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## Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

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**July 1991**

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Peninsula Wilderness Club 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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### PWC Picnic July 8th

**T**he regular Peninsula Wilderness Club meeting for July will be a picnic at Scenic Beach State Park near Seabeck. This annual event promises to be great fun and will be an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the other PWC members. The celebration will begin at 5:30 PM, July 8th. A meat & cheese tray, condiments for sandwiches, and soft drinks will be provided courtesy of PWC. Other dishes will be potluck style. Please bring veggie dishes, desserts, chips and dip, etc. A barbecue will be available for those who bring hot-dogs or hamburgers. To make our event an environmentally sound one, we will avoid throw-away paper plates and plastic utensils. So be sure to bring your own plates and utensils. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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### Upcoming Events

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#### Lake Constance Hike

SUNDAY, JULY 7TH: Join Randy Grunigen on a steep scramble to Lake Constance. The "trail" is not for beginners. The route

goes straight up the mountainside, gaining 3250 feet in about 2 miles. The lake is especially scenic making the climb worthwhile. If interested, call Randy at 779-6457.

#### Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 11TH: There will be an interested members meeting at Doug Savage's new home at 3661 Hyak Way. Upcoming events and outings will be planned. Contact Doug at 698-9774 for driving directions etc. A 7:00 PM start time is planned.

#### Mount Adams Climb

WEEKEND OF JULY 13TH - 14TH: Doug Savage will be climbing Mount Adams via the Dog Route. PWCers with basic mountaineering skills are welcome to join. Call Doug at 698-9774 for details.

#### Camp Handy Hike

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH: Join Helen Schwartz for an easy day hike on the Dungeness River to Camp Handy. With an elevation gain of only 600 feet in 3.2 miles, this is a great trip for beginners or families with small children. Camp Handy is situated in a small meadow bordering the river. Call Helen at 377-9822 if you are interested.

# Flip-flopping the PCT

*By Brian Booth*

Hiking the 2600 mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada in one season is a dream many backpackers share. But often these dreams become shattered as hikers have to abandon their quests, either due to physical problems or to the weather.

The weather problems are twofold. First, you must begin your hike late enough in the season to allow the deep snows in the High Sierra to melt significantly. Second, "winter" storms tend to whip up in the North Cascades in September-October and obliterate the trail before many make it to Canada. It seems the PCT just wasn't made to be traversed in one season.

Brett Bell and I hiked the PCT last year and used a novel approach to improve our chances of beating the weather: Flip-flopping. We hiked Mexico to Dunsmuir California northbound, got a ride to Canada, and then walked Canada to Dunsmuir southbound to complete the PCT route. Our Flip-flopping technique didn't work perfectly; for instance, we found the Lassen Volcanic National Park to Dunsmuir segment to be excruciatingly hot and humid in August. An earlier start would have been better. However, we felt it provided some significant advantages over the traditional border-to-border route.

Some hikers frowned at our method - they felt it was "cheating". It all depends on your personal reasons for doing your hike. If you're on the trail because you want to live freely, communicate with nature, challenge yourself, see magnificent scenery, or learn about America's land and peoples, flip-flopping should be all right. Numerous hikers complete the PCT over a course of several years, and that certainly isn't cheating. If your goal is to walk "every step of the way" across America unaided, or if you feel that

trying to beat Mother Nature is an important part of the PCT's challenge, then flip-flopping wouldn't be for you.

The date to start your hike is mainly determined by the amount of winter snowpack, but is tricky to guess accurately. Heavy spring snowstorms can continue well into May, which of course, would be well into your hike. In 1990, almost all thru-trekkers were pummeled by a Memorial Day blizzard in Southern California.

Flip-flopping allows you to start your hike much later in the season. We started on May 1st. It turned out that the '89-90 snowpack was extremely light in California due to severe drought. Stream crossings were generally easy and thus we could have left much earlier. April 10-25 would be a good time to start a flip-flop, depending on the snowpack.

