



## Next Meeting

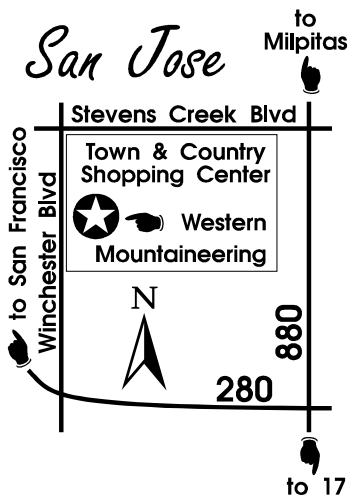
**Date:** Tuesday, October 14

**Time:** 8pm, 7pm planning mtg

**Program:** Yin and Yang of Denali

North America's highest peak is not your standard peak bagging trip! Over two weeks camped near the Arctic Circle on snow and ice, with blizzards, crevasses, and frozen toothpaste... one was stymied by the flu and the other was forced into a 6500' summit bid. Armchair mountaineers who someday intend to visit the frozen north must attend. Tim Hult and Steve Eckert will discuss planning an arctic adventure, and will show slides from the airstrip at 350' to the summit at 20,320' (within sight of each other). Spectacular scenery includes the best view from a latrine we've seen on four continents.

**Location:** Western Mountaineering Town & Country Village, San Jose



**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 10/26/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.**

## Nominations for Officers

A friendly note from the PCS Nominating Committee! If you are interested in becoming an officer, or you know of someone who may be interested, please let us know by October 24.

Contact any one of us for a full and complete description of each officers' duties, or, visit the PCS website <<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/index.html>> to view a full description. Thank you! We are:

<b>Debbie Benham</b>	<b>650-964-0558</b>	<b>dmbenham@aol.com</b>
<b>Debbie Bulger</b>	<b>408-457-1036</b>	<b>dfbulger@cruzio.com</b>
<b>Bob Suzuki</b>	<b>408-259-0772</b>	<b>bobszk@pacbell.net</b>

- PCS Nominating Committee

*As per the bylaws, the nominating committee is formally announced at the October meeting. If you don't like the Chair's choice of NomCom designees, you can vote from the floor to change them at that meeting. - Ed.*

## 1997 PCS Fall/Winter Trip Planning Meeting

**IMPORTANT!!!** The 1997 Fall/Winter PCS Trip Planning meeting will be held Tuesday Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at Western Mountaineering, just before the regular monthly PCS meeting at 8 p.m.

This is the meeting where trip leaders and prospective trip leaders gather to propose and schedule climbing trips for fall 1997 and winter 1998. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring your trip ideas, trip proposals, and any maps and guidebooks that would be useful. Hope to see you there!

- Jim Ramaker <[ramaker@VNET.IBM.COM](mailto:ramaker@VNET.IBM.COM)>

## Sunset Clause

I've been asked by Warren Storkman to address the issue of outdated or forgotten operating rules and/or amendments to the PCS bylaws (sort of a "sunset clause" for things from the distant past). Currently, the PCS has two so-called Operating Rules in the official files. Others may have been adopted but not filed with the bylaws, and if so they have been lost to history! The PCS Binder contains no record of operating rules other than these relatively new ones:

- Electronic Scree (EScree) Operating Rule, adopted June 1995
- Publicity Committee Charter, adopted May 1996

Please consider the proposed bylaw amendment on the next page, and be ready for a vote at the October meeting. Also, if you know of any operating rules other than the two above, please bring information (text of the rule, when it was adopted, etc) so we can get them back on the books!

- Steve Eckert <[eckert@netcom.com](mailto:eckert@netcom.com)>

# Sunset Clause Details

## Reason for the Bylaw Change:

It's not "badly" needed, but another Section found themselves in a situation where a few people thought some old bylaws existed for which there was no paper trail. An unsigned and undated copy was eventually found, but not until after a new set of bylaws were half drafted. We can avoid the tense times they went through by cleaning house when nothing is disputed.

For at least a few years before Debbie and Paul put the official PCS Binder together, our record keeping was awful. Now seems like as good a time as any to dig up or discard old paperwork.

– Steve Eckert

## Proposed Bylaw Addition:

Article IX, Section 2. Amendments or standing rules which modify or clarify these bylaws shall be signed by the Section Chair, attached to a printed and signed copy of the bylaws, and kept on file at the Loma Prieta Chapter offices. Each amendment or standing rule must be accompanied by a record of when the final vote was taken. Those amendments or standing rules not so documented are revoked as of December 1997.

