



Alpine Echo

The Boeing Employees Alpine Society
www.boealps.org

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BELAY STANCE

Hello climbers,

Sorry this one is a few days later than normal. I think my laptop overheard me muttering "I'm never buying another @\$%! Mac..." and has been giving me the "spinning pinwheel of death" a whole lot more lately... We've got a couple of great trip reports for you though, and important information on this fall's WFA class.

Climb on,

The Editor

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, at the Blue Star Café (4512 Stone Way N, Seattle, 98103).

All BOEALPS members and participants are welcome.



Club Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug
ICC Lecture					ICC Alpine IV	
8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug
BRC Lecture 4	Board Meeting				BRC WA Pass Grad Climb	
15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug
ICC Lecture					ICC Graduation Climb	
22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug
29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug				

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep
5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep
12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep
	Board Meeting					
19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep
26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep		

Announcements

Wilderness & Remote First Aid (WRFA) Class



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR
FALL 2016 CLASS
AND
REMINDER TO GET YOUR CPR/AED
TRAINING *PRIOR TO CLASS* !!!**

WRFA prepares you to deal effectively with accidents that occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available. The course combines classroom lectures with hands-on practice scenarios held outdoors.

The next BOEALPS WRFA class is scheduled to be held this fall on the dates below.

Attendance to all four (4) classes is required

Registration for this class is NOW OPEN, however you MUST have a current valid Adult CPR/AED Certification to enroll in this course (American Red Cross prerequisite).

Reminder: You need to enroll and receive your Adult CPR/AED certification prior to the BOEALPS WRFA October 2016 class.

There are many ways to get your Adult CPR/AED certification (through American Red Cross, American Heart Association, etc). For Boeing employees, CPR/AED classes are regularly offered through MyTraining. Get your Adult CPR/AED certification now!

COURSE PREREQUISITES

- You MUST be at least 14 years old, by the end of the course.
- You MUST have a current valid Adult CPR/AED Certification to enroll.

FALL 2016 WILDERNESS AND REMOTE FIRST AID COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1	Monday	24 October 2016	6:30pm - 9:30pm
Session 2	Wednesday	26 October 2016	7:00pm - 9:30pm
Session 3	Saturday	29 October 2016	8:00am - 5:00pm
Session 4	Sunday	30 October 2016	8:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION:	Oxbow Activity Center, 10500 West Marginal Place South Tukwila, WA 98168		
COST:	BOEALPS Member \$150.00 / Non-BOEALPS Member \$175.00		
CLASS SIZE:	26 participants maximum		

For more information and link to registration form:

- consult the web site at www.boealps.org ("Classes" tab, then the "WRFA Class" tab)

or

- email Moselle Horiuchi at moselle_horiuchi@hotmail.com

2016 Echo Trip Report Contest

We are bringing back the trip report contest this year for two 2 \$50 Feathered Friends or Second Ascent gift certificates.

How do you enter?

Anyone who submits or has submitted a trip report to the Echo this year is eligible. You will receive one entry to a random drawing per trip report submitted but you can only win one gift certificate. Trip reports that go above and beyond what is normal may even receive 2 entries. Other contributions to the echo such as original comics/cartoons, articles written, etc. may receive an entry as well.

Winners will be notified after the December 2016 Echo is published. Let's see those trip reports!

Trip Reports

Mt Baker, North Ridge

By Jean Ruggiero

Nathan, BK, and I set out to climb the North Ridge of Baker the weekend of July 30th & 31st. We drove up Saturday morning and set out from the trailhead at 9:30am. We hit the glacier in about two hours (Jim Nelson says 5 hours, not sure what took him so long!). An hour later, we reached our planned camp spot, a flat spot on the Coleman Glacier at about 6600 ft (very obvious on a topo map). We followed the Coleman-Deming route up to ~6600 ft and then made a hard left, roped up just in case, and traversed for about 10 minutes to the flat spot. I pushed to leave early on Saturday with the intention of scouting out a route across the glacier on Saturday afternoon, but Nathan was asleep within five minutes of getting to camp. So we spent the afternoon napping and discussing our plan of attack for crossing the glacier and accessing the North Ridge ice cliff.

