



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

## Next General Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, July 11

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**NEW Location:** Portal Park in Cupertino

**Directions:** From 280 go South on Wolfe. Go right on Stevens Creek Blvd and then go right (north) on Portal Avenue which is the first street west of the Vallco Fashion Mall. The park is on the left up a few hundred yards.

**Program:** BBQ at Portal Park

The July meeting is the annual PCS BBQ. The park has been reserved from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM but we can stay later if we wish. I will be there about 6:00 PM and start lighting the charcoal for the BBQ. I have to go there in the morning to put up the reserved signs anyway so I will get the fires going in the evening. Please feel free to bring all family members. Alcoholic beverages are also permitted... just don't mix ice axes and alcohol. Nasty.

Please bring a few dollars to contribute to the park reservation (\$50) and the charcoal.

Historically, a gear sale and/or swap meet activity has been a part of the BBQ. I figure that if Ron has more than one beer I can swap all my old water bottles for his Cobra ice tools. Please bring your extra gear if you wish to participate in this event.

Bring all you think you will eat or drink. None of this will be provided by the PCS. Also, please don't forget a plate, glass, cutlery, and maybe a big roll of paper towels! You will not need to bring charcoal.

• *Rick Booth, PCS Chair*

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 7/23/2000 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## 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. Ansel Adams

Peaks: Ansel Adams (11,760' - Class 3)  
 Dates: July 1 thru July 4 Sat thru Tues  
 Maps: Vogelsang Peak 7.5 & Mount Lyell 7.5  
 Leader: Charles Schafer (408) 855-4318  
 charles@paraform.com

Secor calls Ansel Adams the impressive peak that sits at the head of the Lyell Fork of the Merced River.

We'll stroll over Vogelsang Pass then make camp along the Merced River a ways beyond. Depending on how far we get, we'll probably move camp then continue on and climb the peak on the following day. Monday will find us beating feet most of the way out of there, and I

expect our triumphal march will conclude early on Tuesday. This is a very scenic and remote section of the Sierra, and a chance to meet a distant and not oft-visited mountain

### Four Gables

Peak: Four Gables 12,720', Class 2  
 Dates: July 8-9 (Sat/Sun)  
 Map(s): Mt Darwin, Mt. Tom; 7.5'  
 Leader: Debbie Benham (h) 650/964-0558,  
 deborah4@pacbell.net  
 CoLeader: wanted

We'll hike over Piute Pass and camp in the moonscape of Humphries Basin at Desolation Lake. Summit Sunday, then hike out the same day. Permit for 8.

Backpacking experience required. Asking \$10 deposit; fully refundable attrailhead. Questions? please contact leader.

### Dana & Gaylor

Peak: Mt Dana 13,057  
 Gaylor Peak 11,004'  
 Dates: July 22-23 (Sat/Sun)  
 Maps: Yosemite National Park Topo;  
 Tuolumne Meadows 15'  
 Leader(s): Debbie Benham (h) 650/964-0558  
 deborah4@pacbell.net

Chris MacIntosh h) 650/325-7841  
cmaci@attglobal.net

Come day hike Dana and Gaylor in the gorgeous high meadows of Tuolumne.

Newcomers are most welcome. We've reserved campsites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground for a total of ten hikers. Cost per person for two nights (Fri&Sat) is \$6; payable in advance and non-refundable. Any questions? please contact leaders.

### **Mt. Goddard**

Peak: Mt. Goddard (13,568 ft.), East Ridge  
Rating: Class 3  
Dates: Sat-Mon; September 2-4  
Contacts: Cecil Anison (cecilann@earthlink.net)  
Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234

Mt. Goddard is one of the dominant peaks of the High Sierra. This solitary giant's position west of the crest makes it visible from many points in the range. We will climb the more interesting East Ridge, first climbed by Walter Starr, Jr., who wrote the definitive guide to the John Muir trail. You may recall that he died while attempting a solo climb of Michael Minaret and his body was later recovered by none other than Norman Clyde. This climb entails a very demanding 40 mile round trip.

### **Tenth Annual Yosemite Family Camp**

Peaks: To be determined (Looking for hike/climb leaders)  
Dates: September 23-24  
Contact: Cecil Anison (cecilann@earthlink.net)  
(408)395-4525

The trip will be in Yosemite Valley this year and family members are welcome, as usual. Plan on lots of fun as we hike, climb, explore, and commune in this spectacular setting. Space is limited to three reserved campsites so be sure to sign up early.