## Current Bylaws (complete Article VIII and IX):

### ARTICLE VIII. Operating Rules

Section 1. Rules for making more explicit the operating procedures of the Section may be adopted or modified by the following method. Rules as defined in this article shall not be in conflict with the By-Laws.

a. A proposed rule shall be presented at a duly constituted meeting of the Section for discussion.

b. Upon approval of the proposed rule by a majority of those members present, the proposed rule shall be published in the next issue of the Section newsletter.

c. The proposed rule may then be adopted or rejected by a majority vote at the next duly constituted meeting of the Section.

### ARTICLE IX. Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Peak Climbing Section members present at a duly constituted meeting of the Section prior to submission of the amendment to the Executive Committee of the Loma Prieta Chapter for approval, provided that the proposed amendment is published in the Section newsletter immediately preceding the meeting.

## Split Mountain, Mt. Tinemaha

A spectacular photograph of Split Mountain appears on page 174 of Secor. I first saw this California 14er from the summit of Cardinal last year. With my new 4WD truck, Split was at the top of my list for 1997. We summited on June 29. Everything you have read about the difficulty of the road to the trailhead is true. Only worse. Be prepared.

Since Secor calls Split the easiest of the 14ers after Whitney, I was not prepared for the (easy) third class section. Apparently Secor was referring to the West approach or perhaps the approach from Red Lake without the snow. At any rate, the

difficulty of the rock induced me to change our plans to cross to the west side with full packs. After a mixed climb on snow and rock, four of the participants summited. Climbers were Robert Evans, Arun Mahajan, David Wright, Richard Stover and Debbie Bulger. Robert, Arun, and David hiked out after the climb and two did the PCS wee hour drive back to the Bay area.

Since Richard and I were staying to climb Tinemaha, we did not rush back to camp. At about 12,000' on the way down as we were filling our water bottles, we heard a clatter. To our horror we saw a four-foot-diameter boulder crashing toward us. Dropping everything, we dashed at right angles to the fall line. The surge of adrenaline was powerful. The block bounced and came to a crashing halt about 40' from where our packs lay.

The next day we left base camp at Red Lake to climb Tinemaha, but were blown off our feet twice by the fierce wind. We bailed and spent the day inside our tent. It was like a scene from the English Patient (the sand storm, not the love scene). Dust was everywhere--in our noses, in our hair, in our sleeping bags. It was the Sahara; It was Shasta in a winter storm; It was not fun.

What a difference a day makes. The next day we summited Tinemaha. Windless, calm, placid. Beautiful red, green, white rocks. On top were bivy sites with smooth white river rocks larger than softballs. Definitely not from this mountain. Who carried the river rocks to the summit? Were they carried by Indian youths on their vision quests? Later, I stopped by the Piute Cultural Center in Bishop (on the Bishop Creek Road) and asked if they knew. The Indian woman I spoke with did not know about the rocks but said she would ask some of the tribal elders. I'll check on the answer another time.

– Debbie Bulger

## Reeling on Virginia

There we were on the exposed ridge between Virginia and Stanton. It was not a place for someone with tremophobia. Our hearts were in our mouths. We quivered like aspen leaves. To the north the ridge dropped away for five hundred feet. To the south, the same. Most people choose to climb either the face or from the Twin-Virginia Saddle where in winter it is possible to ski the route. But with courage undaunted, we six resolute PCSers, reeking of chutzpah, shooting with spunk, armed with backbone and good old-fashioned guts. We. . . --hey, wait a minute, I'm not one of the testosterone crew.

Take two. On a clear August day we traversed the exposed third class ridge between Virginia and Stanton. Our goal was to ensure that everyone in the party made the summit. To achieve this, we alternated confident with less confident climbers and provided support when asked. We all made it. Climbers were Bob Bynum, Greg McDonnell, Milushe Kudrnovska, Arun Mahajan, Richard Stover and Debbie Bulger, leader.

After lounging on the summit for about an hour, we returned to Return Lake via the Twin-Virginia saddle, packed up and hiked back to the trailhead. We especially enjoyed exploring the stamp mill ruins and miners cabin on the east side of Virginia Pass. The mountain pennyroyal was particularly fragrant that weekend. It was a lovely trip.

– Debbie Bulger

## 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.

### Mt. Diablo Conditioning Hike

Peak: Mt. Diablo (3,849') class 1  
 Date: Oct 18 Sat  
 Leader: Vreni Rau 510-582-5578  
 Co-Leader: Debbie Benham 650-964-0558  
 dmbenham@aol.com

No ice axe or crampons required!! Enjoy a hike up this grand devil mountain. We'll meet at Macedo Ranch parking area at 9 a.m. and follow the Summit Trail to the top. Expect about 14 miles and a total 3300' elevation gain. Carpool point in Milpitas at Highway 237 and Hillview (Bank of America parking lot), leaving at 8:15 a.m.

