

PENWILC

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.

September 1996

Monday Meeting

September 9th

Alaskan Adventures

Steve Vittori will present slides from his recent trip to Alaska. Steve rafted on the Copper River and hiked and explored the Kenai Peninsula.

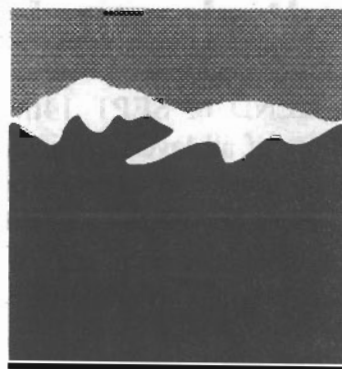
Doug Barnhart from Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) will also make a short presentation about his organization.

North Fork of Sol Duc River Trail

AUG 31st through SEPT 2nd, Doug Savage and Joe Weigel are leading a three day backpacking trip up the North Fork of the Solduc River. The trip is 10 miles each way with moderate elevation gain. A side trip up Aurora Ridge is planned. Call Joe at 871-0291 or Doug at 698-9774 for more details.

Camping on Mt. Rainier

WEEKEND of SEPT 7th and 8th; Spend a night camping at Pyramid Mountain on beautiful Mt. Rainier. A partial ascent of Success Cleaver (up to 8000 - 9000 feet) is planned. No climbing experience (nothing technical) is necessary. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774.



Eunice Lake/ Tolmie Peak

SATURDAY, SEPT 7th; This is a pleasant day hike of about 5.6 miles (round trip) with 1500 feet of elevation gain. The trail starts near Mowich Lake on the north side of Mt. Rainier. The views should be excellent from Tolmie Peak. Call Teresa Sayers at 895-8769 or Cheryl Gudger at 876-3035.

Heather Park Day Hike

SUNDAY, SEPT 8th; Join Hildegard Stone for a beautiful hike to Heather Park. The trail starts at Heart O' the Hills campground near Hurricane Ridge. Hikers emerge in the enchanting park about 4.1 miles from the trailhead. The elevation gain is about 3500 feet and is pleasant when accomplished at one's own pace. Call Hildegard at 692-5984.

Rock Climbing at Peshastin Pinnacles

WEEKEND of SEPT 14th and 15th; Rock climbers of all levels are invited to join in this thrilling weekend. Tony Abruzzo and friends will have a few extra harnesses and guidance to share with new climbers. More experienced climbers should bring their own harnesses.

ALL participants MUST HAVE rock climbing shoes. Consider simplifying the logistics by renting them at the destination. Contact Tony at 871-5754 for more details on what to bring, or to discuss the possibility of making camping arrangements.



Silver Creek/ Mt. Townsend

SATURDAY, SEPT 14th; This fun day hike starts up Silver Creek. Hikers achieve the top of Mt. Townsend from the southwest side. After enjoying the expansive views, the party will descend via the Dirty Face Ridge Trail. This loop is about 10.5 miles with 2800 feet of elevation gain. Call Russ Childers at 871-3331.



Pyramid Mtn

SATURDAY, SEPT 21st; Located on the north side of Lake Crescent, Pyramid Mountain provides an outstanding vista of Mt. Storm King, Barnes Creek, Aurora Ridge, as well as the pristine waters below. The trail is 3.5 miles (one way) and gains 2400 feet of elevation. It is a steady uphill climb, but an excellent day hike for almost anyone. Contact Steve Vittori at 377-1869.



Mt. Tahoma Maintenance

WEEKEND of SEPT 21st and 22nd, Tony Abruzzo is planning his third work party for the Mt. Tahoma ski huts and trails. If you've enjoyed the outback luxury of these facilities, or enjoy combining the great outdoors with a little hard work, consider volunteering. Work will be accomplished on Saturday, and volunteers are welcome to stay overnight in the hut and bike or play on Sunday. Call Tony at 871-5754.

