



Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 13

Time: 7:30 PM

Program: ?

Location: The North Face
217 Alma Street in Palo Alto
(NOTE: THIS IS A NEW
LOCATION FOR US!)



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 5/25/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

THE JUNE SCREE WILL BE EDITED BY TONY CRUZ!
Be sure to send submissions to CRUZ@IDT.COM for the June issue of Scree only, or send hardcopy to the address shown on the back page.

Piloting the River

Saturday (29 Mar 97) a bunch of PCSers went to seek the fabled Southern Pilot Knob which is supposedly surrounded by snakes, private land, angry ranchers, and rabid lawmen. The HPS route description says to drive up Bloomfield Ranch Rd and be nice to a certain lady who might let you pass... The road is not signed, and has a closed gate with a no trespassing sign.

So we drove further west (past Pilot Knob on 178) and turned north on the first road that was NOT marked "we hate you", which would be Doyle Ranch Road. This paved public road crosses the river (yep, the same South Fork Kern we failed to cross earlier and higher that morning) and abruptly turns left. Right at the turn was a nice family who did not understand why we would want to go to Pilot Knob, but allowed as how their 40 acres did go right clear through to the wilderness (between Onyx and Smith ranchlands). If we could not get permission from one of the big guys, perhaps Benny would let us climb his hill and skirt around the private land in Stormy Canyon. Not sure what to make of a guy in shorts and bad hat hair with glacier glasses...

So we drove further west on Doyle and found some boot-and-hats cowpeople (not all boys) who allowed as how their ranch DID have a key to that dirt road right there next to Benny's place. But they did not have it TODAY. Not too sure who owned the land, either. Suggested we mosey on over and talk to the Smith Ranch boys just up the road a piece there in Onyx. Nice folks, but in a hurry to go rope some horses. In fact, the guy who spent the most time talking to me had to hand over the keys to his truck to the more exigent cowpeople. He kept his pliers, however, to point out features on the topo map.

So we drove right back to Benny's place, waved, and jumped over the fence onto the dirt road that runs east-northeast along the aqueduct into Stormy Canyon (left the cars at 2700'). If not for the family of 50 inbred yapping dogs (Benny had warned us about them) and cows that jumped up and stomped around like they were bulls drinking espresso, the road would have been pretty mellow. We angled off the road toward Pilot Knob as soon as we could see a clear shot across the bowl south (NOT southwest) of the peak. It turns out we should have stayed lower, but the route worked with minimal brush and cactus.

We hit the southeast ridge at about 4800' after one sleep-deprived climber decided to turn back in the heat, tiny flies, and yuccas. (I was wishing for an icy stream by this point.) The ridge works well if you are willing to hunt around a little. If you try to bull your way through, you'll want gloves and heavy canvas clothes for the brush! Soon we came to a very shallow saddle where the old HPS route meets the ridge from the other side (5500'), and started seeing one-rock "ducklings" (hardly cairns, and quite widely spaced in places). It's worth following the ducked route because the brush and yuccas are both quite significant up there!

The summit itself (6200+) is rated class 2, but it and one or two places further down could be called class 3 without too much argument (we especially liked the rock/tree chimney). Only three groups summited last year, and there's plenty of room in the register. If only we had started earlier than 1pm, we might not have needed flashlights to look after the 2x8 across the aqueduct, the yapping dogs, and the gate on the way out. Thanks go to Pat Ibbetson for motivating the trip and providing the Dome Land Wilderness map. Congrats go to the summit party of David Harris, Bob Suzuki, Rich Leiker, and your [humble] scribe.

- Steve Eckert

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.

Oh, Can't-cha climb Olancha

Peak: Olancha Peak (12,123') class 2
Dates: May 17-18 Sat-Sun
Map: Olancha Peak 15 min
Leader: Aaron Schuman H 415-968-9184
schuman@sgi.com W 415-933-1901
Co-Leader: Charles Schafer H 408-354-1545
charles.schafer@octel.com W 408-324-6003

Saturday, we'll haul up 7 miles from parched Sage Flat trailhead (5800') to our creekside camp by the Pacific Crest trail (9600'). Sunday, we'll hike 4 miles to the summit (12100') and return home. It's a very long drive from the Bay area.

