

**Hike with Seattle 4 Rotary on October 1st at Mt. Rainier National Park – Comet Falls and Mildred Point**



**View of Comet Falls**



**From Mildred Point**

Please provide your name, contact details, and whether or not you are willing to drive/carpool, need a ride, or are willing to serve as a team leader during the hike(s). Please send to Gary Drobnack and Jim Moore at the following email addresses. [gary.drobnack@earthlink.net](mailto:gary.drobnack@earthlink.net) and [jmoore@avogadro.us](mailto:jmoore@avogadro.us)

The group may be divided into several teams depending on whether or not the hikers want to see Comet Falls **“Only”**, or Comet Falls **“and”** Mildred Point. The Mildred Point extension is a much more rigorous hike.

We will want each group to have a team leader and everyone within the team to have a designated “buddy.”

Hikers will meet at Longmire Hot Springs in Mt Rainier National Park. Look for the museum there next to the large section of an old growth log that is on display just outside the museum.

An entrance fee will need to be paid as you enter Mt Rainier NP, or use your National Park Pass, if you have one.

Routes to the meeting place from the Seattle-Bellevue area include the following:

- A. I-5 to WA-7S near the Tacoma Dome then passage through La Grande and Elbe, where you join WA-706 through Ashford and into the National Park on the west side.
- B. WA-167S south of Renton, then WA-161 through Puyallup, Eatonville. Elbe, and Ashford and into the National Park on the west side
- C. From downtown Seattle, it will take about 2 hours to reach Longmire Hot Springs.

Plan to be there at 0900 on Saturday, 1 Oct. We will spend 20-30 minutes getting organized, and then proceed to the trailhead for Comet Falls and Mildred Point which is located between Longmire and Paradise.

See **Green Trails Map No. 269**

The Comet Falls only hike is about 4 miles round-trip and takes one to the base of the falls, a gain of 1250 ft.

The Mildred Point hike is about 7 miles round-trip and takes one to the top of the falls and then past Van Trump Park and ultimately to Mildred Point. This involves a gain of 3135 ft. from the trailhead. From Mildred Point, one stares into the abyss of what used to be the Kautz Glacier and one can look up and see the south side of Mt Rainier as well as many peaks to the west, south, and east of Mount Rainier. Log bridges, some with and some without railings, need to be crossed in a several places on the Mildred Point hike.

In especially wet or slippery conditions, or if clouds are blocking the view, our excursion to Mildred Point will likely be cancelled. In that case, we may join the "Comet Falls Only" group with some different afternoon entertainments. Possibilities include a short hike into the Grove of Patriarchs at the bottom of the Stevens Canyon Highway, and then a return north to Seattle-Bellevue following WA-123S and WA-410E over Cayuse Pass. This route takes us past Federation Forest State Park where there is easy access to stands of magnificent old-growth timber.

Bring yourself a lunch and a couple water bottles to ensure hydration. Good hiking boots and trekking poles are recommended. You will need raingear and warm layers, depending on the weather forecast. It may be desirable to have warm gloves and gaiters. Don't forget the "10 Essentials" that every passage through our mountains requires to enable overnight survival.

For any questions you may have, feel free to contact either Gary Drobnack at 206-330-5702, [gary.drobnack@earthlink.net](mailto:gary.drobnack@earthlink.net), or Jim Moore at 206-793-2444, [jmoore@avogadro.us](mailto:jmoore@avogadro.us)