



World Wide Web Address: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/>

## Next General Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 1998

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Program:** Baffin Island by Bob DeNike

Baffin Island, a part of Canada's Northwest Territories, is a barren ice covered island with spectacular scenery, is located north of Hudson Bay and is bisected by the Arctic Circle. For those of you who have not seen Bob's slides of Baffin Island, I highly recommend this program.

**Location:** The North Face

217 Alma Street in Palo Alto, just north of the CalTrain station go North and turn right into the Town & Country



### EARLY DEADLINE FOR JULY!

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 6/21/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

## Appreciation

I value the Peak Climbing Section highly, and I deeply appreciate all the people whose contributions make it possible for our club to exist:

The trip leaders, most of all, because what's best about the PCS happens in the mountains;

The trip participants, especially the ones who tell funny campfire stories, share extra mittens, get giddy at the summit, and press on in spite of their blisters;

The officers and committee members, because their volunteer efforts grease the wheels that make club activities happen;

Everybody who writes for the newsletter;

Everybody who brings food to meetings and potlucks,

Everybody who shows slides at meetings;

Everybody who applauds the slide show presenters;

And you.

-- Aaron Schuman

## 9801/9802 Results.

Steve Eckert presented the two proposed mountaineering committee operating rules that he had published in the May Scree. This was followed by several minutes of discussion, then votes. Neither was approved. Results:

Votes Cast By PCS Members Present May 9, 1998

9801:	Ayes	4	9802:	Ayes	4
	Noes	22		Noes	18

-- Nancy Fitzsimmons, Secretary.

## Trail Repair

Pacific Crest Trail Repair

Tahoe National Forest

Date: July 17-20

Contact: Larry Krumm, 408/270-4513

Would you like to repair the wilderness? I am leading a work party July 17-20 in the Tahoe National Forest. A party of 12 (including a cook) will work form a 'car camp' basecamp to clear logs and restore tread to the Pacific Crest Trail. Cost: nothing. Food for the whole trip is included.

## 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.

### Sawmill Pass

Peaks: Baxter, Colosseum; class 2, 1  
Dates: Jun. 06-07 Sat-Sun  
Maps: Pinchot 15 min. or Aberdeen 7.5 min.  
Leaders: Steve Eckert H 650-508-0500  
eckert@netcom.com  
Aaron Schuman H 650-968-9184  
W 650-943-7532, aaron\_schuman@yahoo.com

Details: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/sawmill.html>

Starting from the thirsty roadhead at only 4600 feet, labor up to Sawmill Pass (11343). Visit Mt. Baxter (13136, class 2) and Colosseum Mt. (12451, class 1). Expect to climb into last winter's snow. Ice axe and crampons are required. The days will be long and the pace fast. This will be a fun trip for experienced snow climbers.

### The Harringtons and the Kennedys

Peaks: Mt Harrington (11,005') class 3,  
Mt Kennedy (11,433') class 1  
Dates: June 13-14 (maybe 15) Sat-Sun (maybe  
Mon)  
Map: Cedar Grove, Slide Bluffs; USGS 7.5 min  
Leader: Bob Suzuki <bobszk@bigfoot.com>  
(H)408-259-0772, (W)510-657-7555  
Co-Leader and contact: Ron Karpel  
<rkarpel@usa.net> (W)510-683-4668 X231,  
(H)650-594-0211

Mid June is the perfect time to climb these scenic peaks in the lower regions of Kings Canyon NP. Harrington is a very good looking peak with a steep class 3 rock summit with lots of hand holds in solid granite. Kennedy is a short distance from the well maintained trail over Kennedy Pass. Given the deep snow pack this year, we expect interesting stream crossings, and lots of snow climbing. Participants have to be experienced with ice axe and crampons. Saturday, starting from the Lewis Creek Trailhead, it is 7200' and 14 miles to the top of Mt. Kennedy and back to our camp in Frypan Meadow. Sunday, we will climb Harrington and return to the trailhead. Monday is a spare day in case the heavy snow slows us down too much.

