

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION FAILURE!

PHOTOGRAPHING THE BROTHERS FROM THE DUCKABUSH BIG HUMP

To the cautious hell-governed cozener who took that great photograph of The Brothers, posted it on Google Earth and said that it was taken from Big Hump on the Duckabush trail: I wish you all manner of ghastly malaises and you deceptive under-honest bull's pizzle!

A couple years ago I took an 8 mile round trip hike to scout what is referred to as Big Hump up the Duckabush River Valley for my own 'beautiful photograph' of The Brothers peaks. Hopefully, it would be very much like this pestiferous sheep-biting rampallian's 'beautiful photograph' posted on Google Earth.

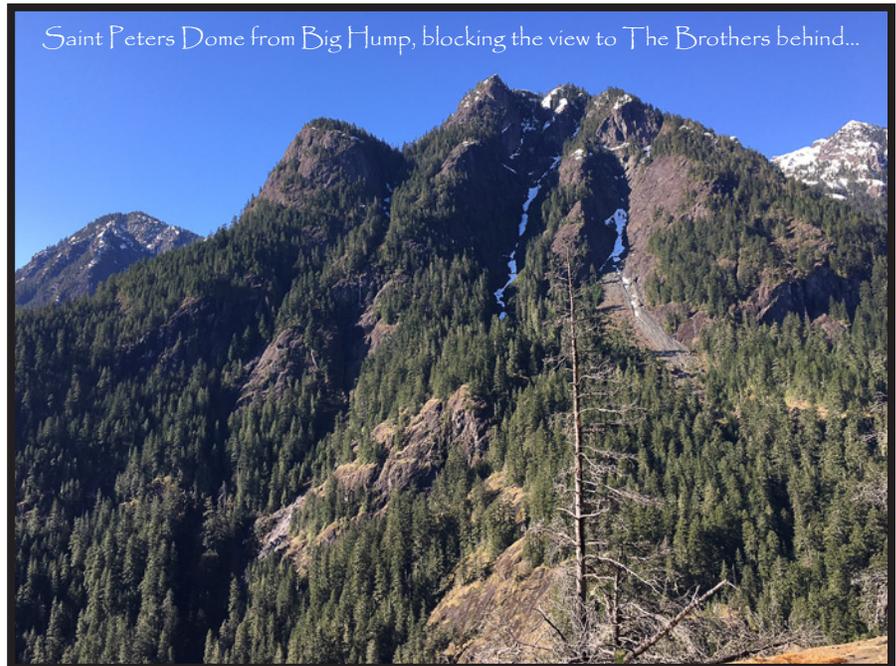
To get to the actual Big Hump and get a clear view out of the trees and across the valley to The Brothers it was necessary to go off-trail and bushwhack my way to the rocky knob top of Big Hump, only to find myself in the clouds with no views of anything. That was okay though, it was a scouting trip after all. I did find the spot that thrasonical nook-shotten miscreant photographer 'most likely' took their beautiful Brothers photograph from, noted the location, noted how I bushwhacked my way to it, observed and noted what might be an easier bushwhacking route the next time and planned to return there when there was plenty of snow for my own 'beautiful photograph' of The Brothers.

So... this last weekend I returned and took the 8 mile round trip hike up the Duckabush Trail to Big Hump again. This time the sky was clear and it was spring with lots of snow still on The Brothers. I started at dawn, hoping the light would still be early enough to be 'beautiful light' when I got the 4+ miles up hill and bushwhacked my way onto the top of Big Hump.

After getting my heart rate well over 175 blazing up all the switchbacks in a timely manner, I arrived in the area I would have to leave the Duckabush trail and bushwhack, (I was wearing my new heart rate monitor). The area had burned since I was there last and the area had also experienced a huge blow down (the wind had blown down trees).

To make things even more confusing I could not clearly make out The Brothers because of trees. Just barely making out the distant clearing on top of Big Hump through the remaining trees, off-trail I went, bushwhacking my way over, under, and through all the blown down trees.

Scrambling up the final rock face towards the clearing on top of Big Hump, overcoming my height sensitive vertigo, there was still no sign of the snow covered Brothers peaks. How could that be I thought. The Brothers must be off to the right more than I thought. Finally on the top of Big Hump, the entire panoramic view was unobstructed... across, up and down the Duckabush River Valley was a clear view, but there was NO BROTHERS VIEW. Directly across the valley, blocking any view to The Brothers was... Saint Peters Dome. I stood in disbelief... WTF!?





Saint Peters Dome from Big Hump, blocking the view to The Brothers

So, as it turns out so far, my best photograph of The Brothers this spring was not the result of multiple 8 mile hikes up the Duckabush trail with a backpack of camera and other gear, hours of research on Google Earth and reading trail maps. But, one I took from a parking lot, out of the back of my car, with my coffee mug sitting on the curb next to me, and took me all of 20 minutes to drive to from home.

(*note: adjectives courtesy of my trusty "William Shakespeare Insult Generator", a most useful gift from my sister Lita DeBoer)



The Brothers from a parking lot...

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