

PENWILE

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 2000

Monday Meeting

August 14th

WILDERNESS EMERGENCIES

Ben Baker brings his experience as a former green beret medic to PWCers. He'll be talking about emergency evacuations and helicopter safety, as well as, expedient first aid. Ben's currently studying to be a Physician's Assistant at the University of Washington.

Mailing List Updates

The annual publication of the membership mailing list is approaching. Several draft copies of the list will be available at the August general meeting for review. The list includes the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of members. An updated list is printed each year and distributed to PWCers for the convenience of contacting and networking with fellow members.

Please take a few moments at the August meeting to review the data for your account and correct it if required. Some members have indicated they do not wish to be included on the list. If your information does not appear on the list and you wish to be included, please add your name to the end of the list. It's possible your account is flagged to be excluded from the mailing list. Your account information will be reviewed and changed for inclusion on the mailing list if you've written your name at the end of a draft copy. Conversely, if your name is on the draft but you do not wish to have it included, line out your information on a draft and your account will be updated accordingly.

If you have any questions, contact Teresa Sayers at the general meeting or

Officer Nominations Coming Up...

Consider running for a position of responsibility and leadership within the club. It's fun! It's rewarding! Nominations for club officers and board members will be taken at the September general meeting. The August Interested Members Meeting is a good place to talk with current officers and board members to find out what the positions entail and the positive experiences they've had. New members—you don't have to be a long-time PWCer to run. Holding a position is a great way to get involved!

Upcoming Outings

North Fork Skokomish Day Hike

Saturday, August 5th

Contact: Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191

Enjoy the first 3.7 miles of the North Fork Skokomish Trail beginning at the Staircase Ranger Station. There is little to no elevation gain along this leisurely trail that meanders through beautiful virgin forest including Douglas fir, red cedar, and hemlock with lush undergrowth.

Paddling on Ross Lake

August 6th thru 11th

Contact: Rick Fleming, (360) 779-2275

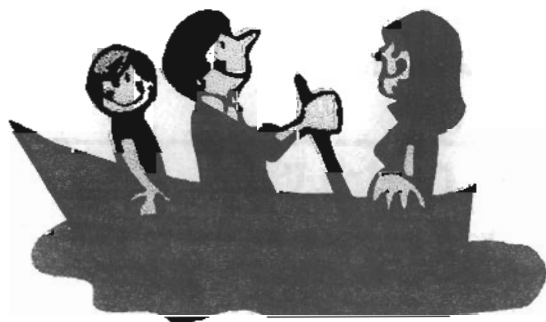
Enjoy 50 miles canoeing or kayaking and camping at Ross Lake. Paddlers should be comfortable with basic paddling techniques and with swimming. Plan on four to five leisurely hours of paddling per day. The outing will be five or six days and has a limit of 12 people.

Mt. Jupiter

Tuesday, August 8th

Contact: Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250

A long and strenuous hike that offers the reward of one of the most glorious panoramas in the Northwest—the interior Olympics, Duckabush Valley, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, and the Cascades from Mt. Baker to Mt. Rainier. 14 miles with 3600 feet of elevation gain.



Crevasse Rescue Practice

Saturday, August 12th

Contact: Paul LaBarre, (360) 598-4110

Join Paul for crevasse rescue practice on Nisqually Glacier at Mt. Rainier. You should have basic alpinism skills. As a minimum bring an ice axe, harness, locking beamer, pulley, and prussiks.

Mt. Jupiter Overnighter (or Day Trip)

Weekend of August 12th & 13th

Contact: Gail Christensen, (360) 373-7069

What a perfect weekend to camp out under the heavens! The Perseid meteor shower peaks the night of August 12th with the best viewing between 2:00 a.m. and dawn. The daytime vista from Mt. Jupiter is spectacular as well, with expansive views stretching from the interior Olympics across Puget Sound to the Cascades. Come for a challenging day hike (14 miles and 3600 feet of elevation), or stay for a glorious night outdoors! Plan on camping just below the summit and taking a short night-time hike to the summit to view the meteor shower and the lights from Everett to down past Tacoma.

