

NOVEMBER
2003

PENWICLE

Peninsula Wilderness Club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7 pm at the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Perry Avenue in East Bremerton. The public is cordially invited.

A Glimpse of Guatemala

Presented by: Lezlie Cox
Monday, November 10, 7 pm

In August 2003, I joined my father and his fellow Rotary members in the construction of a health clinic in Ixlahuitz, a tiny, indigenous, mountain village in the northwestern department of Huehuetenango in Guatemala. After decades of civil war, Guatemala is struggling to build basic infrastructure throughout the country. Just three years ago, a dirt road and electricity reached Ixlahuitz. Schools have been built, but basic health care services are still over an hour away by a tortuous road to San Miguel Acatan. And when it rains, the road is a greased roller coaster down with no guard rails. Fun for some and unnerving for others.

Because much of western Guatemala is mountainous, we enjoyed wonderful views on our travels and at our worksite. The mountains near our worksite ranged from 3000-5000 feet. Everything is swathed in green from pines, to corn, to palms, from temperate rain forest to sub-tropical. I had a field day trying to capture all the flowers along the roadside. My slide show will present the area around Ixlahuitz, our all too brief drive through the Cuchumatanes, flight over the jungles of the department of Peten, and a visit to the Mayan ruins of Tikal.

Working vacations are a wonderful way to experience another culture. I hope my talk will encourage others to try this option when traveling. Lezlie Cox



PWC Halloween Party and Potluck

Saturday, November 1, 6 pm
Associated Clubs of Waterman, 5785 E. Hillcrest Drive, Port Orchard
Contact: Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275



The Halloween Party will be the traditional costumed event with activities for all ages. There will be a costume contest with prizes for the best single costume and best couples costumes, as well as a door prize that any PWC member at the party is eligible to win. Please bring a dish to share for the dinner and let Rick know if you would like to help decorate before the event.

To get to the club, follow Bay Street through downtown Port Orchard until you reach the traffic light at Beach Drive (near the 76 gas station and KFC). Turn left onto Beach Drive, go about three miles (along the bay) and then turn right onto Hillcrest Drive. Up the hill in about 0.8 mile, the club is on the left.



Introducing the PWC Fall Colors Contest!



Where do you go to see "the BEST" fall colors? Do you have a favorite fall hike? Submit your entries to the PENWICLE and get published! Write a brief description telling your favorite place to see nature's luminosity and submit it by e-mail to penwicle@hotmail.com, or mail it to the club PO Box. Enter as often as you like. Everyone who enters will be eligible for a special door prize drawing, a \$75 Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe gift certificate, to be held at the December General Meeting. The deadline for submissions is Friday, December 5. This competition is open to all PWC members and their families. The winner will be selected by random drawing. You don't need to be present to win!

New PWC Officers and Board

Since only one person was running for each of the PWC Officer and Board positions, a show of hands was conducted at the October General Meeting to confirm the new Officer and Board Members. The Vice-President and Secretary positions will be filled by new people this year, while all other positions will be held by the incumbents. A special thank you to all who served last year, and congratulations to the incoming Officers and Board Members!

President: Rick Fleming
Vice-President: Molly Deardorff
Secretary: Kathy Weigel
Treasurer: Joan Edwards

Board of Directors: Sarah Armstrong
Paul Dutky
Jill Hawes

Trip Reports

Mt. Ellinor Hike

By: Kevin Kilbridge

A baker's dozen PWC'ers reveled in the glorious sunshine (native translation: endured the sweltering heat) on a hike up Mt. Ellinor, September 27, sponsored by Barney Bernhard. This reporter tried to hearten a relative newcomer by telling her that the climb was "a piece of cake"—a shameful deceit, since in the 29 years I'd lived here, I had never once gone up Mt. Ellinor. Fortunately, I turned out to be right, didn't I?

Everybody made it up, and was glad of it. The views to the interior of the Olympics were excellent, the views to the east hazy, but still interesting. We could see the plume of smoke from the fire up towards Hurricane Ridge and a few goats around one of the few remaining snowfields directly below to the west. We had a lot of company—what was it, 75 people we met en route? But they were beautiful people, like us. I'd call it a perfect day.



PWC group at Mt. Ellinor trailhead.



Some of the group on Mt. Ellinor summit.

Editor's note: One somewhat humorous incident at the summit was when a ball of yarn, that Rebekah was using to knit a scarf during the lunch break, rolled down the west side of the peak, unraveling on the way down. Kevin retrieved as much as possible but most of the roll is still there snagged on the rocks below. To the list of things that one should never do, we may want to add "Don't knit on mountain tops".

Elwha River Trail

By: John Knott

On Monday, October 13, Ellen and I headed up the Elwha River Trail to enjoy a fine sunny fall day. Dropping down to Goblin Gates (Rica Canyon), and following the river trail through Krause Bottom, we encountered vine maples in every shade of color from yellow to a delicate blush pink to fiery reds and orange. Big leaf maple leaves came down on us like spinning falling Frisbees. Fall colors are definitely ramping up but not yet at their peak. We paused for lunch at the cabin down in the meadow, and then walked out to the suspension bridge leading to Dodger Point for a fine view up and down the river. The return was by the upland route to the main trail. A walk from Goblin Gates to the bridge along the Elwha is recommended in all seasons, and a fine place to view vine maple colors. Camping at the old Anderson Ranch across the river from Goblin Gates looks particularly appealing and will be on our to do list. This is a seven-mile roundtrip with less than 500 feet of elevation loss and gain.

