

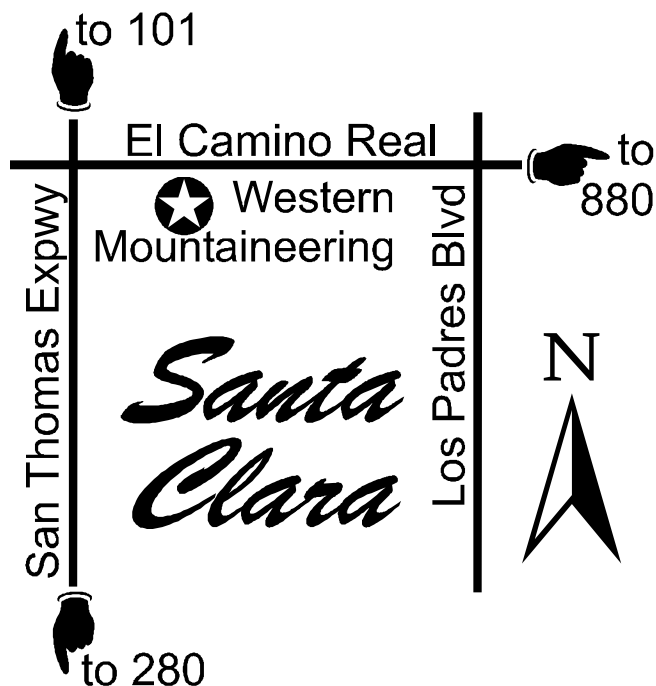


World Wide Web Address: <http://www.climber.org/pcs>

Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 13
Time: 8:00 PM
Program: Climbing the Vinson Massif in Antartica by Dana Isherwood
Directions: 2344 El Camino Real, Santa Clara (between San Thomas and Los Padres).

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 6/25/2000 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

PCS Leadership Clinic

Date Change to Saturday, June 17

The PCS Mountaineering Committee is organizing a leadership clinic. The full write-up of this event is in the April 2000 Scree. The clinic will be at Sunol Regional Park, Saturday June 17 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Please call or email for more details on where to meet.

• *Kelly Maas (408) 378-5311, maas@idt.com*

Letter from Leonard Daughenbaugh!

Editor's Note: Mr. Leonard Daughenbaugh, a member of the Inyo County Search and Rescue Team, asked me to print this letter in the Scree in response to an item published in the January 2000 Scree. This letter is the personal opinion of Mr. Daughenbaugh and is not in an official position of Search and Rescue or the Inyo County Sheriff's Department. It was not sanctioned by nor does it represent the opinion of either of these organizations or any of its other members.

Since Mr. Daughenbaugh's letter appeared to be official, I felt that as the Scree editor I needed to investigate Mr. Daughenbaugh's position with SAR.

I spoke with Sgt. Randy Nixon who is the search and rescue coordinator for the Inyo County Sheriff's Department. Sgt. Nixon told me that Mr. Daughenbaugh had said that he was going to write this letter. Sgt. Nixon then told him that he could write a letter as long as it was a personal opinion.

Inyo County Search and Rescue is a fine organization that we should all support. They are volunteers whose services we may someday save our lives!

• *Bob Bynum, Scree Editor*

Dear Editor:

Mr. Yoav S. Altman's letter in the January 2000 edition of Scree, and the fact that there was no comment in subsequent editions, seems to indicate that, in the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section, discovering a dead body, then just leaving it in place without making a report is not considered unusual or inappropriate. In any case, it appears possible that your organization has not

considered the serious problems that this official or unofficial policy can cause others.

