

The Everett Mountaineers

Newsletter

No. 96 Winter 2002 • The Everett Mountaineers P.O. Box 1848 • Everett, WA 98206 • 425-316-0881

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 1st Monthly Meeting, 7 P.M. at the First Congregational Church, 2624 Rockefeller, Everett. The featured speaker will be our own Steve Fox. Steve, Scramble Leader, inveterate peak bagger and punster will be giving us a slide show on recent hikes, scrambles, and climbs including the circumnavigation of Glacier Peak. We are having a pie social. Everyone must bring pie, bought or homemade, but everyone must bring pie.

Budget News

I hope your eyes haven't glazed over with the word budget, because a significant change in Branch procedures needs your approval or disapproval by voting the ballot in this Newsletter. See the ballot for the language change in the Branch bylaws. Two factors have prompted this change: Seattle becoming a branch and member apathy towards the budget meeting in August. The Club has previously allocated \$23 per member to each branch but with the inception of the Seattle branch the Board of Trustees realized that the Club had insufficient funds to apply this rate to the more populous Seattle branch. One option was to give each branch a lower but equal allocation. However, this would have meant curtailing many of the fine programs in the branches. The Board decided to allocate funds based on programs currently in place and thereby reasserted an authority it has held under the Club bylaws to approve the budgets of the branches. In the past, the Branch membership approved the budget at the August business meeting—the meeting without a program where folks “stay away in droves.” The Everett Executive Committee on April 1st resolved to henceforth approve the committee budgets at its July meetings. Members approved this

resolution, an amendment to Article VIII, Section 3 of the bylaws, at the April 3rd Branch meeting. If approved by the Branch through the attached ballot, it would delegate responsibility for the Branch budget to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the five Branch elected officers and the chairs of each standing committee. The elected officers are Trustee, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair. The Executive Committee welcomes the comments of any member at its always open regular meetings.—BRIAN HENCH

Events of Note

Salmon Bake Planning Under Way. Tony Tsuboi will head up the annual Everett Mountaineers Salmon Bake for the first time, taking over for Brian Hench who had coordinated the event for the past three years. Tony graduated from the Alpine Scramble Course in 2001 and is currently enrolled in both the Ski Mountaineering and the Basic Climbing Course. The cookout will be held on Sunday the 6th of October at the traditional location, the Masonic Park in Granite Falls. The Salmon Bake Committee is hoping to make this the biggest shindig in recent memory with the promise of live entertainment in the form of a folkdance or bluegrass band. If you have any suggestions contact Brian Hench, 206-364-4172.

Mt. Baker Retreat. We are still looking for someone to coordinate the annual Mt. Baker retreat at Baker Lodge. The retreat traditionally is on the weekend after Labor Day to take advantage of the last fine weather before the start of winter. About 50 people, evenly divided between Scramblers and Hikers, usually attend. Last year was the first year in many that this tradition has not been maintained. In 2000, we had several hikes to beautiful Lake Ann, Ptarmigan Ridge, and Chain Lakes Loop. Scramblers went to Coleman Pinnacle and Yellow Aster Butte. Saturday

had snow at higher elevations. Those who were patient were rewarded with sun breaks on Sunday. Coordinating this event is simple: reserve the lodge, list the event in the Go-Guide, and organize the Saturday evening potluck. Call Connie Arnott, 425-775 5061, if you will be the coordinator.

Conservation Revegetation Projects. The Branch's goal to participate is at the planning stage. Carrie Strandell is talking with the Forest Service about a fall project at Lake Burns in the Glacier Peak Wilderness and a possible project near Monte Cristo. To participate, contact Brian Hench, catbirdseat@seanet.com, or Carrie Strandell, wolf99@whidbey.net.

LOTM Crew Leader Training. Leader training took place on February 9, 2002 at Lord Hill Regional Park in Snohomish. Four new crew leaders earned their stripes on a crisp, but dry day. Trainees learned by doing as each took turns directing the efforts of their instructors on improving a section of trail that featured many of the obstacles that we seek to remedy, such as poorly drained and muddy spots, brush encroachment, and roots and rocks.

Alpine Scrambling Course. The Alpine Scrambling Course is off to a good start with a small, but enthusiastic group of about 25 students. The class held its Navigation Field Trip at Forest Park on April 6th. This group really seemed to pick up compass skills quickly. The Rock Field trip, popular with instructors and students, was held on April 20-21 in Icicle Canyon near Leavenworth. Scrambling hosted a Saturday barbecue at Eightmile Campground.

MOFA Class. The steep hills at the new site were just one more challenge for the students especially when the victims rolled down during treatment. Honey bears of blood taught shock positioning.