Crystal Ridge

SATURDAY, SEPT 28th; The hike along Crystal Ridge is classified as an abandoned trail. It is described by Woods as being, "steep, dry and waterless". It gains 2700 feet over 3 miles. It is not for beginning hikers, but is perfect for enthusiasts looking for a challenge and some solitude. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774.

More Rock Climbing near Leavenworth

WEEKEND of OCT 5th and 6th; Tony Abruzzo will be at Peshastin Pinnacles again. Rock climbing opportunities of people of all skill levels will abound.

You MUST HAVE rock climbing shoes. Tony and some of the more experienced hikers will provide ropes and have some harnesses to share. Shoes can be rented there. Contact Tony at 871-5754 for all the details.

Little Quilcene Day Hike

SATURDAY, OCT 5th; Yo! Believe me, there's nothing little about this hike except the sign at the trailhead. For a breathtaking hike with breathtaking views, join Mert, Dawn and the gang on this mountainness melody. Paul Mertel: 297-7715. Dawn Parshall (206)884-5410



Cat Creek Way Trail

WEEKEND of OCT 12th through 14th; Join Doug Savage for a three day excursion along the Cat Creek Way Trail. The first day will be spent at Oyster Lake near Appleton Pass. The high country traverse to the High Divide will be accomplished on day 2. Climbing Mt. Carrie or Cat Peak is a possibility. Heart Lake is the site of the second night's camp. Members will hike out the high divide trail on the third day. The entire trip should afford exceptional views and abundant blueberries. Contact Doug Savage at 698-9774 for more information.

Mt. Tyler

SATURDAY, OCT 19th; Chris Hildebrand will be climbing Mt. Tyler in the Olympics. To join this grade 2 climb, call Chris at 377-2604.

More Trips....

Olympic Hot Springs

SUNDAY, OCT 20th; This is a leisurely outing of fall fun and frolicking. The trail into Olympic Hot Springs is only about 2 miles with essentially no elevation change. Enjoy the company and relax in the pools. Singles are encouraged to join in. Call Hildegard Stone at 692-5984.

Mt. Walkinshaw

SATURDAY, OCT 26th; If you are up for this grade 3 climb, call Doug Savage at 698-9774, or Chris Hildebrand at 377-2604.

Mailing List Being Up-Dated



If you have changed your address, telephone number or name in the last year, you will want to contact Doug Savage to ensure your data appears correctly in the up-dated mailing list. You can also review and correct the information at the Monday night meetings. October's meeting is the deadline for corrections. You can reach Doug at 698-9774.

Club Officer Nominees

Anyone interested in running for, or nominating a friend for, PWC President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer should contact Steve Vittori at 377-1869 or Venita Goodrich at 698-9774. The duties are minimal, and the prestige and unlimited power is rewarding. This is an excellent way for new members to get more acquainted with the club. Elections are held during the October Monday night meeting.

Memorial to Harry Wilson

Contributed by Tom Banks

On April 12, 1996, Kitsap County had the Opening Ceremony and Open House for the Moderate Risk Waste Facility. This facility, located in the Port of Bremerton Industrial Park, will accept moderate risk waste from households and businesses. At the ceremony, Gretchen Olson, Director of Kitsap County Solid Waste, announced the intent to plant a tree and post a plaque honoring Harry Wilson, long-time Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and PWC member. Harry passed away earlier this year.



Harry had been vice president of the PWC for several years. In addition to his volunteer efforts for PWC, he was the President of the Sierra Club in this area, and was on the Remedial Action Advisory Board for Keyport and Bangor superfund sites.

According to Gretchen, Harry was very diligent in reviewing the County's Solid Waste Management plan. He also put in many, many hours at the past household hazardous waste collections. Harry had a system to direct traffic and count cars, and he would work 12 hours a day, processing 600 cars a day.

"Harry was so quiet that it was an effort to encourage him to talk. His choice of volunteer activities portrays a person dedicated to preservation of a healthy environment more than anything he ever said."



