

Exercise – What Gear to Bring?

You will be climbing Mt. Cruiser in Olympic National Park

- In mid-July, over two or three days, depending on how long it takes.
- The approach is long: 7.5 miles one way from the trailhead to Flapjack lakes
- Forecast: daytime highs in the 80s, night-time lows in the 50s; partly cloudy overnight, clearing by morning

Handout on the next page has route description and map

Imagine that you are with your climbing team at the parking lot deciding what gear to bring. In your breakout groups, discuss with your team the pros and cons of bringing crampons and ice axe on this trip.

And, bonus question: if and when you would use the crampons and ice axe: will you also put your harnesses on / use the rope? (You are already are planning on carrying since Cruiser is a rock climb)

the rock slide W for several hundred years. The creek flows from between a short distance until reaching the ridge. In some years, the creek may be dry. Follow the South Fork through the brush, over a small water cascade formed by a side creek. Climb the right side of the water cascade to avoid brush, and then bear left to miss a lower cliff band. Climb the cliffs, climb generally S over brush, boulders, scree, and snow to the base of the broad N face of the Turret. From this point, bear right over a spur ridge and then descend slightly into the basin between Turret and Minaret. Climb S out of this basin toward a prominent scree or snow chute descending from the E end of Minaret. This chute is identified by a large chockstone completely blocking it about two-thirds of the way up. Climb this chute, past the chockstone to just below the ridge crest. Angle right and climb the steep gully.

Route 1. II, 5.3, with variations. From the top of the gully, two moderate rock pitches lead over well-defined pillow basalt to the lower E summit. Follow the undulating and brushy ridge W, descending slightly onto the N side when the ridge becomes impassable. Several leads on the N side bring one to an airy promontory overlooking the summit tower. From here, either rappel or climb down a steep, exposed slab on the N side to the gully separating the promontory from the summit tower. Next, climb the class 3 gully to the notch. From here, one long class 5 lead is required to reach the summit ridge. Depending upon the line taken, the difficulty ranges from 5.3 and up. The knife-edge ridge is covered in black lichen. There is a horn just below the summit with a runner offering one of the few opportunities for protection near the summit. **Time:** 6 hours via Shelter Rock Camp. Descent via Route 2 is recommended.

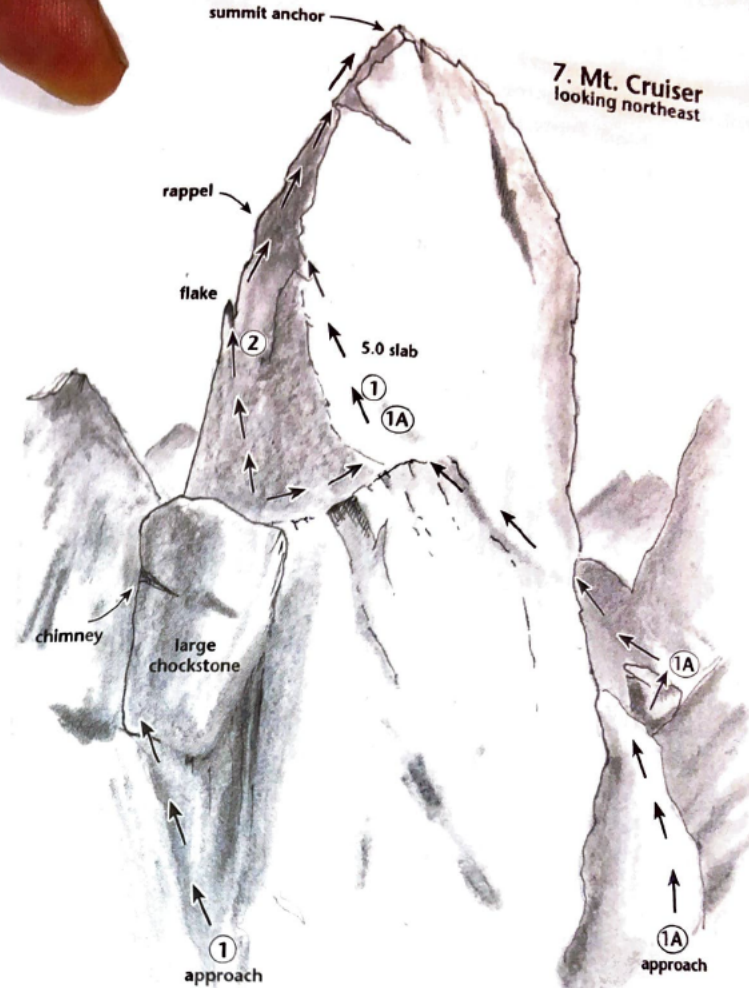
Route 2. II, 4. **First ascent:** Date unknown, by Dennis Colwell, Karen Horn, Jim King, Kerry Lowry, Frank Stinchfield, Jim White, and Tom Whitney. Climb to the Lower Gargoyle–Minaret col (see Lower Gargoyle in Part I, Climbing Routes). Scramble to the W face of the summit ridge and traverse to the summit. **Time:** 6 hours via Shelter Rock Camp.