21st Annual Mt. Shasta Climb

Peak: Mt. Shasta (14,161') class 2 snow
Dates: May 24-26 Sat-Mon
Map: Mount Shasta 7.5 min
Leader: Bob Gross 408-241-6149
rwgross@compuserve.com

Web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rwgross>
We drive to Mount Shasta on the evening of Friday May 23 and begin on Saturday morning. We snowshoe or X-C ski from 7000 to 10,400 feet on the standard route and camp in the snow. Before dawn on Sunday, we start for the summit with required ice axe and crampons. Class 2, but it can get nasty due to high winds. After descending back to camp, we will leave the mountain on Sunday or Monday, depending on weather. You must have winter camping experience. Non-refundable sign-up fee of \$10 to the leader will be donated to a Sierra Club cause. Sign-up deadline is May 12. For further information, contact the leader.

Mt. Harrington

Peak: Mt Harrington (11,005') class 3
Dates: June 7-8 Sat-Sun
Map: Marion Peak 15'
Leader: Kelly Maas 408-279-2054
maas@idt.com

Co-Leader: WANTED

Don't worry that you've never heard of Harrington before. It's not the highest peak around but it's well situated between the mighty middle and south forks of the Kings River and is said to have great views. The basic goal here is to have a fun weekend in the mountains, which will be aided by "a short but enjoyable class 3 route" on the north ridge. The trip should not otherwise be difficult, except for the large elevation gain. The trailhead is Cedar Grove at 4600'.

Cherry Creek Canyon Adventure Backpack

Trip: cross-country backpacking class 2-3
Dates: June 14-15 Sat-Sun
Maps: Cherry Lake North 7.5', Kibbie Lake 7.5'
Leader: Kai Weidman 415-347-5234

Cherry Creek Canyon is one of the most scenic places I've ever been to. We'll see raging rapids, quiet pools of crystal-clear water, sunny slabs of smooth granite, and rose-colored polished domes. Our adventure will take us over 20+ miles of rough and rugged terrain. Your eyes will be filled with such grandeur that you'll never notice your sore muscles.

Beginner Trip Up Langley

Peak: Mt. Langley (14,042') class 1-2
Dates: July 4-6 Fri-Sun
Leader: Chris Kramar W 415-926-6861
H 510-796-6651

Co-Leader: Wanted

If you want to get one of the California fourteener's, this is the easiest. Friday we'll take a leisurely hike up the Cottonwood Lakes trail to the Cottonwood Lakes. There will be plenty of time to explore the lakes and even take a swim. Saturday we'll cross New Army Pass and proceed to the summit of Mt. Langley. We have all day to do this so beginning peak climbers should have no problem completing this climb. On Sunday we return to the cars with plenty of time to get home at a reasonable hour. This trip is for all peak climbers, as well as solid backpackers with little or no peak climbing experience who want to find out what peak climbing is all about.

Tyndall In A Weekend

Peak: Mt. Tyndall (14,018') class 3
Dates: Sat. July 26 - Sun. July 27
Leader: Chris Kramar W 415-926-6861
H 510-796-6651

Co-Leader: Wanted

Most people do this climb in three days, but with an aggressive schedule, we'll climb it in two. It IS possible, as I have climbed neighboring Mt. Williamson in two days. On Saturday we'll attain the top of Shepherd Pass and camp by Mt. Tyndall. Sunday we'll climb the peak and return to the cars. The first day involves a gain of 7000' over 12 miles, so I cannot overstate the importance of going ultralight. If you have questions about going light, I can provide instruction. Expect a late return Sunday night.

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 (13157'), Banner (12945') 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.

Rumblings and Bumbings in Yosemite

Through the dust left by the previous day's avalanche, I noticed black clouds in the early morning sky. My tenuous determination, already weakened further by lack of sleep, the sticky humid heat, and the dust burning my throat, began to fade.

"This pack is too damn heavy anyway." The steep trail was causing my thighs to burn with each step. The Yosemite Falls trail is one I'd been up and down a number times before, but never with a 65 pound pack at 4:30 a.m.

I sat down and looked at the clouds -- there had been buildups in the high country every afternoon, but nothing had really threatened here in the Valley. Now I wondered if that would change today. The last thing I needed was for Zeus to start chucking lightning bolts my way.

"Oh well, I might as well go up and take a look." If I bailed and the clouds burned off, I knew I wouldn't be able to forgive myself. And if they didn't, the worst would be that I lugged a huge pack up and down this trail and maybe got a little wet.

A little after 6 a.m., with the clouds somewhat dispersed, I tossed my ropes and began to rappel. Laden with a daypack, a small rack, two more ropes, and all the carabiners I owned, it was a little awkward as I passed the knot at the end of the first rope and began, with a jummar as a backup, rappelling down the second rope, a skinny 8.5mm.

The cool morning breeze should have felt good, but instead it magnified my worries and doubts. I looked up at the rope stretching over the cold, dark stone wall. At 250 feet, the climbing ropes seemed a lot more like thin rubber bands, elongating a good 20 feet under the weight of my body and gear. And the single 8.5mm strand was all too eager to slip through my rappel device.

