

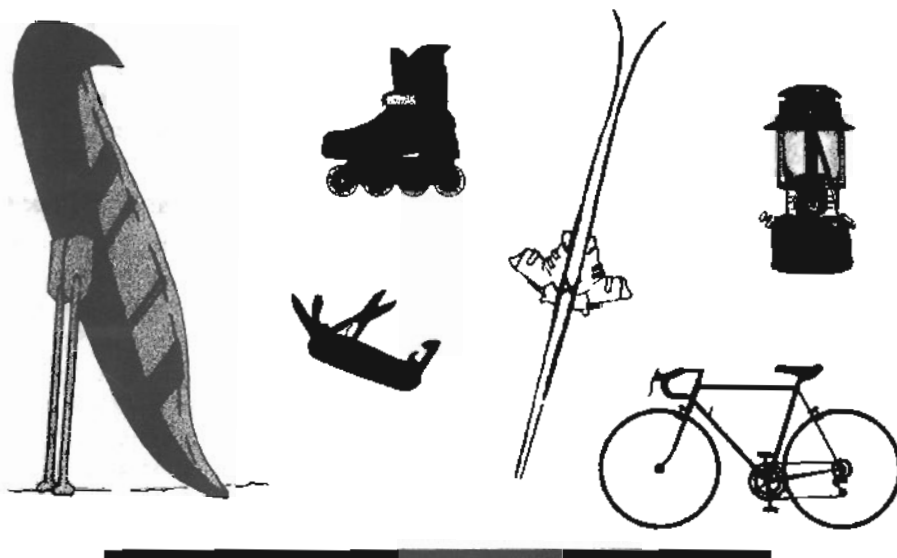
PENWICLE

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.

August 1998

Monday Meeting August 10th Swap Meet

THE AUGUST program will be an equipment swap meet. So gather up those outdoor equipment items you no longer want and get them cleaned, repaired, and ready to bring to the August meeting to sell or trade.



HAZARD (Part III)

by Irma O'Brien

MUCH to our surprise, it was Skip and Sharon's rope team that Dave stepped behind. It's a cozy world when it comes to summits and full moon auroras. Dave followed behind Sharon to head across the gully. I watched their progress, as the rope fed out between Wayne and Doug, it snaked out, up and over the ice chunks where I followed. My headlight beamed on the pock hole marks of crampons in the ice, over the black imbedded cinders of the shoot, up frozen steps, dodging boot holes punched through the snow, to the first gap where I stepped across to a shelf of the ice wall. Pausing to let the slack feed up and out of sight, glancing up and down the ridge, I felt I was entering the threshold of another world where the seracs and walls gleamed with an eerie light, brighter than the moon. Twenty feet around the bend, I stopped in awe to what lay ahead. The steep couloir held a dozen climbers silhouetted against moonlit snow the orange beams of their head-

(Continued on page 4)

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

THIS MONTH'S OUTINGS

Graves Creek - Lake Sundown Area Backpack

Saturday - Wednesday, August 1st - 5th

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774) or

Joe Weigel (871-0291)

This will be a five day - four night trip.

Grand Ridge Day Hike

Thursday, August 6th

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

Day hike, Grand Ridge. This highest trail in the park, mostly above timberline, has 2250' of elevation gain (or loss). With enough people, groups will start at each end and do a key exchange when they meet. Otherwise, it's a 15 mile round trip hike.

Jill's Fun Bike & Hike Camp-Out at Crescent Lake.

Saturday & Sunday, August 8th & 9th

Contact: Jill Priest (871-7184)

Ok...Now you are in shape and ready for something like this, right? Haul those mountain bikes out of your garage and dust them off, cause we are going for a fun ride & hike, BBQ, and Camp Out. Ride or hike the Spruce Railroad trail to the Pyramid Mt. Trailhead—then hike to the look-out cabin for lunch. That night there will be a BBQ on the lake shore and then camp out at Carol's Crescent Beach Park.

Happy Lake Day Hike

Saturday, August 8th

Contact: Steve Vittori (377-1869)

Join Steve for this hike on the Happy Lakes trail to Happy Lake, a hike of ~10 miles with 3000 feet of elevation gain.

Enchanted Valley, Lacrosse Pass, and O'Neill Pass Loop Backpack

Saturday - Saturday, August 8th - 15th

Contact: Barry Johnson (373-5334)

This will be an eight day - moderate to strenuous backpack trip with one day extra in Marmot Lake area. Barry will enter and exit via the Graves Creek Ranger Station access.

