



THE EVERETT MOUNTAINEERS NEWSLETTER

No. 69 March, 1992

Everett Mountaineers, P.O. Box 1848, Everett, WA 98206

ANNUAL POT LUCK

The **March 4th meeting** will begin with the annual Pot Luck Dinner. This has always been a tasty and pleasant occasion. The Church door will be open by 6:00 p.m. and the coffee will be on. Bring your own plates and utensils. For those of you coming without your own, there will be plates available.

Unless you have a favorite dish, the following schedule will prevail: Last name starting with

- A to H bring salads.
- I to P main dishes
- Q to Z desserts.



MOUNTAINEERS BOOK SALE

In cooperation with the Mountaineers Book Division, we are pleased to announce a special book sale which will also be held on March 4th in conjunction with the business meeting. We will have several of the more popular titles in the Mountaineers Book Catalog, including the just released 5th Edition of "Freedom of the Hills". We will be selling these books to members at the 20% discount rate, so here's an excellent chance to pick up your copy of "Freedom 5", or any one of several popular guidebooks and instructional manuals.

USED EQUIPMENT SALE

It's time to check in the back of the closet, or the corner of the garage, and find all those used items that you no longer need. The Everett Mountaineers will be holding a used equipment sale in conjunction with the **March Business meeting and Pot Luck Dinner**. You can bring in your used merchandise anytime after 6:00 p.m. on the 4th. We will have tables set up in the Nursery room of the Church hall for you to display your gear.

This is the time of the year that many new Mountaineers are getting into the sport and searching for all sorts of equipment. This is a great opportunity for buyers and sellers to make some deals and put to use some otherwise idle equipment. So start looking around now- figure what you need or don't need- and plan on checking out the used equipment sale on March 4th.

MT. PILCHUCK REGISTER MISSING

During the week of October 14-20, 1991 somebody took the Pilchuck Mountain Lookout Register. The Everett Maintenance Committee needs this register, so that we can tell the State Parks Department, the number of people per day, that visited the lookout. If you have it or know who does, please contact Ron Smith 347-0763, or Jerry Thompson 653-7390, or Larry Longley 252-1669. Thank You.

-Ron Smith

APRIL'S PROGRAM

SPRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CASCADES

\Rather than cleaning the yard on that beautiful spring day, spend it on the snow in the Cascades. With the days getting longer, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ski mountaineering provides an opportunity to enjoy the serene beauty and solitude of the Cascades.

This slide presentation by David "Zap" Czaplicki will highlight the basics of each activity plus the availability of economical lodging. Zap is an avid winter enthusiast who spends over 50 days each winter in the mountains. Join Zap for a casual and humorous approach to spring activities in the Cascades.

MAY'S PROGRAM

A lot of Mountaineers have, at one time or another, fantasized about leaving their jobs, packing up their gear, and heading off to spend a whole summer exploring their "wish list" of favorite mountain areas. In 1990, one Everett branch member did just that. Over the course of the six months, he hiked, scrambled, or climbed in seven states, seven different National Parks, 12 wilderness areas, six major volcanic peaks, covering almost 800 miles on foot. The program following the May monthly meeting will feature his slides from these travels.

BUSINESS NOTES

November 20, 1991
Executive Committee

A Branch Operations manual will be produced in 1992. First drafts of several policies and procedures were handed out for initial review.

Participation in the Basic Outdoor Awareness program was approved. John Solheim will represent the Branch. The BOA program educates Jr. and Sr. high school students about outdoor safety and survival. It will be co-developed with Everett Parks and Recreation and several other agencies. A motion to purchase promotional items for the BOA project was rejected until more specifics could be provided.

Louis Coglas built an Everett Mountaineers sign to display at meetings and other events. A motion to reimburse his expenses was approved.

January 8, 1992
Membership Meeting

Interest in a Canoe/Kayak program is growing. We will be sending Corry Venema-Weiss and Tom Barnhart to the club's kayak course. One tuition will be paid by the Branch and the other waived by Seattle's Kayak Committee to help us get our program started.