### An Unkosher Mountain

Peaks: Needham, Sawtooth (S), Vandever class 2  
 Dates: Oct 18-19 Sat-Sun  
 Maps: Mineral King 15 min. or Mineral King 7.5 min.  
 Leader: Aaron Schuman H 650-984-9184  
 schuman@sgi.com W 650-933-1901

Only one week after purging our souls on Yom Kippur, we Need Ham again. Saturday, we'll acclimatize on Vandever Peak (11,947' class 2), and steel ourselves for Sunday's spectacular but arduous ascent of Need Ham Mountain (12,520' class 3). Before dawn lifts the frost off Mineral King valley, we'll light out for Crystal Lake. After a challenging crossing of Crystal Pass, we'll descend to Amphitheater Lake and climb the southern slopes of Need Ham. If time and energy permit, we'll traverse the mile long, airy, class-3 ridge to Sawtooth Peak (12,343' class 2), then descend via Sawtooth Pass and Monarch Lake. We're going to gain and lose 5800 vertical feet on Sunday, so be prepared for a merciless workout! Severe snow postpones this trip until fall 1998.

### Kern Connector

Peaks: Angora, Coyote, Eisen, Lippincott class 2  
 Dates: Oct 20-23 Mon-Thu  
 Maps: Kern Peak, Triple Divide Peak (15' topos)  
 Leader: Steve Eckert 650-508-0500  
 eckert@netcom.com

If you've ever wanted to be deep in the Sierra during fall colors and without bugs, or if you've ever wondered what the Kern River looked like at 7000', this is the trip for you! Timed to follow Schuman's Vandever/Needham trip, we'll continue over Black Rock Pass and climb Eisen (12,160' class 2) and Lippincott (12,260' class 2) from Little Five Lakes. Continuing down Big Arroyo, it's a long gentle walk through the glacially carved Kern Canyon to Coyote (10,892' class 2) and Angora (10,202' class 2), then over to meet Bob Suzuki's group on their dayhike of Moses and Maggie. One-way hiking means we can get some remote peaks without as much mileage.

### Moses Rockhouse

Peaks: Maggie, Moses, Rockhouse, Taylor, Sirretta  
 Maps: Mineral King, Lamont Peak, Kernville topos  
 Dates: Oct 24-26 Fri-Sun  
 Leader: Bob Suzuki after 8 pm: 408-259-0772  
 bobszk@pacbell.net  
 Co-Leader: Steve Eckert 650-508-0500  
 eckert@netcom.com

From Mountain Home State Park, we'll do a long dayhike of North Moses (9,331' class 3) and Maggie (10,235' class 1) on Friday.

Then we'll caravan down to Big Meadow (off Cherry Hill near Sherman Pass) for Saturday dayhikes of Taylor (8,774' class 2) and Sirretta (9,977' class 1) with the people who could not take Friday off work. Sunday we'll walk over to Rockhouse (8,383' class 2) and head home. Car camping means we can travel fast and light, and it also means you can choose whether to do all the peaks.

### Whitney the Easy Way

Peak: Mt. Whitney (14,495') class 1  
 Dates: Oct 24-26 Fri-Sun  
 Leader: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320

Climb Mt. Whitney by the regular trail; enough of that mountaineers stuff. We will spend Friday night at Outpost Camp at about 10,300', and on Saturday start early and go all the way to the top. Back to the cars before noon on Sunday. Significant snow in the days preceding will cancel.

### Newcomer Navigation Class

Dates: Nov. 13 (class 7:30-9pm) Thu  
 Nov. 15 (field trip) Sat  
 Leader: Noreen Ford 415-568-0329  
 Co-Leader: Debbie Benham 650-964-0558

Interested in going cross-country in the wilderness? Lost your way and would like to return to camp? Which way is north? Find the answers to these and other questions at our introductory, right-brained, low-tech navigation class. Learn how to use the stars, maps (AAA, Forest Service, topographic), and a compass to find your way, not only to the trailhead and to the top of a peak, but back again in one piece before dark! We'll have an in-town evening session on Thu. Nov. 13, 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Linda Smith's house in Palo Alto. Following that we'll have a hands-on field trip to Henry Coe State Park, Sat. Nov. 15. If interested, please call.