Grand Valley Day Hike

Wednesday, August 12th

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

Day hike, Grand Valley. A 9 mile round trip "upside down" hike with 300' of elevation gain going in and 1800' coming out. Features several lakes and a good possibility of seeing wildlife.

Badger Valley - Wildflower Photography

Saturday, August 15th

Contact: Don Paulson (830-2212)

Hike down into flower-filled Badger Valley with Don. The focus of this outing will be wildflower photography. Don will offer informal instructions ranging from basic camera operation, to techniques for creating better wildflower photographs. The hike begins at Obstruction Point and drops about 1000 feet in 1-1/2 miles to the valley floor with an option for a longer return loop via Elk Mountain. Group size will be limited to 10 people, so call early to reserve a spot.

Hurricane Ridge to Heart O' the Hills Day Hike

Wednesday, August 19th

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

Another "upside down" hike with 3400' of elevation loss. A 10 mile hike with a car shuttle. Awesome views of Olympic peaks and maybe mountain goats.

Pacific Crest Trail Hike

Saturday-Monday, August 22nd - September 7th

Contact: David Cossa (871-5577)

David is planning a 17 day backpack along the Pacific Crest trail from Stevens Pass to Manning Park, Canada. The plan is to average 11 miles a day for a total distance of 186.5 miles. An overnight stay at Steheiken Lodge is also planned to re-supply and relax. The route is considered one of the most scenic along the PCT. It passes through Henry M. Jackson, Glacier Peak, and Pasayten Wilderness and North Cascade National Park. First half - Stevens to Steheiken August 22- 30. Second half - Steheiken to Canada August 31st - September 7th.

Hoh River Rainforest to Glacier Meadows Backpack

Wednesday, August 26th to Saturday, August 29th

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

3 nights and 4 days. A 35 mile round trip with 3400' of elevation gain, mostly on the second day. The trail follows the beautiful Hoh River through the rainforest, then ascends to the foot of the Blue Glacier below Mount Olympus.

Tumwata Creek Trail Maintenance

Thursday - Monday, August 27th - 31st

Contact: Kevin Kilbridge (871-2537)

Join Kevin for one day or several on this work party on a trail between the Hoh and Bogachiel Rivers. The work will involve assisting park personnel clearing brush.

Wagonwheel Lake Day Hike

Saturday, August 29th

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

Join Tom for this hike of ~6 miles with 3250 feet of elevation gain.

COMING NEXT MONTH & BEYOND

Mt. Jupiter Day Hike

Thursday, September 3rd

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

A strenuous 14 mile round trip hike with 3600' of elevation gain. This one could be dry and hot but offers many outstanding views along the way for those who don't wish to push all the way to the summit.

Canyon Creek Trail Day Hike

Saturday, September 5th

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

Join Tom for this hike on Canyon Creek Trail to Deer Lake via Soleduck Falls, ~6 miles with 1500 feet of elevation gain., followed by a soak in the hot springs.

Nisqually Delta Day Hike

Saturday, September 19th

Contact: Diana Cripe (895-4299)

Join Diana for this flat hike of ~5 miles along the wetlands and levies of this wildlife preserve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Sale:

For Sale: Feathered Friends "Rock Wren" down/Gore-tex warm weather sleeping bag. Long. Used about 8 times. Paid \$246, asking \$150. Call Bruce Candioto at 206-842-6351.

WANTED:

People of all skill levels to skate with after work and on weekends. Can arrange lessons for those who are interested in improving their skills. Don't be shy ... It's FUN. Jim Drannan 479-4171.

And...

Seeking outdoorsy woman for skiing, hiking, biking and other adventures; by tall, fit, attractive, DWM who is more introvert than extrovert. Your fit, between 35 and 50, appreciate nature, music, having fun and want a long term relationship. Phone 4796877.

And...

Rock climbing partner wanted - weekdays. Tom Banks is seeking a partner to do day climbs on Monday through Thursdays, between August 10 - 13 and 24 - 27 at North Bend or Leavenworth. Rock climbing shoes are all that's required. Beginners are welcome. Call Tom at 697-7708.

And...Finally

It is nearly time for the club to elect new officers for 1999! Nominations will be taken in October. The election will be held in November. Give this subject some thought and be ready to participate in October.

