailto:jbaille@mac.com) to help out with the class. For more information about the class, see the Boealps website, <http://www.boealps.org/classes>.

The Intermediate Climbing Class has their first class on March 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 16 students signed up this year so far and the need for instructors is great. If you are interested in helping with the ICC this year please contact head instructor Ambrose Bittner at: [ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com](mailto:ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com). There is still time to apply for the ICC as the application deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See the ICC announcement in this edition of the Echo.

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! Boealps needs more instructors to meet the needs of our club. If you have a current MOFA card, join the upcoming MOFA Instructor Course that will be taught in May. Details about the course are in a flyer in this Echo. Course tuition will be reimbursed after you help teach your first MOFA class.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the April issue is March 20th. Email submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
John



Colchuk Peak and Mountain Goat – photo by Tom Hansen

# March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b> BCC Lecture	<b>2</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>3</b> ICC applications due	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> BCC Lecture	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> BCC St Edwards
<b>12</b> BCC St Edwards	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>15</b> BCC Lecture  Full moon	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  St Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> BCC Mt Erie
<b>19</b> BCC Mt Erie	<b>20</b> Echo Deadline, 1 <sup>st</sup> ICC class First day of Spring	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> BCC Lecture	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> BCC Ice Axe ICC Horsethief
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> BCC Lecture	<b>30</b>	<b>2006</b>	



Howser's first light – photo by Terry Hill

# April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b> BCC Commonwealth Basin
<b>2</b> BCC Commonwealth Basin	<b>3</b> ICC class	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BCC Lecture	<b>6</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ICC Snow BCC Overnight 1
<b>9</b> ICC Snow BCC Overnight 1	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>12</b> BCC Lecture	<b>13</b> Passover Full moon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> BCC Overnight 2
<b>16</b> Easter BCC Overnight 2	<b>17</b> ICC class Echo Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> BCC Lecture	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> BCC and ICC Leavenworth
<b>23</b> BCC and ICC Leavenworth	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> BCC Lecture	<b>27</b> New moon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**2006**



**BE PREPARED**

**MOFA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING  
2006**



**BE SAFE**

BOEALPS really needs some more MOFA instructors. The great news is that your tuition gets reimbursed after helping teach one class for the Mountaineers!

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 the upcoming fall MOFA Instructor Course. This course will qualify you as an ARC certified Lay Responder First Aid and CPR/AED Instructor as well as a certified MOFA Instructor.

The 2006 Spring MOFA Instructor course will be three Saturdays and one Sunday.

DATES: May 6, 7, 13, and 20, 2006

TIMES: 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM on all days

LOCATION: Bio-Rad Laboratories, 6565 185th Ave. NE, Redmond, Washington 98052

REGISTRATION: On-line at the Mountaineers Sign-up, Course #7849.  
Registration open NOW!

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The course tuition will be reimbursed after you teach your first course for the Seattle Mountaineers. This course will use the newly released ARC curriculum.

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# Boeing Employees' Alpine Society

## INTERMEDIATE CLIMBING CLASS

Call for students

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### Take your climbing to the next level!

Join us for the 2006 class (March through August) as we tackle classic climbs in amazing locations in search of your personal limits.

Learn how to lead both on and off the mountain with an experienced set of accomplished climbing instructors.

- 11 evening classes
- 11 full-weekend outings
- Low student-to-instructor ratio

### Push yourself farther, higher, faster.

More information is at:

<http://www.boealps.org/classes>

To apply contact **Ambrose Bittner**:

[ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com](mailto:ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com)

Phone: 206-568-0710

**Application Deadline: March 3, 2006**  
**First Class is Monday, March 20**

**Price:** \$300 Boealps members, \$330 Non-Boeing employees

To be eligible, BOEALPS Basic Climbing Class or equivalent experience is required. You do not need to be a Boeing employee to take this class.



## STUDENT EXPEDITION PROGRAM

### A Sea Kayaking Trip to the Sea of Cortez: May 3-9, 2006

#### The Trip

Explore the Sea of Cortez by kayak! Our trip will follow the coast south of Loreto, on the eastern side of the Baja Peninsula. The area is rugged and gorgeous with desert islands, secluded beaches, and spectacular cliffs rising out of an incredibly productive sea. We will be snorkeling, hiking up canyons, and exploring and camping on beautiful beaches. Pelicans and frigate birds are a common sight as they search the sea for their next meal. Reef fish abound underwater, within easy reach of snorkelers. There is even a chance that we may see whales as we kayak down the coastline or relax on the beach at the end of the day.



#### Your Guide and Our Outfitter

Hi. My name is Tracy Baynes and I'm an oceanographer and outdoor educator. The Baja peninsula and Sea of Cortez captured my heart 16 years ago when I conducted my doctoral research down there on the northern-most coral reef in the eastern Pacific. Since then, I've spent as much time down there as possible leading college field courses, outdoor leadership expeditions, and guided trips as well as exploring the coastline and islands on my own. It is without a doubt my favorite spot on earth. This spring I'd love to share this magical place with you while contributing to a good cause (more on this in a moment).



I will be one of your guides on the trip. Our outfitter is Trudi Angell and her company Paddling South. Paddling South ([www.paddlingsouth.com](http://www.paddlingsouth.com)) is one of Baja's oldest (founded in 1983) and most respected adventure travel companies. Trudi is a personal friend of mine and was delighted to outfit this trip for me and my friends.

#### A Good Cause

Above I mentioned a good cause. As many of you know, I recently established a nonprofit (STEP: Student Expedition Program) to provide extended outdoor leadership expeditions to academically-promising high-school students in poverty who are the first in their families to have their sights on college. My goal is to provide these students with an experience that transforms the way they view themselves and their future and equips them with the internal tools to pave their own pathway to success in college and beyond. Our web site can be found at [www.stepexpedition.org](http://www.stepexpedition.org).

Trudi is charging a reduced price for our trip in order to allow for the overall cost of the trip to include a tax-deductible donation to STEP. That discounted price is \$695 for 7 days (including 2 days of travel and

time in the town of Loreto). I am asking for a minimum donation on top of that of \$500 per person to go to STEP for a total cost of \$1195. Airfare is not included. May is a fantastic month in the Sea of Cortez. The water is warm and clear and the breezes are light. Join me for a spectacular week of exploration along one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world! If you are interested, please e-mail me ([tbaynes@stepexpedition.org](mailto:tbaynes@stepexpedition.org)) or call me at 520-825-5650. I hope you can join us!

- Tracy Baynes

## **Enduring Patagonia for Beginners**

Climbers: Mike Zalewski, Vlad Popa, Bob Bautista (scribe)

The idea came up nearly a year ago. Vlad P, Mike Z, and myself, Bob B. were enjoying a beer and discussing Vlad's upcoming travels. "How can we arrange a rendezvous", we thought. As usual, the answer came at the bottom of a bottle. Mike and I would meet Vlad in Patagonia December 2005.

The first six months went by at a normal pace – I think the second six months were spent on a rickety 767 flying due south from Atlanta. Our airborne journey took us from Seattle to Houston to Atlanta to London to Santiago to Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas. Okay, so I think we just did a fly-by over London, I don't know, it was dark out; but no fish-n-chips. On the flight between Houston and Atlanta, one of our fellow passengers was not surprised by our itinerary because he explained to us in length about how all travels go through Atlanta no matter where you're coming from. He even said that when you die and go to heaven you will probably have a layover in Atlanta.

Once in country, we spent the night in Punta Arenas and took a bus to Puerto Natales the next day to meet Vlad where he had a hostel room reserved for us. It had been a while since we'd seen Vlad, so it was a great reunion. We enjoyed a few Austral beers and had dinner at the eccentric Don Chicho's Parilla. If you're going to be in Natales, you've gotta meet this guy...though Zagat's might not be as impressed.

Two more bus rides with a stop in El Calafate, the Chamonix of the south, and we arrive after 11pm in El Chalten. With no reservations for any boarding house or hostel and only greeted by chaos and wind, we questioned our decision to single push it from Natales.

From Chalten, there are tremendous views of Fitzroy and Cerro Torre including all of the many satellite peaks and not to forget 'the one on the left' – Cerro Solo.

We spent a few days in Chalten getting acquainted with the simple life and with backpackers. We obtained a quick route description of Cerro Solo from the park ranger. It was like a typical Fred Beckey route description, but in broken English. "Take the trail to the second drainage, go up and then where you see a lot of gullies – pick the correct one that takes you to the glacier. Don't pick the wrong one because it won't take you to the glacier. You can't tell which one is correct until you top out on it. So pick the right one. Then climb the glacier." "Is it steep?" "Maybe."

Golden!



**Cerro Solo at Sunrise as seen from El Chalten**

We packed up and ate a few more steaks at our favorite steakery. It became our favorite place because the steaks are really good, and it is just about the only place in town that takes a credit card. But that is neither here nor there. The hike to the D'Agostini base camp is about seven miles out of Chalten to Lago Torre at the base of Cerro Torre.

This is a very sandy camp, filled with climbers from around the world, slacklines from many continents, tourist groups from retirement homes afar and did I mention the sand?



#### **Cerro Torre on the hike into D'Agostini camp**

We spent the evening gasping at the site of Cerro Torre in all its glory. The days were long which allowed for extended viewing. Also this makes the morning come early. We woke up at 3am and tried not to wake up the pensioners and not to get in the way of the real climbers, known in Patagonia as Spaniards. Exiting the campsite, we entered a clear and starry night with enough moonlight to light up the range. It was a surreal experience. But back to the climbing - no problem, we'll just cross the creek that drains the lake and then hop on the trail right after this Tyrolean traverse. Nothing comes easy in Patagonia. The crossing of the 'creek' is two fixed lines with the Spaniards at the other end exiting the traverse. "Ok, I guess this is the way" we mutter. One by one we gape our way over the rushing river and find the trail.



**Tyrolean Traverse to cross Rio Fitzroy**

After passing what we think to be three of the wrong drainages we finally break off the trail and head up for the obligatory bushwhack, probably a solid BW3+ according to Lowell Skoog's bushwhack rating on [Alpenglow.org](http://Alpenglow.org). As we found out later, we were about a hundred yards short of the well-cairned drainage. Either way, we broke out of the bush just in a nick of time to catch the alpenglow on Torre...man we were lucking out with the weather and views. In the prepping for this trip, we only dreamed of catching these fabled views, and there they were right in front of us!



**Cerro Torre at Sunrise**

The bushwhack turned to talus, which turned into one-up-two-down scree climbing. Still energized by the thought of climbing in Patagonia, we didn't let it demoralize us. Not until we found out we are in the wrong gully, that is. Mike was leading the way, picking between forks in the road with his keen Polish intuition (Polish joke approved by Mike Zalewski). As Vlad and I neared the crest of the ridge we hear nothing from Mike up top. We are sure this can only mean one thing: that he found the correct gully and he is celebrating quietly at the toe of the glacier. We are overjoyed when we top out and find Mike eyeing our objective glacier – TWO DRAINAGES AWAY! DOH!!



**Bob at the top of the correct gully**

We weigh our options and Vlad spies a notch in the neighboring ridge that should take us to the glacier. Bingo, a bit of a traverse and some scrambling and we continue up the intermittently loose rock and neve. Wuddayaknow, a short steep rock step leads us to the glacier. We've all been on glaciers. They don't spin the other way in the southern hemisphere. What a let down! We try not to let this dictate our progress so we rope up and continue on. The views continued to get better and better. From midway up the glacier we are treated to views down into the valley where we can see the town of El Chalten, the vast Lago Viedma, the back side of Fitzroy, and the rivers of ice that flank the Torre.



**Vlad taking in the views of Torre and Fitzroy high on Solo**

From about midway up we cross under a small ice fall quickly to gain a steeper final headwall and on to the summit. We enjoyed the views and great weather with a few gusts of wind carrying a chill from the icecap flowing below us.



**View into the Ice Cap from the summit of Cerro Solo**

Descend without incident and enjoy loads of tortellini with tomato sauce and sand.

The rest of the trip was spent with a few days hiking in the Torres del Paine Park, visiting an island infested with penguins, eating more steak and enjoying the great South American hospitality. Can't wait to go back!



ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
OR: micah.nolin@boeing.com

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COMMENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION  
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THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF  
THE BOEING COMPANY**

*March Echo staff*

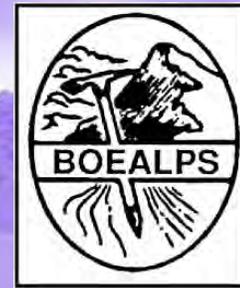
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John Gowan,  
& Cathy Hawkins

Contributors: Bob Bautista

*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 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

### *Gear Auction and BRC Talk*



Turn that used gear into cash at the club auction on April 6<sup>th</sup>! Or spend just a fraction of what the same item would cost at REI. This year we will be having a silent auction. Buyers please

bring cash. All the auction rules are in this issue of the Echo.

Come learn about the Basic Rock Class that will be offered this summer. BRC is a great way to learn rock climbing skills and prepare yourself for the Intermediate Climbing Class. The BRC visits some of the best multi-pitch climbs in the Northwest.

General Meeting  
Thursday,  
April 6, 7PM  
At BOEING 2-22 Bldg  
7755 E Marginal Wy S



# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

The Boealps Annual Gear Auction will begin at 7PM this Thursday, April 6th at the April General Meeting in the 2-22 Boeing Theater. Turn that used gear into cash, or pick up some real bargains. Details are in this edition of the Echo. There will also be a talk about this summer's Basic Rock Class. The BRC teaches rock climbing skills and is a great way to prepare for the ICC.

The April Echo has a Mt Waddington trip announcement, editorial, and Bulgers write-up all by Tony Olejnicki. You will also see some great photos from the Mt Erie BCC outing (the sun was shining for once), and the latest Boealps karaoke courtesy of Ron Fleck.

The Basic Climbing Class is in full swing with 74 students (at last count). The students have completed their Commonwealth Basin route-finding outing, next up is the weekend experience climb. If you have mountaineering experience and your MOFA training is current, please contact Jerry at [jbaille@mac.com](mailto:jbaille@mac.com) to help out with the class. For more information about the class, see the Boealps website, <http://www.boealps.org/classes>.

The Intermediate Climbing Class completed their basic skills outing to Horsetheif Butte on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There are 20 students signed up this year. Next up for the ICC is the snow skills outing this weekend. If you are interested in instructing with the ICC this year please contact head instructor Ambrose Bittner at: [ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com](mailto:ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com)

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! Boealps needs more instructors to meet the needs of our club. If you have a current MOFA card, join the upcoming MOFA Instructor Course that will be taught next month. Details about the course are in a flyer in this Echo. Course tuition will be reimbursed after you help teach your first MOFA class.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the May issue is April 17th. Email all submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
John



Mt Erie BCC Outing – photo by Curtis Cappel

**April**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b> BCC Commonwealth Basin
<b>2</b> BCC Commonwealth Basin	<b>3</b> ICC lecture	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BCC Lecture	<b>6</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ICC Snow BCC Overnight 1
<b>9</b> ICC Snow BCC Overnight 1	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>12</b> BCC Lecture	<b>13</b> Passover Full moon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> BCC Overnight 2
<b>16</b> Easter BCC Overnight 2	<b>17</b> ICC lecture May Echo Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> BCC Lecture	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> BCC and ICC Leavenworth
<b>23</b> BCC and ICC Leavenworth	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> BCC Lecture	<b>27</b> New moon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> BCC Tatoosh

**2006**



Mt Erie BCC Outing – photo by Curtis Cappel

# May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>30</b> BCC Tatoosh	<b>1</b> ICC lecture	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> BCC Lecture ICC UW Rock	<b>4</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> ICC Smith BCC Crevasse Rescue
<b>7</b> ICC Smith BCC Crevasse Rescue	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>10</b> BCC Lecture	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint Full moon
<b>14</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint Mother's Day	<b>15</b> ICC lecture	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> BCC Lecture	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint
<b>21</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint	<b>22</b> June Echo Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b> BCC Graduation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ICC Squamish New moon
<b>28</b> ICC Squamish	<b>29</b> Memorial Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

**2006**



**BE PREPARED**

**MOFA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING  
2006**



**BE SAFE**

BOEALPS really needs some more MOFA instructors. The great news is that your tuition gets reimbursed after helping teach one class for the Mountaineers!

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Registration open NOW!

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# Summer Expedition to Mount Waddington (Mystery Mountain), BC

Invitation by Tony Olejnicki

I am planning a short expedition to climb Mt Waddington in BC over the week of 4<sup>th</sup> July leaving Seattle on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> and returning to Seattle late Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>. Total estimated travel time from Seattle to Tatla Lake, BC is 11 hours and the distance is 590 miles

I am looking for 3 other climbers to come along and make it a Boealps adventure. I plan to fly-in on the heli on Saturday or Sunday depending on weather conditions.

There are a number of routes available with a standard route via Angel glacier. This is an easy glacier route but extremely beautiful. Depending on the skills of the group members we may select different route, and I am open to suggestions.

The skill required for the trip is the ability of the glacier travel and some basic ice-climbing skills (if icy conditions) but it would neither be sustained ice-climbing nor very steep. However a high level of fitness is required. The snow/ice conditions should be similar to mt Rainier at the same time. Cost of heli would be about \$700/person.

Please have a look at enclosed basic information and contact me if you have any questions or are interested to participate: / Tony Olejnicki / [tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com) / 425-443 1760 /



## Mt Waddington Statistics:

Height: 4019 m (13186 ft)

Prominence: **3289 m** above **Rose Lake Pass**

Location: **N 51°22.3' W 125°15.7'**

Region: BC Coast South / Greater Waddington

First Ascent: **1936** Fritz Wiessner; William House: SW Face

Located in southwestern British Columbia, at the head of Bute and Knight Inlets. (74 km SW of Tatla Lake). This peak is #3 on the Height List for British Columbia and #2 in Prominence List for British Columbia.

It's a technically demanding peak with a dramatic summit pinnacle. The mountain receives a substantial amount of snow from Pacific storms, especially in the winter months, and is surrounded by impressive glaciers. Most parties use aircraft to access the mountain. Ski approaches from Scar Creek, the

Klinaklini Valley, or the toe of the Franklin Glacier have also been done.

*History:* The mountain was unknown until first sighted by Don and Phyllis Munday while on a climbing trip on Vancouver Island in the early 1930's. For the next decade they mounted several expeditions to the area of the mountain, approaching from the head of Knight Inlet via the Franklin Glacier. Between 1926 and 1934, they led several expeditions to the mountain. They successfully reached its lower northwest summit in 1928, but decided that the main summit was too risky. In 1948, Don Munday published the book *The Unknown Mountain*, documenting the couple's Mount Waddington challenges and adventures. Ascents: The first ascent was in 1936 by Weissner and House; in 1942 by the Beckey brothers; and in 1950 by (a) Cook, DeSaussure, Long and Huston, and (b) Steck and Bettler. All these were Americans. The first Canadian team was Aldolf Bitterlich (Alberni), Ulf Bitterlich, Arno Meier (Campbell River), John Owen (Vancouver), and Christian Schiel.

*Name Notes:* The Mountain was originally referred to by the Mundays as "Mystery Mountain" but that name was not adopted by the Geographic Board of Canada. It was eventually named

"Mount Waddington" by the Geographic Board of Canada after Alfred Waddington. Alfred Waddington promoted the dream of a transcontinental railway from 1858 to 1872, via the Homathko River and Bute Inlet. (Official Name)

## Waddington Northwest Summit - Angel Glacier Route

Equipment: ice axe, crampons, rope, harness, pickets.

Difficulty: Glacier travel, steep snow or ice, several bergschrunds.



Most of this route can be done on skis although you must cross several bergschrunds and a few steep sections. Ice axe and rope recommended. From the Dais Glacier, ski up toward a series of gullies on Mount Waddington's northwest ridge. To avoid crevasses, initially stay to left and then traverse to the right to the base of the second gully from the right. Cross the double bergschrund, take your skis off, and climb to the top of the gully, which brings you to the top of the middle portion of Waddington's northwest ridge. Depending on snow conditions, ice axe and crampons may be needed to safely climb the gully.

On the other side of the ridge, cross a small bergschrund and parallel the ridge until you encounter a short, steep section. Down climb this section across a bergschrund to an exposed slope. Contour sideways along this slope, staying as high as possible below the northwest ridge, until you reach the easy Angel Glacier. Ski up and left around crevasses and then directly toward the Northwest Summit.

Below the summit pinnacle, cross another one or two bergschrunds to reach the right hand side of the pinnacle. A short 50-degree snow slope leads to the summit. You may be forced to curl around another small bergschrund halfway up the pinnacle.

51°21.4' -125°18.1' =Dais Glacier

51°22.9' -125°17.3' =Top of Gulley

51°22.5' -125°15.7' =Mount Waddington Summit



The Northwest ridge and summit of Waddington is on the right. Combatant Mountain is on the left. The upper Scimitar Glacier runs down the center. A portion of Fury Gap can be seen in the lower right.

One can see the upper Angel Glacier route to the northwest summit of Waddington on the right (left hand side of the northwest ridge).



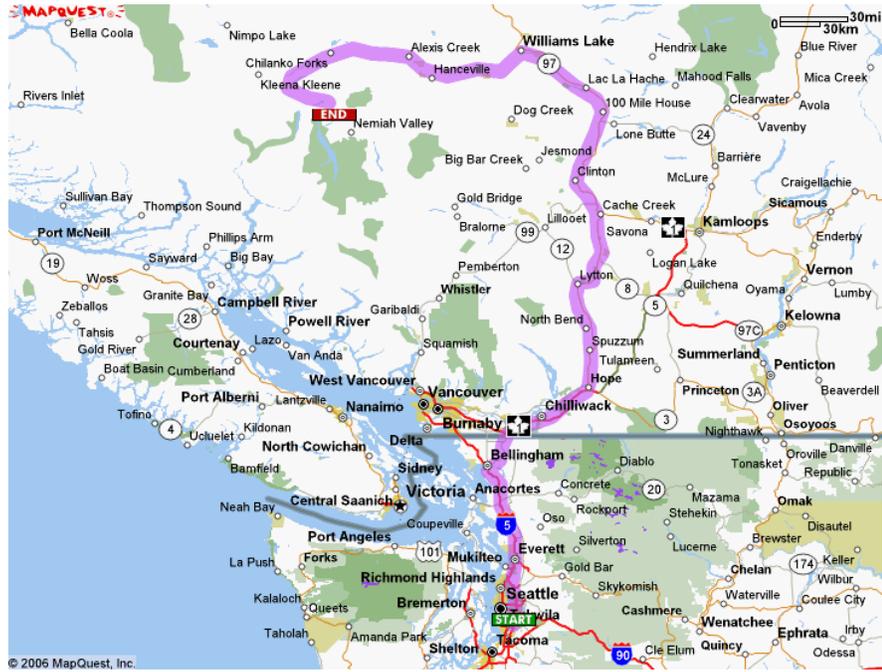
**NW Ridge Close-up**



**Angel Glacier**



**The Waddington Range from east with Tiedemann Glacier flowing towards the camera.**



**Driving Route Seattle to Tatla Lake, BC; distance is 590 miles (11 hrs drive)**

## Boealps Gear Auction April General Meeting

This year we have decided to have the gear auction at the April general meeting rather than using one of the BCC class sessions. So if you have some excess gear you would like to sell, bring it in Thursday April 6th to the general meeting. The same goes if you are in



need of some gear and would rather buy something used then you should come to the meeting with cash. Typically the prices at the BOEALPS auction are a fraction of what you are going to pay in the store. This year in order to keep it a social event we will be doing it a little different it will be a silent auction. The rules of the auction are below.

The General Meetings are held on the ground floor in the Southeast corner of the 2-22 building. Turn right when you enter the building then left at the end of the hall. The room is the only one on the left.

### Auction Rules:

- 1) Every item will have a note card attached to it or on the table in front of it. At the top of the card will be the current owner's name (the person the winner will have to pay) and a very brief description of the item like green backpack.
- 2) All you have to do to bid on an item is simply write your initials and your bid on the note card. Some of the items might have a minimum bid which will be a price on the first line without initials next to it, simply write your initials next to the number if you want that to be your bid.
- 3) Since this is an auction each successive bid on the card should be at least \$1 higher than the bid on the line above.
- 4) At 7:45 all bidding will stop and the gear and cash will exchange hands.
- 5) If two people are standing by a particular piece of gear hoping to get the high bid in at 7:44 we will let them continue to bid until the highest bidder wins!



## Adventure Spin Time

By Tony Olejnicki

**WARNING!** *Here are some of my views, which may be offensive to American sensibilities however it was not meant to be offensive; at least I did not include any cartoons, hence I hope not to cause riots or any other violence. Any political, social or ideological view can be resolved by diplomatic means, talk and negotiation. You cannot win all the battles so pick the winnable and avoid the losing once. The article has been kindly reviewed by Ron Fleck, for which I am grateful.*

We all work hard to earn money to be able to live comfortably, support our families, dole bludgers<sup>1</sup>), politicians and other hangers-on (luckily, we don't need to support the Royal Family as well) and save money for retirement and the summer's one-week holiday in Vegas, Honolulu or maybe this elusive Europe at least once in our lifetime. Adventure is only for those with 'money', personalities with a big film crew behind them, the irresponsible deadbeats or 'lazy' Europeans with outrageous six-week holidays. How do they get away with it? Isn't the USA supposed to be the richest country in the world? I guess they have to do something; otherwise it wouldn't make sense to have six weeks off work. What a bore it would be with your old lady giving you an earful for an extra 10 hrs. a day.

How far from the truth is this? Tell me, it is not true at all and don't drive me crazy.

I hope it is not the truth, it is just apathy and maybe fear of the demons outside the God-fearing old USA, ...all those Europeans, Latinos and Asians... OW!

Just take the example of Michael Frank, Ambrose Bittner, Al Baal and Ryan Allen, who went to Everest this past climbing season (Congratulations Michael on reaching the summit!). Sure it wasn't cheap, but lots Americans are prepared to spend this amount of money and more on an ordinary holiday and gambling. It took the four lots of effort to organize and train for Everest but they did it. I hope you enjoyed their show during the banquet; it should have been inspiring for all of us Boealpers.

For me it was a momentous event to listen to other Boealpers tell their incredible adventure; how refreshing after having to put up with a puffed-up, self-inflated personality in the previous year telling us how fantastic he was. Sure he has achieved a fantastic personal goal and got himself into the Guinness book of records as the first American to climb the world's 14 highest peaks, no sweat about it at all and power to him. But from a global Alpinist aspect, it is neither here nor there. I was impressed though because he was talking about athletic training and I was also impressed with his entrepreneurial skills. I wish I could raise this amount of money for my climbs (I am green with the envy). Mind you, the theatrical performance prior the talk was an unsurpassed example of quality comedy and frolic (Great Job, Len).

If you went to see Donini talk at Feathered Friends on March 9<sup>th</sup>, you should be inspired and not only itching, but seriously planning your climbing trips for the spring, summer and fall. Remember - life is ticking away with a lightning speed, so kick the dog, send the kids to school, lock you wife in the closet, leave your boyfriends and girlfriends in front of TV (hint: give them the remote) and start climbing. What the heck are you still doing in a cubicle? Ok, Ok a cubicle is occasionally good to generate some cash and have a rest from climbing, the dog, old lady, boyfriend, girlfriend, and the kids, but you don't have to overdo it.

I am new to Boealps but I have heard about the Boealpers' spirit of past years, with BCC and ICC graduates taking on Aconcagua, Denali, Manaslu and many similar climbs on an annual basis. There is plenty of equipment in the inventory, suggesting that it was being

used extensively by members in the past. I am in the process of scanning all previous Echoes and Ben Leishman is going to place them on-line shortly, so check Boealps.org soon. I am also looking for volunteers to help us with indexing all the material, so please contact me if you wish to contribute to the work.

I would like to awaken the beast of adventure sleeping and snoring somewhere within Boealps members. We bought a new expedition tent, a replacement due to storm-damage during the last Boealps Denali expedition. It is a VH-25 North Face tent: clean, strong, nice color and generally beautiful. It is now available for expedition use for free with only a \$100 refundable deposit. It will travel to Denali in May for its maiden voyage.

So there is no excuse to procrastinate.

Well, after this prologue, I would like to suggest a few ideas, some of which I have experienced myself.

The simplest and the least expensive way to experience high altitude climbing is to do some climbs in Mexico or South America. Pico Orizaba comes first to mind; it is the tallest mountain in Mexico and the 3<sup>rd</sup> tallest in North America, at 19,000 ft. Logistically it is a very easy mountain to climb, yet it challenges you from the aspect of high elevation. Usually one can find enough good weather within a one-week schedule to complete the climb; it can be done between the months October and May and on a budget of less than \$1,000, including airfare and land costs. I kept my expenses within \$800 last year and my trip included a side trip to Tiahutikan - ancient ruins near Mexico City. Mexico is a very easy place to travel, it is safe and friendly, except for border towns, and lots of Americans have had some exposure to Spanish at school, so it is easy to communicate with the people there.

The other relatively easy option is Aconcagua, at 22,800 ft - the tallest Andean peak and also the highest in the Western Hemisphere. You need at least 2 weeks to do it and I managed with an \$1,800 budget last year. It included airfare, land costs and the climbing permit. Boeing Christmas break is the perfect time to do it; the weather in S. America is great and the climbing window is easily achievable considering the summer weather patterns around Aconcagua. Again, Argentina and Chile are great countries to travel through. Climbing Aconcagua brings tourist money to Mendoza, the gateway to Aconcagua, so they make it as easy and as friendly as possible. There are a number of routes on Aconcagua ranging from the "normal route" to the Polish Glacier and numerous serious routes on the South Face. The normal route is like climbing Mt. Si, only at a much higher elevation. The Polish Glacier is a 3,000 ft. snow-ice climb up to 55° in angle that starts just above 19,000 ft. The South side routes are a mix of snow and low 5<sup>th</sup> class rock, and are definitely more technical.

There are interesting high elevation climbs in Canada and Alaska including the two tallest peaks in North America – Denali and Mt. Logan. These mountains, despite being lower than Aconcagua, are much more serious undertakings due to extreme weather conditions. The time required to do them can range from 2 to 4 weeks. The cost of these expeditions is also low due to low travel cost and inexpensive climbing permits.

If you have \$5k to \$20k of spare cash and 5-10 weeks of spare time, you can tackle some 7000 m. to 8000 m.+ peaks in Nepal, Pakistan or Central Asia, including the tallest mountain in the world. Just look at our recent banquet speakers and get inspired.

Are you heading on a business trip to Australia? Arrange a stopover in New Zealand and tackle Mt. Cook or Mt. Aspiring or any of the easier peaks in the Arthur's Pass area. Airfare to NZ is not that high if you shop around.

Are these not challenging enough? Then try the Fitzroy tower in Patagonia near Chalten, Argentina. Just kidding, don't try it unless you are the same class climber as Donini. There are some other more "reasonable" peaks in Patagonia. If you did not come to the March

general meeting to hear Mike Zalewski and Robert Bautista, then just download the March Echo and read about their Patagonia adventure.

If you after challenging classics then try Europe - the French or Swiss Alps - for a very civilized experience; expensive too. Did I mention Peru and Bolivia? They are also obvious objectives.

All these objectives are achievable but require a commitment to training and nutrition to achieve "peak" performance. I am known as an athletic training and nutrition 'evangelist', but in contrast to real evangelists, I actually practice what I preach. So if you meet me on the climb expect to have a conversation about these two topics; it is good for you.

If you haven't taken the BCC class yet, well what are you waiting for? Do it next year; it is lots of fun; it is rewarding and will allow you to do incredible things other people just dream about.

Oh, you did take the class but don't have a climbing buddy? Join the team of instructors at BCC, refresh your skills, improve your fitness and meet new climbers. It is a rewarding experience and what a way to start the climbing season. Contact Jerry Baillie (jbaillie@mac.com) and your help will be appreciated.

Remember that you are living so close to one of the best and most accessible mountaineering areas in the world, so you don't need to wait to die and go to mountaineering heaven – you are living in mountaineering heaven right now! Just take advantage of your surroundings now, otherwise it is a blasphemy.

<sup>1</sup>) The term **dole bludger** (i.e. 'one who exploits the system of unemployment benefits by avoiding gainful employment') made its first appearance in 1976, in the *Bulletin*: 'A genuine dole bludger, a particularly literate young man... explained that he wasn't bothering to look for work any more because he was sick and tired of being treated like a chattel'.

## Back to the History

*By Tony Olejnicki*

Hey Boealpers, I was always curious about the Bulgers List of 100 Peaks. I read definition and I understood the principle of the list, but the name Bulgers really intrigued me for some times. And finally - Eureka! I have founded and I'd like to share this remarkable story with you and pay tribute to fine climbers who created it. It is a great Boealps story.

I have embarked on scanning all available Echoes and converting them to an electronic format to make them available on the Boealps.org web-site. Personally I am interested in history and I wanted to find out about the history of Boealps. And it has been rewarding so far. I have scanned all material from 1984 till 1994, which was available in Boealps library. All older issues have unfortunately been removed and never returned to the library. Therefore I am appealing here to those who own pre-1984 Echoes to contact me and make them available for scanning. I am sure the entire Boealps community will appreciate it. [tolejnicki@hotmail.com]

Now back to the story.

I have found the story of the Bulgers in 1990 January and February Echoes. It was an article written by John Lixvar – The Lizard. I am reprinting this fine and extremely interesting and touching article for convenience of you the reader and I will allow the Lizard to retell the story as neither I nor anyone else could do it in such fine way.

Before I get you to proceed and read the story I wanted to contribute somewhat as the story really is close to my heart. As you find out from the article; the name Bulgers links to the Land Down under and supposedly to one of the finest Australian poets Henry Lawson. I am not sure and it has not been proved or disproved whether the poem 'The Bastards From The Bush' was written by Henry Lawson, but for obvious reasons he has never owned-up to it. Please read John's article if you want to find out how the Bulgers are linked to the above cited poem.

I enclose the full poem for those, who care to read and understand why the finest poet would not to own up to it. Personally I doubt it Lawson has written the poem but on the other hand he might have. He would've been on serious drugs though and I can assure you they would not be those reducing cholesterol levels. I warn you it is really disgusting and may offend some sensibilities. The words, which when said in certain contest can be offensive to a sensitive American sensibility and even to some Australians and Brits, so do not read if you can be offended by vulgar language. However I have met lots of Americans with high (or maybe be I shall say – low) threshold of linguistic sensitivities so those will enjoy it. Certainly Australians take it as a joke.

So if you choose not to read the poem; proceed past it to the reprint of John Lexvar article 'Centennial Peaks – Washington's Top 100' originally published in 1990 January and February Echoes.

**WARNING!** The poem below contains words, which may be considered offensive to some sensibilities. I don't itch for the fight nor do I wish to cause the bloodshed, riots or violence of any sort due to offense, which you may inflict on yourself by reading this poem. So stop it right now; you don't need to read it. If you read it and get offended you are only yourself to blame.

### **The Bastard From The Bush**

(Attrib. to Henry Lawson)

As the night was falling slowly over city, town and bush,  
From a slum in Jones's Alley came the Captain of the Push,  
And his whistle loud and piercing woke the echoes of the Rocks,  
And a dozen ghouls came slouching round the corners of the blocks.

Then the Captain jerked a finger at a stranger on the kerb  
Whom he qualified politely with an adjective and verb.  
Then he made the introduction: 'Here's a covey from the bush-  
Tuck me blind, he wants to join us—be a member of the Push.'

Then the stranger made this answer to the Captain of the Push,  
'Why, f--- you dead, I'm Foreskin Fred, the bastard from the bush.  
'I've been in every two-up school from Darwin to the 'Loo,  
'I've ridden colts and black gins—what more can a bastard do.'

'Are you game to smash a window?' asked the Captain of the Push.  
'I'd knock a f---ing house down,' said the bastard from the bush.  
'Would you take a maiden's baby?' said the Captain of the Push.  
'I'd take a baby's maiden,' said the bastard from the bush.

'Would you dong a bloody copper if you caught the c--- alone,  
'Would you stoush a swell or Chinkee, split his garret with a stone?  
'Would you have a moll to keep you, would you swear off work for good?'  
'What? Live on prostitution? My colonial oath I would!'

'Would you care to have a gasper?' said the Captain of the Push.  
'I'll take the bloody packet,' said the bastard from the bush.  
Then the Pushites all took counsel, saying, 'F--- me, but he's game.  
'Let's make him our star basher, he'll live up to his name.'

So they took him to their hideout, that bastard from the bush,  
And they granted him all privileges appertaining to the Push.  
But soon they found his little ways were more than they could stand,  
And finally the Captain thus addressed his little band.

'Now listen here, you buggers, we've caught a f---ing tartar,  
'At every kind of bludging, that bastard is a starter,  
'At poker and at two-up, he's shook our f---ing rolls,  
'he swipes our f---ing liquor, and he robs our f---ing molls.'

So down in Jones's Alley all the members of the Push  
Laid a dark and dirty ambush for the bastard from the bush.  
But against the wall of Riley's pub, the bastard made a stand,  
A nasty grin upon his dial, a bike-chain in each hand.

They sprang upon him in a bunch, but one by one they fell,  
With crack of bone, unearthly groan, and agonising yell,  
Till the sorely-battered Captain, spitting teeth and gouts of blood,  
Held an ear all torn and bleeding in a hand bedaubed with mud.

' You low polluted bastard,' snarled the Captain of the Push,  
'Get back to where your sort belong, that's somewhere in the bush:  
'And I hope heaps of misfortune may soon tumble down on you,  
'May some lousy harlot dose you till your ballocks turn sky-blue.

'May the pangs of windy spasms through your bowels dart,  
'May you s--- your bloody trousers every time you try to fart,

'May you take a swig of gin's p---, mistaking it for beer,  
'May the next push you impose on toss you out upon your ear.

'May the itching piles torment you, may corns grow on your feet,  
'May crabs as big as spiders attack your balls a treat,  
'Then when you're down and outed, to a hopeless bloody wreck,  
'May you slip back through your arsehole, and break your f---ing neck.'

**Reprint from Echo January 1990:**

## **The Centennial Peaks-Washington's Top 100**

By John Lixvar

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

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

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

Competition was fierce for the first few years. From 1977 through 1979 the six original Bulgers collected 229 Big Boy ascents. However by 1980 it became obvious that no one would be able to match the furious pace set by the Koala. On October 4th of that year Rus Kroeker stood atop Sinister Peak and became the first man in history to climb Washington's 100 highest mountains.

Since that time eight others have managed to duplicate Koala's feat, and interest in the Top 100 has spread throughout the local climbing community.

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

### **The Cast of Characters**

#### **1. Bulgers**

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

Mike Bialos	Buffalo. A Bungle in the Jungle. The quintessential Bulger: awkward on level ground, but unstoppable in the high country.
Bruce Gibbs	Giraffe. A rather capable oxymoron: cranky but jovial,

crafty yet indecisive. Adds strength and diversity to any group.

- Rus Kroeker Koala. An affable, take-charge techno-junky stuck in overdrive. A Pritikin convert who runs on turnip greens and artichokes.
- Bette Felton Zookeeper. An acrophobe with a very high tolerance to pain and bad company. Quite a lady in the rough. A good desert island choice.
- John Plimpton Long John. Surprisingly normal. Can't say much bad about LJ. Probably too moderate for most Bulger tastes.
- John Lixvar Lizard. A gentlemen among rogues. Originator of the Top 100 and author of this article.

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

- Mary Jo Gibbs Gazelle. Bruce's former better half. Actually, Mary Jo had a near monopoly on the couple's better character traits.
- Bob Tillotson Taurus. Former body-builder turned mountain jock Good Bulger material.
- John Roper Rhino/Hinunelfahrtskommando (HFK). A connoisseur of the Skagit with humor far too subtle for full Bulger membership.
- Silas Wild Silage. Another HFK. A bold climber too kool for Bulgerhood.
- Dick Kegel Kangaroo. A smooth, competent, absolutely fearless climber obviously over-qualified for the Bulgers.
- Ken Zafren Zaphod. Equipment freak. Ken outfits Alaskan expeditions from his basement supplies.
- Al Ryll The man who got Lizard up Goode Mountain, and the person to whom this article is dedicated.

### 3. The Big Boys

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

- Rule 1: An individual summit has to rise at least 400 feet above the surrounding terrain. The distinction looks right in the field and can be clearly determined from maps with 40, 80 and 100 foot contour intervals.
- Rule 2: A peak with an official USGS-approved name will be considered for inclusion even if it fails the 400 foot rule.
- Rule 3: An 800 foot rule applies to major volcanoes. This rule avoids counting Columbia Crest and Liberty Cap on Rainier as two separate mountains. Little Tahoma is the only volcanic sub-summit with Big Boy status.

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

### The Climbs

#### 1. Shuksan and the Major Volcanoes

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

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

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

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

Unfortunately the endorphin high quickly faded as Lactic Acid Reality intruded. Within hours, the post-Rainier Lizard was reduced to a pathetic, stiff legged creature incapable of normal bipedal locomotion. Bicycle touring the Great Plains of Illinois had helped my aerobic conditioning, but did little to prepare me for the after effects of our long speedy descent.

Nevertheless, I was hooked on climbing. After receiving an engineering

diploma, I found employment with the Boeing Company, and in the fall of 1968 relocated to the Pacific Northwest. Today, even after more than 275 visits to the grand mountain, Rainier continues to excite the imagination.

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

Post-eruptive Mt St. Helens was of course the obvious exception. In a most spectacular reordering of the list, the once lovely, symmetric peak was reduced to an ashen frustum and placed off limits to climbers.

This situation posed a bit of a dilemma. Neither Bette Felton nor Silas Wild had gotten around to climbing St. Helens before May 1980. How could they earn credit for a peak placed in a red zone for the indefinite future? What about the rest of the Bulgers? Would their credit apply to the new summit?

The issue remained unresolved for three years. However, volcanic activity eventually subsided, the red zone was reduced, and rumours of unauthorized ascents began to circulate in the climbing community.

The Zookeeper could not afford to wait much longer. Her short list was down to seven, and several other Bulgers, including the Lizard, were closing in on their final peaks.

In the pre-dawn light of a July 1983 morning, after quietly working her way up through dark gullies and cinder chutes, a solo climber cautiously approached the crater rim, and became the first Bulger to look down the boresight to the dome below.

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

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

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

The anticipation was a lot worse than the reality. The USFS officers were congenial outdoorsmen and fine gentlemen. They let me change clothes and clean up a bit before talking to me in private, and after about 30 minutes of earnest conversation, let me go free.

Apparently a court decision challenging the red zone restrictions had just been upheld, and the state legislature was close to reversing its position on the closure.

Over 34,000 people have stood atop Mt St. Helens since its reopening two years ago; but on that memorable morning of February 8th, all the mountain above timberline was mine alone! Never again.

## 2. The Stuart Range

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

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

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

Cannon Mtn and Mt Stuart were done by non-technical routes on long 7000' to 8000' daytrips. Only Argonaut and Sherpa stand out in my mind as especially noteworthy climbs.

Long John, Dick Bock (a peripheral form) and I tackled Argonaut on its west ridge from Sherpa Pass. It was a long, strenuous climb on fine granite that finished with an exposed 5th class pitch up the summit block. Our descent to the Argonaut-Colchuck col was supposed to be by the class 2 route described in Beckey's guide.

To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever been able to locate a class 2 route off Argonaut. Our route involved tricky downclimbing on steep snow, uncertain rappels off shrubs and detached flakes, and numerous other difficulties. We arrived back at camp utterly exhausted, and spent 12 hours in the sack that night before moving out along Mountaineer Creek.

Sherpa was a more jovial climb, but it too had its moments.

Ken Zafren and I started up the south face, rappelled down the cold north face after getting in trouble near the balanced rock, and finished the climb via the west ridge.

Our convoluted 11 hour route on Sherpa was just one of many fun climbs Ken and I made together during that summer of '83. Our cautious climbing styles meshed well together, and a shared weakness for "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy" always seemed to get us through tight situations in good humor.

Lizard: "I've got this terrible pain in all the diodes down my left side ..."

Zaphod: "DON'T PANIC!"

The confidence we developed in each other during these climbs would

serve us  
well in some of our future, more desperate ventures.

#### 4. The Chilliwacks

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

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

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

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

And then there' s Hard Mox. .

Fred Beckey's description of his 1941 first ascent of SE Twin Spire is required reading for anyone contemplating "the most difficult principal peak in the Northwest." Here is a climb that more or less determines one's ability to get the Top 100.

The graphic account given in "Challenge of the North Cascades" has intimidated a generation of climbers, and caused more anxiety among the Bulgers than any other Big Boy.

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

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

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

Two weeks later the Zookeeper, Lizard, and LJ spend an uneasy night at the Redoubt-Bear saddle awaiting their appointment with Hard Mox. The col between the Twin Spires is the most uninviting place imaginable. We waste little time there as we carefully ascend to the proper notch in the Ridge of Gendarmes.

The view of the SE Spire from this point is just staggering--the sort of stuff climbing nightmares are made of. Sustained with little more than Rus's detailed schematic and the knowledge that 15 parties have preceded us, we downclimb slabby, loose rock to a steep snowfinger, cross three nasty gullies, and reach the base of the tower.

Rus's notes have served us well to this point, but nothing above seems to make sense. His route over the rotten Red Crap Overhang to the detached White Pillar seems most improbable. Long John's leadership here is masterful. The crux is a very delicate 5.6 overhang. Two more leads over steep, broken terrain bring us to the top! We congratulate Bette for making her 100th, but she responds with only sullen acknowledgment. Our overriding but unspoken concern is to get out of this unhealthy place intact.

We set up a double rope rappel and I set off over the edge. Half way down

I discover that the ropes have fallen to the right of the northwest rib, onto the nearly vertical north face. I reach a little platform and try to reset the lines.

Unfortunately the ropes have caught on some unseen snag!!! Moreover, my little platform is a topply rock of uncertain integrity. I have no option but to rappel down to the foul up.

To my immense relief I only have to drop about ten feet before the ropes come free. I carefully reclimb the pitch, reposition the rappel, and continue down a full 50 meter rope length to a protected spot.

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

Note:

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

## 5. The Eldorado Massif

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

The Eldorado massif is a relict from the Pleistocene--an icescape that 'suggests what most of North America must have looked like during the height of the last glacial epoch.

Many of the peaks in this uplift barely pierce the icecap; and those that do are often buttressed with steep skirts of glacier carved rock. Klawatti and its Klaws, Austera and the Towers, and Dorado Needle are all sculptured horns nearly surrounded by glacier ice.

In July of 1978 many of the Bulgvers assembled on the Inspiration Glacier for an extended four day reunion with the Big Boys of the

Skagit.

Eldorado was our first target. Even though we had all previously climbed this magnificent mountain, the lure of its airy summit arete was irresistible.

While traversing that narrow crest of firn I was reminded of my previous crossing two years earlier. The strategy on that audacious climb was to get Eldorado in a day, and return to the cars under the light of a full moon.

We nearly made it. Our party summited at 9 pm; waited until 11:30 for the moonrise; then bivouacked three hours later in a wind cirque. After 17 hours of climbing we were just too weary to finish the final two miles of brush.

Dorado Needle was Bulger target 2. Rus and Mike tackled the SW face, while Bruce and Mary Jo Gibbs, Bette, and I attempted the Route Normale. Our route was threatened by an enormous perched snow block, and finished with an exposed but thoroughly enjoyable summit cheval. Both parties met near the top.

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

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

Snowfield Peak, situated north of McAllister Creek, is really outside the Eldorado group. Four of us got up the mountain during a three-day Snowfield-Isolation traverse. The trip was made over Labor Day weekend, and the biggest problem encountered was getting a lift back to the car at the Pyramid Lake trailhead.

Hitchhiking that Monday night in Newhalem was at best a poor proposition.

What little traffic there was, was headed south. Finally, after a futile

two hour roadside vigil, I gave up and called the State Patrol for assistance. Officer Ray Beazizo was sympathetic, but unwilling to help. He had just put in three tough days of patrol duty and was understandably tired. Beazizo did mention that a tow truck was enroute from Concrete to Ross Lake, and thought I might get a lift from the driver.

Thirty minutes later the truck rolled by and left me standing at the curb. By this time it was well after midnight and the Bulgers were settled in for the night, resigned to a lost day of work. However Lizard had one more idea: a direct, forceful appeal to Newhalem's County Sheriff.

Sheriff George Sharpe met me at the door, dressed only in his underwear and shoulder holster. After some fast and forceful

explaining, he called his dispatcher and agreed to give me a "citizen's assist" in Skagit County's ultimate authority vehicle: a dark mobile command post-cum-muscle car equipped with sawed-off shotgun in the front seat, steel cage in back, and a dash crammed with communications gear and other high tech electronics.

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

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

A wildly ambitious snowshoe attempt of Primus Peak in February 1978 was halted a scant 4600' from the summit. Icy conditions, a lack of determination, and uncommon Bulger good sense doomed this climb only a short distance above Thunder Creek.

The summit of Primus eluded me until June 1986. Number 95 was an exhausting 7800' brush bash up from McAllister Creek. Cliff bands, closely spaced little trees, and tricky route finding gave character to the climb. We bivouacked in a rock crevice just below Lucky Pass, and returned without climbing nearby Tricouni Peak.

## 6. The Cascade Pass Peaks

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

This group is the crême of the one hundred. Every climb here is a classic, and most are serious undertakings. Horseshoe is the only questionable member. The peak is probably misnamed on the map, and falls way short of the 400 foot rule even though it is the high point of Ripsaw Ridge.

Nevertheless this crag, a single 80 foot lead of 5.3, is fun and every Bulger has been compelled to climb it. Long John's placement of protection on Horseshoe was so secure that at least two subsequent parties have failed to remove a chock we were forced to leave behind. Remember to bring a big 8 foot sling for the summit rappel.

Sahale and Boston are neighboring summits of starkly different character. Sahale beckons the climber upward on attractive, gentle terrain and rewards the effort with the ineffable "Sea of Peaks" view of the North Cascades.

There is nothing attractive about the red ogre called Boston. The loose boulders strewn along the south ridge and SE face demand constant attention. The summit register still records the grim accident that befell the Roper party back in 1967. One does not repeat a climb of Boston.

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

experienced one of the most bizarre incidents in Bulger history.

Rus's exuberance for the Top 100 would occasionally violate the precepts of safe mountaineering. In this case, his route to Buckner was so bold that no one else in the party dared follow his lead. Half way down a high angle snow chute Rus ran into trouble. Footholds became scarce as he moved from one tenuous position to the next. Then suddenly he slipped and fell headlong out-of-sight into a moat on the Davenport Glacier.

The rest of the party attempted a rescue by way of Sahale Arm and the Davenport but retreated after getting hit by falling ice. Things did not look good for the Koala.

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

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

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

Our climb did not go well either.

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

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

Indecision gives way to action as we cache the axes and drop down to a ledge on the northeast face. The exposure down to the Boston Glacier is phenomenal, but the north side offers protection from the incoming weather. Rus and Mary Jo begin to belay across a ledge system slightly above our position while Bruce and I survey our options.

Suddenly without warning, a snow block falls from an unseen cornice somewhere above and sweeps across the twenty foot span separating me and Bruce! A moment later it's gone and only bits of detritus mark its passage. Our position on that narrow ledge was so precarious that getting hit by even that minor release of snow could have been fatal.

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

A hundred meters of rope are tossed down from the summit as Bruce

leads off. Naturally, in times like this, the lines get fouled and the Giraffe has to spend precious moments trying to unravel the mess.

By this time even the Koala began to get edgy about our situation.  
Bulger

patience is at best limited, and before long the three of us downclimb to Bruce's position and reset the rappel. Three long raps get us back to the ledges.

Amazing how one's tolerance to exposure grows with a climb like this! Rather than belay the ledges, we carry loose coils and literally race across the face. We soon reach the notch, recover our crampons and ice axes, and dash for the cars in a steady rain shower.

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

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

With the climb of Storm King on 24 August 1980, the Bulgers collectively finished the Top 100. Rus Kroeker was still six weeks away from individual honors, but with Storm King the mystery of the Big Boys was over. The climb was also one of our better screwball Bulger adventures.

The march in over Cascade Pass, up Park Creek to the basin south of Storm King is long and arduous, and the Bulgers are going light: one rope, a few slings, and bivy gear.

That night at base camp Rus uses the rope as a pillow and apparently forgets to bring it along for the climb. (Author's note: Rus still insists he forgot the rope, but the Bulgers remain unconvinced.) Hours later at the base of the North Fork Bridge Creek face we are faced with a problem. Retrieving the rope is an unattractive option, but so is the prospect of free climbing the fifth class East Peak of Storm King!

While the rest of the party looks for an easier route, Rus begins to solo the face. The K-bear makes remarkable progress and it soon becomes apparent that he alone is going to make the summit. Was this Koala's intention all along?

Rus passes out of sight and shortly thereafter calls out his familiar "whoop whoop" victory yell. Of course everyone is very happy for our fellow climber!

The Koala is beyond redemption--or is he? A short while later he is seen waving us up the Goode-Storm King ridge. Our resourceful teammate has found an inspired route up Storm King that will go free.

The route zigzags up some loose rock terraces, climbs through an improbable pottyhole, and leads to a notch just short of the summit. The final 20 foot pitch of exposed class four is protected by a handline fashioned from every available sling in the party. The Koala makes amends!

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

And suffer he did

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

Injured pride and unusual personal circumstances caused him to miss the

successful all-Bulger retry in 1986, and two other semi-serious attempts were thwarted by bad weather.

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

Our route is the notorious Bedayn Couloir. It is a classic line with aesthetic appeal that suffers from dangerously loose rock. The climb involves a rugged two day approach, and the crux is a narrow, unprotectable ledge that leads into the couloir.

The lower gullies leading up to that off-camber ledge are extremely rotten, and in spite of all our precautions I get struck in the thigh by a watermelon-sized boulder. Fortunately the blow is taken by leg muscle rather than bone, and after a short rest I am able to continue. Al does a great job in leading the crux, and around 11:00am, August 2nd we gain the summit.

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

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

The next day was heaven. Walking the well graded trail up from Cottonwood Camp in warm sunshine did wonders for my leg. We even met a group of fun-loving women along the way and went skinny-dipping together at Doubtful Lake. We also met Silas Wild coming in over Cascade Pass in hot pursuit of his one-hundreth. He

congratulated my success; and I wished him well on Dark Peak as he rushed off to catch the Stehekin shuttle bus. Silas and I had been competing, and finishing ahead of him was sweet consolation for the many hardships suffered on Goode.

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

(to be continued next month...)

Boealps Basic Class Mt Erie Photos  
March 18-19, 2006  
Photos by Curtis Cappel





# Carabiner Queen

(Tune of "Caribbean Queen" by Billy Ocean)

Lyrics by Ron Fleck

She flashed by me, high on the sheer face  
And my head turned 'cause this was no race  
In the blink of an eye, half a pitch higher was she  
She hardly needed a rope, 'cause she could climb it all free

## CHORUS

Carabiner Queen  
She is climbing just like a dream  
And her rhythm, ticks like a clock  
A Spider Girl on the rocks

I could not believe how she moved up the face  
You know each piece of pro was perfectly placed  
A ballerina you just can't ignore  
She leads on 5-10 like it's only class 4

Carabiner queen  
She is climbing just like a dream  
And her rhythm, ticks like a clock  
A Spider Girl on the rocks

Just minutes more and she was on top  
Don't think she knows how to stop  
Another new route - that is her quest  
Her silky moves are truly the best

Carabiner queen  
She is climbing just like a dream  
And her rhythm, ticks like a clock  
A Spider Girl on the rocks

Carabiner queen  
She is climbing just like a dream  
And her rhythm, ticks like a clock  
A Spider Girl on the rocks

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*April Echo staff*

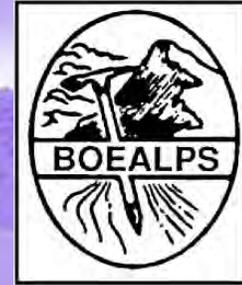
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related will do—email them to us at  
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a  
call (our numbers are  
on the front cover)  
and we'll arrange something!*

# ALPINE ECHO

MAY 2006



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## ➔ MAY GENERAL MEETING ➔

The May General Meeting has been arranged with BCC students in mind!

It will have a format of very brief presentations by BoeAlps members talking about climbs they did, illustrating with slides, maps, and undoubtedly anecdotes.

The purpose is to give BCC students ideas of various climbs possible, start them off in to the world of Cascades and beyond, on their own using BCC-obtained skills.

So **BCC students** come over and meet other Boealpers, get involved, and plan your climbs for summer.

**Past Boealpers**, come over, meet the students, offer help, and find new climbing buddies.

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY,**  
**MAY 4, 7PM**  
**AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG**  
**7755 E MARGINAL WY S**



# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

This issue of the Echo is a whopping 53 pages! It's packed with plenty of announcements, trip reports, membership information, and more.

Highlights include an announcement for this month's general meeting, which will double as a Bag-It Night to help BCC students plan their summer climbs. BCCers, be sure to show up and snag a partner for your next outing. Been climbing a little longer? Show up and suggest an outing for the soon-to-be BCC grads! More details on the general meeting are on page 5.

A little further into the issue, you'll find a call for old Echo issues, for a Boealps archiving project; a benefit-climb announcement, to raise money for Nepalese children; and an announcement for the MOFA instructor class that starts THIS MONTH. Please sign up if you can; Boealps very much needs new MOFA instructors, and your tuition will be reimbursed after you help teach your first MOFA class.

