



Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 9

Time: 8:00 PM

Program: Oh, Canada!

(or "Alpine Climbing in the Canadian Rockies" or "The PCS goes to Canada")

Watch Bob Suzuki solo the viciously exposed N.W. ridge of Mt. Sir Donald. Ponder the bottom of Kelly Maas's crampon points as he kicks steps up the Silverhorn of Mt. Athabasca. Behold Nancy Savickas as she punches through the summit cornice of Mr. Edith Cavell. See Kai Wiedman quiver in his boots looking at the snow plastered N. face of Mt. Assiniboine.

Location: The North Face

217 Alma Street in Palo Alto, just north of the CalTrain station.



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 9/28/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

"Ask Gaston" Returns!

Dear Gaston: Do you have any suggestions as to how best to limit the amount of flatulence that can result from common trail foods, like beans? Last winter I had a nearly unbearable night in a tent with a guy who omitted prodigious quantities of gas. Unfortunately it was just too cold and snowy to sleep outside. Any tips besides sewing up the offending orifice?

– Holding My Breath

Dear Holding: Fight fire with fire. Eat kimchi & pickled aigs.

But seriously, I am the king of flatulence if that is a title which one would (or should) admit to. Then again, I am not soliciting hiking partners in this pathetic publication, so what the hell. What I have tried to do over the years is to identify foods which I KNOW will give me trouble and stay away from them (anything with cooked onions in it is a bozo NO NO - raw onions are no problem, go figure). With trail food the problem is vastly elevated since dried, calorie-rich foods can produce earth-shattering anal explosions even in the queen of England. I, for myself, find it best to go away from the others after a meal and fart up a storm instead of trying to trap them via the sphincter squeeze. Ahhh, if only the stuff would act as a mosquito repellent!! I feel not letting go just makes the gas ferment all the longer in the colon, and that makes for trouble in the tent later on.

A grand trick is to make sure they (or you) carry matches. Strike the match and then blow it out. The sulfurous smoke from the match head competes beautifully for the same receptors in your nose that the shit molecules go for. At least that is how I, Gaston, interpret it. The only other explanation is that the smoke binds to the fart directly and alters it in some way so that it can be detected by your nose. Someone should publish a study on this in JAMA. now there is tax money well-spent! in any event, it works great. One problem is that you need to keep lighting matches for the duration of the gas extravaganza. Be careful about striking a match in an enclosed area too rich in methane gas! "...Oh, the humanity!!"



Gaston Rabbitface

Wait, it's coming to me now... Cold and snowy? Then VBL is the answer! Make sure the other person uses a vapor barrier liner in his sleeping bag. As well as the well known thermal effects of a VBL, they also have the side effect of preventing smells from escaping (until morning), especially with a tight drawstring above the shoulders.

I could go on, but I grow weary of this topic. Now go and trouble me no more.

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.

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. (NOTE: Steve Eckert is thinking about adding Hilgard and/or Recess to this trip, contact him if interested.)

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, but it also means you've can't turn around if you get tired or get a blister.

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 or just a few of them. Fall temperatures should be moderate at this elevation, but rattlesnakes and light snow are possible.

Red Slate Mountain, Red And White Mountain

Bob Suzuki led this trip on the last weekend in May 1997. Participants included Dee Booth, Marilyn Hurley, Scott Kreider, Rich Leiker, Arun Mahajan, Ted Raczek, and myself (Jim Ramaker). Our goals were to climb both peaks in a two-day weekend, frolic in the high-country snow of late spring, and we hoped, make up for the 1996 PCS group that had to turn back on Red & White because of loose rock and a rockfall injury.

We left the McGee Pass trailhead at 8 a.m. Saturday, hiking up the valley under partly cloudy skies. The weather remained partly cloudy all weekend but never rained, so it was nice and cool during the day and warmer than it otherwise would have been at night, not to mention the nice cloud effects for photographers.

We crossed swollen McGee Creek several times -- once on a log and twice on convenient snow bridges. Snow level was around 9500 feet and snow conditions were generally good -- a little sloppy in the afternoon, but never soft enough to require snowshoes. We reached snowbound and iced-up Big McGee Lake at 1:30, set up camp on a tiny patch of bare ground, and packed for the first climb.

At 3 p.m., six of us set off for the hike thru a snowbound valley toward Red Slate Mountain (13,163), 3 miles to the northwest. The peak was hidden until we were well up the valley, which enabled us to say "That's it!" three separate times, then decide that no, that wasn't it after all. This area has a number of imposing reddish-hued peaks. Around 4:30 we reached McGee Pass, then began the final 1200-foot push up easy snow and scree slopes. While slogging up this slope, some of us had ample time to realize that going from sea level to 13,000 feet in 24 hours on your first trip of the year is not a good idea. Bob and Rich seemed relatively unaffected, no doubt benefiting from their experience on Rainier the weekend before.

