

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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS COMING DUE

For, many of us, our \$12 annual membership dues is coming due this month. If you are not certain, check your Month/Year notice on the mailing label. "12/87" means your membership was definitely due this December 1987. Apparently some of you either signed up later in the year or, as a demonstration of your faith in our institution, paid up for two years. If the due date on your label is not correct, and we have received one letter pointing this out already, contact Kevin Kilbridge. For those of us desiring to renew the membership so that we can continue to meet and enjoy interesting programs, please complete the attached form so that we will be current on who you are and where you currently hide out at.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB. MAIL
TO: PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB, P.O. BOX 323
BREMERTON, WA 98310-9998

Please find enclosed \$12 for 1988 Single/Family membership.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

OFFICERS

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

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



MARCH 1988

-TIME DATED MATERIAL-

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

APRIL 20 7:00 PM SPECIAL PRESENTATION PAT O'HARA ON WILDERNESS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Peninsula Wilderness Club will sponsor world renowned wilderness photographer will be presenting a special program of his work at the Central Kitsap Highschool at 7:00 PM on April 20th. Pat's work ranges from the large such as vast mountain vistas. to the medium, such as rushing mountain streams on down to the very small, such as delicate leaves, pebbles and even clams. The program should be a special treat for both young and old.

IGLOO CONSTRUCTION 88 MARCH 5 AND 6: Come up to Mt. Rainier and have some fun in the biggest and best snow event of the year. Yes, you can even build an Igloo and spend the night in it too. But, if you are not so adventurous, just stay the day. We'll guarantee you'll have a fun time. Call Ted Wyles at 857-6221.

SKI CLASS LEARN TO TURN CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN MARCH 12: For those who are going to miss the scheduled Penstemon Guide Service "learn to turn" class, Dale Boyle is adding an additional telemarking class. For more information on costs call Dale at 377-9042.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING/ OVERNIGHT CAMP MARCH 19-20: This skiing and overnight camping trip is being planned for Mazama Ridge not far from Paradise on Mount Rainier. The campsite will be along the broad ridge itself with excellent views of the Tatoosh Range and Mount Rainier, weather permitting. Practice your telemarking on broad gentle slopes Saturday, afternoon. Call Bruce Kitteridge at 895-1131.

HIKE THE HOB TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY MARCH 22 OR 23: For those interested in a weekday day hike along the Hoe River, contact Kit at 857-5274.

SKY DIVING SATURDAY MARCH 26: This outing is planned for newcomers to the sport or anyone else crazy enough to think that it is fun to jump out of perfectly good airplanes. For more information about plans and cost call Bruce Kitteridge at 895-1131 or 871-7231.

MOUNT ANGELES DAY CLIMB SUNDAY MARCH 27: This is expected to be a relatively easy climb although, as in all activities done at this time of year, exercise of due caution is required. An ice ax as well as cold weather gear will be required. Call Charlie at 697-1876 for more information.

MOUNT HOOD CLIMB APRIL 9-10 or 16-17: The plan is to go up the west side Mt. Hood which means you do not get to go up the first 3,000 feet on the ski lift. The actual date will depend on the weather. The party expects to overnight at Illumination Rock at 9,500. Snow shoes, X-C Skis and an intermediate level of mountaineering skills is required. Call Doug Savage at 692-5933 or Dale Boyle at 377-9042. Doug Savage is also contemplating the possibility of a spring ascent of Mt. St. Hellens.

If you have not yet completed your PWC questionnaire and want to be on the club roster, bring it to the March meeting. We will try to have the roster available for distribution at the March meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY 14 MARCH SKIN DIVING WITH DENNIS HOVORKA

Dennis Hovorka will be entertaining us with slides of his scuba diving adventures beneath the waters of the Great Barrier Reef off Eastern Australia this month. Included will be encounters with sharks, sea snakes (which are poisonous) and tropical fish and coral (which are pretty.) It should be a memorable evening for us all.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUGHT

I have advised Larry Thomas that it is my present intention to turn over my responsibilities for the NewsLetter to others sometime in the next six months, probably in June. I have certainly enjoyed working on it over the past three years but I am thinking that the time is approaching when a new person with fresh ideas and a different perspective needs to take over.

