



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

## Next General Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 1998

**Time:** 8:00 PM

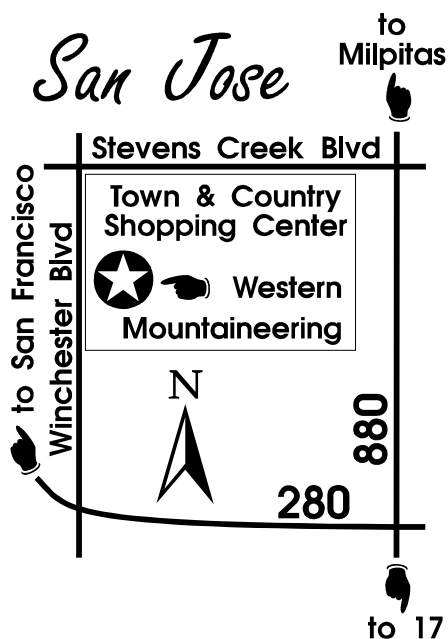
**Program:** Denali by Bruce Bousefield

Bruce Bousefield climbed Alaska's Mt. Denali in June of 1997. This should be interesting even for those of you who have climbed Denali.

**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



**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 5/31/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.**

## New Operating Rule Proposals: Your Voice Counts, Vote For One

At the April PCS meeting, the Chair of the Mountaineering Committee (Arun Mahajan, also the current PCS Vice Chair) and Steve Eckert made a brief presentation concerning the operating rules. Two proposals were presented. We voted to publish BOTH Operating Rule proposals in the next Scree. Arun and Steve differ on which charter should be adopted, but they agree that a vote is needed settle it once and for all.

To help you make an informed decision about the new operating rules we are providing you with the following materials.

- PCS bylaws governing the mountaineering committee
- History of the Operating Rules
- The two Proposals numbered 9801 and 9802

Please read them and comment either on the e-mail broadcast list or at the next meeting. Since Steve is the one who made the proposal, Steve would like the debate to be along the lines of "this wording would be better than that wording", not along the lines of "we do not need a rule" or "who cares". If you have more than a few words or a sentence to change, please pick the next number (We used 9801 and 9802) and propose a new operating rule entirely. These things should be short, not page after page of text.

The PCS Bylaws say operating rules must first be approved for publication at a meeting (last meeting, April 14, 1998). Once approved, they must be published in the next Scree, then discussed and voted on at the next meeting. We may want to delay voting if people have not made up their minds by May, but with this list we can at least get the issue out of committee and onto the floor for debate

## PCS Mountaineering Committee

As per ARTICLE VI (Committees), Section 1 of the PCS Bylaws, one of the standing committees of the PCS is the Mountaineering Committee, which maintains a list of peaks and lists of member and leader qualifications, conducts training seminars, and assists the Vice-Chairman in scheduling outings.

The following is the Mountaineering Committee Policy.

### Mountaineering Committee Policy

Sierra Club Peak Climbing Section, April 25, 1998

- 1) The mountaineering Committee, a standing committee established by the by-laws of the PCS, is given complete authority

to determine leadership guidelines (See Appendix A.) and a Leader List based on these guidelines.

2) The Mountaineering Committee shall be comprised of three members, each of which is qualified on the Leader List and is an active leader and climber. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Section Chair. The other two members shall be appointed by the Mountaineering Chair with the approval of the Section Chair. It is recommended that the Vice-Chair/Scheduler be a member of the committee.

3) All members who desire to be placed or upgraded on the Leader List shall submit a written application to the Mountaineering Committee Chair. The Mountaineering Committee shall review the application and determine eligibility for the Leader List.

4) The Leader List will be reviewed annually in the first calendar quarter by the Mountaineering Committee. The Mountaineering Committee will review qualifications of each leader and verify current eligibility, including valid Sierra Club membership and current first aid card. A significant number of serious complaints is cause for removal from the Leader List. Leaders can also request that they be removed from the Leader List when they feel they are no longer qualified or interested.

