

JANUARY
2010

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.

The Owl and the Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds

Monday, January 11, 7 pm
Presented by: Paul Bannick

Award-winning photographer Paul Bannick specializes in the natural history of North America. Paul has coupled his love of the outdoors with his skill as a photographer to create images intended to foster intimacy between the viewer and subject in order to inspire education and conservation. He will take you on a visual journey of 11 key North American habitats through the needs of specific owl and woodpecker species. This stunning photographic study will be accompanied by field stories, and rich natural history derived from thousands of hours in the field. His talk will look at the way owls and woodpeckers define and enrich their habitat and how their life histories are intertwined. Copies of Paul's book *The Owl and the Woodpecker* will be available for \$30 after the presentation. For more information about Paul and his book, go to www.paulbannick.com

Photos: copyright, Paul Bannick



Monthly

MAP: Monthly Activity

Thursday, January 7, 7 pm
Contact: Shelley Fleming, 360-779-2275

Discuss club business and help schedule outings at Shelley’s home in Poulsbo. All members are invited to attend.

January Potluck

Friday, January 29, 6:30 pm
Contact: Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906, trlbi@earthlink.net

Visit with fellow PWCers at Tom’s home on Bainbridge Island. Bring an entrée or side dish to share. As host, Tom will provide the dessert.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Outing / Meeting</u>	<u>Contact</u>
12/27	Hike, Ski or Snowshoe Mount Walker	Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679
12/29 or 30	Climb Mount Townsend or Mount Ellinor	Tom Rogers, 360-692-2547
12/31-1/1	New Year’s Eve in Port Townsend	Jon & Sue DeArman, 360-697-1352
1/1	Fort Worden Hike	Venita Goodrich, 360-698-9774
1/3	Sea Kayak Colvos Passage	Tom Henning, 360-895-4018
1/3	Ski/Snowshoe Obstruction Point Road	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774
1/7	MAP Meeting	Shelley Fleming, 360-779-2275
1/9-10	Mazama Ridge Snow Camping	Brian Steely, 360-297-3825, brianandcris@centurytel.net
1/9-10	Ski/Snowshoe to Copper Creek Hut	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774
1/10	Long Lake Paddle	Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com
1/11	General Meeting <i>Featuring the art of Emily Grice—see page 3</i>	Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com
1/12	Hike to Devils Lake	Ellen Knott, 360-471-3064
1/15-18	Ski Weekend in the Methow Valley	Emily Grice, 206-842-7883
1/16	Kayak Liberty Bay	Beth Harter, 360-779-9078, bethharter@embarqmail.com
1/16	Nature Conservancy Beach Hike	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774
1/17	Snowshoe/Hike to Olympic Hot Springs	Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402
1/23	Kayak Annis Bay and Skokomish River	Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com
1/24	Hike/Snowshoe Mount Rose	Doug Savage, 360-698-9774
1/29	January Potluck	Tom Leurquin, 206-842-5906, trlbi@earthlink.net
1/30	Ski/Snowshoe Obstruction Point Road	Doug Terry, 360-550-7911
1/31	Hammersley Inlet to Hope Island Paddle	Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com
1/31-2/6	Big White Ski Trip	Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

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Announcements

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. Always carry the 10 essentials.

Please Call Early

As a courtesy to the sponsor of an outing in which you are interested, please try to call at least two days before the trip for single-day outings, and as soon as possible for overnight outings. This allows the sponsor time to make necessary arrangements, or alternate plans, should a trip be canceled for some reason. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Pet Policy

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

The WEBSITE: A Source for Outings

Remember that trips can be listed on the website under Last Minute Trips. If you don't see something that interests you in the newsletter, check the website for additional trips. Or, if you are doing an outing that was planned after the deadline, use the website to post the information. This can now be done in THREE ways: you can fill out the form online, or you can call or email the info directly to the Webmaster, Jay Thompson, 360-307-0037 or pwadmin@pwckitsap.org. Alternatively, you can call or email Paul Dutky at 360-479-2683 or pdutky@gmail.com to get the outing listed on the PWC calendar online.