We summited at 5:30 and admired the tremendous views of the snowbound mid-Sierra region, from the Ritter range in the north to the Abbot group in the south. Descent was relatively pleasant, with plenty of soft snow for glissading, and we were back in camp by 7:30. The wind continued all night and kept the tents flapping, but I was too exhausted to hear it and imagine many of the crew felt likewise.

Sunday at 5:30 a.m. found us smashing a hole in the frozen lake to get water, but it was actually a nice dawn -- the cloud cover had kept the temperature at a mild 38 degrees. We departed at 7:20 and retraced our steps from the day before for awhile, then turned left and climbed out of the valley just south of snow-covered Little McGee Lake. (By the way, I once backpacked through this valley in late summer and it was extremely beautiful, with little tarns and meadows and oceans of colorful rock).

Our plan was to circle to the north of Red and White Mountain (12,850), climb the 12,300-foot hump just north of it, then traverse back southward to the peak and finish up via the northeast ridge. The 1500-foot southeast face that rises directly from the Big McGee Lake basin is a more direct route, but this is the route on which the 1996 party turned back. While the loose rock of last summer was now covered by snow from lake to summit, making this route a fine moderate snow climb, some members of our party were uncomfortable on snow, so our route was a better choice.

Morning snow conditions were perfect for cramponing, and by 9 a.m. we were atop the snow hump north of Red and White, gnawing at rock hard PowerBars and contemplating the rest of the route. At this point the slogging ended and we enjoyed a little climbing -- an aesthetic class two scree ridge, and then a rarity in the Sierras, a sharp snow ridge with long snow slopes on both sides.

Here we paused for a repetition of that beloved PCS ritual -- the discussion of which route to take. The class-3 northeast ridge beckoned above -- snow free, but littered with loose rubble. I wanted to split the party and traverse on snow around onto the southeast slope, on the theory that four people kicking rocks down on one another is better than eight doing so, but no one liked that idea, so all eight of us followed Bob up the northeast ridge.

Miraculously, no major rocks descended, and the climbing was quite easy except for the constant danger of loose rocks almost everywhere you placed hand or foot. By 11 a.m., we had our peak and were all very happy. Views were once again excellent, especially the snowbound expanse to the west. The descent of the ridge went just like the ascent, with no missiles cut loose. This group deserves a great deal of credit for climbing so delicately and carefully, even when tired at almost 13,000 feet. Over half the group had technical climbing experience, so that probably explains the meticulous climbing. Future parties should go in much smaller groups or else do the early-season snow climb on

the south-east face. As my father used to say, "Do what I say, not what I do."

Descent to camp went a bit slowly with the large group and the taking off and putting on of crampons, and we got back to camp at 2, packed up, and hiked out from 3 to 6. The last hour of the hike out was in some ways the most beautiful, as we passed a vast field of bright yellow corn-flowers, which together with the bright green grass and aspen trees, the dashing creek, the massive peaks above with their golden brown, brick red, gray, white, and black rock streaked with snow, and the blue sky with gray clouds above made for an unforgettable mountain panorama.

Despite the late hour, all of us met in Mammoth to have supper and celebrate the conclusion of a very satisfying trip. PCS alumni Mike Johnson, who lives in Mammoth, took time off from his job at the Shell station to join us.

– *Jim Ramaker*

Blood on the Biner: Eichorn Pinnacle

After a successful ascent of Lone Pine Peak and a day of rest, Craig Clarence and your loyal scribe David Harris wandered up to Yosemite for another day of climbing (July 16, 1997). Living in Mammoth is very convenient because we reached the Cathedral Lake trailhead in just an hour. Another hour of fast walking up a great use trail along Budd Creek put us at the base of Cathedral Peak.

In the morning we had a terrific climb up the southeast buttress of Cathedral Peak. The peak is justly famous for solid rock with great cracks and holds and very enjoyable climbing in the midst of amazingly beautiful glacially scoured scenery. The only drawback of the climb for me was that my hands were scraped raw until my locking biner got bloody!

From the summit, Eichorn Pinnacle, the lower summit spire, is an impressive sight. Jules Eichorn had soloed it and we decided to repeat his route. From the ridge between the summits, Eichorn Pinnacle looks quite difficult, but supposedly an easier route existed around to the right side. If the route had not been mentioned in the guidebook, we never would have considered the unlikely traverse to the right. I led the climb, never being able to see more than a few moves in front of me. Amazingly, good holds would appear exactly where they were needed so the climbing was unexpectedly moderate. There was lots of air under my feet and four pitons along the way to a good belay ledge at the end of the first pitch. From there, I led a short, easy second pitch to the summit. The register is bolted to the summit and features an entry signed by Eichorn himself! Cathedral peak justly receives lots of attention, but the Eichorn pinnacle is worthy of the extra time when one is up there.

The rap off the summit is protected by about a dozen slings! It can be done on a single 50m rope, but one must be careful to exactly center the rope to avoid running out of rope on a 4th class ledge! The remainder of the descent is easy and pleasant.