5) The responsibilities of trip leaders and participants are summarized in Appendix B. The leader of a trip will be the final authority as to who may participate on the trip. A suggested list of questions to be used for screening purposes is given in Appendix C.

The following are the guidelines for PCS leadership that the Mountaineering Committee uses COUPLED with the PCS bylaws to select leaders for PCS outings.

## **Guidelines for PCS Leadership**

### **Class One:** (walking on trail)

- 1) At least eighteen years of age, PCS and Sierra Club member
- 2) Red Cross Multimedia First Aid or approved equivalent. Mountain Medicine course conducted by Red Cross and Sierra Club may be substituted at alternate renewal periods.

### **Class Two:** (walking cross-country; using hands for balance)

- 1) Qualifications for First Class list
- 2) Minimum two years mountain experience
- 3) Demonstrated navigational ability
- 4) Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 2 or harder PCS trips or equivalent

### **Class Three:** (use of hands for balance while climbing)

- 1) Qualifications for Second Class list
- 2) Recent experience with roped climbing, including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and/or anchor setting
- 3) Recent experience with ice axe, crampons, self-arrest, and/or ice-axe belay
- 4) Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 3 or harder PCS trips or equivalent

### **Class Four:** (use of rope for belays)

- 1) Qualification for Third Class list
- 2) Knowledgeable and experienced in all of the following: roped climbing, which includes belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and anchor setting; ice axe use, which includes self-arrest and ice-axe belay. Recent experience with crampons.

- 3) Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 4 or harder PCS trips or equivalent

### **Class Five:** (technical rock climbing)

- 1) Qualifications for the Fourth Class list
- 2) Had to have lead at least three routes equal to or better than the class of climb to be lead
- 3) Knowledgeable, and has demonstrated experience in all aspects of rope management and handling. Proficient with anchor setting, placing of protection for safety, belaying, and rappelling.
- 4) Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 5 PCS trips or equivalent

### **Winter Trips:**

- 1) Qualifications of class of climb to be lead
- 2) Two seasons of winter mountaineering, including extensive snow camping
- 3) Proficiency with skis or snow shoes, ice axe, crampons, and ice axe belays
- 4) Substantial navigational experience, including white-out and storm conditions
- 5) Advanced first aid preferred, with an understanding of hypothermia, frost bite, and pulmonary edema
- 6) Avalanche course

## **Responsibilities of Leaders and Participants**

The climbs of the Section range from comparatively slow-paced trips which follow established trails almost all the way to the summit to climbs in which strenuous cross-country travel must be capped off with some steep and possibly exposed climbing in order to attain the goal. This variety of climbs represents an endeavor to provide a schedule directed toward the interests and capabilities of every Section member. There is a leader assigned to each PCS trip. The wide variety of climbs makes it important to match climbers and climbs, and for the leader of a climb and his companions to understand their responsibilities to one another. **THE LEADER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARTY.** To fulfill this responsibility, the leader needs the full cooperation of each climber, and may restrict a climb, or some portion of it, to climbers with certain types of experience. As climbs increase in difficulty, the leader can expect the individual climbers to assume an increasing share of the responsibility.

### **Leader's Duties and Responsibilities:**

- 1) The leader, or his/her designated representative, has the ultimate responsibility and authority on all PCS trips for reasons of safety. This responsibility includes foot travel to base camp, to the base of the peak(s), the climb of the peak(s), and return to the trailhead.
- 2) The trip officially begins at the trailhead. The leader is not responsible for carpools.
- 3) The leader will determine the maximum number of trip participants, depending on the difficulty of the trip and the popularity of the area visited.
- 4) The leader will determine who may participate on the trip. Factors to be considered include the type of trip, the participants' experience, equipment, climbing ability, his/her judgment, and behavior on previous PCS trips. It is suggested that "Leader Screening for Trip Participants" (Appendix C) be used as an aid in the screening process for trip participants.

