



Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Time: 8:00 PM

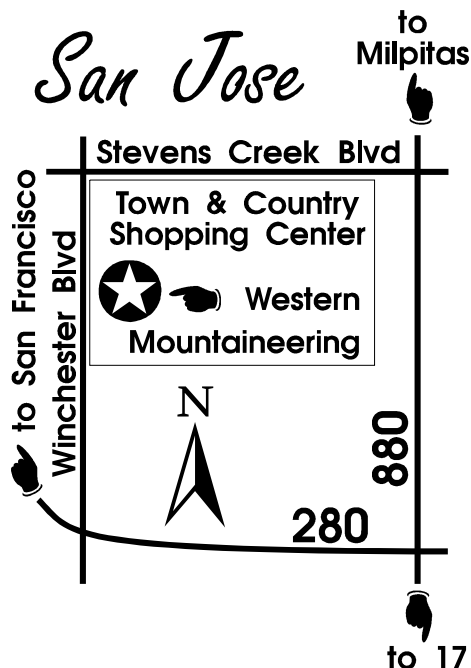
Program: Cho Oyo

Dr. Mark Cole, who has much experience climbing in Nepal including a trip to Everest, will give a presentation on a trip to Cho Oyo a 26906 Ft. Peak in the Himalayas located on the Nepal-Tibet boarder.

Location: Western Mountaineering Town & Country Village, San Jose

From 280: Exit at Winchester Boulevard, go East and turn right into the Town & Country Shopping Center across from the Century Theaters

From 880: Exit at Stevens Creek Boulevard, go North and turn right into the Town & Country Shopping Center



"Everest" the Movie IN IMAX!

Date: October 1998

Location: Michael Hackworth IMAX Theater,
Tech Museum of Innovation

It is the closest thing to being there without actually traveling to Nepal. This Fall you will be able to see the IMAX movie "Everest" that Ed Viesters and David Breshears made of the climb. Those of you who saw his slide presentation know how breath taking his photography is. This Fall you will be able to see their climb documented in the IMAX format. You will feel like you are actually there!

Climbing Your Own: Everest with Arlene Blum

Date: Saturday, May 2, 1998

Purpose: Leadership Skills for the Outdoors

Place: Coyote Point Museum

In these competitive times, we need leadership skills at all levels of our organizations. Current research shows that exemplary leadership can be learned. Arlene Blum, noted writer, chemist and expedition leader, believes that everyone has leadership skills, that every leader is also a learner, and that we can all learn to achieve extraordinary results. Sponsored by the Sierra Club, Arlene will offer a one-day workshop on 'Leadership Skills for Outdoor Adventures'. The day will include lecture that uses mountaineering and adventure travel as metaphors to show the extraordinary objectives people can achieve with vision, commitment, and teamwork. Cost is \$75 before April 1st; after 4/1/98, \$100/person. Make check payable to: Arlene Blum Lectures and mail to: Julia Bott/Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, 3921 E. Bayshore Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Contact Debbie Benham for further information at 650/964-0558 or dmbenham@aol.com.

WebPage:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/sts/blum.html>

BASIC BACKPACKING COURSE

Editor's Note: This is the finest backpacking course that I have ever seen. Four years ago, I took the course so I can personally recommend it. Even though I had been backpacking for 25 years when I took the course, I learned many new things and perhaps more important, made some new friends.

Date: Tuesday Evenings April 21 to June 2

Contact: Greg Condon, 650-967-2024, Dan Cobb, 650-631-9303, or Bob Bynum 510-659-1413, rfbynum@aol.com

Interested in learning how to backpack but don't know how to get started? Done some backpacking but want to learn the principles - what to buy, where to go, what to bring? The Backpack Section's "Basic Backpacking Course" is for you. The course includes seven two-hour classes covering equipment, wilderness manners, mountain first aid, finding your way and trip planning - and 3 backpack trips. The course will help the participants choose the right equipment. The discussion sessions will be held in the Palo Alto area on successive Tuesday nights from April 21 through June 2. The field trips dates are: May 2 and 3; May 16 and 17; and May 30 and 31 (drive up evening of May 29). Two trips are to local parks and one to the Sierra (a person must go on one of the local trips to go on the Sierra trip), and are limited to class members only. The class is limited to 40 people on a first-come basis. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. The cost of the course is \$75 per person including books. The class proceeds are donated to conservation and trail maintenance groups.

