



World Wide Web Address: <http://www.climber.org/pcs>

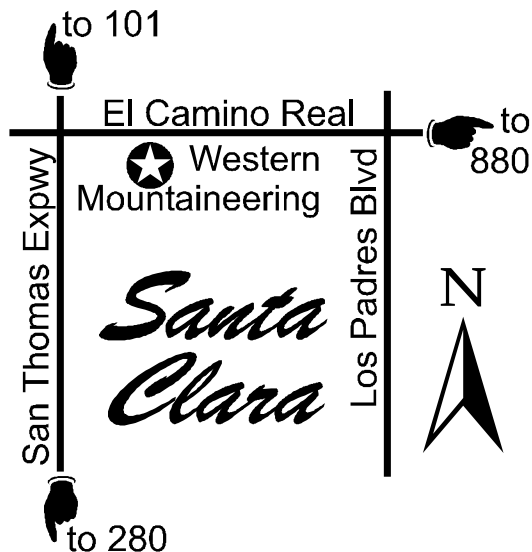
Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 11
Time: 8:00 PM
Program: Dorks on the Dome, by Jim Curl

Come and see as Rick and Jim flail their way up the Northwest Face of Half Dome. Watch as they learn the basics on shorter routes. See Jim crash his car on the way into the park. And shiver along with them on Big Sandy Ledge as they discover that their bivy sacks need replacing. Included will be shots of a near winter ascent of El Capitan as well as other miscellaneous slides that were lurking near the back of my sock drawer.

Directions: 2344 El Camino Real, Santa Clara (between San Thomas and Los Padres), parking in the rear.

From 101: Exit at San Thomas Expressway, Go South to El Camino Real. Turn left and the Western Mountaineering will be immediately to your right.



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 1/23/2000 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Roster Update

It's that time of year again! We need to update the roster so you and your fellow climbers can contact one another. If you didn't have a chance to update your information in the roster at the holiday party last month, please do so as soon as possible. Send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Bill Kirkpatrick.

• *Bob Bynum, Scree Editor*

2000 PCS Member Application

The 2000 PCS Roster will be published in an upcoming Scree and on the PCS website, with only the information PCS members wish to release. You are not automatically a member (and thus in the PCS Roster) unless you are receiving the hardcopy Scree - email and web readers MUST contact the PCS Treasurer (Bill Kirkpatrick) to become a member (online membership is FREE):

**Bill Kirkpatrick / pcs-treasurer@climber.org
 435 N. Second St. #217, San Jose CA 95112**

Whether or not you are on the email broadcast, you can list your email in the roster. Please provide all information in the form below so that we can update old information and maintain the best possible roster. For the safety of our members, your street address will not be printed when the roster is published in the Scree/EScree, and you can choose whether to release your telephone number(s) at the bottom of the form. You must contact the Treasurer if you wish to have your email/phone info listed (just subscribing to the email list is not enough). Remember we publish the roster so that other PCS members can reach you when coordinating trips, or to return gear that you left in their cars, so the more information the better!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone (with area code): _____

Work Phone (or enter "none"): _____

Email: _____

Sierra Club Membership Number: _____

Include phone number in the roster? Y/N _____

Old Scree Online

Alan Ritter has begun the project of scanning and running OCR on old issues of Scree, so we can have both PDF and searchable text on the web. Please help defray the cost of postage and CDROM storage by sending donations to him directly! Contact Alan for gratitude or reimbursement: jar@storz.com

• *Steve Eckert*

Wilderness First Aid

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, February 26 and Sunday, February 27 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 choice of day, and a check for \$40 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 info, call 650-321-6500.

• *Marg Ottenberg*

Word Searches At Climber.Org

Hey, pass the word! You can now search through the trip reports and other resources at Climber.Org looking for specific words instead of browsing or trying to remember a peak name! Ever forget that great peak you climbed with Jorge whats-his-name? Search for his name, and follow the link to the trip report or the issue of Scree that announced the trip. You can also search the famous PCS binder, with operating rules and bylaws, if you're into that stuff.

With the kind assistance of Charlie Knapke, we have added the ability to search the SPS and DPS websites also - these reports are on their own server, but you can use the search page at Climber.Org to search any one or all three at once!

Have a look at

<http://www.climber.org/scripts/swishSearch.cgi>

for a nifty navigation page combined with the search form. If you're getting too many "hits", un-check some of the category boxes to limit your search. There is a help link on the page - use that for some important tips.

