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Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

December 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 December 12th

Trekking in Nepal

Don Diehl and Jerry Reid will present slides from a trekking adventure they took with their wives, Aiko and Nancy, and with Scott and Jane Bullen in Nepal in March and April of 1993. The audience will see images of Katmandu, the people of Nepal, as well as, the magnificent peaks of the country.

Upcoming Events

Beginners' Ski Trip

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th; Doug Savage is hosting his annual beginners' cross-country ski trip to Reflection Lakes near Mt. Rainier. If you're a novice seeking helpful and friendly instruction on getting started, or looking for an easy warm-up for the ski season, contact Doug at 598-9774.

Skiing at White Pass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th; Dave Cossa is cross-country skiing at White Pass near Goat Rocks. This area is reported to afford great skiing suitable for all skill levels. Contact Dave at 871-5577 to participate.

Sunday Stroll

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th; Becky and Teddy Wiles' monthly stroll through the Belfair Wetlands will leave the parking area at 2:00 pm. This stroll has no elevation gain and is well suited for families, seniors and the "Easy at Heart". Contact Becky or Teddy at 876-5718.

Christmas Break Skiing

DECEMBER 26th - 30th; Doug Savage is looking for skiers who would like to join him for weekday trips to Crystal Mountain between Christmas and New Year's. Contact Doug at 698-9774.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st; Doug Savage is planning a New Year's Day excursion on the Spruce Railroad Trail along the shores of Lake Crescent. This is a scenic, 8 mile (round trip) walk with no elevation gain. To join in this pleasant beginning for the new year, contact Doug at 698-9774.

Mt. Washington Ski/Climb

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th; Dave Cossa is planning a day trip at Mt. Washington during this holiday weekend, tentatively set for Saturday depending on the weather. This will be for cross-country skiers and/or climbers and is at a beginner to intermediate level. Call Dave for more details at 871-5577.

Mt. Ellinor Ski Trip

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th; Joyce Kimmel will spend a day cross-country skiing near Mt. Ellinor during the holiday weekend. Weather permitting, the trip will be on Saturday and should be suitable for beginners and up. Call Joyce at 876-1497.

Mt. Angeles Climb

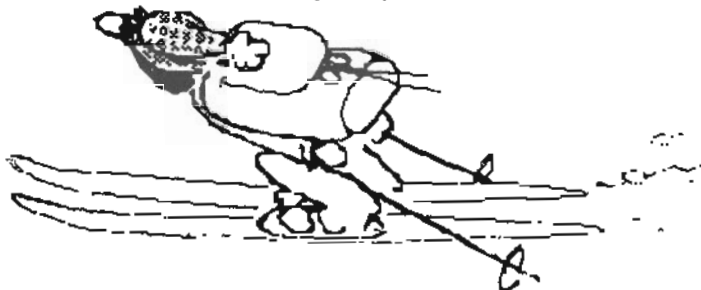
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st; Bill Boileau is looking for adventurers to climb Mt. Angeles. This excursion requires mountaineering skills. If you are interested, call Bill at 613-5263.

Skiing and Snowshoeing on Mt. Ellinor

FEBRUARY 4th or 5th; Doug Savage will choose the day that has the most promising weather for a day of skiing and/or snowshoeing on Mt. Ellinor. To find out more, call Doug at 698-9774.

Winterfest 1995

WEEKEND of FEBRUARY 18th, 19th & 20th, 1995; Hurry and make reservations for the annual PWC Winterfest at Mt. Rainier's Longmire. Members spend the weekend cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and participating in their other favorite winter recreations. Evenings are filled with fun, food and wine in front of the roaring fireplace. Call as soon as possible to reserve your room. Doug Savage, at 698-9774, is coordinating members seeking roommates. Make Longmire reservations at (206)569-2275.



Mt. Tahoma Trails Assoc. & 1995 Ski Hut Outings

The Mt. Tahoma Trails Association maintains 88 miles of cross-country ski trails, 3 huts and a yurt entirely through volunteer labor and donations. The trails are located near Mt. Rainier and Ashford, Washington. The huts are stocked with wood burning stoves and firewood; propane stoves, lanterns and fuel; pots and pans; and, sleeping pads. Skiers should bring their own food, mess kits and sleeping bags, as well as, the ten essentials.

The huts sleep between 6 and 12 people. You can reserve berths for a large party or small, depending on the availability of quarters. There is no charge for use of the huts, but a refundable damage deposit of \$25 per person per day is required.