- 5) The leader is responsible for making sure sufficient safety equipment for the group is brought. The leader may require special personal equipment specific to the trip.
- 6) The leader will brief all participants at the trailhead prior to leaving the cars on the following: route(s) to camp, rendezvous points, campsite location, climbing schedule, and other pertinent information. The purpose of this briefing is to aid the participant, should he become separated from the group.
- 7) If the leader does not participate in any part of a trip, (s)he should designate a representative with adequate experience who will have the same responsibilities.
- 8) The leader has the authority to determine if and when the party should turn back for reasons of weather, climbing conditions, Rockwell, avalanche danger, and/or route difficulty. The leader also has the authority to require a participant to stay in a given location on the peak or to return to camp WHEN IT IS SAFE, if the participant's actions threaten the safety of the party.
- 9) The leader is responsible for making sure all members of the party are safe and accounted for at all times. This includes making sure all participants return from the climb to camp and also that all participants have returned to the trailhead.
- 10) In case of accident or illness, the leader is responsible for ensuring first aid treatment.
- 11) Recommended reading: "Outing Leader Handbook" published by the Sierra Club Council.

### **Participant's Responsibilities**

- 1) The trip participant agrees to abide by the decisions of the leader at all times on PCS trips, except when (s)he feels the leader has made a dangerous error in judgment. A primary aim should be for the participant to resolve the issue with the leader. Leadership complaints should be submitted to the Mountaineering Committee Chair in writing.
- 2) In no case should a trip participant attempt or abandon a climb, camp in a different area, or return to the trailhead without the leader's permission. If the participant elects to not abide by the leader's direction, then the Sierra Club/PCS cannot be held accountable for the participant's safety.
- 3) The trip participant agrees to provide all personal climbing equipment required by the leader.
- 4) It is the leader's responsibility to brief all participants prior to leaving the trailhead. If the leader neglects to provide this briefing, it is the participant's responsibility to request that the leader do so.
- 5) In case of emergency, all participants agree to help in any way possible at the direction of the leader.

## **New Operating Rule Proposals**

### **History of Rules for Picking Leaders**

The PCS formed a Leadership Qualification Committee back in 1974, and that committee drafted (and published) a PROPOSAL for how to select leaders. Steve's research (old Scree issues and people who were there) shows this was probably a result of some people being barred from leadership. There were charges of sexism and favoritism (some published). It appears that the proposal was brought up for a vote, but there were not enough votes to amend the PCS Bylaws. Two years later (76) the guidelines were once again published, with a preface by Cline that emphasized they were guidelines and not requirements. Then in 1977 the Operating

Rule clause was added to the bylaws, two months after a leader candidate

Diana called for disbanding the Mountaineering Committee because they were not following the bylaws. It appears the Operating Rule clause was added as a first step in adopting the proposed policy without having to amend the bylaws each time the policy was changed. Dina's death on Mt Shasta seems to have terminated the debate, leaving the leadership certification process in limbo until 1995. Benham and Magliocco's efforts to assemble the PCS Binder and put the PCS records in order uncovered this proposal, and it was put into the Binder as official policy after a vote in Aug. 1995. The problem is that Operating Rules must be published before they are voted on, and the text put into the Binder was revised in 95. It has never been published in the Scree. The policy was downgraded (in the Binder) to a proposal in 1997.

### **Mountaineering Committee Charter Background:**

The PCS Bylaws say "The Chairman of the Section calls and presides at the meetings of the Section, enforces the By-Laws of the Section, and appoints and may remove members of committees to carry out the work of the Section." and "Standing committees shall include a Mountaineering Committee, which maintains a list of peaks and lists of member and leader qualifications, conducts training seminars, and assists the Vice Chairman in scheduling outings;" and "The Vice-Chairman of the Section is responsible for the selection of leaders for, and the scheduling of, the outings of the Section, subject to the approval of the Mountaineering Committee." and "Rules for making more explicit the operating procedures of the Section may be adopted or modified by the following method. Rules as defined in this article shall not be in conflict with the By-Laws."

In recent years, the MtnComm has been operating under guidelines which they say represent the criteria for being a PCS leader. The Vice Chair has been using a list of leaders compiled by the MtnComm instead of selecting leaders and asking for approval from the MtnComm. There are some who say the guidelines represent a list of leader qualifications, meaning they should choose who is a leader, while others think a list of qualifications means a list of achievements and skills. If we are to have rules for who is a leader, the creation and maintenance of those rules properly fall into the category of a PCS Operating Rule.

