

PENWICLE

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.

January 1998

Monday Meeting January 12th

Climbing Mexican Volcanoes

JOIN us for a presentation by Tim Rossiter of his experiences climbing volcanoes in Mexico. Tim says: "I think the Mexican volcanoes are a phenomenal, economical choice for anyone interested in beginning high-altitude international climbing, of which I'm sure there are a few in the PWC."

Retired, In Paradise

by Chris Bell

Editor's note: PWC'er Chris Bell has begun his retirement by travelling about in Central America. This article was compiled from e-mail.

I HAVE been in Xela, a city of 100,000 high (7,000 feet) in the western part of Guatemala, for the past one month. I am attending a language school, and hopefully before I return to the U.S. I will be conversant in the language. The school is intense. One on one instruction for five hours a day, five days a week. I live with a family, who only speak Spanish. The students are from a mix of countries throughout the world, and the common language is Spanish. Therefore, this is a program of total immersion in the language. But I love the language, the people I am meeting and living with, and the country.

THROUGH the school I have made several trips to outlying areas, some to villages high in the hills and rather remote. I have learned to dance the merengue. I have attended a fiesta in a pueblo called Totos Santos, where the object is for the men of the village, dressed in their picturesque native dress, to become totally intoxicated and then race their horses up and down a dirt road. The winner is the person who can still stay on his horse by the time the day is over, and the last drink consumed. Today I was again high in the hills, soaking in a natural pool fed by extremely warm water. The setting was beautiful. I have done some hiking, and climbed a 12,000 foot volcano not

(Continued on page 5)

Visit *PENWICLE* on the web: <http://kendaco.telebyte.com/~bcrife/>

THIS MONTH'S OUTINGS

Snowshoeing at Hurricane Ridge

Saturday, January 10th
Contact: Steve Vittori (377-1869)
Join Steve for a day of snowshoeing at Hurricane Ridge.

MTTA "Snow Lunacy 98"

Saturday, January 10th
Contact: Tony Abruzzo (871-5754)

THIS 9 mile fairly level traverse from the 92 road snow park to the 59 road snow park will be fully supported with a warm fire and refreshments at Copper Creek Hut, and ski patrols along the route.

TRANSPORTATION will be provided from the "Overland Restaurant" in Ashford to the 92 road snow park with pick up at the 59 road snow park and return to the restaurant for a hearty bowl of "Stew-in-a-Bread Bowl".

THIS ski trip is suitable for all levels of skiers and a great warm-up for those hearty souls who are thinking of doing the Hög Loppet in February.

THERE is a \$25.00 charge to help cover the cost of the transportation, your very own memorable T-shirt, snacks at the hut, and your "Stew-in-a-Bread Bowl" at the Overlander.

To register/sign-up before the 10th contact Tony or the MTTA office at (360-569-2451) any weekend from 9am to 4pm.

Gold Creek Trail Day Hike

Saturday, January 17th
Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)
Tom will be leading a day hike on the Gold Creek trail in the Dungeness drainage. This is a 7 mile hike.

Beginner's Telemark Ski Trip

Saturday, January 24th
Contact: Dale Boyle (792-1714)
Dale is organizing a trip to Crystal Mountain for an intro to telemark skiing.

Fall Theler Wetlands Stroll

Saturday, January 24th
Contact: Diana Cripe (895-4299)
Suitable for all ages, this outing is on the wide pathways of the Theler Wetlands in Belfair. The trails wander along peaceful waterways and meadows. They are flat and well maintained, providing about four miles (round trip) of leisurely walking. Expect to see wintering birds.

COMING IN FEBRUARY & BEYOND

Hög Loppet

Saturday, February 21st
Contact: Paul Dutky (479-2683)

GREETINGS Loppeteers. Its time to start tuning up for the PWC's second annual 21 mile ski traverse from Mission Ridge ski area to Blewett pass. Last year about 22 club members made the trip to Wenatchee. Snow conditions were almost ideal, the trail was well-groomed, and towards mid day the sun smiled on us.

