

Penwicle

Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

April 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 April 13th

Journey to Olympus

The April 13th PWC meeting will feature a professional slide show by Photographer Ross Hamilton from Sequim. The presentation is a story of backcountry travel through out Olympic National Park, including the coast, rain forest, and high country, culminating in a climb of Mount Olympus.

Upcoming PWC Events

(Also see PWC Ambler's Outings Page 4)

Ice Axe Class on Mt. Ellinor

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH (Posponed from 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 Mt. 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.

2nd Annual Ptarmigan Ridge Ski

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

Dungeness Spit Cleanup

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH: To do our part for Earth Day 1992, PWC, in conjunction with the Sierra Club, will be doing a clean up of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge in Sequim. Meet in the Refuge parking lot at 9:30 AM. Carpooling is preferred. Garbage bags will be provided. Bring a lunch and rain gear. PWC point of contact is Harry Wilson, 479-1322.

Forest Plant Identification

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH: Join Don Paulson for a beginner's plant identification class on the Lower Dungeness Trail. The 6 mile hike includes a variety of plant habitats from sunny meadows to dark forests. Class size is limited, but if there is enough interest a second trip will be scheduled for Sunday, the 17th. Call Don Paulson at 692-5086.

12th Annual Igloo Trip

By Don Paulson

I mentioned to a friend that my son Joey and I were going to stay in an Igloo over the weekend. He gave me a long stare over his glasses. "You're going to sleep in the snow? Hum, you mean, pack yourself in ice and spend the night? Sounds like terrific fun."

Well, I have to admit spending the night in an igloo isn't for everyone. In fact without the proper gear it could be about as fun as my friend had imagined. But with a few precautions against getting cold, it can be a great camping adventure. This year's outing was blessed with clear skies, warm temperatures and nicely consolidated snow for cutting igloo blocks.

Joey and I picked a spot with a great view of the Tatoosh Range. I marked a six foot circle in the snow by swinging my ski pole 360 degrees and then compacted the circle with my feet. Joe Weigel helped by sawing the blocks while Joey and I set the blocks in place. When the second layer of blocks were set, I stepped inside and cut a layer of blocks from the igloo floor. At the same time I expanded the floor space by carving away at the perimeter below first row of blocks.

We set the blocks in a clockwise spiral, tilting more toward the center as we increased in height. Joey began digging the entry way from the outside while Joe and I carefully placed the last few blocks that formed the top of the dome. I steadied the blocks from the inside and Joe worked from the outside.

At this point, I dug myself out of the doorless igloo being careful to keep the door opening lower than the igloo floor. This allows the coldest air to settle in the doorway rather than in the sleeping area.

To finish our abode we packed snow in all the cracks and placed additional blocks over

the entry way. We placed a plastic tarp and sleeping pads on the floor and then as a final touch, carved out a kitchen in the entryway complete with bench seats.

There were 5 igloos of varying shapes and sizes and one snow cave. Fourteen people spent the night and several others helped for the day. Every one seemed to have a great time. Joyce Kimmel served hot chocolate with whipcream on top.

Joey and I filled our water bottles with boiling water and stuffed them in our sleeping bags for foot warmers. We wrapped our damp socks around the hot water bottles and by morning they were dry again. A candle lantern was all we needed for light in our all-white house. But after a long day of sawing and shoveling snow, we were asleep in no time.

Bringing a Goodie?

Please contact our Refreshment Chairperson, Sandy Saur, at 876-6904 if you would like to bring a goody to the monthly meeting. Editor Note: Sandy's Phone number listed the March Penwile was in error - oops, sorry about that.

Welcome to the Club

The following new members were welcomed to the club last month:

Kim Huynh
Halley Morton
Linda Sorbo
Kathleen Mahan Williams

Overnighter in Hong Kong - January 18 & 19

By Bruce Kittredge

It was our last stop in the Orient before heading eastward to the good 'ol U.S.A. The USS Truxtun was nearing the end of a six month deployment and Hong Kong is where we can buy a lot of things cheaply and fill our storerooms before heading home. I decided to do a hike on one of the nearby islands which consists of two mountains separated by a two lane road. Our ship anchored out in Hong Kong Bay that Friday, and I prepared for the trip that evening.

The Next morning I took a boat used to ferry the sailors back and forth to Hong Kong Island right into the city itself. From there I took a commuter ferry to the island of Lantau to a town called Discovery Bay. The town had a 7-11 believe it or not, but not our 7-11 prices.

