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Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

January 1995

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 January 9th

Vandalism and Its Reduction Through Interpretation

Retired professor of Wildland, Recreation and Forestry, Grant W. Sharpe, is January's entertainment. His slide presentation will focus on decreasing vandalism in our parks and forests. Sharpe taught at the University of Michigan for eleven years before spending twenty-four years at the University of Washington in the specialized field of Interpretation.

Upcoming Events

New Year's Day Outing

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 Cosza 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.

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Weekday Skiing at Crystal

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31st; Doug Savage and John Knott are taking advantage of mid-week lift ticket prices at Crystal Mountain. If you would like to join them for a day on the slopes, call Doug at 698-9774 or John at 792-2440.

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; Doug Savage reports there are still rooms available 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. 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.

WILD PLACES OF THE OLYMPICS

JANUARY 3rd through JANUARY 31st
Kitsap Regional Library, Central
Branch 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton
377-7601

Local photographer, Don Paulson, celebrates 30 years of exploring the Olympic mountain and coastal regions in an exhibit of photographs and personal reflections.

Mt. Tahoma Trails Assoc. & 1995 Ski Hut Outings

The following Mt. Tahoma Ski Hut trips are planned for this season:

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.

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 still accepting alternates for her weekend at the Snow Bowl hut on January 7th and 8th. Contact Joyce at 876-1497.

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.



To make your own reservations, request hut reservation forms 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.

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 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. Openings are limited so call Dave Cozza soon and reserve your spot, 871-5577.

This and That

Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12th; The January interested members meeting will take place at the home of Dan and Pat Kirschbaum. Club activities, trips and business items will be discussed. This a great opportunity for new members to meet other PWC'rs and for long-time members to revive their participation. For directions, contact the Kirschbaums at 698-3684.

January Potluck

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th; Friday potlucks are back! Joe and Kathy Weigel will host this month's potluck at their home in Port Orchard on Friday, January 20th. Bring your favorite recipe and latest ski stories. To RSVP and get directions, call Joe or Kathy at 871-0291.

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.

New Members

The PWC welcomes new members for the month of December: Melinda Hedger, Rolf Henrich and Lee Jensen.

Committee Volunteers

If you would like to help the club organize or promote a slide show program by kayaker Steph Dutton for the public during March, please attend the next interested members meeting or contact a club officer. We are still not committed to this project due to difficulties in reserving a suitable auditorium, but planning efforts continue.

Door Prize Winner

John Hoffman was the winner of the December meeting door prize, Smith Groove Series ski goggles. Thanks to Judd at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe for donating the monthly door prize.

Video Equipment Accessible

The club has access to equipment allowing VHS videos to be projected onto a screen. Members can edit their personal videos into a format appropriate for club presentation and bring their own VCR for connection to the equipment. If you have material that may be of interest to other members and can be edited, contact Joe Weigel at 871-0291.

1994, A Trail Odyssey

by John Ellsworth

Let me tell you a story. On a planet far, far away and millennia before the first earth primate even thought of the concept of zip-lock bags, a group of dedicated adventurers undertook an expedition in an attempt to bag yet another summit. Amazingly enough, their goal much resembled Mount Olympus of Earth's Pacific Northwest and the climate was much like that of Labor Day on this distant and future world. Only such amazing coincidences would allow this story to be told.

The brave and fearless climbers, Jhenn, Hjaun, Bahrie (of the tribe Gher-Hound) and Dauve, as well as their dedicated camp wench Mithy, approached the mountain with a resolve and dedication not normally displayed by these aliens. The approach went well and the details are saved for those who like to read the in-depth articles from People Magazine at 6:30am during their early morning sabbaticals. Only the night before the summit attempt did things begin to get interesting.

The Great Weather God began driving away the glittering stars and by early the next morning it was drizzling (Oh my Gwad!). When Bahrie awoke from his alarm at 4:30am he was shocked by the steady drops of moisture. (In hindsight, one must wonder about his reaction; there does not seem

to be much hidden meaning in the words "rain forest".) Resolving to decide what was best for the group Bahrie, in a burst of enthusiasm, rolled over and returned to sleep.

Luckily, only an hour later Hjaun's rest was disturbed by another group of climbers. Rising from bed, he began attempting to generate interest in the climb. Bursting with enthusiasm, Jhenn quickly gathered her gear and was ready. Dauve slept; Bahrie slept; and, the camp wench watched in hidden amusement.

Jhenn and Hjaun roped up and began crossing the glacier. They took moments now and then to rest, as well as amused themselves by watching another alien race, calling themselves "De Mwaton Ehrs", also attempt this epic. They watched with concern (and a bit of smugness) as this group continued to fall into crevasse after crevasse due to some extremely poor route finding. (Do the words "route finding" even apply here?)



