

Penwicle

Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

September 1994

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
September 12th**

Paddling and Packing in the Pacific Northwest

Lowell Jons will be presenting a slide show on kayaking and backpacking in the Pacific Northwest at the September Monday night meeting. The presentation will be accompanied by live music provided by Joe Breskin.

Upcoming Events

Mt. Olympus

SEPTEMBER 1st thru 6th; Barry Johnson and John Elsworth are organizing a climb of Mt. Olympus. This climb requires glacier experience (ice axe, crampons, etc.). They have six people already committed and are looking for another six to round out their rope teams. This promises to be an exhilarating adventure. John says, "If we can kill a deer, we may never come back!" To join in, call Barry at 373-5334, or John at 698-7120.



Thousand Acre Meadows

SEPTEMBER 3rd thru 5th; Doug Savage is hiking up the Dosewallips River into Thousand Acre Meadows. It is about 15 miles and 3700 feet of elevation gain along varied and enjoyable trail to the lush beauty of Thousand Acre Meadows. Wildlife should be abundant and vegetation diverse. Contact Doug at 698-9774.

Weekend at Larrabee Beach

WEEKEND of SEPTEMBER 10th & 11th; Bill Boileau is organizing a weekend at Larrabee Beach near Bellingham. This location provides recreationists with a variety of options, including rock climbing and hiking. The nearby night life in Bellingham may tempt those thrillseekers with energy left over from the day's activities. Bill is also looking for a few experienced people to assist in the rock climbing activities. Call Bill at 613-5263.

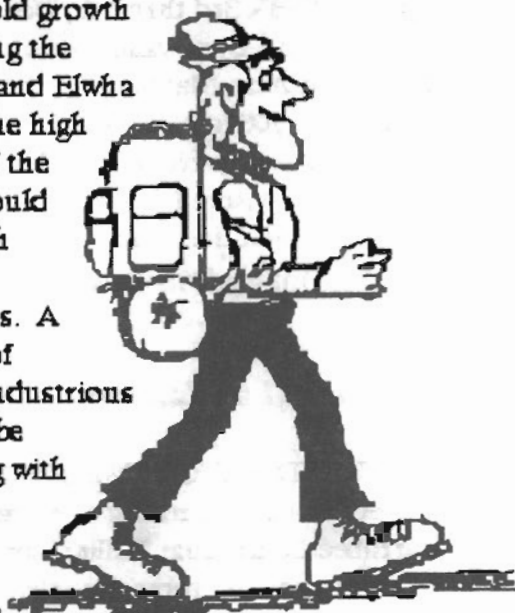
Mt. Rainier Climb

WEEKEND of SEPTEMBER 10th & 11th; John Elsworth is making a last attempt at Mt. Rainier. Participants will meet at Paradise at 2:00 pm on Friday and will travel up the Muir Route. Climbers must have glacier experience. To join John, contact him at 698-7120.

- PWC events continued from page 1 -

Four Pass Hike

SEPTEMBER 17th thru 21st; Doug Savage and Joe Weigel are planning a four pass hike from Obstruction Point out the Elwha River. The trip is approximately 42 miles long and crosses over Grand, Cameron, Lost and Hayden Passes. Hikers will enjoy beautiful old growth forest along the Cameron and Elwha Rivers. The high country of the passes should afford lush fields of wildflowers. A plethora of friendly, industrious bears will be competing with hikers for berries in the



Thousand Acre Meadows. To join in this excursion, call Doug at 698-9774 or Joe at 871-0291.

Rhinestone Meadows Day Hike

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th; Join Don Paulson and Kathy Mahan for a leisurely day hike to Rhinestone Meadows along Heather Creek. It is 9 miles round-trip with very little elevation gain. The trail meanders through groves of fir trees and grassy patches. Bring a lunch and enjoy a beautiful late summer day in the Olympics. The group size will be limited to 12 people, so call Don early at 830-2212.