## **Mt. Conness & Ragged**

July 24-25, 1999

Peak: Mt Conness 12,590, Ragged Peak 10,912

Trip Leaders: Bob Suzuki, Bonnie Ruesch

Participants: Mike McDermitt, John Wilkinson, Bill Kirkpatrick, Doug Ross, Joan Marshall, Tanya Knaus, Greg Cotress, Will Doyle

Ah, my first PCS trip and what more could you ask for? Beautiful, crystal clear weather, a scenic hike, two picturesque peaks, and wonderful company. Perfect.

Doug and I met up in San Jose and fought our way through very heavy traffic into Yosemite, then up to Tuolumne Meadows. We saw several news vans on the way in and heard the bad news from some of the news guys about the woman who had been murdered. That really was a tragic note to start the weekend.

The next morning we met up with Bob and the rest of the group, and got packed up and on the trail by 8:30. Not bad for an 8:00 start time. The hike in was beautiful, crossing two majestic meadows with increasingly spectacular views of the peaks of the Sierra. Mike impressed everyone with his knowledge of peak names and heights.

Our first stop of the day was Ragged Peak, which we reached at about 11:00. We left the trail just before it trends downhill in a broad, open area with many boulders and headed to the saddle between Ragged and the rest of the crest. From there we could look down the steep slope to the Young Lakes and Conness. This area provides some great views of the southwest face of Conness. It's hard to believe that Harding made his way up that, let alone that Peter Croft can free-solo it before breakfast.

We then worked our way up to the summit block of Ragged. It's easy class 2 to reach the block, but the block itself seemed to be harder, maybe 3 or 4. Bob, Doug, and Mike all scrambled up to sit on top of the block, while I contented myself with scrambling up and touching the top. Does "tagging" a summit count as a summit?

Survey says . . . nope. I'll come back.

The group then began a traverse of Ragged back towards the trail, with several members of the party taking a lower route, and others scrambling along the ridge. The climbing here is very fun, but it's definitely faster and less tedious to traverse lower down.

Bob wanted to scramble up the southern summit as well, which was even trickier than the first one. Looked like kind of a hairy downclimb, but both Bob and Doug managed it without a problem. At this point, several people mentioned that it was probably time to get moving, as it was getting on towards 1:00.

We headed back down to the packs and moved along the Young Lakes trail, which skirts the rest of Ragged Peak, then climbs back up to lower Young Lake. This was a beautiful sight, with a ring of mountains reflected in its cool clear waters.

Doug encouraged us to head up to Upper Young Lake, which had fewer bears and mosquitoes. Fewer bears because they were usually too full from the fare at lower Young Lake, and less mosquitoes well, we'll see.

We reached our campsite at Upper Young Lake around 4:30-5:00, after a very nice hike around Lower Young lake, and up past Middle Young Lake, which is pretty marshy. We passed Middle and headed still further up. Upper Young Lake is a beautiful area, very open and with wonderful views of Ragged Peak and the surrounding cirque.

We decided to camp on the side of this lake. At this time, and until 7:30 or so, the mosquitoes were still pretty thick.

We sat and ate, enjoying the views and the still warm sunshine. Tanya and Greg had brought fairly full packs, and now we found out why. They had with them a shower, an oven, wonderful food, and a bottle of wine. Wow. Wild rumors flew around camp the next morning that they had also brought a hot tub which they cranked up later that night, but these were never confirmed.

Doug and I shared the last of the bottle of wine, which Tanya and Greg were kind enough to share, in the dimming alpenglow. I then went promptly to sleep, feeling the effects of a long day and the increased effectiveness of wine at that altitude.

The night was beautiful, warmer than it had been down in Tuolumne Meadows the night before, and the moonlight was bright enough to see by.

The next morning an early wake up and breakfast saw us off to an on-time start, right around 6:30. We headed up through more open terrain, then into a stand of forest that led us up further into an open, boggy area. The best way to get around this, as several members of the party saw immediately and others only realized after, is to head to the left side of the valley and get on the trail that heads up the scree slope. We gathered our forces and headed

up this slope towards the creek coming down from Conness' melting snowfields.

The long slog alongside the creek up scree and gravel was probably the greatest physical challenge of the day. We continued gamely up this slope until we hit the first of two snowfields. These were heavily featured and did not require the use of an ice axe, and we dispatched them without a problem. After the second snowfield, we skirted around a broad, deep valley which led us to the summit area of Conness.

A quick trip across a broad snowfield brought us to the open area right before the summit ridge. There were a number of structures here, including stone mortar work which we found most impressive at this altitude. From here we began the scramble up to the summit. This is all Class 2, with sometimes impressive exposure. This route has been heavily engineered, with steps laid out and more difficult moves "improved" to turn what might have been a Class 3 climb into something a little less imposing. Doug and I wondered if this might have been the work of climbing guides of an earlier era. Or maybe just some civic minded marmots. Hard to say.

