

Mount Baring (S-2)

Saturday, June 12, 1993

Leader: Teri Kane

Elev - 6,125

3,925 gain (start at 2,200 on map)

7 miles

(USGS Baring)

45 miles from N. Seattle to trailhead (5 miles on fairly good dirt road)

**Route: Northwest Ridge** (info from Beckey, Forest Clark, Marcus Byers, Lewis Turner).

Best time of year is Spring (April) when snow is firm (less brush). From Baring (town) on Highway 2, drive Barclay Creek Road to the trailhead. From the road end, look up and a little to the left from the parking area and you can see a major drainage. A climbers' path follows this drainage to a ridge. Facing end of road, Barclay Lake Trail is on left; climber's path is on right. Follow the climbers' path; there will be a large boulder on the right after a short distance. A 100 or so yards after that there will be a large tree down next to the right trail side - you can also see the drainage from this location. In another 75 yards, there will be a very small stream (listen for the water), and a climbers path heading up. Follow this path to the ridge. The path will start and end on the right of the drainage, but generally be left. The path ascends through an old overgrown clearcut, then on the right into a forest. First mile to the ridge is very steep and tough, with a 1,700' gain. Watch for sock and boot blowouts!

You should reach the Northwest ridge (4,000') between the two humps in Section 36. Follow the path on the near-level ridge about 1/2 mile east until reaching a rocky section. Path is sometimes hard to see, but it generally follows the ridge top. At the rocks and cliff on the left, drop right and traverse below the rocks. Then at approx 4,300' bear left and ascend a very steep forested slope/gully with rocks on the left. Mark the gully upon entering it so that you know when to exit the gully on your way back down.

At the gully top (on map this is where 4,000' contour line points northwest), cross the ridge into a large "bowl" basin. From there a large gully leads to the gap between the two summits. Once you reach the bowl, there's not much shade from there to the summit (so start early in the morning).

Ascend through the basin and talus gully slope to the gap (V notch) between the N & S summits. Turn left and ascend the short, steep slope to a small plateau, then to other slopes with small trees, again generally staying on the ridge top. Continue uphill to break out at a small plateau below the summit rock. From there, one route is to make a short rising traverse northwest to a rocky ridge; then turn northeast for an 80' scramble to the top (north summit).

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Per Forest Clark based on June 21, 1992 scramble: No snow on Baring (no snow anywhere in June 1992). Route finding is difficult; all participants should help. There will be some areas of traversing steep rock with exposure - keep your cool and don't fall. Check back-trail carefully so you can find your way down. Start early (6 am) - once at bowl, it's hot with no shade. Read Freedom 5 about lighting - could still have some early in year. Route finding is difficult - stay high on ridge generally. Invite someone along who has done it.

Marcus Byers based on July 18, 1992 scramble: Is steep in first mile, but nothing particularly difficult about Baring. Stay left of some cliffs on the 1st ridge. Stay right of rocks on ridge. Cross a north-south gully, and follow it north back to top of ridge. Watch for flags. Mark gully when entering. Stay close together; steep, exposure. Follow ridge to summit.

June 6, 1993: Two climbers just coming down from Baring, looking pitiful: Fog and rain all day. Drainage is a muddy mess - take good boots! Snow starts at basin (4,800') and continues to just below summit. Is getting too soft for travel - scramblers will shortly start post-holing and finding holes. Would not do trip again until snow is gone. One really nice glissade.