Paria Canyon

By: Dave Cossa

This is a story I have meant to write for some time but have been reluctant to do so. Why? I have had a number of close calls in my many hundreds of mountaineering outings (only one injury, though and that was as a student in a class). Nearly all were due to objective hazards such as rock fall, AM thunderstorms, etc., that could only be avoided by not going at all, rather than poor judgment. But Paria was the only one where, although not directly my fault, the entire party was endangered.

I had first heard of Paria Canyon on a Grand Canyon hike. I was in the middle of nowhere, as usual, when a fellow hiker passed by. He was an experienced desert rat and highly recommended Paria Canyon. Now I am somewhat obsessive/compulsive in nature. Sometimes I see a peak on a calendar or check book and that is it: my next goal. I immediately decided that Paria would be my very next desert hike. I bought the guide book and trail map and set about organizing the trip, offering it up as a club outing. To my surprise, 20 people signed up. Since the limit for the hike was 10, I divided the group in half, with one party to go upstream and the other down. I secretly decided which group to join, the upstream one, because I felt they were a more dedicated group, more likely to complete the hike. This is not always a good thing as you will see.

Trip Reports

I am by no means a disciplinarian order barker, so I let people decide on their own what group to join, gear to take, etc. Paria is a slot canyon of monumental proportion so I carefully chose the best time of the year to hike, late March, when the likelihood of flash floods was at a minimum according to the guide book. The travel portion of the trip went like clockwork with all 20 people arriving in Las Vegas on several different flights from several different cities. We all rendezvoused at McCarran Airport, got our rental vehicles, and off to Kanab, Utah, we went for a night in a local motel. We strategized how we would each travel to different

Paria is a slot canyon of monumental proportion...

trailheads and how we would return separately to Kanab after the hike. At first we decided to swap vehicle keys when we met in the middle of the hike, but abandoned that idea in case something happened and for some reason we didn't meet. We decided to hide the keys somewhere on each vehicle instead. I traveled with my group to Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River to begin our upstream hike.

Now the weather reports on the TV had varied. The local NWS predicted a minor front to go through mid-week with scattered showers followed by clearing, but the Weather Channel was predicting rain by mid-week. This was talk of some concern given the nature of our hike, so as a final precaution, we checked into the ranger station at Lee's Ferry and, after some consultation via phone, the ranger gave us a thumb's up, basically agreeing with the NWS. So off we went. The first two days of the hike were pretty atypical of desert hiking. The weather was in the 80's, people were getting sunburned where they forgot to put sunscreen, but all and all a pleasant stroll up the 20-foot-wide, ankle-deep "river". The main difference was that the river had to be waded numerous times due to the cliffy terrain, so wet feet were the rule. We all carried extra footwear and socks for in camp use. The canyon was by no means narrow at first, probably a quarter mile wide those first two days. The water was quite silty, causing water filter failures nearly immediately. We had a very generous schedule for the 45-mile 7 day hike, only about 7 to 8 miles a day with very little elevation gain. It worked out to about 5 hours of hiking a day. The third day I had scheduled as a rest and exploration time. There was a large arch near our camp and several of us went to have a look-see. On the way back there was a dramatic, and I do mean drastic change of weather. An enormous wind/rain storm came in within minutes. Luckily I was near an overhang and was able to stay dry. But as I stood there I could see several members of the party hiking across the river on a hillside. It was obvious they were getting soaked, with the wind blowing so hard that they literally could not get their rain gear on. After I got mine on in the shelter of the overhang, I hiked the short remaining distance to camp to find tents with wind-detached flies, their contents soaked. Several people had not even pitched tents, and their gear was soaked as well. They had hiked in the desert before with little or no rain so they had opted for minimum shelter, a very common strategy for desert hiking. I met another party member in camp. Although campfires were banned in Paria wilderness, the first thing I said to him was, "We are going to need a campfire to dry things out". His only response was, "I'll start gathering firewood". Although I had no tent, my gear was dry. I had picked a slight cave at the base of an overhang as my camp spot. In addition there was a large rock just in front of the mini-cave that kept wind-blown rain from entering my camp. We built the campfire under another overhang and people spent that evening drying out gear and making new camps out of the weather. In hindsight, this should have been done before the monstrous storm, not after, but, hey, we all make mistakes. There was of course, concern of a flood, but we were not yet in the narrow portion of the river, so escape from one was not really an issue. It continued to rain, and rained all night but at least everyone was now reasonably dry.

