

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.

May 1999

Monday Meeting

May 10th

Kenya, Africa!

David Senner, of Gig Harbor, will present our program this month. He will show slides of his travels in Kenya. David was a fellow traveler of PWC'er Cheryl Gudger on an August '97 trip to Kenya. His photos include views and animals from Mountain Lodge near Mt. Kenya, Samburo, Lake Nakuru, Masai Mara, Tsavo East & Tsavo East, Mombasa, and Nairobi.

YELLOWSTONE'S SKIERS YURT CAMP

by Alice Savage

With the constant avalanche problems in the mountains this winter and frequent pass closures, luck was with us as we left Kitsap County February 26th and drove on mostly all dry roads to West Yellowstone, Montana.

TWELVE of us made the trip. Ted, Melinda, Dan, Alyce, Rose, Steve, Dick, Irma, Dave, Gary and Alice spent the first night in Missoula. Cheryl flew to Bozeman then took the shuttle down to West Yellowstone where we all spent the second night in snow country.

THE streets of West Yellowstone were plowed but still covered with a good layer of snow for the snowmobiles which buzzed around like angry mosquitoes driving us nuts.

IN THE morning our guides Erica and Buford arrived at the motel with two snow coaches (large vans fitted with tracks) and we loaded up and headed out into Yellowstone National Park. This was now Wyoming, the road followed the Madison River where bison and elk were seen. A lone coyote trotted among the bison in an open area and eagles were perched on fire damaged trees. We checked out a thermal spot with several elk hanging around. They seemed to like the warm bare ground. Snowmobile often came screaming by when we stopped

(Continued on page 6)

May Outings

PYRAMID MOUNTAIN DAY HIKE

Sunday, May 9th

Contact: Steve Vittori (377-1869)

Steve is leading this 7 mile RT hike with an elevation gain of about 2400 feet.



SKATING

Sundays, 7-9:30 pm

Contact: Bremerton Skateland (479-7655)

Sunday evenings are reserved for adults, so don't feel too intimidated—give it a try!



MT. STORM KING DAY HIKE

Sunday, May 23rd

Contact: Ron Croft (779-6250)

Join Ron for a day on one of the most popular trails in the park. The trail has views of Lake Crescent at about the two thirds point.



ROCK CLIMBING

Weekdays, May & June

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

Tom will be looking for opportunities to rock climb on many of his days off. Experienced or beginning climbers are welcome. Tom is working in the Olympic National Park backcountry; leave a message about your availability on his answering machine. Provide your own climbing shoes and harness (can be rented at Mt. Constance).

SKI-TO-SEA RACE INFORMATION

Memorial Day weekend, May 29 - 31st

Contact: Tom Banks (697-7708)

The ski-to-sea race is an 82.5-mile, 7-leg relay race event starting at the Mt. Baker ski area and ending at Bellingham Bay. The race is held during the Memorial Day weekend. This year our club will have two teams, participating in cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, running, biking, canoeing, mountain biking, and sea kayaking. The following individuals will be representing our club this year: Steve Vittori, Dave Dohnal, Paul LaBarre, Randy Knox, Sheri Howard, Millard Martin, Christina Koonce, Chris Hildebrand, Judy Guttormsen, Dan & Pat Kirschbaum, Scot Fourier, Brady Howard, John & Regan Nickels, and Tom Banks.

Good luck to our teams!

A WORD ABOUT OUTINGS

The persons sponsoring trips are organizers and should not be considered instructors. If you are unsure of your abilities, skill level, or equipment, discuss the trip thoroughly with the organizer. Often, friendly guidance is available on the trip, however by preplanning you will help ensure everyone has a safe and fun adventure.

ALWAYS CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS



Upcoming Outings

JAUN DE FUCA BACKPACKING TRIP

Sunday - Wednesday, June 13th - 16th

Contact: Alan Searle (876-3070)

Alan plans to hike the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail beginning Sunday June 13th and finishing on Wednesday 16th. It is about 35 miles long and is a relatively easy trail. It was featured in Backpacker October '98, and there is a web site devoted to the trail.

BACKPACK TO TOLEAK POINT

Saturday & Sunday, June 19th & 20th

Contact: Lynn Howat (598-3087)

Leave early Saturday morning and hike the ocean beach for 7 miles to Toleak Point where we'll camp. Tide pools, seals and eagles. Hike out on Sunday afternoon.

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.