### Matterhorn Peak

Peak: Matterhorn Peak (12,279), class-2  
Dates: July 25-26  
Maps: Matterhorn Peak  
Leader: Ron Karpel rkarpel@usa.net  
Co-Leader and Contact : Nancy Fitzsimmons  
Nancy\_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com  
(408) 957-9683

This is a loop trip. Saturday we will start from Twin Lakes, take the Robinson Creek trail and camp in Little Slide Canyon. Sunday we will climb the peak by the Southwest slope and return to Twin Lakes via Horse Creek. This trip is suitable for strong backpackers and hikers with a desire to take on mountain climbing.

## Pending Official Trips

As of publication, these trips are not yet official trips. They have been submitted to the mountaineering committee for approval and we hope that it will be designated official when the trip takes place.

### Leavitt Peak

Peaks: Leavitt Pk. (11,569) and TBD (?) class 2 snow  
Date: June 20-21 Sat-Sun  
Contact: Kelly Maas, maas@idt.com, 408-279-2054

This is an early season trip intended for beginners who want to gain more snow experience. There will be plenty of snow, but the climbing isn't particularly hard. The climbs also won't be real long, so there should be plenty of time to practice with ice axe and crampons on mild slopes. We'll car camp and climb another comparable peak on Sunday. Climbers of all abilities are welcome, and I'm working to get a couple of additional experienced climbers to help out. Any takers? Leavitt is located at Sonora Pass on Hwy 108.

## Notes and Requests

### Medic/First Aid Classes

To help trip leaders and would-be leaders get the required First Aid certificate, the Chapter sponsors a First Aid class each quarter, based on a nationally recognized first aid text, but with added material and emphasis on wilderness situations with no phone to dial 911. The next First Aid classes will be Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto (from Bayshore/Hwy. 101 at San Antonio, turn toward the Bay; turn left at 1st stoplight, then right at Corporation Way to park behind PCC). Class is 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (1 hour for your bag lunch) and is limited to 12 people. To sign up, send a check for \$38 with a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to: Health Education Services, 200 Waverly, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Cancellations get partial refund if a substitute attends (you get to keep the Wilderness First Aid book). For more information, call 650-321-6500.

-- Marg Ottenberg

## List Owner Farewell

First, let me apologize for the recent spate of political messages on the email lists. I was justified in making a proposal, and I had a right to expect the vote I was promised before making the proposal, but I got carried away trying to get that vote to actually occur and to have a real debate before the vote. I should have walked away much sooner. When it did occur, it was more a vote on the controversy than on the rule itself. We are still where we were, with unofficial "rules".

Second, I wish I had been able to stop the publication of all those MtnComm "policy" pages in the recent (and confusing) Scree. As chair of the Publicity Committee, it should have been my call on what to publish. Roger over-ruled me in violation of PCS bylaws, and several people have indicated that they could not sort out what was being voted on and what was already in place (as I predicted would happen). I will never know if the confusion was intentional.

Third, Bill Kirkpatrick has replaced me as Chair of the PCS PubComm. The PubComm charter says the chair is appointed for a one year term to insulate the Scree from political pressure, but in

this case the rules are not being followed. Roger Crawley announced at the last PCS meeting that Bill was replacing me mid-term. (Was that the best choice for the PCS or retaliation for something I had done? Is Bill more capable of doing the job?) I am taking the boot quietly even though I was not notified in advance of the announcement and have not been given a reason for my dismissal.

Bill will be looking for someone to maintain the PCS Binder, to run the email lists, to forward mail to the "-news" version of the list, to publish the PDF version of the EScree, etc. If you would like to do that, stand up. Soon. Bill's first call for help, upon being notified of the tasks I was turning over to him, said "I am totally incapable of taking over these responsibilities."

Don't expect to be as bound by written rules as you may have been in the past. Again quoting Bill: "I do not sit around reading PCS rules and regulations and I do not intend to." That should be a relief for some, and a cause of alarm for others.

I think it's best for the PCS and this email list if I remove myself and let things settle down. A recent climbing trip with a cohesive group, no conflicts, challenging route finding, and a beautiful summit reminded me what the server was supposed to do: make it easier and more fun to go climbing. (Thanks to all who came along - it was truly a great weekend, and gave me a chance to gain some perspective.) I'm going to stop doing things I don't enjoy and spend more time with people who don't see me as a threat.

