

January
2002

PENINSULA WILDERNESS CLUB

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.

Picture Perfect

January 14, 7:30 pm

Our January meeting features John Davis, president of the f: 67 Camera Club. He will present a slide show of wilderness photos and tips on how to move from snapshot shooting to memorable photography. Of course there will be a question and answer session for all those wanna be Adams and Porters in our club. Also f: 67 offers a continuing education class at Olympic College — "The Art and Craft of Photography."

Dispatch from Peru

In the summer of 2001, club member Paul LeBarre emailed his (a)musings on Peru to those at home.

Mi amigo Al Pacaspit

As some of you may know, my experiences with llamas in the past have not been altogether positive. Helping out with an eye excision in Lyndon, Washington, a few years ago, I was inadvertently involved with the demise of that poor llama. Since then, we learned to stay away! Until now...

In Peru, llamas are everywhere. Highland women in traditional dress hustle their potatoes and textiles to and from the market on the backs of llamas. Other, more entrepreneurial natives tie colorful yarn to their llamas ears, pose for pictures then demand payment of one sole or two. Knowing the capacity of llamas to spit when they feel threatened, I've chosen to keep a safe distance behind my 200 mm lens.

So, two weeks ago, when I visited the ability to dodge an encounter with did I know it would be the even more hidden behind an unassumingly revenge on that tragic night in Lyndon. So, two weeks ago, when I visited the ability to dodge an encounter with did I know it would be the even more hidden behind an unassumingly revenge on that tragic night in Lyndon. So, two weeks ago, when I visited the ability to dodge an encounter with did I know it would be the even more hidden behind an unassumingly revenge on that tragic night in Lyndon.



local fair, I felt pretty confident in my this distant cousin of the camel. Little distant cousin, the alpaca— cleverly softer coat of wool— that would seek While my previously mentioned three I carefully approached an unusually my 55 mm lens. Just after the shutter

clicked, the alpaca drenched my camera and my hat with a mixture of green spit and partially chewed alfalfa..

I can't wait to see the expression of retribution on that bugger's face when I finally get my slides developed. Just to up the ante on our little game of revenge, we decided my last meal here in Cuzco will be tender alpaca roast!

Pablo's Paucartambo Pyrotechnic Perils

There's a small, Spanish Colonial pueblo a 4-hour, bumpy ride from Cuzco. There, from January to June each year, the locals make preparations for the strangest of festivals— The Fiesta del Virgen Carmen! Originally, we thought that virgins were so rare in Paucartambo that the town celebrated whenever they found one. Apparently this is not the case.

The festival of the Virgin Carmen is actually a religious festival. The Pope is even depicted along with a likeness of Carmen in posters advertising the event. However, any similarities to what I know about Catholicism ends right there. The fiesta is a bizarre concoction of the holy mixed with the unholy.

Year round, an enormous, 20-foot statue of Carmen (who by some accounts is actually a representation of the Virgin Mary) is kept in the Paucartambo church. Then around July 15, she is paraded around the streets in a grand ceremonial fashion. About 10 different dance groups, dressed in colorful costumes and adorned in elaborate masks invade the streets for the next three days in a somewhat choreographed, mostly frenzied celebration.

(continued on page 11)

Ron Writes...About Membership Involvement

The beginning of a new year is always a time for reflection. As we look at the past year, we may find things we wish we hadn't taken on, and others we wish we had put more effort into. Looking back, a primary goal I had was for the club to be more inclusive, with more outings to appeal to more members, and more members sponsoring trips. There was a 20% increase in member-sponsored outings—from 94 in 2000 to 114 this past year. Several new people came forth to sponsor things. In addition, we included on our schedule about a dozen more outings sponsored by other organizations that would appeal to PWCers, like Batwalks in Belfair, and Washington Native Plant Society hikes.

As we move into the new year, I'd like to encourage more members to look into outing sponsorship as a way to be more involved. It's a real contribution, and the rewards are many. Just by doing something you love to do, you can bring the enjoyment of it to someone else, and the shared experience often leads to lasting and fulfilling friendships. As a start, you might talk to any of us who regularly sponsor outings, choose an outing you like to do, and ask someone to co-sponsor it with you. There's not a lot to it and involvement in this way makes you part of what is unique and special about this club.

PWC has come a long way from the small group of rock climbers and mountaineers who started it over 20 years ago, evolving to include outdoor enthusiasts of every stripe. There's a solid core of early members with as many as 20 years of shared experiences, and all of us who value PWC are indebted to these founding members. By planning and sharing adventures, long-lasting friendships have developed that have sustained the club through the years. Members' ongoing commitment has kept the club alive with activity. But, as lives change—with new jobs, new interests, new houses, new babies, new spouses, etc.—involvement with the club changes too. Luckily, there has always been someone to take on the jobs that need to be done to keep things going. Each year some members cut back their time commitment, let go, and give others the opportunity to get involved. This results in different styles of doing things but somehow we have always maintained our informal, cooperative culture that is the PWC hallmark.

If you haven't had time for it yet, maybe 2002 is the year you'll be able to do a little more. Hosting MAP meetings or potlucks, contributing to the content or distribution of the newsletter, bringing refreshments, giving photos to add to the scrapbook, helping with meeting setup and cleanup, giving your suggestions for entertainment, planning and sponsoring outings—it's all needed to keep things going for everyone's benefit. As years change and lives change, different people give their time to keep PWC thriving. Having come to PWC not quite four years ago, Laura and I are not part of the original old guard of founding and early members. But we felt blessed to discover this club, have found many soulmates here, and want to see it continue to thrive and provide what our diverse membership enjoys. As commonplace and overused as the phrase sounds, it does feel like family.

