

# 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.

## March 1999

### Monday Meeting

### March 8th

## Images by Don Paulson

Don's presentation will be given in three parts, each a two projector dissolve show set to music about 15 -20 minutes in duration.

The first segment, titled "The Intimate Landscape," is a collection of some of his newest Northwest landscapes and will be a journey through the seasons.

The second segment, called "Loveliness in Blossom," will be primarily Northwest wildflower images, but will also include a few garden flowers as well. The focus is from an aesthetic point of view rather than plant identification.

The last segment, which includes a narration, is called the "Water Circle." This presentation follows the water cycle from the sea, to cloud, to mountain top, to river, and finally back to the sea.

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## INTERESTED MEMBERS MEETING CHANGES

*by Bert Cripe, newsletter editor*

THE scheduling of the Interested Members Meeting (IMM) has been changed such that the meeting will now be the Thursday before the regular meeting, beginning in March. This has been done for two reasons.

First, the majority of the newsletter can be prepared a week earlier than previously possible. Only a few items will need to be added on Tuesday after the regular meeting. The newsletter will be delivered to the print shop six days earlier than before. This means that it should be in the mail about six days earlier than previously possible.

Secondly, all outings announced at the IMM will be written on the board at the regular meeting. Thus those outings scheduled for the first few days of the coming month will be announced much earlier than before. You will have more time to plan your schedule!

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

## **March Activities**

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### **EAST AFRICAN VIDEO**

Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:15 p.m.

Contact: Tony Burns (478-2739)

A two-hour video, by Tony Burns, a member of the Twanoh Group of the Sierra Club, will feature Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tarangere, Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge, the Ngorongoro Crater, and Zanzibar. The meeting will be at the UFCW Office in Bremerton.

### **STEVENS SKI CABIN**

Tuesday - Wednesday, March 2nd - 3rd

Contact: Jon DeArman (697-1352)

Jon will open the Stevens Pass Mountaineers cabin for 2 days of lift skiing and backcountry touring in Mill Valley. Guest cost for overnight is \$21 which includes supper on Tuesday and breakfast on Wednesday. Full kitchen is available for your own lunch.

### **WHITEFISH SKI EXTRAVAGANZA**

March 3rd through March 8th

Contact: Pat Gleason (373-2131)

*THERE may still be a space - contact PAT.*

PWCers will catch the Amtrak in the early evening of March 3rd at Edmonds and travel via sleeper car to beautiful Whitefish, Montana. The package includes three nights accommodations at the newly remodeled AlpenGlow Motel. Skiers can enjoy four days on the slopes, boarding for the return trip the evening of March 7th. Three days lift tickets and transportation to and from the train depot are included. Big Mountain has recently lit their cross-country course, so skiers can enjoy gliding through the winter wonderland along moonlit trails.

THE price is \$361 per person (based on four person occupancy and 25 participants), \$386 per person (based on four person occupancy but less than 25 participants). For those not requiring lift tickets, deduct \$105 from the price.

### **CHAIN SAW CERTIFICATION CLASS**

Saturday, March 6th

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774)

This for people who want to become certified to use chain saws within the Olympic National Park for trail maintenance. This is not required for those who do general maintenance. Doug is acting as a point of contact & will not be there.

### **SKI TO HOGBACK MOUNTAIN**

Saturday, March 6th - Intermediate/Advanced

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774)

This trip is for those with intermediate/advanced telemark skills, telemark skis, and skins. Doug will ski to Hogback mountain, an area, described in January's slide presentation, near White Pass Ski Resort.

### **LOWER DUNGENESS TRAIL HIKE**

Saturday, March 13th - Beginner

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

Join Tom for an easy 5 mile day hike through the forest with nice views up and down the Dungeness Valley. We'll carpool, meeting at the Hood Canal Bridge at 8:45 a.m.

