

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.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

CAMPOUT AT HAYDEN PASS SAT-SUN-MON 3-5 SEPTEMBER: The plan is to hike up the Dosewallips Valley to its end at Hayden Pass. For those into climbing, numerous peaks will offer plenty of other opportunities. Others of us may want to simply react and enjoy the environment or do some day hiking in the area. Call Doug at 692-5933 for more information.

CAMPOUT AT ROYAL BASIN SAT-SUN 17-18 SEPTEMBER: Royal Basin is located about seven miles into the Olympics up the Dungeness River. Some of the campers may try to climb Mt. Clark. Call Charlie at 697-1876 for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM PRESENTATION 19 SEP 6:30 PM, KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY: The Kitsap Regional Library is sponsoring a special environmental film presentation entitled Marine Debris, Everyone's Problem.

MOUNTAIN FIRST AID COURSE 3 OCTOBER THROUGH 7 NOVEMBER: Larry Thomas and Sharon McKenzie will be teaching a Mountain Oriented First Aid class beginning 3 October. Larry and Sharon hope to get about 18 students to meet with him for two nights a week in Poulsbo. The course will be oriented primarily toward the kind of first aid that might have to be carried out after a mountaineering accident. To sign up, or simply get more information, call 830-4456.

OFFICERS

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB
P.O. BOX 323
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SEPTEMBER 1988

-TIME DATED MATERIAL-

MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING CRAIG ANDERSON ON K2:

This month we will be hosting Craig Anderson, renowned Bremerton mountain climber and explorer. Craig will be speaking to us his experiences climbing in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal with special emphasis on his ascent of a certain peak known by the rather prosaic name of "K2". Some experts suggest that it, rather than Everest, is the actual highest point on the earth.

ENCHANTMENTS TRAVERSE By Ann Sanborn

With no Great Olympic Mountain Run this year, a very special event was needed to replace it, so a traverse of the Enchantments seemed made to order. Our party of six, with a four day permit, rendezvousing in Leavenworth, July 28 at six AM. By the time our two vehicles were arranged for a shuttle, stomachs filled, and packs shouldered, it was a 7:30 AM departure from the Lake Stuart/Lake Colchuck Trailhead.

The hot uphill grind was eased by a light cloud cover, but the views were unimpaired. One section of forest seemed to have been blazed on every tree, the apparent work of hungry porcupines. Our arrival at Colchuck Lake, destination for the day, coincided with lunch. There was an "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die" attitude as we contemplated the formidable Aasgard Pass, the western entrance to the Enchantments. (Editor's Note: In Germanic mythology, per Wagner anyway, Aasgard was the home of the gods, the Teutonic equivalent of Mt. Olympus.)

Day two required a 7:00 AM departure enabling us to ascend the pass shaded by overhanging cliffs. The trail was marked by cairns * through giant boulders around the end of Colchuck Lake. and then almost straight up for 2200 feet in less than one mile over scree, rocks, snow and streams. A nonchalant mountain goat quietly watched the humans below, inching their way upward with full packs. Ah, but at the top, what a view! Isolation Lake, about 7700 feet in altitude and still frozen, was a serene lunch stop. On our way to Inspiration Lake, where we were to camp for two nights, we were truly enchanted by the myriad of upper lakes. A final traverse over a snow field that bottomed out in Inspiration Lake was quite inspirational in itself. Our early arrival ensured a good choice of campsites, time to soak hot feet, and explore the falls into Perfection Lake.

* Editor's Note: CAIRN: Thet thar is fancy poet talk, meanin a little pile of rock; lessin yer referrin to a funeral cairn which be a big pile of rock, with some hot shot's cadaver emplaced thereunder.

Day three was for climbing the Enchantment peaks, an easy scramble to spectacular views of Mount Rainier, Prusik Peak, Wenatchee Valley and the North Cascades, plus the surrounding Enchantments. It was crowded up there, however. Thousands of recently hatched butterflies streamed east across the peaks. Dinner that night was a carbo-loading, lighten the packs event, prior to Day Four's ten mile descent to the Snow Lakes Trailhead.

On the trail by 7:30 AM, we delighted in the beauty of the alpine lakes, streams, waterfalls, wildflowers and granitic rock. Soon though, we were making the awesome descent to Upper Snow Lake via fingerholds, toeholds and

even rebar steps. The trail passes between Upper and Lower Snow Lakes on the top of a separating dam, about 18 inches wide and two inches below water level. Although the trail improves from this point on, there is still more rock before Nada Lake. The drop in elevation between the Enchantments and Nada is quite remarkable. Any of these three lakes would make a pleasant camping ground but cannot compare with the beauty of the upper lakes. The remainder of the trail out contains many switchbacks and roughly follows Icicle Creek providing plenty of water for this hot trek, and it was hot.

Overall we had wonderful weather, a full moon and a permit system that was definitely working. Not as painful as the Mountain run though.