At first light I awoke. I could see up the hill on the other side of the river and was astonished to see that it was white. Snow had fallen a mere 1000 feet uphill. The Paria had risen at least a foot to knee deep and was the color of chocolate milk. I was surprised that it had not risen further since quite a bit of rain had fallen. Apparently all the precipitation at higher elevations had been snow. Then as I watched in amazement, the rain turned to snow. At only about 3000-foot elevation (the bottom of the Grand Canyon is only slightly less), this was indeed a rare event. I got up and restarted the campfire. People slowly gathered around me and a debate began: What should we do. Some people figured the weather was about to break, so they wanted to break camp and go on. Others wanted to cancel the trip and go back. I decided to compromise and just stay put, reasoning that we were warm and dry where we were, but would become quickly soaked if we hiked in either direction. It snowed all day, eventually piling up 4 to 6 inches deep. We stayed under the overhang warm and dry thanks to our exquisite illegal campfire. When we retired for the night it was still snowing. The next morn broke partly cloudy and blustery with the temp around 40 degrees. The debate continued. We reasoned that the storm was over and that we had seen the worst possible weather and survived. I asked if anybody wanted to turn back. To my amazement, no one said yes. So on we went through the quickly melting snow. The canyon now narrowed rapidly. We camped that night where the downstream group had waited out the storm. They left a note saying they had decided to turn back. The next day the canyon narrowed dramatically, in places only 10 feet wide and 1500 feet high. We could see logs wedged some 40 feet up, attesting to the depth of previous flash floods. The Paria had risen to waist depth in places and crossings became quite numerous. We were now hiking almost as much in water as out of it. After setting up our final camp, we spent the afternoon exploring Buckskin Gulch, another slot canyon so narrow and so deep that at times it was nearly dark. We did not know it at the time, but it had snowed 30 inches 3000 feet above us. If it had rained instead of snowed we would have been in big trouble. That night a tremendous thunderstorm hit and it poured for hours. Once again the snow above saved us, absorbing much of the rainfall like a sponge, preventing a flash flood. The Paria had now risen to nearly chest height in places, but the current was still very slow due to the extremely flat nature of the canyon. So here we were with no choice but to go on. Retreat was now impossible due to its length.

(continued on page 5)

Outings

A Word About Outings

All PWC outings and other activities are open to anyone, but if you enjoy our company and what we do, we would like you to become a member.

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

Pet Policy

Please leave pets at home when attending PWC outings unless the trip is specifically listed as welcoming them.

Hike from Hurricane Ridge

Sunday, November 2 (*date changed*)
Contact : Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Hike one of the trails leading from Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. If snow conditions on the ridge make for poor hiking, we will try a lowland trail.

Hike Storm King Trail

Saturday, November 8
Contact : Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Hike the relatively short, but steep, Storm King Trail to a viewpoint above Lake Crescent. Round trip is 3.8 miles. A half-mile side trail leads to Marymere Falls.

Hike to Flapjack Lakes

Saturday, November 15
Contact : Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402

Hike about 11 miles round-trip to Flapjack Lakes. The trail starts as an easy grade through a hemlock and fir forest along the North Fork Skokomish River. Then it climbs about 2400 ft up to the two lakes.

Hike Elwha River Trail

Saturday, November 22
Contact : Steve Vittori, 253-858-8191

Easy 6 to 7-mile hike along the Elwha River, one of the largest rivers in the Olympics. Watch for elk on the river flats, the animal for which the river was named.

Hike Fort Worden Beach

Saturday, November 22
Contact : Charlie Pomfret, 360-479-7820

Hike from Fort Worden, Port Townsend, west along the beach. This will be a half-day hike Saturday morning, approximately five miles round trip. Spend some time exploring the fort on the way back. Fort Worden, along with Fort Flagler and Fort Casey, once guarded the nautical entrance to Puget Sound. Construction began in 1897 and continued in one form or another until the fort was closed in 1953. The property was purchased as a state park in 1955.

Bike Olympic Discovery Trail

Sunday, November 23
Contact : Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275

Easy bike ride on portions of the Olympic Discovery Trail between Sequim and Port Angeles. For more information on the trail, see the web site listed on page 7.

Snowshoe Outing

Saturday, November 29
Contact: Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679

Join Barney snowshoeing. This trip is for both the beginner and intermediate level. Location will be either on Mt. Rainier from Paradise to Reflection Lakes, or at Hurricane Ridge in the Olympics. Think snow!

Cross-Country Ski at Mt. Rainier

Saturday, December 6
Contact : Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Beginners cross-country ski outing from Paradise to Reflection Lakes in Mt. Rainier National Park.

Cross-Country Ski at Hurricane Ridge

Saturday, December 20
Contact : Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Cross-country ski outing at Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park.

Winterfest 2004

Friday, February 13 - Monday, February 16
Contact : Jon DeArman, 360-697-1352

Jon DeArman is sponsoring Winterfest 2004 to be held at the Stevens Pass Mountaineers' cabin. The four-story cabin is located at the 4061-foot summit of Stevens Pass, sleeps 55 people, and has a men's, women's, families', and couples' dorm, plus kitchen, dining, and living areas.

- Ski from the cabin to the lifts, and from the lifts to the cabin.
- XC ski / skate ski / snowshoe 25 miles of groomed trails in Mill Valley.
- Ski / snowboard mountaineering climbs to Skyline Peak, located across the road from the lodge.
- XC ski / snowshoe miles of Forest Service trails in the area. Sno-park pass required at some trailheads.
- Snowshoe Pacific Crest Trail located on ridge above cabin.
- Hike into scenic hot springs four miles west of the pass.
- Shop in Leavenworth 20 miles east.
- Drink hot toddies with Jon and Sue each evening in the Stevens Bar.