Please let me know if you have problems or suggestions. This is all new, so cut us some slack and help us debug, especially if you have suggestions about making it easier to use or to understand.

• *Steve Eckert*

Scree Help Needed

Your Scree publishing staff needs help! We need someone to handle the print shop, folding, stapling, and stamping. The PCS has an electric stapler, but our stapler operator has stepped down after years of reliable service. Contact me if you seek fame but not fortune as the PCS StamperStickerMailerPerson.

• *Steve Eckert*

Trailhead Thefts

There was an article in the San Jose Mercury last week about a string of credit card thefts from cars left at trailheads near Lake Tahoe. The thieves break into cars and steal only credit cards. Then they immediately max out the cards for cash advances. The thieves don't steal other items, and in some cases the owners hadn't noticed the cards were missing until they got a call from the bank.

• *Butch Suits*

High Altitude Physiology

My name is Harm Jan Bogaard, I'm a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego. At the School of Medicine, (Division of Physiology), we are studying the effects of altitude adaptation on cardiac function during exercise. We are planning a new study and I want to ask your help in recruiting volunteers.

Please allow me to explain the study. It's well known that after a prolonged stay (more than two weeks) at an altitude of 10,000 feet and above, the maximal cardiac output (amount of blood the heart pumps each minute) during exercise is lower than the maximal cardiac output at sea level. As a matter of fact, it is also lower than during exercise at sea level breathing a gas mixture with a low oxygen concentration (equal to that on altitude). The mechanism that causes this decrease in maximal cardiac output after altitude acclimatization is unknown. In our next study, we want to test the hypothesis that adaptations in the nervous system are responsible.

We are looking for 20 healthy volunteers, male or female, between 19 and 45 years of age. All subjects will be required to complete several tests of their maximal oxygen uptake on an exercise bicycle, while blood samples are taken and study medication is given. A portion of this study will be conducted at the White Mountain Research Study, Bishop, CA, in the Bancroft Laboratory at 12,500 feet altitude. The entire study will take about 22 hours of their time in all, about 3 hours per study day over 7 study days. However, these 7 days will be spaced out over about a month, with a 3 week residence period at the Barcroft Laboratory an essential requirement separating the first 4 study days in San Diego from the last 3 which will be conducted at Barcroft. Subjects completing the entire study will be paid \$200.00 plus expenses.

My question to you is, are there any means in which I can recruit volunteers via your organization? Your members might be interested in a study like this. During their stay at the Barcroft Laboratory they are free to hike or to do whatever they like, provided they stay at an altitude of 10,000 feet and above. Perhaps I can email your members (or you could forward my email to them in order to protect their privacy), or attend one of your meetings.

You can see the facilities at the White Mountain Research Station at <http://www.wmrs.edu/> or visit our division website at

<http://orpheus-1.ucsd.edu/phys/divphys.html>

• *Harm Jan Bogaard, Ph.D., M.D. <hbogaard@ucsd.edu>*

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Division of Physiology

University of California, San Diego

9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0623A

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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.

Huffing Up Hoffman

Peak: Mt. Hoffman 10,850 Ft.

Class: 2

Date: Feb. 19-21

Contact: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234

Co-contact: Cecil Anison cecilann@earthlink.net

Let's test our winter mountaineering skills on this beautiful beacon of northern Yosemite. Our expedition starts in Yosemite Valley, works its way to the rim with stunning views, and finally, climbs into the high Sierra. A winter ascent of a Sierra peak is a rewarding experience. Skiers and snowshoers are welcome.

President Whitney

Peak: Mt. Whitney

Dates: Feb. 19-22 21st is President's Day

Contact: George Van Gorden 408 779 2320

We will be climbing by the standard route although in the winter it is far from standard. This is a strenuous climb and good physical condition is required as well as winter camping experience and experience in the use of crampons and ice axe. I am allowing two days to reach our high camp, although if the road to the portal is passable we will probably get there in one and possibly try for the summit on Sunday rather than Monday.

Mont Blanc

November 20., 1999

I had a business trip to Geneva, Switzerland, last week, and had a free day on Saturday. When I checked with the tour desk at the hotel (Movenpick, by the airport...nice but \$\$\$), they had an all-day bus trip down to Chamonix, with a cable-car ride up to the top of L'Aiguille du Midi, on the slopes of the Mont Blanc massif.

The weather was great...the first clear day all week. (Low ceiling, light snow every day in Geneva.) The cable car ride up the steep valley wall was spectacular. Two sections, change cars about 2/3 of the way up. Then walk across a bridge, and an elevator to the top of L'Aiguille du Midi. The summit platform is at 3842 meters, call it 12,700', and overlooks the snowfields and glaciers leading up to Mont Blanc.

