

# 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.

## November 2000

*Monday Meeting*

*November 13th*

### *Underwater Paradise*

Steve Fisher will present slides of marvelous underwater wonders of the South Pacific. Steve's been involved in underwater photography for over 17 of the many years he's been scuba diving. He'll share images from the waters off Guam and the Micronesian Islands of Palau and Yap. See anemonefish, soft corals near Palau, and shipwrecks off Guam.



#### IF YOU'RE COMING TO THE MEETING...

you can help. Just bring some cookies to add to the refreshment table—whatever you can bake or buy. With 6 people bringing about 3 dozen each, there'll be plenty for everyone. If you can help, contact Laura Croft at (360) 779-6250 or email [twocrofts@earthlink.net](mailto:twocrofts@earthlink.net).

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#### **ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH      AT 6:30 P.M.

CENTRAL BRANCH OF KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way, E. Bremerton. All are invited. This meeting will offer you a chance to meet the new club officers and board members face to face, and discuss any new policy proposals you may wish to raise to the Board. The seven member PWC Board of Directors, made up of the four officers and three members-at-large, establishes club policies and sets the price of membership dues. At press time, there were no new policy items or changes under discussion—so this meeting could end up being very short! Still, the Board is required to meet at least once per year at a pre-announced time and place. So, come see what happens! A time for socializing after the meeting at the nearby Boat Shed Restaurant, is planned. For more information, contact Kathy Weigel (871-0291), Gail Christensen (373-7069), Ron Croft (779-6250), or any board member.

## **Upcoming Outings**

### **Urban Trek: Irish Pub Crawl**

Saturday, November 4th

Contact: Kevin Gross, (360) 779-3578

Email [Bearbov1b@cs.com](mailto:Bearbov1b@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.

### **Lower South Fork Skokomish**

Saturday, November 4th

Contact: Barney Bernhard, (360) 479-3679

The trail runs through second growth fir, meanders across bottomlands of moss-draped big leaf maple, and through virgin forest where huge fir monarchs 500 to 700 years old range up to 9 feet in diameter and more than 250 feet tall. Trail is about 8 miles round trip.

### **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 return at the half-way point at Tunnel Creek Shelter, avoiding the steep and rough second half, but also missing good views.

### **Beach Hike**

Saturday, November 11th

Contact: Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191

Enjoy 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.

### **Lower Big Quilcene Trail**

Sunday, November 19th

Contact: Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250

A gentle hike that goes through some old growth forest and follows the Big Quilcene River much of the way. Twelve miles round trip with 1200 feet of barely perceptible elevation gain.

### **Annual Thanksgiving Mt. Baker Ski**

November 23rd thru 26th

Contact: Irma O'Brien, (360) 598-4495

Email [iiobaku@telebyte.net](mailto:iiobaku@telebyte.net)

Join 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 Irma 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. Party size is limited to 12, so call early.

### **Theler Wetlands**

Saturday, December 16th

Contact: Diana Cripe, (360) 895-8213

Enjoy strolling broad and level trails along peaceful and scenic wetlands. This is a great way to spend a leisurely afternoon any time of year.

### **Lower Graywolf**

Monday, January 1st

Contact: Kevin Kilbridge, (360) 871-2537

Join Kevin on his annual hike to ring in the New Year. The trail starts in virgin forest and affords views of Graywolf Canyon along the way. Meet at the Hood Canal Bridge at 8:00 a.m. and hike at least as far as the Graywolf Bridge (4 miles in). More mileage is possible depending on daylight and group consensus.

## Upcoming Events

### **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.

### **X-Country Ski: Methow Valley February 25th—28th 2001 North Cascades Basecamp B&B**

Contact: Alice Savage, (360) 638-2597

Stay at North Cascades Basecamp. Breakfast and dinner are provided, plus the makings for lunch. Ski right out the door on 20 miles of groomed trails which connect to 120 miles of maintained trail.

A small skating rink is just outside the door with skates available to borrow. There's a hot tub for relaxing after a day of chilly fun. Free trail passes are available (\$35 value) with a stay of 3 or more nights.

Rooms for 2 with a queen bed are \$133 per night. Rates vary for rooms holding more people. A cabin that holds up to 7 people (6 comfortably) is \$145 per night. Cook your own meals or have meals at the lodge for \$25 per person. Lower group rates are available for 16 to 22 people.