Huts are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Reservations may be made at the annual Gala (already past for this year), or by requesting a hut reservation form at the following address: Mt. Tahoma Trails Association; Attn: Hut Reservation Program; P.O. Box 206; Ashford, WA 98304. Include a self addressed, stamped envelope with your request. Between December 15th and April 2nd call (206)569-2451, or stop in at the headquarters at the Bunkhouse in Ashford between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm on Saturdays or Sundays for more details or reservation forms.

Tony has filled all the spaces for the three Mt. Tahoma ski hut trips he is organizing (Jan. 28/29, Feb. 11/12 and March 11/12). If you did not reserve a spot but would like to be placed on a list of alternates for any of his trips, contact Tony at 871-5754.

Joyce Kimmel is organizing an additional weekend at the Snow Bowl hut for which she has openings on January 7th and 8th. Contact Joyce at 876-1497 to reserve your spot.

REMINDER: If you have reserved a spot at one of the huts you must write a \$25 check to the PWC for a deposit on each reservation you have made. The deposits will be refunded after the trip.

JANUARY 7th and 8th;

Intermediate skiers will enjoy a fun-filled weekend at Snow Bowl hut.

JANUARY 28th and 29th; Ski to the Copper Creek hut. This is suitable for beginning skiers and beyond.

FEBRUARY 11th and 12th;

Intermediate skills are desirable for this trip to Snow Bowl hut.

March 11th and 12th; Copper Creek is the destination; all skill levels welcome.

This and That

Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th;
December's interested members meeting will be held at Doug Savage's home beginning at 7:00 pm. Trips and club business will be organized, and refreshments and conversation will be enjoyed. For directions, call Doug at 698-9774.

No December Potluck

There will be no Friday December potluck this month due to the proximity to the holiday rush.

Door Prize Winner

Bill Frey was the winner of the November meeting door prize, a pair of ski gloves. Thanks to Judd at the Mountain Shoppe for donating the monthly door prize.

Address Changes



If you need to change the address to which your newsletter is delivered, notify Jim Luddon at the following address: 165 NW Alta Drive; Bremerton, WA 98310. You can also change your address at the time you pay your annual dues.

Newsletter Contributions

Articles, trip reports, interviews, announcements, etc for the PENWICH 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.

New Members

New members in the month of October were William and Sandra Walgren. November's new members were Sabine Hazel, Catherine Purkiss and Dave Schwab. Welcome!



Committee Volunteers

The PWC is investigating the possibility of hosting a slide show program by kayaker Steph Dutton for the public during March of next year. Planning committees will begin forming at the December interested members meeting. If you would like to help organize or promote this event, please attend the December interested members meeting or contact a club officer.

Park's Position on Chrisler's Cabin

The following is reproduced, with Park permission, from a letter received by Wendy McClure from the Olympic National Park in response to an inquiry she submitted regarding the Park's policy on preserving Chrisler's Cabin. See the November PENWICK for Wendy's related trip report.

Dear Ms. McClure:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning "The Castle in the Cat," in which you asked, "What is the park's policy on this cabin?" The Castle in the Cat, built by Herb Chrisler in 1944 (during his filming of "The Olympic Elk"), is not presently considered a historic structure and is not listed on the National Register. Since the cabin attains its 50th anniversary this year, consideration will be given to adding it to the register.

Before the shelter can be either improved or removed, a historic assessment must be completed. This will evaluate the integrity of the structure and the architectural and historical importance of the building. The assessment will ask and seek answers for such questions as:

- Has the building been significantly changed since it was originally constructed by Chrisler?

- Is the structure important because of its association with a historically important person?

- Is the structure important for its architectural qualities?

- Is preservation of the structure warranted?

- What are the alternatives to preserving the structure?

The Castle and many other cabins and caches were built by Chrisler to serve as places where he, his wife, and associates could recreate and to serve as a base from which to make commercial wildlife films. Based in the Castle, Chrisler filmed the Walt Disney movie "The Olympic Elk" which was released in 1952.

Chrisler returned to the Castle repeatedly throughout his life. Although he constructed the cabin, use of it then, as now, was generally considered open to the public. He and other park visitors spent significant time and effort to construct and maintain the cabin, which was stabilized in 1977.

Architecturally, the Castle in the Cat is typical of split cedar shelter shacks or cabins on the Olympic Peninsula. However, like all structures made of natural materials, it cannot withstand the elements without maintenance and is presently in a deteriorated condition.

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Deer Lake

by Steve Vittori

Mary Jo, Russ and I snatched a cheery day from predicted mid-October gloom at Deer Lake. We hiked to the lake on the Canyon Creek Trail from the Soleduck River Road. We continued another mile to a vantage point on the Low Divide, which made a 9 1/2 mile round trip.

