



Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 12

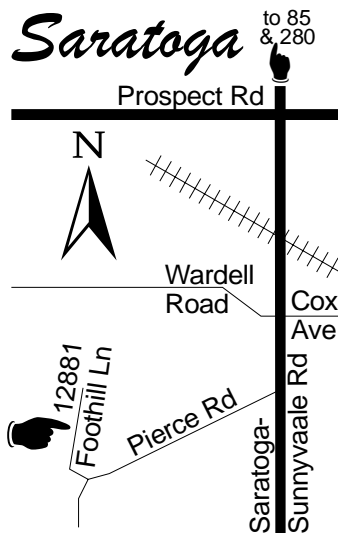
Time: 7:30 PM

Program: Ladakh Trek

Bob Wallace & Marj Ottenberg show their one-month trek in Ladakh (Leh to ChiLing to Basgo to Leh) 10,500' to 15,800' and back, observing culture, climate, and scenery.

Location: Home of Marj & Bob

From I-280 or Hwy 85 turn South on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road (aka DeAnza Blvd) and go past Prospect Road and the railroad tracks. Turn right on Pierce Rd, 0.3 miles later turn right on Foothill and look for signs to the 4th house on the left (12881 Foothill).



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 8/24/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

Danger On Dade

"Rock! Rock!!" A cold wave of fear swept through my body as I helplessly watched the softball-sized volley of rocks hurtling like a runaway train towards my friends below. What the hell is with all this loose rock? This is one of the Hundred Classic Climbs! Are we off route?

It was the making of a fine day when Bob Suzuki and I met Jim Curl, Dot Reilly, Jeff and Dee Dee Jones at the Mosquito Flat trailhead. Our objective was to climb the north face of Mt. Dade and descend the south side via the Hourglass Couloir, carrying full packs - a sort of mini-expedition, alpine-style climb. It's one of those fantasy climbs of mine where I make believe I'm Mark Twilight clinging to some desperate ice-encrusted wall somewhere in Alaska.

Our route took us up the Mono Pass trail, cross-country past Ruby Lake and on towards the huge glaciated cirque below Mts. Mills, Abbott, and Dade. The going was like a smooth, open stretch of I-5, mostly over consolidated, yet soft snow.

Once under the seductive North Face of Dade, the merriment came to an end. Here, the snow turned to wet, loose sugar. Snorkel and fins may have been more appropriate as we "swam" towards the toe of a rock rib. Rock on the lower part of this rib was as loose as Madonna's morals. Fortunately, the rockfall we unleashed spared my teammates and everyone was all right, this time. Stunned, we realized how quickly disaster can strike in the mountains!

Above, the rock improved dramatically. Bob and I were giddy with delight as we climbed over solid blocks, clean cracks, and knobby faces. Scrambling above the abyss, we encountered the final obstacle barring the summit; a wicked looking diagonal crack. With trepidation, I cautiously moved up the crack only to reveal big hidden hand-holds surrendering the summit rather easily. We had made it from trailhead to summit in six hours!

While waiting for the others to arrive at the summit, I started to daydream about what a restaurant at the top of Mt. Dade would serve. The day's menu would have chicken-head soup for starters. Entrees of chock-stone stew, knob ka-bobs, and quartz veins would follow with snow cones served for desert.

Our descent to Treasure Lakes was fast and easy, including a long glissade down the Hourglass Couloir. Because we carried full packs over the mountain, I had to make certain sacrifices. As a result, the '93 Cabernet I uncorked for dinner (actually, I unscrewed a Nalgene bottle) had a pretentious nose but the finish lacked a certain inevitability. Yet it went perfectly well with our glop.

The next day, Jim, Dot and I slept in while Bob, Jeff and Dee Dee climbed Mt. Mills. Lounging around camp over a three-hour brunch, we slowed time down to enjoy the scenery. All too often in our lives we rush to work, rush to do this, rush to do that, rush to the mountains, rush to climb a peak, and rush to drive home. Here, amidst the Sierra's beauty, we enjoyed the moment and realized how precious the mountains are to our lives.

- Kai Wiedman

Official (PCS) Trips

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

Virginia Peak

Peak: Virginia Peak (12,001') class 3
 Dates: Aug 9-10 Sat-Sun
 Leader: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036

Third-class heaven. What better way to spend an August weekend than in beautiful northern Yosemite experiencing the thrill of third-class rock. We'll reel with pleasure at this Virginia rock dance. Possible climb of Twin Peaks if time allows. Approximately 2500' elevation gain from trailhead to Virginia Pass, then descend to base camp. Another 1500' to the summit.

