

PENNSWILLE

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.

October 2000

Monday Meeting

October 9th

Rainier and Beyond:

An evening with Mike Gauthier, lead climbing ranger at Mt. Rainier National Park

Join park service ranger, Mike Gauthier, for an evening of breathtaking photographic images from Mount Rainier and the rugged Alaska Range. As lead climbing ranger at Mount Rainier, Gauthier has seen sides of Washington's premier peak that few others ever will. Last year, Gauthier published the popular, "Mount Rainier: A Climbing Guide," now in its second printing. Selections from his stunning collection of mountaineering photographs have been featured at the Washington State History Museum, are on display at the National Park Inn at Longmire and have been displayed in numerous galleries, magazines and newspapers.

Mike's slide show and talk will highlight several of Rainier's climbing routes described in his book. He will share images and details from the routes that leave the crowds behind. Mike also will share stories and images from a recent five-week expedition to the Alaska Range and review some of the dangerous mountain rescues in which he has participated. This is sure to be an entertaining show.

Officer & Board Member Nominees

The club had an active night of nominating candidates for officer and board member positions! Following is a list of those nominated on September 11th:

President:	Deborah Legg, Ron Croft
Vice President:	Alan Searle, Sarah Armstrong, Nancy Meyer
Treasurer:	Gail Christensen
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel
Board Members:	Lynn Howat, Kevin Kilbridge, Joe Weigel, Scot Fourier, Tom Banks

In positions where there is more than one nominee, we ask that each candidate prepare a brief (1 to 1-1/2 minute) speech to introduce themselves and describe his or her interest in running for the office. The speeches will be given prior to our vote, by secret ballot, at the October 9th meeting.

Upcoming Outings

Peshastin Pinnacles Rock Climbing

Weekend of October 7th & 8th

Contact: Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754

All skill levels, including beginners, are welcome to join Tony's annual Fall rock climb at Peshastin Pinnacles. You must supply your own harness and rock climbing shoes. Contact Tony for gear and camping/lodging details. This coincides with the start of Oktoberfest, so anticipate a fun evening trip into nearby Leavenworth.

Bogachiel River

Sunday, October 8th

Contact: Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250

Enjoy the crisp Fall weather with a gentle hike through a rain forest of luxuriant mosses and large old growth trees. Vine maple, alder, and big leaf maple may be in full color and this is the most likely time of the year to hear and see elk. Unwind from summer's pace and experience the quiet beauty of the natural world getting ready for winter. An easy round trip hike of 12 miles along the river to Bogachiel Shelter with only 260 feet of elevation gain.

Mink & Deer Lake Loop

Saturday, October 14th

Contact: Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774

Doug is planning on hiking the 11.8 mile loop past Mink and Deer Lakes in the Soleduck area. The elevation gain for the day will be about 2500 feet. Enjoy second-growth and virgin forests of Douglas fir and hemlock, interspersed with grassy meadows.

Mazama/Washington Pass Rock Climbing

October 14th & 15th

Contact: Tom Banks, (360) 697-7708

Email: RangerTWB@aol.com

This is a good trip for the weekend after the Peshastin Pinnacles climb for those with a fair bit of comfort on the rock (5.7 and above). Weather conditions and interest permitting, the plan is to do a multi-pitch climb on Liberty Bell (Becky Route) Saturday, and cragging at the Mazama rocks on Sunday morning. Or, both days on the Mazama rocks. We'll carpool to the campground Friday night after work, staying Friday and Saturday nights. Guidebook: *North Cascades Rock* by Brian Burdo. Full moon weekend!

Stroll & Brunch

Sunday, October 15th

Contact: Alan Searle, (360) 876-3070

Email: asearle@wvin.com

Meet at the parking lot near Mary Mac's Restaurant at McCormick Woods at 9:00 a.m. After a leisurely 6-mile stroll on surrounding trails, enjoy a pleasant Sunday Brunch at the restaurant.

Mt. Rose Day Hike

Saturday, October 21st

Contact: Gail Christensen, (360) 373-7069

Look down on the sparkling waters of Lake Cushman from the top of Mt. Rose. It's 4.8 miles and about 3500 feet to the top. Hike through quiet second-growth forest of fir, hemlock, madrona, and Alaska cedar.

