

# Penwicle

## Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

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### October 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 October 10th

### Paragliding!

Bill Armstrong will introduce the sport of paragliding which is rapidly growing in popularity in the United States with a current estimate of over 3,000 certified pilots. Paragliding is commonly teamed with the sport of mountain climbing. Bill will show a film and a slide presentation on paragliding in Europe and the U.S.

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## Upcoming Events

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### Autumn Rock Climbing

OCTOBER 1st and 2nd; Back By Popular Demand! Brad Alkro and Skip McKenzie are holding another beginning level rock climbing seminar at Leavenworth. Because of the Rat Creek fires climbing will be at Phastastan Pinnacles instead of Icicle Creek. Rock shoes are a must for this sandstone/friction class. Members will camp 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.

### Dry Creek Trail Clean-up

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd; Joe Weigel and Kevin Kilbridge are helping to finish the top half of a trail clean-up on the Dry Creek Trail near Lake Cushman. This effort is sponsored by the Washington Trails Association in conjunction with the federal government. The work will be primarily brushing with minor log and water projects. Tools will be provided. To join contact Joe at 871-0291.

### 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. There will also be a group leaving Saturday morning. Those wishing to hike only are welcome to Honeymoon Meadows, where T.J. Elsworth will be reigning over Saturday evening camp entertainment and fun. John plans to take climbers to the summit on the 9th. Some glacier travel is required for those participating in the climbing portion of the weekend. Call John at 698-7120.



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## 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.

## Aurora Springs Trail Clean-up

WEEKEND of OCTOBER 22nd and 23rd; Doug Savage is seeking volunteers to help the Park Service clean the Aurora Springs Trail near Lake Crescent. The Park will host volunteers at the Olympic Institute bunkhouses. Bring fixins' for a Saturday night barbeque. There will be NO chainsaws on this trail; volunteers are asked to bring their own brushing equipment. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774 for more information.



## 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.

## Deer Park - Obstruction Pt

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd; Lynn Howat and Joyce Kimmel are hiking the Deer Park - Obstruction Point trail. They will be leading two groups from opposite trailheads so that car keys can be swapped in passing, making it an 8 mile trip with only moderate elevation gain. This is primarily a ridge hike with wide open vistas. You can reach Lynn for the Obstruction Point to Deer Lake path at 598-3087, and Joyce for the Deer Park to Obstruction Point route at 876-1497.

## 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.

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## This and That

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### Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th; October's interested members meeting will be held at Doug Savage's house. Here, club business issues and activity ideas will be discussed. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet others in a small setting. BRING YOUR FALL TRIP IDEAS!! Contact Doug or Chris at 698-9774 for directions.

### Potluck

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st; Steve and Carol Cobb will host the October potluck at their home in Port Orchard. Bring your favorite hot dish, salad or dessert and be prepared for fun, food and conversation. For directions and to RSVP call Carol or Steve at 876-6523.

### Officer Elections

Nominations for new club officers will take place during the regular October meeting. Joyce Kimmel is heading a nominating committee which will answer questions regarding the positions and take names of interested members. 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.

**For Sale:** New, Unused Coleman single mantle gas lantern with case, \$30. Call Bert Cripe, 895-4299.

### Door Prize Winner

Jon Tay was the winner of the September meeting door prize, a full size Thera-A-Rest pad. Thanks, as always, to Judd at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe for donating the monthly door prize.

### Members' Slide Show Organizational Potluck

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th; T. J. Elsworth is hosting a potluck at her home to finalize plans for the November meeting Members' Slide Show. The November meeting entertainment will allow club members to show some of their favorite slides from their own outdoor experiences. T.J. will be organizing members who do not already have slide film to have their prints converted to slides for the show.

This is the ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE for members to commit to presenting. Bring as many slides or prints to the potluck as you think would be of interest. T.J. is developing the program around a one hour and fifteen minute time limit, and participants will be asked at the potluck to help define the content based on the number of presenters and what they'd like to show. Call T. J. at 698-7120 for directions and more details.

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## Misc Outings & Long Range Trips

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### Sunday Strolls

MONTHLY SUNDAY STROLLS; Becky and Teddy Wiles are organizing monthly Sunday walks through the Belfair Wetlands. The Sundays are: 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.

### Day Hike at Lake Mills

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th; Doug Savage is planning an easy day hike in the Lake Mills area. For more information, contact Doug at 698-9774.