### **SKI-TO-SEA RACE INFORMATION**

Planning Meeting: March 13th

Event: Memorial Day weekend, May 29th - 31st

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

The ski-to-sea race is a 50-mile, 8-leg relay race event starting at the Mt. Baker ski area and ending at Bellingham Bay. Our club will sponsor two teams this year, with members participating in cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, running, biking, canoeing, mountain biking, or sea kayaking. Our two teams (9 people each) are complete, but we're still looking for alternates. The race is Sunday. Friends and spectators are welcome to join us. Our first planning meeting/party will be held March 13th, location to be determined. Call Tom to RSVP.

### **FORT FLAGLER BEACH HIKE**

Sunday, March 14th - Beginner

Contact: Steve Vittori (377-1869)

Steve happened to end up at Ft. Flagger one night after a party at the Ajax Café when he took a wrong turn while returning to Bremerton. He thought he could turn it into a recon trip to ease the embarrassment!

## ***March Activities***

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### **ONF FLORA AND FAUNA LECTURE**

Tuesday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Wendy McClure (779-3820)

Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society presents "Olympic National Forest: Behind the Scenery." Stacy Lemieux, botanist and wildlife biologist for the Quilcene District will speak about her work with the plants and animals on the east side of the Olympic National Forest. The public is welcome.

### **HIGH HUT SKI OUTING**

Saturday, March 20th - Intermediate

Contact: Tony Abruzzo (377-5103)

As of the December meeting, this trip had two open spaces and Tony is taking names for the alternates list, in case of cancellations alternates will be called. Contact Tony to add your name to the list.

### **SKI ACRES XC CENTER**

Saturday, March 20th - Beginner & Intermediate

Contact: Steve Vittori (377-1869)

Join Steve at Snoqualmie Pass for some resort XC skiing and catch the scene at the Lodge. Groomed trails for beginners and intermediates are available on the lower level or ride the lift to the upper, more challenging trails and runs.

### **IGLOO CONSTRUCTION**

Saturday & Sunday, March 27th - 28th - Beginner

Contact: Chris Hildebrand (895-0311)

Join in the fun at the annual Mt Rainier igloo construction trip to Paradise. Meet at 7am at the Mullinex park & ride, no experience required. Dinner at the lodge at 4 p.m. sharp, bring Saturday lunch & Sunday breakfast. Contact Chris for specific equipment requirements.

### **MT. RAINIER SKI TO TATOOSH RANGE**

Saturday, March 27th - Advanced Telemark

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774)

Doug will ski to the saddle of Castle Peak, advanced telemark skill, telemark skis, and skins are required.

### **DAY HIKE OR SNOWSHOE TRIP**

Sunday, March 28th

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

Ron will lead this mystery outing to a location to be determined, depending upon the trail conditions.

## ***Upcoming Activities***

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### **LOWER BIG QUILCENE TRAIL**

Saturday, April 3rd

Contact: Charlie Pomfret (479-7820)

A hike to Camp Jolly, about 10 miles RT with ~800 ft of elevation gain. A nice river hike.

### **HAVASU CANYON**

Sunday - Saturday, April 4th - 10th

Contact: David Cossa (871-5577)

David is organizing another trip to Havasu Canyon. Horses will carry the heavy stuff 10 miles to and from camp. Cost is approximately \$500.

### **ICE AXE PRACTICE**

Saturday, April 10th

Contact: Doug Savage (698-9774)

Join Doug for his annual ice ax and self arrest practice at Mt. Eleanor. Plan to provide your own ice ax and rain pants, etc. Contact Doug for specifics.

### **THEILER WETLANDS STROLL**

Saturday, April 17th - Beginner

Contact: Diana Cripe (895-4299)

This is Diana's quarterly stroll through the wetlands. Come along to see what spring brings to the preserve.

## ***Upcoming Activities***

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### **MYSTERY DAY HIKE**

Saturday, April 24th

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

A moderate day hike to a mystery location. A good training hike for the summer.

### **BICYCLE TRIP AROUND PORT TOWNSEND**

Sunday, April 25th

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

A ride to get those bicycle legs moving on the rural backroads and peaks of Port Townsend. Suitable for road, mountain, or hybrid bikes.