September PWC Calendar of Events

1996



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N Fork Sol Duc (p1)	N Fork Sol Duc (p1)					Mt. Rainier (p1) Tolmie Peak (p1)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Heather Park (p2) Mt. Rainier (p1)	LABOR DAY! Monday Meeting			Interested Members Meeting		Rock Climbing (p2) Silver Creek (p2)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Rock Climbing (p2)						Pyramid Mtn (p2) Mt. Tahoma (p3)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Mt. Tahoma (p3)						Crystal Ridge (p3)
29	30					



October PWC Calendar of Events

1996



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Little Quilcene (p3) Rock Climbing (p3)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rock Climbing (p3)						Cat Creek Way (p3)
13	14 COLUMBUS DAY! Cat Creek Way (p3) Monday Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
Cat Creek Way (p3)				Interested Members Meeting		Mt. Tyler (p3)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					POTLUCK!	Mt. Walkinshaw (p4)
27	28	29	30	31		
Olympic Hot (p4)						



Greetings from Homer, Alaska!

PWC member, Bruce Kittredge, sent the following friendly hello and invitation to fellow PWCers:

Just drove up here for summer work in the fish canneries! The Alcan Highway was an adventure in itself. (2 Flat tires!)

The mosquitos are bigger than bears up here! The locals say, "Just keep moving... They won't bite."

Lots of beautiful scenery, mountains, glaciers, mosquitos, fish, sun, sea breezes, bears, moose, tons of bear scat (especially on the bottom of my boots).

I'm living in my white Toyota van on Homer Spit (I'm what they call a "Spit Rat", camping on the spit, working in the canneries.) If any of you get up this way, stop by! I'll be here until the end of September. Just look for my van.

Happy hiking!

Yakima Float

by Rhiannon Belshe
(South Kitsap HS Senior)

The Yakima River float trip was three days of absolute fun and relaxation. With sunshine, rolling mountains, and gorgeous water to float in while we soaked up the Yakima Canyon's beautiful terrain.

Together the group floated eighteen miles of crystal clear, freezing cold water. We departed near Ellensburg and stopped for a lunch break right at our camp, then floated the last nine miles down to the take out point at Roza dam.



Saturday's trip down the river was full of adrenalin pumping adventure. We had a rescue when a small girl fell out of her boat and was being pulled downstream. Luckily, PWC was there to jump in and pull her out. The girl was all right, but some of us were a little shaken. It was nothing a little midnight hike couldn't remedy. We used nothing more than our own night vision; the stars were amazing.

The Yakima River float trip was a blast, full of fun and adventure. I would recommend it to anyone.

Volunteers Needed

The Olympic National Park revegetation project at Sand Point (Ozette) is seeking volunteers. Work starts right after Labor Day. For more information, call Ruth Scott or Bill Baccus at Natural Resource Management, (360)452-4501.

Entertainment Ideas

Got an idea for entertainment during the monthly Monday night meeting? Maybe you've just returned from an interesting adventure? Do you know someone whose experiences or expertise might be of interest to the club? Contact Joe Weigel with your ideas, 871-0291.



I'll Do the Dishes

by B. R. Love



It's Thursday, 5:00 a.m., and here comes Roger to pick me up for the transit to Toquart Bay in Barclay Sound. Six of us: Art, George, Roger, Bob, Shirley and myself, are off on a sea kayak trip in the Broken Islands. We had preloaded my gear on Roger's truck so we're soon on our way.

We met the rest of the party at the ferry landing in Port Angeles and headed to a nearby cafe for breakfast. After seating, someone requested fast service as we were catching the next ferry. Bad idea! The waitress informed us that everyone was catching the next ferry. In other words, "Relax." We did, and still managed to catch the ferry. The weather was good and some of us walked around and enjoyed the boat ride.

After landing, we rendezvoused and caravanned to Toquart Bay Park. There we made an overnight camp, intending to depart early the next morning. We had no sooner settled into camp when some guy inquired when we were leaving. We had his camping spot. No reservations; it was just his because he always camped there. He didn't make trouble. Canadian good manners precluded that. But, it was obvious we were about as unwelcome in that spot as flies in the buttermilk.