Announcements & Notices

WANTED: HOUSE TO SIT

Housesitter available after 4-15-99. References on request. 360-479-4171 leave message. Jim Drannan

HIKING WITH CONFIDENCE CLASS

Instructor: Deborah Legg (478-2829)

Tuesdays, May 11 to 25th, at Central Kitsap Junior High School. The cost is \$45. How to prepare for a hike:

- ⇒ Learn the "Ten Essentials"
- ⇒ Equipment
- ⇒ Clothing
- ⇒ Basic compass
- ⇒ Route finding
- ⇒ Miscellaneous travelling tips

Call Deborah for answers to your questions.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following club members have been elected to the new board of directors:

Steve Vittori, Doug Savage, and Pat Gleason.

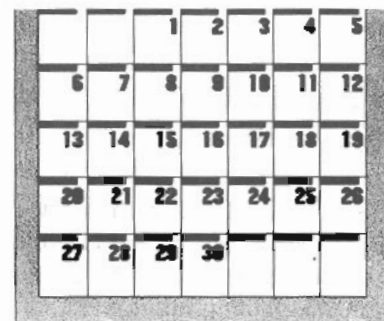
The new board members will serve until the regular officer election is held in the fall of this year. Please feel free to contact any one of the board members to voice a concern or express your opinion.

BRIDGE CLOSURE

A ONP visitor has reported that the High Dose Bridge on the West Fork of the Dosewallips river is out. The bridge has been bent into a V shape by heavy snow load. There is eight feet of snow at the bridge. There is an avalanche twenty feet deep on the road near the falls and generally six feet of snow beyond that. There is also a small amount of debris, mostly mud and rock, on the Miner Creek bridge.

The High Dose bridge provides access to Honeymoon Meadows, Anderson Pass, and the cross-range route down to Enchanted Valley. And it's a NEW bridge!

- This information provided by Pack & Paddle Magazine

MAY**JUNE**

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE PAGE

May 9th	Pyramid Mountain day hike	Steve Vittori (377-1869)	2
May 23rd	Mount Storm King day hike	Ron Croft (779-6250)	2
Weekdays	Rock Climbing	Tom Banks (697-7708)	2
Sundays	Skating	Skateland (479-7655)	2
May 29-31st	Ski to Sea	Tom Banks (697-7708)	2
June 13th - 16th	Juan de Fuca Backpacking Trip	Alan Searle (876-3070)	3
June 19 & 20th	Toleak Pt. backpack trip	Lynn Howat (598-3087)	3
Aug 13th - 22nd	Bugaboos Climb/Support hike	Stacy Moon (405-1426)	3

Interested Members Meeting:

Thursday, May 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Melinda Brottem will host this month's Interested Members Meeting at her home in South Kitsap. Combine socializing with club business and trip planning. This is a great chance to get to know members one-on-one. Call Melinda at 871-3522 for directions. Please carpool as much as possible.

Potluck Social:

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

This month the potluck will be hosted by Brenda McCormick, at her home in Port Orchard. Bring a dish to share and come on out to socialize. Please RSVP to Brenda at 871-2142. 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: jmorrison@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: Chris Anderson, Anne & Craig Anderson, Kevin Buyer, Tanya Cardillo, Nancy Merson, Mike Parris, Mary & Paul Russell, Leon Smith, and Michele Wood.

Officers & Staff

President:	Tom Banks	697-7708
Vice Pres:	Deborah Legg	478-2829
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel	871-0291
Treasurer:	Kevin Kilbridge	871-2537
Board of Directors	Steve Vittori	377-1869
	Doug Savage	698-9774
	Pat Gleason	373-2131
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: Last month there were two door prizes. Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe provided a Sweet Water purifier, won by Jill Hawes-Wright. The second prize donated by Dee Molenaar was his book *The Challenge of Rainier*, won by Kevin Kilbridge. The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. All members can enter at the Monday night meeting.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

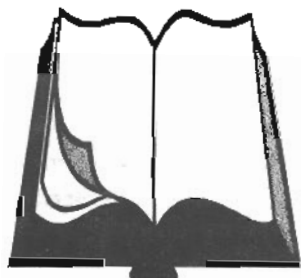
THE COOKBOOK IS IN THE WORKS!

by Bert Cripe



I have started assembling the cookbook. I have 27 recipes in the computer at this time and I think more are archived in boxes in my garage. There appeared an announcement in the September, 1994, *Penwicle* that "a booklet of the winning cook-off recipes of the last three years" would be ready "sometime in the future." The future is here—you have two months to submit any recipes you want included!