### **Big Mountain Ski Trip**

**March 4th thru 9th, 2001**

**Deposits due by November 13th!**

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

If you plan joining the fun of cross-country and downhill skiing at Big Mountain, Montana, get your deposit (\$50 per person) to Pat by the November general PWC meeting (Nov. 13th). Checks can be mailed to him at 10407 46th Pl SE, Everett, WA 98205 or given to him at the general meeting. Make checks payable to Pat Gleason and he'll submit a deposit for the group.

The Big Mountain ski outing has been a very popular outing in the past, offering uncrowded powder skiing, slope-side accommodations, and parties in the sleeper car onboard the Amtrak *Empire Builder*. The resort offers downhill skiing, as well as, 16 kilometers of lighted and groomed cross-country trails and countless miles of cross-country trails in nearby Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest.

Leave the Edmonds Amtrak station on Sunday (Mar. 4th) evening 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 a sleeper car. The train arrives in Whitefish, MT early Monday morning. Alpenglou Inn provides shuttle service to and from the train station. A selection of rooms is available to suit various budgets and privacy needs. Our three-night stay at the Alpenglou actually affords four days of skiing, since the train home doesn't depart Whitefish until late Thursday evening, returning to Edmonds Friday mid-morning.

The total cost per person, including three days' lift tickets and standard sleeper on the Amtrak, 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.)

\*The prices may be discounted based on the number of people attending.

## November

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

## November



## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

Date	Outing	Contact	Page
Nov. 4th	Irish Pub Crawl	Kevin Gross, (360) 779-3578	2
Nov. 4th	Lwr South Fork Skokomish	Barney Bernhard, (360) 479-3679	2
Nov. 5th	Tunnel Creek Day Hike	Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250	2
Nov. 9th	Interested Members Meeting	Judy Guttormson & Randy Grunigen, (360) 779-6457	4
Nov. 11th	Beach Hike	Steve Vittori, (253) 858-8191	2
Nov. 11th	MITA Annual Gala	Tony Abruzzo, (360) 871-5754	3
Nov. 13th	General Meeting	Underwater Photography	1
Nov. 14th	Annual Board Mtg	Central Branch of Kitsap Regional Library	1
Nov. 19th	Lower Big Quilcene	Ron Croft, (360) 779-6250	2
Nov. 23rd-26th	Annual Mt. Baker Ski Cabin	Irma O'Brien, (360) 598-4495	2
Nov. 27th	Climbers Group	Tom Banks, (360) 697-7708	4
Dec. 3rd	Beginning Cross-Country Ski	Doug Savage, (360) 698-9774	2
Dec. 16th	Theler Wetlands	Diana Cripe, (360) 895-8213	2

### Interested Members Meeting

Thursday, November 9th, 7:00 pm

Contact: Judy Guttormsen or Randy Grunigen, (360) 779-6457

The interested members meeting is a great way for new and long-time members to get involved in planning trips and business for the club. November's meeting will be at the home of the Judy Guttormsen and Randy Grunigen family in Poulsbo.



### A Word About Outings

The persons sponsoring trips 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.

No November Potluck Due to Thanksgiving



### 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](mailto:jimjuliem@yahoo.com) or phone (360) 638-2705.

# Club Business

**Last Month's Door Prize:** Winner of the October door prize, a pair of side-zip ski pants, was Ron Croft. The monthly door prize is donated by Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. PWC members are eligible to enter the drawing at the monthly general meeting.

## Officers & Staff

President:	Ron Croft	(360) 779-6250
Vice Pres:	Nancy Meyer	(360) 638-1255
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel	(360) 871-0291
Treasurer:	Gail Christensen	(360) 373-7069
Board of Directors:	Lynn Howat	(360) 598-3087
	Kevin Kilbridge	(360) 871-2537
	Joe Weigel	(360) 871-0291
	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
PENWICLE:		
Editor:	Teresa Sayers	(360) 895-8769
Mailing Hosts:	Joyce Kimmel	(360) 876-1497
	Doug Savage	(360) 698-9774
	Bert Cripe	(360) 895-8213
On-line Services:		

## Joining and Renewing 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**. Include your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. If you do NOT want to have your information included in the annual membership list distributed to fellow members, please indicate so when you join. PWC members get a 10% discount at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe and at The Ajax Cafe.

⇒ Renewals should be sent to the club's post office box listed above. The Treasurer receives transactions through this address. This will ensure the quickest processing of your dues. If you don't want to be listed on the distributed membership list, indicate so when renewing.

