



PENWICLE

PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB EVENTS



August 1990

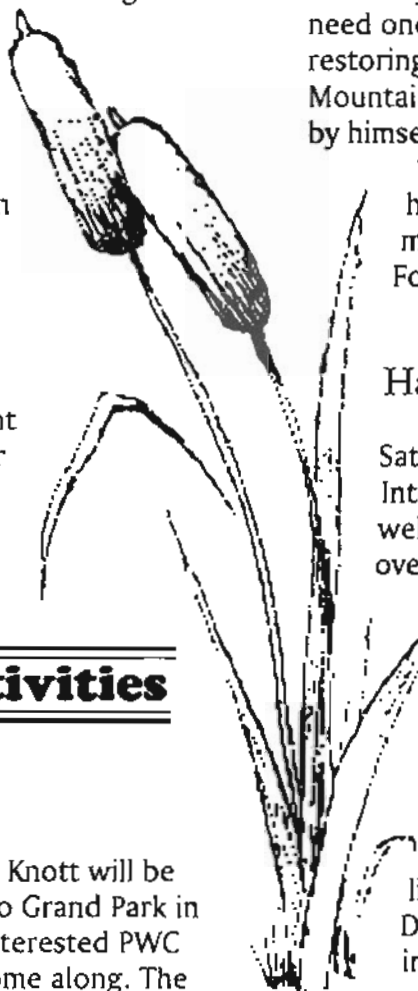
PWC meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Kitsap Unitarian Fellowship Church on Perry Avenue in East Bremerton. The public is cordially invited.



Next Meeting

The entertainment for the August 13th PWC meeting will be a slide presentation by Ron Vanbianchi on wetland preservation. Ron is the owner and manager of

Pacific Wetland Nursery, specializing in fresh-water wetland plants for habitat restoration and creation. He has had twelve years' experience working in northwest wetlands. A botanist by training, he has worked for the Washington Department of Wildlife, for environmental consulting firms, and as an independent consultant. Come join us for what promises to be an interesting and educational evening.



Upcoming Activities

Hike to Grand Park

Saturday, August 11th: John Knott will be going on a 4 mile day hike to Grand Park in Mt. Rainier National Park. Interested PWC members are welcome to come along. The

hike will include 3/4 mile of cross country travel and a total elevation gain of about 800 feet. If interested, call John at 478-0476.

Green Mtn. Trail Restoration

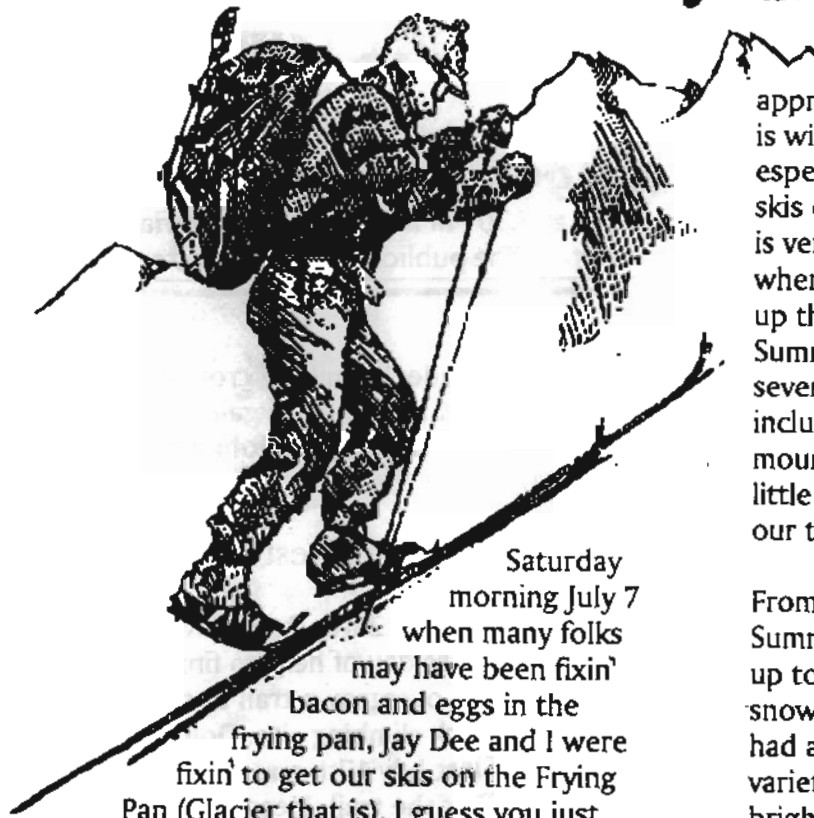
Thursday, August 23rd: Doug Savage will need one more day of help to finish restoring the overgrown trail to the Green Mountain rock climbing site. Doug worked by himself last July 17th and finished about 1/2 of the trail. Please give him a hand to finish up. Doug plans to meet at the trail head about 6 PM. For info call Doug at 479-8460.

Happy Lake Overnight Hike

Saturday, August 25th - 26th: Interested PWC members are welcome to join Doug Savage on an overnight hike to Happy Lake in the northern Olympics. This is a moderately strenuous but scenic hike gaining 3175 feet in about 5 miles. Doug will provide the evening entertainment by demonstrating the delicate art of fly fishing for elusive eastern brook trout while keeping his line out of the trees behind. Give Doug a call at 479-8460 if interested.