## 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.

### Climb Nevada

Peaks: Wheeler, Boundary, Montgomery  
 Dates: Oct 8-12 Wed-Sun  
 Contact: Tony Cruz 408-944-2003  
 Co-Contact: Pat Ibbetson pkibbetson@ucdavis.edu

We will rendezvous in East Sierra and drive to Wheeler Peak (13,063') near Las Vegas. It is the second highest peak in Nevada, and glaciated. We hope to tour the famous nearby Lehman Caves before we drive to the White Mountains and climb Boundary (13,161'), the highest peak in Nevada, and adjacent Montgomery, which is in California, next to White Mountain.

### Aconagua Private Expedition

Peak: Aconagua (22,841') class 2 / snow  
 Dates: 26 Dec 97 - 20 Jan 98  
 Contact: R.J. Calliger 510-651-1876  
 calliger@infolane.com

Anyone interested? Please take a look at Secor's "Climbing Aconagua" if you are, then contact me for further details via email. The main challenges to this climb are the altitude (22,841'), and the weather (-10F to -20F plus wind). It is the start of the summer there in December and with the altitude, expect conditions like climbing a 14'er here in late winter or early spring, but colder. Airfare is \$850.

## Safety, Philosophy, and HAM

I wish to comment on the assertion that the drive one does to get to the mountains is more hazardous than the climb. I believe mountaineering is far, far, more hazardous than driving. Statistically, by my figuring it is one of the most hazardous things one can do. I am aware of 9 mountain deaths in the last 15 years of people I have been on climbing trips with. This is out of only a few hundreds of people. Also I know about another 7 who were friends of people I go with. Assuming 9 out of 900 = 1% odds of dying. Very bad odds! If 1% of U.S. drivers (150M?) were killed, this would be 15M auto deaths in 15 years = 1 million per year rather than actual 30-50,000 auto death rate. So, the bottom line in the mountains is that you have some tough odds to overcome. Gravity kills! Safety, experience, level-headedness and being prepared for the worst-case are the words to follow.

And why do I still engage in this risky behavior? Well, maybe I think it won't happen to me because I do it better than the other person. I imagine a lot think that way, including the expired climbers (peacefully rest their souls). But I still take the risks such as climbing alone and going for the summit in bad weather. Those risky situations are times that I have really experienced life's maxima! Those are the memories I live (I hope not to die) for. They are the thrill, the energy, the vivid scenes that make life a pleasure. I like the great feeling of knowing I came through a difficult situation, if not mastered it, and am all the more savvy for the next time.

So the trick is to get the most of those of the adrenaline-filled experiences while staying alive and uninjured. That is where the experience and training come in. Get all you can. The best training is in a real situation; close enough to death or injury to be the real thing and still live unscathed to have that vivid memory to know the best thing to do the next time. Expose yourself to semi-risky situations to build that genuine experience. I think it is okay to fall on a slightly risky snow slope, self-arrest and have the pride that I know I have the reaction to save my life on a real dangerous slope. Also, I have taken the risk of a proceeding in the face of a likely bivouac with minimal or no equipment, and emerged from the bivouac all the better and wiser.

One other caveat I have followed, is to err on the conservative side in the younger years. If you make the mistake of going past the error margin when older, you have already lived much of that good life. But make the error when young, you will miss out on those future, smarter years; that would be sad. Life can be a build-up to better more adventuresome and smarter experiences, until one is physically unable to keep up with them. Then nature can claim me.

So much on philosophy. I want to add that I think HAM RADIOS are great to use in the mountains. They should not be a crutch to put you in places you wouldn't go otherwise because they can fail. Don't trust your life to a radio. But it adds another margin of safety to overcome that unplanned situation that puts your life in danger. It supplements the other important safety items such as extra clothing, extra food, roll of tape, bivy bag, mirror, lighter, etc. The ham radio also is fun, especially when I am alone. Another reason to go to the summit and spend time there. On top of Mt. Bolton Brown three weeks ago I talked to fellow in Santa Maria through a repeater in Coalinga - 125 miles distant! All with my tiny two-way radio weighing less than one pound.

– Ron Hudson <ronh@compuserve.com>

## Domes In the Distance

June 14-15, 1997: On the rugged bushwack down Tenaya Canyon last fall, Kai Wiedman waxed poetic about the beauty of nearby Cherry Creek Canyon. Figuring the trip would be worthwhile even if it was half as scenic as Kai described, I eagerly signed up for his trip. The participants were fearless leader Kai Wiedman, Cecil Ann, Jim Ramaker, Jeff West, and your loyal scribe David Harris.