After that, it's a couple of humorous pieces by Ron Fleck and Francois Godcharles; trip reports on Mt. Hood (OR), Orbit (Leavenworth), and Mt. Washington (NH); and for the historically minded, part 2 of the Bulgers' Washington's 100 Highest article and a proposal by Fred Beckey, Tom Miller, and John Pollock to change the name of Spring Mountain to Ira Spring Mountain, after a well-respected outdoor photographer.

Following *that* are the minutes from the last board meeting, a membership roster, and a membership form. Phew! Makes me tired just thinking about it.

Which reminds me: This month's issue also includes details about the upcoming Basic Rock Class, including the much-asked-about schedule. That's on page 8.

One other piece of news we have to report this month is that Boealper Dennis Lin proposed to Boealper Melanie Kimsey on their recent trip to Hawaii—and Melanie said yes! Congratulations to the happy couple. Rumors have made their way around that Melanie's ring could double as a #13 stopper in a pinch, so check it out next time you see her.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the June issue is May 22. Email all submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
Sarah



Chris Meter chillin' on Mt. Baker. (Photo by Sarah Sternau)

# May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>30</b> BCC Tatoosh	<b>1</b> ICC lecture	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> BCC Lecture ICC UW Rock	<b>4</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> ICC Smith BCC Crevasse Rescue
<b>7</b> ICC Smith BCC Crevasse Rescue	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>10</b> BCC Lecture	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint Full moon
<b>14</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint Mother's Day	<b>15</b> ICC lecture	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> BCC Lecture	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint
<b>21</b> BCC Grad Climb/Trail Maint	<b>22</b> June Echo Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b> BCC Graduation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ICC Squamish New moon
<b>28</b> ICC Squamish	<b>29</b> Memorial Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

**2006**



Indigo team at Commonwealth Basin. (Photo by Jerry Baillie.)

# June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ICC Alpine I
<b>4</b> ICC Alpine I	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> (1947: First woman to climb Denali: Barbara Washburn)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Full moon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Father's Day	<b>19</b> ICC lecture July Echo Deadline	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Summer Solstice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ICC Alpine II
<b>25</b> New moon ICC Alpine I	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

**2006**

## General Meeting: Thursday May 4



The May General Meeting has been arranged with BCC students in mind. It will have a format of very brief presentations by BoeAlps members talking about climbs they did, illustrating with slides, maps, and undoubtedly anecdotes. This GM is a part of a BoeAlps program connecting past and future Boealpers. Jerry Baillie will be there of course--with a bag of great suggestions.

The purpose is to give BCC students ideas of various climbs possible, start them off in to the world of Cascades and beyond, on their own using BCC-obtained skills. They all want to do Rainier, of course, and there will be a dedicated 'Rainier 101' presentation during June GM, but there are other climbs, even more interesting and more challenging.

So BCC students come over and meet other Boealpers, get involved, and plan your climbs for summer before you break off from BCC and lose valuable contacts and opportunities. Keep the momentum going! It's fun and rewarding.

Past Boealpers come over, meet the students, offer help, and find new climbing buddies. The presentation is open and all Boealpers are encouraged to come and present their favorite climbs and introduce yourselves to BCC students. In few weeks, the BCC students will graduate and will become fully qualified climbers looking for climbing experience.

If you are interested to help students organizing their first climbs, 'mentoring' will be appreciated. Mt Adams is usually a good group trip, where students can try their own skills with the experienced climber being with them as a part of the group but not leading them. Or, suggest some other good climb to a group of students!

To make the evening flow, please contact Tony Olejncki ([Anthony.olejncki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejncki@boeing.com)) if you want to do a presentation or have suggestions so that we can sequence the program. Please come to this GM and be generous to newcomers--someone probably helped you in the same way--and keep the club going strong.

Snacks and soft drinks will be provided; unfortunately no adult drinks are permitted on the Boeing premises.

The meeting will be held in the usual place: Building 2-22 downstairs at 7pm.

## **ECHO ARCHIVING PROJECT**

### **PLEASE HELP!**

The BoeAlps Board decided to scan and archive all BoeAlps documentation, including all issues of the Echo newsletter, and make them available in electronic form, hence preserving heritage and history of the club. We have access to fast scanner and 38 years of materials have been scanned and are being processed. However certain Echoes have been removed from the library and have not been returned, hence we are missing a number of issues listed below.

We appeal for help to all of you to make missing copies available to the Board for scanning. We would require your copy just for few days and after scanning the copy would be returned to you.

John Pollock, one of the founders of BoeAlps made all copies of 1960's and some of 1970's available, and we hoping to get the missing issues from this appeal.

So if you have a copy, which we require please let me know. If you know other people, who no longer work for Boeing and are likely to have copies of old issues of Echo, please either contact them or let me know how to contact them.

Happy Climbing,

Tony Olejnicki  
Treasurer

Here is the list of missing issues:

1970: January, April-December  
1971: All issues  
1972: All issues  
1973: January-October  
1974: January, February, May, October, December  
1975: February, April, July, October, December  
1976: January, April-December  
1977: January-May, November, December  
1978: All issues  
1979: January-July, November, December  
1980: March, December  
1981: September  
1982: March, July  
1995: All issues  
1996: January, February, July, September-December  
1997: January, March, April, September-December  
1998: January, February, April, June, July, September-December  
1999: All issues  
2000: February, March, December  
2001: All issues



**BE PREPARED**

**MOFA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING  
2006**



**BE SAFE**

BOEALPS really needs some more MOFA instructors. The great news is that your tuition gets reimbursed after helping teach one class for the Mountaineers!

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 the upcoming fall MOFA Instructor Course. This course will qualify you as an ARC certified Lay Responder First Aid and CPR/AED Instructor as well as a certified MOFA Instructor.

The 2006 Spring MOFA Instructor course will be three Saturdays and one Sunday.

**DATES:** May 6, 7, 13, and 20, 2006

**TIMES:** 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM on all days

**LOCATION:** Bio-Rad Laboratories  
6565 185th Ave. NE  
Redmond, Washington 98052

**REGISTRATION:** On-line at the Mountaineers sign-up, course #7849  
Registration open NOW!

**COURSE FEE:** \$70.00 Mountaineers member/\$80.00 non-member

**PRE-REQUISITES:** You must have completed MOFA to qualify for the Instructor Course. The course tuition will be reimbursed after you teach your first course for the Seattle Mountaineers. This course will use the newly released ARC curriculum.

For questions regarding the Instructor Course please email Karl Brackmann at [k.brackmann@verizon.net](mailto:k.brackmann@verizon.net).

NOTE: Enrollment minimums will be required for the course to be held.

**Instructor Re-Entry Options:** For Individuals previously certified as an instructor Instructors whose most recent certification or authorization for First Aid/CPR/AED/MOFA may be eligible for an abbreviated instructor course. The instructor's authorization must have expired no more than 2 years before the beginning of the instructor re-entry course. If interested, please contact [k.brackmann@verizon.net](mailto:k.brackmann@verizon.net) for more details. We expect to schedule one or more sessions this summer.

# **BASIC ROCK CLASS 2006**

It's here! The Basic Climbing Class is just about to finish up, and the Basic Rock Class (BRC) is just about to get under way. The BRC is designed to:

- Provide students with opportunities to practice, practice, practice climbing
- Familiarize students with principles of lead climbing through following
- Bridge gap between BCC and ICC for students who want to continue
  - Intent to take the ICC is not requisite

## **CLASS PHILOSOPHY**

The BRC is designed to create **mentorship relationships**, making students more **independent as climbers** and introducing them to **different climbing styles** and **potential climbing partners**.

To participate in the class, you must be able to make all of the outings listed in one of the schedules below.

### **SCHEDULE A**

**6/17-6/18** - Leavenworth  
**7/8-7/9** - Individual climb TBD  
**7/22-7/23** - Squamish  
**8/19-8/20** - Individual climb TBD  
**9/16-9/17** - Smith (optional)

### **SCHEDULE B**

**6/17-6/18** - Leavenworth  
**7/22-7/23** - Squamish  
**8/5-8/6** - Individual climb TBD  
**9/2-9/3** - Individual climb TBD  
**9/16-9/17** - Smith (optional)

Anyone interested in the class may apply and come to the Leavenworth outing. From there, the class will be narrowed to 12 students, and those students will be placed on one schedule or the other. In addition to weekend outings, we will have three Wednesday-night classroom sessions, starting on 7/5.

The cost of the class is \$100. Gear requirements are minimal; in addition to BCC gear, you will need rock shoes, a nut tool, and a cordelette. (Optional gear: Chalk bag, small day pack.)

BRC applications will be available soon on the Boealps website at boealps.org. Questions? Email [brc-contact@boealps.org](mailto:brc-contact@boealps.org).

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### **Frequently asked questions about the Basic Rock Class:**

#### **Are any outings required?**

Yes. If you don't make the Leavenworth outing, you cannot take the class. There will be no make-up.

#### **Can I make up outings I miss?**

No. There will be no make-ups for any of the outings.

#### **Can you change the class schedule to accommodate the fact that I can't make the Leavenworth outing?**

No.

#### **Please?**

No.

## **3 Summits for Nepal's Children Benefit Climb**

**Organizer: Ambrose Bittner, 2006 ICC leader**

3 Summits for Nepal's Children is a benefit climb to raise money to help the children of Nepal who have been displaced as a result of the civil conflict there. Because of my travels to Nepal in the past and as I currently do business there, I feel a personal responsibility towards this effort. I've joined with friend, colleague, and local Nepalese Sherpa, Jwalant Gurung, to organize climbs of select Cascade volcanoes to raise money. 100 percent of the funds raised will go to help Mitrata-Nepal, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with that same goal.

Please join us for a great time as we attempt to climb these three mountains:

- 1) Mt. Adams - May 27 and 28
- 2) Mt. Baker - June 17 and 18
- 3) Mt. Rainier - July 15 and 16

A minimum donation of \$500 will guarantee you a spot with us on one or all of these mountains and contribute to the costs of housing, food, and education needs of Nepalese orphans. To participate or to donate, please contact me. More information can be found on the following web sites:

- [www.3summits.net](http://www.3summits.net)
- <http://www.redlanternjourneys.com/index.php?id=57>

**Climbing Past Protection**  
(Tune of "Losing My Religion" By REM)  
By Ron Fleck

It is steeper,  
But steeper than tough  
And Only Five-Nine  
The heights that I will strive to  
To stand upon the prize  
Oh no I've climbed too high  
Used my last piece

**Chorus**

That's me in the corner  
That's me in the off-width  
Climbing past protection  
Trying to keep my nerve up  
And I don't know if I can do it  
Oh no I've climbed too high  
I cannot turn around  
I think that I see a wide ledge  
I think I can grab that knob  
I think I can still move on up

Every good crack  
And every chance of falling,  
I'm  
Placing some protection  
Trying to make it bomber

And prevent a nasty whipper  
Oh no I've climbed too high  
Used my last piece

Consider this, consider this  
I've climbed so much tougher  
Consider this – The crux  
Was not so difficult, but  
What if all my pieces failed  
Could my pro unzip  
I can't afford --- to slip  
I think that I see a wide ledge  
I think I can grab that knob  
I think I can still move on up

I felt like I could scream  
Felt like I could scream

(repeat chorus)

Felt like I could scream  
Climb high, climb high!!  
Felt like I could scream  
I could scream, I could scream  
Scream

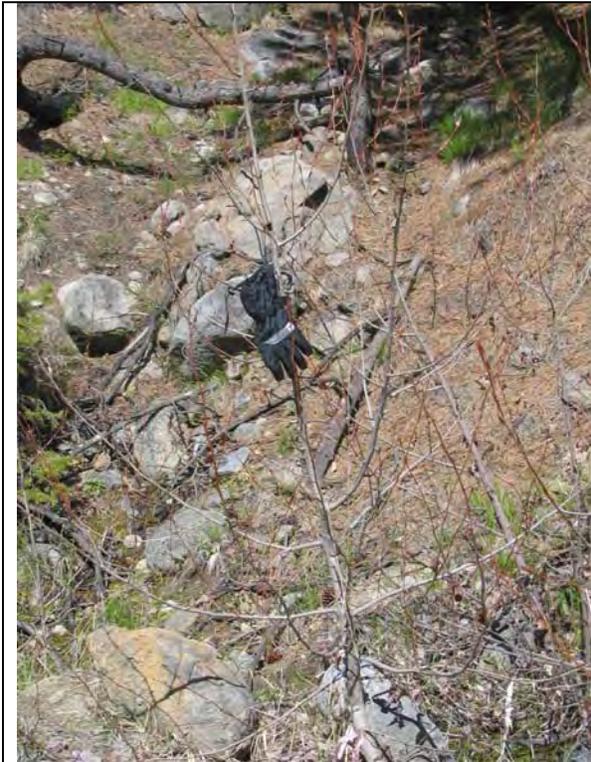
# PERSPECTIVES

*...A Chronicle of Current Events Affecting our Climbing Lives*

By François G.

Good day fellow BoeAlpers. As spring weather slowly seeps in and a new climbing season fills us with the promise of unattained peaks, challenging climbs, long-forgotten hikes, and untold adventures beyond our desktop computers, I bring you this - hopefully - monthly column of things I thought might be of interest to you all. If you're like me, as you wander the outdoor paths by yourself or with partners, details catch your attention, and your mind wanders to odd places. It might be a new piece of gear tried out, it might be a rumour overheard, it might be a sign in Nature's grand scheme, it might be... anything at all. Here's what I picked up recently out there...

## SEASONAL



Well, glove harvest season is over for another year. After last year's dismal winter weather and the resulting crop of light liner gloves, this year saw the full winter gloves back in the fields, all to the glove farmers' content.

Watch for the new local crops to hit your favorite outdoor gear store soon, just in time for the glaciated peak climbing season !

Encourage local growers, though, and ask for the Washington-grown organic gloves. They're best suited for the Northwest climate and will beat out the Dachstein mitts anytime.

Here, a lone glove seems to have been overlooked by harvesters, left alone to dry up in the April sun.

Tip:

How can you tell a freshly harvested glove from last year's leftover stock ?

Easy: smell the glove !

(Access road to Lake Stuart trail, April 2006)

## NATURE

Here's an optimistic tidbit, sure to make birdwatchers ecstatic:

Ornithologist Sven Yagermeister is convinced that the square-billed hammerhead woodpecker is alive and well in the Cascades. The bird is currently thought to be extinct, but according to Yagermeister, squared marks on dead trees (such as the one shown here) can only be attributed to the hammerhead woodpecker. He will be spending the next 2 months in the field, deep in the Alpine Lakes wilderness, in an effort to spot the bird and take back pictures and video to prove his claim.

Good luck Sven !

(Lake Colchuk, April 2006)



## FASHION



Since the fall of the last local warlords, ninja organizations have struggled to remain active and keep their traditions alive in the modern world. In an effort to diversify their assets, Ninja Gear United was formed late last year to promote a line of outdoor clothing, based on age-old ninja fashion wear.

The clothes, building on the traditional qualities of ninja gear (stretching, comfort, rip-proof), have been improved to provide warmth, wind resistance, and water resistance. NGU will not disclose the secret of the fabric they use, although insiders say it is silk-based, with the silk being especially produced by feeding a Nikwax-based diet to genetically engineered silkworms.

Probably we can soon anticipate a "Save the Silkworm" movement to start up when word of this gets out, but for now, try out the gear: It's awesome ! Dave Orozco did so at the Devil's Peak outing and had nothing but positive comments about it. Through rain, snow, sleet, cold, wind, flying ashes, and snow cave digging, he remained warm and dry.

(David "DrO" Orozco, Devil's Peak basecamp, April 2006)

## CELEBRITY CORNER

I really should not make this public, but I can't resist. BCC Gold Team is welcoming a "scruffy-looking" David Hasselhoff as a student this year. Mr Hasselhoff is going through the training for the upcoming "Knight Rider - The Movie", scheduled to start filming in July in Vancouver, BC.

Asked why he's learning mountain climbing skills for a car movie, he replied "You just wait and see what me and that car can do". OK... we'll take your word for it David...

I was unable to confirm the rumour that Heather Locklear signed up for the BRC later on this summer, regarding the same film project.

(OK, this is really Chris Singleton, Leavenworth, April 2006)



## SAFETY



These might become more and more common on the local trails and glaciers. Rangers from the MtBaker-Snoqualmie National Forest are testing out these "reinforced snow bridges", in an effort to prevent snow bridges from collapsing under the weight of unsuspecting climbers.

The concept seems to work well so far, and is expected to reduce the number of collapse-related incidents drastically this year.

Says Ranger Bob Whittaker: "We've been working on this for years, trying to come up with a concept that is aesthetically pleasing, not intrusive to the environment, and that does not take anything away from the thrill of walking across a snow bridge. Our latest concept seems to integrate all these concerns into a working solution."

You can currently walk across the reinforced snow bridges on selected trails in the Alpine Lakes wilderness. No word yet on when these will find their way on glacier routes. Who knows, these might render crevasse rescue training obsolete! ...but then again, who doesn't love being lowered inside a crevasse...

(Lake Colchuk trail, April 2006)

## END NOTE

That's it for this first edition of "Perspectives".

Unless told otherwise by the editors of this fine publication, I just might do it again next month. And the month after that... And the next one...

I may need help with the inspiration though, so if you have any "wacky" pictures, items of note, crazy ideas, or stuff, send it over to me and I just might use it in future columns.

Until then, go out and play but be safe out there.

Cheers !

# Mt Hood Trip Report

*Climbers: Jon Jumnoodo, Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Larissa Trevett (in spirit)*

April 22, 2004



*Mt Hood from Timberline*

We were going to be 3-climber team but after Larissa cancelled and opted for Leavenworth rock instead, we become a 2-climber team.

We left Kent Space Center at 5:30pm on Friday 21 of April hoping to be at the Timberline parking in 4 hrs or so to catch-up with some sleep before the climb. We got caught-up, however, in a terrible traffic jam on I-5 from Kent until Olympia with the traffic moving slowly and with frequent stops. There was no accident or any

reasonable explanation for the jam; I guess everyone in Seattle decided to head south; so much for the \$3/gallon gas tampering Seattleites' indulgence in country driving; forget it, it's not going to happen.



*Dozen of climbers queuing at Pearly Gates*

We arrived finally to the car park at 11:30pm and there was a small zoo there with 4 teams ready to climb in the morning. We pitched the tent and were hopping for 3hr sleep. It was not going to happen. At midnight we were woken up with two rotary snow-ploughs trying to plough non-existing snow with noise equivalent to a busy airport. I swear this was done on purpose to discourage climbers camping free at the car-park. We still were pretending that that this is not happening and trying to catch another couple of hours sleep. At 1am a car parked nearby and the girls driving it turned on the music, I guess to drown noises coming from the ploughs. Few moments later more

climbers arrived and turned on their preferred tunes. It was like having 4 rave parties at the airport tarmac with jets taking off continuously.



*Scrambling to Pearly Gates*

There wasn't much sense to pretend that we are catching some sleep, so we got up, dressed-up and started climbing at 2:20am.

It was a chilly night with my hands freezing as soon as I took off my gloves and we decided to climb in down-jackets. In fact I changed only at the summit once we started down-climbing. The sky was almost without clouds, millions of stars with occasional shooting star piercing the sky and the moon, which appeared at 3am. The wind was blowing almost continuously with strong gusts knocking me off my feet and snow blasting my face with the feeling of sharp needles piercing my skin. The wind did not stop until we were on the summit.

The advantage of low temperatures and no significant snowfall over last 4 days was a nicely hard surface, making it easy to walk on it. In fact first 2000ft was on a groomed cross-country skiing path.

The climb is not interesting at all until you get closer to Pearly Gates; it is just a slog up, not really seeing anything apart from white snow appearing right in front of you and dozens of lights marking the route. There were some people camping at 10,000ft. It makes really sense to do it later in the season because you want to climb through the Pearly Gates before it softens, and it happens really quickly because it faces southeast and it is sun-exposed from the early hours. At 10,000ft you pass close to Illumination Rock, a striking rock formation on the left, and from there onwards you see the summit rock as well, looking like giant mushrooms or maybe like coral islands.



*Pearly Gates*

The look of Mt. Hood from Timberline is totally different what you see from Baker, Rainier or approaching it from west on route 26. The beautiful pyramid of Mt. Hood turns in to an irregular lump and looks much better, when you closer to it at 10,000ft or 11,000ft

The conditions of the Hogsback and through the Pearly Gates were excellent with all crevasses and bergschrund filled-in and bridged by 20ft of snow forming snow-works worthy Roman effort, when they build massive earthworks during the siege of Mesada to enable them to storm the fortress. So usually 50° icy climb to Pearly Gates was only 40° snow slog with ready steps kicked for us by dozens of climbers before us. The steps are nice but it means long waiting at the Pearly Gates and wasting valuable time to down climb through this narrow access. It became soft and unpleasant to down-climb within an hour or so. We have spent 40 minutes on the summit basking in the sun and being nicely sheltered from the wind.



*Obligatory Summit Picture*

Down climbing was uneventful and psychologically too long with desperate need for a latrine. I was also affected by a strong smell of sulfurous odor of rotten eggs emanating from the crater, which we were hit with all the time, causing my asthma to set-off, making climb much more strenuous than it really was.

In summary the climb is an excellent training with 5200ft of elevation gain starting at 6000ft. Also Mt. Hood is a prominent volcano and the ' Rainier' of Oregon, so it is nice to tick it off. I am not sure if I wanted to do it again, probably not, unless approaching from north, which offers more challenging and interesting

routes. So if you want Mt. Hood in your climbing resume next to Rainier, Baker, and Adams it is a good time to do it now within next 2-3 weeks.



*Down Climbing Mt. Hood*

I was really surprised with the number of guided climbs on Mt. Hood. The only explanation I have is that Mt. Hood for Oregonians is what Mt. Rainier is for Washingtonians, and we know what is happening on DC route.

To park at the Timberline lodge, the snow-park permit is required and a WA-issued permit is accepted. Consequences of not having it are obvious.

## 12 hours in Orbit -or- 2 Gapers Gaping

Climbers: Robert Fisher (scribe) and Sarah Sternau (photographer, intrusive editor)

James had to help with the basic class. Chris would be taking a day off after spending the last three at Smith Rock. That's the funny thing about teaching third grade, Chris' job--the pay sucks, but the vacation time is great. Chris was cool about it though. He hardly flaunted his spring break at all.

"I'm headed to Smith with James. I will see you in Leavenworth," said Chris as he left last Wednesday with a pack slung over his shoulder.

"[Expletive] you," I replied, trying to be supportive.

Saturday morning started like so many mornings in Leavenworth--waiting for Kristall's to open. It's not asking too much for a popular business to have its hours posted, is it? I only want a waffle.

There were old men and boy scouts. Sarah had her camera. I was excited to be there. Chris was feeling "touchy."



At some point during breakfast, Sarah had produced a string of carabiners. This is why I like climbing with Sarah. She is always prepared. For instance, if someone had fallen into their oatmeal, or perhaps gotten mired in a pool of coagulated maple syrup and butter, we could have set up a z-pulley to

extract them right there in the restaurant. Luckily for all parties involved, everyone displayed an appropriate level of "breakfast safety," although I was a little worried about an old man who eschewed the use of his walker as he went to refill his own coffee cup at the busing station. I was also a little concerned about someone becoming lost in the expansive forest of ear hair that he had been cultivating in a Weyerhaeuser-like operation since the 1950's.

This chain of carabiners that Sarah had brought in to the restaurant attracted the attention of one of the boy scouts who were enjoying a bacchanalian breakfast in the corner booth (someone ordered chocolate milk!). I won't go so far as to call this boy overweight or pudgy. I will go with soft; no, husky. That's it. This boy was husky. As he was returning from the restroom, he stopped to chat with Chris.

"Are you guys rock climbers?"

"Yeah," replied Chris.

"What are you climbing today?" asked the husky child.

"I'm not climbing, but he"--Chris gestures to me--"is climbing a 5.8+ called Orbit today."

"Really?" said the boy. "My best climb ever was a 5.9+."

Chris, always the encouraging elementary teacher said, "Wow, that's good," as the boy walked smugly away.

I gestured at his back with a single finger.

And that's how we got owned by a chunky 12 year old boy scout at Kristall's in Leavenworth.

\* \* \*

Sarah and I left Chris in town and drove to the Snow Creek parking lot. After helping a couple of wayward first-year instructors figure out where Aggie was patiently waiting for them, Sarah and I started down the trail to the Snow Creek Wall.

9:00 am on the trail.

Finding the climber's path up to Snow Creek wall was a little challenging, but we were at the bottom of Outer Space within the specified "one hour trail time."

So where is Orbit?

Anyone who has had the misfortune of using the latest Leavenworth guide to find anything on the Snow Creek Wall will understand our frustration. For some reason, the authors felt that a single black and white photograph of a 400' wall would be sufficient to find any and all routes. Thanks to this photo, we could locate the later pitches of Orbit. It was the start--some would argue the most important part of any multi-pitch climb--which was giving us problems. Where the heck was it?

We went left, knowing the route climbed the left skyline of the intimidating wall. "One of these gullies will get us up to it, I think," I stated in a fit of optimism.

The first gully did not.

The second gulley looked promising until I got stuck below an overhanging chock stone. As I downclimbed, the guide book fell out of my pocket and went bounding down the rock and off a cliff.

My response was nothing short of predictable. "Sonofa [expletive]!"

Sarah laughed.

We spent a while trying to find the guidebook, but to no avail. I had read the anorexic route description a few times and I felt that I could fake it. Besides, it was a sunny Saturday in Leavenworth. There would be a conga line to the top.

The third gulley almost worked. "Almost" is the operative word here. It was going well when I moved up on some wet, slimy moss and realized that I lacked the testicular fortitude to make the second step onto a friction slab in my approach shoes. Unfortunately, I was committed to the moss. There would be no downclimbing from this damp mess. I did have the rack and the rope so I was able to sacrifice some gear to affect an escape. This was becoming an expensive climb. [Ed.: Around this time we also discovered that neither of us had brought a nut tool, so we spent a few minutes comparing pocket knives and discussing whose \$50 knife would be sacrificed for the job, if necessary.]

Eventually, we found a way up. The way up was about 30 feet too "up" for the start of Orbit. Sarah and I sat and laughed at our misfortune as we admired the sun, the mountain goats, and the queue of climbers waiting to start the route below us. We set a rappel on an old bolted anchor and finally got to the start of the route, roughly three hours after we had left the car.

When it was finally our turn, Sarah fired off the first pitch.

Pitch 1: Mostly fourth class with a 5th class move to the belay

Pitch 2: Blocky steps to a short squeeze

At the belay for pitch 3, I noticed something crawling on my leg. It was a tick looking for access to my pasty white hide. After the first one was found, every tickle, itch, or poke was compulsively investigated for fear that it was a tick imbedding itself in the skin. We did a quick neck check on each other and I had to extract a large specimen from the back of Sarah's head. The process was positively simian. I considered completing the scene of chimpanzee familial bonding by biting the tick in half with my teeth, but I doubted that I would be able to keep my breakfast down if this parasite were to pass between my lips, even temporarily.

Pitch 3: Short leftward trending ramp

This is where a group of three passed us. I know what you are thinking: "You got passed by a group of three?" I would advise the reader to refer back to the alternate title "Two Gapers Gaping." We were actually moving fairly quickly; the leader of the other party simply climbed past us while linking pitches. The followers came shortly, thus overlapping the ropes by about 100'. We probably wasted a total of 90 minutes waiting for them throughout the climb. This proved to be very frustrating at times.

Pitch 4: Interesting double finger cracks with an exciting step across.

Sweet! According to the book, we have a couple of pitches of 5.4 chicken heads and then the top-out.

Pitch 5: Looooooooong, hard dihedral with death bolts and little natural pro.



It seemed like Sarah took forever on this pitch. As I was waiting, Mr. Brown came a knocking at my back door. I wasn't exactly in a spot that I could do anything about it, but it did make my whining (to no one) about the long wait a little more urgent. As soon as I started climbing, the "Pucker Factor" did away with any residual urge to go number two.

As I said before, the bolts were scary. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that modern bolt hangers are made of stainless steel at a gauge similar to the aluminum that was used on the "Cousin Jed's Bargain Basement" pieces that had protected Sarah's lead. Stainless is many times stronger than aluminum, especially when it has been designed and tested by a reputable climbing equipment manufacturer, instead of having been fabricated using old weather stripping from around the basement door, a framing hammer, and a spoon bit held in a brace stolen from the Woodwright shop.

In all, I was very impressed with Sarah's lead and told her as much. "[Expletive] [expletive] [expletive], that was a [expletive] [expletive] good lead [expletive] [expletive]!"

Sarah's reply was a humble smile and a simple "thanks."

Pitch 6: 20 meters of difficult climbing with an exciting unprotected step-around and 30 meters of easy chicken heads, ending at a huge belay ledge.

This was my pitch. I'm sure it wasn't very difficult, but I had gotten caught up in the moment of the last pitch and I was already Elvising. I was ecstatic as I pulled over a small roof to look upon a sea of chicken heads leading to a belay ledge.

Pitch 7: Hey, isn't this a 5-pitch climb? Sarah climbed very quickly through 50 meters of chicken heads.

Pitch 8: More chicken heads to the top.

The descent gully was tricky, but not unreasonable. We made it back to the car by 9:00 pm, about 12 hours after we had started. Yes, we do indeed rock.

As I waited for Sarah to use the restroom at the Chevron station, I felt a tickle on the back of my neck. I reached up and pulled away another tick. I flew out of her car and started doing what I can only describe as the "tick dance." I was squirming, jumping around, wrestling to get my shirt off. Once the shirt was off, I shook it with such vigor I nearly dislocated my shoulder. Now half naked, I strained to get my hands on my back to check for more. There were five.

The infestation left me feeling disgustingly violated.

So that's how my first lead climb of the season went. How was yours?

## Pinnacle Gully / Mt. Washington, NH

Dan Goering & Tom Ryan

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

Dan Goering valiantly battled back a hellacious chest cold to partner with me on a late season climb of Mt. Washington's classic Pinnacle Gully. This WI3 alpine ice climb is accessed by hiking several miles from the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center to the base of the Huntington Ravine. From a broad shelf 1000' below the summit, the nearly twin Huntington and Tuckerman Ravines drop very steeply, then open into cavernous bowls. While Tuckerman's steep chutes see many descents by skiers whom hike up, Huntington, with its numerous ice routes, attracts the climbers.

On this side trip appended to business travel, I had no expectation of doing a particular climb. For detailed planning I relied heavily on Dan, who has been living the last eight months in Hanover, NH. I've heard of the great ice in the NE, and I wanted to get a taste of it, if at all possible. My business trip had been pushed back a month, leaving us uncertain there would be any ice left standing in the NE, let alone something you would dare climb.

Dan kept touch on how conditions were holding out (neice.com is an excellent resource.) After hauling the ice tools, boots and other gear to NYC, I was disturbed by the sunny, 60+ weather the city was enjoying. In two days I was planning on ice climbing—preposterous! Dan suggested we pass on Smuggler's Notch, close to Burlington, VT where I was going to visit another friend. Instead, he thought we should make the long trek to Mt. Washington, where the east facing couloirs are fairly protected from the afternoon sun. Furthermore, Pinnacle Gully is largely protected from the east sun by the shelter of a large mass of rock bounding it on the climber's left.

On a beautiful and worrisomely warm Thursday, Dan and I drove to Conway, NH where we had an exquisite picnic atop Cathedral Ledge. Here, similar to Mt. Washington, you have the nearly twin formations (this time of granite) of Cathedral and Whitehorse Ledge. An awesome spot, don't miss it if you're in the area: Cathedral has a plethora of steep crack climbing and Whitehorse oodles of beautiful slab, runout without a doubt!

Had Dan been feeling better, and had I brought some rock shoes, we *might* have been persuaded to climb. The first really warm spring day and the wear of a few days spent in NYC did me in.

Despite the "bleak weather" we organized our packs for an alpine start the next morning. We knew we'd have to get a leg up on the sun, along with any Northeast climbers foolish enough to think anything was still in shape.



Whitehorse Ledge, Conway, NH

My rusty memory has it that we got up around 5:00, hit the nearest caffeine outlet, and got to the visitor center around 6:00. When finalizing our packs, a couple pulled up, promptly pulled out

their packs and set off. It seemed they would have the same objective but Dan pointed out there's a bunch of stuff they could be targeting.

The approach was good training for Dan's upcoming Denali attempt: his congestion helped simulate a mild case of pulmonary edema. So we set no records on the way up, but it's not a long hike. After a quick stop to check out the Harvard Cabin, we soon broke out into the lower Huntington Ravine. Taking in a great look at the entrance to Pinnacle Gully, we spied the couple from the parking lot just disappearing into it.



Harvard Cabin, located about halfway b/t Pinkham Notch Visitor Center and Huntington Ravine.

When we reached the base of the route, the couple had moved onto the second pitch, out of sight. Given their speed we figured the ice must somehow still be good. While gearing up, another guy arrived who was packing skis and ice tools. He commented on all the screws we had and I told him our rack was large because we weren't from the area and we weren't familiar with the route. Despite our previous exchange, he quizzed me about whether I had checked out some other local climb lately; and then asked more questions, each that I answered, "well, I've never been here at all; not at Mt. WA, not in this area of NH, not climbing in the NE..." Since he was going to solo the route, I suggested he climb ahead of us.



The triangular rock protecting Pinnacle Gully (entrance on lower left)

Maybe he got beamed with a chunk of ice one of these times while ice climbing without a helmet. As he moved up past Dan, who was higher near the base of the route putting the belay anchor in, he mentioned he "didn't do this that often, and just got these tools." They were leashless too, another thing to ponder before setting off solo.

The soloist made quick work of the first pitch, choosing the very stepped right side. I decided to take on the more vertical LHS, although, after moving up a bit I decided to traverse right. I couldn't be sure the protection in the warm ice was too good, so the easier ground was welcome.



Tom leading Pitch 1

Continuing up, the ice improved but warming caused sloughs off the rock face to the right. These were well out of our line but funneled down towards two other parties near the base of the route.

Short on energy, Dan had offered all the leads to me; but, for convenience, I talked him into leading the last one. Reportedly, you can do the route in three long pitches with a 60m rope.



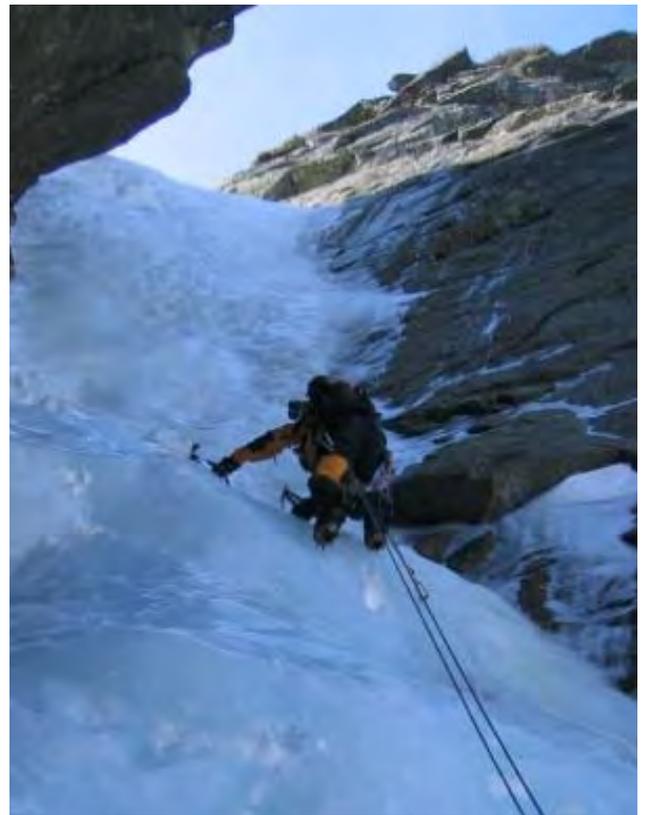
Dan, where's my cordelette?



Dan on pitch 1.

Having a 50m rope, we decided that if the last pitch was moderate and of good ice, and the top-out was easy terrain, we would finish with a running belay. This worked well, and we hiked up the last few feet to the broad shelf above the ravine, known as the Alpine Garden. Here, Dan decided I should “run” up to the summit while he waited in the sun. The route to the summit from the garden was pretty obvious: straight up the very steep, wind scoured face for nearly a thousand feet. With some old steps to follow here and there the going was pretty easy.

The summit was a very worthwhile destination, especially in the off season with the road closed, plenty of sun, hardly any wind, and practically unlimited visibility. I spent a few minutes checking out the end of the cog railway and the weather station, which looks like an outpost on a distant planet.



A Boston climber leading the second pitch.





Time to barrel down the face and meet Dan for our descent from the Alpine Garden to the base of Huntington Ravine. We had scouted “The Escape Hatch” on the way in, knowing it’s easy to get into the wrong gully. Now on top, the entrance was elusive. While I was on my summit trek, Dan did a little reconnoitering so we headed down that way. It was steeper than I hoped, but not too bad; we ended up backing down a good part of it. About halfway down, the angle relaxed and we were able to face out. My crampons were balling as horrendously as Dan’s new Grivels were excelling. I’ll be checking those out for a next pair!

Back in the base of Huntington Ravine, we looked back up at our descent. As we feared on the way in, we got in the wrong gully. We hadn’t descended The Escape Hatch after all, but rather the line that’s commonly climbed to its north.

Intended descent: The Escape Hatch (skyline). Actual descent was the gully on RHS.



It was getting dark as we hit the Harvard Cabin again, but we weren’t dreading the long trip back to Burlington, having sneaked one of the season’s last ice climbs in, and a NE classic at that!

Here it is, the second part of Bulger's story. I hope you enjoyed first part re-printed last month. The second part is even more interesting as it explains the background and the history of Bulger's.

Personally, I was fascinated with the article and decided to re-print it because it tells us, new to the BoeAlps and the Cascades, a snippet of the local mountaineering history clearly connected to our club and something our club has been recognized for and we all should have that in mind.

I hope that the achievement of Bulger's inspires you and gives you a certain perspective on what mountaineering is all about, it is the passion of doing it. If you get it, it allows you to do great and incredible things, stirs your imagination and motivates you to participate in a very healthy activity, sport and an adventure, whatever you make out of it. It also brings you close to the nature in a way very few people experience.

Enjoy the reading,

Tony Olejnicki

## The Bulger's Centennial Peaks -Part 2

by John Lixvar

Echo February 1990

### 6. Chelan-Entiat

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

Three of nine-thousanders in this group are fairly easy climbs, but Bonanza is a mountain to be reckoned with. Washington's highest non-volcano offers no easy routes. The standard Mary Green Glacier approach is plagued with crevasse problems, and the 800 foot SE face is often subject to stonefall.

Our 1978 attempt was abruptly terminated by stonefall one lead above the 8700' bergschrund. Within minutes after a brief rain shower hit the face, salvos of rock began whistling down over our heads. That unnerving experience taught us a few lessons about Bonanza: (1) Attempt the peak only under stable, dry conditions, and (2) get an early start and try to be off the face before any other parties start up.

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

The ascent went well, and the largely fourth class face was easier than expected. However by the time we reached the summit, signs of a weather change was unmistakable, and Buff's eagerly anticipated

mountain top siesta had to be cancelled. Our rappels were rushed and awkward; our traverse of the Mary Green, a running retreat. The rainstorm hit just as we were crossing the polished slabs above Holden Pass.

A tarp shelter was quickly jury-rigged at the pass, but the peevish Giraffe forsook our accommodations for better shelter in the trees around Holden Lake. His departure was appreciated, for now there was sufficient space for three sleeping bags. The Giraffe was unhappy camping at the pass the night before, and chose his sleeping spot in such a way that nobody else could be comfortable. Giraffes do not suffer in silence, and when they are unhappy the whole zoo suffers.

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

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

Copper and Martin are two peaks above Railroad Creek designated off-limits to the hikers of Holden village. The climbs are rugged, even dangerous, and I suppose the restrictions are sensible. Obviously the Big Boy list cannot make such distinctions; but fortunately for every Martin there is a Maude. Martin Peak was climbed as a consolation after our 1978 Bonanza failure, and in retrospect was the more interesting ascent. The original 1936 Ida Zacher first ascent notes were still in the register along with material on the 1939 Penberthy-Lavelle climb. Ours was only the 20th ascent in 43 years.

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

The following week Ken Zafren and I did battle with number 99: Tupshin Peak. Tupshin is a relatively unknown mountain in spite of its proximity to Stehekin. It is also one of the most technically demanding climbs in the Top 100.

Tupshin's<sup>r</sup> dark summit pinnacles look very imposing from distant viewpoints; from the White Goat-Tupshin ridge they are positively fearsome. Even the fearless Kangaroo, Dick Kegel, is reported to have been momentarily stunned by the prospect of crossing the west face.

Ken and I climb too far west in upper Bird Creek meadows and gain the ridge at the wrong saddle. Hours are lost recovering the route, and by the time we reach the thin ledge crossing Tupshin's west face we feel pressure to hurry.

But the route does not permit hurried climbing. We continue for nearly two hours beyond our previously agreed turnaround time, and end up on a pinnacle 50 feet short of the true summit. We can see the damn cairn a short distance away, but the intervening gap spells defeat.

Our disappointment is of course keen, but our primary concern is to get back to camp. We have gone extremely light on the climb and have no food, water or bivouac gear. Everything, including our packs, was stashed when the going got tough.

We get back to the catwalk ledges after a long series of rappels; recover our gear; and luckily manage to find the tent in the dark woods of Bird Creek. Over dinner we discuss tomorrow's plans. We are of one mind. We are going back to get Tupshin.

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

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

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

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

To my considerable relief, we found a goat track leading around the southeast buttress of the main peak of Dumbell. "Baby Carriage Ledge" is an exposed fourth class route with one short difficult corner. It was a vast improvement over our approach and is probably the route of choice on NE Dumbell.

In the months following our climb, Rus tried without success to locate scout master Titerud or his family. We were all interested in learning more about his pioneering climb, and wondered if ol' Ralph ever learned of his mistake.

The Chelan Crest peaks along Sawtooth Ridge are attractive, non-technical climbs with extremely scenic approaches. These summits support Washington's easternmost glaciers, and are subject to more foul weather than their easterly location might suggest.

I have gotten atop Mts Bigelow, Martin, Libby, and Cooney by foot, skis, and mountain bike; and have found them to be especially enjoyable all-season climbs. Reynolds, Abernathy, Oval, Star, and Buttermilk are also good sport, but are best saved for the off-season when snow still blankets their rather extensive scree and boulder fields.

## 7. Washington Pass Area

Mt Logan	9087	Mesahchie P	8795	Golden Horn	8366
Black Pk	8970	Katsuk Pk	8680+	Cosho Pk	8332
N. Gardner Mtr	8956	Kimtah Pk	8600+	Big Snagtoot	8330
Gardner Mtn	8897	Tower Mtn	8444		

I found the Ragged Ridge climbs unpleasant. Beyond Easy Pass the country turns harsh and barren, and the climbing gets serious. On my first visit to the area in July 1979, Long John and I traversed the summit of Mesahchie to the 8489+ east summit of Katsuk. We encountered ball-bearing rock on smooth slab above the Katsuk-Mesahchie col and became dispirited by an evil looking canyon separating us from Katsuk's main summits. Getting down to Fisher Creek was no simple matter either.

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

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

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

John Roper is credited with first ascents on Katsuk, Kimtah, and Cosho; while Rus Kroeker, together with Bruce and Mary Jo Gibbs, got all four peaks on a remarkable Easy Pass to Red Mountain traverse.

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

Golden Horn is fun. In 1978 we underestimated the climb --we had a rope but no hardware, and were stopped by a snow covered block 60 feet from the summit.

We came back the following spring with friends --the mechanical kind, and blitzed the mountain. We got one summit via a cannonhole (I love cannon holes!) and another by conventional means. Dick Kegel stormed ahead of everyone else and easily free climbed both summits before the rest of the party arrived. The Bulgers enjoyed Golden Horn.

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

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

The Gardners are best remembered for Long John's spectacular fall into

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

In 1975 I took a three year leave from Boeing in order to climb full-time. I traveled to New Zealand and Tasmania, skied the Haute Route across Switzerland, and eventually took up residence at the Alpine Club of Canada clubhouse in Banff.

I was having the time of my life. I was also losing weight and generally letting myself rundown. The trouble with being on perpetual holiday is that you never get a chance to rest. I gained over 367,000' in 1975 and spent more than 200 days in the mountains. One trip followed another until the inevitable breakdown.

Over developed thigh muscles coupled with weak abdominals had slowly pulled my spinal column out of line and damaged my sciatic nerve. The injury forced a two month layoff from climbing and taught me the importance of flexible, balanced musculature.

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

Fred Beckey's first ascent notes were still in the register at the time of our 1980 climb of Big Snagtooth. The route requires some exposed technical moves on firm rock, but is thoroughly enjoyable. However May 18, 1980 is best remembered for another event: the Big Bang -- the day Mt St. Helens blew up.

Our party was startled by a series of three loud explosions. We thought it might have been avalanche control work at Washington Pass, and never made the connection with the ominous clouds moving in from the south. We first learned the news that evening from a shopkeeper in Marblemount. Curiously, the sound wave largely missed Seattle but was heard far up into the Chilcotin Plateau of British Columbia. Michael King, a helicopter pilot in Tatla Lake who works the Mount Waddington trade, first thought he heard a neighbor blowing up a beaver dam!

### 8. Glacier Peak Region

Dome Pk	8920+	Buck Mtn	8573	Luahna Pk	8400+
Fortress Mt	8674	Chiwawa Mtn	8459		
Clark Mtn	8576	Sinister Pl	8440+		

The Glacier Peak region is perhaps the crown jewel of Washington wilderness.

Other parts of the range contain higher and more difficult mountains in austere surroundings, but for me, this alpine playground possesses a sublime combination of ice, meadow, and rock, and is the scenic climax of the North Cascades.

This is also a region of grand traverses, a place where the excellence of alpine travel generally exceeds the quality of the climbs available. Trips like the Ptarmigan Traverse, the Bath Lakes High Route, High Pass and the Napeequa, Image Lake and Miners Ridge attain a standard rarely matched elsewhere.

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

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

Up until recently, Dick Kegel had only dallied with the Top 100. Even though his support had been enlisted on many of the tougher climbs, the Kangaroo professed total indifference to the rest of the hundred. All that changed at the 1986 fall celebration held in honor of that year's three finishers.

Dick's total was then less than 50, and he was gently chided for not having reached the Bulger "Threshold of Respectability." The criticism must have irked Regal Richard, for the following year he went on rampage and collected an incredible 41 Big Boys! The Kangaroo who would be king then vanquished his final 13 and ascended the throne of Dome on October 2, 1988.

The Bulgers have enjoyed a very pleasant association with Sinister Peak. The Koala finished his whirlwind odyssey of the Top 100 with Sinister in 1980.

Silas Wild accompanied Rus to the summit while a sick Lizard was left behind on the south side of Dome.

I returned with the rest of the crew two years later and bagged the peak by the narrowest of margins. We climbed Dome (sans boulder) in dense cloud but did not dare cross the fractured Chickamin Glacier without better visibility. After a few hours the situation seemed hopeless and the Bulgers were ready to retreat down Bachelor Creek. Then miraculously, we were shown the way! A "sucker hole" clearing appeared for a few minutes, and then closed; but that was enough. We set our course across the glacier and got our peak.

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

Fortress and Buck make a nice combination. Our party went in over Buck Creek Pass and exited via the Napeequa and Little Giant Pass. The steep bushwack down Louis Creek to the Napeequa River parallels a spectacular waterfall and requires some caution. Also, the old bridge over the Chiwawa River is out, necessitating a deep and possibly difficult ford.

Buck Mountain has three summits and some confusion exists over which is the highest. An Alpine Roamers register resides on the north

summit, but a Bulger consensus gives credit to the central peak. The Koala might be well advised to return to Buck Mountain someday; for his 1977 effort included ascents of only the north and south summits.

Chiwawa Mountain was climbed from Trinity via Spider Pass in poor visibility and fresh snow. The Zookeeper forgot her iceaxe and had to use an improvised stone adze on some of the tricky sections of the south spur. Near the summit, we broke through the dense clouds and were treated to a fantastic "Ships at Sea" view. The topsails of a few peaks were visible, but the rest of the world seemed smothered in a white blanket of foam. Loop trip requirements were met by way of the Chiwawa River.

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

### 9. The Pasayten Peaks

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

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

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

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

My moment of embarrassment came on the rappel. A tight fitting seat harness split my pants at the crotch and exposed my reproductive vitals to the friction of the snow encrusted rope. The rappel was a free overhang and I had no choice but to continue on down at a v-e-r-y

slow rate of descent. The humor of that unpleasant situation became apparent to me only after we were safely down off the ridge!

The area east of the Cascade Crest, bounded by the Methow and Chewack Rivers, contains 15 Big Boys. This 1200 square mile region of open vistas and grand peaks is also the highest in Washington with an average elevation of almost 5400'.

The Pasayten peaks are also fairly remote and generally require a full day or more for the approach. The Bulgers have traditionally reserved the first week in October for their visits. The area is especially beautiful after the first snowfall of autumn. The bugs are gone, the larches have turned golden, and the peaks themselves become a pretty fair challenge.

Lizard's first visit to the Pasayten came in 1974 with Joanne Williams, Frank King and veteran climber Phil Dickert. We got a few possible first ascents along the Wildcat-Rolo ridge and collected most of the major summits in Eureka Creek Basin.

Phil had a rough time on the trip. He became hypothermic on Osceola and fell on Carru. Two days later he was suffering from such excruciating stomach pain that he had to be rescued by helicopter from Lake of the Woods. We later learned that he had been suffering in silence from a stomach ulcer since the start of the trip. Phil is one of the most stubbornly tough characters I have ever met. It is no surprise that he got the first ascent of Mount Challenger fifty three years ago!

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

The lure of a BBFA (Big Boy First Ascent) was irresistible, and the following May a group of Bulgers went in over Pistol Pass to claim the prize.

We succeeded on nearby Lake Mountain and Rus got a probable FA on Lake Pinnacle. Unfortunately the weather turned sour the next day and everyone except the Koala retreated. Rus got Monument, but returned to camp mildly hypothermic and very disappointed. A 1978 first ascent had already been claimed by Beckey and Roper. Fred must have read the same article -- and responded quicker!

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

If I had to pick one trip as a personal favorite it would be our 1978 Trans-Pasayten Patrol -- a four-day cross-country sweep of the Okanogan that included ascents of Windy, Amphitheater, Cathedral, and Rammel. For me, that trip had a special magic that has never quite been equaled. I still recall clutching Rus's out stretched leg as I

struggled with the exposed step-across at the summit of Cathedral; and I will never forget cooking that 100 ton boulder at the base of Rimmel Mountain.

The Bulgers rarely built campfires, but that night was an exception. Our 7000f, mid-October bivouac required more than a space blanket and half-bag for warmth; and as the evening chill began to set in, Rus and I piled timbers beneath a massive boulder and started a roaring fire. After an hour or so of intense heating the rock began to crack and explosively shed large granite flakes. We continued to add more wood in hopes of splitting it, but eventually grew weary of the effort and fell asleep comforted by the warm glow of embers and reradiated heat that lasted most of the night.

I still savor the comradeship, adventure, and pure fun experienced on that trip. Those events are enduring personal treasures, and best represent the spirit of the Big Boy experience.

### **A Retrospective**

Is there life after the Big Boys?

The Bulgers have been actively climbing together for more than a decade, and in the course of pursuing the Top 100 have visited nearly every corner of the Cascades. Their collective climbing record and knowledge of the range is substantial and matched by very few others.

Most of the group have now completed their mission, and perhaps inevitably the fellowship is beginning to fade. New interests, family responsibilities, and other obligations are drawing the Bulgers apart.

Silas and Long John are now busy raising families and climb with less intensity. Bruce and Bette remain fairly true to the Bulger credo, but Rus and Big Bob have discovered other passions in life. Ken now lives in Anchorage, and between trips to Nepal, pursues his alpine recreation in Alaska's untrammelled mountains.

John Roper's long term goal is to climb every named peak in the Skagit and Stillaguamish drainages. This HFK is currently only four peaks away from every named summit in North Cascades National Park; and he, together with Dick Kegel, are well on their way to the second hundred.

Of all the Bulgers, only the Buffalo has remained immune to the competitive aspect of climbing the one hundred. The Buf marches to his own drummer. His commitment to climbing is a lifetime affair, and he intends to save a few Big Boys for his dotage.

And the Lizard? He's back on his bicycle; but now it's a fat-tired model.

Bike mountaineering is entering its Golden Age, and every difficult or unusual ascent is probably a first. The Lizard, now known as Shock Wave Rider, has already placed his bicycle atop more than 200 summits, including a fair number of Big Boys, and is planning ever more audacious climbs.

Is there a point to all this frenetic activity? Have the Bulgers attained enlightenment on mountain tops or found answers to ultimate questions?

According to the Galactic Hitchhiker's "Deep Thought" computer, the

answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is forty-two.

I personally prefer the Socratic answer to the question of why we climb:

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

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

## Appendix

### Completion Statistics:

Name	Last Peak	Best Year
-Bulgers	24 Aug 80 -Storm King	1978 - 91
1. Rus Kroeker	4 Oct 80 -Sinister Pk	1978 - 24
2. Bruce Gibbs	13 Jul 86 -Ptarmigan Pk	1982 - 17
3. Bob Tillots	10 Aug 86 -SE Twin Spire	1982 - 24
4. Bette Felto	24 Aug 86 -SE Twin Spire	1977 - 17
5. John Roper	24 May 87 -Lost Pk	1986 - 24
6. John Lixvar	2 Aug 87 -Goode Mtn	1978 - 19
7. Silas Wild	4 Aug 87 -Dark Pk	1985 - 25
8. Joe Vance	23 Aug 88 -Katsuk Pk	1986 - 13
9. Dick Kegel	2 Oct 88 -Dome Pk	1987 - 41

The Bulgers:

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

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

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

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

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

Early on, individual Bulgers got dubbed with alliterative appellations of the animal kind. Giraffes are tall contradictions, Koalas live on leaves, and what Buffalos lack in finesse they make up in power; Lizards lay naked on warm rocks, and Zookeepers are needed to keep the wildlife in line.

To a non-Bulger, such animal designations may appear derisive; however, the names were given in affection and have become part of our personal identity.

### **Summit Registers:**

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

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

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

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

### The Top 100 List:

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

The 400 foot rule is probably the most defensible of the three rules that govern Big Boy eligibility. A larger elevation requirement, say 1000 feet, gives greater geographic diversity to the list, but does so at the expense of many commonly recognized mountains. A 500 foot rule has some aesthetic appeal, and has been applied to summits in Colorado and elsewhere. However I feel the rule is flawed, since it cannot be rigorously applied to peaks mapped with 40 or 80 foot contour intervals. Since 400 is a common multiple of 40, 80, and 100; a 400 foot rule can be applied to 7.5 and 15 minute series maps without interpolation. A 400 foot rise also seems sufficient to meet ones visual requirement for a distinct summit.

The USGS-approved names rule is somewhat less defensible and suffers from a theoretical inconstancy. Mountain names are frequently submitted to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names, and future decisions could add new peaks to the list. Fortunately the Washington Board operates with reasonable restraint, and in the past fourteen years only one peak, Mt Rahm, has had to be added to the Big Boy list as a result of a names board decision.

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

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

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

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

The earliest listing I have found for Washington appears in Henry Gannett's 1906 "Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States." Gannett's book lists 12 Washington peaks over 8000 feet, and includes a fascinating discussion of some of our state's more unusual benchmarks. For example, back at the turn of the century, Tacoma's

official USGS B.M. was a crosscut on a step at the entrance to McDaniels Cigar Store; while Marblemount's 313 foot altitude reference was marked by a nail driven into a cedar stump west of the blacksmith's shop.

One of the most comprehensive lists of that era was compiled by state geologist, Henry Landes. Landes was also president of the Seattle Mountaineers, and his list of 31 peaks over 8000 feet first appeared in the November 1908 issue of the club annual. The Washington Geological Survey reprinted his work in 1917, in the now classic "Geographic Dictionary of Washington."

9400' Bonanza Peak was still known as North Star, Mt Rainier's elevation was given as 14,363', and Mts St Helens and Shuksan were estimated at 10,000'. Landes's list omitted such notables as Goode, Logan, Jack, Forbidden, and Eldorado; but included some relatively obscure summits such as Abernathy, Bauerman Ridge, Hozomeen, and an unidentified 8250' Whatcom County peak called Big Horn.

My involvement in the Top 100 list stems from a strong personal interest in mountains, maps, and numerical minutiae. In addition to identifying the two hundred highest mountains in Washington, I have catalogued the state's hundred largest glaciers, and have compiled a 75 year database for Cascade mountain snowfall.

My private collection of topographic maps numbers 3000 sheets, and includes the entire USGS historical collection for Washington and Alaska on microfilm. Using the resources of such a comprehensive map library to catalog the state's highest mountains and largest glaciers was great fun and an extraordinary cartographic experience.

John Plimpton was a key contributor to the concept of the Top 100, and John's careful scrutiny of early versions of the list helped to ensure its accuracy.

John Roper's thoughtful criticisms have also been helpful, and had he been involved with the Bulgers during the first years of the list's creation, its final form might very well have been different.