Prior to the trip, it was agreed that each person would prepare an evening meal for all and someone enjoying the feast would do the dishes. I had opted out of this arrangement and would stick to my backpacking menu. This was primarily because I am not a cook beyond hot water food and because, except for Shirley, I didn't have a lot of faith in the others' abilities. So, the first evening meal was freeze-dried for me and antelope tacos by Shirley for the rest. They sure smelled good, so I had a small one and it tasted fine. It was about what I expected from Shirley, but I was still firm in my conviction of food choice.

Friday dawned clear and we breakfasted, loaded the boats, parked the cars, and were on our way. There was a continuing discussion during the day as to our destination, but for me I could've cared less; it was a fine day and I was enjoying the paddle.



We meandered through the islands, sight-seeing and enjoying our first day on the water. We split the Stopper Islands and headed over to Hand for lunch and a short visit. We paddled around the Brabant Islands and past Dodd and Willis. It was high tide and we were able to cross the shoals west of Turret Island. Shortly afterward the wind came up and we could see the rain coming right behind it. Our destination was now Benson Island and it was full speed ahead. We didn't make it. The rain arrived before we passed Clark and we landed on Benson a little wet.

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We carried the boats off the beach and parked them on log debris at the edge of the woods because an exceptionally high tide was expected. A communal cook tarp was rigged on a small knoll and the tents were set up nearby, under some large fir trees with overhanging branches.

Supper was Roger's chili, on which I passed. I had my own freeze-dried chili. I had tested Roger's chili in the past and found it a tad hot for me. I did try a small amount of it that night. The taste was pleasant, not too hot. It was a positive vote for communal cooking.

Shortly after supper we all turned in for a very windy and rainy night. The campground location on the island and in the fir trees provided us maximum protection from the elements. The rain was intermittent but persistent for several days and the cook tarp did just fine as a catch basin, providing more water than needed. Shortly before dark, a father and son arrived in rental boats and made camp next to us.

Saturday arrived with the wind and rain continuing. We spent the day killing time, telling lies and exploring the island between the rains. For the inexperienced, "First Liar Doesn't Have a Chance," so let the other fellow tell his tale first.

By this time we had all discovered that our island had the finest privy possible--a double unit back to back. Each unit had a strategically placed viewing port that provided primo views of the water and shoreline. They were constructed of fresh cut rough cedar which imparted a freshness that was indeed a pleasant change.

Around noon the rain ceased and our visitors departed. As near as I could determine, they had no self-rescue equipment and would not have known how to use it anyway.

The highlight of the day for me was spotting a hummingbird feeding on bugs on some stalky green plants next to the cook tarp. It's a good thing these little critters are omnivorous as I found very few blossoms on the island.

It turned out the island had a varied wildlife. I had misidentified a small furry animal spotted during our initial landing as an oversized black tailed ferret. This was later determined to be a martin. There were several deer that browsed on the grassy knoll next to the cook tent and Art later spotted a small brown snake.

Supper for the evening was to be cioppino and mashed potatoes, courtesy of Chef Roger. We collected a bunch of mussels to add local flavor. George had got the fishing bug earlier and presented a nice fish at the appropriate time. It was immediately prepared and added to the stew. I joined in the communal supper and it was really good. My hot water food was rapidly losing its appeal. Someone else did the dishes and we all wandered off to bed as the urge moved us.

Sunday, and all was well. There was no rain. Broken clouds hung overhead and a reasonable wind blew. We could still see good wave action in the Coaster Channel to the east, but it did not appear large enough to pose any real problems. Boy, was that a bad assumption.

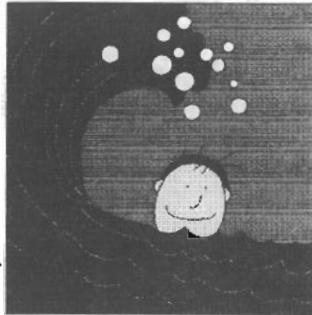
It was 'away all boats' and 'let's go sight-seeing' over to Cooper and the rest of the islands in the southernmost group. After a full day's rest, it was a pleasure to feel our boats surge with each stroke.