The trip had a wet start Friday night as a lone cloud hung over the Cherry Lake region about midnight and sprinkled on us. Evidently the cloud was periodically relieved as intermittent sprinkles continued through the night, but Saturday morning we awoke to clear blue sky.

We met at the parking lot for the Kibbie Ridge trailhead at 8 am Saturday morning. The lot can be reached by taking 120 toward Yosemite. A few miles before entering the park, take a left at the sign for Cherry Lake and San Jose Camp. Curve down the road for about 24 miles, then continue across the dam on Cherry Lake. Shortly after the dam, make a left at the sign for Trailhead Parking. The Kibbie Ridge trailhead is about four miles down the road and the ranger had assured Kai that the road was open, but we discovered the road blocked off at a parking lot only a mile from Cherry Lake. We had to hike the next three miles up the road to the proper trailhead. The only damage on the road were two rutted areas that most vehicles could handle and a ten foot section more severely washed out. It looked like the road could be repaired in a short time with a bulldozer; we wondered if the Forest Service just had too many other washed out roads in the repair queue or if they intended to cut access to the region.

After reaching the trailhead, we had an eleven mile walk along the Emigrant / Yosemite border through pleasant but unremarkable terrain to Lord Meadow. The bugs were moderately bad, but were beaten into submission by an afternoon shower. As the trail turned down into the meadow, we got a grand view of the granite amphitheater through which the creek flowed. I'd never seen such a large expanse of rounded, glacially polished granite studded with domes everywhere I looked.

We descended to the creek and turned downstream, traversing an exciting sloping slab hideously exposed above the roaring water. Worried about finding good camping further down the canyon, we stopped in a scenic spot about a mile from Lord Meadow about 5:00 just before the rain resumed. When the rain stopped, we enjoyed dinner as clouds swirled among the domes and the sun peeped through once again. The highlight of dinner was when Jeff surprised us with a strawberry shortcake, complete with fresh strawberries and whip cream!

Sunday began at 6:30 with a marvelous ten mile cross-country descent of Cherry Creek Canyon, at least three quarters as beautiful as Kai had promised. The stream roared along beside us, dropping down countless cascades, and appeared uncrossable in almost all sections. Each bend we turned brought new domes into sight. The route is conveniently marked on the Wilderness Press Emigrant Wilderness map. Evidently it can be difficult to find and very tedious when lost, but we managed to pick a good path the entire way, staying very close to the stream the entire way except when forced away by a narrow gorge and near the very end when we turned up toward the trailhead. The upper part of the canyon is consistently beautiful, with reddish granite in many places and excellent walking. Our concerns about good camping were unfounded; in every mile there was at least one

excellent spot. The lower half of the canyon got brushier and required climbing up and around numerous rock obstacles with occasional third class moves, but still had copious wildflowers and excellent views from time to time. In the lower portion, I nearly stepped on a large rattlesnake coiled sleeping on my path and Cecil stepped over a baby rattlesnake without even noticing. We also saw a large black bear laying on its side dead in Cherry Creek. Perhaps it slipped into the rapids and was carried downstream.

The route leaves the creek about a mile before Cherry Lake and climbs a thousand feet through dense forest back to the road. We took a bearing on a shoulder of the canyon at 140 degrees and fortunately found a series of rocks, animal paths, and clearings which reached the shoulder with a minimum of the terrible bushwacking Kai had done on a previous trip when staying too close to the cliffs on the left. We amazingly came out right at the switchback in the road and concluded the trip with a boring and buggy walk back to the cars. Just as we hit the cars at 4:00 a fierce downpour cut loose.

Overall, Cherry Creek Canyon was a very interesting lesser-known cross-country route. Most PCS groups will find it a solid but reasonable two-day trip covering 28 miles (if the road is still closed) and only modest elevation gain. Three days gives more time to loiter in the canyon and take in each cascade.

– David L. Harris

## Too Tired to Climb It, Too Close to Pass It Up

July 31 - August 21, 1997: David Harris and I decided to take a long walk this summer. The JMT, if followed 100% on trail, is 211 miles long. We took a few scenic and not-too-scenic detours, making our mileage total closer to 250; we still found this to be a pretty mild pace over 3 weeks. Lack of food and motivation kept us on the trail most of the time, but along the way we managed to climb Columbia Finger, Donahue Peak, Mt. Izaak Walton, Mt. Reinstein, Saddlehorn, Mt. Ruskin, Arrow Peak, Fin Dome, Mt. Clarence King, Mt. Cotter, Mt. Gardiner, Mt. Hale, and Mt. Young.

