



Next Meeting

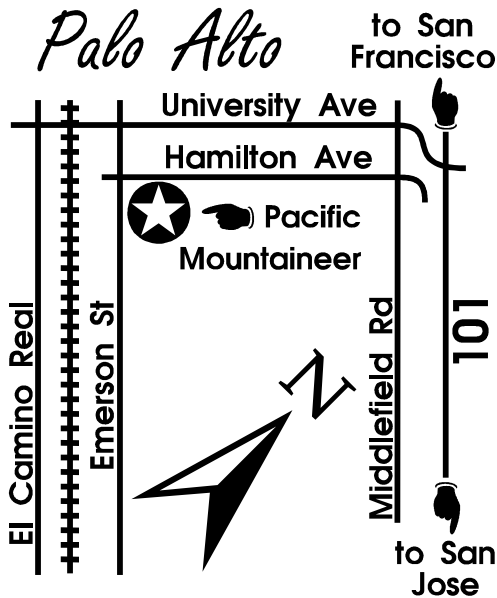
Date: Tuesday 11 June 1996

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Pacific Mountaineer
200 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto

Program: Trango Towers

World Class climber Eric Brand will give a presentation on the Trango Towers.



The easiest way to distinguish the difference between a grizzly bear and a black bear is to climb a tree. If the bear climbs up the tree and eats you, it is a black bear. If the bear knocks the tree down and eats you, it is a grizzly.

Subscription/Application Form

To apply for or to renew your subscription to SCREE and/or membership in the PCS, or to change your address, please fill in the form below. Please provide all information so that we can update outdated information and maintain the best possible roster. For the safety of our members, your street address will not be printed when the roster is published in the Scree/EScree, nor will your telephone numbers if you indicate so at the bottom of the form. But please remember, we publish the roster so that other PCS members can reach you when coordinating trips, or to return gear that you left in their cars, so the more information the better!

Please return this completed form, along with your check to cover the subscription fee [if you need to renew] and/or your donation [as requested on the back page], to the PCS Treasurer [at the US mail or Email address on the back page].

- Charles Schafer

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OK to release my phone when publishing the roster? Y / N

Note: The roster may be re-published in the July issue if there are sufficient changes as a result of this form. Please send it now, even if you are not renewing your subscription at this time. Email subscribers should fill in their phone number or address so non-email subscribers can reach them! In the future, your hardcopy issue of the Scree should contain this (or a similar) form one month before you must renew. Your mailing label indicates the month your subscription expires.

- Editor

Lassen

On Saturday 4th May 1996, 5 of us climbed Lassen Peak (10,457'), lead by George Van Gorden. The others were Adrienne, Liz Binkley, Ted Raczeck and Arun Mahajan.

We started hiking at the parking lot for the Sulphur Works which is close to the Lassen Chalet (southwest entrance of the park, via 89). The road was closed at that point, even though they had taken the pains to plow it right up to Lake Helen, something we couldn't fathom why.

With George on skis and the rest on snowshoes, we followed a ski trail till we came to Diamond point where we got the road. After a couple of such cut-thrus, we walked on the road till we were at Lake Helen. There is a lot of snow there, we saw banks of up to 20' on the side of the road at some places.

From Lake Helen, we headed up towards the ridge that leads to the summit. At about 9000', we switched to crampons and after some steep parts came to the ridge. We did cross the Lassen Peak trail at a couple of places. Within 20 mins after getting the ridge, we were at the summit. George climbed it from the steeper south side, while the rest came up from around the summit hump. It had taken us 5 hrs to get the summit. It was about 2 pm then.

It was a perfect day, warm and low winds. It was not clear enough to see Diablo to the south (as has been claimed), but Shasta dominated the view in the north. After 30 mins for lunch at the summit, we headed down. Getting down up to Lake Helen was quick due to a couple of exciting glissades. After slogging the rest of the way cross-country, we made it to the cars at 6pm. It was a 9 hour day with close to 4000' gain (the chalet is at 6640' I think) at a moderate pace.

It is 6.75 miles by road to the trailhead of the Lassen Peak trail from the Chalet, and 2.3 miles to the summit by the LP Trail. It is not clear how many miles we clipped off by cutting thru the switchbacks, but judging by how tired we were, it could have been a 14 to 15 mile round-trip.

Here endeth the lassen.

– Arun Mahajan

Third Time's The....

John Muir climbed Mt. Shasta for the last time on April 30, 1875, forty days following the vernal equinox. During the descent of this majestic mountain, he and his partner found "...wind sufficiently violent to hurl us bodily over the cliffs (and)...our only hope was in wearing away the afternoon and night among the fumaroles, where we should at least avoid freezing." Kai Wiedman's adventurous and memorable winter trip to Shasta reminded us of the renowned naturalist and explorer. Fortunately, ours did NOT include an overnight in the sulfur hot springs!

Twice our plans to climb Mt. Shasta via Sergeant's Ridge had been scrapped due to harsh winter weather reports. To truly have a winter ascent of Mt. Shasta, we had to climb the peak before March 20th, the vernal equinox, and, technically, the space-time continuum marker for Spring. The weekend of March 16-17 proved fruitful, as the sun was shining on our window of opportunity. Away we went, gathering at the Bunny Flat trailhead, ready to climb—Kai, our leader, Chris Kramar, Phyllis

Olrich, and me (Debbie Benham). As Phyllis said on the drive to Shasta City, "We didn't come up here to footsy around!!"