– *David Harris*

Notes and Requests

Yosemite Takes A Toll

Yosemite National Park announced today [7/30/1997] that there will be a change in entrance fees beginning Friday. Drivers using the park as a shortcut through the Sierra Nevada will pay a \$5 fee and receive a time-imprinted receipt. Those staying in the park beyond the allotted number of hours will pay the remaining \$15 of the full recreational-use fee when they leave the park. Vehicles must enter or exit the park through the Tioga Pass entrance on Tioga Road.

– Aaron Schuman <schuman@kaweah.mti.sgi.com>

Sierra Club Memberships/Members By Chapter

Apparently some members don't pay annually, because they have honorary memberships, lifetime memberships, or because a couple shares the same membership - Ed.

NAME	MEMBERSHIPS	MEMBERS
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ANGELES CHAPTER	42,349	48,010
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	30,950	36,131
ATLANTIC CHAPTER	28,487	31,730
LOMA PRIETA	20,000	23,279
ILLINOIS CHAPTER	20,455	22,759
CASCADE CHAPTER	17,832	20,086
[chapters below 20,000 removed from table]		
T O T A L S :	489,196	554,235

SOURCE: pat.veitch@sfsierra.sierraclub.org, May 1997

High Alaska Magazine on the Web

Quoting from <<http://www.highalaska.com/>>: "Spring thundered into Anchorage early this year with the snow retreating at record pace. We reluctantly put away our ice tools and dusted off the old rock shoes - heading out to do some climbing in the light that lingers a bit longer each night. Spring also brought about High Alaska Magazine, an on-line magazine/guide for mountaineers, backpackers and explorers in Alaska's backcountry. We're still in the works, so bookmark this page and check back often."

They've got some pages under construction that appear to be the start of an online guidebook to climbing and recreation in Alaska. I've found online or hardcopy guidebooks are unavailable for most of the peaks, even Marcus Baker (the high point of the Chugach Range) which I climbed with a guide last year.

There's also a link to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, whose newsletter is coincidentally called the Scree just like the PCS newsletter, at <<http://www.alaska.net/~mca/>>. A cool resources page has links to charter air services, weather forecasts, etc. They also have more information on specific accidents like Ptarmigan Peak (where an entire class fell killing 2 and injuring 12).

– Steve Eckert <eckert@netcom.com>

Tahoe Peaks List

If you're on the WWW, jump to

<http://www.mother.com/~beren/pgs/ogullist.htm>

You'll find a list of 61 peaks compiled with the explicit purpose of encouraging peak-climbing in the Lake Tahoe Region. This list was compiled and is maintained by the Peak and Gorge Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club. You might check out Schaffer's Tahoe Sierra for specific directions to climbs.

– Beren Erchamion <beren@mother.com>

Outdoors Unlimited Medical Training

If you are ready to get beyond basic first aid, here is an opportunity to get some training that is by and for backcountry travelers. I know one of the instructors. She is a qualified, enthusiastic teacher but is always willing to learn.

UCSF's Outdoors Unlimited (a non-profit outdoor play and education organization) has announced the dates for their fall Wilderness Emergency Response class. Certification includes Red Cross Emergency Response, Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and Outdoors Unlimited Advanced Wilderness First Aid. Cost is \$190 for non-UCSF affiliates (cheapest I've seen around) and includes instruction, Red Cross book & workbook, Wilderness First Aid book, camping fees for final weekend--does not include resuscitation mask or transportation and food costs for final weekend.

Classroom sessions: Tues & Thurs, 7-10pm, September 4 - November 11 (no class on Sept. 11); CPR for Professional Rescuer: Saturday, September 13, 9am - 5pm; Scenario and Skills Practice Sessions: October 4 & November 15-16. (ALL Saturday/Sunday sessions are required for certification). Signups begin July 7. The phone number for Outdoors Unlimited is 415 476-2078.

– Will Hirst <hirst@hooked.net>

Aconcagua Private Expedition

Dec 26, 1997 through Jan 20, 1998 - Two openings exist. Anyone interested? I have 2 locked-in tickets R/T for \$851.95 ea., available (to the first two emailers at calliger@infolane.com).

Please take a look at Secor's "Climbing Aconcagua" if you are interested, then contact me for further details via email. The main challenges to this climb are the altitude (6,962 meters or 22,841 feet) and the weather (-10F to -20F plus wind during the period we will go). 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 early-spring but colder.

You need to reserve Sept 20 for a mandatory trip planning meeting, and then several dates between now and Dec 26 for some conditioning/training and equipment shake out climbs.

– R.J. Calliger(510-651-1876) <calliger@infolane.com>

If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun.
-- Katherine Hepburn

Deer Mountain (8,796) and Pothole Dome (8,720+)

Following an excellent suggestion by Owen Maloy, I decided to hike up Deer Mountain (8,796) near Mammoth on my way home from Sunday's climb of Abbot (August 4, 1997). Not knowing where the peak was, I had to stop at the USFS visitors center near the eastern edge of town to get directions which were to take the Mammoth Scenic Loop, turn north onto the road signed for Inyo Craters and drive to the trailhead. I was very surprised by what I saw on the back road. It very much reminded me of the dense forests of the west side minus one thing: the smog.