Mountaineers Delight

Peaks: Whitney (14,494'), Russell (14,088') class 3
 Dates: Aug 15-18 Fri-Mon
 Maps: Mt. Whitney 7.5
 Leader: Charles Schafer 408-324-6003
 charles.schafer@octel.com
 Co-Leader: Jim Ramaker 408-463-4873
 ramaker@vnet.ibm.com

If you like big mountains and class-3 climbing, this trip is for you. Friday we'll take cross-country route up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek to our camp at Iceberg Lake at 12,600. Saturday we'll tackle the Mountaineer's route on Mt. Whitney, and Sunday we'll attempt the narrow and exposed east ridge of Mt. Russell. The spectacular high-altitude scenery and towering rock walls in this area make it a real amphitheater of the mountain gods. The hike out on Monday will not be too long -- if we move along we can get out to the cars by noon and home by 10 p.m. Experienced class-3 climbers only on this trip.

Doing the Bear Abbot on Labor Dade

Peaks: Bear Creek Spire, Dade, Abbot class 2-3
 Date: Aug 30 - Sep 1 Sat-Mon (Labor Day)
 Maps: Mt. Abbot, Mt. Hilgard 7.5' quad
 Leader: David Harris 415-497-5571
 harrisd@leland.stanford.edu

Spend a glorious Labor Day weekend in the Little Lakes valley. On Saturday we will pack in a short distance to a convenient scenic camp and climb the magnificent Bear Creek Spire (13,720'+ class 3+) by Ulrich's Route. The summit spire evidently

has an interesting move which can be facilitated by climbing shoes, though boots should be sufficient. Mt. Abbot (13,704' class 3) should be another fine climb. We'll probably also climb Mt. Dade (13,600' class 2), though I'd be game for something besides lumbering up the loose scree of the Hourglass if somebody has a better idea. Depending on interest, I may start the weekend on Friday with a dayhike of one of the other peaks around the Little Lakes valley. Send me mail if you have preferences.

Get Ritter Yer Banner

Peaks: Ritter (13,157'), Banner (12,945') class 3
 Date: Sep 6-7 Sat-Sun
 Maps: Mt. Ritter 7.5' quad
 Leader: David Harris 415-497-5571
 harrisd@leland.stanford.edu

Enjoy a fast-paced jaunt up two classic peaks. Taking the standard route from Devil's Postpile, we'll hike up to a camp at Ediza Lake and scramble up the Ritter/Banner saddle to one of the summits. Depending on how fast we move, we'll either bag the other peak or climb it Sunday morning before packing out. Trip limited to six strong hikers. Ice axe required.

Mokelumne River Canyon,

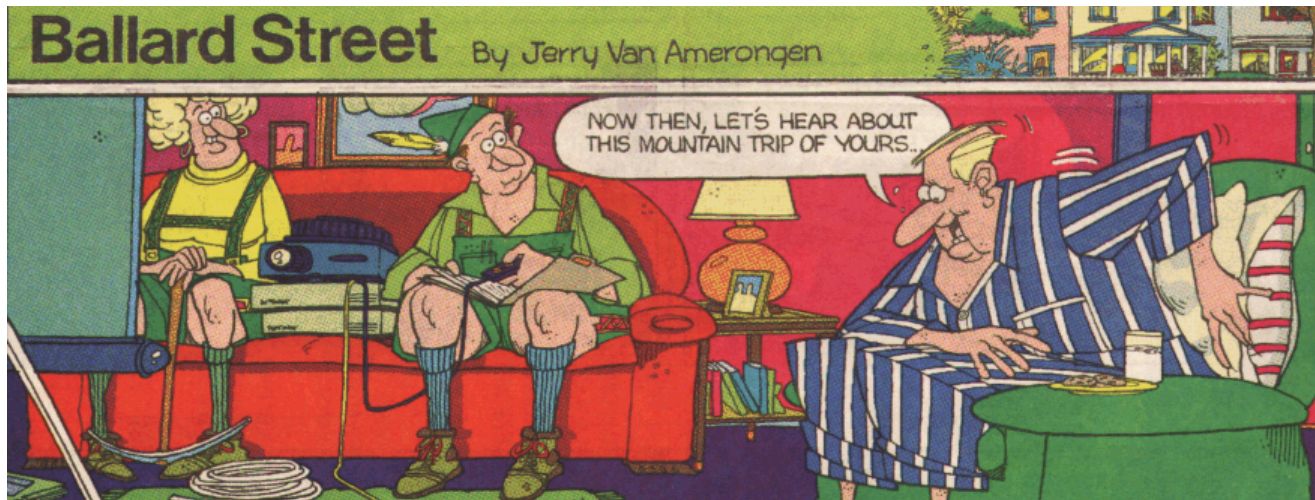
Trip: Mokelumne River Canyon class 2
 Dates: Sep 5-8 Fri-Mon
 Topos: Mokelumne Peak, Pacific Valley, both 15 min
 Leader: John Ingvaldstad 209-296-8483
 kate@cdepot.net

This is a 35 mile trip up a very scenic, 4,000 foot deep canyon, elevations from 5,000 to 9,000 feet. Includes river crossings, cross-country, and route finding. Opportunities to fish and swim. Short car shuttle. Starts at Bear Valley off Hwy 4.

