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Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

March 1992

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.

Meeting March 9th

Kayaking in England

The March 9th PWC meeting will feature a presentation by Chris Duff from Port Angeles. Chris will show slides of his 1981 solo kayak trip in England, Scotland, and Wales. I hope to see you there.

Upcoming PWC Events

PWC Amblers Outing

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST: Join Helen Schwartz for an easy 4 to 6 mile hike with the PWC Amblers to the Pack Forest near Eatonville. Pack Forest is a 4000 acre laboratory forest for the University of Washington, complete with hiking trails demonstrating latest forest management techniques. Call Helen at 377-9822 if interested.

12th Annual Igloo Trip

WEEKEND OF MARCH 7TH - 8TH: Join Joe Weigel and John DeArman and other PWCrs for a day of building Igloos (or snow caves) at Paradise on Mt. Rainier. You can stay for just the day or spend the night in your creation. This PWC tradition is a great family outing. Call Joe at 871-0291 or John at 697-1352.

Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH: There will be an interested members meeting a Doug Savage's home at 3661 Hyak Way in Illahee. Upcoming events and outings will be planned. Contact Doug at 698-9774 for driving directions, etc. A 7PM start time is planned. New and long-time members are encouraged to come and get to know one another.

Ice Axe Class On Mt. Ellinor

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH: Doug Savage will conduct a class on how to arrest a fall with an ice axe. The class will be conducted on the flanks of Mount Ellinor and will include a class 3 climb to the summit. Club members who would like to take the class or could assist in instructing should call Doug at 698-9774.

Congratulations Mary!

Mary Suda was the lucky winner of the February door prize, a set of seven outdoor guide books. The door prize is generously donated by the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe each month. Thanks again Judd for your support!

Conservation Corner

By Judy Gulltormsen

Visual pollution??

As I was huffing up the trail in a winter haze
thinking of the great solitude
my eyes were blinded by a neon blaze.
I was surrounded by hundreds of hiking dudes
passing me by in a blinding craze.

They were all so quiet and serene
that if it hadn't been for their florescences
I never would have detected their presence,
but they could not remain unseen,
dressed as they were in shine and sheen.

On their super fit backs were space age packs,
black and blue, but hues of red and yellows
gave my constricting pupils a smack.
The gaudy gear was certainly not mellow,
and couldn't help but shout HELLO!!!!

Biceps were coated in fuchsia, mango, and flame.
Hats and sunglasses were colored
by a rainbow's remains.
Lycra legs flashed in clashing colors untamed.
Boots were Olympic muddied and thus arrayed;
they were the only things muted and greyed.

The afterglow of their vapor trail,
made the light shafted emerald
woods ghastly pale.
I wondered what happened to earthly hues,
when clothes competed not with views.
I looked at my drab navy and grey
and wondered what Patagonia of Paris would
have to say.

It's the Water and a Lot More

The amount of used motor oil dumped by U.S.
car owners into drains and sewers is more than
10 times as much as the Exxon Valdez poured
into Prince William Sound.

In the Sound, industries legally discharge
400 tons of heavy metals and 200 tons of
petroleum hydrocarbons annually.

Two thirds of Washington residents get
their water from underground sources. In
the Seattle area demand for water will
soon exceed supply.

More than 200 chemical contaminants
have been detected in ground water nation
wide. Ground water contamination has
been found in 32 of Washington's
counties. What goes on the surface must
go down.

Nonpoint pollution of water sources is
difficult to control legally. The individual
can limit their nonpoint pollution of our
water by:

Using alternatives to chemical pesticides

Using vinegar and baking soda as cleaners

Use unbleached and recycled paper so
paper companies can cut down on
chemicals and bleaches being discharged
into the Sound

Plant trees and shrubs to slow the flow of
runoff into the Sound.

Take hazardous waste to collection centers
and not throwing it away.

Conserve water by taking shorter showers,
use washers only when you have a full
load, don't let the faucets run unneces-
sarily when tooth brushing, etc. Avoid
using garbage disposals and reduce fre-
quency of car washing and lawn watering.
Avoid unnecessary toilet flushing as the
toilet is the largest water user in the home.

More PWC Outings

Elwha River Overnight Backpack

WEEKEND OF MARCH 21ST & 22ND:
Join Joe Weigel for an overnight backpack trip on the Elwha River. The outing will be an easy 3 mile hike through beautiful river bottom country to the site of the historic Hume's Ranch. There are excellent campsites near the river, and with a little luck, opportunities to see the elk herd that spends the winter in the valley. Those wishing to go for just the day are also welcome. Please give Joe a call at 871-0291 if you are interested.