PWC Artisan: Emily Grice

Emily Grice has bravely agreed to be the first PWC Artisan to share her art with us. She will have an informal display in the foyer before the January meeting and during the break.

Emily has always had a passion for photography. She has been co-owner of a photo gallery and has assisted local historical societies with photographic preservation. She specializes in artist's portfolios and catalog reproductions, and has operated a darkroom service for black and white imaging - her personal focus. She teaches high school level photography. The digital revolution has made chemical photo-development an anachronism. Emily has adapted to digital photography like the rest of us, but retains a love for the artistic skills she learned in the darkroom.

Photo: "Rain," courtesy of Emily Grice.



Outings

Hike, Ski or Snowshoe Mount Walker

Sunday, December 27

Contact: Barney Bernhard, 360-479-3679

This is a great hike almost any time of the year. If you over-indulged your caloric intake during the holidays, come join us for the 2-mile climb and 2000 feet of elevation gain to the summit. Last year, about half the group skied the 4-mile road, while the other half hiked the trail.

Climb Mount Townsend or Mount Ellinor

Tuesday, December 29, or Wednesday, December 30

Contact: Tom Rogers, 360-692-2547

Based on weather and snow conditions, we will climb either Mount Townsend or Mount Elinor, on either Tuesday or Wednesday. Once I decide on place and date, I'll update the online calendar with meeting place, time and carpooling info.

New Year's Eve in Port Townsend

Thursday, December 31 - Friday, January 1

Contact: Jon & Sue DeArman, 360-697-1352

Jon & Sue will be car camping at Fort Worden State Park on New Year's Eve. We will walk the Fort in the evening to watch the sunset. Then we'll drink and dine the night away in Port Townsend, followed by a nightcap of hot toddies around the campfire. Next morning will include a beach hike with Venita and other club members at a reasonable hour.

Fort Worden Hike

Friday, January 1

Contact: Venita Goodrich, 360-698-9774

Ring in the New Year with an annual PWC tradition—a New Year's Day hike on the beach at historic Fort Worden with Venita, Jon and Sue.

Sea Kayak Colvos Passage

Sunday, January 3

Contact: Tom Henning, 360-895-4018

This is a Class I-II paddle of approximately 10 miles. The paddle will take us from the town of Olalla on a circuitous route along the eastern and western shores of Colvos Passage. The Colvos Passage, a tidal strait, was named by Charles Wilkes during the United States Exploring Expedition, to honor George Colvocoresses, a midshipman for the expedition. Wilkes considered his name too long for geographic honors and so shortened it to Colvos on the official charts. One of the more interesting things about the Colvos Passage is that it has a permanent northbound current. During the flood tide, the Puget Sound southbound current overcomes the Colvos Passage flood and pushes it back north. The passage is fairly well-protected, and often makes for a more mild and tame winter paddling environment. There is a nice little grocery/deli – Al's Grocery – at the Olalla boat ramp for a nice pre- or post-paddle snack and/or hot drink. Oh, and since it will be only 2 days after the Olalla Polar Bear Plunge, we can look for the floating carcasses of unsuccessful plungers.

Ski/Snowshoe Obstruction Point Road

Sunday, January 3

Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Cross-country ski or snowshoe the Obstruction Point Road at Hurricane Hill. The goal is to head out a couple of miles past Steeple Rock. Ski level is intermediate (there may be some wind drifts to conquer, but telemark skiing is not required). Breakfast at the Oak Table is a good possibility.

Mazama Ridge Snow Camping

Saturday, January 9 - Sunday, January 10

Contact: Brian Steely, 360-297-3825,
brianandcris@centurytel.net

Brian will lead this winter overnight ski or snowshoe outing. He will climb toward Muir Snowfield from Paradise, and camp on the mountain Saturday night. On Sunday, the group will traverse eastward toward Edith Creek Basin and Mazama Ridge.

