



## Hi Everett Mountaineers,

Enjoy the spring and summer seasons by enrolling in one of the Everett Branch's outstanding outdoor activities. Numerous climbs, hikes, paddles, and scrambles have been scheduled throughout the coming summer months, all the way into September. Our veteran leaders make these outings fun and memorable experiences for everyone. Also, all of The Mountaineers are encouraged to participate in our Branch's Annual National Trails Day event on Saturday, June 3.

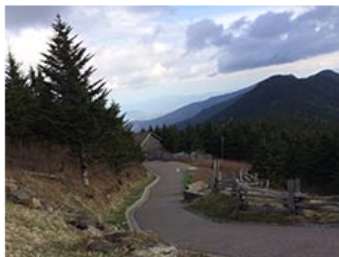
As always, this e-newsletter highlights some of our branch's activities, courses, events, and amazing volunteers. Remember, you can check out all our offerings at [mountaineers.org/Everett](http://mountaineers.org/Everett).

**Matt Vadnal,**  
Acting Editor



## A Full House at the Branch Open House

People jammed into the Commission Room at the Snohomish County Public Utility District's (SnoCo PUD) Building for our Branch's monthly open house on Wednesday, May 3. They came to hear longtime mountaineer, Pat Cook, describe his epic journey on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). At the age of 50, Pat quit his job and went for a long walk. As an inexperienced but determined backpacker, his amazing PCT journey took almost 6 months and covered more than 2,650 miles. Pat described the stunning scenery he saw, the memorable events he experienced, and the life-long friends he made while hiking through deserts, forests, and mountains all the way from Mexico to Canada. He, no doubt, inspired those who attended to hike the PCT themselves.





Paved trail up Mt. Mitchell



Matt Vadnal, Enewsletter Acting Editor, summits Mt. Mitchell

## A Summit Story

In April, your Acting Editor took a 350 mile road trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville, North Carolina, to Charlottesville, Virginia. The Parkway parallels and crosses the Appalachian Trail in many places so I stopped driving for a while and hiked along it. I also stopped many times along the way to enjoy the mountain vistas and blossoming spring wild flowers.

In North Carolina, I reached the summit of Mount Mitchell, which at 6,684 feet is the highest peak east of the Mississippi River. It is as high as many of the peaks in Washington's Cascades. Although I wanted to impress you with my conquest of a steep, arduous trail which took me all day to climb, in reality, I parked my car and walked up a 300 yard paved trail to the summit, an elevation gain of 106 feet.

I couldn't help but think about how different and better our conservation values are in the Pacific Northwest. In the 1950s, developers proposed building a tramway to the top of Moun Rainier. Led by the Mountaineers, conservationists fought this desecration of the national park. Letters from the public ran 10-to-1 against the tramway causing state officials to disapprove the planned development.

You can read more about our club's legacy protecting and exploring wild places in [The Mountaineers: A History](#). The story of the proposed tramway can be found on page 131.



## Courses

### [Sport Climbing Course](#) | Aug 26 - Sep 17

This course introduces the fundamental skills necessary to lead climb single pitch routes protected by bolts. A successful applicant will have mastered top rope belay technique and be able to top-rope at least a gym 5.9 with clean style. This course is open to all members, but priority enrollment will be given to Everett Basic Climbing Course graduates or current students. Climb on!

## Upcoming Events

### **[National Trails Day - Three O'Clock Rock](#) | Sat, Jun 3**

The Everett Branch Annual National Trails Day Event involves a crew of 30-50 participants who will build and maintain one of the many trails in our area. This year we are returning to the Eight Mile Trail to Three O'Clock Rock, which is off the Mountain Loop Highway south of Darrington. This is an opportunity to give a day back to the trails which we use all year long. Join us for a dinner at the end of the day. Sign up today!

### **[Everett Open House - Ask Bill Ashby](#) | Wed, Jun 7**

Our guest speaker will be Bill Ashby, the Mountaineers' Director of Operations. Bill is an avid and experienced outdoorsman with an impressive management resume. Bill will talk about the organization and functions of the Program Center staff, the recent successes of our 110 year old organization, current initiatives, and what to expect in the near and distance future. Bill will field your questions and hear your thoughts.

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