Mildred Lakes Day-Hike

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th; Charlie Pomfret will be day hiking to Mildred Lakes. These three lakes, formed by a glacier from the looming Sawtooth Range, are a little over five miles from the trailhead. The elevation gain is about 2100 feet, with some particularly steep sections which are mercifully short. Hikers will pass through areas of both second growth and virgin forest to get to these beautiful lakes overlooked by Mt. Lincoln, Mt. Cruiser and Alpha. Call Charlie at 479-7820.

Hike to Harrison Lake

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th; Bert Cripe is organizing a day hike to Harrison Lake via Tunnel Creek. This is a 7.4 mile round trip venture with 2100 feet of elevation gain. Hikers meander through old-growth western hemlock and silver fir on their way to the Twin Lakes, Harrison and Karnes. To join Bert for an enjoyable day in the woods, call 895-4299.

October Trips

Autumn Rock Climbing

OCTOBER 1st and 2nd; Back By Popular Demand! Brad Albro and Skip McKenzie have agreed to hold another beginning level rock climbing seminar at Leavenworth this year. Because of the Rat Creek fires we will be going to Phashastan Pinnacles instead of Icicle Creek. Rock shoes are a must for this sandstone/friction class. We will have to camp out in a state park (Brad's cabin was lost in the fire). Size is limited to 15 people. To sign up contact Doug Savage at 698-9774.

- More October trips on page 3 -

- October trips continued from page 2 -

Mt. Anderson

OCTOBER 8th, 9th & 10th; John Elsworth is climbing Mt. Anderson via the Dosewallips trail. It is a 12 mile hike into Mt. Anderson. There will be about 5 miles of late day travel on Friday, October 7th to the first camp. The plan is to summit on the 9th and come out on the 10th. Some glacier travel is required. Call John at 698-7120 to see if you qualify for this adventure.

Day Hike to Deer Lake

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th; Steve Vittori will be leading a day hike up the Canyon Creek Trail to Deer Lake near Soleduck. This is 6.2 mile (round trip) route with 1500 feet of elevation gain. The trail is through western hemlock and Douglas-fir with a variety of plants covering the forest floor. To join Steve, call him at 377-1869.

Upper Lena Lake Weekend

WEEKEND of OCTOBER 22nd & 23rd; Chris Hildebrand is heading to Upper Lena Lake. Hikers will have the option of tackling the additional challenges of climbing nearby Mt. Lena and Mt. Bretherton. It is 7.5 miles with 3800 feet of elevation to this beautiful and tranquil lake; it is well worth the effort. Contact Chris at 698-9774.

Mt. Buckhorn

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th; Bill Boileau will climb the twin peaks of Mt. Buckhorn, located just northeast of Marmot Pass in the Quilcene region of the Olympics. It is approximately 5 miles into Mt. Buckhorn. The peaks are rated as class 2 and 3 climbs. Call Bill at 613-5263.

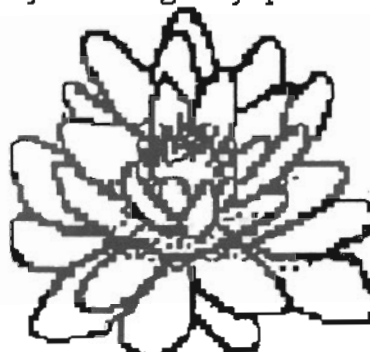
Theler Wetlands Hike

by Steve Vittori

Our cozy group hiked at Theler Wetlands, near Belfair, in June. The area has a main trail and a spur, each following an out-and-back route. We took the spur first, along a boardwalk, and faced the receded salt water of Hood Canal at low tide. The Great Bend of the Canal spread out before us, but clouds shrouded the Olympics. We then doubled back to join the main gravel trail which followed the bank of the Union River.

Birds offered the most visible wildlife, with many swallows and mallards. Cedars and firs and salt and fresh water grasses were packed along the four miles of trails. Occasional interpretive signs explained the history and dynamics of the wetlands.