Following is a description of 3 climbs, which do not have descriptions in Secor or Roper. The other peaks above were climbed using Secor/Roper descriptions, without incident.

1. Mt. Reinstein and the Goddard Creek Canyon. After walking up Goddard Canyon, we climbed Mt. Reinstein, which was easy class 2 from Martha Lake. Then the real fun began. David, whose cross country ideas got more "creative" as he became delirious from insufficient calories, came up with a decent down the drainage south of Mt. Reinstein to the Middle Fork of the Kings River. Unknown territory, several thousand foot drop, at least 10 miles. I was powerless to resist.

This canyon is unnamed, but contains Goddard Creek. The first 6 miles or so are rough but OK, compared with what faced us below. The last 3 miles before the Kings River contained extremely heavy bushwacking, through chest high manzanita and thorn bushes, often forcing us to stumble down in the now raging creek. This route involves heavy losses of skin and morale, and I can't think of a good reason for any human being to be there.

2. Traverse from Saddlehorn to Mt. Ruskin. This is a fun 4th class traverse on good rock. Saddlehorn is the impressive spike of rock seen to the west from Taboose Pass, and as we were camped

directly beneath it we had to give it a try. Climbing Saddlehorn itself involved a few short pitches of solid 5.4ish rock on its east side. The ridge from there was all 4th class, as it curves around from Saddlehorn south to become the north ridge of Mt. Ruskin. We were forced off the ridge a few times to keep the route 4th class, but the climbing was straightforward and we simul-climbed most of it to the summit of Mt. Ruskin. Both summits took about 7 hours round trip from our camp by the headwaters of the Kings River beneath Saddlehorn.

3. Traverse from Mt. Clarence King to N and S peaks of Mt. Cotter. After an uneventful climb of the South Face of CK, we decided to try the traverse south along the ridge to Mt. Cotter. This ridge looks very dramatic from 60 Lakes Basin, with several deep notches, but we had the rest of the afternoon and though it might go. By staying on or near the ridge, we managed to summit both the N and S summits of Mt. Cotter. The climbing was 90% 3/4th class, never got above the 5.3ish range, but was hideously exposed the whole way. It also involved 2 short rappels to get around the 2 largest notches on the ridge. We were back in camp by 4pm, after starting that morning at 6:30am.

This traverse was extremely fun, quick, and the rock was good. It also avoids the class 2 scree-fest of the easy route on the south side of Mt. Cotter. The traverse and summit marked another of a remarkable string of climbs done by Hiep Nguyen (he had walked in to climb with us for the weekend), who climbs only in Teva sandals and in most cases refuses to use a rope for climbing or rappelling. You have to see it to believe it.

– Craig Clarence

## Towering Weekend

I lead a private climb of Tower Peak on Labor Day weekend, August 30-Sept. 1, 1997. On Saturday, August 30, we left Leavitt Meadows Trailhead and headed south, hiking 22km south through several meadow systems, over gently rising terrain. On our journey towards the peak, we were treated to a stunning, picture perfect view of Tower Peak rising above the golden meadows. It was easy to imagine that we were a party of Pioneers emigrating on foot to Sonora.

Then we traveled an additional 2km, this time up a steeper trail and camped near a meadow just below Tower Lake. On Sun., Aug.31 we climbed the trail past beautiful Tower Lake and up past the snowbank to a saddle on the north side of Tower. Then we moved east to avoid another snowfield (the snowfields were too hard to cross in the early morning without crampons.) Following the ridgeline, we found a series of well traveled use trails over sandy ledges and ramps that led us to within 100 meters of the summit. We turned left, at the class three chute, and climbed it to the top, where we enjoyed the clear view of northern Yosemite, Ritter, Banner.

The mountain is wondrously free of poor quality rock. It sports the best quality handholds. It is truly a pleasure to climb. Permits are self-registration at trailhead and are free.

– Don Martin

# Notes and Requests

## PCS Web Pages Search Feature

The PCS World Wide Web index page (and its text only mirror) now includes a link to the Excite search engine. Hop over to Excite, and you can search for keywords and concepts in all the pages on the web server that hosts the PCS web site.

I searched for the concept "bergschrund" and found it in four issues of Scree and eleven trip reports, including classic stories of daring PCS climbers overcoming tremendous bergschrund obstacles, like "Stalwart 7 Successfully Summit North Palisade", by Peter Maxwell, and "From Sea to Shining Summit: Mount Marcus Baker", by Steve Eckert.