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Crossing the glacier, the brave pair began a mad scramble up the rock abutments and reached the snow dome, home of the legendary Bytor the Snow Dog. The climb continued to go smoothly until The Weather God, seeing the small group was having just too much fun, basically unleashed all she could think of. It should be added here, The Weather God, as far as weather gods go, was known to be quite a deep thinker.

The duo's Gortex began to prove it was indeed the wonder that the scientists claimed. Hjaun, in particular, marveled how that much water could pass through anything that quickly, while Jhenn began to understand how fish breathing underwater and calling Gortex breathable was pretty much the same thing.

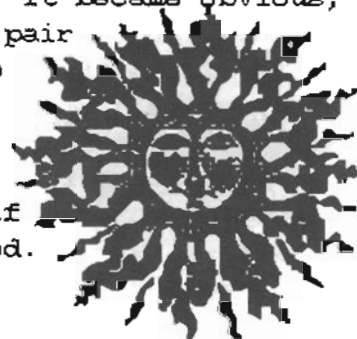
At 7600 feet in altitude, with visibility down to less than 20 feet, the pair decided to turn back. Even the great efforts of "De Mwaton Ehre" to mark their trail through the snow periodically with strange yellow dye marks did not encourage them to go on.

Upon arriving back at camp, Jhenn and Hjaun found Bahrie and Dauve looking well rested. They had moved their gear to the emergency shelters. Dauve informed Hjaun that the move had become necessary since water was running through their tent. "Oh, by the way," he added, "I left your stuff in the tent." Hjaun

wondered great and interesting thoughts while Mithy, the camp wench, was again amused.

After stripping gear, the brave climbing pair rested. Jhenn settled in her dry tent, meticulously protected from the weather by the valiant efforts of Mithy. Hjaun, on the other hand, thanked the scientists for being right about something now and then. Yes, despite being wet, his sleeping bag did retain some heat.

The next morning The Weather God rested and it was a bright and glorious day. With the break in the weather it became obvious, that what the pair the day before had failed at, the group could succeed at this day, if they persevered. They didn't.



With enough rations for at least three more days, Bahrie, Dauve and the keys to the land shuttle trudged off down the trail. Jhenn and Hjaun watched as the pair reentered the woods and wondered why they wouldn't at least wait until they had gotten their gear dry or, even better, stick around for a second attempt. As Bahrie and Dauve faded into the trees, Dauve's voice echoed back to Jhenn and Hjaun, "Don't worry I'll wait at the shuttle. You don't think I'd leave you, do you?" And then the woods fell ominously silent. Mithy, with a sparkle in her eyes watched silently and was amused.

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Quickly the remaining two climbers and the wench commenced work. With clothes lines strung everywhere, the gear was hung out to dry. Rotating, flopping, wringing and twisting all became approved methods as the water in the gear slowly left to become part of the Snow Dome during future winters. History was made when a Whisper Light stove was used for the first time to actually successfully dry a pair of climbing boots with not one scorch mark - a triumph of technology, not to be met or exceeded until the first lunar landing in another galaxy by the human race.

Mithy watched with amusement and then began methodically wrapping, taping, bandaging and massaging her feet. Though being the quiet and tough camp wench that she was, one of her many hidden secrets was her feet were trashed.

Finally, at 3:00pm, after many hours of hard work, combined with a relaxing day in the sun (and for Mithy, about eight layers of mole-skin) the troop moved out onto the trail. Mithy, the camp wench, whose foot condition only worsened and being vertically challenged, moved slowly. Jhenn and Hjaun waited patiently, displaying concern for her well-being while also knowing she was a damn good cook (No more Mountain House for these hikers.)

Late that evening, having just made it across the Hoh River (or at least a river that quite resembled the Hoh in this distant land) the threesome set up camp. The weather remained spectacular. The Weather God continued to sleep well and it indeed was turning into a great trip.

In their natural setting with the fading daylight the three individuals began to read and become one with nature. Hjaun read of ancient Egyptian mummies being raised from the dead whose rotting flesh and evil deeds spread fear through late 19th century London; he found it very relaxing. Jhenn, on the other hand, read a feminist sci-fi book where all the men didn't have a clue and once again needed to be rescued by some daring brave women, scantily clad in armor. (When she finishes this book, it has been promised to Dwag de Svage. The rest of you will have to wait for the movie.) Mithy rapidly worked through "Modern problems and Solutions in Biology" and wrote her PhD dissertation while simultaneously cooking dinner and rewrapping her deteriorating feet. Though being the camp wench, an innocent passerby would have wondered who was really in charge of this group.