## PWC On-Line...

⇒ Bert Cripe maintains the club Web site and the email list. Contact Bert for your on-line needs. Phone: (360) 895-8213 email: [bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com](mailto:bcripe@kendaco.telebyte.com)

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

⇒ Submit photos of PWCers and your favorite recreation activities or destinations to Bert for posting on the club Web site. If you've already got them in a computer file, email them to him at [bcripe@telebyte.com](mailto: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.

## PENWICLE...

⇒ Deadline for newsletter submittals is the 15th of the month. 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](mailto:tsayers@telebyte.net).

⇒ 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.

⇒ 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.

## 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.

## Election Results: 2001 Officers & Board Members

Elections were held on October 9th, and new officers and board members were chosen as follows:

President	Ron Croft
Vice President	Nancy Meyer
Treasurer	Gail Christensen
Secretary	Kathy Weigel
Board members	Lynn Howat, Kevin Kilbridge, Joe Weigel

In this election, "newcomers" had an edge. Nancy and Gail are new to their positions. Ron has moved up from the board to the office of president. Kathy and Joe Weigel retained their positions as secretary and board member. Lynn Howat and Kevin Kilbridge were elected to the board after holding leadership positions in the past as president and treasurer, respectively. We'll have a good mix of long-time and relatively new members on our board.

I'm glad there was so much enthusiasm among those running for office. This is the first time we've had a contested election in a long time. Thanks go to everyone who took the "chance" and ran for a position. It was difficult for me to choose among so many qualified individuals. I want to thank the club for the opportunity to have served as your President for the last two years -- I've had a lot of fun, and I've appreciated your encouragement. Now let's give the new officers our support!

