

Violet Anderson skis off the top of Mt. Hood!!!

Saturday, May 31, 2008. *Violet Anderson climbed Mt. Hood and skied off the top with a friend from the Seattle Mountaineers. The rest of the party put skis on at the Hogsback. Violet says:*

We summited a little after 8:00 am in 15 mph winds and dense clouds. We started down at 9 through the Mazama chute. It's very steep and maybe 8 feet wide. You share the chute with people coming up.



See our path on this photo of the upper mountain taken 2 weeks earlier, with clear skies. We skied down from the top right of where the climbers are (right below the 'V') down then to the right across the avalanche debris to the hogsback. The avalanche debris was covered and smooth when we went down. That hole at the bottom of the avalanche debris is the Devil's Kitchen. Check out that snow to the right of Hogsback!



At the bottom of the Mazama route, we cut skiers left to the Hogsback. I wouldn't recommend it to the faint of heart as you traverse above the Devil's Kitchen which right now huge deep hole.

There was light rime on smooth hard snow. Very different but very skiable as it gives you something to hang

Anyone wanting a great summer ski can climb up to Crater Rock at 9800" (or all the way to the Hogsback if you wear crampons) and ski beautiful, wide, rolling pitches of excellent smooth corn snow heading west.



Violet skiing near the top.

With good visibility you can tell when you need to start heading back to make it to the ski area. You can throw in the Glade Trail for a total of over 5,000 feet. The best snow was above the ski area. It got mushy lower down.



Anyone climbing above Crater Rock should have climbing skills and carry appropriate safety gear. We each had an avalanche beacon, altimeter, compass, crampons, ice axes and gear for extended stay, and the group had a Mountain Locator Unit.



The terrain is steep but if you ski God's Wall at Meadows, you are okay.

Chuck Westergren plays volleyball on top of Mt. Hood!!!

Violet Anderson concludes her account of skiing from the top of Mt. Hood by adding: “

HUGE NOTE: Chuck Westergren (an original Mountain High Club member) has climbed Mt. Hood twice just to play volleyball on the summit. As I was going up I shared this in passing, as inspiration, and coming down it seemed to have spread among all the climbers who were telling my story back to me. Even among a blind climber who made the evening news. Chuck was the inspiration of the day!

So, we decided to get the full story from Chuck himself. Here's what happened, in Chuck's own words:

“On June 6th, 1976, members of Servetus, a singles club, 24 people in all, completed the ascent of Mt. Hood. We were in a gully just below the top.

“We stretched our net between two hummocks on the summit ridge with a climbing rope, and we played with crampons on our feet to keep from slipping and toppling off the 11,245 foot high playing field.”

Charlie Ferris led the 23 men and women to the



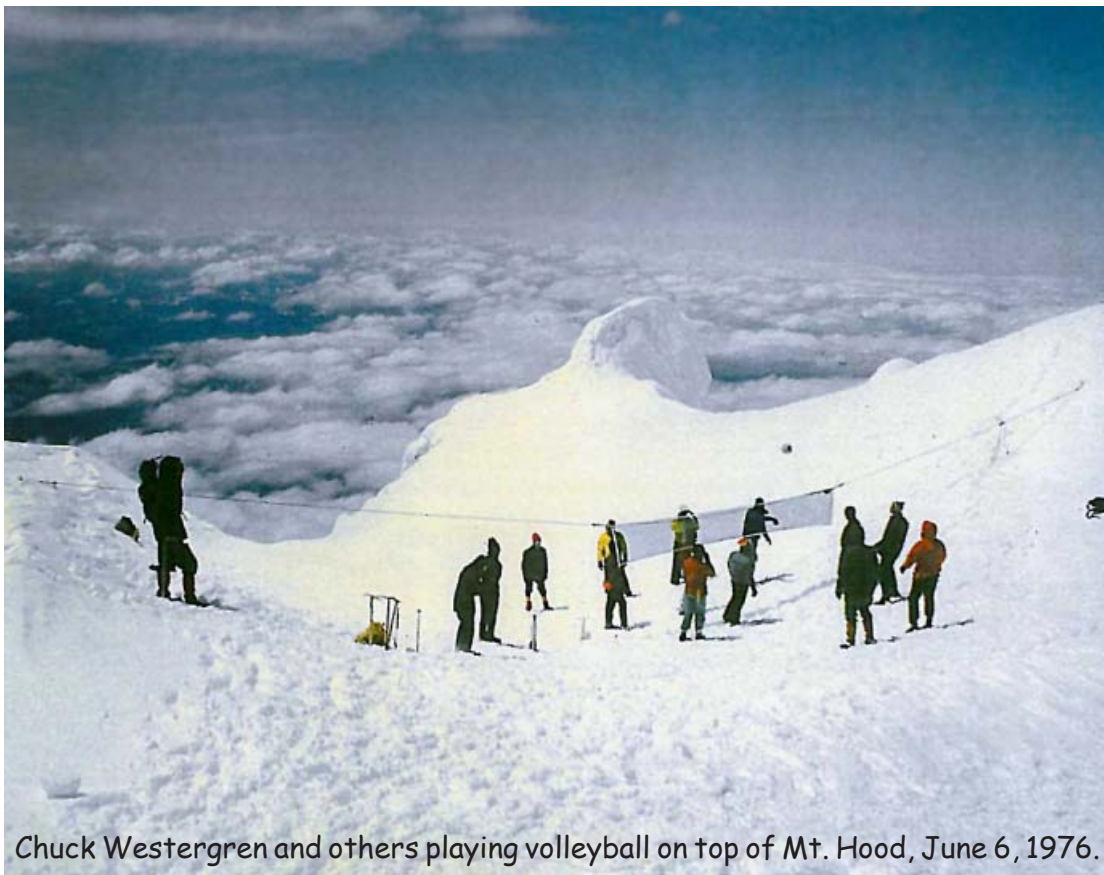
summit game, which was played in a brisk 26 degree temperature at noon.

“As I remember,” says Chuck, “we were protected from the wind, but I made a comment not to hit the ball too high, for some farmer will find it in his field in the valley below, due to the high winds at the top.”

“We were in a slight depression just before the top called "Hells Gate" (I think). The ice pillars and ice walls were quite a sight.

“I suffered a badly sunburned face. It was overcast and I saw no need for sun block. Even joked about someone that had a full white face! It was so bad that the comment ‘don't smile or you will crack your face’ was true.

“On the way down, it would have nice to have skis, however we used plastic to sit on for our ride down.”



Chuck Westergren and others playing volleyball on top of Mt. Hood, June 6, 1976.

According to Jack Grauer, author of “Mt. Hood, A Complete History”, playing volleyball was not the only zany stunt on the summit.

In 1947, Ty Kearney rode a bicycle around the summit slope, and in 1917, eight men and women held a dance to the accompaniment of a wind-up phonograph in the old Lige Coleman fire lookout cabin (which later burned down after being struck by lightning).