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Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

February 1993

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 February 8th

Photo's of the Natural World

The entertainment for the February 8th PWC meeting will be provided by nature photographer and PWC member Ed Book. Ed will present a sample of his slides depicting the natural world following two different themes.

Upcoming PWC Events

XC Ski Deer Park Road

SUNDAY, FEB 7TH; Joyce Kimmel will be going for a day of cross-country skiing on the Deer Park Road in the Olympics. PWCrs with intermediate skiing skills are welcome. Expect some great views and a fun glide back down. Call Joyce at 876-1497.

Elwha River Backpack

FEB 13TH, 14TH & 15TH; Join Michael Gardzalla for a winter backpacking trip to Anderson Ranch on the Elwha River. This is a prime spot for watching the herds of elk that spend the winter there. Call Michael at 479-1276 if interested.

Advanced Learn-to-Turn Class

SATURDAY, FEB 20TH; Head to Crystal for more Learn-to-Turn instruction from Dale Boyle. This class is intended for those wishing to polish their telemark skills on the beginner and intermediate ski slopes. PWC point of contact is Doug Savage at 698-9774.

Ski Crystal Mountain

WEDNESDAY, FEB 24TH: Ski Crystal Mountain on a \$16 lift ticket day. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774.

Ski to Copper Creek Hut

SUNDAY, FEB 28TH: Join Joyce Kimmel for a beginner's level ski trip to Copper Creek Hut near Mt. Rainier. The trail is 4.7 miles one way with a 900' gain. Call Joyce at 876-1497.

13th Annual Igloo Outing

WEEKEND OF MAR 6TH & 7TH; Join in on this PWC tradition of building igloos or snow caves at Paradise, Mount Rainier. You can stay for the day or spend the night in your creation. Great family fun. PWC point of contact is Joe Weigel at 871-0291.

(PWC Events continued next page)

PWC Events (Continued)

Ski Mt. Ellinor Road

SUNDAY, MAR 14TH: Join Doug Savage for an intermediate level ski trip on the Mt. Ellinor road. Great views of Mt. Ellinor and Mt. Washington. Call Doug at 698-9774.

Ski Crystal Mountain

FRIDAY, MAR 19TH: Join John Knott for a day of downhill or telemark skiing at Crystal Mountain (\$16 lift ticket day). Call John at 373-5372.

Ptarmigan Ridge Overnighter

WEEKEND OF MAR 27TH & 28TH: Join Brian Steely for some spectacular cross-country skiing and snow camping in the Mt. Baker Wilderness. This will be an intermediate/advanced level ski trip starting from the Mt. Baker Ski area and skiing about 4 miles to Ptarmigan Ridge. The ridge offers breathtaking views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan. Call Brian at 373-6494.

Ice Axe Class on Mt. Ellinor

SATURDAY, APR 17TH: Climb Mt. Ellinor and learn ice axe arrest and basic snow travel techniques. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774.

Grand Canyon Backpack

APR 24TH - MAY 2ND: Join Dave Cossa for seven days of backpacking in the Grand Canyon; down to the river via the Tanner Trail and out of the canyon via Grand View Trail. With only 15 miles of hiking, there will be plenty of opportunity for explorations. Call Dave at 871-5577.

PWC Profile

By Helen Schwartz

Charlie Pomfret has earned the title of "intrepid" climber. He just returned from Ecuador where he summited three peaks between 14,000 and 17,000 feet, and attempted five others. He was with an international group of fourteen people who had varying climbing skills.

Charlie says this trip became a reality because "I wanted to go somewhere this time of year on vacation," and discovered that a Colorado travel agency was offering the trip. He was the only American. His Spanish, although basic, was enough to get him through four days on his own in the city.

Rock scrambling is what Charlie enjoys the most and he does quite a bit of it in the Olympics. At least he did a lot until he bought a house a year and a half ago. Now he spends some time on his house too.

Charlie joined PWC six years ago after moving here for a job at Keyport as an electrical engineer. He took a mountaineering course from Dale Boyle and has been climbing for about six years. He likes rock scrambling because he doesn't have to rope up but it's still steep and challenging. He also cross-country skis and goes on day hikes.

Charlie, 30, grew up in Massachusetts and spent time in Vermont before moving here.

