

Mountaineer

E X P L O R E • L E A R N • C O N S E R V E

WATER

Nourishing lands
and people

INSIDE:

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Best summer paddles, pg. 16

Roskelley at sea level, pg. 17

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July/Aug 2013 » Volume 107 » Number 4

Enriching the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about, and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.



the *Mountaineer* uses . . .



the *Mountaineer* would like to thank **The Mountaineers Foundation** for its financial assistance during the redesign of both this magazine and www.mountaineers.org. The Foundation operates as a separate organization from The Mountaineers, which has received about one-third of the Foundation's gifts to various nonprofit organizations.

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DISCOVER THE MOUNTAINEERS

If you are thinking of joining—or have joined and aren't sure where to start—why not set a date to Meet The Mountaineers? Check the Branching Out section of the magazine (page 32) for times and locations of informational meetings at each of our seven branches.

On our cover: A kayaker navigates Glines Canyon on the Elwha River, above the site where Glines Canyon Dam was removed. Photo by frequent Elwha kayaker and Mountaineers member Tom O'Keefe.

The force that drives us on water or mountain

John Roskelley, known for his climbing prowess on 8,000-meter Himalayan peaks, most notably the first ascent of the Great Trango Tower, spent his life in the mountains but wanted to learn more about rivers—in his own words, “To find out what the river was all about from river view.” Although he had to learn new skills, he used the mental fortitude he’d gained as a climber to complete this monumental task. To use the common cliché, he’d put his “mind over matter.”



One of the coolest things about being a Mountaineer is that our “tribe” loves human-powered activity, no matter the altitude. From the sea to the highest mountains, we love finding adventures and challenging ourselves. We typically think of overcoming physical or technical challenges: How can I be a stronger climber to pull harder on this crimp? Or how can I become more proficient at rolling my kayak to be able to get out of trouble quickly? Although being proficient on land or water requires different physical and technical abilities, the thing they have in common is a prerequisite mindset to keep making forward progress. This reminded me of what my dad has been telling me since I was a little kid: “Always keep a PMA (Positive Mental Attitude).”

I recently completed two of my most challenging adventures yet—a climb of Mt. Rainier’s committing Liberty Ridge and a 200-mile, non-stop trail run of over 45 hours. Although they required significantly different physical and technical skills, the real challenge I had to overcome was the “mind game.”

During the alpine start from Thumb Rock up Liberty Ridge, my world was constrained to the five-foot circle of light created by my headlamp. The sound of my labored breathing and the constant clinking of ice screws dangling off my harness created a steady rhythm to which I marched along. After 12 exciting pitches of ice and surviving 70 mph winds on the summit, the long slog down the Emmons Glacier began. During the entire climb, time took on a new dimension. It seemed to simultaneously speed up *and* slow down. I was completely worked, but summit day somehow didn’t feel like 20 hours. Since I had to carry my 40-pound pack up and over the climb, I had scrutinized every ounce to go as lightly as possible. Luckily, my PMA didn’t weigh me down at all.

Similarly, running for 45 hours straight sounds completely crazy, even to me. I can’t explain how the time seemed to fly by, but it did. I simply enjoyed the opportunity to experience the beauty around me, trade encouraging words with my fellow competitors, and push myself beyond what I thought was previously unattainable.

As you continue your summer adventures, whether on land or water, don’t forget to pack your Eleventh Essential—your PMA—to help take you higher and farther. It doesn’t weigh a thing!

Gavin Woody, Board of Directors President



The Mountaineers is a non-profit organization, founded in 1906 and dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and protection of natural areas.

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The *Mountaineer* (ISSN 0027-2620) is published bimonthly by The Mountaineers, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. 206-521-6000; 206-523-6763 fax.

Members receive a subscription as part of their annual dues. Approximately \$12 of each member’s annual membership dues goes to print and mail this publication. Non-member subscriptions to the *Mountaineer* are \$32. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mountaineer*, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of The Mountaineers.

Bill Ashby photo



From West Point to the Elwha, Mountaineers and water connect

Did you know that the first official Mountaineers trip was not to the mountains? It was seaward—to the West Point Lighthouse on Puget Sound to be exact.

The sea is here as much as the mountains are. It just lacks the accentuation of a Mount Rainier, easily visible to most of us on a clear day. However, Rainier's watersheds and those of all our mountains are inextricable from the sea. From mountains to bays and inlets goes the snowmelt, from sea back to the mountains goes our precipitation, over and over for millennia. Perhaps this is one of the reasons—besides being within walking distance—why Mountaineers leaders in 1906 thought West Point was quite apropos as the first outing.

We pay respect to Pacific Northwest water in this issue by pointing to its importance for not only Mountaineers activities but also our well-being. We do this by making some not-so-obvious connec-

tions, such as sustainable roads in our forests and their relationship to healthy watersheds. The connection even extends to what you do in your backyard (see pg. 18).

We can do a lot to protect this resource as critical to life as the air we breathe. The Elwha River is a shining example (see pages 21-27). There are many more Elwhas—and the life they propagate—to be won, however. So many depend on our efforts: riverine species like our salmon and orca whale; birds like the murrelet and owl; mammals like the bear and otter. Their health is intrinsic to ours.

So read on, and join us in celebrating the largest dam removal in history—a removal started by one of our own Mountaineers, Rick Rutz—and the value of water in our daily lives, our outdoor adventures and our spirit.

Brad Stracener, Managing Editor

I'mwhere?

Can you identify the summit in the foreground here? Send your answer (by August 1) by post or e-mail: brads@mountaineers.org; I'm Where?, Mountaineer, 7700 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115. If you guess correctly, you'll receive a \$15 coupon good for Mountaineers purchases, and we'll publish your name in next month's column. In case of a tie, one winner will be chosen at random. Mountaineers employees or persons shown in the photograph are not eligible. Each month we'll publish a new mystery landmark and identification of the previous one.



- **Send your photographs** for possible publication as a mystery summit (include identification for our benefit). See e-mail and mailing address at left. If we use your photo, you will receive a \$15 Mountaineers coupon.
- Rebecca Walton was able to identify Unicorn Peak in the May/June *Mountaineer*. The photo was taken by Kevin DeFields.

WHEN SELECTING A TENT FOR YOUR NEXT TRIP...

CHOOSE WISELY.

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP can mean the difference between a great trip and a miserable one, so choosing the right tent is crucial. For 40 years, Hilleberg has been making the highest quality "right tents" available. Conceived and developed in northern Sweden, Hilleberg tents offer the ideal balance of low weight, strength, and comfort.

Hilleberg categorizes tents into Black, Red, Yellow and Blue Labels, with each Label representing a performance range based on materials, construction or both.

Red Label tents, such as the Allaks in the photo, are Hilleberg's all season tents that prioritize light weight over absolute strength. They are perfect for trips year-round where weight is a priority and where the conditions may turn harsh and ugly, but aren't likely to be the worst possible. For more information, visit www.hilleberg.com, and order The Tent Handbook.

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(Don't Drown Out There; Mountaineers Books)

Still chasing that 'DNF'

Have you ever DNF'd? If you haven't you probably haven't run far enough. (DNF: Did Not Finish.) This is the advice that Gavin Woody—Mountaineers Board of Directors president, when he's not running altitude endurance races—took to heart after finishing a 100-mile Cascade Crest event. And though he has run 65 miles around Mont Blanc and 93 miles around Mount Rainier, he said he wanted to test himself to the full extent by running around Lake Youngs watershed 21 times—a total of 197.4 miles—in what is dubbed the Pigtales Challenge. "It was really mind blowing to me that I was doubling the distance I had previously gone."

So did he DNF? No. He finished the 20,000-foot cumulative gain route in 45 hours. So it looks like Gavin will be seeking an even greater mind-blowing attempt to DNF.

Annual meeting, nominees announced

This year all of the board of director candidates are incumbents. The board believes the three will be the best slate for at-large positions in 2013 and endorses Kara Stone, Lee Fromson and Matt Sullivan. The board has set the **Annual Meeting** for the evening of **Thursday, September 12**, at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center. Watch for more details in the September/October magazine and at mountaineers.org.

Boston marathoner: 'my body just started going down'

Bill Iffrig didn't know what hit him just before the finish line at the Boston Marathon. The Everett Mountaineer said he felt no pain except for his head as his legs crumpled and he hit the pavement. The blast that killed three and injured more than 260 was 10 feet or fewer away from him. "A marathon worker helped me up so that I could get to the finish line," said Iffrig, 78, who started running in the 1970s as a training regimen for climbing.




Iffrig (l) has won 45 nationals in his division

"I didn't know what happened at first. My body just started going down. Then I started to think that it might have been a bomb, a terrorism kind of thing." Not seeing any blood on his body, Iffrig said all he could think of doing is finishing the race. "I saw a picture later and it looked like I was kind of out of it," he noted. The picture with lurching policemen immediately around him went viral in world media and made the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

He said the marathon worker offered him a wheelchair but he saw emergency workers "bringing so many people out" that he told the worker to save the chair for someone in greater need. After finishing, he walked up Boylston Street and six blocks back to his hotel where his wife was waiting for him. "We had talked the night before about her waiting for me at the finish line," said Iffrig, "but we knew that would be a long wait. We were grateful that we decided not to do that." According to medical reports, bystanders took the brunt of the injuries from the blast.

"It was scary," said Iffrig, who noted that he had never witnessed anything like it. When he was going down he thought for a moment that "this might be the end of me."

Instead, he is now hiking with his family and still entering runs, including the 12K Bloomsday in Spokane only a few weeks after Boston, where—by the way—he finished second in his division at 4 hours, 3 minutes.



IT ALL BEGINS WITH A GREAT NIGHT'S REST.

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Photo: ©HagePhoto ©2013 Cascade Designs, Inc.

Our tradition of outdoor advocacy thrives

Brad Stracener photo



Mountaineers stood tall for the Olympic Coast and now stand tall in advocating for the Wild Olympics

By Sarah Krueger

Public Lands Programs Manager

Since our founding in 1906, The Mountaineers has a long history of working to preserve the natural beauty of the Northwest. Early Mountaineers were called to action due to unchecked resource extraction, development and destruction of old-growth forest. Thanks in part to the work of dedicated Mountaineers who spent countless hours letter-writing, lobbying and occasionally rabble-rousing, today we have incredible protected areas like North Cascades National Park and the roadless Olympic Coast, as well as robust environmental policies such as the Northwest Forest Plan.

Over the years The Mountaineers has worked to balance its stake in conservation with the need to provide access for outdoor recreation.

The Mountaineers continues to play an important role in conserving Washington state's forests, rivers, mountains and shorelines. We help people forge connections to the outdoors, introduce the importance of stewardship and responsible recreation, and participate in the decisions that affect our public lands. We are at the table for planning efforts that affect the landscapes we love—most recently the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Plan, Department of Natural Resources Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan and discussions related to proposals for a

National Recreation Area in the Yakima Basin.

Earlier this year, The Mountaineers Board of Directors endorsed the establishment of an Outdoor Advocacy Advisory Council to provide guidance to the Public Lands Programs manager and the executive director as The Mountaineers influences public policy by participating in planning efforts to protect the wild backcountry and preserve responsible recreational access to public lands and waters. Composed of at least six members (including at least two active board members) recruited by the executive director and board president, the council will serve as a resource and forum for problem-solving and conflict-resolution on policy-related issues (ex., responding to a member's objection to an advocacy position).

Our recent policy position letters

- Support for Wild Olympics Campaign from regional climbing organizations
- Critique of National Visitor Use Monitoring practices on national forests
- Support for repairs to Index-Galena Road
- Support for Sally Jewell's appointment as Secretary of Interior
- Comments on importance of recreation and parks in state budget
- Support for recreation enhancements along Middle Fork Snoqualmie Road
- Scoping comments for Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan
- Support for reauthorization of Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act

You can keep track of our comments addressing policies, decisions and planning processes that affect the stewardship of public lands. Visit www.mountaineers.org/about/priorities.cfm and click on "Our Positions".

Charter members include Kara Stone (chair), Helen Cherullo, Lisa Bernstein, Lorna Corrigan, Margot Tsakonas and Tom O'Keefe.

You can participate in our policy and planning efforts by joining our Outdoor Advocates Network of volunteers. Volunteers assist

with a range of policy-related efforts. They may conduct research, analyze policy issues, write briefs and articles, organize events, conduct outreach or represent The Mountaineers' interests at meetings. Volunteers work with the Public Lands Programs manager to advance organizational priorities. Visit www.mountaineers.org/about/priorities.cfm to learn more. ▲▲

See more Conservation Currents on page 46

Top four hydropower threats demanding our advocacy

By Rich Bowers

In Washington, more than 75 percent of our electricity is generated by hydropower dams and, according to a recent US Energy report, our state alone produces 29 percent of the nation's net electricity generation. As with any power generation, there are impacts as well as benefits, and this level of hydropower (1,149 dams in the state) has come at great cost to the state's outstanding watersheds.

There are opportunities to increase energy, including hydropower, without sacrificing our remaining rivers and streams. We can improve existing hydropower through efficiency upgrades; add hydropower to non-power dams; generate from irrigation pipes and canals; and invest in new wave, ocean and tidal energy. Unfortunately, none of the proposed new dams listed in this article are that forward-thinking, and each will cause serious harm to river flow, habitat, recreation and our state's supply of fresh water.