In the first place, leaving a body on the mountain and not reporting it can cause a considerable amount of unnecessary stress and apprehension for the victim's family. In this instance, the victim's girlfriend reported him overdue late Saturday afternoon. She indicated that he was on a "power hike" to the Palisade area. She wasn't sure which one, but she thought he was either going to climb the U-Notch or the V-Notch. According to Mr. Altman, he and his climbing partners discovered the body on Saturday morning, well before the victim was reported missing. Our SAR team members, who had arrived on the glacier early Sunday morning, were not notified until late that afternoon when Mr. Altman and his partners told another of our team members at the trailhead about their discovery the previous day. By the time SAR team members were able to verify the fatality, it was almost dark and beginning to snow, which required the team to postpone the recovery until the next day. If, however, someone in Mr. Altman's group had been willing to walk out and report the incident at the time of discovery, the victim's family would have been saved at least twenty four hours of stress and apprehension. As a matter of fact, the team could probably have informed the family early on Saturday afternoon, even before they reported the victim missing. It would also have allowed the team enough time to complete the recovery on Saturday, or at the latest Sunday morning, instead of having to wait until Monday.

Secondly, not reporting the discovery of a body puts search and rescue personnel at unnecessary risk. Had the SAR team been informed of the fatality on Saturday, the victim could have been flown out that day or early the next day without the need for a full callout of members. As it was, a full hasty team was dispatched on Saturday night to clear the trail and approaches, and search teams were moved into the area on Sunday morning both on foot and via helicopter. It should be noted that there was a helicopter problem on Sunday could easily have added another five names to the fatality total. The team on the glacier then had to hike out Sunday night in a snowstorm. Because of the snow, it was somewhat difficult the next day to find the victim again. Only a few inches of the team's marker remained above the snow. If there had been another three inches of snow, the victim would probably still be there. Also, if there hadn't been that chance meeting between Mr. Altman and one of our team members at the trailhead late Sunday afternoon, the snow would have covered the victim entirely before the rescue team could have gotten there. And, if so, the victim would definitely have remained on the glacier until spring. Lastly, because of the season, there didn't appear to be any animal damage, which is always a possibility with a body left out. And, to the best of our knowledge, no one else had to come across the scene.

According to his letter, Mr. Altman also seems to feel that the newspaper report contained "several inaccuracies." The first "inaccuracy," according to Mr. Altman, was that the victim was "mountaineering" not on a "power hike." As mentioned before, "power hike" was the victim's description of what he was doing, so that's what we called it.

The second "inaccuracy" was the fact that the radio news reported that Mr. Altman and his partners had discovered the body on Sunday afternoon. Base camp was informed that another group of hikers had discovered the body. That was put together by the news media with the fact that it was late Sunday at the time.

Further, Mr. Altman seems to believe that the victim's death isn't "one of those 'can't happen to me' situations." As described, however, the victim was solo climbing in the Palisades, arguably

the most hazardous climbing area in the Sierra. Further, he told his girlfriend he was going to climb the "U-Notch [or the V-Notch];" then, during the trip, he apparently changed his plans. This meant that no one knew where he was. As to whether or not the victim was wearing his helmet, there are several other scenarios that could describe the position and condition of his helmet. These actions violate at least two of the most basic precepts of safe mountaineering, i.e. climbing in a hazardous area alone, and not letting someone else know where you are. If the victim was "routinely and knowingly" accepting these unnecessary risks, by definition, it certainly seems likely that he felt, consciously or unconsciously, that it "couldn't happen to him."

We are not writing this to condemn Mr. Altman, his climbing partners, their actions, or their inaction. We are merely explaining some of the possible consequences of not reporting the discovery of a body on a mountain, utilizing the aforementioned incident as an example, while, at the same time, responding to Mr. Altman's claim that our report about this incident contained "several inaccuracies."

In any case, since Mr. Altman's letter was actually in the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section Newsletter, it seemed appropriate and fair to request that the response be printed there also.

County Search and Rescue Team Members

A Note to Joe Kelsey: Your description of the programming on our local Bishop radio station seemed to me to be at least somewhat sarcastic. ("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.") It's definitely a quality of life issue. I've been living in Bishop for the last eleven years, but I lived in San Jose [I was a Peak Climbing Section member, too.] for the twelve years previous to this. During this time, I dealt with the local Bay Area media that "in a stretch of their usual concept of local news, limited to "murders, rapes, armed robberies, car jackings, home invasions, assorted other mayhems and perversions, fatal traffic accidents, major drug busts, gang activities, malfeasance in government and private industry, ad nauseam. The main reason I left the Bay Area was to get myself and my family away from both the reality of those situations and having to be treated to all the gory details every time I turned on the radio or TV. There were other reasons, however, such as smog, traffic, fourteen-hour round-trip drives to get to the east side, no peace or quiet, double-locked doors and burglar alarms, uptight people, constant noise, crowds, not being able to let the kids play in the front yard alone, etc. While it appears from your comments that our area isn't "sophisticated" enough for you, please understand that it's the lack of this so-called "sophistication" that makes this area such a pleasant and stress-free place to live. So, since you like your living situation and I like mine, please, let's do each other a favor. I will not be sarcastic regarding your choice of life style if you are willing to treat mine with the same respect. How about it?

