

Penwicle

Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

May 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 May 11th

Kayaking and Canoeing the Olympic Peninsula Rivers

John Kuntz of the Olympic Outdoor Center in Poulsbo will be providing the entertainment for the May 11 meeting. John's presentation will be on Kayaking and Canoeing the Olympic Peninsula rivers. The regular meeting will begin at 7:30 PM but new and long time PWC members are encouraged to come early and get acquainted (doors open at 7:00 PM).

Upcoming PWC Events

Foulweather Bluff Preserve

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD: Join Helen Schwartz 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 at 377-9822.

Skagit Delta Area

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH: 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.

Forest Plant Identification

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH: Join Don Paulson for a beginner's plant identification class on the Lower Dungeness Trail. Handouts and reference materials will be available. The 6 mile hike includes a surprising 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 at 692-5086.

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 "quads" of iron, give Charlie a call at 479-7820.

Backpacking and Mountain Climbing in Wyoming

Dave Cossa is planning a July backpacking and climbing trip in Wyoming. A climb of Grand Teton, Granite Peak, and Gannett Peak is planned. The time frame and activities are flexible depending on those interested in going. Call Dave at 871-5577 for more information.

Mima Mounds Outing

By Helen Schwartz

Walking through a prairie of ancient mounds, I found it difficult to believe there ever could have been enough gophers to build these things. But that's the most widely- accepted theory for how the Mima Mounds were created.

This is an amazing place, 450 acres preserved naturally with thousands of mounds - each about 4 to 6 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet in diameter. You can observe the encroachment of the forest thanks to man who first brought cattle to these prairies in the 1800's, ending the natural grass fires that kept the mounds free of tree and shrub seedlings.

In the forested area, the trees grow in the north side of each mound; in their shade grow thousands of fir seedlings and colorful varieties of moss.

The mosses and grasses are everywhere, completely covering the mounds. Out in the open they are perhaps eight inches thick. Wildflowers decorated the prairie.

I didn't see anyone else for the first hour I was on the footpath so the sounds around me were noticeable. Warbling birds charmed me, but the constant shooting at the private gun club a quarter mile away was distracting. As was the remote-controlled plane an unseen operator was flying.

Despite these sounds I kept reminding myself how important it is to preserve public land, even if it is surrounded by private land. Even the civilized sounds couldn't stop me from experiencing the peace and simple, undisturbed beauty of the Mima Mounds and surrounding valley and hillsides. A visitor can walk as little as half a mile on the guided nature trail, or up to five miles following all the loops.

Driving directions: South on I-5 past Olympia, take Exit 95, drive through Little Rock and in a mile turn right; follow signs about a half mile to the Mounds turnoff (about 80 miles from Bremerton). No fee, tennis shoes are fine.

Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH: There will be an Interested Members Meeting at Joe and Kathy Weigel's home near Port Orchard at 7:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and plan future PWC events. Give Joe or Kathy a call at 871-0291 for driving directions if needed.

Congratulations Kevin

Kevin McManimon was the lucky winner of the April door prize, a great looking pair of Helley Hansen wind pants. Each month the door prize is generously donated by the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe. Thanks again Judd!

Welcome To the Club

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

Alan Delaney, Michael Gardzalla
Daniel Imbody, Janet Madlin
Dan O'Connor, Kim Olson
Richard & Norma Oxley,
Jan Wangen

A special welcome to Cameron Groh, the Club's youngest member. Cameron automatically became a member when he was born on April 2nd, 1992. The proud parents are Jim Groh and Mary Swoboda-Groh. Congratulations Jim and Mary!

Rialto Beach to Ozette April 4th -7th

By Don Paulson

Hail, rain, lightning and wind turned our outing into an adventure. It started as we drove near the trailhead. A tremendous hail storm was dropping hail stones at an unbelievable rate. Mat Sinn shifted his Subaru into 4 wheel drive to negotiate the all-white road. The storm convinced us to drive back to Forks and pick up an additional blue tarp for the trip. When we returned to the trailhead, the hail had turned into a drizzle.