The hike to the craters took about 10 minutes. The craters were amazing. The first crater one reaches is the Dragon's Neck. There is a use trail that circles the entire crater. Although hard to follow in places, it was easy going and yielded spectacular views down to pea soup colored lake at the bottom of the crater. After circling the first crater I headed to the east side of the next higher up crater which held an even larger green lake far at its bottom. The trail petered out around the north side of the crater. From here I headed north up the steep but easy slope of deer mountain following a use trail at first.

Near the top the vegetation started to vanish and hard packed volcanic sand and rock resembling concrete provided an interesting challenge for my "car" shoes. After slipping and sliding downhill a few times, I finally reached the rim of the crater. Deer Mountain is the high point of the crater. The shortest path was around the east side, which quickly turned into a knife edge. Although this sounds strange, using crampons and straddling the rim of the crater would have been perfect. I was forced to head west and downslope, slipping sometimes, into the drainage that came out of the crater. From here a steeper but easy duff slope gave access to the north rim where the high point could be walked up with little effort.

There was no benchmark or summit register on top, but the view of the surrounding mountains was reward enough. On my way down to the trailhead I hiked out to a small peaklet that rose from the north side of the mountain which was slightly lower than the crater rim.

Following the advice of Tony Cruz, I stopped in Tuolumne Meadows to hike Lembert and Dog domes. When I arrived I had plenty of time for the short hike but there was nowhere to park! It was now time for plan B. My only problem was that I didn't have a plan B... I continued on down the road towards Fairview dome and parked on the north side of the road about half a mile from the large lot at the west end of the meadow. To the north was a photographer shooting the formation at the west end of the meadows that I believe is called Pothole Dome (8,720+). If it's good enough to photograph then it's certainly worth the hike out. After a few hundred yards of the wet meadow I reached the class 1 slopes of the dome. It took about 10 minutes to reach the high point which is far to the northwest, out of sight of the road. Almost the entire east slope was walkable class 1 but the most direct route involved a small bit of class 2 scrambling. The view of the river and the surrounding peaks was spectacular. This was my first dome in the area, and although it isn't as prominent as its neighbors Daff and Fairview, the view more than justified the effort. An easier way up the dome would be to park at the lot at the west end of the meadow and take the trail east to the south side of the dome. From here a use trail led up to the east slopes. My drive home to Fresno was the most agonizing I've ever experienced. I was caught behind some tourists from the east

coast who insisted on practically stopping before each and every turn. Apparently the "Slower traffic use turnouts" signs didn't mean anything to them. By the time I reached coarsegold, a whopping 4 hours from the meadows, my brakes were completely shot.

These weren't necessarily spectacular peaks from a mountaineering point of view, but they are very relaxing and enjoyable hikes that someone of any skill level could enjoy. I would recommend them both to anyone, especially after completing a tough trip, such as the north face of Abbot.

– Pat Ibbetson

A New 15'er

Three separate groups descended on Treasure Lakes Saturday to camp, to gaze, and, eventually, to climb the following day, the Hourglass Couloir to the top of Mt. Dade. Looking at the Hourglass route, we had all afternoon to imagine lengthy falls from the top that involved bloodied crampons and bodies hitting bodies. While most of us acclimatized and lounged, two climbers ice axed their way to Dade Lake for a bit of practice and a leg stretch. While no bears were spotted, we did have a fat marmot look longingly at our dinners. There were very few campsites around the lakes, but all managed to pitch their tents.

Bright and early, at 7am, we headed up. The snow was crisp and crusty with bootsized sun cups. There was a wide range of skill level within the three groups coupled with a variety of equipment. Ice axes were a must while some people donned crampons. We followed a wonderful 'ice stairway' from midway to the top of the snow. The morning was clear, bright, and windless. We followed a use trail to the summit and had marvelous and memorable views of Seven Gables, Gabb, and, of course, Bear Creek Spire. Arun Mahajan dayhiked Dade and joined us on top -- a total of fifteen mountaineers!!

Heading down the snow couloir, a skier was on his way up! One of our group asked to borrow the skis for the downhill. Back in camp and packing up to head out, the mosquito was there to remind us to hurry up and move. A grand trip it was! Little Lakes Valley was gorgeous with wildflowers galore. Thanks to all who participated! Group 1: Nancy Fitzsimmons (co-leader), Steve King, Jeff West, Noreen and Dan Boram, Ron Freemire, Dennis Hiipakka and, yours truly, Debbie Benham; Group 2: Anouchka Gaillard and Kate Ingvaldstadt; Group 3: Ron Karpel, Nick Pilch, Ted Razcek and David Lou; The Lone Dayhiker: Arun Mahajan.

– Debbie Benham

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and not see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion.

– Henry David Thoreau

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.

