

# Peninsula Wilderness Club

January 1981

"Climb the Mountains and get their good tidings. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn." John Muir

## January Entertainment

Featured this month will be several short slide presentations given by club members Roger Gray, who has planned a variety of subjects--from cross-country skiing to fishing -- and Bob Shaffer. There will also be an opportunity for other club members to show a few of their slides. If you have a few shots from recent trips you'd like to share, contact Charlie Miller prior to the meeting at 479-0463 or see Bob Shaffer or Charlie at the beginning of the meeting on 12 January, 7:30 P.M. in Art 103 Olympic College.

## Past Entertainment

The last two month's worth of entertainment have been really excellent. We've been extremely fortunate to have such speakers as Brad Albro of the Olympic Mountain Rescue and John Fuller from the Nordic Mountain Ski School attend our meetings. Much appreciation goes to both men!

7 January. The Mt. Constance Mt. Shoppe is offering a winter/outdoor survival seminar. The fee is \$2 and will be held in the shop at 7 p.m..

## Coming Events

9-11 January. Cross-country skiing at Paradise. Overnight accommodations with all amenities, including kitchen, sauna, showers and hot water. \$17/person. Call early as space is limited. Hank Moravec 871-1211

10 January. A cross-country ski trip for novices wanting help getting started. Instruction will focus on basic techniques; location will depend on snow conditions. For an excellent opportunity to get some first-rate advice from an experienced instructor, contact Jim Busek at 871-4691.

11 January. The Mt. Constance Mt. Shoppe is offering a Telemark clinic as well as a Basic cross-country ski clinic on the snow at 7 A.M.. The fee for these clinics is \$7.50. Pre-registration is recommended, as class size is limited. Call the shop for details. 377-0668.

12 January. The regularly scheduled meeting of the PWC. The club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. in Art 103 of Olympic College. (See above article for entertainment.)

13 January. The annual Olympic Mountain Rescue Banquet. OMR has invited any interested member of the PWC to join them at their annual banquet. As always, they are looking for new members. Anyone interested either in joining this organization or finding out more details about the banquet, should contact Roger Beckett at 373-8079 or Frank Chapin at 830-4121.

14 January. The Mt. Constance Mt. Shoppe is offering a Basic Running seminar. The fee is \$2 and will be held in the shop at 7 P.M..

17-18 January. An overnight, cross-country ski trip is planned to Deer Park. The area has shelters available with running water. Beginners are welcome! For info., call Joan Jerrett at 479-4692.

17 January. The Mt. Constance Mt. Shop is offering a cross-country ski clinic on the snow at 7 A.M.. Cost is \$7.50. Preregistration is recommended.

18-19 January. An ice-climbing seminar will be conducted, probably in the Leavenworth area. Tuition will be \$85. Interested members may call Doug Vercoe at 871-5217.

February. Steve and Sussette Tontini will have an extra bunk at the Edelweiss Lodge at the base of the Warm Springs Lift at Sun Valley, Idaho for the first week of February. Both cross-country and downhill skiing are available and Sun Valley has been having the best snow of the West so far this year. Approximate cost is \$120/person for the 7-day lodging, plus a share of the travelling expenses. Interested members can contact Steve or Sussette at 479-3892.

12 February. Brown Bag Forum sponsored by Olympic Community College. 12 Noon-1 P.M., Thurs. in the Rotunda. There is no charge for this presentation by Geology professor, Tom Walker--"The Mountain Erupts: A slide presentation."

13-16 February. A cross-country ski adventure to Mt. Bachelor in Oregon. Departure will be Thursday evening, travelling through the night to allow maximum skiing. Two nights in motel. For more info. call Bill Watson at 876-4768 or Hank Moravec at 871-1211.

22 February. The second annual Washington's Birthday climb of Mt. Washington. If interested call Dale Boyle at 377-9042.

21-22 February. Family winter outting. 1-2 days--ski or snow shoe into Reflection Lakes (Mt. Panier area). Two miles of gentle skiing with excellent winter camping areas. Contact Charlie Miller at 479-0463.

March. On a weekend late in March, Ted Wiles is considering an igloo building session up at Paradise. The igloos will be built on Saturday and anyone interested in joining the fun/work can call Ted at 857-2206.

