

PENWIGLE

PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB EVENTS

February 1991

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 February 11th



The entertainment for the February 11th PWC meeting will be provided by Hans Castren, climbing ranger for Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Mr. Castren's presentation will be on the subject of avalanche awareness for backcountry travellers. The evening will provide an excellent opportunity for learning about this very important topic. Hope to see you there.

Doug will unlock our meeting place about 7 PM. Doug did the same last month, but a prayer vigil for peace in the Gulf scheduled to end at 7 PM took longer than expected. Much of the conversation among those PWC'rs who showed up early also centered around the crisis in the Gulf. New and long time PWC members are encouraged to come early and get acquainted before the regular meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

Upcoming Events

Beginner's XC Ski Class

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND: Doug Savage and Dale Boyle will be offering a free beginner's cross country ski class for PWC members. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to learn basic cross country skiing skills, call Doug at 698-2277, or Dale at 698-9820.

Beginner's Kayaking Class

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH: Skip McKenzie and Shane Baker will be offering instruction on basic kayaking skills and safety at the YMCA Pool in Bremerton. The class will be open to all interested PWC members at no charge and will begin at 8:30 PM. Please call Skip (830-4746) or Shane (876-3405) to register for the class.

Kayak to Jetty Island

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH: Shane Baker will be taking a sea kayaking trip around Jetty Island (near Everett). Interested PWC members are welcome to join in on this five mile paddle. Call Shane at 876-3405 for more information.

XC SKI CLASSES OFFERED

PWC member Dale Boyle will be instructing a series of classes on cross country skiing during the month of February. The classes are sponsored by Bremerton Parks and Recreation. Starting February 3rd and again on the 23rd, Dale will be instructing cross country touring for beginners. On the 24th there will be a "learn to turn" class for those wishing to learn the art of telemarking. Each of the three classes is \$16 per person (\$12 for youth). For an extra \$5 you can reserve a ride in the Parks and Recreation van. If interested call the Bremerton Parks & Recreation at 478-5305.

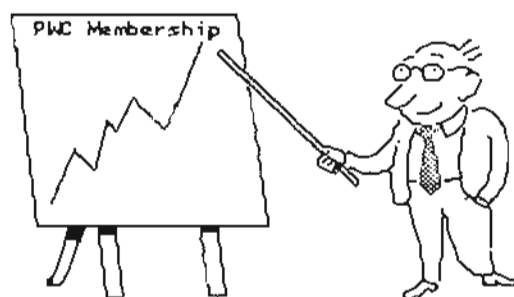
BIG CLIMB FOR LEUKEMIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH: The 5th Annual Big Climb for Leukemia is scheduled to take place in the tallest building in Seattle (Columbia Seafirst Center). In one stairwell climbers take part in an untimed climb to the 73rd floor observatory. In a second stairwell racers will be released at 10 second intervals to compete in a timed race to the 73rd floor.

This year a family category will be added. Proceeds from pledges you collect will support the Leukemia Society of America's research and patient aid programs. There will be great pledge prizes for participants. Please call 628-0777 for more information.

Door Prize Winner

Jon DeArman was the winner of the door prize at the January PWC meeting. Jon won goretex arm sleeves & booties for biking. The Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe donates the PWC door prize each month.



New Members

PWC treasurer Kevin Kilbridge was kept rather busy last month with several membership renewals and new people joining the club. With interest in the club continuing to be high and our membership growing, we have the opportunity not only to promote and enjoy muscle powered outdoor activities, but to provide a more recognized voice for the preservation of those wilderness areas we love so dearly.

The membership of the Peninsula Wilderness Club extends a warm welcome to the following new members.

Del Devers	Johnny Duffy
Laura Elliot	Jim Haney
Timothy & Janet Miller	Jessie Randle
Pamela Sargent	Brian Steely
Jacquelyn Stevenson	Consuelo Udave
Bob Waldorf	

SKI TRIP IN MARCH PLANNED

New PWC member Brian Steely is planning to make an overnight ski camping trip up Table Mountain in the North Cascades. Brian hasn't set an exact date yet but is planning the trip the weekend closest to the full moon in March. The camp spot has a view of Mt. Shuksan on one side and Mt. Baker on the other, with many potential side trips after camp is set. If interested in going along, contact Brian at 373-6494.

Trek to Mt. Everest, Nepal Himalayas

By Dee Molenaar

IN NOVEMBER, with my wife Colleen remaining at home and contending with a record 14.47 inches monthly rainfall and related windstorms, I joined a Mountain Travel USA trek to 18,200 ft. Kala Patar, a viewpoint overlooking Mt. Everest Base Camp. Lead by old mountain friend, Dr. Wayne Smith of Chehalis, with Wayne's friend Kancha (Sherpa sirdar with experience on both the 1953 British and 1963 American Everest expeditions), the trek was well-worth all the advance planning and effort.

