

Climb Prospectus
Thielsen - West Ridge (Regular Route)
<http://www.summitpost.org/mount-thielsen/150419>

Date: Friday August 11th, 2017 summit day.

Provisional Leader: Mike Buren 503/269-2948(h) 503-724-2387(work cell)
steppebrother@gmail.com

Assistant: None

Observing Leader: Gary Stephenson; garry.stephenson@oregonstate.edu; 541.753.2468

Participants:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Alternates:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Driving Directions: (drive times per Google Maps)

Leave Salem South on I-5 to Springfield and then take Hwy 58 E toward Oakridge. Continue on to the junction with Hwy 97 and turn south. Continue on 97 to the junction with Hwy 138 and turn W toward Diamond Lake where there is a parking area on the E side of the lake at the Mt. Thielsen Trail (USFS 1456). About 3.5 hours from Salem to the trailhead not including stops. Alternately, one can drive to Roseburg and take Hwy 138 (exit 124) E toward Diamond Lake which is about 3.75 hrs not including stops. Leader will try to organize carpooling about a week prior to the outing. A NW Forest Pass is required at the trailhead.

Proposed Route: NW Ridge via Mt. Thielsen Trail. *Taken partly from Jeff Thomas' guidebook "Oregon High" and partly from Summit Post.org.*

In order to get a well-rested early start, some may want to car camp near the trailhead the night of Thursday August 10th. There are several campgrounds in the area.

Basic trail geography as follows:

Parking and start of hike:	5,400 ft
Junction with Spruce Ridge Tr.	6,060 ft @ 1.4 miles in
Gain the W. Ridge:	7,000 ft @ 3.5 miles in
Junction with PCT and start climbers trail:	7,340 ft @ 4 miles in
Summit:	9,182 ft @ 5 miles and about 5 hours

Round trip total:	10 miles
Max. Elevation gain:	3,782 ft (from trailhead)

Once on the climber's trail stick mostly toward the ridge (left-ish) and avoid the many branching paths lower on the ridge that want to move the climber too far to the right. The climbers trail will lead us directly to the summit pinnacle. As we approach the pinnacle we will stay to the right and move toward the gully on the SW side. The climb will change to a class 2-3 scramble at this point. After arriving at the notch on the SE side of the pinnacle we will then glimpse the last 80 ft of roped travel at a place called "Chicken Ledge" (for those afraid of heights).

Summit Pinnacle:

This climb ends with a steep exposed summit pinnacle ominously known as the "lightning rod of the Cascades". Though other parties often do not rope up, we will rope up. The pinnacle is easy 4th to low 5th class scrambling, though the exposure is large. We will put on harness on at the base of this section. The leader and assistants will then fix ropes on the pinnacle which has good rock quality.

Skills needed for the pinnacle are basic and were completed during the Chemeketa Climbing School. These include very easy rock climbing while sliding a prusik knot upward on a fixed line for about 80 ft. The summit is small and may be a bit crowded depending on the number of climbers in our, and other, parties and as such we may need to take turns on the summit in two groups. Climbers will rappel the 80 ft off of a good anchor placed by the Mazamas in 2013. Rapping will occur on a single, doubled-up rope. A fireman's belay or self belay with a prusik may be suggested by the leader to protect the rap.

Return:

We will return the same way we came in.

Map Resources:

Participants are encouraged to go here () for a geo-referenced map of the region. The leader will also send out a geo-referenced map of the climb from the lake to the summit pinnacle. These can be loaded on participants gps-enabled devices for real-time positioning.

Itinerary

Thurs, Aug. 10th: Those leaving the day prior to the climb leave Salem (carpool). Meet up at Salem motor pool lot at 3pm. Stop briefly for eats. Arrive at a campground near the trailhead about 8 pm. Set up camp.

Friday, Aug. 11th: Summit Day. Those not car camping near the trailhead will leave the motor pool parking lot by 3:00am (add time needed for stops). Meet up at parking lot with campers at about 6:45 to gear up. Leave trailhead at 7 am. Summit about 12 pm. Back to trailhead about 5 pm.

Required Equipment:

- Ten essentials (maps *see included geo-referenced maps for gps-enabled devices*, compass, whistle, personal first-aid, food, water, sun screen, sunglasses, matches/candle/fire starter, head lamp)
- Lunch and snacks
- Mosquito repellent??
- Light-weight hiking boots or approach shoes. Rock shoes not needed.
- Gaiters are optional but will keep scree/dust out of your socks
- Extra socks if you tend to soak them (prevents blisters)
- Three liters of water at start of climb. This is a dry trail.
- Windproof jacket and pants
- Lightweight gloves or mittens
- Pile or wool cap
- Sun hat (optional)
- Bring a warm layer to put on under your wind shell if weather changes (no cotton).
- Trekking poles are optional but make the climb less tiring
- Climbing equipment; harness, helmet, 2 prussic cords, personal protection, two locking carabiners, and belay device. (Bryan, need to talk about this) Crampons, mountaineering boots and ice axe *are not needed*.

Group climbing gear will be needed for the summit pinnacle. Gear will be divided among the participants to share the load. Come prepared to lash a rope on your pack or stuff it inside.

Comments:

Be prepared for wind on the summit ridge. If the weather forecast is questionable, the leader will make the decision on whether to go or not on the day prior to the climb. Thunderstorms are very common on the mountain and it is possible that they could prevent the party from reaching the summit.

If you have any questions, please give Leader a call or send an email. For questions about trail conditions Diamond Lake Ranger District may be helpful at (541) 498-2531.

Emergency Contact:

Douglas County Sheriff's Office (Roseburg) **541-440-4450**

In-Town Contact: Lisa Buren 503-931-6580 cell. Friends and family can call contact to get updates on group if things don't go according to plan.