### Winterfest 1995

WEEKEND of FEBRUARY 18th, 19th & 20th, 1995; It's time to make your reservations for the annual PWC Winterfest at Longmire near Mt. Rainier. During this long weekend, members spend their days cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing or participating in their other favorite winter recreations, while evenings are filled with fun, food and wine in front of the roaring fireplace. No prior reservations in the PWC's name have been made. It's important for you to call as soon as possible to reserve your room. If you are looking for other club members seeking roommates, contact Doug Savage at 698-9774. The telephone number at Longmire is (206)569-2275. Don't miss out!!!



# INVITED

## A SPECIAL INVITATION TO AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON PAULSON

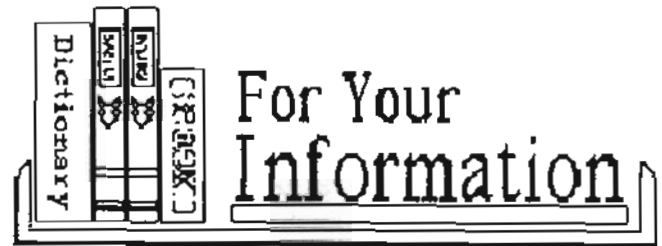
PWC club member, Don Paulson, will have a selection of his limited edition and hand tinted photographs displayed at Christophe's Waterfront Cafe in Bremerton starting Saturday, October 8th, 1994. Don would like to invite club members to a photographer's reception from NOON to THREE on OCTOBER 8TH.

Christophe's Cafe is upstairs in the Waterfront Books store located at 112 Washington Avenue, Bremerton. The cafe's hours are from 11 to 5 on weekdays and 11 to 4 on weekends. The exhibition is expected to run through November, although no ending date has been set.

## 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.



## Cotner Publishes 2nd Book

PWC member, June Cotner's, second book will be published by HarperCollins on October 7th and should be available in all local bookstores. The hardcover book, Graces: Prayers and Poems for Everyday Meals and Special Occasions, is a collection of multi-cultural poems, prayers, songs and invocations.

Graces will be featured on the front cover of the Fall 1994 Torch Catalogue, which is mailed to 150,000 clergy, religious professionals and serious readers of religious and spiritual books. June is the best-selling author of the Home Design Handbook which is now in its 5th printing and was written under her former married name of Myrvang. June will be happy to autograph either book at future PWC meetings.

# PWC



**The Outdoor  
People**

## The Hike From Hell

by Doug Savage

Have you ever noticed that when backpackers get together they always talk about the trips on which they had a miserable time? Nobody tells tales about good weather, pleasant scenery, and good company; it's always clouds of mosquitoes, torrential downpours, or being lost in the fog. If you haven't had any terrible wilderness experiences, may I suggest Tshletsky Creek trail between the Quinault and the Queets Rivers. It will give you enough fodder for your hiking "war stories" to last a lifetime.

The Tshletsky Creek trail has always been the 'next year's hike'. Since I first read Woods' description of the now abandoned trail I've always wanted to give it a shot. Last year Joe and Kathy Weigel, Joyce Kimmel and I tried from the Queets River side but were turned back by bad weather. This year Joe and I decided to try again. We thought it would be better to climb down over fallen logs than be constantly climbing up them, so we started the trail from the Quinault River side. Kathy and Joyce thought better of making a second attempt. I wish I had their good sense.

We left Bremerton Friday afternoon to make the drive around the Olympic Peninsula. After dropping off a car at the Queets River trailhead, we drove to Lake Quinault, had dinner and car camped at a Forest Service

campground. Car campers kept coming in all night long so we never did get a good night's sleep. Just as soon as I dozed off, the alarm went and it was time for breakfast.

In spite of our lack of rest, the weather was perfect for hiking, cool and misty with clearing predicted by the afternoon. When we signed up at the ranger's station I inquired if there had been anybody on the Tshletsky trail so far that year. The seasonal responded that, to be perfectly honest, he had no idea just where the trail was and wished us luck.

The first day was just about as good as it gets. We were on the trail by 10:00 A.M. The first mile or two of the trail is essentially flat as it wanders through the Quinault River flood plain. After an intersection with a side path to Irely Lake, the trail started to gradually ascend. At noon we broke out above the fog. Four miles in we crossed Big Creek via a newly built steel bridge. From this point on the trail grew much steeper (and less traveled). At this elevation the forest was predominately Alaska Cedar; a side trail leads to the largest known specimen of the species, twelve feet in diameter. Not too far past the "big tree" (about 6 miles) the trail started to break out into alpine meadows. We stopped in one for lunch.

