

# Penwicle

## Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

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**January 1994**

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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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### **M**eeting **December 10th**

#### **Nature in Olympic National Park**

Eric and Martha Edman will be presenting a slide show of the Olympic National Park, its Mountains, plant life and animal life. This show will demonstrate the cycle of life in the park by the cycle of water from the ocean to the mountains, streams tributaries and finally back to the ocean.

This show has been presented over 100 times throughout several states, and is a must for anyone who spends time in the Olympics.

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### **Upcoming PWC Events**

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#### **X-Ski at Hurricane Ridge**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH, Join Lynn Howatt for a day of cross country skiing at Hurricane Ridge. Skiing for all levels will be available, If interested, Lynn can be reached at 598-3087.



#### **Reflection Lakes Campout**

JANUARY 15 - 17TH, "Shared bodily warmth is the key to cold winter survival". Doug Savage is sponsoring a 3 day overnight campout at Reflection Lakes on Mt. Rainier. Come for a day, two days or stick it out 3 days. There will be cross country skiing during the day, and conversation of the tropics during the evenings. If Interested, Doug can be reached at 698-9774.

#### **Bear Mountain X- Ski**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH. Join Dave Cossa for a cross country ski trip to Skaar Pass in the Olympics. This Beginner / Intermediate level trip will take place on the fire and logging roads Near Quilcene. For more information, Dave can be contacted at 871-5577.

#### **Lake Mills Day Hike**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND; Join Joe Weigel for a short but scenic day hike along Lake Mills. This hike is about 4 miles roundtrip, and has little elevation gain. After this short hike, Joe will be doing the West Elwha trail, which is another short but scenic hike of about 6 miles (roundtrip) and little elevation gain. For more information, Joe can be reached at 871-0291..

*- PWC Events Continued next page -*

## **Sno Bowl Ski Hut**

JANUARY 22-23RD; Cross country ski into a hut: The PWC has reserved the sno bowl ski hut, which is located in the Mt. Rainier area. This intermediate level ski trip is about a 4 mile ski-in to the hut on snow covered (hopefully) roads, where there are then lots of skiing opportunities near the hut on roads and open bowls. The hut is equipped with sleeping pads, wood stove for heat, propane lantern, and a propane stove for cooking.

There is space available for eight people, if more than eight would like to go, then names will have to be drawn at the January meeting. If selected, you must immediately provide a \$25 deposit (which is refundable after the trip) to hold your spot. For more information, call Lynn Howatt at 598-3087 or Jim Drannan at 479-4171. Lynn or Jim needs to know who would like to go by the January meeting.

This trip will also be repeated on March 19 and 20th, and will be drawing names for that trip at the February meeting.

## **Hot Springs Overnight**

FEBRUARY 5-6TH. Join Doug Savage for an overnight trip to the Olympic Hot Springs. Travel will be via skis or snowshoes, whichever one prefers. Enjoy an evening in the Hot Spring, and camping on the snow. For more information, Doug can be reached at 698-9774.

## **Copper Creek Ski Hut**

FEBRUARY 12- 13TH; The PWC has reserved the Copper Creek ski hut near Mt. Rainier. This beginner level trip is about 3 miles in to this spacious hut, which holds 12 people, and has all of the comforts of home. You will need to be able to carry in with you, clothes, food, sleeping bag and eating utensils. This is a great way to winter camp. If more than 12 people are interested, we will draw names and alternates at the January meeting. If your name is drawn, we will need a \$25 deposit to hold your space. We will have to know

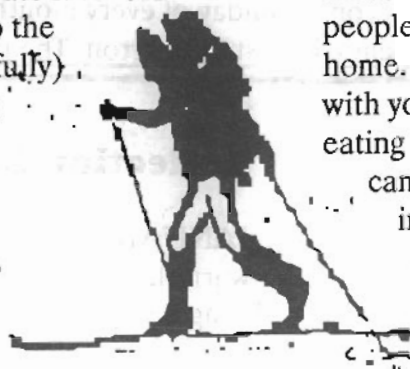
who wants to go by the January meeting. For more information, and to get your name on a list, call Lynn Howatt at 598-3087 or Jim Drannan at 479-4171.

## **3rd Annual Winterfest**

FEBRUARY 19-21ST; The 3rd annual PWC cross-country ski weekend at Longmire Lodge will again be held over presidents weekend. All of the rooms at the lodge are already full, but there is still space available at nearby lodges. This 1-3 day event is a great way to get to know other people who like to x-ski, snowshoe or just socialize. The days are spent on the trails near Mt. Rainier, and the evenings are spent eating and socializing.

## **Ptarmigan Ridge "Ski Inn"**

MARCH 26-27TH; Join Brian Steely for the 3rd "Almost Annual" Ptarmigan Ridge ski in. For more information, Brian can be reached at 373-6494.