Ski/Snowshoe to Copper Creek Hut

Saturday, January 9 - Sunday, January 10

Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Cross-country ski or snowshoe to Copper Creek Hut in the MTTA trail system. Ski or snowshoe in on Saturday, then spend the night in a heated cabin before heading home Sunday. Overnight slots are limited. If you don't get an overnight space in the hut, don't fret—you are welcome to winter camp outside, or just come up for the day.

Long Lake Paddle

Sunday, January 10

Contact: Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

This is a Class I paddle in Port Orchard. The trip leader is Gerry Hodge, 360-956-0510, gnthodge@msn.com

Hike to Devils Lake

Tuesday, January 12

Contact: Ellen Knott, 360-471-3064

Hike to Devils Lake, a pristine lake set in old growth on the east side of Mount Walker, in a DNR conservation area. This hike near Quilcene is 4 miles round trip with 900 feet of elevation gain. Enjoy nice views of Quilcene Bay on the way in and out. Call Ellen for meeting place and time.

Ski Weekend in the Methow Valley

Friday, January 15 - Monday, January 18

Contact: Emily Grice, 206-842-7883

Join PWCers at Timberline Meadows, near Mazama in the Methow Valley, for a fun weekend of skiing and potlucking. Emily will coordinate the general event and direct people to open lodging spots. Two houses are already filled; reservation efforts for any additional houses need to be headed up by someone else and then let Emily know the status.

Outings

Kayak Liberty Bay

Saturday, January 16

Contact: Beth Harter, 360-779-9078,
bethharter@embarqmail.com

Be ready to launch from Oyster Plant Park in Poulsbo at 10 am for a tour of Liberty Bay. For a map to the launch site, go to the PWC online calendar.

Nature Conservancy Beach Hike

Saturday, January 16

Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Foulweather Bluff is a 93-acre Nature Conservancy preserve near Hansville. The property was donated to the Conservancy in 1967. We will hike a short trail (¾ mile) through second-growth forest to a salt marsh and beach. Old-growth forests containing red cedar have declined over the past century, but the 70-foot red alders, western red cedar and Douglas fir in the preserve are protected. Ocean spray, sword fern, salal and salmonberry combine to create an understory that is supportive of many birds -- you may see winter wrens, red-breasted nuthatches and chestnut-backed chickadees. Bring binoculars and a light lunch. The lighthouse is the oldest on Puget Sound and has been in service since 1880.

Snowshoe/Hike to Olympic Hot Springs

Sunday, January 17

Contact: Jill Hawes, 360-275-5402

The Olympic Hot Springs are accessed via the Elwha River Valley, just west of Port Angeles. Jill will get as close to the trailhead by car as possible, and then hike the rest of the way in - maybe 3 to 4 miles one way.

Kayak Annis Bay and Skokomish River

Saturday, January 23

Contact: Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

Launch at 9 am from Union, on the south shore of Hood Canal. Go to the PWC online calendar for a map showing the boat ramp. Trip leader is Ken Buher, 360-871-5482, buherkc@wavecable.com

Hike/Snowshoe Mount Rose

Sunday, January 24

Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

This is a mix of hiking and snowshoeing. Rumor has it the road is staying open this winter to the Park boundary. The trail starts at Lake Cushman (767 feet) and ascends to the summit at 4301 feet. There should be at least 10 feet of snow at the summit.

Ski/Snowshoe Obstruction Point Road

Saturday, January 30

Contact: Doug Terry, 360-550-7911

Obstruction Point Road is just east of the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center in Olympic National Park, and offers stunning views into the heart of the Olympics, if the visibility is good.

Hammersley Inlet to Hope Island Paddle

Sunday, January 31

Contact: Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

Launch from Walker Park, just south of downtown Shelton, on Hammersley Inlet. The current assist helps greatly on the way out to Hope Island and on the return. This is a Class II+ paddle. Go to the PWC online calendar for a map. Trip leader is Kim Hoover, kimhoover@comcast.net

Big White Ski Trip

Sunday, January 31 - Saturday, February 6

Contact: Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

Big White is a lift-served ski area in British Columbia with mostly intermediate slopes, and a big cross-country groomed trail system below the lift-served area. A couple of beds are still available in a ski-in/ski-out 10-person condo. For 10 people, one condo seems the most cost-effective arrangement, approximately \$520 per person excluding food (4 days of lift tickets, lodging, and gas).