Lodging cost includes breakfast and dinner. Bring your own lunch. Kitchen available for use includes a microwave. No alcohol permitted in cabin.

(outings continued on page 7)

Trip Reports

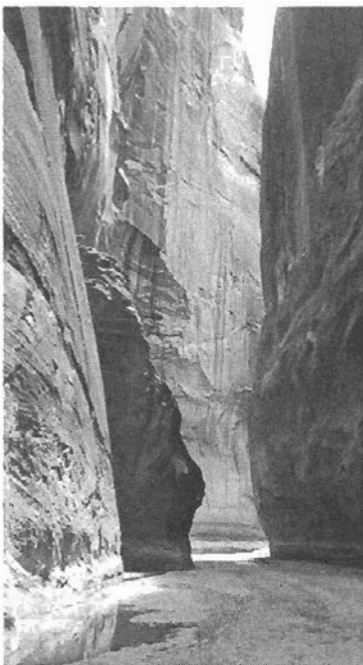
Paria Canyon

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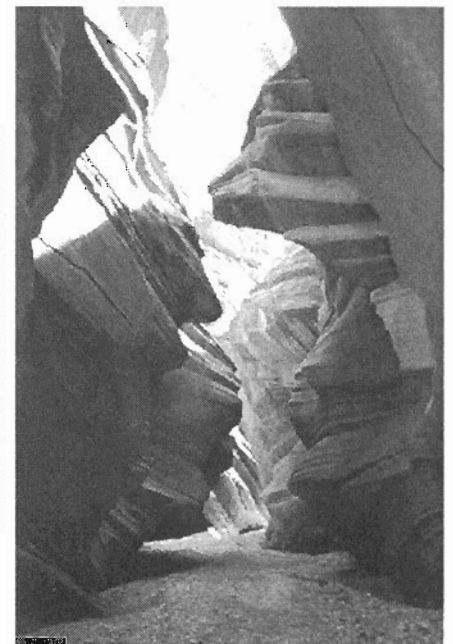
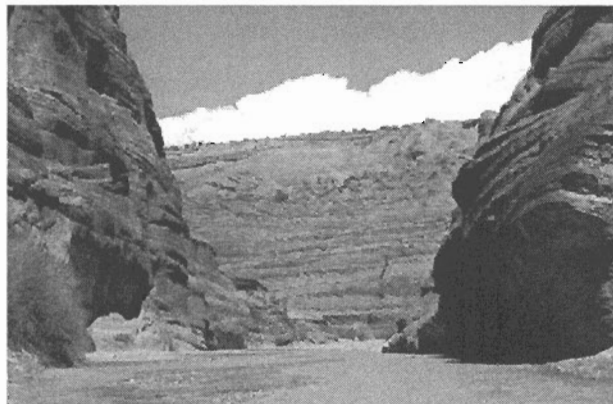
Our last day was like no hike I have ever done and have no desire to ever repeat. We were forced to slosh through water for 3 miles. The air temperature was in the low 40's with a stiff breeze blowing. There was slush flowing down the river along with much debris. I could feel my blood being refrigerated as it flowed through my legs, which became completely numb from the cold. I remember thinking that I wasn't going to make it as my legs became increasingly difficult to move. After hiking for one-and-a-half miles without once being out of water ranging from knee to nearly chest deep, we came upon a sliver of a beach, and miracle of miracles the sun was shining on a wind-sheltered cliff, warming it like an iron. We all stripped as much as modesty would allow and clung to the cliff allowing its warmth and that of sunshine to seep into our bodies for quite some time until the feeling -- and aching pain -- returned to our legs. Getting back into the water again was not a pleasant thing to do, but we had no other choice.

The legs quickly became numb again. If anyone had stumbled and gotten their upper torso wet, there is no doubt in my mind that they would have died of exposure. It was quite literally impossible to get out of the water, let alone having any hope of drying out even if you could. We were all a slip away from disaster. After another mile-and-a-half without once leaving the water, we finally exited the slot canyon, and two hours later we were in the van on our way back to Kanab where our worried companions awaited our return.

Several months later I got a letter from one of the young women who was in our group. She thanked me for allowing her to participate in what she considered to be a great, memorable adventure -- it was her very first backpack -- and finished her letter by saying, in retrospect, that she might now even admit that it was fun. Well, that's one positive way of looking at it! Others weren't quite as generous in THEIR comments. Several months later a group of 12 was caught in a flash flood in a slot canyon only 40 miles east of Paria. They had been warned by the rangers not to attempt the hike, August being the most likely time for flash floods. Their paid guide ignored the warning. He was the only survivor, having clung high up on a rock as a wall of water swept away his paying clients into a virtual concrete mixer full of large boulders. Other people watched helplessly in horror from above. Moral of the story: The rangers don't control the weather -- but apparently the Weather Channel does! Or you can choose to avoid dangerous things like ever being in a slot canyon or on a mountain climb such as Rainier. I don't so choose. To me, the rewards, challenges, and memories are worth the risk and I hope to obtain many more. One can try to minimize risk in life through preparation, but sooner or later, everyone throws snake eyes no matter how careful they are.