There I stocked up on fruit, some crackers, and three bottles of water (can't drink the water in Hong Kong). Plus there wasn't any water up on those mountains anyway.

It was a short walk up the road to the trail head. After cautiously crossing the road, I headed up the trail. Much of the trail was stone steps, like those on the trails at Paradise. It got somewhat steep at times, but the stones helped out immensely (just like a stair case). The leafy trees turned into thin pine trees as the elevation increased, then, out into the open. So far, I met no one on the trail. I had started at about 1 PM from the 7-11. There were very few switchbacks, and it was fairly easy going. The view to the east toward Kowloon and Hong Kong city was somewhat hazy, but some large buildings were discernable.

The upper part of the mountain was all knee height grass on either side of the trail with no trees at all. Some stone summer cabins near the summit made for a nice stopping place.

Then I climbed to the top. I laid out a wool blanket between a white sheet and thin bedspread and ate some of what was in the pack. I crashed out at 6 PM. It got pretty darn cold during the night, but I wore all the clothing that was in the pack, so I stayed fairly warm. Since I awoke every two hours, I observed the stars and constellations going by and then the morning planets. It was quite a pleasant experience, even though my big toes just about froze off! Oh well.



The next morning as I was heading down, and met up with a day hiker from England who was living in Hong Kong for awhile. We hiked down the first mountain, then upward to the top of the next one. There we met more people, some of whom were American tourist huffing and panting away.

The island is somewhat famous in that it has the largest bronze statue of a sitting Buddha. And I mean...it's huge! I could see it's silhouette at dusk the evening before in amongst the mountains from my campsite. We passed near it, but didn't go inside.

We ran into two grazing buffalo on the trail. The type with horns which look like that of a bronco busting bull. There was no room to pass, so we "herded" them down the trail by whistling and clapping our hands. We finally came to a place where we could pass, and we did so with much caution. The one bull looked a bit teed off at us, but the other one seemed to console him, and all was O.K.

We made it down to the road alright, flagged down a bus, and rode it back to Discovery Bay. It was a truly a neat experience, especially since I hadn't done any hiking for the last five months. Just cruising around the Orient and Arabian Gulf. It sure will be nice to see the Olympic Mountains once again as we head up the coast and turn into the Puget Sound.

PWC Profile

By Helen Schwartz

Kathy and Joe Weigel are probably PWC's most active couple. She is the club Secretary; he is the Program Chairman. They both like backpacking and day hiking, but also find that the social aspect of the club is its strongest feature. "we've met so many great people," says Kathy, "good, clean, fun-loving friends."

The Weigels have been PWC members for six or seven years, but Joe has been coming to meetings "for eons". He's been hiking Olympic National Park trails for twenty years with the goal of eventually hiking every trail on the map. His map is full of the red lines he's marked for every hike. "It's not like you can just go out on a new trail every time you go hiking," says Joe, "you cover a lot of the same ground over and over again." He estimates he's hiked about 800 miles in the Park, or about three-fourths of his goal. He's also hiked a lot in the National Forest.

Last summer, Joe branched out - he hiked the Wonderland Trail around Mt. Rainier; this month he's going with other PWC'ers to the Grand Canyon.

Both Kathy and Joe like volunteering with the Club. Kathy takes minutes at meetings, sends out correspondence, and keeps things organized. Joe coordinates the entertainment programs we see each month. They've been in those roles for over two years, in addition to being actively involved in planning PWC trips at the Interested Member's Meetings.

Joe, 45, a county building inspector, and Kathy, 34, a rural mail carrier have been together for about ten years. There are three teenagers in their blended family, and they live in South Kitsap.

PWC Amblers Outings

Mima Mounds Natural Area

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH: Walk through an unusual geological area and see if you can determine how these mounds were formed. For a 5 mile walk through this 445 acre preserve southwest of Olympia, call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

Foulweather Bluff Preserve

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH: Join Helen for a visit to The Nature Conservancy's wildlife sanctuary on our own Kitsap Peninsula, two miles northwest of Hansville. A short hike takes you to the 93 acre preserve which includes a freshwater marsh adjacent to extensive tidflats with great views of the Olympics. Call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

Skagit Habitat Management Area

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH: Hike 4 to 6 miles through Western Washington's most important waterfowl area on the Skagit Delta about 65 miles north of Seattle. Call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

From the Editor's Desk:

I'd like to welcome Helen Schwartz to the Penwile staff. Helen volunteered to write articles for our newsletter. Also many thanks for those working hard to get the Penwile out on time. Judy Guttormsen authors the Conservation Corner, Jim Luddon maintains the data base for names, addresses and expirations dates, while Jim Drannan keeps the Penwile on target with his proof reading abilities. Lastly, the entire Stenwick family takes care of printing and mailing (including 4 year old Laura who is the official PWC stamp licker & placer).