In any event, I would like to have additional recipes submitted. Some of the winners from last year's cook-off did not submit a copy of their recipe to me (I did ask for copies) and therefore, those recipes will not appear unless you submit it (is Sally Sprenger reading this?)



Trip Reports

(Continued from page 1) *Yellowstone*

to view the animals but everything was so wonderful, we couldn't mind too much.

IT TOOK over three hours to reach the yurt camp because of our frequent stops. There were two large yurts connected with a doorway. One was the kitchen, the other used for eating and a gathering place. It was heated with a wood stove and lit by Coleman lanterns. Pathways through six feet of snow led to eight smaller yurts used for sleeping. They had wooden platforms, partial wood walls and canvas roofs. Propane heaters kept them warm and kerosene lamps were used for light. Each held two people.

IT WAS PARADISE AND SO GOOD TO BE ALIVE.

The camp also had a shower (water was heated and put in a shower bag.) A snug cedar sauna heated to 160 degrees held two or three people and a heated outhouse was much appreciated especially during the night when nature called and one had to step out into below zero temperatures.

THE camp was situated right in the middle of Yellowstone Park at 8,000 feet near the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. It was quiet, no snowmobiles or any one else around for that matter. Upon arrival we settled in, ate lunch and went off for our first ski jaunt over to the Canyon rim where the river tumbled noisily below. Needless to say we were overwhelmed by the beauty of the area.

MEALS were hearty and we dove in like a pack of hungry wolves when food was brought to the table. A hefty chicken stew over rice was served the first night along with piles of green salad and cake for desert. There was always coffee and tea along with beer and wine. Hot yurt-o-meal was always served at breakfast. It contained oatmeal, chopped apples and nuts. It was good mixed with yogurt and stuck to the ribs. Hotcakes, eggs and sausage completed the meal. After breakfast was cleared away, out came the lunch makings. Delicious whole grain bread with cheese, ham, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, and pickles made great sandwiches for our day on the trail.

THE second day we took off in the snow coaches, with Arden and Erica driving, for a wonderful day of skiing with the weather constantly changing from snow to clearing, clouds, or sun. We skied up and over a large hill into blowing snow, but it cleared for tremendous views of distant mountains, meadows, and trees. Since the fires of 1988, there are huge areas of standing dead trees. Birds such as

the black raven were often seen perched on them.

SKIING down through the woods, we came very close to a large bison digging in the snow. These creatures, with their thick necks and powerful heads, shove heavy, deep snow aside to get to the vegetation below. Carefully skirting around him we came to a thermal area, took off our skis and walked around the bare ground looking at boiling mud pots and fumaroles. Deep snow on rocks here looked like giant mushrooms. Our boots got plastered with mud which made it difficult to get the skis back on.

LATER, back up to the canyon rim, we looked down at the 308 foot Lower Falls. Frozen spray from the falls had grown into a huge ice cone near its base. Skiing on, we came to the 109 foot Upper Falls. Red and yellow rock showed through the snow on the canyon walls. Indeed an awesome place.

ONE crystal clear morning, we headed out under a golden sun which made the trees and snow sparkle like millions of diamonds. It was paradise and so good to be alive. Coming to a big snow covered hillside we played around, some practicing their telemark others just skiing up and down. Irma skied up on her split snowboard and snowboarded down several times.

LATER moving on around the hill, Arden found a great place for lunch and dug out a snow bench so we all could sit down. He then pulled a stiff green plastic sheet from his pack, sat on it and glissaded down the hill. He made a great runway so several of us had to try it. What fun, no need for an ice axe, just place your butt on the sheet with legs in the air and off you go. A huge mound of snow below stopped the slide, then of course, one had to climb back up the hill but it was worth it for another great slide.

THAT night a full moon rose in the clear sky, and you can imagine how bright it was on the snow. After supper we hopped in the snow coach and headed for the canyon rim. Four people skied over but most of us felt too full and lazy. It was cold, well below zero but walking to the rim and looking down at the river was awesome. The trees made stark shadows on the snow, and the cliffs looked like they were covered with white frosting. We looked and absorbed the scene for sometime but cold drove us back to the coach and camp. The next morning it was nineteen below zero.