### **BUGABOOS CLIMB/SUPPORT HIKE**

Mid-week, August 13th - 22nd - Strong hiker/climber

Contact: Stacy Moon (405-1426)

Hike to Bugaboo Hut (Cain Hut) for an alpine base camp support. Help support (carry gear) for grade VI climb on Howser Tower. Support team can maintain contact with climbing team via radio.

### **20,320 VERTICAL FEET OF FUN**

May - June, 2000

Contact: David Steidle (692-3747)

Need a vacation? Take 30 days off and climb Denali! We're looking for climbers interested in making an ascent of the classic West Buttress route. For an idea of what the conditions and route are like, read "Denali's West Buttress" by Colby Coombs, or "Surviving Denali" by Jonathan Watterman. If interested, give me a call this June, or meet me at the regular June meeting.

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### **OPINION**

*by Ron Croft*

Kudos for Joe Weigel

I THINK Joe Weigel does an outstanding job as entertainment chairman for the club and was surprised to learn from last month's letter in the Penwicle that he has been doing this for eight years. That means he has arranged over 90 programs. In my relatively short time with the club, I have been impressed with the quality of these programs. The time and effort Joe puts into finding presenters every month certainly exceeds most any other member's contribution to club business. I suspect that the monthly meetings are the main connection with the club for many members, and the fact that they are so well attended attests to the interesting programs that have been offered. It is obvious from Joe's letter last month that he adheres to his own carefully thought out guidelines for booking presenters. Although one or two speakers may have been involved on the side of an issue that some members disagree with, the main thrust of their presentations was to provide information about things going on in our corner of the country, not advocacy of their positions.

ON A related note, I believe people who love the mountains

and the outdoors tend to be strong individualists and I'll bet we have as diverse a range of opinions in our club as you will find in any group. Some of us as individuals get involved in advocacy through the many opportunities that exist in other organizations. There are unquestionably many environmental and ecological issues that need to be addressed. However, I find it refreshing to have an affiliation with the PWC where we can come together for the purpose of sharing our love for muscle powered outdoor activities without getting involved in contentious political issues. AGAIN, compliments to Joe for doing an excellent job with a very difficult balancing act.

*Members are welcome to submit their opinions for publication in the Penwicle - Editor*



**MARCH**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Interested Members Meeting:**

Thursday, March 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Charlie Pomfret will host this month's Interested Members Meeting at his home in Central Kitsap. Combine socializing with club business and trip planning. This is a great chance to get to know members one-on-one. Call Charlie at 479-7820 for directions. Please carpool as much as possible.

**APRIL**

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Mar. 2nd	African Video Presentation	Tony Burns (478-2739)	2
Mar. 2nd - 3rd	Stevens Ski Cabin	Jon DeArman (697-1352)	2
Mar. 3rd - 8th	Whitefish Ski trip	Pat Gleason (373-2131)	2
Mar. 6th	Chain Saw Certification Class	Doug Savage (698-9774)	2
Mar. 6th	Hogback Mt. Ski trip	Doug Savage (698-9774)	2
Mar. 13th	Lower Dungeness Day hike	Tom Banks (697-7708)	2
Mar. 13th	Ski to Sea Race meeting	Tom Banks (697-7708)	2
Mar. 14th	Fort Flagler Beach hike	Steve Vittori (377-1869)	2
Mar. 16th	ONF Flora & Fauna Lecture	Wendy McClure (779-3820)	3
Mar. 20th	High Hut Ski trip	Tony Abruzzo (377-5103)	3
Mar. 20th	Ski Acres XC Center	Steve Vittori (377-1869)	3
Mar. 27th - 28th	Igloo Construction	Chris Hildebrand (895-0311)	3
Mar. 27th	Tatoosh Ski trip	Doug Savage (698-9774)	3
Mar. 28th	Day Hike or Snowshoe trip	Ron Croft (779-6250)	3
Apr. 3rd	Lower Big Quilcene hike	Charlie Pomfret (479-7820)	3
Apr. 4th - 10th	Havasu Canyon Backpacking trip	David Cossa (871-5577)	3
Apr. 10th	Ice Axe Practice	Doug Savage (698-9774)	3
Apr. 17th	Theiler Wetlands hike	Diana Cripe (895-4299)	3
Apr. 24th	Mystery Day hike	Tom Banks (697-7708)	4
Apr. 25th	Bicycle Ride at Port Townsend	Tom Banks (697-7708)	4
Aug 13th - 22nd	Bugaboos Climb/Support hike	Stacy Moon (405-1426)	4

