

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

10 DECEMBER BEGINNER X/C COUNTRY SKI TRIP: This trip down Cabin Creek Road will be designed for the beginner X/C country skier who may yet be a little nervous about taking on the steeper roads and slopes. The 10 mile round trip is almost completely flat, except of course for the "Killer Hill". But Doug will see that you get back alive. For more information all Doug at 692-5933.

27-29 JANUARY LEAVENWORTH CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP: The group will be planning to stay overnight for two nights in Leavenworth and spend the days X/C skiing on either local groomed trails or possibly up into the mountains via Icicle Creek. Reservations go fast so you need to make your plans early. Call Alace Savage at 638-2597 for more information.

MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY 12 DEC 1988 7:30 PM RIDE A WILD MANTA

This months entertainment will be provided courtesy of Dennis Hovarka. During September, Dennis went on a skin diving trip down to the Sea of Cortez (The body of water between Baja California and the Mexican mainland.) During the expedition, Dennis and his comrades took lots of neat pictures of jumping whales, dolphins and wierd looking fish. The high point, however, was when he and his comrades grabbed hold of a manta ray (looks like a big sea going bat) and rode the critter. He assures me the manta did not seem to mind.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Skip McKenzie	830-4746
VICE PRES	Mac McDowell	779-2517
SECRETARY	Barbara Luddon	373-0431
TREASURER	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jim Luddon
373-0431
Glint Porter
377-3087

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



DECEMBER 1988

-TIME DATED MATERIAL-

ANNUAL DUES COMING DUE

For many of us, our annual \$12 annual membership dues is coming due this month. If you are not certain, check your membership expiration date on the mailing label. "12/30/88" means that your membership is definitely due as of 30 December 1988. For those of you who have later membership dates, your membership would not come due until that date. Should your due date not be correct, and this happens sometimes, contact Treasurer Kevin Kilbridge. For those of us whose membership is coming due and who wish to renew our membership so that we can continue to meet and enjoy interesting programs, please complete the attached membership form so that we will be current about who you are and where you currently hide out at. Club rules provide the couples need only take out a single membership.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB

MAIL TO: PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB

P.O. BOX 323

BREMERSTON, WA 98310-9998

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

LITTLE QUILICINE, DIRTY RACE RIDGE, MT. TOWNSEND, SILVER LAKE

29 October 1988

Clint Porter

How to get to the trail head. Driving towards Sequim on US 101, take a left on Palo Alto Road, and follow the forest service road signs to the Tubal Cain Creek Trail Head. Its about twenty miles. From there walk up the road several hundred yards until you see the Little Quilicene Trail Sign, #835. This is it.

The first mile and a half is very steep and difficult trail. Once you get up on the ridge, however, the grade evens out somewhat and the trail is in generally pretty good condition. It was a cool, semi cloudy day, not quite bright enough for good pictures, but with enough sunshine to raise ones spirits and enjoy the views which are quite good most of the way up. Once up on the ridge I noticed that conditions were right brisk. I put on a sweater and slowed my pace to a point where I would be warm enough without generating excessive perspiration which is always a potential problem in cold windy environments.

Just before you really get on to Mount Townsend, the trail splits, the left going to the Little Quilicene Trail head and the right up to Mt. Townsend. On the way up I met a hunter. I told him the goats had heard he was looking for them and had all headed off west towards the park. (Truth too tell, I saw no goats or deer all day. I have always had this suspicion that somehow these critters know the schedule for hunting season and accordingly make themselves scarce on those particular dates.) Although the sky was generally overcast and threatening, the sun shone down on me at the top and it made me feel good.

From there I set off for Silver Lake which is supposedly about 2.5 miles beyond Mount Townsend. You can kind of see the location at the head of the Silver Creek Valley from Mount Townsend. You continue on over the Mountain and down looking for a small side trail leading off down the ridge line to your right. (There may be another intersection further down.) Although it looks like a long way down and up again, it really isn't that bad and Silver Lake in itself, is well worth the trip. Actually its a beige green. I climbed up to the gap above the lake, which is part of the ridge running up to Buckhorn Mountain and looked down into the Quillicene River Valley, a pretty steep drop. Coming back down I paid a social call on the campers at the lake. The fellow I talked to had been climbing the ridges. We reviewed my map trying to decide which peak was which.

On the way back I noticed a fork in the trail leading me to wonder if the other way might lead directly down the valley to the general vicinity of the Tubal Cane Trail Head, which is on Silver Creek. I however chose to go back over Mount Townsend to get one last good view. I took a relaxed eight hours to complete the 13 mile round trip.