Enjoy this beautiful time of year in the mountains!

In friendship,

Ron Croft, President



"How great are the advantages of solitude! How sublime is the silence of nature's ever-active energies! There is something in the very name wilderness which charms the ear and soothes the spirit of man."

~Estwick Evans~

Outings

A Word About Outings

The persons sponsoring trips should not be considered instructors or leaders. If you are unsure of your abilities, skill level, or equipment, discuss the trip thoroughly with the organizer. Remember that each participant is responsible for his or her own comfort and safety on any outing. Please always carry the 10 essentials.

Pet Policy

Because some people may not be as comfortable with your pets as you are, please leave pets at home when attending PWC outings unless the trip is specifically listed as welcoming them.

Ski Stevens Pass

Saturday, December 29–Tuesday, January 2
Contact: Jon DeArman, 360-697-1352

Snow fun at Stevens Pass. Snowshoe, cross-country ski, or downhill ski this New Year's holiday. Jon is a Mountaineer and has access to the Mountaineer's cabin. Also beginning in January, Jon plans on skiing at Stevens Pass every Thursday or Friday through the season. There may be some overnights at the cabin. Anyone interested in joining either outing(s), please contact Jon for the details.

Hike Dungeness Spit

New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1
Contact: Kevin Kilbridge, 360-871-2537

New Year's day hike to the end of the Dungeness Spit located at the mouth of the Dungeness River near Sequim. This 5.5-mile (and growing) curved sand finger into the Strait Juan de Fuca is a saltwater beach walk extraordinaire! Five miles up the spit is the New Dungeness Lighthouse, a fixture since 1857.

Death March to Mail Box Peak

Saturday, January 5
Contact: Kevin Koski, 360-698-0855

If you have nothing planned for Saturday, January 5, and will be in the mood for a short, steep hike, then join me on Mail Box Peak near North Bend. This is a 1.9-mile hike up with 3,800 feet elevation gain. ("Is he crazy?!!") This makes it steeper than going to Lake Constance. Feel free to call me if interested.

Walk Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, January 5
Contact: Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906

Not up to Mail Box Peak, consider this family hike in the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge just south of Tacoma. With 3–4 feet elevation gain, you may just work off one Christmas cookie. The refuge is a birders' paradise, so bring the binoculars, if you have them, and as always rain gear for our winter weather.

Contradancing in January

Saturday, January 5, Silverdale
Saturday, January 12, Port Townsend
Saturday, January 26, Port Townsend
Contact: Tom Banks, 206-842-3650
Lori Hudson, 360-697-1281

Contradancing is folk dancing, similar to square dancing, but more fast-paced and freewheeling. If you haven't tried it, you should! All dances are taught and beginners are welcome. A dance workshop is held at 7 pm, Silverdale, or 7:30 pm, Port Townsend; dances begin at 8 pm. Cost is \$5 or \$6 for the evening. Wear smooth-soled shoes, loose-fitting clothes, and be prepared to hear great live music and enjoy fun, social exercise for all ages. The dances are hosted at the Silverdale Community Center and Port Townsend's Palindrome Hall. For more information or to find out who's carpooling, contact Tom or Lori.

Hike North Fork Skokomish

Cancelled. Due to a road closure, this hike has been cancelled. In its stead, Barney Bernhard is offering the outing below.

Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe

Sunday, January 6
Contact: Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679

If you are a novice seeking helpful and friendly instruction, or an intermediate skier needing an easy warm-up for the season, Barney Bernhard is doing another cross-country ski and snowshoe trip. The location is to be determined once conditions are better known.

Trail Maintenance on the Lower Graywolf

Saturday, January 12
Contact: Lezlie Cox, 360-479-7853

Washington Trails Association is sponsoring the first, and hopefully not the last, winter trail maintenance party in the Olympics. We will be focusing one Saturday a month on reworking several gully approaches within the first mile of this trail. Prepare for wet and muddy fun. For more info on this trail contact Lezlie; for info on WTA, go to www.wta.org.

Outings

Snowshoe Hurricane Ridge

Saturday, January 12

Contact: Steve Vittori, 253-858-8191

This hike is open to beginner and intermediate snowshoers. If conditions permit, this will be a 6-mile round trip with 800-1000 feet of elevation gain. From the top of Hurricane Ridge, one can snowshoe in a winter wonderland while looking out on the Olympics, Mt. Baker, Strait Juan de Fuca, and Port Angeles below. Hurricane Ridge lies inside the Olympic National Park, so please have money for the park entrance.

Cross-Country Ski in Methow Valley

Friday, January 18-Monday, January 21

Contact: Tom Banks, 206-842-3650, *new number*

East of the Cascades, spectacular Methow Valley is heaven for groomed or ridge climbing cross-country skiing. On Martin Luther King weekend, we will spend three nights at a quiet, hot tub equipped lodge in Mazama, and enjoy cross-country skiing on a wide variety of groomed trails which begin from the lodge's front door. The trails offer skiing for all ability levels, although some stamina is required to get the most from the trail system. Ski rentals and professional lessons are available, for extra cost, from the guide service in Mazama. Cost of lodging for the long weekend will be \$110 to \$160 per person, depending on room occupancy. Last year, a few of us went skiing at night by headlamp! The groomed trails make for marvelous skate skiing or traditional cross-country skiing.

Hike Elwha River

Saturday, January 19

Contact: Joe Weigel, 360-871-0291

During the late 1880s the settlers on the Elwha River cut a primitive trail upstream as far as they had taken claims. The Press Expedition extended this route and today the Elwha Trail more or less coincides with the path blazed by these parties. The first 4 miles of the trail are virtually a pedestrian's boulevard—a broad, smooth path through second-growth fir and patches of virgin forest.