Winter Camping at Blewett Pass

Saturday, February 6 - Sunday, February 7

Contact: Kevin Koski, 360-373-7429

Join Kevin for winter tenting near Blewett Pass in a snowmobile-free area. There are nice bowls to practice telemark turns in this area. Snowshoes or skis are OK. This is a Maria Trip. Contact Kevin for details.

Ice Climbing in Ouray, CO

Saturday, February 6 - Wednesday, February 10

Contact: Tom Campbell, 360-297-0031,
tomrcampbell@gmail.com

Belaying experience is necessary; ice experience is useful. Airfare to Grand Junction, CO, is running about \$350. Call Tom for more information.

WINTERFEST

Saturday, February 13 - Monday, February 15

Contact: Paul Dutky, 360-479-2683, pdutky@gmail.com

Our annual winter getaway this year is in Leavenworth at The Icicle Inn (<http://www.icicleinn.com/>). Discounted rates have been obtained, and a Bavarian Breakfast is included each morning.

We'll share a meal in one of the rental suites on Saturday night. Among many options: downhill skiing at Mission Ridge or Stevens Pass; miles of groomed trails near Leavenworth and Wenatchee Lake; a Valentine's Day excursion to Scottish Lakes High Camp for interested snowshoers and backcountry skiers; or backcountry skiing/snowshoeing at Blewett Pass.

This is a departure from the now-familiar winter camping inside Stevens Cabin. It's time to try something a bit different.

Contact Paul Dutky for information about accommodations at the Icicle Inn, or talk to Audrey (800-558-2438). Other accommodations in town are available.

Outings

Ski/Snowshoe to Copper Creek Hut

Saturday, February 20 - Sunday, February 21
Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Cross-country ski or snowshoe to Copper Creek Hut in the MTTA trail system. Ski or snowshoe in on Saturday, then spend the night in a heated cabin before heading home Sunday. Overnight slots are limited. If you don't get an overnight space in the hut, don't fret—you are welcome to winter camp outside, or just come up for the day.

Snowshoe/Hike to Olympic Hot Springs

Sunday, February 28
Contact: Cathy Palzkill, 360-692-2547

Hike/snowshoe to Olympic Hot Springs. The trailhead is accessed via the Elwha River entrance to Olympic National Park. Cathy will drive as near to the trailhead as possible, park the car, and hike/snowshoe the rest of the way. Depending on road conditions, it'll be about 3 to 4 miles one way.

Telemark Ski Mount Angeles

Sunday, February 28
Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Hike the Switchback Trail to the bowls on the back side of Mount Angeles. This is telemark heaven. Terrain varies from intermediate to Warren Miller-esque crazy. Snowshoers can join, but they won't have nearly as much fun.



Hike the Greenway Trail

Saturday, March 6
Contact: Charlie Pomfret, 360-479-7820

The Greenway Trail near Hansville passes through forests and wetlands where there are viewing platforms set up for viewing wildlife. We will start at Point No Point and hike about 5 miles round trip.

Ski Mountaineering at Ruby Mountain

Saturday, March 6 - Sunday, March 7
Contact: Kevin Koski, 360-373-7429

This will be a typical Koski trip—not for the faint of heart!

Ski/Snowshoe to High Hut

Saturday, March 13 - Sunday, March 14
Contact: Doug Savage, 360-698-9774

Cross-country ski or snowshoe to High Hut in the MTTA trail system. Ski or snowshoe in on Saturday, then spend the night in a heated cabin before heading home Sunday. Overnight slots are limited. If you don't get an overnight space in the hut, don't fret—you are welcome to winter camp outside, or just come up for the day.