Temperature at the summit platform was a brisk -20C, or about -4F. (I was glad I had the good sense to have packed my Polartec jacket and Gore-Tex parka...could have used another pair of socks!!)

The view is magnificent...the very top of Mont Blanc was still cloud-shrouded, but the whole expanse of the massif and most of the surrounding mountains were free of clouds. First time I had a chance to visit the Alps, and it was worth the trip down from Geneva even without the time to climb or ski! Now I'll have to find a reason to go back and actually climb there...

• Alan Ritter, jar@storz.com

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.

Annual Beginners Snow Camping Seminar

Dates: Eves: Tues., Jan. 11th, Thur. Jan. 13th, Thur. Jan. 20th; Weekend of Jan. 29/30 or Feb. 5/6.

Leaders: Chris MacIntosh, 650-325-7841
<cmaci@ibm.net>, Tom Wolf, 650-961-2682,
Charles Schafer 408-354-1545

A planned winter overnight trip in the Sierra can be wonderful or cold and miserable. A forced overnight due to storm, injury or equipment failure presents far more hazards in winter than in summer. For the 27th winter, PCS (and STS) leaders present a snow camping seminar to help backpackers, climbers, and others enjoy winter sports safely and comfortably. Participants learn do's and don'ts of winter planning, clothing, food etc. as well as making emergency and non-emergency shelters in the snow, then put these skills into practice on a weekend trip to the Sierra (traveling by skis or snowshoes. Send \$40 and a SASE to BSCS PO Box 802, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0802 cost includes 3 books and equipment maintenance). Limit of 40.

Mission Junipero Serra.

Peak: Junipero Serra Peak, 5862 ft, Class 1,
Co listed with the Day Hiking Section

and rated 3D by the DHS conventions.

Date: Sunday, January 16, 2000.

Maps: Junipero Serra 7.5'

Leaders: Arun V. Mahajan <arun@tollbridgetech.com,
(h) 650-327-8598 (w) 408-585-2114
Ron Karpel <ronny@luxsonor.com
(w)510771-3231, (h)650-594-0211

Named after Frair Junipero Serra, the founder of the Missions, standing higher than any other in the Monterrey county is this spectacular peak which we will attempt to hike up to. Come with us to get an aerial view of the land that the cowled frair saw when he came to the new world in the 1700s. The walk up is mildly strenuous with an altitude gain of 3900+ ft in 6 miles ONE way but the view is well worth the effort. There is trail all the way to the top.

Carpool suggestions from Bay Area: Meet at the Carl's Jr. that is at the Dunne Avenue exit on 101 in Morgan Hill at 7 am on Sunday, January 16, 2000. We will carpool from there. Non Bay Area People: Contact the leaders for directions to the trailhead.

Pouring rain cancels.

The Pinnacles Under the Full Moon

Date: Saturday, January 22

Leader: Aaron Schuman, 650-943-7532

The Pinnacles is a magic place under the full moon. Come hike the trails in silver moonlight, and enjoy the way the rocks glow back as if from within. Our three hour walk will be entirely on trail. Some of the hike will be steep. Join the group for an early dinner in Hollister while the sun sets. Complete details are online at

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

Black Hawk Mountain

Oct. 31, 1999

The Sierra Nevada offers an unusual mix of seasonal activities: skiing in Winter, consolidated snow for variations on hiking and skiing in Spring, and long days to backpack in Summer. The Fall season is the shortest, running from late September to whenever the storms bring in snow faster than it melts, which is usually by early November. Anytime in the Fall, however, a storm can drop in and turn a pleasant visit to the Sierra into a frigid winter experience. It's a challenge to plan hikes under these Fall conditions, but the payoffs can be substantial. This descriptions of one of those hikes.

My wife, Luthien, and I had set aside the last weekend in October for a 2-day backpack in the Sierra, hoping the then mild fall weather would hold. It did, up to three days before our trip, when a quick moving storm wetted down the northern Sierra with an inch of rain. Per a call to a ranger the next day, the snow level in Yosemite was down to 9500'. Not wanting to climb on new snow, it appeared we would be limited to a low elevation hike.