Clint Porter

BUYING A BACKPACK (PART I)

By Doug Savage

Choosing a backpack is one of the first decisions a prospective adventurers or adventuresses make when they first take up hiking and camping. For the beginner, the decision is often an agonizing one. Going into the backroom at Mt. Constance, or looking at the pack covered walls of REI, the choice of packs looks more ominous than the Willis Wall on Mt. Rainier. But if you take your time and ask the right questions, finding the right pack can be an easy chore.

First, take time out to ask yourself some basic questions. For starters, what do you plan to do with your pack? Will it be day hikes or week long trips into the far wilderness. Will you be traveling on well maintained trails or some type of technical mountaineering? What type, and how much equipment do you plan to carry? And finally, are you going to be expanding your horizons in the near future. That may mean making further and possibly different demands on your pack. After you have hashed these questions around for a while, the pack you will need will probably fall into one of three categories; day pack, external frame pack, or internal frame pack.

A day pack is a small pack used to carry only the essentials you will need for a short trip. As the name indicates this is not the pack one would use for an overnight trip. A good pack might, however, also double as a summit bag on a longer trip. Most day packs have a capacity of between 1500-2400 cubic inches. Such packs may come with lots of extras which you may find useful. These include crampon patches, ice axe loops, padding on the waist and shoulder straps, sternum straps and detachable side pockets. Many day packs have multiple compartments which help keep equipment separated.

If you plan to be out for a longer period of time, or you have got a lot of equipment to carry, you will probably want something larger than a day pack, such as an external frame pack. These days such packs usually consist of an aluminum alloy frame external to the pack bag itself. Joints on the frame are either welded or attached with couplings. Welded joints are very rigid and make a sturdy frame. Coupled joints allow you to adjust the frame to the shape of your back, but at a loss of rigidity. Bulky items such as a sleeping bag or a tent are normally tied to the frame either above or below

the main pack bag. As with day packs, external frame packs come with lots of extras which vary with different manufacturers.

The advantage of external frame packs is that they provide excellent weight distribution. They have high centers of gravity which provide greater stability on gentle trails. (Gentle trails around here? Where?) Also, the frame creates an airspace between the load and yourself, a most appreciated added comfort on hot days.

The disadvantage of external frame packs is that when you look up, your head hits the top cross bar of the frame. Also, when trying to navigate over difficult terrain, such as up or down a steep slope, the pack tends to throw you off balance. In some circumstances, this can be hazardous.

The other type of large pack made for backpackers is the internal frame pack. The internal frame pack is constructed either with two parallel bars, or two 'X' shaped bars which are sewn directly into the pack bag. For added comfort, the bars can sometimes be bent to fit the contours of your back. This pack will fit tightly against your back, placing its center of gravity close to your body. This lessens the possibility of the pack throwing you off balance. Unfortunately, it also cuts down on the air circulation around your back. To compensate for this, most manufacturers add a posture pad or a lumbar pad. The shoulder straps and hip belt should be well padded. The pack opening is either via a flap at the top or via zippers in the front. The sleeping bag normally has its own compartment at the bottom of the bag, accessed by a zipper.

Internal frame packs are made for rugged country. They do not have a lot of side pockets or pouches that might get caught on tree limbs or rock overhangs. Also, they do not affect the balance as much as external frame packs. Their major disadvantage is that most people do not find them as comfortable as external frame packs for long trips. Also they are usually very expensive.

(To Be Continued Next Month)

CLUB TRIP COMMITTEE MEETING 17 FEBRUARY

Interested members met on 17 February to discuss possible future club activities and trips as well as other issues important to the club's future. One result, you should note, is a much fuller schedule of possible activities for club members to participate in this month. They also worked on a flier to be made available at the chamber of commerce and sporting goods stores for the benefit of new arrivals in our community. We agreed that it was important for more club members contribute stories to the Newsletter. Doug Savage reports that his project for establishing data base of member's activity interests is coming along nicely.