THE Hög Loppet Association will be sending out post cards and applications to last year's registrants in the next three to four weeks. The agenda and fees will be unchanged this year: \$20 for the registration, and \$10 for round trip bus transportation from Wenatchee. I'll bring entry forms to the January 13th PWC meeting. This year, weather and conditions permitting, there are likely to be 500 participants. Some use telemark gear, some skate, and some (like myself) use light touring gear so I can do both, but neither very well. Participants should have intermediate ski skills or better.

I've reserved a block of rooms at the Travelodge for PWCers on Feb. 20th and 21st. It has a heated pool, hot tub, sauna, and is walking distance from the bus. Most of the rooms have two queen-sized beds (with tax, about 55 dollars a night) and can sleep two to four people. If you want a room in the "Peninsula Wilderness Club block", call the Wenatchee Travelodge directly at 1-800-235-8165 to reserve the room under your own name and credit card. I reserved all their remaining no-smoking doubles, and a few singles. They'll hold the block at least until January 20th. PLEASE call me at 360-479-2683 if you plan to participate, regardless of where you stay (you can leave a message on the answering machine if I'm not home). That way I can help members with car-pooling, roommate finding, and also distribute a list of participants. Plan on having a celebratory feast somewhere in town after the event, and maybe go skiing at Stevens or Snoqualmie Summit on your way home Sunday. Call me if I can help out or answer any questions.

Annual PWC Ajax Café Dinner & Dance

Date: Friday, February 6, 1998

Contact: Kathy or Don at 830-2212 or

Tom or Linda at the Ajax at 360-385-3450.

Time: Happy Hour 5-6pm

Dinner 6-8pm

Music 7-10pm

Menu:

Salad and Bread

Choice of Entree:

- Texas BBQ beef brisket (if you like the Ajax ribs you'll love the brisket! Check out the November Bon Appetit article on the Texas Hill Country to find out more about this dish.)
- Grilled salmon with a creamy dill sauce
- Raspberry hazelnut chicken
- Linguini with bay shrimp and scallops with pesto sauce

Choice of Dessert:

- Chocolate/coffee ice cream cake roll with chocolate sauce
- Apple blackberry crumble with vanilla ice cream

Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$20.00 per person includes dinner, wait staff gratuity and music. Pay at the door but, remember, we need to have your reservation (and entree choice) in advance because we can only seat 55 people.

Drinks: There will be a cash bar for beer, wine or soft drinks ... that is pay as you go (no tab).

Music: The Alternators will be playing from 7-10pm. This is a Port Townsend duo that does a bit of Zydeco and "get up and move yo feet" music. Your \$20.00 covers their base cost but they will have a tip jar too.

Mt. Tahoma Trail Association Ski Outings

THE DATES and number of slots for this winter's hut trips are:

January 24th — Copper Creek (4) / Snow Bowl (8)

February 21st — High Hut (8)

March 14th — Copper Creek (12)

THE DRAWING was held at the December PWC meeting. Participants MUST submit a \$25, refundable deposit, check 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. Contact Tony at 871-5754 for answers to your questions.

THE Mt Tahoma Ski Huts are equipped with bunks, appliances, and wood. Skiers bring their own sleeping bags, clothes, and food. Copper Creek is considered an easy ski. Snow Bowl and High Hurt require intermediate ski skills.

Winterfest '98

Friday - Monday, February 13 - 16th

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774)

As of December 8th, there was only one 1-bedroom unit available, however cancellations do happen, so get your name on the resort's waiting list. Phone 1-800-277-6475. This year's destination is Alta Crystal Resort on Highway 410. The area has alpine and nordic skiing as well as snowshoeing available. The resort has two room types available: 4 person rooms for \$119.00 per night and 6 person rooms for \$159.00 per night plus 9.7% tax. These rates are per room not per person. One night's fee is the required deposit with a three night stay minimum. All rooms have kitchens, a small refrigerator, a dishwasher, and either a fireplace or a woodstove. A hot tub and a heated pool are available for use. Cancellation policy: if done prior to 14 days of the first night full refund, within 14 days you lose your deposit.