On the other hand, it may be just an administrative decision to pick leaders - in which case we don't need a formal Operating Rule.

There are records going back over 20 years which indicate this debate is not going to go away on its own. The MtnComm does a great job, but in the past there have been accusations of favoritism and even sexism.

These problems are best avoided by a clearly documented charter for the MtnComm, so we can go climbing and stop debating the bylaws.

### **Proposed Operating Rule 9801: MtnComm Charter with Skills Lists**

Mountaineering Committee Charter

The MtnComm will have at least a Chair at all times, and this person will be responsible for maintaining accurate records of "member and leader qualifications", which consist of accomplishments and skills on a per-person basis, as required by the bylaws. These records will be made available to the Vice-Chair for use in selecting trip leaders, and to trip leaders for use in screening trip applicants. These records will include copies of First

Aid certificates, mountaineering training course certificates, lists of peaks climbed, etc., as supplied by the person who wishes their record to be updated.

The MtnComm may also create objective guidelines for those skills and achievements which qualify a member to lead various types of trips, but those guidelines shall not be used by the PCS until they have been voted on as a PCS Operating Rule according to the PCS Bylaws.

The PCS Chair appoints the MtnComm Chair for a one-year term, and the MtnComm chair in turn selects the rest of the MtnComm members. A MtnComm representative will be included in all PCS Officer's meetings.

## Proposed Operating Rule 9802: MtnComm Charter with Leader Criteria

### Mountaineering Committee Charter

The MtnComm will have at least a Chair at all times, and this person will be responsible for maintaining "member and leader qualifications", which consist of criteria to be considered a member and/or a leader, in addition to a list of those who currently meet the criteria.

The MtnComm shall create objective guidelines for those skills and achievements which qualify a member to lead various types of trips, such as First Aid certificates, mountaineering training courses, provisional trips, lists of peaks climbed, etc., and may create subjective guidelines for leadership skills, past performance, etc. These guidelines may be revised at the discretion of the current MtnComm without being voted into effect as a PCS Operating Rule under the PCS Bylaws.

These criteria shall be used by the MtnComm to compile a list of trip leaders, and which types of trips they are qualified to lead, which the Vice-Chair uses to schedule trips, as required by the bylaws. These criteria will also be used by the MtnComm to compile a list of active members, and which types of trips they are qualified to attend, which trip leaders use to screen trip applicants.

The PCS Chair appoints the MtnComm Chair and the rest of the MtnComm members, who serve until they are removed by the PCS Chair. A MtnComm representative will be included in all PCS Officer's meetings.

## 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.

### Delenda Est Cartago

Peaks: Muah, Cartago; class 2, 2s3  
Dates: May 16-17 Sat-Sun  
Maps: Olancha 15 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/cartago.html>

Join us for the long backpack from Horseshoe Meadows to Mt Muah 11016, class 2) and Cartago Peak (10480+, class 2s3). It's a desert area, but quite a bit of last winter's snow might linger. We're covering a lot of mileage in two days; so come prepared for a workout. Peakbaggers with more time may join Steve on Kern Peak (11,510) on Monday.

### Twin Peaks 12,240' Class 3

Peak: Twin Peaks 12,240 class 3  
Dates: Jul 25 - Jul 26  
Leaders: 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 snow level.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

### Mountaineers on the Hood

Peaks: Mt. Hood, possibly St. Helens  
Date: May 2-3 Sat-Sun  
Contact: David Harris harrisd@leland.stanford.edu  
(650) 725-8811

Join us for a romp up this spectacular Cascade volcano. We'll be flying into Portland Friday evening and driving to Hood for an alpine start on Saturday. If time permits, we may visit St. Helens on Sunday. Ice axe and crampons required. If you have not climbed with me before, please send a resume of your experience and conditioning.