2nd Annual Ptarmigan Ridge Ski

WEEKEND OF APRIL 18TH & 19TH:
Join Brian Steely for some spectacular cross-country skiing and snow camping in the Mount Baker Wilderness. This will be an intermediate level ski trip starting from the Mount Baker Ski area parking lot and skiing about 4 miles to Ptarmigan Ridge. The ridge offers breathtaking views of Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan. There may be an option to leave on Friday the 17th if there is enough interest. Please call Brian at 373-6494 if interested.

A Walk on the Wild Side

By Helen Schwartz

The six bald eagles sunning themselves like seniors on a park bench stirred the first unanimous excitement out of our group. There were nine of us, including two kids, and we'd been observing numerous birds and waterfowl on our 5 1/4 mile walk through the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.

A hiker going the other direction told us about the eagles. Every pair of binoculars came out to watch them on snags, buoys and sandbars about 400 yards off the trail, at the edge of Puget Sound. They occasionally took to the air and the sight of their white heads and tails brought respectful oohs and aahs.

Before viewing the eagles we had identified about a dozen blue herons, a seal, numerous species of ducks, some hawks and other marsh birds. The wide open spaces of the Refuge allow plenty of room and distance for wildlife watching, as well as views of the Nisqually River, Mount Rainier and the islands in the South Sound.

As we continued on our way we entered an area of gigantic maple trees, a few hawks were visible here and there on bare branches. Our worst moment occurred here when a photographer watching a hawk thought we were disturbing his (and the hawk's) peace and made rude gestures and comments. We wanted to get vengeance by leaving a sign on the trail that said, "Wildlife expert ahead, please ask lots of questions." But, of course, we didn't.

The most amazing sight of the day happened as we walked past slow-moving McAllister Creek. A sea lion erupted out of the calm channel with a bloody salmon in his jaws, and slammed it back and forth violently, breaking the flesh into pieces. He then dove down to retrieve the remaining pieces and repeated

the process, gulping and smacking loudly. One of our hikers named him Herschel, after the sea lion of Ballard Locks fame.

Near the sea lion episode, on the other side of the trail a woodpecker hammered a fat tree trunk. We remarked that the Refuge felt almost like being at a special zoo where all the exhibits appear on cue. Happily, it's all wild and the animals live undisturbed. There is much to see, and it takes patience, good binoculars, a variety of people with knowledge about different animals, and some luck.

One of the best things about the Refuge for a group of walkers is that you can stroll side-by-side on the wide dike road that serves as the main trail. It allows people to stop and start in varying combinations without holding up anyone else. It made for a more social time, getting to know the people we walked alongside.

The entrance fee is \$2 per adult or family, and if you go on a Saturday you can visit the educational exhibit in the Twin Barns (call to confirm times). Drive south on I-5 (about 50 miles south of Bremerton) to Exit 114 signed Nisqually. Follow signs. Hiking boots recommended, no pets, no restrooms except in parking lot. For information call 753-9467.

Welcome to the Club

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

Fred Bair
Maria Lopez

Christopher Bell
Bill & Cindy VanDusen

Orcas, Eagles, and Islands

For an exceptional and inspiring wilderness adventure, try a week of sea kayaking the Inside Passage with Northern Lights Expeditions. This Seattle based guide service offers a variety of sea kayaking trips along the coast of British Columbia, which has the largest, most consistent number of killer whales in all the world's oceans, not to mention eagles by the hundreds.

Northern Lights provides for all your needs including two person kayaks, life vests, and tents. A typical 6 day adventure would cost \$735 which includes all meals prepared for you.

The week I spent with Northern Lights in August of 1989 was a magical, fun filled adventure. Experiencing Orcas "up-close and personnel" from a kayak was one of the highlights of the trip.

For a 1992 brochure, contact:
Northern Lights Expeditions
6141 NE Bothell Way #101
Seattle, Wa 98155 Phone: 483-6396

New Refreshment Chairperson

Sandy Saur has volunteered to organize and plan refreshments for our monthly meeting. Give Sandy a call at 876-2597 if you can help by bringing a goodie.

WANTED TO BUY:

Used toddler/child carrier/backpack
(with adjustable shoulder & hip straps).
Please call Michiel Hoogstede,
work 476-1545, home 697-2360.

Club Officers

President ...Doug Savage698-9774
Vice Pres ...Harry Wilson ...479-1322
Secretary ...Kathy Weigel ...871-0291
Treasurer ...Kevin Kilbridge 871-2537

Newsletter Staff

Don Paulson692-5086
Jim Drannan479-4171
Jim Luddon373-0431

Peninsula Wilderness Club
P.O. Box 323
Bremerton, Wa. 98310-9998

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