We reached Sergeant's Ridge and started up the 'dog leg'. Spin drift was seen off the Ridge and whirling from Shasta-Rama. We stashed our snow shoes half-way up the leg of Sergeant's and, simultaneously, decided to make base camp near the Thumb, the intersection of Green Butte and Sergeant's. This would allow a speedier ascent the next day, especially with the wind looking fierce on the flat landscape of Shasta-Rama. Sun beating down, we stayed on the west side of the Ridge. Gusts of wind hit us occasionally as we traversed 45 degree slopes, each of us taking the lead in short bursts. As I crunched my boot into the soft layering of snow, embedding my ice axe with each step, I felt strong and was looking toward the hidden summit with anticipation.

Then, almost without realizing it, the wind did not let up, did not stop, did not relent. Prone against the mountain, boot tips dug in perpendicular to the slope, ice axe shoved in, we, each one of us, realized we would go no further. Kai started to descend and I, for one, breathed a sigh of relief. The wind had taken my strength away. Phyllis called it "the ridge from hell." Kai and Chris estimated the winds to be 80 mph.

We descended twice trying to find a calm area to camp for the night. The winds blew all night. The next morning, ever gallant, the gentlemen again climbed the ridge to retrieve our snowshoes. We treated them to lunch in town. Thank you again guys! And, thanks, Kai, for a grand adventure in the mountains!

MOUNTAINEERING TIP: Kai suggests the following to train for a winter summit of Mt. Shasta: go to a nearby international airport; stand naked behind a 747; and feel the air-blast of the plane preparing for take-off.

– Debbie Benham (3/30/96)

Girl Bears Shots To Save Cub

Silver City, New Mexico: Seven year-old Juliette Harris is getting seven rabies shots, each through a five-inch needle, to save the life of a little black bear cub that Nipped Her. "I just didn't want that cute baby bear to die", said Juliette. "he's so small."

Juliette, who lives in front of bear creek in Pinos Altos, came across the cub she's named "Stubby" on may 5th while walking in the woods. she was lugging the 8-pound cub home for a pet when it bit her hand.

Juliette led authorities to the little cub, who state officials said would have to be killed and examined for rabies. That's when Juliette, a lifelong animal lover, started to bargain. She would take seven rabies shot through a 5-inch needle if the bear could be saved. "Those needles hurt, but not that bad," said Juliette. "The first day, I had to have one in my leg and one in my arm, which wasn't so good."

Her parents are footing the bill, which will total more than \$1500. Meanwhile, the female cub is being cared for by 'Gila Wildlife Rescue' of Silver City and is expected to be sent to an Espanola wildlife center. The bear might be released in the late autumn or next spring.....

– Mike Ogurek <MOgurek@gnn.com>, on rec.backcountry

Notes and Requests

Gregory Snowcreek Looking For Good Home

I have a large (it fits me nicely and I am 5' 10") Gregory Snowcreek internal frame pack I am selling for \$25. It needs one small patch but other than that it is in great shape. If you have any questions drop me a line and I will do my best to answer them.

– John Flavin <John_Flavin@3mail.3Com.COM>

Private Trek: Nepal 1996

The world's most scenic views of Annapurna and Mt. Everest from the Tengboche Monastery will be only one of the many mountain views we'll enjoy. This 18-20 day trek takes us through Namche Bazaar with the climb of Gokyo Ri - Kala Patar - option of Island Peak (20,300ft.). This private \$1550 trek is in October which is the best weather time. For more information, fax 415-4493-8975 or phone 415-493-8959.

– Warren Storkman <dstorkman@aol.com>

Mountain Hardwear Trango 3 4-Season Tent

I have a Mountain Hardwear Trango 3 4-season tent for sale. It's similar to a Sierra Designs Stretch Dome, but better. I have used both, and the Mountain Hardwear tent has better features. If you have read the reviews, you know that Mountain Hardwear makes some of the best 4-season products around. Hard-core mountaineers like Ed Viesturs use Mountain Hardwear tents. This tent is like-new, used maybe three times. More details can be viewed on the web:

<http://www.sportsite.com/mountain/trango.html>

It's a \$400 tent. Make offer at 408-446-0387 (work) or email.

– Will Estes <westes@netcom.com>

Premier Preteen on Peak!

12 year old Merrick Johnston is the youngest person to summit Denali. After a rigorous training regime of hiking with a full pack for four to five hours twice a week, four days each week of gymnastics and snowboarding on the weekends, Merrick began her 26 day approach. Accompanied by her mother ("Would you send a 12 year old up by herself?") and a guide team, the youngster reached the summit on June 23. She plans to climb all of the seven summits -- after completing seventh grade!

Private Peruvian Exploration Trip

Explore Machu Picchu, and the Cordella Balanc in August. Exact departure dates are TBD as is the duration of our trip (2 - 3 weeks), but at a minimum, I plan to visit both Machu Picchu and the Cordillera Blanca or the Huayhuash "one of the most spectacular mountain circuits in the world." If there is sufficient interest, we will climb a peak, or trek any of a number of trails. Interested? This is a private, non-guided, led or otherwise commercial trip (i.e. I'm going, not "organizing" or "leading". If you would like to go, I'd like to have you along). Participants should be prepared to hike long miles at high altitude (up to 16,000 ft.) on a daily basis.

– Tim Hult 408-970-0760

GPS, Use It Or Loose It?

I've just been reading in the paper about the recent tragedy on Everest, including the presumed death of Rob Hall. The story makes a profound statement: "High technology, better clothing and improved equipment have made it far easier to climb the highest mountains, but also easier to get into situations that can suddenly become fatal." To add to this, one of Hall's associates, Andy Harris, "somehow missed the tents in the whiteout." Too bad he didn't have and use GPS to help guide himself back to camp. Could GPS have made a difference? A life and death difference? It's high tech and from my experience could have easily guided him back, "safely", to his tent. I've been scorned by some who say that using GPS is "cheating", or isn't proper mountaineering etiquette. They eschew GPS's advantages and its potential to resolve route finding dilemmas as was apparently experienced by Harris. I've found GPS isn't an end-all to route finding. It is a navigational AID, albeit a very powerful aid. You can still misuse the device, but it seems to me in Harris's situation it may have helped save his life. Call me a cheater, but don't call me late for happy hour.