Underlying the top four current threats (below) to our rivers is a growing industry attempting to push its projects as "small," "run-of-river" or "low-impact" dams that are clean, green and renewable. In fact, these projects would provide minimal power at a high financial cost and an even higher cost to environmental, recreational, cultural and aesthetic values. They would also be constrained by seasonal water availability, limited storage, and intermittent power generation while encroaching on wilderness and recreational areas.

1. **Sunset Falls on the South Fork Skykomish:**

A Snohomish PUD proposal would reduce spring flows by nearly 50 percent, and autumn and winter flows by nearly 90 percent in a free-flowing 1.1-mile section of the river that includes two of Washington's most beautiful waterfalls, Canyon and Sunset Falls. Send your comments by July 19 to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp (list Project No. 14295). Also, sign the "Save-the-Sky" petition at www.savetheskyriver.org, or go to www.americanrivers.org/newsroom/blog/jthomas-20120527-the-beautiful-sky.html.

2. **Black Canyon, North Fork Snoqualmie River:**

This proposed project would dewater more than a mile of river, year-round, and destroy one of the state's most beautiful and remote river canyons, Ernie's Gorge. Eligible and recommended for Wild and Scenic designation, it is located adjacent to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Mt. Si Natural Resources Conservation Area and flows through the Snoqualmie Forest, protected by a conservation easement purchased by King County. Learn more: www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/31585.

3. **Similkameen River:**

This mostly free-flowing, north-central Washington stream is being eyed by the Okanogan PUD for a re-power of a dam (Enloe) that has not generated hydropower since 1958 when the license was surrendered because cheaper power existed. Flows in the river and over Similkameen Falls would be cut by 95 percent from October through March of each year. A recent Hydropower Reform Coalition (HRC) report showed that this proposal would lose at least \$26 on every megawatt-hour that it generates. To fight these reduced flows, HRC members have appealed the state's 401 Water Quality Certificate for this project. Learn more: www.columbia-institute.org/enloe/courtroom-updates.html.

4. **Pro-hydropower lobbyists**

attempting to change Washington's 2006 Energy Independence Act (I-937) which set new standards for energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. Most of the opportunities to increase hydropower without sacrificing our remaining rivers, listed above, are already included under I-937. But lobbyists are working hard to include new dams as well. Learn more: www.nwenergy.org/news/celebrating-washingtons-lean-energy-success. ▲▲



About the author

Rich Bowers is Northwest coordinator for the Hydropower Reform Coalition, consisting of more than 150 conservation and outdoor recreation organizations nationwide (including The Mountaineers). He lives in Bellingham with his wife, Stephanie, and daughter, Danna. Since moving from Maryland in 2001, Rich has been a nonprofit consultant, a board member of both the Whatcom Land Trust and American Whitewater (where he was also executive director), and a former member of the Ski to Sea Race Committee (see page 13 for a Ski to Sea report). He is happy to be on, under, or in water in whatever form—snow, river or ocean.

Tacoma Youth Programs are off and running



Harnessed in for summer camp

Teen Program

Weekend trips to the mountains, scaling the walls at Tacoma's Edgeworks in the evening, practicing your prusik and some summer camping in between. Why wouldn't Tacoma youths want to get in on the action through our Tacoma Branch Teen Program? It has already drawn 12 teens from ages 14-19 and some wonderful volunteers. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Tacoma Mountaineers Program Center. Meanwhile mark your calendars for the following weekend trips: June 29-30, July 20-21 and August 10-11. To join us or volunteer, contact Brigit Anderson, brigita@mountaineers.org.

Summer Day Camp

The combination of fun and learning is contagious. Just ask some parents of children who have participated in Mountaineers Summer Day Camps. This August, two exciting weeks of Mountaineers Day Camp are planned at our newly renovated Tacoma facility. Open to youth of ages 6-12, Junior Mountaineers Camp is a fun sampler of Mountaineers activities. From 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day, campers play games and learn important outdoor skills like navigation, first aid and the Ten Essentials, not to mention having fun with climbing, hiking and kayaking. Campers also participate in a stewardship project. Check out what parents have said about Junior Mountaineers Camp:

"Wonderful way for kids to 'unplug' and get in touch with nature—good simple fun. Thank you, and bravo for creating such a great camp!"

"Our child came home from camp each day excited, happy, brimming with new knowledge and enthusiasm, and could not wait to go back the next day. He also really liked the staff and other campers."

"Our family has had a much better time outdoors since our child attended camp."

To sign up, go to "Families & Kids" at mountaineers.org or call the membership desk, 206-521-6001. For more information, contact Brigit Anderson at brigita@mountaineers.org. See you this summer! ▲▲

Fifty-year members honor friendships and a legacy



Mary Jane and Bill Brockman with Chuck Welsh and Lois Prestrud (l to r)

The Mountaineers' 15th Annual 50-Year Member Luncheon, held May 18, hosted more than 100 guests who celebrated their longtime membership and recognized pioneering contributions from a notable member of the conservation community.

Members reconnected with friends, recalled fond memories and became updated on the evolution of an organization that they helped build—one that has had a profound impact on Pacific Northwest outdoor recreation and conservation.

Mary Hsue, development director for The Mountaineers, presented the State of The Mountaineers address on behalf of Executive Director Martinique Grigg.

Acknowledging that much would not have been possible without 50-year members' contributions and loyal support over the years, Hsue cited several 2012 accomplishments:

- financial health and stability
- a current membership of 10,000
- 3,200 courses and activities led by over 1,000 volunteers
- the dedication of a newly renovated Tacoma Program Center
- youth programs growing 80 percent in one year to provide over 2,300 youth experiences
- a reinvigorated conservation and public lands program that facilitated and led 6,000 hours of on-the-ground stewardship and education, and provided 13,000 *Currents* e-newsletter subscribers with vital conservation news and community engagement opportunities.

"Our hope is that 50-year members leave the luncheon with a better understanding of the important legacy and traditions they

have help build and the vision for carrying this legacy into the future," Hsue stated.

In addition to exceptional leadership from Martinique and The Mountaineers Board of Directors, Hsue noted one key factor that enabled many of the achievements—private support. "Successful fundraising efforts over the past two years grew the impact of The Mountaineers' early investment in youth education and conservation programs" said Hsue. She said she is "excited to report 2013 numbers at next year's luncheon because of the exceptional success of our first fundraising event last month." She shared photos of that evening, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first American ascent of Mt. Everest. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. honored Jim Whittaker, the first American to stand on top of Everest and who got his start 18 years earlier as a student in The Mountaineers basic climbing course.

The organizational goals through next year include: putting the strategic plan into operation and fund raising to support youth program expansion in Tacoma and Kitsap; improved volunteer support and capacity;

continued growth of conservation programs with more stewardship activities and opportunities for members to engage in advocacy; and improvements in technology to allow for web-based learning that will engage our members as well as the broader outdoor community.



Fran Troje and Donna Price

Fran Troje was presented The Mountaineers Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifetime of contributions to the outdoor community (see article on page 14).

Featured guest John Roskelley enthralled guests with an entertaining presentation filled with inspiring stories and images.

Hsue closed the program with thanks to luncheon guests and an acknowledgement to Donna Price for her many years of coordinating the 50-Year Member Luncheon. ▲▲



Today: Jr. Mountaineers having fun on the water.

Tomorrow: Future environmental protectors and stewards of our public waterways.

Fueled by Peak Society support The Mountaineers youth programs empower young people to get outside and discover a love and passion for the natural world.

Join a distinguished group of individuals who support The Mountaineers' mission and share our vision to educate and engage the next generation of recreationists and conservationists by making an annual, unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more to The Mountaineers General Fund. We offer members the opportunity to expand their knowledge of key issues through periodic Peak Society hosted social and unique occasions to engage with influential leaders and fellow members.

Membership: 86 visionaries

Transforming young lives by sharing a legacy that is uniquely Mountaineers: Clearly a worthy investment.

For more information contact Mary Hsue at 206.521.6004 or maryh@mountaineers.org





John Wick photo

The Mountaineers team: Chris Pyper, Debbie Wick, Gwen Young, Stephen Sherman, Leann Arend, John Cocci, Becca Polglase and Caitlin O'Brien

Ski to Sea

Staff, volunteers compete in race made for a Mountaineer

Undaunted by classic Pacific Northwest weather, five Mountaineers staff members and three volunteers from the Seattle Branch did what Mountaineers do throughout the year, except they did it all in one day. Competing in the 93.5-mile Ski to Sea relay race over Memorial Day weekend, the seven Mountaineers cross-country skied, downhill skied, ran, road biked, canoed, mountain biked and sea kayaked their way to sixth place in their division of 43 teams. Its first ever Sea to Ski relay, which started at the Mount Baker ski resort, The Mountaineers team overall finished 178th among about 460 teams.



John Wick photo

Paddlers prep for the sea kayaking leg of the relay

'The Fran Connection' gets things done behind the scenes for recreation

If *The Mountaineers* published its own dictionary, a definition for Fran Troje might read like Malcom Gladwell's description of the "connector" in his bestselling book, *The Tipping Point*. The connector is described as "an individual with a combination of curiosity, self-confidence . . . who works or lives in different circles." Fran is the connector who makes things happen for human-powered recreation in the Pacific Northwest.



Fran Troje (l) with her award alongside Mountaineers Public Lands Programs Manager Sarah Krueger

Whether enjoying a state park, a trail, or a waterway, recreationists should pay thanks to Fran, one of the state's most effective connectors of people who, together, can get things done for responsible access to the Northwest's wealth of natural beauty.

Humble but persistent in demeanor, Fran's immense contact list allows her to know who needs to be where, whether it is a bill in Olympia that affects outdoor recreation, an emerging group creating a recreational vision for an area we all enjoy, or when all hands on deck need to lend their collective voice to an important public access or outdoor recreation issue.

Approaching her 36th year as a Mountaineers member and volunteer, Fran was recently presented with The Mountaineers Lifetime Achievement Award at a 50-Year Members Luncheon. Fran has more than likely been on the calling end of more Mountaineers' phones than any other member

in the organization. If you are not at a hearing, forum or celebration and should be, you can certainly count on getting a call from Fran.

A founding member of the Foothills Branch of The Mountaineers and for many years a vital cog to the organization's kayaking programs, Fran has sat on The Mountaineers Board of Directors, has served as chair on several conservation and recreation committees, and on boards ad infinitum in the broader community.

A longtime resident of the Lake Hills neighborhood in Bellevue, Fran never let the I-90 snarl of traffic deter her from meetings at The Mountaineers facilities in Seattle, whether in Queen Anne or its current home in Magnuson Park—very often requiring vehicular navigation through the tumult of the 5 o'clock world.

"Fran is always positive, and always gets her facts straight," said Gary Paull of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Ranger District, one of Fran's most frequent agency connections. "She is not afraid to state her position even when it is not popular," he added. Unbeknownst to Paull at the time, Fran was a counselor at his high school. "I was not able to take advantage of her skills at that time, but have been fortunate to be the recipient of

Continued on next page

her wise counsel many times over the last couple of decades or so." Paull noted, "In short, Fran made things happen. She is a true friend of our public lands and always gracious."

While she may not always be the public face for the cause of

recreation, Fran is almost always the one behind the scenes to make things happen for recreation. And if you're not there—and you should be—you can be sure to get a call from Fran, who will not take "no" for an answer. ▲▲

Following Fran's network

- Longtime VP of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs where she developed the program for the Wilderness Conferences
- Served on Recreation Resources Committee and Conservation Division committees with The Mountaineers
- Helped found and currently chairs the Foothills Branch of The Mountaineers
- Worked on long-term planning for the Pacific Crest Trail in the Snoqualmie Pass region
- Advocated for reasonable rules for snowmobiles on Mount St. Helens
- Worked on assuring that recreation fees for our state and federal lands were reinvested in local projects
- Contributed to the environmental review to allow mountain biking at Stevens Pass
- Helped with the planning of many National Trails Day and similar events as well as the Ira Spring Trail dedication
- Helped with planning countless Washington State Trails Conferences
- Became an asset to the board of the Pacific Northwest Trails Association
- Washington Water Trails Association founding member and current board member
- On planning team for the 2005 Middle Fork Snoqualmie Concept Plan
- Involved with Volunteers for Outdoor Washington for many years, as well as the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the Middle Green River Coalition and Boating Safety Advisory Council



The aftermath of a Mountaineers crew's work on April 20 along the Olympic Coast

Keeping the coast clean

Nearly 20 Mountaineers joined the Washington Coast Savers on the Olympic Peninsula for its annual purging of debris on the Olympic Peninsula coast.

Led by Mountaineers Kitsap Branch Sea Kayak Chair Vern Brown, the volunteers spent a Saturday in April collecting everything from commercial fishing gear to flotsam from the 2011 Japanese tsunami.

A broad spectrum of nonprofits, community groups, corporations and public agencies organize the cleanups.

The next coastal cleanup is set for July 5 at Long Beach. Visit www.coastsavers.org for more details.

Beat the heat on these four summer paddles

By Rob Casey

Stand-up paddling at Deception Pass



Rob Casey photo

Deception Pass State Park: Only 1.5 hours north of Seattle, this is one of our state's largest and most diverse state parks. Known for its swift tidal rapids, the park also has two freshwater lakes and two very protected saltwater bays which are ideal for beginning paddlers. The water remains cool most of the year due to the rapids which keep water moving throughout the day. The park also has great hiking and space for families to enjoy. From Seattle take I-5 north to Mt Vernon. Exit to Highway 20 and follow to Anacortes. Continue on Highway 20 south of Anacortes toward the park. Bring a Discover Pass. Anacortes and Oak Harbor are the closest towns on both sides of the park. Both have food and lodging. For Anacortes we recommend Adrift and the Brown Lantern for a bite.