January 29, 1992
Executive Committee.

Committee Chairs turned in their annual reports. These will be consolidated into a Branch report and sent to the parent club.

The following were approved for the branch Operations Manual: Donation Policy, Consent Agenda Procedure, Standing Committee Description, and Distinguished Service Award.

Three donations requests were considered and all supported by the Executive Committee. See membership meeting 2/5/92 for details.

February 5, 1992
Membership Meeting.

In January, Branch membership topped 900 for about 13% growth during 1991.

The motion was approved to establish a permanent First Aid Committee. We now have the resources to offer 2-3 MOFA courses and 1 instructor course each year. Mike Jones has chaired the committee since its inception, and will continue in that capacity.

The Branch will sponsor a Swim Night at Forest Park. The pool will be open exclusively for the Branch. John Witters gets credit for the idea and—as you might expect—the job of organizing the event.

A \$500 donation for a bicycle to patrol the Arlington-Snohomish Centennial trail was approved.

A \$300 donation to Bellingham Mountain Rescue's for their rescue van was approved.

A \$500 donation to purchase buffer property surrounding the Rhododendron Preserve was approved. This donation will be matched once by an anonymous member, and hopefully again by personal contributions of our membership.

BUSINESS MEETING March 4th, 1992

The next business meeting will be Wednesday, March 4th, 1992, at the Everett Congregational Church in downtown Everett, 2624 Rockefeller at 6:00 P.M. All members and guests are encouraged to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held February 19, 7:00 PM, at the PUD in Everett. Agenda is to hear Club House Report presentation from Forest Clark, Chairman Club House Committee.

CENTENNIAL TRAIL UPDATE

The Centennial Trail study began in May, 1989. The proposal was to establish a trail from Snohomish to Arlington in the initial phase. The study was organized by the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Division and the National Park Service. The Snohomish-Arlington Trail Coalition was formed to assist the governmental agencies.

Everett Mountaineers have participated in several trail maintenance workdays. There is almost always brush to be cleared in the beginning phase of development. At present, there is 6 and a half miles of paved trail, starting in Snohomish.

North of Lake Cassidy, 2 additional acres have been purchased according to an article in the Herald. The trail will be expanded to 44 miles. Delores Wagner is our representative to the coalition. She reported that there have been an estimated 1500 to 2500 persons using the trail every week. It is overwhelming to walk on a path with bikes, dogs, buggies, roller skates, children of all ages, and adults of all ages. But everyone looks happy!

In order to assure the safety of those using the trail, there are four county rangers on duty, mostly on weekends. Two at a time patrol on bikes donated by R.E.I. Delores asked that the Everett Mountaineers donate \$500.00 to purchase an additional bike. The Park Rangers are essential to ensure that the speed limits on bikes are obeyed and that trail users be considerate of other.

The Everett Mountaineers are members of the trail coalition. Everett Mountaineers have donated money in the past to help establish the Centennial Trail.

—Vera Bonner



THE CASCADE BRUSH AND BUSHWHACK RATING SYSTEM

For years there has been something sadly lacking in the climbing world. Something necessary to help describe the total mountaineering experience in those areas blessed with challenging peaks surrounded by primeval forest. That something is a bush and bushwhack rating system. After years of the hand-to-limb combat encountered in below-timberline approaches, one comes to realize that this part of an ascent can be one-half or more of the battle (notice the use of fighting terms).

And yet, just how does one accurately relate this important facet of a climb in words? "It was ugly, real ugly", "Brutal", "A freaking flail", "Oh, not too bad, but I did lose a pint of blood.". Well, these are pretty good subjective descriptions, but what's missing here is something more definitive. What we need is a way to portray in a more precise manner those endearing struggles with the brush.

Therefore I propose the Cascade Brush and Bushwhack Rating System. This system is named such since most of my experience in the past ten years of climbing has been in the Washington Cascades. It's perfectly applicable, though, to other ranges of a similar nature, e.g. the Olympics, Northern Selkirks, British Columbia Coast Range, Alaska Range or any mountain group that below-timberline approaches necessitate brush-beating and bushwhacking. This system rates both difficulty and grade much like the technical climbing ratings in use today.