We decided to pick our way low across the Coleman and Roosevelt Glaciers and aim for the toe of the rock rib forming the base of the North Ridge. We left camp at 4:30am. We only got turned around by crevasses once and were able to find another way through pretty quickly. There are three options for accessing the North Ridge ice cliff from the Roosevelt Glacier.

The “right” option ascends moderate-steep snow just to the right of the rock rib; this is generally out in late season and was definitely out this weekend. The second option is the “hourglass,” a steep snow slope to the right of the “right” option. The slope itself looked in but the bergschrund at the base was gaping with an overhanging lip of snow above. It didn’t look in to us but, in previous years, teams were able to climb down into the bergschrund and then up and over it despite the fact that it looked insurmountable from below. We could not see the “left” option from camp or the approach but it seemed like the only choice given the conditions, so we decided to go for it. We passed right below the rock rib (watch out for rockfall here) and started up the snow slope beyond. The route was mostly straightforward (keep traversing left on snow whenever you reach rock) with a few treacherous sections and just one instance of Nathan and BK yelling at each other like a married couple.



Approaching the ice cliff



Crossing the Coleman Glacier early in the morning

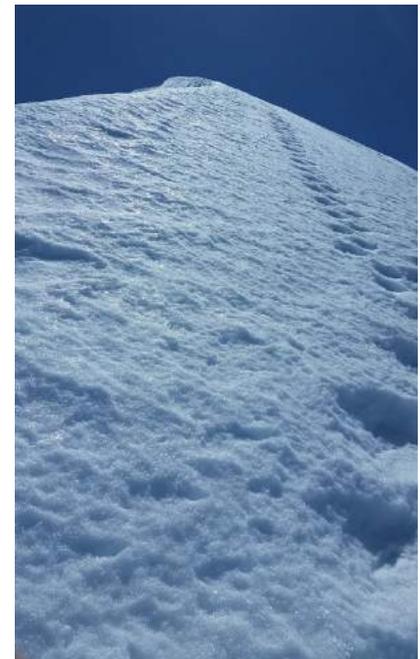
The real excitement started with me aiding my way out of a rather large bergschrund on the way up the left side of the ridge. While leading out across a slope riddled with snow bridges, I kicked a step that went all the way through and left me suspended by the remnants of a particularly rotten snow bridge. I realized that trying to climb out would cause the rest of the bridge to collapse and result in me falling in. I was able to pull a picket off my pack, hammer it in as far away as I could reach, and aid my way out. After this little incident, it was smooth sailing to the base of the ice cliff. We protected a short section of the slope above the rotten snow bridges with a few pickets and screws but did not place any more pro the rest of the way to the base of the ice cliff.



Front-pointing up to the base, looking up the first ice pitch, the “secret passageway”

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We chose to climb the “left” ice pitches, which are usually lower angle than the “right” ice pitches. I led up to the toe of the ice cliff and built a two screw anchor at the base. We pulled out the second rope to rope up for the climb. BK led the first pitch. He made it about 30m up before running out of screws and stopping to build an anchor. The first pitch was very rotten ice, about AI3. Nathan led pitch two, another 30m to where the angle eases off dramatically. From the belay, he stepped right and traversed around the nose of the ice cliff. He continued up and right to a two picket anchor just above the steep section. This pitch was also AI3 but slightly more difficult due to the traversing nature. From here, I led out on easy ice that turned into steep snow after about 50m. We simul-climbed this for about 100m until a running belay was no longer necessary and then regrouped to stow our second rope. From here, we followed the ridge up and stayed left below a steep headwall to access the “secret passageway.” The secret passageway winds its way back and forth through a large bergschrund. A final undercut ice bouldering problem put us up above the bergschrund and a straight shot from the summit. We headed up to the summit ridge and then turned left and climbed the last slope to the summit. We stayed roped all the way from camp to the summit. We summited around 2:45pm – a long day!.