Theler Wetlands is about 30 minutes from Bremerton. Its distance and terrain is good for kids. By the time they ask if you're there yet, you are. For longer attention spans, bring binoculars, cameras and field guides. And if you don't want to rush back to that yard work, make time for the pizza joint or a greasy spoon in Belfair.



This and That

Interested Members Meeting & Picnic

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th; Kathy Mahan and Don Paulson will be hosting this month's interested members meeting at beautiful Miami Beach in Seabeck. Weather permitting, come early and bring a picnic dinner to enjoy along the beach. Don and Kathy will provide beverages and dessert. Club business will commence about 7:00 pm. Maps will be distributed at the next Monday meeting. For more information contact Kathy at 830-9077 or Don at 830-2212.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th; There will be a potluck/bonfire at June Cotner's home in Poulsbo beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite dish and any musical instruments. We'll share food, then good times (and singing) around the bonfire pit. Call June for directions at 697-9497.



Fall is coming, and so too is the annual election of PWC officers. Joyce Kimmel has volunteered to head a nominating committee which will answer questions regarding the positions and take names of interested members. Nominations are announced in October; elections are held in November; and, new officers assume their positions in January. If you are interested in running for an office or know a member who you feel is a good candidate, contact Joyce at 876-1497, or Lynn Howat at 598-3087.



Deadline for Member Slide Show Approaching

The September meeting (September 12th) is the deadline for adding your name to the list of club members who will be showing a few of their favorite slides from their own outdoor experiences during the November club meeting. If you don't take slide film, please do NOT exclude yourself from this event. Print film can be successfully converted into slide images. People with prints requiring conversion may be able to collaborate with other members in a group submittal in order to minimize the cost of conversion to slides. Discuss your options with the project coordinator, T. J. Elsworth.

T. J. will be taking the names of people who would like to show 5 to 10 of their favorite images. If you would like to participate, whether you already have slides or need prints converted, contact T. J. at 698-7120 NO LATER THAN the September meeting (September 12th).

See the related meeting notice on page 5 of this newsletter.



New Refreshments Coordinator

Tony Abruzzo has stepped forward and volunteered to serve as the club's refreshments coordinator. He will be looking for people to bring treats in for the monthly meeting. You can reach Tony at 871-5754. Thanks Tony!

Misc Outings, Meetings & News

Sunday Strolls

MONTHLY SUNDAY STROLLS; Becky and Teddy Wiles are organizing monthly Sunday walks through the Belfair Wetlands. The Sundays are: September 18th, October 16th, November 20th and December 18th. The group will meet at 2:00 pm and stroll the wetlands to watch the seasons change. This is an excellent activity for families, seniors and the 'Easy at Heart'. There is no elevation gain. Contact Becky or Teddy at 876-5718.

Montana Ski Excursion

MARCH 2nd THRU 6th, 1995; Chris Bell is organizing a ski vacation to Whitefish, Montana via Amtrak. The group will catch the train around 5:00 pm in Seattle on Thursday the 2nd and arrive in Whitefish about 6:00 am the next morning. Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be filled with downhill and/or cross-country skiing, as well as, general merry-making. Tired winter sports enthusiasts will board the Amtrak Sunday evening and head back for Seattle, where they will arrive Monday morning. The

cost per person should be around \$350

excluding food and drink.

This fun-packed adventure takes some pre-planning, so

call Chris early at 876-4800.



Members Slide Show Organizational Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th; T. J. Elsworth is hosting a meeting at her home to do organization for the November meeting Member's Slide Show. See the related notice on page 4 of this issue, and call T. J. at 698-7120 for meeting details.