– Mark Adrian <mark.adrian@EBBS.CTS.COM>

Permit Scalping

The Editor was not at the PCS meeting, but has heard that one person stood up and said he had adopted a "saturation" approach and had permits for just about every weekend during the climbing season, which he was willing to sell to others.

The PCS has not taken a position on transferring permits, but this Editor thinks we should step back and think about whether we would like others to do what we might do... namely give permits to others instead of turning them back in to the service for re-issue. How would you like it if all the permits for your trailhead were taken by another climbing group, or by an individual, so that you had to join their club or pay their prices to enjoy the wilderness?

Below is email from the SC-PEAKS broadcast which indicates the potential risk of giving away or selling permits. If scalping (with or without profit) becomes common, I assume enforcement will inevitably follow.

– Editor

From: Wbenti@aol.com
Subject: Re: Legality issue/permits

I just spoke with the Bridgeport office of the USFS, and was told permits are not transferable (fine/misdemeanor). Apparently, one of the reasons this system was developed by the USFS was to keep permits from being scalped/sold in a "black market" type of situation. Also, to fulfill the requests made by people who went to the trouble of sending/faxing in an order but didn't get a permit the first time around.

I suppose you could risk it. I've not ever been asked for ID by a backcountry ranger - only to see the permit in possession.

Too bad, cause I was going to pounce upon the ones [name removed] had to offer for [place removed]! Good intentions! Oh well!

Official (PCS) Trips

PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see back cover for details). Trips not submitted to the Scheduler will be listed as PRIVATE, without recourse.

Visualize Whorled Mountaineers

Peaks: Whorl (12,029'), Matterhorn (12,264') class 3
Dates: June 8-10 Sat-Mon
Maps: Matterhorn Peak 15' quadrangle or
Twin Lk, Dunderberg Pk & Matterhorn Pk 7.5'
Leader: Aaron Schuman H 415-933-1901
schuman@sgi.com W 415-968-9184
Co-leader: Steve Eckert H/W 415-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com

Test your advanced mountaineering skills on the two most savage crags of the rugged Sawtooth Range. We'll start from Twin Lakes (7,092'), just west of Bridgeport, immediately take on the waterfall leading to the hanging Horse Creek valley, camping by a frozen tarn at 10,500'. Sunday at dawn we'll surmount the cornice of 10,700' Horse Creek Pass, sidehilling to the Whorl Mountain. We'll search for the class 3 route Roper claims to have found, but we'll be prepared to belay the original class 4 route if necessary. Monday we'll set out from the same high camp, gaining Matterhorn Peak from the pass, then pack out. Competence on steep snow and rock are required of all participants.

Goode and Agassiz

Peaks: Agassiz (13,891'), Goode (13,092') class 2
Dates: June 29-30 Sat-Sun
Leader: Debbie Benham (before 10pm) H 415-964-0558
Co-Leader: Bill Kirkpatrick H 408-293-2447
0003780631@mcimail.com W 408-279-3450

Formerly called Agassiz Needle, this "giant mass" lies at the northwest end of the Palisades. On Saturday, we'll climb Mt. Agassiz from Bishop Pass and enjoy the magnificent views. Before packing out on Sunday, we'll hike up Mt. Goode. We welcome all beginning peak climbers with prior backpacking experience.

Taboose Pass Peak Fest

Peaks: Arrow, Pinchot, Wynne, Striped, Goodale class 3
Dates: June 30-July 6 Sun-Sat
Leader: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036

This week-long backpack and peak fest will take us to the top of Taboose Pass where peaks abound. We'll take two days to get to our first base camp above Bench Lake from where we shoot to Arrow (class 2, 12,958'). Secor calls the view of Arrow from the Bench Lake Trail one of the classic views in the Sierra. Next we head back to Lake Marjorie to score Pinchot (class 2, 13,495') and Wynne (class 3 13,179'). Then it's back to the pass to skunk Goodale (class 2, 12,790') and Striped (class 2, 13,120'). On the way we'll take time to smell the flowers and enjoy the views. A \$5 check reserves your place. Check with leader to be sure there is room.

Ansel Adams

Peak: Mt Ansel Adams (12,760') class 3
Map: Mt Lyell 7.5 min topo
Dates: July 4-7 Thur-Sun
Leader: Kai Wiedman 415-347-5234
Co-Leader: Phyllis Olrich 415-322-0323

Steve Roper calls this peak a spectacular sight from the Lyell Fork of the Merced. The real attraction of this area lies in the remote, sublime beauty of these peaks, lakes and views. Some of the most spectacular scenery in the Park is found in this area with its vast sweeping panoramas. Our trip will take us 22 miles into this rugged and remote landscape. Come join us for this once in a lifetime experience.

It's Brewer, Bubb!

Peak: Mt Brewer (13,570') class 2
Dates: July 12-14 Fri-Sun
Leader: Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: Bill Kirkpatrick

From the trailhead in Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon (5075') the route follows Bubbs Creek to Junction Meadows, then East Creek to our camp at East Lake (9,445'). The second day we'll go up Ouzel Creek and climb the south ridge to the summit. Permit for 6.