Paria Canyon & Buckskin Gulch (file photos)



Editor's note: Thank you, Dave for sharing this story. This is a good reminder that even a well-planned trip can go from good to bad given the right circumstances. It's easy to dismiss bad weather from the comfort of our homes, but weather related hazards are probably the most likely danger that most of us may face while traveling in the backcountry. The same weather that may create only an uncomfortable situation in a broad desert valley or lowland forest can create a dangerous situation in a slot canyon or on a mountain peak. If the snow level had risen, adding snowmelt to the rain fall, the group in Paria Canyon may have fared even worse. If weather is a key factor in the safe success of your trip, and the weather changes significantly from what you were expecting, the best choice may be to back out and try again another day. To continue could expose yourself and any potential rescue party to greater than normal risk. As Dave suggests, the unexpected can sometimes happen in any aspect of life, but the rewards of backcountry travel are too wonderful to not go because of the inherent risks. With the right preparations and knowledge we can minimize the risks and enjoy the adventure many times.

Join us for Mount Tahoma Trail Association's

Fall Gala 2003

**A fun afternoon supporting the Northwest's largest
User-Operated, Hut-to-Hut Ski Trail System**



Your First Chance for Winter Hut Reservations!

Saturday, November 15th, 2003

New Time: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

New Venue: REI's Seattle Store, 2nd Floor Auditorium
222 Yale Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109 (888) 873-1938.

\$5 per person, under 12 free, Cash or checks only

- **Outdoor Equipment Auction**
- **Raffle Prizes**
- **Snacks & Drinks**
- **Become a member**
- **Renew your membership**
- **Hut Reservations Lottery**

Learn about MTTA. We are a nonprofit organization that operates four backcountry huts and over 50 miles of trails near Rainier National Park. We have groomed and backcountry trails for skiers, snowshoers and snowboarders of all abilities! Come checkout the views, the fun and learn more.

Support our no-fee backcountry. We charge no fees to use our backcountry ski trails and only \$5 per person to make hut reservations. We rely on the Gala to raise much of our operating expenses. Please help us by attending, becoming a member, and joining in the fun of the silent auction and prize lottery!

It's your first chance for winter hut reservations! Most Saturday night hut stays are reserved at our Gala. Each attendee will have their name entered in a lottery for hut reservations. Names picked will have their choice of remaining dates and huts. Invite your friends to increase your odds!

Mark your calendars today!

Learn more at: www.skimtta.com

MTTA PO Box 206 Ashford, WA 98304 (360) 569-2151

Good Links

Know a good outdoor-related web site that may be of interest to other PWC members? Send the link to PENWICLE@hotmail.com and it can be listed in the newsletter for all to use. A short description of the site would be especially helpful. (No retail sales web sites please.)



Check out the following web pages:

www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com

When fully completed, the Olympic Discovery Trail will stretch approximately 100 miles, from Port Townsend in the East to the Pacific Coast in the West. Only portions of it are completed at this time, mostly near Port Townsend, and between Sequim and Port Angeles. The trail is open to travel by foot, bike or horse. Some of the basic rules are: no motorized vehicles (except wheelchairs); park vehicles at designated trailheads only from 4 am to 11 pm; no hunting, camping or alcohol on the trail; dogs must be on leash; equestrians must keep to the unpaved trail.

See the bike outing on page 4.

www.pnt.org

Many people know that the Pacific Crest Trail runs north-south through Washington State. However, many may not realize that another long distance trail also runs east-west through the state. The 1200-mile Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) goes from the Continental Divide in Montana to the Pacific Ocean in Washington. This carefully chosen path is high on views and long on adventure. It includes the Rocky Mountains, Selkirk Mountains, Pasayten Wilderness, North Cascades, Olympic Mountains, and wilderness coast. The trail crosses three national parks and seven national forests. In eastern Washington the trail follows a northerly route through a region of forest-covered mountains and lakes, very different than the familiar I-90 corridor to Spokane.

"JOURNEY"

- The Newest Warren Miller Film

Every year for longer than most of us can remember, Warren Miller has come out with a new film to mark the beginning of the upcoming ski/snowboard season. This year's film is called "Journey" and will be shown at the Admiral Theatre (Fifth and Pacific in downtown Bremerton) on Wednesday, November 5, at 7 pm.

Tickets are available at Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe, at the door, or through Ticketmaster, and are \$15.50. This is a really fun and entertaining way to celebrate the coming of winter, even if you don't ski or snowboard. Get there early for the best seats.



Backpack the Tonto Trail

March or April, 2004

Contact: David Boyde, 360-692-9325, theboyde@aol.com

Take a 7 to 10-day backpack trip along the Tonto Plateau in the Grand Canyon (not including travel time to/from the canyon). Depending upon the itinerary/permit received, the distance can range from 60 to 90-miles, plus side trips. Tentative dates are approximately 3/28/04 to 4/10/04, or 4/4/04 to 4/17/04. Exact dates and route to be determined later, so must be somewhat flexible. Initial permit request will be submitted either November 1 or December 1, depending upon selected start date. Group size is limited to six experienced backpackers. Trail is isolated, very rugged in spots, and some route-finding may be necessary. Contact David for more information and to assist in route planning/date selection.