More Outings

Pyramid Mountain

Sunday, October 22nd

Contact: Barney Bernhard, (360) 479-3679

Hike 3.5 miles to the top of Pyramid Mountain overlooking the beautiful waters of Lake Crescent. Much of the trail is through virgin forest and the summit affords outstanding views of the lake and the hills beyond including Mt. Storm King and Aurora Ridge. (2400 feet elevation)

Urban Trek: Irish Pub Crawl *(Date change)*

Saturday, November 4th

Contact: Kevin Gross, (360) 779-3578

Email Bearbovlb@cs.com

Meet at 8:45 pm for best seats at...

The Owl and Thistle

808 Post Ave; Seattle (at Columbia, beneath the pedestrian overpass from Colman Docks); (206) 621-7777; Live Irish music Fri & Sat at 9:30 pm.

Kells

1916 Post Alley, Pike Place Market Bars & Pubs; Seattle; (206) 728-1916; Cover Charge \$3 (Fri & Sat. only) Live Irish music beginning at 9:00 pm nightly.

Tunnel Creek

Sunday, November 5th

Contact: Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250

This hike goes along Tunnel Creek, climbs to fifty-fifty pass, and gives spectacular views of the east face of Mt. Constance. From the pass there are close up views of The Brothers and, in the distance, Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens. The full hike is eight and half miles round trip with 2450 feet of elevation gain. Those wishing an easier hike may turn around at the halfway point at Tunnel Creek Shelter, avoiding the steep and rough second half, but also missing the good views.

Beach Hike

Saturday, November 11th

Contact: Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191

Enough a leisurely hike of 5 to 6 miles around Fort Worden Park near Pt. Townsend. Stroll along beautiful stretches of beach and through forested trails. Minimal elevation change.

Annual Thanksgiving Mt. Baker Ski

November 23rd thru 26th

Contact: Jon DeArman, (360) 697-1352

Join the DeArman family and other fellow PWCers over Thanksgiving weekend at the Mountaineers' Ski Cabin at Mt. Baker. This has historically been a fun weekend of early season skiing with plenty of room at the cabin. Call Jon for details on fees and how to make your reservation.

Beginners' Cross-Country Skiing

Saturday, December 3rd

Contact: Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774

Join Doug's annual cross-country ski trip to Reflection Lake at Mt. Rainier. This is a great opportunity for beginners and first-time skiers to get started on basic cross-country techniques. Call Doug for details on what equipment you will need to get started. Party size is limited to 12, so call early.



Advanced Planning
Big Mountain Ski Trip
March 4th thru 9th, 2001

Contact: Pat Gleason, (360) 862-8926
Email PGZyzz@cs.com

Pat Gleason is organizing another ski trip to Big Mountain, Montana in March of 2001. This has been a very popular outing in the past, offering uncrowded powder skiing, slope-side accommodations, and parties in the sleeper car on board the Amtrak *Empire Builder*. This trip is attractive to alpine and Nordic skiers alike; there are 16 kilometers of lighted and groomed cross-country trails at the resort and countless miles nearby in Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest.

The group will carpool to the Kingston ferry in time to depart from the Edmonds Amtrak station at 5:17 p.m. (PST) on Sunday, March 4th with standard sleeping car accommodations. Upgrades are available at additional cost; those on a budget can save \$106 by traveling in coach. Meals on the train are included for those traveling in the sleeper car. The train arrives in Whitefish, MT at 7:26 (MST) Monday morning. A bus will meet us at the station for the 8-mile drive to the Alpenglow Inn for our ski-in/ski-out lodging. A selection of rooms is available to suit various budgets or privacy needs. Our three-night stay at the Alpenglow actually affords four days of skiing, since the train home doesn't depart Whitefish until 9:16 (MST) on Thursday evening. Again, we will have sleeping compartments for our return, arriving in Edmonds at 10:20 (PST) Friday morning.

The Alpenglow Inn offers a choice of accommodations in the following configurations: one king bed; two queen beds; one queen bed and one bunk bed; or one queen bed and two bunk beds. The total cost per person, including three days lift tickets and standard sleeper, is \$447* (four to a room) or \$514* (two to a room). Without lift tickets: deduct \$112. Various discounts are available for those over 62 or under 18. (Contact Pat for details.)

