

# PENWICKE

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.

## December 1996

### *Monday Meeting*

**December 9th**

### **The Sights and Sounds of Scotland!**

Cris Craig and Brian Steely will present images from their 1996 trip to the NorthWest Highlands of Scotland. They day hiked, explored the culture and countryside, and basked in the luxury of Bed and Breakfasts along the way. They also experienced Edinburgh during its annual festival. Join them for a view of this beautiful country.

### **Late Autumn Day Hike**

SATURDAY, Dec 7th; Joe and Kathy Weigel are planning a day hike. They haven't decided on a destination yet, but hikers are always guaranteed fun and good company on Weigel outings. Call them at 871-0291.

### **Snowshoeing at Paradise**

SUNDAY, Dec 15th; Steve Vittori and Kris Ceithamer will be snowshoeing at Paradise at Mt. Rainier. For those of you who have never seen Paradise on a clear winter day, its a pristine wonderland of unsurpassed splendor. And, for those who have never snowshoed before, this is a great opportunity to join some fun people and give it a try. Call Steve at 377-1869, or Kris at 377-3797.

Happy  
Holidays!



## **Barnes Flats Beginners' Ski**

SUNDAY, DEC 22nd; First time cross-country skiers — this trip is perfect for you. Doug Savage is hosting his annual beginners' outing near Mt. Rainier. He'll be at Barnes Flats on Sunday, December 22nd.

This quaint meadow area is beautiful under its blanket of winter white. It provides level stretches and gradual slopes; it's perfect for first time skiers. Experienced skiers in the group can provide some guidance on how to start enjoying this terrific winter sport.

Call Doug at 698-9774.



## **Crystal Mtn**

FRIDAY, DEC 27th; Try out your new skis at Crystal Mountain. Downhillers and telemarkers are welcome to join Doug Savage as he hits the slopes. Call Doug at 698-9774.



## **Ring in the New Year**

WEDNESDAY, JAN 1st, Mark the new year with a celebration of nature. Call Hildegard Stone with ideas for an easy winter hike on which to christen 1997. Hiking on New Year's Day is a PWC tradition for everyone to enjoy. Call Hildegard at 692-5984.

## **Mt. Angeles**

SUNDAY, Jan 19th; A winter climb of Mt. Angeles is considered Class 2 and requires some beginning mountaineering skills. Climbers start from the road to Hurricane Ridge at the bottom of Switchback Trail. The climb is over 2000 feet and takes about six hours round trip. Call Bill Boileau at 613-5263.

## **Winter Camping**

JANUARY 18th thru 20th; Doug Savage will be spending the long weekend winter camping in either the Paradise Valley of Mt. Rainier or the Plains of Abraham on the eastern side of Mt. St. Helens. This is trip for skiers with advanced mountaineering skills and winter camping experience. Call Doug at 698-9774.

## Skiing Blue Mtn

WEEKEND of JAN 25th and 26th; Ski Blue Mountain near Deer Park. Skiers will winter camp, hopefully in the shelter. It requires intermediate ski skills. Telemarking is possible on the slopes, but is certainly not required. Call Doug at 698-9774.

## Make Reservations Now for Winterfest 97

FEBRUARY 15th thru 17th, 1997; The Inn at Packwood is accepting reservations for the February holiday weekend starting Dec. 1st. PWCers will enjoy the skiing and other winter fun available in the White Pass area.

Choose from the Inn's three large rooms (max. occupancy 6) or from a variety of smaller accommodations. Relax in the Inn's heated indoor swimming pool and hot tub after a day of playing in the snow.



Make your Saturday and Sunday night reservations by calling (360)494-5500. The Inn requires full payment in advance to secure reservations. (They prefer checks over credit cards.) If you can't take advantage of your reservations, the Inn will refund your payment if you give them 10 days notice.

## HÖG LOPPET

SATURDAY, FEB 8th, 1996; This high traverse from Mission Ridge Ski Area over Swauk Pass is renowned. HÖG LOPPET is Norwegian for "High Loop". It's an annual 21 mile, one day traverse enjoyed by many winter enthusiasts. It's fully supported with fires, food, and ski patrols along the route.

Although it's pretty lengthy, the trail is fairly level and gradually downhill. It requires intermediate ski skills and endurance. Bring lots of warm clothing to start the day, and plan to layer down as it warms up. No fancy equipment is needed; basic "fish-scale" pattern skis are suitable.

Skiers meet at the JCPenney in the Valley North Mall in Wenatchee at 8:00 am. The ski lift at Mission Ridge is taken to the starting point. At the end of the trek, skiers take a bus back to their vehicles.