Some 270 feet below the rim, I swung right about 15 feet in order to land my feet on the loose talus of the Lost Arrow notch. There I carefully worked my way onto more solid ground and eventually, ropes in tow, to a familiar set of shiny bolt anchors on the Spire itself.

I'd been there a few weeks before, with my two friends David Ress and Bob Suzuki. On that trip, I had been irritable, pissed off and a general asshole at times because things did not go as smoothly as I would have liked. So partly because I thought we had taken too long on our ascent of the Spire Tip, and partly because I was bored and had no climbing partner for a mid-week trip, I set off to rope solo the route last July.

The Valley was a hot, sweltering, sticky, overcrowded nightmare. I couldn't for the life me figure out why so many people came to Yosemite Valley in the middle of July. It seemed miserable, and the crowds only doubled the displeasure.

When I had arrived the previous morning, it was too hot to climb. I fought my way through the flocks of tourists, ate some ice cream, bought a few more carabiners and a cheap watch which I set to go off at 3 a.m... and I gazed up hypnotically at that giant granite phallus.

As the day cooled off a bit, I waited for a short, straightforward crack climb to become available and then I set off on my first ever rope solo aid pitch. The crack was so good that it was virtually a bolt ladder. But then I knew that the route on the Spire would not have any real technical difficulties either.

I had settled into the picnic area at the Church Bowl to cook my evening meal when I heard a loud roar. I thought it was a jet at first -- then after it continued for a moment, maybe thunder. But despite an eastern cloud buildup earlier in the afternoon, the sky was clear. And besides, the loud rumbling kept on going.

I stood up from the picnic table and strode out towards the road. Two people were looking out towards Glacier Point. There, from cliffs east of Curry Village, a rather large avalanche was in progress.

As with most such demonstrations of nature, the raw power of this event, even from our safe vantage point, was pretty impressive. An enormous piece of the granite wall had calved off and was falling thousands of feet. When it landed, a huge cloud of dust was forced far into the sky, eventually blotting out all views of Half Dome.

The sirens went off, and I wondered, even though it was early evening, how many unfortunate hikers were in that corridor. Certainly somebody was hurt or killed...

Rescue workers, who had only just left the adjoining meadow after a helicopter evacuation, began to reassemble. They looked tired and resigned to a long night of work. As the curious gathered to stare out at the giant dust cloud, I laid out my little pile of gear next to my car, crammed it into my pack, and then drove away to give the rescuers more room.

I managed a fitful night of sleep in the hot, filthy, buggy and humid woods above noisy Sunnyside. A small animal kept jiggling discarded tin cans in a crevice very near my head. Of course, the alarm went off far too soon and I was up and stuffing food in my mouth and hiking the trail. It all seemed like a really silly idea at 3:30 a.m.

When David and Bob and I had done the climb, we shared the route with a man who had climbed the Direct route with his friend. On a gear and beer run to the Valley, his friend had seriously twisted his knee on the trail. So this man was back to finish the last two pitches by himself. Watching him climb was fascinating. His movements were smooth and efficient, seemingly effortless.

In contrast, seeing us climb must have been like watching an old Three Stooges movie. "Hey Moe, you expect me to jug up this skinny rope?" "You knucklehead, you're standing in my aider!" "Woo-woo-woo! I thought you had the rack!" "Anybody seen my other Jummar?"

We had started off by rappelling into the notch with the rack still slung on a tree limb at the rim. Bob seemed very concerned about ascending an 8mm static line. One of my shiny new \$50 Jumars unclipped from my harness and dove off the Spire. We stopped climbing at the second belay and began a macrame project with our ropes. Performing a Tyrolean back to the rim appeared to be by far the most complicated task that has ever been performed. Hours passed.

So I was sure I could do better on my own. The leading and cleaning shouldn't take any longer, and a quick rap back to the start of each pitch shouldn't consume much time, right?

My self belay device was a clove hitch. This meant that to make progress I had to keep passing rope through the knot (or clip in a new knot and unclip the previous one). This technique, particularly on the little bit of free climbing required, turned out to be pretty slow going. In addition, the task of rope management was left entirely to me. Nobody was there to stack or tend the

ropes as I climbed. A stuck rope while I was 100 feet up would be a major pain to deal with.

The first pitch went without too much fuss. There is a little bit of free climbing, but I never felt scared in my Five Tennies, which to me means about 5.6. The book says 5.8, but I think you can aid a little more or less in places. When David led it, he got his money's worth by mantling out of his aiders onto the Salathe Ledge. I timidly slotted nuts there instead.