To enroll, send your name, address, and home & work phone numbers to:

Basic Backpacking Course

1950 Alford Avenue, Dept PCS

Los Altos, CA 94024

Enclose a check for \$75 payable to "Backpack Section - Loma Prieta Chapter". Also enclose a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope so we can mail you the course info.

Earth Day 1998

Peak Climbers: We still want YOU!

A steering committee has formed within the Loma Prieta Chapter to engage Sierra Club members in Earth Day 1998. This committee, plus other South Bay environmental groups, has chosen the theme, A Sense of Place: Bringing Earth Day Home. Using this theme, the coalition wants to show the connection between ourselves and our local environment. Also the Loma Prieta Chapter will use this event to reach out to organized religious groups. Together we want to work on our common concern for the planet. One of the models we will use is the "Green-Team," an environmental support group of 6 - 8 people wanting to "live more lightly" on the Earth. The groups meet in the participants' homes for 5 weeks, using a workbook as their guide.

We invited all Activity Sections and Regional Groups to attend one of two meetings in January. At these meetings, we discussed our preliminary goals for Earth Day '98, reviewed some of the materials that are available for group use, saw a 30-minute video produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists (Keeping the Earth: Religious and Scientific Perspectives on the Environment) and set up an outreach plan to local religious communities. We want representatives from each Section and Group. The two meetings were identical to allow most people to attend at least one. We are encouraging all Loma Prieta Chapter members who are affiliated with a religious group to attend. **If you were not able to come to any of the meetings scheduled in January and February we would still welcome your involvement.** Call the Chapter Office for directions or information, (650) 390-8494.

If PCS members have an interest in participating in Earth Day 1998, please join us at these meetings. The Chapter wants its offerings for Earth Day to include Peak Climbing.

Exhibit: Seven Years in Tibet

The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose has a photo exhibit titled "Seven Years in Tibet, 1944-1951: Photographs by Heinrich Harrer". It runs until March 15. It is free with the general museum admission (\$7). Associated with the photo exhibit is a speaker series. On March 14, Tenzing Nethong presents "America's Fascination with Tibet". Tickets are \$20 for each, and the photo exhibit is included. (408) 947-3633 for reserve and info.

<http://www.rosicrucian.org/calendar/museumevents.html>

Mountaineering Committee Seeks Input From Members

In addition to approving trip leaders, one of the charters of the Mountaineering Committee (Arun Mahajan, Peter Maxwell and Kelly Maas) is to conduct training. The purpose of this broadcast is to gauge interest. What sort of training do you think the PCS should offer? Should we mimic a class you've taken elsewhere? Is it most important to help out beginners? To promote leadership skills? Please be specific.

Some ideas:

- Backcountry basics
- Intro. to mountaineering
- Crampon and ice axe
- Leadership development
- Crevasse rescue
- Navigation / route finding
- Classroom versus field practice

Reply to kelly.maas@idt.com (408) 279-2054

or Arun arun@sentientnet.com

Trip Leaders Wanted

Becoming a PCS trip leader is easier than you probably think. The procedure was listed in the December SCREE. I am putting this notice in to emphasize that we can always use more leaders.

Official (PCS) Trips

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

Mt. Tam Loop

Peak: Mt. Tamalpais (2,571')
Date: March 22, Sunday
Leader: Debbie Benham h:650-964-0558
dmbenham@aol.com
Co-Leader: Nancy Fitzsimmons h:408-957-9683
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.COM

We'll take in West and East Peak, Lagunitas Lake, and the lovely Muir Woods. Expect about 14 mi and a bit of elevation gain. Meet at 9 AM, Mountain Home

Trailhead, or, carpool point at Page Mill Rd & Hwy. 280, 7:30 am.

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 classes will be taught on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 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.

Andes and Himalayan Expeditions

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

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

• Craig Clarence <sharpend@telis.org>

A Death Valley Christmas

December 1997

During the winter months the climbing is good in the desert. That's when I work on my Desert Peak List (DPS). This year, between Christmas and New Year's Richard and I headed for Death Valley.

After a day-long drive from Santa Cruz, we camped at Stovepipe Wells, December 25. The next day we needed our 4WD truck to make it to the trailhead for Canyon Point (5890'). The last 10 miles of the approximately 28-mile dirt road were of moderate roughness but open all the way unlike some years when it has been rendered impassable due to flash floods.

Canyon Point is an easy climb with excellent views of Stovepipe Wells and Death Valley from the summit. We spotted grouse and delightful desert dandelion in bloom. A good warm up.

