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## **Peninsula Wilderness Club Events**

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**February 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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### **Meeting** **February 14th**

#### **Cascadia Marine Trails Presentation**

The Washington Water Trails Association will present a program describing a network of trails they are developing called the Cascadia of Marine Trail. These trails will eventually extend from Olympia to Canada, consisting of some 970 miles on its way to Skagaway. Currently, the association is in the process of establishing campgrounds for paddlers to utilize. Ultimately, 200 camping areas are slated for the Puget Sound region.

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### **Upcoming PWC Events**

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#### **Hot Springs Overnight**

FEBRUARY 5-6TH; Spend a night at Olympic Hot Springs. Travel will be via skis or snowshoes (BYOS - bring your own snow?), whichever one prefers. Enjoy an evening in the springs and camping on snow. In Doug Savage's absence, this trip is being graciously organized by his roommates. Call Chris or Brian at 698-9774.

#### **Copper Creek Ski Hut**

FEBRUARY 12-13TH; Members drawn at the January meeting to participate in the Copper Creek cross-country ski trip near Mt. Rainier will enjoy the 3 mile excursion to this spacious, cozy hut. Participants will need to remember their clothes, food, sleeping bag and eating utensils. More information is available from Lynn Howatt at 598-3087 or Jim Drannan at 479-4171.

#### **Winterfest 1994**

FEBRUARY 19-21ST; The 1994 PWC Winterfest at Mt. Rainier is fast approaching. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, socializing, and just plain relaxing is enjoyed by many members at this annual occasion. Those attending are encouraged to bring games, snack foods, and/or beverages (Longmire allows alcohol consumption within the recreation room) for the nightly fire-side socials. Currently, all the PWC-reserved rooms at Longmire have been claimed. If you are an individual holding a Longmire reservation and are seeking a person to share the room, or are a member willing to bunk with a reservation holder, contact Teresa Miller at 373-6781. Longmire reservations may be canceled within the last 72 hours.

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- Longmire continued from page 1 -

If you must cancel your reservation at Longmire in the upcoming weeks before the event, please call Teresa so she can notify those seeking last minute lodging of the possible vacancy. Other nearby lodging facilities to consider are the Nisqually Lodge at (206)569-8804 or the Ashland Bunkhouse at (206)569-2312.

### **Learn to Turn Class**

FEBRUARY 26TH; Dale Boyle will be giving a free "Learn to Turn" telemark class at Crystal Mountain. This will be a beginners' class on the "bunny slopes". If there is enough interest, Dale will present an advanced telemark class. Call Dale at 792-1714 for more information.

### **Green Mountain Hike**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH; Charlie Pomfret will spend the day on the Green Mountain trail system. The exact route to the summit of Green Mountain has not been chosen yet, but will be long enough to make it worth your while.. If you would like to take advantage of this nearby recreation site, call Charlie at 479-7820.

### **Igloo Building**

MARCH 5-6TH; This annual weekend event at Mt. Rainier teaches members the basics in constructing igloos, and affords an opportunity for the adventurous to camp overnight in their newly built, frosty abodes. Chris Hildebrand is the point of contact for this event, 698-9774.

### **Sno Bowl Ski Hut II**

MARCH 19-20TH; The PWC has reserved the Sno Bowl Ski Hut near Mt. Rainier for a second excursion this winter. This is an intermediate level ski trip, about 4 miles to the hut over snow-covered (hopefully) roads. The area around the hut affords many skiing opportunities over roads and open bowls. The hut is equipped with sleeping pads, a wood stove for heat, propane lantern, and a propane cooking stove. This hut houses 8 people. If more than eight individuals are interested, a drawing will take place at the February meeting to decide participants and alternates. If selected, members must immediately provide a \$25 deposit (which is fully refunded after the trip if reservations are fulfilled) to hold their spots. For more information, call Lynn Howatt at 598-3087 or Jim Drannan at 479-4171. Lynn and Jim must have your name by the February meeting to enter it in the drawing. If you cannot attend the meeting make sure you've contacted them prior to the drawing.