Join a Dinner Group

A monthly potluck dinner group is forming and will begin meeting on Friday, Feb. 19th, 6:30 PM at 2701 E. 22nd, Bremerton. If you are interested, call Helen at 377-9822.

Copper Creek Condo

By Don Paulson

A "Dangerous Winter Storm" loomed in the forecast. I had nearly decided not to go, but listening more carefully to the forecast a second time, I learned that the worst storm warnings were for the northern portion of the state. Since our destination was near Mount Rainier, the five of us warily headed south. Snow was falling in the Port Orchard area, but the farther south we went, the better the weather became.

The logging road leaving from near Ashford was snow covered and steep in places. We needed four-wheel drive or chains to make it to the Sno Park. The "trail", which is actually an continuation of the logging road climbed abruptly at first but soon became a gradual climb. Acres of young fir trees heavily laden with freshly fallen snow looked like fields of decorated Christmas trees. In places young alder trees, weighted down with snow lined limbs, formed delicate arches over the trail.

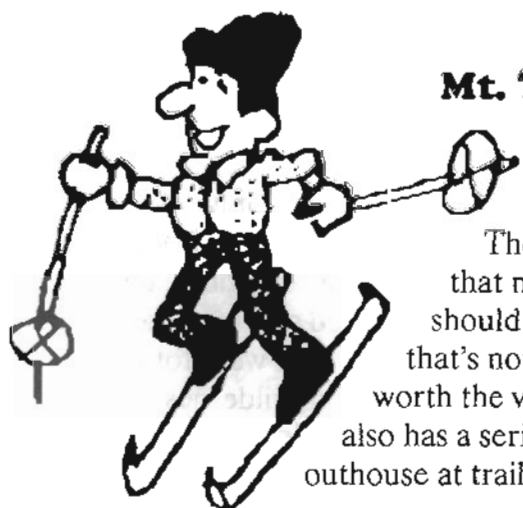
It was pleasant going for the first four miles. Filtered sun occasionally shown through cloudy skies and the scenery was enjoyable. The last half mile climbed steeply to the hut on the windward side of the ridge. A strong wind froze my beard and stung at my face.

Calling the hut a "hut" is a misnomer. The "hut" is actually a 20'x30' two story house with an attached wood shed. The entry is through a separate room for ski storage and brushing off snow. The living area has a couple of old cozy couches near the wood stove, a kitchen counter, and ample table space. Propane cook stoves and lanterns are provided, but it's up to you to bring the propane bottles. The 2nd floor is one room equipped with several covered sleeping pads.

I gave the outhouse a rating of only two stars (on the Paulson scale). The plywood and linoleum decor was unpretentious, but failed to provide the desired ambience, and the cheap K-Mart type fixtures were totally inappropriate for a satisfying wilderness experience. A smallish aluminum framed window afforded a view of Mount Rainier while seated on the throne, but it's placement was a trifle low. To enjoy the view, I had to assume the classic "thinker" position (elbow on knee; chin in hand). Nice try, privy planners, but next time try adding a little rustic charm to your design.

On our ski out the following afternoon, we were ambushed by a news team from channel 11. They were being ferried in by the ski patrol on snowmobiles to do a spot on the hut. Carol, Kathy, and Barney gave interviews, while Steve and I provided much appreciated behind-the-scene assistance in the form of gestures and facial expressions.





Mt. Tahoma's Snowbowl Hut

By: Alyce Daniels

There is a trip that nordic skiers should know about that's not only well worth the views, but also has a serious 5 star outhouse at trails end.

The trip is a continuous uphill climb (about 2 3/4 hrs in, and an all too quick 1 hour down and out) to Mt. Tahoma's scenic trail system's Snowbowl hut. In 4.3 miles, the elevation gain of 2100 feet offers superb views of Rainier and other peaks for an almost 360 degrees in panorama. This of course is dependent on a clear day. But if no views are available, there are plenty of animal tracks to identify and the soaring eagles will keep you well entertained. We even rustled up a bobcat who glibly "bobbed" away.

The climb feels gradual, easily done with heavy breathing (those of us know who we are), and skins or even touring skis that grip appropriately.

Once at the hut, which sleeps 8 plus 3 ski patrols, there are various trails to tour and slopes to telemark (those of us definitely know who we are!). And after having shoveled off 4ft of snow, there's even a sun deck for the morning coffee with a picture view of "The Mountain".