Hike Sea to Sea Trail

Saturday, March 20
Contact: Emily Grice, 206-842-7883

Hike from "Lynwood Center" on Bainbridge Island, along the beach, up to Gazzam Lake, down to Crystal Springs Beach, and back. Elevation gain is 600 feet, twice—the distance is not quite known, but may be a total of 4 miles. Bring a lunch, and we will indulge at a local restaurant on our return. Rain, snow or shine!

Spring Grand Canyon Trip

Saturday, March 27 - Sunday, April 4
Contact: Dave Boyde, 360-692-9325, theboyde@aol.com

A permit has been issued for the following itinerary: 03/29 and 03/30 at Bright Angel Campground, and 03/31 and 04/01 at Indian Garden Campground. We will backpack down the South Kaibab Trail, set up camp, and then explore the Phantom Ranch area on the first day. The second day we will be day hiking either to Phantom Overlook, Summer Wash and Haunted Canyon, or day hiking up the North Kaibab Trail to Ribbon Falls. Day 3 we will backpack up the Bright Angel Trail to Indian Garden, set up camp, and explore the Indian Garden area. Day 4 will be a day hike to Plateau Point, then along the Tonto Trail to Horn Creek, and return to camp. Day 5 we will backpack up to the South Rim on the Bright Angel Trail. Once back on the South Rim, we can visit various viewpoints. The permit issued is only for 6 people, and it is FULL.

OC Climbing Class

Starting April 1
Contact: Brad Albro, 360-830-5342

Brad Albro will be teaching a climbing class at Olympic College. OC hasn't published the spring course schedule yet, but if you'd like to improve your mountaineering skills, remember this class is coming up. If you have any questions, give Brad a call.

Southern Utah Canyonlands Trip

Late April
Contact: Tony Abruzzo, 360-871-5754, or Bob Brown, skipatrol10@hotmail.com

Join us for part or all of a three-week trip to southern Utah! Our major focus will be Canyonlands National Park and the Needles District in particular. We plan on spending one week at the group campground (Squaw Flats-Needles District), 4 days will be spent exploring the White Rim Trail and several of us plan on one additional week camping at Squaw Flats. There are 60 miles of trails available out of Squaw Flats, with a choice of day hikes or several-day backpacking trips. We will also visit Arches, Bryce, Zion, and Capitol Reef Parks. For details, check the trip listing in the online calendar.



Outings

Backpack the Grand Canyon

Saturday, May 15 - Monday, May 24

Contact: David Cossa, 360-871-5577,
cmountaindave@aol.com

For my 16th time down in the Big Ditch, I think I'll do a 55-mile loop hike I've always wanted to do on the North Rim. Starting at remote Sowat Point, reached via some 50 miles of very scenic, high desert, Arizona forest road from Fredonia, Utah, I will descend some 11 miles, over the course of two days, via Sowats Canyon and Jumpup Canyon to Kanab Creek. The largest side canyon of the north side of the Grand Canyon, John Wesley Powell followed it out some 50 miles on his second expedition, going all the way to Fredonia. Kanab Canyon cuts a torturous course down to the Colorado, eventually becoming a narrow slot canyon similar to Paria Canyon: lots of unavoidable sloshing through water amidst 1500-foot cliffs 20 feet apart. This will take another two days, with side trips. Then there'll be a tough day crawling over a trail-less boulder field for 5 miles right along the Colorado to Deer Creek Trail and Falls, one of the premiere destinations for river rafters—along with their freebie beer, with any luck. From there, it's up a good trail to camp on the Esplanade, and a side trip to Thunder Falls. I'll hike out on the seventh day, or possibly the eighth, as a spare day will be planned into the schedule. Water nearly all the way, an easy two days in, an easy two days out—what more could a desert rat hope for! Good knees are a necessity on this hike.