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- Hike from Hell cont. from page 6 -

After entering the high country the trail lessens in grade. At 6.6 miles we intersected the Skyline Trail. A sign there read "Tshletsky Creek Trail - Abandoned". This is where the fun really began. There were no markers to show where the trail even used to be. We headed north and crossed a swampy extinct lake. On the other side Joe found the trailbed. It was almost completely covered by huckleberries. We followed this for about a half mile to a small meadow where the Three Lakes Shelter used to stand. The Park Service has torn the shelter down and thrown the timbers down a gully. Nevertheless the meadow was a wonderful place to camp (Note: in late summer water at the meadow is confined to a few small stagnant pools). Joe pitched the tent; I made dinner. The place was great until about 8:00 P.M. when the wind died down and the swarms of mosquitoes invaded. In lieu of being eaten alive, we decided to retire to the tent early.

Getting out of bed the next morning was a slow process. By the time we broke camp it was already 10:30. It was about a quarter mile further to the Queets/Quinault Divide. At the crest we found old wooden trail signs pointing the way to Tshletsky Creek. The path was faint and overgrown with huckleberries, hemlock and silver fir saplings. We descended through the Paradise Valley and passed Delta Tarn and Lily Pad Lake. Elk scat was everywhere.

This was a trail way off the beaten path. After about two miles we made our first creek crossing. Unfortunately, when we got to the far side of the creek, the trail was totally gone.

The next 5 miles was close to pure hell. If we found the trail, it only lasted about 100 yards before disappearing into salmonberry thickets. Occasionally we would find an old orange marker in a tree, a cut log, or a piece of surveyors tape. Pretty soon we abandoned looking for the trail altogether and stuck to elk paths. Occasionally we would follow the creekbed; blow downs and undergrowth often made the passage in the forest impossible. I gained a lot of respect for the original pioneers who first crossed the Mountains.

We even found proof of alien life. While following the well trodden elk trails, often better groomed than the Hoh River Trail, we made an interesting discovery. Every once in a while these trails just came to an abrupt end and for no apparent reason. It was like the elk just vanished into thin air without a trace. Joe and I would then climb logs and crash through the undergrowth until we could find another elk trail, a couple hundred yards further down stream. I couldn't picture a herd of 20 cows, calves and bulls just stopping and the lead animal saying "Whoa - back up here!". The only rational conclusion was the animals had been suddenly blasted into outer space by beings unknown.

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- Hike from Hell cont. from page 7 -

It was 9:00 P.M. before we reached the 10th and final crossing. It was the hardest day of hiking in my whole life. As I dropped my pack I suddenly realized that my Thermo-Rest was gone, ripped off my back by some sneaky fir tree or something. Exhausted, we made camp on a gravel bar, ate dinner and soon were fast asleep.

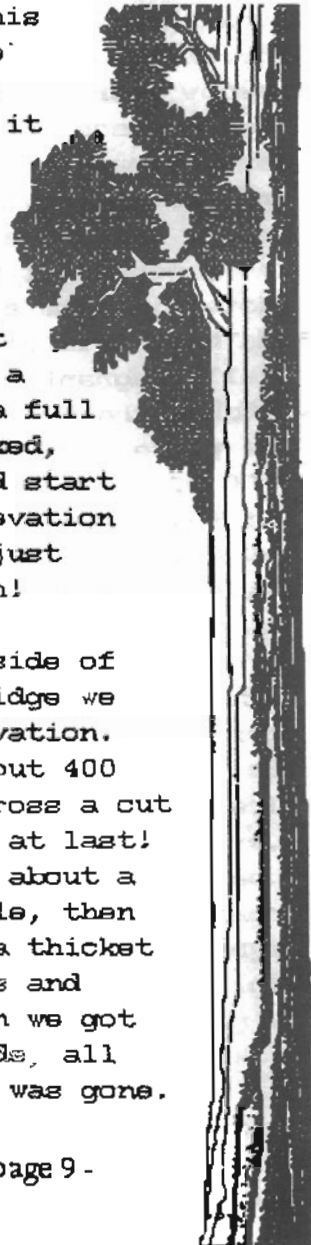
The 6:30 A.M. alarm arrived much too quickly. With aching muscles and stiff joints we slowly got out of bed. Today we were determined to make it to the next camp at a reasonable hour. According to Wood's guidebook, the trail was supposed to improve from here on down. Of course, I'm not really sure we were on the trail and the guide book is 10 years old. We climbed up the east side of the creekbed and started to look for the trail. Not finding it, we turned north and started downstream. After a mile or so we came across a good sized creek. Consulting the map we concluded we were about 200 feet below the trail. The creekbed looked like it offered the best passage so we started to climb. BIG MISTAKE!