TRIP REPORTS

(Continued from page 1) HAZARD

lamps blinked and glowed like giant lighting bugs. The scene appeared to be a slow motion assault of a space dune, with the muffled sounds of breathing and talking, and the graceful movements of the blackened forms progressing up and over the stark edge of ice.

I STARED amazed, as I slowly made my way to take my turn to dig my ax and spikes into the crystals that chinked and tinked, cascading between my feet. I progressed up and to the right, following Dave's lead to parallel the other team. With every thunk and ping of the ax, I knew I had joined the ranks to climb toward some starcraft that waited somewhere over this crystal mound. Like Close Encounters, I was chosen and my mind said yes with each step upward. I did find the wall a challenge with many steps too high for my stubby legs, when I paused to chop or kick in a new step with the prongs of my crampons, I was then forced to scramble up several steps to not be a drag on the rope. Having lost all sense of pace by the time I emerged over the lip, I was sweating and sucking air.

DOUG called a water and clothing break where we squeezed in a small bowl with another team. In the red rimmed light I gazed up the slope to the snow ridge where black figures lumbered as they led the way. Clunks and clinks of ice axes and crampons forewarned of the next person to emerge from black hole of the couloir. As our space began to shrink it was time to move on. "It's just a walk in the park from here," guaranteed Doug when we shouldered our packs. "When it's your turn Dave, just stay behind that team." Dave stepped behind a tall guy hauling skies while I waited as one by one the rope stretched between us until it was my turn to fall into step. The trudge as I wandered up and over the first ridge was perfectly relaxing. I breathed with relief, amazed that I could be a tourist in the moonlight as we slowly headed toward the widening rim of dawn. Time passed slowly with each step in the crusty snow, "Yes," I thought, "this is the way to climb. I'm not being hauled up the slopes by some macho mountain stormer." When we walked between the ice covered rocks of the Kautz Glacier onto the lower slopes of the Columbia Crest, I bid thanks and farewell to the waning moon.

BUT AS luck would have it, when we approached the first switchback, even Doug's patience was short leashed, so he shouted to Dave, "You might as well head up here," he pointed up the trail of yesterday's plunge steppers.

"I'm sticking right to this guy's ass, just like you told me to do." Dave shouted back.

"OH DAVE, quit being such a prick." Doug remarked.

DAVE stopped, held out his ice ax toward the slope, "Do you want to lead?"

"Yes I do." responded Doug. "Let's trade right here."

YES, I thought and took another power gulp from my bottle and more Peanut M&M's. After the trade, we headed up in our own bit of space as Doug kicked steps on the steeper hard snow. Eventually we wandered back to the old steps behind the tall guy wobbling under his skies. Doug settled back to adjust our pace to their team. "Remember," I thought, "it's not a race until we are passed." We all seemed contented with our pace and our time and soon the great beacon of sun lit up the top of Pt. Success at 14,150 ft. to gleam over the frozen snow of the upper Nisqually Glacier. Not long after as we topped another snowridge, to look down upon the expansive gully of Wilson Glacier, we took a break to greet the sun. It was time to dig out the hats and goggles and to smear on sunblock.

"LIFE IS GOOD," grinned Doug, chomping into his Power Bar and trying to down the last half of his new found power drink—his fifth quart. What a great guy he was to share the sixth quart with me. I panicked when I discovered that I had left all my vitamins in the car at Paradise. "Whatever works," he said when he handed me the last syrupy inch to mix with my water last night. It's working I thought when I swilled the citrus sweetness and settled back. Doug was a bit miffed over his headache and I thanked Wayne as I remembered to located and swallow my final aspirin. Eyeballing the sun and the expanse of snow, I knew that we were in for another full day to bake in the heat. I am now a believer in thinning my blood and relieving my sun fried brain and eyes. There was enough wind moving down from the summit to keep us comfortable in our jackets and warm hats.

SOMETIME during our fifth hour of steady climbing, I looked up to the highest mound of snow, not knowing if it was a false summit. It appeared that we had one long snow field to traverse on an angle to the ridge to the right, the steps became an obliging white swath where four climbers trudged ahead. Looking back, I saw three more were advancing upon us an equal distance behind. It seemed as though we were on the same slow tread mill up the slopes as I trudged behind Dave in the rear, adjusting my ice ax and flipping the rope at each switchback. The only kink being, the trailing loop would hang up on a finger of ice which I couldn't break or flip off if I got too far ahead. That was my first experience of climbing over sastrugi, the effect of windblown snowmelt which shaped the bazaar rippled ice to snag our rope.