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

# Washington State Geographic Name Application

New Name

Controversial Name

Name Change

Location

Spelling  
Correction

Proposed

Name: Ira Spring Mountain

County: Snohomish

Section: Township: Range: N/A

Clarification

Lat: 46° 06' 51" N

Long: 121° 20' 58" W

## Description

Type of feature: mountain

Description of feature: shows 5770' elevation on USGS Topo maps

If a stream: N/A

Is this feature identified by any other names: Spring Mountain

Copy of U.S. Geological Survey Topographical Map: attached

## History

Spring Mountain is located in eastern Snohomish County. It is a few miles north of Sloan Peak, and a few miles south of Mount Pugh, both of which are considerably higher, and thus far more visible from roads and highways. Unless one is specifically looking for it, is it not easy to spot from the Mountain Loop Highway, as the summit is mostly obscured by foreground ridges. The summit of this mountain only becomes significant when viewed from nearby peaks, or from the trail which passes through Bingley Gap as it heads toward Glacier Peak.

Spring Mountain is not in a Wilderness Area.

- 1 Research has not revealed any Native American name for this mountain.
- 2 Research has not revealed any mention of this mountain by early settlers in the area. Nor has the surname Spring been found in any of the histories of prominent local settlers.
- 3 Research has not revealed any historical background pertinent to this mountain.
- 4 At one time there has been logging on some of the lower slopes of this mountain, which is true of most of the general area. It seems likely that

there may also have been prospecting in the area, as it is in the same general area as Monte Cristo and other mining centers.

- 5 Research has not revealed any reports of significant fires on this mountain.
- 6 The flora and fauna on this mountain are typical of the western slopes of the North Cascades. The lower slopes are mostly timbered, except on the SW where the terrain is very steep and rocky. The upper slopes are generally above timberline, with some alpine vegetation and several large areas of broken rock. These upper slopes are covered by snow much of the year. There is evidence of a diverse population of goats, deer, marmots, coneys, etc.

The origin of the current name for this mountain has not been found during many months of research in public and private libraries. These include the University of Washington, Seattle Public Library, The Mountaineers library, and others. Nor has anything yet been found on any government or other internet sites. Several years ago Harold Engles, whose lengthy career in this District of the Forest Service was legendary, was asked about the origin of the name Spring Mountain. He could only speculate that it might have been used as a landmark for one or more natural springs on the lower slopes.

Adding Ira's name to the existing Spring Mountain should cause no confusion for Forest Service or Mountain Search and Rescue personnel as the new name is phased in as new maps are printed..

### Justification of Proposed Name

The late Ira Spring has long been known as the premier photographer and author of numerous hiking guides to this area. It is estimated that nearly a million books featuring his detailed trail descriptions, his photos, and his sketch maps have been published. Ira was a tireless advocate for the protection of wilderness areas. He was regularly consulted by the US Forest Service for his vast and unmatched knowledge of the trails in the North Cascades.

The Guidelines of the Washington State Board of Geographic Names state, *"The relative importance of a feature must be equal to the person being honored."* Ira's lifetime accomplishments would certainly qualify him for being honored by having his name on a major natural feature. Unfortunately, virtually all significant natural features in the region have long ago been named. Were Spring Mountain not so close to higher and better known summits, it would likely be considered quite significant.

Ira was generally considered to be a hiker, rather than a dedicated climber. Spring Mountain does not require technical climbing skills to reach the summit. It is well within the capabilities of experienced hikers, providing they can successfully navigate and handle mixed terrain once they leave the trail. It has no significant climbing history, and it receives relatively few reports of successful

summit attempts. This makes it especially appropriate to honor Ira; it is exactly the type of summit where one will be far more likely to find mountain goats rather than climbers and hikers.

When one of the submitters of this application reached the summit several years ago, he found it impossible not to make a strong mental connection between Spring Mountain and Ira Spring. Changing the name to honor Ira will only encourage future generations to learn about his efforts to preserve the natural beauty of this magnificent region.

At this time, the proposed name change has only been discussed by a few of Ira's longtime friends and hiking companions. Support for the change should be virtually unanimous, once it becomes known to the tens of thousands who rely on his guidebooks.

This proposal is respectfully submitted by:

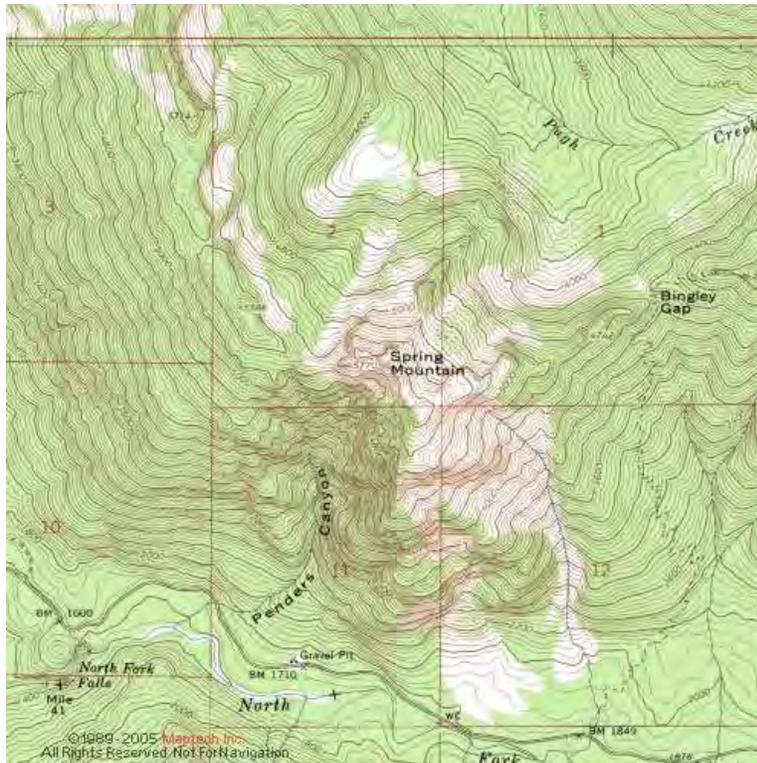
Fred Beckey, 9151 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Seattle 206-366-0140  
Tom Miller, 6669H NE Windemere Road, Seattle 206-524-0933  
John Pollock, 11309 Durland Place NE, Seattle 206-365-9192

Each of the submitters has been privileged to have known, hiked with, and worked closely with Ira Spring for several decades.

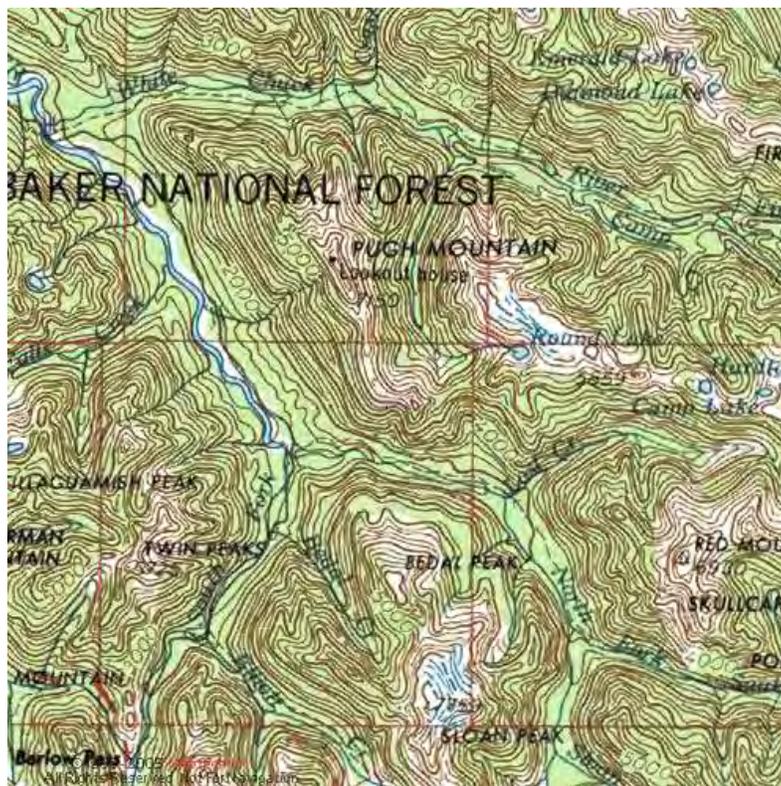
The submitters are aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.



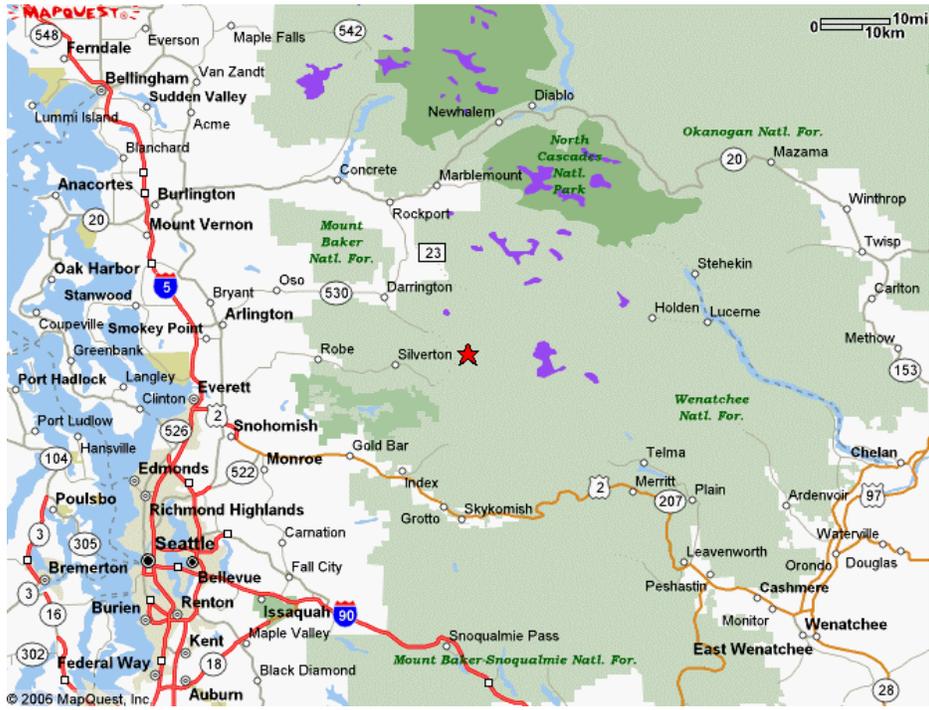
*This map is centered on Spring Mountain*



*This map is centered on Spring Mountain*



*This map is centered on Spring Mountain*



*This map is centered on Spring Mountain*

## BoeAlps Membership Roster – 2006 (April)

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>
Abdalla	Nabil	Member	Hahne	Edward	Member
Altizer	Elden	Member	Hansen	Morten	Member
Arnold	Jeff	Member	Harrison	Williamson	Member
Augustyniewicz	Mark	Member	Hehn	Gary	Member
Ayoub	Phillip	Member	Helbing	Kyle	Member
Baillie	Jerald	Member	Hill	Terence	Member
Baker	Jon	Member	Holloway	Joyce	Member
Behrend	Steven	Member	Hudson	Tim	Member
Beschia	Sorin	Member	Huggins	Brian	Member
Bingle	Mike	Member	Hunting	Chris	Member
Brendemihl	Fritz	Member	Hyslin	Lee	Member
Brinton	Russ	Member	Jolly	Marty	Member
Bukovac	Shella	Member	Jones	Phillip	Member
Bultemeier	Eric	Member	Kagele	Marna	Member
Bustamante	Sergio	Member	Kearns	Justin	Member
Cappel	Curtis	Member	Kimsey	Melanie	Member
Carter	Dean	Member	Kirkegaard	Niels	Member
Cheatham	Benjamin	Member	Klein	Michael	Member
Cheng	Ken	Member	Kluetz	karl	Member
Civarra	Christopher	Member	Kneller	Heidi	Member
Clark	Maggie	Member	Kness	Steven	Member
Colyer	Troy	Member	Koehler	Erich	Member
Cox	Jill	Member	Koerner	Greg	Member
Culbertson	Cal	Member	Kozar	Michael	Member
Davis	Marjorie	Member	Kucera	Larry	Member
Downs	Kenny	Member	Lambert	Eugene	Member
Erhardt	Timothy	Member	Larsen	Vicky	Member
Fay	Dennis	Member	Lee	Brett	Member
Finlayson	Malcom	Member	Leggett	Jill	Member
Fisher	Robert	Member	Leitholf	Valerie	Member
Fleck	Ron	Member	Lin	Dennis	Member
Franko	Bethany	Member	Magers	Robert	Member
Frans	Bill	Member	Mandrillon	Fabien	Member
Frew	Shannon	Member	Mc Crabb	Kevin	Member
Gabrieli	Diego	Member	McCarville	Douglas	Member
Gallegos	Adam	Member	McCormick	Joshua	Member
Garrison	Robyn	Member	McElmurry	Dave	Member
Geyer	Dan	Member	Meder	Chris	Member
Gintz	Russell	Member	Medlin	Jon	Member
Gleason	Gregg	Member	Mhemedi	Fawzi	Member
Godcharles	Francois	Member	Mikos	John	Member
Goering	Dan	Member	Montoya	Oscar	Member
Goodman	Don	Member	Morales	Dan	Member
Griffin	Michael	Member	Munoz	Paul	Member
Griffith	Gregory	Member	Nebeck	Howard	Member
Grob	Jacob	Member	Nelson	Greg	Member
Gronau	Chris	Member	Nelson	Carter	Member
Hagadorn	Charles	Member	Nene	Rohit	Member

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>			
Nolin	Micah	Member	Ubbi Uellenberg	Roger Stephan	Member
Olejnicki	Tony	Member	Vetter	Arthur	Member
O'meara	Sean	Member	Visser	Dirk	Member
Orozco	David	Member	Vlaming	Joe	Member
Ostroff	Mick	Member	Walker	Brad	Member
Park	Paul	Member	Walter	Ken	Member
Pedroza	Fernando	Member	Wetherall	Ryan	Member
Pena	Christiano	Member	Woebkenberg	Brian	Member
Peterson	Kevin	Member	Wong	Jeffrey	Member
Poock	Roger	Member	Youngs	Ross	Member
Pouliot	David	Member	Yutzy	Jinja	Member
Privett	Rich	Member	Zalewski	Mike	Member
Quinton	Brent	Member	Zhu	Yi	Member
Rachal	Patrick (Brian)	Member	Baal	Al	Assoc.
Rasquinha	Leonard	Member	Bittner	Ambrose	Member
Ricardi	Joshua	Member	Gowan	John	Assoc.
Ridenour	Philip	Member	Humbert	Richard	Member
Riggs	Elizabeth	Member	Kannapell	Len	Assoc.
Robb	Calsee	Member	Kasiuhis	erick	Member
Romero	Vincent	Member	Kasiulis	Erick	Assoc.
Rupert	Marcia	Member	Baillie	Katherine	Member
Rutherford	Paul	Member	Bultemeier	Angela	Family
Ryan	Tom	Member	Cook	Paul	Family
Saxton	Caroline	Member	Downs	Lainey	Family
Schmidt	Sara	Member	Drevecky	Cheryl	Family
Schmidt	Gregory	Member	Erhardt	Isaac	Family
Schupp	Peter	Member	Franzen	Signe	Family
Singleton	Christopher	Member	Frew	John	Family
Sirokman	Will	Member	Garrison	Kevin	Family
Sliwinski	Mark	Member	Griffin	Patty	Family
Soncrant	Charles	Member	Griffin	Matt	Family
Soth	Andrea	Member	Kirkegaard	Sheila	Family
Stapp	Jeremy	Member	Koerner	Jessica	Family
Stephens	David	Member	Mansfield	Matthew	Family
Stephenson	Ron	Member	Mcllwraith	Janine	Family
Thomas	Gordon	Member	Woolsey	Landon	Family
Thompson	Jim	Member			
	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>			
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>type</b>			
Trifeletti	Phil	Member			

## BoeAlps Guest/Volunteer Roster – 2006 (April)

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Membership type</b>
Allen	Ryan	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Kleedenn	Kristine	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Alley	John	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Knoll	Bernie	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Beliveau	Lisa	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Lawry	Joan	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Blackhart	Kristan	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Leishman	Ben	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Bowen	Dave	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Loghin	George	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Christie	Rich	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Lovell	Jennifer	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Clark	(Aggie)	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Magali	Prevost	Guest/Vol. Instr.
	Dale	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Majerus	Mandie	Guest/Vol. Instr.
	William	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Marvin	Jason	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Colsch	(Bill)	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Matlick	Justin	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Day	Craig	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Mesdag	Owen	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Deriso	Dawn	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Mockli	Annette	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Dymond	Robert	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Moldovan	Ray	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Erickson	Chris	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Morii	Mire	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Ernst	Toni	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Musante	Ginny	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Fjellanger	Eric	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Nelson	Kurt	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Fugate	James	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Pen	Yoeun	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Gage	Melinda	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Ray	Brandon	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Gilbert	Treavor	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Robertson	Matt	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Granich	Marion	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Sanders	Doug	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Hawkins	Catherine	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Sharer	Bill	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Henderson	Josh	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Sisk	Stephen	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Herdrick	Ethan	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Soelberg	Scott	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Hiatt	Cody	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Sternau	Sarah	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Horiuchi	Moselle	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Stevens	Denny	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Ingerman	Alex	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Sullivan	Brian	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Kannapell	Tuney	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Unguez	Gustavo	Guest/Vol. Instr.
Kennedy	Michael	Guest/Vol. Instr.	Warner	Eli	Guest/Vol. Instr.
			Wild	Silas	Guest/Vol. Instr.

Care was taken to ensure that all financial members and Guests/Volunteers, who participate in the club activities and signed the Waiver, have been included on the list. If for some reason you are not included on the list, and believe that you should be included, please contact Micah Nolin ([micah.nolin@boeing.com](mailto:micah.nolin@boeing.com)) to clarify the issue.

If you have not paid dues this year, you are obviously not on the list. In this case it is not too late to become the financial member. Please fill the annual membership form, attach check with the fee and mail it to Micah Nolin. After we have received your dues you will be promptly included.

There are few good reasons to be a financial member:

- You can feel good supporting the club and being a part of BoeAlps climbing Community;
- You will feel good participating in club activities being financial, although we will welcome you to open events you even if you are not;
- Only financial members are entitled to borrow club equipment;
- There is a discount for financial members to participate in the Annual Banquet;

## **BoeAlps Board – April 11, 2006**

### **Minutes**

The following were participating in the Board meeting in Blue Star Café Pub in Wallingford: Bob Magers (President), Shella Bukovac (Vice-President), Tony Olejnicki (Treasurer), Vicky Larsen (Past-President) and Jerry and Kathy Baillie representing BCC.

### **Agenda:**

- Last Meetings Minutes/Actions
- Financial/Budget Report
- Gear Locker: Fees, Retire Old Equipment, New equipment Budget
- Retiree Dues/Free Age Criteria
- REACH Rock Climbing Presentation
- Banquet
- Library/Archive
- Review Meeting Minutes/Actions
- Closing Remarks

Micah Nolin (Secretary) was not present hence the March Minutes were not presented to the Board for vote and acceptance.

Tony presented financial position reporting balance of the current BoeAlps accounts as follows:

- Check account: \$11,653 of which \$6000 is invested in 3 month CD;
- Agris Morris Savings account: \$10,180 of which \$9000 is invested in 6 month CD.
- Estimated balance at the end of 2006 is expected to be around \$10,000 if all budget items are spend to the limit.

Retirees fees issue have been discussed and Bob moved the motion to make Retiree membership free and define Retiree entitlement age in line with the current social security age of 62. Shella seconded and the motion was approved by 3 of 3 votes. The rule will be applicable from 2007 membership.

Deposit fee for renting new club equipment has been discussed but no resolution was achieved.

Shella and Bob undertook the task of working-out details of equipment rental policies to be included in the constitution, including roles and responsibilities for replacement/purchase decision making, and the role and responsibilities of equipment Focal and the Board. Shella has taken on the action to report on the proposal during the May Board.

Board came to conclusion that the major objective of the of equipment purchased and held by the club is to support club programs generating and maintaining membership base such as BCC, ICC, BRC, Winter Outing Series, being the flagship club's educational and recreational activities.

Board believes that the club shall maintain and replace appropriate stock of tents suitable for BCC purposes. Jerry supported maintenance of 8 4-persons tents on the inventory being reserved for BCC from start of BCC in February to graduation in May. These tents would be returned to Equipment Focal after the graduation and be available for members to use them over the period until February. Hire priority should be to official BoeAlps outings and the hire should be exclusively to BoeAlps members being Boeing employees.

Bob moved the motion to purchase two 4-person expedition grade tents, to replace the worst BCC tents, and to authorize Tony to purchase these within \$1200 budget. The old tents are to be brought to the Board meeting and disposed of. This is the beginning of tent rotation program and it will be recommended to the next Board to maintain one-tent a year replacement program, to maintain an adequate standard of the club equipment. Shella seconded and the motion was approved by 3 of 3 votes.

Board also agreed that the maintenance/replacement program of Avalanche beacons is necessary for safety of users, insurance responsibility to Boeing Company, and continuation of ICC and Winter Outings programs. From logistics aspects club should maintain the inventory of 12 current, operational and certified beacons. Beacons should be

permanently booked for Winter Outings Series and ICC snow outings. Outside these periods they can be available for hire to individual BoeAlps members being Boeing Employees only.

Bob moved the motion to initiate Avalanche Beacon replacement program by purchasing two new Beacons to replace old and out of service Beacons and to authorize Tony to purchase two new Beacons. The old Beacons are to be brought to the Board meeting and disposed of. Shella seconded and the motion was approved by 3 of 3 votes.

The Board also agreed to initiate replacement program of snowshoes being important equipment for Winter Outing Series as well as to individual BoeAlps members adding value to the club membership.

Bob moved the motion to start Snowshoe replacement program and purchase 2 pairs of snowshoes to replace old unserviceable snowshoes and to authorize Tony to purchase these possible in the gear out of season sale. Shella seconded and the motion was approved by 3 of 3 votes.

REACH Representative did not show-up.

2006 Annual banquet was discussed. Tony presented the concept of the banquet being held in the Museum of Flight late October or first week of November. The theme of the banquet would be Preparation to 35 years of Boealps, approaching in 2008. The concept is to have a number of speakers connected to Boealps past telling short (up to 10minutes) stories linked and coordinated by narration and audiovisual show. Board believes that event of this kind would be valuable for the club.

Tony undertook to coordinate the preparations. Shella committed to help in enlisting appropriate people including Len Kannapell as Artistic Director. Jerry was also very supportive and pledged to link Tony with past Boealps 'Characters', who would make the event interesting and worth-while. Tony will report on the concept and associated promotional activities and costs during May Board and he will also book the venue.

Bob moved the motion to allow Tony up to \$2000 budget over the ticket sales to make the event happen. Shella seconded and the motion was approved by 3 of 3 votes.

Tony reported on the state of library and archives. Most of old Echoes have been removed from the locker and are missing; some books may also be missing. No one is using library due to the logistics. Tony proposed to close down the library and switch to web based concept. Vicky suggested Wiki concept and committed to do some research and to present the results on the May Board. Bob committed to talk to Ben about the concept and get Ben to talk to the Board about his concepts, ideas and options. Shella committed to a physical library audit and to evaluate the content.

Vicky proposed to distribute the archival material to the members during the Banquet as a combination of door prizes, give-always or auction.

Board concluded at 7:45pm.



ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
OR: micah.nolin@boeing.com

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

**May Echo staff**

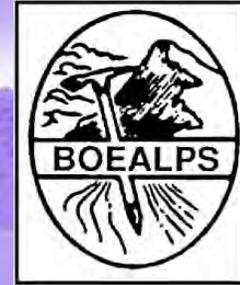
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& Cathy Hawkins

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki  
Ron Fleck  
Tom Ryan  
Jerry Baillie  
Robert Fisher  
Francois Godcharles  
Ambrose Bittner

*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

JUNE 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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## June GENERAL MEETING

The June General Meeting is "Rainier 101" - everything you wanted to know about coordinating a plan to climb Rainier and more!

(editor's note: due to technical difficulties, this edition is posting after the meeting has passed; below is a message from Boealps president, Bob Magers following that meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>):

I want to take just a quick minute to thank everyone that attended the General meeting last night. It was a great success. Many pizza's were eaten, new friends were made, and old friends were re-acquainted. We also had some good times telling climbing stories (many a tall tale was spun : ), and signing up for summer climbs.

I want to give special thanks to Rich Humbert, Kathy Hasegawa, and Len Kannapell for coordinating and providing us all with the wonderful presentation, Rainier 101. The information and insight provided will be invaluable to those folks that are planning their first climb up the mountain, and provided those with experience to share some of their vast store of knowledge.

I also want to thank Jerry & Kathy Baillie, Francois Godcharles, Melinda Gage and Chris Meder, (along with anyone else on their team that I might have missed) for all

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY,**  
**JUNE 1, 7PM**  
**AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG**  
**7755 E MARGINAL WY S**

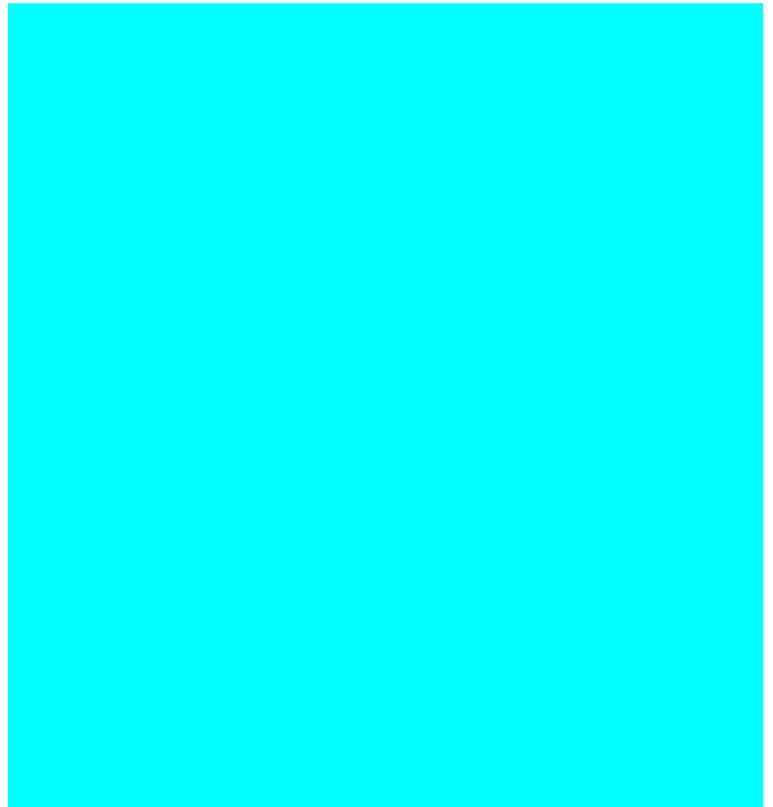


their work putting together the summer climbing series and working so diligently to ensure everyone has the opportunity to sign-up for these climbs. It is a huge piece of work and it is very much appreciated. There are still some opportunities out there for leading and/or participating in the July climbs, so if you are interested, send me an e-mail (please don't reply to all and ensure when you do reply that I am the only one in the "To" list) and I will get you in touch with one of the summer climb series team.

I believe I heard last night that the August list is due out soon also. This list will include the ever popular annual presidents climb. I am going to be going into Gothic Basin this year to bag Del Campo and Gothic, so look for that one in the August list, I haven't got the exact weekend yet, but will have it locked down soon. : )

Hope everyone is having a good day and that the rain will soon desist and allow us all some wonderful days in the mountains. Be safe and have fun.

Bob Magers  
2006 BoeAlps President



# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

There is so much to look forward to this summer! This issue of the Echo is packed with plenty of announcements of upcoming events, plus a trip report from Robert Fisher, climbs to raise funds for children in Nepal, membership information, and more. Look for humorous writing by Francois Godcharles, and two versions of the same original song by lyricist, Ron Fleck.

Mark your calendars now for the Summer Campout on July 22-23 in Leavenworth. You won't want to miss it!

The Summer Climb Series, organized by Chris Meder, which includes Basic Class graduate rated climbs, and also more advanced climbs, organized by Tony Olejnicki are to be found on page 9.

Ben Leishman has also add a great new feature to the boealps.org website. Check out the calendar there, a place to post trips, join other climbing partners for outings, etc..

The Basic Rock Class is beginning. Instructors are still needed, so if you are able to share your skills, please email [brc-contact@boealps.org](mailto:brc-contact@boealps.org) .

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the June issue is May 22. Email all submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
Cathy



BCC 2006 Gold team makes their way to the summit of El Dorado (photo submitted by studklimber@hotmail.com)

# June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ICC AlpineI
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Boealps Board meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Full moon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> July Echo Deadline	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Summer Solstice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ICC AlpineII
<b>25</b> New moon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**2006**



2006BCC Gold team- El Dorado. (Photo submitted by studklimer@hotmail.com.)

# July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Boealps general meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ICC lecture	<b>11</b> Full moon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> ICC Alpine III
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> August Echo Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Summer Campout
<b>23</b> Summer Campout	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> New Moon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> ICC Ice Climbing
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

**2006**

# **Royal Columns, Tieton Valley Rock** by Robert Fisher

**If you like Vantage but are wishing for better quality rock, you should definitely check out The Royal Columns. There was a whole lot of crack, a whole lot of dihedrals, and plenty of sport routes for those who love bolts.**

**The guide - "Tieton River Rocks - A Climber's Guide" by Marlene Ford and Jim Yoder (\$26 at REI)**

**Getting there - It's 2.5-3 hours of driving from Seattle. Take I-90 past Ellensburg to I-97 South past Yakima to Hwy 12 West. Climbing is only about 20 miles outside Yakima.**

**Camping - There are a lot of state parks between Naches and Chinook Pass. The downside is that you are paying \$15-\$17 for a site with a pit toilet and a picnic bench. You can also camp for free at any of the numerous road pull outs along the Tieton River. If you like a more luxurious climbing trip, there are plenty of hotels waiting to take your money in Yakima, 20 minutes away.**

**Services - There are pit toilets across the highway from the columns (15 minute hike from the climbs).**

**Food - Yakima is chock-full of restaurants. There is also a great little place in Naches with very fast service and good diner-quality food for cheap. Breakfast specials are about \$4 daily.**

**Permits - You will need to get a Department of Fish and Wildlife "vehicle use permit" to park in the Oak Creek Wildlife Refuge (that's where the climbs are). They cost \$12.95 for 2 years and can be gotten anywhere that sells hunting and fishing licenses. It's probably easiest if you got the permit before you leave Seattle. The ticket for not having a pass is \$66. You will be parking at the land manager's office, so they will check.**

**The ratings at Tieton seemed a bit stiff to me. I lead a 5.6 that was as hard as some 5.8's at Squamish. You will probably want to start a few grades below what you are used to until you get the feel for the ratings. It's pretty easy to set top ropes on the harder stuff. You can climb the Rap Route (5.5) to get to the top, then look for bolts for your TR. Be careful, there is loose rock on top.**

**Some of what we climbed:**

**Entrance Exam, 5.6 - a fun chimney that felt very 5.6 once you got past the balancey start. We used this route as a way up to TR other, harder climbs.**

**Level Head, 5.6 - Fun twin cracks that steepen towards the top.**

**Bridger, 5.6 - More fun twin cracks that steepen dramatically at the top. Felt quite a bit harder than 5.6.**

**The Cutting Edge, 5.7 - Stiff for the grade, like all the other climbs here. Steep corner crack leads to a small roof top-out.**

**Jam Exam, 5.9 - Excellent, excellent jam crack in a corner. Hands to fingers to hands. Definitely worth the 3 stars**

**Thriller Pillar, 5.9 - Sport route with a couple of cams for pro. Straight forward face climbing on edges with an intimidating roof and difficult top-out**

**Orange Sunshine, 5.10b - Hand to steep finger crack. Terrific climb, definitely worth the four stars, and easy to top-rope.**

**Solar King, 5.11a - A blocky start to an impossibly thin dihedral. Past the dihedral are solid finger locks, then an excellent hand crack to a roof that looks nasty, but is a hoot to climb.**

**Tieton Aid Route, A1, 5.9 - Great first pitch - fun and easy A1. The second pitch is scary loose. You should probably rap off the fixed pins 70 feet up and call it a day instead of topping out. Bring nuts, offsets, and small cams.**

# BASIC ROCK CLASS 2006

It's here! The Basic Climbing Class is just about to finish up, and the Basic Rock Class (BRC) is just about to get under way. The BRC is designed to:

- Provide students with opportunities to practice, practice, practice climbing
- Familiarize students with principles of lead climbing through following
- Bridge gap between BCC and ICC for students who want to continue
  - Intent to take the ICC is not requisite

## CLASS PHILOSOPHY

The BRC is designed to create **mentorship relationships**, making students more **independent as climbers** and introducing them to **different climbing styles** and **potential climbing partners**.

To participate in the class, you must be able to make all of the outings listed in one of the schedules below.

### SCHEDULE A

6/17-6/18 - Leavenworth  
7/8-7/9 - Individual climb TBD  
7/22-7/23 - Squamish  
8/19-8/20 - Individual climb TBD  
9/16-9/17 - Smith (optional)

### SCHEDULE B

6/17-6/18 - Leavenworth  
7/22-7/23 - Squamish  
8/5-8/6 - Individual climb TBD  
9/2-9/3 - Individual climb TBD  
9/16-9/17 - Smith (optional)

Anyone interested in the class may apply and come to the Leavenworth outing. From there, the class will be narrowed to 12 students, and those students will be placed on one schedule or the other. In addition to weekend outings, we will have three Wednesday-night classroom sessions, starting on 7/5.

The cost of the class is \$100. Gear requirements are minimal; in addition to BCC gear, you will need rock shoes, a nut tool, and a cordelette. (Optional gear: Chalk bag, small day pack.)

BRC applications will be available soon on the Boealps website at boealps.org. Questions? Email brc-contact@boealps.org.

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### Frequently asked questions about the Basic Rock Class:

#### **Are any outings required?**

Yes. If you don't make the Leavenworth outing, you cannot take the class. There will be no make-up.

#### **Can I make up outings I miss?**

No. There will be no make-ups for any of the outings.

#### **Can you change the class schedule to accommodate the fact that I can't make the Leavenworth outing?**

No.

#### **Please?**

No.

# Climbs, Hikes and Scrambles – Summer 2006

## Climbs Suited for BCC Graduates

Basic Class skills should be sufficient for the following outings. Some of these climbs do not yet have trip leaders. These are a great opportunity for BCC graduates to step up and organize their first climbs, practice what they've learned, and meet new climbing partners.

### **Mount Rainier via Emmons Glacier      June 3-4, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Emmons Glacier route  
Elevation: 14411 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Yoeun Pen [jinushaun@gmail.com](mailto:jinushaun@gmail.com)

### **Mount Rainier via Ingraham Glacier      June 3-4, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Ingraham Glacier route  
Elevation: 14411 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

### **Mount Baker via Colman Glacier      June 3-4, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Coleman-Deming Glacier route  
Elevation: 10778 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

### **Little Tahoma via Meany Crest      June 3-4, 2006**

Climb Mount Rainier's smaller neighbor and enjoy the close-up views and fewer people.

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Fryingpan & Whitman Glacier route  
Elevation: 11138 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

**Mount Rainier via Emmons Glacier      June 10-11, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Emmons Glacier route  
Elevation: 14411 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

**Eldorado Peak      June 10-11, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: East Ridge route  
Elevation: 8868 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

**Colchuck and Dragontail Peaks      June 10-11, 2006**

Two spectacular peaks in the Enchantments region of the Central Cascades.

Party Limit: 12  
Route: check with trip leader  
Elevation: 8705 ft (Colchuck), 8840 ft (Dragontail)  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: check with trip leader  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Brian Sullivan at [sully213@hotmail.com](mailto:sully213@hotmail.com)

**Whitehorse Mountain      June 10-11, 2006**

Glaciated peak towering over the Darrington area with spectacular views of the surrounding areas.

Party Limit: 12  
Route: check with trip leader  
Elevation: 6840 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: check with trip leader  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Rich Humbert [richhumbert@hotmail.com](mailto:richhumbert@hotmail.com)

**Mount Adams via South Spur      June 10-11, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: South Spur route  
Elevation: 12276 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: snow climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: John Alley [johndalley@juno.com](mailto:johndalley@juno.com) and Ron Fleck [Ronald.k.fleck@boeing.com](mailto:Ronald.k.fleck@boeing.com)

**Mount Rainier via Emmons Glacier      June 17-18, 2006**



**Mount Rainier via Ingraham Glacier      June 24-25, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Ingraham Glacier route  
Elevation: 14411 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Yoeun Pen [jinushaun@gmail.com](mailto:jinushaun@gmail.com)

**Sahale Peak via Quien Sabe Glacier      June 24-25, 2006 (Full)**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Quien Sabe Glacier route  
Elevation: 8680 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: class 3-4 rock, steep glacier  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Al Baal [al\\_baal@hotmail.com](mailto:al_baal@hotmail.com)

**Silver Star Mountain      June 24-25, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: TBD  
Elevation: 8876 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: TBD  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

**Mount Shuksan via Sulphide Glacier      June 24-25, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Sulphide Glacier route  
Elevation: 9131 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: glacier climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: No trip leader yet. Email Chris Meder at [chrismeder@earthlink.net](mailto:chrismeder@earthlink.net) to sign up to lead this trip.

**Advanced Climbs**

**Boealps Annual Denali Expedition      May 18, 2006 – June 16, 2006**

There are two Boealps teams on the mountain this year:

***Team 1:***

Expedition Name: 'Blue Ice Blues'  
Number of Expedition Members: 6  
Contact: Brad Walker ([william.b.walker@boeing.com](mailto:william.b.walker@boeing.com))  
Objective: West Buttress

***Team 2:***

Expedition Name: 'Where The Hack Are We'

Number of Expedition Members: 2 (John Gowan, Tony Olejnicki)

Contact: John Gowan ([John.J.Gowan@boeing.com](mailto:John.J.Gowan@boeing.com))

Objective: West Rib with acclimatization/warm-up on West Buttress

**Maude**

**June 24-25, 2006**

Cool down after Denali. Drive Saturday, walk-in and bivy at the base of the North Face; climb Sunday morning to avoid soft snow conditions; down climb South Ridge; walk-out and drive to Seattle late afternoon.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: North Face

Elevation: 9082'

Equipment: ice-axe, ice tool, crampons, rope, bivy

Difficulty: steep snow climbing up to 55°

Experience: BCC

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Waddington Traverse, BC**

**July 1-9, 2006**

One of the most beautiful and remote ranges of BC and an incredible feast of climbing. Leave Sea Friday a/work 6/30 to Lake Tatla, camp/motel on the way; Heli-Fly-in Saturday and camp at Waddington-Combatant col or Fury Gap; traverse to Plummer Hut and climb: Waddington, Combatant; Tiedemann, Asperity; fly-out 7/9 morning and drive to Seattle.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams), share heli cost

Route: mixed routes with snow/ice to 60°, some rock class 4 and low class 5

Elevation: Waddington (13,186'), Combatant (12,343'), Asperity (12,215'),

Tiedemann (12,529')

Equipment: ice-tools; crampons, ice-screws, alpine rock rack

Difficulty: difficult mixed climbing, steep snow and some ice climbing, rock up to 5.9, exposure

Experience: ICC level and 5.9 alpine lead, high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Challenger**

**July 15-17, 2006**

Classic of the North Pickets; Drive Friday 7/28; TH bivy; Walk-in Saturday to Whatcom pass, Sunday cross glacier and climb Challenger; walk-out Sunday/Monday; drive Seattle on Monday.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: Hagenan Pass, Whatcom Pass, Challenger Glacier and North Buttress

Elevation: 8205'

Equipment: Rope, rock shoes, medium rock rack, ice ax, crampons, bivy

Difficulty: Rock-climbing to 5.8, exposed scrambling and snow slopes

Experience: equivalent to ICC level, 5.8 alpine lead, high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Cathedral Peak**

**July 22-24, 2006**

Passeyaten explorer; Drive Friday 7/14 after work; walk-in Saturday; climb Sunday; walk-out Sunday/Monday; Seattle Monday late.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: TBD on a day

Elevation: 8602'

Equipment: alpine rack

Difficulty: long non-technical hike-in, alpine multi-pitch rock-climb up 5.8

Experience: ICC or BRC level rock-climbing lead up to 5.8

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Stuart North Ridge (Full)****July 29-31, 2006**

Gary Hehn/Tony Olejnicki long planned trip of this classic route; open to other pair of climbers; leave Renton 8am Saturday 7/29; 4pm at the base; bivy; start climb 5am; finish 5-6pm (hopefully); back at bivy 8-9pm; early Monday walk-out and drive Seattle. Access from Lake Stuart TH; rock class 4 to 5.9.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: Full North Ridge

Elevation: 9,416'

Equipment: alpine rack, crampons, ice-axe, rock-climbing shoes, bivy

Difficulty: exposed multi-pitch (30 pitches) rock climb from class 4 to 5.9

Experience: ICC/BRC level and 5.9 alpine lead, high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))**Mt Robson, BC****August 5-13, 2006**

This is another classic and spectacular climb. Leave Friday 8/4 after work; arrive Mount Robson Provincial Park Saturday afternoon, registration (no fee); climb Robson Kain Face; drive back Sunday 8/13; arriving Seattle late.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: Kain Face

Elevation: 12,989'

Equipment: Ice axe, crampons, helmet, rope, harness, ice screws, pickets, possibly small rock rack.

Difficulty: Glacier travel, bergschrunds, 45-degree snow or ice, possibly exposed Class 4 rock

Experience: Rock climbing (ICC or BRC); ice/snow/glacier travel; high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))**Mt Shasta, CA****August 19-21, 2006**

With 2006 BCC graduates in mind; Leave Renton early Saturday, arriving late afternoon, start climbing and bivy; Sunday summit, down climb and bivy; drive Monday arriving Renton late afternoon.

Long slog on dirt and snow.

Party Limit: 6

Route: Avalanche Gulch

Elevation: 14,163'

Equipment: crampons, ice-axe

Difficulty: snow/scree hike class 1 and 2 with short section of class 3

Experience: BCC graduate

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))**Early Winter Spires****August 26-27, 2006**

Classic Washington Pass rock-climb. Drive Friday 8/24, bivy at TH, climb Saturday; bivy; easy drive to Seattle; open to another short climb in Washington pass; weather permitting; maybe stretch your quads scrambling Masachie or climb Liberty Bell Beckey's Route an another classic in the area.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: TBD

Elevation: 7808'

Equipment: alpine rack,

Difficulty: 5.8 alpine rock-climb

Experience: Rock climbing ICC or BRC equivalent experience

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

## **3 Summits for Nepal's Children Benefit Climb**

**Organizer: Ambrose Bittner, 2006 ICC leader**

3 Summits for Nepal's Children is a benefit climb to raise money to help the children of Nepal who have been displaced as a result of the civil conflict there. Because of my travels to Nepal in the past and as I currently do business there, I feel a personal responsibility towards this effort. I've joined with friend, colleague, and local Nepalese Sherpa, Jwalant Gurung, to organize climbs of select Cascade volcanoes to raise money. 100 percent of the funds raised will go to help Mitrata-Nepal, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with that same goal.

Please join us for a great time as we attempt to climb these three mountains:

- 1) Mt. Adams - May 27 and 28
- 2) Mt. Baker - June 17 and 18
- 3) Mt. Rainier - July 15 and 16

A minimum donation of \$500 will guarantee you a spot with us on one or all of these mountains and contribute to the costs of housing, food, and education needs of Nepalese orphans. To participate or to donate, please contact me. More information can be found on the following web sites:

- [www.3summits.net](http://www.3summits.net)
- <http://www.redlanternjourneys.com/index.php?id=57>

# NEPAL 2006

## LOBUCHE PEAK CLIMB EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK

September 23 – October 21  
(dates are somewhat flexible)

**Climbing Peaks:** Lobuche East (6119m, 20,075ft) and Lobuche West\* (6145m, 20,161ft)

**Trekking Route:** Lukla – Namche Bazar – Thame – Renzo Pass – Cho La – Everest Base Camp



### Summary

With 21 days walking, 3 high passes over 5300m (17,000ft), 2 summits over 6100m (20,000ft) and a day trip to Everest Base Camp this circuit of the Everest region is undoubtedly a rewarding Khumbu expedition as we trek and camp at altitude amongst the highest peaks on earth.

### Trip description

This outstanding trek takes us through an ever-changing panorama of huge peaks, as we meander through the three valleys, and high passes of the Everest region. The highlight of the trip is the summit of two of the most technical “trekking peaks” in the region: Lobuche Peak East and Lobuche Peak West\*

We begin our trek with a spectacular flight to the mountain strip of Lukla, from where we head to the capital of the region-Namche Bazaar. Here we acclimatize over a day and a half, enjoying the many creature comforts on offer in this bustling town before heading off into the big mountains. A marvelous day trip to Everest Mountain View hotel will offer you the first amazing glimpses of Mt Everest.

Over the next two weeks we explore the Everest region, ascending a number of remote high passes and vantage points to claim some of the most incredible mountain vistas imaginable. Our first pass, Renzo La

(5,345m), looks west towards the Rolwaling Himal. Then we head for the Gokyo valley where Cho Oyu (8,153m) and Gyanchungkang (7,992m) dominate the skyline on the Tibetan border to the north. During a rest day, we ascend Gokyo Ri (5,360m) for more stunning panoramic views of the entire Khumbu region before heading off south-west over Cho La (5,420m). After a glacial traverse, we head into the Everest valley where we head towards Gorak Shep and Everest Base Camp (5364m) where we can talk to climbers heading into the Khumbu ice-fall. A walk back down the valley leads us to lower base camp for our summit attempts. After establishing a lower base camp we will summit Lobuche East Peak (6119m) and move to a second base camp for a following day summit of Lobuche West Peak\* (6145m).

At each of the 5 vantage peaks (Renjo La, Gokyo Ri, Cho La and Lobuche East and West) we are afforded spectacular views of five of the world's 8000m peaks and countless others. The sensation of 'exposure' is a common feeling for those who have made this trek before; unsurprisingly one where they feel like they are on top of the world!

Our return trip takes us down to Thangboche monastery, then join the main trail down the valley to the airstrip at Lukla. Catching our return flight to Kathmandu, we have a little time to relax in our comfortable hotel and taste some of the city's cultural delights before catching our return flight to the US.

### **DETAILED ITINERARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Travel</b>
23-Sep	Fly from Seattle to Bangkok
24-Sep	Overnight in Bangkok
25-Sep	Fly Bangkok to Kathmandu
26-Sep	Sight seeing in Kathmandu
27-Sep Trek Day 1	Fly Kathmandu to Lukla, trek to Phakding
28-Sep Trek Day 2	Trek Phakding to Namche Bazar
29-Sep Trek Day 3	Day trip to Everest View Hotel, back to Namche
30-Sep Trek Day 4	Trek Namche to Thame
1-Oct Trek Day 5	Trek Thame to Kahara
2-Oct Trek Day 6	Trek Kahara to Renjo La base camp
3-Oct Trek Day 7	Trek over Renjo La to Gokyo
4-Oct Trek Day 8	Day trip up Gokyo Ri
5-Oct Trek Day 9	Trek Gokyo to Cho La base camp
6-Oct Trek Day 10	Trek over Cho La to Dzonglha
7-Oct Trek Day 11	Trek Dzonglha to Lobuche
8-Oct Trek Day 12	Trek Lobuche to Gorak Shep
9-Oct Trek Day 13	Trek to Everest Base Camp then down to Lobuche
10-Oct Trek Day 14	Climb to Lobuche lower base camp
11-Oct Trek Day 15	Summit Day: East peak, climb to 2nd camp
12-Oct Trek Day 16	Summit Day: West peak, climb back to lower base camp
13-Oct Trek Day 17	<i>Extra schedule day for summit, weather, sickness or rest</i>
14-Oct Trek Day 18	Trek Lower base camp to Pheriche
15-Oct Trek Day 19	Trek Pheriche to Tangboche (or Deboche)
16-Oct Trek Day 20	Trek Tangboche (or Deboche) to Namche
17-Oct Trek Day 21	Trek Namche to Lukla
18-Oct	Fly Lukla to Kathmandu
19-Oct	Sight seeing in Kathmandu
20-Oct	Fly Kathmandu to Bangkok
21-Oct	Fly Bangkok to Seattle

### **TRIP COST**

2 to 4 persons US\$ 2695.00\* (per person)

5 to 8 persons US\$ 2480.00\* (per person)

\*Lobuche West peak involves an additional climbing permit. Cost for this peak is determined by the number of trip participants.

### **ABOVE COST INCLUDES:**

- Air- flight (domestic) Ktm/Luk/Ktm
- Hotel in Kathmandu with b/b plan

- Sirdar, Cook, Sherpa guides, Kitchen boys & porters
- All the necessary trekking equipment such as tents, Kitchen utensils, Mattresses, mess tent Kitchen tent,
- All transportation, airport pick up and drop
- Three time meals during the trek,
- Trekking permit fee, national park fee,
- Sightseeing

**ABOVE COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- International flight to and from Nepal (Kathmandu)
- Nepal visa, airport tax
- Emergency rescue flight (if needed), Travel insurance
- Lunch and Dinner in Kathmandu and other cities en-route
- Drinks, sleeping bags, personal warm cloth and boots
- Porter and climbing staff tips
- Entrance fee during sightseeing in Kathmandu.

**Contact and Booking Info**

This trip is being offered through a reputable and well-known trekking company in Nepal. This trekking company is registered with the Nepal Ministry of Tourism (NTB) and is a member of Trekking Agents Association of Nepal (TAAN) and Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). The owner's cousin is a close friend of mine (so I vouch for them).

A minimum of two people is required for peak permits. The trekking route and dates are somewhat flexible until the trip is completely booked. I'm hoping for at least three more participants.

**A \$675.00 deposit is required by July 15<sup>th</sup> in order to reserve your space on this trip.**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**Dawn Deriso**  
[dderiso@nwlinc.com](mailto:dderiso@nwlinc.com)  
**mobile: 425-260-6978**  
**work: 206-428-4245**



## FASHION



Tired of that heavy Gore-Tex layer that smells of melting cowpie because you don't want to wash it for fear of altering its water-repellent capabilities ?

Always on the heartbeat of America's climbers, Glad has developed the disposable, and highly fashionable, Hobo-Bag outer shell. Specifically designed for maximum waterproofness and extreme lightness, the shell comes in a one-size fits-all folded format the size of a postcard, and is self-adjustable !

BCC student "Ro" proof-tested it at Devil's Peak this year and found it extremely comfortable and airy, while remaining fully dry. He also found out that the Hobo-Bag took his glissading to a new level: glissading down the side of Devil's Thumb, Ro was seen again on the shoulder of I-5 where he was stopped for speeding (just kidding !). A box of 20 Hobo-Bags goes for about \$8.99 in most supermarkets.

(Rohit Nene, Devil's Peak basecamp, April 2006)

## NEW RATING SYSTEM

Climbers have historically devised ways of rating climbing routes, boulder routes, glacier routes... and now, I guess it was inevitable, climbers will be rating... climbers !

British climbers Gordon Howe and Terry Sum have just published a rating system to award numerical ratings to active climbers, ranging from simple flat-ground hikers (at 0.0 Howe-Sum) to hard-core extreme over-achieving climbers (at 11.0 Howe-Sum). The Howe-Sum scale, as it is known, is based on various criteria including proficiency in technical moves, raw muscular power, flexibility, overall looks and fashion sense, ability to sweet-talk the lingo, frisbee disc flipping, routes curriculum, reputation within the climbing community,...

These criteria are expected to be updated regularly as the sport - and the times - evolves to reflect what is considered critical at any given time by the climbing community.

Let's see if we can apply this Howe-Sum scale to our own Northwest climbing tribe, and find out what the ends of the scale would be.... I'll leave out the mathematics of the system and go straight to the results:

Our top Howe-Sum climber would be, no contest, Fred Beckey, at 10.9D

Our worst (but still loveable) Howe-Sum climber would be the celebrated Northwest slug at 0.2



UPCOMING BOOK ?



Speaking of our local celebrity, word is that Fred Beckey is currently at work on a new book on gear. The working title, according to my source is "101 uses for the common ice axe".

Over his impressive career, Fred has apparently found numerous uses for his ice axe, besides arresting and self-belaying, and has finally agreed to document those for the benefit of the climbing world. I have very sketchy details on this work in progress, except for the following chapter titles:

- Eating Habits
- French Bottle Opening Techniques
- Radar Traps and Satellite Reception
- Cricket
- Big Hair

Here's a great use for the ice axe: reach into a box of Krispy Kreme with the spike end and grab a doughnut by the center hole for your eating pleasure without getting your Dachstein mitts clogged up with sugar!

Wonder if that one will make the book...

(Carter Nelson, Paradise, May 2006)

#### END NOTE

That's it for another edition of "Perspectives".

Let me know if you find anything strange out there that might be of interest to this column and to your fellow Echo readers. You know my address: just send it in...

Until next time, go out and play but be safe out there.

Cheers !

## Calves Are Burning

(Tune of "Beds are Burning" by Midnight Oil)

Out where the cities stop  
The ridges climb, the valleys drop  
Through the woods, above the trees  
I hear the mountains calling me

The time has come, the weekend's here  
The air is crisp, the sky is clear  
The time has come, it's early dawn  
Let's start our climb, Let's get it on

We're kicking those steps while our calves are burning  
We're climbing on high with our spirits yearning  
We're kicking those steps while our calves are burning  
Let's sprint to the top before the weather's turning

The time has come, let's lift our packs  
Let's hit the trail, Let's make some tracks.

Whether Olympics or Cascades  
It truly is an even trade  
I need to feel my axe in hand  
Above the clouds I want to stand

The time has come, The weekend's here  
The air is crisp, the sky is clear  
The time has come, it's early dawn  
Let's start our climb, Let's get it on

We're kicking those steps while our calves are burning  
We're climbing on high with our spirits yearning  
We're kicking those steps while our calves are burning  
Let's sprint to the top before the weather's turning

The time has come, the weekend's here  
The air is crisp, the sky is clear  
The time has come, let's lift our packs  
Let's hit the trail, Let's make some tracks.

We're kicking those steps while our calves are burning  
Let's sprint to the top before the weather's turning

lyrics by Ron Fleck

# Weather's Turning

(Tune of "Beds are Burning" by Midnight Oil)

Starting out in glaring sun  
We were having so much fun  
Mountain weather changes fast  
The easy climb just didn't last

The time has come, Let's grab our packs  
We'd better be heading back  
The time has come, it's really clear  
We need to get out of here

Cause how can we climb when the weather's turning  
How can we climb when a storm is churning  
How can we climb when the weather's turning  
How can we climb when a storm is churning

The time has come, it's really clear  
We need to get out of here

Out in the raging storm  
It's awfully hard to keep warm  
In the trees I need to be  
Before the lightning neuters me

The time has come, Let's grab our packs  
We'd better be heading back  
The time has come, it's really clear  
We need to get out of here

Cause how can we climb when the weather's turning  
How can we climb when a storm is churning  
How can we climb when the weather's turning  
How can we climb when a storm is churning

The time has come, Let's grab our packs  
Before we have a heart attack  
The time has come, it's really clear  
Let's get the heck, out of here.

Cause how can we climb when the weather's turning  
Perhaps next week we'll be returning



ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
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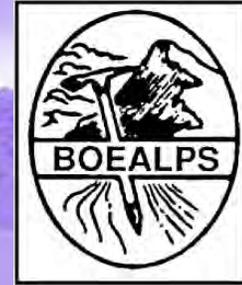
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vaguely mountaineering or outdoors  
related will do—email them to us at  
editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a  
call (our numbers are  
on the front cover)  
and we'll arrange something!*

# ALPINE ECHO

AUGUST 2006



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## ➤ AUGUST GENERAL MEETING ➤

No meeting this month!

It's summer, wake up and climb!

Boealps Elections are coming in September

# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

This month's Echo is chock full of great trip reports. Club members have been taking advantage of the great summer weather to get a lot of climbs in. Tony Olejnicki contributed three writeups of his climbs of the North Ridge of Stuart, West Ridge of Mt Terror, and a "polish-style" ascent of Mt Shuksan. Who better than Tony to pull all that off! Shella Bukovac and some fellow Boealpers hitched a ferry ride up Lake Chelan to Lucerne (not Holden) to climb Bonanza. And Francois Godcharles ventured to Mt Olympus with Zeus, Athena, Hermes and some other immortals. Read about the first BRC outing from Fabian Mandrillon. And we round it all off with some Boealps Karaoke from Ron Fleck.

Boealps Elections are coming in September! A nominating committee consisting of Bob Magers, Shella Bukovac, and Micah Nolin has been formed to collect nominations for next year's club officers. Please contact one of these people to nominate someone for a board position. Nothing happens in Boealps until someone volunteers to do it.

Chris Meder and the Summer Climb Series Team have been at it again and organized yet more climbs to get you out into the hills! Check out the climbs planned for the rest of this summer in this issue of the Echo. Thanks to these individuals for all the work they have put into this.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the September issue is August 21st. Email all submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Summer is going fast, so get out there and climb (then write-up what you did for Echo).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
John



Sunrise from El Dorado Peak . (Photo by Diego Gabrieli.)