Black Hawk Mtn. (10,341') seemed a likely choice, being the lowest SPS peak which I had yet to climb in the Sierra north of Yosemite. The usual approach is from the north, but a trail around the east side of the peak remained below 9500', and it seemed likely that the clear weather after the storm would have melted the snow where the east ridge took in the sun. Having read Steve Eckert's and Mark Adrian's descriptions of this climb describing a 20-mile round trip over less terrain, we prudently chose to make it an over night trip.

After a leisurely drive to the Trailhead on Saturday morning, I dropped Luthien and the packs off at the locked gate just past Kennedy Meadows Resort, then drove back a half mile to the USFS Trailhead. It was 1:30 p.m. before we hoisted the packs on our backs and were on the way, leaving behind the cabins at the resort.

We followed a dirt road a mile or two past the true Kennedy Meadows, which eventually diminished into a trail leading into the Emigrant Wilderness. The trail winds along side the Stanislaus River, which flows out of Relief Reservoir, a bit higher and a couple miles further. The river was but a trickle amid the rocks, since the reservoir was simply passing through inflow from Summit Creek. Still, the few "tourist hikers" we passed seemed to be enjoying their walk.

Not all were "tourists," however, as we discovered further up the trail. From across the reservoir came the glint of a vehicle, then the sound of automatic weapons fire. It was probably target practice. Then again, with this incentive, we hurried past the reservoir. The only other person we later saw on the trail didn't see the irony when he said to us: "I thought I was the only crazy one out here."

A bit further on, the real scenery came out. Decked in bright oranges and yellows, Aspen groves dotted the landscape from the inlet to Relief Reservoir and on up Summit Creek. Their leaves shimmered and chattered in the mild breeze. The trail eventually drew away from Summit Creek, passing through woodland and meadow, and time passed quickly. With the sun setting, evening began drawing away the warmth of the day. When we again heard the sound of Summit Creek ahead, we were about eight miles in and our thoughts turned to a warm dinner and camp. Several good spots near the creek were posted, "no camping," but we found a flat area and fire pit behind some rocks and settled in.

The Forest Service allows campfires at this elevation, and we had one fired up before the dark drew in around us. By its warmth, we enjoyed dinner then some light reading before retiring. Somehow the tent poles had become separated from the tent in the packing-up process, a memory glitch in my thought process, so our bed was covered by no more than a lean-to fashioned from the tent rain-fly. I had given Luthien a quart of creek water I had boiled for the hike the next day. Rather than leave it outside for tomorrow, Luthien found another use for it --- into her sleeping bag it went, and while I had a boulder on one side, she had a bottle which remained warm through most of this cold night. I didn't mind, however, since I had on all my clothes and remained warm while watching for satellites in a clear sky full of stars.

The next morning was clear and crisp. In the twilight of the dawn, I fired up the stove cozily from inside my sleeping bag. Warmed with breakfast, we packed up and began our hike up the trail and around to the east side of Black Hawk as planned. We left the trail a couple hours later, finding it an easy walkthrough a grassy valley up to the east ridge. There we could clearly see a wide band of snow just below the ridge leading to the top. Luthien's one fear is steep, slippery slopes, whether composed of loose rock or snow. Hence, she was relieved when we found a side ridge where the snow was soft from the sun. Braver while climbing the ridge, we ventured out on the snow again to avoid a small volcanic outcrop. In its shadow, the snow was hard, and when one of Luthien's feet slid out from under her, she panicked. When she relaxed enough to hop along several small rocks sticking through the snow, we easily made it back up to the ridge. However, there were no more detours as we pushed ourselves up in the soft ground on the ridge all the way to the top.

Views of snow-covered summits dotted the horizon. To the south in Yosemite, I recognized Tower Peak. To the north were the volcanic Dardanelles and Leavitt Peak. In the warm sun, there was plenty of time to read the register. I counted only sixteen people who had signed the register this year. The last entry was that of Mark Adrian who noted a 4-1/2 hour travel time to the summit. Other entries indicated a short, windy and cold stay on top. The only reason for us to leave was our desire to make it back to the car by nightfall. Reluctantly, we retraced our route all the way back to Kennedy Meadows Resort, arriving at 6:30 p.m. in the last light of the day. After getting the car, we drove on home, warm and happy.

• *Beren Erchamion, beren@jps.net*

Mexican Volcano Deaths

Sorry to bug you guys, but this season's deaths in the Mexican volcanoes have really irritated the climbing community in Mexico due to the amount of stupidities around many of them (other were true accidents). By the second week of the season, six people had already perished in Iztaccihuatl, Pico de Orizaba and Nevado de Toluca. I've lost count by now (4 weeks).