Snowshoe to Olympic Hot Springs

Monday, January 21

Contact: Ron Croft, 360-779-6250

Hiking distance will depend on how far the road is plowed. Minimum distance will be 5.5-miles round trip with 500 feet of elevation gain. This trip will be

suitable for beginners but gaiters will be required in addition to snowshoes. More info should be available at sign-up.

Snowshoe Hurricane Ridge

Saturday, January 26

Contact: Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906

If you missed snowshoeing on the 12th with Steve, then here is another opportunity with Tom. This hike is open to beginner and intermediate snowshoers. From the top of Hurricane Ridge, one can snowshoe in a winter wonderland while looking out on the Olympics, Mt. Baker, Strait Juan de Fuca, and Port Angeles below. Hurricane Ridge lies inside the Olympic National Park, so please have money for the park entrance.

Notice

MTTA Backcountry Ski Demo

Saturday, January 19, 9 am-2 pm

Contact: 253-472-4402 or

nordicdemo2002@marmotmountain.com

New this year, Marmot and Backpackers Supply in conjunction with the Mount Tahoma Trails Association, MTTA, are hosting a backcountry ski demo at the Copper Creek Ski Hut near Ashford. We will have a huge assortment of backcountry touring skis and boots at the hut for testing, as well as some accomplished skiers from our staff to share product information and tips to improve your skiing technique.

This demo equipment will include only No-Wax Metal Edged Skis and compatible boots. If you are interested in trying Telemark skis we suggest that you attend our Telemark Ski Demo. All of the demo equipment will be up at the hut. For those participants that would like to demo skis, but do not have their own equipment to ski into the hut, we will have some snowshoes available for you to borrow to get to the hut and back to your vehicle. The Copper Creek Hut is about 3 miles in from the parking lot, and it will likely take most participants one hour to ski/snowshoe in. It's a very moderate slope.

You will need a Sno-Park parking permit to legally park in the parking lot. We encourage all participants to bring their own necessary equipment for a backcountry experience. RSVP at 253-472-4402 or nordicdemo2002@marmotmountain.com.

Advance Notice

Snow Cave Construction on Mt. Rainier

Saturday, February 9-Sunday, February 10

Contact: Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275

Build and sleep in your very own snow home away from home with Rick and other loonies near Paradise on Mt. Rainier. With just 4-5 hours of your time, a heap of snow transformed into a palatial ice estate (Well, it could happen!). If the weather is good, admire the crystal cut starry night from your front door. If the weather is bad, the Jones two caves down will be hosting a poker night. Bring your own beverage.



MTTA Copper Creek Cross-country Ski

Saturday, February 9-Sunday, February 10

Contact: Rick Kohler, 360-697-4912

Beginner cross-country skiers welcomed. There may be a spot or two left for the overnight at the Mount Tahoma Trails Association's Copper Creek Hut near Mt. Rainier. The original reservation was made for only 6 people, so it's only a small group. If anyone is interested, please contact me by January 5. The spots may be taken by then, but there's always a chance. If there's an open spot, I'll need a \$25 deposit, refundable if you attend, plus a nonrefundable \$5 MTTA processing fee. Thanks Rick Kohler.

WINTERFEST 2002

Friday, February 15-Monday, February 18

Contact: Jon DeArman, 360-697-1352

Winterfest 2002 will be held at the Stevens Pass Mountaineers' cabin located at the 4061-foot summit of Stevens Pass. The cabin is four stories high, sleeps 55 people, and has a men's, women's, family and couples' dorms, plus kitchen, dining and living areas.

- Ski from the cabin door to the lifts and from the lifts to the door.
- Cross-country ski/skate ski/snowshoe 25 miles of groomed trails in Mill Valley.
- Backcountry ski/snowshoe miles of Forest Service trails in the immediate area.
- Snowshoe the Pacific Crest Trail located 50 feet above cabin.
- Hike into scenic hot springs 4 miles west.
- Shop in Leavenworth located 20 miles east.
- Drink hot toddies with Jon and Sue each evening in the Stevens Bar.

Cost: \$20 Friday night and \$25 each for Saturday and Sunday nights. This price includes breakfast and dinner. Bring your own lunch. Kitchen available for use includes microwave. No alcohol in cabin. Mountaineer members pay much less.

For a guaranteed reservation please send a check to Jon DeArman by January 14, or take a chance and make your own reservation by calling 800-573-8484 on or after January 28. For more details call Jon DeArman.

MTTA High Hut Cross-country Ski

Saturday, February 23-Sunday, February 24

Contact: Tony Abruzzo, 360-871-5754

For this intermediate cross-country ski trip, there may be a spot or two left for the overnight at MTTA High Hut. If there is an open spot, a \$25 deposit, refundable if you attend, plus a nonrefundable \$5 MTTA processing fee is required. If anyone is interested, please contact Tony.

Cross-Country Ski in Yellowstone Park

February 28-March 4

Contact: Alice Savage, 360-638-2597

This trip is now full; however, there is always the possibility of cancellations, so please call Alice if you wish to be on the waiting list.

For those who signed up to go, remember your final payment for the trip needs to be sent in by January 31. That's \$612, but if you have a national park pass it would be \$602.

