

Penwicle

Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

November 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 November 13th

Costa Rican Adventure

Ralph Carlson of Suquamish will be presenting images from ecological study tours conducted in Costa Rica by EcoTeach over the past summer. EcoTeach is a Costa Rican based organization which provides educational programs for the study of the Natural History and Culture of Costa Rica. The tours explored the country's cloud forests, tropical rainforests, coastal marine life and much more.

Ralph will also introduce members to the cultural riches of Nicaragua. This country's wealth of art and culture, both past and current, have remained relatively pristine and undiscovered by visitors. Recently, the opportunities to travel in Nicaragua have expanded.

Join Ralph for this fascinating exploration of the treasures and possibilities of Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Upcoming Events

Dungeness Spit Outing

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th; Explore the five miles of beautiful shoreline on the Dungeness Spit. Enjoy views across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Vancouver Island, San Juan Islands, Whidbey Island and Mt. Baker in the Cascades. Enjoy roaring surf and fluttering sea birds as you progress to the lighthouse. Call Lynn Howat for more information at 598-3087.

Dry Creek Trail


FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10th; Spend Veteran's Day Holiday enjoying the fall beauty of the Olympics on the Dry Creek Trail near Lake Cushman. The second growth forest of alders and maples will afford the golden colors of fall. Along the portion of trail passing through old growth expect silver firs, western red cedars and western hemlocks. The trail ascends Prospect Ridge, gaining 2250 feet over 5.5 miles. Contact Doug Savage at 698-9774.



- More events on page 2 -

- Events continued from page 1 -

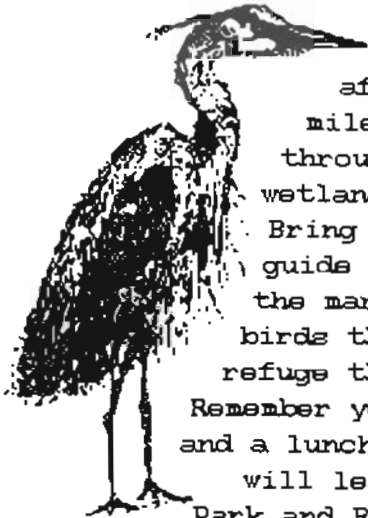
Barnes Creek



WEEKEND of NOVEMBER 18th & 19th; Doug Savage and Joe Weigel will spend one or two days on the on-going maintenance of the Barnes Creek Trail. Since completion of large blow-down removals occurred earlier this year, this outing will concentrate on tread improvement. Contact Doug at 698-9774 or Joe at 871-0291.

Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th; Stroll through the relaxing grounds of the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.



This nearby sanctuary affords five miles of easy paths through peaceful wetlands and meadows. Bring binoculars and guide books to observe the many and varied birds that make the refuge their home.

Remember your rain gear and a lunch. The group will leave the Gorst Park and Ride at 9:00 am. Call Diana Cripe at 895-4299 for more information.

Elk Watching on the Elwha

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd; Join Doug Savage as he goes elk watching on the Seek Way and Anderson Ranch Trails in the Elwha River Basin. The total mileage for the day will be about 7 miles with minimal elevation gain. For a fun fall outing, contact Doug at 698-9774.

Annual Beginners' Cross-Country Skiing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th; Doug Savage is looking for "new meat" to main during his annual beginners' cross-country ski trip to Reflection Lakes near Mt. Rainier. Seriously, this is a scenic and easy trail for those who have never tried cross-country skiing before. Doug (and other skiers who like to make this their first relaxing outing for the season) will provide guidance and support as you get started at this enjoyable winter activity. Contact Doug at 698-9774.



- More Opportunities on page 3 -

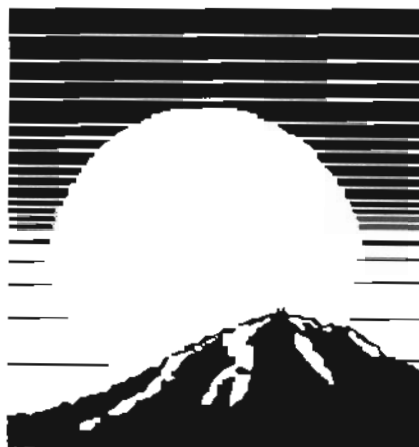
- Events continued from page 2 -

Skiing at Hurricane Ridge

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th; Enjoy the cool, crisp snow of Hurricane Hill. Hurricane Ridge provides excellent opportunities for advanced beginners/easy intermediate cross-country skiers. Contact Dave Cossa at 871-5577 or Chris Bell at 876-4800.