# August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BRC Climb (Tooth)
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> ICC lecture	<b>8</b> Board Meeting	<b>9</b> Full moon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> ICC Alpine IV
<b>13</b> ICC Alpine IV	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> BRC Climb (Leavenworth)
<b>20</b> BRC Climb (Leavenworth)	<b>21</b> ICC lecture Sept. Echo Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> New moon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ICC Grad Climb
<b>27</b> ICC Grad Climb	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**2006**



A climber admires Mt Goode from Black Peak (photo by John Gowan)

# September

<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 Labor Day	5	6	7 Boealps Elections ! Full moon	8	9
10	11	12 Board Meeting	13	14	15	16 BRC Climb (Smith Rock)
17 BRC Climb (Smith Rock)	18	19	20	21	22 Autumnal Equinox New moon	23
24	25 Oct Echo Deadline	26	27	28	29	30

**2006**



- Brought to you in part by your very own BoeAlps Activities Committee !!!

At this very moment, most of you are probably thinking: "Activities committee ?!?!? I didn't know BoeAlps had an activities committee.... I certainly didn't vote for anyone..." Ha !  
Rest assured my climbing little friend... There is no need to vote, no need to worry about your membership fees reaching new heights, no need to doubt the existence of the Committee. Rather, be comforted in the knowledge that a band of fearless individuals have freely taken over your summer dreams and summer days to bring you countless opportunities to do what you all do best: climb. These individuals, each endowed with unearthly superpowers of organizational skills meet monthly to devise new plans to counter the mischiefs of the dark powers that constantly seek to keep us away from mountains and rock walls. Only one man, their spokesman known as "Da Prez", aka Chris Meder, has so far been allowed to take part in these secret gatherings in order to bring word of planned outings to you all. In time, perhaps the Committee members will reveal themselves, and you will learn to recognize them on the trails of the NorthWest, but for now, here is what's in store for the coming month...

The BoeAlps Activities Committee  
"One Climb Fits All"

### Climbs Suited for BCC Graduates

#### **Mt Rainier from Camp Schurman**

**August 3-6, 2006**

*Note: this trip was originally planned for July 28-30, but was rescheduled due to poor weather for that weekend.*

Party Limit: 8 - 3 signed on already

Elevation: 14411 ft

Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear

Difficulty: glacier climb

Experience: BCC

Contact: Don Meyer [meyer.dl@comcast.net](mailto:meyer.dl@comcast.net)

Plan: Flexible

Thursday evening - stay at White River Camp Ground (optional)

Friday - up to Camp Sherman (optional - meet us at 8:00 and climb)

Saturday - stay at Camp Schurman (can climb Sat & meet us there)

Sunday - climb to summit and return to cars

#### **Mt. Olympus**

**August 11-13, 2006**

Party Limit: 8

Route: TBD

Elevation: 7969 ft

Equipment: standard BCC climb gear

Experience: BCC

Contact: Nabil Abdalla, [nabil.abdalla@gmail.com](mailto:nabil.abdalla@gmail.com)

**Chiwawa and Fortress August 12-13, 2006**

Party Limit: 8 (Subject to increase if necessary)  
Route: From Trinity  
Elevation: Both in the Washington top 100  
Equipment: standard BCC climb gear  
Experience: BCC  
Leader: Shella Bukovac  
Contact: Bernie Knoll, [climb2alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:climb2alpine@yahoo.com), 253-970-5629

**BOEALPS ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S CLIMB**

**Gothic Basin – Gothic and Del Campo Peaks August 19-20, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Contact the President!  
Elevation: 6613 ft (Del Campo), 6213 ft (Gothic)  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: scrambling with some snow  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Bob Magers, [robert.b.magers@boeing.com](mailto:robert.b.magers@boeing.com)

**Mt. Adams August 25-27, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: South Spur route  
Elevation: 12276 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: snow climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Don Meyer [meyer.dl@comcast.net](mailto:meyer.dl@comcast.net)

**Plan:**

Friday - drive up and camp  
Saturday - hike/climb up to Lunch Counter  
Sunday - climb to summit, back to base and drive home

**Advanced Climbs**

The following climbs are more advanced, with difficulty and required experience levels given for each outing. Contact Tony Olejnicki directly to sign up for any of these climbs.



**Mt Robson, BC**

**August 5-13, 2006**

This is another classic and spectacular climb. Leave Friday 8/4 after work; arrive Mount Robson Provincial Park Saturday afternoon, registration (no fee); climb Robson Kain Face; drive back Sunday 8/13; arriving Seattle late.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: Kain Face

Elevation: 12,989'

Equipment: Ice axe, crampons, helmet, rope, harness, ice screws, pickets, possibly small rock rack.

Difficulty: Glacier travel, bergschrunds, 45-degree snow or ice, possibly exposed Class 4 rock

Experience: Rock climbing (ICC or BRC); ice/snow/glacier travel; high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Mt Shasta, CA****August 19-21, 2006**

With 2006 BCC graduates in mind; Leave Renton early Saturday, arriving late afternoon, start climbing and bivy; Sunday summit, down climb and bivy; drive Monday arriving Renton late afternoon.  
Long slog on dirt and snow.

Party Limit: 6

Route: Avalanche Gulch

Elevation: 14,163'

Equipment: crampons, ice-axe

Difficulty: snow/scree hike class 1 and 2 with short section of class 3

Experience: BCC graduate

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))**Early Winter Spires****August 26-27, 2006**

Classic Washington Pass rock-climb. Drive Friday 8/24, bivy at TH, climb Saturday; bivy; easy drive to Seattle; open to another short climb in Washington pass; weather permitting; maybe stretch your quads scrambling Masachie or climb Liberty Bell Beckey's Route an another classic in the area.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: TBD

Elevation: 7808'

Equipment: alpine rack,

Difficulty: 5.8 alpine rock-climb

Experience: Rock climbing ICC or BRC equivalent experience

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

# BONANZA

The usual suspects: Bernie Knoll, Shella Bukovac (scribe), Dennis Hicks and Chris Fering

The plan. Yes there was a plan but as so often happens plans change. The original plan was hatched in the usual fashion, over Mexican food and beer after a climb. The idea was to climb Rainier on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and camp in the crater; however due to multiple problems obtaining a permit, it was obvious that the plan should change. So we gathered once again for beer to discuss our options. Bonanza was thrown out as an optimal choice due to the whole journey involved and worthy of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July experience.

Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> we met at Dennis' house to pack up the van and move out. We had obtained the last room in Wenatchee which would shorten the drive in the morning. Fields Point was the launching off point for this climb. Easy to find up 197 we arrived in plenty of time – which we would need. There are two important items to remember at the ferry terminal. Reservations are good to have! And make certain your pack is by the right sign for arrival. Holden was the town we would be leaving from but Lucerne was listed as the ferry terminal (something to remember!). Also, once you leave your pack, you won't see it again until Holden several hours later so be certain that you have the food and water you want. Yes, they have food on the ferry, but I always prefer to carry my own.

The ferry was packed and having imbibed a bit the night before I was ready for a nap! We found places to sit outside and I promptly lay down and dozed. Several hours later we arrived at Lucerne and boarded the bus to Holden; a 45 minute bus ride on dusty roads. Holden is a place unto itself. I had never arrived at a place where the most excitement for the day is when the bus arrives! Everyone comes down to the loading area waving and saying welcome! Welcome to Holden! It was interesting to say the least. Very friendly people!

We hadn't paid for the bus ride yet (round trip is \$15) and were anxious to get moving. It was late in the afternoon and hot! So Dennis arranged for our return trip on Tuesday; opting to pay when we came back so we could get moving sooner. A change into boots from sandals, bit of water and the last bathroom break taken care of we headed up the



road. Quickly we came across the old town of Winston which supported the copper mine in the area from approximately 1930-1952; only the steps remain and a plaque describing the area. The old mine is intact across the creek. But that wasn't our goal so we didn't tarry long here. Up the trail we went which was blistering hot! Many many switchbacks in the direct afternoon sun were grueling and the night of beer, wine, and Tequila shots with Chris plus a lack of water during the boat ride in was taking its toll on me. I eventually reached a point where my legs felt like logs and I had absolutely no strength at all. I was creeping along the trail while the guys were bounding up like no one's business. Knowing I was getting into dangerous territory I slowed down to a crawl and downed my Cytomax water like candy.

Other than my dehydration problem – the hike into camp was uneventful and we managed despite my slowness to cover the approximately 5 miles in 3 hours. We hiked to the end of the lake and found a place to camp. Unfortunately we also found every mosquito in the basin! Or I should say they found us. We all had various bug replant products but I found that Dennis' Jungle Juice was the best at repelling the vicious creatures. We decided to set our wake up time at 6:30 with a no later than 8 am start. Yes I know this wasn't an alpine start but there was another group of four and a group of two who were also heading to Bonanza the next day. We thought with a little later start time we might be able to avoid them in the summit gully. Once up in the morning we did spot the two climbers far up on the glacier. The other four were no where to be seen but their camp was quiet. Either they too had slept in or they had gotten up earlier and were already on the move. At any rate, we ate breakfast and moved out. The first mile is all about the bush whacking. I would say it is probably a BW3 – not only were there bushes to go thru, over, under but the small ponds on the lake to miss and boulder hoping. It was a nasty bit before finding the climbers path to Holder pass. This is a steep bit of trail that had us all huffing and puffing before long. My goal was to have my first two liters of water sucked down before hitting the glacier – I managed that with no problem. The sun had reached the valley and the temperatures were already on the rise despite the fact it wasn't even 10 am yet.



Once at the pass we put more sunscreen on, donned hat and discussed our next move. The trail went over a small ridge then was lost in snow fields. We had seen the slabs we were heading for, and it all seemed straight forward. Obtaining the Mary Green Glacier didn't seem like it would be difficult. The "wet slabs" described in every route description were straight forward and fairly easy. Easier than what we were going to find later that day! The granite reminded me of the Enchantments. Slabby, your boots stick well on it. We all chose routes up the slabs and reached the edge of the Mary Green glacier. There was plenty of water running off the glacier and we all needed water. So we filled our bottles, put on harnesses, set the rope and tied in. Bernie was elected to go first; I followed with Chris and Dennis respectively. So the next part of the journey began. Up the glacier we went skirting the right side (which I believe it the northwesterly approach). After three or four rises we found the top of one that went across to the steep part of the glacier climb and we traversed on over picking up the steps of the other two climbers from earlier that morning. By this time we could hear them up there in the gully somewhere above us. We still had a bit of snow to go, and weren't too concerned yet about where they were. This peak did have a reputation for rock fall – we hoped they would be on their way down by the time we were ready to climb.

The last part of the glacier to get onto the rock is pretty darn steep. The other two teams head elected to traverse upwardly to the rocks. But with the snow softening quickly we were concerned about steps giving out and sending the team into the yawning crevasse below us. So Bernie turned directly up and we climbed approximately 45-50 degree snow to a flatter area where we un-roped and continued the last 50 yards in an easier traverse; front pointing our boots into the snow wall when appropriate. It was easier and safer but still extremely steep. Obtaining the rock we could hear the other team above us. They were on their way down and on the left side of the gully. Since our route first took us up the right side, it seemed that all would be well and we would have limited exposure to each team and rock fall.

At this point we dropped our packs – Dennis and I had tops that converted into fanny packs. Packing water and food in these we were ready. Bernie slung the rope on his back and Chris at first opted to take his pack but after the first 100 feet realized why we had dropped ours. He had a difficult time looking up and seeing the route with his helmet and pack on. So we found a flat spot and he dropped it there. Upward we went scrambling class 3 – 4 rock; finally we ran into the other team at their 4<sup>th</sup> rappel spot.

Talked with them for a moment about what was ahead. We needed to cross over at this point to the left gully that is mentioned in the book. We found a spot but although the guys could make the move (it was definitely a 5<sup>th</sup> class move) my legs were too short to hang on the hold and reach. I might have been able to do it, but if something happened the fall would have at least broken me up a bit. Bernie was at a rappel station and tied in, tossing me the end of the rope. At least now if I couldn't reach the step I wouldn't go too far; hanging on to a small horn I pendulum across to the next step. It was a move that Bernie said later he was glad he gave me the rope for!!! After that we moved around the corner and all sat down



for a moment to collect ourselves. Though they had not needed the rope, Dennis was still not talking about that move and Chris was a bit wide eyed.



were any 5<sup>th</sup> class moves! But he was right. The only saving grace in that 30 foot 5<sup>th</sup> class gully was the hand holds were huge! That really helped. Hanging on, my feet stemmed up the gully; Dennis and Chris were right behind me watching, hoping, and waiting. There was a lot of loose rock and I was afraid in my scratching and scrambling I would



We had brought our ice axes, knowing that there were several snow fields above us and we might need them. By now however we realized that we wouldn't need them. So at this rappel station we left the ice axes behind. The next section was class three and Bernie scrambled easily thru this scouting out our path – I was hoping he would find the path of least resistance! We were getting closer to the top and it was getting steeper. We skirted the last snow patch on the left ascending some interesting rock....then the real 5<sup>th</sup> class gully. I always get a bit worried when I hear Bernie mutter – “hmmm interesting”. The question is what? He says “oh nothing, it's just getting steeper!” How could that be possible? No trip report I read said there

knock something down on them but Dennis reassured me that any way I needed to get up that gully was acceptable by him. Topping out, I called for Bernie. I had no idea what I was walking into next – around and thru a rock, up a small 4<sup>th</sup> class gully, I heard Bern ahead say “oh, Wow” in an excited voice. That didn't sound encouraging. So of course I had to ask “What?” “Oh, nothing, just a bit of exposure” he replied.

Holy Cow, he wasn't kidding. The ridge was no more than two feet across being held together by God only knows what. The rock making the “path” was loose, the fins that you might be able to hang onto were also loose....the fall was a killer, literally. For the second time that day, I made Bernie set and anchor and belay me across. Chris and Dennis followed unassisted – though for the second time that day Dennis wasn't talking about it.

The good news, the top was right there. A short final 4<sup>th</sup> class pitch and I came over the top to find Bernie signing the register. We were there; it was 7 hours from the time we started. We took quick summit shots and then went down. Bernie belayed me across the fin again and down to the first rappel station. We had asked the first group about the rap stations and they had informed us that the stations were set up for full rope rappels meaning two ropes. We only had one. We had no choice but to rap to safe stop stations and evaluate what we needed to do. This actually worked well. We set the first rap right at the route we had climbed – there is a great

horn there to rap from. Bernie discovered that with our rope we could rap down to the class 3 – 4 sections, down climb to the next rap station, rap the difficult part, easily down climb to the next rap station and so forth. We did this 5 times. We moved efficiently and effectively – It took us an hour to get back to our packs from the top. Not bad.

We reset the rope for Glacier travel, filled our water bottles again from the dripping glacier and set out for the last difficult part – the down trending traverse. Dennis was setting the pace this time. The sun had slipped behind the peak and the snow was becoming firmer which was good for us. The steps, though long were solid. Only one minor thing happened – Chris had planted his ice axe well when his step blew out. On reflex he leaned into the slope and onto his ice axe burying it even deeper, before his arm extended and he swung below the path and his axe. Lucky for him, his self belay worked and before he knew what was happening he was on his feet again. He said later that it seems funny that we were all still walking like nothing had happened totally unaware that we missed the excitement!



Without any more excitement we reached the easier part of the glacier – the moon over the false summit was amazing! We were all tired and chasing the shadow of the sun back to camp. Our goal was to at least be back on trail before dark. None of us were too worried or upset that it was late in the day. The bugs were vicious and none of us were excited to provide more blood for them.

6 hours after we summited we were back in camp. Tired, happy, hungry!



We had planned to also tag Martin while we were out there – but the next morning we possessed a lack of ambition. For various reasons each of us had, we decided to head back to Chelan. So, what do climbers do when they decide not to climb? They rent a boat and go waterskiing!

Several days after we left Seattle we arrived back at Dennis’.

Total accomplishments:

- 2 Ferry Rides
- 1 major ‘bad ass’ Peak bagged
- Multiple bug bites
- Great quantities of alcohol consumed
- 1 Rented Boat
- Water Skiing and tubing
- Several Sunburns and sore legs
- And 1 excellent journey with exceptional friends.

Complete set of pictures from this trip, located here:



<http://community.webshots.com/myphotos?action=viewAllPhotos&albumID=551986077&security=tOhNTd>

# P E R S P E C T I V E S

...A Chronicle of Current Events Affecting our Climbing Lives

By François Godcharles.

## INTRO

This month, a special column awaits my avid readers. Yes, save this one for the grandkids, for one of those precious summer nights curled up around a crispy campfire, while the ghouls and goblins of the darkness lurk just beyond the edge of your circle of light. This one defies all labeling - ha ! let them try to call this one "humorous" or even "non-humorous", for it stands on its own and apart from all literary genres ! And now, as you are eagerly awaiting what comes next, on the edge of your seat, heart racing, and mouth dry with anticipation, I bring you:

my trip report of the Fourth of July Mount Olympus expedition !

(...well... what exactly were you expecting in the Echo...)



Picturesque Elk Lake, 15.1 miles in, where the waters just boil with trouts... "too many trouts" according to Kevin who proceeded to solve the problem with his pole and hook !  
(why Kevin hikes around with a fishing pole is still a mystery...)

For many, this peninsula peak, unworthy of the top 100 highest in the state (rising a mere 7965 feet above sea level), is hardly worth the excruciating 18-mile hike in. For me, however, Mt Olympus has always been a mysterious goal, hidden deep in the northwest rainforest, a mountain that only lets the most hard-headed of climbers stand on its narrow summit. Mt Olympus is, after all, the abode of the ancient Greek gods, the home of Zeus' grand rave party. I just had to climb there one day.

And so it was that I joined our very own Zeus, Kevin McCrabb, and his earthly band of worthy climbers, all gods in their own rights: Ginny Musante (akin to Athena), Jim Schelle (embodiment of Hermes, fastest of the gods), Brent Quinton (Dionysus, god of wine and upholder of the "no worries" principle), Gregory Schmidt and Mandie Majerus (our young ones, Apollo and Artemis, son and daughter of Zeus).

Like many who attempt this peak, the plan was to take advantage of the Fourth of July holiday and take our sweet time on this journey, making it not only a summit attempt, but a chance to spend some quality time with one of northwest's great treasures: the Olympic Peninsula rainforest.

By the time departure Friday rolls around, it seems the gods will indeed bless our trip and welcome us to their Olympus home: the weather forecast is void of clouds, rain, wind and shadow. I take the day off from work and lazily drive to the Hoh River trailhead, where the journey begins. All climbers in the team have different start times, so our rendezvous point is the Olympus Guard Station camp site, 9.1 miles in. I hike that first stretch by myself, breathing in the peacefulness of the forest in the late afternoon glow, barely noticing the 50lbs on my back. Slowly, the worries of the civilized world retire to the back of my mind, giving way to the sensations of the outdoors. At one creek crossing, I take off my boots, walk through the stream, and let my feet cool down in the fresh glacier water. I reach the camp site by early evening where, after locating the group site on the river bank and setting up my tent, I chat with the ranger and gather some firewood for the night. "Many groups are going up this weekend", says the ranger. "The weather is good, you shouldn't have any problems but do be careful crossing a couple of avalanche chutes, just before Glacier Meadows." hum...

As dusk settles in, I finally see familiar faces coming out of the forest: Kevin, Jim, Brent and Ginny join me in camp, just as I was getting ready to eat my dinner... Coincidence? It is nice to see them: now I know for sure this trip will happen. They in turn set up their tents, drink and eat. Night creeps in. It is a beautiful, warm, starry night, with the river providing a soothing soundtrack. We start up the campfire and keep it going for a while, anticipating the arrival of our last two climbers, Greg and Mandie. As tiredness overcomes us all, it becomes clear they will not make it to camp tonight. We call it a night and crawl into our tents, hoping the next morning will bring good tidings.

Sleep is a hard habit to break... We rise slowly the next day, slowly eat breakfast, and slowly pack up the gear again. A young deer with a fawn trailing behind slowly walk up the river bed in front of our camp, seemingly oblivious to our presence. Another beautiful day lies ahead. As time passes, I think each one of us is silently making plans and evaluating options as to what to do if our two missing hikers do not show up. Finally though, just as we are agreeing to depart without them, Greg and Mandie strut gingerly into camp! They had wisely opted to stop their midnight stroll and camp a few miles before Olympus Guard Station. The team is now all accounted for, spirits are high, and we have a fairly relaxed day ahead: our objective is to set up camp at Glacier Meadows and have a good rest before summit day. We are also looking forward to a stopover at Elk Lake where, according to our friendly ranger, "the lake is just BOILING with trouts!!!" Somehow, this has Kevin thinking he can substitute his freeze-dried mashed potatoes for some fresh grilled trout fillets...

The hike up the trail to Elk Lake is uneventful, although we finally encounter some elevation as the lake is at 2558 feet. We take a break at the lake, marveling at the scenery: green hills of pine trees rolling up to snow covered peaks against a clear blue sky. Some decide that this is a good spot for a nap, while others soak hot feet in the cool lake water. Kevin, meanwhile, heads for a rocky outcrop with his fishing pole (what the ??? where did he get that ???) for, as the ranger had said, the lake is truly boiling with trouts. Fishes are literally jumping out of the lake at a remarkable rate to feed on a multitude of bugs flying around near the surface. It is at once ridiculous and fascinating. After a while of this acrobatic trout spectacle, each of us departs again for the final uphill battle to Glacier Meadows base camp, leaving Kevin at the mercy of the trouts. The two avalanche chutes are fairly menacing but manageable and then, at last, we arrive one by one at Glacier Meadows, 17.5 miles in, 4200 feet elevation. The camp is crowded, with everyone squeezed in on the dry ground patches between the muddy half-melted snow piles. We drop our packs near some tents where climbers are packing up, ready to move in once they leave camp. While waiting, I walk a bit up the Lateral Moraine trail and come upon the actual meadows: another breathtaking vista. A bed of spring flowers, snow patches, evergreens, the glacier up ahead... wow... I'm shell-shocked by the beauty of the place.





Kevin, sharing his fish story around the stove...

Meanwhile, a couple of surprises await back at the camp. Kevin has caught up with the rest of us and is showing off his catch: he managed to fool 4 trouts into biting onto his marshmallow/earthworm bait contraption... There will be no freeze-dried food tonight ! Also, fellow BoeAlpers Eric and Angie Bultemeier have shown up at Glacier Meadows and will attempt the summit as well the following day ! It is good to encounter them here. One of the many benefits of BoeAlpS: one never runs out of friendly faces in the mountains !

After feasting on fresh fish, and the final discussions regarding the morrow's climb, I make my final gear preparations and head to bed while the sun is still shining. Our wake-up call is 3:30am, and we'll start our climb in the pre-dawn half-light.

3:30am... Fumble for the headlamp... Where's my left sock... I know it's not cold but I feel cold anyway... Why am I getting up this early ?... Oh yeah, Olympus... I hear Ginny mumble something in the tent next door: they're up too so I guess we're going... Is that an ant in my boot ?... I can stand up: good... Gear... what do I need ? where am I going again ? Oh yeah, Olympus...

As my brain starts functioning normally again, I make out the familiar silhouettes of the rest of the team, and we head out to the Lateral Moraine trail. A few teams are out there already. The night sky is tinged with the promise of dawn and yet another clear blue sky. As we hike on top of the moraine, the Blue Glacier below is bathed in pinkish sunrise light, leaving me to wonder where the name "Blue Glacier" came from.

We reach the top of the moraine and scramble down onto the glacier. Other teams are roping up for the traverse, right at the base of the trail so that any rock fall from the people scrambling down will hit them directly (what's up with that folks !?!?!). After discussing it, we opt not to rope up: the glacier traverse is on ice as flat as a pancake and crevasses are hair thin.



View from the lateral moraine across the Blue Glacier and up towards the Snow Dome and the summit



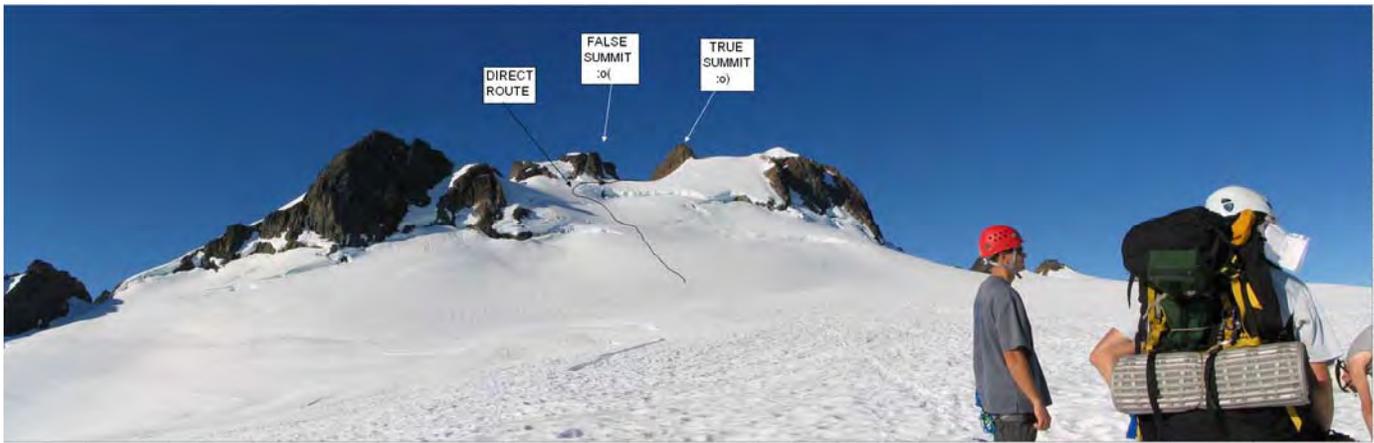
The team, enjoying a break on a rock island, on our way up to the Snow Dome



The long, unending slog up to the Snow Dome

We cross the glacier, hike up the opposite wall and find ourselves on another flat expanse of white, the Snow Dome. There

before us lies the final challenge: we must climb up another steep slope to the base of the summit rock pyramid. The classic, standard, safe route involves walking around to the back of the false summit block, climbing up that false summit and back down to the base of the true summit. But we know better: we are BoeAlpS... Looking up from the Snow Dome, the direct approach still looks possible, even though there is an impressive break in the snow on that slope. But there is a fresh boot path leading that way, so someone has been up there... for what it's worth... We rope up and follow the boot path up.



The chosen route to the base of the true summit



Climbing up alongside a slight break in the snow slope (For scale, our first rope team can be seen in the upper left corner...)

As we climb up, the slope steepens significantly. As we get nearer to the snow break, it becomes quite impressive. By the time we reach the rock face, only a tiny band of snow remains to walk around to the base of the summit block. A couple of pickets used as running belays help boost our confidence to clear the last few hundred feet. Finally, we are all standing safely at the base of the rock pyramid, gazing up at the last hurdle leading us to Olympus !

We unrope here, but carry the ropes up for the expected short pitch of class 5 rock, which I am looking forward to, but mostly for the rappel down. The rock is crumbly, not very friendly... An exposed traverse appears, where a static line is quickly set up, a then the short pitch which we found can be avoided by walking around to a class 4 scramble... But we go up the low class 5 pitch anyway for... we are BoeAlpS. And then, at last, the summit is ours !

Huge disappointment: Zeus is not there to greet us... Nevertheless, as confirmed many, many times by Ginny's use of the descriptive "awesome", the view from the summit is... well... awesome. To the west lies the ocean. To the east lies the coast with the regular line-up of our old friends: Adams, Rainier, Baker... And all around us the lower snowy peaks of the Olympics.



The Gods of BoeAlpS at home on Olympus !!!



Greg, demonstrating proper summit hygiene...  
I don't remember "toothbrush" in the 10 essentials list...

After relaxing for a while on the summit, we surrender the location to the next bunch of climbers on their way up, and set up the rappel lines to descend the summit rock. The rest of the trip down is uneventful. It is close to mid-day now and the temperature is rising. The snow remains in fairly good condition, but we are still glad to reach the moraine and travel again on sound ground. Back at Glacier Meadows, still more people have arrived, and as soon as we drop our packs we are being hassled by climbers wanting our camp sites. But even that does not drag me down from my cloud: I have climbed Olympus.

I am the last one to leave Glacier Meadows, after cooling off at the adjoining creek and filling up the water bottles. I know that from here on, this journey is coming to a close and nostalgia is already setting in. The last camp tonight is at Elk Lake - very wise planning considering the crowd at Glacier Meadows. It is also good to get most of the elevation, and avalanche chutes, out of the way. Elk Lake feels like Summer Camp: when I finally stroll in, the others are swimming, relaxing, fishing... what happened to the "climbers" I was with earlier? The trouts are not fooled twice though, and the night's meal is freeze-dried again... My plan is to leave early the next morning, while the rest of the team is looking forward to sleeping in, so I bid them farewell that night and indulge in well-deserved sleep.

I wake up at sunrise, in the stillness of the camp, pack up as silently as I can, and head out, smiling inwardly as I pass by my teammates tents: someone is happily snoring away... but the others don't seem to care... "Have a safe return home, my friends". Fifteen miles of mostly flat trail lie ahead, but I settle into a pace and time becomes meaningless. The rainforest is peaceful and hypnotic this morning. Morning fog envelops all, and transforms the moss into familiar shapes feeding my imagination. It is suddenly a different world, one inhabited by magical creatures and new possibilities. I can almost hear a strangely familiar voice echoing between the giant trees: "For my ally is The Force. And a powerful ally it is. All of life feeds it and makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. ...Feel The Force around you ... Here, between you and I and that tree and that rock ...". The miles go by, unnoticed. I breathe in the smells, I let my eyes wander past the branches and the fern, I listen to chirps and squeaks and the distant roar of the river. The miles go by, unnoticed...

At some point in time, different sounds start invading my mind and snap me out of my walking trance. Voices. Human voices. I must be getting close to the trailhead. Soon, I encounter people walking up the trail and passing me. Some fully-equipped hikers, some families out for the day. Oddly, what hits me first is the smell. I smell deodorant, aftershave lotion, hair conditioner... the smells of people who have showered that very morning. Civilization, for better or for worse. I can only imagine what they must be smelling when I pass by, having been "shower less" for the past four days... The trail becomes wider, clearer. More people walk past me. Suddenly, it dawns on me that I have been walking for the past six hours, with my full backpack, and I feel exhausted. A sign points to the visitor's center. Asphalt. I can see my car across the lot. I have made it. I

turn around and let my consciousness enter the forest one last time, thanking whatever lies there for welcoming me and letting me be part of their world for a short while. Then I drive off into the distance, back to my world...

#### EPILOGUE: OF BEAR WIRES, THE STUPIDITY OF MAN, AND HOPE RESTORED

Here's a little end note story that put a stain on my whole trip... I got up at the break of dawn at Elk Lake on the last day, and packed up my gear. I walked over to the bear wire where my food bag was hanging. When I put it up there the night before, my bag was the only one on the hook. That morning, I am looking up literally at a Christmas tree arrangement of dozens of bags hanging up there. Somebody actually has their whole Arcterix backpack up there !!!!! I spot the hook with my bag on it, and move to get it down. I unclip the wire and immediately feel something is unusual: the cumulative weight of all the bags is monstrous ! The steel wire wants to speed through my grip but I don't want to let go for fear of the whole pack crashing down and waking up the entire campsite. I try to slow down the fall, the steel wire starts burning my fingers. Eventually, the whole pack of food bags is down. I get my bag out of the lot, noticing that one of the bags there must be weighing twenty pounds ! What is the deal people ???

#### BEAR WIRES ARE FOR HANGING YOUR FOOD AND FOOD-TAINTED ITEMS, NOT YOUR ENTIRE GEAR !!!

After I get my bag out, I start to think that I won't be able to get this thing back up. I give it a try and my assumption is confirmed: it is too heavy for me alone, the steel wire offers no grip, and my fingers are bleeding. How am I going to get these bags up there... Everyone at camp is still fast asleep. Everyone ?

As I am contemplating leaving the darn heavyweight lot dangling on the ground, I hear a voice behind me: "hey ! Francois !" I turn around and gaze in disbelief at Marna Kagele's friendly face. She is bivouacking behind a log with a group of climbers who arrived in camp somewhere around 4am (!), and are going for the summit that day. I am stunned to find her here. I realize she is most likely dead tired but decide to ask her for help. She agrees for she is, after all, BoeAlps...

Together, we manage to get the wire back up. I thank her and get back to packing my gear. I need to bandage my fingers: flesh is ripped out of the inside of my middle and ring fingers and all is bleeding. Great. No rock climbing for the next couple of weeks. Really: what kind of clueless @\$!\*&%\$@ hiker would hang so much weight on a bear wire... An entire backpack up there, for crying out loud !!! I am slightly pissed off...

As I head out of Elk Lake camp, Marna has already vanished, back on the trail with her group. I wanted to thank her again but she disappeared into the sunrise like so many unsung heroes...

Thanks for your help Marna. You're an angel.

Until next time, go out and play but be safe out there... and use bear canisters. No more bear wires for me. Cheers !

## The South Face of the Tooth – BRC '06 – July 8th.

Students: Dennis, Steven, Fabien

Instructors: Shella, Micah, Robert

Scribe: Fabien Mandrillon

Shella and Robert managed to convince us without difficulties to sleep an extra hour compared to our radical initial schedule and at 7:30 we left the Snow Lake trailhead at the Alpental parking lot at 3,100'. The sky was clear promising a warm day. Two easy miles brought us to the Source Lake Viewpoint junction. The trail to the right continues up to Snow Lake. We went left and soon had a view below of Source Lake. We descended the talus, traversed a snowfield below the large cliff until we gained a climber's trail that took us into the small basin below The Tooth, vertical and massive on its eastern side. The basin was still covered with hard snow which made the progression fast to a talus toward the notch, south of The Tooth. At the notch, we followed a short trail down and around to the class 3 that took us up to the tiny Pineapple Pass, 5,200' where the climb began at 10:00.

We climbed as three teams of two, with Robert leading. The route was 3 pitches long, the first 160' and 5.3, the second, 160' of low fifth class. The final pitch offers a choice of the catwalk, class 4, to the left or a face climb, 100' rated 5.6. We reached the summit at 11:15 via the face climb. The route is beautiful, not vertical as it is a succession of short walls separated by large and comfortable belay ledges. The belays were obvious with a bunch of old slings around trees and boulders. Robert ran like a mountain goat ahead and found several abandoned pros. Some of us didn't even wear their rock shoes and climbed in boots. For Steven and Fabien, that was their first experience of a multi pitch route. We met two guys climbing solo and three other rope teams, so not to many people for such a nice day. Incredible: we could not find any Mountaineers group around.

The summit at 5604' is a large comfortable flat stone with an extraordinary 360 degree panorama. We had clear views of Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Stuart and Mount Rainier. Closer was Kaleetan Peak, 6,259', the largest of the Snoqualmie Peaks, seen behind Chair Peak, 6,238'.

The two rappels down were fast as we tight two ropes together. The walk out via the same way ran flawlessly and we hit the car at 15:00, very thirsty and drove straight to North Bend for some cold beer and hamburgers.

Thanks to all for this memorable climb!!

# Shuksan North Face – A Polish Style Climb

**Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Marek Wencel**  
**July 9-11, 2006**

After numerous advertising of my climbs within BoeAlps, without much success, and having to solo for few weeks, I gave up on BoeAlpers and started lurking seriously on cascadeclimbers.com. I have had a good success to my surprise finding great climbing buddies for last three weeks or so; and I had three great climbs so far in early July and have scheduled another 2 climbs.

My first climbing buddy was Marek Wencel. We have exchanged a number of planning e-mails and turned out that Marek is also Polish like me. I was looking forward to climb with another Polish climber, for the first time after climbing throughout the world with many other nationalities.

Our original plan proposed by Marek was to do Ptarmigan Traverse over 5 days including climbing major peaks on the way. I liked it because of its esthetic and athletic content without a need to waste too much time on camping and hence being able to travel light and fast. This plan fell apart due to unfavorable weather forecast. Marek proposed an alternative climb of Shuksan's North Face.

We left on Sunday (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 4am in a beautiful and warm weather with a perfect weather forecast for both Sunday and Monday. We arrived to the TH (48°51.8'N,121°38.9'W; el 3000ft) at the end of the forest road starting at the last hairpin before the Baker Lodge around 7:30am; and after quick breakfast we headed down to White Salmon Creek (2700ft) through heavy vegetation; and than up to the access ridge (48°51.6'N,121°37.4'W; el 4800ft) leading to start of the NF route. The river crossing was uneventful except ice cold water; my feet were numb and painful at the end of the crossing but after few minutes of 'pins and needles' I experienced refreshing feeling. The climb up the ridge is fairly steep but vegetation free due to high trees.



**Shuksan NF view from the access ridge 4500ft**

Once on top of the ridge, the climb to the standard bivy spot was very pleasant going up gently with spectacular views on Shuksan Arm covered by White Salmon Glacier and mt Baker in the distance.

We arrived to the bivy spot (48°50.86'N,121°36.3'W; el 5200ft) at 1pm and stopped for a short rest break before attempting the climb. Black clouds rolled in no time from the direction of Baker; and it started raining despite of forecast for a 0% POP.



**Shuksan Arm and Baker View from access ridge 4500ft**

We have decided to pitch the tent and waited out; there was really no other choice, once we were there, because one really doesn't wish to retrace the access route.



**Temporary Bivy at 5200ft**

In a way it was a blessing for me as I desperately needed a rest (some sleep if possible) to make-up for a very short previous night. It was raining on and off for 4 hrs; and finally at about 5pm weather cleared; it looked like it was only a short summer storm, one of those passing through quickly.

We decided to packed-up our gear and start climbing. It was going to be a full moon starting at 10pm; so if the sky remained clear it could've been a fantastic climb with bivy at the North Col.

We started the climb at about 6pm having another 3 ½ hrs of the daylight and some 3000ft of NF ahead of us. Depending on the route condition it was reasonable time to get almost to the top of

the route in the daylight without a need to bivy on the face.

Snow conditions were great with reasonably firm snow but it was easy to kick steps in. We passed few crevasses without any problems but we had to take a path far east and then traverse back west. After initial lead by Marek I took the lead when we encountered big Schrunks; it was really exciting crossing them. We decided to keep to eastern side of the NF. We were not sure whether we can cross Schrunks on the west side for more direct route; it would be waste of precious time if we had to backtrack.



**Start of NF route 5400ft**



**Bivy at 7200ft**

Disadvantage of our decision was the proximity of the rock and the danger of falling rock, however the route look clean so I decided to proceed.

We arrived at 7200ft at about 9pm and I have spotted a protected bivy in a semi-cave with a solid snowdrift. New set of threatening black clouds drifted in and covered the sky; we decided to bivy there until the daylight as we could not rely on the moonlight due to heavy overcast; we were hoping for the rain to stop by the morning.

We build the snow-shelf, had a diner and retired to the tent. It was raining on and off during the night loosening rocks and causing some rock-falls; we were however well protected in our semi-cave.



**On the North Face 8000ft**

We walk-up in the morning to a dense fog but the rain stopped. We ate some food, packed our gear and started traversing back to the snow face.

I was lading; we had 3 snow stakes, which I used to organize a running belay on the traversing route and every 200 ft I belayed Marek to recover protection gear for the next section.

The weather started improving and fog lifted by 9am to a sunny day for the rest of the day.

Close to the top of the face Marek took over the lead and led us through Shuksan's North Col and crevasses clockwise around Shuksan's Pyramid to Hourglass

(48°49.5'N, 121°36.7'W; el 7600ft) and the start of the Hell's Highway.



**Approaching Top of North Face**



**Crossing bergschund at Shuksan Pass**



**Baker from Shuksan Pass 8500ft**



**Top of Hells Highway near Hourglass**



**Upper Curtis Glacier and Winnies Slide**



**Hells Highway, Upper Curtis Glacier and Fisher Chimney View from path to Lake Ann**



**Down climbing Fisher Chimney**

We both climbed the pyramid before and decided to forgo it this time due to the time constraints. We were planning to walk-out this day via Fisher Chimneys.

We proceeded to Hells Highway with steep down climb of 400ft down to Upper Curtis Glacier and then we bypassed the ice-cliffs by regaining 500ft and traversing it west and through the gap to White Salmon Glacier.

The White Salmon Glacier was in a perfect shape to down-climb it and to shorten the exit, but the perspective of heavy bush-whack prompted us to proceed a longer but possibly faster Fisher Chimneys route.

Fisher Chimney was marked by a cairn and it was easily to identify, where the glacier meets the rock-cliff at its lowest point before climbing up again.

Despite of complains of many climbers I found Fisher Chimney an easy objective. It is 3<sup>rd</sup> class down-climb with some sort sections of class 4, where climbing experience is a real advantage.

At one spot we found a steep section, where we have set-up 20ft rep but the section could be down-climbed with a little more effort.

We have found the path to Lake Ann quite tedious and never ending. Lake Ann was totally frozen and the path was snow covered most of the way to Panorama Point with some snow-free patches.

At Lake Ann we met a couple of young climbers; we had a chat with them, asking for the trail condition and we gave them beta on the Fisher Chimney route as they were going to climb Shuksan the following day.

We have followed their steps down the trail, which has sped our retreat but at one stage we lost the path and had to bush-whack to regain the path 200ft above us snaking on the flanks of Shuksan's Arm.

It was getting late and dark and we decided to set-up the camp 1mi before Panorama Point TH and continue in the morning. We were hoping to get a lift down to our car located about 8mi down from Panorama Point.

There were some cars with respectable old couples and of course no hope to get lift. We dropped our packs at a chalet near the Reflection Lake and proceeded light to the car. We were in luck here, a young Canadian couple in a big truck gave us the lift to the Baker Lodge and we had to walk only for 1mi to reach the car.

It was a great Cascadian adventure in a great company; I found new friend and climbing buddy. We are planning future climbs together over the rest of summer.

The NF route is fast falling apart due to warm weather and it was probably the last chance to do it this season in a reasonably good conditions. I am so glad the weather cooperated to make this really esthetic route a terrific adventure.

# Stuart Upper North Ridge – A Classic Cascadian Climb

**Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Mike Bell**  
**July 15-16, 2006**

While lurking seriously on [cascadeclimbers.com](http://cascadeclimbers.com) I received PM from my old climbing buddy, Mike Bell, with whom I lost contact for almost a couple of years. It was a very good timing too as I was looking for a climbing buddy for the weekend.

We have decided to do the Stuart North Ridge and follow by West Ridge of Sherpa, since we were already there. Sherpa by itself would not be a good objective for me from time aspect as it is my last climbing season here before returning to Melbourne in January; so I prefer to do some more interesting objectives than Sherpa.

We left Seattle at 7:30pm on Friday July 14<sup>th</sup> and bivied at the Ingalls TH with a dozen of other climbers. There was a big group doing West Ridge of Stuart and numerous climbers for popular Ingalls peak.

We got-up at 4am and were on the trail at 4:30am; we gained Longs pass within 1hr, down-climbed to Ingalls creek and it took us just over 2hrs to reach Stuart pass.



**Approaching the Goat Pass**

From Stuart pass the route leads through the Goat pass and the Stuart Glacier to the Upper North Ridge via a steep 4<sup>th</sup> class access gully. The colour between the Stuart and Goat pass is a combination of steep scree leading to both passes and a substantial boulder field in-between. There were also patches of hard snow in two places at the bottom of the colour. It was difficult to negotiate them without crampons but at the same time it was difficult to justify time loss of putting the crampons on and off.

The Goat pass was snow free and the Stuart Glacier below was in a good shape and the early sun has softened its surface. I kicked the steps with my crampons for mike to follow as he left his crampons at home.

It took us a while to cross the glacier and to climb the steep access gully to the top of the ridge at ½-way bivy spots, where the actual climb starts.



**Ingalls Peak view from the Goat Pass**



**Crossing the Stuart Glacier from the Goat Pass**



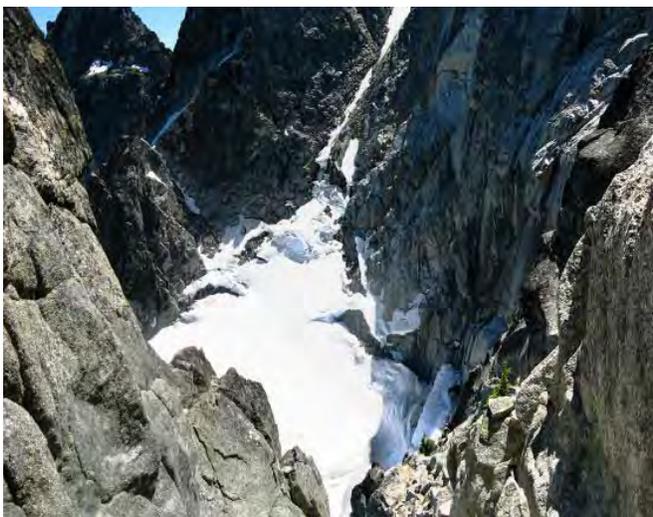
**Access Gully from Stuart Glacier**



**Bivies at the start of Upper Ridge**



**1<sup>st</sup> Pitch Upper North Ridge**



**Stuart Glacier on East Side from the Ridge**



**Stuart Glacier on West Side from the Ridge**



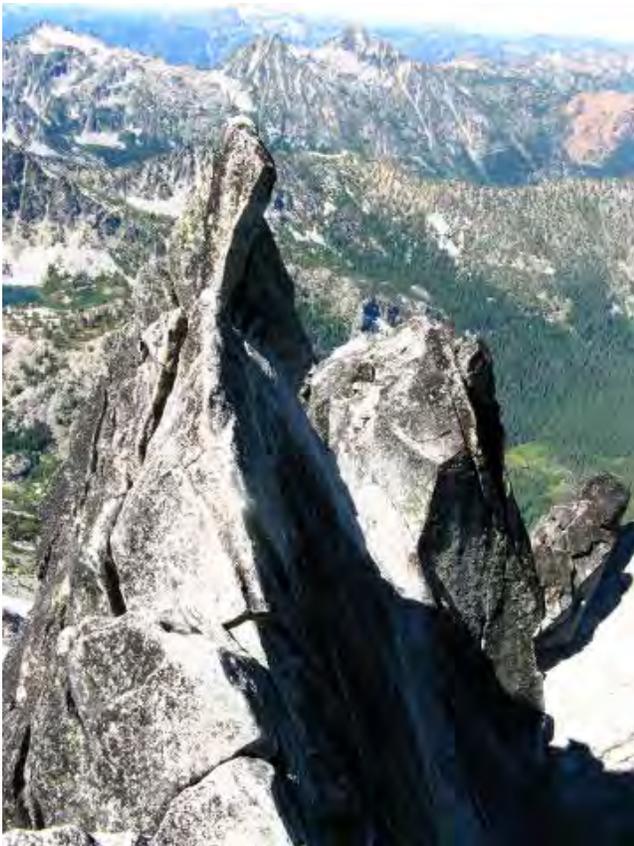
**View from North Ridge at Stuart Lake and Mountaineers Creek**



**Climbing the North Ridge**



**Stuart Range from North Ridge**



**North Ridge Pitch 5**



**Sherpa from North Ridge**



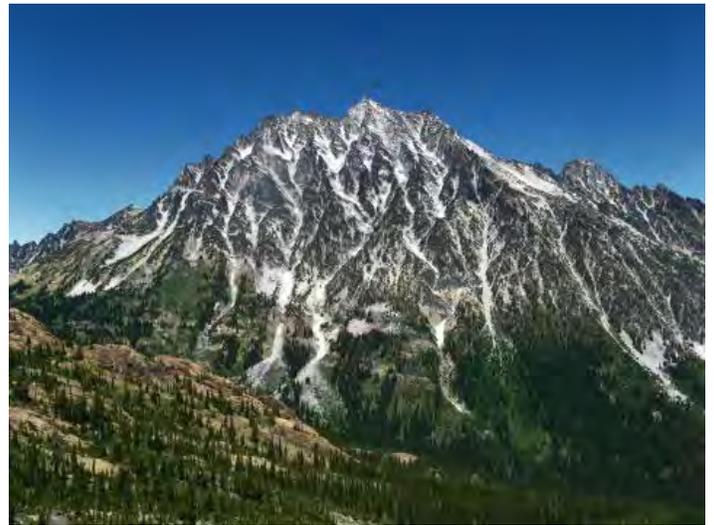
**Rainier Sunset from Stuart**



**False Summit and Cascadian Colour**



**Visiting Resident Goat**



**Stuart from Longs Pass**

The access Gully was filled with the snow approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  way, so I used my crampons to get to the end of the snow, while Mike scrambled at the edge of the snow and the rock.

I have rearranged at the end of the snow with my rock shoes and climbed a steep 6ft section without the pack, which I hauled up; and I walked passed the bivy spots to the start of the climb. It took us 8hrs to reach the start the upper section; we were running 1hr late and we were concerned about finishing the climb before dark. We wanted to bivy below the false summit to be ready for our next day objective, the Sherpa.

We did not waste our time for lunch, just had some water and a quick snack, while setting up belay at the same time, and started climbing. Mike has done the route numerous times, so we decided that he was going to lead to catch-up with the lost time.

I was uncertain about the climb reading numerous horror stories of climbers whining about the climb difficulty, exposure etc. In the end it turned out to be challenging climb due to the exposure but technically it was reasonably easy climb. The only really difficult part is the Gendarme. Due to time constraints we decided to bypass the Gendarme.

It took us 7hrs to complete 11 pitches of climbing the low class 5 part of the ridge and about 400ft of class 4 to reach the summit.

It was very exhilarating climb and another very esthetic classic Cascadian climb for me. I am so grateful for Mike's company and leading the rock. I hope we can do another classic route before I return to Melbourne.

The summit was just the formality as each of us summited Stuart few times before; but still it was incredibly exhilarating experience to stand on the top of this huge and beautiful mountain with sweeping 360° unobstructed views and being able to see many classic peaks of the Cascades.

We have down-climbed quickly to the false summit and caught-up with the large group, who just completed West Ridge and were repelling from the notch of the false summit. They kindly agreed for us to use their already set-up repel ropes, making our exit much faster and more efficient.

We bivied at the bottom of false summit; there was still plenty of snow to melt for water; we finally had a chance to eat something more substantial then just protein bars and jerky and to hydrate after the climb.

The weather was very warm and the sunset spectacular.

We woke-up in the morning and had to endure a visit by a goat with a little baby goat.

A steep access gully leading to the Sherpa was filled with hard snow and it was too difficult to negotiate without crampons. So we decided to walk-out via Cascadian Colouir and forgo Sherpa; hence ending another classic Cascadian adventure.



**Rainier Sunrise from Stuart**

# Mt Terror West Ridge – An Easy Introduction to Pickets

Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Rod Xuereb  
July 19-21, 2006



**Southern Pickets from the camp at the Chopping Block, 5400ft, mt Terror - center pyramid**

Mt terror and Pickets in general are places visited by only a few climbers. It sounds really strange, such a beautiful range and relatively close to highway 20; one would've thought that it would be inundated with climbers. Terror summit is less than 10mi away from the TH. Yet very few climbers venture there. It has a reputation of a difficult access that puts people off and to certain extent it is difficult; however it doesn't really deserve such a reputation. I must admit the Pickets are well hidden from the visitor to highway 20. There is a brief vista of the range from the road but most of people passing it quickly and never see it.

I think good Fred Beckey and his disciples are partly to blame. Just read the description of the Barrier-Crescent Creek Route: '...Then work upward and right through small forested cliff bands to eventually reach the ridge crest at c. 3600ft at a minor saddle. The best policy is: If the route gets steep and cliffy, go right; if it gets brushy, go up (do not go left). Most pilgrims before reaching the ridge crest are not only haggard and fatigued, but thirsty...'. Not very inviting isn't it?



**Mt Triumph from the camp at the Chopping Block**



**McMillan Spires from lower Barrier**

In reality is not like that. There are not many climbers visiting the mountain however enough to make a climbers path. There is some truth about the Pickets access trails; they are not maintained climbers treads; nevertheless they are there and you must be vigilant to follow it. I had difficulty to identify the path on the way up but after a day of trying to follow it, I became really good in it and on the way down we hardly went off the route; and if so, we were able to find it very quickly.

The path is very overgrown by vegetation like huckleberries but you really appreciate them on steep parts, where you do lots of 'vegetable belays'. Besides you can pick some huckleberries at this time of the year and have fresh fruit to supplement your 'climber's nutrition'.

I found the Picket range very beautiful in many aspects. It is a wild place, very scenically striking; it is like I said a very remote and isolated place with very few climbers. Routes appear variable, challenging but not too difficult for even a beginner climber, mostly class 3 and 4 with some low class 5 sections or just few low class moves to get on the ridge.

class 5 moves to start with. Early in the season the access gully is filled with snow and hence easy to negotiate. Later in the season it turns into steep scree and dirt over the rocks making it very unpleasant and difficult to down climb. Repel is also difficult due to unstable rocks structure in the gully. The rock on the ridge itself is very good and solid.

Mt Terror is very interesting looking mountain with climbable class 3 and 4 West Ridge with a few low



**Terror creek log jam, 2000ft**

We started the trip on July 19<sup>th</sup>. I met Rod at Bellevue NE 8<sup>th</sup> P&R at 1pm. We drove to Marblemount, registered with the ranger for the backcountry permit and headed to the TH at the Goodell Creek Camping ground (el 600ft). It took us 90 minutes to get to the a nice bivy spot at 1600ft. We pitched the tent and climb 400ft to the Terror Creek log crossing described by Beckey. We wanted to check the trail without packs to make sure that we know where we going the next day. The legend talks about the trail being difficult to follow. To our surprise it wasn't the case; it was faint in few places and overgrown and blocked by few fallen trees in other places but with a careful navigation it was reasonably easy to follow. It was a nice surprise.

We have psyched ourselves, however, for really a bad run above it.



**Terror creek crossing on the log jam**

On Thursday we started climbing at 5:20am to make sure that we are at the base camp before it gets really hot in the afternoon. We crossed the log on the Terror creek without any problems and identified the start of next section to ridge, which leads to the Barrier. It was supposed to be a steep 1600ft faint climbers tread difficult to follow. Sure it was steep and we lost path few times momentarily but we followed Beckey's advice and surprised ourselves, how simple it was. Similar with the ridge; it was relatively east to follow; the path was following the ridge exactly, so if lost we just got back on narrow ridge and found the path every time. The view from the ridge is also spectacular. At 5000ft it opens in to striking McMillan Spires and Inspiration Peak.

From 5600ft you can see the Chopping Block; just follow the path of the least resistance to the camp site at 6400ft. There was still plenty of snow making the traverse easy; also rocks were very good to walk on them, even when wet they were not slippery.

There are two humps on the ridge between the Barrier and the Chopping Block (or Pinnacle Peak). The campsites are on the right side (east side) of the first hump, one closer to the Chopping Block. It took us 8hrs to arrive to the campsite gaining 4800ft. The water was

available 100ft below from the melting snow and cascading through the rocks.



**Camp site at 5400ft from Pinnacle Barrier ridge**



**Chopping Block from Terror**



**View south from the tent**



**Chopping Block and camp site from summit**



**Cascades panorama south of mt Terror**



**North Pickets with Fury in the foreground, view from Summit**



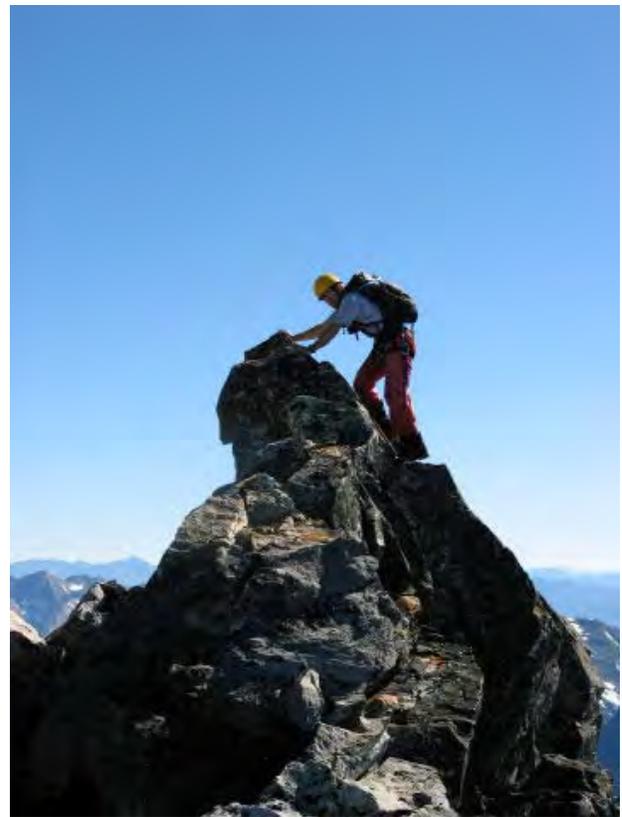
**Ugly Gully, climbing through waterfall**



**Rod Topping class 5 section**



**Victory dance on the summit**



**Climbing summit pyramid**

We started climbing on Friday at 5:20am. The route is straightforward and totally visible from the campsite; hence it is easy to pick a good line to the access gully. We dropped very steep 300ft down from the camp and then, with still plenty of snow, we were able to pick almost straight line to the base of the gully at 6700ft. We had to cross few short sections of scree and rock but most of the route was on the snow.

Half of the gully was filled with the snow so it was easy to get up to a huge chock-stone, from which there was a cascading waterfall from melting snow. It was class 4 move however on the wet rock it was quite difficult and few seconds it took, I was soaked with water. With hot weather it was almost welcomed.

We continued on the upper section of the snow finger until we reached last 100ft of treacherous gravel section. There was nothing to hang on, so we had to thread very quietly and carefully to avoid sliding back down.