Although it helps, flip-flopping is not a cure-all for beating late-season snowstorms. We finished our hike on October 21st, but not before a blizzard in Northern California's Marble Mountains knocked us off the trail, forcing us to walk the final 50 miles along roads at lower elevations. We were also quite frustrated by the diminishing amount of daylight throughout October. We found ourselves hiking dawn to dusk just to complete decent mileages each day. An earlier start would have helped.

The worst aspect of flip-flopping is arranging transportation at the midpoint. We were fortunate enough to get a ride from Brett's father who just happened to be driving in California at the time. Hitchhiking would be an option but could waste precious time. Greyhound bus is the best remaining alternative.

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## Flip-flopping the PCT (continued)

The two best flip-flopping points are Dunsmuir, California, and Ashland, Oregon. Both have bus stops and are conveniently located on Interstate 5. Because the midpoint will also be your endpoint, Ashland is most highly recommended. It is a sensational town, perfect for some celebration and relaxation at the end of your long hike.

Flip-flopping does take away some of the romanticism associated with a border-to-border trek. A finishing point of Ashland certainly doesn't provide the motivational "carrot on a stick" as a finishing point of Canada. But, again, it all depends on what you want to get out of your trip.

Flip-flopping was absolutely the best method for us, and it could be for you, too.

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## Door Prize Winner

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"YES! YES!" was Doug's thought provoking acceptance speech as he did a couple quick laps around the podium, his fist pumping at the air. You see, Doug Savage has the pleasure of picking out the door prize each month from the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe, and this month he also had the pleasure of winning it. He had picked out a great first aid kit made by Outdoor Research, one he had had his eye on for a long time. Well Doug, judging from your spectacular head over heel "glissade" down Mount Ellinor a while back, it couldn't have gone to a more deserving guy.

The door prize is donated each month by the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe. Thank you Judd for another generous donation.

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## New Members

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

Karen Boyd  
John Bury & Jane Grunbok  
Cindy Holben  
Michiel Hoogstede & family  
Michael Klinger  
Lyn Lund  
Craig Martin  
Fern Michelson  
Jim Patterson  
Mark & Helen Quinton-Jessel

## Trail Project Volunteers Needed

Here's our chance to put something back into the trails we all enjoy. The Quilcene Ranger District needs volunteers for two trail maintenance projects this summer. On the Big Quilcene River, a 1200 foot section of the trail needs to be rerouted after being washed out in the winter storms. It would involve a hike in of about 1 mile, and volunteers could car camp if desired. The Mt. Townsend Trail needs restoration of some shortcut areas through a steep switchback section; workers would hike or backpack in about 2 or 2 1/2 miles (backpackers could stay at nearby Windy Lakes). Both projects will take place in late July or August on weekends. The Quilcene Ranger District has only one trail maintenance employee for the whole district, so they depend on volunteer groups for assistance. If interested, call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

## WANTED TO BUY:

Used internal frame pack or other outdoor gear. Call Craig Martin at 275-6915.

# My Introduction to Fly Fishing

*By Judy Guttormsen*

Attending the fine fly casting seminar instructed by Don Paulson brought to mind my first experiences with this sport almost twenty years ago in Wyoming. I remember clearly a campfire conversation with my father and brothers.

"Fishing? Me? You've have got to be kidding! Standing by a beautiful stream for hours on end, walking up stream to find a better hole and never finding it, having eternity freeze over before you finally catch a fish; its a waste of time when I could be hiking and seeing the country."

We had invaded the Teton and Yellowstone country for an "after the tourist season vacation". We had most of the forest to ourselves and the dog had all the porcupines. The tinned bathroom and portable TV crowd had high tailed it for home after the first early snowfall. It was a quiet evening when my dad and brothers started the "try it you'll like it" campaign for fly fishing. I can take goading, but when my intelligence and ability in following a single creek upstream and back was doubted I gave in.