Hood Canal: In summer, Hood Canal's water temperature can rise to the upper 70's in some locations. The warmth is due to the water not flushing out as much as other areas on Puget Sound. The warmest water regions are the southern parts of the Canal in inlets, bays and even towards Belfair in open water. For lodging consider Alderbrook Resort in Union, Mike's Resort in Hoodsport and several camping options such as Triton Cove and Seal Rock Campground. Find food in Union, Hoodsport, Brinnon and Quilcene. Take the Bremerton ferry from Seattle, then follow signs to Hood Canal/Belfair. Or take the Kingston ferry, then follow Highway 104 over the Hood Canal bridge and follow signs to Hood Canal.

Yakima River Canyon: This Class 1+ river below Ellensburg has for years been popular with tubers and rafters. The route winds through the picturesque Yakima River Canyon, presenting views of big horn sheep, fly fishers, and colorful grassy hills rising above the river. The river runs fast and cold in early summer,

but slows down and warms up a bit by August. Air temps in late summer can be in the 90's. The river can be floated with sea kayaks, whitewater kayaks and SUPs using rubber fins. It is easily accessed from the main Ellensburg exit on I-90 and is about two hours from Seattle. Follow highway 82 from either direction. There are no food services along the highway. Yakima is 30-45 minutes to the south and Ellensburg is only 10 minutes from the put-in at Ringer Road. Take-out at Roza for a 17 mile float. Red's Fly Shop offers a shuttle service: www.redsflyshop.com.

Lake Chelan: The lake's glacier-cool waters will refresh if not shock anyone on a hot summer day. Access the lake from the town of Chelan on the south side or take the passenger ferry to Stehekin on the north side for a remote and quiet put-in. There are plenty of food options in the town of Chelan, and lodging and food in Stehekin: www.stehekin.com.

Wenatchee River/Leavenworth: The river runs cold and fast during summer months from snowmelt in the Cascades. Paired with the hot, arid temperatures of summer in Central Washington, the river can be a refreshing change from the often cool and wetter west side of the mountains. Rent a tube or SUP from LetsGoTubing, or take a SUP river class from Leavenworth Mountain Sports. The river runs deep and is beginner safe in most locations near Leavenworth. Inquire at the shops for more advanced paddling locations. Access Leavenworth from Seattle via Highway 2, or I-90 east and then north on Highway 97 through Blewett Pass. The mock Bavarian town of Leavenworth has several food/libation options such as South for Mexican and, a few doors south, Icicle Creek Brewery with its locally made brews. ▲▲

(See the author's bio on page 23.)



Roskelley's bow crosses a placid Columbia below Mica Dam, north of Revelstoke in southeast British Columbia

John Roskelley photo

By Brad Stracener
Managing Editor

Perhaps he would rather be clinging to a rock wall thousands of feet high than to his kayak swirling just above him in an eddy the size of a two-car garage, but since paddling the length of the Columbia River, John Roskelley is finding water to his liking.

One of the most notable climbers and mountaineers of today, Roskelley admits he is not particularly fond of water, “especially moving water.” So, what drove him to head to the source of the nation’s fourth largest river by volume so that he could paddle to its mouth 1,243 miles downstream?

Roskelley at sea level

“I wanted to get a full perspective from river view of what the Columbia was all about,” stated Roskelley, just before speaking to a 50-Year Members Luncheon crowd at The Mountaineers on May 18.

Between the Great Trango Towers, Dhaulagiris, the Nanda Devis and the K2s, paddling the Columbia had occasionally drifted onto Roskelley’s bucket list, having driven by the river’s source lake in British Columbia’s interior on his way to climbs at Banff. He had launched a motorboat on Columbia Lake with his then 10-year-old son, Jess, and his dad, Fenton Roskelley, in the early 1990s. “I thought he would be interested in doing some fishing there,” said Roskelley of his dad, who wrote outdoors articles for 63 years with the Spokane daily newspapers.

Roskelley affirmed his Columbia River intimations two years ago by launching his sea kayak on the south end of the lake at Canal Flats. “It’s beautiful,” he said of the lake. “You have the Purcells to the west and the Rockies to the east, you can see elk, and the water is a gorgeous blue at times.” He paddled the river in segments, going home or conducting other business between sections. His longest skein of paddling was five days.

“I can paddle for days and not see another soul on the river,” he noted, with the exception of three locations where he saw throngs of “motorheads” on the water in their speed boats and jet skis—Rock Island in the mid-Columbia, the confluence of the Snake River at Tri-Cities, and Portland in the lower river.

Continued on page 20

Five ways you can conserve water in your own backyard

By Colin McCrate
and Brad Halm



Backyard harvesters: Colin McCrate and Brad Halm

Water is an amazing substance.

Over half of our bodies are composed of it, and we owe our ability to survive on the planet to its presence. Good reasons to protect and conserve it, right? One of the best ways to do this is by growing your own food in your own yard. Planting edible crops in healthy, organic soil not only makes your yard more beautiful, but improves storm-water infiltration, reduces erosion, reduces evaporation and uses all that valuable water to produce delicious fruits and vegetables.

The joy of harvesting your own crops makes you more likely to cook healthy meals at home, share produce with neighbors, and get your children excited to eat vegetables. As you become more aware of the food you eat, you realize that what you put into your soil becomes part of this food, and ultimately part of your body. These connections make us better environmental stewards, and lead us to make good choices like buying groceries locally from sustainable farmers, volunteering with conservation organizations and spending more

time napping or relaxing in your beautiful backyard.

If we have convinced you that setting up your own backyard farm is a great idea, here are a few tips to make sure you're using water as efficiently as possible:

1. Install a drip irrigation system.

Drip irrigation uses water much more efficiently than sprinklers or hand watering because less is lost to run-off and evaporation. In addition, your plants will have more vigorous root systems and be less prone to foliar diseases.

2. Water in the early morning.

This ensures that water absorbs into the soil and isn't lost to evaporation.

3. Use mulch appropriately. Fruit trees and berry bushes need to be watered much less frequently if you surround them

with a thick layer of bark or wood chips. If you don't have problems with slugs, straw mulch will help conserve soil moisture around your transplanted crops.

4. Consider installing a cistern

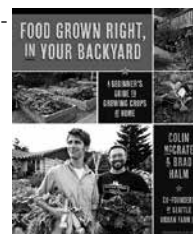
to harvest rainwater from your roof. If your cistern is the right size, you can collect enough water to irrigate your garden all summer.

5. Plant a mix of perennial and annual edible crops in your yard. Annual vegetables produce the most food per square foot, and perennial berry bushes and fruit trees shade the ground, reduce evaporation, and provide habitat and forage for bees and other pollinators.

Now, imagine if we could convert all those unused rooftops and parking lots in our cities into urban farms? ▲▲

About the authors

Authors of *Food Grown Right, In Your Backyard*, Colin McCrate and Brad Halm of Seattle Urban Farm Co. started their business based on one simple question: Does anybody need help setting up a vegetable garden? They build gardens for others and teach others how to start their gardens.



'Secret Rainier'

Part II: Skyscraper Peak

By Mickey Eisenberg and Gene Yore

Editor's note: This is the second of a periodic installment on hard-to-find gems in Mount Rainier National Park.

Mount Rainier National Park has over 100 climbable peaks (not counting the "Big One," Rainier) either within or immediately adjacent to the park boundary. (Information about all 100 may be found in *Guide to 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier National Park*, published by Mountaineers Books.)

While most are scrambles, and a few are climbs, there are 15 peaks that are reachable as hikes. One of our favorites is Skyscraper Peak, appropriately named for its solitary prominence. Its vistas across alpine terrain and views of the Big One are guaranteed to deplete your digital camera battery. We consider Skyscraper to be a hike, though technically there is no maintained trail to the top. However, the maintained trail (part of the Wonderland Trail) goes very close to the top and the final quarter mile to the summit is on a good foot path.

Directions: Travel to Enumclaw and take SR-410 east. Approximately 33 miles from Enumclaw you will reach the park boundary. Continue into the park and in 4.5 miles turn right on Sunrise Road for another 15 miles until it ends at the Sunrise Visitor Center parking area. A fee is required at the park kiosk located on the Sunrise Road.

Route: The trailhead is to the right of the restrooms. Begin uphill on a trail of asphalt leading to Sourdough Ridge and follow it to Frozen Lake. Then continue on Wonderland Trail toward Skyscraper. Upon reaching the saddle just south of Skyscraper, turn right for an easy scramble on a footpath to the summit.

Skill level: Hike (with a quarter-mile foot path to the summit)

Beauty: 7 on a scale of 10

Effort: 4 on a scale of 10

Distance: 7.5 mi. RT

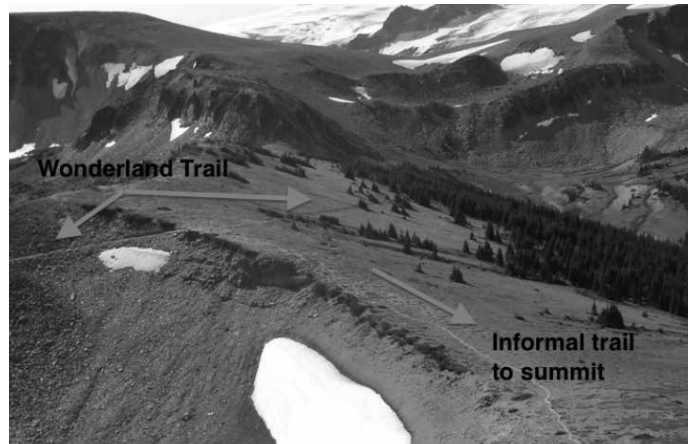
Elevation: 2,000' total gain

Total time: 5 hours

Best season: Anytime Sunrise is open, July until first snow

Maps: USGS Sunrise; Green Trails Mt. Rainier E.

Equipment: Hiking gear

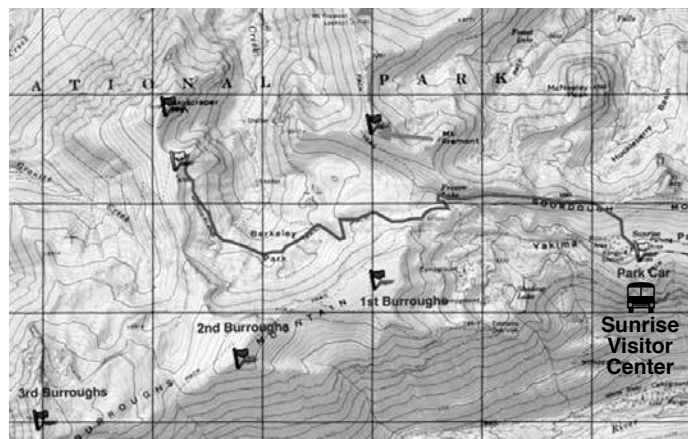


Leaving the Wonderland for the informal trail to the summit

Comments: Save this for a sunny day from mid-July through September. Flowers are spectacular in late July and early August.

Hiker option: Take a short detour to Mt. Fremont. This adds about 550' and two miles to the journey. There is a lookout on Fremont, one of four in the park. The lookout makes for a fine side trip, but note that it is not actually located on the peak of Mt. Fremont. The true peak (elevation 7,291 ft.) is a short, easy scramble about a quarter-mile south of the lookout.

Scrambler option: Take a circular route involving cross-country travel from Skyscraper over to Third Burroughs Mountain and a return to the trailhead via the Burroughs Mountain Trail. If you do Third Burroughs, return to the saddle south of Skyscraper and follow the south ridge almost due south. From the basin between Skyscraper and Burroughs, follow the best terrain in a mostly southerly direction until picking up the footpath leading to Third Burroughs. Adding Third Burroughs to the day will require two more hours and adds 2.5 miles and 1,000 ft. to the journey. We do not recommend the circular route for hikers; considerable cross-country travel and route-finding may be a challenge (especially when there is poor visibility). ▲▲



Roskelley at sea level (continued from page 17)

During his river journey, Roskelley had the chance to face his fears of moving water more than once. The scariest episode, he said, came on a canyon stretch at Northport known as “The Little Dalles,” though it is hundreds of miles upstream from the Dalles. While portaged before paddling the canyon, Roskelley said someone asked him, “You’re not going through Little Dalles, are you?” He replied, “What is that?”



John Roskelley photo

At Spillimacheen in B.C.

“It was already getting late and into evening,” said Roskelley, whose wife, Joyce, was to wait for him in the car at the mouth of the canyon. “I came into some moving eddies and could hear the sound of some rapids, but couldn’t see them.” He said near the mouth of the canyon an eddy caught his boat which tipped him up “toward the sky” and then “sucked me under.” All he remembers seeing are bubbles all around him while the eddy swirled and spit him into a different eddy, which released him downstream. Fortunately his boat drifted just above him and he was able to grab it. “I held onto that boat tighter than any rock wall I have ever climbed.”

His wife, along the road from above, saw the boat coming out of the canyon without its paddler. “It scared her a bit,” he noted. “I came up moments later,” he said, and he soon saw the parked car’s headlights.

Working on a book about the paddle (to be published by Mountaineer Books this year), Roskelley was most impressed by the bird life and the several scenic beaches, “some that rival Hawaii for beauty.”