I'd also like to give a big thank you to the 1999-2000 officers, and all the people who work behind the scenes to see that all the jobs get done. Our *PENWICLE* editor, Teresa Sayers, who has been doing such a wonderful job keeping us informed about the club's happenings. The folks who stay after the meetings to vacuum and clean up the refreshment tables. The volunteers who bring the refreshments. The folks who sponsor potlucks and interested members' meetings. Doug Savage, who arranges for the door prize from Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe every month, who spearheaded the logo contest and t-shirt sale this year, and who has led many trips and supported the club in so many ways. Tom Broszert, who designed our new club logo. The 15-some people who served on the bylaws committee in 1999. The people who fold and mail the *PENWICLE* every month. There are many unsung heroes of the club. You deserve to hear our singing! Lucky for us, you enjoy doing what you do, and you usually do it without being asked. Thank you very, very much.

~~~~Tom Banks

### Mert's Home Style "Double Dip" BBQ Ribs

*Thanks, Paul Mertel, for taking time from your adventures to contribute this tasty morsel!*

1. Pork ribs (meaty) sectioned
2. Place ribs in 350 degree oven for 30 to 45 minutes

**NOTE:** Pan should have rack (cake-cooling type) to keep ribs above grease.  
(Drain on a regular basis)

3. Remove and place ribs in eggs & milk solution, then roll in seasoned flour (salt, pepper, garlic powder, etc.)
4. Repeat step 3, then return ribs to 350 degree oven for 30 to 45 minutes or until brown & crispy (moist—not dry)
5. Remove and submerge ribs in thinned barbeque sauce and let drain for 5 minutes.
6. Return to 300 degree oven for 30 minutes or until meat falls off bone.

# Adventures in the North Cascades

by Wendy McClure

After 20 years of backpacking exclusively in the Olympics it was time to explore further afield, so the last week of July, June and I headed for North Cascades National Park and the trail to Whatcom Pass.

The first four miles to Hannegan Pass in the Mt. Baker Wilderness were hot and buggy but the views from the south facing slope across Ruth Creek to Nooksack Ridge were testimony to Spring and Manning's description of this area as "entering the heart of the most spectacular wilderness remaining in the contiguous 48 states." Everything is so much bigger—the rivers, the ridges, the peaks—even the mosquitoes. And all the granite! After years of Olympic basalt, slate and sandstone, it was a surprise at each crossing to see bright streambeds.

At Hannegan Pass we descended into the Chilliwack drainage, which still held large snowfields in spite of our warm summer weather, and hiked another 3-1/2 miles to our reserved campsite on Copper Creek. We arrived after dark so fumbled around setting up camp, fixing dinner and finding a branch to hang food. Bears were not the problem. The mice managed to sneak inside the food sack and gnaw holes in all of June's food packages. I didn't know they would be interested in un-rehydrated, freeze-dried food.

At each campsite fire ring we found a triangular iron cooking shelf mounted on a metal post with a small plaque explaining this as part of the CCC project. A nice display at the Mt. Baker-North Cascades Ranger Station described the CCC's work building trail in North Cascades during the Depression when 13% of our population was out of work.

The outhouses were refreshing—a box with a hole on top over a pit—but were well hidden a goodly distance from each campsite.

Crossing the Chilliwack River the next day was an adventure. We loaded our packs and ourselves into a cable car (max. weight 500 lbs.) that looked like an

oversized toolbox tray and pulled ourselves across, hand over hand, with much picture taking and guessing how high we were above the water: 40 feet? 50 feet? This was fun!

At a trail intersection 9-1/2 miles from the Canadian border we headed south on Brush Creek Trail to Greybeal Camp. We camped there two nights and ate breakfasts and dinners on the wide granite-filled stream banks with stunning views of Easy Ridge.

Our day hike to Whatcom Pass included wading stream crossings full of rushing snowmelt that numbed our feet. Just below Whatcom Pass we reached a crossing between two closely spaced waterfalls on the stream with a vertical snowbank on the other side, decided it was too dicey and turned back. A month later the pass and side trips along the ridges north and south from the pass would have been possible.

The next morning, while using the "facility", at Greybeal and musing on its discreet location, two backpackers hiking down the trail came into sight. Closer and closer they came until I had an unobstructed view of them from the knees up—a view, I had to assume, was reciprocal. I am eternally grateful they did not wave.

We headed back to the cable car and a fellow waiting on the other side helped pull us across. It made hauling against gravity on the up side of the catenary a lot easier. He really zipped us across the river.

The weather had been beautiful so far but closed in as we reached Copper Creek camps so we covered our packs with plastic bags before going to sleep. In the middle of the night, June nudged me awake—she had been hearing heavy footfalls on the gravel outside the tent plus I had been busy with a nightmare and making weird noises. We listened for a long time in the dark and finally looked outside with our flashlights but saw nothing unusual then or the next morning. A mystery. Hmmm?

We hiked the last 7-1/2 miles out in a mild but steady rain and although the views were intermittent, the wildflower displays were wonderful. This is an area that deserves many return trips.



# Pacific Crest Trail Part 5:

## Oregon

by David Cossa

A giant storm sweeps through the area the day I enter Oregon (Sept. 1). It drops into the thirties and the rain mixes with snow. The same day, I suffer my second major injury, a twisted back—not from hiking but simply bending over to pick something up. It's not so bad the first day, but the next morning, perhaps due to the damp cool weather, I can't even get to my knees without severe spasms of pain in my lower back. It takes over two hours to break camp, but the pain subsides considerably after I hoist my pack and start out.