We reached the summit around 10 a.m. This is a wonderful spot, with stunning views of the High Sierra north to Tower peak, and south past Mt. Lyell. The summit area was big enough to fit everyone who had made the trip up the summit ridge: Bob, Bonnie, Joan, Mike, Doug, Bill, John, and me. Mike asked me what the difference between this

and rock climbing is- to my surprise I found that peak scrambling can be just as thrilling as rock climbing, because while the moves are easy, the lack of a rope leaves less margin for error. Both are rewarding in their own ways, but peak scrambling does allow for more company along the way.

After a leisurely lunch in a protected area just below the summit, we began our way back down. Right before we headed down, Bill turned to us and said "Samuel Johnson said that being sentenced to execution in a fortnight focuses the mind wonderfully," which set the tone for everyone carefully tiptoeing back across the summit ridge. We began the long, uneventful slog back down scree slopes to camp. John, Mike, Doug and I were a ways ahead of everyone when we reached the broad marshy area at the bottom of the scree slope. The mosquitoes were quite bad here, so we decided to head back to camp. On the way down through a thick stand of forest, I lost John and Mike as they turned a corner. Hm. No problem, I'll just keep on heading downhill. Well, I went a little too far downhill, as it turned out, and when I began to realize I'd been in these woods too long I caught sight of Ragged peak.

Which was not in the right place. Oh wait, I wasn't in the right place. I had to head back up hill, giving myself a couple of bonus miles for zoning out and heading way too far down hill. I met up with the rest of the party, caught my breath for thirty seconds, packed up, filled my water bottles, and we were on our way. We left Young Lakes right around 1:00. Next time, I'm going to pay a lot more attention on the way up, so the way down doesn't throw me for a loop.

The hike back was pleasant, with clear sunshine seeing us on our way. The trail does have several significant uphill portions in this direction, which can be a little disheartening, especially if you got lost, and were pretty tired, and had to work the next day, and weren't used to the altitude. Nobody else seemed to mind.

We made it back to the parking lot around 5:00. Bob and Bonnie organized a wonderful trip, and we were all grateful to them. Two great peaks, outstanding companions, and no problems. My first

PCS trip, and I get to write the trip report a privilege or a form of hazing? I'll figure it out soon.

• *William Doyle*

## Tinker Knob from Coldstream Canyon

Sunday, April 30, 2000

Mike McDermitt and I climbed Tinker Knob from Coldstream Canyon. We dropped Tim Hult off at the base of Mt Judah for his solo Sugar Bowl to Squaw traverse, then drove back around to Donner State Memorial Park to start our climb.

The trailhead is slightly different depending on the season. May to October, drive through the park proper, but November through April, the road through the park is gated, but there is an open-gated road just 1/4 mile east of the park entrance. Follow the high quality graded dirt road until the well marked junction to Tinker Knob, then turn right on the rugged jeep track. Beyond the junction, the road might be too rough for ordinary passenger cars. After 1-1/2 miles, the road crosses a small stream, then a couple hundred yards later, it reaches the main watercourse, just inside Horseshoe Bend, a hairpin curve in the SP railroad tracks. In the springtime, that second creek crossing is the end of the drivable road.

We parked there, at about 6300 feet. We crossed Coldstream Creek up on the railroad tracks. We marched up a tangled braid of logging roads and deer trails, staying east of the creek. There was about 75% snow cover at the lower elevations, and more snow higher on the north facing route, but we never needed the snowshoes we carried. The creek peters out a few hundred feet below the 8949 foot summit, in plain view of the peak.

On the way up, we came upon some hefty paw prints, and a piece of mountain lion scat, filled with fur and bone.

We saw Tim skiing to Tinker Knob from Anderson Peak, we shouted to him, and he waited a few minutes for us to catch up. We chatted for a few minutes before he continued with his ski tour. We wondered if Tim would also find Dee, Rick, and Arun on their day climb of nearby Granite Chief. (He didn't.)

The view was eternal. To the north we could see all the way to Lassen, and to the south, we saw the Sweetwater Range of Nevada. On the summit, we even heard the rumble of the American River far below.

Our descent route was similar to our ascent. 4-1/4 hours up, 1 hour on top, and 2-1/4 hours down.

• *Aaron Schuman*

## Feather and Tar A Peak too Far

Feather Peak, (13,242 ft)

May 26/27/28 2000.

