



Chemeketan Club Climb

PEAK: **Mt Jefferson**

ROUTE: **South Ridge**

DATE: **September 8-10, 2023 Alt Sep 15-17**

ELEVATION: **10,497ft/3,199m**

RATING: **M2**

LEADER: **Scott Phillips**

DESCRIPTION

"Mount Jefferson is the second highest peak in Oregon and because of its summit pinnacle requiring Class 4 scrambling on very steep, usually ice-encrusted rock, it is considered by some to be the most difficult of the higher volcanoes (above 10,000'). With over 5,777 feet of prominence, Jefferson is one of the 57 [ultra-prominent](#) peaks of the contiguous United States and is only one of four peaks on this list from Oregon. The other three are [Mount Hood](#), [Sacajawea Peak](#) & [South Sister](#) with 7,679, 6,388 and 5,588 feet of prominence, respectively."

- from Summitpost

GETTING TO THE TRAILHEAD

I will be driving from Redmond and will plan to meet the rest of the group at the Pamela Trailhead at 9am.

From Salem, take Highway 22 east past Idanha and take the Pamela Road. Continue about 3.7 miles to the trailhead.

Total driving distance one way is about 68 miles, 1.5 hours, from Salem.

CLIMBING ITINERARY

Day 1: From the trailhead (3,111 ft) we'll hike in past Pamela Lake and gain the PCT. From here we'll head south and after a total of 7.4 miles we'll make camp at Shale Lake (5,880 ft). Approximately four hours.

Day 2: The next day we will wake and be on the trail by 4am to head up the climbers trail. Please plan for a long day.

Day 3: The next day we'll wake up and be ready to be on the trail by 8am for the return to the trailhead. This will give everyone plenty of time to return home.

Total hiking/climbing distance about 26 miles RT

Total elevation gain about 7,500 ft

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

From camp at Shale Lake the route takes us through several alpine meadows which we will have to navigate in the dark. The path ends where the boulder field starts. While boulder hopping we will head in an easterly direction to gain the south ridge. From there it's a matter of finding the path of least resistance up the scree to the scramble that leads to the Red Saddle. The Red Saddle may or may not need to be protected depending on snow conditions. A line may be fixed for safe passage across the traverse. Alternatively, a moat may be present that can be used to get across the traverse. From there it is a scramble to the summit. We may decide to use the rope(s) to rappel back to the base of the summit block and then back across the traverse to the Red Saddle. We'll retrace our route back to camp.

REFERENCE/MAPS

Smoot, *Best Climbs: Cascade Volcanoes* (A Falcon Guide, 2012), pp 149-159.

Basic Information, Climbing Conditions, Avalanche/Weather Info:

Mountain-Forecast.com:

<http://www.mountain-forecast.com/peaks/Mount-Jefferson/forecasts/3199>

NOAA:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-121.80745&lat=44.66629#.VdVfW2-rap>
[o](#)

Summitpost: <http://www.summitpost.org/mount-jefferson/150576>

EMERGENCY AND IN-TOWN CONTACTS

For conditions or in case of emergency, you can contact: 911

Linn County Sheriff, 541-967-3950

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

This list is not all inclusive or detailed. If there is anything else needed for the climb please add it to your list. If in doubt please feel free to reach out with questions.

10 ESSENTIALS:

1. Map and compass,
2. Whistle,
3. Headlamp with extra batteries,
4. Sunglasses,
5. Sunscreen and lip protection,
6. Personal first aid kit,

7. Stove (group gear),
8. Water 2-4 liters,
9. Food (easy to access and eat in cold conditions/with gloves on),
10. Clothing layers.

CLOTHING FOR COLD, RAIN, WIND, AND INTENSE SUN:

1. Waterproof jacket and pants (breathable - e.g. Gortex),
2. Wool or synthetic clothing (layers – absolutely no cotton),
3. Gloves or mittens (windproof overmitts are a good idea),
4. Wool or pile cap, sun hat or bandanna,
5. Wool or synthetic socks,
6. Gaiters

CLIMBING EQUIPMENT:

1. Helmet,
2. Ice axe,
3. Leather or plastic climbing boots,
4. Crampons (that you have fitted to your boots and you have practiced putting on),
5. Harness,
6. Belay/rappel device,
7. Personal protection,
8. Two locking and three non locking carabiners,
9. Trekking poles (optional but very helpful),

CAMPING GEAR

1. Tent, shared
2. Sleeping bag
3. Sleeping pad
4. Stove, shared
5. Fuel and extra fuel
6. Food, 2B, 2-3L, 2D plus snacks
7. Bowl and eating utensils
8. Water purification method, melt snow or ???

OTHER GEAR/GROUP GEAR

1. Climbing permit, \$20 at the trailhead or at 5th Season Sport Shop
2. Wilderness permit for the group, at trailhead
3. Toilet supplies
4. Personal waste container (blue bags), must pack it out!
5. Space blanket
6. Insulated sitting pad
7. Large garbage bag
8. Camera, optional

- 9. Ropes x 2
- 10. Slings
- 11. Pickets x 3
- 12. Ice screws x 2

CHEMEKETAN CLIMB REGULATIONS

1. The climber agrees to pay for the climber's own medical and/or rescue expenses, whether or not authorized by the climber in the event of accident or illness.
2. Guests must provide to the trip leader a signed RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK, available at the meeting location.
3. The climb leader reserves the right to refuse to allow anyone to participate in the climb if the leader believes that the person is not adequately prepared for the climb.

COMMENTS

The climb is limited to 8 participants including the leader and assistants. Please let me know as soon as possible if you cannot come on the climb. This climb is limited to individuals with some steep snow experience. This is not a climb for first year Climb School graduates unless you have verifiable mountaineering experience.

Although this climb is rated as an M2, the late timing of the climb may make it into an R2 with a summit scramble. I may decide to bring a couple ropes to rappel from the summit.

Note: This mountain is notorious for rockfall across the Red Saddle traverse which is just before the scramble on the summit block.

Be prepared for cold conditions on the summit since the weather can change in a short time.

Prior to the climb, if the weather is questionable, I will make my decision on whether to go or not on Wednesday or Thursday at the latest. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send an e-mail.

There are two sets of dates on the header of this prospectus. If the weather for the first weekend looks good, that will be the climb weekend. If the weather does not look so great for the first weekend then the second weekend will be chosen. After that, there will be no more alternate dates.

Permits: Available on April 4 at 7am or seven days prior to the climb.

Celestial data for the target climb weekend:

Sunrise: 6:50am

Sunset: 7:15pm

Moonrise:

Moonset:

THE TEAM

- 1 Scott Phillips, 458-256-8904, Tammy, 503-930-6152
- 2 Mike Pennington, 513-284-7566, Karen Blocksom,
 971-599-9148
- 3 Jeff Easter, 715-280-0696, Cindy, 715-526-2176
- 4 Kevin Fisher, 503-932-4432, Christine Fisher,
- 5 Sean Stack, 503-949-8237, Elyssa Tran, 971-998-6100
- 6 Kevin Hutchins, 503-949-8690, Lori Hutchins, 503-428-4371
- 7 Greg Adelman, (503) 506-2784, Fletcher Adelman,
 503-428-3512

Calendar Post:

This three day climb up Mt Jefferson from Pamela Lake Trailhead is a committing endeavor with two nights in the backcountry and technical climbing. The climb party will be limited to experienced mountaineers only unless they can provide the leader with verifiable references on their technical ability.

For more information, please read the prospectus.

For the prospectus, copy and paste the link: