

# OCTOBER 1981

P.O. BOX 4214 WYCOFF STA, BREMERTON

## EVENTS

October 3. A family day hike/stroll geared to having an easy relaxing day. Hopefully we can find some edible mushrooms if anyone knows what to look for. If interested in joining us (I have a five-year-old son) call Lynn Howat at 598-4873.

October 12. The monthly gathering of the Peninsula Wilderness Club will meet in Science room 136 of Olympic College at 7:30 p.m.. Jeff Hancock, who used to be a ranger on Mt. Rainier, will be this month's guest speaker. Jeff will show slides and talk about his climb of Chimborazo, the highest mountain of Ecuador and Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world. He will also show scenic shots from the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador. Several club members will also be showing slides from recent trips at this meeting-- Steve David/Canadian Rockies and Jim Groh/Colorado area.

Scheduled, as well, for this meeting is the yearly election of officers (see Article). Be sure to be there.

October 18. The second annual Mil-dred Lakes clean-up hike. This ambitious 5-mile hike will be lead by Jim Busek. For details, call him at 871-4691.

October 19. The annual Sun Mountain Lodge cross-country ski multi-media presentation will be held in Science Room 136 of Olympic College. The presentation will include tips on equipment, avalanche safety, slides and films. An event sure to get you psyched up for the coming ski season! For more details, contact Judd or Pete at 377-0668.

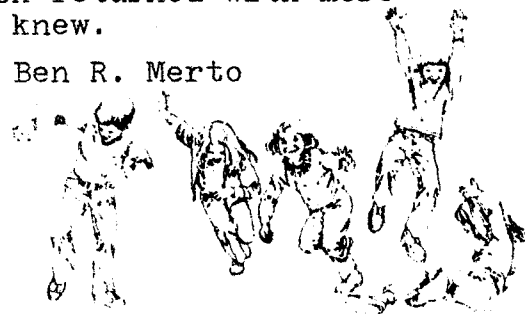
*The  
Four Streams  
Trail in April*



The path walked was two miles or so long  
To the large log bridge with wooden handrail.  
It was clearly marked; no chance to go wrong.  
Streams of trickling water that crossed the trail  
Brought echoing squeals from some children's delight  
While hopping and threading the cold slick stones.  
A hollow old trunk stood somewhere to the right;  
When it spoke, could startle both wits and one's bones.  
Simple wonders were many along the trail--  
Trilium and roses had budded or bloomed,  
Oregon grape, red huckleberries too--  
Many spider webs, floating and quite frail,  
Laden with dew had twinkled and glistened.  
Then we each returned with more than we knew.

Ben R. Merto

*For  
Allison,  
Tiffany,  
Alex,  
Becca,  
and  
David.*



# MT. SIR DONALD—CLIMBED AGAIN... well, almost...

Lynn Howat

On August 13th, Steve David and I headed to Canada for sightseeing, climbing and hiking. One of our primary destinations was Glacier National Park (not the American one), N.E. of Revelstoke, B.C. and west of Banff. It's a beautiful area; the trails are well marked and the scenery breathtaking.

Our objective there was to climb the N.W. Ridge of Mt. Sir Donald. The hike in is fairly short but steep. Our camp was at the base of the mountain and a glacier, with views in every direction. The next morning we hiked up to the saddle and started the climb. The book said the ascent took 4 hours and the descent 4+ hours. The climbing is solid quartzite rock with wonderful handholds; it's class 4 and low class 5 with lots of exposure. We soon realized that the only way to climb it in 4 hours was without protection or belays. Since there was no way I was going to do that, we turned around after 4 hours and downclimbed (with a nice safe belay.) For those with a lot more climbing experience, confidence and nerve than I have, it's a highly recommended climb if you're in that area. The mountain itself is spectacular looking; from a distance it looks a bit like the Matterhorn. We had perfect weather; however, thunder storms are apparently quite common in that area. We hiked in on a Friday afternoon and saw no other hikers or climbers until late Saturday afternoon, even though it's a popular climb.

The hiking in Glacier Park is fairly strenuous; however, there are also some short easy trails well worth walking. We found that the Canadian Parks (Glacier, Yoho, Banff, Jasper, Kootenay) offered a real variety of experiences ranging from easily obtained solitude to the

tourist shops of Banff. The Park service provides lots of information and frequent naturalist programs at most campgrounds. It's an area I'd highly recommend for a vacation.



Nancy Busek

## LAKE OZETTE TRIANGLE

The weekend of August 15 and 16 was hot and sunny here in "B-town", but along the ocean beach it was overcast and pleasantly cool. Eight people (PWC members and guests) hiked the boardwalk trail from Lake Ozette ranger station to the beach at Sandpoint. Many other hikers were camped there and water was scarce so we traveled on north up the beach.

Our search for drinkable water was quickly overshadowed by exploration of the beautiful beach. Tidepools were teeming with all kinds of sea creatures, and off shore we spotted whales and seals. Sea stacks offered a chance for some rock climbing, and more than one person wished he had brought along a rope for the bigger cliffs.