Before defining systems nomenclature here's a few guidelines for describing your favorite flail:

1. Conditions described must be when the approach is snow-free, since snowpack greatly affects most bushwhacks, reducing their difficulty considerably.

2. More demanding terrain, e.g. cliffy or steep, will increase a bushwhack's difficulty and grade as compared to one with the same vegetation on level ground.

3. Both the density and the type of brush are important factors. I'll take an open area of mature devil's club over a dense stand of slide alder any day.

4. Grade is determined by both time and distance involved in completing the approach, as well as the duration of the difficulties.

5. Since creek and river crossings play an important part of many approaches, a special subrating has been devised for these.

6. When a mechanical device such as a machete is used the bushwhack is no longer "free", and an aid subrating must be used.

DIFFICULTY RATINGS

These apply to the "free" difficulties (no aid used) and range from BW1 to BW5, where BW stands for "bushwhack". Difficulty ratings apply to those areas of worst brush that can't be avoided.

BW1—Light Brush. Travel mostly unimpeded, only occasional use of hands required (e.g. mature open forest).

BW2—Moderate brush. Occasional heavy patches. Pace slowed, frequent use of hands required.

BW3— Heavy brush. Hands needed constantly. Some loss of blood may occur due to scratches and cuts. Travel noticeably hindered. Use of four-letter words at times.

BW4—Severe brush. Pace less than one mile per hour. Leather gloves and heavy clothing required to avoid loss of blood. Much profanity and mental anguish. Thick strands of brush requiring circumnavigation are encountered.

BW5—Extreme brush. Multiple hours needed to travel one mile. Full body armor desirable. Wounds to extremities likely, eye protection needed. Footing difficult due to lack of visibility. Loss of temper inevitable.

AID RATINGS

When artificial means are used to penetrate brush, then an aid rating should be used to describe the device required. These ratings range from BA1 to BA5, where BA1 stands for "brush aid":

BA1—machete or sickle

BA2—gas-powered weedeater

BA3—chainsaw

BA4—agent orange

BA5—bulldozer

CREEK AND RIVER RATINGS

These ratings are used to describe the difficulty in crossing watercourses. The range is WA1 to WA5, where WA stands for "water":

WA1— a dry crossing is possible by using rocks or logs.

WA2— possible wet crossing, but a dry crossing can be accomplished with some finesse.

WA3— wet crossing, ankle to calf-deep.

WA4— wet crossing, calf to knee-deep.

WA5— wet crossing, greater than knee-deep, possibility of getting swept downstream.

GRADES

Grades range from I to VI and follow the same general guidelines as climbing grades:

I—brush beating can be done in a few hours or less.

II— generally will take somewhat less the half a day.

III— could take most of the day, but hardened parties will be able to complete in a short day.

IV— will take a long day and involve continuous battle.

V — A 1+ to 2-day bushwhacks, difficulty rarely less than BW4, large quantities of Band-aids and wound dressings will be needed unless properly attired.

VI— the most extreme of bushwhacks, requiring over 2 days to complete with probably a BW5 encountered along the way.

Followings are some examples of rated bushwhacks:

Picket Range, Goodell Creek approach—Grade III-IV, BW4

Mt. Shuksan, White Salmon approach—Grade I-III, BW4-

Mt. Spickard, Silver Creek approach— Grade V, BW4+

Mt Blum, Blum Lakes approach— Grade III, BW3+, WA5

Devils Peak, Coal Creek approach—Grade I, BW2

Monashees, Thor Creek approach Grade VI, BW4, BA1

Chimney Rock, standard approach Grade II, BW2

And there you have it. No longer must one try to decipher the deranged mutterings of a victim of jungle warfare. A person needs only to apply the appropriate brush ratings to relate his brutal experience to others. And who knows? With advances in bush technology and the competitive nature of climbers, we'll probably see difficulties pushed to BW6 and beyond. And there just HAS to be some Grade VII's out there!