6 Pack Minus 2 = 4 For Today

Peaks: Tulare, Florence, Rainbow, Unnamed class 3
Date: Saturday Aug. 16
Map: Mineral King 15' quad
Contact: Pat Ibbetson pkibbetson@ucdavis.edu
Co-Contact: Rich Calliger calliger@infolane.com

From the Farewell Gap trailhead we will hike through gloriously beautiful Mineral King valley up to Franklin Lakes. From the Lower Dam we will climb the north slopes of well hidden Tulare Peak (class 2-3) and then descend to the Franklin Pass trail by skirting the shores of gorgeous Upper Franklin Lake. From the pass we will climb Florence Peak (12,432' class 2) via the class 2 northeast ridge where we will have spirited views of the Kaweahs and the entire Kern Plateau followed by a sandy trip north to Rainbow (12,043' class 2). Time permitting, we will then descend Rainbow via the southwest sand slope and hike Peak 12,045' (class 2-3) where we will have fantastic views of Needham Mtn, Mineral and Sawtooth Peaks.

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
Contact: 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.

Toulumne 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 650-968-9184
schuman@sgi.com W 650-933-1901
Co-Contact: Cecil Magliocco H 408-358-1168
cecilm@ix.netcom.com

Toulumne 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 650-327-5234
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!

Doin' the Duplicates

Peak: Stanford(N), Morgan(N), Red Slate class 2-3
Dates: Sep 26-28 Fri-Sun
Map: Mt Abbot and Mt Morrison 15' topos
Contact: Steve Eckert 650-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com

Not to be confused with the OTHER Morgan, the OTHER Stanford, and Red&White, we'll be doing Morgan, Stanford, and Red Slate! Friday is a moderate pack in, Saturday we go over Stanford (12,851') to Morgan (13,005') and back over Stanford to camp. Sunday we bag Red Slate (13,168') and pack out. Roper says the traverse is class 2, Secor says it's class 3 in places. If you want an easier trip, you can skip Morgan and/or Red Slate (this trip is not as tough as many that I do).

Mt. Winchell

Peak: Mt. Winchell (13,775'), East Arete class 3
Dates: Oct 4-5 Sat-Sun
Map: Mt. Goddard 15'
Contact: Debbie Benham H 650-964-0558
dmbenham@aol.com
Co-Contact: Nancy Fitzsimmons H 408-957-9683,
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com

Roper reports, "This excellent class-3 route is by far the most popular way to reach the top of Winchell," with a Secor segue, "...and the summit is spectacular with an impressive view down the magnificent sculptures on the west face." A beautiful time of year in the Sierra with shorter, mosquito-less days and crisp, cool nights. Must have a bit of class-3 climbing experience. All will be asked to sign a liability waiver at trailhead.

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.

Humphrey's East Ridge Attempt (II, 5.4)

Roy Lambertson and I attempted this route last weekend (August 2-3, 1997), starting at the base of the east ridge according to Moynier and Fiddler's guide, rather than following the Roper/Secor route, which uses a scree chute to gain the ridge closer to the summit.

We made it to the top of the big gendarme (13,000+) by mid-morning Sunday. The view from this perch was impressive: A knife-edge ridge of granite descends slightly to the saddle that marks the start of the standard East Ridge route. Above, an airy blocky ridge climbs to the massive, fortress-like east face of Humphreys.

Dark thunderheads were piling up over the summit, however. When we started at 5 a.m., the sky had been clear; now, shortly past 9 a.m., such a fast buildup did not bode well for our plans.

I remembered a similar situation I had encountered on the East Face of Whitney several years ago. There, retreat was much more difficult so we had continued on. We had been lucky: though we heard thunder and our ice axes buzzed with electricity for several minutes, no bolts struck Whitney. And the accompanying snow flurry was brief.

On this route, escape was much easier. The ridge up to this point had yielded three enjoyable 4th-5th class pitches, but an easy descent in the scree was available by scrambling off the gendarme.

Should we climb an exposed ridge to the highest lightning rod on the Sierra crest for miles? We reluctantly descended.

Roy, always quick with the self-deprecating humor, compared our strategy to that of the knights in the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. These fellows usually responded to danger with headlong retreat, yelling: "Run Away! Run away!" To further memorialize our failure, he culled another TV reference from his misspent youth: he dubbed our gendarme "girlie-man peak," borrowing the name from the Hans und Franz skits of *Saturday Night Live*.

From that ridgetop I realized that adding Moynier's section of the ridge makes this route longer than a Grade II. In my book, 5-6 additional pitches of 4th to low 5th-class climbing warrants a total rating of Grade III for the complete ridge. Next time I will allot a full day to this route.

The lower ridge did have one especially memorable section: a 100-foot knife edge ridge, almost as smooth as the crest of an A-frame: too narrow to walk on but you could hump across it on your butt (what do the French climbers call this technique? *Au cheval?* (on horseback?). I was leading at the time and couldn't tell if there was any pro on the crest; nor did I know if my butt could take the horseback ride. I opted for downclimbing on the left side to a ledge system. To enjoy these technical pitches you need to stay right on or near the crest. If you don't, you're just sloggng up scree-covered ledges.