Ski Big Mountain

March 10-16

Contact: Pat Gleason, 360-377-0987, new number, PGZyzz@cs.com

Due to popular request, a fifth day has been added to the annual Big Mountain ski trip. The group will depart from the Edmonds Amtrak station at 5:17 pm, Sunday, March 10, arriving in Whitefish, Montana around 7:30 am, Monday. A bus will meet the party there to take us the final eight miles to the Alpinglow Inn for our slopeside accommodations. The inn offers ski in/ski out accommodations, outdoor hot tubs, and its own restaurant (good food, reasonably priced). The \$448 cost (four to a room) includes a 4-day lift ticket; this leaves a fifth day for resting, cross-country skiing, or a side trip to nearby Glacier National Park. (Packages are also available without the lift ticket.) Sleeper berths are available for an extra \$114 round trip, which

Advance Notice

includes all food from the dining car. We will depart Whitefish at 9:16 pm, Friday, March 15, arriving back in Edmonds just after 9 am, Saturday. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Pat Gleason at his new phone number, 360-377-0987.



Journey to the Himalayas

Mid-May-mid-June, 2002

Contact: Roy C. Smith, 803-604-8228

As a member of PWC, who gets back to Heaven (great Northwest) as often as possible, I would like to challenge some of the members to a trek next summer to the Himalayas— either Annapurna Base Camp or Everest Base Camp; Nepal or Tibet, or both with parts of China, the Great Wall, included. I have spent a great deal of time in the Far East (Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, South Korea), but never got to the Himalayas or India. If someone would like to take off for about a month, say mid-May to mid-June, to sightsee, backpack and bum around that part of the world, give me a call in South Carolina. Now is the time to start working on passports, visas, shots, etc.

A club member suggested checking for travel warnings from the State Department at www.travel.state.gov. (Ld.)

FOR SALE

Blue SYNERGY Sea Kayak by Northwest Kayaks. New, plastic hull with rudder, 174" in length. Contact Russ Hallsted at 360-895-9281.

Like new Coleman Kayak with paddles. \$150. Email Leslie Ring at Leslie.Ring@METROKC.GOV

Women's size 10 black Mountain Hardware EFX Ultra weather pants. Worn once. \$150. Call Cris Craig or Brian Steely at 360-297-3825.

Classes and Talks

ONP Announces "Perspectives" Series

Second Tuesday of month, 7 pm, November-April
Contact: ONP, 360-565-3138

Olympic National Parks third annual "Perspectives" series, at the ONP Visitor Center in Port Angeles, explores the diversity of the park and the surrounding area.

Ed Viesturs

February, Bainbridge Island, *date and venue yet TBD*
Contact: Karla Piecuch, 206-842-4966

America's leading high-altitude mountaineer, Ed Viesturs, will be presenting a slide show and talk on Bainbridge Island in February.

A Marine Naturalist's Workshop

Saturdays, February 9-March 16, 10 am-12 pm
Contact: Poulsbo Marine Science Center— Info below

The Poulsbo Marine Science Center will host "A Marine Naturalist's Workshop." The class is aimed at adult kayakers, beachcombers, boaters, divers and coastal explorers who wish to learn more about near-shore and intertidal ecosystems and their fascinating marine residents. Topics include: sandy beaches, rocky shores, marine animals and their adaptations to tough environments, updates on local marine mammal populations, the kelp forest habitat, and more. The workshop includes close-up studies of live animals in touch trays and wet labs, and is conducted by seasoned marine-life educator Jon Day. *Teachers please note clock hours are available.* Register in person at the Poulsbo Marine Science Center, 18743 Front St., or by mail at P.O. Box 2079, Poulsbo 98370, by email at info@poulsbomsc.org, by phone at 360-779-5549.

A Course in Sea Kayaking

March 2002

Contact: Russ Hallsted, 360-895-9281

Longing to learn more about sea kayaking on the Puget Sound? Consider signing up for "Sea Kayaking the Puget Sound." This course is an overview of sea kayaking equipment, marine weather, currents, kayak navigation, rescue techniques, and specific skill-building day paddles. Students will be responsible for their required text/charts plus pool costs, about \$70, and must provide their own single sea kayak and paddling equipment. The course includes three evening classes, one pool session and three day paddles.

Monthly

Monthly Activity Planning/MAP

Thursday, January 10, 7 pm

Contact: Joe and Kathy Weigel, 360-871-0291

Discuss club business and help MAP out the schedule of February's outings. Joe and Kathy will be hosting this month's meeting at their home in Port Orchard.

January Potluck!

Friday, January 25, 6:30 pm

Contact: Alan Searle, 360-876-3070

Alan will hosting the club potluck this month.

Please bring a dish to pass to his Port Orchard home.

PWC Climbers Group

The December 31 meeting has been moved to Monday, January 7. January's meeting will be held January 28.

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 206-842-3650. For a list of climbers, call Jim Morrison at 360-638-2705 or email jimjuliem@yahoo.com.

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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JANUARY

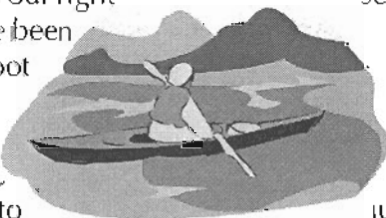
12/29 – 1/2	Ski Stevens Pass	Jon DeArman, 360-697-1352	3
1/1	Hike Dungeness Spit	Kevin Kilbridge, 360-871-2537	3
1/5	Death March to Mail Box Peak.....	Kevin Koski, 360-698-0855	3
1/5	Walk Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.....	Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906	3
1/5, 1/12, 1/26	Contradancing in January	Tom Banks, 206-842-3650 (new #)	3
		Lori Hudson, 360-697-1281	
1/6	Cross-country Ski and Snowshoe.....	Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679	3
1/7	December PWC Climbers Group Meeting	Tom Banks, 206-842-3650 (new #)	7
1/10	Monthly Activity Planning/MAP	Joe and Kathy Weigel, 360-871-0291	7
1/12	Trail Maintenance on Lower Graywolf	Lezlie Cox, 360-479-7853	3
1/12	Snowshoe Hurricane Ridge	Steve Vittori, 253-858-8191	4
1/14	General Meeting	Ron Croft, 360-779-6250	1
1/18 – 1/21	Cross-Country Ski in Methow Valley	Tom Banks, 206-842-3650 (new #)	4
1/19	Hike Elwha River	Joe Weigel, 360-871-0291	4
1/19	MTTA Backcountry Ski Demo	253-472-4402	4
1/21	Snowshoe to Olympic Hot Springs	Ron Croft, 360-779-6250	4
1/25	January Potluck	Alan Searle, 360-876-3070	7
1/26	Snowshoe Hurricane Ridge	Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906	4
1/28	PWC Climbers Group Meeting	Tom Banks, 206-842-3650 (new #)	7