**Potluck Social:**

Friday, March 19th, 6:30 p.m.

This month the potluck will be hosted by Venita Goodrich & Doug Savage, at their home near Bremerton. Bring a dish to share and come on out to socialize. Please RSVP to Venita or Doug at 698-9774. Please carpool if possible.

**PWC Climbers Group**

An informal gathering of climbers meets the last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Silvercity Brewing Company in Silverdale. All are welcome to join us for general socializing and discussions about past and future mountaineering excursions. For directions, call Tom Banks at 697-7708. For a list of climbers, send an e-mail to Jim Morrison at: jmorrisson@telisphere.com or phone 638-2705.

## Newsletter Folding...

A small group of PWCers meet to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Teresa Sayers at 895-8769 for specific location and time if you would like to help.

## Recent New Members

The PWC welcomes the following new members: Suzanne & Ty Giesemann, Jeff Jones, & Jeffrey Weist.

## Officers & Staff

President:	Tom Banks	697-7708
Vice Pres:	Deborah Legg	478-2829
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
Penwicle:		
Editor	Bert Cripe	895-4299
Assembling:	Joyce Kimmel	876-1497
	Teresa Sayers	895-8769

**Last Month's Door Prizes:** Sorry there was no door prize. But to make up for the oversight two prizes will be awarded at the March meeting. The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. All members can enter at the Monday night meeting.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

by Pam Sargent

1 package    couscous (olive oil or chicken flavored)  
water        per package directions  
1 medium    tomato, diced  
to taste     black olives, diced

1. Boil water.
2. Add couscous and return to a boil.
3. Stir in olives and tomato.
4. Cover and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes, stir again and dig in!



## Announcements & Notices



Casio Pathfinder Altimeter/Thermometer wrist watch. Brand new, still in box. Have all documentation. Half price at \$70.00. Call Pat at: 360 373-2131.

Canadian made "Western" canoe. \$689.00 or best offer. Please contact Pam or Bob Guardino at 360-830-2165

Roger Gray has a free bicycle rack made to fit a car with rain gutters. Contact Roger at 360 373-6642.

### **BY-LAWS REVISION APPROVED**

The proposed revised by-laws were approved by a vote at the February meeting. Nominations may now be made for the new board members. The nominees will be listed in the April newsletter and voted on at the regular April meeting.

### **WAIT A MINUTE!**

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters, and fishers to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. We advise that people wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them.

We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. People should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings.

Black bear droppings are smaller and contain lots of berries and squirrel fur.

Grizzly bear droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper.

*Submitted by Jim Drannan*

## Trip Report

*The following was combined from several e-mail messages from Bruce Kittredge while he was in South America - Editor*

Hello to all!

WELL, I feel good and stoked for ~~some~~ climbing down here. For the last 4 days, I had the "Montezuma's Revenge" and spent much of the time sitting on the toilet, along with a day of fever! No matter how careful one is, something like this is almost inevitable, baring the few lucky travelers who escape it and never have this problem.

BUT no problem now! I am fully charged and ready for anything! Have only bagged 1 small grassy mountain which is about 10,000' high. Along with resident pigs, cows, and a dog named "Rambo"! He showed us all the route to the top. (Actually though, he was more interested in the food in our packs)!

I ACTUALLY did hike 2 days of a 5 day hike with some people down here. It is called the Trek of the Condor. Actually saw a condor flyin' round a few of the peaks. Hiked near Mt. Antisana (5758 meters). Beautiful glaciated peak. Many peaks have long approaches and minimum facilities and transportation. Sure makes for an interesting time!