Group size is limited to 30 people, so reserve your spot soon.

*The prices mentioned in the flyer at September's meeting were for less than 20 in the group. If there are 20 or more of us, the per person cost will be \$10-\$12 less. Also, there are slight differences in the discounts mentioned.

September 2001
Tour of Southern Utah

Contact: Alan Searle, (360) 876-3070
Email asearle@wvin.com

Alan's looking for people who are interested in joining him on a trip to Southern Utah in September of 2001. He plans on taking in the awesome natural beauty of the area including Zion and Arches National Parks.

Methow Valley
February 2001
North Cascades Base Camp B&B
(Feb. 25th to 28th or 29th, 2001)

House has room for 18 people. Rooms for two have a queen bed and are available for \$133 per night with two meals included. Stay for three nights and get a free trail pass (\$35 value). Other rooms at varying rates accommodate more people.

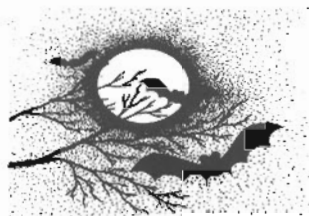
A cabin that holds up to seven people is \$145 per night without meals; \$25 per person additional charge for meals. Group rates are available for 12 people or more.

Contact Alice Savage, (360) 638-2597

October

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				

October



November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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
Oct. 5th	Interested Members Meeting	Jon & Sue DeArman, (360) 697-1352	5
Oct. 7th	2nd Annual Gear Grab	Mountaineers sponsoring at Seattle REI	8
Oct. 7th & 8th	Oktoberfest Rock Climbing	Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754	2
Oct. 8th	Bogachiel Day Hike	Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250	2
Oct. 9th	General Monthly Meeting	Rainier & Beyond with Mike Gauthier	1
Oct. 14th	Mink & Deer Lake Loop	Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774	2
Oct. 14th & 15th	Mazama Rock Climbing	Tom Banks, (360) 697-7708	2
Oct. 15th	McCormick Woods Stroll & Brunch	Alan Searle, (360) 876-3070	3
Oct. 20th	Potluck	Jill Priest, (360) 871-7184	5
Oct. 21st	Mt. Rose Day Hike	Gail Christensen, (360) 373-7069	2
Oct. 22nd	Pyramid Mountain	Barney Bernhard, (360) 479-3679	3
Oct. 28th	Salmon Tours	Debbie Thomas, (360) 779-9163, ext 723	9
Nov. 4th	Irish Pub Crawl	Kevin Gross, (360) 779-3578	3
Nov. 5th	Tunnel Creek Day Hike	Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250	3
Nov. 11th	Beach Hike	Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191	3
Nov. 11th	MTTA Annual Gala	Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754	8
Nov. 23rd-26th	Annual Mt. Baker Ski Cabin	Jon DeArman, (360) 697-1352	3

Interested Members Meeting

Thursday, October 5th, 7:00 pm

Contact: Jon DeArman, (360) 697-1352

Have fun socializing with fellow members and help the club work through business issues and trip planning. October's meeting will be at the home of Jon and Sue DeArman in Poulsbo. New members—this is a great way to get introduced to fellow club members.

October Potluck

Friday, October 20th, 6:30 pm

Contact: Jill Priest, (360) 871-7184

Join other PWCers for an evening of friends and good food at the home of Jill Priest in Manchester. Swap stories of early Fall adventures and meet new members. Bring a favorite salad, side or main dish, or hors d'oeuvre. Dessert will be provided by the hostess.

Newsletter Folding...

A small group of PWCers 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.



 **Welcome!** New members....
 Valerie DeLong and Jeff Mercer. 

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:	Laura Croft	(360) 779-6250
Clean-Up:		
Scrap Book:	Kathy Sinn	(360) 876-5730
PENWICKE:		
Editor:	Teresa Sayers	(360) 895-8769
Mailing Hosts:	Joyce Kimmel	(360) 876-1497
	Doug Savage	(360) 698-9774
On-line Services:	Bert Cripe	(360) 895-8213

Last Month's Door Prize: Winner of the September door prize, a pair of Marmot ski gloves, was Dennis McDaniel. 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: (360) 895-8213

email: bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com

Renewal Reminder:

To join or renew 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. This will ensure the quickest processing of your dues. 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.