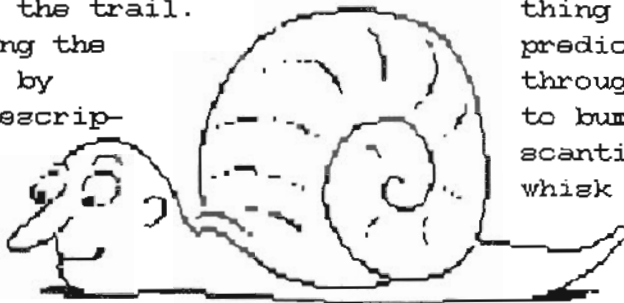
- Odyssey continued from page 7 -

Waking up to another beautiful day, the group said farewell to their mountain and broke camp. Jhenn and Hjaun marched off. Mithy, hobbling a bit from the blisters, followed the best she could, retaining her enthusiasm and cheerful outlook. Talking of burgers and malted grain beverages, the troop pressed on looking forward to a long but relaxing ride around the peninsula with Dauve who was waiting patiently at the trailhead. He was waiting, wasn't he?

Wild thoughts began to fill their minds, particularly when they ran into a sweet couple coming up the trail.

Recognizing the travelers by Dauve's description, the couple passed on his delicate

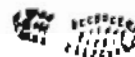
words of encouragement, "You'd best get your butts in gear; I'm not waiting all day!". Taking his strong words of motivation and support to heart, Jhenn and Hjaun stopped for a long-needed break. Mithy soon joined them as well, resting her now very tired and aching body.



After one last confrontation with an animal the size and shape of a very large elk, the rag-tag group reached the trailhead. (Matter of fact, on Earth this animal would have been called an elk. Maybe this was one of the ones that was reported mysteriously disappearing along the abandoned Tshletsky Trail?) Frantically looking through the shuttle parking lot, Dauve and his shuttle craft were nowhere to be found. Could it be their faithful companion had left without them, leaving them stranded 80 miles from home? Yep! A strange darkness settled over the travelers.

Each individual did what they thought was the most logical thing to do in such a predicament. Jhenn looked through the parking lot, trying to bum rides while waiting for scantily armored feminists to whisk them away to safety. Hjaun called his spouse, TeeHay, to assure her he was okay.

He found her quite shook up, grieving to say the least, as Dauve had dropped off some of Hjaun's belongings with the message that he had waited 27 hours at the trailhead but they just hadn't shown up. (After the call, TeeHay sighed, called Hjaun's life insurance company, set the record straight and began unpacking from her planned world tour.)



- Odyssey continued from page 8 -

Meanwhile, having given up on the armed babes, Jhenn continued to traverse the shuttle parking lot looking for rides. Mithy watched with growing amusement. Having seen enough, she hobbled off to the woods and began dragging a large cooler from its secret hiding spot. As Jhenn and Hjaun watched in disbelief, she dragged the cooler over fallen old growth, through swamps and up the steep embankment, a task that would have proven substantial to any mortal alien, even without sore feet.

Completing her task without breaking a sweat, she sat down in the grass, raised the lid of the cooler and popped out a COLD REFRESHING MALTED GRAIN BEVERAGE and was very happy. After offering beers to her mortal companions Mithy, the quiet camp wench, relaxed on the grass knowing full well, even though her armor was chaffing beneath her common hiking garb, her secret identity as a feminist and savior to man- (oops!) people-kind was safe.

For those of you wondering how the brave threesome finally returned home, stay tuned for next month's exciting conclusion to 1994, A Trail Odyssey or Planes, Trains and Automobiles.



WA Native Plant Society

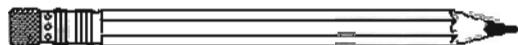
The Olympic Peninsula Chapter of Washington Native Plant Society Winter Programs start in January. Everyone is welcome and it's free!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17th: The Functions and Values of Riparian Vegetation; 7:00pm; Tri-Area Community Center, Chimacum. Jerry Gorsline, Olympic Field Representative for the Washington Environmental Council, active member of the WNPS, and local naturalist, historian and author, will talk about current research and understanding of riparian vegetation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st: Fire Ecology and Ecosystems in South Florida; 7:00 pm; Olympic National Park Visitor Center, Port Angeles. Lisa Spier, Biological Technician with Olympic National Park and the University of Washington, will discuss her work as a plant ecologist in South Florida, including Big Cypress and Everglades National Park. Lisa studies fire and rare plants and earned her Masters degree at Florida International University in Miami



Call Wendy McClure, 779-3820, if you want more information. WNPS has a beautiful poster of some of our native wildflowers for only \$12.



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.

John Ellsworth is seeking people who are interested in working with snow anchors and ropes on Hurricane Ridge or Mt. Rainier. If you would like to practice your rope work, contact John at 698-7120.



Club Officers

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

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- JANUARY 1995 - TIME DATED MATERIAL -