The upper North Ridge



Summit photo, starting to descend the Coleman-Deming

From the top, we descended the highway that is the Coleman-Deming route. The snow was soft enough that we did not have to turn around and downclimb the Roman Wall. Below the Roman Wall, the route followed a loose climbers trail on a rock ridge for a short section before rejoining the glacier. We removed crampons here. We stayed roped all the way from the summit to camp. We only crossed one large crevasse on the way down though and the route still appears to be in good skiing condition (we saw a few splitboarders coming down on Saturday). We arrived at camp around 5:30pm, packed up, and headed down. We stopped for water a few hundred feet before the bottom of the glacier, unroped, and ran down the remaining snow to the climbers' trail. We got back to the car at 8pm.

This was an awesome climb with awesome partners! However, based on the condition of the ice pitches and questionable snow bridges on the lower North Ridge, I probably would not climb this route so late in the season again.

Group gear:

- 2 60m half ropes
- 3 pickets
- 10 ice screws
- 2 screamers
- Many runners

Personal gear:

- Two ice tools
- Vertical front point crampons
- Alpine harness
- Safety biner

Gear comments:

Half ropes worked out really well for climbing in a party of three. More ice screws and one more picket would have been nice. A lightweight alpine harness was a good choice since the ice cliff is short, and the glacier travel is extensive. I forgot my ice clippers but those would have been nice as well.

MT. HOOD (OREGON) TRIP REPORT
by John W. Taylor
(BOEALPS BCC Class of 1995/2005)
Climb Date: July 24, 2016

My three "Hoodies" and I decided to brave Oregon's tallest peak in July. This was my third attempt on the mountain. My first attempt (only two weekends prior) ended only halfway up the slopes when my party of seven was turned back by bad weather and even worse visibility. My second attempt the following week was thwarted before it started as some so called "fellow climbers" refused to give up their commitment to class, work, Ragnar, the Seattle To Portland classic bicycle ride, or other such frivolous pursuits in order to join me on the mountain. (I won't hold it against them. Okay, I'm holding it against them, but only till the next time I'm recruiting for a climb.)

Joining me on my third attempt were Dan Martini, David Crawford, and Alex Chiu. Both Dan and David are BOEALPS climbing instructors. Alex is a 2016 BCC grad, but with plenty of prior climbing experience. As the climb organizer, I was--at least in theory--the lead climber. In reality I could rely upon the leadership and judgment of any of my fellow climbers. Companions like these make it easy to relax and enjoy the mountain.

We chose the classic and most popular route to the summit: South Side (aka Hogsback, aka the Timberline Lodge approach). The route starts at the Timberline Lodge ski area at about 5900 feet and ascends just over one vertical mile to the summit at 11,239 feet. The horizontal distance point-to-point is only three miles; the walking distance is closer to four. Mount Hood is not a climb for people who like to skip leg day.

We arrived at Timberline Lodge ski area at 11 p.m. on Saturday. Our first stop was the Timberline day lodge "Climber's Cave", a roofed entry way on the east corner of the building just before you reach the old lodge. There we filled out our wilderness permit (mandatory and self-issued), filed our climbers' registration form (recommended), and used the public washroom (relieved).

Permit in hand, we assembled at the trailhead, distributed team gear, and discussed the route and conditions. By midnight we were ready to depart. The moon was three-quarters full and already an hour above the horizon. Route finding on Mount Hood (in good weather and nearly full moonlight) is almost as easy as looking up the slope. The key word here is "almost".

Timberline Lodge is a year-round ski lodge (snow pack permitting) and the slopes above the lodge are highly groomed--even in summer. Climbers are instructed to avoid the ski slopes in favor of the "Climber's Trail".