Climbing up off the Salathe Ledge (really a big flake) towards the supposed crux of the climb, my carefully stacked lead rope fell off and threatened to wedge behind the flake. So I had to downclimb and restack it. More lost time.

Once up to the two A2 placements, I discovered to my annoyance that I had forgotten which pieces fit, even though I had led this section a few weeks earlier. As I fumbled with my gear, I noticed someone watching from the rim above the Falls. I stopped and waved. For a moment, my anxiety was gone. It was really fun to be hanging there off the side of the Spire.

Then a glance up at the returning clouds got me moving again. "Oh yeah, the #1 friend fits here like a glove". Then for the shallow scar, I pulled out the ace card -- a 0.5 tri-cam. Easy placements and a number of funky fixed pieces that appeared to have been scavenged from a junkyard led up to an optional belay point. It was here that the three of us had spent a good thirty minutes reorganizing gear and untangling ropes. Because there were three of us, we had broken the climb into as many pitches, but I had no need or reason to do so.

The bolt and rivet ladder that Bob had led was a lot of fun. I remembered looking up at him as he stuffed cams under the bulge and then swung over it and followed the remaining rivets to the top. It isn't hard, but it's dramatic -- and amazing that it is sometimes free climbed at a stout 5.12.

It looked like there was going to be some thunderstorm activity and I was keen to clean my gear and get off that granite lightning rod. As fast as I could, I got back down to the Salathe Ledge and starting juggling like a madman, clipping gear haphazardly back onto my rack and harness.

As I prepared for the first of three crossings via Tyrolean, I looked down at a pair of newly arrived climbers. A Yosemite guide with his client had hiked in from Tuolumne to climb the Tip. I replaced the 8.5mm rap rope with my lead rope so I could traverse on two full size ropes, and I carefully stacked it on top so it would feed as I made my first trip.

As soon as I lowered off the top, the whole thing just fell off and plummeted towards the two below. "Rope!!". Fortunately, it didn't reach them -- "Sorry! I'm still trying to figure this stuff out!". "That's okay.". I started across, seeking a rhythm and also trying not to feel too scared. I kept looking at the anchor, the knots, my harness, the rope itself -- I didn't trust anything.

I stopped and looked down at the two preparing to climb. "Aren't you guys worried about rain?!" "YES!!", came the nervous response. I pulled up onto the rim and felt a strange mixture of relief and anxiety. I was back, but my ropes weren't. I tied off the one I'd dragged and traversed back again. I looked down, but the two were already around the corner, working very quickly on the climb.

When I got back to the Spire, I realized my blunder in a moment. A stream of obscenities alerted the guide's wife who was watching from the rim. "Are you okay? Are you stuck over there?" The thought of being trapped on the Spire in a thunderstorm sounded so unpleasant that it made my predicament

seem too trivial to warrant a fuss. But it irritated me just the same. "No, I just didn't pass my rope through the anchors. I'll have to leave a couple carabiners on top." I knew I could also do two more traverses, but with the weather deteriorating, I thought the price of two carabiners -- even the overblown lockers that I chose -- was a small price to pay.

I made the final traverse, and with much grunting and groaning and with the help of a jumar, I pulled my stubborn ropes through the carabiners on the Spire and back to the rim. The two below had decided to rap back to the notch and jug out -- it had begun to rain and there were rumblings of electrical activity in the distance.

Coiling my ropes and stowing my gear, the weather and the light rain now felt harmless, even pleasant. I chatted with the guide's wife and yelled to the guide about my shiny lockers on top. I couldn't tell if he was more disappointed about bailing off the climb or missing out on the booty.

My huge pack wasn't much fun to carry down the trail, and I felt rather dubious about my little adventure. But I knew there was beer, food and a nap waiting for me down below. Half way down, with my body rebelling, I was passed by a dayhiker babe in a halter top and short shorts. Somehow, I managed to practically jog after her. Just keeping her in sight was motivation for me to keep moving.

As it turned out, it took me only about 30 minutes less time to climb the thing as it had when I was with Bob and David. Hardly a success from that perspective. And I found out that rope soloing added a stress to climbing that, for me, stole away some of the fun. I'm not sorry I did it, but it did seem a little silly in a way. And I just might do it again.

– Jim Curl

Mt Tallac

On 6th April 97, the three of us, Scott Kreider, Marilyn Hurley and I, Arun Mahajan attempted Mt Tallac (9735 ft) in the Desolation Wilderness in the South Lake Tahoe region.