“I don’t know if I love to paddle but I love being out there.” He added, “I do like the flow of paddling, the body movement and moving efficiently on the water,” though he admits that his rear gets tired. “I use a set of seat pads and am not surprised if I am sitting higher than the kayak.”

He marveled at the ospreys, eagles, loons and pelicans along the way, a grizzly that rose from tall grass in an upper-river wetland stretch that his daughter shared with him. He also contemplated the river’s-eye view of how much Native American homelands were usurped by the reservoirs resulting from the

river’s many dams.

Roskelley, seduced by climbing through books and accounts from legendary mountaineers like Maurice Herzog, said he begged his dad to let him join the Spokane Mountaineers. He has been a member of the group (unaffiliated to The Mountaineers) for nearly 50 years now.

“I joined because I wanted to climb but soon saw that it was really a social thing, until one of its members, a good athlete, said that we could do some challenging trips. Every one of the trips we did seemed like it was a Beckey route.”

He often climbs with his son, Jess, who joined his dad on a 2003 summit of Mt. Everest, one that had eluded John after attempting it via the West Ridge, North Ridge (twice) and East Face, all without oxygen. Though he and Jess had “a fantastic day getting to the top,” he said he was “almost embarrassed” to be on Everest because it had changed so much since his earlier attempts.

“Between 1993 and 2003 the world had changed on Everest—the general atmosphere, the crowds and who was up there doing it,” he said. While he was on rope near advance camp his helmet bumped a Sherpa just above him. The Sherpa then grazed Roskelley with the butt of his ice ax. “I guess he didn’t like getting bumped.”

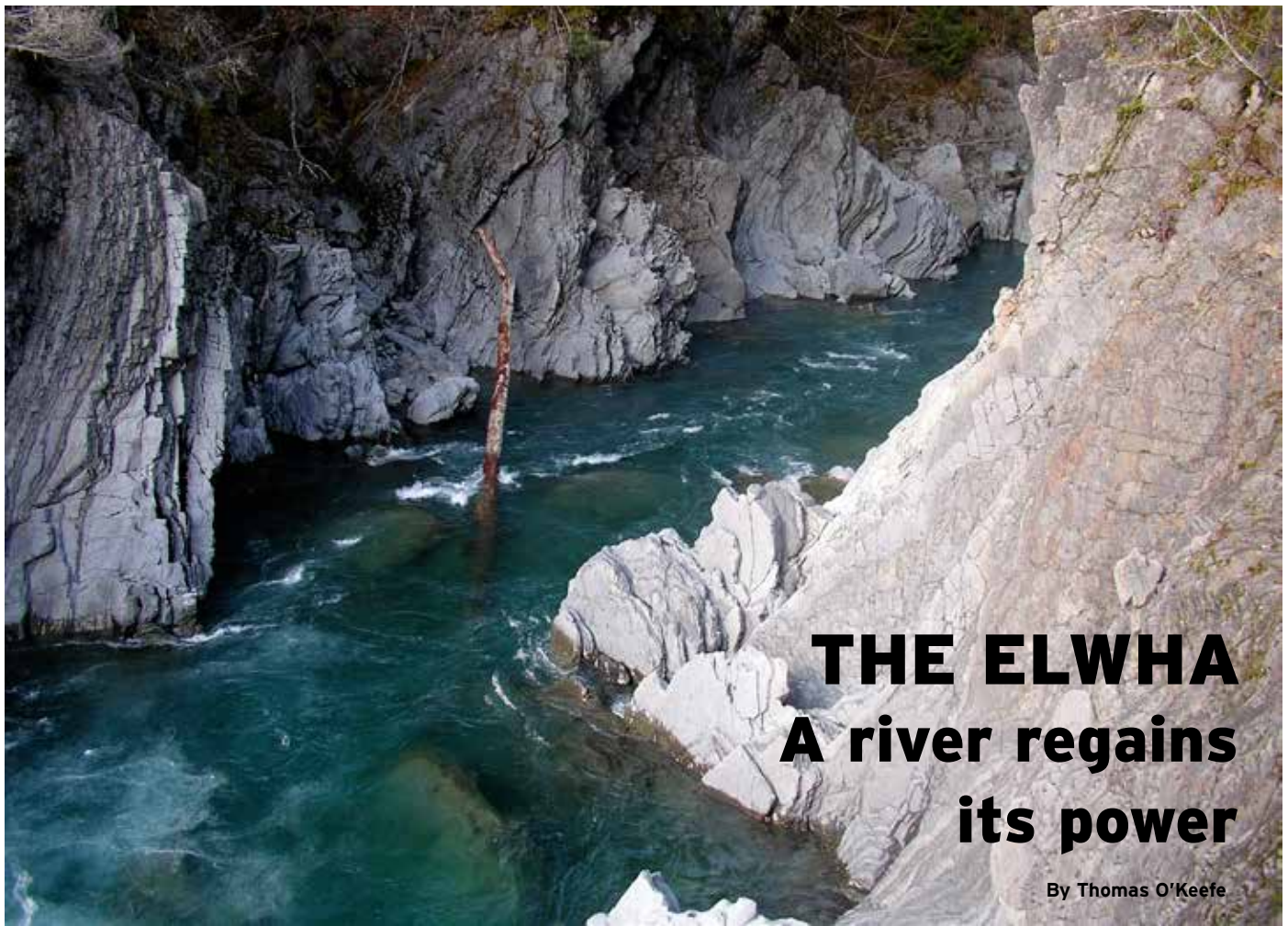
He admitted that not being successful on his four previous attempts had affected him. “I always felt good enough to do it on any route without oxygen or Sherpas.”

As for big expeditions in the future, he said none are on the horizon. “I’ve got to slow down,” said the 64-year-old, who is busy building a house and was getting ready to go on a two-week trek to India with his daughter when interviewed.

Though his many Himalayan expeditions have kept him away from home for extended periods, Roskelley spends a lot of time with his family. “I could be accused of spending too much time with my kids.”

He said he has been lucky to be a stay-at-home dad much of his career—writing articles, books and doing freelance work. “My wife had the steadier job.” As a result he never missed a track meet, soccer match or bike race in which one of his children had participated. Jess even inspired his dad to race bikes for four years.

Roskelley said he has grown an appreciation for dads who must leave the house each day for work, but are still able to do things with their kids. And his appreciation for paddling must be growing. He said he is thinking of paddling the Snake River once he finishes his book about the Columbia. ▲▲



Tom O'Keefe photo

The Elwha River is unique among rivers of the Olympic Peninsula with a watershed that represents approximately 20 percent of Olympic National Park and headwaters reaching to the very center of the Olympic Mountains. These mountains were formed by the domal uplift of marine sedimentary rock and basalt that the powerful Elwha River has carved its way through. The rich geologic diversity that resulted has been sculpted by the action of flowing water, the erosive power of sediment, and the persistent grinding action of the glaciers that have all shaped the landscape.

The Elwha River of recent geologic history has all the attributes of a river that is well suited for the suite of species that comprise the Pacific salmon, a classic backcountry whitewater destination with its deep canyons and diverse geology and an early candidate in our state for hydropower development with all the power and volume of a river descending from the mountains to the ocean over a distance of just 40 miles.

The Elwha Dam, one of two dams recently removed from the river, was not the first dam across the Elwha. The Vashon ice sheet dammed the river to form a glacial Lake Elwha a little over

10,000 years ago. Beneath the forest canopy the observant hiker can find evidence of glacial terraces, perched deltas and moraines that document the old lake that disappeared with the retreat of the glaciers.

As can be observed today in Alaska, where glacial retreat has exposed new river habitat, salmon discovered the Elwha and found a rich diversity of habitat. The powerful rapids and cascades of canyon sections of the Elwha exerted strong selection pressure for massive chinook salmon; pink salmon found ideal habitat in the lower gradient reaches closer to the ocean; and, sockeye had access to important rearing habitat in Lake Sutherland. This abundant fishery resource became an important food and cultural resource for the Klallam tribe of people and central to the identity of those who called the valley home.

In 1882 the world's first hydroelectric project began operation on the Fox River in Wisconsin and with it came ambitious plans to harness the power of rivers to generate electricity and fuel industrial development. Thomas Aldwell located a homestead on the

Continued on page 22

The return of a powerful river (continued from page 21)

Elwha and slowly began accumulating the land necessary for the development of a hydropower project over a period of 20 years. Where the Klallam people had found a fishery resource that sustained their community, Thomas Aldwell looked upon the river and determined that it was “no longer a wild stream crashing down to the Strait; the Elwha was peace and power and civilization.”

As Aldwell worked to secure the financing, construction of the Elwha dam commenced in 1910. The dam was not anchored to bed-

rock but instead set on glacial alluvium—“a dam on roller skates.” Shortly after construction in October of 1912, the dam failed in spectacular fashion when the river blew out through the gravel below the dam. Rebuilding commenced and by the end of 1913 the Elwha was no longer a free-flowing river. Electricity was flowing from the powerhouse to Port Angeles and beyond.

Decommissioning the hydropower projects on the Elwha was a

Continued on page 31

Elwha day trips: see the restoration firsthand

A new beach to explore: The river mouth is quickly transforming as the cobble beach gradually turns to sand as predicted. To explore the new beach environment, head approximately five miles west of Port Angeles to Highway 101, mile 242.5, and take Highway 112 west. Continue for 2.1 miles (crossing the river) to Place Rd. Turn right (north) and follow this road 1.9 miles to the T junction and then turn right (east) on to Elwha Dike Rd. and continue 0.1 mile to the Elwha Dike access point. Day-use parking is available along the road. Hike a couple hundred yards along the trail towards the ocean.

Elwha Canyon: To gain the best view of this canyon, where Elwha Dam once stood, head about five miles west of Port Angeles to Highway 101, mile 242.5, and take Highway 112 west 0.7 mile to the Elwha River. Just before crossing the Elwha bridge turn left (south) on Lower Dam Rd. which is also the turn for Elwha Dam RV Park. The parking area for the trail is to your immediate left. The first 200-yard section of trail is wheelchair accessible and leads to a partial overlook of the former dam site. As you approach

this first overlook you will see the start of a quarter-mile footpath to your left that leads to an overlook.

Former Aldwell Reservoir: The former reservoir is a fascinating landscape of gravel and sand held back by the dam. Old stumps with their springboard notches stand as reminders of the day the riparian forest was cleared prior to flooding. There are impressive views up the valley to the proposed Gates of the Elwha Wilderness and a river carving its way through a century of sediment. Vegetation is slowly reclaiming the corridor along the river. Head about eight miles west of Port Angeles to mile 239.4 on Highway 101. Turn right (north) onto Lake Aldwell Rd. towards Olympic Raft and Kayak. Continue on the road 0.2 mile to the end and an old boat launch that was on the reservoir. Hike onto the old reservoir and explore.

Former Mills Reservoir and Geyser Valley: While Glines Canyon Dam is still an active construction site, you can drive to it and explore the upper reaches of the former Mills Reservoir as well as the backcountry upstream. Head about eight miles west of Port Angeles to Highway 101, mile 239.5, and turn left (south) onto Olympic Hot Springs Rd. through the National Park

entrance. Continue four miles and take the left-hand turn up to Whiskey Bend. As you proceed up this road you will pass the Glines Canyon Dam site at mile 1.2, described in colorful prose by members of the 1889 Press Expedition as an area “rather unsafe for any nervous youths to travel.” Continuing to mile 4.0 there is a trail that leads down to the exit from Rica Canyon and the historic start of the Mills Reservoir (marked with a small sign that reads, “to Lake Mills”). The 0.4-mile trail is steep, but it provides exploration of the upper end of the former reservoir and the exit of Rica Canyon. The road ends another 0.4 miles past this trail at the Whiskey Bend Trailhead. From here it is a 1.2-mile hike to the junction of the Rica Canyon trail which heads 0.5 mile down to the river and the downstream end of the Geyser Valley. In contrast to the reaches downstream that are struggling to digest 34 million cubic yards of sediment, the Geyser Valley is a great place to see what a floodplain forest would normally look like and lends a potential future view of what a restored Elwha forest could look like along the lower reaches someday. ▲▲

A restored Elwha means new options for recreation

By Rob Casey

For the recreational minded, the removal of the two dams on the Elwha River is a mixed bag. The benefits and drawbacks of dam removal depend upon what your favorite recreation on the Elwha is or was.

Some recreational opportunities were lost due to dam removal, some were not affected, and new options have come from a result of the changes. Both dams created expansive reservoirs behind them and therefore provided new recreational opportunities during that time. Local kayak shops ran sea kayaking tours on the lakes and had to shift that business elsewhere since the dam removals. Both reservoirs—Mills and Aldwell—were also popular with trout fishers. Despite their loss, miles of newly exposed river have opened up, adding more options for river paddling where the dams and reservoirs once existed.

Tons of sediment—accreted by the reservoirs since the early 1900s—now flows freely downstream, bringing benefits to sea kayakers, especially after the sediment is disbursed at the river's mouth. The flushing out of sediment and return of gravel beds should also bode well for future salmon and steelhead runs, drawing the favor of anglers. However, it has turned surfers away from a once popular, if not little-known, spot at the river's mouth.



The author negotiates the Elwha River near its mouth

Rob Casey photo

About the author

An avid kayaker, Rob Casey is also author of two paddling guides from Mountaineers Books and a SUP instructor who teaches the new Mountaineers SUP course. He is also a director for the Professional Stand Up Paddle Association. (See his article on four summer paddle destinations to beat the heat on page 16.)