THE next day a long drive took us through the large open area of Hayden Valley and out to Yellowstone Lake. Along the way we saw bison, elk, and the seldom seen Trumpeter swans. Canadian geese and Goldeneye ducks were cruising on the river also. Arriving at the lake it was totally obscured by wind driven snow. No one felt like skiing in the

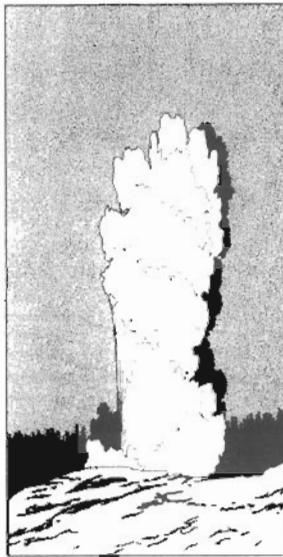
(Continued on page 7)

Trip Reports

(Continued from page 6) Yellowstone

blizzard so we went on to a protected area and skied through the woods to a rock formation called Natural Bridge. We skied near it but it was not safe to ski across.

TRYING to follow the road back through Hayden Valley became very difficult for the snow coaches because of huge snowdrifts and blowing snow. Without the aid of tall orange road poles it would have been impossible to find the road. At one point Arden got out and walked the road ahead of Erica's rig to guide her through the drifts. We wondered if we would get back to camp that night but we made it.



OF COURSE there were many "Kodak Moments" in the park and we stopped often for pictures. Ted carried a large video camera, seems it was always going. Steve was our official photographer. He took slides and will present a slide show for the club later on.

THREE people ran the camp. Buford, who drove one of the snow coaches in with us, left and didn't return. Arden, Erica, and Bill took care of us and I can't say enough about these people and how wonderful they were. I was amazed at their energy, doing all the camp chores, chopping wood, making the fire, shoveling snow, keeping heaters, lanterns, and everything else in working order. They did all the cooking, cleaning up and took us out every day for skiing. They went non-stop each day from 6:30 A.M. to 10:30 P.M. Arden and Erica were our coach drivers and ski guides. Bill was there only part of the time.

ARDEN had a marvelous sense of humor with a constant stream of jokes. We were always laughing. Erica was down to earth and just sweet. They were so attentive to all our

needs. It was hard to part when we left.

BARBECUED steak was served for our last supper along with baked potatoes, broccoli, salad, hot apple pie, and home made ice cream (freshly churned). The partially full moon was peeking through the clouds as we headed for our beds. It was ten below zero in the morning.

THE last morning, after packing and loading, we left the yurt camp late morning. With Bill and Arden driving, we were headed for Old Faithful Snow Lodge where we planned to spend one night. Erica had left the night before for West Yellowstone to bring in a new group. We met her on the road and everyone piled out, hugged her hard, and said goodbye.

WE did ski that last day because Bill and Arden stopped, dropped us off with our skies and picked us up further down the road. We enjoyed a nice trip along the Firehole River with warm sunshine and lovely scenery.

ARRIVING at Old Faithful, we said goodbye to Arden and Bill and checked into our rooms at the lodge. It is always nice to have a real bathroom after several days in the backcountry. Some of us wandered over to watch Old Faithful blow. It was not terribly impressive, maybe due to the snowy background as the white steam just blended in. We all ended the day with dinner at the lodge.

THE Old Faithful Snow Lodge coach, which would take us back to West Yellowstone, was not due to leave until after 1 p.m., so that gave us time for skiing and sightseeing. The Geyser Basin was interesting with its steaming geysers and mud pots. Many animals, especially bison and elk, were scattered about the open areas.

AS WE headed out to West Yellowstone, again bison and elk were seen along the river. It was fun seeing so many wild creatures. Once we saw two coyotes trotting across a hill. One came down to the river and barked at an elk. Apparently it thought this was not dinner and left to join its companion. We also saw several dead elk in the park. Winter is hard and just before the snow melts many become weak and die. One place on the river a bison was standing as if asleep. Right in front of its nose on the bank was a dead elk. It was a strange sight.

EVERYONE really enjoyed this trip. None of us had ever seen Yellowstone Park covered with snow and of course it was wonderful to get away from our soggy Northwest and into high dry country. Each day had something new and different to offer. The snow was great for skiing, the animals exciting to see and the scenery was so magnificent it is hard to describe. Maybe we will do it again.

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 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: _____ (Optional) Email Address: _____ (Optional)



Members' E-Mail List!

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

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



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PENWICLE

May 1999 - Time Dated Material