As per the USFS (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit), you need a permit even for day use, so we went to their office at 870 Emerald Bay Rd and wrote ourselves one. The small turn off for the Tallac trailhead on 89 is easy to spot but the access road is a little broken up and bumpy, but we could still get to the trailhead in my car. Ours was the only one there. It turned out that there was a box at the trailhead with blank permit forms too.

The snow started right away. We stuck mostly to what would have been the Mt Tallac trail, had it not been obscured by the snow. The snow was well consolidated, and we were not postholing, and we did not need to use snowshoes which remained a dead-weight throughout the trip. The trail sticks to the top of a ridge that runs north to south with great views of Fallen Leaf Lake. As we broke through the forest, we saw another group heading up the steep eastern bowl. Even though that route offers almost direct access to the summit, we passed. We went over the mildly steep ridge of Tallac that runs from north to the south-east and then headed up the backside. The snow was hard and icy in places but we did not need crampons or axe, ski poles were enough.

After a little over four hours from the trailhead, we were at the summit. Some clouds were building up, but we had great views of Dick's Peak, Pyramid Peak and the almost perfectly circular

Lake Gilmour. We could make out Roundtop and what we thought was Freel Peak.

If the summit had register, then we did not see it.

The journey back was a little quicker (less than 3 hours) due to a couple of exciting glissades and we also used the long run-outs to practice some ice-axe techniques. On a colder day, an axe and crampons would have been really needed, but that day the sun was warm and the snow soft enough to obviate that.

– Arun Mahajan

1997 Advance Trip List

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE LEADERS TO SIGN UP FOR THESE TRIPS. This list is intended to prevent trip scheduling conflicts and to help you plan your summer, NOT to enable people to sign up way in advance. If you are planning a trip, and if you change your plans or can't get a permit, please contact the Scree Editor to keep this list up to date.

Date	Peak(s)	Class	Leader(s)
Jun 21-22	Red Slate couloir	3	Schuman/Schafer
Jul 3-8	Goddard, McGee, Emerald, Hermit, etc	2,3,3,5	Suzuki/Eckert/Schafer
Jul 12-13	Mt. Dade	2	(withheld)
Jul 19-20	Humphreys, Emerson	4	Suzuki/Harris
Jul 19-20	Mt. Clark	3-4	Maas/Schafer
Jul 25-27	Kearsarge, University, Indep	3	Schuman
Aug 2-3	Matterhorn Pk, Whorl Mtn.	2,4	Schafer
Aug 8-10	Mt. Haeckel, Mt. Wallace	3	Kirkpatrick/Keith
Aug 9-10	Virginia Peak, Twin Peaks	3	Bulger
Aug 15-18	Mt. Whitney, Mt. Russell	5/3,3	Schafer/Ramaker
Aug 30-1	Clarence King, Gardner	5	Schafer
Sep 5-7	Banner Peak, Mt. Ritter	3	Harris
Sep 12-14	Mt. Gabb	2	Maxwell
Sep 13-14	Tehipite Dome	3	Suzuki/Schafer
Sep 19-21	Mt. Russell	3	(withheld)
Sep 20-21	Mt. Morrison, Mt. Baldwin	3	Fitzsimmons/Suzuki
Sep 20-21	Koip Peak, Gibbs, Dana	2	Schuman/Magliocco
Oct 4-5	Needham, Sawtooth, Vandever	3	Schuman
Oct 18-19	Koip Peak, Ragged Peak	3	Suzuki

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.

Lassitude		
Peak:	Mt. Lassen (10,000 +)	snow
Date:	May 3	Sat
Contact:	George Van Gorden	408-779-2320

We will meet at the old ski lodge moderately early Sat. and go to the top and back in one day. Snowshoes or skis, axe and crampons.

Williamson, by George!

Peak:	Mt. Williamson (14,375 feet)	class 2
Dates:	May 2-4	Fri-Sun
Map:	Williamson 7.5 min	
Contact:	Tony Cruz	408-944-2003 cruz@idt.com
Co-Contact:	Rich Calliger	415-424-0480 rcalliger@siliconengines.com

This is the second highest peak in the Sierra and the most awesome when viewed while driving south on Highway 395. The objective is the highest of the three summits and the route is the SE ridge from George Creek. Ice ax and crampons are required and winter camping experience is desirable. The George Creek approach is a long bushwhack. We will depart from the George Creek trailhead at the crack of dawn, May 3.

