

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.

YAKIMA FLOAT TRIP SAT-SUN 22-23 AUG 1987

Everyone who thinks they might like to spend an idealic two days floating down the Yakima River by inner tube, raft, or whatever you have handy that you think might float, call Ted Wyles at 857-2206 or 857-6221.

MONTHLY MEETING 7:30 PM MONDAY 11 AUGUST 1987 DEE MOLENAAR IN THE ANTARCTIC

Club member Dee Molenaar will be entertaining us this month with a slide presentation showing his visit to Macmurdo in Antarctica. For those of you that are really into seals and penguins this program should definitely be a must. At 6:00PM before the meeting Dee and President Rich Sanborn will be getting together for dinner an the Boatshed, down by the Manette Bridge. Anyone wishing to join them will certainly be welcome.

DAY HIKE IN THE OLYMPICS SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Any one interested in a good time and impressive scenery should contact Jim Groh by calling 779-5421.

This months newsletters will be a bit more personalized than usual. Your stamp this month will be one of 50 different commemorative wildlife stamps available on a single sheet at the Post Office. It costs no more to send your love letters and bills using these attractive stamps than the ordinary ones and they do show off your concern and enjoyment of wildlife.

OFFICERS			NEWSLETTER STAFF	
PRESIDENT	Rich Sanborn	876-8886	Sue and David Ladd	
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AUGUST 1987

-TIME DATED MATERIAL-

SKIING MOUNT ST. HELENS by Jim Groh

You've probably all read various accounts of Mt. St. Helens adventures so I will attempt to keep this report brief. Dick Waldo and I had been speculating the skiing possibilities of this new mountain landscape for some time. Just before procrastinating away our 1987 chance, we rather spontaneously agreed on June 18 as the date to make our attempt.

Ranger reports claimed there would probably be some snow left but as good as the previous week or month. More disturbing was the prediction of our mere 50/50 chance of getting a climbing permit. Despite the potential problems, our skiing curiosity had been perked and a favorable weather forecast easily convinced us to go for it. We arrived at the Yale Park climbing registration site the evening before our climb. Registration nightmares told by yesterday's climbing quota rejects brought instant anxiety to our well laid plans. By an exacting process of strategy we calculated a 3:40 waking time would give us an 87% chance of getting permits. I could easily expound pages on the bureaucratic absurdity of this registration requirement, but we did make the cutoff so I'll only offer condolences to the poor suckers in line behind us.

All climbing routes are on the South side of the mountain, since, as most of you know, there is no longer any North side. We chose the popular Monitor Ridge route, which seems to be the shortest and most direct route. We hiked to about 5200' where there was still enough snow to skin up our skis. We proceeded on skins for a while until the steepness of the slope and the inconsistency of the snow became too much. The skis went back on our backs as we then continued to the summit on foot. While the route is not too steep by climbing standards it offered more than what we anticipated in skiing challenge. With the snow cover quickly retreating we had to constantly memorize rock islands and routes to follow on our descent to avoid cliffs and narrow chutes. On our ascent the snow was firm to almost ice crusted in spots which I did not particularly favor but the hot sun would hopefully soften the surface for our descent. Reaching the summit crater lip gave spectacular views into its depths than alone would be adequate reward for the climb up.

Strapping on our skis and preparing for the initial plunge downward we could not expect how this ash and gravel covered snow slope would yield to our conventional skiing techniques. A few style points were lost to the sun cups on our first turns. With some modification to my telemark technique and Dick quickly relearning some alpine principles we were soon having a blast. The snow had softened up perfectly and it was too soon when it ran out and we were again looking at rocks and rubble. We did not break any time records going up or down the mountain but completely enjoyed the trip.

We will return again next year and will surely be earlier to avoid the registration hassle and hopefully have enough snow cover to ski to the trail head.