Bella Bella to Bella Bella — A Sea Kayak Adventure

Roger found water and spent the afternoon fishing for dinner, while Fonda and I went exploring. The day was breezy, cloudless, and the seas gently rippled. Weaving between island and island, I was intent on reaching open water and a circumnavigation of the Tuft Islands, two sentinels a mile out. Fonda did not share this quest for puffin and sea otter sightings, and expected to leisurely explore the shallows. The BC guidebook tells of potentially dangerous seas in this offshore passage, but conditions were glorious, and rare. Explore offshore we did, but this degree of exposure went well beyond Fonda's comfort level. She resolved to take more responsibility in the future for not doing whatever made her uncomfortable.

The stark headlands of the Tuft group were beautiful, but on this day we saw few birds and no sea mammals. We did find a granddaddy two-foot jellyfish while exploring a fifty-yard inlet. Oblivious to our presence, it would slowly beat downward into the rocks, stop and subtly change direction during a long pause, then blindly move forward again. The central bell was bright yellow, while the disk perimeter was eight-lobed and dull white. "sunny side up" comes to mind. Dense-packed red and yellow tentacles trailed behind. Not much chance for this deep-water fellow to survive in the shallows. We returned to camp where Roger had prepared an exceptional seafood cioppino of fish, mussels, clams, bell peppers, and onions, in a spiced tomato sauce.

We set off northward the next day, starting the 25-mile return journey to Bella Bella, and maintaining our pattern of staying two nights at each campsite. Four sunny miles later, we came upon a most enchanting place — the prettiest scenery of the trip. On our right extending eastward. On our left would have been a curving narrow island with a hundred-foot glided over clear white sand shallows egg casings, shells, and grass-like seaweed. surrounding a porous lagoon. At one point, to a saddle, and dissipated seaward, into small cove on the weather side of the island. At high tide the saddle would be underwater. Sitting on the beach in the sun, our locale felt tropical, lacking only the palm trees.



We found our next campsite at Cree Point nestled under trees. The tents were set on a soft moss-humus surface that gave an inch or two with each step. The view seaward overlooked rocky crags covered in places with goose-necked barnacles and mussels. The boats lay on the other side of the camp, in a well-protected, shaded cove. A trickling brook helped us clean a batch of laundry, but the offshore breeze was so moisture laden that our washed clothes, hanging in the sun, didn't dry. Roger and Fonda set out in the afternoon to fish.

Fonda excitedly had purchased rod, reel, and lures in Campbell River after Roger had offered to teach her how to fish from her kayak. His *modus operandi* was to drop a lure over the side letting it sink and rise, hook a fish, hoist it onto the deck, and subdue it with a smart whack in the head. Roger used a tiny baseball bat for this purpose he called the "Priest." He then removed the hook and secured the fish by passing a line through its gills. Fonda quickly learned to hook fish, but subduing them came harder. With grim determination she repetitively struck at her first fish with a water bottle (holy water?) as it bounced about her deck. Irritated, the fish unhooked itself and rejoined the sea. Roger loaned her the Priest, but the next fish also proved uncooperative. When he saw her mounting frustration, Roger came over to help with the final coup de grace. Fonda's lack of conviction wielding the Priest most likely was due to an awareness that her aim was suspect, and what lay under the fish was the gleaming red surface of her new sea kayak.

Together they caught black cod, lingcod, and red snapper. Neither could take advantage of their sixteen-dollar salmon permits (the sales woman in Campbell River asked what they would do if they caught a salmon and lacked permits...let it go?). It's not as if there were many Fisheries types around keeping track of such things. We hadn't seen a person, boat, or plane after steering west of shipping lanes on the first day of paddling.

While Roger and Fonda fished, I rounded up an assortment of one to eight inch mussels, so we could later determine which size offered the best eating. Before dining on a wonderful seafood gumbo prepared by Fonda, we sampled steamed mussels: less than an inch and a half, not enough meat; bigger than four inches, the meat was tough, and the muscle so fibrous it was inedible. Interestingly, in all the palm-sized blue mussels, we found a single, round, one-centimeter crab, apparently living in symbiotic relationship with the mussel. This was generally

off-putting, so it was a surprise to see Fonda pop one in her mouth to see what it was like. We decided two to three inch mussels are best, and small crabs do enhance the eating experience.

The following day we continued north toward spacious Seaforth Channel, a busy shipping lane along the Inside Passage. Our journey would take us through an eight-mile waterway separating two large islands. A narrow constriction in the northern part of the route creates a charted rapid that we would most likely have to line our boats around during tidal fluxes. A north-south island group within the waterway gave us a choice: left for a straight shot at the tidal rapid, or right to explore an intertidal "fresh" water lake, which was only exposed to sea water during the highest tides. We chose the latter, knowing we would have to wait for the rising tide to cross an intertidal land bridge that would separate us from the western portion of the waterway.