Before long we found ourselves in the "Grand Canyon" of the Olympics; there were cliffs all around us. At 1700 feet (about 400 feet higher than the trail should have been) the creek branched. We started to climb an avalanche chute. Pretty soon the rocks we were dislodging were

becoming airborne as they crashed to the creek, about 200 feet below us. I questioned Joe whether we should retreat. "Over that s@\*#? Besides I don't want to loose the elevation we've gained." As we rounded a buttress the steep chute quickly turned into a cliff. Since there really was no way to go back, we snaked our way around. For those people who don't know me, I'm NOT a climber. In fact I'm scared of heights. And this cliff scared the socks off of me. Finally we made it across. I was panting from anxiety. This wouldn't have been bad with a day pack, but it was one hell of a way to go with a full one. Joe remarked, "Maybe we should start loosing some elevation now." We both just started to laugh!

Traversing the side of the Tshletsky Ridge we slowly lost elevation. After losing about 400 feet we came across a cut log. The trail at last! Well, it lasted about a quarter of a mile, then disappeared in a thicket of salmonberries and windfalls. When we got to the other side, all evidence of man was gone.

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- Hike from Hell cont. from page 8 -

It was back to hunting game trails. For the next 6 miles there were occasional signs of human occupation, cut logs, route markers in trees, or surveyors tape left by other hikers. Surprisingly, we made good time. By 6:30 P.M. we had made it to the Chocolate Drop, a cone-like hill at the base of Tshletsky Ridge. Again, I got us lost (too low on the ridge), but as we contoured up the hillside, we found the trail again.

Everything was going great, until suddenly, just like the elk paths, the trail just ended. No cut logs, no marks, just miles of forest. My heart sank to my stomach (which by this time was growling). It was getting late and there was nowhere to camp. We decided (at my suggestion) to head back to the creek. This was easier said than done. The undergrowth had turned vicious, lots of small saplings with Devil's Club and brambles. It took us a good hour to make a quarter mile to the creek. To

make matters worse, when we got there, we were on top of a 40 foot cliff!

Joe found a way down; I followed. The creekbed was narrow at this point, but the water wasn't too deep. I suggested we hike down the creek (there really was no other alternative). In spite of

all of my other bad ideas, Joe agreed. Exhausted, we stripped to our shorts and started to wade downstream. By 9:00 P.M. we reached the flatlands. I found a sand bar in the middle of the creek with a large flat area to pitch a tent. Joe waded out to join me and we set up camp. It had been a long 13 hours to make 8 miles.

The fourth (and final) morning was glorious. We awoke to find a small herd of deer playing in the creek right beside us. It was such a beautiful place; too bad every muscle in my body screamed in agony. After a leisurely breakfast we slowly started to pack our gear. We waded to the west bank, put on our hiking boots, and started looking for the trail to Smith's Ranch.

We never did find it. We ended up rounding the headwall where the Tshletsky empties into the Quets. On the other side of the river, we saw people camping and making breakfast. It was 2 more miles of thickets and windfalls before we made it to Smith's place, the start of Tshletsky Creek trail.

After a light lunch we forded the Quets. I went first and soon found myself in waist deep water. Joe, not wanting to hike in soggy shorts, decided to strip from the waist down and cross "as natural", despite concern of bodily injury from near-sighted and hungry trout!

- Hike from Hell cont. from page 9 -

From here on out the trail was recently maintained; not one downed tree to obstruct the path. With visions of hamburgers dancing in our heads, we marched the last 6 miles to the lower Queets ford. At this time of year the water was barely over our knees. We drove to Quinault

Lake, showered, picked up the other car, and porked out on ice cream!

Hummmmm, maybe it wasn't so bad after all. And, I've got stories to tell!



#### 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

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Entertainment.....Joe Weigel.....871-0291  
Refreshments.....Tony Abruzzo.....871-5754

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- OCTOBER 1994 - TIME DATED MATERIAL -