

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.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1988 ELECTED

During our October meeting we elected our new officers for the 1988 year. Larry Thomas has accepted the position of President and Dick Roemer that of Vice President. Barbara Luddon and Kevin Kilbridge will continue their services in the important positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Outgoing President, Rich Sanborn noted with obvious satisfaction that he is down leaving the club in good shape financially. The club voted that a Trip Committee be established. The committee will be responsible for planning and organizing club sponsored outings such as the recent Lake Angeles trip. It is expected that these planned outings will run the gamut from the difficult and dangerous, such as climbing the peaks, to the more sedate, such as day hikes suitable for the little ones.

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> MONTHLY MEETING 7:30 PM MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 1987 KLEPPER FOR TWO ANYONE? <
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> George Gronseth and Alice Rasmussen will present a slide show with music <
>and narration, to give us a feel for their recent adventures in the Queen <
>Charlotte Islands on board a two person "Klepper" which is a kind of ocean <
>going kayak. Anyone interested in meeting with them, is welcome to gather <
>with fellow club members at the Golden Mum Chinese Restaurant at the <
>intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Center Valley Road at 6:00PM on the <
>9th <

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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Larry Thomas	830-4456
VICE PRES	Dick Roemer	297-2190
SECRETARY	Barbara Luddon	373-0431
TREASURER	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Sue and David Ladd
479-8683
Clint Porter
377-3087

PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB
P.O. BOX 323
Bremerton, WA 98310-9998



NOVEMBER 1987

-TIME DATED MATERIAL-

INDIAN HENRY'S BY THE KAUTZ CREEK TRAIL

Mt. Rainier National Park 10 October 1987 By Clint Porter

For those who may not yet be familiar with it, Indian Henry's Hunting Ground is a plateau area on the southwest corner of Mt. Rainier. It is a nice wide open area with Mt. Ararat on the south end and Pyramid Peak on the north side toward's the big mountain. These plus the two mountains in the middle are all easily climbable. I particularly enjoy visiting it this time of year. Because of the colder weather the tourists are mostly gone and the leaves of a certain bush turn a brownish red. When the sun hits them the right way, however, they appear to be an almost luminous red. Pyramid peak gives you an excellent view of the Mountain and you can clearly make out Paradise, about four miles away from there.

On entering the park at the Nisqually entrance, I noticed that the toll booth is no longer there. Perhaps they have moved it up to Longmire so as to create a certain free zone for the park. I notice that the road is being paved over. You may recall there had been some controversy about this because of the expectation that some trees would have to be cut down. If any were, I didn't notice any evidence of it. By this particular day, the road crews had gotten up to Kautz Creek, three miles into the park, where the Kautz Creek Trail starts.

I thought the trail, itself was rather nice. Not particularly steep in any one place, the climbs and switchbacks are broken by relatively level stretches. There is also quit a variety of terrain ranging from tall dark forest, to more open terrain where you may easily leave the trail to go over and look at some promising view. Towards the end, you alternate between open level open fields and switchbacks up wooded slopes. Eventually the trail climbs up to within about 300 feet of the top of Mt. Ararat before descending down to Indian Henry's.

It's obviously been a dry year. There was no running water at Indian Henry's and only one clear spring on the way up. Only the most desperate would consider drinking Kautz Creek's silted waters. After lunch at Indian Henry's I climbed up Mt. Ararat and took a nap, (just a bit nippy) and then went down the west side of the mountain until I hit the trail. Only saw four people all day.

One interesting sight occurs just east of Kautz Creek. You have a lot of downed logs, big ones maybe 10 or 12 feet in diameter, lying all over the place. One even sticks out a good fifteen feet above the trail. They have been there so long that a soil of sorts from pine needles and moss has developed on the top of these logs, and out of this top soil, new little trees have sprouted up. Rather strange to see a little mini forest growing 15 or 20 feet up in the air above your head.

NOTE ON THE MAILING LABELS: You may have noted on your mailing label a new addition, a series of four digits to the right of your name split by a slash. These denote the month and year that your current club membership expires.