• Leonard Daughenbaugh

Get even with a bear that raided your food bag by kicking his favorite stump apart and eating all the ants.

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.

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 at trailhead. Questions? please contact leader.

Leap Over Large Abysses

Peaks: L.O.L.A., class 1, 9148
Donner Peak, class 1
Dates: Jun 17-18, 2000 (Sat-Sun)
Maps: Donner Pass
Leader: Aaron Schuman, aaron_schuman@yahoo.com
Co-leader: Pat Ibbetson, djpat@yahoo.com &
Details: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/lola.html>
Hike with us, as Pat and Aaron Lead Our Lively Adventure.

June at North Lake Tahoe is the greenest time in the greenest place in the Sierra Nevada. We're taking a couple of moderately paced day hikes under the pine canopy to two not very big peaks with gorgeous lake views. Send us your own expansion of the acronym L.O.L.A., and you too can be part of the Legend Of Low Altitude.

Vogelsang, the Easy Way

Peak: Vogelsang (11,493), class-2
Dates: June 17-18
Map: Vogelsang
Leader: Ron Karpel, ronny@karpel.org 650-594-0211

Take a leisurely stroll up a beautiful high Sierra Summit. Saturday climb 1300 ft. from Tuolumne Meadow to Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. We'll set our camp near Vogelsang Lake to escape the mosquitoes that are likely to be looking for us near Vogelsang HSC proper. Sunday, we will bag the summit (additional 1200 feet) following the ridge line from Vogelsang pass. There is a bit of rock scrambling there, but it is easy, and it can be avoided by descending a couple hundred feet on the trail to the South and climbing the scree slope. I expect a few patches of snow here and there, but nothing which requires an ice axe. The slope to the summit is facing South and I expect will be clear of snow.

This trip is suitable for children (accompanied by parents) and beginners.

Mt. Whitney

March 25,26, 2000

As exciting as the winter hike up to Mt. Whitney was the drive to the Whitney Portal. The road is officially closed several miles before the end, but since there was no gate (just a road closed sign) I decided to drive ahead and see how far I could get.

After the rockfall hazard sign, the road is nearly covered with boulders, some small but some the size of a car! There was a path cleared out, just big enough for one car to drive around the rocks. In a few places I had to get out and move a few rocks that had fallen, but the path through the rocks was generally easy to follow (utilizing parts of both lanes and at times the shoulder). The last half mile had several large snow patches, but I'm sure those are gone by now.

Seeing several other cars parked next to the trailhead on Friday night was a comfort - I wasn't the only crazy one, and there would be help moving rocks if more fell!

Disclaimer: if you decide to drive to the Whitney Portal and a huge rockfall happens while you're hiking and your car is stuck until June, you didn't get the idea here...

In the morning, I started hiking up the trail with 4 other guys - 2 of them soon turned off to go towards Iceberg Lake and the mountaineers route, while the other 2 were going to do the standard route and then snowboard down!

The snow was solid from 8500' up, and I put on snowshoes. Although I have never been to Mt. Whitney before, the route finding is very easy and there are few obstacles to going along the general path of the summer trail.

I had planned to camp at 12,000' and then go to the top the next day, but it was only early afternoon when I got there so I kept going.

The slope from 12,000' to the trail crest at 13,600' is quite steep and the snow up here was much more solid, making crampons useful. (This is the slope that is, looking up, to the right of the summer switchbacks).

From the crest to the summit, the trail was clearly visible and largely snow-free except for a few large and annoyingly steep and mushy piles of snow. I slept near the top and then hiked down (mostly sliding) in the morning.