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

MARCH 26-27TH; Join Brian Steely for the 3rd "Almost Annual" Ptarmigan Ridge ski in. Call Brian for more details at 373-6494.



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## **Cossa's Canyon Escapes**

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Dave Cossa is again organizing fun-filled adventures in the Grand Canyon National Park. Participants in Dave's previous hikes always return from these expeditions with shining reviews and interesting tales. If you would like to participate in either of the Canyon trips discussed below, contact Dave at 871-5577.



### **HAVASU CANYON**

MARCH 14-18TH; The plan is to fly to Las Vegas on March 13th, rent a car, and drive to Kingman, Arizona. On the 14th, the group will drive to the edge of the canyon and hike 7 miles to Supai, an indian village on the Havasupai Indian Reservation, a drop of 2000 feet. Day hikes to the Colorado River, Mooney Falls, etc. will be made from the campground.

### **GRAND CANYON**

APRIL 17-24TH; The group will fly to Las Vegas on April 16th, rent a car, and drive to Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim, where a night will be spent at one of the lodges. The next 7 days and 6 nights will be spent hiking down to the river, along the river for 15 to 20 miles, and out on the Horseshoe Mesa Trail. Cost is approximately \$500 per person.

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## **This - and - That**

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### **February Potluck**

FEBRUARY 25TH; Bert and Diana Cripe will host the February potluck at their home in the Port Orchard area. Friday night potlucks begin at 6:30 pm and provide terrific opportunities to meet and socialize with members in a smaller, friendly atmosphere. For more information and directions to the Cripes' home, call 674-2780.

### **Interested Members Meeting**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH; This month's interested members meeting will be held at Kathy and Joe Weigel's Port Orchard home, beginning at 7:00 pm. This monthly meeting is a gathering of individuals who plan future projects and upcoming trips for the club. If you have an idea, want to sponsor an activity, or are a member looking to become more involved, this is a great chance to meet people and contribute to the PWC.

### **January Door Prize**

Congratulations to Jim White for being the lucky person to have his name drawn as the winner of the January door prize. The Candle Lantern will provide a great source of light (and heat) for those backcountry outings. Many Thanks to the Mt. Constance Mt. Shoppe for each month's door prize.

## **1994 Ski-To-Sea**

Gail Dionne is beginning early organization for 1994 Ski-To-Sea. This annual event is held over Memorial Day weekend (typically Sunday), and consists of competitive, as well as, recreational teams traveling from Mt. Baker to Bellingham Bay via a relay of activities including downhill and cross-country skiing, tour and mountain biking, running, canoeing, and kayaking. If you would like to participate in this event contact Gail at 692-4471.

## **Jimmie Heuga Ski Express**

PWC'er, Gail Dionne, will be part of a three member team participating in the Jimmie Heuga Ski Express on February 26th at Crystal Mountain. The event is a fundraiser to benefit programs which teach handicapped people to ski. The challenge consists of four hours of skiing, logging in accumulations of vertical feet of elevation, followed by a dual slalom race in the afternoon. Gail is seeking pledges, which can be made as a flat amount or a rate per 1000 feet of vertical elevation. If you would like to support Gail's effort, contact her at 692-4471.

## **OMR NEEDS YOU**

Do you have mountaineering experience? Do you have a little spare time? Would you like to join OMR - Olympic Mountain Rescue? Then call Sonya Boyle at 792-1714 for more information. The meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, in the Westgate Community Hall, 1550 Rocky Point Rd, Bremerton.

## **New Members**

The PWC would like to welcome the following new members and returnees for the month of January.

Russ and Ramona Childers  
Pat Gleason  
Dennis Hovorka  
Barry D. Johnson  
Marilyn Johnson  
Mark Kirchner  
David Slater

## **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.

### **For Sale:**

Ski Carrier - gutter mount, locking. \$35.00.  
Call 876-5718.

X-Country Ski Boots - Women's Merrial  
"Rainier" size 8 1/2, 3 hole clip, thinsulate.  
Worn by beginner for 3 seasons. Very good  
shape. \$50.00  
Call 876-5718.