Virginia and Twin

Peaks: Virginia (12,001'), Twin (12,314') class 3
Map: Matterhorn Peak USGS 15'
Dates: July 13-14 Sat-Sun
Leader: Jim Ramaker 408-224-8553 evenings
ramaker@vnet.ibm.com

Steep metamorphic rock and beautiful surroundings keep bringing me back to this enchanting corner of northeast Yosemite. Join me for another go. We'll do the 7-mile hike from Green Creek to Return Lake on Saturday, and maybe do a warm-up climb of Grey Butte (11,200) in the late afternoon. Sunday we'll tackle the east face of Virginia, and time permitting, traverse the ridge over to Twin (12,314). Virginia is fairly steep and loose, so experienced class 3 climbers only on this trip.

Will You Sing, Gale?

Peak: Gale, Sing class 2
Dates: Jul 20-21 Sat-Sun
Map: Merced Peak 15 min Quad
Leader: Warren Storkman 415-493-8959
dStorkman@aol.com

We go over Chiquito Pass in Southern Yosemite Park. Call leader for more information.

Russell's Horns

Peak: Mt Russell (14,086') class 3
Dates: July 28-30 Sun-Tue
Leader: Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: Bill Kirkpatrick

Starting from the Mt Whitney trailhead we'll go up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek and camp at Upper Boy Scout Lake. Monday we'll head for the east arete via the Russell-Carillion saddle. The scary part will be crossing from the east horn to the west horn (which is the highest). An option after the Russell climb is to hike in the Mt Langley area for 3-4 more days. Permit for 6.

Royce With Roger

Peak: Royce Peak (13,253') class 2
Dates: Aug 24-25 Sat-Sun
Leader: Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: (wanted)

We start from the Pine Creek Pass trailhead near Bishop. We climb 4000' to the top - about 11,200' - and camp. On Sunday we climb the southeast ridge to the summit of Royce. I bout that we'll also climb Merriam Peak, but it's an option. Permit for 8.

Muriel Peak

Peak: Muriel (12,942'), Goethe (13,240') class 3
Dates: Sept 14-16 Sat-Mon
Leader: Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: Bill Kirkpatrick

This is the Glacier Divide between Humphrey's Basin and Darwin Canyon. From the North Lake trailhead we go up 2000' over Piute Pass and camp at Muriel Lake (11,336'). Sunday we take the class 2 knapsack pass up through the keyhole (12,560') then up the southeast ridge to the summit of Muriel Peak. Next we drop down to Alpine Col (12,320') and climb the class 3 northeast ridge on Mount Goethe. Permit for 8.

1,100 Mile Coastal Walk

On June 1, a handful of Bay area hikers will take a 1,110-mile, 112-day trek from Oregon to Mexico, to demonstrate their commitment to preserving California's coastal trails and beaches. Coastwalk spokeswoman Vonnice Madigan said five hearty hikers from Santa Rosa, Alameda, Los Altos, Walnut Creek and Cotati will join 13 other Californians to draw attention to the importance of keeping public land open along the state's coast.

Fifty-seven-year-old Dinesh Desai and his 49-year-old wife, Joy, of Los Altos, said they plan to hike 650 miles from San Francisco down to Mexico with their friend Bob Cowell, 51, of Alameda. The retired couple said they are both mountain climbers and aren't worried about walking 12 or so miles a day and camping outdoors.

Marilyn Goeller, a 57-year-old Walnut Creek resident who suffers from arthritis but plans to do the entire trek anyway, said she is going on the Coastwalk for both personal and public reasons. "I want to show that a woman my age in my physical condition can get out there and do this. But I also want to show everyone my commitment to keeping California's coast open to the public," she said.

The hike is timed to honor the Coastal Act's 20th anniversary. It is the first California Coastal Trail Hike of its kind and is sponsored in part by the Coastal Conservancy. Madigan said the walkers, who range in age from 18 to 72 years and who are mostly women, will walk along state beaches until Sept. 17. On the way, they will meet up with others who will join them on partial day hikes throughout the walk. Each person raised some \$3,000 to walk on the hike and those who participate for a day will pay about \$30, Madigan said.

On July 16, the hikers will walk through the Marin Headlands, over the Golden Gate Bridge, and along Baker and China beaches in San Francisco.

- Aaron Schuman <schuman@sgi.com>

A Scouting Trip Gone Tragically Right

This report is dedicated to Tony "the snowstorm" Cruz, who has tried two springs in a row to do Williamson via George Creek. I was with him last year when knock-you-down winds turned us back from the lip of the summit plateau (or maybe the lower shoulder). It was snowing and we could not look into the stinging wind and several people had cold extremities. Good call to turn back.

This year, Tony put together a merry band of climbers and lengthened the trip in the hope of getting higher and increasing the odds of a short and sweet summit day. But then again, you probably read Rich Calliger's trip report about getting snowed out on a solo pre-climb conditioning trip. Icy base with a foot of fresh snow on top. We canceled the scheduled trip in deference to avalanche danger, and because a second storm was bearing down. Oh, well.

Some of us, however, refuse to unpack our packs until we get the job done. I was interested in scouting a CMC trip in the area, so David Harris and I headed up George Creek on Friday (4/26/96) still thinking about whether to try packing up to 11000 and summiting the second day or packing two days in a row to get up to 12000. Our packs were laden with all the stuff that we needed to survive Rich's snowy experience, much of which we never even unpacked!

If you've never been up this drainage, DON'T follow the guide book suggestions. Stay on the north side of the stream, never more than 50' above it, where there is a nice trail from road's end to the first big turn of the stream. Lots of fake trails go up the sandy slope, but if you stick near the stream you will re-discover the good one. When you get to tall cliffs in a major bend, you need to cross to the south side. The trail goes to the stream here, but you should cross 100' downstream where there is a big log.