Many people have done the hike up to Whitney this winter - there were very few days without signatures in the register. New Year's must have had quite a party on the summit - dozens of people signed the register...

The spectacular winter view is well worth the effort.

• Joe Budman

Spinach Noodle

April 8-9, 2000

Official PCS trip, lead by Aaron Schuman with one lone participant (me).

Back in late 1995, as a warm-up for climbing Telescope Peak from below sea level, I did a solo loop that included Lamont, Spanish, and Sawtooth. It was a long hard day that convinced me I didn't need to be in that area again, but when Aaron planned a trip there and agreed to climb Spanish from the hard side, I agreed to go. Later we found out that Eric Beck climbed Spanish Needle two days after we did (pity - we could have used the company).

(Part of my reason for going was to see if my fear near the top of Spanish had been justified, or just because I was alone and climbing wet rocks in the fog. You can read that trip report at:

<http://www.Climber.Org/TripReports/1995/lamont.html>

Aaron checked with some friends via email and called a ranger or two, and we decided the road to Rodecker Flat (mentioned in the

Jenkins guidebook) was open far enough to give it a try. (Turn west from 395 onto Sand Canyon Road at waypoint SND395, at the sign showing Brown Road to the east.) SURPRISE! The road is well-maintained and quite drivable even for little cars, but it ends at the edge of the Owens Wilderness. Joshua Trees outnumber all other tall plants here, and you're about 3 miles short of the nice campsites at Rodecker Flat (see waypoint SNDCAR, below).

A warm but windy night departed as we ditched our extra sweaters and started wondering if we had enough water bottles. It's an easy road walk to waypoint RODECK (the flats), then a bit of trail, then you either sidehill in sand or fight scrub in the drainage. Alarming tales of loose boulders with bad attitudes can't be ignored, but the main problem with the South Fork of Sand Canyon is the brush. We tried to cross the canyon around 5500' (waypoint CROSS), thinking we would sidehill up toward the peak, but soon found ourselves picking our way over rock ribs in third class crud. Your best bet is to stay in the drainage until 6000', then angle southwest in the gully that leads directly to the low point (waypoint SADDLE) between the obvious pinnacles overlooking the PCT and the true Spanish Needle. Don't go TOO FAR south, or you'll climb Point 7800 a quarter mile away (as at least one register entry moaned about).

We hit the saddle around 2pm and headed south toward the peak by kicking steps through a few patches of snow on the north face and by running the knife edge ridge in places. You know you're approaching the peak when both the east and west faces are cliffs. The Jenkins instructions may leave you thinking "the first keyhole" is near the saddle, but it's not... it's right under the 100' vertical monolith that comprises the summit. By the time you reach the keyhole, you've already had to do a bit of easy third class and you're less than 50 yards from the summit. Then the fun starts!(By the way, looking from the saddle down toward the PCT to the southwest, I can't help thinking that climb would be easier than the traverse that Beck describes well in his trip report. Jenkins has you approach the saddle from the northeast, but someone ought to try it from the southwest to avoid the nasty traverse.)

From the boulder that creates the first keyhole, face south and tremble at the thought of climbing the sheer and featureless face looming above you. Turn to the west and wonder if that class 5 crack would be better than the Jenkins route. Then turn to the east and find his first "sapling" - well, OK, it's not a sapling anymore. It's the 10" diameter tree level with where you are. (Jenkins wrote the book a few decades ago, you see.) We had to kick steps in the snow over to that tree, wondering where the blocks he describes are. No blocks, just a set of parallel cracks that rise from the tree onto the smooth shoulder Jenkins calls a "ledge". Right. Think downsloping exposed no hand holds lichen covered (oh, and THIS time a patch of SNOW on it) granite. My fear in 95 was justified. There isn't much of a way to protect this stretch, and there are no handholds while you cross the shoulder to the boulder which Jenkins calls a gendarme (at 4' high, it's a little short cop, eh?). Now turn southwest and spot the second "sapling", actually an 8" tree, blocking the best route on the ridge. Once you're under it, the rest is easy (even the second keyhole and the 3' step-across to the summit itself). Just don't look down.