At least those on Iztaccihuatl did not have their basic equipment (have you seen two people sharing the same pair of crampons, one and one?), un-roped beginners. In one of the accidents, one single "guide" was taking 25 inexperienced people. The list of non-death-causing accidents and bad climbing practices goes on and on. Part of the problem is how close the volcanoes are to highways and cities, making the easily accessible.

Mexican authorities do not have any way of controlling access (well, they do; they just don't care) but we don't want to have our

volcanoes closed when dead toll rises so high that government starts to panic. This is typical of an authority that ignores everything on responsive climbing.

Climbing webmasters in Mexico have agreed to incorporate the following text into their websites. The text was prepared by the National University climbing club (headed by Carlos Rangel), which I have translated into English for my specific website, which is bilingual.

What I ask of you is to review the translation on the right column and let me know if there are any comments around spelling, expressions or contents that require modifications. You may find it useful for other websites too.

The page is here

<http://www.geocities.com/~exploremexico/zzzz/prec.html>

• *Rodolfo Araujo*

North Peak, Right Couloir

November 7, 1999

A web version of this report with photos is at: http://www.karpel.org/Ron/North_Peak_9_99/index.html

I drove up early Sunday morning and met Arun and Karon in the Saddlebag Lake parking lot at 7 AM startup. While packing, I noticed that the taxi boat was getting ready to pull out, so we jumped on it. Ours was the last taxi run for the season. The driver pulled out all the docking stuff on the far side of the lake before returning. We left the docking area and started up the trail towards Cascade Lake and the Northeast slopes of North Peak. The Ridge which the couloirs cut through come quickly into view. The left couloir is the steeper one, but I climbed it last year with John Zazzara. This time we were headed to the right couloir. The middle couloir is often thin and seldom climbed if at all.

On the edge of the permanent snow field we put on crampons, and ice axes in hand we started up the ever steepening snow towards the right couloir. About 100 ft. below the bergschrund we stopped and setup the first belay. At first, I thought it may be fun to climb straight up the bergschrund. It looked as if it is only 10 ft. tall. But once I got to the edge, I discover it was 20-30 ft. deep, and looked very difficult. So I opted for the bridge on the right. The only problem with the bridge was that there were 2 other parties climbing that day, so we had to wait our turn.

Once past the bergschrund, I pulled to the right side of the couloir, trying to find a good place for a belay station. But there was none. We ended up hanging off a stake making the best of it. For the next 2 pitches, I pulled to the left and found reasonable belay stations part on rocks and part on the snow. By the fourth pitch the angle of the couloir slaked off and we started simulclimbing. That didn't last very long as we quickly reached the top of the couloir and dry land.

It was too late to go for the summit, so we headed down following the use trail.

Conditions: The snow was extremely firm. It took extreme effort to drive pickets in, and was harder to get them out. At many places ice screws were just as useful. I ended climbing most of the way front pointing, but Arun showed that it is possible to side step the whole thing.

Participants: Arun Mahajan, Karon MacLean, and scribe - Ron Karpel

• *Ron Karpel*

A Grand Circle

Middle Fork Kings River Gorge, Tehipite Dome and State Mtn; and Finishing up the 1999 Summer Season: September 17, 1999

I had this curiosity about the Middle Fork of the Kings River and, since I needed two "orphans" for the SPS list, was enticed by the possibility of doing the two peaks by an unusual way and exploring a relatively unknown route up a canyon gorge. So, on Sept 17 with about 3 days food and a light pack (15 lb) I parked my car at Yucca Point, which is west of Horseshoe Bend on the Kings Canyon road and about 9 miles west of Cedar Grove. I even had a small rope and some pieces of climbing gear with me. A maintained trail used mainly by fishermen switchbacks gradually down to the river 500 feet below. The trail ends at the junction of the Middle Fork (flows from Tehipite Valley) and the South Fork (flows from Kings Canyon). I then proceeded up the Middle Fork. The seven miles of unknown river canyon between the junction and Little Tehipite Valley did not look too bad on the topo map; some width to the canyon most of the length, except near the upper end and with little significant contour gradient. I had asked around, but got no word that anybody had surely gone the length of the canyon before. I found no description of a route in the guidebooks we use for the Sierra. And why was there no route? It would be a challenge, if it were possible. During floods, and maybe much of the year anyway, a lot of water from a tremendous area would drain through the narrow gorge; it probably is impassable with any safety much of the time.