Despite our retreat, we enjoyed the weekend. The high desert was bursting with wildflowers--lupines, paintbrush, many others--and the hike in was short, though it involved a little bushwacking and some scree sloggng. Also pleasant was a spearmint-type aroma that we enjoyed along the way. Was it actually spearmint? Maybe someone can who knows the flora better than me can answer this. At the unnamed lake where we camped, the meadow nearby was covered with blue shooting stars and purple heather.

We had the whole place to ourselves except for one other party--they climbed the Checkered Demon couloir Sunday morning. These guys had the right idea: pick a route you can get up and off of before the showers start. (By the way, we felt a few random drops of rain on the hike out, but we never did hear any thunder.) The night had barely been cold enough to freeze the neve in the couloir, and we were impressed with how efficiently they did the climb, including negotiating one melted-out section. Checkered Demon is the wildest looking rock I have seen in the Sierra. It is a calico cat of huge strips and patches of red, white and gray--a geological marvel.

Road info: Access is from the Buttermilk road west of Bishop. The last 2-3 miles of road are rough. Roy's Subaru Legend wagon did well negotiating the ruts on this section (a task that would have been very difficult without adequate clearance and 4WD). We parked at 8600; if you have a very low gear, you can drive up to 9000 feet.

– *Butch Suits*

Wonderful Wednesday

In his North Palisade day hike trip report, Jim Curl bewails route-finding through the federal wilderness bureaucracy. To sidestep the inconvenient permit process, he proposes that we climb indoors, leave California, climb stealthily without a permit, climb in winter, day hike, or "quit your job and climb midweek". But it is perfectly feasible to enjoy the solitude of midweek climbing without enduring unemployment. Nowadays many companies encourage their employees to take an occasional day off, and even pay them to do it. Enlightened managers feel this policy actually boosts morale and productivity.

On July 16, Steve Eckert and I made a Wonderful Wednesday outing to North Peak and Mount Conness. We left his home in Belmont at 4:00 am, zipped up to (10087) Saddlebag Lake and began hiking at 9:00. We evaded the mosquitoes at Greenstone Lake, rambled up to Conness Lakes, kicked steps up the snowy southeast side of North Peak, reaching the 12242' summit by 2:30 pm. If we knew our limits, we would have headed home then, but like Old Johns, we lighted out for Mount Conness. Steve had never visited Conness, and I was nostalgic to return to the destination of my first Sierra Nevada peak climb (July 1984, and thank you, Bob Gross, for introducing me to the sport!). We crossed the Conness Glacier, gained the plateau, and walked up the summit sidewalk to the 12590' top around 5:30. Secor's guidebook suggests this route presents some challenges, but if there were any obstacles, they must have been buried in snow, because we didn't find them. We descended via lush Green Treble Creek and the Carnegie Institute, completing our loop at 9:00 pm. It was too late for dinner at the Tioga Lodge, but we did run into Wade Larsen there. We took turns driving and sleeping, returning home by 2:00 am.

– *Aaron Schuman*

Ansel Adams, Ansel Adams

Synopsis:

Thu, 3 July: Left Tuolumne Meadows at 9am. Hiked up Rafferty Creek and over Vogelsang Pass (a little snow). Turned left at the Lewis Creek trail and camped 0.5 miles before Lyell Fork of Merced, near a waterfall, at 6pm. Approximately 17 miles. Mosquitos were terrible all the way.

Fri, 4 July: Left camp at 8:30am, hiked down to Lyell Fork and then followed slabs and an intermittent path through bogs and forest up to the lake below Mt. Ansel Adams. Crossed river at lake outlet. Climbed easy snow couloir left of north face for several hundred feet. Then took steeper branch (40 degrees) up right until easy to exit left onto rock. Loose 2nd and 3rd class led straight up to summit (12:45pm). Retraced route down, except dropped straight into main couloir instead of the steeper right fork. Back at camp by 6pm.

Sat, 5 July: Left camp at 9:30am, retraced path back to T. Meadows by 6:45pm.

Mt. Ansel Adams: 11,700'

Approximate total trip distance: 42 miles

Total elevation gain (via Avocet): 9500'

Participants: Cecil Ann, Debbie Benham, Jim Curl, Dot Reilly

Now, for those of you without jobs, or plenty of time in spite of being employed, here is the usual boring blather:

Friday morning, as we turned the corner to head up the Lyell Fork of the Merced, I looked up to catch my first sight of our objective, Mt. Ansel Adams. "A spectacular peak in the Yosemite backcountry" I had written in the description -- in truth, I had no idea what it looked like, and I figured it for the hulking mass behind an attractive fin-like peak far to the right. But upon examining the topo, I was surprised and elated to discover that this lovely steep sided peak that I thought was obstructing my view was in fact Mt. Ansel Adams.