We spent the night at the junction of Marble and Cottonwood Canyons and relaxed by hiking scenic Marble Canyon on December 27. There were some petroglyphs in this water-carved limestone narrows and graffiti from the early 20th century. We looked for "JB" reportedly from the Jayhawker party of 1849 and may have found it, but the letters were very faint, so we couldn't be sure. We returned to Stovepipe Wells and dinner with Massachusetts relatives at the Lodge.

The next day we drove up Goler Wash and over Mengel Pass. Perhaps I should call it "Mangle Pass." Several times I wasn't sure we would make it, even in low 4WD gear. The route was littered with abandoned wheels, axles and various car parts. There were drops of 2-3 feet, dips, huge rocks, steep inclines and narrow passages. It was adrenaline city, much eroded from two years ago when we turned back because of the ice on the steep downhill.

Each time we thought the fun was over, the road had another surprise for us. It is on this road that the Barker Ranch is found, the infamous 1969 hideout for Charles Manson and his followers. Since we had visited the ranch in 1995, we kept on trucking to remote Butte Valley.

It is worth the trip. Butte Valley is filled with interesting cabins, some with running water. "Welcome," read the signs on the doors. "In the spirit of the Old West, leave this cabin better than you found it." We explored Russell Camp, Stella's Cabin, which was built by Mormons in the 1860's, and others. We decided the Geologist's cabin, a one-room stone edifice with a fireplace and beautiful view of Striped Butte was just right for us. We built a warming fire using wood we had brought from home.

Before retiring for a romantic evening in front of the fireplace, we ran up Striped Butte. I had vowed to climb this strikingly beautiful peaklet years ago (before I ever know where it was located) when I saw it on a postcard at the Death Valley Visitor Center. It looks like a chunk of halvah (sesame seed candy) dropped on the desert. Unlike anything else in view, it sits alone in its chocolate, vanilla, and cream striped splendor.

Our friends from Hayward, Howard Steidtmann and Tobi Tyler were to meet us for a climb of Manley (7196') on December 29. We were on the trail by 7:30 a.m. with no sign of Howard and Tobi. There is a trail most of the way and a magnificent stand of pinyon pine near the summit. Some of the trees are quite large. Recent snow filled the spaces between plants and rocks.

The summit block is a puzzle to solve. The 20-foot high chunk of granite has an awkward crack/book with a gaping hole beneath it on the right and an exposed friction slab on the left. First I tried the crack. Easy enough with rock shoes, but for me too tenuous and slippery in boots, especially with the hole below. Next I climbed a boulder facing the friction slab.

From its top I could jump onto the slab and walk up the ramp aided by inertia. I was thinking about it. "Any words of advice," I asked Richard. "Don't jump," he responded. I looked again. I know I could do it. Then I jumped. On the top! Then I spotted Howard and Tobi. When they arrived we set up a fixed line using my short 7mm rope, and Richard, Howard and Tobi came up. Good views of

Panamint Valley and the Sierra peaks from the summit.

The four of us climbed Needle (5803') the next day. Route finding and the climb are more difficult than on Manley. Needle offers expansive views to the south and west where one can see

Charleston Peak in Nevada, and Clark Mountain, and Kingston Peak.

That evening, Howard and Tobi left for Nevada. Richard and I returned to the Geologist's cabin. The next day was spent in decadent soaking at Tecopa Hot Springs, touring the Shoshone Museum (first time I have seen it open), and exploring the abandoned talc mine and warm pools on the Warm Springs Canyon Road which we used to exit Butte Valley to the east. Desert sunflowers bloomed profusely in joyous contrast to the rich brown rock of the desert floor. We spent the night on an old mining road near the trailhead for Stewart Point off Highway 178.

The route up Stewart Point (5265') follows several canyons with dry waterfalls and interesting rock formations. Once one climbs out of the canyon, there are numerous false summits. The geology is fascinating. My knees were not crazy about the loose rock slopes, however, especially on the descent. We could see our truck from the summit. Then we went back to Tecopa for a shower and soak before heading home.

• *Debbie Bulger*

Lesser Adams

January 1998

There is a real Mt Adams (in Oregon). There is also an Adams Peak (in California, 8197'). Adams Peak is the lesser Adams! It's a bump on a ridge, with trees at the top and desert at the base. You can see Reno's lights reflecting off the clouds at the trailhead. (Highway 284 was open and sanded.) Not exactly my image of a Sierra Nevada peak, but it's on the SPS list!

Aaron Schuman and I decided to try sneaking past the weather god for one last conditioning trip before I head into the deserts of Chile. As has been said many times before, you never conquer a mountain - it's more like you are allowed to visit, and sometimes it's more like you can sneak up before the weather gets around to nailing you.

