



# PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB



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**January 1990**

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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.

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## **M** **Meeting** **January 8th**

The entertainment for the January meeting will be provided by Cheri Hoffer. Cheri will be speaking and presenting a slide show on her recent four month trip to Eastern and Southern Africa. Cheri had the fantastic opportunity to climb the highest mountain in Africa, 19340 ft. Kilimanjaro. However, the bulk of her trip was oriented to mixing one-on-one with the Africans and seeing the countryside. She traveled by hitchhiking, by walking, by rail and by bus. The last coincidence Cheri was expecting was to run into a PWC member in Tanzania, which she did. As always, the public is cordially invited. Hope to see you there.

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## **Upcoming Activities**

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### **Spruce Railroad Hike**

Saturday, January 13th, Charlie Pomfret will be leading a day hike on the Spruce Railroad Trail along the north shore of Lake Crescent. This is an interesting winter hike with some good views of Mount Storm King and a bit of local history thrown in. During World War I, the government built the railroad from Port Angeles to the west side of the Olympic Peninsula in order to obtain spruce to use in airplane construction. The trail

follows the old railroad grade at about 600 feet elevation along the lake's edge and is suitable for beginners or experienced alike. Points of interest include partially collapsed tunnels through the steep cliffs of pillow basalt. Give Charlie a call at 697-1876 if you are interested in going.

### **Beginners XC Ski Class**

Saturday, January 20th, Dale Boyle will teach a beginners cross country ski class for PWC members. There is no charge for the class but the size is limited. And to make a good deal even better, Judd at the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe will give a 50% discount on ski rentals to those taking the class. Give Dale a call at 692-2656 soon if you are interested.

### **Learn to Turn**

Sunday, January 28th, Skip McKenzie will teach a class in telemark turning at Crystal Mountain. Skip's instruction is free but you'll need to buy a lift ticket. Call Skip at 830-4746 if interested.



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## Upcoming Activities

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### XC Ski Trip - Steeple Rock

Monday, January 15th, Doug Savage will be leading a cross country ski trip along the Obstruction Point Road near Hurricane Ridge. The trip will include a climb of Steeple Rock. Intermediate climbing and skiing skills are required for this trip. For more information call Doug at 479-8460.

### Interested Members Meeting

On Wednesday, January 17th at 7 p.m. there will be an Interested Members Meeting at Charley Pomfret's House. The purpose of the meeting will be to plan upcoming trips and activities for March and April. Point of Contact is Charley at 697-1876 or Doug Savage at 479-8460.

### Kayak to Blake Island

Sunday, January 28th, Shane Baker will be leading a kayaking trip to Blake Island.

The trip will most likely include lunch on the Island and possibly a hike around the Island. Kayak rentals are available at

Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe. Give Shane a call at 692-4125 if you plan to go.

### Chilly Hilly

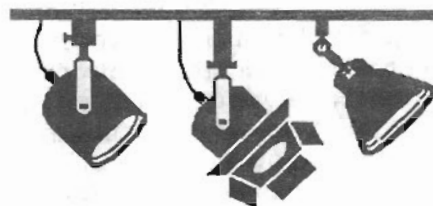
The aptly named annual bicycle ride around Bainbridge Island will be held February 25th. Now's the time to start getting in shape for this popular ride. More on the Chilly Hilly in next month's newsletter. The PWC point of contact is Skip McKenzie, 830-4746.

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## Door Prize Winner

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Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe provided a generous door prize for last month's drawing. It was a newly designed, extremely light weight water filter for backpacking called the "Outback Filter Bottle". Also included was the carrying case and strap. The room was quiet with anticipation when "Mac" MacDowell's name was drawn from the hat. Mac didn't seem to mind the numerous requests for inspection of the prize later after the meeting. Thank you Judd, and Congratulations, Mac.