Ashland is the next stop and I decide to take a full day off, hoping the pain in my back will go away with rest. Most PCTers seem to like Ashland, but I find myself feeling very negative about the place. In retrospect, I regret this negative mood, but I was full of anxiety about my back problem. My impression at the time was that it's an island of Southern Californian culture full of trendy boutiques, expensive ethnic restaurants and various and sundry New Age causes. Apparently, Ashland was chosen because it has the Shakespearian Festival, the only thing resembling "culture" for hundreds of miles around. Ashland is also a college town with the attendant bicycle shops, coffee shops and organic health food stores. Toss into the mix the usual garish strip malls along the Interstate and Ashland is pretty much summed up. Paying \$70 for a room without a bath doesn't help any. The next night I transfer to a hostel. Still no bath in the room, but it's only \$14. My negative mood expands to sap my willpower to continue on. I seriously consider quitting the trail, but then I remember: You're not a failure unless you fail to try and press on.

The next 50 miles are mostly cow pastures full of you know what. When I encounter one herd I yell at them, "McDonalds! Burger King! Veal! Run for your lives! Don't you know they're going to eat you!" They just look at me with their big brown eyes, bat their long eyelashes, chew their cud and seem to have a "What's with him?" look on their faces. Calves frolic in the meadows.

I'm now leap-frogging the trail with another David (trail name: Caboose). We are apparently the last thru-hikers of the season. No one has passed us for over two weeks. Mt. McLaughlin is the first Oregon volcano on the trail. There is still plenty of snow on its north side from last winter's record snow. I've been told by many people that the North Cascades aren't go-

ing to melt off this year and that nobody is going to get through. I've decided not to worry about it until I get there.

When I get to Crater Lake, I sneak past the entrance station to avoid paying the \$10 entrance fee. I should have known better. Another hiker later tells me he did the same thing but was caught and told, "Hey—you get in free in if you're a PCT hiker so there's no need to sneak in."

I whine to a cashier about the super high prices for food at the store. She looks downcast as she says, "Hey—don't blame me. I don't set the prices." I feel terrible and apologize profusely. Her spirit brightens remarkably and she helps me get a ride to the post office to send off a parcel. After dinner at the lodge I go over and gaze at sacred Crater Lake. I am mesmerized by it and just can't leave. I stay until dusk and illegally pitch my tent on the rim when I'm sure no one can see me. I pay for it later that night.

I had heard that weird things happen here and sure enough they do. I have the most vivid dream of my life. I was an adolescent Indian boy and the tribe's medicine man was putting me to bed inside a small cave. He sprinkled a special herb on my chest and placed a special blanket over me made of tree bark. Then he admonished me not to take the blanket off no matter what happened that night. I drifted off to sleep only to be awakened by a bright flash that turned night into day. Several seconds passed. Then an enormous blast of hot air came into the cave. Hot cinders rained down on me. An exposed arm was burned and I pulled it under the blanket as I screamed in terror. The blast seemed to last for hours. When it finally subsided I arose to find the forests completely gone and a black goo covering everything. Most of the tribe had perished including my parents. Other survivors wandered around in a muted daze. Then I awoke, but I was too scared to open my eyes for a long, long time. Guess that will teach me not to camp on the rim of Crater Lake!

Resupply strategy becomes critical for most of Oregon. The PCT passes through only tiny resorts with very limited supplies such as beer, potato chips and candy bars. After a small side trip to Diamond Lake Resort for a good breakfast, I pass by Mt. Thielsen, a nearly vertical volcanic plug spire nicknamed the Lightning Rod of the Cascades. The weather has returned to perfection with dozens of clear, sunny days in a row. Oregon is nearly flat, trail-wise, compared to California. Twenty-mile days become easy and I'm cruising right along. There's not much to say about Shelter Cove Resort except that it has showers. The Three Sisters Wil-



derness begins near here and passes by numerous nearly bug-free lakes. Due to thick forests, views of the Three Sisters, three medium-sized volcanoes in close proximity, are rare until near Elk Lake Resort when both Broken Top and Bachelor Butte also appear. Volcanoes are busting out all over!

I spend a night in a one room cabin for \$10 at Elk Lake Resort, run by a bona fide chef, and have a custom made breakfast. I pick up a package sent from Ashland, and it's onward again through a phalanx of volcanoes and surrealistic bizarre volcanic features. The most bizarre of all has to be Belknap Crater. Here, lava oozed out like toothpaste and spread out for many dozens of square miles instead of building up vertically. The flows happened only a few thousand years ago, and trees have yet to successfully pioneer in them. The result is a surrealistic trip through mile after mile of black frothy lava. One gets the impression of a giant black amoeba that has devoured its way through a thick, green forest. It's great foot relief when the trail finally returns to its cushion of soft spongy soil.

Mount Washington and Three Fingered Jack are volcanic plugs similar to Mt. Thielsen. I had originally planned to climb them but I've rationalized my way out of it by saying, "I'm prioritizing." Getting to Canada before the snow piles up is just more important right now. I also tell myself I'll be back someday while fully realizing that someday may never come. I'm torn, and the PCT wins.