I then proceeded up the rocky river bottom at not a fast rate, less than one mile per hour. The going involved boulder hopping from small, up to room size boulders. Sand, brush, some forest, some class 3, and multiple river crossings is what it was. The going was not bad, with only a few obstacles that took a lot of route finding. The most difficult aspect in terms of safety was going through the river where its flow narrowed to 10 feet or less between boulders. The flow was not particularly high; the logs and debris on the canyon sides 20-30 feet above the current water line attest to flows thousands of times greater than the present late September flow. It was about an average snowfall year for the area; however, there had been summer rain, and snowfields from two winters ago melting in the heat. Where the river was 50 feet wide, it was maybe 18 inches deep with no rapid flow and was easy to wade.

I often had no choice about the route and was forced to go through a swift flow in a number of places. However, I never had to swim and only a couple times got wet above the crotch. So, in the swift places I held onto rocks or used a pole to hold against the current. A few places I went well above the river on slabs to get around it. One spot was about 150' high and took me half an hour to find a passable route. There were birds and a couple ducks around in the gorge but surprisingly few fish. I guess the yearly snow melt flood is too high for many fish to survive.

The canyon walls are high and spectacular. The bouldery terrain required extensive going up and down, in and around, through and over. After seven hours in the canyon the first day, I bedded down in a sandy spot and made a fire. I was only a mile from the end, but I did not know if the real narrow spot on the map at the outlet from Little Tehipite Valley would be passable.

The upper two miles, of the seven in the unknown gorge, had a strip of wooded forest on one side and I even followed a small trail that had bear prints. Things had gone well so far; better than I had expected with only the swift spots being a problem;

but excitement goes with danger and anticipation! Right near the end, though, I saw evidence of man. A few boot prints and a fire ring with charcoal. So I knew somebody must have come there from Tehipite Valley. It turned out that the final section was completely vertical on the sides, but had a flat stony bottom with little gradient and 50 feet wide; easy to wade. It was a relief to get into Little Tehipite Valley with much flat and open forest area. There were some old camps used by horse parties, and plenty of space and flat terrain.

Going through the first Valley there were a couple of old cabin ruins; I guess shepherders and fishermen had used them. I picked up a trail leaving Little Tehipite Valley, shortly later I could see the massive hulk of Tehipite Dome, and I was in Tehipite Valley. The Dome towers 3500 feet above and is the highest (from top to bottom I guess) in the Sierra. There are good views also of slick granite to the south including the Gorge of Despair. Lots of forest and meadow and good campsite area. There was one party camped there; the only people I saw on my 3 1/2-day trip. The river plain has a lot of boulder rubble without vegetation; this could be from the recent flood years. I spent hours trying to get to the top of the dome from the Valley. First on the E side of the creek on its W side then on the W side of the Creek. There was an animal trail going up past the waterfalls SW of the Dome and I followed it up about 1500' in altitude, but I would have had to drop way down to the creek on steep terrain and then go way back up toward the Dome. Anyway, I needed to move on because I was going to be in Reno in two days to pick up two orienteering friends at the airport. I went back down; then east along the Valley bottom. I followed the trail shown on some maps on the north side of the river. The trouble was that it had not been maintained in a long time and had numerous washouts, fallen logs, and obscuration by vegetation growth. I stopped to sleep, then started before dawn and continued on. I had only made one mile per hour in the Valley until I got to within two miles of the junction at Simpson Meadow. There it became a normal maintained trail.

I continued across Simpson Meadow toward Granite Pass, State Peak being my goal. Then climbed up the pass on the not much used trail, but it was in fairly good shape. I left the trail to get to the lakes on the W side of State Peak. I was running out of food; I had brought three days worth I thought, but long days made me eat a lot. Many ripe gooseberries around helped provide something in my stomach with some caloric value. I even found some huckleberries (tiny compared to those in cold climes like Alaska) that tasted delicious. I also tried some wild onion roots/bulbs; they are starchy but too tangy! I had brought little clothing and no tent or bivy sack, to save weight. Weather had been great and was forecasted so, but lots of clouds were forming around some of the peaks. I went up the main SW ridge on State 1000' or so but found it ending in a cliff. I would need to drop down 500' and continue upward. Unfortunately it was near sunset and worse, it started raining. I did not like class 2 and 3 on the slippery rocks. It was an unfortunate situation. Only an hour or two away from the peak that I had already seven years before failed on, with the prospect of having to spend at least another two days of my life to get this remote peak. But I could not safely continue in the rain and approaching darkness. So I went downward and on to Granite Pass - soggy meadows and swollen streamlets from the rain. But into the night it still continued raining! I stopped occasionally at some quite bountiful gooseberry bushes that the squirrels and bears hadn't yet visited. I got fairly filled up with my wild fruit dinner. At least I had gotten down to a lower safer elevation, but was getting cold in the wind and wet. At one point, I could only stand under the

shadow of a tree but was getting soaked. No good wood or dry area there to start a fire. I did warm up by wrapping my sleeping bag around me inside my wind parka.