Standing on a snowy bench, high above a frozen and snow bound lake, as we gazed in awe at the long cuoloir that was flanked one side by an impressive rock wall, we heard our leader Kai speak up, 'I think I am going to go into four wheel drive here'.

But I am getting a little ahead of myself. On Saturday, 26th May 00, by 10am or so, led by Kai Wiedman, our leader, we (Hal Tompkins, Charles Schafer, Pete Davison, Pat Callery and myself, Arun Mahajan) set out on the Pine Creek Trailhead in the strange town of Rovana, trying to convince ourself as we kicked dust and dried horse dung out of the way under a warm sun, that this was actually Memorial Day.

The snow cover was spotty but increased as we went past the switchbacks that overlook the Tungsten Mine with the sound of the swollen cataract as it crashed down nearby, making music for the ears. The logs made the two stream crossings easy and in about four and half hours, we were scouting out our individual tent/bivy sites amidst the ubiquitous horse stuff in the trees at the far right corner of Upper Pine Lake. Camp site was at 10200 ft.

By 6.45am on Sunday we were on our way, making detours and hopping over logs and walking over the frozen snow bridges to cross the fast flowing stream and it's many streamlets. The going was steep as we crossed the first pass that took us to a plateau that was completely snow covered and we stared awestruck at the long and continuous face of Merriam. But then we turned our attention to the equally stunning visage of Feather Peak, our destination.

It's left side dropped off sharply into a jagged ridge that had a steep col that Kai said was to be our descent route. The hard morning snow made me think that a descent on that col was impossible and so I suggested that we could stick close to the rock face instead of doing the traverse under the col with it's long run-out.

'You all worry too much' said Hal. 'You have been taking too much ganja' said Kai. Both of them obviously implying that the snow would soften soon. We dropped down to one of the large Royce lakes and then simply walked across it as the snow was deep enough over the layer of ice on the lake. Then we did the steep climb to the top of a bench that placed us right below the long cuoloir that was our ascent route.

It was then that we heard Kai say, 'I think I am going to go into four wheel drive here'. It was a signal to don crampons but Hal did not see the need and suggested that he and Pete lead the way and let us know if crampons would be necessary.

Hal and Pete led the way and climbed fast and they made great steps for us. Kai told me that he would rather have Hal on this trip than the Swedish Bikini Team....hmmm....

The snow was perfect and we were sinking a foot and half into it sometimes and the cuoloir got steeper near the top but everybody did fine and within an hour of having started from the bench, we were drinking in the fantastic sight of the Seven Gables at the top of the cold and windy cuoloir. Another few minutes of easy class-3 work got us to the summit of Feather Peak where, the register indicated that we were the first to summit this year.

We spent about thirty minutes at the top and the views were extensive but it was Humphreys and Bear Creek Spire that really caught the eye. Starting from camp at 6.45am, we had summited at 11am.

We decided to strike for the col between Feather and Royce and to that end, descended the steep snow field at the backside of Feather. Kai and I continued down over class-2/3 talus and scree and then turned left towards the col whereas the rest, led by Hal struck a more direct route by going over directly left, staying just below the ridge line.

As we looked over to them, we thought that ours was the easier way and theirs, the sportier.

We met up at the col and Pete, always strong, decided to continue on to the summit of Royce alone. The col looked steep and intimidating, but Hal simply walked down it and we all followed. Again, the soft and deep snow made it easier to down climb, despite the angle.

By 3 pm, we were back at camp. Pat and I set out back towards the trailhead at 4 and making good time, we were back at the cars at 6.30 pm. Kai reports that even he and Pete got out not much later than us on the same evening, Sunday.

Thanks to Hal for leading us to the summit and to Kai for setting this trip up and for leading and making us one of the privileged few who climb Feather Peak.

• *Arun Mahajan*

## Following the Giants

### Eichorn Pinnacle and Cathedral Peak

June 6, 2000

We left the trailhead carrying heavy packs. I had my full rock climbing rack and Arun was lugging his 50 meter crag rope. Following the Bud's Creek trail we soon were in view of Cathedral Peak's Eastern slopes, which were mostly cover with snow. Climbing over the ridge north of Cathedral Peak we could finally see our destination, the Eichorn Pinnacle.

When I first laid eyes on the pinnacles I thought I will never be able to climb it. From the most common view it is a tall and narrow pencil with vertical sides and overhanging front face. There are a couple flaring and off width cracks on the face which look impossible, at least to me. How could Jules Eichorn climb this unroped was beyond me. Of course, later I have learned that the real route goes on the other side on the Pinnacle and is rated 5.4, and from then on, the Pinnacle was high on my to-do list.