About that 5 star outhouse - (one actually has to cheat a tad to get the 5 star effect). Sit on the oak hardwood seat backwards, leave the door open, and there's Rainier and the whole valley unfolding. There is

absolutely no odor, a current issue of backpacker, dry toilet paper, and no rude graffiti.

Reservations, maps, procedures and a list of group items to bring are available by mail only. Send a S.A.S.E. to Mt. Tahoma trails, Attn: Hut reservation program, P.O. Box 206 Eatonville, WA 98304.

The hut has a woodstove, tons of firewood (some poor devil worked his butt off), two burner propane stove, 4 coleman lanterns, 8 foam sleeping mats and basic cooking utensils.

Please haul out anything brought in (as we already know to do). Mice seem to love the joint too, so pack food in good, solid containers. Other suggestions for personal or group items would be paper plates, eating utensils, cup, t.p., paper and cloth towels, matches, individual light source and propane canisters.

The trailhead parking lot is approximately 90 miles from Port Orchard area and would probably hold 12 to 15 cars. The trails are "groomed" which in this system means just plowed, but not tracked. If conditions indicate new snowfall then a relative beginner who can climb and snowplow could probably handle the trip. If it's icy, then more experience will be necessary.

Can't miss, I'm sure a good time will be had by all!



Interested Member's Meeting

This month's interested member's meeting will be held at Joe and Kathy Weigel's home near Port Orchard. The meeting will be February 11th at 7:00 PM. Upcoming PWC trips and events will be planned. All PWC members are welcome. Call Joe or Kathy at 871-0291 if you need driving directions.

Welcome to the Club

Ken DeWitt, Lynn Anderson, and William Hintz joined the club in December. In January, Scott Bolon, Nancy Clark, Jennifer Iverson, Megan Klein, Lee Luginbill, and Jean Stitt Otto became new PWCrs. The membership of the Peninsula Wilderness Club extends a warm welcome to each of you.

Congratulations James!

The January door prize, a pair of Smith ski goggles, went to PWC'r James Legler. The door prize is donated each month by the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe. Thanks again Judd for the generous donation.

Big Climb for Leukemia

The 7th Annual Big Climb for Leukemia is scheduled for Sunday March 7th at the Columbia Seafirst Building. Take pledges for climbing (or racing up) the stairs of Seattle's tallest building. Great pledge prizes, door prizes and trophies are all part of the fun. You must be at least 12 years of age to participate. Pledge money goes to the Leukemia Society of America. Call 628-0777 to find out how to join this worthy cause.

Ski to Sea Team to Form

Gail Dionne is interested in forming a team of PWC members to compete in the Ski to Sea race from Mt. Baker Ski Area to Bellingham Bay. The race involves a cross-country skier, downhill skier, runner, mountain biker, bicyclist, canoe team, and a sea kayaker. A separate person is needed for each category. We could put together a competitive team, or a group of folks who just want to have fun. The race is Memorial Day weekend. Please call Gail at 692-4471 if you are interested.

Intermediate Mountaineering Class offered

This year during the summer there will be an intermediate level mountaineering class offered through Olympic College. The Class will most likely include climbs of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Constance, and Mt. Stuart. Call Dave Cossa at 871-5577 for more information.



For Sale

Men's ski jacket, ski pants size 34. Hiking boots size 8. All in very good condition. Call 830-5616 after 6 PM.

Wanted

Need a pair of used metal edge cross country skis, 180 CM. Call Kathy at 830-9077 if you have a pair to sell.

Last Chance for PWC Winterfest

Additional openings at the Nisqually Lodge are available for those wishing to join the second annual PWC Winterfest on February 13th, 14th and 15th. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774 if interested.

Hut Tour Opening

Jim Pettis has reserved Fawn and Rendezvous Huts in the Methow area for two nights and three days on February 13, 14, & 15th. He has one opening since one member of his group injured her knee and can no longer go. Your gear will be hauled in via snowmobile. Cost is \$61.50. Call Jim at 692-5682 if interested in going.



Club Officers

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Vice PresHarry Wilson	...479-1322
SecretaryKathy Weigel	...871-0291
TreasurerKevin Kilbridge	871-2537
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Peninsula Wilderness Club

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