Mt. Gabb

Peak: Mt. Gabb (13,741') class 2-3
 Dates: Sep 12-14 Fri-Sun
 Leader: Peter Maxwell 408-737-9770

This trip is two weeks after Labor Day weekend, so we'll avoid all the crowds. Leaving Thursday night will avoid traffic hassles also and we'll have a three-day weekend ahead of us. We'll hike in Friday from Rock Creek, head up Little Lakes Valley, and cross over the Sierra crest using Cox Col, just northwest of Bear Creek Spire. We'll camp somewhere that looks nice, do the peak on Saturday, and hike out Sunday. We'll do the south slope, which Secor rates as class 2, but with the class-3 variant of going directly up to the summit, rather than taking the southwest ridge.



Ballard Street cartoon reprinted with permission of Jerry Van Amerongen, submitted by Butch Suits in honor of the PCS slide show tradition.

Notes and Requests

New PCS Email List

The announce-only "news" version of our email broadcast list is running! The moderated version of the list has been offline for some time. The replacement is now available: it's called "lomapeak-climbing-news", and is different from the old moderated list in that NO DISCUSSION will occur there. It is just for announcements, and is intended to serve the needs of those who desire a VERY low volume of email. The main list (lomapeak-climbing@lists.sierraclub.org) will not change in any way.

There is no need to subscribe to both lists unless you want to post your own messages. The news list (just created) will carry ONLY posts which also went to the discussion list, and only if those posts are to announce a trip, report on a trip, or broadcast a newsletter. Subscribe to the new "news" list if the volume on the discussion list bothers you or if the only reason you want to be on the list is to receive newsletters.

NOTE: Both lists use listserv's TOPICs to allow crude filtering of what messages you want to receive. The topics are *NOT* the same on the two lists! The discussion list is subdivided by organization, the news list is subdivided by what kind of message it is. Posts to the main discussion list will be forwarded to the news list by the list owner, after their subject lines are altered. Non-applicable junk may also be deleted from the message body on the way to the news list (see the charter for details on appealing the list owner's actions - it's a democracy). No one can post directly to the news list.

To review the common charter for these lists, send email to <listserv@lists.sierraclub.org> with this one-line message:

INFO lomapeak-climbing

Lomapeak-climbing-mod is dead. Long live lomapeak-climbing-news. Huzzah.

– Steve Eckert <list_owner@juno.com>

Medic/First Aid Class

To help trip leaders and would-be leaders get the required First Aid certificate, the Loma Prieta Chapter sponsors a First Aid class each quarter, based on a nationally recognized first aid text, but with added material and emphasis on wilderness situations with no phone to dial 911. The next two First Aid classes will be Sat-Sun, Aug 16-17, at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto (near Hwy 101 and San Antonio). Class is 8:30am to 5:30pm (1 hour for your bag lunch) and is limited to 12 people. To sign up, send a check for \$38 and a SASE to Health Education Services, 200 Waverly, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For more info, call 415-321-6500.

– Marj Ottenberg

Mexico Volcanoes

I am looking for anyone interested in climbing Orizaba and Ixta in November, most likely over the thanksgiving holidays. If interested please email or call Bruce at 415-964-7461.

– Bruce Meister <Bruce_Meister@ccm.sc.intel.com>

Climb The Highest Desert Peak In The World!

Last chance! We need to hear from you by September 1 if you are interested: 22,575' high Ojos del Salado sits at the southern end of Chile's Atacama desert. Though only 250' lower than Aconcagua, it is climbed by relatively few people. (It is a lonely life if you happen to be the SECOND highest peak in the western hemisphere.) We may also attempt the nearby Pissis, recently rumored to be higher than previous surveys and perhaps higher than Ojos. With no crowds and not much snow, getting to the top is pretty straightforward. The most common problem is acclimatizing to the altitude, but we'll take ice axes and a light rope just in case. Warren Storkman and I are planning a trip to Ojos in January 1998. This will not involve any commercial guides, so the total cost of this three week trip should be under \$2,000. If you are a peak bagger, especially a desert peak bagger, you cannot pass this up. Send email or phone 650-508-0500 if you are interested. We have a total of 6 people signed up, and could use two more.

– Steve Eckert <eckert@netcom.com>

Starr King Rappel

An intermediate rappel point on Starr King has a huge blue sling that is seriously damaged. It looks like rodent damage. DO NOT USE THIS SLING! Bring two ropes and use the "normal" rap points.

– Rick Booth <rick@itron-ca.com>

Mt. Logan On Skis

Rudi Beglinger is a renowned ski guide and is leading a trip next May. 3 weeks. Logan is 19500. The route is very easy, and we will be skiing to the top and, we hope, off the top. I have signed up, and am the first to do so. Personnel will be 9 clients and 2 guides. Clients have to be experienced back-country skiers, as this is a ski trip. The Alpine Club of Canada is also organizing a trip, and a nonskier could join them and get up Logan without skies that way.