Backpack the Continental Divide Trail

April - October, 2004

Contact: Kevin Koski, 360-698-0655

Join Kevin for a part of the Continental Divide Trail (CDT). The CDT is one of the newer long distance hiking trails in America. It generally follows the rugged Continental Divide from New Mexico to Montana.

Snowshoe-Lite and Winter Travel Courses

Contact: Debb Legg, 360-377-6923, cell: 360-908-3221

PWC does not conduct training classes. However, the Kitsap Branch of the Mountaineers will be offering two winter skills classes.

The Snowshoe-Lite course offers an introduction to safe and enjoyable winter travel for the beginner. It will include a one-night lecture November 12, and a snowshoeing field trip December 27. The cost for Snowshoe-Lite will be \$30 for Mountaineers members and \$45 for non-members. This does not include equipment rental.

The Winter Travel course will include the same lecture November 12, and will continue on December 3, December 10, and January 7. The Winter Travel course is designed to accommodate a range of skills, from people with no experience in winter travel, to those who have participated in higher levels of hiking and climbing. Topics will include selection of equipment, conditioning, snow travel, navigation & route-finding, winter camping, snow cave building, winter hazards, ice axe self-arrest, and avalanche safety & rescue. Fieldtrips will be held on mutually agreed dates in December, January, and/or February. The cost for Winter Travel will be \$80 for Mountaineers members and \$95 for non-members.

Course registration ends November 10th. Call the Seattle clubroom at 1-800-573-8484 to register. There will be an additional \$5 surcharge for registering through the clubroom to cover the cost of credit card processing and mailing of the registration confirmation package. Those who wish may register directly with the instructor (Debb Legg) or by calling the branch voice mailbox. Those choosing this means of registration can only pay by check and will not receive the confirmation package.

Monthly

MAP: Monthly Activity Planning

Thursday, November 6, 7 pm

Contact: Rick and Vicki Fleming, 360-779-2275

Discuss club business and help schedule outings at the home of Rick and Vicki Fleming in Poulsbo.

November Potluck

Friday, November 21, 6:30 pm

Contact: Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402

Jill Hawes will host this month's club potluck dinner at her home in Belfair. As host she will provide the dessert and guests bring a dish to pass.

PWC Climbers Group

An informal gathering of climbers meets the last Monday of the month (check calendar for date changes), 7 pm, at the Silver City Brewing Company, Silverdale. All are welcome to join us for general socializing and discussions about past and future mountaineering excursions. For directions, call John Myers at 360-782-2224. For a list of climbers call Mike Raymond at 360-779-9282 or email mntnmiker@aol.com.

NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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*Happy
Thanksgiving*



November

Date	Outing/Meeting	Contact	Page
11/1	Halloween Party / Potluck	Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275	1
11/2	Hike from Hurricane Ridge	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774	4
11/6	MAP: Monthly Activity Planning	Rick and Vicki Fleming, 360-779-2275	8
11/8	Hike Storm King Trail	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774	4
11/10	General Meeting	Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275	1
11/15	Hike to Flapjack Lakes	Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402	4
11/21	Potluck Dinner	Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402	8
11/22	Hike Elwha River Trail	Steve Vittori, 253-858-8191	4
11/22	Hike Fort Worden Beach	Charlie Pomfret, 360-479-7820	4
11/23	Bike Olympic Discovery Trail	Rick Fleming, 360-779-2275	4
11/24	Climbers Group Meeting	John Myers, 360-782-2224	8
11/29	Snowshoe Outing	Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679	4

Club News

PWC Welcomes New Members...

Tom Alexander, Maureen Kelly, Patty Kemp, James Wesner, and Kathryn Wilkie.

October Door Prize Winner

Joan Edwards won a \$100 gift certificate donated by the Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe. Thanks once again to the Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe of Bremerton for donating the door prize.

Thanks for the Treats!

Thank you to all who brought goodies to share at the October General Meeting. We will be in need of new volunteers to bring snacks for the November meeting. If you have questions, please contact Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402

Receive Your Newsletter by E-mail

PWC members now have the option of receiving their *PENWICLE* by e-mail. Members who select this option will receive their newsletter as an Adobe PDF document via e-mail rather than receiving a printed copy by US Postal Service mail. If you do not yet have Adobe Reader software on your computer to view PDF files, it is readily available for free on the internet. To request the e-mail option, please send an e-mail message to penwicle@hotmail.com. The PWC membership form also now has a check box for the newsletter by e-mail option. The electronic newsletter should be sent out before the printed copies and any photos will be viewed in color.

We Need You!

Each month the club's MAP meeting and potluck dinner are in need of volunteer hosts willing to share their home for an evening. If you can handle a small home invasion, please contact the club secretary, Kathy Weigel, at 360-871-0291.

PWC Scrapbook

Share the memories of a great PWC outing! Bring in photos of any PWC event to one of the club meetings as a donation toward the scrapbook.

Please provide:

- Three to five photos of a given event.
- On the back of each photo include the names of people, location and date of event.
- A brief synopsis or description (20 words or so).
- Your permission that the photos may be cropped and permanently added to the scrapbook.
- Place your photos in a zip-lock bag or similar.