Skiing Season Wrap Up. The Ski Committee will give gift certificates instead of Snow Park Passes to people who help with classes or lead trips to next year. Many people couldn't use the expensive Snow Park pass. Ski Mountaineering has two

more lectures and a field trip left this season. They will be going up to Artist Point at Baker for the field trip. Ski Mountaineering and Backcountry Skiing classes will be combined next year, with an additional module for Ski Mountaineering. This change was motivated by low attendance and difficulties in scheduling two classes. The Telemark course will be restructured as just field trips in the ski area. Telemark is so difficult a skill to learn that the students had a lot of trouble skiing on our current tour format, and challenging snow conditions added to their difficulties. The Backcountry class had only one student finish the class, 10 were initially registered. Ski Mountaineering class has around 5 students still attending. The Telemark class is finished with 5 graduates of the class. Lee Wilcox, Pat Ryan, Mike Hawaka, and Oyvind Hensingon went to the Level-Two Avalanche course at Crystal Mountain. The Everett Branch's Avalanche Course had about 30-35 graduates. Cascade Crags helped those students that couldn't make the field trips scheduled through the Everett class and offered them make ups through their classes. Ski Committee Chair, Conny Anderton, wants to avoid the delays and frustration experienced this year with the clubhouse. The clubhouse takes a small percentage of the course fees as a service charge and was to mail out confirmation letters. Letters were not sent out until three days before the class started. Conny got multiple calls from students wondering why they hadn't received confirmation. The Ski Committee will collect the course fees next year.

The Jim Hill Nemesis

Larry Ingalls

Jim Hill Mountain, just east of Stevens Pass right up from Lanham Lake, has been on my list of summits for years. But every time I have tried to snowshoe to the summit, something has thwarted me. The first time the team had concerns about avalanche danger. The second attempt was turned around by snow, 30 MPH winds, and a minus zero wind chill factor. On the third try, cracks in the snow crust that shot out as we stepped out onto the steep slope convinced us to turn around. The fourth attempt was a great outing watching fog crystals at close range. Turned around that time also. Since this trip has turned out to be an annual event, I decided to schedule another attempt.

In the week before the trip I watched the avalanche report and the weather. It was nothing but snow, snow, and snow. Avalanche danger—considerable, extreme, stay home! Then the weather turned, slightly. But by Friday evening, the rain rolled back into the Sound; arrgh! Do I call this thing off? Nah, a little walk in the snow and rain never hurt anyone. We met at the Monroe P&R lot in the rain. Do we call this off? Nah, let's at least get some exercise. We headed east on Highway 2. Skykomish—What is that bright light to the east? Oh my, it's the sun! By the time we get to Stevens Pass it is "clear and million," not a cloud in the sky. Something is wrong; this is a Jim Hill trip.

We parked at the Lanham Lake

trailhead and were on our way by 8:30 A.M. The sun was still behind the ridge, but the sky was that deep blue with trees totally white with snow from earlier in the week. By the time we got to the lake, the sun was peeking over the ridge. We turned left to a heading of 100° to gain the ridge. The ridge was steep, but the snow was surprisingly stable, making for good climbing. A few clouds were starting to show up. We turned south and ran the ridge heading toward the east summit. The snow was deep and breaking trail was a workout. Again, the snow appeared to be reasonably stable. Up we go. The trees along the ridge were cast in snow showing the sculpturing talent of the wind. Just below the east summit we turned southwest and transitioned onto the 25° slope that leads to the saddle between the east and west summits. Check that snow—it's looking good. What is going on here? This is a "Jim Hill" trip! Oh my, we are at the saddle. That ridge going west looks tough with those steep 45° slopes off both sides. Well, let's try to run the crest and see what we find. Up a comfortable section and then there is a steep slope of about 45°. Snow is good, no problem getting to the top. Oops, thin ridge; think we need to drop down about 10 feet and traverse below this on the south side. Our line worked fine and the snow was still surprisingly stable. Around and back up to the ridge crest.

What? We just ran out of "up"; this is it? What happened? This is a "Jim Hill" trip and we are on the summit! Where did that sun go? The wind started up, so we decided not to nap on the summit. Down we went. Back to the saddle or "back in the saddle again?" Gulp some warm soup and let's get out of Dodge. The trip down was fast. The soft snow made for easy travel giving us that feeling of pillows under our feet. We took less than half the time to get back to the trailhead. This was timely, because the sky let loose and down came the snow! It was great getting to the summit, but I will miss scheduling my annual trip to Jim Hill.

The Bylaws Ballot

Shall the following proposed change to the Branch Bylaws be adopted?

Existing language: "The Executive Committee shall prepare an annual budget and present it for approval at a regular meeting prior to the beginning of the fiscal year."

Proposed language: "The Executive Committee shall prepare an annual budget and present it for approval by the branch officers prior to the beginning of the fiscal year."

Name	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Each Everett Branch member may vote. Ballots are due at the Wednesday, June 5, 2002 business meeting by 7 p.m. or received by mail by June 4, 2002. More than one person may vote with this ballot.