Our little cast of characters, Cecil Ann, Debbie Benham, Jim Curl, and Dot Reilly, had set out lazily at 9am on the previous morning to attempt a repeat of Kai Wiedman's July 4th trip of the previous year. We even carried a copy of Jim Ramaker's write-up to guide us along. We headed up Rafferty Creek, over Vogelsang Pass (a little snow), down past a lovely cascade, and then left at the Lewis Creek trail. Jim's trip report proved very useful, although we thought the mileage was a bit overestimated as we passed by the mosquito infested camping site where last year's group had paused their first night. We pushed on to where they moved camp on their second morning, in a forested area near a waterfall, several hundred feet of lovely slabs above the Lyell Fork. The Clark Range stood out in front of us, glowing in the evening light. At 6pm, the mosquitoes were already at their worst -- DEET, raingear and finally a retreat into the tents were our only defenses. Just as well, as the 17 or so miles of trail left us tired.

Without thunderstorms to hurry us (not a cloud in sight all weekend), we casually set off Friday morning to climb the peak. We were surprised to find a pretty well-trodden path up the drainage and we passed several developed campsites. A momma bear and her three tiny cubs forced us to detour slightly, but the trillions of mosquitoes kept our pace up through the boggy

lowlands. Cecil spotted a bald eagle flying over the marsh -- perhaps the same bird sighted on last year's trip.

The river didn't offer us any crossing opportunities, but it didn't seem any advantage to be on the right side anyway. We kept focused on our pointy peak and moved pretty easily over slabs, bogs and through forest. Electra Peak, a rather plain diminutive bump sandwiched between higher points, seemed like a dud from our angle. In contrast, the pyramidal Rogers Peak demanded our attention.

Upon reaching the lake below Mt. Ansel Adams (where we crossed the river), we looked up right at the easy snow slopes leading around to the south side. This was the route described in Roper and Secor and seemed completely reasonable at this point. By what powers of intuition and mountain savvy had Kai decided to ignore this and head up the couloir on the left? It seemed, like several other ascent possibilities, that it might go at class 3, but it certainly wasn't obvious. There was a short debate about trusting Kai versus Secor... and then we headed left.

We more or less followed the Wiedman route up the peak. We climbed part way up an easy snow couloir left of the north face until it split. Then we continued up a steeper narrower snow tongue to the right. As our feet began to slip up higher, we exited left onto the rock and climbed several hundred feet of fractured second and third class rock straight up to the summit. A nice climb.

We enjoyed a beautiful, warm, lazy hour of peak gazing, with views of Lyell, Rogers, Ritter, Banner, the Minarets and the Clark Range. It appears that Mt. Ansel Adams has more visitors than we thought -- about a dozen parties signed into the register last year. The register also noted that Ansel Adams had originally photographed this peak and was later in the second ascent party.

A quick scramble west on the summit ridge didn't reveal any obvious line down the south side. So we more or less retraced our steps, knocking off a lot of loose junk on the way. Rather than head back down the steeper snow tongue, we dropped off right into the main couloir. As I set off on one of the longest standing glissade rides I've had, Cecil and Debbie belted out one of the longest mountain duets I've heard. Pretty good voices, I must say.

On the hike back, I worried obsessively about our sloppy bear bagging job and those four bears we had seen earlier. My stomach already felt dangerously empty with 17 miles of hiking between camp and the road. I kept running ahead and losing my companions. At one stream crossing, they seemed stuck at a point I had leapt across. So, like McGyver, I whipped out a roll of duct tape and a Swiss Army knife and constructed a suspension bridge for them. My bear anxiety was wasted energy as usual, and we feasted that evening along with the mosquitoes. Sometime around 11:30pm, I set off a few Red Devil "Piccolo Petes" to celebrate the holiday.

We started out late and lazy Saturday morning with Vogelsang as our target. But when we got there, the bugs were so bad that we ended up deciding to leave. Debbie wanted badly to stay, but we outvoted her. Had the mosquitoes been allowed to cast votes, we would never have left. Dot already had a counted 58 mosquito bites on one side of one of her legs -- it looked like she had chicken pox. An incoming hiker we passed near Vogelsang looked at her legs in horror and asked "Are those from...MOSQUITOES??"

We were back at the cars before 7pm and were able to enjoy a leisurely return home the next morning.

– Jim Curl

Warren's Not All That Bad!

People kept telling me that Warren was a slag pile, a broken down heap, and so forth. But when someone called him a scree slog with a brushy bottom, I realized we were talking about Mt Warren and not Warren Storkman (my good friend and the esteemed Chair of the Peak Climbing Section). The only reports on the PCS or SPS websites indicated an overnight climb from Lundy Canyon??? With all of the discouraging comments, I decided to solo dayhike Warren so as not to expose any of my friends to such a terrible experience.