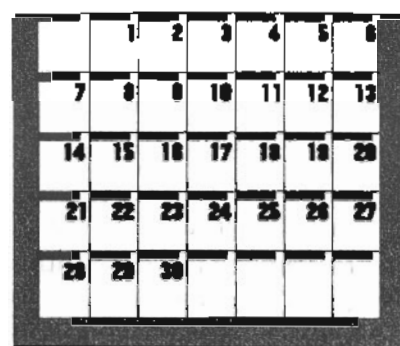
WHEN Doug headed up the steeper pitch of the crest that we had in our sights for the last forty minutes, I was prepared for a false summit. The ice broke to slip away with each trudge, I took a breath, rested, plunged in my ax, and kicked in another step. That fifty feet was the longest, but yes, when I rounded the top we were on the rim!

(Continued on page 8)

AUGUST

PENWICKE

SCHEDULE PAGE

SEPTEMBER

Date	Trip	Point of Contact	Page
August 1 - 5	Graves Creek Backpack	Doug Savage (698-9774), Joe Weigel (871-0291)	2
August 6	Grand Ridge Hike	Ron Croft (779-6250)	2
August 8 & 9	Crescent Lake Bike & Hike	Jill Priest (871-7184)	2
August 8	Happy Lake Day Hike	Steve Vittori (377-1869)	2
August 8 - 15	Loop Backpack	Barry Johnson (373-5334)	2
August 12	Grand Valley Hike	Ron Croft (779-6250)	2
August 15	Badger Valley Photo Hike	Don Paulson (830-2212)	2
August 19	Hurricane Ridge Hike	Ron Croft (779-6250)	2
Aug 22- Sept 7	PCT Backpack	David Cossa (871-5577)	2
August 26-29	Hoh River Backpack	Ron Croft (779-6250)	2
August 27-31	Tumwata Creek Work Party	Kevin Kilbridge (871-2537)	2
August 29	Wagonwheel Hike	Tom Banks (697-7708)	3
September 3	Mt. Jupiter Hike	Ron Croft (779-6250)	3
September 5	Canyon Creek	Tom Banks (697-7708)	3
September 19	Nisqually Delta Walk	Diana Cripe (895-4299)	3

Recipe of the Month:

Muesli & Fruit Compote (3rd Place-Dinner & Breakfast)

by Pam Sargent

1/2 C Muesli (per serving)

1/2 C diced dried fruit (per serving)

Place fruit in a bowl or pot and cover with water.

Soak fruit overnight (add additional water if desired).

Heat fruit mix with additional water in the morning.

Add powdered milk if desired.

Add to muesli and mix-cover and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes.

Mix and serve.



Newsletter Folding...

A small group of PWCers meet to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Doug Savage at 698-9774 for specific location and time or if you would like to volunteer to help.

OFFICERS & STAFF

President:	Steve Vittori	377-1869
Vice Pres:	Tom Banks	697-7708
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel	871-0291
Treasurer:	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel	871-0291
Refreshments:	Dawn Vokali	377-5103
Clean-Up:	Diana Cripe	895-4299
New Members:	Bert Cripe	895-4299
Scrap Book:	Kathy Ryan	876-9672
Climbing:	Craig Martin	275-6915
Penwicle:		
Editor	Bert Cripe	895-4299
Assembling:	Joyce Kimmel	876-1497
	Doug Savage	698-9774

Last Month's Door Prize. There was no door prize last month due to the picnic. The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. All members can enter at the Monday night meeting.

MEETINGS

Interested Members Meeting:

Thursday, August 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Ron Croft 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 Ron at 779-6250 for directions. Please carpool as much as possible.

Potluck Social Meeting:

Friday, August 21st, 6:30 p.m.

This month the potluck will be hosted by John Knott. Bring a dish to share and come on out to socialize. Please RSVP to John at 792-2440. Please carpool as much as possible.

PWC Climbers Group

Last Monday of each Month.

A group of PWC climbers meets for the purpose of planning climbing and mountaineering excursions, exchanging information on technical gear and safety techniques, and general socializing and networking. All PWC'ers are welcome. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on the balcony of the Silver City Brewing Company in Silverdale. Contact: Craig Martin (275-6915), Jim Morrison (638-2705) or Tom Banks (697-7708).