Here are two links that describe the hikes of others and problems they encountered:

http://www.amwest-travel.com/awt_grandc2.html

<http://wildernessvagabond.com/kanabcr05/kanabcr05.htm>

And here's one for inspiration:

<http://www.ksl.com/?sid=743088&nid=148>

I plan to fly to Las Vegas (\$175), rent a car (\$175), and drive 4 hours, ending up in remote Indian Hollow Campground on the North Rim for sunset, after dinner in a Kanab restaurant. The incongruity between dawn and dusk on this day will be extreme to say the least! I will stay in a motel (\$60) in Kanab after hiking out and then fly home the next day.

Editor's Note: to get an idea of what you can expect on this trip, read David's impressions on the Grand Canyon on the next page.



Fall Grand Canyon/Bryce Canyon Trip

Mid-September to early October, 2010

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

We will start off at the North Rim for a rim-to-rim trip (for those interested). This is a 24-mile, one-day trek: 14.4 miles from the North Rim down to the river, and then 9.3 miles up to the South Rim, with a NET elevation loss of 6400 feet and then a NET elevation gain of 4500 feet. We will need 2 people NOT doing the rim-to-rim portion to drive vehicles from the North Rim to the South Rim. They can then spend the day exploring the South Rim. Following the rim-to-rim, (after a potential rest/tourista day), we will do a 4- or 5-day backpack trip in the Grand Canyon. We will then move on to Bryce, where we will do a 3- or 4-day backpack trip, or people can opt for camping at Bryce and doing 3 awesome dayhike loops. The trip will be 14-16 days, including travel days. To get it down to 14, I may be forced to skip the rest day after the rim-to-rim, and/or possibly shorten each of the backpack trips by a day. Group size will be limited to either 6 or 11 due to the Grand Canyon permitting system. I already have 3 people interested in the trip, including the rim-to-rim portion. The permit application will be submitted May 1, 2010.

Announcements

Wanted: PCT Section Hiking Partner(s)

Jay Thompson is looking for a partner(s) to hike a section or two of the PCT in Washington in 2010. He would like to start at Cascade Locks and work north, but he's willing to tag along and do different sections if someone already has plans and needs a partner. He's a strong hiker and looks forward to doing 15- to 20-mile days. Contact Jay at jaythom1@hotmail.com or 360-307-0037 if you're interested.

Attention Nordic Skiers!

Are you interested in joining others carpooling to ski areas with groomed trails to track ski or skate ski this winter? No commitment needed. If you want to join the carpool group, register with Yahoo Groups, and join *PWCxcskiers* at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/PWCxcskiers/>. For questions, contact Paul Dutky at pdutky@gmail.com or 360-479-2683. Having a group of interested members will increase the odds of finding carpool partners, ski companions, and opportunities to learn from one another on the snow. Snoqualmie Pass and Cabin Creek are closest, and the most likely weekend destinations. Sharing the driving makes the round trip more fun and restful, safer, and easier to decide to go skiing in the first place.



Trip Report

Grand Canyon Impressions

Submitted by David Cossa

I've been asked, "So what is it like to be in the Grand Canyon, to see it from the bottom rather than the top?" A show I saw on television once that featured the Grand Canyon explained it quite well. The reporter interviewed various and sundry people in the depths of the Canyon as he came across them: a woman was crossing the Bright Angel Trail bridge over the Colorado River near Phantom Ranch. He approached her and asked, "Now that you've seen it from the bottom and are on the way out, what are your thoughts on the place?" The woman grasped for words a while, and finally stuttered, with tears in her eyes, "I never expected this!" Her head shaking back and forth, she threw her hands and eyes toward the heavens and repeated, "I never expected --- THIS!"

The reporter approached an elderly gentleman and his grandson who were just finishing up a three-week private rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. The boy, about 10, was weeping silently. "What's wrong?" said the reporter, "didn't he enjoy the trip?" "Quite the contrary," said the grandfather, his voice breaking, "He enjoyed it too much. He doesn't want it to end."