On my way home from Onion Valley (7/26/97), I stopped off at Camp 9 (the 9000' elevation major hairpin turn between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining) to see whether the brush was as bad as had been predicted. I noticed that the usual "Camp 9" was marked "No Camping", but right across the road you can walk 2 minutes past the "road closed" sign and be in the Warren Canyon camping area with picnic tables and FREE numbered campsites. Why take the risk on a citation for camping illegally when you can just walk into the trees and camp in comfortable flat sites with no road noise?

There's a trail up the Warren Fork of Lee Vining Creek, but I only stayed on it for about 10 minutes. Bugs and mud motivated me to seek drier ground. Other PCS groups have gone up the canyon and looped around the west or north side of the peak, but I wanted to shave off a couple of miles. An SPS member warned me that the ridge from the trailhead was brushy, so I cut off the trail and went through a couple hundred feet of moderate brush to a low-hanging talus slope (below some minor pinnacles) that cuts through most of the brush and small trees. I angled left at the top of the talus where fairly stable footing could be found. This brought me to the south and east sides of a little bump behind which there is a good sized lake (10100') on the 15' topo. The lake is now a meadow, but the walking in that whole area is great - pine needle duff and no brush, boulders, or fallen trees to work around. A small stream not on the 15' map drains the southwest corner of the lake.

Continuing up through the trees in easy terrain, I hit the drainage between Mt Warren and Peak 11952 somewhere around the 10600' level. The 15' topo (made before I was born) shows a stream all the way to the crest, but in the 90s that stream ducks under the boulders below 10400'. It rumbles and gurgles, taunting you all the way up, but never shows itself. Imagine my surprise to find a reasonable use trail pounded into the large talus and boulders of the drainage! From 11700 to the summit (12327) is back to class 1 where the register indicates bighorn sheep can sometimes be seen.

The register also indicates that many people climb from Lundy Canyon, but I can't figure out why... it's more elevation gain, and looks like you miss the wonderful forest walking (which reminded me of Chagoopa Plateau). A small plane was doing acrobatics in Lundy, which would have REALLY made my day had I been hiking there. There is a radio repeater on the summit, and every helicopter crew that works on it signs the register (some laughing at hikers who don't fly there), so it's not a real wilderness experience at the top. On the other hand, the view of Mono Lake is well worth the effort.

The climb took about 2.5 hours, and the return was about 1.5 hours, making this a good half-day hike to include if you're burning a day driving from the eastern Sierra to the Bay area. (Your time may vary, depending on route finding skills and

conditioning!) It could also be made into an easy overnight trip since there are an infinite number of great campsites around the "lake". Including breakfast at Schat's in Bishop, the climb, a leisurely lunch, and the drive, I got from Onion Valley to Belmont in just over 12 hours. The early talus was the only bad footing of the route, and that's only about 400' out of 3400'. So you see, Warren's not as bad as you may have heard!

- Steve Eckert

PS: There is a scanned route map with this report on the PCS website in case my route description is vague. New leaders might consider this as a place to build their confidence, since a route mistake merely lengthens the trip and can't really get you in trouble. Keep in mind that you are in the trees part of the way, and you never see the summit until the crest at 11700, at which point the antenna and solar array make it pretty obvious. Oops - too big of a hint. Sorry!

(Dayhike/2) ^ (1/SisterSisterSister)

As a warmup for an SPS trip I was supposed to lead (see Silver and Izaak Walton report), I solo dayhiked Three Sisters in about half a day (20 June 1997). Since the standard guidebooks seem to consider this area NOT part of the Sierra, I turned to the SPS and PCS website archives. (One day we may not need the guidebooks, eh?) Ibbetson's Epic from Dinkey Creek convinced me to start from Courtright Reservoir. The Roach Approach had too much cross country in an area where a good trail exists, so I decided to follow the Kline Line for a while.

No big tricks to this trip. It's a gentle trail from the west side of Courtright Reservoir (which DeLorme's CDROM calls "Coortwright") toward Cliff Lake, which I reached in under two hours. The Kline Line says "10 miles cross country to the peak" from the lake (obviously a typo - more like one mile), claims the peak is 101619' high (another typo - 10619), and I found no reason to steer for gullies or saddles (I just crossed the stream at the outlet of the lake, and hiked up the class 1 ridge to the east face of the peak arriving directly at the summit block instead of turning north along the ridge). The last 600' of the east face is steeper but has class 2 routes on it, making this a trip suitable for beginning hikers with a reasonably experienced leader. Grandparents and gradeschoolers could easily accompany you to stunning boulder-and-sand campsites near Cliff Lake, and all would have a wonderful time.

At 8:30am I was the first to sign the summit register this year, which really surprised me. This peak would be a good ski tour or early season trip. By late June, the mosquitoes were out in force, and I wound up wearing a head net on the 10619' summit! I had started around 5:30am in anticipation of a hot day, beating the heat nicely on the climb but fighting bugs on the return.

I returned to the car before 11am, making this a half-day hike up one of the Three Sisters (finally explaining the report title).

- Steve Eckert

All conservation of wilderness is self-defeating, for to cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish.
-- Aldo Leopold, "A Sand County Almanac".

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 9/28/97. 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