Northwest Hiking & Backpacking Checklist

Ten Essentials

- ☐ 1. Food (bring extra)
- ☐ 2. Water (& filter or iodine tabs)
- ☐ 3. Hypothermia protection: wool hat, gloves; raingear/plastic bags)
- ☐ 4. Headlamp (w/ fresh batteries)
- ☐ 5. Whistle
- ☐ 6. Topographic map, compass
- ☐ 7. Sun protection: Chapstick, sunscreen, sunglasses
- ☐ 8. First aid kit (incl: medications, antiseptic, Band-aids, moleskin)
- ☐ 9. Bic lighter or waterproof matches; candle (or other firestarter)
- ☐ 10. Pocket knife or Leatherman tool

Personal Overnight Gear

- ☐ Backpack w/ padded hip belt
- ☐ Pack cover (or sturdy plastic bag)
- ☐ Sleeping bag, synthetic fill, 0° to 20°F rating, in stuff sack, w/ plastic bag lining the inside.
- ☐ Clothes:
 - ☐ 3 prs. wool socks
 - ☐ Boots (leather, waterproofed)
 - ☐ Polyester underwear bottoms
 - ☐ Baggy shorts (or swim trunks)
 - ☐ 3 Bandanas
 - ☐ Polyester t-shirt
 - ☐ 2-3 Insulating layers (ex: fleece jacket, wool shirt, Thinsulate vest, wool sweater; w/o cotton)
 - ☐ Raingear: waterproof top, water repellent bottoms
- ☐ Eating utensils:
 - ☐ insulated mug
 - ☐ bowl (2-4 cup capacity)
 - ☐ spoon
- ☐ Toiletries: toothbrush, comb, soap (use 100' from water), hygiene articles (pack in/pack out)
- ☐ Wristwatch
- ☐ Stuff sacks to pack food, loose items
- ☐ Food: remember carbs, fat, protein; some fresh veggies/fruits for flavor and texture; snacks, drinks; spices. Repack all food in ziplock bags.

Group Overnight Gear

- ☐ Tent, ground cloth
- ☐ Stove, fuel, gripper
- ☐ Pots, soap, scrubber
- ☐ Toilet-digging trowel
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Bear rope
- ☐ First aid supplies:
 - bee sting kit, gauze pads, ibuprofen, ace bandage, scissors, triangular bandages
- ☐ Signal mirror
- ☐ Food for group meals

Possible Extras

- T-shirts
- Hand towel, swimsuit
- Gaiters, mittens
- Ball cap or sun hat
- Spare boot laces
- Camera, film; binoculars
- Thermarest pad
- Sitting pad, camp chair
- Camp shoes/river shoes
- Trash compactor bags
- Dental floss
- Book to read
- Bivy sack, pillowcase
- Wool/fleece pants
- Turtleneck/extra shirt
- Extra underwear
- Candle lantern
- Chemical hand warmers
- Notebook, pencil/pen
- Insect repellent
- Duct tape, 50' cord
- Sewing/repair kit
- Booties, spare socks
- Fishing gear
- Climbing gear, ice axe
- Snowshoes, skis & poles
- Snow shovel, beepers
- FOR THE TRIP HOME: \$\$;
 - extra clothes, food (store in car)

Safety Precautions: Always carry the Ten Essentials, so if hurt, you could spend the night out and survive. Tell a responsible person of your travel plans, alternate routes, and expected time of return. Avoid traveling alone. If lost, stay put and wait.

Low-Impact Camping

Be prepared - a well-equipped group is less likely to create impact to the environment because they'll have the equipment necessary to shelter themselves from the elements without heroic efforts keep themselves alive. For example:

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Cutting limbs for bough bed	Sleeping pad
Trenching around the tent	Seam-sealed tent floor
	Plastic ground sheet(s)
	Good campsite selection
Illegal campfire	Gas stove for cooking
	Warm clothes, raingear
	Candle-lantern for comfort
Accidental wildlife feeding	Bear rope & food bag
Visual pollution	Earth-toned clothing & gear
Wildflower picking	Camera w/ close-up lens
Getting too close to wildlife	Camera w/ telephoto lens
Noisy helicopter rescues	10 essentials & good judgment
Grid search - land rescue	10 essentials & good judgment

Getting to camp

- Registration - complete a backcountry permit; adhere to group size limits (small groups create less impact). Limit group to 6 or 12 people maximum.
- Trails - use them where available - don't cut switchbacks & cause erosion.
- Campsite selection - use an established site; don't be a "pioneer."
- Camp away from water sources to avoid human waste disposal and related water problems, lakeshore trampling, and visual impact to other users.