We finally came to a campsite (minus water) near Wedding Rock. Petroglyphs were inscribed on these rocks by Indians hundreds of years ago, and the symbols they carved can be interpreted in many different ways. Some are quite obvious to figure out, like a dog or a ship, but others take a bit more thought.

We spent the night near these rocks, with a crackling fire and good ghost stories to help us sleep. Next morning we traveled up the beach to Cape Alava. The Indian digs here have been covered over and the artifacts moved to a museum at Neah Bay. We did finally locate the elusive water supply, but it was brown from tannic acid and not very appetizing.

A three-mile walk out, a long drive home and a hop in the shower ended a memorable weekend.

*Lynn Howat*

# EDITORIAL

BY JORGEN NELSON

I see a clear danger to our Northwest environment represented by the construction of the Northern Tier Pipeline. The risk of oil spills and contamination of the Port Angeles beaches, waters and marine life is very real. A currently thriving fishing industry would be threatened. Hydrocarbon and sulfur emissions would threaten our atmosphere lending to possible acid rain contamination of the Olympic National Park. Low Judge Jon von Reis, after an 18-month hearing, recommended against the building of the pipeline, yet on September 15, 1981 the EPA issued one of the three permits necessary to build the pipeline. Later next month the Army Corps of Engineers is expected to issue a second permit. The third and FINAL permit necessary for the pipeline would then need to be issued by Gov. John Spellman for the State of Washington. Gov. Spellman has a state with a floundering economy and he may consider the pipeline as an economic shot in the arm. If you feel as I do, please write Gov. Spellman.

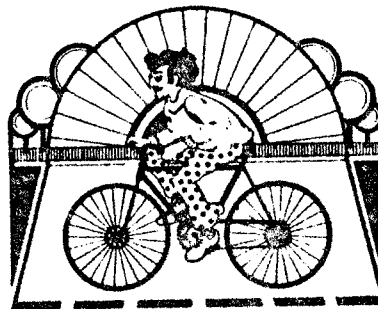


## AS THE LEG TURNS

For those wishing to get in shape for the approaching ski season, we have several conditioning propositions:

One-hour bicycle sprints. Weekdays approximately 6-7p.m. in the Bremerton-Port Orchard area. @3x/wk. at 15-20 mph. Call Steve at 479-3892.

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The Mt. Constance Mt. Shoppe sponsors "Fun Runs" on a weekly basis-- Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Call Pete or Judd at 377-0668 for details.



## Lopez Island Trip

J. Nelson

I recently took a one-day bicycle trip to Lopez Island in the San Juans. A good one-day trip with a stop at Fisherman's Bay for some excellent baked goods and wayside stops for apples and black berries. I lunched at Davis Point, where a short unmarked trail lead to a beautiful rocky coastline. I did some sunbathing and observed the seals across Cattle Pass doing the same. Richardson's Store was the halfway point and a good spot for ice cream cones. The ride back along the rolling hills and rural farm land setting was pleasant and included a stop at Spencer's Spit. Arriving 5 minutes late for a ferry we found several games of chess occupied the 2 hours until the next boat arrived. Trip time was about 5 hours.

## ELECTION !

The Peninsula Wilderness Club has traditionally been short on business and long on entertainment and activities. Once a year, though, we do elect new officers to serve as organizers for the club, and nominations were taken at the September meeting. Voting for those candidates will take place on 12 Oct. at the monthly meeting.

Nominated for the office of President were three longstanding members. The club's President presides over the monthly meetings and is responsible for appointing other officers and committees as necessary to fulfill the administration and purpose of the club. Jim Groh, originally from Wisconsin, served as Entertainment Coordinator last year. He is

## ELECTION (Cont.)

a current member of Olympic Mountain Rescue and has been active in the club in a variety of ways--leading trips, slide presentations and organizing shows such as Art Wolfe's Photography show. Lynn Howat, also an active member, is a face seen regularly at the meetings. Interested in backpacking and climbing, she participates in many of the planned trips as well as organizing her own. In the past she's contributed to the newsletter and recently helped to organize the summer picnic. Steve Tontini is the club's current Activity Coordinator and has served as the Entertainment Coordinator in the past. He's been instrumental in organizing many of the trips the club's been able to offer over the past year and has lead a good many of these himself. Over the past year, Steve has also been a major contributor to the newsletter.

Four candidates are running for the office of Vice President. The duties include assumption of the presidential duties in the absence of the President. Tom Atkins became a member of the club this year. He regularly attends the meetings, has been active in many of the outings and has contributed to the newsletter. Joan Jerrett served as Secretary for the club last year. In the two years that she's been a member, she's lead a number of trips, provided entertainment at several of the meetings and has helped to organize a number of the club's functions. Charlie Miller, a local climber, served as Entertainment Coordinator this year. He has been active in the club over the years--attending executive meetings, planning and leading trips and assisting in organizational aspects. Sussette Tontini is also an old member and was the original newsletter editor... (not to be confused with "original recipe"). Hers is a face seen regularly at the meetings. She's organized many trips over the past few years and continues to contribute to the newsletter.