This is the only peak in my life that I have climbed without ever seeing. The summit remained in the clouds all day, our route was in the trees all day, and a jumble of logging roads covered with a foot or two of wet snow do not make navigation easy. We had no idea what the lay of the land was like, except from the DeLorme topo atlas (with 100 meter contours), since the clouds were quite low in the morning and we did not bother to buy a USGS topo map with detailed resolution.

We used a compass at 5 minute intervals, and a GPS at half hour intervals, and more or less stayed on the right route (only 600' of up/down wasted). Even so the slog from Frenchman Lake was 12 hours round trip. Much of that time was due to the breakable surface (not quite a crust) on deep wet snow, which made coming down almost as hard as going up.

At a false summit, we almost headed back down without finding the register until the GPS said "0.17 miles at 38 degrees" - we couldn't see even 100 yards up there, but the GPs lead us to within 100' of the register. Cool. (Actually, COLD - the wind was howling on top, but it was calm down in the trees.) I got the GPS coordinates from DeLorme's Street Atlas software, since none of the backcountry CDROMs I know of cover this area: (NAD83) N39°54.639', W120°06.005' (The web version of this report will have a GIF map attached showing our approximate route.)

Aaron and I have done enough of these low-risk day trips to know when we SHOULD turn around, (1pm) but we sometimes push on knowing we'll get back way after dark. We didn't leave the summit until 3pm. Unlike a big peak, we had reasonable temperatures,

trees for shelter, and running water. With survival gear like mylar bivy bags and extra gloves we felt safe getting back several hours after dark, but make sure you know how to navigate in the trees and/or how to spend the night safely before deciding not to set a turn around time that will get you back early.

On the other hand, in the summer you could drive (4WD? bike?) almost to the summit. It's climbed 2 or 3 times per year, mostly by peak baggers whose names are in all the obscure registers. Never in winter, at least as far as we saw in the short time we huddled on the summit.

If you want solitude and a workout worth doing, winter is the right season for you! If there had been a bit more snow lower down, this peak would have made a nice ski trip. The summit mass is too steep for me, but that's a small percentage of the trip. Lots of old logging - watch out for stumps and buried logs when you're carving those turns!

• *Steve Eckert*

Snug as a Bug

November 28-Dec 2, 1997

We started this trip out to be a late fall) snow climb. John reported that Lassen was great and had good weather both days. Snow was up to the knees and beyond. Snowshoes had to be used to get up the final portion to the summit as it was too steep for skis, too deep for feet. John did 11 ascents of Lassen last year so he has to work to catch up to that record.

For me, it was now a ski and snow shoe climb up several of the smaller peaks around Donner Summit. I first spent a day taking lessons at Royal Gorge. I planned to meet John up at Royal Gorge for a day of skiing and then try Lassen.

However I was too flued out to do anything but rest thus John took off for Lassen and I took off into my sleeping bag. I had made one of the SNO-PARKS (Donner summit) my base camp since it allowed overnight parking.

The climb up Donner was easy and afforded good views from the summit. The snow averaged about 3.5 feet deep and had yet to turn to Sierra cement so building a snow cave was a little difficult; however I found a huge drift between two 15' boulders, knocked snow down from the tops, and compacted it with my snowshoes. The weird light and tomb-like silence took some getting used to again, but it was an enjoyable respite from "civilization". As I dug into the snow I found two dead wasps apparently caught in the freeze. After a quick but solemn burial, I was snug as a bug in my shelter

The climb up two other smaller unnamed peaks was straightforward except for the soft snow on the steep sections (60 degree) so I traversed instead of removing my snowshoes.

Up early and on the trail at 5:30AM I was treated to a very dense and wonderful looking snowfall for about 1 hr. It stopped shortly after 6:30 AM but clouds looked like it would snow for a week. Around 10AM the front broke up and the storm dissolved into high wispy clouds.

• *Rich Calliger*

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.

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Date: Sat March 14
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Contact: Bob Bynum 510-659-1413, rbynum@aol.com

Climb to spectacular views of the entire Bay Area. This is a 6-mile hike with a 1,100 foot +. elevation gain. Windbreaker and warm clothing are needed since this area lives up to its name. We will hike up to Windy Hill from Alpine Road via the Hamms Gulch Trail. Bring a snack and liquid. Hiking boots are strongly recommended. Meet at Park and Ride lot at Page Mill Road and Highway 280. Co-listed with Sierra Singles.