## **HALLOWEEN WEEKEND AT UPPER LENA LAKE**

By Chris Hildebrand

It was an extremely foggy morning. As I headed to the meeting sight I began to wonder just how many people would be there ready to brave the unknown elements at the trailhead. To my surprise, all of us made it to one church or another, although Kurt hiked by himself since he waited at a church other than the one designated as the meeting site. My camping partner arrived to give me the water purifier and let me know that Doug's party the night before had taken its toll on his body.

By 9:00 we were on the road heading to the trailhead near the Hamma Hamma River. The weather was still somewhat foggy, but as we headed up the forest service road the fog started to lift. When we reached the trailhead the fog was gone and the mercury had risen to around 50 degrees. By my standard we were off to a great start. It was also a surprise to find so many vehicles at the parking lot so late in the camping season. The four of us (myself, Bill Boileau, Fred and his son David Burkhart) got into our hiking attire and proceeded up the trail. We noticed that the park had recently put in new handrails along the bank of several switchbacks and cleared the path so that it was wide enough for people to hike side by side for long stretches.

We didn't run into any of nature's wild creatures, but when we reached the first bridge we found one of the Park Service's contractors hard at work building a replacement bridge over a small creek. We continued up the trail toward Lower Lena Lake where we stopped on top of the

monolith which overlooks the lake for our first break, about an hour and a half up the trail. We saw several campers on the opposite side of the lake, and I began to think that we might have the upper lake all to ourselves. This is where the "sidewalk" ended and the trail began.

As we headed toward the upper lake, the trail immediately narrowed to a footpath which was noticeably steeper. To this point, the first 2.5 miles, we had gained only 800 feet of the 3500 feet of elevation. With 5 miles to go we had our work cut out for us. About an hour above the intersection for Lower Lena Lake we came across a swampy section of the trail that was covered with split log "rafts" that nature had been devouring for about 30 years. They were very slick, but we managed to pass with the greatest of finesse.

Our next break was on a ledge that provided an awesome view of the valley that we had been ascending. We could still see a bank of fog in the distance. The break had to be short as we cooled off fast while sipping from our water jugs. We continued onward and upward over the ledges of boulders and roots. We passed two trees that were on opposite sides of the trail, and on the inside of both trees someone had chopped out a two foot long patch about three inches into each tree. When I looked up toward the top of these scarred trees, it appeared as if they were leaning in to touch each other. I really wonder what the individual(s) had in mind when they were carving on these live trees.

*- Lena Lake Cont. on Page 6 -*

The path was remaining fairly steep. It was steep enough that we slowed down every couple of switchbacks to allow our hearts to catch up to us. We found the "stoves only..." sign and just as Woods describes in his book, there is some engraving in the lower left hand corner that says "1 mile up". We made it to the top of the ridge just above the lake in four and a quarter hours. The lake looked incredible, although we could see clouds in the distance to the west of us. I have to disagree with what Woods says in his book about the last mile being the hardest. I thought the mile before the sign was the hardest with all of the ledges that have to be climbed over, but to each his own. We proceeded to the right to find a campsite for the night only to be disappointed when we reached the grass covered point. The no camping sign was posted to allow nature and the park to revegetate. (Unfortunately, someone else didn't obey the sign on the following weekend, but that's another story.) We hiked back the way we came and then we went to the left side and across the creek toward Mt. Bretherton.

After setting up camp, Bill and I decided to check out the trail to Mt. Bretherton since we were committed to climbing Mt. Lena the next day. Our adventure began when we realized that we had ended up on the wrong side of Milk Lake, the steep side, or the North side. We decided to head toward our objective, Mt. Bretherton. We crossed over to the southern side of the valley at the base of the Bretherton Glacier (not shown on the topographic map). We headed up the steep scree slope in our attempt to attain the southern ridge line.