In camp

- Use a tent and sleeping pad, not a lean-to and bough bed (Daniel Boone's methods are obsolete because they are too impactful).
- Stove - use one instead of a campfire. Light a candle for comfort.
- Noise - keep it down. Others want to enjoy peace, quiet and solitude.
- Human waste - bury your feces under 6" of organic soil. Be 200 feet away from water sources. Burn toilet paper (where permitted) or pack it out. Always use privies when available. Carry out extra food and garbage.
- Food storage - of extreme importance. Keep your food stored away from wildlife at all times. Use a bear bag to store food when unattended.
- Water pollution - carry water 200 feet away from water sources before doing the dishes. Use biodegradable soap, sparingly, 200 feet away from lakes and streams. In a large body of water, go for a swim without soap. Carry out fish guts in plastic bags, or bury them well away from campsites or water sources. Avoid throwing fish entrails back into lakes, where they take a long time to decompose.

Back on the trail - Leave your camp and the trails cleaner than you found them. Carry a litter bag. Two key phrases are "Pack it in, Pack it out" and "Take only pictures, leave only footprints... and avoid the footprints if you can!" Enjoy a safe, low-impact wilderness experience that respects your fellow humans and the environment. Show others in your group how to tread lightly, and we'll have a great wilderness to return to again and again.

(From the Penwile Archive)

River Crossings

- Safety is the key factor. Can you afford to lose equipment? Have it soaked? Be soaked yourself?
- Unbuckle your pack's hip belt before crossing on logs or through rivers so that you can jettison your load in a hurry if need be. The weight of a pack can hold you under.
- Remove wrist straps from ski poles and release safety straps from skis before crossing frozen rivers or snow bridges.
- Take off clothing in warm weather to reduce dangerous drag in swift currents. Retain close-fitting long underwear to keep warm in very cold weather.
- Keep your boots or shoes on to save your feet and prevent slipping. Bare footed stream crossings are painful and more dangerous. Keep laces tied, but only with a single knot that can be undone quickly if you are swept away.
- Deep water occurs often on the outside edges of bends. Generally, it is best to cross at a straight, wide spot -speed and power of water are dissipated.
- The best crossing is often found above rapids.
- If the river runs in channels it may be easier to pick a route through several small channels than through the one main course.
- Crossing should be done downstream from partly submerged timber to avoid being swept under and caught.
- Foaming highly aerated water offers little buoyancy.
- Murky water hides a multitude of problems – avoid.
- Avoid mud by testing with a stick in murky water.
- 50/50/50 RULE – In 50 degrees F. water, an unprotected human has a 50-50 chance of surviving for 50 minutes.
- Sand undermines footholds in fast water.
- Smooth cobbles can be slippery.
- In many cases streams may be crossed early in the morning after nighttime temperatures have slowed high altitude runoff.
- Snow-fed mountain waterways are brutally cold – avoid.
- The best way to cross a stream is on a large log or other kind of steady bridge and will not roll. Straddle and scoot across.
- When walking through streams, for best stability, shuffle feet along, do not lift from the river bottom, and keep them widely spaced.
- When conditions are fierce, a two-person or larger group is much safer than for one to try it alone. A stable configuration for the group crossing is a line, with each person's arms linked with their neighbor's arms at the elbows, and their own hands locked in front. The tallest, strongest person should be at the upstream end and the line is parallel to the current.
- Pole crossing - swift currents knee to mid-thigh depth: Use a pole, placing it upstream from you. The current forces the pole to the bottom. Face diagonal upstream so the current hits the front of your legs rather than the back. A strong current from behind may buckle your knees. Move stepping into the current placing your foot so you cross the stream either straight across the current or angling downstream. Always ensure both feet are solidly placed before you move the pole. After moving the pole, move one foot at a time while the other foot and pole are planted solidly.

IF THE CURRENT IS SWIFT AND DEPTH IS ABOVE MID-THIGH, THERE IS NO WAY TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE. DO NOT CROSS.