Snow Camping at Reflection Lakes

JANUARY 13th thru 15th; Spend the long weekend snow camping near beautiful Reflection Lakes in Mt. Rainier National Park. The four mile cross-country ski trail is easy access for first time snow



campers. Members will need a four season tent and appropriate winter equipment. Contact Doug Savage at 698-9774.

Planning for 1996

Chris's Canadian Escape

MARCH 13th thru 17th; Call now to reserve a spot on Chris Bell's winter adventure to Lake Louise in Canada. This breathtaking wonderland can be reached via Canadian Rail or by carpooling. Members can enjoy both cross-country and downhill skiing. There is potential for some technical ice climbing in the area as well. The approximate cost for the excursion is \$350. Contact Chris as soon as possible in order to make the necessary arrangements, 876-4800 or 871-9414.



96' Summer Adventure

JULY 1996; Doug Savage and Joe Weigel are making advanced plans of an 8 day excursion up the Elwha River and out the Quinalt near the end of July in 1996. Total mileage is approximately 60 miles. Contact Doug at 698-9774 or Joe at 871-0291.

More Opportunities

Make Winterfest Reservations Now!

FEBRUARY 17th-19th, 1996;
Reservations can be made now for your 1996 Winterfest accommodations at the Inn of Packwood near White Pass. Be sure to indicate you are with the PWC group when making arrangements, so that club rooms can be reserved in one general location of the Inn.

Two members have agreed to reserve large rooms to serve as gathering spots for evening relaxation and socializing. Other members are encouraged to organize roommates and plan to reserve the third large room available

The Inn has many other rooms with varying sleeping arrangements; all have private baths. The Inn also has a heated indoor swimming pool and hot tub for unwinding after those long days of winter fun.

The White Pass area offers opportunities for downhill and cross-country skiers, as well as, snow-shoers and other winter enthusiasts. Snow Park permits are required. Drivers will have to travel via Highway 12 through Morton because of winter road closures. Make your Saturday and Sunday night reservations by calling (360)494-5500. The Inn prefers checks over credit cards for deposits on reservations.

1996 Ski Hut Outings

Tony Abruzzo is organizing three Mt. Tahoma ski hut trips for 1996 (Jan. 21/21, Feb. 10/11 and March 9/10). Members need to notify Tony of the trips they wish to attend. Because the number of persons who may join each trip is limited, reserved spaces will be assigned via lottery.

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING the names of interested persons will be entered; reserved spots will go to those whose names are drawn. Drawings for all three trips will be conducted at this time. Contact Tony at 871-5754.

If you are chosen for a reserved spot, you must write a \$25 deposit check to the PWC (\$25 for each reserved spot). Deposits will be refunded after the trip.

JANUARY 20th and 21st; Ski to the Copper Creek Hut. This is suitable for beginning skiers and beyond.

FEBRUARY 10th and 11th;
Intermediate skills are desirable for this trip to Snow Bowl Hut.

MARCH 9th and 10th; Copper Creek is the destination; all skill levels welcome.



This and That

Interested Members Meeting

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16th; The Interested Members Meeting will be held at the home of Janet Hunt in central Kitsap. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Help other members organize upcoming activities and schedule outings. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to introduce themselves and get involved. Call Janet at 698-7272 for directions.



October Door Prize

Wayne Newbigging was the lucky winner of October's door prize, a Helly-Hansen wind breaker. Thanks to Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe for donating the monthly door prize.

New Members

The PWC welcomes Jim Pettis, the club's new member for the month of October.

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. Please do NOT call the newsletter editor to report changes of address; this creates extra work steps for our volunteer staff, and may delay updating of the database and your newsletter delivery.