OUR 14-PERSON GROUP included 5 women and 2 married couples and represented many parts of the U.S. (WA, CA, MI, VA, NY, CT, NH) and Vancouver, B.C. The average age was 55, with 42 the youngest and 72 the oldest (though I didn't feel a day older than 71). Only four had any previous mountaineering experience, though we had three "marathoners" and a "Iron Woman" competitor (the Canadian nurse). One woman had won the trip as a door prize; she had very little previous hiking experience, but toughed it out to our highest camp (17,000 ft.) and coldest night (12 degrees F.). Nine of the party reached 18,200 ft. Kala Patar, attesting to a slow, easy pace over a 10-day period, carrying only light rucksacks, and having all one's camp chores and cooking done by the Sherpas - a fine cuisine prepared inside smokey stone huts along the route.

THE TREK PROVIDED CONTACTS with both fascinating Sherpa villages and cultures and outstanding mountain scenery and geology, along with the element of "following the footsteps" of historic Himalayan expeditions and famed Everesters. The Himalayas were barren of much of their summer monsoon snows, most having avalanched off the steep faces and onto the glaciers below.

Therefore, the range looked rather "dry", when compared to the Alaskan peaks with which I'm more familiar. It was an area of fascinating geology (still-rising mountains and deep-cutting rivers, landslides, dammed drainages, outburst floods) and rugged topographic contrasts, with high morainal hills, and evidence of ancient glacier advances and declines. However, our Mt. Rainier is more impressive than Everest as a skyline-dominating peak.

KATHMANDU, CAPITAL OF NEPAL, is a fascinating ancient city of about 800,000, a mixture of Hindus and Buddhists, Indians, Nepalese, and Tibetans, with many "expatriates" from the western culture. Most amazing is the combination of extremely low standard of living (not considered "poverty" here) and a system of complete free enterprise. Everyone seemed to be selling something: metal trinkets, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings, yak-wool caps, sweaters, and rugs, logo'd T-shirts, oil paintings on parchment or dried leaves, postcards, booklets, maps, etc. A tour of the city took us to temples where cattle and monkeys roamed freely, to river-side cremations/funeral pyres, and trees draped with fruit bats (with 4 ft. wingspreads) weighing down the upper branches like coconuts.

I CAME HOME WITH 35 ROLLS of slides and color prints, including stereo aerial shots of the range obtained during a post-trek flight from Kathmandu to beyond Everest. I also brought home about 15 lbs. of beautiful "Everest rocks", and several watercolors partially completed "on location", along with a bad case of laryngitis, from which I've since recovered while "sorting slides", and preparing several photo albums of the trip. I hope to share my slides of the trip with club members at a future meeting.



Outdoor Dictionary

By Don Paulson

Today's article is intended to familiarize the novice outdoor enthusiast with some of the basic terms which are so casually thrown around at the PWC meetings without explanation. Here's some of the more important terms you'll need to become familiar with:

THE TEN ESSENTIALS - Ten items which are essential for trips into the wilderness, one of which must be left on the kitchen table.

KITCHEN TABLE - A rather handy repository for various essential items that never seem to make it with you on your outdoor adventure. It is better to place these items where you will be sure to remember them such as the car roof.

CAR ROOF - A fool proof spot for placing loose items such as camera, sack lunch, and map. Only a fool would drive off with these things still on the car roof.

MAP - A handy representation of all the various trails and roads in a given area that you are not currently on.

TRAIL - A gathering place for hikers, bikers, cubscout troops, and sometimes entire populations of small cities all with a common purpose; solitude.

SOLITUDE - The state of being closer to nature than the nearest flush toilet.

NATURE - Where you become one with clouds of flies, stinkbugs, gnats, mosquitoes, horse flies, and 32,000 species of crawly insects, in addition to the hikers, bikers, and cubscout troops.

INSECT REPELLENT - One of a number of "gag" items available in sporting goods stores everywhere.

Winter outing to Hamma Hamma

By Wendi McClure

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5TH, dawned clear and cold so Joni and I headed to the Olympics with our X-C skis and hiking boots to explore. We ended up on the Hamma Hamma River Road and were surprised to find snow well below the Lena Lake trailhead.

We parked at the Putvin trailhead and skied a back road parallel to the river, cut through the woods to the main road, and continued to its end at the Mildred Lakes trailhead. The snow was of the fine ice crystal variety which made for a quick return trip down to the car - if you don't count all my falls. There were a few tire tracks as well as some tracks from earlier skiers, but we had it all to ourselves that day.