Once on the south side, you are set except for two obstacles. One is a 20' cliff that can be scaled with the aid of fallen limbs (which we did, dragging the packs up with an ice axe) or you can cross the stream and IMMEDIATELY cross back. If you make the mistake of staying on the north, you will pay with scratched legs. The second obstacle is where the stream brushes against a rock wall. We chose to hop the stream and come back, but you may be able to climb above this one. Stay on the south side all the way to where the stream forks, then go to the north of the north fork and stay there until you hit campsites in the 10000-11000' range. There are many places to dig in a tent if you don't mind snow camping. There is also a flat spot around 9000', but that would make a 5000+ summit day.

OK, back to the story: I was encountering some "intestinal distress", and almost turned back at 11000' on peak day (day 2 of the trip). David graciously offered to carry almost all of our gear, and we managed to maintain about 800 ft/hr average to the peak, arriving at noon. The snow was crampon-hard, even with plastic boots, until it warmed up later in the day and at about 13000'.

A couple was camped near us, and had summited the day we packed in, but they were monosyllabic in their responses. Our favorite was when we asked them if they had lost a water bottle. No response. We told them we found one on the way in. "Good for you." We dubbed them The UnFriendly Couple, and remarked to each other that we had never before been unable to get info on conditions from someone descending.

Another group, climbing Bairs Creek, was nice enough to start at 4:30am on the same day we summited, and left a nice trail of kicked steps up to the final summit plateau. (They were Sierra Clubbers from LA, but not on an official trip.) We had lunch, admired the view, checked out my intended loop of Barnard/Trojan/Versteeg (which can't be done via the route I wanted to take because one chute is too steep for safe snow travel), chatted, took pictures, etc. All that summit stuff we love so well.

Back in camp by 2, we decided to shoot for dinner in Lone Pine. It had taken 8.5 hours to pack in from 6200 to 10000, and it took 5 hours to pack out. Tough both ways, but it was nice to have someone else cook dinner after a 13 hour summit day. If you're going this year, do NOT take plastic boots. You won't want them until 11000', and there are a lot of logs and rocks to climb over.

Let's all drink a toast to Tony, and encourage him NOT to take the easy way in this summer. Save Williamson for the challenge and the views as the high sierra unfolds during your climb out of the George Creek drainage next year. It's a two-day trip if you are in good shape, and if you can drive back the next day or crash at someone's house in Ridgecrest!

– Steve Eckert

Roundtop & Roundabout

Trip report of the PCS trip to Roundtop Mountain (10381 ft) and Red-Lake-Peak (10000+), March 16/17 1996. George Van Gorden (leader), Dennis Hilpakka, Richard and Helena Verrow, Scott Kreider, Ted Raczek and Arun Mahajan

16th March, Saturday. Red Lake Peak.

We all gathered at about 11 am at the snow-park at Carson Pass, a few miles north of the Kirkwood XC Ski place. (Remember to obtain the snow-park permits which cost \$3 per day at the XC place, else there is a \$75.0 citation.) We hiked with full packs for about a mile south of the pass and set up camp. Then we set off for Red Lake Peak which is on the north side of the pass.

This peak is not visible from the pass. The climbing begins almost right away and we had to use snowshoes. After some steep uphill, we came to the shoulder of the first hill which is the beginning of the ridge that goes eastwards to the summit. Potential avalanche danger made George decide on going this way rather than go straight up the chute leading to the summit. Here we dropped our snow shoes and climbed the first hill. Then we put on our crampons, though they were not strictly needed. The final walk is a little strenuous and it was cold when the wind picked up.

With George leading the way, we were soon at the summit at 3 pm after a total of 2.5 hrs from the camp site. We had good views of Pyramid Peak and Tahoe and Roundtop. Then, a little more than an hour of brisk down climbing got us back down to the pass. I did not see this peak in the SPS list. Wonder why? It is a beautiful summit.

17th March, Sunday. Roundtop Mountain.

We started at 8.30 am in snowshoes towards Roundtop. We mostly stuck to the XC-ski trail and once we got out of the woods, Roundtop was in full view. It is a very picturesque peak with a steep summit block. Between us and the peak is some excellent ski terrain, heaven for back-country skiers. George was on his skis, the rest had snowshoes. We slogged to the base, and

then we climbed to the final ridge from the gully on the right, as it was rather steep to go straight up to the ridge. Once on the ridge, we switched to crampons.

The snow was crusty. I suppose we could have done without crampons too, but having an axe was very prudent. George led the push. It was quite steep but the snow wasn't hard or icy and after some cautious climbing we reached the summit. It had taken us 3 hrs from the camp. After lunch and basking in the balmy sun ('vibing with nature' as Helena called it) and soaking-in the glaciated scenery, we started down. Again after some careful descending and after the trudge thru the rest of the trail, we were back at the camp site. It had taken us 3 hrs to the summit, and a little over 2 hours to get back to the tent site.

– Arun Mahajan

Arun didn't mention it in his trip report, but Red Lake Peak is the first recorded peak climb in the Range of Light. Francis P. Farquhar, in the History of the Sierra Nevada, quotes the diaries of first ascenders Lt. John C. Fremont and Charles Preuss:

Preuss: Feb 13, 1843:

"Today the 'field marshal' marched out with a party on snowshoes to open up a way to the summit, about ten miles distant, it appears. Tomorrow we shall probably know whether it is possible to get through. No longer any salt in camp. This is awful ... We are now completely snowed in. The snowstorm is on top of us. The wind obliterates all tracks which, with indescribable effort, we make for our horses. At the moment no one can tell what will really happen. It is certain that we shall have to eat horse meat. I should not mind if we only had salt."

Fremont: Feb 14, 1844:

"With Mr. Preuss, I ascended today the highest peak to the right: from which we had a beautiful view of a mountain lake at our feet, about fifteen miles in length, and so entirely surrounded by mountains that we could not discover an outlet."