Newsletter Contributions

Articles, trip reports, interviews, announcements, etc for the PENWICKLE can be sent to:

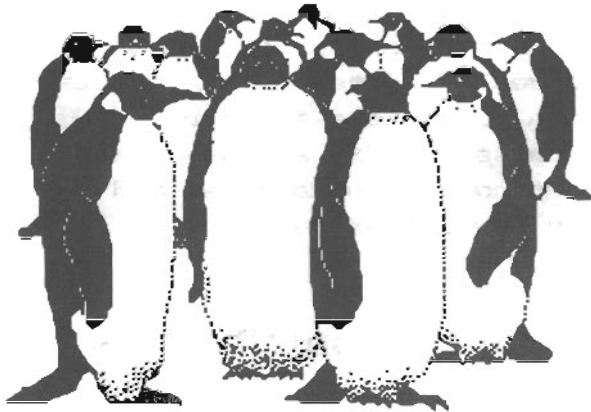


Teresa Miller, P.O. Box 3163, Bremerton, WA 98310; Or, phone 373-6781. The deadline for inclusion in next month's publication is the 17th of each month. The earlier material is submitted, the better. Please include your name and telephone number with your submittals.

The Galapagos Islands

By Chris Bell

The Galapagos Islands are situated just south of the equator, approximately five hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador, in the Pacific Ocean. The islands are magical, for man has had little impact upon the land or the endemic wildlife that inhabits the land, sky and sea. It is here that a person can step over nesting birds, detour around sea lions and swim with penguins.



I was invited to join a class of university students in a tour of the islands during the first week of September. This happens to be an ideal time to visit the Galapagos. The weather is generally dry but reasonably comfortable. There are few tourists. Many of the species of birds, such as the albatross, are home breeding at this time, and during other times of the year many species migrate south. Therefore, there is lots to see and do.

The Galapagos Islands, an archipelago of volcanic islands, are owned by Ecuador and are administered as a national park. Access is limited. Self guided tours are prohibited. It is necessary that a naturalist accompany each tour boat. The boats are generally chartered in advance, for trips that can last as long as eight days. The size of a party depends upon the size of the boat.

I was on a boat which accommodated sixteen guests, in addition to the crew of seven and the naturalist. The staterooms were comfortable. All meals were taken on the boat, and were adequate but not particularly interesting. Most of the travel between the islands was accomplished during the night, to maximize the time spent exploring the various islands. We spent eight days visiting seven islands, several islets, and we crossed the equator twice.

The trip seemed like it was scripted by Disney Productions. We were advised in advance that we could expect to see land iguanas, and sure enough as we walked along there appeared not one, but numerous iguanas. The naturalist then provided a history of the iguana. The same was true for the sea-going iguana, the lava lizard and the giant tortoise. Each species appeared on cue; each acted out its role just as explained by the naturalist.

- Continued on page 7 -

- Galapagos continued from page 6 -

The birds were particularly interesting, since they could be seen in such close proximity. The frigate bird, with its red throat inflated like a large balloon, was so preoccupied with attracting a mate that it had no time to pay attention to the humans who stood around gawking at the ceremony. Pairs of blue-footed boobies squawked at each other as the domestic chores were negotiated. The albatross was engaged in a love dance, seeking to cement the relationship, not dissimilar to what we might expect to see on a dance floor.

The more I became aware of the characteristics of the wildlife, with the help of the naturalist, the more I came to understand that Darwin was not off the mark in his theory of evolution. But then Darwin was very much impressed by his trip to the Galapagos.

A part of each day was devoted to swimming and snorkeling. Imagine the most exotic aquarium and you will have a mental picture of what life looked like beneath the sea. The fish had every imaginable color and shape, and were quite willing to allow me to come near. The sea lions joined in the swim and I often was able to touch them as they swam around me. The penguins were also swimming in the area, but were less sociable. A shark and several sting rays were in close proximity.

Unless a person is lucky enough to be asked to chaperon eleven university coeds, a visit to the Galapagos is not inexpensive - although this once in a lifetime visit is well worth the expense. The trip generally starts in Quito, Ecuador. From there a flight leaves for the Islands. The cost of the flight from Quito to the Islands is approximately three hundred dollars and a tour boat can cost from five hundred dollars for a short trip to twelve hundred dollars for the longer excursions.

For the traveller to the Galapagos, a must read book is written by a Michael Jackson (no, not the singer) and called "The Galapagos". It should be available at most book stores. It is readable, thorough, and informative explaining the geology, wildlife and political history of the Islands.

If I were to single out any one trip as a highlight in my life it would be the time spent on the Galapagos Islands.

INVITED

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1-5 pm;
Reception at the Sidney Gallery in Port Orchard for the showing of "Alpine Landscapes of the Northwest" by PWC member Dee Molenaar, and "Paintings by an Old Native Duffer" -- Alaskan and nautical scenes by Lyle Ferguson. There's no charge, and refreshments will be served. The show will extend from November 1st thru 26th.