Wonderland Trail

August 12th thru August 21st or 23rd

Contact: Tom Broszeit, (360) 830-5774

Email: Wonderhike@aol.com

There's still room to join in all or part of this spectacular 93-mile trail encircling Mount Rainier that leads past lakes, waterfalls, and glaciers; through forested valleys, flowering subalpine meadows, and snowy passes. A strenuous hike with much elevation gain/loss along the route but by spreading the trip over 10 to 12 days the pace should suit the average backpacker. Contact Tom for more information.

More Outings

Annual Yakima River Float Trip

August 13th & 14th

Contact: Ted Wiles or Melinda, (360) 871-3522

Join Ted for his 21st annual float trip on the Yakima River! This is a favorite among club members of all skill levels and ages. The group will car camp near the river at the Umtanum Recreational Area.

Good things to bring:

- ◊ life jacket (required by WA law)
- ◊ rubber raft (cheap vinyl kind will do)
- ◊ aqua socks or old tennis shoes
- ◊ sun block
- ◊ firewood (1 or 2 sticks)
- ◊ water for drinking & cooking

Directions to camp:

- ◊ take Hwy 90 East to Ellensburg
- ◊ take Exist 109 (Canyon Road)
- ◊ turn left (south) at stop sign
- ◊ you're now on Hwy 821 (Canyon Road)
- ◊ proceed to Umtanum Recreational Area at about mile marker 16

Meet at campsite between 10:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Change in Ultralight Backpacking Plans

Contact: Mark Hendrickson, (360) 830-4521

Mark has to cancel a couple of the ultralight outings he had planned due to travel associated with work. Please make a note that the Wonderland Trail adventure is still on schedule!

August 4th thru 6th

First Divide: Cancelled

August 19th thru 26th

Wonderland Trail around Mt. Rainier

September 15th thru 17th

Constance Pass: Cancelled

Tolmie Peak

Saturday, August 19th

Contact: John Knott, (360) 792-2440

About six miles round trip with 1000 feet of elevation gain, this is a pleasant and scenic trail on the northwest side of Mt. Rainier. Leave Mowich Lake and meander along the path past Eunice Lake. A short, somewhat steeper stretch of trail puts you at the lookout on top of Tolmie Peak with magnificent views of Mt. Rainier and the lake below.

Queets and Hoh River Areas

August 20th thru 25th

Contact: Joe Weigel, (360) 871-0291

Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774

Doug and Joe have changed their August outing due to a road closure. Instead, they'll be taking some multi-day backpacking trips with day hikes along the Queets Trail and the Hoh River Trail. Come along for the easier parts of the hike, or choose to join them for the bushwhacking. From their camp along the Queets Trail, they will make day hikes to Kloochman Rock and to Smith Place on the Tshletshy Creek Trail. They'll then move to the Hoh Trail. After hiking in 2.8 miles, they will ford the river and hike Tom Creek Way Trail. The trips entail major fords of both the Queets and the Hoh rivers, so are not for the faint of heart. Call Joe or Doug for more details.

Tull City & Tubal Cain Day Hike

Saturday, August 26th

Contact: Pat Gleason

Email: PGZyzz@cs.com

Explore what's left of mining camps from the early 1900's. Tull Canyon also contains the remains of an ill-fated Air Force B-17 that crashed in a 1952 snow-storm. The outing will be about 8.6 miles round trip with little elevation gain except for short sections of trail.

More Outings

Mink Lake Day Hike

Saturday, September 2nd

Contact: Steve Vittori, (253) 858-5191

Join Steve for his annual Labor Day Weekend day hike at Soleduck. Mink Lake is 2.5 miles and 1400 feet elevation gain from the Sol Duc Hot Springs. The trail passes through second- and old-growth forests of fir, hemlock, and huckleberry. Enjoy a soak in the hot springs as a reward for your hiking.

Weekend at Royal Basin

September 2nd thru 4th

Contact: "Mac" MacDowell or Deborah Legg,
(360) 478-2829

Exploring the exquisite beauty of Royal Basin is a wonderful way to spend a long weekend. It's about seven miles to the far end of the basin with a little less than 3000 feet of elevation gain. You'll hike through lush meadows and forests, observing the awesome geological features of the glacier-carved basin throughout.