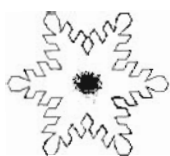


PWCers will stay in Wenatchee on the 7th. Some may choose to stay an additional night (the 8th) to celebrate their accomplishment and take a well-deserved rest.

The registration fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 the morning of the trip. The bus ride costs extra. Call Paul Dutky to join the fun, 479-2683.

# Mt. Tahoma Ski Outings

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Jan. 25th: Copper Creek  
Feb. 1st: Snowbowl  
Mar. 22nd: Copper Creek

The Mt. Tahoma Ski huts are equipped with bunks, appliances, and wood. Skiers bring their sleeping bags, clothes, and food. Copper Creek is considered an easy ski. Snowbowl requires intermediate ski skills.

A drawing will be held at the January meeting to fill reservations. Members will put their names in the drawing before the meeting. Tony Abruzzo will pull 32 names from the pot. After the meeting, people will fill the reservations in the order they were drawn. That is, the first person whose name was drawn will have their pick of all 32 vacancies; the second person will have their pick of 31 vacancies; and so on, until the spots are filled.

One entry per family or member is allowed, but that entry can represent your spouse/partner as well. This will decrease the possibility that pairs of people will be split up among outings. When that person's turn comes to pick a reservation, they will choose a trip where at least two spots are available and fill in their own and their partner's name.

Participants **MUST** submit \$25 refundable deposit checks **AT** the January meeting. Spots not secured by a deposit at that time will be immediately offered to an alternate. Deposit checks are returned if all reserved spots are filled on the trip.

If you have questions, call Tony at 871-5754.

## **ANNOUNCING...** **The Bonehead of 1996**

Got any nominees for this new "award?" Think back... anyone in the PWC do something pretty d-u-m-b on an outing this past year?

Please relate it in writing to the following address by Jan. 6, 1997:

Bonehead Committee  
c/o N. Meyer  
34712 Pilot Pl. Rd. NE  
Kingston, WA 98346

Incidents where lives were endangered will probably not be considered. See Nancy if you would like to be on the Bonehead Committee. The winner (loser?) will be announced at the January Meeting.

# Your Risk as a Trip Leader

by Chris Bell

There have been several times that I have heard trip leaders express concern about potential liability if someone was hurt on an excursion. As a practical matter, the trip leader need not be concerned. However, there are always risks for the leader, and this article is intended to acquaint you with those risks

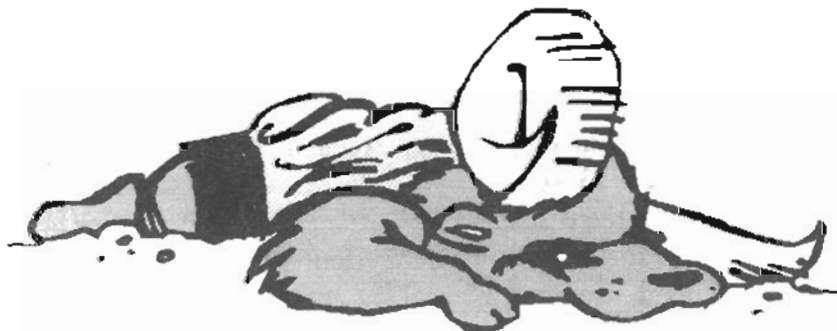
Mountain and rock climbing are inherently dangerous activities. Fortunately, the danger to the participant is so obvious that the Washington appellate courts have held that a person engaging in these activities assumes the risk of being injured. In other words, a person who is hurt has only herself or himself to look to for responsibility.

There may be exceptions to this general rule of nonliability for injury. If a trip leader purports to have expertise in the activity, provides the equipment, or represents to the participants a responsibility for their care and safety, then a special relationship has developed which may include a legal duty to provide for the safety of the participants. In this situation, if the leader

fails to exercise the care reasonably expected of an experienced and knowledgeable mountaineer or rock climber, then the leader very well could be liable for injuries suffered by a participant. Also, anyone engaged in the activity who uses equipment known to be defective, or otherwise causes harm to another because of his or her negligent conduct while engaged in a dangerous activity, may be liable for the resulting harm.

It is my expectation that not just trip leaders, but anyone engaging in a dangerous activity, faces a potential risk of liability for injury to a companion as a result of the use of known defective equipment or the exercise of carelessness while engaging in the activity. If, for example, a belay person was eating a sandwich instead of holding the brake end of the rope and there was an unprotected fall, I anticipate that the belayer would be hard-pressed to claim that he was not negligent and at fault for a resulting injury. However, this is simple common sense.