### Cravasse Rescue Practice

Place: Rancho San Antonio Park  
Date: May 17, Sunday  
Contact: Kelly Maas  
maas@idt.com, 408-279-2054

Come spend a few hours practicing craves rescue techniques. Practice prusiking and setting up pully systems. Advance reading is strongly recommended, since I don't organize this as an instructional session. Good books are "Glacier Travel and Cravasse Rescue" by Andy Selters, and "Mountaineering - Freedom of the Hills". Contact me for meeting time and suggested gear.

### Tahoe Peaks Car Camp

Peaks: Various Tahoe area peaks  
Dates: May 23-25  
Leader: George Sinclair 650-941-2160, geosinc@aol.com  
Spend the Memorial Day Weekend climbing some high peaks in the Lake Tahoe area. Snowshoes or skis recommended, along with ice axe.

### Mount Adams

Peak: Mt. Adams  
Date: May 23-25 Sat-Mon  
Contact: David Harris harrisd@leland.stanford.edu  
(650) 725-8811

Experienced ice climbers may join us for a challenging ascent of the Adams Glacier on Mt. Adams. We'll fly to Portland Friday evening. Saturday will include the approach hike to the base of the icefall on the Adams Glacier and should have time for crevice rescue practice. On Sunday we will attempt the ice fall. Monday is an extra day in case of weather or other adverse conditions. There is a serious rockfall risk, so helmets are advised in addition to crampons, ropes, and ice tools.

Warning: I am not an experienced ice climber and not the leader on ice. If you would like to join us, send a climbing resume of relevant experience and conditioning.

### 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.

### 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 12-15  
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.

### 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.

### 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.rioh.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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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@pacbell.net 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/lomapieta/pcs/Binder/binder7d.txt>  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomapieta/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.

## Excellent Excelsior Experience

**Short report** (i.e. useful info if you plan a trip there):

Topo: Dunderberg Peak Quadrangle, 7.5' series

Trailhead: Conway Summit, 12 Miles South of Bridgeport on 395 [road to Virginia Lakes was closed]

Time of year: mid April in El Nino year (98)

Conditions: mostly snow, great weather

Length: 2 1/2 days, or 2 days (with long 12 hour second day)

Elevation: 12446' Excelsior summit, 4300' elevation gain from trailhead

Drive: 270 mi to trailhead from Bay Area, up Carson Pass, through Minden and Bridgeport

Equipment: crampons, ice-axe, snow shoes, poles, too much weight for sure

summary: camped near Frog Lakes the 1st night, up the peak the second day.

Summit Route: up the 11100' col at the end of the drainage, then up the broad 11800' peak staying on the left, then up to the beginning of the excelsior ridge at 12200', finally following the rocky ridge for 30 min. to summit at 12446',

Down the same way

### Long report:

After a fairly fast trip from the Bay Area to the East side, we spent Friday night at Bridgeport's motel. In the morning, Peter Maxwell and I met Debbie Benham, Jim Ramaker and Arun Mahajan for breakfast (Sportsman Inn was surprisingly closed for breakfast) and got started at the trailhead around 9AM, loaded up to our ears with gear.

The sun was high, and the spirits were high despite the load.

We followed the Virginia Lake road for about 6 miles, getting to the resort at lunch time. For a while we considered climbing Dunderberg, which towers over Virginia Lakes: its snow-free ridges were a safe alternative to its avalanches gulches. But we persisted in setting out to climb Excelsior instead.

The terrain changed, as we found our way up the hill and passed Virginia Lakes and Cooney Lake. The packs got suddenly heavier. By 4pm, we had set camp on the bench above Frog Lakes. Quite a fine evening, with a brilliant sunset and the MSR roar in the background.

On Sunday, we got started by 7:15 AM, snow shoes on. We moved fast and reached the top of the "pass" within an hour. The inevitable question was "where to go next" and the answer came from the map. We started climbing up a broad hill with 2 corner shaped summits: as the slope became steeper, we switched to crampons. At the top of this hill, we could see Excelsior, the second peak South along the ridge in front of us. It seemed still far.