The morning air was calm and cool under the canopy of the trail. Soleduck Falls and a Canyon Creek waterfall crashed under bridge crossings in the first two miles. The elevation gain was steady, but moderate enough to avoid switchbacks. Deer Lake bounced sunbeams at us when we arrived, and we walked half way around to bask in their source.

We ate our own (and Mary Jo's) lunches with our faces to the lake and backs to the mountainsides. We then climbed to about 4000 feet and stopped at a partial clearing where Deer Lake peered up at us. This was high enough to find fresh ice skins on shaded small ponds (large puddles?). There was a scant layer of white matter, which supplied just enough raw material to make snow marbles.

The trail was popular with other hikers this day. Some were packed for an overnight stay at Seven Lakes Basin, which lies a few mile's distance along the Bogachiel Trail. Had we continued along our ridge, we would have joined the Mink Lake Trail, which descends to Soleduck Hot Springs. This forms a 12 mile loop which would be well suited to a day with an early start or a late sunset.



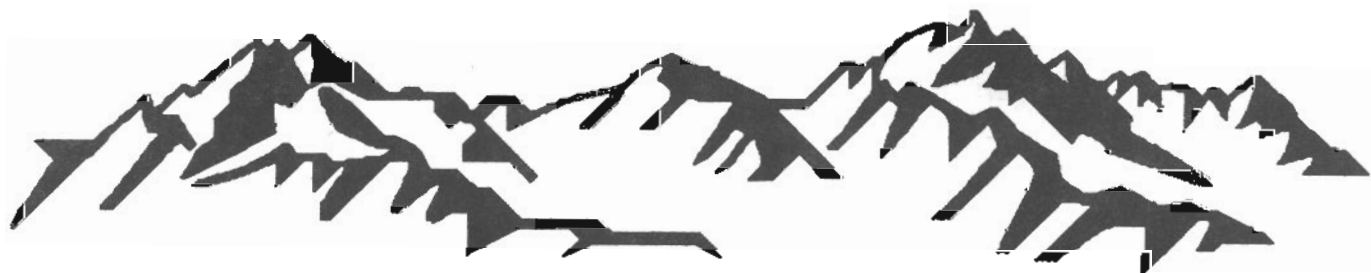
(Chrisler's Cabin continued)

I have heard that the old mason jar register containing many dated notes on scraps of the paper and the old cedar shingle with the carved name "Castle in the Cat" were removed about eight years ago.

Thank you for your interest in the Castle in the Cat. The wheels are now turning to evaluate the structure. Once this evaluation has been made, the next step will be determined.

Sincerely,

Maureen Finnerty
Superintendent



Advanced Trip Announcements & More

Mt. Townsend Adventure

FEBRUARY 25th or 26th; Bill Boileau will attempt to climb Mt. Townsend on either Saturday or Sunday, depending on weather. Bring snowshoes for this adventure. Call Bill for more details at 613-5263.



For Sale:

Men's Raichle Boots, Bigers, size 11 1/2, \$55
Crampons, Salewa Alpine, \$21
REI ice axe, \$35
"D" rings, "8" rings and harness, \$31
Hard case bicycle shipping container, \$53
BUTTELON racquetball racquet, \$11

All items are in excellent condition and have had light usage. If you take all, I will entertain offers. Call Jim Long at 373-9283.

1995 Grand Canyon Caper

APRIL 1st - 8th; HAVASU II: It's back to the twilight zone again! Fly to Vegas. Rent a car and drive to Kingman, Arizona. Arrive at the trailhead and hike to Mooney Falls Campground (10 miles), while Indian packers take the heavy stuff. Hike to and camp near the Colorado River. Hike back to Supai Indian Village and explore. Hike out after hiring packers to carry the load. Total cost is about \$300 to \$400 depending on airfare. There are only 5 to 7 openings left so call Dave Cossa soon and reserve your spot, 871-5577.

For Sale: 170 cm wax-base cross-country skis and women's size 4 ski boots. Call Larry Thomas at 830-4456.

Wanted: Other winter enthusiasts to carpool to Crystal Mountain during the week. Call Pat Gleason at 373-2131.



Computer Software for Hikers!!

Grizzly Ware, based in Woodinville, Washington, has marketed a computer software package with Northwest trail lovers in mind. "Best Foot Forward - Software for Hikers" is a family of personal-computer-based trail guides for Western States. The program allows users to choose from over 700 trails in each state. Trails

can be selected based on such criteria as distance, elevation, proximity, animal restriction, access for disabled and more. Databases for Oregon and Washington are complete; California and Montana will be available soon. A free demo disk is available. "Best Foot Forward" can be operated in both Windows and Macintosh and sells for \$89.95. For more information, call Grizzly Ware at (800)258-4453.

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Treasurer.....Kevin Kilbridge.....871-2537

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