August Cook-Off Winners

Winners of Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe gift certificates in the August Cook-off were:

In the Dinner/Breakfast category:

- 1st Carol Cobb, Pine Nut Pasta
- 2nd Lynn Howat, Banana Apricot Nut Bread
- 3rd Teresa Miller, Italian Mushrooms & Chicken
- 4th Carol Cobb, Spicy Chicken Couscous
- Honorable Mentions Paul Genaux, Tortellini and Irena Reynolds, Linguine Spicy Pasta

In the Lunch/Snack category:

- 1st Kathy Mahan, Nutty Black N' Blue Cracker
- 2nd Kathy Mahan, Pretty Corny Muffins
- 3rd Carol Cobb, Gourmet Gorp
- 4th Kathy Weigel, Day Hike Lunch
- Honorable Mentions Teresa Miller, Apple Blossom Bagels and Terry Rudensay, Golden Carrot Oatmeal Cookies

Kathy Mahan, Pat Kirschbaum, Diana Cripe and Teresa Miller, with help from Judy Guttormsen, will be compiling a booklet of the winning cook-off recipes of the last three years for distribution to interested club members sometime in the future.

Trail Finding 101

by B. R. Lowe

Roger and I had been talking a high lakes fishing trip for some time, and now is the time and the destination is Goat Lake in the Olympic Mountains. He had been there twice before with no luck. The water is crystal clear and you can see the fish, but they had snubbed his bait and bruised his fishing ego somewhat, requiring a re-match. He assured me he knew the trail and it was only a two or three hour climb from the easy walking Dungeness River Trail. A cursory glance at the topo map cast some doubt on the statement, but I was hooked with visions of mountain trout swimming before me.

Wednesday morning Roger was punctual, as usual, and it was off to my favorite 1940's diner in Poulsbo Junction for breakfast. After a fine meal of pancakes, poached eggs and ham, we were on our way. The diner opens at 0530 and provides the mostest and bestest food in town at great prices. Try it if you're lucky enough to find an open seat.

After what seemed a very short drive, we made trailhead and headed out with our forty pound packs, knee britches and boondockers labelling us as competent thinking mountaineers.

The trail along the river is cool and scenic and we were soon at Campy Handy. We lunched and discussed the remainder of the trip, to the extent there was 'a' trail alongside of 'a' creek that went straight up to the lake. From the

river we could see a wash at about 4000 feet and felt the creek was probably associated with it. At any rate, everything was westerly and upward and getting lost was not a problem.

After some searching, we found a cedar tree properly placed and forded the river with dry feet. We headed out expecting to find the creek and trail very shortly. Our departure elevation was 3000 feet.

Very soon we were climbing wooded slopes of 25 plus degrees. Always heading uphill and in a general westerly direction, we veered first to the north and then to the south and back again, searching for the creek and trail. We finally located a creek to the north, but there was no trail. We believed it to be the one shown on the topo north of our entry point, which placed us about one mile out of position. We certainly weren't lost, but we sure weren't where we wanted to be. With an elevation, it provided a rough point of reference and we adjusted our line of travel.

We took a course to the south and west and at about 4800 feet the trees thinned and we were able to take a bearing on West Buckhorn Peak. With an elevation we located ourselves about 1/4 mile to the north of the trail. We set an onward and upward converging course and finally made intersect with the trail at 5300 feet.

The last 600 feet were better, but not much, as lugging a forty pound pack up steep wooded slopes for several miles does tend to wear on you. Our arrival at the lake was the end of an odyssey of 3000 vertical feet and three plus miles of 25 plus degeed slopes. I was sure glad it was over.

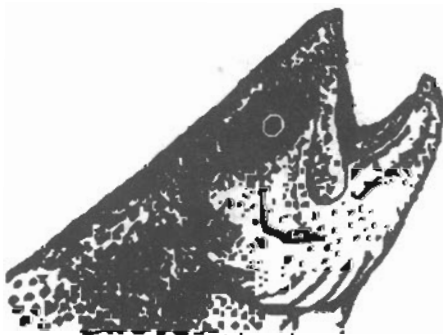
- Continued on page 7 -

- Trail Finding 101 continued from page 6 -

The lake was everything Roger had said; it was crystal clear and there was supper swimming around. We were moving kind of slow so we rested and fished, had supper and rested, and fished some more with not even a nibble. Toward the end of the day I broke the jinx and caught a nice rainbow. We vowed to fish again at first light and I turned in with Roger still beating the water in frustration.