I've been at the "climbing email list" task for a long time. I set up a crude BBS (remember them?) on my Apollo computer (1993), then sort of a home-brew mailing list that reflected off my netcom account (1994), then got a primitive email list called sc-pcs (1995), moved it onto a new server and called it sc-peaks (1996), and finally got Sierra Club policy in place which allowed us to create the current lomap-peak-climbing email list (1996). That was many years of effort, with huge results, that I'm proud of. In combination with Aaron's efforts as webmaster, the Scree is now going to about three times as many people as it used to, we have trips all year, we have new participants and new leaders... in short, the number of trips is up and that was my primary goal. Over 400 people read this msg via email. I hope there will be even more in a few months or a few years.

Now it's time to see if you want what we have, or if we just have it because I pushed hard and behaved as The Benevolent Dictator in setting up something you live with but don't love. You can keep things as they are and build on my efforts, or you can tear them down and return to the days of information gatekeepers. When the new list owner takes over, it's up to YOU to watch out for erosion of free speech and due process. Don't assume someone else will do it for you.

I'll be around, but not in any official capacity. Don't use the "list\_owner@juno.com" address anymore try the generic address of <lomap-peak-climbing-request@lists.sierraclub.org> and you should reach the new owner, wmkirk@EARTHLINK.NET, as of today.

"Vy can't ve chust climb?", indeed. That's what I'll be doing. Bye.

*Steve Eckert*

## Unofficial (Private) Trips

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

### Mt. Hutchings

Peak: Mt Hutchings (10785), Class-2  
Date: June 6-7  
Maps: Marion Peak (15 minute)  
Trailhead: Copper Creek (Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon)  
Contact: Siamak Navid (sia@sr.hp.com)  
(707) 577-4845 W  
(707) 537-9293 H

The peak is about a mile west of the trail. The climb looks like a relatively easy one in a normal year. This year we will probably encounter a fair amount of snow, therefore ice axes are required. The trail starts fairly steeply at 5000 ft and climbs about 3500 ft to our intended camp for Saturday night at Upper Tent Meadow. We will climb the peak on Sunday and return to trailhead.

### Williamson by William Again

Peak: Williamson (14,375') class 3 (snow)  
Dates: June 12-14  
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick (408) 293-2774  
Wmkirk@earthlink.net  
Co-contact: Alex Keith (650) 325-1091  
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Pack in to Anvil Camp on Friday. Saturday we will hike to the top of Shepard's Pass, across the Williamson Bowl, to the top of Williamson and then back to Anvil Camp. Sunday we return to the cars. This will be an arduous climb, through amazing country. Expect lots of snow and ice. The topo is Mt Williamson.

### Climb-O-Rama '98

Peaks: Tunnabora, Joe Devel, McAdie, Guyot, Hale, Chamberlin, Pickering, Mallory and others  
Dates: June 27-July 5 or July 6  
Contact: Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com w: 510-657-7555, h: 408-259-0772  
Steve Eckert, eckert@netcom.com 650-508-0500

If you have only one long vacation this summer, this is it! We think we can do 14 peaks in 8 days, with only one day over 4000' of gain and no day over 12 miles, most under 10 miles, entering and exiting at Whitney Portal. We've got it down to 3 backcountry campsites, from which you will have access to all 16 of the SPS list peaks in the Whitney area. 9000' of gain for the full week, and day trips to several peaks per day will allow cutting back if you want to relax. Ice axe and crampons required. You will need to sign a liability waiver which you can obtain from:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Binder/binder7d.txt>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Binder/binder7d.pdf>

Also you will need to convince us that you know what you are doing. We have already secured two permits for 6 people each. The \$50 cost for both permits will be split among the people who go. Contact either one of us for details or to reserve a spot: \$10 non-refundable deposit when you sign up, to be given back to you at the trailhead, less permit cost.

### Palisade Basin

Peaks: Your choice  
Dates: July 2-5 (Thu-Sun)  
Map: Mt. Goddard 15 min.  
Contact: Jim Curl, 415-585-1380, jimcurl@juno.com  
Co-contact: Dot Reilly, der@gene.com

This is a non-led trip to the Palisade Basin. The approach over Bishop Pass and Thunderbolt Pass is about ten miles, half of which is moderate cross country terrain. We will be camping together, but your climbing itinerary is up to you. Possibilities for peak climbing abound in this beautiful area. Be prepared for snow.