Before we realized, we were in some really BIG swells. In the trough your vision was limited to the green water all around and above you. On the crest you could see the other boats that were on top but nobody in the trough.

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In retrospect, on dry land the swells were probably about ten feet high, but sitting in the trough looking up, they were every inch of fifteen feet with a pucker factor pushing ten. Fortunately, we had the swells coming in on our beam, which was probably the best aspect for a safe transit. My initial concern was that the next one might break right on top of me. After negotiating several large ones, my concern was replaced by enjoyment of the roller coaster ride tempered with common sense caution. Our luck held and there were no breakers as the channel bottom in this area does not shoal significantly.



We made the lee of the island and paddled around sight-seeing. Art spotted several more of the little furry animals.

We stopped at Effingham Island for lunch and discovered a well set up camp where none was allowed. The rent collector stopped by to visit and called the ranger on her radio. The owners never did show and we departed about the time the ranger arrived.

For you interested blue water sailors, the rent collector used a modified med moor for her motor boat so the tide couldn't leave her high and dry. She would drop a stern anchor in the deep water and drive the bow into the shore for unloading. The shore side line was made fast with slack in both lines. Reboarding was accomplished by pulling the boat inshore with the bow line, stepping aboard and pulling the boat into deep water with the stern anchor line and away we go.

The trip back to Benson across the Coaster Channel with the big swells was super. No one tarried, but I'm sure it was enjoyed by all.

Supper for the day was rabbits and dumpling courtesy of Shirley. After that fine meal I was almost a total convert to communal meals. I did the dishes as scheduled, but I was withholding my final conversion to test the fare a little more. Our hummingbird friend joined us again, which was pleasant.

Monday looked about like Sunday, so we decided to spend another day around Benson. Before long, George was fishing in the channel between Benson and Clark Islands. One at a time we all joined him and it turned into a pleasant paddle to the north side of Clark. There we found the camping area overloaded. I'm sure glad we didn't stop there.

There was a large kelp bed over by Owens Island and George was fishing the edges. I paddled over to visit and noted two seals in the kelp. I sure hope they had better luck than George. If fish had been the main course for dinner, we would have had mighty thin gravy this night.

We went back to Benson and had a midday snack of mussels. They were very tasty. The rest of the day was spent lolly-gagging and sight-seeing.

The evening meal was chicken tortellini with alfredo sauce by Art. After this meal I was no longer able to hold out. I became an ardent convert to communal suppers. I sure hope I can learn how to cook a regular meal, because I'd never be able to explain dishpan hands after a trip. The hummingbird joined us again. I guess our schedules were about the same.

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We awoke to a perfect day on Tuesday. It was clear with little wind and mild wave action. We broke camp, packed up and headed out, intending to camp on Hand Island for the night. Shortly after our departure, Roger decided he wanted to race to Hand to catch the 10:00 a.m. low tide and pick some oysters for supper. I went along to provide a second paddler. The others went sight-seeing up the channel by Turtle and on to Hand that afternoon.

We made Hand right at 10:00 a.m. I had worked pretty hard for a normally lazy type and decided to lay about the rest of the day.

Hand Island is noted for two things, easy picking oysters and obnoxious crows. The crows meet you when you come ashore, inspecting your boat and baggage for anything they can steal. If it's edible, protect it or the crows will have it at the first opportunity. We're talking no more than five feet away with your back turned. They have absolutely no fear and give you 'the bird' in crow talk when you run them off.

Roger got his oysters but stacked them in a low area that flooded with high tide. Later I was wading about and he asked me to check the oysters. I did, and the only thing showing was the handle of an oyster knife that was stuck in one tough oyster. Believing our supper was lost unless I retrieved them, I waded in, sneakers and all. (Anything to save the entree for the next communal supper.) I rescued the oysters, but soaked my sneakers and had to wear my rubber boots from then until I arrived home. Thanks, Roger.