Mt. Jefferson is stunning. I recall vistas of it so impossible beautiful that all I can do is stare and shake my head. The first massive bona fide glaciers of the trip are on its slopes. It's mid-September and I have the place to myself as I pass through usually crowded Jefferson Park. Glacier-fed creek crossings become a problem for the first time since the Sierras. Mountain huckleberry and blueberries are now abundant and I graze as I walk along. Lakes become common once again on the northern slopes of Jefferson.

At Ollalie Lake I meet a hiker that I had dinner with way back at Kennedy Meadows. For a variety of reasons, he is now hiking southbound through Oregon. We split the cost of a cabin and I resupply from a package mailed from Crater Lake. The owner is also opening a package sent by PCT hikers who have called to say they are not coming. It's first come--first served as I rummage through their package to supplement my own supplies. Have I mentioned hiker boxes? These are supplies left behind by hikers for reasons of their own, mostly related to weight. The resorts and post offices along the PCT maintain them along with official trail registers. After awhile, you get to recognizing

names in the registers, and start looking for them in each one. I notice that Florian is about 10 days ahead and is gaining on Robert, a student from Dayton Ohio. There are around 50 names in this year's register.

As I approach Mt. Hood the weather begins to deteriorate and by the time I reach Timberline Lodge a raging ground blizzard along with heavy snow squalls develop. I decide to get a room but the place is booked. I find a flat, sheltered area in a clump of trees less than 100 yards away and make camp. I can see the lodge from my tent and I try not to feel bitter knowing the guests there are warm and comfy in their cozy rooms while I'm out here shivering away. The next morning I go in for breakfast and laundry, determined to hate the place, but yowie wowie, being a builder, I immediately fall in love with it. The design and craftsmanship are exquisite. The place was built by unemployed craftsmen as part of the Civilian Conservation Corp during the Depression. It looks like the builders and artisans were told, "We don't have a schedule or a budget. Just do the best job possible with the finest material available." The place is a study of perfection! It seems like the cheerful, helpful staff knows they are very lucky to work here. They have the attitude that if we don't know something, we'll find out. Breakfast is expensive, but well worth the price with a complementary vial of wild blackberry nectar. Mt. Hood stands clear and proud above the clouds as I set out once again.

The weather improves slowly over the next two days. Now I am presented with a choice: be a purist and stay on the PCT or take the alternate Eagle Creek Trail. Even the guidebook says not to miss Eagle Creek with its myriad of waterfalls. The PCT goes through viewless forest. It's not really a very hard decision to make. Eagle Creek it is.

The most impressive falls is Tunnel Falls, perhaps 200 feet high. It is approached on both sides on narrow ledges with chain handrails. A tunnel has been carved out behind the falls and it is a unique feeling to see and feel massive amounts of water passing directly over your head. Ramona and Punchbowl Falls are also very picturesque: Ramona because the water flows over dozens of ledges about 100 feet wide and Punchbowl because the water drops into a large pool surrounded by impossibly lush greenery. There is certainly no regret for taking this detour from the PCT.

I giggle with glee as I finally spot the Columbia River and plod into Cascade Locks. Washington here I come!

*Next: Weather Roulette in Washington*

## Ron writes...

The annual PWC election for officers and board members is over and different people have moved into all positions except one. For the first time in a long while there was more than one candidate for several positions. Such a situation can be very difficult for a club like ours where members sometimes must choose between personal friends. It can also be very difficult for those nominated because they have to decide whether to remain as a candidate or withdraw in favor of someone with whom they have a friendship. However, to withdraw as a candidate would mean letting down those who nominated and supported them. In the grand scheme of things PWC elections are a small matter and it would not take much to have them go another way with different results. I would like to say thanks to those who voted for me and, to those who did not, I hope I can be a satisfactory president for you as well.

PWC is a unique club. If we count all the people in each family we have in excess of 350 members, ranging in age from less than eight months to more than eighty years. As stated in my pre-voting comments, I want to perpetuate the style and culture we have developed. In spite of the fact that we are very diverse as individuals, it all works because we give priority to our common goal of wanting to enjoy the outdoors. Sometime soon I would like to do a survey to get a better idea of the kinds of activities members most enjoy and the things we would like to see more of. It's always a great challenge to get trip sponsors, but it may help to focus our efforts if we know more about what members want. I also mentioned in my comments that we can probably do more to increase the community's awareness of our club so that those who share our interests can easily connect with us. However, I'm not in favor of increasing membership just to make our club bigger, nor am I in favor of much formal club structure.

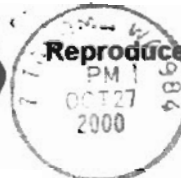
Thanks to Tom Banks, Deb Legg, Steve Vittori, and Doug Savage for your years of effort. Your imprint will remain on a club we can be proud of. You and your predecessors have set a high bar for us to jump over but we'll try our best to uphold your legacy.

To all: Walk softly in the wilderness and have fun!

~~~~~In friendship, *Ron Croft*

PENWICKE

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