The "Climber's Trail" starts from the overflow parking lot, back down the hill a couple hundred feet from the "Climber's Cave" and on the other side of the road. In July, it's more of a gravel road than a trail and the large "Climber's Trail" sign is hard to miss. (In winter or spring expect both the sign and the gravel road to be buried under several feet of snow.) It

is sometimes referred to as the snowcat road, and it runs up to the Silcox warming hut and then along the eastern boundary of the ski area up to the very top of the groomed slopes. Once it reaches the top of the ski slopes it turns sharply west and traverses across the slope, making a beeline for the top station of the Palmer Ski Lift.

During this traverse you will be sorely tempted to leave the "Climber's Trail" and start your journey up the slope toward Devil's rock, now looming on your right. If you are climbing in the summer then resist this temptation, as the melting snow has exposed several moraines between you and your goal. I recommend that you stay on the "Climber's Trail" until you reach the top station of the Palmer Ski Lift. From there the snow field is continuous up to Crater Rock and boot tracks are easy to find.

In July 2016 we found the "Climber's Trail" snow-free and easy to follow, at least until we got a hundred feet or so above the Silcox warming hut. After that the "Climber's Trail" was hard to distinguish from the ski runs. Nonetheless, we eventually found ourselves above the Palmer ski lift and on a bearing to Crater Rock.

If you have good visibility and any light at all, you will be able to see Crater Rock from pretty much your entire route. We made straight for it, passing on the east as we drew near. (Don't stray too far to the east, or you'll find yourself in the Devil's Kitchen.) As we passed Crater Rock we encountered some small "crevasses" where the moving snow was pulling away from the stationary. Crossing these, we worked our way up the slope. Shortly before dawn we found ourselves on the Hogsback (10,400). This name is given to the ridge that runs from Crater Rock right up to the base of the summit block.

From the Hogsback we surveyed the last 800 vertical feet of our climb. The classic route has two variations here: the direct route through the Pearly Gates straight to the summit, or the indirect route through the Old Chute up to the saddle with its subsequent traverse. In good snow conditions many climbers prefer to ascend the Pearly Gates and descend the Old Chute. (This has the advantage of reducing congestion as well as the hazard of icefall and rockfall.)

Fortunately for us, the friendly folk at Timberline Mountain Guides are more than happy to share route reports with anyone with the foresight to call and the manners to ask politely. Timberline informed me that the bergshrund separating the Hogsback from the Pearly Gates was wide open and that the chute up to the Pearly Gates was already melted out, making that variation an icy, rocky mess. Forewarned with their report, we set our sights on the Old Chute.

The Old Chute variation is not as steep as the Pearly Gate variation, but it is still easily the steepest section of the climb. The angle continues to increase as you ascend. (Summitpost lists these slopes as 35 degrees, but I agree with our friends at Timberline Mountain Guides, who lists them as 45-50 degrees.) The snow was firm and highly consolidated; there would be no kicking steps on the way up, and no plunge stepping on the way down. We swapped our trekking poles for ice axes, pulled on our crampons and helmets, and briefly discussed roping up for a running belay. In the end we decided against roping up,

judging the value of the extra fall protection to be offset by the risk of prolonged exposure to icefall and rockfall. It turned out to be a good choice for the snow we encountered that day.

[Speaking of the rockfall danger--don't take it lightly. We witnessed two very large rocks careen down the slope of the Old Chute, splitting a group of climbers below us. Warm weather just increases the hazard. Stay out of the fall line (especially directly below the exposed and rocky gulley) both on the ascent and on the descent. Helmets should be considered mandatory equipment for this route.]

Hazards aside, the last 800 feet of our ascent proved uneventful. The sun slipped over the horizon about half way up the Old Chute, casting its glorious triangular shadow into the mists in the west. We met seven or eight people coming down (most of who got the jump on us by camping on the slopes above the ski area). And then we were at the top.

As steep as the Old Chute is, the north face of Mount Hood falls off more steeply still. The Old Chute leads you to a crumbly and knife-edged ridge that joins the true summit with one of its lesser peaks. According to my research, at least one unfortunate soul, having taken a bad step while traversing this ridge, was found more than a thousand feet down the north-facing slopes. We traverse cautiously and find ourselves, a few minutes later, safely on the true summit a short distance to the south.