Mat, my son Joey, and his friend Ryan, and I put on our rain gear and headed for the beach. Within a mile we came to rain-swollen Ellen Creek. We took off our boots and waded across. The water was too deep and swift for the boys to cross safely with their packs, so I made a couple of return trips to bring the packs across.

We made camp just south of Hole-in-the-Wall as the tide was already up to the "hole". A campfire kept us warm and our two tarps kept us dry during the frequent downpours. We awoke to more rain so we took our time breaking camp - hoping it would clear up. The surf was impressive and the sky ominous.

Our progress around Cape Johnson was painfully slow as we negotiated miles of green, slimy boulders. We were losing the battle with high tide. At one point we dashed through the surf in order to round a cliff. I again made several trips across, bringing the boys packs (and this time, Joey) to the other side.

But finally the tide won. We were forced to retreat up a steep mud bank and set up a temporary shelter. We built a campfire and cooked a hot meal as we waited for the tide

to recede. About 4PM the tide was low enough for us to continue north. We made camp at Cedar Creek as darkness was falling.

On the third day we were up before daylight in order to make up some lost miles before high tide. We soon met Roger, Bonney, and Rhonda hiking south. We had agreed earlier to use Roger's car at Ozette and they would use Mat's Subaru at Rialto Beach. Later we would meet in Sappho and switch cars.

The weather steadily improved as we headed north. We found a wonderful grassy campsite at Yellow Banks. A first class rope swing provided entertainment for the evening. We enjoyed the sun set from a rock outcropping and watched whales in the distance migrating north.

Day 4 was fine and pleasant. Sandy beaches made for easy walking, and before long we reached the trail to Lake Ozette. We lingered in the sun and had lunch. Joey and Ryan were anxious to end this "fine and pleasant misery" so they headed down the boardwalk. Mat and I hiked as fast as we could but could not catch-up with the boys. We figured they were like a couple of horses heading for the barn.

The four of us crammed our packs into Roger's little Mazda GLC and headed for Sappho. Roger, Bonney, and Rhonda, in Mat's Subaru, pulled into Sappho within minutes of our arrival. We exchanged cars, swapped adventure stories, and headed for the barn.

*Opportunity always seems to knock
when you can't come to the door.*

PWC Profile

By Helen Schwartz

Doug Savage is a courageous guy - not just because he climbs mountains, but because he was "terrified of public speaking" before he became PWC President. "That's the whole reason I volunteered," he says. "How else do you get over something you're afraid of except by trying it? I was nearly phobic about public speaking then, not so much now... but I've never had a hostile audience either."

We're glad Doug decided to become club president because has helped boost membership to nearly 200 during the two years he's held office.

"I see the club as a social place," Doug says. "I try to create as many opportunities for people to meet each other as possible." and Doug usually sponsors several trips each month. His interests are hiking, some mountain climbing ("easy routes up

volcanos") and both downhill and cross-country skiing. He's taught many club members how to ski, and patiently, kindly helps people feel comfortable whether they are learning to use an ice-axe or lagging behind on a hike.

Doug's hope for the club would be to get "more people sponsoring more and different types of trips." There are many club members with "a wealth of information," Doug says, "who would add a lot to the club by sponsoring a trip even every other year. There are still a lot of areas of interest that aren't being met," and although Doug does his best, he can't do it alone. So he encourages others to sponsor trips.

This is Doug's last term as president. He's 34, a mechanical engineer who lives in Illahee but is originally from Virginia. He's lived in the Northwest about seven years.

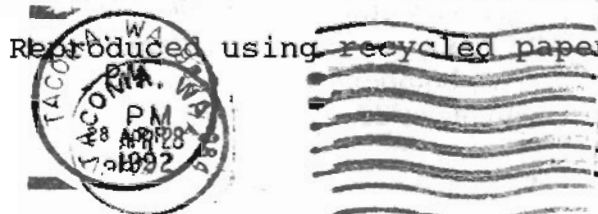
Club Officers

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

Newsletter Staff

Don Paulson692-5086	(Editor)
Jim Drannan479-4171	(Prpofing)
Jim Luddon373-0431	(Address data base)
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Judy Guttormsen	..779-6457	(Conservation Corner)
Stenwick Family	..779-5314	(Printing/mailling)

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