Tip: Include "PCS" in your list of search concepts. That will help exclude non-PCS pages that also reside on the same web server. If you haven't rappelled down to the PCS web site lately, it's time to make another visit to

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/>

– Aaron Schuman <schuman@sgi.com>

## Trailhead Shuttle Service

Year-Round trailhead shuttle service is available. Advance reservations are requested to guarantee service for the Eastern Sierra Nevada range, including all trailheads for the entire Inyo National Forest. I charge from the time I leave my base, which is in Bishop CA, until I drop my customers off.

Example: Bishop Pass to Piute pass. (Bishop to Bishop Pass 20 miles, Bishop Pass to Piute Pass 20 miles. Plus each trip includes a base fee of \$20.00) Cost \$60.00.

If I explain that the price is based on \$1.00 per mile It means from my base to drop off, plus base fee. This price is for 1-4 people. If there is more people in the group (I can generally handle up to 10) the price may vary. Plus, if I can group 2 or more sets of packers together to combine a trip, this will save them \$\$\$. Hopefully this winter I will get a web page set-up. If you know of any one who is willing to trade Shuttle Service for web page design Please give them my e-mail address.

With my web page I'd like to have a reservation form to submit. To enable early reservations. In the meantime, contact me at Kountry Korners Shuttle Service, P.O. Box 1476, Bishop CA 93515. Toll free 800-872-0316 or local 760 872-4411.

– Candi Williams <williams@qnet.com>

## Snow Camping Training

The Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter Snowcamping Section offers a snow camping and winter preparedness training course. It's carefully presented and students are well monitored. It consists of a Saturday seminar, an overnight and then a three day trip. A student can opt for additional late winter trips or other winter training by becoming an assistant. Check it out at

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/sanfranciscobay/snowcamping/index.html>

– Albert Pastine <apastine@netcom.com>

## Official Secor Website

Sierra Nevada peak climbers rely on R.J. Secor's guide book, "The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes and Trails" (The Mountaineers, 1992). In among all the useful route descriptions, there are a few errors. The PCS web site now includes a repository of corrections to Secor. After you read [the first edition of] this guide book, but before you climb, consult

[http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/GuideBook/Secor/HSPPT\\_1st\\_ed/](http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/GuideBook/Secor/HSPPT_1st_ed/)

The first entries on the Secor pages contain information I gleaned from 1997 PCS trip reports, but updates depend on you. Send me your observations. What are the discrepancies between the guide book and the mountains? Where was it easy to go astray? What route did you climb that was complicated enough to deserve more detail than the guide book provided? What do you wish someone had told you before you made your last trip?

The Secor web pages have been authorized by R.J. Secor and his publisher, The Mountaineers. Secor will use our updates when he writes his second edition. [We will forward all entries to him via his publisher.]

But just one caveat about guide books (and errata web sites): Nothing written in any book can substitute for your own ability to understand the terrain and topography of the area you travel in. You must make wise route finding choices based on your own knowledge, experience, and observations.

– Aaron Schuman <schuman@sgi.com> 650-933-1901

## Weather Report Web Pages

All can turn to my Gordie's Sierra page

<http://home.earthlink.net/~mgordon324/sierra.htm>

for many web resources pertinent to the Sierra Nevada. There are a handful of basic weather links which of course lead to a multitude of other satellite, radar, and text weather info. Not posted on the Gordie page is a great site, North American Organized Weather Links:

<http://www.comet.net/weather/>

Click on "Models", then scroll and click on MRF Models; Ten-Day Precipitation Outlook USA for good predictions up to ten days out. There are also a wealth of other outstanding weather stats at this site. I am not responsible for poor modeling nor recommending these sites to you!! Always use good judgment.

– Michael Gordon <mgordon324@earthlink.net>

## Tompkins Summits 8000er

Congratulations to Hal Tompkins, who summited Broad Peak in Pakistan recently. I don't think he is currently in the PCS right now, but he served as a PCS member and trip leader until the early 80s and has been very active in the RCS for many years. I believe he's giving a slide show on the climb for the PCS in January.

To my knowledge, this is the first PCS member, past or present, who has climbed an 8000er. Or is (are) there others?

– Butch Suits <BSuits@svl.ems.lmco.com>

### The KJV: On Burying Your Waste

*Deuteronomy 23:13-14 says, in the King James Version, "And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee: For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee."*

*A modern translation might read "You must carry a trowel, and when you shit in the woods you must dig a hole with the trowel and bury your shit. The Forest Ranger will visit once in a blue moon to see if you need a rescue and to check your permit, and if he sees unburied shit or toilet paper he will cite you."*

### Screaming "Aaiyee!" is Bad Form

My brother told me this story about Robert Underhill. No idea if it's true or if it was lifted straight from the latest edition of \*Crag Rat Weekly\*. If you haven't heard it yet, it goes something like this:

Underhill was on U-Notch in the Palisades (so I think the story goes), and was climbing the easy ground above the (rather large and intimidating) Bergschrund when he fell. He tried but failed to self-arrest. As he shot over the lip of Bergschrund chasm, he was heard to exclaim: "Here I go to Hell!" Broke his ankle and spent the summer brooding and sandbagging his friends.