Cost: If you have to ask..... For more info: <selkirk@junction.net>

We meet in Anchorage and then bus/fly on to the glacier at 8500'. Move camps up, acclimatizing as necessary. Of course, living at 10000' is a big advantage!

– Stan Wagon <wagon@compuserve.com>

Balling-Up Of Crampons

I've heard people complaining from time to time about their crampons balling up with sticky snow and becoming virtually useless. This can be extremely dangerous (you slide when you think you're going to stick) but I notice you can now buy a remedy. On my last visit to REI I noticed they sell "anti-bott" devices. These are quite common in Europe and mandatory for any serious alpine mountaineering there, but I've not seen them here before. They are plastic flexible plates that fit between the crampon and the plastic boot, preventing snow from sticking to the boot. They work really well.

I'm posting this in case people might be looking for such devices, but wouldn't look twice at a packet that said "anti-bott", unless they knew what they were. I think they cost around \$30.

– Peter Maxwell <peterm@aoraki.dtc.hp.com>

Lone Pine Peak: The North Ridge

David Harris & Craig Clarence – July 13-14, 1997

Lone Pine Peak is the enormous granite peak rising above the town just south of the Mt. Whitney drainage. Although it is only 13,000 feet tall, it looks larger than adjacent mountains because it sits forward from the crest and has such impressive faces; thus visitors sometimes mistake it for Whitney. There is a class 2 route up scree and talus from Meysan Lake, but by this point in the summer I was sick of grinding up 2nd class peaks. Instead, we chose to attempt the north ridge from Little Meysan Lake, an often overlooked classic climb of the Sierra. The north ridge rises 3000 feet from the lake up spectacular granite to the summit in about a mile. Along the way is a large blocky tower (the crux of the climb), several smaller outcroppings and notches, and the summit headwall. Secor says that most groups require more than a day for the climb, though it is technically easy at 5.4.

Craig Clarence and I met in Big Pine Sunday afternoon as he returned from a successful ascent of Temple Crag and drove down to Whitney Portal. To buy some time for the climb, we packed two hours up the trail to a nice camping spot near where we believe Little Meysan Lake is (we never saw the lake; it was tiny to begin with and may have been overgrown with willows by now). This would be my first long technical ascent, so Craig reviewed anchors and rope handling with me before I fell asleep by 7pm.

On Monday morning, we woke at 4:45 and were hiking by 5:30. The Sierra Classics guide suggests ascending a gully not visible until you pass it on the trail. The gully that we saw fitting that description looked like a miserable combination of loose scree and huge chockstones so we ascended an easy 3rd class face covered with trees until we hit the ridge. We crossed and stayed just left of the ridge until reaching the notch under the large blocky tower. Along the way we roped up for some 4th class and easy 5th class climbing where I practiced putting in protection and managing the rope. We passed the skeleton of a baby mountain goat, suggesting that we were doing real climbing! We also passed numerous bivouac spots cleared on wide ledges.

Soon we were at the notch below the tower. Climbing the face of the tower slightly right of the crest was supposed to be the 5.4 crux of the ridge. I'd never lead before, but this looked like a good opportunity to learn so I started climbing. The top of the first pitch was a challenging lead for me, ascending a steep crack with a piton. We evidently were slightly off route because the second pitch encountered a layback that seemed 5.6 or 5.7; it was more committing than I was ready to lead so I backed off and Craig scampered up. The remainder of the tower was easier and very enjoyable; we topped out after three pitches plus Craig's short lead, then simulclimbed the airy but easy knife edge to the notch below the summit headwall.

We unfortunately chose to unrope at this point immediately before encountering the most dangerous portion of the climb. A ledge system led right from the notch to a sandy gully just right of the headwall. The climb was supposed to be 3rd class, but the awkward moves onto the narrow ledge and the severe exposure made it 4th class in my book. Worse yet, the chute was dangerously loose and poured over a cliff at the bottom. Craig sent a slide of rock down over the edge as he crossed. When I followed, a half-ton boulder in the middle of the chute began to slide and topple as I put my weight on it. I can't fully recall what

happened, but Craig says he's never seen such a fast lunge off the rock. Hundreds of pounds of debris slid over the cliff and avalanched down the rock below, sending a great cloud of dust into the air. I was shaken and slowly ascended the buttress and sandy ledges about 600 feet to the summit as Craig zoomed on. We topped out right at the true summit about 2pm, having made a fairly leisurely ascent.

The views along the ridge and atop the peak were outstanding. We could admire the face of Whitney, the aretes of Russell, the horns of Williamson, and the Owens Valley. From the top, we saw the Corcoran towers beckoning. Our enjoyment of the summit was limited only by a shortage of water, so we eventually descended a use trail westward until it dropped us into a steep scree chute for the 2nd class escape. We crossed below Meysan Lake, eventually found the trail, and were back to camp by 4. After packing up, we got back to the cars at 6.