### Trinity Alps Backpack

Peaks: Various peaks  
Dates: July 3 - 5  
Leader: George Sinclair (650) 941-2160  
geosinc@aol.com

Avoid the heavy snowpack and mosquitoes of the Sierra with a visit to the Trinity Alps. I went here last year at this time and the conditions were great.

### ABC: Anarchist Brewer Climbers

Peaks: Mt. Brewer, North Guard, South Guard, Deerhorn, Francis Farquhar, West Vidette, Charlotte Dome  
Date: July 3-9 (Friday - Thursday)  
Contact: David Harris, harrisd@leland.stanford.edu (650) 725-8811  
John Bees, jbees@dri.edu, (702) 851-0949

Join a merry band of climbers for a week in the Northern Great Western Divide. We are planning to share a campground, but go our separate ways to climb everything from 2nd class slag heaps to fifth class walls. The approach will give the opportunity for Deerhorn or one of the Videttes. We'll make a base camp near East Lake, giving access to technical and non-technical routes on Mt. Brewer, North Gurad, South Guard, and Francis Farquhar. Some of us may attempt the classic face of Charlotte Dome on the way out. Anything else in the vicinity is fair game too. If you are looking for technical climbs, find your own rope partner. If you prefer 3rd class, you are welcome to join the contingent doing those routes. Be aware that this is an "anarchist" trip with no central leadership except coordination of the permits and an opportunity for good company in camp.

### Oh My Goddard!

Peak: Mt Goddard  
Dates: July 3-5  
Contact: Tim Hult Ph: (408) 970-0760 AFTER June 17th  
Climb Mt. Goddard with Tim Hult over the long weekend. Class 3 climb, but a stiff hike in. Space for 3 people

### Kings Canyon Peakfest

Peaks: Goat Mountain, 12,207'  
Kid Peak, 11,458'  
State Peak, 12,620'  
Dougherty Peak, 12,244'  
Marion Peak, 12,719'  
Kennedy Mtn, 11,433'  
Dates: July 3, thru July 10  
Contact: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036

This week-long backpack will take us to three base camps. The peaks are mostly second class. After ascending from the trailhead in Kings Canyon, we will proceed in a counter-clockwise loop, both on and off trail, climbing as we go. If the terrain, sun cups and cornices cooperate, we will cross from Volcanic Lakes to E. Kennedy Lake on our way to Kennedy Mountain. Ice ax required. Crampons strongly recommended. Long weekenders (Fri-Sun) who wish to climb only Goat and Kid are welcome, however preference will be given to those opting for the whole trip.

### Mt. Ritter: The Annual Pilgrimage

Peaks: Mt. Ritter (13,150'), Banner Peak (12,890')  
Dates: July 5-10, 1998  
Contact: Alan Ritter, jar@storz.com  
W: 314-225-7600 x5362 (7:30am-5:00pm CDT)

Not one to give up easily, I will return to my namesake peak for a sixth attempt in July. We will meet at the Agnew Meadows trailhead on Sunday, 5 July, hike to Ediza Lake or nearby, and attempt Mt. Ritter on the first nice day thereafter. Route will be the Southeast Glacier, Class 3 per Secor. Ice axe and crampons required, given that Mammoth has seen almost 400" of snow by 1 March. Assuming success on Ritter, we may try neighboring Banner Peak a via the Ritter/Banner Saddle route, mostly class 2, but with a bit of class 3 snow just below the saddle. Success on both peaks may leave us with time to explore the Ritter Range and surrounds, which is worth the trip even without the climbs.

### Williamson by William Again

Peak: Williamson (14,375') class 3 (snow)  
Dates: June 12-15  
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick (408) 293-2774  
Wmkirk@earthlink.net  
Co-contact: Alex Keith (650) 325-1091  
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Pack in to Anvil Camp on Friday. Saturday we will hike to the top of Shepard's Pass, across the Williamson Bowl, to the top of Williamson and then back to Anvil Camp. Sunday we return to the cars. This will be an arduous climb, through amazing country. Expect lots of snow and ice. The topo is Mt Williamson.