It was 6:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, July 24, 2016. Remarkably and inexplicably, the skies were clear and warm and almost still. (The forecast low on the summit that night was 45 degrees.) I have never been on an alpine summit as peaceful. I stood there in my shirt sleeves (both fleece and windbreaker in my pack). All of my prior alpine summits were cold, wet, icy, windy, blinding, or some devilish combination of the five. Mount Hood on July 24, 2016 was none of these. It was quiet. It was eerie. It was glorious.

We had the summit all to ourselves, quite remarkable for one of the top two most climbed alpine peaks in the world. We swapped summit treats and snapped photos. I was ready to lie down, soak in the sun, and take a nap. Eventually, however, the topic of the six-hour drive back to Seattle entered the conversation. After forty-five minutes of perfect summit solitude, it was time to head down.

The descent back down the Old Chute was a bit more challenging than the ascent, or at least the top two hundred feet were. None of us wanted to slip on this slope, as no one fancied testing their self-arrest skills on snow so consolidated and so steep. I faced down slope at first, catching my heel or the edge of my boot on any old track or sun cup wide enough to hold a point, but eventually I came to stretches of smooth, unbroken snow where the only resort was to face the slope and front point my way down. I've climbed in crampons before, of course, but nothing that tested my techniques quite like Mt. Hood.

There's not much else to tell. We paused at the Hogsback to put away all our climbing gear and break out our sunscreen. I stripped down to my base layer for the descent, and never

felt the slightest chill. We were back to our cars before 11:00 a.m. Our total ascent time was 6.5 hours. Our total descent time was 3.5 hours.

On the drive back we stopped at the Mt. Hood Brewing Company in Government Camp for lunch. I recommend the Tillamook Cheddar Cheese Burger.



Summit Selfies



Eric W showing BCC team pride, Mt Rainier, July 23, 2016



Martin Lundberg and friends, Mt Adams, July 31, 2016

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

ALPINE ECHO



March Echo Staff

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John Taylor

If you have any submissions—anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related will do,
—Email them to: echo-editor@boealps.org

Membership Information:

Make sure to fill out an application TODAY!

Online forms can be found at: <http://boealps.org/members/> .

Membership Rates:

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Individual Associate: \$25
- Individual Retiree: \$20
- Family Membership: \$30

Benefits Include:

- Added to the Membership Mailing List
- Added to the BOEALPS Members List
- The Basic Climbing Class (BCC) offered each spring is a fantastic, fun way to learn safe climbing or a great opportunity for graduates to volunteer as an instructor.
- The Basic Rock Class (BRC) offered each summer helps you hone in your rock skills.
- The Intermediate Climbing Class (ICC) is also offered each spring. Protection, leading, ice climbing, aid climbing taught with a great instructor-student ratio and an emphasis on safety.
- The Wilderness and Remote First Aid (WRFA) certification courses are available to keep you in check with safety.
- Monthly general meetings.
- Activities including campouts, picnics, photo contests, and organized climbs.
- A Winter & Summer Climbing Series to keep the blood flowing (and the holiday pounds off).
- Seminars on rock climbing, leading, ice climbing, avalanche awareness, etc... are offered as a great way to continue learning throughout the year.
- The monthly newsletter "The Alpine Echo," featuring the club calendar, seminars, activities, photos, great climbing stories, conservation ideas, and more.
- Great exercise with wonderful people in the beautiful Cascades and beyond!

Discounts:

- Second Ascent: 10% discount on select items.
- Feathered Friends: 10% discount.
- Outdoor Research: Selected discounts.
- Pro Mountain Sports: Selected discounts.
- Mountain Hardwear: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: affiliate pricing
- NOTE: A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!

More Information:

- More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS constitution and bylaws, and BOEALPS operating procedures can be found on line at: <http://boealps.org/members/> .

2016 Executive Board and Committees

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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