Morning dawned snowing. Dad decided on Crawfish Creek. The name was hopeful to me as it indicated at least we would have something for dinner. Into the "little" snow squall we hiked to find Crawfish Creek. After arriving my brothers introduced me to the mechanics of the fly rod and reel and the aerodynamics of line and rod; it took my father to untangle me and the rod from the trees. When I finally managed to pierce both ears equally in several places, the fishing commenced, and what a sport.

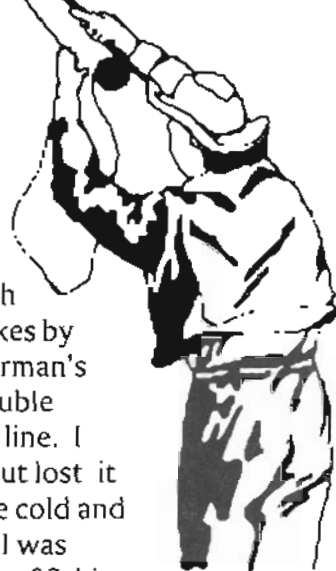
Fly fishing is an exacting and challenging sport. You must cast properly or carry cream rinse to untangle line, understand a dumb but

wily fish, become an entomologist when choosing your fly wardrobe and never, never leave your fly box open.

The stream we fished was fantastic, loaded with cutthroat. I got strikes by the thousands (fisherman's license) but had trouble keeping them on the line. I almost landed one, but lost it because my feet were cold and I lost grip on the log I was standing on. The joys of fishing are unique.

Crawfish Creek has some hot springs along it and what can give a person more pleasure than putting cold feet into a warm spring, casting a dry fly onto the cold water and catching a fish? Mink and moose visited the creek unaware of my presence. Fishing gives me the opportunity of seeing the country and by standing still seeing sights I might not otherwise witness. The taste of pink fleshed trout (if your lucky and catch one) cooked over a campfire is like no other.

Since that first memorable fly fishing trip there have been others, and I have been suckered into the art of fly tying. Even though the yuppies have adopted this activity it still holds more than "a lure" for me.



*Money still talks, but it has to catch its breath more often.*

## South Cascades Mountains (6-11 June)

*By Brian Booth*

Friends of mine from Idaho & Georgia visited for their first taste of Washington mountain climbing.

I took them to Mt. Rainier National Park to warm up with the Tatoosh Mountains, a range of minor peaks in the southern section of the Park. The park was still virtually deserted at this time of year. We were greeted with two full days of fog & drizzle. We attempted a climb of Eagle Peak (5958') anyway. The trail to the top was obscured by snow above 3400'. At 5600' we found a treeless slope for practicing some basic self-arrest techniques in the freezing rain. We continued towards the top, but stopped short of the summit when confronted by a 100' cliff. The Cascade Alpine Guide describes it as class 4 but we were afraid to continue without a rope.

With everyone fully confident of how to use an ice axe, we drove south to begin the south climbing route of Mt. Adams (12,276'). The access road was open as far as Morrison Creek Campground (4800'). A 3 mile trudge along the snow-covered road to the trailhead was required. Shortly thereafter, we got mixed up and followed footprints towards South Butte, instead of our planned route around the north side of Crescent Glacier. Both Paths, however, are part of the South Route, which is safe to travel without a rope.

The snow was mushy enough to make us sink in shin deep while carrying full packs - snowshoes would have been helpful, but were not necessary. We set up basecamp at 7500' next to South Butte, and resumed hiking the next morning at 5:30 AM. Crampons & ice axes were necessary. We were blessed with a crystalline day, and

reached the summit at 11:00 AM. Visibility was an incredible 200 miles. Peaks including Mt. Constance, Mt. Baker, and Mt. Bachelor were clearly distinguishable. Conditions on the summit: 75 degrees, no wind - a beach! Most climbers carry skis, and telemark 7500' down Mt. Adams wide slopes under perfect conditions. We glissaded & walked down, which took 5 hours.

