



PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB



May 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.

Meeeting, May 8th.

This time of year it seems as though a lot of people are talking about canoeing or sea kayaking. Even Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe announced their plans to add a sea kayak section. Wet your appetite even further by coming to our May meeting. David Arcese will be presenting a slide show on sea kayaking the scenic Inside Passage. Hope to see you there.



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, call Skip McKenzie at 830-4746.

May 27-29: Doug Savage is planning on climbing the Brothers. If you're interested in going along, give Doug a call at 692-8886.

Upcoming Activities

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 will meet at the Ozette Ranger Station at 9:00 am. This is an overnight campout. Bring 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.

New Club Members

The PWC membership extends a warm welcome to new club members **Cindy Kusiak, Ken Davis,** and **Bea Price.**

Last Door Prize Winner

Last month's door prize, courtesy of Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe, was won by new PWC member, Ken Davis. The prize was a pair of "Glacier Glasses" which made a nice welcome gift. Congratulations Ken and welcome to the club.



Types of Avalanches

Avalanches can be classified as either loose snow avalanches or slab avalanches depending on the character of the snow. Loose snow avalanches occur in snow which is fluffy and does not stick together. Loose snow tends to move as a formless mass and will usually start at a point or small area, growing in size during the descent. Loose snow avalanches are generally small but can knock a person from a safe stance or trigger a slab avalanche. Loose snow avalanches are most dangerous in the spring or summer when the snow is likely to be wet, the weight of the wet snow giving them great destructive power.

Slab avalanches, on the other hand, occur in snow which is crusty and readily sticks together. A large area of snow will begin to slide at once leaving a definite fracture line across the top of the avalanche path. The slab can be quite large and release a tremendous amount of potential energy. It is not uncommon for a slab to have the area of a football field.

Slab avalanches are subdivided into hard and soft slab. A hard slab will retain blocks and chunks of the original slab in the debris, whereas a soft slab will break away in a fracture line, but will look similar to a loose

snow avalanche. Slab avalanches are responsible for the great majority of accidents, hard slab being the most dangerous and unpredictable. Hard slabs are developed primarily by snow deposited by high winds thus confining the danger area to the leeward slopes, in contrast to the more ambiguous soft slab danger. Hard slabs also develop more readily at low temperature. A sudden fall in temperature will greatly increase the danger.

An avalanche involving several layers of snow which have accumulated over periods of weeks or months is referred to as a climax avalanche. The combined weight of several snowfalls builds up until the underlying bond is broken. Climax avalanches are infrequent, but can be very large and destructive because they can involve the entire snow cover right down to the ground.

Looking for Volunteers

To celebrate the Club's ten year anniversary, the regular monthly meeting for July will be a picnic at Illahee state park. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize the big event. Also, any suggestions you might have for refreshments or entertainment would be appreciated. If you are interested in helping out or have a suggestion, please contact Skip McKenzie at 830-4746.



~~~~~ The Prez Sez ~~~~~

The Possibilities Bag

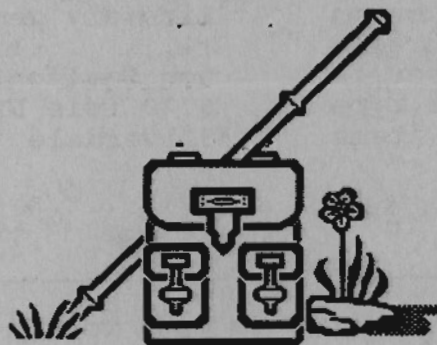
It's me again.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the subject this month was a thing called a Possibilities Bag. This is the bag where you want things that will fix what ever could possibly go wrong in any situation. You want stuff (not just ordinary Junk) we're talkin' real stuff. Things like 8 feet of 2 inch wide duct tape wrapped around a pencil. A couple of good strong needles with some light weight thread and heavy weight carpet thread. Some bright colored surveyors tape, say 20 feet (don't worry it's light). Don't forget the bandaids, some wire, copper or stainless steel, don't be picky. A length of cord or string, say maybe 30 feet, light but strong. You may need to make a leen-to which will keep you dry. Some change (money) so you can call home when your wallet goes dry.

Take important things like a good thick 1 1/2 inch diameter by 4 inch long candle, and 15 stick matches which should be double wrapped in zip lock bags. Take a large plastic garbage bag, roll it up as small as you can then wrap rubber bands around it.

If you are a back country skier, then things can get

interesting. You'll want spare screws for bindings, some steel wool, and a screwdriver. This will repair those binding holes that got enlarged because ya forgot to keep the screws tight. I know people that carry a spare binding, sounds like overkill until you are 10 miles out with a busted ski binding. And now you're thinking what binding, Right or left? Flip a coin, heads you take left, tails you take right.



Now you're thinking what the heck does this all go in? The answer is, what ever will keep it dry. A good stuff sack works and is flexible enough to take all the different sized things. Mine is about 5 inches in diameter. Remember this is a personal thing that can be tailored to your own needs. Just make sure it is always in your pack. Remember last month's newsletter about common sense? The possibilities bag is a good place for lots of common sense.

The inventor of this little hummer is Dale Boyle, you can direct questions to him or myself.

See Ya,

Skip

No Trip Reports this month

You will notice the newsletter this month is missing a very interesting section, i.e. TRIP REPORTS. That's because we have not received any. The membership is interested in learning of our adventures in the outdoors. This time of year it is nice to get information on snow levels and hiking trail conditions. The newsletter is a good way to share this type of information or other items of interest.

If you have a trip report or another topic you'd like to share with us please mail your story or article to the address below by the 20th of the month. We'd be happy to receive your article handwritten, typed or even stored on a floppy disk, which ever is easiest for you. Literary genius is not required.

Don Paulson
6720 Lois Drive N.W.
Silverdale, Wa. 98383

P.S.

Mt. Ellinor is accessible, the road is open to the lower trail head.
Beautiful glissade from the top. (Jay Dee 4-15-89)

Officers

President Skip McKenzie 830-4746
Vice Pres Mac McDowell 779-2517
Secretary Barbara Luddon 373-0431
Treasurer Kevin Kilbridge 871-2537

Newsletter staff

Don Paulson 692-5086
Jim Drannan 779-9481
Jim Luddon 373-0431

Peninsula Wilderness Club

P.O. Box 323

Bremerton, Wa. 98310-9998



May 1989 - *TIME DATED MATERIAL* -