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## **This - and - That**

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### **January Potluck**

JANUARY 21ST; The January Potluck will be held at the home of Doug Savage and Brian Schladetzky and will begin about 6:30 p.m.. These bi-annual events, are a great way to meet and socialize with other PWC'ers. For more information, and directions to Doug's home, Doug or Brian can be reached at 698-9774.

### **December Door Prize**

Congratulations to Kyle Slaney for having his name drawn for the December door prize of a set of Capilene underwear, to keep him warm and dry on all these cold winter outings.. Many thanks to Judd at the Mountain Shoppe for donating each month's door prize.

### **New Maps of The Olympics**

New 7 1/2 minute maps of the Olympics are now available through the USGS out of Denver Colorado. There are a total of 22 maps, including the coast, available for \$2.50 each. If anyone would like more information on these maps, contact Dave Cossa at 871-5577.

### **Name and Address List**

The PWC is currently in the process of getting a new name and address list together, and distribute so that everyone will have an easier time reaching other PWC'ers.

A draft list will be available at the January meeting. Please review, and

indicate any changes that you might like to have made. We would like make the final list available to everyone at the February meeting.

### **New Members**

The PWC would like to welcome the following new members from the months of November and December.

Mary Buonanno  
Brian Capoccia  
Paul Dutky  
Bob and Patti Fitzgerald  
Bill and Wendy Webber  
Arthur Hanlon  
Loretta Jones  
Anne Kane  
Kara Kohnke  
Steve Poepoe  
Nancy Reid  
Stephen Charles Springate

### **FOR SALE**

Voit SCX/100 Stair stepper, with electronic counter, time, calories, temp and load \$100.00. Call 871-5342.

## MADE MY DAY

By Alice Savage

In late August with the promise of a few days of sun, I headed for the hills and a three day hike in the Olympics. It had been a very frustrating summer to get out in the mountains, with our uncertain weather and lack of sunshine.

Taking the Dosewallips Trail, I turned off and up the Constance Pass Trail ending up in a lovely alpine area called Sunnybrook Meadows at 5500 ft. The day was hot, the trail steep and I was more than ready to find a campsite by a little tarn. It froze that night, as I had ice on my tent in the morning, but the sky was clear, the stars brilliant and I fell asleep to the whisper of wind through the trees.

The next day I headed up to 6500 ft Del Monte Ridge with fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. Mount Rainier floated above haze in the East, Mount Olympus was close by in the West. The sun was shining but a cold wind hurried me along. I descended down through Constance Pass and on to Home Lake, a lovely tarn. The green water reflected the surrounding rocky hillside and it was alive with jumping fish. I settled down on a rock to eat lunch, soak up the sun and enjoy the solitude.

The trail descends past the lake and by the sheer walls of Inner Constance. These huge grey walls of rock are impressive as they rise above the trail which continues on to Boulder Shelter and the junction with the Upper Dungeness.

I walked on for some time but turned back in late afternoon, enjoying once more the tremendous view as I climbed back up to Del Monte Ridge and ascended down to camp. The trail is quite steep.

Sunnybrook is a huge meadow with a small stream meandering through and a tarn full of polliwogs. I spent a second night here enjoying another starlit evening, the Milky Way threading its way across the sky and the mountains outlined sharply against the darkening sky. I find it difficult to sleep with all this beauty.

A few clouds drifted in and out the next morning as I broke camp and headed down. Upon reaching the Dosewallips Trail I came upon three men. They had been in the back-country for five days and were headed out.

We chatted as we walked down the trail together and one fellow in particular seemed very familiar. I felt I should know him or had seen him somewhere. Well suddenly it dawned; he almost ran into me as I stopped and blurted out, "You are Dan Evans!". What a thrill; I was walking out of the mountains with our ex-governor.

He told me a lot of "good stuff" about the high country. He had hiked in those hills for over 50 years starting out as a boy scout. He has climbed about every mountain and hiked most of the trails. At 67 years of age, he is in excellent shape and looks like a man of 45. He did look a bit rough with five days growth of beard and he had taken a nasty fall and

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## Cougar Sightings

The following is an article from the Shelton Journal Newspaper on Cougar sightings in Washington. This article was given to us by Steve Chaffe, who is a park Ranger in Olympic National Park, and was the one who gave a presentation to us during the November meeting on the Olympic National Park.

An increased number of close encounters between cougars and humans has brought a yellow warning flag from the Washington Department of Wildlife. Dave Brittell, WDW's director of wildlife management, said close encounters of a cougar kind are at their highest levels in 20 years or more thanks to suburban sprawl and a boom in the cougar population attributed to a healthy crop of deer and elk, the cat's main sources of food.