### Scotch on the Rocks

Peaks: Lyell (13,115') and Maclure (?) class 3  
Dates: July 17-19  
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick (408) 293-2774  
Wmkirk@earthlink.net  
Co-contact: Alex Keith (650) 325-1091  
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Starting from Tuolomne Meadows, we will pack through the Lyell Canyon on Friday. We will summit Lyell on Saturday and, if conditions permit, Maclure. The topo is Mt Lyell. Be prepared for snow. Permit for 6

### **Twin Peaks 12,240'**

Peak: Twin Peaks 12,240 class 3  
Dates: Jul 25 - Jul 26  
Contact: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036  
Arun Mahajan 408-244-7912

Last year we climbed Virginia Peak. This year we are going back to get Twin. The trail from near Bridgeport leads us through amazingly beautiful country over Virginia Pass and into Virginia Canyon. I suspect the wildflowers will be spectacular this year. Perhaps the exposure will be equally spectacular. It may depend on the snow level.

### **Bear Creek Spire**

Peak: Bear Creek Spire (13,713 ft.), Northeast Ridge Class 4  
Dates: July 25-26  
Maps: Mt. Morgan, Mt. Abbott, Mt. Hilgard  
Contact: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234  
Cecil Ann cecilann@earthlink.net (408)358-1158

If you're ready to move beyond the typical PCS slog, this is the climb for you. We're looking for a few hardy souls willing to experience high adventure, vicious exposure and the beauty of a classic line. If you can appreciate a knife edge ridge, clean solid rock, and can stomach the spiralling abyss beneath your feet, please give us a call.

### **Clyde Minaret**

Peak: Clyde Minaret (12281') Class 4/5  
Dates: July 31 - August 2  
Contact: Peter Maxwell (408) 737 9770

By a few feet Clyde is the highest of the Minarets, that fabulous craggy range visible from 395. The trip is spread over three days (Friday -Sunday) because the climb is likely to be a very long day. We'll camp at one of the Minaret Lakes and then spend all Saturday doing the peak. Depending on which route is taken the difficulty is either Class 4 or low Class 5. Ropes and climbing gear will be needed, as will ice axes and crampons - there is a large, steep snow field to cross to get to the start of the climb.

This is not a beginner trip. The actual number going will depend on who is interested and their level of ability. Interested experienced climbers should contact me and I'll collect a list. If you come, you'll be expected to sign the standard liability waiver.

### **Mount Ritter**

Peak: Mount Ritter (13,143) Class-2  
Dates: August 8-9  
Maps: Mt Ritter, Mammoth Mtn (E)  
Leader: Ron Karpel rkarpel@usa.net  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~karpel/ron.html>  
Co-Leader and Contact: Nancy Fitzsimmons  
Nancy\_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com  
(408) 957-9683

This is a private trip with ice axe and crampons. Previous experience with ice axe and crampons are required. Saturday, we will start from Agnew Meadows and hike to Ediza Lake. Sunday we will climb Mount Ritter via the Southeast glacier route.

### **Bear Creek Spire & Mt. Abbot**

Peaks: Bear Creek Spire (13,720'+), Mt. Abbot (13,704'); class 3, 4  
Dates: Aug 15-16  
Maps: Mt. Abbot 15 min  
Contact: Bob Suzuki, w: 510-657-7555,  
h: 408-259-0772,  
bobszk@bigfoot.com  
Nancy Fitzsimmons, w: 408-764-1761,  
h: 408-957-9683,  
Nancy\_Fitzsimmons@baynetworks.com

This weekend we'll attempt two of Moynier and Fiddler's "100 Best Climbs in the High Sierra." After an early Saturday morning backpack into Treasure Lakes we'll tackle the class 4 northeast ridge and summit block of Bear Creek Spire. Sunday's challenge will include ascending the steep snow and loose rock of Abbot's north couloir. Climbing harness, rappel device, helmet, ice axe and crampons required. Only climbers with the requisite gear and experience will be considered.

### **Rodgers Peak 12,978'**

Peak: Rodgers Peak (12,978') Class 2/3  
Dates: Fri, Aug 21, thru Sun, Aug. 23  
Contact: Debbie Bulger (408) 457-1036  
Debbie Benham (650) 964-0558

This striking peak on the eastern border of Yosemite should offer spectacular views to both the east and west. After a long backpack in (roughly 16 miles) from the June Lakes Loop, Rush Creek trailhead, we will set up base camp near Rodgers Lakes. The exposed east ridge may be a challenge for strong newcomers. We plan to stay together. Sunday we pack out and drive home. Limited to 8.