Looking at the Pinnacle from the ridge North of Cathedral Peak reveals that the Northwest corner is less steep and the rock face looks rich with features, so maybe it is a 5.4.

We setup our first belay at a ledge below and to the right of the ridge proper, and I started the traverse to the other side of the pinnacle. It's easy going, and the place where one should start climbing up is obvious.

It's a rib of broken up chunks stuck to the main rock, but the chunks are a bit loose and they get thin pretty quickly. I throw a wire nut in a solid crack to the left and started climbing. Soon, a serious of horizontal cracks appeared in the main rock and I moved to that. There where a couple of fixed pitons, of which I clipped one and continued to a wide ledge. This would likely be the belay station of which I read in the route description, but I did not stop there. Facing back towards the summit, now looking East there where 3 main cracks. I ruled the right one too difficult, the center one would go as a squeeze chimney with a hand jam, but will be harder then 5.4 for sure. I couldn't see well in to the left most crack, so I throw a cam in the center crack and stemmed up. Soon my hand landed on something nice and solid, and I was able to pull up. A bit more class 4 scrambling got me to the top just as Arun started yelling that he is running out of rope.

Why did I pass the belay station? The Eichorn Pinnacle is one of the most photogenic sites in the Sierras, and there were only Arun and me climbing.

So when I got to the top, Arun untied and ran up the ridge to take my picture. After I brought him up, I rappelled down, and ran up the ridge to take Arun's picture. Then he came down.

We had some time to kill, so we packed our stuff and went up the ridge towards Cathedral Peak. Arun took my cam set and lead the exposed class 4 route to the top to practice placing natural protection on a lead. In the process, he used me entire set of Friends and one Predator, all in the name of practice. Following him, I realized I forgot to tell him that the old Friends with the solid stem can only be placed vertically. He was still safe though.

On the way down, it occurred to me that both of our routes were first climbed by giants: John Muir on Cathedral Peak and Jules Eichorn on the Eichorn Pinnacle. And they both climbed unroped.

Register: The register on Eichorn Pinnacle is in bad shape. The register book is gone. Instead there were a few scraps of pages which once were photo copies of the route description from John Moynier's book. There were some entries dated back to 1998, but none in 2000. Are we the first for the year? The only writing implements were a few short pieces of graphite.

The squeeze rivets on one of the hinges of the fancy register box have both broken off. It will take a small drill with a 1/8"-3/16" bit to clear the holes so new rivets can be placed.

Conditions: Snow line on Northern slopes was 9,500 to 10,500. we brought or used no crampons nor ice axes and didn't need them as the snow was soft enough for kicking nice steps. And snowshoes are certainly not needed. The afternoon snow melt swelled the creeks turning a simple hop over partially exposed rocks in the morning into a serious business in the afternoon.

Participants: Arun Mahajan and Ron Karpel (scribe)

• *Arun Mahajan*

## Bloody, Laurel, Morrison

June 3-4, 2000

The cast of characters: Bob Suzuki (fearless leader), Sam Wilkie (fearless coleader), Dee Booth, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Debbie Bulger, Joan Marshall, and Joe Budman

With the low snow year, we were able to drive most of the way on the road leading to Bloody on Saturday morning (directions can be found in Arun Mahajan's trip report on Bloody), saving several miles and about 1500 feet of walking. Thanks to Bob and Debbie for getting us up there! The snow began just after the switchback in the road, less than half a mile from the beginning of the trail (just before the crest of the road). We followed the somewhat faint trail in the direction of the saddle between Bloody and Laurel, crossing a few snowfields en route, still somewhat firm in the morning.

From there, it was a straightforward, somewhat tedious, hike to the summit along the east ridge. At times you could choose to walk along some snow patches instead of the rock, but the scree is quite firm along this route. I had done Bloody last October via the north slope (just to the east of the couloir), and the east ridge is a much better route! Views from the top were impressive: Ritter/Banner, the minarets, Koip/Kuna off to the north, and Red Slate dominating to the southwest. The mountains around had just the right amount of snow on them to make the scenery especially nice. Some skiers had also hiked to the top, and after watching them make the first few turns, we started our descent down the ridge.

Back at the Laurel-Bloody saddle, Bob, Sam, Dee, and I (our first names have 3 letters) had extra energy to waste, so we hiked the 1,000 extra vertical feet up to Laurel. The scree/loose rock is only slightly miserable on the ascent, but very miserable on the descent despite the low angle (no sandy areas to cruise down). The view towards the Owens valley is better from Laurel than from Bloody, but Bloody has a better view of everything else. The only real reason to climb it became apparent when we descended and drove to the campground by Convict Lake for the night: Laurel is a very beautiful peak from this direction (never mind that its other side is a garbage dump!). Its other claim to fame is that the first properly belayed/roped climb in the sierra occurred here, on the southeast gully route (class 4).

