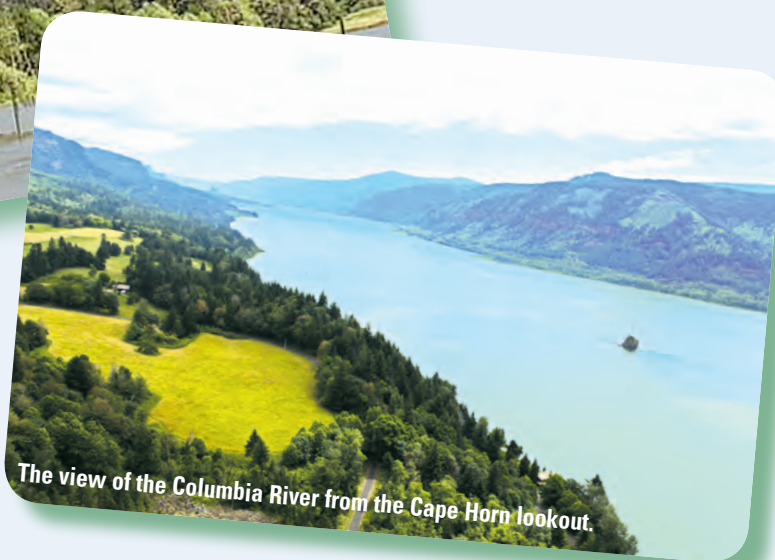
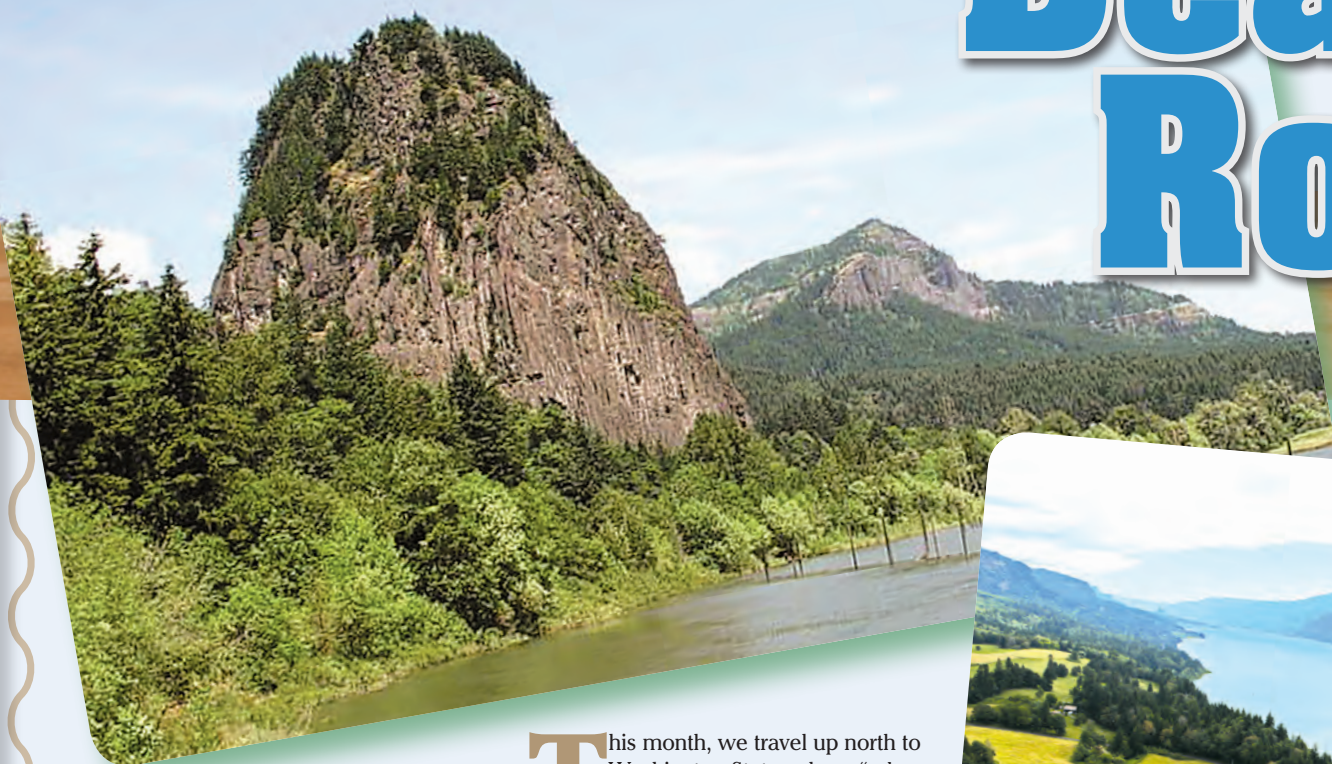


Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales
Angel's

Be Alive!

– Stevenson, Wash.

Beacon Rock



The view of the Columbia River from the Cape Horn lookout.

This month, we travel up north to Washington State, where “adventures await you.” If you have ever stayed anywhere near the Columbia River gorge, then you might know that all you need to do is drive, and trails are everywhere along the river.

We decided to drive east along the river and enjoy all the natural beauty in the area. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia River also forms the border between Washington and Oregon. Now that I think of it, I might do a future *Be Alive!* on the individual trails along the Columbia River gorge; stay tuned for that one.

Okay, getting back to Beacon Rock.

There is much to see at Beacon Rock State Park, so we had to pick one spot that stood out from the rest. It was pretty easy to choose Beacon Rock. This landmark is 848 feet high and is the most prominent landmark on the Columbia River gorge. Let's begin.

to its summit provides outstanding panoramic views of the Columbia River gorge. Henry Biddle and Charles Johnson built the trail between 1915-18. At this time, Biddle owned the rock, so he blasted and bridged the trail to all the way to the top. There are craved trails sections and also man-made walkways with railings along switchbacks up to the trail peak.

The trail was very well kept and very steep in some areas, but overall the trail was moderate and breathtaking, full of inspiration. We traveled up top with my family and also my sister-in-law and her family. We all loved Washington and Oregon – There were trees, beautiful landscapes, and wildlife everywhere you looked. I would love to live there (someday) because there were so many trails just a few feet away from the highway. Everyday, I could go out and find a new adventure. That is what *Be Alive!* is all about.

So, if you ever get the chance to visit Washington or Oregon, bring your hiking boots and prepare for a wonderful time. I will be featuring a few other trails in the area in the next *Be Alive!* Stay tuned for these upcoming features.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos and send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. Bring water, snacks and maybe some sun-screen.

com. Bring water, snacks and maybe some sun-screen.

As always, be safe and Be Alive!, Angel



Angel Jr. and Aden are halfway to the top.



Going up the trail on Beacon Rock.



We all made it to the top of Beacon Rock. Back, from left: Yusef, Kathy, Aden and me. Front: Andleebe, Deborah and Angel Jr.

The Hike

Beacon Rock is one of the tallest monoliths (singular piece of rock) in North America, along with California's El Capitan, Georgia's Stone Mountain, and Wyoming's Devils Tower.

Beacon Rock State Park is a 5,100-acre year-round camping park. The park includes 9,500 feet of freshwater shoreline on the Columbia River. We did not go far into the park, but we did hike up to the top of Beacon Rock. The mile-long trail



Aden rests along the trail.

Beacon Rock

34841 Rte 14 • Stevenson, WA 98648

Highlights:

- Area:** 5,100 acres
- Hiking distance:** about two miles round trip
- Elevation gain:** 680 feet
- Difficulty:** moderate
- Hike time:** about two hours
- Trail condition:** dirt trail and bridge style

Hours: 8 a.m. to dusk year-round

- Fees:** A one-day pass costs \$10
- Parking:** day pass costs \$10
- Directions:** From the 5 north, take I-84E/US-30 east toward Cascade Locks/Hwy, then slight right toward Pacific Crest Trail. Cross at Bridge of the Gods (toll road), then turn left onto Washington Hwy 14. The destination on your right.