### **Ten Days in Milestone Basin**

Peaks: Your choice  
Dates: Aug 29 - Sep 7  
Map: Mt. Whitney 15 min.  
Contact: Jim Curl, 415-585-1380, jimcurl@juno.com  
Co-contact: Dot Reilly, der@gene.com

Join us for a fun trudge with huge packs over Shepherd Pass to spend a long week in the Milestone Basin area. The peak climbing potential is vast and we currently have no set itinerary. Climb along with us or on your own, but be self-sufficient. This is not a led trip.

### **Nepal**

Peak: Mera Peak (21,200),  
Date: October 1998 (21 day trip)  
Contact: Warren Storkman Dstorkman@AOL.com  
4180 Mackay Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650-493-8959(H)  
650-493-8975(FAX)

Trekking from Arun river through a seldom traveled route we experience seeing villages and people not accustomed to westerners. Both climb or Trek is 21 days. Cost \$1880 - a non-commercial private trip.

Mera Peak Climb (21,200 ft.) Mera is a non-technical peak and one of the finest vantage points in the Khumbu. This breathtaking mountain panorama includes no less than five of the worlds fourteen 18,000 metre peaks.

Kalapattar Trek (18,000 ft) looks down upon Everest Base Camp.

## Tahoe Trip

Over the Memorial Day weekend I organized a trip to Tahoe that consisted of both Day Hiking and Peak Climbing people. We camped at the Forest Service campground at Fallen Leaf Lake - which had empty sites all weekend. Perhaps the weather and heavy snowpack kept many people away.

On Saturday we climbed Mt. Tallac by a route that ascended the "cross" on the east face. This involved a climb of over 3,000 feet, and included crossing some very steep snow near the top. Ice axes were required here. Summit views were limited due to clouds. Lake Gilmore was completely frozen over. On the descent several of us enjoyed skiing down slopes covered with spring snow of almost perfect consistency.

From Hwy 89, about 2 miles north of Camp Richardson, go west on Spring Creek Road. Follow it to near where it ends. Begin hiking in a south-southwest direction through trees and brush, climbing gradually up to a ridge that descends down the northeast side of Mt. Tallac. From this ridge one should be able to look into a large bowl that sits below the east face of the mountain. Where practical traverse into this bowl and continue climbing up in a southwest direction until reaching the base of the cross. Over the Memorial Day weekend everything, except for the part at the very beginning, was covered in snow. As you climb up the cross the going gets increasingly steep. An ice axe is essential here. After passing the horizontal section of the cross the snow becomes very steep. Crampons and rope may be needed here depending on snow conditions. About half way up the upper section of the cross, begin angling up to the right and look for a spot without a cornice to pass through to the summit. During our climb there were large cornices directly above the cross.

On the descent one may go down the north face of the mountain about 300 feet to the top of a gully that will take one directly down to the right side of the horizontal section of the cross. This descent may be easier than descending the climbing route.

If the cross contains little snow than the climb could be quite different. I've only climbed it when there was snow. It could be harder without the snow.

On Sunday we drove to the northern side of the lake - about a 45 minute drive via the Nevada side - and climbed Mt. Rose. This was an easier climb than Tallac, but it involved more walking as Mt. Rose is not as close to the highway as one might expect. In order to keep everyone together, no skis were used on this climb, which was unfortunate because there is some great skiing on the way into and out of Mt. Rose. This peak involved a climb of slightly less than 3,000 feet. The final ridge leading to the summit was exposed to a severe wind which almost knocked us down. The summit of Mt. Rose is marked by a wood sign. On Monday we awoke to rain and soon after everyone headed for home.

-- G. Sinclair

## Pinnacles

With snow and rain to the left of me and snow and rain to the right of me well you get the picture. I abandoned my drive to Shasta.

I ended up stealth biving right outside the gate and was the first one in the parking lot at 7AM or so Saturday morning as the Ranger was wondering (I KNEW!!!) just where did this guy spend the night!! A distant good morning was exchanged as I drove by him slowly after packing up my stove and stuff he was looking at as he pulled up to the kiosk.

Storm damage was quite evident from the huge 5-10' piles of sand and the many slide areas scarring the hillsides as well as the temporary looking bridge (one car at a time??) spanning the creek across the entrance to PNM.