We found a plastic tube register found lying near the first keyhole, and carried it to the top where we encountered the metal ammo box with the REAL register in it. Victory! Uh, but now we gotta get back down that slab and it's almost 3pm. Fortunately the weather was perfect and the wind had died down, so we picked our way down 1000' of basket-sized rocks to the welcome sand of

the north side of the south fork of sand canyon (say THAT 5 times fast, or see waypoint SAND below). We made it to the car before dark, and had a relaxing dinner with lukewarm beer and a bright sliver of moon before driving to the Chimney Peak campground (waypoint CHIMNY) for a below-freezing night.

Sunday morning we waited around for an SPSer who was supposed to join us on Sawtooth, but no one showed up. Off we went, south on the PCT from Canebrake Rd (waypoint CANPCT), to the saddle (SAWTRL) where we could see the lower reaches of Sand Canyon. Some brush along the ridge gives way to a few summit blocks (and the famous register where someone wrote "blah, blah, blah" all over a multi-page entry by Pat Ibbetson). We lazed around for a while, then tried to remember which canyon Jenkins recommends descending. Sadly, I think we took the wrong one (from waypoint SAWJCT, you should probably go due west whereas we went southwest into the gully just north of Point 6919). Our gully went as second class, but was not the beautiful draw I remember from the last trip. Getting old, or getting lost? Next time I'll go for the most sheer canyon with the highest spires guarding the entrance.

• *Steve Eckert*

Lamont, Sawtooth, Crag

April 22, 2000

Bob Suzuki, Joan Marshall, Dee Booth and I were originally planning on climbing Taylor Dome, Sirretta, and Rockhouse Peaks, but since forest road 22S14 is still closed (thanks, Richard Carey, for alerting us to call the rangers) we made a change of plans and did Lamont, Sawtooth, and Crag Peaks instead.

The weather reports were mostly good for the weekend, but a few clouds looked potentially menacing as we met in Onyx Saturday morning .Lamont Peak was the warmup hike for the day. The trailhead is well marked, and there is a parking area to the left of Canebrake Road across from the beginning of the trail. Soon we found ourselves in the clouds, but the trail was easy to follow most of the way up. Shortly before the trail dips ~100 feet en route to the final short climb we mistakenly followed a use trail that went slightly to the left but dead-ended soon after - there is a fairly good trail the whole way, so if you think you're off route, back up and find the real trail. The summit is an easy 1 minute boulder hop, and the register is mostly signed by SPS and PCS groups. We stayed on top a few minutes hoping that the clouds would break, but no such luck. While I was optimistic that the clouds were just fog from the Owens Valley being burned off and blown away, Bob told us about an epic all-night adventure in a snowstorm on nearby Spanish Needle. No such fun this time - the clouds burned off as we descended and we got a few looks down at the valley and the lamont pinnacles.

We then drove down the road and parked near the sign that says 0.2 miles to the campground. The PCT trailhead is marked but tough to find if you drive by too fast - it starts near the .2 mile sign. We followed the PCT to the saddle of Sawtooth Peak and then began the cross-country hike up the ridge. I think it's best to climb the hill in the foreground of Sawtooth from the ridge and continue approximately on the ridge line from there (described very well in Arun Mahajan's report of last year).The pines and brush are not too thick and there were only a few places where there isn't an easy way around the trees. The summit view is quite nice - not as spectacular as the more northerly Sawtooth Peak, but the Owens Valley, Spanish Needle, Olancha Peak, and snow-covered peaks of the High Sierra give a nice panorama. Spanish Needle still has a solid dusting of snow on it from the storm 1

week ago although Sawtooth is snow-free. For the descent, we took Dee's advice and followed the beautiful little canyon described in the Jenkins guidebook. A little water still runs in the canyon but the rock scrambling is very straightforward.

We were back at the cars around 5 and drove to the campground at Kennedy Meadows for the night along the beautiful (and paved!) Kennedy Meadows road. The beautiful meadows surrounded by hills resembled a lower-elevation Tuolumne Meadows in the evening light. Sawtooth and Lamont are easily doable in a day that still leaves time for some relaxing - where else in the Sierra can you do 2 peaks in an easy day?

