



PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB



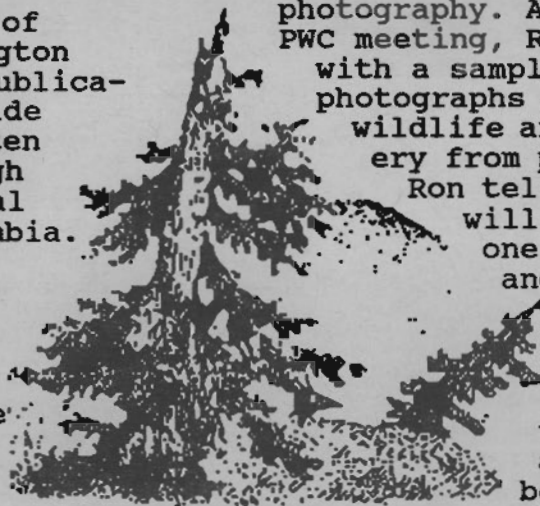
November 1989

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..



Make a note on your calendar not to miss the November 13th PWC meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Ann Marshall, editor of Signpost, the Washington Trails Association publication, will give a slide presentation on her ten day canoe trip through Bowron Lake Provincial Park in British Columbia. The trip consists of a seventy-mile loop made up of several lakes, rivers, and portages. The park abounds with wildlife and the scenery is grand, so join us what promises to be a delightful evening.



Upcoming Activities

PWC member Ron Sampson and family will be taking a nine day trip to Yellowstone National Park starting January 2. This will be a trip mainly for cross country skiing and photography. At last month's PWC meeting, Ron impressed us with a sampling of his photographs depicting the wildlife and winter scenery from previous trips.

Ron tells me that they will be staying in one of the lodges, and that families with small children are welcome to join them. If this sounds like a trip you would be interested in, give Ron a call at 692-5969.

From the Editor's Desk:

Our apologies to Steve Yahn who submitted last month's trip report entitled "Climb Report: Mt. Olympus." We forgot one very important item; who the author was. Sorry about that Steve, and thanks for the great article.

New Members

The PWC membership extends a warm welcome to each of the following new club members:

Tom Lumiseld, Randy Collins, Marjorie Peterson, Gary Gillis, and Daniel Taylor.

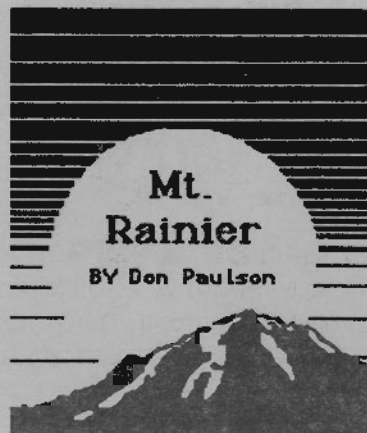
Things have been happening in a big way on Mount Rainier lately. Each of my last three trips to the Mountain showed dramatic evidence of how fast and powerful the hand of nature can be. Last August 16th 2.6 million cubic yards of rock roared down the northern face. The material in the slide, according to the Seattle Times, would fill the Kingdome and cover the football field at Husky Stadium more than 60 feet deep. Rocks as large as tractor-trailers broke free from Russell Cliff at about 13000 feet and slid down the Winthrop Glacier to about the 6000 foot level. The slide is expected to remain visible until the first fall snows.

Fellow PWC'r Jim Drannan and I made a trip to Burroughs Mountain to view the slide. The view of the slide from "Third Burroughs" is excellent. We were lucky to see anything at all as we were hiking through "pea soup" fog and sideways rain most of the way to the top. The trip, starting at Sunrise, was an easy day hike.

A couple weeks earlier another PWC'r, Brian Miller, and I hiked up the Carbon River to Moraine Park. Here we found the lower section of the trail washed out by flooding. The damage was quite extensive. The Park Service had re-routed the trail high above the river bottom for the first couple of miles. The suspension bridge near the foot of the glacier was still intact. Near the glacier, we witnessed the conveyor belt action as rocks were being dumped off the ice cliffs at the glacier's snout.

My latest trip to the Mountain was hiking to Indian Henry's Hunting Ground via Tahoma Creek. The "book" says that the trail starts at the Tahoma Creek picnic area 4.5 miles up the West Side Road. When Grant Larkin and I arrived, we found no trace of a picnic area or trail. All around were dying trees and debris from a tremendous mud flow.

The Club's resident geologist, Dee Molenaar,



told me in typical Dee fashion that the mud flow was caused from the "Glacier's plumbing system." He explained that occasionally a crevasse or cavity in the glacier will fill up with water and then suddenly break away. It has nothing to do with heavy rainfall.

The Park Service tells me that they are contemplating rebuilding the trail in a new location, but it will be awhile before it happens because of the expense involved.

My second surprise of the day came when we decided to hike from the end of the West Side Road to Sunset Park as an alternate. The last 2.7 miles of the road was closed off and has been for several years. The Green Trails map I had just purchased and the park map which is handed out at the park entrances both showed the road as it was before the closure. The Park Service tells me that the road was closed due to continuing problems with land slides and that they have no intention of reopening it.