Aside from the short nasty scree chute near the top, Lone Pine Peak's north ridge is a terrific climb. I'd recommend it for anyone who wants to learn to lead multi-pitch alpine climbs because the climbing is fun, long, fairly easy, and generally well-protected. In hindsight, we could have climbed it as a daytrip and more experienced parties should certainly do it in a single day rather than hauling along bivouac gear. The route is definitely a classic.

– David Harris

Mt. Harrington

7-8 June 1997 Kelly Maas (leader), Debbie Bulger (co-leader), Helena & Rick Verrow, Alex Keith, David Wright, and Bob Bynum

The morning light shone strongly in the parking lot as we each pattered with our pre-trip rituals. Lacking only a Johnny Reb cap and a deer rifle for that "Deliverance" look, Rick slouched in a lawn chair and evaluated his traveling companions. Debbie showed off her new 4WD truck, which towered over my Saturn like a grizzly over a schnauzer. Bob launched into a long-winded explanation of why he had been unable to carpool with Debbie. The rest of us donned our own unique hiking garments and anointed our skin with sun block. Kelly began expounding again the theme "Traveling light is traveling right", and, inspired, we delved into our packs and discarded food, clothing, cooking gear, rain gear, and miscellaneous other moldy items from the recesses. Personal bests in the category of lightest pack were achieved by three of us.

The 9 miles and 5000' of elevation change from the Lewis Creek trailhead to our campsite at Grizzly Lake passed without incident and only a modest amount of griping; 8 hours after starting we were lazing by a roaring stove. We had a splendid site on the east edge of the Grizzly Lake basin with plenty of flat spots, and trees for hanging food. Its only drawback was that water was about 100 yards away.

Low hanging clouds blew away shortly after dark and the crescent moon provided a fine spectacle as it set behind Mt. Harrington. After moonset and the end of twilight the Milky Way stretched across the sky with a splendor that has long been lost to lowland dwellers. The great starcloud in Scutum drifted slowly across the southern sky, and southern latitude stars normally hidden by horizon haze flickered and danced above the distant peaks. The stars of the Summer Triangle, Vega, Altair, and Deneb, burned holes in the blackness. Those of us who were light sleepers and disdained tents could view this show all night long simply by opening our eyes.

After a leisurely breakfast the next morning we started off at 7:30. Kelly led us up the basin to the saddle between Mt. Harrington and Hogsback Peak (which is quite worthy of its name). The ridge leading to Harrington had a 100' high lump in it (which we bypassed on the way down), after descending this hump we crossed on the crest of a short snowfield and arrived at the summit spire of Harrington. The snow here was quite hard, and a slip at this point would have been unpleasant, or worse, depending on whether you fell off to the left or to the right. Fortunately the snowfield was no more than 30 yards long, and then we were at the summit spire. This is the portion that Roper describes as a "short but enjoyable class 3 climb" and for once he was right. The granite was solid, the ledges were wide, and millennia of erosion had produced lovely lumps, knobs, and other, more fanciful, shapes to serve as handholds.

In less than 1/2 hour we were all on the summit, where we did the usual things. Ours was the first group to summit this year, but as Harrington (11,005') has little to distinguish it from hundreds of other 11,000' peaks, perhaps the correct observation is that it was climbed as recently as last July.

On the descent we turned right at the snowfield and avoided the 100' lump at the end of the ridge. The way we found to get down we could probably not have climbed, but there were undoubtedly other routes that were doable, and these would provide a more direct and stimulating ascent. We were back in camp by 12:30, and after throwing everything in our packs we headed back down and arrived at our cars by 5:15. Since everyone summited, and only a modest amount of blood was shed by stick and stone injuries, and the person who fell in a creek didn't drown, the trip was judged to be a great success, and Kelly was toasted at dinner.

– David Wright

Mt. McGee

I solo climbed McGee near Evolution Valley on July 5. I was part of a PCS affiliated private group led by Bob Suzuki. We started at North Lake July 3 and climbed for 11.5 hours over Lamark Col down to Evolution Valley and up to McGee Lakes basin, where I accidentally got separated and camped at the wrong stream confluence, a mile further ahead than the meeting area.

On July 4 I moved camp to McGee Lakes and enjoyed a great view, taking an easy day hike around the McGee basin. The weather was great. There was plenty of snow on the hills and this created a lot of soggy ground that resulted in lots of mosquitos. (See Steve Eckert's email about McGee's mosquitos).