We made it to the top of the gully, climbed 20ft class 4 across a rock step and 10 ft down on the other side to a convenient belay point for the first ½ pitch of low class 5.

I used 2 mid-size stoppers for the protection and belayed Rod from the top. From this point it was a very pleasant class 3 and 4 rock scramble. We followed Beckey's description and traversed 50ft below the false summit to a small notch between false and proper summit. The summit ridge looked very intimidating from false summit but once traversed and on the route it was a very easy class 4. We summited at 11:30am, had a short break at the summit and down-climbed to first repel station at the top of class 5 section. With a single repel, we finished 10 ft above our belay station but it was easy to down-climb from there. We had to down-climb next 50ft section; it was very bad rock, too scary to repel. Once in the dirt gully we managed to find a solid horn to repel to the snow finger, where we left our crampons and axes. We also repelled through the waterfall and returned to the campsite at 1:30pm.

We packed our gear and headed back to the car in the heat of the day. To my surprise it was actually very pleasant with a slight breeze and coolness emanating from the snow. The path finding was relatively easy and we were on the path most of the time. We arrived to the car haggard at 8pm.

I was starving and I was lucky to get a pizza in Concrete; we arrived there just before their closing time. The pizza tasted absolutely delicious.

## You Can't Always Climb (like you want)

(Tune of "You Can't Always Get what You Want by the Rolling Stones)

Lyrics by Ron Fleck

I saw her today at the trailhead  
In her hand was a beat-up ax  
She was practiced at the art of step kicking  
I knew she'd be soon making tracks

### **Chorus**

You can't always climb like you want  
You can't bag every peak like you'd want  
You can't always climb like you want  
But if you push your climb – you just might find  
You're standing on Top

We decided that we would climb together  
Take turns in the front breaking trail  
With a pair so downright motivated  
I knew that we just couldn't fail

So we headed through dense green forest  
On a bearing that was directly east  
The snow neath our boots was packing nicely  
This climb was certainly a treat

As we hit the wide open snow slope  
We felt the weather begin to turn  
The wind picked up and started howling  
And the snow just began to churn

### **Chorus**

But we kept on pushing forward  
And plowed our way slowly uphill  
Visibility was less than zero  
And so was the wind chill

At last we could go no higher  
We stood on the summit all alone  
A photo, a hug, a count to ten  
And we headed the heck for home

Chorus – repeat and fade



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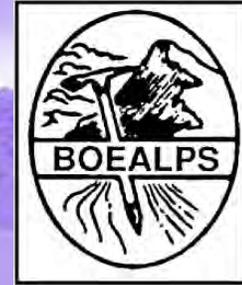
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AUGUST 2006



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## ➡ AUGUST GENERAL MEETING ➡

No meeting this month!

It's summer, wake up and climb!

Boealps Elections are coming in September

# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

This month's Echo is chock full of great trip reports. Club members have been taking advantage of the great summer weather to get a lot of climbs in. Tony Olejnicki contributed three writeups of his climbs of the North Ridge of Stuart, West Ridge of Mt Terror, and a "polish-style" ascent of Mt Shuksan. Who better than Tony to pull all that off! Shella Bukovac and some fellow Boealpers hitched a ferry ride up Lake Chelan to Lucerne (not Holden) to climb Bonanza. And Francois Godcharles ventured to Mt Olympus with Zeus, Athena, Hermes and some other immortals. Read about the first BRC outing from Fabian Mandrillon. And we round it all off with some Boealps Karaoke from Ron Fleck.

Boealps Elections are coming in September! A nominating committee consisting of Bob Magers, Shella Bukovac, and Micah Nolin has been formed to collect nominations for next year's club officers. Please contact one of these people to nominate someone for a board position. Nothing happens in Boealps until someone volunteers to do it.

Chris Meder and the Summer Climb Series Team have been at it again and organized yet more climbs to get you out into the hills! Check out the climbs planned for the rest of this summer in this issue of the Echo. Thanks to these individuals for all the work they have put into this.

Got a trip report or announcement for the club? Send it in for the next Echo! The deadline for the September issue is August 21st. Email all submissions to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Summer is going fast, so get out there and climb (then write-up what you did for Echo).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
John



Sunrise from El Dorado Peak . (Photo by Diego Gabrieli.)

# August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BRC Climb (Tooth)
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> ICC lecture	<b>8</b> Board Meeting	<b>9</b> Full moon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> ICC Alpine IV
<b>13</b> ICC Alpine IV	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> BRC Climb (Leavenworth)
<b>20</b> BRC Climb (Leavenworth)	<b>21</b> ICC lecture Sept. Echo Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> New moon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ICC Grad Climb
<b>27</b> ICC Grad Climb	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**2006**



A climber admires Mt Goode from Black Peak (photo by John Gowan)

# September

<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 Labor Day	5	6	7 Boealps Elections ! Full moon	8	9
10	11	12 Board Meeting	13	14	15	16 BRC Climb (Smith Rock)
17 BRC Climb (Smith Rock)	18	19	20	21	22 Autumnal Equinox New moon	23
24	25 Oct Echo Deadline	26	27	28	29	30

2006



- Brought to you in part by your very own BoeAlps Activities Committee !!!

At this very moment, most of you are probably thinking: "Activities committee ?!?!? I didn't know BoeAlps had an activities committee.... I certainly didn't vote for anyone..." Ha !  
Rest assured my climbing little friend... There is no need to vote, no need to worry about your membership fees reaching new heights, no need to doubt the existence of the Committee. Rather, be comforted in the knowledge that a band of fearless individuals have freely taken over your summer dreams and summer days to bring you countless opportunities to do what you all do best: climb. These individuals, each endowed with unearthly superpowers of organizational skills meet monthly to devise new plans to counter the mischiefs of the dark powers that constantly seek to keep us away from mountains and rock walls. Only one man, their spokesman known as "Da Prez", aka Chris Meder, has so far been allowed to take part in these secret gatherings in order to bring word of planned outings to you all. In time, perhaps the Committee members will reveal themselves, and you will learn to recognize them on the trails of the NorthWest, but for now, here is what's in store for the coming month...

The BoeAlps Activities Committee  
"One Climb Fits All"

### Climbs Suited for BCC Graduates

#### **Mt Rainier from Camp Schurman**

**August 3-6, 2006**

*Note: this trip was originally planned for July 28-30, but was rescheduled due to poor weather for that weekend.*

Party Limit: 8 - 3 signed on already

Elevation: 14411 ft

Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear

Difficulty: glacier climb

Experience: BCC

Contact: Don Meyer [meyer.dl@comcast.net](mailto:meyer.dl@comcast.net)

Plan: Flexible

Thursday evening - stay at White River Camp Ground (optional)

Friday - up to Camp Sherman (optional - meet us at 8:00 and climb)

Saturday - stay at Camp Schurman (can climb Sat & meet us there)

Sunday - climb to summit and return to cars

#### **Mt. Olympus**

**August 11-13, 2006**

Party Limit: 8

Route: TBD

Elevation: 7969 ft

Equipment: standard BCC climb gear

Experience: BCC

Contact: Nabil Abdalla, [nabil.abdalla@gmail.com](mailto:nabil.abdalla@gmail.com)

**Chiwawa and Fortress August 12-13, 2006**

Party Limit: 8 (Subject to increase if necessary)  
Route: From Trinity  
Elevation: Both in the Washington top 100  
Equipment: standard BCC climb gear  
Experience: BCC  
Leader: Shella Bukovac  
Contact: Bernie Knoll, [climb2alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:climb2alpine@yahoo.com), 253-970-5629

**BOEALPS ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S CLIMB**

**Gothic Basin – Gothic and Del Campo Peaks August 19-20, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: Contact the President!  
Elevation: 6613 ft (Del Campo), 6213 ft (Gothic)  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: scrambling with some snow  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Bob Magers, [robert.b.magers@boeing.com](mailto:robert.b.magers@boeing.com)

**Mt. Adams August 25-27, 2006**

Party Limit: 12  
Route: South Spur route  
Elevation: 12276 ft  
Equipment: standard BCC graduate climb gear  
Difficulty: snow climb  
Experience: BCC  
Contact: Don Meyer [meyer.dl@comcast.net](mailto:meyer.dl@comcast.net)

**Plan:**

Friday - drive up and camp  
Saturday - hike/climb up to Lunch Counter  
Sunday - climb to summit, back to base and drive home

**Advanced Climbs**

The following climbs are more advanced, with difficulty and required experience levels given for each outing. Contact Tony Olejnicki directly to sign up for any of these climbs.



**Mt Robson, BC**

**August 5-13, 2006**

This is another classic and spectacular climb. Leave Friday 8/4 after work; arrive Mount Robson Provincial Park Saturday afternoon, registration (no fee); climb Robson Kain Face; drive back Sunday 8/13; arriving Seattle late.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: Kain Face

Elevation: 12,989'

Equipment: Ice axe, crampons, helmet, rope, harness, ice screws, pickets, possibly small rock rack.

Difficulty: Glacier travel, bergschrunds, 45-degree snow or ice, possibly exposed Class 4 rock

Experience: Rock climbing (ICC or BRC); ice/snow/glacier travel; high tolerance to exposure

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

**Mt Shasta, CA****August 19-21, 2006**

With 2006 BCC graduates in mind; Leave Renton early Saturday, arriving late afternoon, start climbing and bivy; Sunday summit, down climb and bivy; drive Monday arriving Renton late afternoon.  
Long slog on dirt and snow.

Party Limit: 6

Route: Avalanche Gulch

Elevation: 14,163'

Equipment: crampons, ice-axe

Difficulty: snow/scree hike class 1 and 2 with short section of class 3

Experience: BCC graduate

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))**Early Winter Spires****August 26-27, 2006**

Classic Washington Pass rock-climb. Drive Friday 8/24, bivy at TH, climb Saturday; bivy; easy drive to Seattle; open to another short climb in Washington pass; weather permitting; maybe stretch your quads scrambling Masachie or climb Liberty Bell Beckey's Route an another classic in the area.

Party Limit: 4 (two 2-climber teams)

Route: TBD

Elevation: 7808'

Equipment: alpine rack,

Difficulty: 5.8 alpine rock-climb

Experience: Rock climbing ICC or BRC equivalent experience

Contact: Tony Olejnicki ([tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com); [Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:Anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com))

# BONANZA

The usual suspects: Bernie Knoll, Shella Bukovac (scribe), Dennis Hicks and Chris Fering

The plan. Yes there was a plan but as so often happens plans change. The original plan was hatched in the usual fashion, over Mexican food and beer after a climb. The idea was to climb Rainier on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and camp in the crater; however due to multiple problems obtaining a permit, it was obvious that the plan should change. So we gathered once again for beer to discuss our options. Bonanza was thrown out as an optimal choice due to the whole journey involved and worthy of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July experience.

Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> we met at Dennis' house to pack up the van and move out. We had obtained the last room in Wenatchee which would shorten the drive in the morning. Fields Point was the launching off point for this climb. Easy to find up 197 we arrived in plenty of time – which we would need. There are two important items to remember at the ferry terminal. Reservations are good to have! And make certain your pack is by the right sign for arrival. Holden was the town we would be leaving from but Lucerne was listed as the ferry terminal (something to remember!). Also, once you leave your pack, you won't see it again until Holden several hours later so be certain that you have the food and water you want. Yes, they have food on the ferry, but I always prefer to carry my own.

The ferry was packed and having imbibed a bit the night before I was ready for a nap! We found places to sit outside and I promptly lay down and dozed. Several hours later we arrived at Lucerne and boarded the bus to Holden; a 45 minute bus ride on dusty roads. Holden is a place unto itself. I had never arrived at a place where the most excitement for the day is when the bus arrives! Everyone comes down to the loading area waving and saying welcome! Welcome to Holden! It was interesting to say the least. Very friendly people!

We hadn't paid for the bus ride yet (round trip is \$15) and were anxious to get moving. It was late in the afternoon and hot! So Dennis arranged for our return trip on Tuesday; opting to pay when we came back so we could get moving sooner. A change into boots from sandals, bit of water and the last bathroom break taken care of we headed up the



road. Quickly we came across the old town of Winston which supported the copper mine in the area from approximately 1930-1952; only the steps remain and a plaque describing the area. The old mine is intact across the creek. But that wasn't our goal so we didn't tarry long here. Up the trail we went which was blistering hot! Many many switchbacks in the direct afternoon sun were grueling and the night of beer, wine, and Tequila shots with Chris plus a lack of water during the boat ride in was taking its toll on me. I eventually reached a point where my legs felt like logs and I had absolutely no strength at all. I was creeping along the trail while the guys were bounding up like no one's business. Knowing I was getting into dangerous territory I slowed down to a crawl and downed my Cytomax water like candy.

Other than my dehydration problem – the hike into camp was uneventful and we managed despite my slowness to cover the approximately 5 miles in 3 hours. We hiked to the end of the lake and found a place to camp. Unfortunately we also found every mosquito in the basin! Or I should say they found us. We all had various bug replant products but I found that Dennis' Jungle Juice was the best at repelling the vicious creatures. We decided to set our wake up time at 6:30 with a no later than 8 am start. Yes I know this wasn't an alpine start but there was another group of four and a group of two who were also heading to Bonanza the next day. We thought with a little later start time we might be able to avoid them in the summit gully. Once up in the morning we did spot the two climbers far up on the glacier. The other four were no where to be seen but their camp was quiet. Either they too had slept in or they had gotten up earlier and were already on the move. At any rate, we ate breakfast and moved out. The first mile is all about the bush whacking. I would say it is probably a BW3 – not only were there bushes to go thru, over, under but the small ponds on the lake to miss and boulder hoping. It was a nasty bit before finding the climbers path to Holder pass. This is a steep bit of trail that had us all huffing and puffing before long. My goal was to have my first two liters of water sucked down before hitting the glacier – I managed that with no problem. The sun had reached the valley and the temperatures were already on the rise despite the fact it wasn't even 10 am yet.



Once at the pass we put more sunscreen on, donned hat and discussed our next move. The trail went over a small ridge then was lost in snow fields. We had seen the slabs we were heading for, and it all seemed straight forward. Obtaining the Mary Green Glacier didn't seem like it would be difficult. The "wet slabs" described in every route description were straight forward and fairly easy. Easier than what we were going to find later that day! The granite reminded me of the Enchantments. Slabby, your boots stick well on it. We all chose routes up the slabs and reached the edge of the Mary Green glacier. There was plenty of water running off the glacier and we all needed water. So we filled our bottles, put on harnesses, set the rope and tied in. Bernie was elected to go first; I followed with Chris and Dennis respectively. So the next part of the journey began. Up the glacier we went skirting the right side (which I believe it the northwesterly approach). After three or four rises we found the top of one that went across to the steep part of the glacier climb and we traversed on over picking up the steps of the other two climbers from earlier that morning. By this time we could hear them up there in the gully somewhere above us. We still had a bit of snow to go, and weren't too concerned yet about where they were. This peak did have a reputation for rock fall – we hoped they would be on their way down by the time we were ready to climb.

The last part of the glacier to get onto the rock is pretty darn steep. The other two teams head elected to traverse upwardly to the rocks. But with the snow softening quickly we were concerned about steps giving out and sending the team into the yawning crevasse below us. So Bernie turned directly up and we climbed approximately 45-50 degree snow to a flatter area where we un-roped and continued the last 50 yards in an easier traverse; front pointing our boots into the snow wall when appropriate. It was easier and safer but still extremely steep. Obtaining the rock we could hear the other team above us. They were on their way down and on the left side of the gully. Since our route first took us up the right side, it seemed that all would be well and we would have limited exposure to each team and rock fall.

At this point we dropped our packs – Dennis and I had tops that converted into fanny packs. Packing water and food in these we were ready. Bernie slung the rope on his back and Chris at first opted to take his pack but after the first 100 feet realized why we had dropped ours. He had a difficult time looking up and seeing the route with his helmet and pack on. So we found a flat spot and he dropped it there. Upward we went scrambling class 3 – 4 rock; finally we ran into the other team at their 4<sup>th</sup> rappel spot.

Talked with them for a moment about what was ahead. We needed to cross over at this point to the left gully that is mentioned in the book. We found a spot but although the guys could make the move (it was definitely a 5<sup>th</sup> class move) my legs were too short to hang on the hold and reach. I might have been able to do it, but if something happened the fall would have at least broken me up a bit. Bernie was at a rappel station and tied in, tossing me the end of the rope. At least now if I couldn't reach the step I wouldn't go too far; hanging on to a small horn I pendulum across to the next step. It was a move that Bernie said later he was glad he gave me the rope for!!! After that we moved around the corner and all sat down



for a moment to collect ourselves. Though they had not needed the rope, Dennis was still not talking about that move and Chris was a bit wide eyed.



were any 5<sup>th</sup> class moves! But he was right. The only saving grace in that 30 foot 5<sup>th</sup> class gully was the hand holds were huge! That really helped. Hanging on, my feet stemmed up the gully; Dennis and Chris were right behind me watching, hoping, and waiting. There was a lot of loose rock and I was afraid in my scratching and scrambling I would



We had brought our ice axes, knowing that there were several snow fields above us and we might need them. By now however we realized that we wouldn't need them. So at this rappel station we left the ice axes behind. The next section was class three and Bernie scrambled easily thru this scouting out our path – I was hoping he would find the path of least resistance! We were getting closer to the top and it was getting steeper. We skirted the last snow patch on the left ascending some interesting rock....then the real 5<sup>th</sup> class gully. I always get a bit worried when I hear Bernie mutter – “hmmm interesting”. The question is what? He says “oh nothing, it's just getting steeper!” How could that be possible? No trip report I read said there

knock something down on them but Dennis reassured me that any way I needed to get up that gully was acceptable by him. Topping out, I called for Bernie. I had no idea what I was walking into next – around and thru a rock, up a small 4<sup>th</sup> class gully, I heard Bern ahead say “oh, Wow” in an excited voice. That didn't sound encouraging. So of course I had to ask “What?” “Oh, nothing, just a bit of exposure” he replied.

Holy Cow, he wasn't kidding. The ridge was no more than two feet across being held together by God only knows what. The rock making the “path” was loose, the fins that you might be able to hang onto were also loose....the fall was a killer, literally. For the second time that day, I made Bernie set and anchor and belay me across. Chris and Dennis followed unassisted – though for the second time that day Dennis wasn't talking about it.

The good news, the top was right there. A short final 4<sup>th</sup> class pitch and I came over the top to find Bernie signing the register. We were there; it was 7 hours from the time we started. We took quick summit shots and then went down. Bernie belayed me across the fin again and down to the first rappel station. We had asked the first group about the rap stations and they had informed us that the stations were set up for full rope rappels meaning two ropes. We only had one. We had no choice but to rap to safe stop stations and evaluate what we needed to do. This actually worked well. We set the first rap right at the route we had climbed – there is a great

horn there to rap from. Bernie discovered that with our rope we could rap down to the class 3 – 4 sections, down climb to the next rap station, rap the difficult part, easily down climb to the next rap station and so forth. We did this 5 times. We moved efficiently and effectively – It took us an hour to get back to our packs from the top. Not bad.

We reset the rope for Glacier travel, filled our water bottles again from the dripping glacier and set out for the last difficult part – the down trending traverse. Dennis was setting the pace this time. The sun had slipped behind the peak and the snow was becoming firmer which was good for us. The steps, though long were solid. Only one minor thing happened – Chris had planted his ice axe well when his step blew out. On reflex he leaned into the slope and onto his ice axe burying it even deeper, before his arm extended and he swung below the path and his axe. Lucky for him, his self belay worked and before he knew what was happening he was on his feet again. He said later that it seems funny that we were all still walking like nothing had happened totally unaware that we missed the excitement!



Without any more excitement we reached the easier part of the glacier – the moon over the false summit was amazing! We were all tired and chasing the shadow of the sun back to camp. Our goal was to at least be back on trail before dark. None of us were too worried or upset that it was late in the day. The bugs were vicious and none of us were excited to provide more blood for them.

6 hours after we summited we were back in camp. Tired, happy, hungry!



We had planned to also tag Martin while we were out there – but the next morning we possessed a lack of ambition. For various reasons each of us had, we decided to head back to Chelan. So, what do climbers do when they decide not to climb? They rent a boat and go waterskiing!

Several days after we left Seattle we arrived back at Dennis’.

Total accomplishments:

- 2 Ferry Rides
- 1 major ‘bad ass’ Peak bagged
- Multiple bug bites
- Great quantities of alcohol consumed
- 1 Rented Boat
- Water Skiing and tubing
- Several Sunburns and sore legs
- And 1 excellent journey with exceptional friends.

Complete set of pictures from this trip, located here:



<http://community.webshots.com/myphotos?action=viewAllPhotos&albumID=551986077&security=tOhNTd>

# P E R S P E C T I V E S

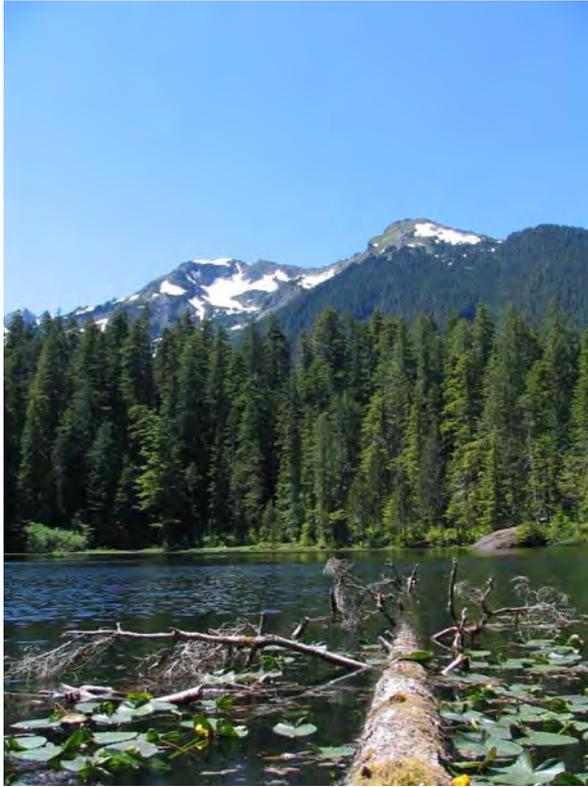
...A Chronicle of Current Events Affecting our Climbing Lives

By François Godcharles.

## INTRO

This month, a special column awaits my avid readers. Yes, save this one for the grandkids, for one of those precious summer nights curled up around a crispy campfire, while the ghouls and goblins of the darkness lurk just beyond the edge of your circle of light. This one defies all labeling - ha ! let them try to call this one "humorous" or even "non-humorous", for it stands on its own and apart from all literary genres ! And now, as you are eagerly awaiting what comes next, on the edge of your seat, heart racing, and mouth dry with anticipation, I bring you:

my trip report of the Fourth of July Mount Olympus expedition !  
(...well... what exactly were you expecting in the Echo...)



Picturesque Elk Lake, 15.1 miles in, where the waters just boil with trouts... "too many trouts" according to Kevin who proceeded to solve the problem with his pole and hook !  
(why Kevin hikes around with a fishing pole is still a mystery...)

For many, this peninsula peak, unworthy of the top 100 highest in the state (rising a mere 7965 feet above sea level), is hardly worth the excruciating 18-mile hike in. For me, however, Mt Olympus has always been a mysterious goal, hidden deep in the northwest rainforest, a mountain that only lets the most hard-headed of climbers stand on its narrow summit. Mt Olympus is, after all, the abode of the ancient Greek gods, the home of Zeus' grand rave party. I just had to climb there one day.

And so it was that I joined our very own Zeus, Kevin McCrabb, and his earthly band of worthy climbers, all gods in their own rights: Ginny Musante (akin to Athena), Jim Schelle (embodiment of Hermes, fastest of the gods), Brent Quinton (Dionysus, god of wine and upholder of the "no worries" principle), Gregory Schmidt and Mandie Majerus (our young ones, Apollo and Artemis, son and daughter of Zeus).

Like many who attempt this peak, the plan was to take advantage of the Fourth of July holiday and take our sweet time on this journey, making it not only a summit attempt, but a chance to spend some quality time with one of northwest's great treasures: the Olympic Peninsula rainforest.

By the time departure Friday rolls around, it seems the gods will indeed bless our trip and welcome us to their Olympus home: the weather forecast is void of clouds, rain, wind and shadow. I take the day off from work and lazily drive to the Hoh River trailhead, where the journey begins. All climbers in the team have different start times, so our rendezvous point is the Olympus Guard Station camp site, 9.1 miles in. I hike that first stretch by myself, breathing in the peacefulness of the forest in the late afternoon glow, barely noticing the 50lbs on my back. Slowly, the worries of the civilized world retire to the back of my mind, giving way to the sensations of the outdoors. At one creek crossing, I take off my boots, walk through the stream, and let my feet cool down in the fresh glacier water. I reach the camp site by early evening where, after locating the group site on the river bank and setting up my tent, I chat with the ranger and gather some firewood for the night. "Many groups are going up this weekend", says the ranger. "The weather is good, you shouldn't have any problems but do be careful crossing a couple of avalanche chutes, just before Glacier Meadows." hum...

As dusk settles in, I finally see familiar faces coming out of the forest: Kevin, Jim, Brent and Ginny join me in camp, just as I was getting ready to eat my dinner... Coincidence? It is nice to see them: now I know for sure this trip will happen. They in turn set up their tents, drink and eat. Night creeps in. It is a beautiful, warm, starry night, with the river providing a soothing soundtrack. We start up the campfire and keep it going for a while, anticipating the arrival of our last two climbers, Greg and Mandie. As tiredness overcomes us all, it becomes clear they will not make it to camp tonight. We call it a night and crawl into our tents, hoping the next morning will bring good tidings.

Sleep is a hard habit to break... We rise slowly the next day, slowly eat breakfast, and slowly pack up the gear again. A young deer with a fawn trailing behind slowly walk up the river bed in front of our camp, seemingly oblivious to our presence. Another beautiful day lies ahead. As time passes, I think each one of us is silently making plans and evaluating options as to what to do if our two missing hikers do not show up. Finally though, just as we are agreeing to depart without them, Greg and Mandie strut gingerly into camp! They had wisely opted to stop their midnight stroll and camp a few miles before Olympus Guard Station. The team is now all accounted for, spirits are high, and we have a fairly relaxed day ahead: our objective is to set up camp at Glacier Meadows and have a good rest before summit day. We are also looking forward to a stopover at Elk Lake where, according to our friendly ranger, "the lake is just BOILING with trouts!!!" Somehow, this has Kevin thinking he can substitute his freeze-dried mashed potatoes for some fresh grilled trout fillets...

The hike up the trail to Elk Lake is uneventful, although we finally encounter some elevation as the lake is at 2558 feet. We take a break at the lake, marveling at the scenery: green hills of pine trees rolling up to snow covered peaks against a clear blue sky. Some decide that this is a good spot for a nap, while others soak hot feet in the cool lake water. Kevin, meanwhile, heads for a rocky outcrop with his fishing pole (what the ??? where did he get that ???) for, as the ranger had said, the lake is truly boiling with trouts. Fishes are literally jumping out of the lake at a remarkable rate to feed on a multitude of bugs flying around near the surface. It is at once ridiculous and fascinating. After a while of this acrobatic trout spectacle, each of us departs again for the final uphill battle to Glacier Meadows base camp, leaving Kevin at the mercy of the trouts. The two avalanche chutes are fairly menacing but manageable and then, at last, we arrive one by one at Glacier Meadows, 17.5 miles in, 4200 feet elevation. The camp is crowded, with everyone squeezed in on the dry ground patches between the muddy half-melted snow piles. We drop our packs near some tents where climbers are packing up, ready to move in once they leave camp. While waiting, I walk a bit up the Lateral Moraine trail and come upon the actual meadows: another breathtaking vista. A bed of spring flowers, snow patches, evergreens, the glacier up ahead... wow... I'm shell-shocked by the beauty of the place.





Kevin, sharing his fish story around the stove...

Meanwhile, a couple of surprises await back at the camp. Kevin has caught up with the rest of us and is showing off his catch: he managed to fool 4 trouts into biting onto his marshmallow/earthworm bait contraption... There will be no freeze-dried food tonight ! Also, fellow BoeAlpers Eric and Angie Bultemeier have shown up at Glacier Meadows and will attempt the summit as well the following day ! It is good to encounter them here. One of the many benefits of BoeAlpS: one never runs out of friendly faces in the mountains !

After feasting on fresh fish, and the final discussions regarding the morrow's climb, I make my final gear preparations and head to bed while the sun is still shining. Our wake-up call is 3:30am, and we'll start our climb in the pre-dawn half-light.

3:30am... Fumble for the headlamp... Where's my left sock... I know it's not cold but I feel cold anyway... Why am I getting up this early ?... Oh yeah, Olympus... I hear Ginny mumble something in the tent next door: they're up too so I guess we're going... Is that an ant in my boot ?... I can stand up: good... Gear... what do I need ? where am I going again ? Oh yeah, Olympus...

As my brain starts functioning normally again, I make out the familiar silhouettes of the rest of the team, and we head out to the Lateral Moraine trail. A few teams are out there already. The night sky is tinged with the promise of dawn and yet another clear blue sky. As we hike on top of the moraine, the Blue Glacier below is bathed in pinkish sunrise light, leaving me to wonder where the name "Blue Glacier" came from.

We reach the top of the moraine and scramble down onto the glacier. Other teams are roping up for the traverse, right at the base of the trail so that any rock fall from the people scrambling down will hit them directly (what's up with that folks !?!?!). After discussing it, we opt not to rope up: the glacier traverse is on ice as flat as a pancake and crevasses are hair thin.



View from the lateral moraine across the Blue Glacier and up towards the Snow Dome and the summit



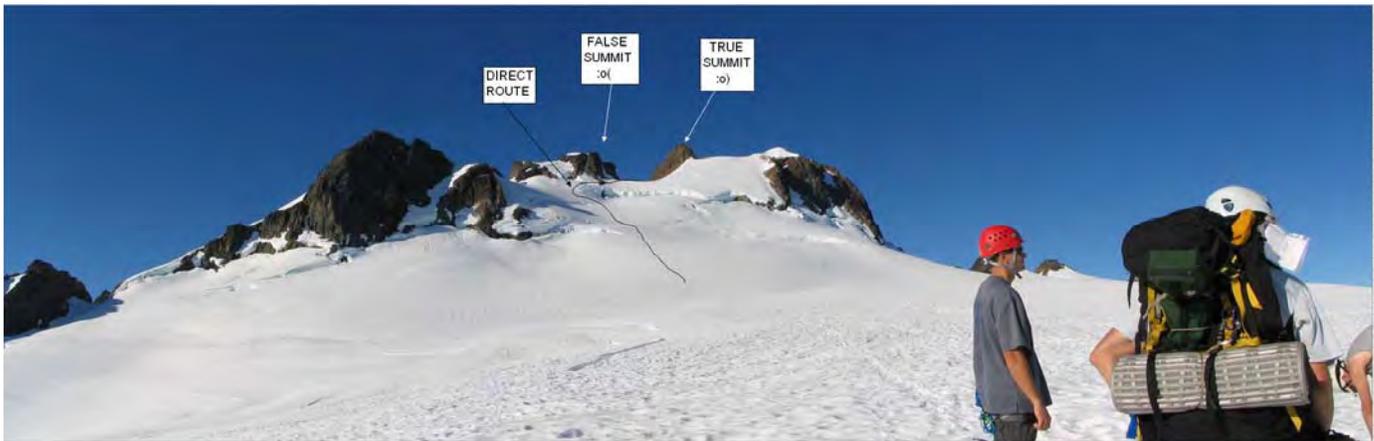
The team, enjoying a break on a rock island, on our way up to the Snow Dome



The long, unending slog up to the Snow Dome

We cross the glacier, hike up the opposite wall and find ourselves on another flat expanse of white, the Snow Dome. There

before us lies the final challenge: we must climb up another steep slope to the base of the summit rock pyramid. The classic, standard, safe route involves walking around to the back of the false summit block, climbing up that false summit and back down to the base of the true summit. But we know better: we are BoeAlpS... Looking up from the Snow Dome, the direct approach still looks possible, even though there is an impressive break in the snow on that slope. But there is a fresh boot path leading that way, so someone has been up there... for what it's worth... We rope up and follow the boot path up.



The chosen route to the base of the true summit



Climbing up alongside a slight break in the snow slope (For scale, our first rope team can be seen in the upper left corner...)

As we climb up, the slope steepens significantly. As we get nearer to the snow break, it becomes quite impressive. By the time we reach the rock face, only a tiny band of snow remains to walk around to the base of the summit block. A couple of pickets used as running belays help boost our confidence to clear the last few hundred feet. Finally, we are all standing safely at the base of the rock pyramid, gazing up at the last hurdle leading us to Olympus !

We unrope here, but carry the ropes up for the expected short pitch of class 5 rock, which I am looking forward to, but mostly for the rappel down. The rock is crumbly, not very friendly... An exposed traverse appears, where a static line is quickly set up, a then the short pitch which we found can be avoided by walking around to a class 4 scramble... But we go up the low class 5 pitch anyway for... we are BoeAlpS. And then, at last, the summit is ours !

Huge disappointment: Zeus is not there to greet us... Nevertheless, as confirmed many, many times by Ginny's use of the descriptive "awesome", the view from the summit is... well... awesome. To the west lies the ocean. To the east lies the coast with the regular line-up of our old friends: Adams, Rainier, Baker... And all around us the lower snowy peaks of the Olympics.



The Gods of BoeAlpS at home on Olympus !!!



Greg, demonstrating proper summit hygiene...  
I don't remember "toothbrush" in the 10 essentials list...

After relaxing for a while on the summit, we surrender the location to the next bunch of climbers on their way up, and set up the rappel lines to descend the summit rock. The rest of the trip down is uneventful. It is close to mid-day now and the temperature is rising. The snow remains in fairly good condition, but we are still glad to reach the moraine and travel again on sound ground. Back at Glacier Meadows, still more people have arrived, and as soon as we drop our packs we are being hassled by climbers wanting our camp sites. But even that does not drag me down from my cloud: I have climbed Olympus.

I am the last one to leave Glacier Meadows, after cooling off at the adjoining creek and filling up the water bottles. I know that from here on, this journey is coming to a close and nostalgia is already setting in. The last camp tonight is at Elk Lake - very wise planning considering the crowd at Glacier Meadows. It is also good to get most of the elevation, and avalanche chutes, out of the way. Elk Lake feels like Summer Camp: when I finally stroll in, the others are swimming, relaxing, fishing... what happened to the "climbers" I was with earlier? The trouts are not fooled twice though, and the night's meal is freeze-dried again... My plan is to leave early the next morning, while the rest of the team is looking forward to sleeping in, so I bid them farewell that night and indulge in well-deserved sleep.

I wake up at sunrise, in the stillness of the camp, pack up as silently as I can, and head out, smiling inwardly as I pass by my teammates tents: someone is happily snoring away... but the others don't seem to care... "Have a safe return home, my friends". Fifteen miles of mostly flat trail lie ahead, but I settle into a pace and time becomes meaningless. The rainforest is peaceful and hypnotic this morning. Morning fog envelops all, and transforms the moss into familiar shapes feeding my imagination. It is suddenly a different world, one inhabited by magical creatures and new possibilities. I can almost hear a strangely familiar voice echoing between the giant trees: "For my ally is The Force. And a powerful ally it is. All of life feeds it and makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. ...Feel The Force around you ... Here, between you and I and that tree and that rock ...". The miles go by, unnoticed. I breathe in the smells, I let my eyes wander past the branches and the fern, I listen to chirps and squeaks and the distant roar of the river. The miles go by, unnoticed...

At some point in time, different sounds start invading my mind and snap me out of my walking trance. Voices. Human voices. I must be getting close to the trailhead. Soon, I encounter people walking up the trail and passing me. Some fully-equipped hikers, some families out for the day. Oddly, what hits me first is the smell. I smell deodorant, aftershave lotion, hair conditioner... the smells of people who have showered that very morning. Civilization, for better or for worse. I can only imagine what they must be smelling when I pass by, having been "shower less" for the past four days... The trail becomes wider, clearer. More people walk past me. Suddenly, it dawns on me that I have been walking for the past six hours, with my full backpack, and I feel exhausted. A sign points to the visitor's center. Asphalt. I can see my car across the lot. I have made it. I

turn around and let my consciousness enter the forest one last time, thanking whatever lies there for welcoming me and letting me be part of their world for a short while. Then I drive off into the distance, back to my world...

#### EPILOGUE: OF BEAR WIRES, THE STUPIDITY OF MAN, AND HOPE RESTORED

Here's a little end note story that put a stain on my whole trip... I got up at the break of dawn at Elk Lake on the last day, and packed up my gear. I walked over to the bear wire where my food bag was hanging. When I put it up there the night before, my bag was the only one on the hook. That morning, I am looking up literally at a Christmas tree arrangement of dozens of bags hanging up there. Somebody actually has their whole Arcterix backpack up there !!!!! I spot the hook with my bag on it, and move to get it down. I unclip the wire and immediately feel something is unusual: the cumulative weight of all the bags is monstrous ! The steel wire wants to speed through my grip but I don't want to let go for fear of the whole pack crashing down and waking up the entire campsite. I try to slow down the fall, the steel wire starts burning my fingers. Eventually, the whole pack of food bags is down. I get my bag out of the lot, noticing that one of the bags there must be weighing twenty pounds ! What is the deal people ???

#### BEAR WIRES ARE FOR HANGING YOUR FOOD AND FOOD-TAINTED ITEMS, NOT YOUR ENTIRE GEAR !!!

After I get my bag out, I start to think that I won't be able to get this thing back up. I give it a try and my assumption is confirmed: it is too heavy for me alone, the steel wire offers no grip, and my fingers are bleeding. How am I going to get these bags up there... Everyone at camp is still fast asleep. Everyone ?

As I am contemplating leaving the darn heavyweight lot dangling on the ground, I hear a voice behind me: "hey ! Francois !" I turn around and gaze in disbelief at Marna Kagele's friendly face. She is bivying behind a log with a group of climbers who arrived in camp somewhere around 4am (!), and are going for the summit that day. I am stunned to find her here. I realize she is most likely dead tired but decide to ask her for help. She agrees for she is, after all, BoeAlps...

Together, we manage to get the wire back up. I thank her and get back to packing my gear. I need to bandage my fingers: flesh is ripped out of the inside of my middle and ring fingers and all is bleeding. Great. No rock climbing for the next couple of weeks. Really: what kind of clueless @\$!\*&%\$@ hiker would hang so much weight on a bear wire... An entire backpack up there, for crying out loud !!! I am slightly pissed off...

As I head out of Elk Lake camp, Marna has already vanished, back on the trail with her group. I wanted to thank her again but she disappeared into the sunrise like so many unsung heroes...

Thanks for your help Marna. You're an angel.

Until next time, go out and play but be safe out there... and use bear canisters. No more bear wires for me. Cheers !

## The South Face of the Tooth – BRC '06 – July 8th.

Students: Dennis, Steven, Fabien

Instructors: Shella, Micah, Robert

Scribe: Fabien Mandrillon

Shella and Robert managed to convince us without difficulties to sleep an extra hour compared to our radical initial schedule and at 7:30 we left the Snow Lake trailhead at the Alpental parking lot at 3,100'. The sky was clear promising a warm day. Two easy miles brought us to the Source Lake Viewpoint junction. The trail to the right continues up to Snow Lake. We went left and soon had a view below of Source Lake. We descended the talus, traversed a snowfield below the large cliff until we gained a climber's trail that took us into the small basin below The Tooth, vertical and massive on its eastern side. The basin was still covered with hard snow which made the progression fast to a talus toward the notch, south of The Tooth. At the notch, we followed a short trail down and around to the class 3 that took us up to the tiny Pineapple Pass, 5,200' where the climb began at 10:00.

We climbed as three teams of two, with Robert leading. The route was 3 pitches long, the first 160' and 5.3, the second, 160' of low fifth class. The final pitch offers a choice of the catwalk, class 4, to the left or a face climb, 100' rated 5.6. We reached the summit at 11:15 via the face climb. The route is beautiful, not vertical as it is a succession of short walls separated by large and comfortable belay ledges. The belays were obvious with a bunch of old slings around trees and boulders. Robert ran like a mountain goat ahead and found several abandoned pros. Some of us didn't even wear their rock shoes and climbed in boots. For Steven and Fabien, that was their first experience of a multi pitch route. We met two guys climbing solo and three other rope teams, so not to many people for such a nice day. Incredible: we could not find any Mountaineers group around.

The summit at 5604' is a large comfortable flat stone with an extraordinary 360 degree panorama. We had clear views of Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Stuart and Mount Rainier. Closer was Kaleetan Peak, 6,259', the largest of the Snoqualmie Peaks, seen behind Chair Peak, 6,238'.

The two rappels down were fast as we tight two ropes together. The walk out via the same way ran flawlessly and we hit the car at 15:00, very thirsty and drove straight to North Bend for some cold beer and hamburgers.

Thanks to all for this memorable climb!!

# Shuksan North Face – A Polish Style Climb

**Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Marek Wencel**  
**July 9-11, 2006**

After numerous advertising of my climbs within BoeAlps, without much success, and having to solo for few weeks, I gave up on BoeAlpers and started lurking seriously on cascadeclimbers.com. I have had a good success to my surprise finding great climbing buddies for last three weeks or so; and I had three great climbs so far in early July and have scheduled another 2 climbs.

My first climbing buddy was Marek Wencel. We have exchanged a number of planning e-mails and turned out that Marek is also Polish like me. I was looking forward to climb with another Polish climber, for the first time after climbing throughout the world with many other nationalities.

Our original plan proposed by Marek was to do Ptarmigan Traverse over 5 days including climbing major peaks on the way. I liked it because of its esthetic and athletic content without a need to waste too much time on camping and hence being able to travel light and fast. This plan fell apart due to unfavorable weather forecast. Marek proposed an alternative climb of Shuksan's North Face.

We left on Sunday (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 4am in a beautiful and warm weather with a perfect weather forecast for both Sunday and Monday. We arrived to the TH (48°51.8'N,121°38.9'W; el 3000ft) at the end of the forest road starting at the last hairpin before the Baker Lodge around 7:30am; and after quick breakfast we headed down to White Salmon Creek (2700ft) through heavy vegetation; and than up to the access ridge (48°51.6'N,121°37.4'W; el 4800ft) leading to start of the NF route. The river crossing was uneventful except ice cold water; my feet were numb and painful at the end of the crossing but after few minutes of 'pins and needles' I experienced refreshing feeling. The climb up the ridge is fairly steep but vegetation free due to high trees.



**Shuksan NF view from the access ridge 4500ft**

Once on top of the ridge, the climb to the standard bivy spot was very pleasant going up gently with spectacular views on Shuksan Arm covered by White Salmon Glacier and mt Baker in the distance.

We arrived to the bivy spot (48°50.86'N,121°36.3'W; el 5200ft) at 1pm and stopped for a short rest break before attempting the climb. Black clouds rolled in no time from the direction of Baker; and it started raining despite of forecast for a 0% POP.



**Shuksan Arm and Baker View from access ridge 4500ft**

We have decided to pitch the tent and waited out; there was really no other choice, once we were there, because one really doesn't wish to retrace the access route.



**Temporary Bivy at 5200ft**

In a way it was a blessing for me as I desperately needed a rest (some sleep if possible) to make-up for a very short previous night. It was raining on and off for 4 hrs; and finally at about 5pm weather cleared; it looked like it was only a short summer storm, one of those passing through quickly.

We decided to packed-up our gear and start climbing. It was going to be a full moon starting at 10pm; so if the sky remained clear it could've been a fantastic climb with bivy at the North Col.

We started the climb at about 6pm having another 3 ½ hrs of the daylight and some 3000ft of NF ahead of us. Depending on the route condition it was reasonable time to get almost to the top of

the route in the daylight without a need to bivy on the face.

Snow conditions were great with reasonably firm snow but it was easy to kick steps in. We passed few crevasses without any problems but we had to take a path far east and then traverse back west. After initial lead by Marek I took the lead when we encountered big Schrunks; it was really exciting crossing them. We decided to keep to eastern side of the NF. We were not sure whether we can cross Schrunks on the west side for more direct route; it would be waste of precious time if we had to backtrack.



**Start of NF route 5400ft**



**Bivy at 7200ft**

Disadvantage of our decision was the proximity of the rock and the danger of falling rock, however the route look clean so I decided to proceed.

We arrived at 7200ft at about 9pm and I have spotted a protected bivy in a semi-cave with a solid snowdrift. New set of threatening black clouds drifted in and covered the sky; we decided to bivy there until the daylight as we could not rely on the moonlight due to heavy overcast; we were hoping for the rain to stop by the morning.

We build the snow-shelf, had a diner and retired to the tent. It was raining on and off during the night loosening rocks and causing some rock-falls; we were however well protected in our semi-cave.



**On the North Face 8000ft**

We walk-up in the morning to a dense fog but the rain stopped. We ate some food, packed our gear and started traversing back to the snow face.

I was lading; we had 3 snow stakes, which I used to organize a running belay on the traversing route and every 200 ft I belayed Marek to recover protection gear for the next section.

The weather started improving and fog lifted by 9am to a sunny day for the rest of the day.

Close to the top of the face Marek took over the lead and led us through Shuksan's North Col and crevasses clockwise around Shuksan's Pyramid to Hourglass

(48°49.5'N, 121°36.7'W; el 7600ft) and the start of the Hell's Highway.



**Approaching Top of North Face**



**Crossing bergschund at Shuksan Pass**



**Baker from Shuksan Pass 8500ft**



**Top of Hells Highway near Hourglass**



**Upper Curtis Glacier and Winnies Slide**



**Hells Highway, Upper Curtis Glacier and Fisher Chimney View from path to Lake Ann**



**Down climbing Fisher Chimney**

We both climbed the pyramid before and decided to forgo it this time due to the time constraints. We were planning to walk-out this day via Fisher Chimneys.

We proceeded to Hells Highway with steep down climb of 400ft down to Upper Curtis Glacier and then we bypassed the ice-cliffs by regaining 500ft and traversing it west and through the gap to White Salmon Glacier.

The White Salmon Glacier was in a perfect shape to down-climb it and to shorten the exit, but the perspective of heavy bush-whack prompted us to proceed a longer but possibly faster Fisher Chimneys route.

Fisher Chimney was marked by a cairn and it was easily to identify, where the glacier meets the rock-cliff at its lowest point before climbing up again.

Despite of complains of many climbers I found Fisher Chimney an easy objective. It is 3<sup>rd</sup> class down-climb with some sort sections of class 4, where climbing experience is a real advantage.

At one spot we found a steep section, where we have set-up 20ft rep but the section could be down-climbed with a little more effort.

We have found the path to Lake Ann quite tedious and never ending. Lake Ann was totally frozen and the path was snow covered most of the way to Panorama Point with some snow-free patches.

At Lake Ann we met a couple of young climbers; we had a chat with them, asking for the trail condition and we gave them beta on the Fisher Chimney route as they were going to climb Shuksan the following day.

We have followed their steps down the trail, which has sped our retreat but at one stage we lost the path and had to bush-whack to regain the path 200ft above us snaking on the flanks of Shuksan's Arm.

It was getting late and dark and we decided to set-up the camp 1mi before Panorama Point TH and continue in the morning. We were hoping to get a lift down to our car located about 8mi down from Panorama Point.

There were some cars with respectable old couples and of course no hope to get lift. We dropped our packs at a chalet near the Reflection Lake and proceeded light to the car. We were in luck here, a young Canadian couple in a big truck gave us the lift to the Baker Lodge and we had to walk only for 1mi to reach the car.

It was a great Cascadian adventure in a great company; I found new friend and climbing buddy. We are planning future climbs together over the rest of summer.

The NF route is fast falling apart due to warm weather and it was probably the last chance to do it this season in a reasonably good conditions. I am so glad the weather cooperated to make this really esthetic route a terrific adventure.

# Stuart Upper North Ridge – A Classic Cascadian Climb

**Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Mike Bell**  
**July 15-16, 2006**

While lurking seriously on cascadedclimbers.com I received PM from my old climbing buddy, Mike Bell, with whom I lost contact for almost a couple of years. It was a very good timing too as I was looking for a climbing buddy for the weekend.

We have decided to do the Stuart North Ridge and follow by West Ridge of Sherpa, since we were already there. Sherpa by itself would not be a good objective for me from time aspect as it is my last climbing season here before returning to Melbourne in January; so I prefer to do some more interesting objectives than Sherpa.

We left Seattle at 7:30pm on Friday July 14<sup>th</sup> and bivied at the Ingalls TH with a dozen of other climbers. There was a big group doing West Ridge of Stuart and numerous climbers for popular Ingalls peak.

We got-up at 4am and were on the trail at 4:30am; we gained Longs pass within 1hr, down-climbed to Ingalls creek and it took us just over 2hrs to reach Stuart pass.



**Approaching the Goat Pass**

From Stuart pass the route leads through the Goat pass and the Stuart Glacier to the Upper North Ridge via a steep 4<sup>th</sup> class access gully. The colour between the Stuart and Goat pass is a combination of steep scree leading to both passes and a substantial boulder field in-between. There were also patches of hard snow in two places at the bottom of the colour. It was difficult to negotiate them without crampons but at the same time it was difficult to justify time loss of putting the crampons on and off.

The Goat pass was snow free and the Stuart Glacier below was in a good shape and the early sun has softened its surface. I kicked the steps with my crampons for mike to follow as he left his crampons at home.

It took us a while to cross the glacier and to climb the steep access gully to the top of the ridge at ½-way bivy spots, where the actual climb starts.



**Ingalls Peak view from the Goat Pass**



**Crossing the Stuart Glacier from the Goat Pass**



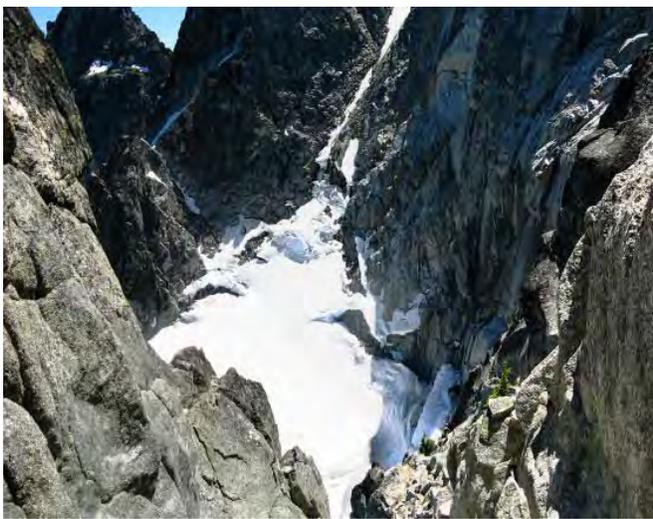
**Access Gully from Stuart Glacier**



**Bivies at the start of Upper Ridge**



**1<sup>st</sup> Pitch Upper North Ridge**



**Stuart Glacier on East Side from the Ridge**



**Stuart Glacier on West Side from the Ridge**



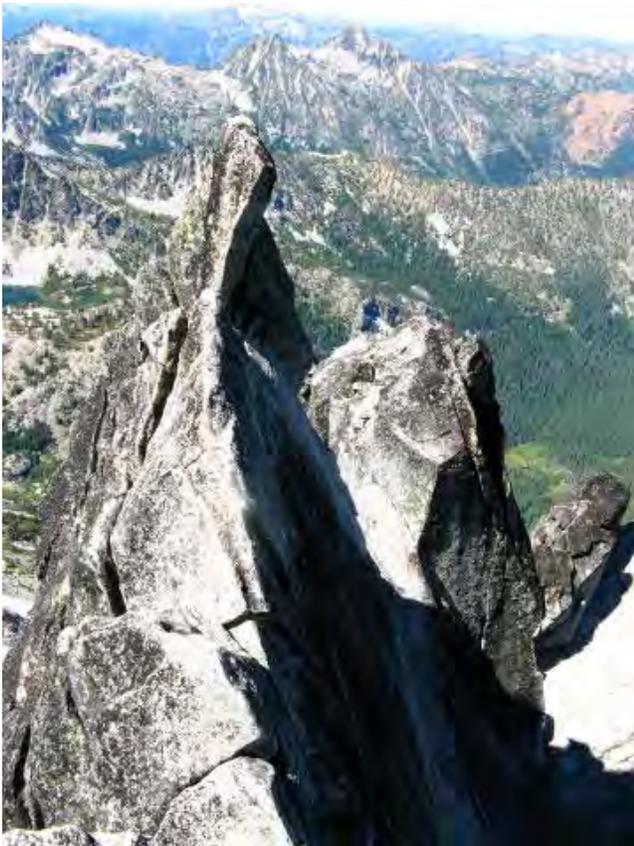
**View from North Ridge at Stuart Lake and Mountaineers Creek**



**Climbing the North Ridge**



**Stuart Range from North Ridge**



**North Ridge Pitch 5**



**Sherpa from North Ridge**



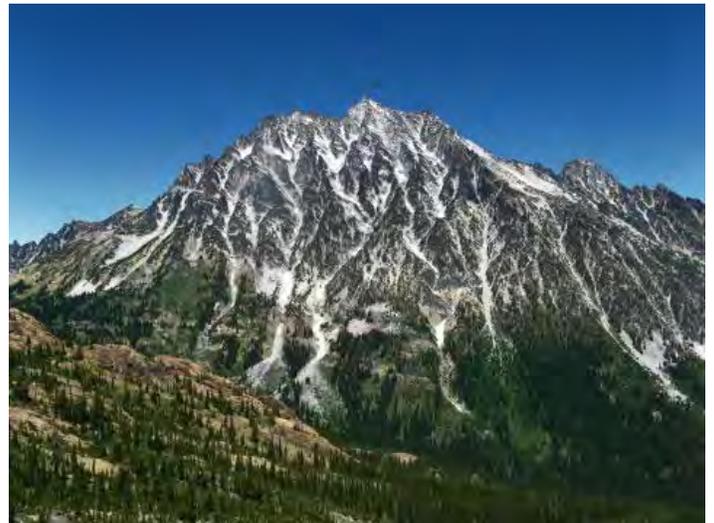
**Rainier Sunset from Stuart**



**False Summit and Cascadian Colour**



**Visiting Resident Goat**



**Stuart from Longs Pass**

The access Gully was filled with the snow approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  way, so I used my crampons to get to the end of the snow, while Mike scrambled at the edge of the snow and the rock.

I have rearranged at the end of the snow with my rock shoes and climbed a steep 6ft section without the pack, which I hauled up; and I walked passed the bivy spots to the start of the climb. It took us 8hrs to reach the start the upper section; we were running 1hr late and we were concerned about finishing the climb before dark. We wanted to bivy below the false summit to be ready for our next day objective, the Sherpa.

We did not waste our time for lunch, just had some water and a quick snack, while setting up belay at the same time, and started climbing. Mike has done the route numerous times, so we decided that he was going to lead to catch-up with the lost time.

I was uncertain about the climb reading numerous horror stories of climbers whining about the climb difficulty, exposure etc. In the end it turned out to be challenging climb due to the exposure but technically it was reasonably easy climb. The only really difficult part is the Gendarme. Due to time constraints we decided to bypass the Gendarme.

It took us 7hrs to complete 11 pitches of climbing the low class 5 part of the ridge and about 400ft of class 4 to reach the summit.

It was very exhilarating climb and another very esthetic classic Cascadian climb for me. I am so grateful for Mike's company and leading the rock. I hope we can do another classic route before I return to Melbourne.

The summit was just the formality as each of us summited Stuart few times before; but still it was incredibly exhilarating experience to stand on the top of this huge and beautiful mountain with sweeping 360° unobstructed views and being able to see many classic peaks of the Cascades.

We have down-climbed quickly to the false summit and caught-up with the large group, who just completed West Ridge and were repelling from the notch of the false summit. They kindly agreed for us to use their already set-up repel ropes, making our exit much faster and more efficient.

We bivied at the bottom of false summit; there was still plenty of snow to melt for water; we finally had a chance to eat something more substantial then just protein bars and jerky and to hydrate after the climb.

The weather was very warm and the sunset spectacular.

We woke-up in the morning and had to endure a visit by a goat with a little baby goat.

A steep access gully leading to the Sherpa was filled with hard snow and it was too difficult to negotiate without crampons. So we decided to walk-out via Cascadian Colouir and forgo Sherpa; hence ending another classic Cascadian adventure.



**Rainier Sunrise from Stuart**

## Mt Terror West Ridge – An Easy Introduction to Pickets

Climbers: Tony Olejnicki (scribe) and Rod Xuereb  
July 19-21, 2006



**Southern Pickets from the camp at the Chopping Block, 5400ft, mt Terror - center pyramid**

Mt terror and Pickets in general are places visited by only a few climbers. It sounds really strange, such a beautiful range and relatively close to highway 20; one would've thought that it would be inundated with climbers. Terror summit is less than 10mi away from the TH. Yet very few climbers venture there. It has a reputation of a difficult access that puts people off and to certain extent it is difficult; however it doesn't really deserve such a reputation. I must admit the Pickets are well hidden from the visitor to highway 20. There is a brief vista of the range from the road but most of people passing it quickly and never see it.

I think good Fred Beckey and his disciples are partly to blame. Just read the description of the Barrier-Crescent Creek Route: '...Then work upward and right through small forested cliff bands to eventually reach the ridge crest at c. 3600ft at a minor saddle. The best policy is: If the route gets steep and cliffy, go right; if it gets brushy, go up (do not go left). Most pilgrims before reaching the ridge crest are not only haggard and fatigued, but thirsty...'. Not very inviting isn't it?