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MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING By Doug Savage

Most of the articles I have written so far have been on how to buy equipment for camping. This time I have decided to try my hand at an article on the philosophy of Minimum Impact Camping. Minimum Impact Camping is the concept that the backpacker should do his utmost to reduce his effect on the wilderness environment. Leaving your trail and campsite in better shape than you originally found them can be a plus to your outdoor activity, as well as for those who come after you. So here is a list of ideas to help you become a more conscientious hiker and camper.

Be prepared. It's more than just the boy scout motto. Know what you are doing, where you are going, and what you need to have a successful trip. Bring the right food, clothing and equipment. Know the ten essentials and, just as important, know how to use them. If you are a novice, ask for help. Do not climb above your skill level and become a subject for a wilderness rescue.

Follow management guidelines set forth by the cognizant land manager. Before any hike, contact the local ranger for specific rules and advice. Rangers possess a host of information on fire zones, potable water sources, and choice of campsites.

Select the right footwear, heavy lug soled boots will do damage to an alpine meadow just as fast as a hungry mountain goat. Stay on trails and do not cut switchbacks. Choose hardened campsites and rest stops. Choose campsites with care. Stay 100 feet away, select sites that have been used before. Try to blend your camp with the environment.

Always pack your garbage out. If you are strong enough to pack it in, you are strong enough to pack it out; no exceptions! If you see trash left by a careless person, consider packing that out as well. Where available, use established latrines and outhouses, even if they do stink. If established facilities are not available, bury your waste in a cat hole. Never relieve yourself any closer than 100 feet from your water source.

While out on the trail, try soapless cleanups. Do not wash yourself in streams. Even the biodegradable soaps are stressful to the wilderness ecology. Try cleaning up with moist towlettes. What applies to the body

applies to the dishes. Try soapless cleanup first, and if you need to use detergent, pout it out 100 feet from your water source.

Do you need a fire? In my opinion you do not. It does not scare off the bears and it attracts pesky insects. So far this year I have put out two abandoned campfires which were starting to burn out of control. This fall, Deer Park was devastated by a fire most likely started by an illegal camp fire. But, if you still insist on having a fire, remember to keep it small, use only dead wood, utilize existing fire rings, and always make sure your fire is completely out.

As a closing note, think about becoming involved. Join environmental and outdoor organizations. Let your legislator know how you feel about wilderness regulations. Believe it or not, you can have an impact.

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CLIMBING INTO WINTER By Clint Porter

Osborn Mountain Trail

11 November 1988

One of the interesting things about this time of year is that one can never be completely sure what sort of conditions, particularly snow conditions, one will encounter. This is particularly true while operating in those intermediate elevations between 2,000 and 5,000 feet. One needs to always keep in mind that with changes in elevation, there may also be some very dramatic changes in both climate and traveling conditions.

The Osborn Mountain trail starts at the Big Creek Camp Ground on Forest Road 152. (Turn Right just before you get to the Mount Rainier Park Nisqually River entrance, at the Gifford Pinchot Forest Sign, cross the Nisqually River bridge, then take a left and it is a half mile further down.)

The trail starts at 1800 feet. The day was overcast, and slightly misting, but not that cold. From the campground it starts pretty flat and there was no sign of snow there. Gradually the grade increases and the trail turns into a series of fairly easy switchbacks which take you up to the 4,000 foot level after three miles. As I climbed, I first noticed that the snow had frosted the trees but had not really reached the forest floor. Further on up there was a frosting on the vegetation beside the trail and finally a thin cover on the trail itself. Off and on a few snow flakes filtered down through the forest canopy. I studied the snow carefully to see if I could figure out what sorts of animals had passed there since the snow fell. Very small tracks, probably different sorts of rodents, along with those of deer, and probably coyote. One wonders, at times, what tales of nocturnal drama, adventure, and tragedy, these imprints in the snow might document. I was surprised to note that the deer and coyote seem to use the trail itself as a pathway.

At 4,000 feet I came to the intersection of Cave Creek Trail (not on the Green Trails Map) which leads down to a logging road on the west side of the mountain. I, however, continued on along the Osborn Mountain trail towards the lakes, now traveling over a thin crust of snow. Although the trail here does not climb that steeping, the farther I went, the deeper the snow got, especially in open areas. (about 10 ") Eventually the last coyote tracks turned off the trail headed downhill (leaving me with a rather lonely feeling). Now the snow was getting even deeper. At the last clear cut before the pass, (about 5,000 feet) the snow was getting close to knee deep and I was not confident I could follow the trail. Besides, the dark clouds to the north had the look of a storm coming in and the condition of my hands told me it was getting downright cold. Time to head home.