The Class 2-3 sections from below the Glines Canyon dam to Highway 101 were also popular runs for whitewater kayakers. Currently river access is closed from the former dam to the Altaire campground just below the dam—hazards being cloudy water due to sediment and considerable woody debris and logs flowing downstream that were once contained behind the dams.

The mouth of the Elwha was once known to Northwest surfers for its big, hollow waves which

broke in shallow water. Kayakers often avoided it to prevent damage to their boats on the rocky bottom. In December 2012 a large block of sediment began to flow downriver, adding several hundred feet of sandy beach to the river's mouth. Prior to this time the beach at low tide extended only 50 yards below high-tide line. Now the beach extends nearly 400 feet and consists mostly of sand and micro-wood sediment. This new material changed the surf break to a point at which traditional surfers (long and short boarders) are unsatisfied with the waves and have moved farther east, thus crowding other breaks on big swell days. One friend reportedly saw over 100 surfers in the water in late spring, which is unusual for any surf break in the Northwest.

The new sediment at the mouth has created a softer landing and the wave is more appropriate for kayakers or SUPs. Nonetheless, the river mouth is a surf break to be tackled only by advanced surfers or paddlers due to shallow water waves and strong outgoing river current, which can push unsuspecting surfers far out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca with little warning—making for a difficult paddle back to shore. This situation is similar to a surf rip in which paddlers must paddle perpendicular to the current to escape it.

The new beach will continue to change and will erode as river sediment decreases over time. But unlike the pre-removal era, the river mouth will be sandy instead of rocky for future generations. ▲▲



Amy Gulick photo

Ocean nutrients, carried in the bodies of salmon and delivered by bears to the forest floor, nourish the trees of the Tongass National Forest

Salmon in the trees

By Amy Gulick

Crouched on a rock near a churning waterfall, I'm entranced by thousands of salmon thronging in a pool. Fin to fin, tail to tail, they sway against the current as one giant mob, like concert groupies in a mosh pit. I forget that they are individual fish until one springs from the crowded stream, hurling itself against the foaming wall of water. And then another, and another. Fish after fish, leap after leap, so much energy expended, so much energy delivered.

The long green arms of Sitka spruce and hemlock trees spread across the stream as if to welcome the salmon back into their forested fold. Click, click, click goes my camera in a frenzied attempt to freeze an airborne fish in my frame. They're fast, much faster than my reflexes. I try again, and again. Hours vaporize, like the mist rising into the forest from the spray of the waterfall. But for the salmon, every minute is precious as their time is coming to an end. They've stopped eating. They're in their final act—spawning—and they won't stop pushing upstream until they die.

Their urgency to pass on their genes is hammered home to me with every leaping fish. Click, click—lots of empty frames. I need to concentrate, but the distractions are many, and wonderful. The harpy screams of ravens emanating from the forest jolt my soul. Bald eagles swoop from treetops to rock tops, eyeballing the feast before them. Bears march into the stream with purpose, causing me to stand at attention. They know I'm here, but they seem focused on the fish at hand, or paw. With one eye pressed against the viewfinder, and one eye open for bears, I attempt to focus on anything but instead just bask in the present. I've never felt more alive. It's like I'm swirling in the middle of a wild performance with throbbing music, leaping dancers and flashing lights. I am witness to one of the greatest shows on earth, one that plays out all over the Tongass National Forest in Alaska every year.

For two years, I paddled among the thousands of misty islands in Alaska's panhandle, hiked the wondrous old-growth forests, and spent countless hours in the presence of bears, salmon, eagles, and whales. All to

Continued on next page

document the remarkable ecological connections in North America's last intact stretch of old-growth coastal temperate rain forest. The Tongass is a place where not only is it possible to walk across a stream on the backs of salmon, it's the norm. In Southeast Alaska, the forest and the sea are so intertwined that it's impossible to separate the two, and probably no other species relies on both more than salmon.

When the salmon leave the ocean and return to their birth streams to spawn the next generation, they bring the ocean nutrients with them in their bodies. Brown and black bears, in some of the highest densities in the world, pluck the fish from more than 4,500 spawning streams and carry them into the forest. Other animals scavenge on the carcasses and spread the nutrients farther. Over time, all of this rich fish fertilizer decomposes into the soil and the trees absorb it through their roots. Scientists have traced a particular form of nitrogen—Nitrogen 15 that comes from the ocean—in trees near

Scientists have traced a particular form of nitrogen—Nitrogen 15 that comes from the ocean—in trees near salmon streams

salmon streams that links directly back to the fish. So the Tongass is a place where there are literally salmon in the trees.

This unexpected, yet perfectly natural connection between salmon and trees tells us that everything is connected, and that we need every link in this glorious cycle of life to keep the whole show going. The key to saving the show? Watersheds. Intact. And lots of them. Fortunately, the Tongass still has these, but many of the best salmon-producing watersheds are not protected and remain vulnerable to logging, mining, and development activities, the very things that drastically reduced the once-great salmon forests of the Pacific Northwest. The good news is that there is still time to get it right in the Tongass.

I made my book, *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain*



About the author

Amy Gulick is a photographer/writer whose book, *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest*, is published by Braided River, the conservation imprint of The Mountaineers Books. Visit: www.salmoninthetrees.org.



Amy Gulick photo

Devils Thumb, a Coast Range peak, rises 9,077 feet about Frederick Sound in Southeast Alaska.

Forest, to raise awareness of this magnificent part of the world and to serve as a communications tool for ongoing conservation efforts to preserve this incredible ecosystem. To that end, I am collaborating with numerous conservation organizations, including Alaska Wilderness League, Trout Unlimited, Audubon Alaska, National Forest Foundation, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Sitka Conservation Society and others. I partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to travel my *Salmon in the Trees* exhibit throughout Southeast Alaska. The exhibit is now on permanent display in Wrangell, Alaska, and I'm in the process of developing a new exhibit for the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Alaska's capital city of Juneau. The work continues with an exciting new campaign called the Tongass 77, a collaborative effort by a coalition of diverse organizations to preserve the top 77 salmon-producing watersheds in the Tongass. Visit www.americansalmonforest.org to learn how you can make a difference. Together, we can ensure that the greatest show on Earth goes on. ▲▲



A washout on the Suiattle River Road—milepost 20.8—about a tenth of a mile west of the Downey Creek Bridge

Gary Paull/U.S. Forest Service photo

Access, watershed health hinge on forest road plan

By Sarah Krueger

Public Lands Programs Manager

Classic Cascades rookie mistake: Find an alluring alpine destination in a guidebook, gather gear and supplies, grab a map and head to the hills for high adventure. One problem: You didn't do all of your homework and your exploit ends at a barricade emblazoned with a "road closed" sign.

Savvy outdoors people who spend enough time in the mountains know that storms, geology and gravity regularly have their way with our aging forest roads and bridges. We search for recent trip reports online or check in with the Forest Service before assuming that a forest road is open, knowing that washouts can happen overnight and resulting closures can last months, or years, due to maintenance and repair backlogs on national forest roads.

Originally built for timber harvest, many forest roads were constructed for short-term use, located along streams and transecting steep slopes. As logging on our national forests has dramatically tapered off, so has the revenue that once floated road maintenance budgets. Crumbling and washed-out roads are inconveniences for recreationists, but they can also impact forest

watersheds. Sediment and debris delivered to rivers and creeks can harm aquatic life, alter hydrology, bury fish spawning beds and degrade water quality. According to a publication from Utah State University, research shows that 90 percent of sediment that ends up in our nation's waters from forest lands is associated with improperly designed and maintained roads.

Ninety percent of sediment that ends up in our nation's waters from forest lands is associated with improperly designed and maintained roads

The environmental concerns and access problems are compounded by the sheer size of the forest road network. In Washington state alone, about 22,000 miles of roads crisscross our national forests (over three times the miles of state, interstate and U.S. highways combined). The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, which spans the west side of the Cascades from the Canadian bor-

Continued on next page

der to the Mt. Rainier National Park boundary, contains approximately 2,500 miles of roads, but can only afford to maintain about one quarter of the roads. In 2012, the agency maintained 672 miles of road with a \$688,000 budget for road maintenance. This year, the agency expects only \$200,000 available to maintain roads due to reductions and elimination of federal grants and other funding sources.

In a nutshell, the Forest Service cannot afford to maintain its existing road network, resulting in unreliable access as well as environmental damage. The solution? Guided by mandates in the 2005 Travel Management Rule, the Forest Service is working to identify a "sustainable road system" by 2015 for each national forest—the minimum amount of roads needed for recreation and resource management given long-term funding expectations. The

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is currently conducting a sustainable roads analysis to plan for an appropriately-sized and environmentally-sound roads system. The analysis will prioritize roads for repairs and maintenance and temporary or

In a nutshell, the Forest Service cannot afford to maintain its existing road network

permanent closure, as well as road-to-trail conversions.

If you enjoy access to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, consider participating in the roads analysis. The Mountaineers is joining forces with diverse forest stakeholder groups and the U.S. Forest Service to form the Sustainable Roads

Cadre, a collaborative effort to engage the public with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Sustainable Roads Analysis. This summer, the Cadre will host at least eight public engagement sessions to map social values associated with the road system. Participants will share their perspectives on the roads that are essential—and non-essential—for their respective use of the forest. Those who cannot attend in person will be able to contribute feedback online.

Stay tuned to The Mountaineers *Currents* e-newsletter and check our Currents blog for more information about how to engage with sustainable roads planning. With your help, we can identify essential access roads for the non-motorized recreation community while supporting the effort to identify a more environmentally-sound road system on our national forests. ▲▲

REVIEWERS LOVE MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS

new



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— Anchorage Daily News



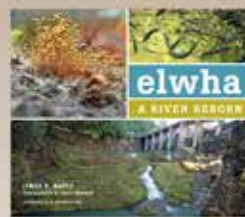
Freedom Climbers
"Amazing book. Totally captivating, just an incredible story."
— Goodreads Reviewer



I Promise Not To Suffer
"Witty, wise, and full of heart, . . . as inspiring as it is hilarious."
— Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*



Joyride
"A great read, taking you through the history of how Portland became the #1 bicycle city."
— Goodreads Reviewer



Elwha: A River Reborn
"The Olympic Peninsula is not always well-treated by writers. The drippy, dreary climate has produced books with prose as thick as Devil's Club. . . . With Mapes book, however, immersion has produced prose as free flowing as the reborn Elwha"
— Joel Connelly, Seattle PI



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Two grand ski getaways offered for the coming season



From the glamour-studded slopes of Idaho's Sun Valley to the Canadian comforts of Silver Star and Sun Peaks in British Columbia, The Mountaineers Global Adventures team is ready to reserve a ski vacation for you this winter.

Hike presidential peaks

Aug. 31-Sept. 8, 2013

You will summit 8 peaks on the Presidential Traverse named after 8 presidents, all above 4,000 ft. and situated on the Appalachian Trail. Carry a day-pack and stay in trail high-huts and lodges on this trek. **Limit:** 8. **Price:** \$700 includes all meals, lodging, administration fee. Shuttles extra. **Leader:** Patti Polinsky, Meanysports@me.com, 206-525-7464.

Trek Austria's Zillertal

Sept. 7-22, 2013

Spectacular alpine scenery, combined with European culture and great hiking, this 50-mile loop has it all: glaciated 11,000-ft. mountains, high alpine passes, deep valleys, waterfalls, gemsbok mountain antelopes and alpine roses. No technical expertise required, but expect long, strenuous days and some alpine scrambling with fixed cables and ladders. Huts are large inns/guest houses. Carry only a daypack. The eight huts have food and bedding. **Price:** \$3,000. **Leader:** Craig Miller, craigmiller@comcast.net.

Climb Red Rocks, NV

Oct. 10-14, 2013

Enjoy sun and fun on moderate

sandstone, multi-pitch routes while overlooking Las Vegas. Close to the airport, lodging and meals, Red Rocks offers all the trad climbing one could want over three days. **Requirements:** Graduate of a Mountaineers crag course or an intermediate climbing course or comparable trad skills. **Price:** \$375; \$200 deposit due by Aug. 15; balance by Sept. 15. Includes: travel in Red Rocks, lodging and breakfast. Excludes: air travel, lunches, dinners. **Leaders:** Loni Uchytel, loniuchytel@msn.com, John Rijoff.

XC ski Sun Valley, ID

Feb. 2-9, 2014

The price includes seven-night stay in rooms with two queen beds, pool, hot tub, breakfast voucher, ski trail passes for over 200 km of Nordic trails. See more on this trip above. **Price:** \$975. **Leader:** Shari Hogshead, skimntr@aol.com or by phone, 425-260-9316.

Backcountry ski B.C.

Feb. 9-18, 2014

Intermediate to advanced backcountry skiers will be thrilled by Hilda Lodge's terrain, from alpine bowls to old-growth forests. The deluxe, new lodge has private bedrooms, bedding and towels, AC power, internet access, indoor plumbing, wood-fired hot tub, and

Sun Valley: Share the trails of Sun Valley with movie stars, high-level politicians and big-name CEOs for seven days, February 2-9, 2014. Lodge in Ketchum's well-appointed Best Western Kentwood Hotel, within walking distance of all the shops and restaurants in this trendy town. With nearly 200 km of cross-country tracks, you will love the skiing, the scenery, and the fellowship. (See more below.)

B.C. Resorts: The second seven-day ski adventure takes travelers to two of British Columbia's finest Nordic and downhill resorts February 15-22, 2014. The emphasis will be on Nordic skiing and skating, but downhill skiing and snowshoeing are also options.