Four Pass Hike

by Alice Savage

Fall came early to the Northwest this year with rain the second week of August. But, Sunday the 13th turned out bright and sunny when we took off for a five day trek into the Olympics.

After shuttling Doug's car to Whiskey Bend on the Elwha, it was late afternoon when we left the Obstruction Point trailhead. Descending down to Grand Valley, we passed Gladys Lake, smallest of the three.

It was a beautiful night, clear with a heaven full of stars. Later the moon came up, lighting up the hills and valleys. It was the last night to enjoy such beauty because the weather soured up.

By morning the clouds moved in but it was quite warm as we broke camp and headed up to Grand Pass at 6650 feet. It started to rain when some of us climbed the nearby unnamed peak (6701 feet) so we quickly descended and dropped down the other side of the pass where the weather improved and the rain gear came off.

It is a steep drop to Cameron Creek at 4100 feet. We followed the Cameron to its headwaters in Cameron Basin and started up to Cameron Pass. The wind and rain really blasted us, almost sweeping us off our feet as we climbed the steep rocky trail.

At the pass, (6450 feet) we quickly took pictures and headed down. Once again the weather improved, the rain stopped and it was a pleasant descent to Three Sons Camp where we spent the second night.

Our third day was the hardest as we walked about 13 miles up and down trails. When we headed for Lost Pass, the sun peeked through from time to time and the meadow at the pass was beautiful. The trail drops 1050 feet in eight tenths of a mile, so it is somewhat hard; but, was over quickly and soon we were in Dosewallips Meadows.

The views are tremendous hiking up to Hayden Pass through wide open country. The weather was good with high thin clouds for cooler hiking. I felt very energized for some reason that morning and was the first one on the pass. It certainly is up-lifting to stand on a high point in the mountains where one can see forever.



- Four Pass continued from page 8 -

Dropping down the other side was a virtual Garden of Eden with vast hillsides of red Indian Paintbrush. I had never seen so many before in one place. What a lovely walk through the flowers. This, of course, was still in the high country but we soon left it and dropped down into the darkness of the forest.

It is 8 1/2 miles from the pass to Hayes River where we camped the third night by the ranger's cabin. We were very exhausted and it took a lot of effort to set up camp and cook dinner which we did on the porch of the cabin as it rained.

The next day, we followed the Elwha for 12 miles in on-and-off rain, occasionally coming to a cabin or ranger station. We spent the fourth and last night at Camp Lillian where a bear was rummaging through garbage left by earlier campers.

It was disgusting to see such a mess. The guys threw rocks at the bear, scaring him off. He crossed the river and hung around for a while, but more rock throwing discouraged him and he finally disappeared.

Camping under the big cedar trees kept the steady rain off so we could cook dinner. Finally getting a campfire going was great and we burned up all the garbage and left a clean camp.

Day five started with rain but it cleared and the sun came out to dry and warm us. Doug, Kevin and Roger hurried ahead to drive to Obstruction Point where Joe's car was waiting. Much to their surprise, they found two inches of snow on Joe's car.



In spite of the weather it was a good trip. Anyone who has ever hiked with Doug, knows the conversation can be quite spirited and a lot of fun. Also, anyone who has tented with Doug (as I did on this trip) knows he has a certain "air" about him.

We covered about 42 miles in five days, with the first and last only half days of hiking. It may be hard work but well worth it to see these beautiful areas.





New Club Clean-up Effort



The club has received warning from the church at which the monthly Monday night meetings are held, that our clean-up efforts have been failing. The club is charged a very minimal fee of \$25 per month for use of this roomy, comfortable and centrally-located facility.

Each month the same small group of loyal club members is left to

clean and re-order the church. Diana Cripe has agreed to head the club's renewed cleaning effort. In the interest of fairness and efficiency, she will be seeking a few volunteers from the PWC membership list each month. We hope you will please find a few moments to help with the post-meeting clean-up when your services are called upon.

Club Officers

President.....Steve Vittori.....377-1869
Vice Pres.....Harry Wilson.....479-1322
Secretary.....Lyn Lund.....377-7067
Treasurer.....Kevin Kilbridge.....871-2537

Miscellaneous Staff

Editor.....Teresa Miller.....373-6781
Assemblers...Kimmel....Guttormson/Grunigen
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