Our sleeping accommodations were bivy sacks and air mattresses and it felt better than the finest bed. Sometime after midnight I awoke to the most stupendous sight I have seen in years - no lights of civilization, no moon, no clouds, and a jillion stars. I lay there and tried to remember all the constellations I had known at one time. I didn't do too well, but that was all right. The Big Dipper and the North Star were in their proper place and our Milky Way galaxy reached from horizon to horizon. As I drifted back to sleep I was thinking how these few minutes were worth all the effort of the previous day.

Shortly after five o'clock I awoke to the sound of a fish stirring the water, and there was Roger a-fishing and a-grinning. He proudly announced four casts and three fish and continued the attack - goodbye jinx! If grinning were painful he would have been in pure agony.



It didn't seem worthwhile to get up and fish, as we had our limit and only needed one more for breakfast. I tried anyway, with no luck, and soon gave it up for a breakfast of oatmeal and muffins. Roger soon joined me as the bite had stopped, but he put out his favorite bait on a set line and darned if a fish didn't volunteer to join us for breakfast.

Roger cleaned the fish and I packed them in a snow bank to chill while he cooked a second breakfast of trout, potatoes and onions. As Mr. Bud says, 'It don't get any better than this.'

After breakfast we did a leisurely pack up and enjoyed the area for a while longer. Soon it was time to depart and we left vowing to mark the trail at the bottom so no other lost soul would wander the mountain endlessly.

The trail was very steep and in a couple of places it was hands and feet. On the way down we made sure the creek stayed where it was supposed to be. It soon became obvious why we had not made the trail in our southerly meanderings. There was a very large, steep and heavily wooded ravine (tangled mess) between the trail and where we had wandered. At about 3500 feet the creek reduced significantly in size and by 3300 feet had disappeared completely. If mountains could laugh, this one would be rolling in the aisles about now, as it became clear what had happened. The darned creek had gone underground so high up we hadn't spotted it, and the ravine had blocked our way higher up. I couldn't help but laugh at us mountaineers myself.

- Concluded on page 9 -

High Country Confusion

by Tina Morris a.k.a. "Fearless Tina"

Hi. My name is Tina Morris. I am a member of the club through my parents, John and Gerry Stamm, and have been going on trips with the club since last summer. I took the mountaineering class through Olympic College this spring, and, boy, am I glad I did! This weekend I put to use the knowledge I gained in the class. Let me tell you the story:

My friend Jeff and I planned to hike the high country traverse joining the Boulder Creek and Appleton Pass trails (beginning at the Elwha Ranger Station). The traverse is explained in the "Olympic Climbing Guide", and my friend, Jeff, had attempted this traverse last year but couldn't find the trail. So, we set off early Saturday morning with the intentions of getting back early on Sunday so that I could play in my church league softball game at 6:00 pm. No problem, right?!

Saturday went relatively smoothly, once we found the trail. Our planned campsite was at Blue Lake. The game trail we found took us right there, building our confidence more than it should have; it was too easy. We set up camp, ate, got eaten (I don't think the mosquitoes had been fed in weeks, so they feasted on me!), and went to sleep with the intentions of getting up early and finishing the traverse with the same amount of ease as the first day. We'd just follow the game trails, right?!

Getting up and out of camp was easy; the mosquitoes hurried us along. We left Blue Lake at 7:30 am, and our goal of getting to the truck by 2:00 pm seemed realistic. The book goes into great detail for this part of the traverse - all of three sentences. We hit Mud Lake and the game trail just "disappeared". So we pulled out the map, compass, and altimeter.

We are both Civil Engineers, and were perhaps overconfident in our map and compass skills. We pointed and said, "That way!", put away the compass and map, and were off.