Trail Reports

By Wendy McClure

Marmot Pass

Barb & I headed for Marmot Pass on a sunny February day but didn't quite make it. There were lots of blow-downs across the trail between Ten-Mile Shelter and Shelter Rock to climb over and under. Plus there was lots of snow on the open slopes to slow us down. Avalanches across these slopes made for a slow time picking our way across the jumbled compacted snow. Turn around time came too soon but lunch in the sun with vistas was enjoyed.

Duckabush River Trail

A favorite not-to-far destination is Big Hump on the Duckabush. (a notice at the trailhead warned that the high bridge on the Dosewallips is closed to stock). We like to climb out onto the moss covered rock mass on Big Hump to a point just across from St. Peter's Dome where there are good views down into the river canyon and of peaks on the upper Duckabush. Pay attention to how you get out there - we never do and always spend some time trying to figure out how to get back to the trail.

Deer Park

Joni and I headed up to Deer Park on March 13th. The road is blocked further down than I thought it was, so with our late start we made it only to the Deer Park Campground. Still lots of snow on the road approaching the campground but the south and west facing slopes of Blue Mountain were bare. We had great views. All-in-all it was a good hike.

Note: To Don Paulson's theory about the trails lengthening, we would like to add our theory about ongoing tectonic uplift in the Olympics as these trails are getting steeper each year.

Seven Lakes Basin

By Don Paulson

On Sunday, March 23rd, Brian Miller and I hiked and skied to Seven Lakes Basin. A 4:30 AM start time put us on the trail a little before 7 AM. The trail to Deer Lake is in excellent condition with only one small wind fall and snow free. Deer lake was 90% free of ice with only small patches of snow around the lake.

The trail beyond Deer Lake became increasingly snow bound. We began to ski about one mile beyond the lake. We soon gained the ridge on hard crusty snow. The snow cover on the south facing slopes was melting out fast and the trail could be seen in places. The spotty snow cover forced us to remove our skis on a steep south facing side hill for about a mile. It was tough going in the soft snow.

Seven Lakes Basin is completely covered with about three feet of snow and the lakes frozen. Brian carved some turns in the trackless snow of the Basin while I climbed up to a vantage point on the ridge and soaked up some sunshine.

The ski out was great. The afternoon sun and record high temperatures made for excellent spring skiing conditions. We made several runs on the prime slopes. It was getting dark and our buns were really dragging by the time we reached the car.

PWC Events (continued)

Peak 7022 Climb

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH: PWC'ers with mountaineering skills are welcome to join Charlie Pomfret for a class 2 climb of Peak 7022 above Lake Constance. With an elevation gain (and loss) of over 5600 feet in about 4-1/2 miles, this is definitely not a trip for your average couch potato. If you have "buns" of steel and "gauds" of iron, give Charlie a call at 479-7820.

Green Mtn. Trail

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH: Give Doug Savage a hand in brushing out the trail to the Green Mountain rock climbing area. A 5:30 meeting time is planned. Call Doug at 698-9774 if you are willing to lend a hand.

Mt. St Helen's Climb

WEEKEND OF JUNE 5TH & 6TH: Doug Savage will be climbing Mount St Helen's via the "Dog Route". Give Doug a call at 698-9774 if you are interested in going along.

PWC Picnic

It was decided at the March meeting that this year's PWC Picnic will be held at Manchester State Park in South Kitsap. The picnic will take the place of our regular meeting for July (Monday, July 13th).

You can observe a lot just by watching.

Club Officers

President	Doug Savage	698-9774
Vice Pres	Harry Wilson	479-1322
Secretary	Kathy Weigel	871-0291
Treasurer	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537
Entertainment	Joe Weigel	871-0291
Refreshments	Sandy Saur	876-6904

Penwicle Staff

Don Paulson	692-5086	(Editor)
Jim Drannan	479-4171	(Proofing)
Jim Luddon	373-0431	(Address data base)
Helen Schwartz	377-9822	(Feature Writer)
Judy Guttormsen	779-6457	(Conservation Corner)
Stenwick Family	779-5314	(Printing/mailing)

Peninsula Wilderness Club

P.O. Box 323

Bremerton, Wa. 98310-9998



Reproduced using recycled paper



APRIL 1992 - TIME DATED MATERIAL -