Maggie and Moses with Miya

Peaks:	Maggie and Moses	class 1-2, ice axe
Dates:	May 10-11	Sat-Sun
Contact:	Eugene Miya	415-961-6772

Maggie and Moses are to Sequoia National Park as Sing and Gale are to Yosemite National Park -- immediately outside and south of the park. Maggie and Moses are in Mountain Home State Forest and not part of the Sierra crest. So what's their significance? These two talus heaps were proposed as an alternate to the proposed Mineral King ski resort. When Mineral King was rejected, neither the USFS nor Disney retained interest in developing a ski area.

Shasta-Hotlum-Bolum

Peak:	Mt. Shasta (14,162')	snow
Dates:	May 24-26	Sat-Mon
Contact:	George Van Gorden	408-779-2320 before 9pm

We will climb the mountain from the north side by the way of the Hotlum-Bolum ridge. On the summit day we will do about 4700 Vertical on moderate snow. Crampons and ice axe experience required. Great sunsets from the camp, despair and angst on ascent and hierophany on descent possible.

Slated for Red and White

Peak:	Red Slate (13163) Red&White (12816)	snow/class 3
Dates:	May 31-June 1	Sat-Sun
Maps:	Mt Morrison, Mt Abbot 15' topos	
Contact:	Bob Suzuki	(>8pm) H 408-259-0772 bobszk@pacbell.net W 510-657-7555
Co-Contact:	Arun Mahajan	H 408-244-7912 arun@sientientnet.com W 408-473-8029

This strenuous 2-peak weekend will start from the McGee Pass trailhead, 10 miles southeast of Mammoth Lakes. Saturday we'll backpack in to Little McGee Lake, setup camp and climb Red Slate for a total first day's gain of over 5000'. Sunday's climb of the northeast ridge of Red and White will be easier with less than 2000' of gain, but may involve ascending steep snow and loose rock. Limited to 8 experienced climbers; ice axe, crampons and snowshoes.

Simply Silliman

Peak:	Mt Silliman (11188')	class-2
Dates:	June 7-8	Sat-Sun
Maps:	Triple Divide Peak (15') or Mt Silliman (7.5')	
Contact:	Siamak Navid	707-577-4845 sia@sr.hp.com

We will start hiking on trail at Lodgepole (Sequoia NP) on Sat, June 7th. Our tentative camp for Sat night is at Twin Lakes (9500") which makes the hike about 8 miles with 2500' of gain. Depending

on the conditions, going off-trail and camping closer to the peak might also be an option. We will attempt the peak and return to the trailhead on Sunday.

Williamson

Peak: Mt. Williamson (14,375') class 2/3
 Dates: June 20-22 Fri-Sun
 Map: Mt. Williamson 7.5'
 Contact: Debbie Benham 415-964-0558
 dmbenham@aol.com

We will depart 6am, Friday, the 20th, from the Shepard Pass Trailhead. The Shepherd Pass trail is long, steep and strenuous with 500' of loss and gain mid-way to the pass. Saturday, we'll get an alpine start and ascend via the Bolton Brown route. Ice axe and crampons required. Sunday, we'll head on out. Permit for six. \$3 permit-fee deposit required. Those who have expressed an interest need to re-contact Debbie - thanks!

Milling About Dade

Peaks: Mt Dade (13,600'), Mt Mills (13,451') class 4
 Dates: June 21-22 Sat-Sun
 Map: Mt Abbot 7.5' quad
 Contact: Kai Wiedman 415-347-5234
 Co-Contact: Bob Suzuki 408-259-0772
 bobszk@pacbell.net

Scenic Little Lakes Valley will be the setting for our adventure. We will attempt at grand traverse of Mt Dade by climbing moderate snow and ice on the north face which will lead us to a 4th class rock rib. From here we will follow the hideously exposed northwest ridge to the summit and down the Hourglass Couloir to Treasure Lakes. The climb will take place on Saturday for it's only a 3.5 mile hike in. Sunday brunch or possible climb of Mt Mills.

SPS TRIP: Izaak Walton and Silver

Peaks: Izaak Walton (12077), Silver (11878) class 3
 Dates: Jun 21-23 Sat-Mon
 Leader: Steve Eckert eckert@netcom.com
 Co-Leader: Ron Hudson

Listed with the Angeles Chapter: 30+ mile Tiger Trip! We'll carry ice axes for some probable spring snow chutes, but most of the trip will be on dry land (assuming a normal snowfall). We'll try to finish in 2 days, with a third day just in case, so pack light for a fast pace! Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email or SASE with recent experience to leader to sign up.