We headed down the ridge toward the river and, when it was no longer avoidable, we bushwhacked. Now, if we had done it right, we should have hit the trail before or at the river. We were standing at the river looking up another steep ridge thinking, "This doesn't seem right." I pulled out the map and compass while Jeff pumped water, and we were definitely not where we were supposed to be. I wasn't really sure where we were. Jeff, at this point, was slightly panicked.

We began to climb the other ridge, knowing that we had to get high in order to see the skyline and apply what I learned in class regarding backreading the compass on other peaks. Up, up, and up we went, bushwhacking, all the while Jeff was getting more panicky and making me nervous by doing so.

- Continued on page 9 -



- High Country Confusion cont. from page 8 -

We finally got to an area where we could see Mt. Olympus and another ridge. We located the general area where we might be on our maps and headed east toward where the trail should be. This time we did not put our compasses and maps away; we learned our lesson.



After a few more hours of bushwhacking we saw a lake that Jeff said looked familiar. So down, down, to the lake we went, bushwhacking and being careful not to get cliffed out.

At the lake we were not getting our hopes up. In fact, I was getting ready to pull my whistle out when Jeff started screaming, 'I found it!!' We were so happy I almost cried. It was 5:30 pm; we had been admittedly lost for eight hours. I had accepted that I was going to miss the softball game some time before, and we finally saw something of great comfort other than the trail - people. They confirmed that we were on the Appleton Pass trail. We finally made it to the truck by 8:00 pm, just as the rain started to fall. At the Elwha Ranger Station I immediately called my mother, who is a worry-wart by nature, and probably had already notified Olympic Mountain Rescue of our late arrival. (Luckily, she had not.)

In conclusion - What an adventure!! Not one I care to repeat too soon, that is for sure. But, looking back, I know that if we had to, we could have comfortably spent two more days in the woods with what we had in our packs. For sure we would have found the trail in two days, but that was only if we HAD to. I now know that it is possible to get lost; it can happen to me; and, I am very glad that with the combination of a little skill and a lot of luck I can be here at the computer writing this today and not in the woods still looking for the trail.

- Trail Finding 101 continued from page 7 -

We had lunch at Camp Handy and rested for a short while. We were two tired hikers. About half way to the trailhead we stopped for a short rest in a cool spot by the river and both of us promptly fell asleep. After a few minutes we awoke and reluctantly continued on.



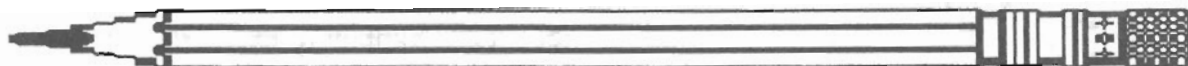
The ride home lasted forever, but a shower, supper and bed by seven o'clock made for a happy camper the next day.

P.S. If anyone had proposed a trip with these climbing conditions and this much effort, there is no way I would have agreed to go. However, now that it is completed and was enjoyed so much, I'm very glad I went.

Newsletter Contributions

Articles, trip reports, interviews, announcements, etc for the PENWICKLE can be sent to: Teresa Miller, P.O. Box 3163, Bremerton, WA 98310; Or, phone 373-6781. Please include your name and telephone number with your submittals.

A small group of members spends a few hours in the evening near the end of each month assembling and preparing the newsletter for mailing. If you would like to help out, contact Doug Savage at 698-9774.



Club Officers

President.....Dan Kirschbaum.....698-3684
Vice Pres.....Helen Schwartz.....377-9822
Secretary.....Pat Kirschbaum.....698-3684
Treasurer.....Kevin Kilbridge.....871-2537

Miscellaneous Staff

Editor.....Teresa Miller.....373-6781
Contributors.....H.Schwartz.....D.Savage...
Entertainment.....Joe Weigel.....871-0291
Refreshments.....Tony Abruzzo.....871-5754

Reproduced Using Recycled Paper

Peninsula Wilderness Club
P.O. Box 323
Bremerton, WA 98310-0070