Spend three nights in a large, luxury home right on the Nordic trail in Silver Star and just a five-minute walk from the village or the downhill lifts. We will cross-country ski the nearby Sovereign Lakes system as well (50 km of groomed trail). Then we will enjoy four nights in very nice ski-in, ski-out condos at Sun Peaks, taking advantage of their lift-served 30 km of groomed cross-country trails, snowshoe trails, and excellent downhill skiing. At both locations you can choose from cooking in well-appointed kitchens or eating out in nearby restaurants after a post-ski soak in the hot tub. (See other details below.)

sauna! We will self-guide and self-cater exclusively for The Mountaineers. Helicopter in and out. **Price:** \$1,600. **Leader:** Craig Miller, craigmiller@comcast.net.

Ski two of B.C.'s finest

Feb. 15-22, 2014

Price: \$775 if 12 participate; \$890 if 10 participate (includes accommodation and ski trail passes). **Leader:** Cindy Hoover, cyn@zipcon.com, 206-783-4032.

Backpack N. Zealand

Feb. 16-March 3, 2014

Enjoy three, 2-3 day, strenuous backpacks on the South Island's striking Routeburn, Kepler and Hump Ridge tracks, with day hikes among glaciers and high peaks, a boat trip on Milford Sound and hotel stays in vibrant, small towns. On the tracks, you'll carry only food, clothing, sleeping bag and cookpot while staying in huts. **Price:** \$3,000 (main), \$550 (an Abel Tasman extension), \$500 (a Tongariro extension). Application and \$1,000 deposit due by June 1. **Leader:** Cheryl Talbert, cascadehiker@earthlink.net.

Ski or walk Austria and Switzerland

Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014

Walk or ski in Davos/Klosters,

Switzerland and Serfaus, Austria, with elevations from 3,000-9,600 ft. Winterwanderwegs are over 100 km in each resort. There is unlimited powder slopes and wide, groomed slopes for skiers. Dinners will be prepared by a five-star chef in a 200-year-old, charming, small hotel for this group of 12. **Price:** \$2,960. **Leader:** Patti Polinsky, Meanysports@me.com, 206-525-7464.

Trek the high Andes

May 17-28; May 30-Jun 11, 2014

Experience high Andes trekking, village culture and ancient Inca ruins. Two linked 12-day segments start in Cusco and Huaraz, Peru. Day hike to ruins and colorful markets, trek with guides over remote high passes to Machu Picchu, and through the Cordillera Blanca around 19,511-ft. Cerro Alpamayo. **Prices:** \$2,700 and \$1,900, respectively. **Leader:** Cheryl Talbert, cascadehiker@earthlink.net.

See mountaineers.org
for all details
on Global Adventures

Thank the Pacific and Cascades for dearth of thunderstorms

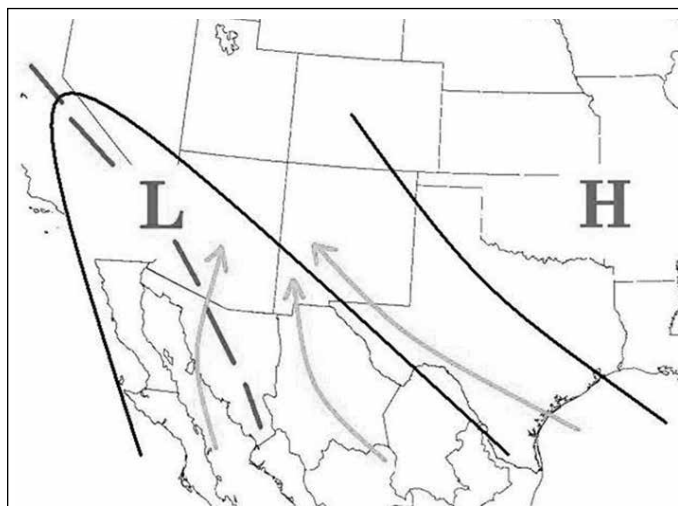
If you are not highly fond of thunder and lightning, you should be thankful you live in the Northwest, especially west of the Cascades. This is partly because of obstructions such as the Cascades and partly because of the cool air continuously flowing from the Pacific Ocean.

States in the Plains and the South do not have such blockages as the Cascades, so the essentials of a severe thunderstorm—cold, dry air colliding with warm, moist air—frequently occur. The more extreme the differences between temperatures of these colliding fronts, the more likelihood of a thunderstorm. Our Cascades block any cold air that would try to move in from the north and east. Also, we have no source of warm, humid air and our ocean temperatures hover around 55 Fahrenheit from season to season—very different to, say, the Gulf of Mexico, which hovers around 80 Fahrenheit in many places.



A water spout that developed in Everett

When we do see thunderstorms here, they are often caused by our notorious convergence zones (see the May/June 2013 issue of the *Mountaineer*), which are indicative of a cool and usually unstable air mass. Even then, thunderstorms from the convergence zone are common in fall-winter-spring. The exception to our dearth of summer storms appears courtesy of the Southwest U.S. monsoon. The extreme heat in the Southwest region brings

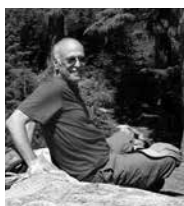


a thermal low (see map above) which includes moisture from the Gulf of California into Arizona. This plume of moisture can sometimes work northward toward us when the upper flow is strong from the south and east, bringing moisture as well as thunderstorms to Washington's east and west Cascades during late July and August.

Thunderstorm hazards in the Northwest

- **Strong winds** from severe thunderstorms in their late stages, sometimes exceed 80 mph. Ten years ago, such strong winds did extensive damage to part of the forest in the Teanaway region. Boaters on Puget Sound should always be aware of forecasts in this regard.
- **Lightning**, of course, starts a number of our large forest fires when they become extremely dry during summer months. Watch out when in the alpine or on the water. Be on the alert all times of the day. For more on lightning storms in the high country, see *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*, Chapter 27.
- **The very rare Northwest tornado** and water spouts can come from thunderstorms.

About the author



Michael Fagin provides mountain weather forecasts for the Washington Cascades and Olympics. He also provides forecasts for Mount Everest expedition groups and provides custom forecasts to independent climbers on a worldwide basis. His weekly hike/ski weather segment is heard every Tuesday at 9:50 a.m. on KOUW (94.9 FM in Seattle). Also find him via: www.westcoastweather.com; www.everestweather.com; www.hikewashington.net.



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Mountaineers Business Members value the spirit, volunteerism and history of The Mountaineers and support the organization's mission: "... to enrich the community by helping people explore, learn about, conserve and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest." They are a community within the community of The Mountaineers—all sharing the same interest and passion for the outdoors. We thank the following Mountaineers business owners for their support.

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Vivienne E. Mitchell (Joined 1983)
Hersman, Serles, Almond PLLC
520 Kirkland Way, Ste. 300
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.cpahsa.com
VMitchell@cpahsa.com
425-602-9272

BANKING - LENDING

Leah Schulz (Joined 2006)
Tri Star Finance
1400 112th Ave. SE, Ste. 100
Bellevue, WA 98004
www.leahdschulz.com
leah@TriStarFinance.com
206-523-1288

BODY WORK

Christopher Hall (Joined 2011)
Chris Hall DC, CCSP - Chiropractic Sports
Physician
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Bellevue, WA 98005
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chris@drchrishall.com
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206-568-0710

Want to be a Mountaineers Business Member?

Designed for the **small business owners** in our midst, this category of Mountaineers membership provides an opportunity for dedicated members to support The Mountaineers at an even higher level. In recognition of this increased support and in addition to all other member benefits, business members receive a Business Member Directory listing on this page and on our website, as well as invitations to special membership events (watch mountaineers.org for notices).

To find out more about upcoming business member events or to become a member of this group, contact Leah Schulz, leah@leahdschulz.com, 206-523-1288.

For a **complete list** of membership benefits and how to access them, see our **Member Benefits page:** www.mountaineers.org/membership/benefits.cfm. You can also find answers to frequently asked questions via The Mountaineers Support page: <http://help.mountaineers.org>, or contact info@mountaineers.org; 206-521-6001.

And remember: As a mission-based and volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all but \$10 of your dues are **tax-deductible** to the full extent of the law.

Business Directory gets results for Everett member



Hauling shutters to Three Fingers Lookout

A longtime Mountaineers leader and volunteer, Louie Coglas has found a new connection to his Mountaineers community and it is paying dividends for both he and his fellow Mountaineers.

A roofer by trade who started a roofing business of his own in 2010, Louie joined the Business Member category of The Mountaineers when it was created last year.

Since he joined and became listed on The Mountaineers Business Directory (on the page at left) he has seen

results—three bids and one job in the past few months.

Louie said he believes that being a business owner and a Mountaineer holds cachet with customers who are looking for

trustworthy services. “When I saw that the Business Membership was starting up, I thought it would be a good idea to join. I have gotten to know people on climbs and some have told others about my services, but I thought (a Business Membership) would be even better.”

Louie has been a roofer for 35 years and joined The Mountaineers in 1987. He has been active in climbing and sea kayaking with the organization a conservation division educational outreach volunteer in the 1990s. He would often don costumes such as ‘Willie from the Woods’ to appear at local elementary schools and teach such values as low impact in the woods and reusing materials at home.

Louie, currently serving as chair of The Mountaineers Everett Branch, has led many basic and intermediate climbing trips, was an early Stevens Lodge volunteer and continues to keep an active schedule in maintenance and repair of lookouts in the mountains.

He said he hopes to increase his involvement with the Business Member group. “I am always promoting it and I hope we can include some shows and other events that will draw even more members to our meetings.”

Watch www.mountaineers.org for details about an upcoming Business Membership event

The Elwha River returns to nature (continued from page 22)

project that took several decades. By 1927 a second dam had been constructed at Glines Canyon, which was subsequently included within the boundaries of Olympic National Park. In the mid-1980s as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) continued to slow-walk the license applications for the two dams, Mountaineers member Rick Rutz made the observation that FERC did not have the jurisdictional authority to license a hydropower dam in a national park. It took several years but by 1992 the audacious idea to remove the dams inched closer to reality with the passage of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act. All that remained was the “small matter” of securing the funding for the project; but by September 2011 the project was underway as an excavator set to work and began to break up the concrete and dismantle the dam that Thomas Aldwell had worked so hard to build. The environmental costs associated with its continued operation greatly exceeded the small amount of power it produced.

At the official ceremony to mark the beginning of the dam’s demolition, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Conner remarked, “Dam removal is not the best option everywhere, but it is the best option here. And it’s the best option in a lot of places because the process that we are going through these days is . . . reassessing the costs and benefits of certain facilities that exist today . . . I think this is not only a historic moment here, but it’s going to lead to historic moments elsewhere across the country.”

Today the Elwha Dam is gone and the river explodes through an impressive rapid in the heart of the canyon where the dam once blocked its flow. Only 50’ of the 210’ Glines Canyon Dam remains before it is completely removed. Already salmon have been finding their way upstream of the Elwha Dam site, and the river offers ample opportunities for exploration where one can witness firsthand what it means to restore a river (see Tom O’Keefe’s sidebar on page 22). ▲▲

Welcome to our seven branches of The Mountaineers

Propelled by dedicated and skilled volunteers, all branches offer a number of courses and seminars. Many courses, such as climbing, scrambling, kayaking, backcountry skiing and others, require a set of learned skills to enjoy safely and follow a common curriculum from branch to branch. Some, however, may have slight differences in the names of the courses they hold in common, such as Snowshoe Level 1 and Snowshoe Lite; Snowshoe or Backcountry Ski Course and Winter Travel; or Sailing Course and Crewing Course. Just look for the descriptions when visiting course information online or in this Mountaineer. See course events in the "Go Guide" section of this magazine. Although our program curricula are coordinated to meet Mountaineers-wide standards and policies, each branch offers a slightly different flavor or character to its offerings. Though you may want to join the branch nearest to your home, you may join any branch of your choosing. Note that once you are a member you may participate in trips or courses in any branch. One way to gain a taste test of a particular branch is to attend a new/prospective members' meeting. General dates of these meetings are noted under each branch heading. For all current activities and links to branch websites, visit www.mountaineers.org.

BELLINGHAM

Vice Chair: Minda Paul

Website: bellinghammountaineers.org.

The Bellingham Branch, tucked alongside the craggy expanse of the North Cascades, features a vital, close-knit climbing program, as well as courses in first aid and alpine scrambling. It is also home to one of the most popular Mountaineers getaway destinations, Mt. Baker Lodge. The lodge facilitates many of the courses and seminars offered by the branch. From the lodge, Mountaineers and guests can also recreate to their heart's content year-round. In addition to the courses noted above, Bellingham also offers hiking trips, snowshoe tours and backcountry ski trips.

SUMMER POTLUCKS BEGIN! Tuesdays, **July 9** and **August 13**, 6 p.m. at the Whatcom Falls Park small picnic shelter. Bring yourself, family, your friends, your dog or your dog's friends, but most importantly bring a dish to share! For more details email bellinghammountaineers@gmail.com.

EVERETT

Chair: Louis Coglas, earthhumor@comcast.net

Website: everettmountaineers.org.

The Everett Branch of The Mountaineers was founded in 1910 by H.B. Linman, an Everett dentist. The new organization successfully sponsored over a dozen hikes that year. Its first outing was a hike to Lake Isabelle. Several hundred members of the public attended "stereopticon" presentations at the Everett High School auditorium. Dr. Linman, his wife, and seven other branch members reached the summit of Glacier Peak in August 1910 during The Mountaineers' annual outing. The branch was not "officially" founded until 1911 when The Mountaineers charter was amended to provide for branches. This anomaly allowed

the branch to hold its centennial celebration in 2010 and 2011!