The rest of the group arrived about 2:30 p.m. with a large zip-lock full of cleaned oysters. My heroics were wasted.

About 5:00 p.m. my stomach was complaining and somebody said supper would not be ready until 7:00. This didn't suit me. My appetite overcame taste and I had a freeze-dried supper. I turned in feeling a little under the weather. Roger cooked the oysters and everyone else enjoyed another fine communal supper. I am converted totally to communal supper. If I can't cook, I will gladly do the dishes.

Wednesday started out as a fine day for our farewell paddle -- broken clouds, little wind, and smooth waters. At breakfast the crows were pesky, as always, helping themselves to Roger's breakfast uninvited. Roger and the crows exchanged a few unpleasantries and they flew off to find another unsuspecting paddler with unguarded food.

We soon packed up and headed back. Bob and Shirley broke off to do some private paddling. The rest of us headed north, intending to leave the Stoppers to port. About the time we entered David Channel, the wind rose and buffeted us until we reached a lee east of the Stoppers. I guess it was a good-bye kiss from the local weather gods.

Transiting the northeast coast of the northern Stopper Island, we spotted a dead seal on the beach and two crows nearby making quite a ruckus. Crows don't normally advertise their meals, so I paddled over to determine their problem. No wonder the crows were complaining. There was a huge bald eagle in a downed tree about twenty feet from the seal and nobody was about to run him off.

We landed, loaded the boat and gear, and caravanned to the ferry in Nanaimo to Tsawmussen.

When Roger dropped me off at home that evening, I was looking forward to a shower and bed. I wasted no time in achieving both.

Officers & Staff

President:	Steve Vittori	377-1869
Vice Pres:	Venita Goodrich	698-9774
Secretary:	Lyn Lund	377-7067
Treasurer:	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537
Editor:	Teresa Sayers	895-8769
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel	871-0291
Assembling:	Joyce Kimmel, Bill Boileau	
Refreshments:	Tony Abruzzo	871-5154
Clean-Up:	Diana Cripe	895-4299
New Members:	Bert Cripe	895-4299

CLUB BUSINESS:

Interested Members Meeting:
September 12th (Thurs), 7:00 pm
at Teresa and Chris Sayers's house
in Port Orchard. Bring ideas for
fall hikes and enjoy a relaxed
evening among fellow
recreationists. Call Teresa at 895-
8769 for directions.

New Members in August:
George and Patricia Christian,
John and Janis Lewis, and
Margaret Nehm.

Door Prize: Cindy Holben was the
winner of August's door prize, a
Seattle Sombrero. Thanks to Mt.
Constance Mountain Shoppe for
donating the monthly door prize.

Newsletter Contributions: Send
articles, trip reports, interviews,
announcements, etc to: **Teresa
Sayers, 4130 Harris Ave. SE, Pt.
Orchard, WA 98366; Or, phone 895-
8769.**

To Change Your Address: Notify
**Jim Luddon at 165 NW Alta Drive;
Bremerton, WA 98310.** Or, change
your address at the time you pay your
annual dues.

Potluck!

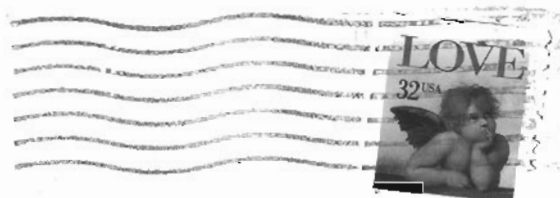
FRIDAY, SEPT 20th; Doug
Savage and Venita Goodrich will
host the September potluck at their
home near Illahee. New members
are encouraged to join and get
acquainted. Bring a dish to share
and stories to swap. Call Doug or
Venita at 698-9774.

PENWICKE

Peninsula Wilderness Club
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Bremerton, WA 98337-0070



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