**Mt Triumph from the camp at the Chopping Block**



**McMillan Spires from lower Barrier**

In reality is not like that. There are not many climbers visiting the mountain however enough to make a climbers path. There is some truth about the Pickets access trails; they are not maintained climbers treads; nevertheless they are there and you must be vigilant to follow it. I had difficulty to identify the path on the way up but after a day of trying to follow it, I became really good in it and on the way down we hardly went off the route; and if so, we were able to find it very quickly.

The path is very overgrown by vegetation like huckleberries but you really appreciate them on steep parts, where you do lots of 'vegetable belays'. Besides you can pick some huckleberries at this time of the year and have fresh fruit to supplement your 'climber's nutrition'.

I found the Picket range very beautiful in many aspects. It is a wild place, very scenically striking; it is like I said a very remote and isolated place with very few climbers. Routes appear variable, challenging but not too difficult for even a beginner climber, mostly class 3 and 4 with some low class 5 sections or just few low class moves to get on the ridge.

class 5 moves to start with. Early in the season the access gully is filled with snow and hence easy to negotiate. Later in the season it turns into steep scree and dirt over the rocks making it very unpleasant and difficult to down climb. Repel is also difficult due to unstable rocks structure in the gully. The rock on the ridge itself is very good and solid.

Mt Terror is very interesting looking mountain with climbable class 3 and 4 West Ridge with a few low



**Terror creek log jam, 2000ft**

We started the trip on July 19<sup>th</sup>. I met Rod at Bellevue NE 8<sup>th</sup> P&R at 1pm. We drove to Marblemount, registered with the ranger for the backcountry permit and headed to the TH at the Goodell Creek Camping ground (el 600ft). It took us 90 minutes to get to the a nice bivy spot at 1600ft. We pitched the tent and climb 400ft to the Terror Creek log crossing described by Beckey. We wanted to check the trail without packs to make sure that we know where we going the next day. The legend talks about the trail being difficult to follow. To our surprise it wasn't the case; it was faint in few places and overgrown and blocked by few fallen trees in other places but with a careful navigation it was reasonably easy to follow. It was a nice surprise.

We have psyched ourselves, however, for really a bad run above it.



**Terror creek crossing on the log jam**

On Thursday we started climbing at 5:20am to make sure that we are at the base camp before it gets really hot in the afternoon. We crossed the log on the Terror creek without any problems and identified the start of next section to ridge, which leads to the Barrier. It was supposed to be a steep 1600ft faint climbers tread difficult to follow. Sure it was steep and we lost path few times momentarily but we followed Beckey's advice and surprised ourselves, how simple it was. Similar with the ridge; it was relatively east to follow; the path was following the ridge exactly, so if lost we just got back on narrow ridge and found the path every time. The view from the ridge is also spectacular. At 5000ft it opens in to striking McMillan Spires and Inspiration Peak.

From 5600ft you can see the Chopping Block; just follow the path of the least resistance to the camp site at 6400ft. There was still plenty of snow making the traverse easy; also rocks were very good to walk on them, even when wet they were not slippery.

There are two humps on the ridge between the Barrier and the Chopping Block (or Pinnacle Peak). The campsites are on the right side (east side) of the first hump, one closer to the Chopping Block. It took us 8hrs to arrive to the campsite gaining 4800ft. The water was

available 100ft below from the melting snow and cascading through the rocks.



**Camp site at 5400ft from Pinnacle Barrier ridge**



**Chopping Block from Terror**



**View south from the tent**



**Chopping Block and camp site from summit**



**Cascades panorama south of mt Terror**



**North Pickets with Fury in the foreground, view from Summit**



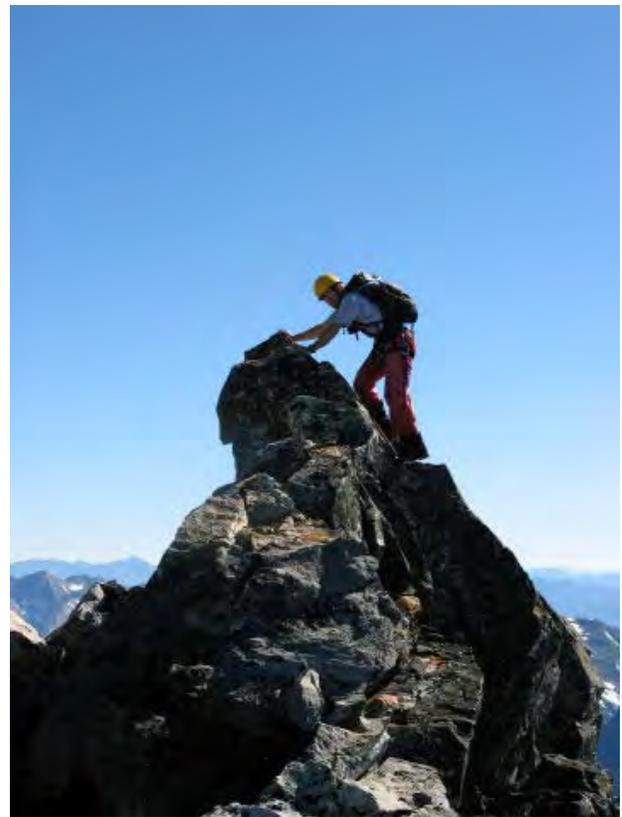
**Ugly Gully, climbing through waterfall**



**Rod Topping class 5 section**



**Victory dance on the summit**



**Climbing summit pyramid**

We started climbing on Friday at 5:20am. The route is straightforward and totally visible from the campsite; hence it is easy to pick a good line to the access gully. We dropped very steep 300ft down from the camp and then, with still plenty of snow, we were able to pick almost straight line to the base of the gully at 6700ft. We had to cross few short sections of scree and rock but most of the route was on the snow.

Half of the gully was filled with the snow so it was easy to get up to a huge chock-stone, from which there was a cascading waterfall from melting snow. It was class 4 move however on the wet rock it was quite difficult and few seconds it took, I was soaked with water. With hot weather it was almost welcomed.

We continued on the upper section of the snow finger until we reached last 100ft of treacherous gravel section. There was nothing to hang on, so we had to thread very quietly and carefully to avoid sliding back down.

We made it to the top of the gully, climbed 20ft class 4 across a rock step and 10 ft down on the other side to a convenient belay point for the first ½ pitch of low class 5.

I used 2 mid-size stoppers for the protection and belayed Rod from the top. From this point it was a very pleasant class 3 and 4 rock scramble. We followed Beckey's description and traversed 50ft below the false summit to a small notch between false and proper summit. The summit ridge looked very intimidating from false summit but once traversed and on the route it was a very easy class 4. We summited at 11:30am, had a short break at the summit and down-climbed to first repel station at the top of class 5 section. With a single repel, we finished 10 ft above our belay station but it was easy to down-climb from there. We had to down-climb next 50ft section; it was very bad rock, too scary to repel. Once in the dirt gully we managed to find a solid horn to repel to the snow finger, where we left our crampons and axes. We also repelled through the waterfall and returned to the campsite at 1:30pm.

We packed our gear and headed back to the car in the heat of the day. To my surprise it was actually very pleasant with a slight breeze and coolness emanating from the snow. The path finding was relatively easy and we were on the path most of the time. We arrived to the car haggard at 8pm.

I was starving and I was lucky to get a pizza in Concrete; we arrived there just before their closing time. The pizza tasted absolutely delicious.

## You Can't Always Climb (like you want)

(Tune of "You Can't Always Get what You Want by the Rolling Stones)

Lyrics by Ron Fleck

I saw her today at the trailhead  
In her hand was a beat-up ax  
She was practiced at the art of step kicking  
I knew she'd be soon making tracks

### **Chorus**

You can't always climb like you want  
You can't bag every peak like you'd want  
You can't always climb like you want  
But if you push your climb – you just might find  
You're standing on Top

We decided that we would climb together  
Take turns in the front breaking trail  
With a pair so downright motivated  
I knew that we just couldn't fail

So we headed through dense green forest  
On a bearing that was directly east  
The snow neath our boots was packing nicely  
This climb was certainly a treat

As we hit the wide open snow slope  
We felt the weather begin to turn  
The wind picked up and started howling  
And the snow just began to churn

### **Chorus**

But we kept on pushing forward  
And plowed our way slowly uphill  
Visibility was less than zero  
And so was the wind chill

At last we could go no higher  
We stood on the summit all alone  
A photo, a hug, a count to ten  
And we headed the heck for home

Chorus – repeat and fade



ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
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OR: micah.nolin@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*

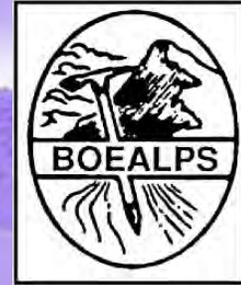
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John Gowan,  
& Cathy Hawkins

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Shella Bukovac  
Chris Meder  
Francois Godcharles  
Fabien Mandrillon

*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

OCTOBER 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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## ← OCT GENERAL MEETING →

The October general meeting will feature a presentation on **Aconcagua trip planning** by **Tony Olejnicki**. This fiery Boealper has bagged many peaks in the last few years, and his trip up Aconcagua (22,834 ft./6,960 meters) via the Polish Glacier route yielded an excellent TR for the Echo in the spring of last year. Come hear Tony's travel tales and get tips on climbing to the "Roof of the Americas," Cerro Aconcagua.

The meeting will also include a visit from the **Washington Trails Association**.

## BOEALPS GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG  
7755 E MARGINAL WY S



# BELAY STANCE

Greetings, Boealpers-

Welcome to my last issue as Echo editor. It's been fun, but it's time for me to spend more time climbing and less time talking about it.

I'd asked that folks help make this the best issue of the Echo ever, and I think we came pretty close. To begin with, there are five--count 'em, five--trip reports, including an eagerly anticipated write-up by Ryan Allen of his big-wall climb in Yosemite with Tom Ryan, Bob Bautista, and a total newbie.

We've also got an announcement of new additions to the Boealps board, led by new president Bob Bautista. Thanks to Bob Magers for the year of exemplary service he will soon finish.

This Echo also features a sign-up form for the November banquet, which takes place at the Museum of Flight and includes a program of talks on clubmembers' Denali climbs. Sign up soon! Advance registration is due October 20.

There's also still time to sign up for the Wilderness First Responder's class being offered this November by the Everett Mountaineers, so you'll also see that announcement again in this issue.

Other goodies this month include a new "Perspectives" column by Francois Godcharles, an announcement of this year's photo contest (happening at the November general meeting), and a photo essay on this year's Basic Rock Class.

Content for the next issue of the Echo is due on October 23. Send trip reports, event announcements, and wire transfer info for Swiss bank accounts to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,  
Sarah

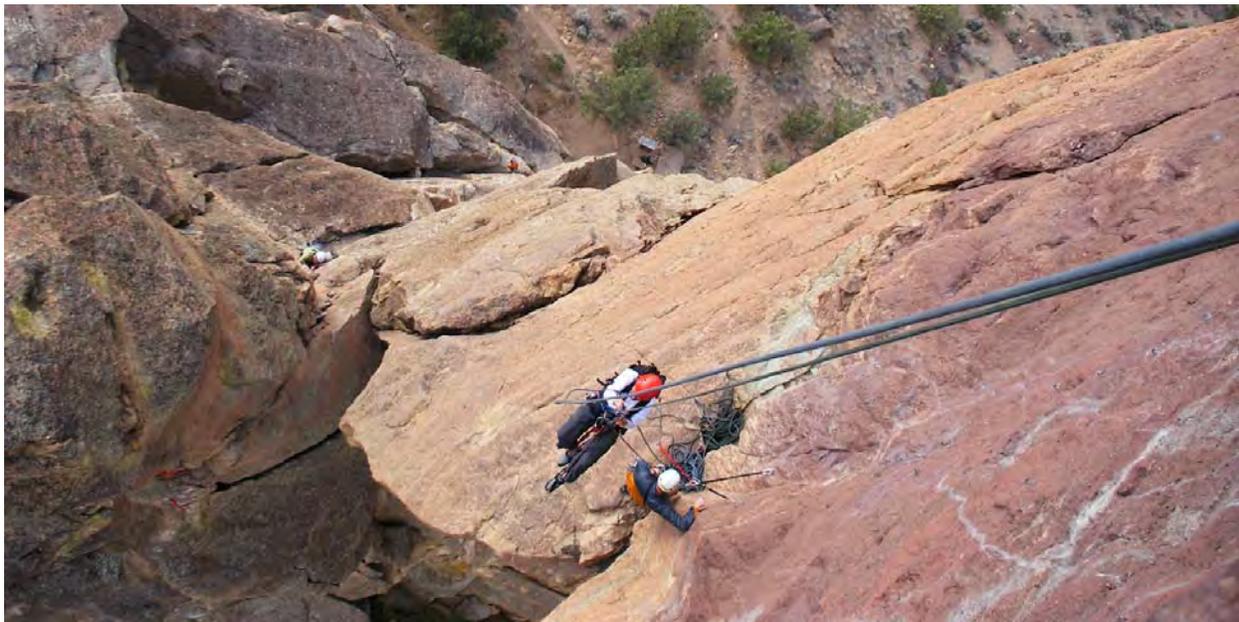


Tim Bartholomaus digging out of a moulin while doing glaciology research in Alaska.  
Photo by Sarah Sternau.

# October

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

**2006**



As part of a BRC outing, Larry Kucera jumars up the third pitch of Monkey Face. Photo by Sarah Sternau.

<b>November</b>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Boealps Banquet!</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Full moon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Dec. Echo Deadline New moon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Thanks-giving	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**2006**

## **2007 Boealps Election Results**

The ballots were distributed, votes were cast, and we've got some new blood in the Boealps board!

Please congratulate the following folks on their election to their new positions:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Bob Bautista</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Micah Nolin</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Francois Godcharles</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Tom Ryan</b>

Thanks to our past president, Bob Magers, for an excellent year of service as leader of the club.

## Boealps 2006 Annual Banquet "Denali: Now and Then"

**When:** Friday, November 3, 2006

**Where:** Museum of Flight  
9404 E Marginal Way S

**Cost:** \$40 Boealps member  
\$45 non-Boealps member

**Time:** Museum open for viewing 5-6pm  
Bar opens at 6pm  
Dinner served at 7pm  
President remarks, guest speakers, and door prizes starting at 8pm

Boealps invites you to the 2006 annual banquet, and we have a double-header for you. "Denali: Now and Then" features pictures from two Boealps Denali expeditions, separated by 30 years: Boealps Founding Father John Pollock and Doug Sanders will present slides from their 1976 trip (which included Agris Moruss and Jim Wickwire), and Brad Walker will present pictures from his 2006 adventure. And as a bonus, we include pictures from John Gowan's 2006 attempt, with current Boealps Treasurer Tony Olejnicki (and eventually long-time Boealper Dan Goering, but that's another story).

The Museum of Flight will be available free of charge for the entire day for Banquet guests until 6pm. And don't forget there will be \$500 in door prizes.

Meet new climbers and friends, and support Boealps! We will also have 2007 membership renewal forms available at the front door, so you can pay for the banquet and your 2007 membership with one check. We appreciate early reservations to help us plan this event.

To sign up: Please fill out the form below, and send it with your check (payable to Boealps) by no later than **Friday, October 20**:

Tony Olejnicki  
M/S 87-68

Or

339 Burnett Ave S Apt. 312  
Renton WA 98057  
[tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com), 425-443 1760

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:**      **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

		<b>Number of Tickets</b>		<b>Amount</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Boealps member	@ \$40	X _____		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Boealps member	@ \$45	X _____		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2007 membership	@ \$20	BEMS ID _____		_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>				_____

## Wilderness First Responder Course Information

<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Everett Mountaineers</b>
<b>Dates &amp; Times:</b>	6-10 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Fri) 11-12 Nov 06: 8am to 5pm (Sat – Sun) 13-17 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Fri) 18-19 Nov 06: 8am to 5pm (Sat – Sun) 20-21 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Tues)
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Taylor’s Landing, Snohomish, WA</b> (address and directions below)
<b>Lodging/Meals:</b>	No
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$425 before 6 Oct 06; \$500 after 6 Oct 06.</b>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Comfortable in wilderness/remote setting

**Course Overview:** The 80 hour Wilderness First Responder certification is considered the standard for professionals working as guides, outdoor educators, as well as recreational expedition medical personnel in remote areas. Wilderness First Responders should be able to effectively make decisions when a hospital is hours to days away. The Wilderness First Responder by Remote Medical International emphasizes decision-making, hands-on skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to function in remote areas, as well as providing a strong foundation to progress on to more advanced levels of training.

**Format:** Combination of lecture, skill labs, and practical scenarios to provide participants with the greatest opportunity to use and retain the skills necessary to respond to remote medical emergencies. Skill labs and scenarios take place inside and outside.

Check-in of the first day is at 1800 on 6 November 2006. A typical day will run from 1600 –2000. There are two weekend sessions (0800-1700). The course will finish on 21 November by 2000.

**Texts:** The textbooks and course materials for this course are included in the course price. You will receive textbooks on the first day of the course. If you would like to receive texts early, you can request them for a \$5.00 shipping charge.

*Field Guide for Remote Medical Care and Rescue; Remote Medical International, 2005*  
*Medicine for Mountaineering and Other Wilderness Activities; The Mountaineers Books 2001*

### **Certifications received:**

- **Wilderness First Responder** from Remote Medical International
- **CPR for the Professional Rescuer** from the American Heart Association

The Wilderness First Responder course by Remote Medical International exceeds requirements for the First Responder course established by the Department of Transportation. If you would like to test for your First Responder from the National Registry of EMTs, please call our office for additional information; please note that an additional fee applies.

**Recertification:** The Wilderness First Responder certification is valid for two years. There is a one year grace period after expiration in which recertification is available.

Recertification is achieved by successfully completing a Wilderness First Responder Recertification course which lasts 36 hours. Students may choose to recertify through Remote Medical International or through a company approved by Remote Medical International.

**Registration Procedure:** \$425 if registered before 6 October 2006. \$500 if registered after 6 October 2006. Full tuition amount is due upon registration. Registration for Mountaineer’s members on the Mountaineer’s website ([www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org)). Non-Mountaineers must call the clubhouse activity registration line to sign up 1.800.573.8484 in the state of WA and 206.284.8484 for those out of state.

General questions should be directed either to Rachel LovellFord(Mountaineer organizer) at 360.440.3268 or rlovellford@gmail.com or Remote Medical Int. at 800.597.4911 or [info@remotemedical.com](mailto:info@remotemedical.com).

**Refund Policy:** If a student withdraws after 6 October 2006, a \$75 non-refundable deposit is forfeited.

**Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk, Release and Indemnity Agreement**

Please read the enclosed document carefully. Please bring a signed copy of this agreement to the first day of the course; they will be collected by the instructor. If you are a minor, this agreement must be signed by your legal parent/guardian. Failure to sign this form will bar you from participating in the course.

**Equipment requirements:** All course materials including first aid materials, books and lecture notes will be provided. Below is a list of additional items recommended for the course:

- Coffee mug
- Water Bottle
- Sitpad or Crazy Creek type chair
- Pen & Notepad
- Layering clothing in preparation for varying weather (rain, snow, cold ground, etc)
- Comfortable shoes/slippers. No soiled shoes are allowed indoors. Please bring a change of shoes or slippers.
- Light day pack with equipment for day hikes
- Headlamp or flashlight

**Direction to Course Location:**

Address: **Taylor's Landing  
5506 Old Machias Rd,  
Snohomish, WA 98290**

Driving Directions:

***From I-5 If You're North Bound:***

Take Exit 194 At exit 194, turn RIGHT onto Ramp towards US-2 / Snohomish / Wenatchee. Proceed west on US -2 4.5 miles. Keep RIGHT onto Ramp towards WA-9 / Arlington / Bothell. Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-9. Turn RIGHT (East) onto Bunk Foss Rd. Turn RIGHT (South) onto Old Machias Rd. Arrive 5506 Old Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290

***From I-5 If You're South Bound:***

Take Exit 194 AAt exit 194, turn RIGHT onto Ramp towards US-2 / Everett Ave. / Wenatchee. Keep LEFT to stay on Ramp towards US-2 / Snohomish / Wenatchee. Proceed west on US -2 4.5 miles. Keep RIGHT onto Ramp towards WA-9 / Arlington / Bothell. Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-9. Turn RIGHT (East) onto Bunk Foss Rd. Turn RIGHT (South) onto Old Machias Rd. Arrive 5506 Old Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290

**Questions & Concerns:**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Wilderness First Responder course, please contact Rachel LovellFord at 360.440.3268 or rlovellford@gmail.com.

# **BOEALPS Photo Contest**

## **Thursday, Nov. 2nd, General Meeting**

Attention photo buffs! Dust off your negatives, download your memory cards and bring your best adventure photos to the BOEALPS photo contest during the November General Meeting. You must bring the actual pictures, developed or printed on paper (no slides or digital photos). As a suggestion, 8x10 sized pictures on nice photo paper tend to work best for presentation purposes. **Prizes will be awarded in each category and the winners will be featured in upcoming Echo newsletters and on the BOEALPS website!**

### **Contest Information:**

There will be 7 categories to enter your photos in this year. They are listed below with corresponding descriptions.

1. **Mountain Scene** – Any picture that displays the great alpine vistas we can never get enough of.
2. **Climbing** – Simple, show people climbing. Rock, ice, glacier, or your solo climb up City Park for the sponsors. Sorry, leave your pictures from bouldering at the gym at home; you're alpinists for goodness sake.
3. **Sunrise/Sunset** – Pretty self explanatory, your best sunrise and/or sunset pictures taken in the mountains.
4. **People** – Share the pictures of your friends you went climbing with or the people that you met along the way during your adventure.
5. **BOEALPS Class** – Show off what you learned or taught this year from the various classes you took or instructed: Basic Climbing Class, Basic Rock Class, or Intermediate Climbing Class.
6. **Humorous** – Come on, something funny must have happened when you went climbing, do you have a picture of it? Let's maintain some level of good taste here please. Don't show anything that your mother wouldn't approve of.
7. **Nature/Wilderness** – This is a new category. It was created for all those miscellaneous pictures you take along the way on your climb such as the grove of alpine flowers, the marmot that tried stealing your food, or the mysterious looking forest you walked through during your approach.

\* No more than two photos can be submitted in each category per person.

Contact Mike Zalewski, [mjzalewsk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzalewsk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

# The 2006 Basic Rock Class: A Photo Essay

Photos and captions by Sarah Sternau unless otherwise noted



Students placing pro. Dan Morales supervises.



Doesn't Micah look like a newscaster in this picture?



A lead climbing demo at Leavenworth.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Students learning to lead belay.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Larry weight training, carrying a ginormous cam as he cleans.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Francois leads one for the students.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Evening Frisbee.



As island of veggie burgers in a sea of meat.



Micah telling a big...*something* story.



Phil chowing on a homemade madeleine. (Thanks, Magali!)



Eric improvising a plate. Mmmm... dessert.



The BRC Gap commercial. (Right after this, everyone danced like Audrey Hepburn in *Funny Face*.)



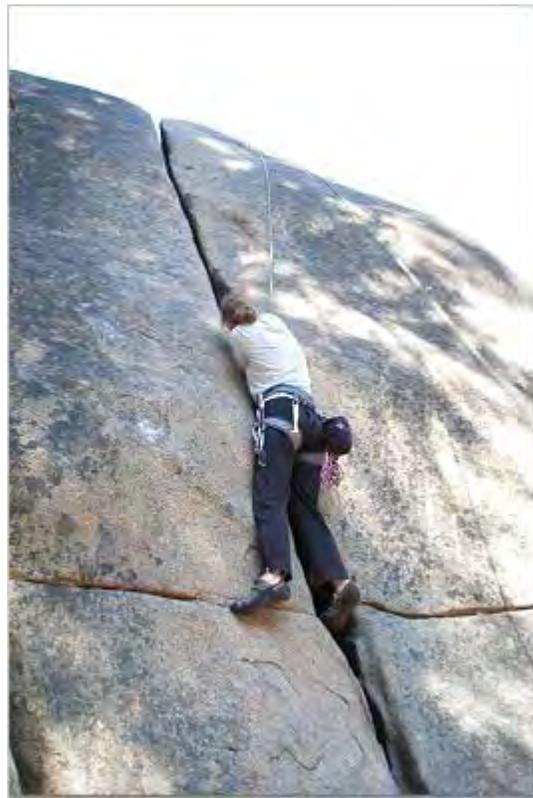
Did you know that the BRC also does a tutorial in rigging for climbing photography?



Eric at the second belay of R&D.



Greg Schmidt working it out on Classic Crack.



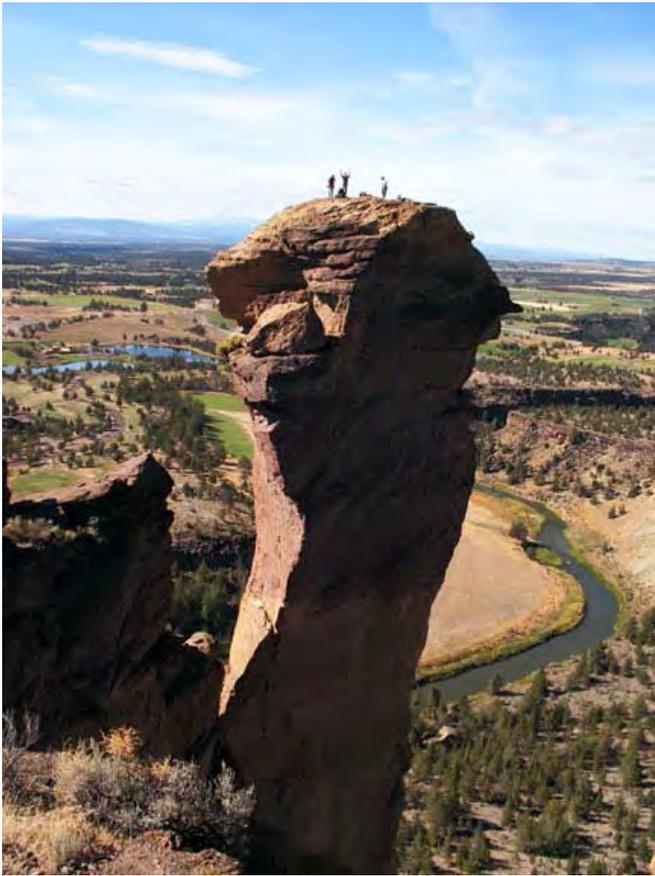
Larissa on Classic Crack.



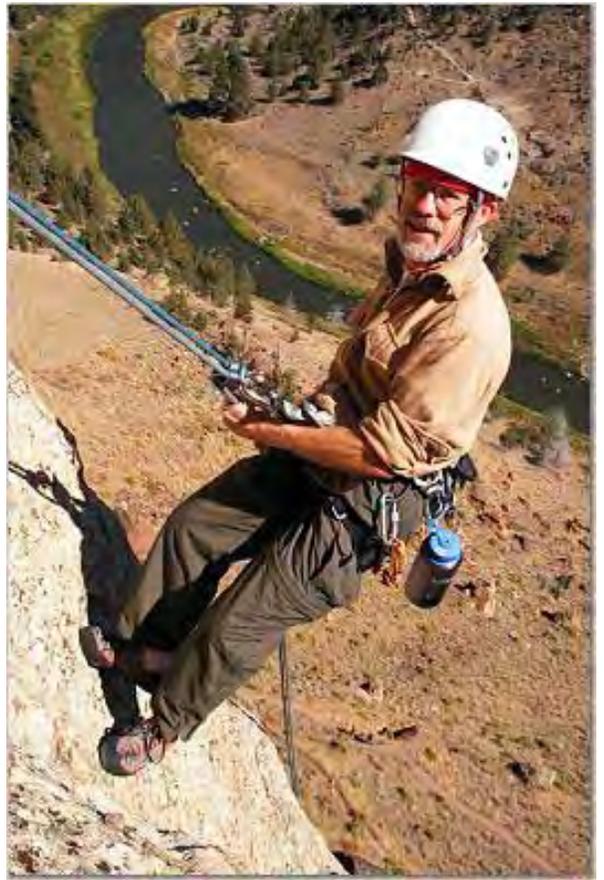
Steve Behrend jumaring on Monkey Face.



An improvised quickdraw.



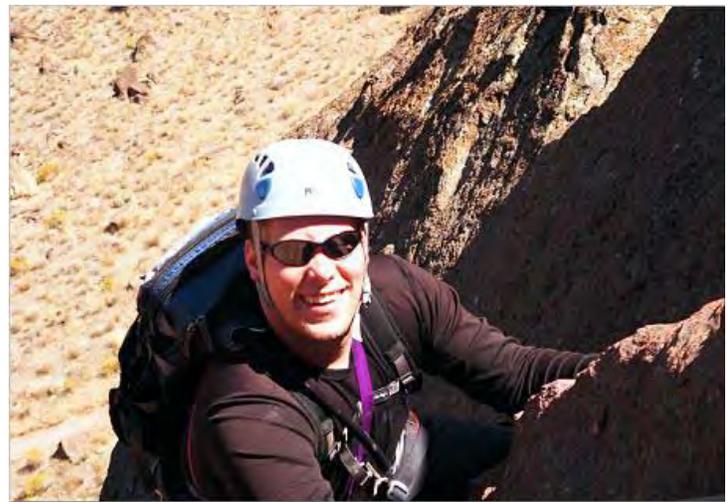
Eric Fjellanger, Larissa Trevett, Oscar Montoya, and Greg Schmidt on Monkey Face.



Joe rappels Super Slab.



A random kid in the parking lot of the new Depot restaurant. He'd just bagged his first pheasant.



Brian tops out on Super Slab.



**The awesome students of the 2006 Basic Rock Class, getting ready to drive home after their last class climb.**

**Congratulations to the students who completed the class:**

**Steven Behrend  
Troy Colyer  
Dennis Hicks  
Larry Kucera  
Fabien Mandrillon**

**Greg Schmidt  
Chris Stewart  
Larissa Trevett  
Joe Vlaming  
Brian Woebkenberg**

**And thank you to all the instructors who helped make this year a success!**

**Shella Bukovac  
Eric Bultemeier  
Eric Fjellanger  
James Fugate  
Francois Godcharles  
Marty Jolly  
Vicky Larsen  
Joan Lawry**

**Chris Meter  
Dan Morales  
Oscar Montoya  
Micah Nolin  
Doug Sanders  
Phil Trifeletti  
Silas Wild  
(and of course, co-lead-instructor  
Robert Fisher)**

## From Beer to Exposed Reality and Back to Beer Again

Leaning Tower, September 2006  
Grade V, 5.7 C2



I'm not sure where the idea came from. Bringing a completely inexperienced climber up the Leaning Tower sounded okay, I guess. I've taken Jesiah top roping to X-38 before, and he's followed me up the Great Northern Slab once before and that's worth at least a small feather in the hat. I suppose it was one of those evenings, when a belly full of beer made nothing seem impossible and grandiose visions of victory dominated conversation. The beer that exaggerates the story, enhances the punch line, and boosts the confidence that so often drives climbers' stories. It had to be one of those nights when we decided the next logical step for Jesiah's climbing career: climb a grade V Yosemite big wall!

It must not have been the beer talking, because the idea outlasted our buzz. A few e-mails, and many Big Wall Theories later, we found ourselves in my basement sorting gear and working out the systems.



It seems when preparing for a large climb, the ambition grows linearly with the amount of beer consumed. And so came Tom, with yet another belly full of beer late one work night, when he overheard Bob's and my ridiculously ambitious plan to take Jesiah up every big wall in the valley in only seven days, including the 33-pitch nose of El Capitan. I saw the sparkle in Tom's eyes, and after informing him we had an extra spot on one of the porta-ledges, he wanted in. Again, I was certain it was the beer talking, but what seemed like the very next day, Tom forwarded us his travel plans. There was no stopping that train!

Bob, Jesiah, and I spent a few days at Index. Jesiah had a large learning curve, including everyday topics like the ins and outs of hanging belays, jumaring, lowering out a haul bag, deploying multiple ledges on one anchor, and the notoriously complex lower out. Oh, and not to mention the figure 8 knot! This was a fire hose of tribal knowledge. I'm not sure if it was his lack of understanding what he was getting into, but he was a true sport through it all. Many early mornings and long hours spent on the small walls of Index, and his desire to go to the valley wouldn't budge. He was 100% committed to making this work!

The morning of Saturday September 2nd found us in Livermore California, looking for the essentials for climbing walls like handy wipes, toilet paper, battery-powered speakers, and plastic bling necklaces. We still didn't have a plan, and after 25 cups of coffee it was decided we were already pressed for time and had to get onto a wall that day. All sounded good, but we were still four hours away from the valley!



The start of all good climbing stories

And so it went, we drove straight to the valley, and without wasting a single second on the mall-esque features with thrones of tourists and the crowded circus of exhibits, we pulled into the very first parking lot in the valley: Bridal Vail Falls. We expected lots of parties on the wall, so I quickly scrambled up with no gear to scope out the situation while the others sorted gear and packed the pigs (less commonly referred to as haulbags). I got to the base of the wall where I found an empty bivy site, and nobody on the route! The climb was on!!

I have heard stories of folks soloing the Leaning Tower in under one day. Lynn Hill and Katie Brown freed all but the first two pitches one afternoon in 2004. Not us—we were going full-blown siege style with three haul bags, two portaedges, and nine gallons of water. It was good planning, too, as we had no idea of the oppressive heat in the valley, nor how our four-person climbing Theory was going to workout.



The awesome "4<sup>th</sup> class" 5.6 approach. This isn't climbing yet—it's the approach!

We bivvied at the base of the "4th class" 5.6 approach. Sunday AM, Bob and I started shuttling loads to the base of the first pitch. Tom and Jesiah went back down to the cars for more water and weighty things to put in the pigs. Once we got the Radio Shack speakers vibrating, Bob was off leading the first pitch. Yeah! We were very excited to finally be making upward progress.

The first two pitches are "merely" bolt ladders—bolt ladders that average 110 degrees! I cleaned the first pitch, which I am convinced is more difficult than leading. At times, I had to pull myself back into the wall, and at my lightest point in the swing, attempt to unclip the biner that was holding me against the wall. The result of this of course allows further upward movement, but also adds potential energy into my position. I would often swing away from the wall so far my feet would loose connection and I would spin around my jumars. This combined with the fact that the first pitch of the leaning tower starts over a 400 foot blank wall. By the second move of the route, the exposure was sickening.

At the hanging belay, Bob and I exchanged gear quickly, and I started up the second bolt ladder. The bolts were solid, all have been replaced by the ASCA\* and stamped with thick, strong letters reading "40 KN." The leading went pretty quickly as these bolts were easy and safe to clip. Looking down we had our first grasp of how incredibly overhanging this wall is.

Jesiah and Tom had to lower out from the wall from the very first pitch to jumar up. I was nervous for Jesiah, who had never done a free hanging jumar before. Come to think of it, neither had I! I was completely unsure if I could even do such a terrifying lower-out! I watched Jesiah, and from my vantage point, he looked like a fully seasoned pro! He must have been 15 to 20 feet away from the wall when the lower-out was finished. What a brave move from a complete noob! I was beaming with pride!



Bravery is required starting on the first pitch...

And so it went, pitch after pitch, haul after haul, lead after lead. The day wore on, and the sun belted us in the afternoon. At one point, Tom was within ten feet of the fabled Ahwahnee Ledge, and the rope stopped moving. Not sure what was going on, and watching the sun drift ever closer to the edge of the world, we got him on the radio. Tom had taken a fall onto a hook and was quite riled by it. He was breathing hard and sounded quite dehydrated. After some encouragement, he pulled the slab move onto the ledge and fixed the jumar line. I

watched Bob do the most impressively exposed and scary lower-out. He had to let go of the rope before finishing the lower-out, sending him swinging out over the void. It wasn't until the sun set that I had an opportunity to jug up to the ledge. My headlamp was conveniently stored in the haulbag that had been hauled up to the ledge. So I had to jumar blind, using the Braille technique on all the equipment and knots to verify they were done correctly.



... and every other pitch on this route!

On the ledge, life was great! We ate cold ravioli with pitons and chased it with warm beer. We could stand, walk, and lie down. I had a great night's sleep!



Ahwahnee Ledge has 5-star accommodations.

The next day came sooner than wanted. It's so easy to get "big ledge syndrome." I mean, why would anybody leave this large comfortable ledge to go hang on some bolts 1000 feet above the valley floor? This was really no time to reason, and I followed Bob, who was to start the day out leading the next pitch. The route started out with a "5.6" Batman-style traverse across an exposed slab to some bolts. Next, Bob duct taped an open biner to the end of his nut tool, climbed up onto slabby and small foot holds, stretched onto his tippy toes, and just barely clipped a lower-out biner. Phew! A 15 foot lower-out over the void, and on to some akward C2 climbing. About 15 feet up, Bob took a fall. It happened so fast! I blinked, and he was suddenly 15 feet lower, hanging on a deployed screamer. He was alright, and flew up the rest of the pitch in good style.



Ryan belaying Bob from Guano Ledge.

And so it continued through the day. Lead, follow, clean, lower out, jug, repeat. The sun came again and pelted us with its dehydrating power. Bob took another lead in the sun. This time it was a long, 140-foot C1 line through a roof system. More crazy lower-outs, and we found ourselves at the base of a huge roof system, just two pitches from the top.



Looking back down onto Ahwahnee.

Bob was terribly sick. The combination of leading two stressful pitches, the relentless sun, the lack of food, and extreme dehydration had caught up with him in a large way. The sun was near the ridge again and going down fast. Bob downed as much water as he could, put his head down, and proceeded to puke it all back out again, all over the hanging belay.



Hanging belays are fun to share with your friends...Until they puke on you!

Okay, this could be serious if Bob doesn't recover. I asked what he wanted to do and volunteered to lead through the night to get us off this thing. He didn't think he could move. We were staying the night. Two hours of organizing the hanging belay later, we were ready

to deploy the ledge systems. Jesiah was a rope coiling mad-man. Tom was an elevator shaft, moving supplies out of the pig and into reach. I was a drill sergeant. Bob was, well, a corpse. We got it together, and before we knew it, we all were lying down on an extremely comfortable wall bivy with about thousand feet of hanging exposure.

Thankfully, after the sun set, and Bob got some food, he started feeling much better. "Livin' the dream!"



We planned on two days but expected three.  
Bob and Jesiah camping out on "Puke Ledge."

So, the next day, Tom and I set off for the final two pitches. The second to last pitch was a wildly overhanging roof. It traverses out, right over the valley floor, nearly horizontal! On the last pitch, Tom accidentally dropped a biner, and we watched it fall straight to the valley floor hitting nothing between Tom and the ground. It was a long way down!



The new guy, showing us how it's done on yet another gigantic lower-out!

It seemed so insignificant, reaching the top. It was nice to be able to walk around, of course. But we knew it wasn't over yet. The descent was next. We followed rappel slings down the backside for what seemed like forever. There must have been ten rappels down the backside of the tower. We kept waiting for something terrible to happen with loose rock, or getting off route, but it never did. As we neared the valley floor, the sun, as it always does, began to set. Upon the final rappel, right when the last guy removed the rope from the device, the sun went down. Something was on our side, as we made our way back to the cars at a decent 9 PM. It was at that point we could all finally relax. Congratulations to everybody on the team! We were successful of not only climbing a Yosemite grade V, but in getting a complete novice up it, and up it safely!



Well-earned beers at the car! Maybe the new guy is ready for the Basic Class now?

What happened next? Well, Tom had to go home. For the three of us, the rest is up to your imagination. Maybe it will make a good story over a belly of beer sometime:







\* ASCA is the American Safe Climbing Association. Please donate!

## Mix-Up Peak – A Nice Active Rest Scramble

September 7, 2006  
by Tony Olejnicki



**Mix-Up Summit**

When you had 8 weekends in the row of challenging 2-4 days alpine climbing and you are yearning for a rest try an active rest scramble on Mix-Up peak. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> peak of the Ptarmigan Traverse towering above the Cascade Pass. I would not pay much attention to it if not suggested by Rod Xuereb, who was collecting all the peaks along the traverse and Mix-Up was one of missing in the collection. It sounded like a good peak to do on your active rest weekend.

I treated it as an aerobic exercise in place of doing Si or something of that ilk.

However, it turned out to be much more interesting than Si and in my opinion worth to do it as a definite climbing objective.

Well if it is good enough for Fred Beckey, it is certainly good enough for me.

As far as statistics are concerned it is 10 miles hike and 4000ft of the elevation gain.

The trail starts at the end of Cascade River Road, some 23 mi past Marblemount. The section of 3.7mi is on a gentle Cascade Pass trail and it takes about 90 minutes to reach the pass.



**Start of Ptarmigan Traverse from the Summit**

From Cascade pass it follows the Ptarmigan Traverse trail to the right. The trail is very easy to follow but has a difficult section of scree and rubble and a short section of glacier. The peak is easy to identify and it is visible from the path most of the time.

Once on the glacier there are two notches visible on the East Ridge of the Mix-up peak, one V and one U shaped, and the ridge can be accessed through both of them with easy to negotiate bergschrund.

The V shape notch required a short 5.7 move to get from the Bergschrund to the access gully leading to the notch. Earlier in the season this would not be required because the gully would be filled with the snow.

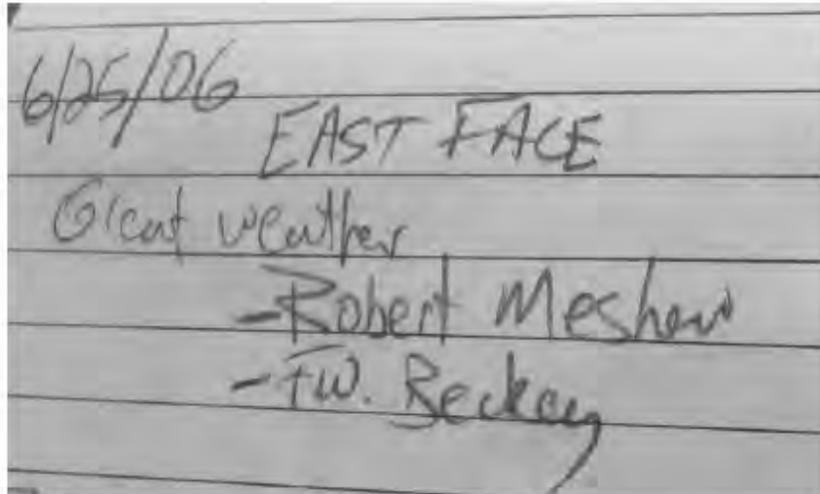


### **Panorama North of Mix-Up: Eldorado, Forbidden, Sahale and Buckner**

The access to U shaped notch is via steep scree and dirt and it is not very appealing. However it can be done but it requires a traverse on the back of the buttress separating both notches to access the top of V notch and the start of the route.

From the V notch there is one low class 5 pitch to the sling anchor about 30ft directly above the notch.

The rock is crumbly in places so I really was paying attention to the holds I used. From there we followed the ridge on rock, scree and vegetation for 100ft or so until we reached a top of the ridge section at a notch, where rock quality improved dramatically. It was actually fun 3<sup>rd</sup> class staircase to about 100ft from the summit. It felt to me like climbing an Egyptian Pyramid.



### **Fred Beckey Was There**

Last 100ft is class 5.7 section to a summit ridge notch along a shallow gully and the summit is to the left of the notch.

The View from the summit is tremendous to the East on the start of Ptarmigan Traverse and its first peaks of Spider and Torment and the glacier surrounding them. To the North there is panoramic view of Eldorado, Forbidden, Sahale, Buckner and Goode, and to the west there is a majestic view of Johannesburg. It doesn't get any better than that.

There is a rap station at the summit and 60m rope got us back on the staircase. We used another 3 rap stations just before the notch and one from the notch to the glacier.

The down climb was very fast. It took us 8hrs car to car. It was a very easy and enjoyable trip and somewhat energetic at the same time, a good active rest trip. This kind of trip probably would appeal to BCC graduates, once they got saturated with volcanoes experience.

From the summit register entries it looks like the peak is not being visited too often so you can always find the solitude there without a much of physical and time commitment or effort.

# PERSPECTIVES

*...A Chronicle of Current Events Affecting our Climbing Lives*

By François G.

## INTRO

Here we are then. October. Days are growing shorter and shorter. Darkness envelops the mountains earlier and earlier every day. This time of the year saddens me. Even more so this year. I am not sure why exactly. Maybe it has to do with the increased signs of human civilization intruding and corrupting the pristine wilderness. Seriously, are we now living in a world where a mother and daughter cannot go out on a forest hike without fear of being murdered? Hey, "Man," keep your senseless habits for the city and come to the mountains uninhibited and free.

But let's look ahead with optimism. Pretty soon, it will be time to bring out the snowshoes for the Winter Climb Series. Snowboards and skis will again carve up the white hills. And a new BoeAlpS Board will be born to surf mightily on the waves of change...

## THE PAST...



How was your climbing season as a BoeAlpS member this year? Was it all you dreamed it could be?

If it was, you can look to the photo on the left and sincerely say out loud (right now, right where you are, go ahead, do it): "Thanks, Bob Magers, for making 2006 my best climbing year ever !" (For those who don't know, Bob is the current BoeAlpS Board President...)

I, personally, will remember Bob's tenure as president as one in which his great tact, diplomacy, and good-nature gave all BoeAlpS a glimpse of how pleasant things could be if we all just got along. From the controversial early days of his presidency, when he inadvertently quoted a 16th century text referring to The Mountaineers as "infidels," to his numerous interventions as a moderating force in all e-mail bickerings, Bob has managed to appease tempers, reason with the idealists, and plainly get the job done.

Bob, let me say it again, it has been an honor and a privilege to welcome you on several Gold Team outings this past year, and a whole lotta fun to be part of your President's Climb this past 23-24 September. That weekend in Gothic Basin allowed us to see you as a great climbing partner and revealed parts of you that we had never seen before... Let's leave it at that...

(If you don't get that one... well... that's too bad: You had to be there and missed out.)

## ...AND THE FUTURE: PASSING THE BOEALPS TORCH

If it wasn't, (referring to the initial query above), or if you're one of those people who like to send mass "hate mails" whenever something doesn't go YOUR way, now is the time of year to stand up and say: "I'm fed up and I'm not gonna take this anymore !" A new BoeAlpS Board is being formed as you read this and the club is always looking for help and fresh ideas. In 2007, get involved and help the club take the next step forward towards alpine greatness. You know you want to.

Available positions range from cleaning Jerry Baillie's gear (weekly assignment), to organizing the next BoeAlpS Everest expedition, with everything in between.

Contact anybody on the cover page of the Echo for information on what your role will be in 2007. Just do it.



## SEARCH AND RESCUE



Search and Rescue never stops investigating new ways of tracking down the whereabouts of missing hikers and climbers. The newest technology breakthrough involves that ever-annoying pest: the tick. SAR volunteers would now be asked to collect samples of the pesky parasites as they hunt through trails and wilderness for signs of missing hikers. "When we receive the collected ticks from SAR, we can extract blood samples from the blood-sucking parasites, analyze them for DNA tracking, and try to match any human DNA found to the DNA of missing hikers," says Frederic Bruxell of ID Ticknologies.

SAR is currently using the case of missing ornithologist Sven Yagermeister as a pilot program to test out this new approach. (Yagermeister has been missing since last June, on a solo expedition in the Alpine Lake Wilderness attempting to prove the survival of the square-billed hammerhead woodpecker.) So far though, samples collected in the Snow Lakes area have not been linked to Yagermeister. According to Bruxell, "All DNA samples extracted from our preliminary tick collection have been matched to one Robert Fisher."

## VIGILANCE

Just another reminder that, once again, it is that time of the year... Many mammals are stocking up on food for the coming winter and cold weather. In particular, hikers should beware of the giant marmot. The rarely encountered creature tends to make its presence known more often in the months of September through November, when it voraciously builds up its fat layers before hibernating.

Recent sightings have been reported in the Three Fingers and Goat Flat areas, where the marmots presence is legendary. Walk cautiously in these parts, and avoid open areas where the oversize beast can easily overtake you. And, obviously, don't sprinkle yourself with barbecue sauce when hiking out...

(The picture here is just a re-creation, kids.... it didn't "really" happen, okay?)



## HOLIDAY GOOD DEED



Guess what else is drawing near ? 'Tis the Holiday Season and Yuletide! Let me be the first one to ask for your wallet... This year, why not act on those "feel-good" urges that overwhelm you to tears every year: For a pledge of 10\$ a month, you can adopt a tree-gnome. These wonderful creatures, as loveable as a mogwai, are now small in numbers in the Northwest and your pledge will help the "Save-The-Tree-Gnome" foundation in their efforts to protect the fragile environments where they roam free. Current population size in the Northwest is estimated at only a few hundred individuals and is dwindling due to logging, forest fires, urban development, and, unfortunately, the increasing presence of man in the wilderness.

Of course, your pledge would be valid for the lifetime of the tree gnome you adopt: tree-gnomes are known to live for about 250 years (average), so the responsibility can be passed on to your offspring for generations! What a great gift to the world! Call 1-888-3GNOMES for more info on how YOU can save a life.

## END NOTE

Thanks to Bob Magers, Rich Humbert, and Dirk Visser for unknowingly allowing me to use their likeness for the cause... It's all in good fun, right?

I'll leave you with this last shot of the President's Climb: Bob, with Jim Thompson and Chris Meder, enjoying the crystal-clear 360degree view from the summit of Del Campo: Thanks again for a weekend not soon forgotten (even without "the flask"...)



Until next time, go out and play, but be safe out there... and get involved with the BoeAlpS organization!  
Cheers!

For submittal of wacky tales, news items, crazy pictures: [fgod1138@hotmail.com](mailto:fgod1138@hotmail.com) (...And maybe I'll use 'em...)

## Yak Peak – Yak Check Route

September 3, 2006

by Tony Olejnicki



**Yak Peak Monolith**

crossing is fast and with a minimum drama.

Driving is easy, most of the time on the freeway apart of a short section from Bellingham to Sumas being a narrow back-country 2-lane road.

We left Seattle on Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7am and arrived to the Zopkios parking lot at 1pm. We bivied at the Lost Lake located at the last exit before Toll Booth on the Coquihalla highway. There is a paved road for about 1mi to the parking lot and then 1km stroll to the lake. The lake is very scenic and there are very few people camping there. In fact there are only 3 camping spots. Highly recommended spot and it is free.

From the lake we drove back towards Hope to the TH, which is located at the beginning of the exit ramp ~400m east of Zopkios Ridge parking lot/pullout and the TH is clearly marked with huge rock cairns. The trail is very well worn as the climb is very popular. It takes 20-30minutes to get to the base of the route.

There are various ways to start. We scrambled the ledges and low angle slab (5.2) to the ledge and block below Reality Check start then we traversed left to the bolt belay at P1 of Yak Crack. Here is pitch by pitch direction on the route courtesy bivouac.com, which we found very useful, well detailed and accurate:

P1: make 5.7ish moves left from the belay up a flake to gain the hand crack on the front face of the flake (small pro). Climb 5.6 crack to a belay out right at a slung pinnacle on the arête. ~55m;

P2: climb crack to a slung block in a chimney (5.6). 60m rope stretcher but you can split this pitch in two at a slung tree half way up;

P3: climb crack to top of pinnacle (Lunch Ledge), belay 10 feet higher at bolts. 25m (5.6);

I have scheduled Cathedral Peak climb over the Labor Day weekend. However Tripod bushfire forced us to take alternative climb.

I called Ken Hill and we have decided to do Yak Check Check route, which has been on my list for awhile.

Yak is located on highway 5 (Coquihalla highway) about 50km north of Hope BC. Its huge monolith towers over the highway and I looked at it on my way to Robson earlier this summer.

The drive time from Seattle is approximately 4hrs; Sumas boarder

P4: climb sometimes crumbly rock left at first, then up and right (some pro behind flakes and a fixed piton) to a bolted stance. 35 m (5.7); you can link P3 & P4 with 60m rope and long slings on gear to avoid rope zigzags.



**1<sup>st</sup> Pitch-Slab to the Crack**



**Right Facing Corner**

P5: an obvious vertical wall can be climbed via a corner on the left side (5.8) or a series of face holds to a vague hairline crack on the right (5.8+) then follow cracks and ramps up and right to a two-piton belay (back up with cams) 50m. 5.8 move on the vertical wall looks intimidating but it is really very easy with a good hold (It is true). There is also pro stuck here permanently;

P6: Move right from belay and climb a left facing (5.8) corner for about 10m then step right around arête at big hold (can also step right of corner at bottom but you miss out on the cool layback). Climb up flakes, pass tree, up to two overlaps at a roofy feature. Place gear then move thru overlaps into crumbly, easy groove, climb to bolt belay ~55m 5.8+ (junction of Yak Crack and Reality Check);

P7: You are now leaving Yak Crack for Reality Check. Climb up 5m from the belay on rock resembling oatmeal, then move left on a solid horizontal dyke until you encounter many flakes; undercling left, then up at end of first flake, climb more flakes to highest undercling at roof; move left (5.9) awkward under roof, to corner "Cave"; there is a possible belay here under roof on a fixed nut and piton. HOWEVER, despite topos, it is best to go right here on to the arête of the cave and climb up about 10m (5.9 face) to a big ledge with bolted belay on the right; this avoids the spelunking tunnel thru the flake done on the FA which is awkward with a pack on, and avoids belaying on sketchy fixed pin and nut tied off with a single webbing chunk. ~50m 5.9;



**Coquihalla Highway in Smoke from Bushfire**



**Looking at Final Face Climb**

P8: traverse ledge (top of through-flake) to a bolt belay on left; ~30m 3rd class.

P9: climb flake and ramp up and right for a pitch ~40m 5.8;

P10: supposedly one of the two 10a pitches. face climb up 3m to a bolt, move up and right 3m to another bolt, then back left and up 5m to a corner (bolt on left arête) climb right of the

corner up the face on dishes and flakes then move up and right on a nebulous line past more bolts and gear under flakes to a bolted belay on a small right facing corner/ramp (cant see belay until 5m below it); ~45m, easy 5.9 face, total of 5 bolts on the pitch plus gear;

P11: climb up flake above belay and either climb directly where it goes right, or move left and up good cracks on the face, to a ledge; above this is a low angle slab with 3 bolts; originally graded 9/10a by the FA party, subsequent ascents have cleaned holds on the slab of lichen making it more secure - now feels like an 5.8/9; belay at bolted stance on ledge above; ~40m 5.8/9 this is where you would rap from if you planned on rappelling, however down climb on the back of Yak is by far a better way to go.

P12: 4th class up low angle slab (no pro) for full pitch to trees above; 45m 4th class; can escape into trees lower down if you want to.

From here, hike and scramble up towards the top, pass the sub-summit on the right side on a good ledge (exposed).

Put on your shoes and walk down and do not rappel; it is faster to down climb. It took us 3.5hrs to rappel, quiet an epic. It takes ~1 hr to descend along the hiking trail to the base. Follow cairns up to a ledge on E side of S peak, then easily down climb to the saddle with main peak. The trail is clearly visible from there.



### **Do Not Rappel**

Our time to do this route was 7.5 hrs climbing and 11 hrs car to car, while it should have been only 9hrs car to car with the down climb.

The technical grades on this climb are pretty soft, in my opinion. There is nothing as hard as, say, the roof traverse on Snake), or the polished slab of Deidre (the Squamish Apron). There are about 4 pitches that have short sections that feel like hard 5.8 or easy 5.9 climbing. About 2-3 more pitches are easy 5.8 and the rest are 5.6/5.7.

Gear wise, having doubles of the cam sizes from #0.5-1.5 Friend (yellow, orange and red TCU) is important. The biggest cracks are fist size, and there are some thin flake cracks, so gear from purple TCU up to #3 Camelot or 3.5 Friend is used. Take one set of stoppers, maybe a few Tri Cams will help. Double ropes, 60m is best.

The route faces east so it can be hot in a sunny weather. We were lucky with the haze from the fire shading us from the sun and the slight breeze cooling us really nicely. The climb is very cool on a superb granite rock and it is not as difficult as it looks on the topo or from the parking lot.

For us it was supposed to be a nice warm-up for Anderson Range east of Yak on the highway 1. However the haze from Tripod fire was slightly off-putting and we have decided to head to the coast and do a route at Squamish. It was a good decision. The weather in Squamish was exquisite, the air was clear, the sea breeze was refreshing and the route was fantastic. We did

'Ultimate of Everything' and we accessed it through 'Deidre'. It is truly a beautiful route with slightly more difficult grading than Yak Check. The last pitch is very exciting 10b traversing under the roof with an undercling crack. I did leading on easier pitches but they still kept my attention up and squeezed some serious sweat from me.

So it was truly hard 'labor' weekend for me with a bit too much driving to my liking but it was all worth it. I highly recommend both climbs.

And thanks to Ken for leading difficult pitches; in particular 10b traverse on the undercling crack under the roof. I have repaid the leading debt somewhat by leading West Ridge on South Early Winter Spire the following weekend, which is one of my recommended routes also.

**Resources:** Alpine Select Climbs in Southwest British Columbia and Northern Washington by Kevin McLane published by Elaho.

## **Squeezing the Lemon**

### ***A Rock Climbing Recommendation for Next Winter***

By Tony Olejnicki

I was truly sick of the winter grays and wets; in fact I was depressed and desperately itching for a climb. I looked at different options south of the boarder. Ideally it would have been nice to be in the southern hemisphere but I thought Mexico would do me just fine.