The route was about 15 miles and 5000 feet spanning the Chalone peak trail back around to the High Peak trails past the reservoir where I filtered water to re supply my bottles. (All water facilities are still shut down in the part and various parking lots are stocked with 5 gal water bottles placed by the NPS)

It was pretty green with many areas of beautiful blooms remaining with a luscious scent of lilac almost overpowering on large portions of the HP trail.

It had been a few years since I climbed up a pinnacle and since I brought some rope and the raptor signs were down where I wanted to go I did a small one off the highest point in the part. After having glorious weather and slight wind (temps in the mid 70's) I dropped my full big back-back and enjoyed some watermelon with some folks I met on the trail. I would estimate there are 1 to 2 weeks of blooming left- maybe more if the precip keeps up-- the ground was still very moist with still a lot of pools remaining inside the high pinnacles that I hiked by. All in all a good detour and a great workout.

-- RJ Calliger

## Mt. Morgan

I was on the STS "telemania" trip last weekend. There will probably be a more detailed report in TRACK, but here's some snow level information.

Saturday we skied from Virginia Lakes up toward Mt. Excelsior. Steep boilerplate and fog turned back the summit seekers at about 12,000 feet. Below 10,000, the corn snow was superb.

Sunday we skied Mt. Morgan south from near the summit all the way to Rock Creek Lake. The top 1500 feet of the north face was icy with patches of wind-packed powder. Below 12,000 feet the corn snow was great. The road was plowed beyond the lake, but I don't know how far.

Monday we had rain and wet snow flurries at Sonora Pass, so most of us headed home early. The snowpack at Sonora Pass looked about 8-10 feet deep.

-- Butch Suits

## Casaval Ridge

A note on the conditions on the Casaval Ridge of Mt Shasta as experienced by us on 23/24th May 98.

The forecast wasn't very good, but there was a break expected on Saturday afternoon and there was another front forecast for Sunday morning. Unsure what to do, and hoping to get some climbing in anyway, about 10 PCS'ers led by George Van Gorden and Bill Kirkpatrick set out towards Horse Camp. The ranger at Bunny Flat was turning back groups who intended to do Avalanche Gulch as the route was living upto it's name and a lot of point-releases were happening.

It was cold and foggy but there were still an amazing number of cars in the parking lot and a lot of climbing parties. We trudged thru the mushy snow in snowshoes till Horse Camp. Suddenly the sun came out and the clouds parted to reveal a part of our ridge. We decided to continue on the ridge till we got to about 9200 ft and set up camp on the relatively flattish spots there. It snowed some and remained generally cool as we dug platforms for our tents. I had a bivy bag, so Ron and Ted helped me dig a trench.

The plastic bladed snow shovel worked mostly well, except when we reached the ice which had to be chopped with an axe. The clouds continued to flirt with the sun till we fell asleep.

We woke up in the morning to the sound of snow and rain coming down steadily on our tents. It was cold and wet and visibility was low. A summit attempt in these conditions was inadvisable, so we packed up and headed down. Ron led the way down, the way points on his GPS helped a lot in getting us back to Horse Camp, especially at the point a few hundred feet above Horse Camp where we had made an abrupt right turn while heading up.

Interestingly, at Horse Camp, on the way up, we had run into Robert Chang. Robert is a Bay Area local who summited Ama Dablam last year and had an article on that expedition published in the San Jose Mercury News. Robert was on his 49th attempt of Shasta but had himself turned around due to the bad climbing conditions. El Nino hasn't loosened its grip on California just yet.

Climbers in our group to whom the summit of Shasta was denied this Memorial Day were, George Van Gorden, Bill Kirkpatrick, Ahmad Zhandi, Adrienne Van Gorden, Rick and Helena Verrow, Roger Crawley, Alex Keith, Ted Raczek, Ron Karpel, Arun Mahajan.

-- Arun Mahajan

## Bear Creek Spire

Drove up Rock Creek Canyon road from Tom's Place, arriving at East Fork around 8pm Saturday night, where the road is gated for the winter. Peter Horvath & I geared up and set out under a full moon up the road, stopping about 3 miles up to make camp on the north shore of Rock Creek Lake. We took our time breaking camp Sunday morning, hitting the road around 11am. Stopped for a couple yo-yo runs from the road down to the lake shore through choice corn! We continued up the canyon, crossing several lakes and up a steep headwall to make camp at Treasure Lakes by late afternoon. As we slept, Jay Kumar showed up at our camp around midnight to join us, skiing all 8-10 miles in by moonlight.

