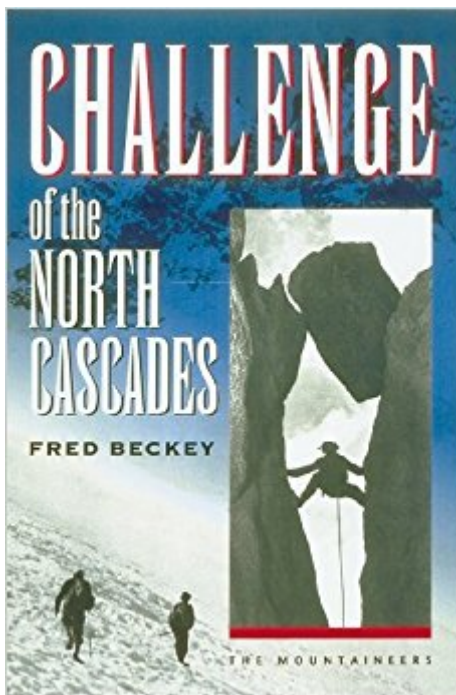


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Challenge Of The North Cascades



Synopsis

> * A North Cascades climbing classic * Fred Beckey is synonymous with Cascades climbing and is said to have completed more first ascents than any other climber in history* Includes detailed appendix of all Beckey's ascents from 1936-1968 This book documents more than three decades of adventure in the peaks of the North Cascades. In this absorbing memoir, climbing legend Fred Beckey shares his unique experiences, from achieving personal triumphs to facing the challenges of nature. It's a must for every mountaineering enthusiast's bookshelf!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With this reprint of Beckey's classic work, today's climbers will be inspired to seek out those lofty Cascadian summits, just as I did twenty-four years ago. Beckey's writing, including his tales of rivalry and pranks, are as timeless now as they were then. (Alan Kearney, author, *Mountaineering in Patagonia*)

FRED BECKEY has achieved enduring recognition as the most imaginative, persistent, and thorough explorer and mountain investigator of the Cascade Range Wilderness. He was noted as "one of America's most colorful and eccentric mountaineers," and is unofficially recognized as the all-time world-record holder for the number of first ascents credited to one man. In addition to being the author of the Cascade Alpine Guide series (V1, V2, V3), Beckey is also the author of *Mountains of North America*, *The Range of Glaciers: Exploration and Survey of the North Cascades*, and a

personal narrative, Challenge of the North Cascades.

Living in the NW with roads and highways criss-crossing most stretches of the Cascades it's almost hard to imagine that not so long ago all of that was remote and climbing back up in there meant long multi-week treks from road to road, bagging peaks along the way. Beckey and company enjoyed these peaks in the best possible way, back in the day when one climbed in boots or tennis shoes, protected rarely and then with pitons or more likely a slung horn or chockstone, and where the route was what you made it not what you find on-line or in a book. Most of these peaks aren't terribly technical, and modern ascents always have something of the anti-climatic feel to them. There are epic moments here and there when things go south, but by and large it's dull sort of adventure. Better to have done it back then with less hardware, more pluck, and the frequent use of one's younger brother for shoulder stands. This book along with Exum's collection of climbing stories are probably the two most important records of the pre-yosemite generation of climbers. It's invaluable record American alpine climbing in it's infancy, and it's funny.

Great stories of an Fred Beckey a Pacific Northwest legendary adventurer taking the road less traveled, and having the ride of his life in numerous first ascents.

A must read for and climber or alpinist in the northwest, heck for anybody who plays outside at all. You will never look at the north cascades without thinking of Becky and crew again.

Book talks about several of his classic climbs in the Cascade mountains. I great book to read for anybody interested in mountains.

good read

Some nice writing and photos in some ways these books are not dated, but I would look for a newer book if I was serious about climbing there

Fred Beckey is a classic just like the stories in the book of his early and first ascents. This is the book I read almost 30 years ago that helped fuel my love for alpinism and climbing mountains. I borrowed this book from Jim Nelson, also a North Cascades legend, and remember reading about all the peaks Fred did so long ago. His sense of adventure is amazing! The old climbers from the

early days were total studs and had a sense of adventure and exploration we can only imagine today. It is amazing to hear about the climbs they did in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's that are hard today, but had even longer approaches then and done with such inferior gear!

When my grandfather died and we were going through his books I came across this gem. Beckey has first ascents on more than half of all the peaks in the Cascades. He owns the mountains. This is his poem to his love. I had long valued Fred Beckey's extensive guide books to the Cascades, but had never read any of mountain narratives. What a treat this was! I also highly recommend his book on McKinley. I've read scores of mountaineering books, but this one I rank as one of the very best. Beckey tromps across the mountains of Washington state as a young man in the early days of mountaineering with joie de vivre. In one exuberant push he and a companion set out to hike and bag whatever peaks in between from what is now I-90 to Highway 2. A week later they emerged on the highway and hitched back to Seattle. I hope you find as much pleasure in this overlooked classic as I have.

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