We then drove back to the Lena Lake trailhead and after lunch headed up the trail. Now I've never considered the Lower Lena Lake trail to be particularly challenging, but it certainly was that day as most of it was covered with ice. I'm guessing it was above the freezing level enough to where the snow would melt to form a nice even slush layer, then later freeze again. Closer to the lake, snow covered stretches were more frequent which made the footing less treacherous.

The sun was still shining and the lake was frozen over so we had a snack, took pictures, and enjoyed the scenery before heading carefully back down. It took several slips and falls, but it was still a good hike.

Character is not made in a crisis; it is only exhibited.



SAVE THE HUT

(An article based on a letter from
Ken Zeigler of Port Angeles)

Four miles from Hurricane Ridge on the Obstruction Point Road is what cross country skiers know as the Waterhole Shelter or hut. It was built and donated to the park by volunteers 22 years ago. Now the Park Service is considering removing the hut. Park Officials have stated that the hut is not natural to the Park's environment and that it's stove may not be safe.

Not many people even realize this hut exists. It is out of sight of the road, well hidden by surrounding trees. But skiers who have had the opportunity to spend the night there are upset with the Park's intentions to remove it.

Not all things unnatural in the park are a detriment to the environment. In fact many unnatural things such as bridges and trail signs are needed for the safety of the Park visitors. Other unnatural things such as outhouses actually help protect the environment from damage.

The Waterhole hut is in an excellent location for an emergency winter shelter or as a base for Park rescue operations. According to Mr. Zeigler, the hut has been used on at least two occasions during Park rescue operations involving emergency evacuation. It is reassuring to know the hut is near by when skiing out to obstruction point.

Most winter enthusiasts believe the hut to be a great asset and would like to see it maintained. As for the stove, it would be an easy matter to make it safe. Volunteers would surely have the problem resolved in short order without cost to the Park.

It is hoped that the Park Officials reconsider.

Please make your voice heard on the subject by writing the Olympic Park Superintendent. Also look for a petition to sign in many of the sporting good stores in the Port Angeles area.

Olympic National Park
Superintendent's Office
600 E Park Ave.
Port Angeles, Wa 98362



Mt. Walker Trail

By Don Paulson

On Sunday, January 20th, my 10 year old son Joey and I hiked the Mt. Walker Trail near Quilcene. The trail was snow free all the way to the 2730 ft. viewpoint and in good shape with only two windfalls to step over.

Mt. Walker makes a good winter hike since the Mt. Walker Road is closed to traffic this time of year. The view from the top is worth the climb. We could clearly see all the State's five volcanos as well as the Olympic skyline from Mt. Constance to Mt. Townsend. Much of the Puget Sound area with it's multitude of waterways was under a low lying haze, but we could pick out several cities and landmarks.

To get to the trailhead drive west of Quilcene on Hwy 101 to the Mt. Walker Road. Park at the gate. The trailhead is about .3 miles up the road and is well marked. The trail climbs about 2000 ft in 2 miles.

There are two viewpoints at the top. The trail ends at the north viewpoint with a picnic table. The other viewpoint is reached by following the road. Both have great views and some exceptionally hungry camp robbers (gray jays).

Congratulations to MTSSTA

According to the Mt. Tahoma Scenic Ski Trails Association (MTSSTA) January newsletter, Western Washington's first hut to hut ski trail system opened as scheduled on December 15th.

The High Hut above Anderson Lake in the South District is now completed thanks to those volunteers who braved some of the harshest weather imaginable.

Right now, MTSSTA is in immediate need for cash. Because one of the hut sponsors will not be sponsoring the first hut as planned, the association now has a \$5000 deficit. You can help by becoming a MTSSTA member. The annual membership dues of \$10 will go toward getting the association out of the red. Please send your check to Mt. Tahoma Scenic Ski Trails Association, P.O. Box 942, Eatonville, WA 98328. (Phone 847- 8876 for more info).

If you can donate any materials that can be used for our next hut(s) please call Bob Brown (569-2724). Storage space is available.

EDITOR NOTE: I suggest that the Club consider making a donation from the Club treasury to the MTSSTA. Donations from individual Club members could also be included with the Club donation. This idea could be discussed at the February 11 meeting. Donations are tax deductible.

A prayer for our troops

We pray that our troops in the Gulf are able to get their job done quickly and come back home safely.



Officers

President	Doug Savage	698-2277
Vice Pres	Harry Wilson	479-1322
Secretary	Kathy Weigel	871-0291
Treasurer	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537

Newsletter staff

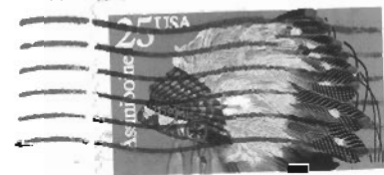
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Peninsula Wilderness Club

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