On July 5 I climbed McGee solo. This required ascending a ridge about 700', then descending all the way to the Davis Lakes basin near Goddard. Then I traversed a half mile to the chute and climbed through heavy loose scree about 1,500', before the south facing chute became clogged with snow. The snow was suitable for crampons, so it actually made the climb easier. However, the steep, narrow chute with snow was a riskier climb than if the chute had no snow. (I enjoyed the risk once I was off the mountain.) At the top of the chute I turned east and did an high class 2 traverse to the summit. I retraced my path to the camp.

On July 6th I solo hiked from McGee lakes to North lake trail head, via Evolution Valley. I left camp at 6:30 a.m. and soon found a use trail that led to Evolution Valley floor. Crossing the stream at Evolution Valley at 8 a.m. the mosquitos were so bad that I ran through the 20' wide, 18" deep stream without bothering to remove my boots. Dozens of them landed on my pile

jacket-it was like a scene from a horror movie. After crossing the stream I got to a rocky bench with no mosquitos where I clean the water out of my boots, unfortunately I was soon attacked by mosquitos. I used a ten year old bottle of 100% Deet and got instant relief! Later, going eastward down Lamark Col I encountered three foot deep suncups, which slowed my speed. I spent 12.25 hours traveling from McGee Lakes to North Lake. Despite the pain of mosquitos, the climb, views and weather made the trip worthwhile.

– Don Martin

Footnote on Mosquitoes:

Have you ever wondered whether to spell it "mosquitos" or "mosquitoes"? American Heritage says both spellings are correct!

mos·qui·to - n. pl. mos·qui·toes or mos·qui·tos

1. Any of various two-winged insects of the family Culicidae, in which the female of most species is distinguished by a long proboscis for sucking blood. Some species are vectors of diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Also Called skeeter.

I did a loop involving Piute Pass, Alpine Col, Evolution Valley, McGee Lakes, McGee Pass, and Lamark Col which intersected with Don's trip. No place under 11500' was livable due to mosquitos. We actually hung out on the summit of Emerald for over an hour to avoid getting to camp early. In the McGee drainage, I killed 15+ mosquitos with one slap on David Harris' back, a personal record if you don't count a "swiping" or "glancing" blow which can scoop more.

Many people said they had never seen so many. I've seen it this bad in Alaska and in Vidette Meadow, but never so widespread and so damn AGGRESSIVE! They were landing on my bug jacket and crawling up under my head net. With a full suit of mesh clothes and bug juice rubbed on the mesh at key spots, I was still getting about one bite every 10 minutes during peak attacks. Goretex stopped them, but it was too warm until after sunset. Eating was a problem, because the swarm tended to bump into your spoon on the way to your mouth (not on purpose, just because of the density of the swarm). A good trip to have a tent instead of a bivy bag, and a head net was the only alternative to inhaling those flying hypodermics when breathing hard. Getting up early was never disputed, since temps just below freezing tend to slow them down until sun hits camp.

One last tidbit from American Heritage:

The Romance language French was the source of our word musket (first recorded around 1587), which came from French mousquet, but this word entered French from yet another Romance language, Italian. From the descendant of Latin musca, Italian mosca, was formed the diminutive moschetta with the senses "bolt for a catapult" and "small artillery piece." From moschetta came moschetto, "musket," the source of French mousquet. The use of moschetta, literally "little fly," to mean "bolt from a crossbow" can be ascribed to the fact that both bolt and insect fly, buzz, and sting.

– Steve Eckert

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.

Dayhike Of Bear Creek Spire

Peak: Bear Creek Spire (13,720 feet) class 3-4
Date: Aug 8 Fri
Map: Mt. Hilgard 7.5' quad
Contact: Tony Cruz cruz@idt.com
Co-Contact: Pat Ibbetson pkibbetson@ucdavis.edu

From the end of Rock Creek Road (Mosquito Flat) we will hike in and climb Bear Creek Spire via Ulrichs Route and retrace our steps back to Mosquito Flat. Note that I do not plan to camp in the wilderness and thus will not need (nor obtain) a wilderness permit.

To Bear Creek - And Beyond!

Peak: Bear, Julius, Seven, Royce, Merriam class 3
Date: Aug 8-10 Fri-Sun
Map: Mt. Abbot 15' quad
Contact: Steve Eckert 650-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com

Join Cruz on Bear Creek Spire, then embark on an untrodden cross-country odyssey including Julius Caesar (13196), Seven Gables (13075), Royce (13253) and Merriam (13077). We'll exit at Pine Creek, making this a one-way loop with more elevation loss than gain! All peaks except Bear Creek Spire and Seven Gables should be class 2, but this unscouted peakbagger's delight may involve some minor class 3 with packs.

Brewer By Bubb

Peak: Mt Brewer (13,570') class 2
Date: Aug 22-24 Fri-Sun
Map: USGS Mt Brewer 7.5'
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick 408-293-2447
3780631@MCIMAIL.COM
Co-Contact: Alex Keith 415-325-1091
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Starting at Road's End in King's Canyon (elev 5,000') we will follow the long trail along Bubb's Creek to East Lake (9,500') early Friday morning, ascend the peak the next day, and return by the same route on Sunday. Secor says that Brewer has a "wide, unobstructed view in all directions from its summit." A good trip for first-time peak climbers with prior back-packing experience. Permit for six.