The Haba Bean & El Pico de Orizaba *Dianne Jochimsen*

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2001, 3:30 P.M.

Arrived in Mexico City. We're finally here in Mexico traveling on our way through Mexico City to Tlachichuca.

My memories of Mexico City, when I shut my eyes, are of clothes hanging on wash lines—wherever a wash line could be strung. Mike C. kept remarking on the electrical wiring and on the constant 'building in progress'. In our ride through the city, we saw very few buildings more than two stories in height. Shops were in the median and on both sides of the major highway with people hawking their wares whenever our vehicle was stopped for a traffic signal. A youth washed the windows of our van, at the protest of our driver, and then asked for money. He got none, gestured with his palms up/palms down and proceeded to wash the next vehicle's window. Mike B. says whenever he thinks of Mexico City he remembers

the plane flying into the city, looking out the plane window and seeing a thick haze/smog from the city stacked against the mountains. Jim remembers flying into Mexico City, looking out the plane window, and seeing the city snuggled between all of the volcanic mountains. He was surprised that such a large city was amidst all these big mountains. Gee, you can sure figure out who was thinking of mountains.

The trip to Tlachichuca, a city of 6,000, took us four hours. My butt hurt from all the plane and car riding. The district is also called Talachichuca and is comprised of several communities of approximately 20,000. We saw small plots of land and a few times we saw something that appeared as white upside down cones, almost like pyramids with a hole near the top and an igloo hole at the bottom. We learned that these were once used to store corn bought from the locals by the government in an unsuccessful project, whose eventual intention was to sell the corn back to the locals. We arrived in the middle of the corn harvest season. People were cutting the corn by hand and making corn 'silos' by stacking them

together like a tepee. They then shucked the corn by hand and put the shucked corn in sacks. From there the ears went to their homes to be dried on roofs, cement slabs, or the like with the kernels then removed by hand.

We stayed in the Reyes bunkhouse, which can hold about 20 climbers. The bunkhouse was once an old soap-making factory. The current owner is a surgeon who returned to his native residence to take over the family business from his elderly father. Starting with the grandfather in the early 1940's, the family has a history of catering to climbers. Settled in our bunk beds late in the evening, all we heard were dogs piercing the night with the most forceful sounds. Early morning church bells ringing and ringing and ringing; then the fireworks started. Fireworks celebrate life, death, anniversaries, and birthdays. Hmm, maybe the dogs weren't so bad.

At 9 A.M., we ate breakfast, cooked by Lucinda. Her breads were freshly made and melted in our month. I asked Lucinda if she had taken a culinary course because her meals were so tasteful and varied. Her translated reply "Si, I was married for over



El Pico de Orizaba by Diane Jochimsen

40 years.” After breakfast, it is suggested that we hike to some crosses up on the hill to acclimatize for our trip.

Our hike took us to the outskirts of town above the shrine of our Lady of Guadeloupe. We walked approximately one-half mile on the road, then up the trail to the shrine and the first set of crosses. Then up some more on the trail to the next set of crosses. Someone suggested that we go to the third set of crosses, a traverse on a ledge, a cactus scramble down and then a cactus scramble up again. A little exposure, but no one reached for a plant-belay nor did we get our butts too low. We were scheduled to be back for lunch at one, but we were looky-loos. We had a great view of El

Pico de Orizaba, beautiful with its snow-capped top. The glacier is receding, as all the glaciers in the world seem to be. From our view, the tapestry of farmland was a revelation. We didn’t find one farmer with a tractor; all were using horses or mules. A few fields were being tilled. We saw two squares of bright green in the distance and also a few scattered communities. Our view also showed us that the Catholic Church is the center of Talachichuca. Does anyone here belong to another religion?

And we saw the evil of plastic. We agreed that plastic should be banned worldwide or have a worldwide deposit-refund system. We debated how many centuries would pass before the plastic

will decompose. We reminded ourselves that this is a third-world country and the wealth and technology are not as advanced. Their garbage disposal is an arroyo and they will wait for the rains to dispose of the garbage. But an old gentleman driving his donkey and wagon brightened our day. With hand gestures, we asked his permission to take his picture. He was nodding and all smiles.

Mike B. found it mind boggling that subsistence farming was so wide spread. And here all we thought we were going to do when we went to Mexico was climb. Now, we are philosophers, biologists, historians...

To be continued...

Officers

Chair Brian Hench (206)364-4172
Vice Chair Doug Donaldson (206)546-3501
Secretary Chris Davidson (360)658-6090
Treasurer Don Heck (425)337-5742
Trustee Roy Metzgar (425)258-6985
Email address are the committee or office name with no spaces @everettmountaineers.org. Lookout & Trail Maintenance's address is LOTM@.

Key Personnel

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Conservation Louie Coglas (425)672-4521
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