

# Helping to Keep Your Trails Open!

By

By Ed Haefliger



In Washington state we may be blessed with some positive negatives! We are the smallest western state and are occupied by more people per square mile than any of the others. “Come on Ed! How can that be a blessing?” We have all heard the saying: “if they give you lemons, make lemonade!” That is what is happening in goodly parts of the state of Washington. In the war on competing trail uses several of the combatants have begun to work together. This is imperative for all users to survive because if not today, tomorrow all will be threatened. This will come from shrinking agency budgets and preservationists whom wish to stay at home knowing that the wild is completely wild without the interference of man. They wish to see the wilderness on T.V. or video without the true realization that the featured fuzzy little cougar kit is destined to eat Bambi’s mother along with Bambi.

Several of us have learned how to work with both the land owning agencies and other users as well. To a rebel nation Benjamin Franklin once declared: “We will either hang together or we will hang separately!” Some of us do not want to even be in the same room with our old adver-

saries without them holding up the white flag at least a couple of times, but we must to survive. One cannot pick your relations in a family but you are in the same family net anyway. This is how these group to group relationships are. In time you all begin to see a common ground. It is really human nature to get along in the herd or clan. We must just develop a new clan. All will not be a bed of roses but you will get the majority working together.

Projects like the one written on below by a volunteer coordinator are one way to get into agencies. Always remember the agency staff will lead and we will follow. It must be this way or we may not be covered by normal governmental no tort liability protection or injuries on the job as volunteer employees.

One of the best ways to make inroads into other trail user groups is to assist them on projects that are a priority to their group. By supporting their needs you and they begin to see a more common ground and that you are just like them. Be warned the normal day rider on the trail may not be viewed as the best friend of a hiker or mountain biker. But the trail workers swinging a grub hoe or the packer hauling in their food and

camps thus allowing them to work further on a trail are the hero’s in their eyes.

In the following letter Christine Redmond tells us how a project got started and how much it means to her. As you read this (in your minds eye) take my name off of her letter and replace it with yours. You can do this too!

Your imagination and inventiveness can overcome a whole lot of negative problems.

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*At the time I met Ed Haefliger, I was working as the Recreation Manager in Capitol State Forest for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I had a staff of one hard funded employee and one grant funded employee, a shoestring budget and several groups of very dedicated and resourceful volunteers. I was responsible for outdoor recreation trails, sites and facilities dispersed over more than 90,000 acres of state trust land, including more than 160 miles of trail, seven campgrounds and five day use areas. Our program was maintenance backlog rich and resource poor.*

*Ed presented us with the idea of a gravel “pack-in” as an annual event. At first glance, it seemed like a great way to get lots*

of work done, fast! After further consideration, it sounded like a great way to provide leadership and learning opportunities to volunteers and staff. What it became was an amazing cooperative effort that provided all of those things as well as the foundation for a more collaborative volunteer program and some nice surprises along the way.

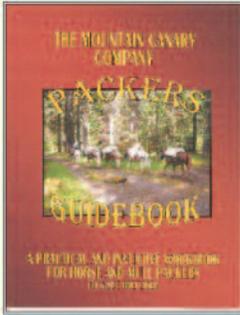
One of my favorite childhood stories is "Stone Soup." This classic folk tale beautifully illustrates the benefits of cooperation. Simply put, when everyone gives a little, we all gain a lot. From its inception, the Pack-In has been a model for the power of collaborative efforts. By working together we increase our resource base, problem solving ability, efficiency and effectiveness. But, the beauty of the Pack-In is that it has also provided us with the opportunity to learn and practice how to work together. Bringing together such a diverse group of individuals and groups with varied interests, skill levels, priorities, talents, abilities and ideas is no easy feat. The Pack-In provides us with the unique opportunity to practice working together, to learn from and teach each other, to know and understand each other's strengths and priorities and to define how we will work together in the future.

I now coordinate the DNR's statewide Volunteer Program. As I write this, the "7th Annual Great Gravel Pack-In" is less than a month away. Although I am no longer directly involved in the event, I have continued to embrace, encourage and promote the relationships and opportunities that these types of collaborative events can provide. I am grateful for these experiences and for our resourceful, generous volunteers, who aren't afraid to share their recipes for Stone Soup.

Christine Redmond  
 Volunteer Program and Grant Coordinator  
 Washington State Department of Natural Resources 360-902-1632 [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

Ed Haefliger  
 Coauthor: "The Mountain Canary Company Packers Guide Book"  
[www.mtcanaryco.com](http://www.mtcanaryco.com) E: mail [mtcanary@msn.com](mailto:mtcanary@msn.com) 360-427-4297  
 Volunteer Packer: Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
 Member: Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Western Washington Long Ears Club

## The Mountain Canary Company Packers Guidebook

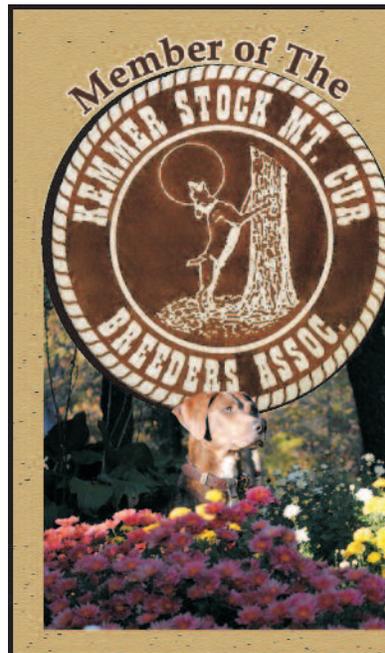


This book is a complete packing clinic between two covers. Ed and Sue Haefliger describe, in text and photo detail, how and why they use the packing systems and methods that they have come to rely on. They take the reader systematically through the process of learning how to pack safely. Folks that have read it have commented not only on the great information within for any packer, but also the friendly and complete presentation.

The Packers Guidebook is printed on 24# paper in black and white. The color card stock covers are protected with clear plastic overlays and spiral bound for usefulness and durability. There are 265 pages of instructions and information, along with 366 photos, most of which contain photo art instructions.

Mountain Canary Company at:  
[www.mtcanaryco.com](http://www.mtcanaryco.com)  
 360-427-4297

The price is \$46.00 shipping and handling included.  
 For further information, e-mail: [mtcanary@msn.com](mailto:mtcanary@msn.com)



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GRAZIN' BITS.

KULIE