### Hard Act to Follow

At last month's meeting, Alice Savage

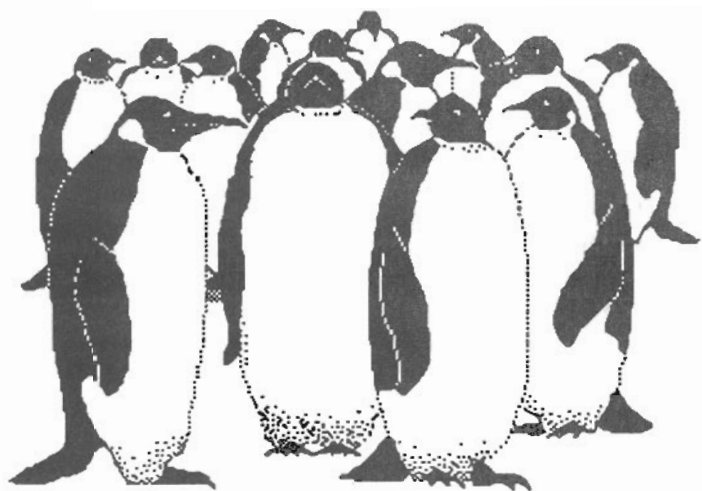
happily announced success in her long search for a replacement, and introduced Joe Weigel as the new PWC Entertainment

Chairperson. The PWC membership extends a hearty thank you Alice for all the long hours you spent researching and coordinating our monthly entertainment. Thank you, Joe, for volunteering to be entertainment chairperson.

Joe tells us that he would welcome any ideas or leads you might have for booking entertainment for the monthly meetings. Any suggestions may be submitted to Joe by calling 871-0291.

### INFORMATION WANTED:

Ski traverse Paradise to Packwood. If you or someone you know has made this trip please call Jim at 779-9481.



## The Prez Sez

As we start into a new year with the Peninsula Wilderness Club, I am really pleased to see a large group of active members. In the coming year I hope many other members will open their outings to other club members or share their special expertise with others who want to get more involved in outdoor activities.

I know in the 10+ years I have been a member of the club, I have met many wonderful people through the club. Some have become close friends. As you know, sharing outdoor adventures can really contribute to the development of a camaraderie that is often not found in other settings. Sharing a tent in the rain, a rope on a climb, a picnic lunch on a cross country ski trip, a sunset over the Olympics, popcorn and poetry on those short fall days when backpacking, and "gourmet" cooking over the stove are all experiences which can really contribute to those friendships that develop among us.

As you can tell, I'm someone who enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing or whatever with other people. The Wilderness Club has been a great place to meet other people to share these adventures. I hope those of you who are new will go on one of the outings. It's a great way to meet others who share your interests.

Lynn

## Nearby XC Skiing

There hasn't been much skiing so far this year; it's been the driest season I've seen in my five years in the Northwest. But by the end of January, I expect we'll all be complaining about too much snow.

One problem with cross country skiing is the lack of good runs near the Kitsap Peninsula. One notable exception is the Forest Service roads around Mount Townsend. It's nearby (about 1 1/2 hours from Bremerton), has excellent scenery, and offers a variety of terrain to ski ranging from beginning to challenging.

To get there, drive to Quilcene, and turn north on highway 101. Drive about 1.5 miles and turn left on Lords Lake Road. In about 2.9 miles, turn left on road no. 2909. Drive about 3.5 miles to a major intersection. Take the extreme left fork and head down hill. In another 1/2 mile turn left on road no. 2812. Drive up this road as far as you can and find a good place to pull off to start skiing.



Follow the Forest Service road to the bridge over the Little Quilcene River (elevation 3025 feet). As you continue up the road the view of the Cascades gets better, first Mount Baker and Glacier Peak dominate the horizon and then at Skaar Pass (elevation 3700 feet), Mount Rainier and the Southern Cascades come into view.

From wind swept Skaar Pass, there are two options; you can ascend the Knoll to the east for the full panorama, or descend the road 1000 feet to the Mount Townsend tail head. Either trip is enjoyable.

Doug Savage



## Avalanche Safety Rules

**NEVER TRAVEL ALONE.** Always traverse in such a fashion that only one person at a time is exposed to avalanche danger. This is the first cardinal rule for ski touring, and one too often neglected. If one person is buried by an avalanche, his chances of rescue may be good if his companions are free to search for him or go for help. If the entire party is trapped by an avalanche, its chance of survival is greatly reduced.

Stay off the avalanche paths themselves, and especially stay out of the fracture zones. This is the second cardinal rule of ski touring. Accident records show that most avalanche victims started the avalanches themselves. The cases where unsuspecting victims have been overwhelmed by a slide falling naturally from above are very much in the minority. The safest route around an avalanche path is over the top by way of the ridges. The next safest route is along the valley floor under the avalanche path. On the avalanche path itself, the passage of a skier may provide the trigger to release an avalanche which otherwise would lie undisturbed.