My brother says this an example of good style. Screaming "Aaiyee!" as you rap off the end of your rope, he says, is an example of very poor style. Whenever anything unexpected happens while I am climbing, I have taken to yelling "Here I go to Hell!" just in case they're my last words. Well, the guy who owns the gym asked me to please stop because it was giving him an ulcer.

– *Andreas Lehnert <awlehner@midway.uchicago.edu>*

### Andes and Himalayan Expeditions

I am looking for climbers interested in a summer 1998 trip to the Peruvian Andes. My intention is to focus on some of the more technical routes in the Cordillera Blanca, but I'm open for discussion on other objectives.

I am also interested in joining a Himalayan expedition in 1998. If you are planning a Himalayan expedition and are in need of another team member, please call 415-309-0570 or drop me a line at P.O. Box 8757, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

– *Craig Clarence <sharpend@telis.org>*

### Driving The Cost Down

Did you know driving alone is the MOST expensive way to get to [the mountains]? According to AAA, it costs about 37 cents PER MILE to drive alone. This figure includes all the costs: gas, tolls, parking, maintenance, and wear and tear on your car. It can add up to thousands of dollars a year!

By using any of these commute alternatives, even occasionally, you'll not only save money, you'll save time and stress by not driving alone. Contact us for a FREE consultation: email <commute@rides.org>, call (800) 755-POOL, or on the web at

<http://www.rides.org/>

### Tahoe-Donner Ski Cabin

Need another member or two for a Tahoe area (Northwoods Blvd) ski cabin. Flat rate for the entire season. Send email or call me at 408-970-0760 home, 408-543-3135 work.

– *Tim Hult <tim.hult@lmco.com>*

### Chapter Affiliation

Deliberating changing Chapter affiliation? If you're considering this, here is the procedure. There is no problem to change chapter affiliation, and how to do it is no secret. Send your request to:

**Lori Ives <ivesico@earthlink.net>**

Supply the following information:

**To what chapter do you currently belong?**

**Where do you live (your current address)?**

**What is your Club membership number?**

**What Chapter do you want to affiliate with?**

– *Mark Adrian <markadrian@juno.com>*

### Aconcagua Home Page

If there are something I can do for people with questions about Aconcagua, let me know and I will try to answer as soon as possible. (webmaster, official home page of Mount Aconcagua)

<http://www.aconcagua.com.ar>

– *Mariano Soler <buscapie@planet.losandes.com.ar>*

### Northern Sierra Peaks Guide

A guide to the peaks in the Tahoe area (see "Tahoe Peaks List" item in the September Scree) has been put together by Pete Yamagata. His book, "Northern Sierra Peaks Guide" contains trailhead directions and route descriptions for 72 peaks. Even though most of these peaks are class 1 or 2, advanced mountaineers can enjoy climbing them in winter with the help of "Winter Ski Ascent" notes included with each description. Available for \$11 including postage, from, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, P. O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507. Sierra Club members who provide their membership number get a one dollar discount. The only complaint I have is the lack of an alphabetical index. Call me at 650-969-2695 if you would like a copy of the index.

– *Dinesh Desai*

### I Am NOT Frightened of Dying!

Based on what you know about him in history books, what do you think Abraham Lincoln would be doing if he were alive today?

- Writing his memoirs of the Civil War,
- Advising the President, or
- Desperately clawing at the inside of his coffin.

– *David Letterman*

For three days after death, hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls taper off.

– *Johnny Carson*

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

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### Subscriptions

Hardcopy subscriptions are \$10. Subscription applications and checks payable to "PCS" should be mailed to the Treasurer so they arrive before the last Tuesday of the expiration month. If you are on the PCS email list (discussion version or lower-volume news version), you have a free **EScree** subscription. For broadcast info, send Email to <listserv@lists.sierraclub.org> with the one-line message "INFO lomap-peak-climbing-news". EScree subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge. All subscribers are requested to send a donation of \$2/year to cover operating expenses *other* than printing the Scree. The Scree is on the PCS web site (as both plain text and Adobe Acrobat/PDF).

### 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 10/26/97. 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**