Bogachiel & Geodetic Hill

September 2nd thru 5th

Contact: Joe Weigel, (360) 871-0291
Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774

Hike six miles with virtually no elevation gain up the Bogachiel Trail through excellent examples of old- and second-growth rain forest. From camp, Joe and Doug will tackle a rugged bushwhack over unmaintained trail to Geodetic Hill via the Indian Pass and Rugged Ridge Trails. Beginning backpackers will enjoy the trip along the Bogachiel, and hearty souls will be adequately punished by joining the pioneering adventure to Geodetic Hill.

Peshastin Pinnacles Rock Climbing

September 9th & 10th

Contact: Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754

Peshastin Pinnacles provide rock climbing for all skill levels. Beginners—this is your chance to try an exhilarating experience. Bring your own harness and rock climbing shoes. Talk to Tony about gear and camping details.

Skyscraper Day Hike

Saturday, September 16th

Contact: Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191

Enjoy supreme late summer hiking near Sunrise at Mt. Rainier. Skyscraper Peak is about seven miles round trip with 900 feet of elevation gain. Views of Mt. Rainier and the beautiful meadows and surrounding peaks are outstanding from the summit.



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.

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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		



September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

Date	Outing	Contact	Page
August 5th	North Fork of the Skokomish	Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191	2
August 6th-11th	Kayak/Canoe on Ross Lake	Rick Fleming, (360) 779-2275	2
August 8th	Mt. Jupiter Day Hike	Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250	2
August 10th	Interested Members Meeting	Lynn Howat, (360) 598-3087	6
August 12th	Crevasse Rescue Practice	Paul Labarre, (360) 598-4110	2
August 12th & 13th	Mt. Jupiter Day or Overnighter	Gail Christensen, (360) 373-7069	2
August 12th-23rd	Wonderland Trail	Tom Broszeit, (360) 830-5774	2
August 13th & 14th	Yakima River Float Trip	Ted Wiles or Melinda, (360) 871-3522	3
August 14th	Monday General Meeting	Unitarian Fellowship Church	1
August 19th-26th	Ultralight: Wonderland Trail	Mark Hendrickson, (360) 830-4521	3
August 19th	Tolmie Peak	John Knott, (360) 792-2440	3
August 19th	MTTA Clean-up	Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754	6
August 20th-25th	Queets & Hoh River Areas	Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774 or Joe Weigel, (360) 871-0291	3
August 25th	Potluck	Ron & Laura Croft, (360) 779-6250	6
August 26th	Tull City & Tubal Cain	Pat Gleason, email PGZyzz@cs.com	3
Sept. 2nd	Mink Lake Day Hike	Steve Vittori, (253) 858-5191	4
Sept. 2nd-4th	Royal Basin	Mac MacDowell & Deborah Legg, (360) 478-2829	4
Sept. 2nd -5th	Bogachiel & Geodetic Hill	Joe Weigel, (360) 871-0291 or Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774	4
Sept. 9th & 10th	Peshastin Pinnacles Rock Climbing	Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754	4
Sept. 16th	Skyscraper Day Hike	Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191	4

PWC Climbers Group

An informal gathering of climbers meets the last Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Silver City 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 (360) 697-7708. For a list of climbers, send an e-mail to **Jim Morrison** at: jimjuliem@yahoo.com or phone (360) 638-2705.

More Events & Info

Interested Members Meeting

Thursday, August 10th, 7:00 pm

Contact: Lynn Howat, (360) 598-3087

August's Interested Members Meeting will be at Lynn Howat's home in Suquamish. New members, come and get to know active club members. Take part in club business and trip planning. This is a fun and social evening.

ATTENTION!

You should receive your newsletter at the end of the month or the very beginning of the month. If you have NOT received your newsletter by the second business day of the month, it could indicate a distribution problem that we want to investigate and remedy. If this happens to you, please contact Teresa Sayers at (360) 895-8769, so another copy can be mailed to you immediately. Thank you.