Morning fog gave way once more to sunny skies. At lunch two large birds came zeroing in at low altitude, as if on a torpedo run. They passed overhead at speed, crooning, wings beating slowly and powerfully. They had more uniform coloration than Canada Geese, and their cry was more melodic. We later saw a group of five walking about on shore as we passed 50 yards off. They looked like heron, but with less tortuous necks and shorter beaks. We later identified these as Sandhill cranes, and were told they frequent the region during the summer.

Roger and I spotted a river otter, one of the few mammals seen on this trip. Other paddlers on the coast were more fortunate. We talked to a father and son on the ferry ride home who had heard wolf howls while camping 5 miles north of Bella Bella. Eating lunch one day, they saw wolves loping along the shore toward them. Seeing the two diners, the wolf pack abruptly turned into the undergrowth. And several miles south of our route a pod of orcas surprised and delighted a different couple who were exploring the Hakai recreation area.

We found the stream draining the large intertidal lake, and went exploring as we waited for the tide to rise. The quarter mile streambed rising to the lake was densely carpeted with shiny small black mussels. Small dying jellyfish could be seen at the lake outlet, and small algae-covered oysters two inches long. The maximum high tide had occurred a week before, so the lake had not seen seawater for awhile. After a pleasant hike around the shoreline and past adjacent meadows, we returned to the boats, mounted up, and headed for our crossing. The unexpected soft roar of whitewater greeted us as we approached.

The water below us on the far side of the approaching 100-yard rapid had not filled from the south as fast as the body of water we were on. It also could not fill quickly through the narrow channel one mile to the north, the charted tidal rapid. This rapid was uncharted and unexpected, and we would have to descend here, only to line our boats up the charted rapid a mile ahead. This somehow seemed peculiar. With years of whitewater experience, however, I was thrilled. The current was brisk and the initial one-foot drop a straightforward maneuver. I lined up, and paddled through. From the eddy below, I beckoned for Fonda to follow. It seemed a great place to share the excitement and fun of moving water. Fonda looked on in disbelief as Roger paddled up behind her. He calmly reassured her, and said she didn't have to run the rapid if she didn't want to. He was going to walk his kayak around. Relieved to have this support, she got out of her boat. I sensed that maybe this was the best time and place for a novice, with a fully laden sea kayak and few bracing skills, to experience whitewater. I shrugged and turned to run the rest of the drop.

It was immediately apparent that the water was squirrely, and currents were converging at odd angles. The water was somewhat flat leading to the final drop, but since the sun was dead ahead and reflecting off the water, it was hard to tell where the rocks were. And these rocks, unlike those in a Cascade streambed, were covered with razor sharp barnacles. I'd forgotten that. I backstroked and ferried laterally in the current, to just above the most promising spot, mentally crossed my fingers, and slid through with little damage to the boat.

I beached my kayak and jogged "upstream." In an effort to make amends, I offered to line Fonda's boat around the drop. She suggested it might be better if I paddle through it. I thought (belatedly, and to myself) that there was too much risk in scoring the bottom of her new boat, and I declined. I placed the paddle in the cockpit and tied the ends of a twenty-five foot nylon line to the bow and stern loops of the boat. I had lined boats along beaches this way, because a boat could be pulled through the water as a person walked along the shore by keeping the stern in closer to the shore than the bow. But there was a hidden problem with this chosen method. I had little experience lining boats around rapids, and lots of experience paddling them. (conclusion in February PENWICK)

PWC Welcomes New Members...

Lura Smith, Paul Kulhanek,
Ruby Moss, Carl Hajek

Last Month's Insert is now This Month's Insert

Whoops! Miscommunication about the size of December's newsletter and consequently a postage increase meant an uninserted insert. Once again...

The insert this month is the fourth and final sheet of our revived New Members Packet. One side provides a comprehensive checklist for hiking and backpacking in the Northwest that was put together by past president Tom Banks. The flip side includes Tom Weigel's list of ten essentials, as well as a short suggested reading list and information on local resources for renting outdoor equipment. If there is additional information that you think would be helpful to new members, please contact club secretary, Lori Hudson at 360-697-1281.

Last Month's Door Prize

Willie Willette won an OR all-weather sombrero. Thanks to the Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe for donating the door prize.

Trail Tips and Helpful Hints

- Road to Staircase Rapids Trail is closed due to an active slide above the road.
- It's time to waterproof boots for winter hiking and snowshoeing. Here's a tip passed on by PWCer Karen Grzybowski: put some Nikwax in a freezer weight plastic bag and nuke it in a microwave to further soften it. It's much easier to work into the leather and boot seams. Thanks, Karen.

Address Changes...

Our club database is only as good as the information received. Delivery of the *RNWIC* particularly depends on up-to-date addresses. If your address, email, or phone number has changed, please contact Venita Goodrich at vmnotbf@ix.netcom.com or 3661 Hyak Way, Bremerton, WA 98311.

Roller Skating in Bremerton

Bremerton Skateland reserves Sunday night, 7:30 pm, for adults! Contact Kevin Koski at 360-698-0655 or Skateland at 360-479-7655 for details.

Vertical Climbing

Anyone interested in an occasional Monday night climb at the Vertical Club in East Bremerton near Skateland and the Outback Steakhouse (which has good refreshments)? Contact Tom Banks at his new phone number, 206-842-3650.

At the November Board Meeting...

It was decided to create the position of Membership Coordinator. Tom Broszeit volunteered. He will pick up mail from the club P.O. box, get information to officers and staff in a timely manner, and see that new members receive a newsletter and other correspondence very soon after they join.