Just got back from a 2 day trek! A 14,638 ft. mountain and 2 slightly smaller ones! Stayed at a police radio antenna station manned by a policeman up near the grassy and

rocky summit. I was wet and cold when I knocked on his door. He provided a hot dinner, hot tea, and no English to speak of. Watched Ecuadorian TV and listened to the radio. Stayed there until the next morning. Lots of clouds, wind, and a bit of hail the evening before.

Rest time here in Quito....through Sunday a.m. Then it's off to the Illinizas! Illiniza North is 5126 meters high, and South is 5248 meters. After that will be Cotopaxi, then Chimborazo! I'm healthy, but it will depend on the weather now! Time is going fast. Will return to Alaska around the 2nd of Feb. Time to kick butt! I hope everyone is doing fine! (It's a balmy 70 degrees-by the way!)

WELL, it's 1 a.m. Tuesday and this traveler has to catch a plane back to the great white north up in Alaska. Ecuador was a most interesting country! I was able to climb Cotopaxi with absolutely no problems, aside from moderate winds and our clothing icing up pretty bad! Awesome views though! Will be getting in very early on the 3rd of Feb. into Anchorage! Hopefully my van will start after a month of freezing cold!

I'll get more info out after returning home!

— Bruce



# Trip Report

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## CLIMBING IN SWITZERLAND, JULY 1998

*by Brian Stealy (Continued from December.)*

WE FLEW as rapidly as possible for the trailhead and quickly wind our way above the town. After about an hour of switchbacks we arrived at a hotel/restaurant that guards the entrance to a long canyon. There are still some switchbacks, but the canyon is more pleasant, following a glacier fed river up to the base of the Zinalrothorn and Trifhorn range. The Hotel Du Trift is a welcome sight at the upper end of the canyon and we treat ourselves to some ice tea at their outdoor restaurant. As we sip our tea we can barely make out the Trifhorn hut up in the distance. You have to look closely because the hut is nestled under a granite ridge below the Trifhorn. The trail continues steeply until you come to a fairly gentle plateau. It is a brief respite as soon the trail continues its steep rise, switchbacking its way up the ridge to the hut. We arrive by early afternoon, quite pleased with ourselves at climbing the 5,000 feet at such a good clip. The hut sits above the 10,000 foot mark, but my altimeter begins to dispute what the maps are telling us. Kevin and I settle into the hut and over tea discuss the pros and cons of each peak. We'd like to do the Zinalrothorn, but there is a long knife-edge traverse over snow that tends to give way in the heat of the afternoon sun. We question our ability to summit and make it back over the traverse while the snow is still hard. The warm sunny weather, although extremely pleasant, is not in our favor for this climb. The Trifhorn comes across as a good training peak for the Matterhorn and a good consolation prize. After some initial route finding on the glacier below the mountain, we return to the hut to relax. The views of the peaks to the east and south of Zermatt are in their full glory. The summit of the Matterhorn is visible, partially hidden by the Wellenkuppe and other peaks. As the sun begins to set and coat the peaks in a rosy alpenglow, we are summoned by the friendly staff to a very filling supper. As we are to get up extremely early once again, we retire early as well.

### July 18 / The Trifhorn

THE TRIFTHORN is to the south of the hut. It is approached by climbing up a glacier and crevasse field which necessitates our plastic boots and crampons. After another 3:00 AM wakeup and breakfast, we head out the door, rope up and begin our ascent. After an hour and a half we've reached a couloir that is strictly rock and we remove our crampons. It begins as loose shale and finding holds is hard. Eventually we find our way onto the south ridge and begin serious climbing. Kevin is leading this one all the way and it is my job to follow and clean up the hardware as I go. We are using everything on this one - slings, wedges, friendlies, and the seriousness of the technical climb while I'm still in my plastic boots is beginning to take its toll on me. About one-third of the way into the rock part of the climb it