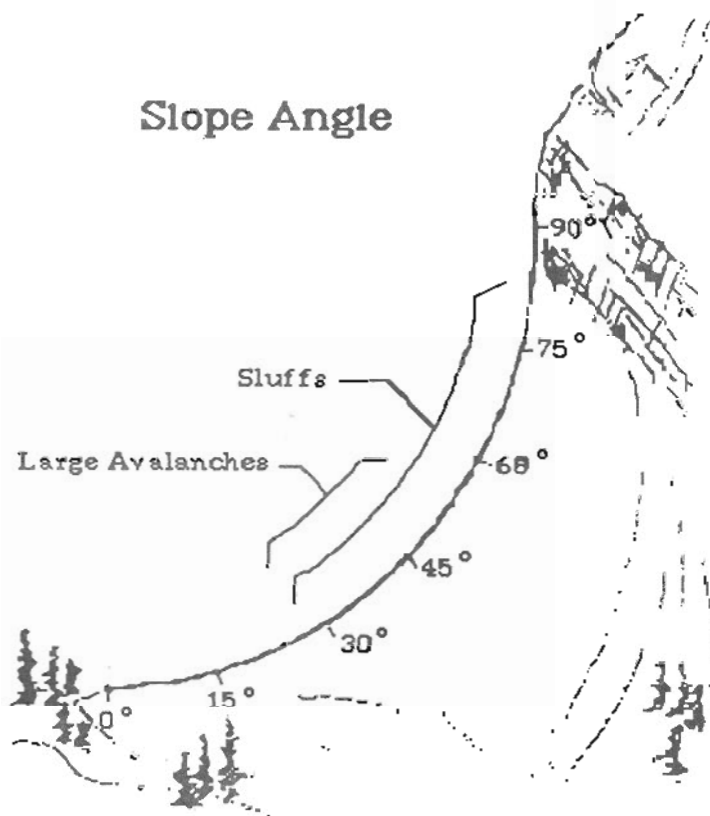
Do not camp, bivouac, or make rest stops under an avalanche path. The probability of getting caught by a natural fall rises rapidly when exposure is prolonged. The chances of getting caught while you are moving are very much smaller.

Do not assume a slope is safe just because it did not slide when the first person crossed it. Especially in the case of hard slabs and low temperatures, avalanche release may be triggered unexpectedly at some later time, even after considerable traffic on the slope.

Crossing an avalanche slope involves a certain calculated risk. You may not be able to make a good guess as to whether or not it will slide, but you can make a good estimate of what will happen to you if it does slide. If the slope is long, funnels into a gulley instead of fanning out, falls over cliffs, or would carry you into rocks or trees at the bottom, the risk of crossing may be more foolhardy than calculated. Ask not only "will it slide", but also "what will happen if it does slide?"

Beware of lee areas, the slopes beneath cornices, and deep drifts, especially those with a convex profile. These are all prime locations for avalanche fracture zones. Most of the dangerous avalanches originate on slopes between 30 degrees and 45 degrees.

### Slope Angle



Of course, all this only applies if we get some snow this winter!

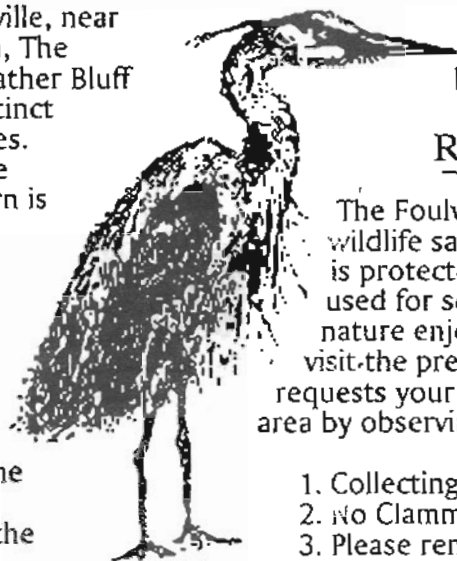
## Foulweather Bluff Preserve

Two miles northwest of Hansville, near the tip of the Kitsap Peninsula, The Nature Conservancy's Foulweather Bluff Preserve incorporates five distinct habitats within a scant 93 acres. Forest uplands abut a sizeable freshwater marsh which in turn is enclosed by a lengthy sand berm. 3,700 feet of shoreline attracts hikers and nature enthusiasts and extensive tideflats offer opportunities for close examination of intertidal life. The combination of forest, marsh, beach, and saltwater makes the preserve one of the most important wildlife havens on the Kitsap Peninsula.