FYI: If you want to drop PWC Pres, Tom Banks, a quick note while he's away tending to summer ranger duties, mail correspondence to Tom Banks....
c/o Hozomeen
7280 Ranger Station Rd
Marblemount, WA 98267

Mt. Tahoma Trail Association (MTTA) Work Party Weekends

August 19th

September 16th

Contact: Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754

Summer work parties are held the third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Ashford Fire Hall at 9:30 a.m. Plan on staying overnight. Saturday night's dinner will be provided.

The summer work parties accomplish all the preseason work (firewood cutting, hut repairs, etc.) and are a great opportunity to get involved and meet people. Sundays are a low key day of sleeping late, taking short hikes, and generally taking it easy.

Contact Tony for more information.

August Potluck

Friday, August 25th, 6:30 pm

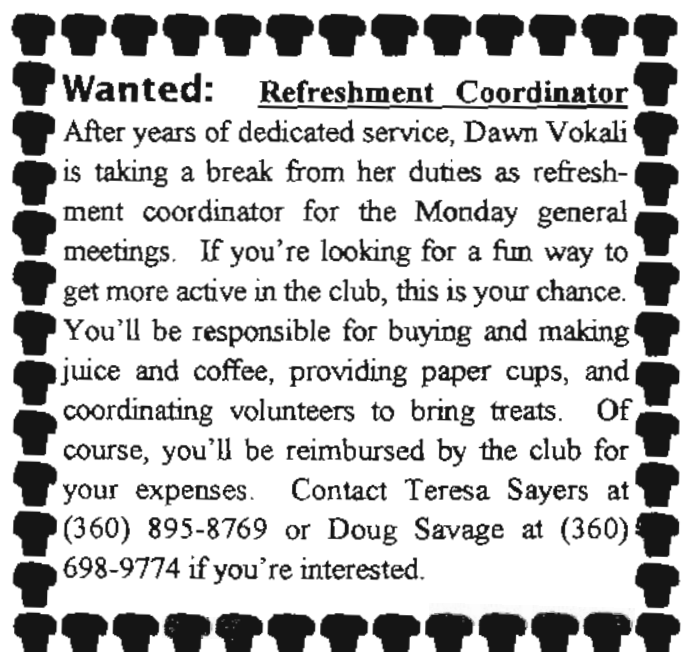
Contact: Ron & Laura Croft, (360) 779-6250

Enjoy a summer evening with friends and good food. Come to meet new members or share tales with long-time PWCers. Bring your favorite salad, side or main dish, or hors d'oeuvre. Dessert will be provided by the hosts.

Email Addresses...

If we've got an email address listed in the club database, it will be included in the newsletter along with your phone number when you are the point of contact for a trip or activity. If you prefer NOT to have your email address included, please let the editor know at the time you notify her of the trip.

New or renewing members: Remember—if you do NOT want to have your address, phone number, and email address included in the list distributed to other members, let the Treasurer know when you join or renew.



Wanted: Refreshment Coordinator

After years of dedicated service, Dawn Vokali is taking a break from her duties as refreshment coordinator for the Monday general meetings. If you're looking for a fun way to get more active in the club, this is your chance. You'll be responsible for buying and making juice and coffee, providing paper cups, and coordinating volunteers to bring treats. Of course, you'll be reimbursed by the club for your expenses. Contact Teresa Sayers at (360) 895-8769 or Doug Savage at (360) 698-9774 if you're interested.

Newsletter Folding...

A small group of PW Cers meets to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Doug Savage at (360) 698-9774 for specific location and time if you would like to help.

TAKE NOTE:

Tom Banks will be park rangering at North Cascades National Park this summer. If you will be in the area and want to coordinate a hike or outing with him, call and leave a message at (360) 697-7708.

Welcome! New members for June were Valeri Beatty, Sherry Foutch, Donald Jones, Bruce Kschinka, Patti Oster, and Don Thornton.

Officers & Staff

President:	Tom Banks	(360) 697-7708
Vice Pres:	Deborah Legg	(360) 478-2829
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel	(360) 871-0291
Treasurer:	Steve Vittori	(253) 858-8191
Board of Directors:	Ron Croft	(360) 779-6250
	Doug Savage	(360) 698-9774
	Joe Weigel	(360) 871-0291
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel	(360) 871-0291
Refreshments:	Teresa Sayers (temp)	(360) 895-8769
Clean-Up:		
Scrap Book:	Kathy Sinn	(360) 876-5730
PENWICLE:		
Editor:	Teresa Sayers	(360) 895-8769
Assembling:	Doug Savage	(360) 698-9774
On-line Services:	Bert Cripe	(206) 548-8052

Last Month's Door Prize: No July door prize because of the picnic. The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. PWC members are eligible to enter the drawing at the monthly general meeting.