Well, we made it into Sunset Park despite the problems and found the fall colors and scenery to be wonderful. The day ended with the mountain bathed in a pink alpine glow and conversations about checking with the ranger before we head out for our next adventure.

New Officers Nominated

Skip was surprised to find that he had already been nominated for a second term as president by the time he had arrived at the last month's meeting. He had gotten tied up in traffic coming from Leavenworth. Also nominated for PWC President was Lynn Howat. For Vice President, Doug Savage and Joe Weigel accepted the nomination. Several other members declined. Kathy Weigel was nominated for Secretary and Kevin Kilbridge for Treasurer. Voting will take place during the November meeting. The Club is still looking for a volunteer to replace Alice Savage as entertainment chairperson.

Unicorn Peak with Jay Dee

By B.R. Love

Four o'clock! what a miserable time to crawl out of a warm bed, but Jay Dee, when he arrived at 4:45, was his usual happy self. We put our gear in my "Kitsap Cadillac" and headed out for another great climb. Three hours later we parked in the Bench Lake parking lot with Mt. Rainier filling the entire view to the north.



The approach to Unicorn Peak is a well worn trail with very little vertical rise for about two miles. We passed two beautiful mountain lakes, Bench and Snow, on the way in. As we cleared the trail area we came into a steepening boulder field that became cliffs and extended to the saddle we were heading for. The rocks varied in size from peanuts to cars. Jay Dee was recertifying for his Daniel Boone license so we attacked the slopes at the steepest and loosest areas.

By the time we reached the high cliffs we were engaged in a very intellectual discussion on whether it was best if the falling rock that hit you was a free faller or a first bouncer. We never did reach a consensus on that, but both agreed never again without a hard hat.

As we approached the saddle there was a short snow finger that was very hard and steep with many sharp rocks at the bottom. This we avoided by a short rock scramble up the

cliffs. The ridge terrain was a wide and comfortable walk up to the summit rock that was a real surprise. Mr. Becky's book had labeled this as a class 3 climb, but I think he was laughing pretty hard when he did it. We found only one crack that we thought would lead us to the top, just so long as we didn't look down. We left a few finger prints in the granite, but we made it.

We had lunch and admired the most magnificent view of Mt. Rainier I have ever witnessed. Due to our altitude and close proximity, we could see the entire mountain from the very bottom in the trees to its snow capped top. On the highest part of the Unicorn summit block we observed a phenomenon that we had noticed on other summits this summer; a bunch of termites having the damndest sex orgy you ever saw, made you feel like a peeping tom just being there.

Our trip down was very enjoyable as we wandered wherever our interests dictated. There is a great forested bench area between 5500 feet and 6000 feet that we lounged in for awhile. In our ramble down the mountains, we spotted a large snowfield at the head of the second lake and Jay Dee headed for it straight out. I should mention here that Jay Dee has a fetish for walking on snow like small boys have for walking in puddles. After leaving a maximum of footprints in the snow we walked the trail on out for the end of a perfect day.



October Hike in the North Cascades

By Don Paulson

The first snow of the season had fallen the day before. The rugged peaks of the North Cascades had taken on the look of winter. It was cold and snowing when we reached the Lake Ann trail head and I was glad I had thrown in those few extra pieces of clothing. The weather and the views steadily improved as we approached our destination, Maple Pass, above Lake Ann. The pass area was covered with four to six inches of untracked new snow. We spent a considerable amount of time scouting for just the right campsite; one with a good view, yet protected from the wind. We finally settled on one at about the 6800 foot level on the ridge above Maple Pass. With the sun low in the sky, we hurried to make camp and prepare our dinners.

Jay Dee had the standard freeze dried fare, while I tried Brian Miller's recipe for chicken and rice. We both agreed the chicken was much better (see article on Mountain Cooking in last month's newsletter).

The views from the ridge were quite splendid. To the north and south the numerous distant peaks were unobscured by haze. To the east was Frisco Mountain and to the west, Corteo Peak. As the sun set, a full moon rose above peaks to the east. The alpine glow was quickly replaced with moon light and the temperature plummeted to the teens. We climbed higher up the ridge in the moon light for even better views but before long the cold forced us to seek refuge in the tent.

We awoke at 6 a.m. to a frigid 10 degrees. The milk on my cold cereal started to skim over with ice as I ate. Jay Dee "baked" a huge muffin which I gladly helped him eat. The sunrise was glorious. We both photographed the setting moon over Corteo Peak as the morning sun illuminated the mountain's eastern faces with a pink glow.

By mid-morning we headed back down the trail and got to the car about noon. We switched the necessary gear to day packs and half an hour later headed up another trail to Blue Lake. Near the lake, the trail passes through an open forest composed primarily of larch trees which were at their peak fall color. From the lake we had excellent views of Liberty Bell and Early Winters Spires. After lunch we headed back to the car, both out of film. We reached the car about 3:30 p.m. and began the long drive home. As usual our conversation centered around possibilities for our next great adventure.