CONTACT Doug if you want or need someone to share a room with, or need more information. Plan on socializing each night — people in the know bring lots of snacks to share after a hard day of winter activity!

Overnight Ski Trip to Deer Park

Saturday & Sunday, March 7th & 8th

Contact: Jon DeArman (697-1352)

Doug Savage (698-9774)

Join Jon and Doug on this adventure.

Elfin Lakes Hut Ski Trip

Thursday - Monday, March 19th - 23rd

Contact: Jon DeArman (697-1352)

Jon is organizing this trip to the Gambaldi Mountain area of Canada. This is cross-country skiing into a hut. Intermediate level required and telemark ability is a plus.

Nepal Adventure in June of 1998!

Contact: Brian Steely or Cris Craig (297-3825)

via e-mail at steelcra@telebyte.com)

BRIAN & CRIS are organizing a 15 day trek into the rain-shadow area of the Annapurnas. Part of it will pass through a recently opened up area (Tilicho Lake) where the elusive snow leopard is said to reside. Once in Nepal, we will fly to the high hill station of Jomosom (9,000 ft.) which is our starting point, and slowly work our way up Thorong-La (17,600 ft.). Consequently, being in good physical condition is a must. This will be a totally catered affair. All your gear will be carried by porters, your camp will be set up for you and your food will be cooked for you. All you need carry is your day pack with camera gear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Going skiing?

JIM PETERS is looking for someone to car pool with on Mondays and Thursdays for skiing. He will ski tour or do lifts. Contact Jim at 692-5682 (leave a message).

Winterfest Roommates

LEE JENSEN is looking for a roommate for Winterfest. Give him a call at 297-7233 if interested.

ADDITIONALLY, Doug Savage, 698-9774, is acting as the point of contact to provide this information. Give Doug a call if you need a room or roommate.

For Sale

Easy Rider Eskimo 22'6" 2 piece take-a-part sea kayak, white hull with red trim. This kayak is in excellent condition and has been well maintained. \$3,800 or best offer. Contact Skip McKenzie at 360-830-4740 or via e-mail at: skishamc@tscnet.com

Miscellany

Alyce Daniels (360-876-8803) is interested in talking to anyone with experience using Vitamix 5000 and Can offer a \$20.00 Costco membership to anyone interested in such a thing.

Entertainment & Program Ideas Wanted

Joe Weigel is in need of suggestions and leads for program/entertainment. Perhaps you know of someone who has travelled to a far away place or a local area of interest and has slides to show. Other types of programs have been held, e.g. gear demonstrations & sales and backcountry cooking contests. If you have any suggestions please give Joe a call at 871-0291.

Interested Members Meeting:

Thursday, January 15th, 7:00 p.m.;

John Knott will host this month's Interested Members Meeting. Combine socializing with club business and trip planning. This is a great chance to get to know members one-on-one. Call John at 792-2440 for directions.

Potluck Social Meeting:

Friday, January 23rd

This month will be hosted by Pat & Dan Kirschbaum at their home near Silverdale. Please RSVP to them at 698-3684

December Door Prize:

Kathy Mahan won the book "John Muir - The Eight Wilderness Discovery Books". The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. All members can enter at the Monday night meeting.

TRIP REPORTS

(Continued from page 1) Retired, in Paradise

far from here. That was an experience I will have to save for another time, because it was eventful.

I HAVE decided to devote most of my time to school on this first trip south of the border. Therefore, I will move to various cities and villages in this country, attending language schools. It is impossible to live more cheaply. The school costs \$120 a week and includes 25 hours a week of one-on-one instruction, room and board with a local family, and the opportunity to take interesting trips to places in the vicinity not otherwise seen but for the school program.

I AM having a great time here, and do not regret for a minute my decision to undertake this journey. By the way, my e-mail address is: cjbell40@hotmail.com

You might be interested in my most recent adventure:

Climbing Central Americas Tallest Peak—Volcan Tajumulco

THE tallest peak in Central America, Volcan Tajumulco, is situated in northwestern Guatemala, not too far from Xela, where I live. This past Saturday a young Hollander and myself climbed the peak, and what follows is a typical story of climbing in Guatemala.