The preserve's diversity attracts wildlife as well as people. The ringing call of pileated woodpecker resounds through the forest; in spring, buffleheads perform courtship rites on the marsh and during the winter, hundreds of loons, grebes, and seabirds raft offshore in Hood Canal. The preserve also attracts river otter, mink, black-tailed deer and other mammals.

The coniferous woodland, with its lush understory of ocean spray, salmonberry, sword fern, salal, and numerous other shrubs, supports a wide variety of birds. Winter wrens inhabit the forest floor, red-breasted nuthatches work the tree trunks, and chestnut-backed chickadees forage for insects on the conifer's boughs. All three species are typical of a healthy lowland forest.

The refuge is open to the general public for birdwatching, photography, and other forms of nature appreciation. To get to the preserve drive just under 3 miles northwest of Hansville and watch for a view of a marsh to the left. Just beyond, on the left hand side of the road, is a small yellow Nature Conservancy sign nailed to an alder tree



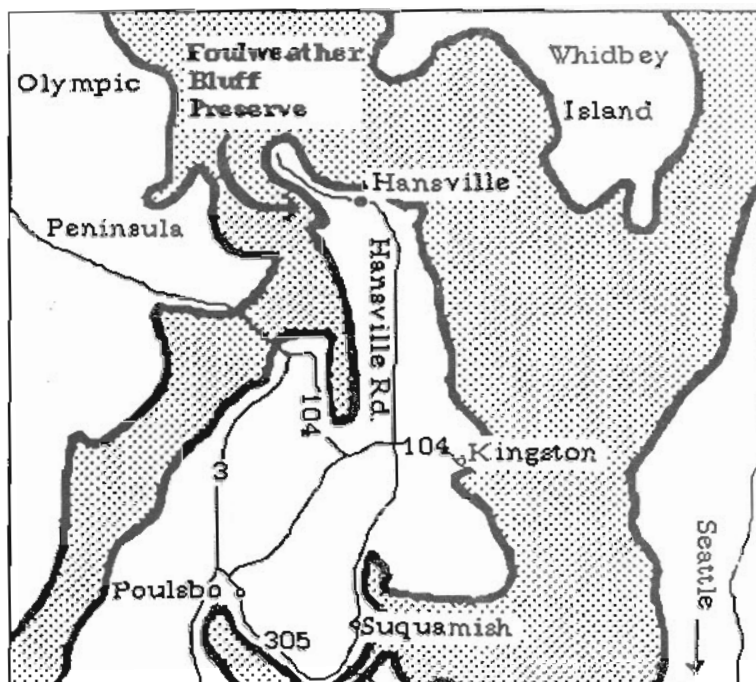
and the almost hidden trail. There is a short walk to the beach from this point.

### Regulations

The Foulweather Bluff Preserve is a wildlife sanctuary; all plant and animal life is protected by law. The preserve may be used for scientific study, education, and nature enjoyment. If you would like to visit the preserve, the Nature Conservancy requests your help in protecting this natural area by observing the following rules:

1. Collecting plants or animals is prohibited.
2. No Clamming.
3. Please remain on marked trails.
4. No pets permitted.
5. No smoking, fires, firearms, or camping.
6. Please avoid making loud noises; they disturb the wildlife.
7. The preserve is open only between sunrise and sunset.

For more information contact the Nature Conservancy in Seattle at 624-9623.





## New PWC Members

The Peninsula Wilderness Club continues to attract interest with three new members last month. The PWC membership extends a warm welcome to Dave French, Charles Hoskin, and Kurt Nelsen.



### Today's Chuckle:

The real reason mountain climbers tie themselves together is to keep the sensible ones from going home.



## Trip Reports Needed

The PWC membership is interested in learning about your latest outdoor adventure. If you have a trip report or another topic you'd be willing to share with us in the newsletter, 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. You may also deliver your article to me at the monthly meetings. Literary genius is not required.

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

### Officers

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