becomes apparent to me that I am not going to succeed at this with these boots. I lack any control on the rock face. Kevin was doing fine as he is used to the climbing style, but recognizes my problem. We discussed turning back and the arrival of ominous clouds and increased wind increased his desire to descend as well. The beginning of our return was tricky and required us to leave some hardware behind so we could belay each other to a safer climbing area. My discomfort eased when we returned to the snow field. After returning to the hut to collect our things we were able to make the trek back to Zermatt in two and one-half hours. While licking our wounds in a cafe, we had a very hard discussion about our prospects on the Matterhorn. The Matterhorn also requires plastic boots and crampons, in this case on the last couple of pitches towards the summit. Which means you are wearing these boots on the rock face as well. As I said, the locals seem adept at the practice. I'm a neophyte. In the Cascades you are either doing rock climbing in light weight rock climbing shoes or hiking boots, depending on how severe the pitch of the rock. Snow and ice is conquered best in plastic boots. They allow for better ability to kick steps into the snow and hold the crampons better than other boots. In the Cascades you generally are doing either rock or snow and ice climbing. You rarely have to combine both skills. Technically, the Hornli Ridge route only presents a problem for a couple of rope pitches prior to the snow. It should not be taken lightly. Also, after talking with others who had climbed it, if you plan to be successful you need to consider hiring a guide. Route finding can be difficult, especially at 3:30 AM! False routes are well worn and you do not know they are false until you hit a dead end and much precious time is wasted. Guides are very expensive and it is not something we were really excited about doing on this trip.

THIS WAS the saddest moment of my trip. Yes, we were succeeding on other peaks, but the whole point of the trip was to scale the Matterhorn! The goal was visible and decidedly within reach. This had been a fantasy of mine since boyhood, spurred by a Walt Disney film, among other things.

Although saddened by the information, fatigue was taking over helping me come to grips with the fact that summiting the Matterhorn wasn't going to happen this trip. Nonetheless, we decided to return to our camp, get a good nights sleep and check out the mountain in the morning.

### July 19 - 20 / The Matterhorn

WE DECIDE to play tourist and after riding the train into Zermatt we take the tram as far as it will go up the Matterhorn. It goes to about the 8,000 foot level and from there it is about a two hour hike to the Hornli hut, roughly another 2,000 feet above. After hiking about 1,000 feet above the tram we find ourselves on a pleasant promontory with an "in your face" view of the mountain, Hornli Ridge, and the

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

hut. Sitting ourselves down for a prolonged stay, we pull out our lunch, binoculars and camera gear from our packs and begin the sport of watching other climbers on the mountain. A group of British climbers pass us. Although they succeeded in summiting, they are totally exhausted and share with us that they had extreme trouble route finding and it took them twenty hours to summit and return. These are not encouraging words.

HERE ARE some facts on the Matterhorn. It was first climbed in 1865. Of the six who summited, only two returned to talk about it. The broken hemp rope can still be viewed in a museum in Zermatt. It has been climbed by children, a dog, a monkey and a bear. All four ridges have been done in one day, in nineteen and one-half hours. The summit has been reached in as little as sixty-three minutes. If you're looking to make the record books, about the only avenue left is to climb it in ballet slippers and a tutu! But take note, you could be shot for desecrating a monument! One guide, Guido Rey, states, "Its slopes are still considered unsuitable for skiing, however". On a serious note, by 1990, there were approximately 500 deaths on the mountain. A sobering statistic, to say the least.

By the end of the day we are certain that summiting without a guide was not an option. We would return first thing in the morning with our leather boots, do our own route finding and see how far we get.

WE ARISE very early and after breakfast manage to get the first train into Zermatt. But we are not alone waiting for the tram to start up. A large contingent of the Junior Swiss Olympic Ski Team was getting ready to embark for a nearby glacier to practice. It seemed incongruous given the sunny, warm weather we'd been experiencing.