We followed what could have been a trail in places, and probably was a marmot or goat trail. After about an hour we reached an impasse of sorts and we had run out of our allotted amount of time to allow us to make it back to camp before dark, so we turned back. On the way back we saw Fred and David who were on their way to the glacier. Bill and I waved down. Instead of the gentle path that we took on the way up, we took the direct route straight down the scree. We decided it would be easier to hike on the glacier than in the scree along the glacier. It would have been nice to have crampons, but we made it off the glacier and checked out one of the ice caves.

The cave was impressive. It was tall enough that we could walk upright for about 20 feet. It appeared as if the roof of the cave was only a foot thick, and that our decision to hike across the glacier could have been a bad choice. We left the cave and headed for camp to prepare our dinner. We left Fred and David exploring the ice caves, and they informed us that Kurt had made it to the campsite. When we arrived back at camp we bundled up, since it felt like the temperature had dropped into the thirties, and prepared our dinner. We woke Kurt from his much needed nap after dinner and we stayed up as long as we could awaiting the full moon and hoping that the clouds that had moved in would not rain on us.

After the day's hiking it didn't take long for sleep to set in. I awoke around midnight to find that it was pouring outside. Thank goodness I was not experiencing one of those, all too common, urges to leave the

tent. The noise of the rain managed to lull me back to sleep. This brief interlude of rest was to be broken by something that I couldn't quite grasp at first. Wait - it was light outside, and I didn't feel all that rested. I checked my watch only to find that it was 2:00 a.m. and it was the full moon that had awakened me. This I had to go outside and see; it was incredible! The clouds had disappeared and the moonlight was shimmering on the lake. It was sad that I had to crawl back into the tent and get some shut-eye before Sunday's adventure began.

The Sunday sunshine was a boost to our moral. It was around 36 degrees. We prepared a quick breakfast in order to hit the trail as soon as possible. We departed camp around 8:00 a.m. and headed for Mt. Lena. There was a considerable amount of dew on the brush, as we discovered when we left the side of the lake following a creek up the slopes of Mt. Lena. This was fairly straight forward as we could see the summit from time to time and adjust our course accordingly. As we approached the summit we found the frostline above the trees (halfway to the top). This made our travel a little slower since we were cautiously picking our footing in the scree which was a little bit more solid with the frost/freezing rain, but a little slick at the same time. We reached the summit (5995 feet) in an hour and a half. We found ice pellets at the summit, probably from the rain that fell on us around midnight. The trip back was uneventful other than the fact that we took a different route back until we reached the swampy lower slopes of the mountain.

At this point two members of the expedition decided to pack up and head out. It was about 10:30 a.m., the remaining three of us evaluated the topographic map for the Mt. Bretherton area and decided that we could theoretically make it to the top, back to camp, and out before dark, especially with the knowledge of which way NOT to go from the previous evening. We departed camp just before 11:00 a.m. At the head of Milk Lake we took our bearing and decided on the northern route which was obvious from this vantage point. When we had climbed up about 500 feet and looked back at Upper Lena Lake. The lake looked like an arrowhead pointing up the trail. We attained the ridge line and followed it until we came to what looked like a giant wall. It looked as if it could be climbed if we had more time, and the mountain certainly didn't look as easy as the guide books claimed. It dawned on me that we might be able to head down and to the right of this wall, and the assumption was correct as I found signs of a trail. We followed the path along the wall and through the brush, until we reached the ridge line again. We did some very easy walking across boulders and reached our goal, the summit (5940 feet). The clouds had been moving in while we were hiking and it started to lightly snow while we were eating our lunch. We logged in and scrambled back down as we were about to run out of our allotted time. It was 12:30 pm.

We made it back to camp and packed our gear in a hurry so we could stay right on schedule with getting out before dark. We walked as fast as we could and we jogged in spots when the trail flattened out. We got to



*- Lena Lake Cont. From Page 7 -*

the first bridge (when going up the trail) and the forest service contractor was finishing up his work for the day. We continued heading down the trail, and in about 20 minutes the contractor passed us on his motorcycle. We got out in two and a half

hours, an average of 20 minute miles, just before it started to get too dark to travel without a flashlight.

**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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