"From the immediate foot of the peak we were two hours in reaching the summit, and one hour and a quarter in descending. The day had been very bright, still, and clear, and spring seems to be advancing rapidly. While the sun is in the sky, the snow melts rapidly, and gushing springs cover the mountain in all exposed places; but their surface freezes instantly with the disappearance of the sun."

Illustration is on the World Wide Web at
<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/MultiMedia/redlake.gif>

– Aaron Schuman

I always bring a little bit of liquor on an expedition in case the opportunity comes up that I can make a toast, and the Sherpas assure me that Buddha likes Jack Daniels
-- Sandy Hill Pittman

Unofficial (Private) Trips

Private trips may be submitted directly to the Scree Editor, but are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club. They are listed here because they may be of interest to PCS members, not because they are endorsed by the PCS.

Avalanche Pass Area

Peaks: Palmer Mtn (11,250'), Sphinx Crest (11,256')
Maps: Marion Pk, Mt Whitney 15 min quads
Dates: June 8-9 Sat-Sun
Contact: Siamak Navid H 415-361-8548
sia@vid.hp.com W 408-553-3850

The plan is to go up Sphinx Creek trail in Cedar Grove and try the peaks around Avalanche Pass. Possibilities are Palmer Mtn and Sphinx Crest. NOTE: These peaks are not in the guidebooks and are not classified, so there is a good chance that they are harder than we expect. We will not attempt anything harder than class 3.

Celebrate Solstice on Mt. Williamson

Peak: Williamson (14,375'), Tyndall (14,018') class 3
Map: Mt Williamson 7.5 topo
Dates: June 21-23 Fri-Sun
Contact: Phyllis Olrich 415-322-0323
phylliso@forsythe.stanford.edu

This trip is full, but I am accepting names for the waiting list.

We'll hike up and over Shepherd Pass on Friday to camp in the Williamson Bowl. This will give us all day Saturday to navigate our way up the "confusing maze of chutes" that make up the Bolton Brown Route. Sunday we hike out with an optional climb of Tyndall on the way. This will be a long, gruelling trip, but should prove very rewarding if we make the summit of this, the second highest peak in the Sierras. Permit for 6 received.

Williamson Rescheduled

Peak: Williamson (14,375') class 3
Map: Mt Williamson 7.5 topo
Dates: June 21-23 Fri-Sun
Contact: Tony Cruz 408-944-2003
CRUZ@idt.com

This time I intend to try Williamson via the Bolton Brown route over Shepherd Pass. (My plan is to continue scheduling Spring trips up George Creek until I make Williamson via this route, so look for my notice next Spring.) This will be a LONG hike and it is technically more difficult than the George Creek route. The route is class 2 except for an exposed 75 foot section of class 3 near the summit.

It is possible for the energetic to bag two 14ers on this trip, since Mt. Tyndall will be nearby (however my main objective is Williamson, since I already bagged Tyndall). There is an exposed class 2 route on Tyndall near Shepherd pass and there are several tougher routes on the mountain.

There is a separate group of six PCS'ers which also plans to climb Williamson during the same weekend, but we will not be part of this group.

The Killer Kaweah Trip

Peaks: Triple Divide, 3 Kaweahs, etc snow/class 4
Dates: June 29 - July 7 (9 days) Sat-Sun
Contact: Bob Suzuki (before 8pm) H 408-259-0772
Bsuzuki@aol.com W 510-657-7555

This nine day backpack/peak climbing trip will start from Wolverton in western Sequoia National Park. We'll take two days to hike past Hamilton Lakes, over Kaweah Gap, and setup basecamp in Nine Lake Basin. Five days of peak climbing are then planned - our goals will include Eagle Scout, Stewart, Lion Rock, Triple Divide and the three Kaweahs (elevations ranging from 12,000' - 13,800'). There is one space remaining on a permit for four. Please contact me if interested, but only strong and experienced peak climbers will be considered.

U-Notch To North Palisade

Peak: North Palisade (14,242') class 5
Dates: July 4-7 Thur-Sun
Contact: Peter Maxwell 408-737 9770

Secor describes this as "THE classic peak of the High Sierra. It is striking from a distance, and it has routes that will challenge climbers of all abilities and preferences." We will take the U-notch route from the east, involving a 700' 40-degree snow/ice climb. This will be a difficult climb, and suitable for experienced climbers only. The number of people on the trip will be contingent on class 5 leaders being available.

Darwin, Evolution Region

Peaks: Darwin and others (13,000+) class 3
Trailhead: North Lake, with car shuttle to Bishop Pass.
Dates: July 4-7 Thur-Sun
Contact: Chris Kramar W 415-926-6861

Cross country over Lamarck Col into one of the most famous and popular areas in the Sierra Nevada. Walter Starr Jr. wrote that the Evolution country was "the region where the grand crescendo of the Sierra touches at once the heart of the mountaineer and the artist." We will travel through Evolution Canyon to Muir pass and out Bishop Pass in four days, catching Darwin and other peaks along the way. Possible peaks include Goddard, Black Giant, Scylla, Charybdis and others. To reserve a spot, send \$3 (permit fee) and contact information (name, address, phone etc.) to 4302 Ribera St., Fremont, CA 94536

Julius Caesar

Peak: Mt. Julius Caesar (13,196') class 3
Maps: Mt. Hilgard, Mt. Tom topos
Dates: July 20-21 Sat-Sun
Contact: Debbie Benham H 415-964-0558
Co-Contact: Phyllis Olrich H 415-322-0323
phylliso@forsythe.stanford.edu

Et tu, Bruts? Join us for a lively, mid-summer climb over Italy Pass. We'll ascend via the west ridge which Roper calls a "Classic Class 3". Permit for 8.