So come on, folks! The next time you report a mountaineering trip that involves green hell, use the Cascade Brush and Bushwhack Rating System to tell others about it. They'll be glad you did!

Mark S. Dale

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Conservation dates and events: In February, Forest Practice Boards starts review by counties for rule adoption of cumulative effects and wetlands.

February 20:

Conservation Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Call Louie Cogas for details 672-4521

March, Forest Practice Board meets to adopt proposed regulations. If Environmental Impact Statement is required, it must be issued 30 days before, First hearing.

March 28, 29: Growth Management Act and Your Wetlands—McCullum Park, 600 128th S.E. Everett, Wa Workshop put on by Wetnet. \$15.00. For more information call Christi Norman 524-4570 or Louie Cogas 672-4521.

April, Forest Practice Board has hearings on cumulative effects on dates and events, a good source is the Mountaineers Conservation Newsletter. To receive the newsletter contact Mariann Mann (Issues Coordinator) 281-8509.

SUIATTLE RIVER ROAD

Do you have an opinion on the Suiattle River Road that was closed by the November, 1990 floods? The Forest Service is now taking comments on what level of repair should be done to washed out roads in the upper Suiattle River drainage.

Closed to recreation access are 92 miles of trails and 76 sites in three campgrounds. Open is a whole new wilderness. Send written comments to:

Fred Harnisch
Darrington Ranger Station
1409 Emmons Street
Darrington, WA, 98241

HIKING COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW CHAIR

After serving for three years as hiking chair, I've decided that I would like to resign some time this year. I've enjoyed acting as chair, but I feel that three years is long enough, and it's time that someone else take over. I will continue to be active in the committee after I resign, though. I haven't set a date yet because I want to work this out with the new chair. So far, no one has stepped forward and volunteered to be hiking chair, but I haven't been twisting anyone's arm either. If no one volunteers, I could be talked into serving another year. If you or someone you know might be interested in taking the position, I'd like to talk about it. Give me a call or come to the next Hiking Committee Meeting. Thank You.—John Witters

Next Hiking Committee Meeting is on Tuesday April 28th, 1992.



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Submission deadline for the May Bulletin is March 20. Please send these to the P.O. Box, Attn. Jeanne Nindel-Edwards, Bulletin Coordinator.

Submissions for the April Newsletter are due March 4th, 1992. Send these to the P.O. Box or give them to Wayne or Jeanne at the business meeting.

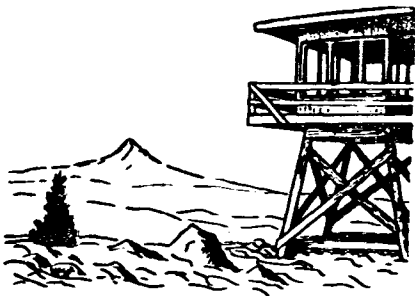
EVERETT MOUNTAINEERS SWIM NIGHT

April 5, Sunday, 6:30 PM to 8:00PM.
Forest Park Pool, Everett.

Join us for an evening of fun at Forest Park Pool, in Everett. Go swimming, or visit friends around the pool. Still sore from that early season hike? Come soak in the Jacuzzi! Still chilled from wading through the snow? Heat up in the sauna!

Sign up Instructions. Sign up is open to all Mountaineer members, their families, and guests. Non-members must sign the Mountaineer Release and Indemnity Agreement and turn it in before Sunday April 5th. Each child under the age of seven in the water must be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up opens when you read this. I would appreciate it if you would sign up by Friday March 20th, so I can tell Everett Parks how many people they will need to provide life guards for (or so I can cancel for a refund if there is lack of interest). Sign up closes Sunday, April 5th. Admission is free! Sign up with John Witters 353-4672 (H) 356-5274 (W).