Monday morning, after some ice axe arrest practice, we set out around 9am for Bear Creek Spire. Skied up past Dade Lake and across the huge north facing bowl, ditching skis as the slope neared 45 degrees. We kicked steps up to the NW ridge, and dropped over onto the west face, where we climbed snow to just beneath the Summit. We climbed a short steep snow pitch on belay, and a 50 foot pitch of low fifth class (in ski boots & gloves!), both led by Jay. After thrashing away snow on the summit block in a fruitless attempt to find the register, we rapp'd off some existing slings back to the west face snow slope. As we made our way down, the weather started to worsen and I came down hard with altitude sickness. Peter & Jay helped me down to the skis with a couple of belayed glistades, where I geared up while fending off nausea attacks. In the worsening weather, what was anticipated as an exhilarating return ski through bowls of untracked corn, now became a handicapped survival-turn struggle down steep wind crust ice in gale force gusts. Finally making it back to the tent I immediately crashed inside while Jay got some hot soup going. Shortly thereafter, my symptoms faded and we sacked out early as the wind storm roared on.

The next morning we had some fresh powder to ski out. The final 5-mile stretch down the Rock Creek Canyon road from Mosquito flat was pure coasting all the way! We stopped again for a couple runs at Rock Creek Lake, and made it out to the car just after noon. After a relaxing hot springs soak in the desert, I dropped Peter & Jay back at Tom's Place and hit the road for the long drive home. Big thanks to Peter & Jay for looking out for me when I was sick as a dog!

-- Pat Callery

## Delenda Est Cartago

We had some trouble meeting, since the write-up said to meet at the Cafe in Cartago the Ranch House Cafe is actually in Olancha, 2 or 3 miles south of Cartago. We drove to the north end of Cartago and turned west on a dirt road that crosses the aqueduct via a quite drivable bridge. We went south roughly half a mile on the aqueduct access road and parked off the road in a wide spot. 4WD vehicles can drive a bit further and turn west again up a short spur road that leads to a use trail.

The use trail peters out where the pine trees start, and it's pretty much up to you which sand you walk in. The terrain is clumps of plants in loose soil, and washes might be slightly looser than ridges. We headed more or less for the peak, angling left (south) because it looked lower angle than straight up the draw (see way point RIDGE). There were a few third class moves with packs before we broke through the rock band to camp at 8400' (see way point CAMP). We came down to the south of this band, bushwhacking a bit instead of doing 3rd class. It's possible there is an easier way slightly north, and the campsites are bigger and sandier over there (see way point ALTCAMP).

We followed the ridge up past some more great campsites around 9300' to the saddle between Point 9921 and the Cartago plateau. Stay to the south of 9921 but north of the other bumps, since the south drainage has very steep sides. From the saddle, we angled up west-southwest, avoiding rock faces well above us. At way point TRAVRS we thought we could see the peak, but could not. Going through a minor saddle, we followed Mark Adrian's GPS coordinates to a flat sandy area ringed by crags. From here it's a 5-minute scramble to the top first on boulders under the west face of the peak and then cutting left on third class with good holds to the summit. There is no need for a rope, and we found several routes with varying exposure.

The summit is in the southeast corner of the flat sandy area, and the sandy area is distinguished by far fewer trees and a flatter surface than we had seen in other areas. Approaching from the west, your observations may vary! The summit area is the north wing of a small L-shaped ridge, at least that's how it appears from the northwest. The web version of this report has a scanned 7.5' map with pointers showing our camp, the saddle, and the peak. I've included way points MUAH and KERN below, picked off the map, just in case you wonder where those little bumps are when you're on top of Cartago.

See way points CARTAG and MACART for my GPS entry and Mark Adrian's entry. We were both sitting on the summit at the register, but the readings are about 0.1 mile apart. The government can diddle the signal by 100 meters, to prevent accurate missile targeting, and that's about 0.06 miles. It appears that Mark and I were there under different error conditions so our readings are off by more than you would expect when comparing coordinates from the TOPO! software to field observations.

-- Steve Eckert

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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.

**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 6/21/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.**



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

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