For more information, please contact Linda Fourier at 360-698-3005.

Magazine Swap

PWC members are invited to bring any outdoor related magazines they no longer want to the General Meetings to swap for magazines brought by other members. A box will be in the lobby during meetings where you may leave magazines or take one home to read.

Club Business

Joining the PWC or Membership Renewal

The PWC General Meeting is held the second Monday of each month, 7 pm, at the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in East Bremerton. To join or renew, please see form on back of newsletter. Receive a 10% discount at the Mt. Constance Mountain Shoppe, the Ajax Café, and Commander's Beach House Bed and Breakfast with your membership card. New members will receive a card with their New Membership packet. All members can pick up a card at the monthly meeting.

Has Your Membership Expired?

Check for your membership expiration date on the address label of your latest issue of the *PENWICLE*.

Address Changes and Member Address-Phone List

Address changes should be sent to Vicki Fleming at Peninsula Wilderness Club, P.O. Box 323, Bremerton, WA 98337-0070 or call 360-779-2275. Members should also contact Vicki if they wish to receive a new membership directory.

Penwicle Submissions

Submissions to the *Penwicle* must be received by the Friday after the General Meeting to insure a place in the next issue. Contact Tom Broszeit at penwicle@hotmail.com or 360-613-9573.

PWC Online...www.pwckitsap.org

Please contact Sandie Morris at 360-792-1321 for inquiries regarding the PWC website. Submissions to the editor of the *PENWICLE* will be sent to the website, unless requested otherwise.

Officers & Staff

President:	Rick Fleming 360-779-2275
Vice President:	Molly Deardorff... 360-373-0114
Secretary:	Kathy Weigel 360-871-0291
Treasurer:	Joan Edwards 360-509-5297
Board of Directors:	Sarah Armstrong.. 360-377-1360
	Paul Dutky 360-479-2683
	Jill Hawes 360-275-5402
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel 360-871-0291
Events:	Molly Deardorff... 360-373-0114
Refreshments:	Jill Hawes 360-275-5402
Scrapbook:	Linda Fourier 360-698-3005
Membership Coordinator:	Vicki Fleming 360-779-2275
Website Editor:	Sandie Morris... .. 360-792-1321
Penwicle Editor:	Tom Broszeit 360-613-9573
Reporter:	Vicki Fleming 360-779-2275
Proofreader:	Steve Dikowski 360-692-8386

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 \$25 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: _____ E-mail: _____
(optional) (required if receiving newsletter by e-mail, otherwise optional)

(Please print clearly)

- ☐ Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter as an Adobe PDF document by e-mail **instead of** a printed copy.
☐ Check here if you **do not** wish any information to be included in the list distributed to members.



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P.O. Box 323
Bremerton, WA 98337-0070

*Happy
Thanksgiving*



Join us for Mount Tahoma Trail Association's

Fall Gala 2003

**A fun afternoon supporting the Northwest's largest
User-Operated, Hut-to-Hut Ski Trail System**



Your First Chance for Winter Hut Reservations!

Saturday, November 15th, 2003

New Time: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

New Venue: REI's Seattle Store, 2nd Floor Auditorium
222 Yale Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109 (888) 873-1938.

\$5 per person, under 12 free, Cash or checks only

- Outdoor Equipment Auction
- Raffle Prizes
- Snacks & Drinks
- Become a member
- Renew your membership
- Hut Reservations Lottery

Learn about MTTA. We are a nonprofit organization that operates four backcountry huts and over 50 miles of trails near Rainier National Park. We have groomed and backcountry trails for skiers, snowshoers and snowboarders of all abilities! Come checkout the views, the fun and learn more.

Support our no-fee backcountry. We charge no fees to use our backcountry ski trails and only \$5 per person to make hut reservations. We rely on the Gala to raise much of our operating expenses. Please help us by attending, becoming a member, and joining in the fun of the silent auction and prize lottery!

It's your first chance for winter hut reservations! Most Saturday night hut stays are reserved at our Gala. Each attendee will have their name entered in a lottery for hut reservations. Names picked will have their choice of remaining dates and huts. Invite your friends to increase your odds!

Mark your calendars today!

Learn more at: www.skimtta.com

MTTA PO Box 206 Ashford, WA 98304 (360) 569-2451

Trip Reports

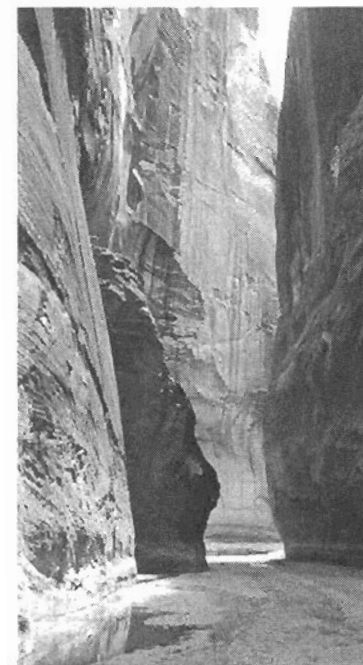
Paria Canyon

(continued from page 3)