Everett members share a wide variety of activities. Please explore the branch website or attend one of the branch monthly meetings to discover more about the branch.

Learn more

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: To learn more about branch activities and meet some nice people who happen to be Mountaineers, attend the monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of most months and often feature a guest presentation. The meetings take summer off and resume in September. Members, guests and the general public are invited to join us at 7 p.m. in the Snohomish County East Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Rm F107 in downtown Everett.

HELP RESTORE TRAILS & LOOK-OUTS: For more details about volunteering, contact Forrest Clark, LOTM@everettmountaineers.org.

FOOTHILLS

Chair: Fran Troje, foothills.branch@gmail.com.

Website: foothillsmountaineers.org.

The newest of Mountaineers branches, Foothills offers trips and classes to communities on the Eastside, from Bellevue all the way to Ellensburg, the branch offers opportunities for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation year-round.

The branch offers conservation and recreational access advocacy, hiking, photography and skiing. As its membership grows, the branch is looking for **volunteers** to steer current and new programs, and provide new ideas for additional programs. You might even want to become one of our leaders or instructors! We can put you on that trail. Just notify Foothills Chair Fran Troje, foothills.branch@gmail.com, 425-746-6726.

Learn more

The Foothills Branch meeting for new and prospective members is held most months throughout the year. They start with a socializing session at 6:30 p.m., which is followed by a brief update on branch goings-on and a feature presentation at about 7:20 p.m. Meetings are held in Issaquah at the King County Library System Service Center. See the branch website for the latest information on the next meeting.

FILM ON MUIR TRAIL TO MAKE NW

DEBUT: The Foothills Branch is proud to sponsor a Pacific Northwest debut of the new film, "Mile, Mile & A Half, on Thursday, August 1 at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center. See mountaineers.org for more about this travelogue on hiking the John Muir Trail in California.

VOLUNTEER: The Foothills Branch Hiking Committee is looking for volunteers to be a part of our committee. We are also looking for hike leaders, including backpacking leaders. For more information, please contact co-chair of the Hiking Committee, Chris Caviezel at Nordic.chris@gmail.com or 425-434-0899.

KITSAP

Chair: Mike Raymond, branch@kitsapcabin.org.

Website: kitsapmountaineers.org.

The Kitsap Branch is home to a preserve, a program center—the Kitsap Cabin—and an outdoor stage. All of these allow a pot-pourri of activity and delight for Mountaineers and guests.

Kitsap offers courses and programs in climbing, alpine scrambling, hiking, snowshoeing tours, photography and sea kayaking. Its Salmon Safari for youths—stream-side observations of spawning salmon in the Rhododendron Preserve—is only a short hike from Kitsap Cabin amidst some of the longest standing old-growth forest in Western Washington's lowlands.

Also a short hike away is the magical Kitsap Forest Theater, home to two **Mountaineers Players** stage productions each year.

Learn more

The Kitsap Branch holds quarterly membership meetings at 7 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center in downtown Bremerton (345 6th St.). Anyone interested in programs offered by The Mountaineers is encouraged to attend. We'll share slides of our activities followed by a feature presentation. Refreshments are served. Watch the Kitsap Branch website for dates and times.

VOLUNTEER ALERT! We are always looking for volunteers to make our Kitsap Cabin more accommodating. If you're in the mood for cutting up some wood for our beautiful fireplace or wish to share your carpentry skills, let us know. Also, if you have some dry, burnable wood to spare at home, we could use it! If you can help in any of these ways, contact Mike Raymond, branch@kitsapmountaineers.org.

CONSERVATION/EDUCATION PROGRAMS: To find out the latest about Kitsap conservation projects, contact Katha Miller-Winder, conservation and education chair, info@salmonsafari.org

OLYMPIA

Chair: Carla Jonientz, carlajonientz@yahoo.com.

Website: www.olympiamountaineers.org. The Olympia Branch has been offering Mountaineers programs and training to the South Sound for more than 45 years, including hiking, skiing, sea kayaking, snowshoeing, backpacking, climbing, outdoor leadership, and naturalist activities.

Learn more

MEET THE OLYMPIA BRANCH AT OUR POTLUCKS. The potlucks are off until September, but we are looking for Adventure Speakers for the next season of potlucks. If you have any suggestions for speakers or would like to share your own adventure or nature expertise, please contact Carolyn Burreson at cbburreson@q.com.

IF YOU WANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION about The Mountaineers, to have a membership brochure sent to a friend, or if you have moved and don't want to miss an issue of the bimonthly *Mountaineer* magazine, send an e-mail to olymountaineers@gmail.com. Please include your mailing address so that we can send you a membership packet.

THE BRANCH PICNIC is the branch's biggest social event of the summer! It will be held at Tolmie State Park on Thursday,

July 18. Watch the branch website for details.

COURSES BEGIN: The brand-new Wilderness Skills Essentials of Backpacking, with an introduction to off-trail travel, begins in early September, tentatively Sept. 4, 7, and 14. See the branch website for details (under Courses) and mountaineers.org to register.

ACTIVITY AWARDS: Now is the time to start your paperwork in order to receive your award at the Olympia Banquet on October 26. Most of the awards are listed on the branch website. Send your completed paperwork requesting the award before September 15 to Kerry Lowry, 3600 Snug Harbor Dr NE, Olympia, WA 98506 or kerryndon@comcast.net or call 360-456-2694 with questions.

BRANCH ANNUAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS: Submit the name of an Olympia Branch member you would like to see recognized for his or her long-term service to The Mountaineers, for leadership over branch activities, for a genuine spirit of service to The Mountaineers, for education provided to our outdoor community or services to our natural environment. Include a description of why the nominee should be recognized for long-term service, or get more details, by e-mailing Curt Rosler at rosler6419@comcast.net.

BRANCH ELECTIONS will be held this summer for the positions of chair elect, social chair, treasurer, and member at-large. Here's your opportunity to give back to the branch; and no experience is needed. The time commitment for these offices is usually just a few hours each month and provides a great chance to learn more about how The Mountaineers works, meet more Mountaineers, and improve an already great organization. Please contact Branch Chair Carla Jonientz or Nominating Committee Chair Curt Rosler (rosler6419@comcast.net, 360-438-5610) for more information.

THE OLYMPIA BRANCH BOARD meets every month at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meetings are July 10 and August 14 at Olympia Center. Members are encouraged to attend and to check the website to confirm location and starting times.

OLYMPIA BRANCH LIBRARY: Open for the summer and located at Maxine Dunkelmann's house, 5418 Lemon Rd. N.E. Contact Maxine at 360-352-5027 (8 am to 8 pm) or maxdunk@comcast.net if you'd like to come by to browse, check out or return materials. Returns can also be made at Alpine Experience (in the box behind the front counter). Books, DVDs, and maps owned by

the branch are listed and searchable on the branch website. A librarian always attends our first-Wednesday potluck presentations with a selection of books to check out.

SEATTLE

Chair: Timmy Williams, mtnrtimmy@clearwire.net.

Website: seattlemountaineers.org.

The largest of our branches, Seattle gives lovers of the outdoors an opportunity to try out hiking, backpacking, scrambling, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness navigation, first aid, family activities, folk dances, leadership training, naturalist study, photography, singles events, Retired Rovers activities, Under the Hill Rovers activities and sailing.

Learn more

MEET THE MOUNTAINEERS: The Seattle Branch holds a Meet The Mountaineers open house at The Mountaineers Program Center periodically. These allow new members and prospective members to learn about The Mountaineers offerings. Keep an eye on the website for information about the next one.

FREE HIKING SEMINARS: Do you have the hiking or backpacking bug but you just need to know a little more about how to get started in the Pacific Northwest? The Seattle Branch offers a free Beginning Hiking Seminar most months. They begin at 6:30 p.m. on **July 18 and August 15** at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center. Though they are free, participants are urged to register online for the seminars to make sure there is enough seating.

INTRO TO MAP AND COMPASS: Learn the basics in how to keep from getting lost in the wilderness. See website to register.

FOLK DANCING: Each Tuesday at The Brig in Magnuson Park, just southeast of The Mountaineers Program Center. What kind of music do we play? Traditional folk dances plus line dances, sets (squares or contras), mixers, waltz, polka, hambo, two-step variations and patterns along with ragtime, foxtrot, swing, tango and more. No partner needed; come by yourself or bring a friend. Admission: \$6 Mountaineers, \$7 non-members. Age 30 and under free. See www.mountaineers.org/seattle/folkdance.

DO YOU WANNA DANCE? The Seattle singles group offers dances and lessons. Contact Karen Ludwig, karenludwig2000@yahoo.com, for upcoming singles dances.

Continued on page 34

TACOMA

Chair: Geoff Lawrence, geoff.lawrence@tacomamountaineers.org.

Website: www.tacomamountaineers.org.

The second largest of all seven branches, Tacoma maintains not only its own program center in the Old Town neighborhood of Tacoma, but a property close to Mt. Rainier, the Irish Cabin on the Carbon River. Tacoma Branch offers an extensive list of activities and courses, including backpacking, hiking, conservation, scrambling, climbing, first aid, snowshoeing, skiing, sea kayaking, sailing, bicycling, singles events, wilderness navigation, avalanche awareness, folk dancing, photography and family activities.

Learn more about us by visiting our branch website to view our activities, our events calendar and other offerings.

Learn more

MEET THE TACOMA MOUNTAINEERS:

Tacoma Branch holds a free meeting on the third Friday of every month (except June-August and December) to introduce prospective and new members to the branch. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. with a presentation about The Mountaineers, followed by an interlude to talk with various activity reps (hiking, climbing, sea kayaking to name a few of 22 activities).

JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERS CAMP: This Tacoma debut for kids in grades 1-7 will be held **August 5-9 and 12-16** at the Tacoma Program Center. Kids can try climbing,

hiking, kayaking, navigation, photography and basic wilderness skills. See www.mountaineers.org to view the specifics of each week's theme.

NAVIGATION HEADS UP: Enrollment for this September's Basic Navigation Course is now open. Register at mountaineers.org

MOUNTAINEERS-WIDE PLAYERS

Escape to the Kitsap Forest Theater! Join us for a grand adventure as you stroll down the forested trail to our unique and breathtaking theater. A treasured family tradition in the greater Seattle arts community since 1923, The Mountaineers Players continues to bring Puget Sound audiences quality outdoor theater under the conifer canopy of its Kitsap Forest Theater every spring and summer.

The Secret Garden will be performed this summer at the Kitsap Forest Theater.

Tickets are available at www.ForestTheater.com and at the Mountaineers Program Center (800-573-8484, on the phone and in person) and at Ted Brown Music, Silverdale; Liberty Bay Books, Poulsbo; and Country Nursery, Bremerton. Adult tickets are \$16 presale and \$18 at the door. Students, seniors, military and Mountaineers members save \$2. Youth tickets (age 6-12) are \$10 presale and \$12 at the door, and children 5 and under are free. Remember, you can volunteer to help usher or park and see the show for free.

The Secret Garden - July 27, 28, August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18; 2 pm. This enchanting

literary classic is re-imagined in this brilliant musical that won three Tony Awards on Broadway. The story follows 11 year-old Mary Lennox, orphaned in India, as she returns to Yorkshire to live with her embittered, reclusive Uncle Archibald and his invalid son, Colin. This timeless story of forgiveness and renewal will enchant all ages and is the perfect summer outing for the whole family.

Director, Craig Schieber; music director, Julia Thornton; choreographer, Guy Caridi; accompanist, Olivia Hickerson; costumes and sets, Barbara Klingberg.

Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp: Registration has begun for Adventure Camp for kids in grades K-5. We have increased the ages for this summer, so more kids can take part in the adventures! Dates of the camp are July 8-12 and July 15-19 and include an optional Friday night family campout. Your child's creativity and imagination will bloom in activities that include art, music, drama, play, hiking, forest skills, creek stomping, story-telling and just plain fun. Visit our website (ForestTheater.com) for additional information or call 206-542-7815. Early-bird discount applies if registered by May 1.

Help wanted: We need help with set building and painting, ushering, parking, cooking at Kitsap Cabin, running concessions, property maintenance, etc. If you are interested in being involved in any way with either or both shows, please call the Kitsap Forest Theater at 206-542-7815 or e-mail players@ForestTheater.com. We would love to have your help! Visit www.ForestTheater.com.

Players open summer show: 'The Secret Garden'

The Mountaineers Players continues its 2013 stage season with "The Secret Garden," starting the weekend of July 27-28 and running each weekend through August 18. All performances begin at 2 pm.

The timeless story of forgiveness and renewal is the perfect summer outing for the whole family. Pack a picnic and enjoy the Forest Theater located near Bremerton and amidst one of the largest lowland stands of old-growth forest in Western Washington.

For more information about the show and buying tickets, visit www.foresttheater.com or refer to the advertisement at left.

ESCAPE TO THE KITSAP FOREST THEATER!
Join us for a grand adventure as you stroll down the trail to our unique & breathtaking theater.