Split Mountain And Other Peaks

Peaks: Split, Tinemaha, Prater, Bolton Brown class 1-3
 Dates: June 28 - July 4 Sat-Fri
 Contact: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036

Now that I have a four-wheel drive vehicle, I'm ready for the much-discussed ride to the trailhead of this impressive fourteener south of Big Pine. The first day we'll hike to Red Lake and set up base camp. Sunday we climb Split Mountain (14,058, class 1-2). On Monday, we'll climb Mt. Tinemaha (12,561, class 1-2), then hike over the Sierra Crest into Kings Canyon National Park, moving our camp to Lake 11,599. From there we'll ascend Mt. Prater (13,329, class 1-2) and Mt. Bolton Brown (13,638, class 2-3) and still have time to explore. Ice axe required. Crampons strongly recommended. Weekenders who wish to climb only Split are welcome, however preference will be given to those opting for the whole trip. A \$5 check reserves your place. Call leader to be sure there is room.

Evolution, Goddard Divide and Black Divide Peaks

Peaks: misc class 2-3
 Dates: July 1-6 Tue-Sun
 Map: Mt Goddard 15 min
 Trailhead: Lake Sabrina
 Contact: John Bees H 702-851-0949
 jbees@maxey.dri.edu W 702-673-7381
 Co-Contact: NEEDED

Let's start the summer season off to a bang by climbing as many of the Muir Pass area peaks as possible over a long July 4th weekend. We'll get six days of climbing with only three days off work. We'll start from Lake Sabrina and go over Echo Col (class 3; 12,400') the first day and set up a basecamp in the Helen Lake/Muir Pass area. Over the next four days we'll climb as many of these peaks as we can: Mt Goddard (class 2; 13,568'), Charybdis (class 3; 13,096'), Scylla (class 2; 12,956'), MacDuffie (class 3; 13,282'), Fiske (class 2; 13,503'), Powell (class 2; 13,360+), Haeckel (class 3; 13,418') Primary importance are Mt Goddard, Charybdis, and MacDuffie. Leader flexible for other alternative peaks. Ice axes will probably be necessary depending on snow and weather conditions. Group currently limited to four experienced and ambitious climbers but additional permit slots may be available.

Mt. Ansel Adams

Peak: Mt. Ansel Adams (11,760+) class 3
 Dates: July 3-6 Thur-Sun
 Map: Mt. Lyell 7.5
 Leader: Jim Curl 415-585-1380
 jimcurl@juno.com

Remote and rarely visited, Mt. Ansel Adams is a spectacular peak in the Yosemite backcountry. From Tuolumne Meadows, 19 miles of trail lead up and over Vogelsang Pass to the Lyell Fork of the Merced River. A few more off-trail miles up this drainage lead to a lovely collection of lakes below the peak. Permit is for 6. Ice axe experience required. Relatively strong hikers preferred (endurance more important than speed). For reference, read Jim Ramaker's report of last July's successful trip in the September 1996 Scree.

The Minarets

Peaks: The Minarets, around 12000' class 4-5
 Dates: July 4-6
 Contact: Peter Maxwell 408-737-9770
 Co-Contact: Paul Scheidt 408-439-9204

The Minarets comprise the delightfully jagged crest close to Ritter and Banner, seen from Highway 395. Ever wondered what it would be like to be on the SUMMIT of one of them? That's what we aim to find out. We'll explore several of the summits over the weekend, with difficulties ranging from class 4 up to 5.7 or so. All the climbs will be roped, and will be suitable only for experienced climbers.

Mt. Ritter From The Back Side

Peaks: Ritter (13150'), Banner (12943') class 2, snow
 Dates: July 14-19 Mon-Sat
 Trailhead: Agnew Meadows
 Contact: Alan Ritter 314-225-7600 x5362
 jar@storz.com

Leave Agnew Meadows Monday, 14 July, camp near Thousand Island Lake, then hike over North Glacier Pass and on down to Ritter Lakes on 7/15. Approach is on-trail (10 mi) to 1,000 I., off-trail (2 mi) from there. Secor's western approach is Class 2. If assault on Mt. Ritter succeeds 7/16, we may give neighboring Banner Peak a try 7/17, before hiking back out 7/18-7/19. Ice axe and crampons required. Snow camping possible at 1,000 I. very probable at Ritter Lakes. Reference last summer's trip report:

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/Reports/ritter9606.html>

Mt. Sill

Peak: Mt. Sill (14,162) class 2-3
Dates: July 18-20 Fri-Sun
Map: Mt. Goddard 15
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick 408-293-2447
3780631@mcimail.com
Co-Contact: Alex Keith 415-325-1091
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Starting at South Lake (10,000') we will follow the trail over Bishop Pass (about 12,000') then cross-country over Thunderbolt Pass (12,400') to camp in the Palisade Basin (11,600'). On Saturday we will ascend Mt. Sill through Potluck Pass and the Polemonium Glacier Basin. We will retrace our steps to the cars on Sunday. This route requires a long grind on Friday and the possibility of Class-3 climbing on Saturday. Permit for Six. Waiver required.