Evening temperatures stayed well above freezing, and at 8:15 on Sunday morning the hike to Morrison began. Previous descriptions make the climb seem like a really miserable slog, but most of the route is on solid ground with great scenery. We started along the jeep road/trail near the fee area for the convict lake campground, and gained the ridge by following the paths of least resistance when the trail became too faint (this involves less bushwhacking than following the river gully all the way). Once atop the ridge, we followed a dirt road (the one that goes towards the gully, not up a hillside), until that merged with the stream. No water was flowing in the lower part of the creekbed and the footing was very solid. There were several large snowpatches along the creek that we climbed through, hiking next to the river (which had some water running in the upper part) when it wasn't snow-covered. The slope becomes more and more gradual as the river turns to the right, and nowhere is the sage/brush that you have to hike through at all annoying. Eventually we found ourselves at the small lake (on the map) from which the steeper climbing would begin. The view towards Mt. Baldwin and Morrison from this lake merited a rest stop, from which we chose our route of ascent. A use trail leads up through talus and then we hiked through some snowfields (soft enough to kick good steps by late morning), eventually regaining the use trail. The top ~1000 feet of the climb have loose rock, though we were able to avoid much of it by following snow or easy 3rd class ledges. The view from the top was again splendid, and we made the hike out in 2-2.5 hours. Seeing the impressive face of Mt. Morrison as we began the drive home was the final reward to another fun weekend in the Sierra.

• *Joe Budman*

## Johnson and Gilbert

June 10, 2000

World renown mountaineer Dee Booth successfully guided six climbers to the top of Mt Johnson on June 10, 2000. At the summit of Mt Johnson the entire team met Paul Wilms, a French speaking Belgian, who announced when meeting Dee, "Dee Booth? I know zat name, I have seen zat name in many Sierra registars!".

The sumitting team included Dee, Bojan Silic, Landa Robillard, Kelly Maas, Fi Verplanke, Maxym Runov, and Rick Booth. The weather was perfect and the time from the Lower Treasure Lakes was about four hours. An ice axe is recommended at this time of year since there was a lot of snow on the southeast slope of the mountain.

On Sunday the group headed off for Mt Gilbert. Again, Dee lead the group of now eight individuals to the summit of Mt Gilbert. Since it was unlikely any new Belgians would be discovered on

the summit of Mt Gilbert we brought Paul with us. We also added Alex Sapoznikov who had headed back to the car on Saturday looking for his wayward wallet. The biggest challenge was Treasure Col which had one short steep section.

Ice axe recommended. Thanks to Kelly for kicking steps to the col. The weather was perfect and the time to the summit was about 4.5 hours.

Summitting Mt Gilbert were Dee, Bojan, Landa, Kelly, Fi, Paul, Maxym, Alex, and Rick.

This was a great trip and for several people it was either their first time to the Sierra high country or their best elevation gain.

• *Rick Booth*

## Yeah, Right, A Beginner's Trip!

June 17-18, 2000

Participants were John Hawley, Ed Lulofs, David Lulofs, Chris Franchuk, Ethan Karpel, Ron Karpel, Steve Eckert, and Rebecca Eckert

Ron Karpel's "easy" trip to Vogelsang sounded like the perfect opportunity to get Rebecca up her first Sierra peak. She's been backpacking a few times, but has never stood on a real summit. Moderate pace, class 2, good trail all the way to camp...

The hike up Rafferty Creek from the Dog Lake trailhead was uneventful, and mostly mosquito-free, but we took lots of breaks and even had a nap break just below Tuolumne Pass (see <http://www.climber.org/eckert/recent/TuolumnePassLookingNorth.jpg>) so people could adjust to the altitude and lighten their food bags. Between the pass and the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, Ethan "hit the wall" and Ron rested with him while the rest of us found a good campsite. Everyone made it to camp on the north side of Fletcher Lake in plenty of time to snooze before dinner.

Sunday morning we left the teenagers and Ed in camp and headed across Fletcher Creek (see <http://www.climber.org/eckert/recent/VogelsangCampFletcherCreek.jpg>) and around Vogelsang Lake to Vogelsang Pass... on snow about half the time. Rebecca had never climbed on snow before, but it was low angle and very good snow conditions. From the pass, Ron said we just needed to get around some steep stuff (see <http://www.climber.org/eckert/recent/VogelsangEastRidge.jpg>) and it was class 2 to the summit. Yeah, right. It stayed easy class 3, but there were steep places that made some uncomfortable and there were loose places that made the going slow. The summit block itself is definitely not class 3 from the south side, and some begging/pushing/pulling was required to get everyone onto the actual summit.