Sunnyside Up

by Jim Groh



Saturday morning July 7 when many folks may have been fixin' bacon and eggs in the frying pan, Jay Dee and I were fixin' to get our skis on the Frying Pan (Glacier that is). I guess you just might call us diehard skiers, especially with 4 am wake ups to quench our ski fever. You see Jay Dee and I have set ourselves a skiing challenge for 1990; to ski at least once every month all year long. Fortunately living in Washington makes this goal feasible, while offering a challenge where the rewards are proportional to the obstacles.

The destination for our July ski escapade was the Frying Pan Glacier on Mt. Rainier flowing off the eastern flanks of Little Tahoma. Unfortunately chairlift access to most of the prime summer ski runs exists only as a figment of the wildest skier's imagination. The price of admission to the summer ski domain is not measured in dollars but more often in sweat and toil climbing up to the snow. The 4.2 mile Summerland Trail leaving the White River Road at about 4000 ft. provided our hiking

approach to snowline at 6000 ft. The trail is wide and well maintained which is especially nice when you have 4-5 feet of skis extending above your head. The grade is very modest except for the last 1/2 mile where well aligned switchbacks take you up the 500 final feet to the shelter at Summerland. We were delighted to have several wildlife sightings on our approach including black bear, mule deer, and mountain goats. The wildflowers added a little color to the landscape for the start of our trip.

From our sunny vantage point at Summerland we laid out our ascent route up to the dome on the Frying Pan. The snow cover looked much better than we had anticipated. Surveying the gleaming variety of slopes in front of us capped by a bright blue sky, we already knew a superlative ski episode was about to become history.

We headed south from Summerland into a large amphitheater southeast of Meany Crest. We climbed up the east side to a 7100 ft. saddle on the crest where we had a brief lunch and sunscreen renewal. From this vantage point we could see this west running ridge would take us up to the snout of the Frying Pan Glacier at about 7400 ft. As we examined our route we were amazed to spot a coyote heading down the snow toward us from about the 7300 ft. level. We recognized each other at about the same instant and he immediately made a U-turn back up the snow slope. It seemed unusual for this animal to be wandering so high above tree line on this remote terrain of rock and snow, but then I guess he could have thought the same of us.



MT. CONSTANCE CLIMB

By Randy Grunigen

On Friday, June 29th at 6:00 p.m. Bruce Candiato and I headed up the steep two mile "trail" to Lake Constance. The evening hike was strenuous but we enjoyed the scenery along Constance Creek. Three hours and 3250' later we arrived at the lake. We were pleased to find that only one other group of campers was at the lake so we had no trouble finding a campsite.

We were greeted for breakfast Saturday morning by 5 mountain goats (including a very young kid). The only thing they were interested in was salt to satisfy their mineral deficiency. They will even eat urine-soaked soil causing serious damage to the fragile alpine and subalpine environment. The Park Service is urging hikers to use the privies or at least urinate on a rock to help minimize the destruction. These "goats", by the way, are not really goats; their closest relative is the chamois (from Europe).

We left camp at 6:30 a.m. under cloudy skies hoping the weather would improve. After hiking up the glacial valley above the lake, we eventually made it to the main ridge via the last snow chute before the divide. Route-finding became a little confusing at that point, but we finally noticed some tracks in the snow and later met up with a party of backcountry rangers who were returning from the summit. Their tracks (and their advice) made the remainder of the climb straightforward.

The "terrible traverse" did not live up to its name because we had steps kicked in the snowfield for us.

The weather cleared and we arrived at the summit at 1:30 p.m.. The view of the Olympics to the west and Puget Sound/Seattle to the east was fantastic!

The descent to our camp at the lake was easier than expected; we avoided the steep snow chute that we ascended by following the route taken by the Park employees. The mountain goats strolled through camp again before we finished dinner. It was nice to know we didn't have to hike all the way back to the truck because my knees had had enough for one day.

Sunday morning we simply hiked back down the steep "trail" and headed home. 'Twas a great trip.

Bulletin Board

Labor Day weekend, September 1-3: Lynn Howat will be doing a beach hike from Rialto Beach to Cape Alava. Lynn is looking for people to hike the opposite direction and exchange cars to ease transportation to and from trail heads. Call Lynn at 598-3087.

Sunnyside Up (continued from page 2)

We made our way up the ridge to about 8400 ft. The saddle of Whitman Crest beckoned us to advance. It was getting late and our snow was quickly softening so we decided to save that destination for a return trip excuse. We packed away the skins and pointed the boards down the fall line leaving some handsome signatures in the snow and grins on our faces as our eyes carefully scanned the surface for evidence of crevasses below. Our 2400 ft. descent back to Summerland gave us a terrific 2 1/2 mile ski run all to ourselves, never seeing another soul above timerline all day.

While the rewards of summer adventure skiing are gratifying, I must point out that solid mountaineering skills such as route finding, avalanche evaluation, and glacier travel should be considered prerequisites for any summer skiing escapade.

PWC T-Shirts

Half of our T-shirt order was sold out at the July club picnic. The remaining shirts will be available at the August club meeting. Individuals who previously requested shirts must claim and pay for their shirts at or before the meeting. Shirts not claimed at the August meeting will go up for sale to anyone at that time. Shirt price is \$9.00, preferably exact change or check. No further reservations will be accepted, sales will be first come first served.

Shirts are Hanes 50/50 pocket T's printed with the PWC logo on both sides. Colors are aqua blue, mint green, and tropical pink. Contact Jim Groh (779-5421 evenings) if you need to make special arrangements for shirt pick-up.

Everything happens at once
with nothing in between.

Officers

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Peninsula Wilderness Club

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