THE day began at five in the morning, at Minerva station, where we waited for a bus to San Marco, about fifty kilometers away. The bus had seen its better times as a school bus in a typical school district in the United States, and had long been deemed obsolete by U.S. standards. But here all of the discarded school buses from the U.S. are recycled to become the primary means of public conveyance. What had been a bus designed to carry 40 children now holds 70 to 80 adults and children, along with chickens, ducks, farm produce and dry goods, all piled on top of the bus. When there is not enough room inside, on occasion I have found myself ridding more comfortably on top, with the farm animals.

SATURDAY the bus was packed, and I was standing crammed in the aisle for the one and a half hour trip to San Marcos. When we arrived there was no bus leaving for our destination until 10 am, so my friend and I paid for a taxi to drive us the 20 kilometers to San Sebastian. By Guatemala standards, the ten dollars for the taxi was darned expensive. But we needed to get there if the volcano was to be climbed in one day. From San Sebastian we started walking, up a back road for three kilometers, and then onto the trail to the summit.

TAJUMULCO has an elevation of 12,660 feet, and the trail starts at about 8,000 feet. What is so different about tall volcanoes in Guatemala, is that there is no snow on the volcanoes. Furthermore, even at 11,000 feet we were running into young indigena children tending their sheep and goats, and woodsmen cutting trees and carrying them down the trail on horse. The countryside is spectacularly serene, rolling hills covered with small trees and open meadows, with the volcano presenting itself as a somewhat symmetrical cone.

THE climb was relatively straight forward. The last 500 feet were a scramble over rock, but the trail was not particularly difficult. The elevation did not present a problem with breathing, and I suspect that the more dense air found closer to the equator allows for greater ease in climbing, even at high elevations. Unfortunately, and as is usually the case with the volcanoes of Guatemala, clouds prevented us from seeing the ocean, or much of the surrounding landscape, but it was still a very beautiful view. We were the only people on the mountain, which also was pleasant, since it was very tranquil for us.

THE trail and the summit were reasonable clear of garbage, which was a real treat. Unfortunately the concept of packing out waste is not well understood down here, by the Guatemalteca as well as by the extranjeros. Volcan Santa Maria, which I climbed a month ago, was a pig sty on top, even though its elevation is 12,000. But Tajumulco was better, a pleasant relief.

ANOTHER concept not well understood in the back country of Guatemala is trail building. There are no drainage devices, and the trails are terribly eroded, which is an unfortunate feature. But these factors did not deter from the overall satisfaction we derived in climbing the volcano.

BY THE time that Mina and I arrived back at the road, the last bus had already passed. But no problem, in this country there are always alternatives to public transportation. A large farm truck, loaded with bags of potatoes, was parked at a tiny store. It just so happened that the driver was going through Xela, on his way to market. So for the next four hours we bounced over dirt roads, poorly maintained highways, towns with incredibly narrow streets, the entire time riding on a mattress of bagged potatoes. I still smell like potatoes, but we arrived back in Xela before 9:00 pm, to end a perfectly delightful day of climbing Guatemala style.

Editor's Notes:

Member's E-Mail List!

Members may submit their E-mail address to:

bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com

I'll send the latest e-mail list back to you & provide updates as needed.



New Members In December:

Lana Chaffee, Ruth Drollinger, Jeffrey Fisher, Marna Qza, and Judy Pratt.

PWC members get a 10% discount at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe and at The Ajax Cafe. Link to their websites from the PWC website.

Newsletter Contributions

Send articles, trip reports, stories, announcements, etc to:

Bert Cripe, 2398 Jefferson Ave. SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366; e-mail; or phone 895-4299.

To Change your Address or Phone Number

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

Membership List Updates

The membership roster changes every month due to the addition of new members. It is neither practical nor affordable to print new membership lists each month. The solution is to periodically get an update to the list. The update is available by e-mail, US Mail via a SASE, or at an Interested Members Meeting from me. Contact me in advance to have one available for you at the Interested Members Meeting.

PENWICL E

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



Reproduced Using Recycled Paper

January 1998 - Time Dated Material