25-26 April. On the weekend of 25/26 April a bicycling trip in the San Juan Islands is planned. Hopefully this date will be late enough to reduce the chance of rain and early enough to reduce the number of tourists. Accomodations should be available for both campers and those wishing to enjoy the quaint guest houses on the islands. A "sag wagon" will be available to carry supplies, tools, exhausted cyclists, etc. so the only equipment required would be a bicycle and a set of willing legs. Interested members can call Steve Tontini at 479-3892.

Good article, bats! You never told me you had literary talent... you're going to get "tapped" more often.  
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I'm not even  
a climber and  
I enjoyed it!

## GUNK REPORT

By Jim Groh

Thanks - Davey

Undoubtedly your curiosity has been sparked by the title of this article. This seldom seen and rather obscure term is probably puzzling to the casual reader of the "PWC Gazette". Funk & Wagnalls is no help, even Webster's Third New International Dictionary can only offer the following definition: "gunk- filthy, sticky or greasy matter usually objectionably messy or smelly." Perhaps you might have even used the GUNK wonder degreaser to clean up your lawn mower or the oil spots on your garage floor. By now my play on words has probably confused most of you except for the well versed climbers who immediately knew this was a story about the Shawangunk Mountains.

The "gunks" as they are affectionately referred to by hard rockers, is the climbing "mecca" east of the Rockies. This escarpment of quartz conglomerate was discovered back in 1935 by the legendary Fritz Wiessner, whose original routes remain the classics, often still protected by Fritz's iron pitons. As a proving ground for modern climbers and techniques, the gunks have significantly contributed toward advancing the standards of rock climbing throughout the world. The over 500 cataloged routes cover the full range of climbing abilities all the way to the supernatural "Super Crack" at 5.13. The predominant horizontal crack system seems unique to this "gunk rock". Roofs and overhanging problems are the gunks trademark which probably explains why the gymnastic and lunge climbing moves were pioneered here. I could go on and on with bits of gunk trivia, but I did promise a report, so here is where the history lesson ends!

"East of the Rockies" covers a lot of real estate, so a brief geography lesson may be in order. The gunks lie just outside the little town of New Paltz which is about 70 miles north of the "Big Apple" (New York City). We chose Halloween weekend for our visit, unaware of the traditional festivities observed by the New Paltz College students. Since the celebration of Halloween in New Paltz could constitute a report in itself, I will only mention it here as one of the interesting sidelights right along with the midnight bouldering problem on the 5.10 brick wall of the New Paltz College Auditorium. Our antics on the auditorium wall were probably provoked by the excellent climbing presentation we had just attended inside. Jim McCarthy, a living legend among eastern climbers, gave an excellent recount of his first ascent (with Tom Frost) of Lotus Flower Tower in Canada. This wall is of the caliber of El Capitan in Yosemite but requires a multiple day alpine approach just to reach the base. Then in sharp contrast to the hammering siege, which Jim and Tom used to pioneer this wall, Sandy... (forgot last name, sorry) retold his epic first free ascent of the Tower. It was an altogether excellent show with many outstanding slides and film clips.

Well aside from the many distractions we did some actual rock climbing, and so to be expected the two days of climbing were the real highlight of the trip. The weather was brisk and occasional bursts of sunshine were welcomed. Still it was cool enough that several times we were dusted with a freak snow flurry. One particularly terrible looking lead I even begged for my partner's millar mitts, which he was very quick to retrieve upon reaching my belay point. All the routes we did were very challenging consisting of 2 to 4 pitches with good belays. As mentioned before, a variety of roofs were encountered along with considerable exposed and thinly protected face climbs on quartz chickenheads. Chalk and route descriptions are usually unnecessary on the popular routes since previous climbers seem to leave enough extra chalk for the next party to merely follow the stains! Even on this almost winter weekend the area seemed packed to me, with cars lining the nearby highway and around lunch time a catering truck showed up to satisfy the hungry climber's appetites with such delicacies as hot dogs and soft drinks! My friends later told me this was a rather mild turnout and

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Last month we discussed the dangerous enticement of avalanche-prone slopes. This month we will present methods of determining avalanche conditions as early in your trip as possible.

## Avalanche Notes

1.) Significant weather factors can be obtained from weather reports in the newspaper, on radio or TV, or from various telephone numbers such as the following:

This is the second in a series of articles by Steve Tontini on the nature and dangers of avalanches.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1-285-9274 (WASH) | Forest Service Back Country Avalanche      |
|                   | Forecast for the Wash. Cascades & Olympics |
| 1-442-7669 (SNOW) | Forest Service Snow Ranger Report for      |
|                   | Snowqualmie Pass                           |
| 1-634-3456        | Cross-country ski report                   |
| 1-662-1111        | Present Seattle Weather Forecast           |
| 377-5437 (SKIER)  | Downhill Ski Report                        |
| 1-634-0200        | Downhill Ski Report                        |

2.) The ranger station for the area you plan to visit should be telephoned for a specific report on snow conditions if it is not possible to stop at the Ranger station itself.

