



PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB



April 1989

PWC meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Kitsap Unitarian Fellowship Church on Perry Avenue in East Bremerton. The public is cordially invited.



April 10 Meeting

Our guest speaker for the April meeting will be Mr. Brad Albro. Brad is an experienced climber and Olympic Mountain Rescue member. He will be showing us slides of his rock climbing adventures including trips to Ellesmere Island, Joshua Tree National Monument, and Yosemite Valley.

Station at 9:00 am. This will be an overnight campout. Plan on bringing your own drinking water. There will be a full moon so it promises to be a beautiful evening (weather permitting). Please contact Dick or Anne Sanborn at 876-8886 if you would like to go.

Late May - early June: Help move the Backcountry Ranger into Flap Jack Lakes. Each Spring PWC members help pack supplies needed to establish the Backcountry Ranger station at Flap Jack Lakes. The exact date depends on snow levels. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Skip McKenzie at 830-4746.

Upcoming Activities

April 23, 1989: Dungeness Spit Beach Cleanup. Join PWC in a one day beach cleanup on Dungeness Spit. We will meet at the trail head at 9:30 am. Bring foulweather gear and a lunch. Trash bags will be provided. For more information, contact Dick or Anne Sanborn at 876-8886.



May 20, 1989: Shi Shi Beach Cleanup. Lend a hand in the annual Olympic National Park ocean beach cleanup sponsored by the Park Service. We plan to meet at the Ozette Ranger

Last month's door prize winner

The Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe donates a door prize which is given away during each monthly meeting. The lucky winner this month was Bill Wallace. He won a "Bake Packer" for baking bread on backpacking trips. Let us know how it works out, Bill.



Weather Conditions

The vast majority of snow avalanches occur during or just after stormy weather. A foot or more of new snow over old compact snow is by far the most common cause of avalanches. The rate of snowfall, or more precisely, the rate at which the slope is being loaded with additional weight is also a factor. The faster the snow is building up the greater the avalanche danger. Prolonged snowfalls of one inch or greater per hour will usually result in dangerous conditions.

Prolonged winds can cause dangerous conditions especially on leeward slopes. Wind moves the snow over ridges and deposits it on the leeward slopes causing cornices and other unstable conditions such as wind slabs. Even moist dense snow, which tends to settle rapidly, may become dangerous during windy conditions.

The temperature is an important factor to consider when judging the avalanche hazard. New snow will stay unstable for long periods of time in cold temperatures. When the temperature is near or just above freezing, newly fallen snow will tend to settle and stabilize more quickly. Be alert for rapid changes in temperature,

especially when the temperature rises during heavy snowfall. In this case, the dry powdery snow offers poor support for the heavy wet snow which is deposited on top. Warmer spring temperatures and rain fall will also cause wet snow to slide. Free running water tends to lubricate and weaken the snow layers. South facing slopes or slopes under exposed rock are the most dangerous during a warm spring afternoon.

Basic Mountaineering Course

Olympic College is offering its Basic Mountaineering Course during this spring quarter. These mountaineering courses have been offered each year for almost forty years.

Kent Heathershaw, Olympic Mountain Rescue, and other local alpinists will be teaching us fledgling mountaineers the proper techniques necessary to ensure safe backcountry travel. The field trips enable students to utilize and practice that which is presented in the classroom lectures.

Registration begins April 3 with the first class meeting Thursday April 6, 1989. Hope to see you there. Call 478-4709 for more information.

Jay Dee

~ The Prez Sez ~

Howdy,

It doesn't cost anything, it saves lives, time and money. It doesn't weigh anything and normally is easy to obtain. What I'm talking about is common sense. The next time you are going out the door to go on a trip no matter where it is, stop and think. If it's a climbing trip or a hike, tell someone your destination and route. If you don't want people to know the house is vacant, then register at the trail head. If it's a bicycle ride or tour, common sense says a helmet, spare tube, pump and water bottle should be on the bicycle. I could go on for ever about the things that should be on your bicycle, in your pack, or on your body, but the point I'm trying to make is common sense does not weigh anything; take some with you on your next trip.

See ya,
Skip

P.S. Next month:
"The Possibilities Bag"

Chilly Hilly 1989

I should of known better. You never announce your intentions to rejoin an organization to that Club's newsletter editor. They'll rope you into an article before you know what's hit you.

Chilly Hilly is the annual unofficial opening of bicycle season in the Pacific Northwest sponsored by the Cascade Bicycle Club of Seattle. It's become the traditional shakedown cruise for many Peninsula Wilderness Club members. Old bikes and yet older muscles are the general rule. This year, however, I was riding a new 1989 Raleigh Chill.

Chilly Hilly '89 was exactly that. Hills courtesy of Bainbridge Island and the chill left over from the arctic air that so dominated February weather. The course is nearly memorized after 11 years of riding it. You need to memorize it as a few key markers are sometimes removed by the locals.

But, too long of a gawk at a Port Madison berthed yacht led to a mishap which left the back wheel bent. Less than half way around the 28 mile course, with the tough hills all coming up, I did what any PWC'er would do; continued on, unhooked the rear brake so the wheel wouldn't rub and enjoyed the island scenery.

The rest of the ride was uneventful and quite enjoyable. As long as you kept pedaling the cold was not bothersome. I rode the course with former PWC'er J. Pettis and saw a number of other members in the 3500 or so riders.

The back wheel is retrued and we're trying to keep the mileage up for this year's Seattle - to - Portland. See you along the roads and trails of the county.

Bird Man

Just another day in Paradise

Snow drifts and wisps through the freezing, cutting cold wind blown air. We trudged through the snow around the lodge and wouldn't you know it, my Dad takes the *long way* in waist deep snow. As the igloo site comes into view, what should we see but un hutte de neige (one house of snow) with the need of only one repair, a wall. Immediately my Dad claims it for himself, which of course he should have because besides himself he has 5 girls to care for and feed. Well now that our house is built we begin to trample down snow so we can cut blocks. It almost seems as



if we're playing one big game of ring-around-the-rosy. After we girls have repaired the wall in our igloo we venture out to help the others. Our first project is to build another igloo, since so many people are already working on the others and hauling blocks from the ice house. One of my friends and I decide this igloo needs a door and start to work digging. Pretty soon our village is almost complete, thanks to the people who've come for the day and the ones braving the night. Despite the lack of guys, single guys preferably between the ages of 15 yrs and 21 yrs, all and all it was "just another day in Paradise".

Rebecca Wiles

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- TIME DATED MATERIAL -