Have You Expired?

Well PWC certainly hopes not! Check for your membership expiration date on the address label on the back of your latest issue of the *RNWIC*. Resubscribe at 2001 prices before dues go up in March. (Dues have not changed in ten years. Ron Croft, president, will discuss the details of the dues increase at the January general meeting.)

Find Your Inner Martha!

Each and every month, the club's MAP and potluck dinner need volunteer hosts with the mostest. If you can handle a small home invasion, please contact club secretary Lori Hudson at 360-697-1281.

Can You Bring Cookies in January?

Our thanks for December cookies to Cindy Holben, Alice Savage, Gary Goodwin, Joan Edwards, and Bonnie McDaniel. And thanks also to the December cookie elves who didn't divulge their names. We don't know who you are, but everyone enjoyed your contributions. Thank you all! We'll need a few people to bring goodies for the meeting on January 14, so if you're coming and can help in this way, please call Laura Croft at 360-779-6250, or email to llcroft@earthlink.net.

Small marching bands, complete with harp and accordion, accompany the long-nosed Spanish conquistadors. Long-nosed masks depict the lying Spaniards who conquered the Incas. Black-masked dancers depict the African slaves who worked in the local mines. A yellow-faced, sickly troupe, chased by shapely hypodermic needle-toting nurses, represent the thousands killed by malaria epidemics.

All these troupes share the streets night and day—sometimes parading in opposite directions (oops!) down narrow alleys. The only rest breaks they take are 10 minutes here or there to remove their masks, down a cervesa or two, then retake the streets. At sunset, the celebration is augmented by Cañasu (a tasty sugar cane whiskey and cola combo) and piles of smouldering hay that the white-masked “gringo” dancers ignite in the street. Even later, the pyrotechnic celebrations begin!

We were watching the parades peacefully on a street corner, when we realized that we were standing next to the stash of that evening's firework display. Heeding no caution to the innocent bystanders that included children, drunken teenagers and nursing mothers, the gringo-masked troupe dozen swirling pyrotechnics lit the first of several dozen swirling pyrotechnics. Looking to escape, we realized we were trapped between the pyrotechnic armory and flaming bales of hay. The next 45 minutes involved repeated barrages of the same, culminating with the tower of pyrotechnics that sent spinning flame missiles high over the crowd and occasionally into the crowd!



Well, somehow, everyone managed to live through the experience...not sure I'd run out and do it again, but I have a renewed appreciation for the distance that we Americans tend to enjoy our firework displays.

Next adventure is bound to be a little less exciting. Sunday, I'm heading south to Lake Titicaca where I'll be taking a week of Spanish lessons on an island that has no electricity. Isla Amantani starts at about 12,500 feet on the highest navigable lake in the world. I'm looking forward to breaking away from the gringo-filled streets of Cuzco and travelling a little on my own.

More adventures to come.

Chau,

Pablo

Joining the PWC or Membership Renewal...

See back of newsletter for membership form. PWC members get a 10% discount at The Ajax Café, Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe, and Commandé's Beach House Bed & Breakfast.

Address Changes...

Contact Venita Goodrich at vmnotbf@ix.netcom.com or 3661 Hyak Way, Bremerton, WA 98311.

PENWICK...

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month or the Friday after the general meeting, whichever comes first. Mail to Lezlie Cox, editor, at 4219 West View Dr., Bremerton, WA 98310, or email penwicle@hotmail.com.

All are welcome to join the monthly soiree to prepare the newsletter for mailing. To help, contact mailing host Joyce Kimmel at 360-876-1497.

PWC Online...

<http://kendaco.telebyte.com/~bcripe/>

Check out the PENWICK online and links to other sites of interest to outdoor enthusiasts. Bert Cripe maintains the club email list and website and can use your photos. Mail photos to 23908 Jefferson Ave. SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366, or email bcripe@telebyte.com.

Officers & Staff

President:	Ron Croft	360-779-6250
Vice President:	Rick Fleming	360-779-2275
Secretary:	Lori Hudson	360-697-1281
Treasurer:	Gail Gross	360-373-7069
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel	360-871-0291
Events:	Rick Fleming	360-779-2275
Refreshments:	Laura Croft	360-779-6250
Scrapbook:	Linda Fourier	360-698-3005
Membership Coordinator:	Tom Broszeit	360-830-5774
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Reporter:	Vicki Fleming	
Proofreader:	Steve Dikowski	
Mailing Host:	Joyce Kimmel	360-876-1497

PWC

Join or Renew Membership

PWC

The Peninsula Wilderness Club is an informal organization for persons interested in active outdoor pursuits. Main activities include hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, rock climbing, and skiing. All outings, from casual hikes to technical mountain sports, are initiated by individual members. These members are volunteers who generously offer to make minimal arrangements so an outing can take place. They do not accept responsibility for the safety or care of any participant. The PWC does not conduct instructional programs and members are expected to have whatever clothing, equipment, skills, and physical conditioning are appropriate for the outing they wish to join. Members are expected to practice responsible environmental stewardship and must accept that there are dangers and a risk of injury in most outdoor activities.

Dues are \$18 per household per year. Send a check or money order to:
Peninsula Wilderness Club, P.O. Box 323, Bremerton, WA 98337-0070.

Please check if: New Member(s) ☐ Renewing Member(s) ☐ Change of Address ☐

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

optional

optional

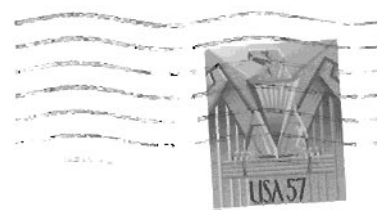
☐ Check here if you do not wish any information to be included in the list distributed to members.