**The wild places are where we began.
When they end, so do we.
-- David Brower**

Great Western & Kings-Kern Divides

Peaks: Ericsson, Stanford, Table, Midway, etc.
Maps: Mt Brewer and Sphinx Lakes quads
Dates: July 20-27 Sat-Sat
Contact: Andrew Hassell 415-493-3342
hassella@math.Stanford.EDU

Unofficial trip to the the heart of King's Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, July 20-27. Eight day backpacking and peak climbing (class 3 max) trip starting from Bubb's Creek on the western side. We will climb some of the following: Mt Ericsson (13608 ft), Mt Stanford (13963 ft), Table Mtn (13630 ft), Midway Mtn (13666 ft), Milestone Mtn (13641 ft) and Triple Divide Peak (12634 ft).

Great Western and Kings-Kern Divide Climb-o-Rama

Peaks: Milestone, etc, etc class 3 & 4 - 13,000'+
Dates: July 27 - Aug 4 Sat-Sun (week)
Contact: Kelly Maas 408-279-2054
maas@idt.com

After slogging over Shepherd Pass, we'll spend a week climbing the 13000' peaks at the headwaters of the Kern River. Priority peaks include Milestone, Table, Thunder and Midway. We'll fit in as many more as we can, choosing from Genvra, Jordan, Ericsson, Stanford, etc. Most peaks are class 3, but some are class 2, and some have class 4 summit blocks. My earlier announcement was only a survey, but showed that this trip will be over-subscribed. Contact me if interested, even if you did so earlier. Note that Andrew Hassell also has a trip to approx the same area.

Advance Schedule

Please do not contact the leaders to sign up for trips listed here. Leaders are asked not to accept signups until the trip is formally announced with OFFICIAL/PRIVATE TRIP designation from the PCS Scheduler. Trips in the next month should be announced already, and this list covers un-announced trips for a few more months to help you plan ahead. If you are planning a trip, if you change your trip, or if you can't get a permit, please contact the Editor to keep this list up to date. Names will be listed unless you request that only the peak be listed:

JULY

4-7 Red & Black Kaweah Paul Magliocco
27-28 Mills and Abbot John Ingvaldstad

AUGUST

17-18 Russell John Ingvaldstad
17-19 Darwin & Mendel Bob Suzuki & Charles Schafer
22-25 Devils Crag & Wheel Cecil and Paul Magliocco
29-2 Thunder, Dehorn, etc Cecil Magliocco & David Ress
31-2 Gabb/Hilgard Peter Maxwell
31-2 Mokelumne River Canyon John Ingvaldstad

SEPTEMBER

7-8 Tuolumne Meadows car camp Magliocco & Schuman
14-15 Dana Couloir (ice) George Van Gorden
13-15 Clarence King Charles Schafer
20-22 Whitney Portal Area (TBD) Debbie Benham
20-22 Whorl & Virginia Bob Suzuki & Debbie Bulger
21-22 Convict Car Camp (Morrison & Laurel) (name withheld)
27-29 Vandever, Florence, Sawtooth Aaron Schuman

How to Submit Trips to the Scree (please clip and save)

Just a reminder from the Scree Editor.... If you want to announce a climb in any issue of the Scree/EScree, you need to decide if it will be an official Sierra Club PCS trip or a private trip without Club insurance. If it's private, you can just send email to the Scree editor (me) at <eckert@netcom.com>.

If it's a PCS trip, you must send a letter or call the PCS Trip Scheduler as follows:

Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
761 Nash Avenue, Menlo Park CA 94025

If you send me the text of your trip announcement in parallel with sending it to Roger, there will be less errors (like Kai's recent announcement) and I will be happy. However you send in the trip announcement, make sure it's complete!

Look at an old Scree for the format of the announcement, and follow it as closely as possible. Include the peak name(s), elevations, dates, topo maps, rock/snow classification, leader's name and contact info, plus a writeup that will convince people to sign up. Indicate the level of experience required, and the group size you will allow, or anything else you think will help your trip work out. Remember that not everyone knows even the basic area where a specific peak is.

Include your phone or email or mailing address... and expect people to use that information (don't send your phone number if you don't want calls, and don't expect me to dig it out of the roster if you don't include it with your announcement).

There will often be an "advanced trip schedule" in the Scree, with trips that are planned but not yet announced. Contact me to include your trip in this list. Names of the leaders will be included in the advance listing unless you request otherwise. This listing is supposed to help avoid scheduling conflicts, NOT to allow people to sign up way in advance.

Some leaders collect deposits while others refuse advance signups in an effort to reduce cancellations, and others select trip participants without regard to who calls first. Leaders should indicate their procedures unless it is first-come-first-served, and participants should ask if it is not indicated on the formal announcement.

If your formal trip announcement is really long, it may be edited down! Also, long announcements are almost always shortened after the first time they run... so you might want to submit a long and a short version of the announcement to minimize the amount of arbitrary editing. There is not time to contact each leader for approval of the edits. Count the words from other announcements if you have doubts about the length of yours.

(the reason for this article is that Bob Gross intended for people to call his answering machine and leave their mailing address so he could send a packet of info before signing you up for his Shasta trip - something that totally escaped the recent Scree announcement, which just showed phone and email info but not the procedure for getting the info packet)

- Editor

Homeric Odyssey

(the nose that launched a thousand trips)

One scalding hot April day in 1872, in the valley of the South Fork of the Kaweah River, surveyor John Orst turned to pioneer John Homer and bellowed, "Hey Homer! Yonder crag looks jest like yore nose!" Orst's jibe endured. Because the granite dome in the Kaweah bears the whimsical name "Homer's Nose", we decided to climb it one scalding hot April day in 1996. There couldn't have been any other reason. If it were named "Bald Dome" or "Rounded Knob" we surely would have gone somewhere else.