The concept turn-out not feasible due to the time constraints; After 2 weeks climbing in New Zealand and anticipated Denali trip in May I did not wish to waste too much time in the airports and general travel. So I homed in a bit closer looking for sunny spots. California, Utah and Arizona came to mind.

I also could not talk anyone I know to coming with me climbing for 5 days or so. In desperation I looked for climbing guides. I would not hire a guide for mountaineering but for rock climbing it did not sound too silly for me. Being barely 5.9 TRAD climber I figured that I still have plenty to learn so having a good professional guide I could learn few new climbing tricks and have someone belaying me without whining.

So I just did that; I got in touch with guiding service in Tucson AZ and they sounded really good. I bought a cheap airfare to Phoenix and spend 4 days in the sun from February 17 till 21.

It all turned out to be an excellent idea. \$200 a day for a guide sounded like an extravagant idea but considering the ability to do 9 multi-pitch routes in a day in a new area was a great value. In a new area without someone who can identify good routes we could probably do only 3 routes. So considering time constraints and climbing value it was a good deal and I definitely recommend it, if you are strapped for time and itching for a good climb.

There are many areas you can do it in winter but mt Lemon near Tucson is definitely one of the best areas to climb and it is climbable all year round. In winter there are hundreds routes between 2000-4000ft. In summer there are climbing areas at 9000ft; the temperature is always 50-70°F, the sun is always shining and there are virtually no crowds due to small climbing population (retirees are more into golf, walking, wheelchairs or casinos), large climbing areas with many routes and lack of promotion.

Catalina highway takes you all the way to the top 9000ft, where there is a ski resort, which was closed this year due to lack of snow. It is a spectacular highway, with sweeping views and incredible sense of exposure. The view from the top of your climb at 5000ft to the plane at 2000ft makes you feel is like being on 3000ft wall but with your base being only 200-300ft below you.

I met my guide Jeff at the shopping center car-park at the start Catalina highway. Jeff works for guiding company in Aspen CO over summer month and sensibly he spends winter in Tucson, where the weather is perfect for winter climbing. He was a qualified AMAGA guide and very good in it; very composed, balanced, fit and pleasant personality, which made the climbing safe, efficient and fun.

We drove up to 5000ft on the snaking Catalina highway and did 3 routes in one area. It was really relaxing, we down-climbed about 300ft and did two 2-pitch routes with one rappel and than Jeff had lowered me and belayed me from the top on another route just to finish-off the fun in the area. We than moved to the other side of the formation and did another 2-pitch route and then Jeff belayed me on a single pitch 5.9 route. It was amazingly fast for TRAD climbing because he new them so well and for me it was TR 5.8-5.9 with one 5.10a.

After lunch we have moved to another area, about 1000ft lower. I did a lead on 5.7, the rating somewhat harder than X38. It was crack-climbing although my lead route had some nice chicken heads and I was grateful for that. We then did 2-pitch route and Jeff lowered me again for 5.9 single pitch with the top belay. We have rappelled and I did my last 5.8 route TR of the same anchor. I was so exhausted so it was more trash than climb. I was truly done.

We drove back to Tucson, I was stuffed and needed some rest before driving back to Phoenix. I called my friend, an old British chap and we decided to meet for a pint or two. I met Arthur and his wife Margie in a local pub 'Risky Business'. We spend a couple of hours eating, drinking beer and enjoying ourselves in truly British style. I had two pints of lager, which is definitely above my threshold and I was pleasantly tipsy. I actually took it better than I expected considering my low tolerance to alcohol. I guess I was very dehydrated from climbing in the sun, so my system didn't care as long as it was a liquid.

The drive back to Phoenix was a real fun. First I drove along an empty desert road going up and down through the washouts with centrifugal effects. I slowed down on the freeway keeping a low profile; after all it would not be a good idea to be pulled over by the cop. I got to my hotel in Phoenix and I truly enjoyed hot outdoor tub with cloudless starry sky above me.

This was just a beginning of my Phoenix adventure. I spend next two days bouldering. One area I visited was in Tucson, just 30 miles north of the city called Beardsley Rd crags.

It was a nice place; but due to closeness to the city it was also a popular party spot with some broken glass and some graffiti. The problems were quite difficult but I was by myself there so it was no need for embarrassment.

The following day I headed to Prescott, old original capital of Arizona, a small historical and touristy town with lots of old American western town architecture and some impressive downtown. But the object of desire for me was a famous bouldering area some 10miles southwest of Prescott.

This was truly amazing place with enormous boulders up to 30ft high with some difficult and scary problems. There were few good boulderers there and I was the only one wearing helmet; they still were friendly and talked to me.

Again I recommend Prescott from esthetic aspect and if you very good in bouldering it will be a heaven.

On my last day I had a flight at 7pm so I had enough time to check Camelback mt in north Phoenix. This is a very spectacularly looking hill with huge boulders scary to climb because they are composites of mud and chunks of volcanic rock, which just hangs there by the scruff. People still climb it but I decided not to do it and I definitely don't recommend this one.

So here you are, a good climbing and bouldering tip for next winter, if you want to have a short break from the gray sky.

For me it will be all blue sky climbing in Ecuador in December and January and then definitely blue sky back home in Melbourne in February.

'Squeezing the Lemon II... More Juice than Ever' by Eric Fazio-Rhicard is a comprehensive 300 pages climbing guide.

Cheers

# Toothbrush and Toothpaste for the Ladies: Blueberry Hill, 10/1/06

Climbers: Sarah Sternau (scribe, photographer), Oscar Montoya



What was I doing as I should've been uploading the October issue of the Echo? Oscar Montoya and I, in celebration (at least on my part) of the conclusion of Boealps classes for the year, went out to climb Blueberry Hill. We were also aiming to climb a few scummy pitches above that, so Oscar could get a peak at Witch Doctor Wall, which Fred Beckey first climbed in the 1970s.

It is worth noting, if only to annoy Oscar, that he has been up Blueberry Hill, via the Blueberry Route, three times. While he had completed the route, he'd never done the extra pitches to the summit.

Our plan was to meet at Oscar's in Kirkland at 6:30, but we didn't end up rolling out of there until 7am. We were a little concerned about the weather, which had been threatening rain on Sunday...no, wait, Saturday...no, actually, Sunday...all week. By late Saturday, the forecast was for a puzzling "clear skies with a chance of showers," so we were happy to see blue skies for the drive out.

By the time we stopped for breakfast, and then at the Darrington gas station, then picked our way down the old mining road that leads to the "trailhead," then consolidated gear and started pounding trail, it was a little after 10am. The approach to the route is a calf-burner (as I think Bob Bautista called it on the Boealps message board): It's 1,500 feet of 35-45-degree friction slab broken up only by cliffy bits or terraces full of standing water. After an hour or so of that, we dropped packs at the base and started up the route.

I said the same thing at the bottom of Blueberry Hill as at the bottom of Safe Sex, another Darrington route—"this doesn't really *look* very tall"—and was surprised to discover once again that a) I was wrong, but also b) the hand-me-down double ropes I've been using are not quite 60 meters long. On the first pitch, which I led, we ended up simul-climbing because the rope got eaten by a flaring crack; on several later pitches, we found ourselves

groaning and then simul-climbing after running out of rope within sight but out of reach of a good belay.



Oscar on the third-pitch crux.

So the first pitch is long and easy, the second pitch is long and easy, and the third pitch, supposedly the crux, is long and not so bad. There's one weird move (and some crappy pro for an anchor) at the end, but it's mostly just fun. The fourth pitch, though, seemed considerably more difficult, with no bolts, little pro, and lots of slab. At one point, Oscar disappeared behind a giant flake then popped up twice like a Whack-a-Mole to flip the rope over some edges to prevent rope drag. I was curious to see what that was all about; turned out to be a leaning chimney, so I did a hand traverse across the top of the flake and then mantled up, being less game for the squeeze moves as a pack-wearing follower. Nothing distinguished the fourth

and fifth pitches, except that the last was a groaner—rope ran out 15 feet before the end—and Oscar belayed me up from a "Peeping Tom" perch in a pine tree.

A cold wind had brought some rain clouds in, but Oscar still wanted to try for the top, so we dropped down and traversed 150' to the left then began adventure climbing. Oscar took the first pitch, and we simuled a few feet at the end, then I ran together what was supposedly two remaining pitches and we simuled to within a few vertical feet of the top. A bit of 'shwacking and we topped out, with Oscar marveling at the steepness of the Witch Doctor Wall and me marveling at the crappiness of the rock. I then demonstrated my horrible orienteering instincts by asking Oscar why he was looking for bolts on the wrong side of the summit, and we began rappelling.

After the first rappel, to a small but good ledge, I pulled the rope while Oscar fed the free end through the next anchor. The end of the pulled rope got caught in scrubby brush about 20' up, though, and since I was nearest, I got to climb back up to get it.

Boy, was that sketch. Oscar belayed me using the rope we had at the belay station while I climbed up about a 75-degree moss-covered dihedral with the craziest lieback holds I've ever seen. One slender chunk of rock was actually like a hand rail, attached at both ends but fully detached for about three feet along the middle. I got one piece in near the belay ledge, but the rest of the rock was too bad to hold another. After getting above the tree and freeing the rope, I slung the rope around the base of it, downclimbed the top few feet of the route I'd taken up, then swung out under the tree and rappled down.

I didn't count how many more raps it took to get back to the pack we left behind, but it was definitely one more than it needed to be; the rope stopped just shy of a set of chains on two consecutive raps, so we finally reset it and continued on our way.



Oscar rappelling as the sun sets immediately behind him.

When we got back to the original belay, I saw that in addition to a 000 Camalot C3, when consolidating packs Oscar had also tossed a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste on top of





ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
OR: micah.nolin@boeing.com

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**October Echo staff**

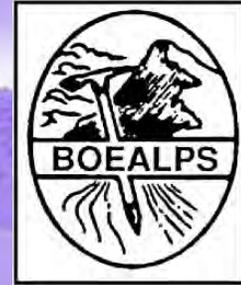
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& Cathy Hawkins

Contributors: Tony Olejnicki  
Ryan Allen  
Francois Godcharles

*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

OCTOBER 2006



[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

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## ← OCT GENERAL MEETING →

The October general meeting will feature a presentation on **Aconcagua trip planning** by **Tony Olejnicki**. This fiery Boealper has bagged many peaks in the last few years, and his trip up Aconcagua (22,834 ft./6,960 meters) via the Polish Glacier route yielded an excellent TR for the Echo in the spring of last year. Come hear Tony's travel tales and get tips on climbing to the "Roof of the Americas," Cerro Aconcagua.

The meeting will also include a visit from the **Washington Trails Association**.

## BOEALPS GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG  
7755 E MARGINAL WY S



# BELAY STANCE

Greetings, Boealpers-

Welcome to my last issue as Echo editor. It's been fun, but it's time for me to spend more time climbing and less time talking about it.

I'd asked that folks help make this the best issue of the Echo ever, and I think we came pretty close. To begin with, there are five--count 'em, five--trip reports, including an eagerly anticipated write-up by Ryan Allen of his big-wall climb in Yosemite with Tom Ryan, Bob Bautista, and a total newbie.

We've also got an announcement of new additions to the Boealps board, led by new president Bob Bautista. Thanks to Bob Magers for the year of exemplary service he will soon finish.

This Echo also features a sign-up form for the November banquet, which takes place at the Museum of Flight and includes a program of talks on clubmembers' Denali climbs. Sign up soon! Advance registration is due October 20.

There's also still time to sign up for the Wilderness First Responder's class being offered this November by the Everett Mountaineers, so you'll also see that announcement again in this issue.

Other goodies this month include a new "Perspectives" column by Francois Godcharles, an announcement of this year's photo contest (happening at the November general meeting), and a photo essay on this year's Basic Rock Class.

Content for the next issue of the Echo is due on October 23. Send trip reports, event announcements, and wire transfer info for Swiss bank accounts to [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your Echo editors,  
Sarah

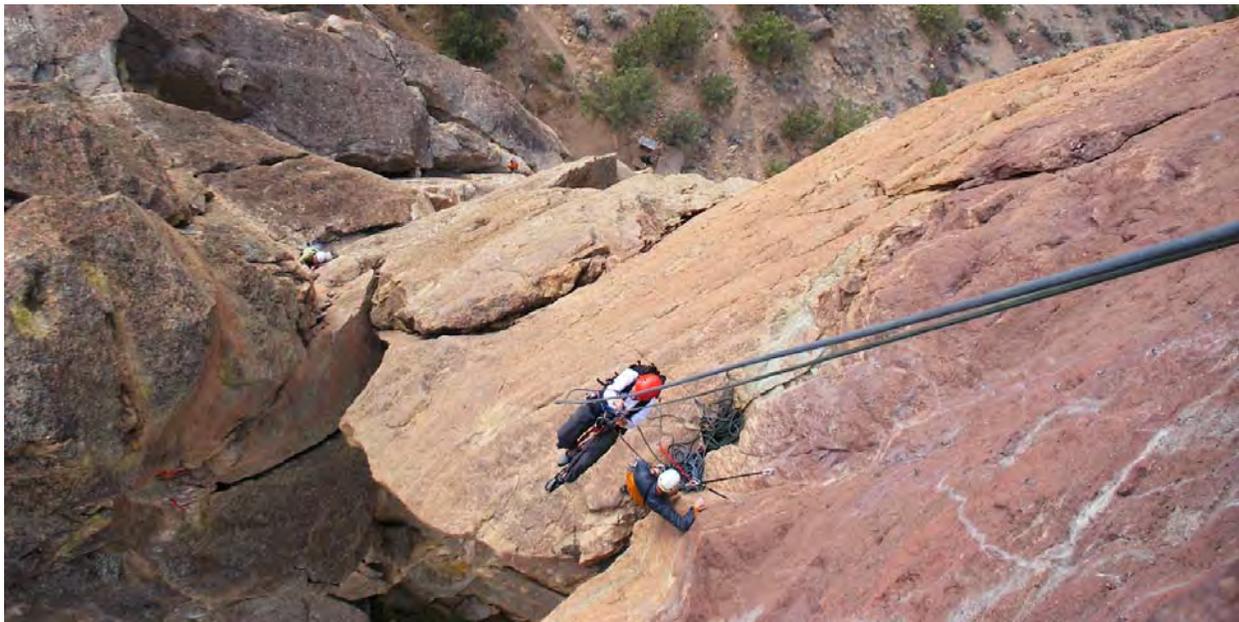


Tim Bartholomaus digging out of a moulin while doing glaciology research in Alaska.  
Photo by Sarah Sternau.

# October

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

**2006**



As part of a BRC outing, Larry Kucera jumars up the third pitch of Monkey Face. Photo by Sarah Sternau.

<b>November</b>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Boealps Banquet!</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Full moon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Dec. Echo Deadline New moon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Thanks- giving	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**2006**

## **2007 Boealps Election Results**

The ballots were distributed, votes were cast, and we've got some new blood in the Boealps board!

Please congratulate the following folks on their election to their new positions:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Bob Bautista</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Micah Nolin</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Francois Godcharles</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Tom Ryan</b>

Thanks to our past president, Bob Magers, for an excellent year of service as leader of the club.

## Boealps 2006 Annual Banquet "Denali: Now and Then"

**When:** Friday, November 3, 2006

**Where:** Museum of Flight  
9404 E Marginal Way S

**Cost:** \$40 Boealps member  
\$45 non-Boealps member

**Time:** Museum open for viewing 5-6pm  
Bar opens at 6pm  
Dinner served at 7pm  
President remarks, guest speakers, and door prizes starting at 8pm

Boealps invites you to the 2006 annual banquet, and we have a double-header for you. "Denali: Now and Then" features pictures from two Boealps Denali expeditions, separated by 30 years: Boealps Founding Father John Pollock and Doug Sanders will present slides from their 1976 trip (which included Agris Moruss and Jim Wickwire), and Brad Walker will present pictures from his 2006 adventure. And as a bonus, we include pictures from John Gowan's 2006 attempt, with current Boealps Treasurer Tony Olejnicki (and eventually long-time Boealper Dan Goering, but that's another story).

The Museum of Flight will be available free of charge for the entire day for Banquet guests until 6pm. And don't forget there will be \$500 in door prizes.

Meet new climbers and friends, and support Boealps! We will also have 2007 membership renewal forms available at the front door, so you can pay for the banquet and your 2007 membership with one check. We appreciate early reservations to help us plan this event.

To sign up: Please fill out the form below, and send it with your check (payable to Boealps) by no later than **Friday, October 20**:

Tony Olejnicki  
M/S 87-68

Or

339 Burnett Ave S Apt. 312  
Renton WA 98057  
[tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com), 425-443 1760

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:**      **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

		<b>Number of Tickets</b>		<b>Amount</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Boealps member	@ \$40	X _____		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Boealps member	@ \$45	X _____		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2007 membership	@ \$20	BEMS ID _____		_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>				_____

## Wilderness First Responder Course Information

<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Everett Mountaineers</b>
<b>Dates &amp; Times:</b>	6-10 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Fri) 11-12 Nov 06: 8am to 5pm (Sat – Sun) 13-17 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Fri) 18-19 Nov 06: 8am to 5pm (Sat – Sun) 20-21 Nov 06: 6pm to 10pm (Mon – Tues)
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Taylor’s Landing, Snohomish, WA</b> (address and directions below)
<b>Lodging/Meals:</b>	No
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$425 before 6 Oct 06; \$500 after 6 Oct 06.</b>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Comfortable in wilderness/remote setting

**Course Overview:** The 80 hour Wilderness First Responder certification is considered the standard for professionals working as guides, outdoor educators, as well as recreational expedition medical personnel in remote areas. Wilderness First Responders should be able to effectively make decisions when a hospital is hours to days away. The Wilderness First Responder by Remote Medical International emphasizes decision-making, hands-on skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to function in remote areas, as well as providing a strong foundation to progress on to more advanced levels of training.

**Format:** Combination of lecture, skill labs, and practical scenarios to provide participants with the greatest opportunity to use and retain the skills necessary to respond to remote medical emergencies. Skill labs and scenarios take place inside and outside.

Check-in of the first day is at 1800 on 6 November 2006. A typical day will run from 1600 –2000. There are two weekend sessions (0800-1700). The course will finish on 21 November by 2000.

**Texts:** The textbooks and course materials for this course are included in the course price. You will receive textbooks on the first day of the course. If you would like to receive texts early, you can request them for a \$5.00 shipping charge.

*Field Guide for Remote Medical Care and Rescue; Remote Medical International, 2005*  
*Medicine for Mountaineering and Other Wilderness Activities; The Mountaineers Books 2001*

### **Certifications received:**

- **Wilderness First Responder** from Remote Medical International
- **CPR for the Professional Rescuer** from the American Heart Association

The Wilderness First Responder course by Remote Medical International exceeds requirements for the First Responder course established by the Department of Transportation. If you would like to test for your First Responder from the National Registry of EMTs, please call our office for additional information; please note that an additional fee applies.

**Recertification:** The Wilderness First Responder certification is valid for two years. There is a one year grace period after expiration in which recertification is available.

Recertification is achieved by successfully completing a Wilderness First Responder Recertification course which lasts 36 hours. Students may choose to recertify through Remote Medical International or through a company approved by Remote Medical International.

**Registration Procedure:** \$425 if registered before 6 October 2006. \$500 if registered after 6 October 2006. Full tuition amount is due upon registration. Registration for Mountaineer’s members on the Mountaineer’s website ([www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org)). Non-Mountaineers must call the clubhouse activity registration line to sign up 1.800.573.8484 in the state of WA and 206.284.8484 for those out of state.

General questions should be directed either to Rachel LovellFord(Mountaineer organizer) at 360.440.3268 or rlovellford@gmail.com or Remote Medical Int. at 800.597.4911 or [info@remotemedical.com](mailto:info@remotemedical.com).

**Refund Policy:** If a student withdraws after 6 October 2006, a \$75 non-refundable deposit is forfeited.

**Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk, Release and Indemnity Agreement**

Please read the enclosed document carefully. Please bring a signed copy of this agreement to the first day of the course; they will be collected by the instructor. If you are a minor, this agreement must be signed by your legal parent/guardian. Failure to sign this form will bar you from participating in the course.

**Equipment requirements:** All course materials including first aid materials, books and lecture notes will be provided. Below is a list of additional items recommended for the course:

- Coffee mug
- Water Bottle
- Sitpad or Crazy Creek type chair
- Pen & Notepad
- Layering clothing in preparation for varying weather (rain, snow, cold ground, etc)
- Comfortable shoes/slippers. No soiled shoes are allowed indoors. Please bring a change of shoes or slippers.
- Light day pack with equipment for day hikes
- Headlamp or flashlight

**Direction to Course Location:**

Address: **Taylor's Landing  
5506 Old Machias Rd,  
Snohomish, WA 98290**

Driving Directions:

***From I-5 If You're North Bound:***

Take Exit 194 At exit 194, turn RIGHT onto Ramp towards US-2 / Snohomish / Wenatchee. Proceed west on US -2 4.5 miles. Keep RIGHT onto Ramp towards WA-9 / Arlington / Bothell. Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-9. Turn RIGHT (East) onto Bunk Foss Rd. Turn RIGHT (South) onto Old Machias Rd. Arrive 5506 Old Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290

***From I-5 If You're South Bound:***

Take Exit 194 AAt exit 194, turn RIGHT onto Ramp towards US-2 / Everett Ave. / Wenatchee. Keep LEFT to stay on Ramp towards US-2 / Snohomish / Wenatchee. Proceed west on US -2 4.5 miles. Keep RIGHT onto Ramp towards WA-9 / Arlington / Bothell. Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-9. Turn RIGHT (East) onto Bunk Foss Rd. Turn RIGHT (South) onto Old Machias Rd. Arrive 5506 Old Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290

**Questions & Concerns:**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Wilderness First Responder course, please contact Rachel LovellFord at 360.440.3268 or rlovellford@gmail.com.

# **BOEALPS Photo Contest**

## **Thursday, Nov. 2nd, General Meeting**

Attention photo buffs! Dust off your negatives, download your memory cards and bring your best adventure photos to the BOEALPS photo contest during the November General Meeting. You must bring the actual pictures, developed or printed on paper (no slides or digital photos). As a suggestion, 8x10 sized pictures on nice photo paper tend to work best for presentation purposes. **Prizes will be awarded in each category and the winners will be featured in upcoming Echo newsletters and on the BOEALPS website!**

### **Contest Information:**

There will be 7 categories to enter your photos in this year. They are listed below with corresponding descriptions.

1. **Mountain Scene** – Any picture that displays the great alpine vistas we can never get enough of.
2. **Climbing** – Simple, show people climbing. Rock, ice, glacier, or your solo climb up City Park for the sponsors. Sorry, leave your pictures from bouldering at the gym at home; you're alpinists for goodness sake.
3. **Sunrise/Sunset** – Pretty self explanatory, your best sunrise and/or sunset pictures taken in the mountains.
4. **People** – Share the pictures of your friends you went climbing with or the people that you met along the way during your adventure.
5. **BOEALPS Class** – Show off what you learned or taught this year from the various classes you took or instructed: Basic Climbing Class, Basic Rock Class, or Intermediate Climbing Class.
6. **Humorous** – Come on, something funny must have happened when you went climbing, do you have a picture of it? Let's maintain some level of good taste here please. Don't show anything that your mother wouldn't approve of.
7. **Nature/Wilderness** – This is a new category. It was created for all those miscellaneous pictures you take along the way on your climb such as the grove of alpine flowers, the marmot that tried stealing your food, or the mysterious looking forest you walked through during your approach.

\* No more than two photos can be submitted in each category per person.

Contact Mike Zalewski, [mjzalewsk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzalewsk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

# The 2006 Basic Rock Class: A Photo Essay

Photos and captions by Sarah Sternau unless otherwise noted



Students placing pro. Dan Morales supervises.



Doesn't Micah look like a newscaster in this picture?



A lead climbing demo at Leavenworth.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Students learning to lead belay.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Larry weight training, carrying a ginormous cam as he cleans.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Francois leads one for the students.  
(Photo by Chris Stewart.)



Evening Frisbee.



As island of veggie burgers in a sea of meat.



Micah telling a big...*something* story.



Phil chowing on a homemade madeleine. (Thanks, Magali!)



Eric improvising a plate. Mmmm... dessert.



The BRC Gap commercial. (Right after this, everyone danced like Audrey Hepburn in *Funny Face*.)



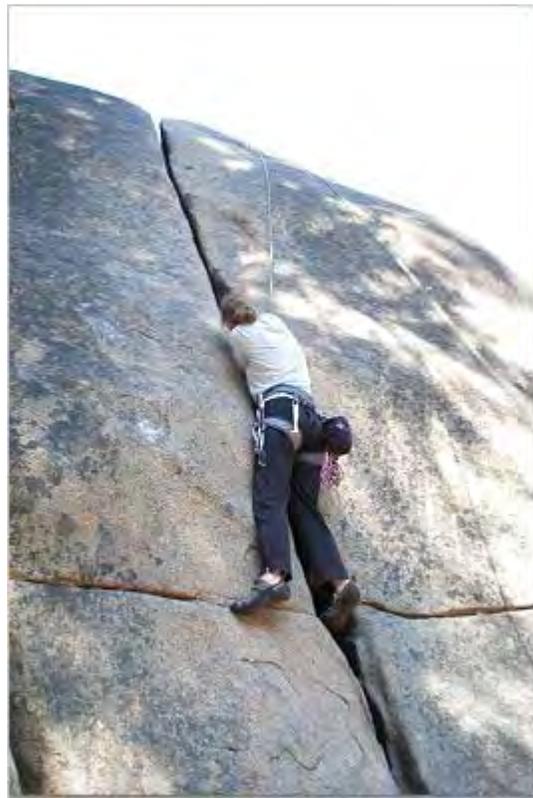
Did you know that the BRC also does a tutorial in rigging for climbing photography?



Eric at the second belay of R&D.



Greg Schmidt working it out on Classic Crack.



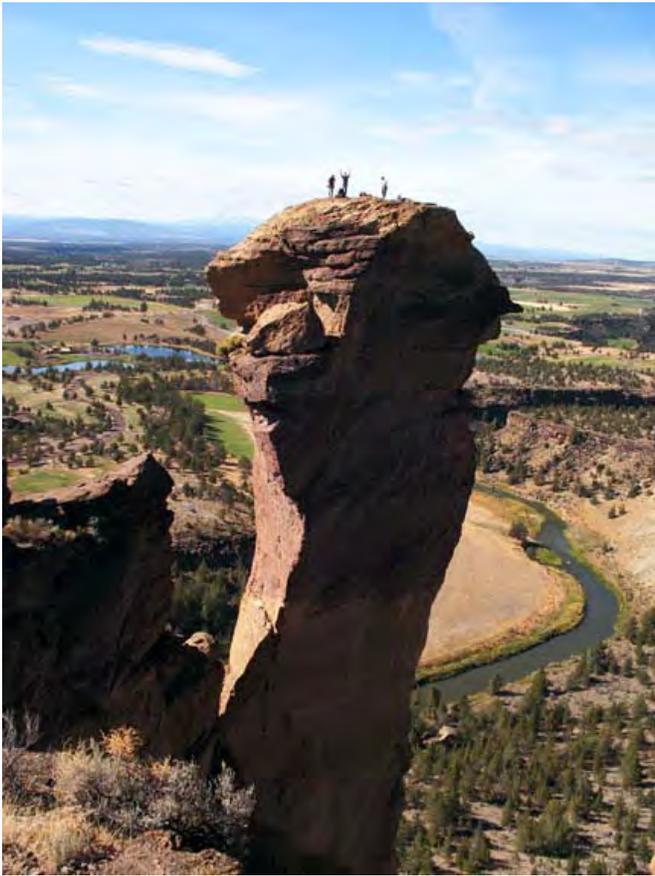
Larissa on Classic Crack.



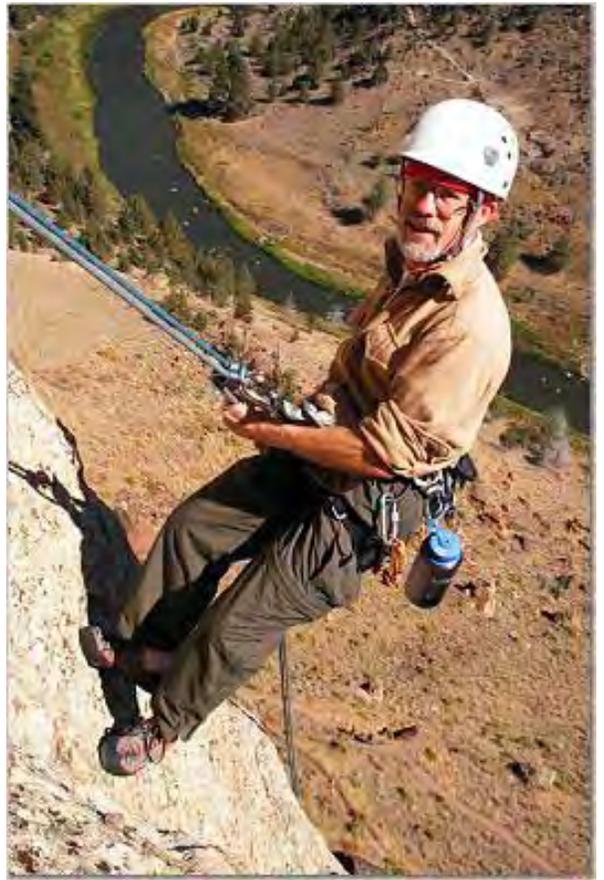
Steve Behrend jumaring on Monkey Face.



An improvised quickdraw.



Eric Fjellanger, Larissa Trevett, Oscar Montoya, and Greg Schmidt on Monkey Face.



Joe rappels Super Slab.



A random kid in the parking lot of the new Depot restaurant. He'd just bagged his first pheasant.



Brian tops out on Super Slab.



**The awesome students of the 2006 Basic Rock Class, getting ready to drive home after their last class climb.**

**Congratulations to the students who completed the class:**

**Steven Behrend  
Troy Colyer  
Dennis Hicks  
Larry Kucera  
Fabien Mandrillon**

**Greg Schmidt  
Chris Stewart  
Larissa Trevett  
Joe Vlaming  
Brian Woebkenberg**

**And thank you to all the instructors who helped make this year a success!**

**Shella Bukovac  
Eric Bultemeier  
Eric Fjellanger  
James Fugate  
Francois Godcharles  
Marty Jolly  
Vicky Larsen  
Joan Lawry**

**Chris Meter  
Dan Morales  
Oscar Montoya  
Micah Nolin  
Doug Sanders  
Phil Trifeletti  
Silas Wild  
(and of course, co-lead-instructor  
Robert Fisher)**

## From Beer to Exposed Reality and Back to Beer Again

Leaning Tower, September 2006  
Grade V, 5.7 C2



I'm not sure where the idea came from. Bringing a completely inexperienced climber up the Leaning Tower sounded okay, I guess. I've taken Jesiah top roping to X-38 before, and he's followed me up the Great Northern Slab once before and that's worth at least a small feather in the hat. I suppose it was one of those evenings, when a belly full of beer made nothing seem impossible and grandiose visions of victory dominated conversation. The beer that exaggerates the story, enhances the punch line, and boosts the confidence that so often drives climbers' stories. It had to be one of those nights when we decided the next logical step for Jesiah's climbing career: climb a grade V Yosemite big wall!

It must not have been the beer talking, because the idea outlasted our buzz. A few e-mails, and many Big Wall Theories later, we found ourselves in my basement sorting gear and working out the systems.



It seems when preparing for a large climb, the ambition grows linearly with the amount of beer consumed. And so came Tom, with yet another belly full of beer late one work night, when he overheard Bob's and my ridiculously ambitious plan to take Jesiah up every big wall in the valley in only seven days, including the 33-pitch nose of El Capitan. I saw the sparkle in Tom's eyes, and after informing him we had an extra spot on one of the porta-ledges, he wanted in. Again, I was certain it was the beer talking, but what seemed like the very next day, Tom forwarded us his travel plans. There was no stopping that train!

Bob, Jesiah, and I spent a few days at Index. Jesiah had a large learning curve, including everyday topics like the ins and outs of hanging belays, jumaring, lowering out a haul bag, deploying multiple ledges on one anchor, and the notoriously complex lower out. Oh, and not to mention the figure 8 knot! This was a fire hose of tribal knowledge. I'm not sure if it was his lack of understanding what he was getting into, but he was a true sport through it all. Many early mornings and long hours spent on the small walls of Index, and his desire to go to the valley wouldn't budge. He was 100% committed to making this work!

The morning of Saturday September 2nd found us in Livermore California, looking for the essentials for climbing walls like handy wipes, toilet paper, battery-powered speakers, and plastic bling necklaces. We still didn't have a plan, and after 25 cups of coffee it was decided we were already pressed for time and had to get onto a wall that day. All sounded good, but we were still four hours away from the valley!



The start of all good climbing stories

And so it went, we drove straight to the valley, and without wasting a single second on the mall-esque features with thrones of tourists and the crowded circus of exhibits, we pulled into the very first parking lot in the valley: Bridal Vail Falls. We expected lots of parties on the wall, so I quickly scrambled up with no gear to scope out the situation while the others sorted gear and packed the pigs (less commonly referred to as haulbags). I got to the base of the wall where I found an empty bivy site, and nobody on the route! The climb was on!!

I have heard stories of folks soloing the Leaning Tower in under one day. Lynn Hill and Katie Brown freed all but the first two pitches one afternoon in 2004. Not us—we were going full-blown siege style with three haul bags, two portaedges, and nine gallons of water. It was good planning, too, as we had no idea of the oppressive heat in the valley, nor how our four-person climbing Theory was going to workout.



The awesome "4<sup>th</sup> class" 5.6 approach. This isn't climbing yet—it's the approach!

We bivvied at the base of the "4th class" 5.6 approach. Sunday AM, Bob and I started shuttling loads to the base of the first pitch. Tom and Jesiah went back down to the cars for more water and weighty things to put in the pigs. Once we got the Radio Shack speakers vibrating, Bob was off leading the first pitch. Yeah! We were very excited to finally be making upward progress.

The first two pitches are "merely" bolt ladders—bolt ladders that average 110 degrees! I cleaned the first pitch, which I am convinced is more difficult than leading. At times, I had to pull myself back into the wall, and at my lightest point in the swing, attempt to unclip the biner that was holding me against the wall. The result of this of course allows further upward movement, but also adds potential energy into my position. I would often swing away from the wall so far my feet would loose connection and I would spin around my jumars. This combined with the fact that the first pitch of the leaning tower starts over a 400 foot blank wall. By the second move of the route, the exposure was sickening.

At the hanging belay, Bob and I exchanged gear quickly, and I started up the second bolt ladder. The bolts were solid, all have been replaced by the ASCA\* and stamped with thick, strong letters reading "40 KN." The leading went pretty quickly as these bolts were easy and safe to clip. Looking down we had our first grasp of how incredibly overhanging this wall is.

Jesiah and Tom had to lower out from the wall from the very first pitch to jumar up. I was nervous for Jesiah, who had never done a free hanging jumar before. Come to think of it, neither had I! I was completely unsure if I could even do such a terrifying lower-out! I watched Jesiah, and from my vantage point, he looked like a fully seasoned pro! He must have been 15 to 20 feet away from the wall when the lower-out was finished. What a brave move from a complete noob! I was beaming with pride!



Bravery is required starting on the first pitch...

And so it went, pitch after pitch, haul after haul, lead after lead. The day wore on, and the sun belted us in the afternoon. At one point, Tom was within ten feet of the fabled Ahwahnee Ledge, and the rope stopped moving. Not sure what was going on, and watching the sun drift ever closer to the edge of the world, we got him on the radio. Tom had taken a fall onto a hook and was quite riled by it. He was breathing hard and sounded quite dehydrated. After some encouragement, he pulled the slab move onto the ledge and fixed the jumar line. I

watched Bob do the most impressively exposed and scary lower-out. He had to let go of the rope before finishing the lower-out, sending him swinging out over the void. It wasn't until the sun set that I had an opportunity to jug up to the ledge. My headlamp was conveniently stored in the haulbag that had been hauled up to the ledge. So I had to jumar blind, using the Braille technique on all the equipment and knots to verify they were done correctly.



... and every other pitch on this route!

On the ledge, life was great! We ate cold ravioli with pitons and chased it with warm beer. We could stand, walk, and lie down. I had a great night's sleep!



Ahwahnee Ledge has 5-star accommodations.

The next day came sooner than wanted. It's so easy to get "big ledge syndrome." I mean, why would anybody leave this large comfortable ledge to go hang on some bolts 1000 feet above the valley floor? This was really no time to reason, and I followed Bob, who was to start the day out leading the next pitch. The route started out with a "5.6" Batman-style traverse across an exposed slab to some bolts. Next, Bob duct taped an open biner to the end of his nut tool, climbed up onto slabby and small foot holds, stretched onto his tippy toes, and just barely clipped a lower-out biner. Phew! A 15 foot lower-out over the void, and on to some akward C2 climbing. About 15 feet up, Bob took a fall. It happened so fast! I blinked, and he was suddenly 15 feet lower, hanging on a deployed screamer. He was alright, and flew up the rest of the pitch in good style.



Ryan belaying Bob from Guano Ledge.

And so it continued through the day. Lead, follow, clean, lower out, jug, repeat. The sun came again and pelted us with its dehydrating power. Bob took another lead in the sun. This time it was a long, 140-foot C1 line through a roof system. More crazy lower-outs, and we found ourselves at the base of a huge roof system, just two pitches from the top.



Looking back down onto Ahwahnee.

Bob was terribly sick. The combination of leading two stressful pitches, the relentless sun, the lack of food, and extreme dehydration had caught up with him in a large way. The sun was near the ridge again and going down fast. Bob downed as much water as he could, put his head down, and proceeded to puke it all back out again, all over the hanging belay.



Hanging belays are fun to share with your friends...Until they puke on you!

Okay, this could be serious if Bob doesn't recover. I asked what he wanted to do and volunteered to lead through the night to get us off this thing. He didn't think he could move. We were staying the night. Two hours of organizing the hanging belay later, we were ready

to deploy the ledge systems. Jesiah was a rope coiling mad-man. Tom was an elevator shaft, moving supplies out of the pig and into reach. I was a drill sergeant. Bob was, well, a corpse. We got it together, and before we knew it, we all were lying down on an extremely comfortable wall bivy with about thousand feet of hanging exposure.

Thankfully, after the sun set, and Bob got some food, he started feeling much better. "Livin' the dream!"



We planned on two days but expected three.  
Bob and Jesiah camping out on "Puke Ledge."

So, the next day, Tom and I set off for the final two pitches. The second to last pitch was a wildly overhanging roof. It traverses out, right over the valley floor, nearly horizontal! On the last pitch, Tom accidentally dropped a biner, and we watched it fall straight to the valley floor hitting nothing between Tom and the ground. It was a long way down!



The new guy, showing us how it's done on yet another gigantic lower-out!

It seemed so insignificant, reaching the top. It was nice to be able to walk around, of course. But we knew it wasn't over yet. The descent was next. We followed rappel slings down the backside for what seemed like forever. There must have been ten rappels down the backside of the tower. We kept waiting for something terrible to happen with loose rock, or getting off route, but it never did. As we neared the valley floor, the sun, as it always does, began to set. Upon the final rappel, right when the last guy removed the rope from the device, the sun went down. Something was on our side, as we made our way back to the cars at a decent 9 PM. It was at that point we could all finally relax. Congratulations to everybody on the team! We were successful of not only climbing a Yosemite grade V, but in getting a complete novice up it, and up it safely!



Well-earned beers at the car! Maybe the new guy is ready for the Basic Class now?

What happened next? Well, Tom had to go home. For the three of us, the rest is up to your imagination. Maybe it will make a good story over a belly of beer sometime:







\* ASCA is the American Safe Climbing Association. Please donate!

## Mix-Up Peak – A Nice Active Rest Scramble

September 7, 2006  
by Tony Olejnicki



**Mix-Up Summit**

When you had 8 weekends in the row of challenging 2-4 days alpine climbing and you are yearning for a rest try an active rest scramble on Mix-Up peak. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> peak of the Ptarmigan Traverse towering above the Cascade Pass. I would not pay much attention to it if not suggested by Rod Xuereb, who was collecting all the peaks along the traverse and Mix-Up was one of missing in the collection. It sounded like a good peak to do on your active rest weekend.

I treated it as an aerobic exercise in place of doing Si or something of that ilk.

However, it turned out to be much more interesting than Si and in my opinion worth to do it as a definite climbing objective.

Well if it is good enough for Fred Beckey, it is certainly good enough for me.

As far as statistics are concerned it is 10 miles hike and 4000ft of the elevation gain.

The trail starts at the end of Cascade River Road, some 23 mi past Marblemount. The section of 3.7mi is on a gentle Cascade Pass trail and it takes about 90 minutes to reach the pass.



**Start of Ptarmigan Traverse from the Summit**

From Cascade pass it follows the Ptarmigan Traverse trail to the right. The trail is very easy to follow but has a difficult section of scree and rubble and a short section of glacier. The peak is easy to identify and it is visible from the path most of the time.

Once on the glacier there are two notches visible on the East Ridge of the Mix-up peak, one V and one U shaped, and the ridge can be accessed through both of them with easy to negotiate bergschrund.

The V shape notch required a short 5.7 move to get from the Bergschrund to the access gully leading to the notch. Earlier in the season this would not be required because the gully would be filled with the snow.

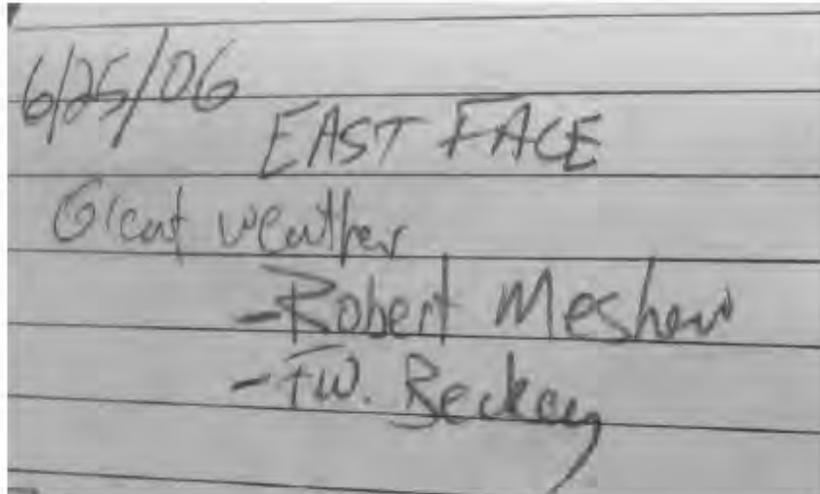


### **Panorama North of Mix-Up: Eldorado, Forbidden, Sahale and Buckner**

The access to U shaped notch is via steep scree and dirt and it is not very appealing. However it can be done but it requires a traverse on the back of the buttress separating both notches to access the top of V notch and the start of the route.

From the V notch there is one low class 5 pitch to the sling anchor about 30ft directly above the notch.

The rock is crumbly in places so I really was paying attention to the holds I used. From there we followed the ridge on rock, scree and vegetation for 100ft or so until we reached a top of the ridge section at a notch, where rock quality improved dramatically. It was actually fun 3<sup>rd</sup> class staircase to about 100ft from the summit. It felt to me like climbing an Egyptian Pyramid.



### **Fred Beckey Was There**

Last 100ft is class 5.7 section to a summit ridge notch along a shallow gully and the summit is to the left of the notch.

The View from the summit is tremendous to the East on the start of Ptarmigan Traverse and its first peaks of Spider and Torment and the glacier surrounding them. To the North there is panoramic view of Eldorado, Forbidden, Sahale, Buckner and Goode, and to the west there is a majestic view of Johannesburg. It doesn't get any better than that.

There is a rap station at the summit and 60m rope got us back on the staircase. We used another 3 rap stations just before the notch and one from the notch to the glacier.

The down climb was very fast. It took us 8hrs car to car. It was a very easy and enjoyable trip and somewhat energetic at the same time, a good active rest trip. This kind of trip probably would appeal to BCC graduates, once they got saturated with volcanoes experience.

From the summit register entries it looks like the peak is not being visited too often so you can always find the solitude there without a much of physical and time commitment or effort.

# PERSPECTIVES

*...A Chronicle of Current Events Affecting our Climbing Lives*

By François G.

## INTRO

Here we are then. October. Days are growing shorter and shorter. Darkness envelops the mountains earlier and earlier every day. This time of the year saddens me. Even more so this year. I am not sure why exactly. Maybe it has to do with the increased signs of human civilization intruding and corrupting the pristine wilderness. Seriously, are we now living in a world where a mother and daughter cannot go out on a forest hike without fear of being murdered? Hey, "Man," keep your senseless habits for the city and come to the mountains uninhibited and free.

But let's look ahead with optimism. Pretty soon, it will be time to bring out the snowshoes for the Winter Climb Series. Snowboards and skis will again carve up the white hills. And a new BoeAlpS Board will be born to surf mightily on the waves of change...

## THE PAST...



How was your climbing season as a BoeAlpS member this year? Was it all you dreamed it could be?

If it was, you can look to the photo on the left and sincerely say out loud (right now, right where you are, go ahead, do it): "Thanks, Bob Magers, for making 2006 my best climbing year ever !" (For those who don't know, Bob is the current BoeAlpS Board President...)

I, personally, will remember Bob's tenure as president as one in which his great tact, diplomacy, and good-nature gave all BoeAlpS a glimpse of how pleasant things could be if we all just got along. From the controversial early days of his presidency, when he inadvertently quoted a 16th century text referring to The Mountaineers as "infidels," to his numerous interventions as a moderating force in all e-mail bickerings, Bob has managed to appease tempers, reason with the idealists, and plainly get the job done.

Bob, let me say it again, it has been an honor and a privilege to welcome you on several Gold Team outings this past year, and a whole lotta fun to be part of your President's Climb this past 23-24 September. That weekend in Gothic Basin allowed us to see you as a great climbing partner and revealed parts of you that we had never seen before... Let's leave it at that...

(If you don't get that one... well... that's too bad: You had to be there and missed out.)

## ...AND THE FUTURE: PASSING THE BOEALPS TORCH

If it wasn't, (referring to the initial query above), or if you're one of those people who like to send mass "hate mails" whenever something doesn't go YOUR way, now is the time of year to stand up and say: "I'm fed up and I'm not gonna take this anymore !" A new BoeAlpS Board is being formed as you read this and the club is always looking for help and fresh ideas. In 2007, get involved and help the club take the next step forward towards alpine greatness. You know you want to.

Available positions range from cleaning Jerry Baillie's gear (weekly assignment), to organizing the next BoeAlpS Everest expedition, with everything in between.

Contact anybody on the cover page of the Echo for information on what your role will be in 2007. Just do it.



## SEARCH AND RESCUE



Search and Rescue never stops investigating new ways of tracking down the whereabouts of missing hikers and climbers. The newest technology breakthrough involves that ever-annoying pest: the tick. SAR volunteers would now be asked to collect samples of the pesky parasites as they hunt through trails and wilderness for signs of missing hikers. "When we receive the collected ticks from SAR, we can extract blood samples from the blood-sucking parasites, analyze them for DNA tracking, and try to match any human DNA found to the DNA of missing hikers," says Frederic Bruxell of ID Ticknologies.

SAR is currently using the case of missing ornithologist Sven Yagermeister as a pilot program to test out this new approach. (Yagermeister has been missing since last June, on a solo expedition in the Alpine Lake Wilderness attempting to prove the survival of the square-billed hammerhead woodpecker.) So far though, samples collected in the Snow Lakes area have not been linked to Yagermeister. According to Bruxell, "All DNA samples extracted from our preliminary tick collection have been matched to one Robert Fisher."

## VIGILANCE

Just another reminder that, once again, it is that time of the year... Many mammals are stocking up on food for the coming winter and cold weather. In particular, hikers should beware of the giant marmot. The rarely encountered creature tends to make its presence known more often in the months of September through November, when it voraciously builds up its fat layers before hibernating.

Recent sightings have been reported in the Three Fingers and Goat Flat areas, where the marmots presence is legendary. Walk cautiously in these parts, and avoid open areas where the oversize beast can easily overtake you. And, obviously, don't sprinkle yourself with barbecue sauce when hiking out...

(The picture here is just a re-creation, kids.... it didn't "really" happen, okay?)



## HOLIDAY GOOD DEED



Guess what else is drawing near ? 'Tis the Holiday Season and Yuletide! Let me be the first one to ask for your wallet... This year, why not act on those "feel-good" urges that overwhelm you to tears every year: For a pledge of 10\$ a month, you can adopt a tree-gnome. These wonderful creatures, as loveable as a mogwai, are now small in numbers in the Northwest and your pledge will help the "Save-The-Tree-Gnome" foundation in their efforts to protect the fragile environments where they roam free. Current population size in the Northwest is estimated at only a few hundred individuals and is dwindling due to logging, forest fires, urban development, and, unfortunately, the increasing presence of man in the wilderness.

Of course, your pledge would be valid for the lifetime of the tree gnome you adopt: tree-gnomes are known to live for about 250 years (average), so the responsibility can be passed on to your offspring for generations! What a great gift to the world! Call 1-888-3GNOMES for more info on how YOU can save a life.

## END NOTE

Thanks to Bob Magers, Rich Humbert, and Dirk Visser for unknowingly allowing me to use their likeness for the cause... It's all in good fun, right?

I'll leave you with this last shot of the President's Climb: Bob, with Jim Thompson and Chris Meder, enjoying the crystal-clear 360degree view from the summit of Del Campo: Thanks again for a weekend not soon forgotten (even without "the flask"...) )



Until next time, go out and play, but be safe out there... and get involved with the BoeAlpS organization!  
Cheers!

For submittal of wacky tales, news items, crazy pictures: [fgod1138@hotmail.com](mailto:fgod1138@hotmail.com) (...And maybe I'll use 'em...)

## Yak Peak – Yak Check Route

September 3, 2006

by Tony Olejnicki



**Yak Peak Monolith**

crossing is fast and with a minimum drama.

Driving is easy, most of the time on the freeway apart of a short section from Bellingham to Sumas being a narrow back-country 2-lane road.

We left Seattle on Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7am and arrived to the Zopkios parking lot at 1pm. We bivied at the Lost Lake located at the last exit before Toll Booth on the Coquihalla highway. There is a paved road for about 1mi to the parking lot and then 1km stroll to the lake. The lake is very scenic and there are very few people camping there. In fact there are only 3 camping spots. Highly recommended spot and it is free.

From the lake we drove back towards Hope to the TH, which is located at the beginning of the exit ramp ~400m east of Zopkios Ridge parking lot/pullout and the TH is clearly marked with huge rock cairns. The trail is very well worn as the climb is very popular. It takes 20-30minutes to get to the base of the route.

There are various ways to start. We scrambled the ledges and low angle slab (5.2) to the ledge and block below Reality Check start then we traversed left to the bolt belay at P1 of Yak Crack. Here is pitch by pitch direction on the route courtesy bivouac.com, which we found very useful, well detailed and accurate:

P1: make 5.7ish moves left from the belay up a flake to gain the hand crack on the front face of the flake (small pro). Climb 5.6 crack to a belay out right at a slung pinnacle on the arête. ~55m;

P2: climb crack to a slung block in a chimney (5.6). 60m rope stretcher but you can split this pitch in two at a slung tree half way up;

P3: climb crack to top of pinnacle (Lunch Ledge), belay 10 feet higher at bolts. 25m (5.6);

I have scheduled Cathedral Peak climb over the Labor Day weekend. However Tripod bushfire forced us to take alternative climb.

I called Ken Hill and we have decided to do Yak Check Check route, which has been on my list for awhile.

Yak is located on highway 5 (Coquihalla highway) about 50km north of Hope BC. Its huge monolith towers over the highway and I looked at it on my way to Robson earlier this summer.

The drive time from Seattle is approximately 4hrs; Sumas boarder

P4: climb sometimes crumbly rock left at first, then up and right (some pro behind flakes and a fixed piton) to a bolted stance. 35 m (5.7); you can link P3 & P4 with 60m rope and long slings on gear to avoid rope zigzags.



#### **1<sup>st</sup> Pitch-Slab to the Crack**

P5: an obvious vertical wall can be climbed via a corner on the left side (5.8) or a series of face holds to a vague hairline crack on the right (5.8+) then follow cracks and ramps up and right to a two-piton belay (back up with cams) 50m. 5.8 move on the vertical wall looks intimidating but it is really very easy with a good hold (It is true). There is also pro stuck here permanently;

P6: Move right from belay and climb a left facing (5.8) corner for about 10m then step right around arête at big hold (can also step right of corner at bottom but you miss out on the cool layback). Climb up flakes, pass tree, up to two overlaps at a roofy feature. Place gear then move thru overlaps into crumbly, easy groove, climb to bolt belay ~55m 5.8+ (junction of Yak Crack and Reality Check);

P7: You are now leaving Yak Crack for Reality Check. Climb up 5m from the belay on rock resembling oatmeal, then move left on a solid horizontal dyke until you encounter many flakes; undercling left, then up at end of first flake, climb more flakes to highest undercling at roof; move left (5.9) awkward under roof, to corner "Cave"; there is a possible belay here under roof on a fixed nut and piton. HOWEVER, despite topos, it is best to go right here on to the arête of the cave and climb up about 10m (5.9 face) to a big ledge with bolted belay on the right; this avoids the spelunking tunnel thru the flake done on the FA which is awkward with a pack on, and avoids belaying on sketchy fixed pin and nut tied off with a single webbing chunk. ~50m 5.9;



#### **Right Facing Corner**



**Coquihalla Highway in Smoke from Bushfire**



**Looking at Final Face Climb**

P8: traverse ledge (top of through-flake) to a bolt belay on left; ~30m 3rd class.

P9: climb flake and ramp up and right for a pitch ~40m 5.8;

P10: supposedly one of the two 10a pitches. face climb up 3m to a bolt, move up and right 3m to another bolt, then back left and up 5m to a corner (bolt on left arête) climb right of the

corner up the face on dishes and flakes then move up and right on a nebulous line past more bolts and gear under flakes to a bolted belay on a small right facing corner/ramp (cant see belay until 5m below it); ~45m, easy 5.9 face, total of 5 bolts on the pitch plus gear;

P11: climb up flake above belay and either climb directly where it goes right, or move left and up good cracks on the face, to a ledge; above this is a low angle slab with 3 bolts; originally graded 9/10a by the FA party, subsequent ascents have cleaned holds on the slab of lichen making it more secure - now feels like an 5.8/9; belay at bolted stance on ledge above; ~40m 5.8/9 this is where you would rap from if you planned on rappelling, however down climb on the back of Yak is by far a better way to go.

P12: 4th class up low angle slab (no pro) for full pitch to trees above; 45m 4th class; can escape into trees lower down if you want to.

From here, hike and scramble up towards the top, pass the sub-summit on the right side on a good ledge (exposed).

Put on your shoes and walk down and do not rappel; it is faster to down climb. It took us 3.5hrs to rappel, quiet an epic. It takes ~1 hr to descend along the hiking trail to the base. Follow cairns up to a ledge on E side of S peak, then easily down climb to the saddle with main peak. The trail is clearly visible from there.



### **Do Not Rappel**

Our time to do this route was 7.5 hrs climbing and 11 hrs car to car, while it should have been only 9hrs car to car with the down climb.

The technical grades on this climb are pretty soft, in my opinion. There is nothing as hard as, say, the roof traverse on Snake), or the polished slab of Deidre (the Squamish Apron). There are about 4 pitches that have short sections that feel like hard 5.8 or easy 5.9 climbing. About 2-3 more pitches are easy 5.8 and the rest are 5.6/5.7.

Gear wise, having doubles of the cam sizes from #0.5-1.5 Friend (yellow, orange and red TCU) is important. The biggest cracks are fist size, and there are some thin flake cracks, so gear from purple TCU up to #3 Camelot or 3.5 Friend is used. Take one set of stoppers, maybe a few Tri Cams will help. Double ropes, 60m is best.

The route faces east so it can be hot in a sunny weather. We were lucky with the haze from the fire shading us from the sun and the slight breeze cooling us really nicely. The climb is very cool on a superb granite rock and it is not as difficult as it looks on the topo or from the parking lot.

For us it was supposed to be a nice warm-up for Anderson Range east of Yak on the highway 1. However the haze from Tripod fire was slightly off-putting and we have decided to head to the coast and do a route at Squamish. It was a good decision. The weather in Squamish was exquisite, the air was clear, the sea breeze was refreshing and the route was fantastic. We did

'Ultimate of Everything' and we accessed it through 'Deidre'. It is truly a beautiful route with slightly more difficult grading than Yak Check. The last pitch is very exciting 10b traversing under the roof with an undercling crack. I did leading on easier pitches but they still kept my attention up and squeezed some serious sweat from me.

So it was truly hard 'labor' weekend for me with a bit too much driving to my liking but it was all worth it. I highly recommend both climbs.

And thanks to Ken for leading difficult pitches; in particular 10b traverse on the undercling crack under the roof. I have repaid the leading debt somewhat by leading West Ridge on South Early Winter Spire the following weekend, which is one of my recommended routes also.

**Resources:** Alpine Select Climbs in Southwest British Columbia and Northern Washington by Kevin McLane published by Elaho.

## **Squeezing the Lemon**

### ***A Rock Climbing Recommendation for Next Winter***

By Tony Olejnicki

I was truly sick of the winter grays and wets; in fact I was depressed and desperately itching for a climb. I looked at different options south of the boarder. Ideally it would have been nice to be in the southern hemisphere but I thought Mexico would do me just fine.