Palisades Part Two

Peak: Norman Clyde (13920+') class 3-4
Date: July 27-28 Sun-Mon
Maps: Split Mountain 7.5' quad
Contact: David Harris 415-497-5571
harrisd@leland.stanford.edu
Co-Contact: John Bees 702-851-0949
jbees@maxey.dri.edu

After Thunderbolt and a short night of sleep in the desert, we'll attack imposing Norman Clyde from the South Fork of Big Pine Creek. Carrying light packs and bivy gear, we'll race up to Finger Lake before the Dreaded Mosquitoes of Big Pine Creek eat us alive, then attempt to locate the class 3-4 route up the North-Northeast Ridge. If we stay on route, we may be able to dayhike the peak. If not, we'll plan to bivvy somewhere on the peak and finish Monday morning. Ice axe, crampons, harness required, climbing shoes may be helpful. Group limited to four fast, experienced mountaineers.

Colorado 14ers

Peaks: misc class 1-3
Dates: Aug 1-10 Fri-Sun
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320 before 9pm
Co-Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick 408-293-2447

We will climb four or five 14er's. We will arrange a meeting time at Denver or Colorado Springs airport (depending upon air fares), rent a car and drive from peak to peak. although not to the top. Among the peaks we climb will be Elbert which is the highest mountain in Colorado and Longs Peak by the well-traveled Keyhole route. As a group we will select the other peaks, considering distance, difficulty and Colorado's unpredictable summer weather. Nothing will be harder than Class 3 and much will be on trail.

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.

Notes and Requests

Mt. Vicarious

If you're not already aware, a current Mt. Everest expedition is sending back near-real-time pictures/text via uplink to the Web. The site is at: <http://www.pbs.org/nova/everest>

– Mark D Adrian <markadrian@juno.com>

Here's the opening text, shamelessly stolen from the website:

Take on the ultimate challenge to mind and body and climb Mt. Everest, the highest point on earth. NOVA takes you there, online, with a team of four elite climbers who will continue to track their mental and physical state -- even as they enter the infamous Death Zone above 26,000 feet. Their story appears here, in real-time, and in a NOVA film to be broadcast next winter.

Asolo Poseiden Mountaineering Boots

I have a pair of Asolo Poseiden Mountaineering Boots for SALE. I bought them last year and wore them on 4 mountaineering trips. They're almost new except for a slight scratch from my crampon on the left boot. I'm selling them because I've recently bought a pair of Asolo AFS Guide (Plastic Boots) for my trip to Aconcagua. If I had known I'd be going there last year I would have bought them instead. Oh well! The boots except step-in or strap on crampons. I've used both with great success.

Here are the particulars: Leather Mountaineering Boots, Black, Size 9-US, \$95.00 or B.O. Reply via e-mail or call 415-424-3290.

– Michael A. Rinaldi <rinaldi@zeus.space.lockheed.com>

Climbing Gear Safety Recalls

If you have a web browser, and if you have climbing gear, check out <<http://www.rockandice.com/tooltech/gear.html>> for some eye openers. Did you know that Ed Leeper bolt hangers are cracking under rappel loads? Other brands also. Killing people. Grivel Rambo Crampons have toe bails that break when it's cold, Black Prophet Bent Shaft ice tools are breaking, Metolius 3D Harness buckles cut the webbing, and PMI Dynamic 8.8mm Ropes kink during rappels... Climb safely.

Grand Teton RFI

I am going to be heading to Wyoming to climb the Grand Teton in July and was wondering if anyone else had done it. Well, I guess I didn't think it would be a first ascent - but does anyone have any info. to share regarding the climb and recommendations for routes, maps, guidebooks . . . I heard that a rope/tech gear was necessary for the last pitch. Thanks.

– Kevin Flynn <kaflynn@nature.Berkeley.EDU>

Camp 5 Expeditions RFI

If anyone has had any experience with Camp 5 Expeditions (operated by Greg Grant and Alan Burgess, and headquartered in Salt Lake City) or knows of anyone who has had such experience, I would appreciate hearing your views or comments on the quality of the trips Camp 5 Expeditions runs. Thanks.

– Mark Wallace <mwallace@stutman.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, rope may be used.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

In Upcoming Issues:

Trip reports: Mt Russell, Upper Kern, Southern Sawtooth, Tin Mtn, Mt Lola, Mt Morgan.

(Please limit trip reports to one page if possible.)

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 5/25/97. 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