When we reached the top we made a rapid ascent to the Hornli Hut, 2,000 feet above. The climb begins very close to the hut so we opted to arrange our gear there for the ascent, leaving behind all the things we didn't really need. The first part of the climb is very straightforward and a fun rock scramble. The guided climbers were all well on their way by the time we arrived so we would not interfere with those trying to summit. Although we were curious to see how far we would get, it was a relaxing approach to climbing this peak. The trick behind the Hornli ridge route is to stay as close to the ridge as possible and not spend your time wandering off on false routes. We were doing fine to the point of being a little bit cocky on the lower levels until we succumbed to the inevitable false route. It looked so right but literally left us hanging. I can only imagine what it is like at 3:00 AM with only your headlamp to assist you. We were able to correct the error but we had wasted much precious time. By the time we knew the route and started making good progress again it was early afternoon and loose rocks were beginning to whistle past us. It is a sobering sound, particularly when it goes right by your ear. There was no argument about it being time to descend. Although we were wearing helmets, it was startling to see

how many climbers were not.

When we reached the base I stared up at my nemesis vowing revenge one day. It is true we didn't summit, but it did feel good to be able to play on it and gauge it for future reference.

#### July 21 / Rest Day

IT IS A complete rest day, a rare event for us. While coming off the Matterhorn, the Monte Rosa was beckoning us. At 15,200 feet, it is Switzerland's tallest peak, and the second highest in the Alps. It is also the most enormous mountain massif in the Alps, having some four separate summits. The Dufourspitze is the tallest summit on the mountain and becomes our next target. We have a slight scheduling problem in that to climb it will put us behind our announced departure time by a day or two and our spouses were expecting us in Italy. A quick phone call straightened that out as Cris and Angela seemed to be having sufficient fun without us. So with a clear conscience we spent the day relaxing and readying our gear for the Monte Rosa.

#### July 22 - 23 / The Riffelhorn and Monte Rosa Hut

AFTER a leisurely morning we took the train to Zermatt and then grabbed the high altitude Gornergrat train. The funicular is another Swiss trademark designed to safely rise or descend steep mountain terrain. It moves slowly up the mountainside saving us approximately four to five thousand feet of climbing and deposits us at the Rotenboden station, just below Gornergrat. These are not communities, but merely stations to allow people to continue climbing or descend on their own to Zermatt below. To say the views and the hikes are spectacular is an understatement. The Rotenboden station is the drop off point for the trail to the Monte Rosa hut. It is also the drop off point for those wishing to climb the Riffelhorn. The Riffelhorn is a lovely three tiered piece of granite of about 9,600 feet and registering about a 5.4 in degree of difficulty. Since it is not a long climb we decided we still had time to summit and still make the Monte Rosa hut before dark. We were in good shape by then so our progress on it was respectable. The first tier is more of a scramble with the other two offering more of a challenge in places. At one point a Texan without much experience was struggling up on a wall, being assisted by a local guide. He was dressed in Levi's and still wearing his Rolex and ring. When I suggested he may want to remove the ring and Rolex he grunted, "Now you tell me", as he desperately searched the air for a foothold. A sense of humor is handy at these times. I wished him success as he was trying to prepare himself for the Matterhorn.

*To be continued - Editor*



## Newsletter Contributions and To Change your Address or Phone Number:

Send articles, trip reports, stories, announcements, etc & address and phone number changes to:

**Bert Cripe, 2398 Jefferson Ave. SE, Port Orchard WA 98366; e-mail: [bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com](mailto:bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com) or phone 895-4299.**

### How to Join the PWC (or renew your membership):

Membership is open to anyone interested in muscle-powered outdoor sports. Dues are \$18.00 per household per year. Send a check or money order to Peninsula Wilderness Club, P.O. Box 323, Bremerton, WA 98337-0070. PWC members get a 10% discount at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe and at The Ajax Cafe.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional)

(Optional)



### Members' E-Mail List!

Members may submit their e-mail address to: [bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com](mailto:bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com) and receive the latest e-mail list back with updates, as needed.

PENWICKE

**Peninsula Wilderness  
Club**

P.O. Box 323  
Bremerton, WA 98337-0070



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