Both Maple Pass and Blue Lake are good fall hiking trips with easy access to beautiful scenery. The trails both start from the Rainy Pass area on the North Cascades Highway. Maple Pass is four miles in with an elevation gain of 1800 ft. Blue lake is an easy 2.3 miles. Late September or early October would probably be the best for fall color. Our trip was October 14 & 15, which was a tad late for peak fall colors. I wouldn't recommend going in mid summer unless you don't mind having lots of company.

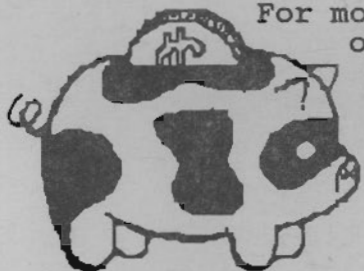
Funding Needed for Climbing Facility

The proposed climbing facility at the Jackson-Lund Park in Port Orchard is finally a real possibility. The "rock" will be reinforced concrete slabs with rocks and "cracks" placed in the surface. It will basically be a mirror image of the structure at the University of Washington which has eight upright panels of various sizes set into a 38 foot by 77 foot base slab.

Clearing and site preparation for the road, the climbing facility, and the amphitheater has already begun. Much needed funding from the state has been approved for helping with the development of the roads, trails, and utilities in the park.

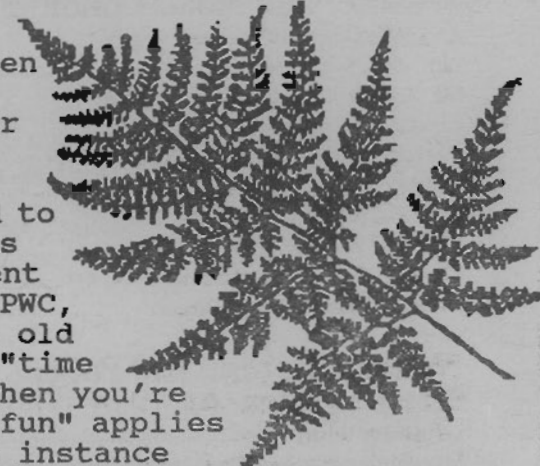
What we need for achieving our goal of providing a safe place for the community to practice climbing, without having to drive to Tacoma or Seattle, is to get support (funding) from the community. People are needed to supply promotional ideas and to contact funding sources.

Donations may be made to the Peninsula Wilderness Club for the "rock". The funds will be kept separate from the club's other money.



For more information or to volunteer your services, please call Larry Thomas at 830-4456.

— The Prez Sez —



It's been almost one year since I was elected to serve as president of the PWC, and the old saying "time flies when you're having fun" applies in this instance very well. Some of the ideas I had actually made enough sense that they were used. Personally I feel that I did about as good a job as I could have done. I also feel that new blood is the best thing for an organization like ours and would like to decline the chance to run as president for a second term. The thing that makes belonging to an organization like the PWC so enjoyable, is the people that take the time to work on projects and jump in when the need arises to get things done. I want to personally thank all those who made my job so easy for the past year.

SEE YA
SKIP

Important Phone Numbers

Weather and Road Conditions

AAA Washington/Oregon Weather
and Road Conditions 448-5385
Mt. Rainier National Park Weather
and Road Conditions 569-2343
Olympic National Park Weather
and Road Conditions 452-9235
Cascade Mountain Pass Report 455-7900
National Weather Service Forecast 526-6087
Olympic & Cascade Avalanche Report..... 526-6677
Stevens Pass Weather Report 634-1645

National Forests and Parks

U.S. Forest & Park Service
Outdoor Information 442-0170
Mt. Rainier National Park Info 569-2211
Olympic National Park Info 452-4501
North Cascades Backcountry Info 873-4500
State Park Info 1-800-562-0990
Mt. St. Helens Volcanic Headquarters 247-5473
Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center 274-6644
Gifford Pinchot/Mt. Adams
Wilderness (503) 395-2501
Mt. Hood National Forest (503) 666-0770

Cross Country Skiing

Ski Acres Cross Country Center 434-6646
Pacific West Mountain Resort 462-7669
Cross Country Report 634-2754
Mt. Rainier Winter Activities Info 569-2211
Methow Valley Information 1-800-422-3048
REI Cross Country Ski School Info 434-6646
Winter Recreation Information 442-0170
Sun Mountain Lodge (509) 996-2211

Other Important Numbers

Alpena/Ski Acres/Snoqualmie
Ski Report 236-1600
Early Winters Visitor Info (509) 996-2534
Dungeness Wildlife Refuge 683-7040
Nisqually Wildlife Refuge 753-9467
State Dept. of Game 753-5700
State Dept. of Natural Resources
(Public Information) 1-800-562-6010
Snoqualmie Pass Avalanche Report 442-SNOW
Stevens Pass Avalanche Report 677-2414
Ross Lake Recreation Area 873-4500
Washington Trails Association 743-3947
Heart O' the Hills Ranger Station 374-6925

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Peninsula Wilderness Club

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- Time Dated Material -