There is a general store at the intersection of the road that leads to the campground and a restaurant a few miles before that. The area has some private property but is still very quiet since fishing season doesn't start until next week.

The campground was less than half full (but we were told that the situation is quite different once the fisherman arrive en masse) and we got to sleep early to compensate for the lack of sleep of the previous night. I was told not to reveal the identities of the people who cooked and camped vs. ate at the restaurant and slept in a car!

The next day's objective was Crag Peak and possibly Chimney Peak if we had time later, so we set off at 7:30 down the PCT. The trailhead is found on the campground loop road and there is a relatively large parking area. This 5-mile section of the PCT is quite scenic, following a river through a glacially carved valley. We knew that we'd have to cross the river eventually, and while I was trying to mentally prepare for a cold wade across by mentioning the virtues of a relaxing foot rinse partway through a hike, we soon found that the trail crossed a bridge.

There are a few slight ups and downs but the trail is almost flat for the first few miles and then gains less than a thousand feet en route to the meadow 5 miles from the trailhead. There were a few backpackers camped here, and we took off cross-country in the direction of what we thought was Crag Peak in the distance: only 1.5 miles away but 2500 feet of elevation gain remaining. Don't go the way we did! Here's why: we headed in the direction of a hill in front of Crag Peak whose ridgeline leads to the summit. There were a few cliffs on this hill with what appeared to be an easy passage between them. As we started to climb, though, what appeared to be little tufts of grass from a distance turned out to be thick, thorny manzanita and other much less pleasant brush. Ugh. As is the case when you're sitting on 101 in traffic, every path to the left and right of us seemed better than the one we were on, yet they turned out to be just as steep, sandy, and prickly. Wearing shorts probably didn't help, but eventually we got to the steep cliffs and ended up circling them completely on the right side on some large rocks. There were a few patches of snow to traverse here (around 8200 feet elev.), and we soon got to more forested, less brushy terrain. We made much better time from this point on, heading in a fairly straight line to the right side of Crag Peak's ridge. From our direction, this was the peak with a steep and narrow summit ridge with the pinnacle on the left side. There were only occasional snow patches after we left the shadier north-facing slopes, and we saw some bear prints in one of these snow patches. No sight of Mr./Mrs. Bear, though. What I originally thought were glissade marks of hikers further on was also probably made by bears since I again found bear prints further above. Do bears glissade!?

After a few more minutes of thorny brush and nasty bushwacking before the summit area, we found ourselves on the summit ridge, large class 2 blocks. Just before the final 20-foot climb to the high point is the short, narrow knife-edge which had sounded

much scarier than it was. You can straddle the rock and move across on your behind or be brave like one member of our group (hint: his name begins with B and ends with OB), but the exposure is not that bad (maybe 20 feet). The final rock section is even less directly exposed. We were the first people to sign the register in 2000. There are only a few groups who visit this summit each year - again mostly from the SPS and PCS. Although the ratio of bushwacking to climbing is very high (I wanted to rename the peak "crap, then crag"), the view is very nice: a large meadow below, Olancho Peak (still snow-covered), the Whitney area, the Kaweahs, and the peaks of the Mineral King area.

For the descent we came down the ridge and then followed the forested slopes just to the southeast of the ridgeline that goes directly from Crag Peak to the PCT. Much easier than the route up! Steep and forested areas seem to correlate well with an absence of brush on this peak. We reached what we thought was the PCT but was really a good use trails lightly to the west of the PCT and led us south to the PCT near the meadow from which we had started the bushwack. If you do Crag from this direction, hike the extra mile on the PCT and take the more forested route - your legs and clothes will be much happier. 2 hours of trail walking got us back to the cars at 7 and the long drive back to the Bay Area brought the pleasant weekend to a close.

NOTE: Sherman Pass at 9200 feet remains closed. There are a few patches of snow above 8000' on the north-facing slopes from the storm that passed through this area about a week ago, but a few more sunny days have probably melted most of that..

Don't let the rangers convince you that there is significant snow in this area of the Sierra right now! They're just being lazy in opening the roads.