The reporter asked a dory guide his opinion of the Grand Canyon. "You've been down this river many times. What is it about the Canyon that impresses you the most? What do you think is its most spectacular feature?" The guide started to say something but then paused. He appeared to be in deep thought. He finally said, "You know, it's the way it affects people. They come as quiet, reserved, sort of stand-offish types, but by the end of the trip they are all a bunch of 8-year-old kids playing at recess."

Yes, that's the Grand Canyon. Your second childhood is waiting for you down there in a sort of bona fide Twilight Zone. I think it is partly the overwhelming sense of isolation. You might as well be on the planet Mars as far as your mind is concerned. The "world" is way up there so very far away, and so very irrelevant to the one you now find yourself in. It's a fresh start. It's a new day, and it's going to be an adventurous one.

On one trip down the Tanner Trail, we made camp halfway down with a most impressive view before us. One woman suffered sensory overload. She perched herself on a ledge in a trance looking out, and every once in a while she simply muttered, "I'm in the most beautiful place in the world," until darkness took the view away. And you know something? She was exactly right.

My first time

I'm one of those people who just didn't get it at first. I read somewhere that the mind rebels at having to accept the vastness of the scene you are witnessing for the first time at the Grand Canyon. Well, that certainly was me. On my first trip there, I had gotten to the Grand Canyon late in the afternoon, checked into a lodge, and went over like so many millions before me to take my first glimpse. I have to say I was not overly impressed. I had seen many, many pictures of the Grand Canyon, and the view pretty much jibed with them. I went back to the lodge and prepared for my 5-day backpack trip.

Bright and early the next morning, I had breakfast and drove to the New Hance Trailhead. It was clear and crisp, my breath easily visible in the early November morning chill. A bank thermometer, as I drove by it, registered 9 degrees. Still not overly impressed by the view, I hoisted my pack and started down. I got no further than the second switchback, when I glanced out at the unfolding scene. My mind suddenly said to itself, "Wait a minute! That's not a pebble I am looking at over there, it's a huge rock!" The shock of this realization was so profound my jaw dropped and I literally plopped down on my butt, pack still on, and simply stared in astonishment for some time. To add to the near dreamlike nature of the place, by the time I was on the river that afternoon, the temperature was in the low 80s, the 9-degree chill of the rim that morning now an incongruent memory of the day.

When I worked in Yellowstone many years ago, we spent many an evening and weekends at the Old Faithful Lodge (the most beautiful building in America!) having a brew or two, and watched many dozens of Old Faithful eruptions. The comments from the kids viewing the spectacle were invariably the same: "That's all, Mom? That's it?" They had built this geyser up in their minds to be 1000 feet tall, and a mere 100 feet could not possibly live up to their expectations.

Quite the opposite was happening here at the Grand Canyon. Many people, I am sure, were disappointed at their first view like I was, not because it didn't live up to their expectations but because their minds refused to accept that infinite vastness they were observing. It simply so far exceeded their expectations that they could not believe it to be true. I wondered how many other people had stared from the South Rim with uncomprehending eyes, mind in rebellious shock, with a vague sense of confusion about the view, and thereby missed the whole show. If only they had just ventured below the rim to let the reality sink in. When I got back to the rim, I felt like shaking the tourists at the overlooks and saying to them, "You're not REALLY seeing it! You HAVE to go below the rim!" Not out of a sense of "I've accomplished what you haven't so let me brag to you," but more to gleefully point out a psychological curiosity that was occurring here.

On my way home, I stopped in Tusayan to watch an IMAX movie called the "Hidden Secrets of the Grand Canyon." I felt so sorry for the non-backpacking tourists in the audience. Here was visible proof of what it was like down there. The all-encompassing IMAX screen left no doubt as to what they were missing by not venturing below the rim.

For 6 months, all I could think about was getting back. The following spring I went again and it has been an addiction ever since. After many times down, I still view it as an impossible place. Such intricate, infinite vastness cannot possibly exist. Yet there it still is every time I return, defying all imagination and reason. So if you have not been, I implore you to go while you are still physically able. Those that have gone know of what I speak.