Do the King Thing

Peaks: Clarence King, Cotter, Gardiner class 4-5
Dates: Aug 29-Sep 1 Fri-Mon.
Map: Mt Clarence King 7.5'
Contact: Charles Schafer W 408-324-6003
charles.schafer@octel.com H 408-354-1545
Co-Contact: Wanted

Secor says about Clarence King, "This beautiful peak dominates the entire Woods Creek drainage. Its first ascent was the hardest rock climb in nineteenth-century America." This is a four day trip to climb Mt. Clarence King (12,905'), Mt Cotter (12,721'), Mt. Gardiner (12,907') - Class 4 & 5 the 3 peaks which are situated close together, all of which should be challenging climbing. This should be a lot of fun, but it is a pretty ambitious trip so we are looking only for experienced class 5 climbers to fill out the roster.

Toulomne Family Car Camp

Peaks: Koip (12,962'), Gibbs (12,773') class 1
Dates: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun
Maps: Mono Craters 15 min or
Mount Dana & Koip Peak 7.5 min
Contact: Aaron Schuman H 415-968-9184
schuman@sgi.com W 415-933-1901
Co-Contact: Cecil Magliocco H 408-358-1168
cecilm@ix.netcom.com

Toulomne Meadows group campsite reserved Friday and Saturday nights. Family members are welcome. Join us exploring the Pacific Crest on Saturday or construct your own day activity. Saturday, we'll day hike from Dana Meadows trailhead (9600) near the eastern edge of Yosemite National Park, over windswept Parker Pass (11100), to Koip Peak, to barren Mono Pass (10600), and up the south flank of Mount Gibbs. Sunday, we'll make a short class 2 jaunt, perhaps to Mount Gaylor or Tioga Peak.

Tiptoe to Tehipite

Peak: Tehipite Dome (7,708') class 3
Dates: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun
Map: Tehipite Dome topo
Contact: Charles Schafer W 408-324-6003
charles.schafer@octel.com H 408-354-1545
Co-Contact: Bob Suzuki W 510-657-7555
bobszk@pacbell.net (>8 pm) 408-259-0772

Tehipite, which Secor says is "the largest dome in the Sierra Nevada," overlooks the Middle Fork of the Kings River in the western edge of Kings Canyon Natl Park. It will take a 30 mile round-trip hike, fording 60' wide Crown Creek and climbing a seriously exposed, 20', class 3 crux to enjoy the exceptional views from Tehipite's summit. We have a permit for 5 if you are up to this challenge. Climbing harness and rappel device needed.

Dana Couloir

Peak: Mt. Dana (13,057') class 3-4 ice
Date: Sep 20 Sat
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320

Early start from Tioga Pass Saturday morning. We will climb the couloir, putting in protection as we go. Exiting the couloir, we will go over the top of Dana and descend the trail. Long day. Ice axe, crampons, harness, and at least one ice screw required. Call after Aug. 21.

Riders on the Ridge

Peak: Mt. Morgan North (13,003') class 3-4
Dates: Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun
Map: Convict Lake
Contact: Kai Wiedman 415-327-5234
Co-Contact: Cecil Ann 408-358-1168
cecilm@ix.netcom.com

From "A Hundred Classic Climbs": "The Sweeping crest of the Nevahbe Ridge is a dramatic and colorful backdrop for the community of Crowley Lake. This route is a long, airy ridge climb, rising nearly a vertical mile from McGee Creek to the summit. The climbing is continually interesting and involves a wide range of rock types and quality." This climb will be a dayhike involving 5000 feet of elevation gain over an 8.5 mile round trip, descending colorful Esha Canyon. We'll help you through the short 4th class step, so c'mon along. You can do it!

North Palisade Dayhike

July 1997 – Permit, shmermit!

Once upon a time, access to the Sierra was not restricted by quotas. With almost assured solitude, one could embark upon a wilderness outing in a spontaneous fashion.

Nowadays, 800 numbers, FAX machines and VISA cards pave the way to our lovely and benign mountains. And with the population of California increasing each year by the size of San Francisco and expected to double within 40 years, it isn't going to get any easier to visit our limited wilderness.

So what're you going to do?

- ◆ Give up mountaineering and join a climbing gym
- ◆ Move close to a "hardier" range that has no quotas (i.e., rainy and mosquito ridden)
- ◆ Don camouflage clothing, gear and night vision goggles and hike only under the cover of darkness
- ◆ Quit your job and climb midweek
- ◆ Go before/after the quota season
- ◆ Day hike

Of these, the last two offer the best choices for spontaneous outings. Learn to ski or buy some snowshoes and you'll get to enjoy what many experienced backcountry enthusiasts say is the best time to be in the Sierra. And late September or early October is usually a wonderful time to visit the mountains.