Then, finally, the rain stopped. I walked on with my flashlight until I came to a location more sheltered by trees. There was enough dry wood to get a good fire going, and I sat around it for a couple hours, until 11 PM warming up and drying everything out. But I still needed to hike out 12 miles and be back to Roads End fairly early in the morning to try make my appointment in Reno. I knew I would be late now; I proceeded with haste by waking up at 2:30 am and starting on the trail at 3:15. It is not bad getting going in the cold with a fire to warm up with first! So I walked for hours in the dark. I kept walking to the pass and then down all the switchbacks to Kings Canyon. I finally made it to Road's End at 10:30 am, Sept 20. It would have been earlier except for a nap and, when I got up, still in the dark, I got turned around and stupidly walked 180 degrees in the wrong direction! It was 25 minutes until I realized my error, so I did one section of the trail three times. The hike was an epic of about 48 miles, starting at 2800' and going up to 12,000', and a constant battle to meet my time schedule for the last two days.

Next was the problem of getting back to my car. I was about three miles to the Cedar Grove lodge and another nine to my vehicle. There were some cars and an occasional day visitor at Road's end. I resigned myself to walking at least to the lodge. But, a car came, I stuck out my thumb, and got a ride to the lodge. There I satisfied my hunger for a while -- ah-- real food! Although I didn't want to impose on people, the only way I was going to get to Reno was to start walking the nine miles or be bold. I asked some people who looked like backpackers without luck. At the entrance to the lodge a couple were loading their car; I asked, and they let me join them. Perhaps they didn't want to confront a grub like me with a "no" answer. They were from out of state just touring the parks, and found that I could be a tour guide for the nine miles. I was back at my car at 1 p.m. On the way to Reno, I was able to leave a phone message for my friends and got there at 8:30 p.m., only two hours late.

While I was there in the Tahoe area for the U.S. Orienteering Championships I was able to finish the five SPS List peaks I needed around there. The conditioning and acclimatization from all the peakbagging helped me in winning my age division (men 50-54). It was fun, and 400 people attended the meet. No problem with the peaks (Highland, Round Top, Granite Chief, English, and Lola), I just made sure I wore bright red, with the hunters around.

I did Tehipite Dome (#244) Sept. 29, on the way back home from Tahoe, as a day hike. It took me 12 1/2 hours from Rancheria trailhead for the mostly level 29 miles. A note about the route on Tehipite here. Near the Dome on the way in I went x-c from the trail and down the brushy ridge leaving the Blue Canyon trail at 8600'; this is recommended in R.J. Secor's guidebook. Coming back; however, I was able to save an hour by heading NW from the dome's N ridge before the first peaklet on the ridge, contouring and walking through the small valley to the head of the spur at 0.7 mi. NNE of the summit, a saddle 1.1 mi. NNE of the summit, and the trail at 7700' a couple hundred yards N of that saddle. It was much easier than the way I came down, with little brush and saved me a least a mile and 700' of gain.

I then climbed #245 - Alta Peak the next week (Oct 4) after attending Steve Eckert's list finish (his #247 on Kern Peak). I did it via Lodgepole-Tokopah Falls-Emerald Lk and a third class route (not mentioned in Secor) up the N face of its W Ridge.

And the next week (Oct. 12), my second to the last on the list, State Peak from Taboose Pass. I didn't want to go over Granite Pass again! I saw nobody in the two days and two nights it took me. I walked down the S Fork Kings River from Taboose Pass and the Muir Trail intersection about 4 miles. There was a use trail in places and some brush, mostly avoidable. Lots of fish in the river! I left the river at about 9040' to go up the slope and drainage (class 1) to the lakes area 1.0 mi NE of the summit. Then skirted around to the south (class 2) the ridge at the head of the lakes basin and up the E side of the peak (class 2) to the summit. Came back down the ridge, class 3, and back the same the rest of the way. The fall colors were beautiful; yellows, reds, oranges of the aspens and willows there.

So only San Joaquin Mtn remains for me on the Sierra Peaks List; I'll finish that probably by late spring 2000. It was a great summer!