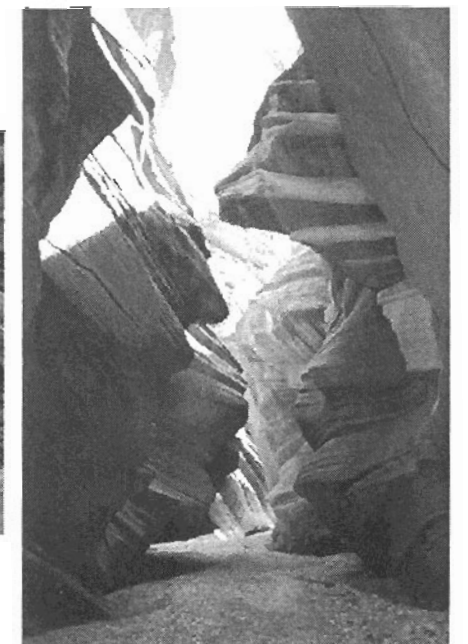
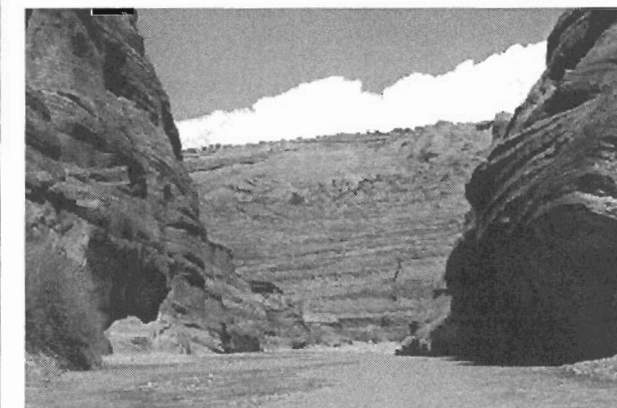
Our last day was like no hike I have ever done and have no desire to ever repeat. We were forced to slosh through water for 3 miles. The air temperature was in the low 40's with a stiff breeze blowing. There was slush flowing down the river along with much debris. I could feel my blood being refrigerated as it flowed through my legs, which became completely numb from the cold. I remember thinking that I wasn't going to make it as my legs became increasingly difficult to move. After hiking for one-and-a-half miles without once being out of water ranging from knee to nearly chest deep, we came upon a sliver of a beach, and miracle of miracles the sun was shining on a wind-sheltered cliff, warming it like an iron. We all stripped as much as modesty would allow and clung to the cliff allowing its warmth and that of sunshine to seep into our bodies for quite some time until the feeling -- and aching pain -- returned to our legs. Getting back into the water again was not a pleasant thing to do, but we had no other choice.

The legs quickly became numb again. If anyone had stumbled and gotten their upper torso wet, there is no doubt in my mind that they would have died of exposure. It was quite literally impossible to get out of the water, let alone having any hope of drying out even if you could. We were all a slip away from disaster. After another mile-and-a-half without once leaving the water, we finally exited the slot canyon, and two hours later we were in the van on our way back to Kanab where our worried companions awaited our return.

Several months later I got a letter from one of the young women who was in our group. She thanked me for allowing her to participate in what she considered to be a great, memorable adventure -- it was her very first backpack -- and finished her letter by saying, in retrospect, that she might now even admit that it was fun. Well, that's one positive way of looking at it! Others weren't quite as generous in THEIR comments. Several months later a group of 12 was caught in a flash flood in a slot canyon only 40 miles east of Paria. They had been warned by the rangers not to attempt the hike, August being the most likely time for flash floods. Their paid guide ignored the warning. He was the only survivor, having clung high up on a rock as a wall of water swept away his paying clients into a virtual concrete mixer full of large boulders. Other people watched helplessly in horror from above. Moral of the story: The rangers don't control the weather -- but apparently the Weather Channel does! Or you can choose to avoid dangerous things like ever being in a slot canyon or on a mountain climb such as Rainier. I don't so choose. To me, the rewards, challenges, and memories are worth the risk and I hope to obtain many more. One can try to minimize risk in life through preparation, but sooner or later, everyone throws snake eyes no matter how careful they are.



Paria Canyon & Buckskin Gulch (file photos)



Editor's note: Thank you, Dave for sharing this story. This is a good reminder that even a well-planned trip can go from good to bad given the right circumstances. It's easy to dismiss bad weather from the comfort of our homes, but weather related hazards are probably the most likely danger that most of us may face while traveling in the backcountry. The same weather that may create only an uncomfortable situation in a broad desert valley or lowland forest can create a dangerous situation in a slot canyon or on a mountain peak. If the snow level had risen, adding snowmelt to the rain fall, the group in Paria Canyon may have fared even worse. If weather is a key factor in the safe success of your trip, and the weather changes significantly from what you were expecting, the best choice may be to back out and try again another day. To continue could expose yourself and any potential rescue party to greater than normal risk. As Dave suggests, the unexpected can sometimes happen in any aspect of life, but the rewards of backcountry travel are too wonderful to not go because of the inherent risks. With the right preparations and knowledge we can minimize the risks and enjoy the adventure many times.