More Announcements & Notices



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

PWC On-Line

Bert Cripe maintains the club website and the email list. Contact him for your on-line needs.

Phone: (206) 548-8052

email: bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com

Renewal Reminder:

If you are joining or renewing your membership, please send your check or money order to the P.O. Box listed for the PWC on the back of your newsletter. The Treasurer receives transactions through this address. Sending these transactions to the newsletter editor will slow the process. Thank you.

PENWICLE Submittals

➡Deadline for newsletter submittals is the 15th of the month. See the back of the newsletter for where to send your contributions.

Pet Policy

☐ Because some people may not be as comfortable with your pets as you are, you're asked to please leave them at home when attending PWC outings unless the trip is specifically advertised as welcoming them. Thank you.

Pacific Crest Trail—Part 2

Southern California

By Dave Cossa

So—here I am at Camp, California near the Mexican border, ready to begin a 2650-mile sojourn to Canada. I hike the confusing 1.5 miles to view the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Mexican Monument and on the return to Camp someone unseen yells, “Are you a PCT hiker going to Canada?” “Yes, I am,” I reply. “Well, good luck to you. I hope you make it.” It is to be a mantra I will hear dozens of times over the next six months: “Good luck to you.” It lightens my spirit and load to know complete strangers are wishing me well.

Camp resembles a police state with Border Patrol jeeps and helicopters cruising the area. A real cat and mouse game is going on and, as I learn on my first night out, the mice are winning. A group of 20 illegal aliens pass by my camp. Each of us is relieved to find that we have no interest in the other.

The trail starts out in chaparral, something foreign to me, and I eagerly investigate the stuff. Rigid branches make it impenetrable off trail without a machete. Fifteen-foot high manzanita, scrub oak, mountain mahogany, sumac, chamise, and spiny ceanothus predominate. The intelligent plants are extremely flammable, for they know fire is their friend. They sprout back immediately after a fire. Not so for other intrusive plants, like pines, that would crowd out the chap.

The first mountains along the PCT are the Llagunas, a brief 20-mile respite from the chap. Black oak, Jeffrey, and pinon pines abound. I pick up a self-mailed parcel at the post office in Mt. Laguna and stay overnight in a PCT discounted cabin, the first of many specials for PCT hikers.

The next day it's back to the chap after some good views of the Colorado Desert, 5000 feet down to

the east. The chap will prevail for the next 500 miles except for three 50-mile excursions into the San Jacinto, San Bernardino, and San Gabriel mountains. I coin the phrase ‘wrap the chap’ because the trail crosses innumerable ravines, not dropping into them, but contouring around them over and over again. Occasionally, groves of massive live oaks, some 8 feet in diameter appear. Well-spaced springs, shared with cattle, are the only water sources.

Warner Springs is the next way station, with little to offer Cresters except a post office overwhelmed with thru-hiker parcels, including mine. From here, a 5500-foot ascent into the San Jacintos starts. Midway through them I drop 2500 feet into Idyllwild, a busy vacation resort. A free stay at a state park and a resupply at the local grocery are in order. Being a mountaineer, I feel compelled to ascend 11,500-foot San Jacinto Peak, the scenic highlight of southern California. San Jacinto is a massive peak, with a 10,000-foot, 25-mile waterless descent into the Mojave Desert.

Crossing I-10 is a bizarre experience. The interstate is crammed with cars and trucks, completely incongruent with the empty surroundings. It's like a huge conveyor belt, ferrying souls and materials into some great, giant, smoky machine just past the distant horizon. A surrealistic wind farm is nearby, the whirling, squeaky blades slicing up the silence that preceded them. It is a relief to bid them farewell and climb 6000 feet into the forest of the San Bernardinos. Pinon and coulter pines with their 3- to 5-pound cones give way to enormous specimens of sugar pines, Jeffreys, and California junipers, in my opinion the most picturesque of all trees. They are like snowflakes: no two are alike. These in turn yield to ubiquitous lodgepoles.