Our approach was on a trail that had been abandoned by the Park Service decades ago. It has not appeared on any map printed since 1955, but we were using the 1955 USGS quadrangle. Our guidebook, *Self Propelled in the Southern Sierra*, referred to it as an abandoned trail, and the author, Peter Jenkins, died during the 1970s.

Since it was only April, we were equipped with snowshoes, poles, crampons, and ice axes. We would have been better served by brush saws, hedge clippers, and forestry gear. The combination of a low trailhead, the location at the southern flank of the range, and a south facing exposure, meant that we hardly saw any snow at all. We did see two tremendous thickets; ceanothus and poison oak up to 5000 feet, and manzanita up to 6500 feet.

We set out from the Clough Cave campground (only 3670 feet) at the end of South Fork Road, out of the town of Three Rivers. Our first quarter mile was on the well maintained Ladybug Trail. We crossed the rushing South Fork of the Kaweah River on a sturdy bridge. If you decide to follow our footsteps, you'll benefit from knowing a few features that we missed. The turn off from Ladybug onto the overgrown Pigeon Creek trail is at 4010 feet, just beyond some prominent rocks. After battling the brush up to the ridge to the west of Pigeon Creek, it is easy to lose the trail at 5890 feet. The trail doesn't follow the ridge at all, but crosses it immediately, and traverses Burnt Canyon to a notch below Palmer Cave. Burnt Canyon is aptly named. It looks like it burns about once a decade, and gives rise to a lush, dense growth of manzanita. Crossing it on the trail is beastly, but crossing it off the trail is hell.

Jenkins described Creekside Surprise Camp as being an unexpected, lovely, broad, flat area where the trail crosses Bennett Creek. The surprise was that the campsite had been buried under a log jam during a flood. We found a small, not-so-flat site downstream. In spite of its size, it was a pleasant place with a waterfall and a deep soft bed of pine duff. We had expected to set up our tents on top of snow.

At dawn we headed for the peak. We quickly climbed up Salt Creek Ridge, out of the brush and into an open forest of Ponderosa and White pines. At 7800 feet we finally encountered snow. All of our snow gear but the ice axes were left at camp, but the ice axes were all we needed. All eight of us reached the 9050 foot summit. It's an infrequently climbed peak. Imagine that! The last party had signed the summit register two years ago. We only saw the names of two PCS mountaineers in the book - Bill Rausch, more than 25 years ago, and Chris Yager, who will climb anything that stands still.

We returned to Bennett Creek, broke camp, battled the manzanita, crawled like rabbits under the pollen laden ceanothus, and reached the trailhead before 6 pm. We washed off the grime in the Kaweah River. Now I can call the water chilly, but at the time we employed more ardent adjectives.

It was a trip of Firsts and Mosts: the first time we hiked in poison oak in the Sierra Nevada, our lowest trailhead, the densest brush, the warmest night, the softest bed, the rarest destination. Our party consisted of Steve Eckert (leader), Bob Suzuki (co-leader), Martina Faller, Suzanne Remien, Alex Keith, Dave Harris, Arun Mahajan, and your occasionally truthful reporter, Aaron Schuman.

— Aaron Schuman

Booby Traps?

A message originally to Rock Rendezvous (a north bay climbing group), forwarded by Butch Suits. Climb at your own risk, and check those anchors!

From: Doug Ward on Sun, May 19, 1996 1:15 PM
Subject: St Helena

Some disturbing observations at the Bubble in St. Helena from Puntalejos@aol.com. Be careful out there!

I wanted to let Rock Rendezvous know about some disturbing events that occurred yesterday while climbing at Mt. St. Helena. There was a cable attached to two bolts that seemed to be set up for a rap station. There was a 3/8" or so cable, two new metolius bolts, the cable had a coating - rubber, or electrical tape on the downhill side.

I assumed that the coating was to let the rope slide through more easily for rope retrieval after rappelling.

It turns out that the coating was the only thing holding the cable together. It held light tension while I was looking over the edge to check out the rappell route, but FAILED when I and my partner were tension-traversing to a lower rappell point - near a tree and above a route where I wanted to retrieve some of my gear.

If we had rappelled from that point it is certain that at least one of us would have either died or been seriously injured - a 100' foot drop.

At the tree there was a sling so placed as to look secure from above, but merely wedged into the dirt and roots. If clipped into from below this sling would have looked secure and would have held on for tugging-tests, but would not have held a rappell or even a second's TR fall.

Am I crazy? I've never seen anything like either of these things in 10 years of climbing, and I have never come so close to dying.

Have you heard of such things happening elsewhere? Perhaps, it would be good to warn Rock Rendezvous members especially as Mt. St. Helena is a close-by crag.

-- Puntalejos@AOL.com

Scree is the monthly journal of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter.

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Rock Climbing Classifications

The following trip classifications are to assist you in choosing trips for which you are qualified. No simple rating system can anticipate all possible conditions.

Class 1: Walking on a trail.

Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance.

Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used.

Class 4: Requires rope belays.

Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

In Upcoming Issues:

(if you sent something that is not here, please send it again)

At Rest Above the Atacama (death on Ojos del Salado)

Trip Reports: Monarch Divide

World's 60 Highest Mountains

Searching for Small Worlds to Conquer

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 6/23/96. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

Peak Climbing Section, 789 Daffodil Way, San Jose CA 95117



"Vy can't ve chust climb?" - John Salathe

First Class Mail - Dated Material