Editor's Note: David Cossa will be doing his 16th trip into the Grand Canyon in the spring. If you are ready to behold the wonders described here, see the trip description on the previous page.

Club News

PWC Welcomes New Members...

Sean Johnson of Bremerton, Dave & Kara Kohnke of Poulsbo, and Greg Hiatt of Bainbridge Island.

PWC Host

Are you a new member or guest? Look for the PWC Host, identified by a Host nametag, 15 minutes before the General Meeting and during the break. The Host can answer questions and point out PWC trip sponsors that share your interests. Venita Goodrich will be the January Host.

Door Prize Winner

At the December meeting, Russ Childers won the door prize, a SuperFly stove.

Meeting Refreshments

Thanks to all who brought snacks to the December meeting. Contact Doug Savage @ 360-698-9774 if you would like to bring snacks to the next meeting.

Jon's Minute

At the December meeting, Jon talked about skis.

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, Emily Grice, at 206-842-7883.

Sponsor an Outing

If you are planning a trip, let us know about it! Come to the MAP meeting to discuss your trip, or submit trip descriptions to the PENWICLE by contacting Erin Hennings at penwicle@hotmail.com or 360-621-6961. Planning a last-minute outing? No problem - post your trip on the PWC website under Last Minute Trips, or on the PWC Calendar.

Scrapbook Photos Wanted

Sue DeArman is looking for photos of PWC activities. Please include your name, details of the trip, and people and places in the pictures. Electronic photos are welcome, too. Contact Sue DeArman, 360-697-1352, dearmans@comcast.net

Update Your Email Address

Does the PWC have your current email address? If not, contact Venita Goodrich to update your email address and other contact information. Contact Venita by email at vmnotbf@comcast.net, or call 360-698-9774.

PWC Online...www.pwckitsap.org

Go to the website to find upcoming trips, trip reports, photos (including a link to our Flickr page), a discussion forum, and more.

Trip Reports & Photos Wanted

Do you have a great story to share about a recent trip? Erin Hennings is looking for trip reports to print in the PENWICLE. Please send trip reports and photos to Erin at penwicle@hotmail.com

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 discount on select merchandise or services at the following businesses with your PWC membership, but check with vendor for details:

- Olympic Outdoor Center, Port Gamble (NEW location!)
- Vertical World Climbing Gym, Bremerton
- Silverdale Cyclery, Silverdale
- Commander's Beach House Bed and Breakfast, Port Townsend
- Ajax Café, Port Hadlock
- Kitsap Sports, Silverdale
- Poulsbo Running, Poulsbo

New members will receive a membership card with their New Membership packet. All members can pick up a card at the monthly meeting.

Address Changes and Member Address-Phone List

Address changes should be sent to Venita Goodrich at Peninsula Wilderness Club

P.O. Box 323

Bremerton, WA 98337-0070,

or email vmnotbf@comcast.net, or call 360-698-9774.

Members should also contact Venita 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 Erin Hennings at penwicle@hotmail.com or 360-621-6961.

Officers & Staff

President:	Paul Dutky	360-479-2683
Vice President:	Brian Steely	360-297-3825
Secretary:	Emily Grice.....	206-842-7883
Treasurer:	Venita Goodrich...	360-698-9774
Board of Directors:	Barney Bernhard...	360-479-3679
	Maria McGuire	360-876-1639
	Jay Thompson	360-307-0037
Entertainment:	Joe Weigel	360-479-5116
Events:	Brian Steely	360-297-3825
Refreshments:	Doug Savage	360-698-9774
Scrapbook:	Sue DeArman	360-697-1352
Membership Database:	Venita Goodrich...	360-698-9774
Webmaster:	Jay Thompson	360-307-0037
Calendar-Meister:	Paul Dutky	360-479-2683
Penwicle Editor:	Erin Hennings	360-621-6961
Penwicle Proofreader:	Steve Dikowski....	360-692-8386

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 \$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: _____

(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