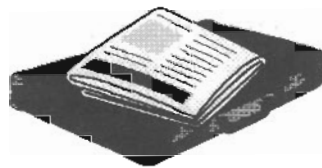
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As a practical matter, there is probably little risk of liability to the organizer of a trip for injury to a person participating in the activity. The Peninsula Wilderness Club does not purport to provide safe and sane trips. It is no coincidence that synonyms for the last name of the club's most prodigious trip leader include: "untamed," "barbarous," "uncivilized," "feral," or "primitive." In the PWC, a trip sponsor is simply providing participants the opportunity to join in the activity. Seattle

Mountaineers take a very different approach for at least two obvious reasons.



The Mountaineers have financial assets at risk, so that a lawsuit for damages could significantly affect the economic viability of that organization. Furthermore, the Mountaineers is a very large organization, purporting to provide mountaineering expertise. That is why the Mountaineers have training programs before members are allowed to participate in certain of their activities.



That is also why a release of liability is required to be signed by the participants in the more dangerous club activities.

The Peninsula Wilderness Club has decided that a release of liability should be signed by all new members, and a copy of the release is printed on page 7 of this newsletter to remind all members of the nonliability policy. The purpose of the release is not to alarm or cause concern to club members. Rather, it is intended to encourage people to continue being involved in organizing outdoor activities without fear of being a defendant in a lawsuit.

It might also be of some interest to members of the club that homeowner's insurance often covers liability for claims that could arise from mountaineering activities. Many insurance companies will provide coverage for the belayer who is sued because he or she was eating a sandwich while the climber is falling down the rock. Your insurance agent will be able to explain what is covered under a homeowner's general liability policy.

Most importantly, the PWC is a voluntary organization, which succeeds because members are willing to organize and lead trips. The continued willingness of members to organize these trips depends upon everyone's accepting responsibility, and not relying upon someone else for their safety.

### **MUST SELL:**

- Mistral Windsurfer Competition Lite, excellent condition; harness and thule components included; \$300.
- Scuba Jet Fins; large mens size; \$30.
- Racks for Ford Aerostar Van; Thute System with side support bars and ski component included; used twice; excellent condition; \$150

Call Shari Eytel at 697-9166.

## **RELEASE**

**(from related story pg 6)**

The Peninsula Wilderness Club is an organization for persons sharing a common interest in the outdoors. At times, members agree to organize activities that include hiking, rock and mountain climbing, bicycling, and water sports. These members are volunteers only and do not accept responsibility for the safety or care of any person who participates in a club activity.

By accepting membership in the Peninsula Wilderness Club and participating in any of its activities, each member recognizes the danger or risk of injury that may be involved. Specifically, each member understands that any back-country hiking or mountain and rock climbing is a potentially dangerous activity, and all persons participating in any of these activities are responsible for their own choice of clothing, equipment, level of skill, and safety. As a condition to membership in the Peninsula Wilderness Club and the participation in any of its activities, each member expressly agrees to assume responsibility for his or her own safety and releases the Peninsula Wilderness Club and each of its members from any and all liability or claims for harm or injury as a result of participating in any club activity.

The release shall be binding upon each member, his or her heirs, assigns and/or personal representatives.

### **FOR RENT:**

**Whistler Ski Condo** for rent **Jan. 19-26**; Powder's Edge (connected to the Delta Hotel with full use of its health facilities and a free underground parking spot); 2 bedrooms with loft; sleeps 8; 2 huge bathrooms; private hot tub; at foot of Whistler Mtn Gondola; \$1800 per week or \$300 per night. (Normally rents for \$450 per night plus tax directly through the resort.) Call 377-7958.



### Officers & Staff

President: Steve Vittori	377-1869
Vice Pres: Chris Hildebrand	698-5256
Secretary: Lyn Lund	377-7067
Treasurer: Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537
Editor: Teresa Sayers	895-8769
Entertainment: Joe Welgel	871-0291
Assembling: Joyce Kimmel	
Refreshments: Tony Abruzzo	871-5754
Clean-Up: Diana Cripe	895-4299
New Members: Bert Cripe	895-4299
Scrap Book: Kathy Ryan	876-9672

## CLUB BUSINESS:

### Interested Members Meeting:

**December 12th** (Thurs), 7:00 pm; Brian Schladetzky and Irena Reynolds will host the December Interested Members Meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. Bring ideas for upcoming winter adventures, help organize club business, and enjoy a fun evening of socializing. New members are especially encouraged to attend and get introduced to other members.

### November Door Prize:

**Rick McNicholas** was the lucky winner of November's door prize, a pair of **Leki Extreme Telescopic Ski Poles**. Thanks to Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe for the monthly door.

**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.

**New Members in November:** Linda Durst and Morris Adams.



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Peninsula Wilderness Club  
P.O. Box 323  
Bremerton, WA 98337-0070

December 1996 - Time Dated Material