TRIP REPORTS

(Continued from page 4) HAZARD

"WELCOME to the top of the world," beamed Doug. "And, it's ten past eight. Just over five hours like I said. Not bad for this octogenarian gang."

THE SNOWFILLED crater spread out below us appeared cut in half by the climbers path from the lip of the Muir route to the opposite rim where the register was located in a boulder stack. The last hump to the real summit was on our left, where Doug continued to amble along the rim of the crater staying left of the cornice curving over the pumice and the gaping space between rock and snow. We took off our rope in the saddle below the summit, but I carried my pack and strolled to the top. It was back slapping and hugs until we sat on the spot to refuel as we watched other elated climbers keep coming and coming, walking up to our perch on top of the world. This was the day to summit. Everyone was smiling, some tired but grinning. They had to be pleased like me with my satisfaction of climbing Mt. Rainier and still feeling whole and human, upbeat and happy. This was a stroll in the park just like Doug predicted. Yes indeed, it felt so good and reassuring to be over 14,400 feet with my head intact.

AFTER our snack, we ambled down to the register, sat upon the strange scraped boulders to sign and pose for pictures. Having recorded our accomplishment, we returned to the summit to bask in the day. Doug took a photo of another group who in turn, got a shot of us. Sometime in the hubbub, I heard a familiar voice and "Congratulations you guys." There was Skip and Sharon, so more hugs and smiles and more pictures.

SOMETIME in the lull of the gaiety, I witnessed a spreading of ashes, as a man swung a canister out and above the crater, back and forth the gray dust spread like smoke from an incense burner. His act reminded me of the rock in my jacket. So, I walked to the highest mound of snow on the western edge of the rim and placed my red round cinder on top. I bowed to the West and thanked the guardian of the mountain for allowing my companions and me to be there. This was a ritual passed down from the Inca's, who by the thousands go on a pilgrimage up the slopes of a sacred mountain to pay homage to the spirits and be blessed for the coming year. Their gift is a rock to keep the mountain strong and powerful and every year anywhere from fifty to sixty thousand rocks are placed on the slopes of that mountain. Someday I plan to join their pilgrimage.

"LIKE all good summits, we must descend," Doug reminded us after our hour and a half celebration. We roped up and I led the way with Doug right behind. He was convinced that I couldn't haul him off his feet. The snow had softened and felt great on my knees as we plunged down and down until we found ourselves winding about the great leers of gaping crevasses. Surprising how much more obvious these mincing cracks became in the heat. We did catch up to a very

slow team and I was told to pass. But not long after we ran into the bottle neck at the Kautz couloir, with two teams still waiting to back down.

DAVE was impatient and wanted to parallel the teams to descend to the left. Doug convinced him to wait our turn, "This will go quicker than you think," he assured him. However, the young inexperienced team in front of us really did take their time as they planted each toe, and the pick of their ax in the wall, almost testing each hold where they disappeared over the edge while their leader gave them a boot and ax belay from above. I was surprised that the snow on top was still quite firm, almost icy. So, I was glad to take a break standing on solid foot holds, to chat with Doug and admire the view, trying not to focus on the down.

AFTER a good twenty minutes it was my turn and Doug put me on belay and reminded me that I had only about forty feet of rope. The corn snow was hard, but some gave way with each step and jab of the pick of my ice ax, but the holds felt secure enough as I backed out of sight. Then Doug yelled, "Off belay". It was his turn while Wayne belayed him. Somehow we all took turns to descend the two hundred feet. Only once did we yank Wayne out of his holds and he swore at us as he self arrested. The snow was much softer midway and tended to slide out from under. Having eyeballed the runoff, I felt comfortable to only plunge step the last fifty feet.

CONCERNED about the softness of the snow, I didn't take the time to admire the seracs and the ice wall, but concentrated where I placed each foot when I eased up, around to step over the cracks and avoided the gaping holes between the snow and ice. When I quickly crossed the rock shoot of the Bowling Alley only one stone bounced down from above to clip the back of my boot as I scurried ahead. The others followed soon enough and when Dave arrived he said, "My tent is gone. Where the hell is my tent?"

IN NO time we were greeted by Craig Martin, whose crampons had disintegrated and he was waiting for Skip and Sharon. After he congratulated us, he explained at dawn a three man team almost got wiped out by rock and ice in the shoot. The leader managed to self arrest, saving the other two who had been carried down the shoot.

