

THE PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB MEETS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:30PM AT THE KITSAP UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ON PERRY AVENUE IN EAST BREMERTON.

WARNING FROM RANGER BOB: Ranger Bob gave us a call the other day to warn that there have been some problems with car break ins at trail heads in the Mount Baker- Snoqualmie National Forests. Although most of the problems seem to be along the I-90 corridor, he points out that Clint had his car broken into a couple of years ago off State 20.

GREAT OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RUN 2 AUG:

Yes, folks, its that time of year when the men of iron and women of steel set off over the Olympic peaks to prove themselves. Anyone interested in either participating or helping out (helpers have more fun) call Noah Myers at 373-1787 or Kathy Thomas at 830-4456.

WHITE WATER RIVER TRIP ON THE SUIATTLE 11 or 12 JULY: Call Jim Groh at 779-5421 for more information about plans and costs.

MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY 13 JULY 7:30 PM OUTDOOR FILMS

For our July meeting we will be seeing two films. First will be "SOLO" , a glimpse into the technique and philosophy of a mountain climber who makes solo ascents. This film's spectacular photography has won it 12 awards. Our second presentation will be "JOHN MUIR'S HIGH SIERRAS". This film will retrace some of Naturalist John Muir's hikes during the 1890s and tells of how his writings helped to create some of America's National Parks.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Rich Sanborn	876-8886
VICE PRES	Lynn Howat-Reynolds	779-9865
SECRETARY	Barbara Curtis	373-0431
TREASURER	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Sue and David Ladd
479-8683
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JULY 1987

TIME DATED MATERIAL

CAMP STOVE SAFETY

Clint Porter and the Ladds

One of the things that has really changed since I started camping as a boy scout, innumerable years ago, has been the change from camp fires to camp stoves for cooking meals in the woods. Some of the change has been due to our heightened awareness of the damage open fires do to the wilderness and the environment. I remember well from my days as scout. Give us about an hour to get supper together and in short order we would have the woods looking and smelling like a sylvan version of a Los Angeles smog emergency. Never actually started a forest fire although we did come close once. Another reason, of course, has been that our dear friend, Ranger Bob, has been posting signs all over his sylvan domain warning would-be camp fire lovers that should they dare use anything other than a camp stove in more and more areas, the combined wrath of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior will descend on their heads.

Actually camp stoves are a pretty good deal. Generally they are a lot less trouble to start (when they work), constitute a considerably smaller danger of starting a forest fire (although it could be done) and are a whole lot easier to put out. The additional weight of fuel and stove are negligible. Nevertheless, they do have their potential problems. My old Primas, for instance, if it had been going too long at higher altitudes, would tend to flare out through the pressure release nozzle to the extent that I wondered if the thing might explode before I got the water to a boil. Dave Ladd has had another experience. He was using one of those stoves in which you pressurize the MSR bottle while you are getting your stove going. While he was pumping, the seal between the pump and bottle gave way spewing fuel all over the place. He sent it back to the company with a presumably nasty note. When he got it back, he found that the former rubber seal had been replaced with an O-ring.

Judd Flynn of the Mt. Constance Shop has the following suggestions. For fuel, use Chevron Blazo rather than white gas. It burns hotter and cleaner which will help reduce the problem of carbon build up. Never tip your stove while you are pumping it. (Hot fuel spilling all over the place may be hazardous to your health.) Instead of using fuel in the primer pan, use primer paste. It comes in a tube and you can get a lifetime supply for a couple of bucks. Flare ups do happen, even with the newer stoves, so when you set it up for cooking, you want to select a spot clear of vegetation and at least a good ten feet away from the tent. Judd also recommended periodic maintenance of your stove and bringing along your own personal maintenance kit when you trek into the deep wilderness, usually nothing more sophisticated than some pipe cleaners and maybe a pair of pliers.

Certainly you should never attempt to use a stove inside your tent or stow your fuel bottle there. Just because our modern tents are considered to be "flame resistant" that does not mean that they will not burn or melt when exposed to a sufficiently hot flame. A would-be indoor cooker should also be wary of the danger of asphyxiation from burning inside an enclosed tent.

So, remember, your stove is a handy tool to use in the woods. Taken care of and used with caution, meal after meal of pleasantly warm food can be enjoyed. Used carelessly, they can cause you a lot of trouble, damage valuable equipment and even cause a nasty injury.