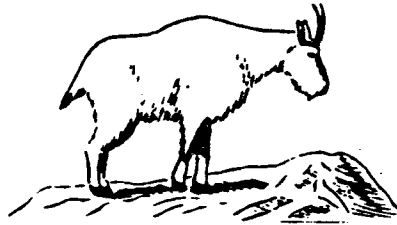


LOOKOUT AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The next Lookout and Trail Maintenance Committee meeting will take place February 24th, at Jerry Thompson's house. Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Open to all members. Contact Jerry at 653-7390 for more information.

FIRST AID COURSES

The First Aid Committee is offering courses in CPR on February 27th and March 5th. Cost is \$20. Sign up is through Everett Parks and Recreation. Classes will be held at Forest Park in Everett. CPR is required for obtaining your MOFA card and graduation from most classes. Sign up early.



REACHING OUT

Mountaineers learn many important skills that are needed in the community as well as on the trails and mountains. The MOFA (Mountain Oriented First Aid) instructor training course is currently being conducted by Rick Ferman. Three Everett Mountaineers, Linette Andres, Robin Knabe and Cheryl Williams are currently enrolled.

Parents and the Granite Falls community have encouraged the efforts to teach children safety and emergency methodology. Linette is enrolled in a Basic Aid Training (B.A.T.) to teach basic Red Cross first aid to children up to the 6th grade level. This includes information for wilderness safety. Children will be issued a B.A.T. badge and certificate upon completion of the course.

Linette has also campaigned to provide safety information to school children, such as the ten essentials and first aid.

Another course Linette is taking is a 16 hour CPR training course for teaching children under 14 years of age.

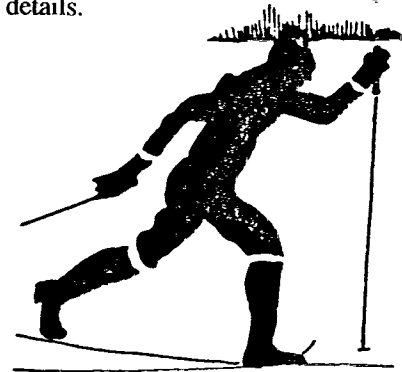
Linette will also teach first aid to the teachers and teacher's aids. When the instruction is complete, those passing will become assistants.

—Vera Bonner



NORDIC SKI TRIP

Extended weekend ski trip March 21-23, around Crater Lake National Park. Strenuous 30 miles w/ 1,000 ft elevation gain. (I) USGS Crater Lake. Circumnavigation of crater rim with possible ascents of Mt Scott and Mt. Cloudclapare possible if conditions and time permit. Skiers should have experience snow camping and carrying of overnight packs. Lodging, tenting departure date and times to be TBA. Call Leader, Terri Kane at 362-9465 or Co-leader Matt Robertson at 672-8808 for further details.



WINTER SCRAMBLES

Saturday, February 22 - Mount Phelps (S-2) (USGS Mt. Phelps/GT Mt. Si) Approx. 7 miles, 3500' gain. Open to Basic or Scramble course grads (or equivalent) only. Alternate dates: 2/23 or 2/29. Leader Andy Boos 258-6199



NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members to the Everett Branch

NOVEMBER

JANUARY

DECEMBER

BRANCH OFFICERS

Branch Chair	
Dennis Miller	335-5336
Vice Chair	
Louis Coglas	672-4521
Secretary	
Linda Nyman	789-0987
Treasurer	
Bob Crunkilton	334-9443
Trustee	
Gail McClary	337-7712

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Alpine Scramblers	
Neil Johnson	659-9034
Climbing	
Gail McClary	337-7712
Communications	
Wayne Cunningham	258-8946
Conservation	
Corlan Carlson	525-4559
Explorer Scout Post	
Doug Donaldson	347-4182
First Aid	
Mike Jones	568-0106
Folkdance	
Laurie Akers	659-6559
Hiking	
John Witters	353-4672
Lookout / Trail Maintenance	
Jerry Thompson	653-7390
Membership	
Dana Miller	745-5846
Programs	
Dorothy Beeman	668-8475
Skiing	
Ted Case	365-8042
Social	
Vera Bonner	334-6871

The Everett Mountaineers
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