• *Ron Hudson*

Recent Fatality in Palisades

forwarded by: Christopher Jain

Chris,

Thanks for sending this to me. As you know, this report contains several inaccuracies. Please forward my response, in full, to the listserv. I don't mind if you include my email, and will do my best to reply to serious inquiries. I'd appreciate it if you would continue to forward related posts. My full U-Notch trip report should be ready soon, but I'm not sure whether I want it to go beyond my distribution list. I'll let you know.

My climbing partners and I found a climber's body on the Palisade Glacier on the morning of Saturday, November 6, not late Sunday. In my opinion, Tony was not on a "power hike". He was most likely attempting a single-push ascent of Mt. Sill. Tony was equipped with 2 technical ice tools, a climbing rope, helmet, and crampons. At the time of his fall, the ice tools and rope were on his pack. The majority of Tony's helmet ended up about 30 yards further down the glacier. One small, and bloody piece of the helmet was found near his head. This leads me to believe that Tony was wearing his helmet when he fell.

I include this level of detail because I want to make it clear that Tony was mountaineering when he died. Mountaineers routinely and knowingly accept the level of risk that cost Tony his life. I don't think that Tony's death is one of those "can't happen to me" situations.

• *Yoav S. Altman*

Joe Kelsey previously wrote:

RJ, The following was reported this AM by Bishop radio local news (in a stretch of their usual concept of local news, limited to the LADWP, Caltrans plans to reroute 395 around one town or another, and Mammoth town councilmen punching each other):

Tony Allen (41 YO) went on a day "power hike" (described as a hike on which you push yourself to your limit) to the "Palisade Glacier area" Friday, planning to "make it to the North Palisade area at the 14,000' level." Saturday his girlfriend reported him overdue. Sunday a helicopter looked for him without finding him, but late Sunday hikers happened upon his body on a glacier at 12,300'. An autopsy is yet to be done.

Kennedy Mtn, The Hard Way or How To Have More Fun On Class One

I have long wondered if the "longest switchback in the Sierra," the 3-mile blip around Dead Pine Ridge in Kings Canyon National Park could be shortened. Last Fourth of July I had the opportunity to find out.

On the way back from climbing State Peak, Richard and I were travelling west on the trail from the Middle Fork of Dougherty Creek toward Dead Pine Ridge. The Ranger had told us that if we continued west when the trail turned north to skirt the ridge, we could easily climb Dead Pine Ridge and descend into the Kennedy Creek drainage on the other side. We decided to try a more challenging route.

I love to go off trail. Exploring less traveled areas provides me with the solitude and beauty that is getting harder and harder to find in the backcountry.

We turned south before we reached Dead Pine Ridge and went up into the heart of the Volcanic Lakes. It must be one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited. As we ascended it felt like opening nesting Russian dolls with a new delight beyond each rise. It was like Chanukah-unwrapping a new gift each day. It was divine.

Lake upon lake came into view. Tiny falls, cascades edged by wildflowers, rocks stacked to resemble Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water. We camped at lake 10,199 poised to tackle Kennedy in the morning.

A ramp of greenery led westward to the ridgetop. There the puzzle began. At first we attempted to descend to the south (left) but soon found ourselves on steep dropoffs with crumbly rock. We reascended and circled to the right, then followed a series of gullies down toward East Kennedy Lake. A few times we came to dead ends, blocked either by water or a sheer face. Finally we gained the secluded E. Kennedy Lake, so near a trail, yet remote.

As we climbed to join the trail to Kennedy Pass, we could see the route we had come. The trick is to stay high and follow the crest of the north rib down to the outlet of the lake. We had descended too quickly.

Once the trail is gained, the climb up Kennedy is easy. On our way down we met a Sierra Club National trip at the saddle. Folks from all over the country. After visiting for a while, we returned to camp via the ridge now that we knew the way.

In the morning, we enjoyed higher Volcanic Lakes and quickly returned to Granite Pass, only a mile away. The green of Granite Basin was a startling contrast to the snow-covered bowl at this time the year before.

• *Debbie Bulger*

Congratulations & Farewell

John Hossack, veteran of many PCS trips (including Rockhouse, Taylor Dome, Black Mtn, Red Slate Mtn, and Owens Peak) is leaving California to take a faculty position at the University of Virginia.

I wish John brilliant students, stellar research, and lots of great hiking all over the Blue Ridge. Whenever he's back visiting in California, I hope he can take a weekend to climb the Sierra with us.

• *Aaron Schuman*

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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 1/23/2000. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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