I should note ONCE AGAIN that this was Rebecca's first Sierra peak, and she hung in there when it got tougher than she expected. At the top, her smiling face with Half Dome in the background proved it was worth the effort. (see <http://www.climber.org/eckert/recent/VogelsangToHalfDome.jpg>) The register is full, but it seems like this peak gets so much traffic that a new one will fill up in a couple of years.

As we picked our way down through the scrub pines, all were dreading descending the east ridge again. I trotted over to a snow chute I had been scoping out as we climbed, and tossed a heavy rock into it to verify that it was soft in the afternoon sun. The runout wasn't perfect, but everyone was agreeable to try going

down it once I cut a few steps and verified that it wasn't icy. Ron actually kicked steps the whole way down, while I walked slightly below the less experienced people (escorting them one at a time down the steepest part). Ice axes would have added to the comfort level, but weren't really necessary.

Once the angle eased off a bit, I sat in the snow and had Rebecca sit behind me and hang onto my pack. We did a tandem glissade (her first) with me doing the steering and braking. Her part was to hang on and enjoy the ride! Ron said later that he relaxed when he heard her whooping with glee, but everyone else walked all the way down. This chute was on the north side of the east ridge, leading directly into the Vogelsang Lake drainage. (see <http://www.climber.org/eckert/recent/VogelsangEastBowl.jpg>) The more direct route, which rises from the lake to the north ridge, had a cornice at the top - but the peak is easier from the north than from the south (where the east ridge takes you) when the cornice isn't present.

We had talked about doing Fletcher in the afternoon, but our 3pm return to camp wiped out all thoughts of adding anything to the day. We broke camp and hiked out (7 miles) in just over 4 hours, reaching the cars at about 8pm. 13 hours of climbing and backpacking, 3rd class rock, kicking steps in 30 degree snow, glissading... yep, all stock parts of a beginner trip! The only things we missed out on were wading a waist deep stream and dodging lightning on the peak.

Despite my friendly jabs, Ron did a great job leading this trip. He didn't rush anyone, he took breaks whenever needed, he helped when people needed a hand, and made it fun even for those who were having trouble with the terrain.

• *Steve Eckert*

## 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.

### Darwin

Peak: Darwin (13,830) Class 3-4  
Date: July 1-4  
Contact: Chris Kramar (510)-796-6651

Darwin, king of the Evolution crest, is one of the finest summits in the Sierra. Walter Starr, Jr. wrote that the Evolution country was "the region where the grand crescendo of the Sierra touches at once the heart of the mountaineer and the artist."

We will start at North Lake and take the Lamarck Col route to Darwin Canyon to position ourselves at the foot of the glacier. Expect snow and rock travel that may be roped at times. Mt. Mendel will also be attempted.

### South Lake/Bishop Pass

Peak: Mt. Goode, Gilbert, Johnson Black Giant, Mt. Solomons, and Mt. Goddard  
Date: July 1-4  
Contact: Tim Hult 408-970-0760, [Timdhult@aol.com](mailto:Timdhult@aol.com)

This trip will get us into an area loaded with class 2 and 3 peaks. Expect long days and miles. Early season conditions may require ice axe and crampons. Extensive snow coverage may turn this into a ski trip!

### **Rainier via the Kautz Glacier**

Peak: Mt Rainer, Snow, Ice, Glacier, Altitude  
Dates: July 5th-9th 2000 .  
Leaders: George Van Gordon: 408-779-2320,  
gvangord@mhu.k12.ca.us  
Ron Karpel: ronny@karpel.org

This is a private trip, not affiliated with the Sierra Club.

The Kautz Glacier route using Camp Hazard as high camp is much less traveled than the normal Disappointment Cleaver route, which is likely to be extremely crowded at this time of year. This trip involves both glacier travel and a short moderately steep alpine ice climbing (around 45%). We will travel roped up on the glacier and use pickets and ice screws for belay on the steep ice section.

Participants must be experienced in using ice axe and crampons for snow travel and have previous training in glacier travel and crevasse rescue techniques.