Around and Atop Roundtop Again

Peak: Roundtop (10600) Class 2+ snow
Date: Mar. 15 Sunday
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320

We will meet at the Carson Pass snow-park at 8:00 and on snow shoes or skies head for Roundtop. To the saddle above Lake Winumucca is easy walking and, crampons and ice axe are needed only on the last few hundred feet. Experience with axe and crampons is necessary.

Mission Peak Hike

Date: Sat March 28
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Contact: Bob Bynum 510-659-1413, rbynum@aol.com

Climb to spectacular views of the entire Bay Area. This is a fast-paced strenuous 6-mile hike with a 2100 ft. elevation gain. Windbreaker and warm clothing are mandatory since the temperature at the top can be as low as 45 F and winds can be 30 MPH or greater. Hiking boots are strongly recommended. Bring water. Directions: Take 880 north to Mission Blvd. exit. Go about 1.5 miles to the 3rd light. Just beyond the 3rd light turn right on Stanford Avenue at the sign that says "Mission Peak Regional Preserve". Co-listed with Sierra Singles.

Scoping Out the Rose

Peak: Telescope Peak (11,058)
Date: April 3-6 1998.
Contact: Leader: Nancy Fitzsimmons,
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com, H:
408-957-9683
Co-Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick.wmkirk@earthlink.net, H:408-
293-2447, W:408-279-3450.

Meet Panamint Valley on Friday Afternoon of April 3rd. Saturday we will climb Telescope Peak and Sunday Wild Rose Peak. Return home on Monday. Great time of the year for wildflower's and car camping. Contact leader for details.

Matterhorn Peak

Peak: Matterhorn Peak (12,264), Class 3 snow
Dates: May 23-25
Map: Matterhorn Peak, Buckeye Ridge 7.5 min.
Contact: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234

The Sawtooth Ridge is an alpine cluster of peaks known for its clean, white granite and interesting glaciers. The Ridge contains much charm and is affectionately known as, "The Poor Man's Chamonix." The Matterhorn is an impressive peak with a commanding view. Secor thinks a ski tour from the summit can be one of the finest mountaineering experiences on the continent. Ski or snowshoes necessary.

Nepal

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

Mera Peak 21,200 also a trekking group to Kala Pattan. Trek from Arun River, a seldom traveled route. People and villages that are not accustomed to seeing Westerners. I'll retrace a 1983 trek. Remember, all financing is done directly with the provider. Nothing through Warren. That's the reason we get good prices and excellent service. We have our own cook. No tea house. No "Delhi Belly". For the itinerary and other information, contact Warren.

Oh Well & Kicked Buttes

October 3, 1997

With my computer boxed up in a moving van and my phone unplugged for the day, there wasn't much point in going to work. Steve Eckert had his latest tenant crisis under control, so we rumbled up the road and turned off at the Tahoe National Forest. Our destinations: Mount Elwell and Sierra Buttes.

Both peaks are easily reached from a paved road connecting Sierra City on highway 49 with Graegle on highway 70. There is a sign for a turnoff to the Lakes Basin campground where the Grassy Lake trailhead is located; this is the best access to Mount Elwell. The trailhead is at 6200 feet, the summit is at 7812 feet, and there is a well marked 2-1/2 mile trail all the way to the top. The summit had pleasant views of Mount Lassen & Sierra Buttes.

Ten miles south, we took the turnoff for Sardine Lake, and chose the Packer Lake road over the 4WD route. My old Honda gasped and wheezed up an astonishingly steep paved road beyond Packer Lake to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail at about 7000 feet.

The Buttes, less than two miles away, were a tremendous jagged sheared monolith of quartz porphyry, weathered to a deep purple. The east side, facing the road, had a five hundred foot cliff. We hoped the west side would be easier. Approaching the peak, we saw it was defended by cliffs on every side. A rope would have been required if it weren't for the steel staircase leading hundreds of feet up the wall to the fire lookout tower. So much for mountains without handrails! We climbed the stairs to the 8587 foot summit, circled the tower on a scary open mesh catwalk with five hundred feet of air beneath our feet. We returned; 65 minutes up and 50 minutes down.

• Aaron Schumam

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

Elected Officials

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Subscriptions and Email List Info

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

<<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Scree/Scree.html>>.

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:

April 14, 1998: Bob DeNike, Baffin Island

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 3/29/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



Peak Climbing Section, 789 Daffodil Way, San Jose CA 95117

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

First Class Mail - Dated Material