Next we drove to Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Permits are required for climbing the peak. Advance permits for virtually all 1991 weekends have been taken, but many weekdays are still open. 40 additional first-come-first-serve permits are available each evening at Jack's Store, near the town of Cougar. The trail, which starts from Climber's Bivouac at 3800', was snow-covered the entire way, but was easy to follow from the multitude of footprints. We didn't carry crampons and were a bit sorry later, at some high points on Monitor Ridge.

The weather was 40 degrees and cloudy, with patches of blue sky opening up intermittently. Our 4 hour climb was complicated by extremely strong headwinds that sometimes gusted to 70 mph. Conditions at the 8365' summit were very wintry indeed. Almost all cornices had melted away though, and that permitted exciting views of the 800' tall lava dome belching smoke inside the 2500' deep crater. Our descent took an unusually long 2 1/2 hours, due to route finding problems in a brief whiteout.

Overall, my friends were highly impressed with their introduction to Washington mountaineering.

## Tidepooling at Salt Creek

*By Wendy McClure*

Anyone who enjoys tidepooling will find Salt Creek Recreation Area a great place to visit. The picnic and campground overlook a basalt outcrop which forms a reef extending into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This reef supports an extraordinary variety of marine life which Barb & I explored during a recent, extremely low tide.

Barb is very interested in marine biology and was soon pointing out brilliantly colored red urchins, purple urchins, sea cucumbers, goose neck barnacles (which I thought had a prehistoric look about them) and sea stars. I was intrigued with identifying the different seaweeds, especially the hard, brittle coralline algae made of calcium.

We also noted the mini-environments which supported different types of life from exposed rocks encrusted with goose neck barnacles that like to be battered with

incoming waves to protected depressions sheltering sea cucumbers and urchins. So much to see, but the tide turned and the surf is rough, so back we headed.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive west on 101 past Port Angeles; west on 112 and begin watching for signs to Salt Creek Recreation Area. About two hours driving from Poulsbo.

## PWC Amblers

We're new to PWC and we don't do mountains or 2500 foot elevation gains. At least, not this year. So we're organizing some easy hikes, 3-5 miles each. The first one is July 27th - see Upcoming Events. Watch for others, one a month through the fall season.

Helen Schwartz  
Sue Life

### Officers

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## Peninsula Wilderness Club

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July 1991 - TIME DATED MATERIAL -



## PROPOSED DNR LAND SWAP RAISES OUTCRY IN SOUTH KITSAP COUNTY

-- by Jean Knox

Picture yourself leaving your house, going a short distance, and entering a section of public land. You are free to walk, run, bike, ride horseback, or motorcycle along the trails. You may see rare wildflowers, gather mushrooms, glimpse a pileated woodpecker, or watch a happy retriever frolic in a pool. You might take part in an archery meet, pick blueberries, study forest regrowth, or do target practice.

Now picture half of the same land occupied by a housing development. The roads are paved; the bog where gentians and "grass widows" used to grow is drained. Horses and motorcycles are not welcome; please keep dogs on leash. The bald eagles and many of the woodpeckers are gone. A few trees remain and the houses are attractive, but it isn't public land any more.

Residents of Ollala and Port Orchard are making it clear that they prefer the first scenario. "Stamp out DNR Land Trade" signs have become widespread. A May 21 public hearing was well attended and DNR plans to hold another on June 25. Kitsap County Commissioners have proposed temporary re-zoning to restrict the land to forestry uses.

Predictably, DNR is balking at this unexpected opposition to what they had considered an excellent idea. King County residents support consolidation of forest land on Tiger Mountain, where private land was to be acquired in exchange for the Kitsap land. Although DNR denies any connection, they suddenly "do not have time" to appraise DNR land near Silverdale where Kitsap County might build new county facilities.

If nothing else, helping the "swap" to "flop" has galvanized major public interest in sub-area planning and political involvement.