But for those midsummer trips, when permits are scarce, consider the day hike. With a few exceptions, notably the Whitney Zone, it is possible to freely visit any part of the Sierra that your feet can take you in a "day". Exactly how one (or the parks and forest service) defines a day isn't clear. Less than 24 hours to be sure, but for many destinations, it does mean stretching the limits of daylight a bit. Warren Storkman's and Steve Eckert's Mt. Clark day hikes come to mind.

Sure it's wonderful to camp in the mountains, but traveling unencumbered, in tennis shoes and with a daypack, and a cooler of beer waiting in your car at the end of the day, also has its appeal. Tony Cruz, with his recent Rock Creek day peak plans, appears to share this idea. With this in mind, I set out recently for a day hike of North Palisade. I had attempted the U Notch a couple weeks earlier with a friend, but had been turned around above the chimney by icy winds.

I remembered how lousy I had felt at 14,000' two years ago on a day hike of Middle Palisade. So this time, I spent a lazy afternoon on an abbreviated traverse of the Cathedral Range. Scrambling up the three peaks of the Unicorn, all but the southern lobe of the Cockscomb, about half of the Echo Ridge and finally the Muir route on Cathedral Peak gave me the acclimatization I felt I'd need for the next day.

Unfortunately, I'd neglected to leave much time for sleep. When the alarm woke me at 2:30am, I wasn't very happy. Off by 3:15am, I was distressed by how heavy my eyelids felt as I stared ahead at the little yellow circle my headlamp produced. By 6:00am, I arrived in Sam Mack Meadow and realized I was too sleepy to continue. I ducked behind a rock to escape the chilly wind, zipped up my jacket and curled up in the dirt and pine needles for a 15 minute catnap (a la Tony Cruz). In minutes I was deeply dreaming...

Blink! Oh no! It's almost 7am! I thought I'd blown it and figured I'd just go up on the glacier and call it nice hike. But when I

arrived, I saw four figures headed for the U Notch couloir. Maybe I wasn't so late after all? Seeing other people provided the stimulation I needed to get going.

By the time I caught up to them, we were all at the U Notch. They were a nice quartet of Washington climbers, on a two week Sierra peak bagging bonanza. I had considered soloing the Chimney -- I had climbed it two weeks earlier and knew it to be mostly fourth class and reasonably solid. But I decided it was wiser to play it safe. As the two pairs started up the chimney, I put on my rock shoes and headed up the Clyde variation. "Easy fourth class", said the book -- just my speed for soloing. Other than one "hang your butt out while gripping loose looking blocks" move, it was pretty easy and I was soon chatting with the first Washingtonian at the top of the Chimney.

Exposed third class led to the wonderful sunny summit. It was just a little after 10:30am. I spent a lazy hour there, chatting with the foursome after they arrived. Soon we all descended. I'd brought a 50m rope, figuring I'd rap the chimney and do a little downclimbing. But with my new friends and our combined three ropes, we all shared a quick rap back to the notch.

Slippery downclimbing in the couloir, horrendous sun cups on the glacier, and then a long trudge down the trail brought me to that cooler of beer at about 6pm.

I tried to find a campground with a shower, but was dismayed when asked to pay \$1 per 7 minutes of hot water. Opting instead to "shower" with a Nalgene bottle of water, I retired to the Buttermilks and spent a lovely night bathed by warm winds under the moonlit face of Mt. Humphreys.

– Jim Curl

Viewing Hale-Bopp at the Foot of Argus Peak

In Greek mythology, Argus was a fabulous creature which had 100 eyes. When he was killed, Hera took his eyes and placed them in the tail of the peacock. Indeed, we were all eyes as we sat in our lawn chairs in the dark desert the nights of March 28 and 29. Our Saturday ascent of Argus was a delight. A leisurely seven hour, 3000 foot climb over easy terrain. As we hiked up Crow Canyon after crossing the ridge from Homewood Canyon, we saw bush after bush of blue lupine waving to us. We turned southwest up the ridge before the boundary of the China Lakes Naval Weapons Center so we wouldn't have to read any no trespassing signs that might be there. Juniper trees and pinion pines clothe the upper reaches of this 6562 foot DPS peak. That evening Hale-Bopp appeared in all its glory. The clouds from the previous night had moved on leaving a dark, dark sky. No city lights. Richard Stover and Larry Hester set up their tripods. Patricia Crane and I got out our binoculars. We clearly saw two tails on Hale-Bopp, a bright one composed of gas and a second, blue tail of dust. It was a heavenly trip.

– Debbie Bulger

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." -- Anais Nin

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, rope may be used.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

In Upcoming Issues:

Trip report excerpts with Web URLs for details.
(Please limit trip reports to one page if possible.)

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 8/24/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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

First Class Mail - Dated Material