LATER when I talked to Mike, it sounded like providence for the team that Chas, Mike, and a Rainier Mountain Rescue guy, who had also been sick, were in camp. About 4:30 am., Mike was aroused by the largest and almost deafening slide that kept coming and coming along with the screams. Everyone was in a panic which lasted over five minutes as to what they should do once the turmoil of ice and rocks ceased. At last, the rescue guy was able to feel secure enough to be belayed to survey the damage of the climbers

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TRIP REPORTS

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still hanging from their leaders rope. The fellow on the end was in the worst shape with his legs tangled in the rubble and his head bleeding. After he was safely extracted from the ice and rocks, everyone retreated to the ridge. The mountain rescue guy realized that a helicopter rescue was the only realistic way for the climber to ascend, and, he had a radio.

MIKE and Chas helped ready a rescue spot, by clearing Dave's tent and several others and placing them into Doug's to allow space for the helicopter on the ridge. They secured the remaining tents by placing rocks inside. Also, Mike and Chas had volunteered to carry down the victims remaining gear and pack. With luck, Chas had gotten strong enough to haul the extra gear. "It was a hardship," explained Mike, "made a heck of a lot easier by the great glissades." Mike and Chas's week of training and conditioning had not gone for naught when they became key persons in a major mountain rescue. Later I heard from another source who read about the accident in the paper, that the extent of the injuries was a broken back and cracked vertebrae, for one or both I don't know. In contrast, I do know that I felt even more fortunate about the timing of our crossings.

IT STILL took us a good hour and a half of scurrying, to eat lunch, melt more water, and pack up camp for our hurried decent. Doug was still keeping track of time and couldn't wait to jump into the glissade shoot which we all did with great ballyhoos. They were steep and deep and I quickly realized I was out of control riding the small avalanche down to the run out. While trying to bring myself under control, I busted several knuckles on the icy crust, forcing me to adjust the angle of my ice ax. The lower we glissaded, I found the softer snow produced greater the avalanches. Doug and Dave kept sliding and sliding from shoot to shoot, out of sight. I slowed, taking comfort in creating my own shoot after getting air born and flipping out to sprawl and roll head first. Wayne remained on the conservative side keeping me within sight as he whooped from above or passed me in another shoot.

IN NO time we met Doug below Turtle Rock, before he jumped into the lower shoots. We caught up to and passed many climbers, but never caught sight of Dave. At the bottom of the last, steep and narrow gully, that twisted and curved to dodge boulders, I self arrested to keep from knocking into all the climbing teams that were roping up to wander about the wider and deeper gaping crevasses that greeted us on the Nisqually Glacier. "I won't bother to ask if you want to rope up," remarked Doug. "Because Dave's got the rope."

YES, I would have felt much better on the rope because the step across and jumps were much broader than two days ago. For one crossing, I had to do a running broad jump

with my pack on, and Doug's grip did bring me the rest of the way across. "Have no fear," he assured me. "There are plenty of people here with ropes to haul you out." Still, in our meandering through the crevices, I never dared looked down, I just focused on my feet and my next jump.

AFTER the glacier, we traversed a hump of five hundred feet up to the meadows on the walk to Paradise where we strolled amongst the mob of tourists, and other climbers coming off Muir. We waded through snow melt and slush on the pavement, while most people stepped aside to let us pass. "I don't know if it's the way I smell or look," commented Doug. "But they sure do want to get out of my way." Doug was fast footing it to the car because he knew where there was a shower waiting and anyone who has hiked and climbed with Doug, has also learned that a squeaky clean body has priority over his stomach after a three day climb. Even though our decent from Camp Hazard took two hours, it took at least another two to get together, wait for showers, shower and drive to be seated out front at the Wildberry. It was there over a super nacho grande, microbrews, and a giant barbecue chicken pizza, that we toasted our leader, Doug, and each other to our success and one great climb of Mt. Rainier.

THIS account is a tribute to Doug for an unbeatable climb. Most important, thank you Wayne for our great set of photographs. I hope all my teammates enjoy this recap, even if you don't agree, of our special three days in spectacular weather on a climb I'll never forget. Happy Birthday and thank you again Doug. Sign me up for next year.

The End!. Keep those trip report coming!- Editor



Newsletter Contributions:

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