More Events & Info

REMINDER: New E-Mail List to be Created

If you haven't already contacted Bert Cripe to ensure your email address is current and will be included on the new list, please do so by Oct. 15th. Even long-time recipients of PWC postings need to contact him to ensure their data is current.

If you want to be, think you should be, or think you are on the list, please send an e-mail to Bert at: **bcripe@telebyte.com** to confirm your place on the new list.

Thanks for your help!

PWC T-Shirts are Here!

If you weren't able to pick up your PWC shirt(s) at the September general meeting, they will be available again at the October 9th meeting. If you can't be there either, call Doug Savage at (360) 698-9774 to talk about alternatives for getting your shirt(s).



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.

Submit Photos for PWC Web Site

Bert can post photos of PWCers and their favorite recreation destinations on the club web site. If you've already got them in a computer file, email them to him at **bcripe@telebyte.com**. Otherwise, send the actual photo(s) to him at 2398 Jefferson Ave. SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366 and Bert will scan it in.

Email or call Bert if you have questions: (360) 895-8213.

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.

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.

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.

More Events & Info

Mt. Tahoma Trail Association (MTTA) ANNUAL GALA!

**Saturday, November 11th
5:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

**South Park Community Center
4851 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, Washington**

Kick off the 2000/2001 season at the annual MTTA Gala. This is your first opportunity to reserve a hut for the upcoming ski season and, if you want a Saturday night, this may be your only opportunity. Most Saturday nights are reserved at the Gala before the night is over. There is a \$5 per person entry fee (no fee required for reservations) which includes dinner and MTTA's annual auction.

2nd Annual Mountaineers Gear Grab!

**Saturday, October 7th
at Seattle REI**

Get unbelievably great bargains on used high quality, high-tech outdoor gear at the 2nd annual Mountaineers Gear Grab! Check out the Mountaineers website for more details:

www.mountaineers.org/

Fall Women's Soccer

Ladies: Interested in playing soccer? Bremerton Parks Department is forming a recreational soccer league for ages 16 to ?? for all playing abilities. Games will be played on Wednesday evenings at Lyons Field in East Bremerton during October and November. For more information call Gail Christensen at (360) 373-7069 or the Bremerton Parks Department at (360) 478-5305.

For Sale...

Coleman Canoe: 1 year new, \$250

Computer Table: \$50

Call (360) 373-0946

For Sale...

Thule 650, 16 cube "Adventurer" ski storage container with locks and extra keys. Used two months. Paid \$377. Will sell for \$225.

If interested, call and leave message for Paul "Mert" Mertel on voice mail at 1 (360) 402-0388.

NOTE: Mert will be in Idaho until late September or early October.

More Events & Info

Salmon Tours

Sponsored by the Rural Development Committee of Kitsap County

Saturday, October 28th

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet at Silverdale Community Center. Travel by bus to four salmon streams. Talk with salmon habitat experts at each site. Return to Silverdale Community Center for lunch and a guest speaker.

\$10 per person

Reserve your space by Oct. 13th

Contact:

Debbie Thomas

Kitsap PUD

(360) 779-9163 ext 723



- PCT continued from page 11 -

Weigel, my emergency trail resupply angels. Several letters from PWCers await me at the post office with \$20 bills for spending money. What a lift they are to my spirits. A poem is posted at the free PCT campsite about the trials and tribulations of hiking the PCT. It ends by saying that when you feel like quitting to remember that you're not a failure unless you fail to try. I will end up repeating this line many times over the next two months. Views of Mt. Shasta now abound as the trail swings on a 250-mile arc around its western side through Castle Crag State Park and the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps Wildernesses. A large forest fire develops in the Marbles and I fret about trail closures as thick smoke begins to blanket the area, but I make it through just in time.