Saturday & Sunday • July 27-28 • August 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 • 2:00 pm



Book & Lyrics by Marsha Norman
Music by Lucy Simon
based on the novel by
Frances Hodgson Burnett

This enchanting literary classic is re-imagined in this brilliant musical. 11 year-old Mary, orphaned in India, returns to Yorkshire to live with her embittered, reclusive Uncle Archibald and his invalid son, Colin. The estate's many wonders include a magic garden which beckons the children with haunting melodies and the "Dreamers," spirits from Mary's past, who guide her through her new life. This timeless story of forgiveness and renewal will enchant all ages and is a perfect summer outing. Buy tickets online or from The Mountaineers.

www.ForestTheater.com • 206-542-7815 info



Mountaineers lodges are open year-round for members and guests. Reservations are made through a prepay system which accepts payment by either credit card or a check. If paying by credit card, simply call 206-521-6001 by 5 p.m. (for all lodges except Meany which is via www.brownpapertickets.com; 800-838-3006) on the Thursday prior to the weekend. If paying by check, the payment must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday prior to the weekend you wish to reserve. All we ask of you thereafter is to call the program center, 206-521-6001, by 5 p.m. on Thursday to confirm that your payment has been received and that a reservation has been secured. **Cancellations:** All cancellations, except for Meany, must be made at the program center by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the lodge visit—the cooks need to know you're not coming! This is also the refund deadline.

Baker Lodge

Summer at Mt. Baker Lodge offers wonderful hiking on a great variety of trails. Numerous trails are within walking distance or a short drive from the lodge. Many are suitable for children. Artist Point is just three miles away at the end of a paved road, with panoramic views of Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan, and the North Cascades. Snow play opportunities usually are abundant through the summer.

Trails usually are completely snow-free by mid-August, giving even inexperienced hikers access to some of the most spectacular scenery in the Pacific Northwest. Early fall provides all the above plus fine blueberry picking, so bring your containers. For a list of hikes and trail conditions visit the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest web page. Click on Mt. Baker Highway (SR-542) and scroll down the page for trailhead, road and trail conditions. If you've visited the lodge only in winter, or not at all, make your plans now for a special summer treat.

The lodge usually is open by 7 or 8 p.m. on Fridays. Call the hosts listed on the schedule if you have questions about the lodge or opening time. If you arrive after 10:30 p.m. be prepared with a flashlight or headlamp. Each person should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, lunches, personal gear, and a flashlight and/or headlamp. Unless otherwise indicated the lodge provides Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and Saturday dinner. Baker Lodge welcomes the public, all ages and abilities. Families with children age 5 or younger should call the host prior to registering.

Schedule & Rates: The lodge is usually open all weekends, and at least one entire week, in August and September. On the home page of our website (www.bakerlodge.org) click on "Calendar and Reservations" for our current schedule. Groups may be listed on the schedule for specific weekends. However, unless otherwise indicated, the lodge is open to those outside of the group and the public, with reservations on a first-call basis, 206-521-6001, or through online registration. Payment at time of registration can be made with credit card or check.

Groups at Baker: The Mt. Baker Committee encourages groups, such as scouts,

school/youth, or family and friends gatherings, to consider using the lodge whether or not they are members. Not only does the area offer many options for outdoor activities, but it is especially appropriate for experiential classes in outdoor related skills and activities. Contact Judy Sterry (206-366-2750; jsterry60@me.com) for group reservations.

Get involved: Do you enjoy hosting people at parties, special events or in your home? Do you enjoy being a part of a team that puts meals together for others? If so, Baker Lodge may be your next opportunity. The Baker Lodge Committee is looking for energetic individuals/couples/families to help with general operations throughout the year. You can become hosts for Baker Lodge with just two weekends of training. Specific duties range from opening and closing the lodge, assisting with and/or supervising meal preparations, and coordinating lodge activities—the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. We are interested in exploring new ideas for maximizing this beautiful little gem of a lodge that sits in the shadow of Mt. Baker with a fantastic view of Mt. Shuksan. Couples or friends can team up with other couples or singles to serve as hosts. Families can come together and welcome other families for a family weekend, etc. Hosts stay for free!

Driving directions: N. on I-5 to Bellingham, take Exit 255, the Mt. Baker Highway, and go E. on SR-542 about 54 mi. to the ski area. At the Firs Lodge, turn right onto the one-way loop road that leads 0.3 mi. to our lodge on the right side of the road. We are about 1-1/2 hours from Bellingham and 3 hours from Seattle.

Kitsap Cabin

Kitsap Cabin, built mostly by Mountaineers women in 1918, is the social "hub" of the Kitsap Forest Theater, the Kitsap property and Kitsap Branch. It is the spring and summer home base for the Mountaineers Players as they rehearse and perform at the beautiful Kitsap Forest Theater. It is also the "home base" of the Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp and The Mountaineers Kitsap Branch. The Kitsap yurt was installed on the property several years ago and is a perfect meeting and gathering space.

Kitsap Cabin and yurt are surrounded by the Rhododendron Preserve, a 460-acre

private reserve operated by The Mountaineers Foundation. The preserve is one of the largest remaining parcels of Puget Sound Lowland old growth forest in the Puget Sound Basin, and acts as a buffer protecting the Kitsap Forest Theater and salmon spawning creeks from encroaching development.

We are looking for volunteers to help with property maintenance—Please contact us to volunteer your time. The cabin, yurt and theater are available for private rentals. For rental information, call 206-542-7815.

Kitsap Branch: www.kitsapmountaineers.org

Mountaineers Foundation/Rhododendron Preserve: www.mountaineersfoundation.org.

Meany Lodge

Informational emails: To keep Mountaineers up to date on Meany Lodge events, we send emails roughly once or twice a month. Some are geared toward specific events. If one interests you, visit our website at www.meanylodge.org and fill out the requested information.

Work parties: These are the weekends that unretired Meany volunteers get things fixed and shining in summer and fall. Whether it is one day or a couple of hours, we welcome all of your time and help. Visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/264388 to sign up for a work party.

Meany Lodge Season Pass: Save money by purchasing a Meany Lodge Season Ski Pass. Watch our website as the next season approaches for more details.

Winter sports program: See www.meanylodge.org/winter/ski_program.html to learn all about family-fun lessons for all ages, 4+ to 80-something, and of all abilities, taught by certified instructors.

Meany rentals: Meany is available for private rentals and Mountaineers events. Visit www.meanylodge.org, go to "Contacts" and send the chair an email about your event and he will check the Meany calendar for openings.

Snoqualmie Campus

Snoqualmie Campus is available for group rentals on Saturdays and Sundays only. Please contact The Mountaineers Program

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Center, info@mountaineers.org (preferred) or 206-521-6001, if you are interested in renting the property for your group.

Stevens Lodge

The Mountaineers has a fantastic facility for members to enjoy at Stevens Pass. Located just above Lot 4 at the Stevens Pass Ski Area, Stevens Lodge is the only ski-in, ski-out facility on the pass. We are open every weekend from December to April, including holiday Mondays in January and February.

The lodge has three dorms with 12-24

bunks in each dorm. Bathrooms are shared and there is a shower in each restroom. The main living area has a large dining room and lounge area with a fireplace. Meals are included in your price of lodging: breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday. Meals are prepared by volunteers and served family-style at a posted time. Please note any dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

Guests are asked to contribute to the running of the lodge by picking up at least one "chore" a day, which can be shoveling snow, serving dinner or hauling firewood.

This community effort is what keeps the lodge ticking.

It's easy to make a reservation to stay at Stevens Lodge during the season. Visit The Mountaineers website and click through to Stevens Lodge, then register under "Lodges and Centers." We also welcome group reservations for birthday parties, youth groups, etc. Please call Member Services at 206-521-6001 if you have any questions about visiting Stevens Lodge. We hope to see you at the cabin!

offbelay

Albert Nejme, hero among heroes

A firefighter, rescue volunteer, musician, sailor and climber who was instrumental in creating The Mountaineers Aid and Big Wall Climbing Program, Albert Nejme died of an apparent heart attack May 14, 2013 while working at the scene of a medical emergency.

Nejme, who joined The Mountaineers in 1995 and graduated from the intermediate climbing course to become a leader and climbing volunteer, worked 12 years with the Tacoma Fire Department. A few days after his death, his fellow firefighters gathered for a procession which included carrying his body in a firetruck to the cemetery.

Nejme's spirit and zest for adventure was somewhat legendary among those who knew him. His adventures included:

- Sailing 4,000 miles to the Soviet Union on a friendship tour with fellow environmentalists.
- Climbing in Nepal
- Bicycling across Cuba
- Mastering five musical instruments
- Singing in Carnegie Hall with folk-music legend Pete Seeger
- Rafting the Grand Canyon
- Building his own self-sustaining home
- Carving an enormous peace sign in the snow near Lake Placid

His mountain climbing skills and nautical expertise—together with his strong intellect and good judgment—qualified Nejme as a member of the fire department's Technical Rescue Team. Al had an unwavering spirit and compassion for his fellow man. Tireless in his effort to lend a hand to his friends, his family and those less fortunate, he died as he lived—a hero trying to rescue another who was in need.

Story of a seabird and its forest

Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet, by Maria Mudd Ruth, is set to be published by The Mountaineers Books in August.

Part naturalist detective story and part environmental inquiry, *Rare Bird* lends a view into the world of an endangered seabird that depends on the contested old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest for its survival. This little brown bullet that flies at up to 100 miles an hour and lives most of its life offshore is seen on land only during breeding season.

Hike Switzerland Self Guided or Guided

Bill Russell's Mountain Tours Web:
www.russelltours.com
hiking@russelltours.com
800 669-4453

Please visit www.mountaineers.org for listings of all trips, courses and other Mountaineers activities

conservationcurrents (continued from page 8)

Conservation briefs . . .

San Juan Islands National Monument

Using his authority under the Antiquities Act, President Obama signed a proclamation on March 25 establishing the San Juan Islands National Monument. The action protects about 1,000 acres at 60 locations throughout the San Juans managed by the Bureau of Land Management, including popular destinations such as Patos Island and Iceberg Point on Lopez Island. The status protects these lands from possible sale or development and sets the stage for long-term management of their natural and cultural values.

Wild Sky Trails Plan completed

A recently released Wild Sky Trails Plan outlines a vision for new and improved access, for both hikers and equestrians, to Washington's newest designated wilderness area. When Congress established the Wild Sky Wilderness in 2008, the legislation directed the Forest Service to outline a wilderness-access trail plan.

The Mountaineers and The Wilderness Society convened a focus group of hiking and wilderness enthusiasts in fall of 2011 to inform the planning process. We are happy to see many of our recommendations reflected in the new plan, which outlines over 50 miles of trails in or adjacent to the Wild Sky (including improvements to existing trails).

Plans are great, but action is even better. Thankfully, the Wild Sky Trails Plan is already coming to fruition with several trail

proposals already underway or completed, including the Beckler Creek Trail, additions to the Iron Goat Trail, Frog Mountain Trail and relocation of the Kelly Creek Trail. Each new trail will require site-specific analysis and environmental review, and it takes an average of 3-5 years to implement projects after funding is received. The Wild Sky Trails Plan is an important tool that will help leverage funding for implementation and will guide the Forest Service in prioritizing resources over the years to come.

National Heritage Area proposed

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a 1.5-million-acre landscape encompassing urban areas, public lands and working farms and forests surrounding I-90 between Puget Sound and Central Washington. In late April, Congressman Dave Reichert and Congressman Adam Smith introduced HR 1785, a bipartisan bill that would establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. National Heritage Area designation would increase funding opportunities on the Greenway landscape, establish corridor-wide conservation principles on public lands, strengthen public awareness of the Greenway and formalize the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's role in facilitating cooperative and collaborative stewardship of the Greenway. The Mountaineers is among hundreds of non-profits, businesses, government agencies and individual supporters calling for official recognition of the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area. Learn more at www.mtsgreenway.org/heritage.



Thousands of islands, connected by nothing but water, comprise the Alexander Archipelago in Alaska's portion of the Inside Passage

Amy Gulick photo

Vitality

My first day in Southeast Alaska I learned that the automobile is useless in this part of the world. Sure, roads exist in most of the small communities scattered throughout this portion of the famed Inside Passage, but they dead end at the edge of a cliff or the tip of one of thousands of islands. There are no bridges to nowhere, or anywhere. But that never stopped the Native Tlingit, who for millennia traveled by dugout canoe carved from the rot-resistant cedar fringing the shoreline. Today, by kayak, skiff, or ferry, the world is your oyster—or mussel or clam—in this place where the salty smell of the sea mixes with the earthy aroma of the rain forest.

This is a place that water built. Lots of water. Parts of Southeast Alaska are deluged with 200 inches of precipitation annually—five times that of Seattle. Locals don Xtratuf rubber boots, dubbed the “Southeast sneaker,” 365 days of the year. And while people grumble about all that moisture, they know it’s why the snow falls, the creeks flow, the salmon spawn, the trees tower, the berries nourish and the wildlife flourish.

From glacier-carved fjords to mountain-fed streams, all paths lead to the ocean and back again, in the watery cycle of life so present in both wild and human communities. Salmon shape-shift from smolt to adult, flowing between freshwater and seawater. Bears pluck fish from the streams and clams from the beaches. People tell time by the tides and live by seasons of salmon, berries and deer. With salt spray in their hair and rain on their cheeks, it’s impossible not to be connected to the very things that nourish both their bodies and their spirits. It’s a good life—one of water, by water—that doesn’t miss the automobile.

— Amy Gulick



Amy Gulick’s book, *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska’s Tongass Rain Forest*, is published by Braided River, the conservation imprint of The Mountaineers Books. See www.salmoninthetrees.org.



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