SAWTOOTH RIDGE (SKOKOMISH-DUCKABUSH GROUP)

Sawtooth Ridge is widely considered the most popular rock-climbing area in the Olympics. Two summits in the middle of the ridge, The Fin and The Horn, make up for their lower summit elevation compared to their neighbors by offering a number of short, exposed, enjoyable routes guaranteed to acquaint climbers with the unique characteristics of pillow basalt.

7. Mount Cruiser 6104 (1861 m) I, 5.0–5.4

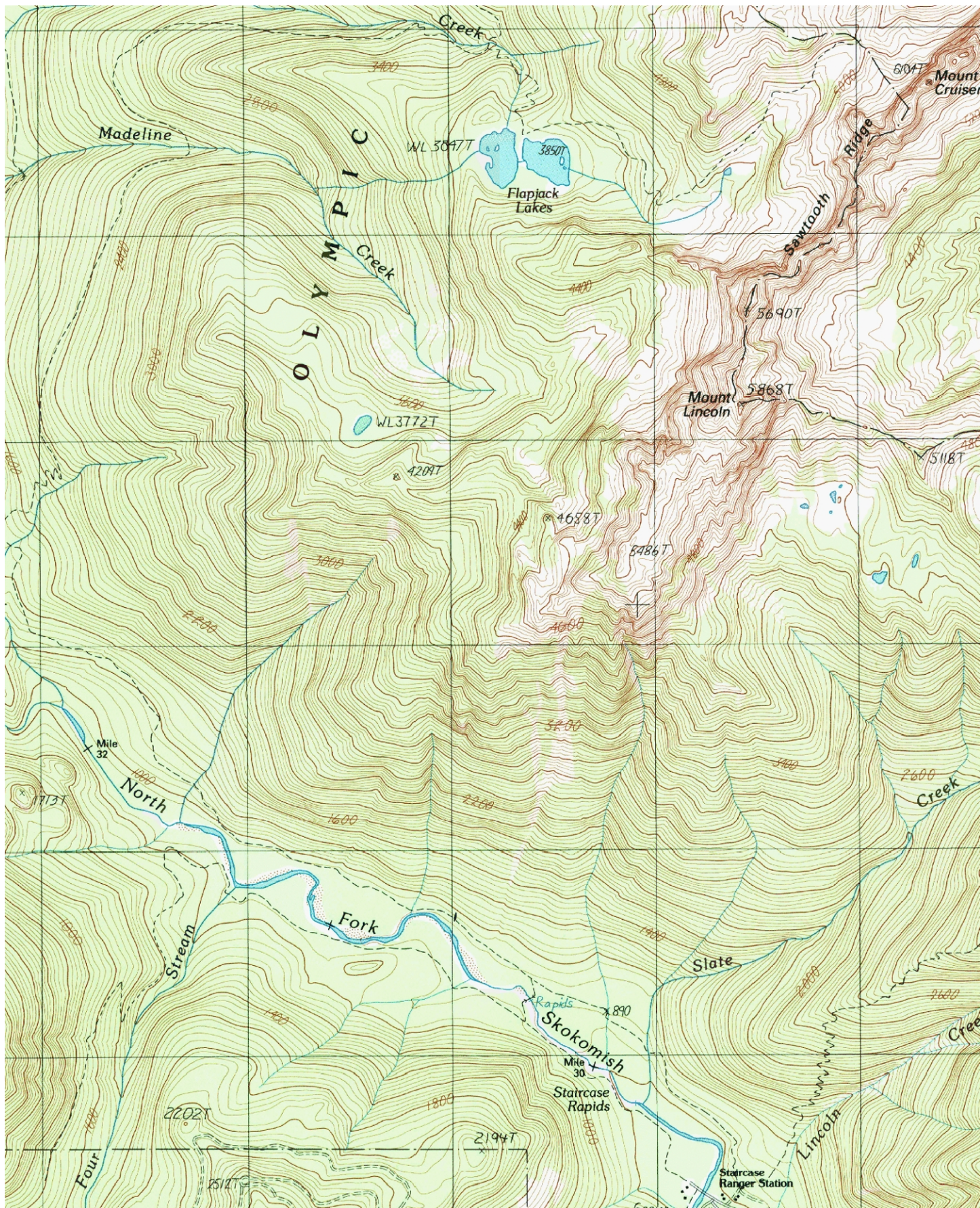
Named for the Bremerton Ski Cruisers, the towerlike Mt. Cruiser anchors the north end of Sawtooth Ridge. It is by far the most popular rock climb in the



Olympics, drawing many climbers due to the low difficulty and the beautifully exposed moves. The approach includes a snow- (or ice-) filled gully and a long ridge scramble over and around picturesque gendarmes. **First ascent:** 1937 by Paul Crews and Bob Layton.

Gear. A small climbing rack consisting of several quickdraws and a few small chocks and cams can be taken. If Route 1A is climbed, a few additional midsize cams may be handy. Two 50-m ropes are necessary.

Approach. From Flapjack Lakes, take the 1.4-mile trail toward Gladys Divide (see Approach 1a in Part I, Climbing Routes). Just before reaching the divide, turn right and ascend the 700-ft chute to a notch in the ridge crest (Needle Pass). This steep chute is usually icy. Traverse E on the left side of the pass for 50 ft, then turn to the N and ascend to the ridge crest.



Mercator Projection
WGS84
USNG Zone 10TDT
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