### **The Isherwood Special**

Peaks: Mt. Rose (10,776) with optional climb of Mt. Tallac (9,735)  
Dates: July 7-9, 2000  
Leaders: Bill and Dana Isherwood dana@isherwoods.net (925)254-0739 (h) or (925)423-5058 (Bill at work)

Climb Mt. Rose, Tahoe Basin's third highest peak, and leave your sleeping bag, tent, backpack, etc. at home. Join us for a decadent weekend at the private Carmel Ski Lodge in Truckee. Spend Friday and Saturday nights at the Lodge. Climb Mt. Rose Saturday and celebrate your ascent at a fun filled "happy hour", followed by a pot luck barbeque, and your favorite climbing videos Saturday night. Optional climb of Mt. Tallac on Sunday. Limited to 12. Cost: \$15/person/night (private rooms for couples). For reservations, call Bill or Dana Isherwood .

### **Palisade Crest**

Peak: Palisade Crest 13520', Class 4  
Date: July 14-16  
Contact: Peter Maxwell (408) 737 9770,  
peterm@aoraki.dtc.hp.com

We'll start off hiking the South Fork of Big Pine Creek, heading to camp at Elinore Lake. This hike in involves a large amount of boulder hopping. The route up the peak, which will occupy a long day, will be the Northwest Ridge, which leads off from Scimitar Pass. There is considerable exposure along the Sierra crest between the pass and the base of the roped portion of the climb.

This is a class 4 peak for experienced climbers only. The trip is private and participants should be known to the organizer, or be able to be vouched for by someone known to the organizer.

I'm going to be away until May 31, but send me email if you're interested.

### **Mt Goddard**

Peak: Mt. Goddard (14,000+)  
Maps: Mt Goddard 15' & North Palisade 7 1/2' topos  
Class: 4, rock  
Dates: July 21-23 (Fri-Sun)  
Contact: Bill Isherwood, w: 925-423-5058, h: 925-254-0739, bi@llml.gov

Polemonium Peak is one of those Sierra points over 14,000' that can be debated as whether it should be considered a separate mountain or not.

But here's a chance to hedge your bets, if you want to make sure you get all the 14'ers. (Note that this is not the peak labled 'Polemonium' on the North Palisade 7 1/2' map, but is the high point just south of the U-notch.) Starting at the South Lake trailhead, we will go over Bishop Pass and make camp at one of the lakes in Dusy Basin. From here, there is some high traversing over talus and ascend the Polemonium Glacier to reach the SE ridge route, as described by R.J. Secor. With good route finding there should only be a couple of pitches of 4th class, but everyone should be experienced in ice ax, crampons, and 5th class climbing, and prepared for rappelling and possible off-route contingencies. Still looking for an assistant leader.

### **Khumbu region of Nepal**

Peak: Island Pek or Mera Peak  
Date: Oct-Nov 2000  
Contact: Tim Hult 408-970-0760, Timdhult@aol.com

Four week trip into a spectacular and storied region of the Himalaya. These are "minimal" trekking peaks open to qualified class 3 peak baggers with snow experience. Views of Everest and all those places you've heard about. Experience and compatibility with groups on long "wilderness" trips a must.

### **Argentina - January 2001**

Peaks: A Seven Summit Mountain Aconagua  
6959 m  
Contact: Warren Storkman, 650-493-895

### **Denali**

Peak: Denali, 20,320 ft.  
Date: May-June 2001  
Contact: Tim Hult 408-970-0760, Timdhult@aol.com

Been there twice but unfortunately haven't done it yet as weather and sickness (the flu) have kept me off the summit. Third time a charm? Looking for qualified partners for this major, no nonsense peak. Must have extensive experience in the following: high altitude climbing (18,000 ft +), excellent winter camping skills and equipment, proven ability to get along with partners on a multi-week trip. Ice climbing and crevasse rescue will be taught if required. Prefer those with the ability to ski or willingness to learn how to ski with a pack on - need NOT be an expert! Serious inquires only.

### **Colosseum**

Peak: Colosseum (12,473, class 1)  
Date: August 19 - 20, 2000  
Contact: Charles Schafer, (408) 354-1545  
Contact: Bob Evans, robtwevans@email.msn.com  
Days: (408) 998-2857

Saturday: Sawmill Pass trailhead (4,586) over Sawmill Pass (11,347) to Woods Lake (10,600), about 10 miles.

Sunday: Bag Colosseum (12,473) via class 1 S.W. slopes and out. Cedric Wright an option depending on participants and circumstances. \$5/person permit fee reimbursement.

## Elected Officials

### Chair:

Rick Booth / pcs-chair@climber.org  
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### Vice Chair and Trip Scheduler:

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**Scree** is the monthly journal of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. Our mirror website is <http://www.climber.org/pcs/> and our official website is <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/>

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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 7/23/2000. 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**