The last resupply station in California is Seiad Valley. As I descend into Seiad Valley along a dirt road, there are large piles of bear poop every 100 yards. The blackberries are ripe, the bears are feasting and the selfish beasts have left nary a one for us hikers. One restaurant in Seiad offers an infamous "pancake chal-

lenge" to PCTers. Eat five and you get them free with a baseball cap to boot. I know better than to even try since only five people in 20 years have accomplished the feat. But I do eat one along with a giant Denver omelet. That night I have the best steak dinner of my life at the Wildwood Inn, the hands down best bar along the PCT. It's Saturday night and the place is crammed with locals, a few PCTers and several gregarious gold miners who have plenty of stories to swap with me as we sit on the back porch waiting for our dinners. I could add more about what else goes on at this great bar, but I'm sure it wouldn't pass the censors. Later, in my tent, I'm awakened several times by the sound of bears thrashing through nearby blackberries.

Two days later after another 3500-foot grueling climb in brand new Red Wings (nope, no blisters!), I'm standing at the Oregon border trail register elated after four months on the trail. I notice that Damien has caught up with Florian. All is right with the world! 1650 miles down and 1000 to go!

Next: Volcanic Oregon...

Pacific Crest Trail Part 4: Northern California

by Dave Cossa

Northern California starts out with a bang. In my first night's camp out in Tuolumne Meadows, a bear sneaks up behind me as I set up the tent. He gets about 20 feet from my food bags before I see him. My immediate instinct is to attack and defend my food. I scream and start tossing rocks and sticks at him. He seems startled at my actions and backs away slowly. I keep the pressure on and he saunters off. I decide to sleep with my food because of all the stories of bears compromising food-hanging strategies. Hanging food is now illegal in most California national parks. It basically is considered bear baiting as it does nothing to deter them from entering a camp to try again and again to obtain hung food until they finally succeed. A new program using rubber bullets to instill the fear of man back into bears is now being implemented.

I hike for a few days with Frank and Linda, 60ish PCT section hikers, who are doing about 300 miles in a month. When I tell them I'm a thru hiker they warn me that in Northern California many thru hikers quit. The reason? It's kind of a scenic letdown after hiking through the Sierras. Much of the next 250 miles is plain old non-wilderness national forest. They also tell me that fewer people have completed the PCT in a single season than have climbed Mt. Everest. It sounds plausible since only about 500 people have thru hiked the PCT. I use this knowledge as an incentive to reach a rarely accomplished feat.

There are some surprises in Northern California. I hate to say it Washingtonians, but the people of California saved their forests from the bane of clear cuts. When I climbed to a ridge top along the trail, I expected to see the same old familiar patchwork of clear cuts so commonly seen from mountaintops here in the Northwest. I was astonished to see none! The forests looked as if they had never been logged. Perplexed, I visited a ranger station and simply asked, "How come?" The reply: Sierra Club--

people got involved and legally forced the logging companies to adopt the practice of selectively cutting mature trees by helicopter. Logging access was restricted to a few miles of double dead end roads along ridge tops where erosion problems would be at a minimum.

Northern Yosemite is flat at first and dotted with lakes. Then a gentle rise past timberline to rounded minor volcanic peaks ensues. Granite is interspersed with basalt for the first time since Mexico, a sign of change to come in the geology along the trail. Lake Tahoe is now prominent to the east. It's midweek and I have the trail to myself. Florian is moving ahead on her own. She's upped her mileage to 25 a day (I'm doing 18 to 22). Damien has dropped off the trail to nurse a foot injury. Let-It-Be and Skunk are somewhere behind me. At Echo Lake Resort, the owner is not only unfriendly, but downright rude, refusing to take the time to offer information on a rumored taxi ride to Lake Tahoe. So I road walk seven miles before hitching a ride to South Lake Tahoe for the first day off in two weeks. I get a hold of the taxi service and get a ride back to Echo Lake at a substantial discount for PCT hikers.

Flower season is in full swing. In drier meadows, aptly named Mule's Ears (a large sunflower) abound. In wetter meadows, it's Corn Lilies. The regulars are also present: Indian Paintbrush, Lupine, Fleabane, Shooting Stars - but no edible Glacier Lilies! The trail traverses through a fir forest. Douglas fir is now common, along with White fir and a new tree, the Red fir. At lower elevations, Jeffery pine and Western White pine rule. Partly to pass the time, I have started a game of Guess-the-Tree. I attempt to identify trees by looking only at the needles--then just at the cones--finally, just the bark. The weather has continued to be perfect. (It will end up raining for only 3 hours during the entire hike through Northern California.)