However, after reaching the top of the next bench, we realized that the route was a rocky ridge and we no longer needed packs nor

crampons. We reached the summit before 11:30AM, basking in windless and sunny conditions, surrounded with snow covered Sierra: Conness, Lyell, Ragged Peak, Virginia, Ritter and Banner to name a few. And afar, the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumme. What a backdrop for many photographs!

We also enjoyed going through the register, finding PCS'ers names and the name of a 10 year old French girl from the Alps. And, for me, a comforting feeling of "deja vu"...

Back to camp at 3pm, 3 of us headed out right away while Peter and I stayed one more night. It turns out the hike out was longer than remembered, even for our fresh souls and bodies the next morning.

To complete this story, I'll include some post-trip comments from our party, comments which give full depth to the Experience. Jim: "We set a PCS record with 2 motel rooms and 2 suppers at the Sportsman's Cafe in a single weekend."

Arun: "the chocolate biscuit that I had brought along is called

Le Truffe and can be found in the cookies section of many fine participating Safeway's."

Peter: "Our couscous with garlic spices, with roasted cashews added in, together with Snowballs for dessert was tasty also."

Debbie: "A wonderful trip, wonderful company"

-- *Anouchka Gaillard*

## Winter's Over, Blokes!

March 15, 1998 English Mountain, 8373', Steve Eckert & Hal Murray

Climbing this mountain in the summer is a few hour jaunt from the car (Bowman Lake from Hwy 20, Jackson Lake from Hwy 89, etc.) but in the winter there are few easy options.

If you're heading south from Sierra City, ignore the PCT trailhead on Hwy 49 and look for the Wild Plum Campground signs instead.

We walked right past a PCT junction on snowmobile tracks, but lost no time since there was another road that went back to the trail further up the hill. A GPS is a good idea, with Hal The Luddite even asking for the occasional location check as we turned and twisted around open streams, cliffs, and trees.

From about 5000' on, we could find no sign of the trail. LOTS of snow this year! We lost the trail near a bridge across Miller Creek that had 3' hand rails and over 5' of snow in the middle. An exciting crossing, on skis, climbing a pile of snow higher than it was wide while looking down 15' at the stream. From there we sort of headed for the east rim of the canyon, plowing through some close trees and very glad to have climbing skins. Further up the drainage, at around 6000', we kept getting pushed east by small cliffs and dense trees, and wound up doing a little extra distance getting to Bear Valley.

Jackson Reservoir was a welcome sight. We finally were out of the trees and knew just where we were. There was plenty of snow on a perfectly flat ice crust, so we skied a mile across the 6100' lake and headed up the road toward the saddle north of English Mtn. We miscommunicated on fuel, and only had 11 ounces for 2 people and 2 nights, so melting snow for drinking water was going to cut our trip short or force us into cold dinners. Fortunately, we found a spring. Unfortunately, there was 7' of overhanging snow on the banks of the tiny stream. I shoveled a ramp down the side while Hal worked on the tent, and we soon had iodized water warming in our sleeping bags. Overnight low was 33 degrees.

Sunday was as clear as Saturday, a welcome sight after months of El Nino's weather tantrums. We skied the road toward Jackson Lake, then cut cross country to the northern ridge of English, climbing with skins once we got on the ridge proper. The trees are well spaced and there was no brush showing through the heavy snowpack, so we stayed right on the ridge until several hundred feet below the summit where the west slope steepened and the ridge was small cliffs. We kicked steps the last 200', where an ice axe would have been nice but not absolutely required, and stood on the summit at 10:30am. It was not windy, and warm enough for my summer-weight polypro with a wind layer!

The view was amazing. From Lassen to Round Top we saw a sea of white peaks on forested hills. There were miles-long cornices on little ridges that probably have little snow during a normal winter.

Returning to camp, we skied back across the reservoir and down to 6100' hoping to avoid some icy crust in the morning. Surprise! It rained in the wee hours of the morning, and the snow was slush the next day. Soaked from brushing wet trees and one or two short sprinkles, we moved steadily downhill in mid-40 degree temperatures and dried as the sun shone off and on. We were back at the car around noon, and drove home through Truckee.

-- *Steve Eckert*

**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.

**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 5/31/98. 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**