

REPORTS TRAIL AND ROAD CONDITIONS

NORTH FORK SOLEDUCK—First 4 miles are clear; the last 5 miles have forty-seven logs across the trail and twelve stream fordings. Trail is difficult to follow at times; watch flagging.—Ranger, 8/2.

NORTHWEST

* **LAKE ANN/MOUNT SHUKSAN** (*USGS Mount Shuksan*)—Enjoyed a sunny successful weekend within the domain of Mount Shuksan. Trail to Lake Ann muddy in places, last 1½-miles under snow, but route was obvious. Lake Ann still mostly frozen. The Upper and Lower Curtis Glaciers were melting, resulting in outstanding avalanches which thundered down sporadically night and day.

On Sunday, three of us climbed Shuksan via the Fisher Chimneys and Upper Curtis Glacier. An interesting, but tiring route. The Chimneys are complex and care must be taken to follow the correct route. At about 6600 feet, at the site of a wand, head east up to the ridgecrest, *not* south up a grassy hourglass-shaped gully. (A beaten path could easily lead you astray up this southern gully).

The only other noteworthy problem is the crossing of a large crevasse which bisects Hells Highway. The options for crossing it are: 1) a submerged snow-bridge or, 2) exiting the glacier and then performing a precarious rock traverse until the crevasse has been passed. After this, you can look forward to a careful class 3 climb up the summit pyramid. Good views of Shuksan's terrain and the North Cascades.—Stephen Fry, Woodinville, 7/30-31.

ROADS CLOSED—Barlow/Monte Cristo, Cadet Creek (½-mile from Sloan Creek Road), Elliott Creek (1 mile from Mountain Loop Highway), Tupso Pass (at 11 miles due to destroyed bridge).—Ranger, 8/3.

TEEBONE RIDGE, LITTLE DEVIL PEAK, BIG DEVIL PEAK (*USGS Marblemount*)—Access to this area is via the Monogram Lake Trail which is in excellent condition. Views of Eldorado Peak simply amazing.—Mike Clark, Lynnwood, 8/13-14.

SAHALE ARM (*USGS Cascade Pass*)—There are not enough superlatives in the English language to describe the views

from Sahale Arm. Took us a little over 4 hours up (with photo stops and getting one's breath). Flowering meadows were in their full glory. No mosquitoes. The flies, however, were out in force from Cascade Pass to the parking lot on the trip back. If you stopped, they had you for dinner.—CAT, Bellevue, 8/5.

DEVILS DOME LOOP (*USGS Crater Mountain, Pumpkin Mountain, Jack Mountain, Shull Mountain and Ross Dam*)—Made trip counter-clockwise from parking lot on Ruby Creek, just east of Ross Lake.

Trail in reasonably good condition, no windfalls and very little snow. A few steep snowfields on Jackita Ridge but ice axes not needed. Major damage to trails is from horses punching out the shoulders where the trail is soft. Needs brushing on the grade between the lake and Dry Creek Pass.

Mosquitoes thick and hungry around Crater Mountain and Mac Millan Park—otherwise, no bug problem. Weather turned bad after the second day—shelters in good shape at Devils Park and Bear Skull.

Made side trip up Crater Mountain—well worth it. Would like to have had time to scramble around west side to explore Jerry Lakes.—Ken Glasgow, Medford, 7/22-27.

PTARMIGAN RIDGE (*USGS Mount Shuksan, Mount Baker*)—Road above ski area still snow covered. Mount Baker seems to make its own weather, in three days we had rain, thunder, lightning, fog and seventy degree sunshine.

This is a high route (5200-6200 feet). After first mile 75% snow-covered. Ice axes helpful and instep crampons would help speed up travel as well as making it safer. Plenty of cairns to follow but be prepared for fog to make visibility poor to nil.

With good weather, views of Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan are spectacular. Plenty of alpine flowers in bloom, ptarmigan trailside, pica, marmots, and even a herd of deer sunning themselves.—Larry and Torchy, Snohomish, 8/10.

HIDDEN LAKES PEAK LOOKOUT (*USGS Eldorado Peak, Sonny Boy Lakes*)—Struggled with the Mountaineers through clouds, ground snow, and a pretty steep gain to the maintained lookout site. Weather finally broke

some and we had a hint of what I understand are remarkable views. Good hike down in partial sun and lovely meadows toward Sibley Pass.—CAT, Bellevue, 7/24.

TRAPPERS PEAK (*USGS Marblemount*)—Led fifteen Mountaineers to this spectacular viewpoint. Views in all directions but most people zero in on the Pickets. The third Thornton Lakes was still frozen.—CAT, Bellevue, 8/13.

BRUSH CREEK (*USGS Mount Challenger*)—Avalanche damage near Tapto Creek, hazardous, and may be impassable for livestock. Trail between Graybeal and Whatcom Pass rough, steep, and boggy. Repairs planned for 1984.—Ranger, 8/1.

MONOGRAM LAKE (*USGS Marblemount*)—Flies appeared and stayed with us all the way, worse this year than any summer I can recall. I now refer to this as the Year of the Fly. If anyone has a remedy to keep them away (besides long pants and shirts) I'd like to hear it.

Monogram Lake in itself is not one of more spectacular alpine lakes, but the views and gorgeous flowering meadows make the trip worthwhile. Several of us plunged into the lake to cool off. Mighty cold at first but okay thereafter.—CAT, Bellevue, 8/14.

LITTLE BEAVER (*USGS Mount Challenger*)—Trail snow-free over Whatcom Pass, trail rough, boggy and partially flooded, some unsafe puncheon bridging between Stillwell Crossing and Perry Creek, use caution. *Not* maintained for stock.—Ranger, 8/1.

WEST

GOTHIC BASIN (*USGS Bedal, Monte Cristo*)—Trail in good shape the entire way. The new shortcut put in by volunteer Will Thompson, was easy to find and follow. Abnormally heavy amount of snow in the basin. Most of the favorite campsites are under several feet of snow, although there are good campsites on the ridges as you enter the basin.—Les Pennington, Bothell, 7/29-30.

WHISTLER CREEK ROAD—Foot travel only, closed for construction. No motorized vehicle use.—Ranger, 8/9.