Big Bear City is a very friendly place. The firestation lets us stay on their back lawn for free. The guy at the post office delivers a mismailed parcel to Tim, a fellow Cresters, at his motel room after hours on a bicycle.

Now it's back out of the forest for a 10-mile sampling of the Mojave before ascending 6000 feet once again on the yo-yo path into the San Gabriels. Water remains plenty scarce with no creeks to speak of. Way station Wrightwood is known as the black hole of the PCT because so many Cresters drop out here. The exhaustive ups and downs and the monotony of the chaparral are more than some can take. Tim is a victim. A vegetarian, he is but a skeletal remnant of his former self and too tired to continue.

A giant storm is predicted, and it comes true. One day out from Wrightwood, a rainstorm that would do the Northwest proud develops and turns to snow. The temperature drops into the 20's. It's June 1st! Passing by a boy scout cabin with a wood stove is just too tempting. I enter through an unsecured window, start a fire, get dried out and have a warm, comfortable night.

On the descent to Agua Dulce, the temperature soars into the 90's. I almost walk into a rattlesnake perched in a bush about waist high. I recoil—like a hand touching a hot wood stove. Shuddering, I press on, keeping a wary eye out for more of them.

I take a side trip to a grocery only to find it closed. As I'm leaving, a man comes to the door inquiring if I'm a PCT hiker. When I say yes, he opens the store just for me. I'm becoming dumbfounded at the helpfulness of people along the trail. It's not what I expected.

At Agua Dulce, a woman is waiting at the post office. It's Donna, one of the archangels of the PCT. She insists that every passing Custer stay at her guesthouse. She does our laundry and chauffeurs us to town for supplies and a feast at the local Mexican restaurant. She makes an indelible impression in every thru-hiker's mind for her overwhelming generosity. But, there is more to come!

The Mojave Desert is next with its yuccas, blooming cacti, ocotillo, and Joshua trees. It's mighty hot—in the low 100's. I can only hike about an hour

at a time before diving into the scant shade of a Joshua tree. We are following roads along the concrete-encased California aqueduct, a 60-mile waterless stretch except for one small spigot tapping the aqueduct put in for, you guessed it, PCTers. Normally, you'd have to carry about two gallons of water to make it through. But, trail angel, Donna, and her helpers have stashed water for us at prearranged spots along the trail. In addition, trail angels cruise the aqueduct road, looking for thirsty Cresters, dispensing Doritos, orange juice, and other welcomed goodies.

Now comes the ugly part. The trail passes through the Tehachapis. Due to easy access, dirt bikers have invaded, or should I say infected, the entire range. 2000-foot bike ruts scar most of the mountains. The drunken sots have littered everywhere, and shot up every conceivable post, sign, and structure. The aqueduct had to be placed underground through here so that these bozos wouldn't destroy it with armor-piercing bullets. I come to despise these people for their uncaring attitude towards the land, especially after meeting so many hikers doing their best to go with a "no-trace" attitude.

So it comes as no surprise that the Tejon Ranch doesn't really want anyone on their land. They let Cresters pass through, but only with the caveat that we cannot camp or leave the trail for any reason. It's patrolled on horseback.

When I reach the highway to the town of Mojave, the next supply depot, a truck driver offers me an unsolicited 10-mile ride to a welcomed air-conditioned motel. It's 110 degrees outside. After a 2-night stay, the eight-five year old owner, who's been at the motel since 1928, gives me a free ride back to the trailhead. I'm refreshed and ready for the Sierras. 600 miles down and 2000 to go!

Next Month: The awesome, breathtaking, spectacular, etc. Sierras!!

Newsletter Contributions and Address or Phone Number Changes:

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

Teresa Sayers, 4130 Harris Rd. SE, Port Orchard WA 98366; phone (360) 895-8769;

email tsayers@telebyte.net.

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*)

* If you provide this information, it will be available to other club members through the mailing and email list.

PENWICL

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



Reproduced Using Recycled Paper

August 2000 - Time Dated Material