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



TEN ESSENTIALS

By Joe Weigel

My list of "essentials" for day hikes varies depending on when and where I'm going. An October hike to High Divide would require much more gear than a walk in the local state park on a sunny August afternoon. Also, a party of three doesn't need three of everything. Three water filters, for instance, would be redundant.

If the objective here is to compile a list of ten essential items to be taken into the wilds on day hikes, then grouping some items together is necessary. My basic list (in no particular order) for most day hikes is as follows:

1. WATER -- or at least the bottle to carry it in
2. EXTRA FOOD -- more than just your lunch and trail snacks
3. EXTRA CLOTHING -- items to be considered include a jacket or sweater, wide-brimmed hat, stocking cap, raincoat, chaps, long johns and socks
4. FIRST AID KIT -- comprised of another whole list of items
5. MATCHES, and FIRESTARTERS or CANDLES
6. KNIFE
7. MAPS and COMPASS -- altimeter, too, if you think you need it
8. SUN PROTECTION -- including sunglasses, lip balm, and sunscreen
9. FLASHLIGHT or HEADLAMP -- and extra bulb and batteries
10. TOILET PAPER

An eleventh item, and something I usually carry, is a space blanket. Other things I often carry (again, depending on when and where I'm going) are a cheap plastic tube tent with a line to set it up, gaiters, bug repellent and a water filter. A camera and spy glass often go along, as well.

The items I pack vary from hike to hike. The important thing to remember is that you must be prepared for the unforeseen problems that people can and do encounter away from immediate help, and you must be able to keep yourself alive and reasonably comfortable until the problems are resolved.

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SUGGESTED READING

Wood, Robert *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide*
Graydon, Don (editor) *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*
Curtis, Rick, *The Backpacker's Field Manual*
Harvey, Mark *The NOLS Wilderness Guide*
Meyer, Kathleen *How to Shit in the Woods*
Miller, Dorcas S. *Backcountry Cooking*
Schnieder, Bill *Bear Aware*
Torre, Steven *Mountain Lion Alert*

WHERE TO RENT EQUIPMENT

Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe, East Bremerton (360) 377-0668
Kitsap Sports, Silverdale (360) 698-4808
Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, Olympic National Park
Olympic Outdoor Center, Poulsbo (canoes, kayaks) (360) 874-2460
REI, Seattle (888) 873-1938

NORTHWEST HIKING & BACKPACKING CHECKLIST

by Tom Banks

TEN ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Food (bring extra)
- ☐ Water (& filter or iodine tablets)
- ☐ Hypothermia protection: wool hat, gloves; raingear/plastic bags
- ☐ Headlamp w/fresh batteries
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Topographic map, compass
- ☐ Sun protection: chapstick, sunscreen, sunglasses
- ☐ First aid kit incl: medications, antiseptic, Band-aids, moleskin
- ☐ Bic lighter or waterproof matches; candle or other firestarter
- ☐ Pocket knife or Leatherman tool

PERSONAL OVERNIGHT GEAR

- ☐ Backpack w/padded hip belt
- ☐ Pack cover or sturdy plastic bag
- ☐ Sleeping bag, synthetic fill, 0-20 F rating, in stuff sack, w/plastic bag lining inside

Clothes:

- ☐ 3 pairs wool socks
- ☐ Boots (leather, waterproofed)
- ☐ Polyester underwear bottoms
- ☐ Baggy shorts (or swim trunks) 3 bandanas
- ☐ Polyester T-shirt
- ☐ 2-3 insulating layers (ex. fleece jacket, wool shirt, Thinsulate vest, wool sweater)
- ☐ Raingear, waterproof top, water-repellent bottom

Eating utensils

- ☐ Insulated mug
- ☐ Bowl (2-4 cup capacity)
- ☐ Spoon
- ☐ Toiletries: toothbrush, comb, soap, hygiene articles
- ☐ Wristwatch
- ☐ Stuff sacks to pack food, loose items
- ☐ Food: remember carbs, fat, protein; some fresh veggies/fruits for flavor and texture; snacks, drinks, spices. Repack all food in ziplock bags.

GROUP OVERNIGHT GEAR

- ☐ Tent, ground cloth
- ☐ Stove, fuel, gripper
- ☐ Pots, soap, scrubber
- ☐ Toilet-digging trowel
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Bear rope or cannister
- ☐ First aid supplies: bee sting kit, gauze pads, ibuprofen, ace bandage, scissors, triangular bandages
- ☐ Signal mirror
- ☐ Food for group meals

POSSIBLE EXTRAS

- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Hand towel, swimsuit
- ☐ Gaiters, mittens
- ☐ Ball cap or sun hat
- ☐ Spare boot laces
- ☐ Camera, film; binoculars
- ☐ Thermarest pad
- ☐ Sitting pad, camp chair
- ☐ Camp shoes/river shoes
- ☐ Trash compactor bags
- ☐ Dental floss
- ☐ Book
- ☐ Bivy sack, pillowcase
- ☐ Wool/fleece pants
- ☐ Turtleneck/extra shirt
- ☐ Extra underwear
- ☐ Candle lantern
- ☐ Chemical hand warmers
- ☐ Notebook, pencil/pen
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Duct tape, 50' cord
- ☐ Sewing/repair kit
- ☐ Booties, spare socks
- ☐ Fishing gear
- ☐ Climbing gear, ice axe
- ☐ Snowshoes, skis & poles
- ☐ Snow shovel, beepers

FOR THE TRIP HOME

- ☐ \$\$
- ☐ Extra clothes (store in car)
- ☐ Food (store in car)