3.) Knowledge of weather conditions on the days preceding your trip should prove helpful (for example, approximately 90 % of all avalanches occur during or within 2 days of a snow storm.)

4.) Even as you drive towards the trailhead, stay alert for signs of wind direction and snow movement to determine which slopes are most likely to be "loaded" with snow. Clues are contained in cloud motion, snow plastered on trees far from the road, sluffs on upper slopes, etc. (looking up the Nisqually Valley on the way to Paradise will often display avalanche sluffs predominantly on one side of the valley, indicating which side of ridges you may wish to avoid if your trip is above timberline.)

5.) It may seem amazing, but even the smallest gullie or ridge you encounter early in your trip will show deeper snow layers on one side compared with the other when probed with a ski pole or an ice ax. Extrapolating the information to the larger, steeper ridges will help determine the loaded slopes.

6.) Trees act as obstructions just as ridges do. Thus the snow is picked up from the front of tree trunks and deposited on the leeward side. So look for "wells" or troughs at the trunks of isolated trees to tell you which direction the wind has been blowing from.

7.) Finally, cornices are a sure danger flag and normally overhang a dangerous lee slope. Try at all costs to avoid travelling on a slope under a cornice, no matter how small the cornice may appear to be.

### Phone numbers of various ranger stations:

|                        |        |           |              |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Monte Cristo           | 7 days | 7:30-5:00 | 691-7791     |
| Darrington             | M-F    | 6:45-4:30 | 436-1155     |
| Skykomish              | 7 days | 8:00-4:30 | 677-2414     |
| North Bend             | 7 days | 7:30-4:30 | 888-1421     |
| Glacier (Bellingham)   | 7 days | 7:30-5:00 | 599-2714     |
| Baker River (Concrete) | M-F    | 7:45-4:30 | 853-2851     |
| Cle Elum               |        |           | 509-674-4411 |
| Hoodsport              |        |           | 877-5254     |
| Staircase              |        |           | 877-5569     |

# OFFICERS

|                                    |                          |          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| President. . . . .                 | Bob Shaffer. . . . .     | 479-4692 |
| Vice President . . . . .           | Jim Busek. . . . .       | 871-4691 |
| Treasurer. . . . .                 | Dale Boyle . . . . .     | 377-9042 |
| Secretary. . . . .                 | Nancy Busek. . . . .     | 871-4691 |
| Activity Coordinator . . . . .     | Steve Tontini. . . . .   | 479-3892 |
| Entertainment Coordinator. . . . . | Charlie Miller . . . . . | 479-0463 |

## Gunk Report

(Continued from page 3)

that during the summer, the place is a zoo. It was also rumored that the rangers sell daily permits required by each climber, but we somehow managed to escape the revenueurs! While this area can in no way compare with the majestic surroundings of the Cascades or Sierras, once you find yourself attached to the rock it becomes obvious why this unique rock outcropping is so popular among climbers.

Jim Groh--exiled in Connecticut

## Newsletter

Anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter may address any correspondence to PWC Editor, P.O. Box 4214 Wycoff Station, Bremerton, WA 98310 or call 692-4679.

## Incorporation!

We're finally incorporated! Prior to this new year we received conformation of our non-profit incorporated status from the Secretary of State, Bruce Chapman. On the outset this may not seem like such a big deal... but to our poor treasurer, Dale Boyle, this feat must be somewhat akin to climbing Mt. Everest. After having volleyed letter after letter back and forth with the Secretary of State for months now, the only task left undone is the page of requirements necessary to be met in order to maintain that status. Thanks a lot Dale!

## For Sale:

Oldtown Oltonar canoe; 17'; \$450. Call Jim Lillie at 871-0858.

## Dues Coupon

This is your last opportunity to receive a newsletter without paying your dues! To facilitate the payment of your 1981 dues and to ensure uninterrupted delivery of your newsletter, this coupon is enclosed. Simply fill out the coupon, enclose \$9.00 (this \$9.00 includes the entire household) and send to: Peninsula Wilderness Club; P.O. Box 4214 Wycoff Station; Bremerton, WA 98310.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_