The concept turn-out not feasible due to the time constraints; After 2 weeks climbing in New Zealand and anticipated Denali trip in May I did not wish to waste too much time in the airports and general travel. So I homed in a bit closer looking for sunny spots. California, Utah and Arizona came to mind.

I also could not talk anyone I know to coming with me climbing for 5 days or so. In desperation I looked for climbing guides. I would not hire a guide for mountaineering but for rock climbing it did not sound too silly for me. Being barely 5.9 TRAD climber I figured that I still have plenty to learn so having a good professional guide I could learn few new climbing tricks and have someone belaying me without whining.

So I just did that; I got in touch with guiding service in Tucson AZ and they sounded really good. I bought a cheap airfare to Phoenix and spend 4 days in the sun from February 17 till 21.

It all turned out to be an excellent idea. \$200 a day for a guide sounded like an extravagant idea but considering the ability to do 9 multi-pitch routes in a day in a new area was a great value. In a new area without someone who can identify good routes we could probably do only 3 routes. So considering time constraints and climbing value it was a good deal and I definitely recommend it, if you are strapped for time and itching for a good climb.

There are many areas you can do it in winter but mt Lemon near Tucson is definitely one of the best areas to climb and it is climbable all year round. In winter there are hundreds routes between 2000-4000ft. In summer there are climbing areas at 9000ft; the temperature is always 50-70°F, the sun is always shining and there are virtually no crowds due to small climbing population (retirees are more into golf, walking, wheelchairs or casinos), large climbing areas with many routes and lack of promotion.

Catalina highway takes you all the way to the top 9000ft, where there is a ski resort, which was closed this year due to lack of snow. It is a spectacular highway, with sweeping views and incredible sense of exposure. The view from the top of your climb at 5000ft to the plane at 2000ft makes you feel is like being on 3000ft wall but with your base being only 200-300ft below you.

I met my guide Jeff at the shopping center car-park at the start Catalina highway. Jeff works for guiding company in Aspen CO over summer month and sensibly he spends winter in Tucson, where the weather is perfect for winter climbing. He was a qualified AMAGA guide and very good in it; very composed, balanced, fit and pleasant personality, which made the climbing safe, efficient and fun.

We drove up to 5000ft on the snaking Catalina highway and did 3 routes in one area. It was really relaxing, we down-climbed about 300ft and did two 2-pitch routes with one rappel and than Jeff had lowered me and belayed me from the top on another route just to finish-off the fun in the area. We than moved to the other side of the formation and did another 2-pitch route and then Jeff belayed me on a single pitch 5.9 route. It was amazingly fast for TRAD climbing because he new them so well and for me it was TR 5.8-5.9 with one 5.10a.

After lunch we have moved to another area, about 1000ft lower. I did a lead on 5.7, the rating somewhat harder than X38. It was crack-climbing although my lead route had some nice chicken heads and I was grateful for that. We then did 2-pitch route and Jeff lowered me again for 5.9 single pitch with the top belay. We have rappelled and I did my last 5.8 route TR of the same anchor. I was so exhausted so it was more trash than climb. I was truly done.

We drove back to Tucson, I was stuffed and needed some rest before driving back to Phoenix. I called my friend, an old British chap and we decided to meet for a pint or two. I met Arthur and his wife Margie in a local pub 'Risky Business'. We spend a couple of hours eating, drinking beer and enjoying ourselves in truly British style. I had two pints of lager, which is definitely above my threshold and I was pleasantly tipsy. I actually took it better than I expected considering my low tolerance to alcohol. I guess I was very dehydrated from climbing in the sun, so my system didn't care as long as it was a liquid.

The drive back to Phoenix was a real fun. First I drove along an empty desert road going up and down through the washouts with centrifugal effects. I slowed down on the freeway keeping a low profile; after all it would not be a good idea to be pulled over by the cop. I got to my hotel in Phoenix and I truly enjoyed hot outdoor tub with cloudless starry sky above me.

This was just a beginning of my Phoenix adventure. I spend next two days bouldering. One area I visited was in Tucson, just 30 miles north of the city called Beardsley Rd crags.

It was a nice place; but due to closeness to the city it was also a popular party spot with some broken glass and some graffiti. The problems were quite difficult but I was by myself there so it was no need for embarrassment.

The following day I headed to Prescott, old original capital of Arizona, a small historical and touristy town with lots of old American western town architecture and some impressive downtown. But the object of desire for me was a famous bouldering area some 10miles southwest of Prescott.

This was truly amazing place with enormous boulders up to 30ft high with some difficult and scary problems. There were few good boulderers there and I was the only one wearing helmet; they still were friendly and talked to me.

Again I recommend Prescott from esthetic aspect and if you very good in bouldering it will be a heaven.

On my last day I had a flight at 7pm so I had enough time to check Camelback mt in north Phoenix. This is a very spectacularly looking hill with huge boulders scary to climb because they are composites of mud and chunks of volcanic rock, which just hangs there by the scruff. People still climb it but I decided not to do it and I definitely don't recommend this one.

So here you are, a good climbing and bouldering tip for next winter, if you want to have a short break from the gray sky.

For me it will be all blue sky climbing in Ecuador in December and January and then definitely blue sky back home in Melbourne in February.

'Squeezing the Lemon II... More Juice than Ever' by Eric Fazio-Rhicard is a comprehensive 300 pages climbing guide.

Cheers

# Toothbrush and Toothpaste for the Ladies: Blueberry Hill, 10/1/06

Climbers: Sarah Sternau (scribe, photographer), Oscar Montoya



What was I doing as I should've been uploading the October issue of the Echo? Oscar Montoya and I, in celebration (at least on my part) of the conclusion of Boealps classes for the year, went out to climb Blueberry Hill. We were also aiming to climb a few scummy pitches above that, so Oscar could get a peak at Witch Doctor Wall, which Fred Beckey first climbed in the 1970s.

It is worth noting, if only to annoy Oscar, that he has been up Blueberry Hill, via the Blueberry Route, three times. While he had completed the route, he'd never done the extra pitches to the summit.

Our plan was to meet at Oscar's in Kirkland at 6:30, but we didn't end up rolling out of there until 7am. We were a little concerned about the weather, which had been threatening rain on Sunday...no, wait, Saturday...no, actually, Sunday...all week. By late Saturday, the forecast was for a puzzling "clear skies with a chance of showers," so we were happy to see blue skies for the drive out.

By the time we stopped for breakfast, and then at the Darrington gas station, then picked our way down the old mining road that leads to the "trailhead," then consolidated gear and started pounding trail, it was a little after 10am. The approach to the route is a calf-burner (as I think Bob Bautista called it on the Boealps message board): It's 1,500 feet of 35-45-degree friction slab broken up only by cliffy bits or terraces full of standing water. After an hour or so of that, we dropped packs at the base and started up the route.

I said the same thing at the bottom of Blueberry Hill as at the bottom of Safe Sex, another Darrington route—"this doesn't really *look* very tall"—and was surprised to discover once again that a) I was wrong, but also b) the hand-me-down double ropes I've been using are not quite 60 meters long. On the first pitch, which I led, we ended up simul-climbing because the rope got eaten by a flaring crack; on several later pitches, we found ourselves

groaning and then simul-climbing after running out of rope within sight but out of reach of a good belay.



Oscar on the third-pitch crux.

So the first pitch is long and easy, the second pitch is long and easy, and the third pitch, supposedly the crux, is long and not so bad. There's one weird move (and some crappy pro for an anchor) at the end, but it's mostly just fun. The fourth pitch, though, seemed considerably more difficult, with no bolts, little pro, and lots of slab. At one point, Oscar disappeared behind a giant flake then popped up twice like a Whack-a-Mole to flip the rope over some edges to prevent rope drag. I was curious to see what that was all about; turned out to be a leaning chimney, so I did a hand traverse across the top of the flake and then mantled up, being less game for the squeeze moves as a pack-wearing follower. Nothing distinguished the fourth

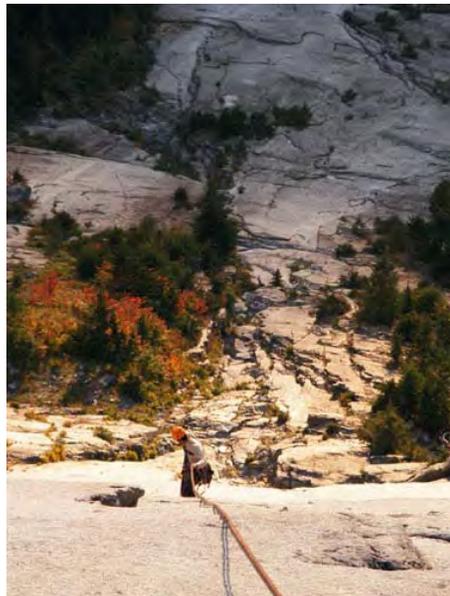
and fifth pitches, except that the last was a groaner—rope ran out 15 feet before the end—and Oscar belayed me up from a "Peeping Tom" perch in a pine tree.

A cold wind had brought some rain clouds in, but Oscar still wanted to try for the top, so we dropped down and traversed 150' to the left then began adventure climbing. Oscar took the first pitch, and we simuled a few feet at the end, then I ran together what was supposedly two remaining pitches and we simuled to within a few vertical feet of the top. A bit of 'shwacking and we topped out, with Oscar marveling at the steepness of the Witch Doctor Wall and me marveling at the crappiness of the rock. I then demonstrated my horrible orienteering instincts by asking Oscar why he was looking for bolts on the wrong side of the summit, and we began rappelling.

After the first rappel, to a small but good ledge, I pulled the rope while Oscar fed the free end through the next anchor. The end of the pulled rope got caught in scrubby brush about 20' up, though, and since I was nearest, I got to climb back up to get it.

Boy, was that sketch. Oscar belayed me using the rope we had at the belay station while I climbed up about a 75-degree moss-covered dihedral with the craziest lieback holds I've ever seen. One slender chunk of rock was actually like a hand rail, attached at both ends but fully detached for about three feet along the middle. I got one piece in near the belay ledge, but the rest of the rock was too bad to hold another. After getting above the tree and freeing the rope, I slung the rope around the base of it, downclimbed the top few feet of the route I'd taken up, then swung out under the tree and rappled down.

I didn't count how many more raps it took to get back to the pack we left behind, but it was definitely one more than it needed to be; the rope stopped just shy of a set of chains on two consecutive raps, so we finally reset it and continued on our way.



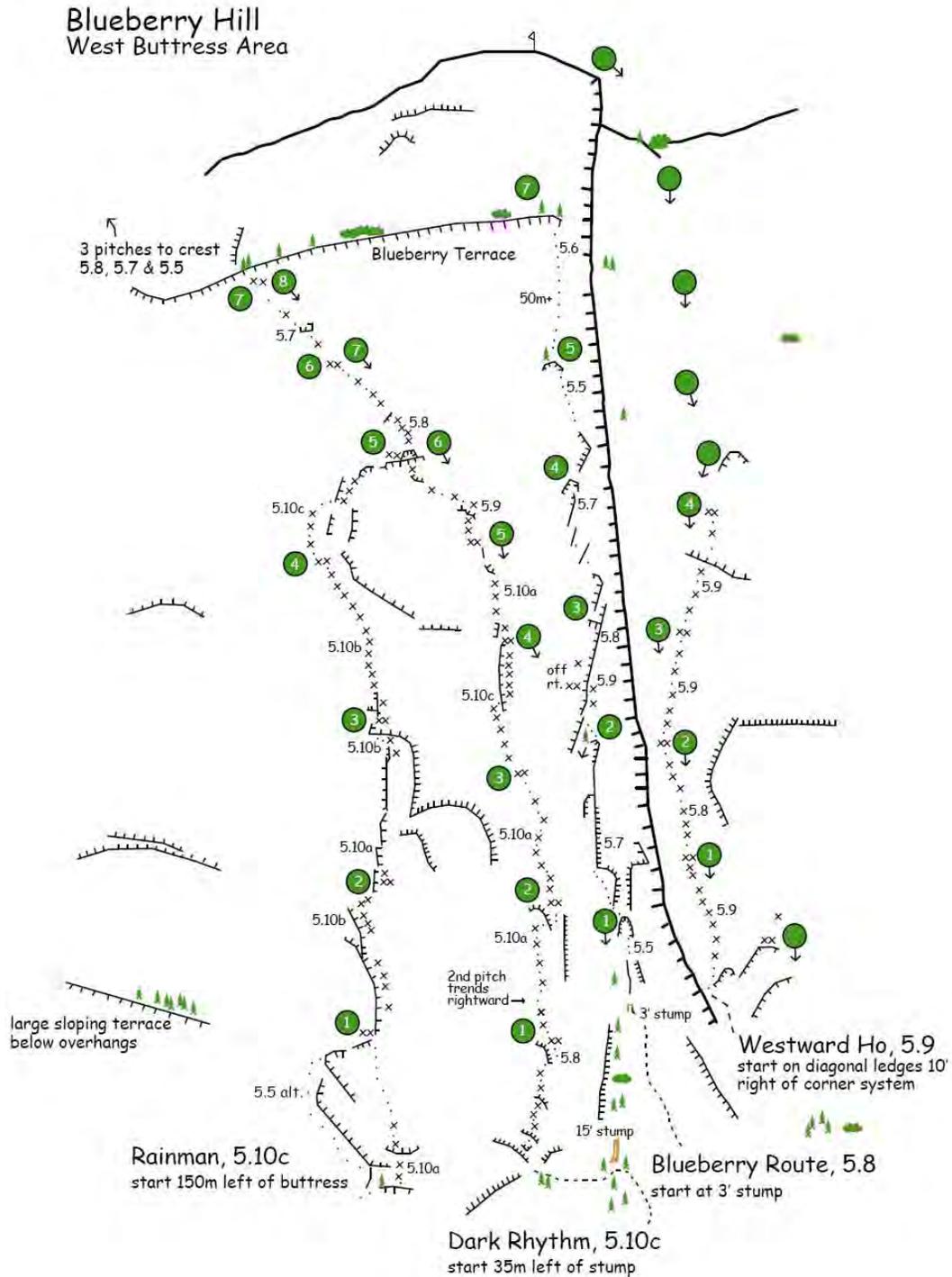
Oscar rappelling as the sun sets immediately behind him.

When we got back to the original belay, I saw that in addition to a 000 Camalot C3, when consolidating packs Oscar had also tossed a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste on top of

my pack. (This TR's title is a nod to Dave Hamilton's entertaining "A Stick of Deodorant for the Ladies," from an older issue of the Echo.) For this Oscar was ribbed mercilessly on the way back to the car, as he skipped down the rock like he was doing a soft-shoe routine and I picked my way down in rock shoes. We got out just in time to not need the headlamp, then hightailed it back to Kirkland.

Excellent day, fun route. I highly recommend it.

Topo from the Darrington Rock Climbing website, <http://www.seanet.com/~mattp/Darr/> :





ALPINE ECHO



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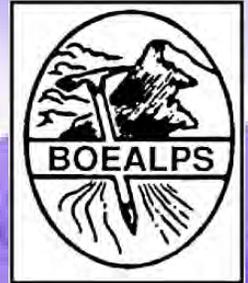
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*If you have any submissions—anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do—email them to us at editor@boealps.org, or give one of us a call (our numbers are on the front cover) and we'll arrange something!*

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PHOTO CONTEST

Thursday, December 7

7 PM

BOEALPS BANQUET

Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Museum of Flight

7PM

<p>New Head BRC Instructor needed</p>	<p>Echo archiving project</p>
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# **BOEALPS Photo Contest**

## **Thursday, Dec. 7th, General Meeting**

Attention photo buffs! Dust off your negatives, download your memory cards and bring your best adventure photos to the BOEALPS photo contest during the November General Meeting. You must bring the actual pictures, developed or printed on paper (no slides or digital photos). As a suggestion, 8x10 sized pictures on nice photo paper tend to work best for presentation purposes. **Prizes will be awarded in each category and the winners will be featured in upcoming Echo newsletters and on the BOEALPS website!**

### Contest Information:

There will be 7 categories to enter your photos in this year. They are listed below with corresponding descriptions.

1. Mountain Scene - Any picture that displays the great alpine vistas we can never get enough of.
2. Climbing - Simple, show people climbing. Rock, ice, glacier, or your solo climb up City Park for the sponsors. Sorry, leave your pictures from bouldering at the gym at home; you're alpinists for goodness sake.
3. Sunrise/Sunset - Pretty self explanatory, your best sunrise and/or sunset pictures taken in the mountains.
4. People - Share the pictures of your friends you went climbing with or the people that you met along the way during your adventure.
5. BOEALPS Class - Show off what you learned or taught this year from the various classes you took or instructed: Basic Climbing Class, Basic Rock Class, or Intermediate Climbing Class.
6. Humorous - Come on, something funny must have happened when you went climbing, do you have a picture of it? Let's maintain some level of good taste here please. Don't show anything that your mother wouldn't approve of.
7. Nature/Wilderness - This is a new category. It was created for all those miscellaneous pictures you take along the way on your climb such as the grove of alpine flowers, the marmot that tried stealing your food, or the mysterious looking forest you walked through during your approach.

\* No more than two photos can be submitted in each category per person.

Contact Mike Zalewski, [mjzalewsk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzalewsk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

# BELAY STANCE

Hello, Boealpers-

The Echo staff has made a transition to a new team. Rich Humbert and Francois Godcharles will be the editors during the coming year. The first issue or two may have some rough edges as we figure out how to do the job. If anyone is interested in helping us, contact [editor@boealps.org](mailto:editor@boealps.org).

The Basic Rock Class is looking for a new head instructor. See the notice below if you are interested in applying or helping with the class next summer.

The photo contest is coming up in December.

Tony Oljenecki is attempting to archive all past issues of the Echo. If you have old issues missing from the collection, contact Tony.

The Boealps Annual Banquet will take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field. The program for this year's banquet is "Denali, Then and Now" with a talk from the Boealps 1976 Denali expedition team and this year's Boealps Denali expedition.

No one submitted trip reports this month. I have included a report on my visit to the highest point in Indiana. Let's get something more exciting next month. Send those reports in!

Thanks, and happy climbing!

One of your editors,  
Rich

Climbers,

As some of you might know, the past couple of years has seen the birth of a new climbing class offered by Boealps-The Basic Rock Class (BRC). The BRC will be in its fourth year in 2007 and has come a long way since its conception in 2004, thanks to the hard work of Robert Fisher, Sarah Sternau and many other volunteers.

The position of Head Instructor for the BRC has recently become vacant and we are looking to fill this position in a timely fashion in order to coordinate schedules, class requirements and objectives. If you are interested in taking on and being a part of the shaping of the BRC as the 2007 head instructor - please put together a brief resume and your vision for the BRC.

A 2-cent summary of the class is that it has been developed as a bridge between the BCC and the ICC to raise the level of rock competency of incoming ICC students or anyone else that would like more exposure to rock climbing. It is typically comprised of a handful of skills outings and experience outings with a high instructor-to-student ratio. Instructors are to have MOFA training and capability to safely lead and teach upcoming climbers on moderate rock routes. The head instructor would have these skills as well as the organizational capability to manage and plan the class.

Please submit your resume and vision to '[robert.a.bautista@boeing.com](mailto:robert.a.bautista@boeing.com)' by November 10, 2006. A selection committee comprised of Sarah S, Robert F, an ICC representative and the Board will review applicants and have a decision by the December general meeting.

Also, please regard this e-mail as a call for instructors. If you are interested in being a head instructor, but are not selected - we ask that you still instruct, as your contributions will be key in helping shape the class.

More information about the class can be found at <http://www.boealps.org/Classes/BasicRock/BasicRock.aspx>

Thanks!  
Bob B.  
2007 Boealps President

Hoosier Hill, highest point in Indiana, 1257 ft. above sea level.

Bob Humbert, Mozelle Humbert, Kathy Humbert, Rich Humbert

March 2006

I was back in Indiana, where I grew up, to celebrate my parents' 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We were looking for places to go on Sunday following the anniversary celebrations on Sat. My sister and I were discussing the location of the highest point in Indiana. She thought it was in the far northeast corner of the state; I thought it was near the town of Richmond, next to the Ohio border. We consulted some reference materials and determined, not surprisingly, that I was correct. Not much was happening in the state that weekend, so we decided an expedition to find the highest point was in order. We had an SUV I had rented, which seemed appropriate for the expedition. We made the 1 hour drive to the countryside near the high point, uncertain as to how well-marked the site would be. We saw a sign marked "Highest Point" and knew we were in luck. The trailhead was a wide spot at the side of a country road, with parking for maybe 4 cars. The summit was a tree-covered knoll near the road. We met another party returning from the summit as we arrived. I believe they were surprised to see anyone else at the site, particularly early in the climbing season. A gravel path led to the summit. I counted 68 paces, perhaps two minutes and 20 vertical ft. to the top. My sister and parents followed shortly behind. We congratulated each other on reaching the summit and took the usual summit photos. There was a mailbox encased in brick holding the summit register, which we proudly signed. It may well have been my parents' first summit. The relief of Hoosier Hill above the surrounding area was sufficiently small, that if there had not been a sign, we might not have known we were at the high point.



Hoosier Hill trailhead.



Hooser Hill summit register.



Mozelle Humbert, Rich Humbert, Kathy Humbert at summit.

Following our successful ascent of Hoosier Hill, we found a country restaurant and had lunch. We spent the afternoon visiting antique shops.

This was my third state highest point, less impressive than Mt. Rainier and Mt. Whitney, but hey, this was Indiana. I can't say that Hoosier Hill is worthy as a trip objective, but, if you are in the neighborhood, why not?

## BoeAlps Echo Archiving Project

Tony Olejnicki, [tolejnicki@hotmail.com](mailto:tolejnicki@hotmail.com), [anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com](mailto:anthony.olejnicki@boeing.com)

Dear BoeAlpers and Friends, I have embarked on the project last year of archiving all available Echoes since 1963 and made them available on BoeAlps web-site.

I would like to express thanks to John Pollock, one of the Founders of BoeAlps, for giving me an access to Echoes from 60's and 70's and to numerous people, who contributed with Echoes from 70's, 80's, 90's and NOTT'es. Thanks to all these efforts, I was able to scan 338 issues of past Echoes and converted them to PDF files and I have recovered most of digital Echoes from 2002 till 2005. Altogether I have 486 Echoes. There are still 107 issues missing as listed below:

Year	Missing Issue	Amount
1970	Jan, Apr, May-Nov	9
1971	Jan-Dec	12
1972	Jan, Feb, Apr-Dec	11
1973	Jan-Oct	10
1974	Jan, Feb, May-Nov	9
1975	Feb, Apr, Jul, Oct, Dec	5
1976	Jan, Apr-Dec	10
1977	Jan-May, Nov, Dec	7
1978	Jan, Feb, May-Dec	10
1979	Jan-Jul, Nov, Dec	9
1980	Mar	1
1982	Jul	1
2000	Mar	1
2002	Dec	1
2003	Jan, Feb, Jun	3
2004	Nov	1
2005	Jan, Oct	2
2006	Jan-May	5

If anyone has access to any above listed Echoes please make them available to me for scanning; or if you know the person, who could have any of these issues and in particular the issues from 70's please contact me or even better contact the person and get these Echoes to me for scanning. I don't know exactly, what happened to Echoes from 70's. The story circulating is, that the BoeAlps lockers have been raided by a BoeAlps member, who copies of 70's Echoes away to an unidentified researcher from University of Washington and they were never returned. If anyone knows the details or remembers who the researcher was I would appreciate the information and maybe the lost issues could still be recovered. I will be leaving for Australia in December and I need to find a person to coordinate further work on the archive. If you passionate about your Alpine Climbing Club and would like to contribute to the project by coordinating it, please contact me.

The work to be done is indexing the material in Echoes and converting the material to HTML in order to be included on the website. The work cannot be done by one person only, because it is a time consuming task but for 10 volunteers or so it would a reasonable effort. It would also be an interesting work browsing through old Echoes and finding how the mountaineering was done 10, 20, or 50 years ago. The club's history is very interesting. There are lots of interesting people, who were members of the club in the past and the contribution of BoeAlps to Seattle base mountaineering is considerable. It would be great to capture it on our website, and I hope it will eventually happen. So if you are interested to help please contact me.

For the time being please check the first issue of Echo from 1963.

# November

# 2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3 Boealps Banquet	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Dec Echo Deadline	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1  DEC	2

3	4	5	6	7 Photo Contest	8	9
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ALPINE ECHO



ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MICAH NOLIN, M/S 84-74  
OR: 2325 SE 8th Dr; Renton, WA 98055  
OR: micah.nolin@boeing.com

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

*November Echo staff*

Editors: Rich Humbert,  
Francois Godcharles

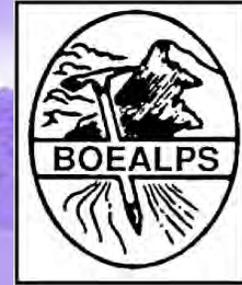
Contributors:

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

# ALPINE ECHO

[www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)

DECEMBER 2006



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**Membership** Open  
**Education** Open

**BOEALPS**  
**Annual**  
**Photo Contest**  
**is BACK !!!**  
**Thursday 7 December**  
**see details page 8 !!!**

**BOEALPS GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, 7 December, 18:30**  
**AT BOEING 2-22 BLDG**  
**7755 E MARGINAL WY S**

# BELAY STANCE

Hello Boealpers !

As I write this, old man Winter has its icy claws around the evergreen city and is cunningly blowing snowflakes around the skyline. To the climber in all of us, this is good news indeed: the white stuff is falling heavily on the slopes, covering up glacier crevasses and slippery scree. It is a promising start to the winter climbing, ski, snowboard and snowshoe season... and Boealps is getting ready for it !

What better way to start things off than getting reacquainted with your fellow climbers and attending the December General Meeting, which will be the setting for the Boealps Annual Photo Contest: do you remember that fantastic shot you took last summer ? well, it's time to print it out, show it off to your peers and, who knows, win some prizes and world recognition ! (...or maybe just prizes...). And if that fantastic shot you took... well... didn't come out quite as fantastic, guest lecturer and professional photographer Alan Bauer will offer tips and advice on outdoor photography. It will be a great evening, put together for you by our own Programs and Photography chairpersons Shella and Mike, so come on down to the usual building 2-22 venue and be a part of it !!!

In this issue of our beloved Echo, you will also find details on upcoming winter activities such as the annual Winthrop ski trip, and the official start of the Winter Climb Series. It is also the time of year when several educational seminars are offered, such as the ever-crucial MOFA classes and the renowned Gary Brill Avalanche Awareness: sign up early as places are limited !

As for reports and columns, Echo reporter Vlad Popa has captured some intriguing moments of the Annual Boealps Banquet that took place last November 3rd. Also, this historic issue of the Echo will be remembered for the birth and publication of a long-awaited new column dedicated to outdoor equipment: Gear Dork's Corner. You will also find in this edition several club news tidbits and community issues deserving your attention and involvement. And, last but not least, Ron Fleck has turned up a new rendition of a Grateful Dead classic for your "sing-along" pleasure...

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue, Enjoy the Echo, and Happy Climbing !

One of your editors,  
François

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BCC GOLD Team 2006 lined up on Eldorado summit ridge - 21 May 2006 (photo by F.Godcharles)

<b>December</b>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Winter Outing 1	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Gen. Meeting PHOTO CONTEST !!!	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Board Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Winter Outing 2	<b>18</b> Echo Deadline	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> X-MAS	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>					<b>2006</b>	

<b>January</b>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> <i>NEW YEAR</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Gen. Meeting</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>Winter Outing 3</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Winthrop Ski Trip</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>MOFA 1</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>Winter Outing 4</i>	<b>22</b> <i>MOFA 2</i> <i>Echo Deadline</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>MOFA 3</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>MOFA 4</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>MOFA 5</i>			<b>2007</b>



Up the Coleman Glacier, Mt Baker - June 2005 (photo by F. Godcharles)

# **ETY NEWS...SOCIETY NEWS...SOCIETY NEWS...SOC**

...

The BOEALPS Constitution and By-Laws were updated during the 2005-2006 Board Tenure, and those updates were ratified by the membership at the Annual Banquet on 3 November 2006. These current Constitution and By-Laws are available on the web site home page at boealps.org

...

The Basic Rock Climbing Class (BRC) has a new Chief Instructor: Mike Zalewski's submittal for the position was reviewed by the Board at the 14 November meeting, and he was voted in. Mike, who is also our Photography Chair, will take the reins of the class from BRC founders Sarah Sternau and Robert Fisher starting Summer 2007. Congratulations Mike, and good luck !

...

And speaking of nominations, please note that the Society is very glad to receive help from some brave members who have stepped forward to volunteer their time and energy to drive the ambitious 2007 Boealps agenda:

- Bernie Knoll as Activities Chair: Bernie will coordinate and schedule all upcoming club activities and is in charge of the activities calendar for the coming year, so if you want to help organize an outing, a climb, an event, a seminar, he is the first person to contact.

- Robyn Garrison as Class Liaison: Robyn will coordinate, promote and organize the main classes start-off events, as well as oversee the students application process and maintain open channels between the Board and Chief Instructors.

BY THE WAY, CRUCIAL CHAIR POSITIONS ARE STILL OPEN (MEMBERSHIP, EDUCATION) AND BOEALPS IS HAPPY TO WELCOME ANY MEMBER WILLING TO VOLUNTEER SOME TIME TO HELP RUN THE ORGANIZATION. SO DON'T BE SHY !!!

If you don't care much for the high profile positions, don't worry, BOEALPS also needs volunteers to possibly help out with many tasks ranging from graphic designers, web designers, echo editors and reporters, archivers, event organizers and helpers, etc, etc, so just contact any of the Board members or Chairs, and step forward to help out just one single time or throughout the whole year: remember that every single activity promoted by the Society happens because of members who volunteer to help out. This year, why not get involved at a higher level and help make BOEALPS what YOU want it to be ?

...

The ambitious Echo Archiving Project is still on-going. Master-minded by Tony Olejnicki, who is unfortunately leaving our part of the world this month, the Project needs a new leader and team to help track down missing issues of the Echo (a large number of issues from the 1970's have mysteriously disappeared...), and to help prepare the archives for release on the web site. If you can volunteer some time to help out, please contact Micah Nolin ([micah.nolin@boeing.com](mailto:micah.nolin@boeing.com))

...

And finally, the next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 December 2006, at the usual Blue Star Café (4512 StoneWay N, Seattle, 98103). All BOEALPS members are welcomed to attend.

...



# BoeAlps General Meeting Agenda December 7<sup>th</sup> 2006

## OVERVIEW

### Photo Contest

Guest Speaker: [Alan Bauer](#), Photo Journalist

Len Kannapell – Conservation Conscious Christmas

Dust off your negatives, download your memory cards and bring your best adventure photos to the BOEALPS photo contest! You must bring the actual pictures, developed or printed on paper (no slides or digital photos). Prizes will be awarded in each category listed below:

- Mountain Scene
- Climbing
- Sunrise/Sunset
- People
- BoeAlps Class
- Humorous
- Nature/Wilderness

\*Note: no more than two photos can be submitted in each category per person.

See additional details on next page.

**PHOTO JOURNALS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST:** Alan Bauer, an east side photographer, from Fall City, Washington will be showing us some of his photos, telling stories and sharing tips and techniques for capturing that perfect shot.

Len Kannapell will also be collecting clothing donations for Real Change - see details in the "Boealps and the Community" section

### Time Breakdown

6:30 – 7:00	Social Time Place selected photos out on tables for competition
7:00-7:15	General Announcements
7:15 – 7:45	Len Kannapell – Conservation Conscious Christmas
7:45-8:15	Cast votes for photos
8:15-9:15	Alan Bauer Presentation
9:30	Adjourn

# **BOEALPS Photo Contest**

## **Thursday, Dec. 7th, General Meeting**

Attention photo buffs! Dust off your negatives, download your memory cards and bring your best adventure photos to the BOEALPS photo contest during the November General Meeting. You must bring the actual pictures, developed or printed on paper (no slides or digital photos). As a suggestion, 8x10 sized pictures on nice photo paper tend to work best for presentation purposes. **Prizes will be awarded in each category and the winners will be featured in upcoming Echo newsletters and on the BOEALPS website!**

### **Contest Information:**

There will be 7 categories to enter your photos in this year. They are listed below with corresponding descriptions.

1. **Mountain Scene** – Any picture that displays the great alpine vistas we can never get enough of.
2. **Climbing** – Simple, show people climbing. Rock, ice, glacier, or your solo climb up City Park for the sponsors. Sorry, leave your pictures from bouldering at the gym at home; you're alpinists for goodness sake.
3. **Sunrise/Sunset** – Pretty self explanatory, your best sunrise and/or sunset pictures taken in the mountains.
4. **People** – Share the pictures of your friends you went climbing with or the people that you met along the way during your adventure.
5. **BOEALPS Class** – Show off what you learned or taught this year from the various classes you took or instructed: Basic Climbing Class, Basic Rock Class, or Intermediate Climbing Class.
6. **Humorous** – Come on, something funny must have happened when you went climbing, do you have a picture of it? Let's maintain some level of good taste here please. Don't show anything that you're mother wouldn't approve of.
7. **Nature/Wilderness** – This is a new category. It was created for all those miscellaneous pictures you take along the way on your climb such as the grove of alpine flowers, the marmot that tried stealing your food, or the mysterious looking forest you walked through during your approach.

\* No more than two photos can be submitted in each category per person.

Contact Mike Zalewski, [mjzalewsk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzalewsk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



## WINTER OUTING SERIES

Come join us for a Winter Climb, or two, or six.

Skills Required: Basic Class or equivalent

Physical Difficulty: typically 3-4,000 ft. elevation gain plus x-country travel on snowshoes

Gear Required: snowshoes, shovel, avalanche beacon, ice axe, ski poles

Where: it depends, but somewhere higher than home and within a 2 hr. drive.

When: 12/3, 12/17, 1/7, 1/21, 2/4 and 2/18

We handle all arrangements via the web. Jump on the distribution list by dropping a note containing your preferred email address to Mike Bingle [mbingle@comcast.net](mailto:mbingle@comcast.net). The week before the trip an announcement comes out with details on destination, where to meet, and all that good stuff. Sign ups are on line via a Yahoo Group poll.

---

## GARY BRILL AVALANCHE CLINICS

There are several Gary Brill Avalanche Seminars coming up:

A first series of one-night free clinics will take place at Feathered Friends (119 Yale Ave N), on 30 November and 7 December. See this link for details:  
[http://www.featheredfriends.com/retail\\_store/Events/Brill/avGaryPoster.jpg](http://www.featheredfriends.com/retail_store/Events/Brill/avGaryPoster.jpg)

REI is offering the more detailed in-depth "Recreational Avalanche Safety" class (3 classroom lectures and one field trip) for \$160. This class is offered at several REI locations throughout December, January and February. For details, see the REI web site ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)) under "store events".

# WINTHROP X-COUNTRY SKI TRIP

Skills Required: Can move about on snow or ice, "hot-tubing" skills nice to have

Physical Difficulty: As much or as little as you want

Gear Required: Snowshoes, x-c skis, backcountry skis, alpine skis

Where: Westar Lodge in Winthrop

When: Jan 12-15, 2007

BOEALPS has reserved the lodge for the Martin Luther King weekend 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 roughly **\$75/adult**, which covers Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights lodging, Saturday breakfast/dinner, Sunday breakfast/dinner and Monday breakfast. Bring your own Saturday/Sunday lunch and beverages.

Friends and families are all 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. Reserve early because beds will be assigned in order of payment received. A short waiting list will be made and there is no guarantee we can make refunds, though we'll do our best. Yes, **there is a hot tub**.

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. 2006-2007 trail fees are **\$18/day** and **\$42/3 days**. For more info on the Methow Valley ski routes and rates, go to: <http://mvsta.com>.

There are also opportunities for free backcountry skiing.

To reserve your trip make your check payable to Boealps and mail it to:

Signe Franzen, 2742 46<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

For questions contact Signe at [signe\\_greg@hotmail.com](mailto:signe_greg@hotmail.com) or

Patty at [perkily@hotmail.com](mailto:perkily@hotmail.com) or (206) 369-2632

# **MOUNTAIN ORIENTED FIRST AID (MOFA) CLASS**

MOFA prepares you to deal effectively with accidents that occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available. The course combines classroom lecture with hands-on practice scenarios held outdoors.

This will be the full class requiring no prior certification. Graduates will receive an American Red Cross Standard First Aid card and a Mountaineers MOFA card, both good for three years. All class sessions must be attended to graduate.

Lead Instr: Dan Goering

Dates: Mon & Wed from Jan 17 thru Feb 12 (8 nights)

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Location: Seattle's Greenlake area

Approx. Cost: \$55

To sign up, email your name and contact phone to [boealps\\_mofa@yahoo.com](mailto:boealps_mofa@yahoo.com)

# 2006 BOEALPS BANQUET in PICTURES...

*Photos: Vlad Popa*



## **ALL THOSE GREAT CLIMBING STORIES CAME OUT**

We had a great time with the people that make our times in the mountains great...



BOEALPS ALPINE ECHO



12



DECEMBER 2006

THERE WERE NO  
POWERBARS IN SIGHT

Antipasti, crumbled blue cheese,  
rustic breads, lemon roasted salmon  
with dill crème fraiche ? My kind of  
club outing !

And there was no shortage of wine  
and beer to wash it all down with...



**WE HAD TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND WE RECOGNIZED SOME OF OUR ACHIEVERS**

John Pollock and Brad Walker presented slideshows of their Denali expeditions of 1976 and 2006. It was time to reminisce about their adventures, about the friendships forged on the mountain and about the moments when the great pictures we were treated to were immortalized.





AND DID WE MANAGE TO DEVOLVE INTO CLIMBERS ALONG THE WAY ?

The traditional skit provided many an opportunity...



# *The Gear Dork's Corner*

*by Dirk Visser, Gear Dork*

*Welcome to the first ever installment of The Gear Dork's Corner, here to offer enlightenment and encouragement in all things gear. Every month, or nearly so, we will bring you a fascinating expose on some sort of hiking, climbing, or otherwise completely random gear. Honorary Gear Dorks bringing this column to life are one Robert Fisher and one Dirk Visser. A good round of applause... Thank you! Now stop clapping and read the column!*

---

## **THIS MONTH, A CONTRAPTION BEST SERVED COLD, ON A BED OF SNOW: SNOWSHOES !**

The snowshoe is really only needed to keep you from sinking in loose snow. Spread your weight out over a larger area and you don't sink as far, or maybe not at all. Yes, it's really that simple! The very first snowshoes were made of a bent wood frame and leather lacing. Thankfully we've come a long way from there! Modern snowshoes are generally made of a lightweight, tubular aluminum frame with a solid sheet of rubberized fabric for decking. Some high tech models are made of a single piece of plastic that is frame and decking in one (i.e. MSR Denali). Both setups work well and are rather durable.

Before running off to the store to buy a pair of snowshoes, you have to ask yourself some questions: What do I want to do while snowshoeing? What snow conditions do I expect to see? How much do I weigh with my pack on? If you weigh in at 100 pounds soaking wet and might carry another 25-30 pounds of clothing and gear, you definitely should not get the large model (10" x 36") that is designed for 250 pounds on powder snow. True you would never sink, but you also might not sink walking on water with those! Seriously! Bigger snowshoes also weigh more, so you'll be dragging more with you for no reason. Snow conditions play a fairly big role in snowshoes. The major extremes are the superb powder not generally found around the Pacific NW (go skiing in Colorado, Utah, Nevada) and the good old "Cascade Concrete". Powder is soft, loose and shifty. You can sink in powder pretty easily, so you need bigger snowshoes. The wet, heavy, packing snow common to the Cascades is the exact opposite. If you buy small snowshoes designed for your weight and you hit some loose powder, you'll still sink some. If you buy big and are on packed snow, you're dragging more of a snowshoe with you than you need. This leads us to the last part...

Have you ever gotten out into the mountains and asked yourself, what the heck am I doing here? Well, what did you intend to be doing? Are you just strolling along a nicely groomed trail? Are you doing a backcountry hike on and off trail? Are you perhaps trying a winter ascent of a summit? If you are only doing groomed trails on packed snow, you can get away with a snowshoe little bigger than your own boots in most cases. If you are going for a winter summit, you will have to weigh the snow conditions versus the effort you want to put forth, but generally you would want a smaller snowshoe because it is more maneuverable. Backcountry travel where you have packed snow on a trail and powder in the tree wells and just about every condition in between, my recommendation is to tend to a slightly larger snowshoe. What it all really comes down to is what you feel most comfortable with. If being maneuverable is much more important than having excellent flotation, go smaller. If having excellent flotation is worth the extra pound or so of weight on each foot and the reduced maneuverability, go big. Most snowshoes (Atlas, Tubbs, Redfeather) have standard 8" x 25", 9" x 30" and 10" x 36" adult sizes. MSR does things slightly differently. More on that later.

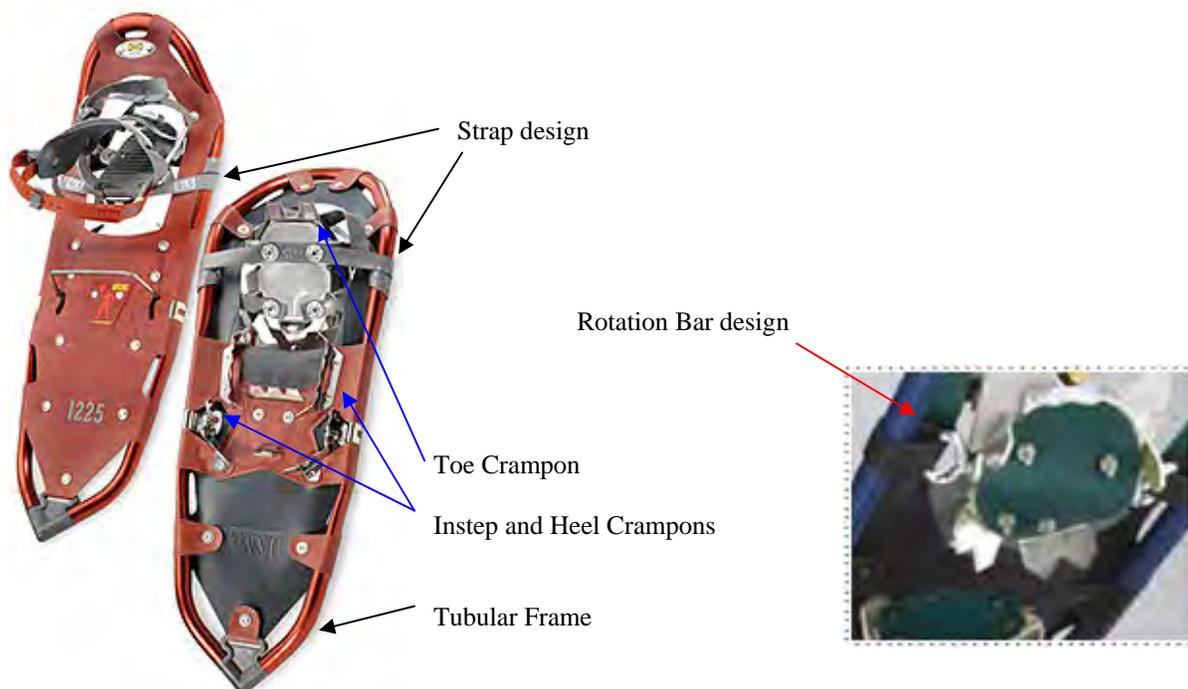
Now that you've got a basic idea of the size of snowshoe you need, there are a few picky little details about the snowshoes themselves to be attended to. Bindings, crampon/traction bars, and rotation are all very important factors to consider. All bindings we are talking about here are step-in style, so you can use the boot of your choice. Some snowshoes use nylon webbing straps, some use a more elaborate molded form with buckles. Buckles can break, straps

get icy and can take more fumbling with to get adjusted properly, so there are pros and cons to both. Your boot should not be able to slip in any direction when secured in the binding. The binding is separate from the platform of the snowshoe and is connected by either a strap or bar right at where the ball of your foot goes. When the ball of your foot is over the rotation bar or strap and your boot is secure in the binding system, now you're ready. As long as you are happy with how the system works, your boot sizing matches well with the snowshoe sizing, your boot is well secured in all directions, and the binding is not pinching off circulation in your foot then you are good to go.

There are basically two designs for allowing the binding to rotate about the platform of the snowshoe. Think about how you walk. You strike somewhat on the heel, almost flat footed. You roll forward onto the flat of your foot and continue the roll onto the ball of your foot and your toes. If you were rigidly tied to the deck of the snowshoe you would have to walk completely flat footed, and that is not comfortable. Both the strap and the bar design are simple, but offer a complete difference in the snowshoe.

**Strap design:** A rubberized nylon webbing strap is stretched around the outside of the frame and attached to both the frame and the boot binding. This strap acts sort of like a spring. Roll your foot forward and there is so much give until the heel of the snowshoe picks up off the ground. Pros: very maneuverable because you're picking the entire snowshoe up. Cons: You're picking the entire weight of the snowshoe up with each stride and this can be tiring on a long day. The spring like action tends to launch any snow that gets onto the tail of the snowshoe, so your flinging bits of snow at yourself and whoever is behind you.

**Rotation bar design:** A metal rod is either suspended or rigidly fastened to the snowshoe frame. The boot binding clamps to this bar. This design allows for more than 90 degrees of free rotation, allowing the tail of the snowshoe to drag. Pros: On steep ascents you can better utilize the toe crampon without kicking the whole toe of the snowshoe into the snow. You are not picking up the full weight of the snowshoe with every stride, reducing fatigue. Cons: Less maneuverable because the tail is always dragging.



Crampon and traction bar design can be critical depending on the terrain. If you are just walking on flat ground or on well groomed trails, you probably only need minimal traction to keep from sliding forward and back. If you are traversing along the side of a steep hillside, you desperately need side traction! You do not want to have to side step an entire traverse if you don't need to. Pretty much all snowshoes have a toe crampon that is part of the boot plate in the boot

binding. Crampon points that are part of the binding and move with your boot are very useful in ascending or descending movements. Typically snowshoes also have a heel cleat or crampon that is fixed to the underside of the decking and located basically where your boot heel hits the upper side of the decking (how ironic!). At a very minimum the heel cleat will help keep you from sliding forward or backwards on a hill. If the toe and heel points are nothing more than straight bars, they will do nothing for side control, but this is uncommon now. Most snowshoes employ either a V shaped toe and heel crampons or multiple sets of crampons to provide forward/backward and side control traction.

Women's specific snowshoes: At first I thought this was just a marketing thing to sell more snowshoes, but not so. The bindings are smaller, keeping with women's shoe sizing being smaller than men's. Tubbs makes the women's snowshoes taper more toward the tail than men's. Atlas not only increases the taper, but shortens the lengths (23" and 27" instead of 25" and 30").

**MSR** brand snowshoes. MSR just likes to do things differently. The MSR Denali line of snowshoes is the single piece, frame and decking in one, model mentioned earlier. These all come in one size, 8" x 22", and if you need extra flotation you can attach flotation tails (sold separately of course). This is the modular approach so you're never dragging more snowshoe than you need. Bolted on traction bars with cut in teeth provide both side and forward traction. Heel cleats are molded right into the plastic part. The MSR Lightening and Lightening Ascent are slightly more traditional in design. While still having the frame and attached decking, the frame is made of a thin aluminum bar instead of a smooth round tube. This allows for the frame to behave as a set of traction bars in itself, saving weight.



\*New color

MSR Denali Evo Ascent



\* New color

MSR Lightening Ascent

Atlas, Tubbs, Redfeather and MSR are all excellent brands with histories of making great products. I mention them repeatedly because they are the most common found in stores. This is not a pitch specifically for any of these four brands. I am sure there are other brands that I am not aware of that make excellent products as well. This informational guide will hopefully serve you well no matter the brand of snowshoe you might buy.

# BOEALPS AND THE COMMUNITY

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## BOEALPERS GO RUNNING!

- *Shella Bukovac*

Once upon a time, in a land we all know as Seattle, one man, we shall call him Robert, thought the Toys for Tots Trot would be a great idea to participate in. Since then, BoeAlpers have been gathering on this date to .....Run!

This year was no exception. Like the beginning of the Snoopy line, It was a cold, dark and stormy night (okay it felt like night even though it was morning).....waking Sunday morning to an over 40 party hangover, I crawled out of bed to wake my daughter, who was going to go with me this year! Brave soul that she is. Opening my bedroom window I noted that one, it wasn't very cold, and two, it was once again raining! \*sigh\* Well, there was no help for it. Kathy and Morten had been dragged into this as well, so I knew I had no choice but to dress and get going.

After the obligatory craft of coffee we were on the road in a deluge. I cannot believe how much rain there has been! I knew we would be wet all morning. I was not disappointed. Arriving in Seattle by 8:30 Kendra and I found Kathy and Morten in the Stadium. We got our numbers, timing chips and had enough time to hit the latrines (that's Marine talk for all you non-military types). That set us back a bit – women still cannot figure out how to pee fast, and men must think that women deserve to have latrines with only two stalls! Anyway, I digress.....pulling a Kevin McCrab, we were running like salmon swimming up stream – meaning that the race had started and we were running the wrong way! But we had to cross the start line to activate our chips.

Well, the rest as they say is history. What can I say, it rained. We ran 3.2 miles around the Seattle Center, and before I could even say, are we done yet, it was over! We all crossed the finish line, grabbed our free water, bannana's and anything else those folks wanted to pawn off on us and headed for drier climes (which would be the car.)

So another year is over – and Kathy Hawkins, Morten Hansen, myself and Robin Garrison (along with my daughter Kendra) held up the BoeAlps tradition of supporting a great cause! If you still wish to donate money or toys, the Marines will still be accepting both at various locations. Follow the link <http://www.toys4tots.org/> – and have a Happy Holiday Season!

# BOEALPS AND THE COMMUNITY

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## ***A MESSAGE FROM LEN KANNAPELL, BOEALPS CONSERVATION CHAIR:***

Real Change is a local non-profit organization that provides clothing, jobs, and assistance for the homeless. Typically, you see their vendors hawking the Real Change newspaper outside of grocery stores and other companies, in all weather conditions. At current count, they have roughly 250 vendors.

What Real Change needs: Boots, coats, gloves, socks, hats, scarves (L/XL needed most but all is helpful)

A more complete list can be found at: <http://www.realchangenews.org/donations.html>

If you have any of the above, please bring them with you to the Thursday, Dec.7 General Meeting, and I'll make sure they are delivered (no, I won't sift through the inventory, hoping to keep that used Gore-tex coat). All donations are tax-deductible, and their Web site has a donation form you can download:

<http://www.realchangenews.org/webremit.pdf>

Real Change  
Homeless Empowerment Project  
2129 Second Avenue Seattle, WA 98121  
Tel: 206.441.3247 ext. 211 (ask for Danina)  
email:development@speakeasy.org

For more info:  
<http://www.realchangenews.org/>

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## ***A REMINDER FROM PAM KAISER-PARE:***

I just saw this slide show on the Mt. Rainier National Park website. It really summarizes the recent flood damage to the park:

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/parknews/upload/floodPP.pdf>

# BOEALPS AND THE COMMUNITY

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## SHERPA SHOE EXCHANGE™

"WE DON'T WANT YOUR WALLET, WE JUST WANT YOUR SHOES."

We don't want your wallet, we just want your shoes. This holiday season please take part in the gift of giving by donating your **used** athletic shoes and hiking boots to **The Signature Group's Sherpa Shoe Exchange™**.

Having returned from a Himalayan expedition in September of 2006, I am, with your help, determined to outfit the sherpas of Nepal with used athletic shoes and hiking boots. As strange as it may sound, shoes to them are what cell phones and computers are to businessmen and businesswomen in the States.

With an annual income of \$240 per year, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. The unemployment rate exceeds 45% making many Nepalese dependent solely on the diminishing agricultural lands and forests. Those who live in the high reaches of the Himalayas are at an even greater disadvantage. They are geographically separated from the economic stimulus of the cities. The mountains are sheer and stripped of vegetation making erosion a constant battle. The soil is infertile due to dried yak dung, a major soil fertilizer, being used for fuel. Their situation is dire.

Sherpas have established a reputation as mountaineering porters, still indispensable for the highest Himalayan expeditions. Carrying loads well over their bodyweight supported by only by head strap, they trek through rain, snow, and wind up the largest mountain range in the world. Unfortunately they are ill prepared, often wearing only a pair of battered flip flops. Many are unable to participate because they cannot afford the gear necessary to practice their profession. All they need are your used shoes.

If you want to know more about **The Signature Group's Sherpa Shoe Exchange™** or know local businesses that may like to participate, please call us at 425.462.HOME (4663).

Sincerely,  
Dustin Van Wyck

The shoes may be dropped off, between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, at the front desk of the Liberty Financial Group office at either location below:

**KIRKLAND (opening 11/27)**

Liberty Financial Group  
11250 Kirkland Way  
Suite 203  
Kirkland, WA 98033

**BELLEVUE**

Liberty Financial Group  
205 - 108th Ave NE  
Suite 270  
Bellevue, WA 98004

If you are unable to drop off your shoes during normal business hours, please call us at 425.462.4663 to coordinate a time and place that works well for you.

# Climbin

(tune of *Truckin*, by the Grateful Dead)

Climbin, I've got to get outdoors. Climbin, cause work is such a bore  
My backpack – get it ready to go. Just go climbin now

Biners and slings and stoppers galore in the basement  
Sort them all out and take what I need for the placements  
My typical rack arranged for a typical ascent  
Pack it up and see what else I will need

Ice ax – for the snowy slopes; Crampons – so my feet won't grope  
Prusiks - and a 10 mil rope. I think I've got it set to go

Most of the peaks on my list are gonna need 3 days  
Most of my friends will probably say that work cannot wait  
Who can I get who won't have anything pending?  
Who will always say – CLIMBING – that really sounds great!

Boss man – I'm feeling sick today. Weather – it's great till Saturday  
Partners – who can just get away – Let's go climbing now!

Sometimes the peaks are calling to me  
Other times I can let them be  
But tomorrow I'll be breaking free, to gain some altitude!

Where in the world can we do a marvelous day trip?  
Where in the hills can we meet all of our needs?  
Hiking on trails, slogging on snow, getting gripped  
All my friend could say was "No difference to me".

Whitehorse – out in Darrington. It's perfect – it will be such fun  
Two times – I couldn't get it done. Tomorrow - that summit will be mine

Huffing and puffing up the steep pass to the Lone Tree  
Took a quick break and got ourselves ready for snow.  
The route became so much more "interesting"  
And the GPS told us where we surely had to go

Six K – is the total gain; traveling - over mixed terrain  
Effort – there will be some pain. That's what makes it all worthwhile.

Breaking the snow till we stood on the edge of the glacier  
Taking the rope and getting ourselves fully tied in  
Striding toward the summit and the gnarly rock face  
Leap across the moat and let the belay begin

Sometimes the route was totally clear  
Other times it just disappeared  
Looking up, we're drawing near – what a LONG, great trip it's been

Climbing – till we reach the top. Summit – cause we would not stop  
Heaven, sit down and enjoy the view – There's nothing left to do  
But get back climbing home

## **Other verses**

Road trip – to the great Cascades. Go climbing, don't forget your shades  
Takes time, before you hit the trail, and just keep hiking on

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....

*For those of you who might need that "extra push" to get out the door and climb something in this cool December weather, or to just stay indoors but help out with the BoeAlpS organization (!), here's some inspiration (thanks Len !):*

*" Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness, concerning all acts of initiative (and creation). There is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now. "*

*- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*

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## COMING NEXT MONTH IN THE ALPINE ECHO...

- ➔ *VIEW THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THIS YEAR'S PHOTO CONTEST !*
- ➔ *A WORD FROM BOEALPS PRESIDENT ROBERT BAUTISTA ON THE YEAR AHEAD (OH COME ON BOB... WRITE SOMETHING...)*
- ➔ *THE USUAL BUNCH OF BOEALPS NEWS, EVENTS, CLASSES AND SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS*
- ➔ *YOUR TRIP REPORT (YES, YOU !!!!)*
- ➔ *AND MUCH MUCH MORE... MAYBE...*

*DEADLINE FOR YOUR SUBMITTALS IS 18 DECEMBER 2006...*

# BOEALPS 2007 Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BEMS ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check the Box that applies to you, then read and sign the liability release

- |  |      |  |
|--|------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member            | \$20 | Boeing employees and retirees. Government, customer, contract, and vendor personnel assigned full time to support the company, including their spouses and dependents, subject to Recreation approval.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member  | \$20 | Individuals (other than retirees) who voluntarily terminated their employment or individuals who were previously employed by the company and terminated due to a reduction in force. Additionally, former employees must have been employed by the company and been active members of the club for which they are seeking associate membership for a minimum of 3 consecutive years immediately prior to their application for associate membership. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree           | \$20 | Retiree in accordance with IRS definition  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family            | \$0  | Spouses and dependents, as determined by the IRS, of Boeing employees and retirees. Domestic partners, as defined by Boeing, of employees and retirees. Each family pays for one membership and gets one vote, but each participating family members must complete this form.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Vol. Instr. | \$0  | Individuals who are otherwise not associated with Boeing, who participate in activities as guests or volunteer their time to instruct classes.   |

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to:

**Thomas Ryan** at M/S 03-89 or 7036 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98115

# ALPINE ECHO



## ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MAIL STOP: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THOMAS RYAN at M/S 03-89  
OR: 7036 19th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
OR: thomas.p.ryan@boeing.com

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

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