Editor's Note: Leavenworth (AKA Bavaria West) is located on the eastern side of the Cascades astride US 2. The turn off for the Enchantments is just west of the town on the southern side of the road. It is called Icicle Creek road and is officially designated by the forest service as Road 7600. Ann's party left one vehicle at the Snow Lake Trailhead on 7600 and took the other vehicle some miles further on to the Bridge Creek Campsite where they turned left on 7601. The Colchuck/Stuart Lake Trail Head is at the end of 7601. Reference Wenatchee National Forest Service Map- 1985 Edition.

SUNNYBROOK MEADOWS By Clint Porter

Couple of weeks ago, I decided to take a couple of days off to relax in someplace pretty, and decided to camp out at Sunnybrook Meadows, which is located on the side of a ridge, due west of the Mount Constance peaks. You start off from the Dosewallips Ranger Station heading west up the trail towards Hayden Pass. At the first trail fork, take the right towards Hayden Pass and at the second fork, again take the right, this time for Constance Pass.

From here the trail gets a bit tough, especially if you have a heavy pack. The trail goes up steeply and constantly for 3500 feet, and there is no water at all until you are almost to the meadow. It is truly one of those trips in which you learn to appreciate the taste of cool, clear water. Nevertheless, the trip is really worth it, once you get there.

Sunnybook Meadows is a relatively open, well watered and level area at about 5500 feet. I had the place to myself Friday. I had intended to climb up to the ridge that evening but the fog climbed up from the valley and covered the place so I gave up that idea and went to bed.

The next day was relatively clear but uncertain. Down below, the valley was shrouded in clouds. I found myself a nice promonotory above the meadow on which to read and enjoy the scenery and see who might turn up.

Along about three o'clock, three climbers turned up and we chatted a bit as they rested before they continued on up to top of the ridge above. Another group of three came up later to camp on the meadows. After supper I climbed up to the ridge (6500 feet) to enjoy the sunset and from there down into Constance Pass because I had seen the camp sight of the climbers who had passed me earlier. You have to see the place they were camped to believe it. Right in the middle of the saddle between the ridge I was on and the Mt. Constance Peaks, there is this little secondary ridge that juts out over the Dungeness River Valley with a little promonotory at its end. They were camped out on this little ridge, just below the promonotory.

I hiked down and joined them on the promontory where they were discussing their climbing plans for the following day. As I understood their plan, they intended to climb down into the valley past Home Lake and then up through a pass which would take them on the other side of the peaks we were looking at from the west, and then on up to the top of Mt. Constance.

After bidding these brave lads adieu, I went back up to the ridge and walked it as I enjoyed the view of the Meadows below and the little dots of red, which I figured to be the campers. Finally heading down as dusk fell I contemplated the clouds swirling around Mt. Mystery to the west. Down in the meadows, I chatted with two of the campers, (the third was stalking a deer, whose photo he hoped to get despite the dusk.) They were planning to try to find a way up Mount Mystery to the west on Sunday.

While we were chatting I noticed a pack lying beside the trail and asked whose that might be. The lady explained that a young man had come up and left it there. Apparently he had left his girl friend behind on the trail and had gone back to find her. That had been an hour ago. The couple did eventually turn up. I chatted with the gentleman when he came over to pick up his pack. I gathered that he did not have a map of the area, had not realized how high up here it was, and, at that particular point, his fair damsel was not on speaking terms with him.

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ADVENTURING IN THE "SEATTLE COUNTRY" By Clint Porter

On 27 August I set out on a mission of discovery into the very heart of the "Seattle Country". In case you are not familiar with this particular wilderness region, "Seattle Country" lies on the eastern shores of Puget Sound, due east of mysterious Lost City of Bremerton which, according to certain ancient legends, lies on an inlet of the sound's western shore. The "Seattle Country" wilderness area is characterized by tall stone pinnacles, rising steeply and majestically along the emerald green shoreline dominating narrow windy canyons below. It is a truly challenging region which only the bravest of adventurers will dare to penetrate. And then only after securing the proper provisions and equipment.

After leaving ones car at the trail head, the city parking garage, you board the boat. The boatmen have a very interesting system for exacting tribute from those who utilize their services. They charge no fee whatsoever for taking adventurers over into the wilderness. The return trip, however, is another matter. For those who lack adequate provision, they have no mercy. Without those crucial three bucks plus thirty cents, you will find yourself stranded on that far shore among the ranks of all those who, like Charlie, have never returned.

Having arrived on the hostile eastern shore, I took my bearings on the "Seattle Country's" most prominent terrain feature, known as the "Space Needle". Guiding on the "Needle" I would find my way to the region known as "The Center", provided that I caught the right bus. Catch the wrong one and there is no telling where you'll end up or when you'll be heard from again.

Having reached the "Center" I found my objective, the "Son of Heaven" exhibit and discovered, to my pleasure, that there was no problem about purchasing a ticket at the booth. There I spent an intriguing two hours contemplating the artifacts of ancient China under the watchfull eyes of the friendly rangers. It turned out to be a very satisfying day and our gentle readers will be happy to learn that I did return home safely.