Sierra City, the next supply depot, is a gold mining town founded around 1850 during the California Gold Rush. I spend the night in a hotel badly in need of repairs. The floor is so unlevel, the doors to the rooms swing open on their own.

Due to the subdued landscape, I'm making great time and am close to being right on my 100 mile a week schedule. Other than the scenic volcanic Sierra Buttes, there's not much to see from Sierra City to Lassen Peak National Park. On the descent to Belden, the last supply town before Lassen, poison oak becomes the most common plant along the trail. Avoiding all contact is next to impossible, but I never develop a rash. I decide that I must be among the one in four people immune to its effects and stop worrying about contact with the stuff.

While pigging out in the only restaurant in Belden, Damien pops in. He's putting in 30 miles a day trying to catch Florian who is about five days ahead. There is simply no way I can keep up with him while hiking, so we shake hands and I wish him the best of luck for the rest of his California journey. He is dropping out at the Oregon border to tend the grape harvest at his winery. An endless 5000-foot climb ensues out of Belden on a 12-mile PCT detour due to severe washouts.

Lassen Peak is a surprise. Although I have climbed it before, I had no idea it was so thermally active, far more than all the other volcanoes I have visited. Boiling springs and fumaroles make me feel as though I'm in Yellowstone instead of Northern California. Even an entire lake is boiling away. When I sign the PCT trail register in Lassen Park, I notice that the 200 people who started the trail in Mexico has dwindled to less than 75, and Lassen is only the halfway mark. About halfway through Lassen Park, I have my first real injury: a knee blow-out.

I start out as usual one morning, but within a hundred steps I am stopped in my tracks by an excruciating pain in my right knee. Just a fluke, I instantly hope. The pain returns several steps later. Nope, it's not a fluke. Panic begins to set in as I realize I'm 24 miles from the nearest road. How will I get out if I need to? Even worse, will this be the end of the trip? I try using a walking stick. No dice! More severe pain. I'm shocked by the intensity of the echo from my scream of pain. I begin to feel the first dismay of the journey, the first feelings of doubt about completing the trip. I decide to try wrapping the

knee with an elastic sport bandage from my first aid kit. I gingerly try walking on the bandaged knee. No pain! I anxiously hike to the next milestone in the guidebook. Still no pain. I end up putting in about an 18-mile day. As a precaution, I leave the bandage on for three straight days. I wince in expectation as I weigh down the unbandaged knee, but the pain is mysteriously gone for good. Trail magic must be at work.

At the next "town", Old Station, the teenage daughters of the general store owner have taken up the trail angel role by providing water stashes along Hat Creek Rim, a 24-mile waterless lava flow escarpment half burned off by a forest fire. Hikers are few and far between here as has been the case for all of Northern California. I take the time to explore several volcanic features such as Subway Cave, a lava tube very similar to Ape Cave on Mt. St. Helens.

At Burney Falls State Park, I lack the \$3 cash entrance fee but the ranger smiles and says, "Oh we'll work it out somehow" and lets me in. There is a campsite reserved for PCTers in a very quiet corner of the crowded car campground. That night, more trail magic is at work. A woman just happens to be giving a slide show on her PCT hike at the park amphitheatre. It pumps me up and I walk away utterly determined to finish the journey. Next up is the Terrible Section O, infamous for blow downs so severe many hikers abandon the trail for a road walk. Trail maintenance crews have just finished clearing large sections of the trail, but 10-foot high blow downs still abound.

My boots are finally shot as I get to and cross Interstate 5 at Castella State Park. The uppers are separating from the soles. I solicit a ride to a Shasta City boot repair shop from Ted, a retired fellow. He even treats me to breakfast. I offer him cash for his kindness but he absolutely refuses to take it. The boots are irreparable, so I mend them with shoe glue and pray that they last another 100 miles to Seiad Valley where a new pair of Red Wings will be waiting at the post office, sent by Joe and Kathy

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

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