For the office of Secretary--the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meetings and general paperwork--three females accepted the nomination (not to be confused with males who did not accept the nomination). Jerry Hewett, a new member this year, has been an active participant on many of the outings. Jerry took the Olympic College Basic Mountaineering class several years ago and enjoys backpacking and is learning to climb this year. Lynn Howat was nominated for the position of President. Kathy Thomas is also a new member this year. A native to this area, she enjoys a wide variety of outdoor activities--from winter camping with the Olympic College class to a new sport for her--running. Along with her husband, Larry, she assisted in the Great Olympic Mt. Marathon at one of the aid stations--an event cosponsored by the club.

Last, but hardly least, the "custodian of all funds of the club"--Treasurer. We have two candidates for this position. Dale Boyle has been the treasurer from the inception of the club. So far he's been able to pass all audits and inspections, which count for at least two points in his favor. Dale is a current member of Olympic Mt. Rescue and has been active in the club in all phases--entertainment, leading trips, contributing to the newsletter and organizing functions.

Larry Thomas is a new member to the club. Along with the activities he's been involved in with his wife Kathy (see Secretary), he is also active in a local Cub Scout pack as a committee chairman. He enjoys climbing and has a goal for the future to hike the Pacific Crest Trail.

So there you have it...the nominees for the annual Miss America--Whoops!--PWC officer election. (It must be the "mounting tension" of writing this article that confused me.) Be sure to be at the next meeting to cast your ballot!

# ...and the deer flies chased us down

Paul Plevich

What started as a beautiful idea for a climb in the North Cascades soon turned into a nightmare unrivaled by anything ever promulgated by Edgar Allan Poe or Vincent Price. It started off innocently enough with promises of great weather, good ice on Mt. Buckner, and a beautiful new area, as Skip McKenzie and I drove to Marblemount early one Saturday morning in August. We had decided to try a long ice gully (1200 feet) on the north side of Buckner, near Cascade Pass in the North Cascades National Park.

We witnessed a glorious sunrise over Glacier Peak from I-5 and had an enjoyable drive. However, on the road to Marblemount, Skip's car developed problems, which I ascertained to be carburetor or fuel-line; whereas Skip maintained that it was an ignition problem. We limped into the ranger station to check conditions and were next dismayed to find 3 miles tacked onto the approach due to a washout, "bad water" due to the ever-popular Giardia "bug", and no permit to camp in the area we had selected, i.e. a bivouac on the route on Mt. Buckner. (Read closely now, campers, this is the nightmare I was talking about).

With tails between legs and spirits dampened, we decided to "go for it", in spite of these obatacles. 21 miles later (on good dirt roads) we were at the trailhead--now 3 miles down from where it should have been. We next donned running shoes and shorts and hefted our 30-pound bivouac packs loaded with ice-climbing tools, rope and food, but no sleeping bags or tents. (We were bivying in true British-Alpine style).

The trail started pleasantly, but soon turned into a swirl of stinging and biting black deerflies, which sought out your most vulnerable places and landed to torment you in most insidious ways. They danced in

the air before your mouth, threatening to be inhaled as you huffed and puffed your way through the washout and up 39 ("count-em") switchbacks on the trail to Cascade Pass. Not even the stupendous views of 5000 glacier ravaged feet of the South Walls of Mt. Johannesburg could detract from the little demons buzzing and biting you. The weather by now had started working against us, too, and we hiked in 90°+ heat through the Pass and up Sahale Arm.

By now Skip and I were somewhat demoralized. It was getting late in the day and we had hiked about 6 miles without sighting Mt. Buckner (it was hidden behind Sahale Peak). Therefore, we decided to bivvy in the meadow on Sahale Arm, and pick off Sahale in a mad dash with ultra-light packs. We dumped all non-essential gear from the packs, keeping ice-axes and rain gear (this is Washington State, after all), and speedily approached the snowfield guarding Sahale's rocky summit. After enjoyable step-kicking in soft snow, we found ourselves 150 feet from the summit, which we found was made up entirely of rotten rock slightly reminiscent of the rock found in the Olympics. We climbed cautiously, unroped, on Class 4 terrain, with every foothold and handhold reverberating with hollow-sounding echoes--not a good place to be. 20 feet from the summit (on the summit ridge) a dey hold--a boulder about 4' by 6', threatened to move as Skip put his weight on it. We summited on that spot and beat a hasty retreat to our campsite.

By now we were quite thirsty and had happily been ignoring the cautions against drinking the water. However, we did boil water for supper and retired to our bivvy sacks on the soft grass to enjoy the sunset and stars that followed.

Next morning on the way out, we spotted marmots, pykas and deer in the early morning light. However, the deerflies were even worse in the morning (if that can be) than they had been the last afternoon. Skip's car limped out and we enjoyed beers and Big Gulps in profusion as we battled the hydro-traffic jams home.