The following encounters were reported last summer, according to an October 6 prepared statement from WDW:

- Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies killed a cougar caught in the garage of a home near Quilcene. The animal, a juvenile female, had killed a pet dog. An examination showed the cougar had been eating out of garbage cans.
- A McKenna Family was pinned down in their rural Pierce County home when a cougar spent the day in their front yard.
- A cougar challenged two hikers, killed one hunting dog and mauled two other dogs near Tunnel Creek on the Olympic Peninsula. The behavior of this animal, which showed no fear of people, caused officials to close the Tunnel Creek hiking trail for nearly a week.

- Two cougars had to be removed from Kalaloch Campground in the Olympic National Park after two pet dogs were attacked.

Steve Pozzanghera, who manages WDW programs for furbearing carnivores, said the increase frequency of sightings is happening in both eastern and western parts of the state and that most reports come from areas where people are moving into cougar habitat.

There are only four instances on the states record in which encounters between humans and cougars have resulted in attacks by the animals. The first was a fatality that occurred in Okanogan County in 1924. Another incident occurred in 1977 and two more happened last year.

"Based on these numbers, there is no basis to claim a trend in cougar attacks on humans, but sightings seemed to have increased," Pozzanghera said.

Pozzanghera, a wildlife biologist, said cougars are cautious predators who are aware of their own risk of injury. "In all but a very few cases, the cat apparently decides it's not familiar with the human as a prey, or is intimidated by the human size and stature," he said

While each situation may be different, there are a few rules which may apply to encounters with cougars:

- Move slowly. Running will cause the cougar to take more interest in you. The cats can run 30 to 40 miles per hour and for a short distance have faster acceleration than a small car.

- Don't Make it a contest. The animals instinct is to flee or fight. It prefers to flee.
- Try to appear larger than you really are. If you are sitting, stand up slowly. Raise your arms or even hold a jacket between your outstretched arms to present a bigger profile.
- Talk to the cat. The sound will be unfamiliar to the animal.
- Make your presence known. Travel in pairs in cougar country and make noise by talking to one another.
- Knowledge and good judgment are the best defense. Pepper mace can be effective, but it must be used at a dangerously close range. A compressed air horn is a better choice of cougar deterrents.
- Small children, because of their size and quick movement, are more likely to interest a cougar than an adult. Parents should provide extra supervision in cougar country. During an encounter with a cat, adults should lift children into their arms to present an unfamiliar profile to the animal.

Wildlife biologists predict a continuing increase in cougar sightings because more people are going into the wilderness for recreation. In addition, property development is starting to concentrate the cougar population and its prey.

WDW Director Curt Smith said loss of habitat is the main cause of increased cougar sightings. "Washington continues to lose about 30,000 acres of its habitat each year, an area almost the size of spokane. You cant keep losing this much ground and not expect wild animals to have a reaction," he said.

## **Reflection Lakes**

by Doug Savage

On Saturday, December 19th, 14 PWC members braved sunny skies and balmy temperatures to sky the Stevens Canyon Road from Paradise to Reflection Lakes. The Route is about 5 miles (round trip) with an elevation gain of 550'. Skill level is beginner to advanced beginner.

After a 2 1/2 hour drive from west Bremerton everyone was anxious to get started. Much to our surprise, the temperature at Paradise was considerably warmer than it had been back home. The recent high pressure system that had been giving us a string of sunny days had also created an inversion zone at 5500 ft.

Temperatures were well above freezing and with no wind, many of us were soon down to the lightest shell. The snow conditions were just about perfect for a "road trip".

There was approximately 12" of fresh, light, fluffy needles over a firm base.

As we descended the road to the Paradise River valley some of the party started to try their luck skiing through the trees and open country closer to the river. Turns were somewhat difficult in the powder but we all tried just the same. After 20 minutes of play we meet back on the road and continued towards the lake. Just above Narada Falls, we regrouped for a photo session. By now it was getting on the afternoon, so we hurried on to the lake.

After a leisurely lunch on the north bank of the lake we started the trip back to the parking lot. The trip back was uneventful. By this time most of us were pretty tired and were looking forward to getting back to the car. The only disadvantage of this route is that the majority of the elevation gain is on the return trip.

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had a large gash on his nose and lip. What a warm friendly man, so pleasant and interesting to talk with.

Upon reaching the trailhead, I took a picture of Dan and his two friends, said goodbye and headed for my truck. They were waiting to be picked up by Dan's son.

I was on a real "high" as I drove home. Hiking with Dan Evans in the mountains really made my day.

#### Club Officers

President .....Dan Kirschbaum .....698-3684  
Vice Pres.....Helen Schwartz.....377-9822  
Secretary.....Barbara Krell .....779-3620  
Treasurer.....Kevin Kilbridge....871-2537

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