• Joe Budman

Moses Mountain

April 30, 2000

Maybe it was because we had just seen Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments* on the tube for the first time since I saw it as a kid in the 50s. Maybe it was because Passover had just ended. Or maybe it was because I just needed to get back to the Sierra. Whatever the cause, Richard Stover and I headed for Moses Mountain.

We began our dayhike of this 9331 ft. peak from Mountain Home State Forest, a sequoia wonderland east of Porterville and west of Golden Trout

Wilderness. Even if you don't climb, this unique park is well worth visiting. Over 5200 old-growth sequoia, young sequoia, mature douglass fir, white fir, incense cedar, sugar pine and more give one a sense of what a marvel the sequoia forests must have been before we attacked these gentle giants with a vengeance.

On the cross country hike to the base of Moses, we passed tree after tree which would have been given a name of a president or general had they been growing in a more traveled spot. Instead of a few trophy groves as found in other parks, here were thousands of gigantic trees growing freely in a natural setting. A sight not to be missed.

We followed Steve Eckert's advice and took the trail to Redwood Crossing, then without getting our feet wet, stayed on the west side of the river, took a compass reading from the map and made a beeline to Moses. If you are on the right trajectory, you should pass the boundary marker and benchmark for the northwestern

corner of the northernmost section of Mountain Home State Forest.

Unfortunately, we were not able to start hiking from Shake Camp since snow covered parts of the road and the gate was locked. Our climb was about two miles longer because of that, but we had most of the park to ourselves.

Whether we took the brush filled or rocky gully described in previous reports, we couldn't say. The one we ascended was directly below the summit and filled with snow. As we sat on a rock for a snack, a golden eagle soared into view.

The climb up was uneventful, however, by the time we descended, the sun had melted enough snow to force us onto the rock to avoid the danger of plunging through the snow into the rushing water beneath. As a result, we downclimbed some high 3rd and 4th class sections, sometimes using a long sling for hip belays.

Once down, we meandered through the forest examining more magnificent trees and vowing to return to explore some more. On the drive back to Springville, we stopped often to admire the profusion of wildflowers including rare calypso orchids, speckled Clarkia, lupine, blue fiesta flower, wally basket, and baby blue eyes.

• *Debbie Bulger*

Claustrophobia on the Summit

May 13, 2000,

The weather Saturday morning was cloudy, but the summit was out of the clouds. The road was open for driving to the Bumpass Hell Parking lot near Helen Lake. From there, a 1/2 hour walk on the plowed but closed road got us to the upper parking lot. There were 5-8 feet of snow at this area, but higher up on the ridge there were many bare spots. To gain the ridge, some of us took a shorter steeper path, keeping a straight line to the summit, while other gained the ridge a little lower skirting the steep and ice section on it's right. Another 1 hour or so of following the ridge on mostly stiff snow got us to the summit. It was windy, and the clouds were forming a low ceiling above the summit, but we managed to find a place protected from the wind and the sun popped through a few times to warm us up a bit for our early lunch break.

We started down, and as we descended, so did the clouds. About half way down the ridge, it started snowing, and we made the rest of the way to the cars in the intensifying storm. Hopes for bagging Brokeoff the same day melted as quickly as the fresh snow hitting the plowed pavement, and with forecast which expected things to get worst, we headed home. On the way down to Red Bluff I managed to get a last glimpse of Lassen popping out of the clouds again, but it was too late.

At least we bagged Lassen which is way better than the previous couple of years when bad weather turned us back without summiting.

Participants: Arun Mahajan, Bill Kirkpatrick, Fi Verplanke, George Van Gordon, Jan Nicholas, Linda Smith, Maxym Runov, Ron Karpel, Ted Raczek.

• *Ron Karpel*

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.

Mt Shasta

Peak: Mt. Shasta 14,162 ft., Class: 2/snow

Date: June 3-4

Contact: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234

Co-Contact: Cecil Anison cecilann@earthlink.net

Mt. Shasta is a climbers' mountain, singular in its magnificence. Sargent's Ridge will be an airy, challenging route with steep traverses and mixed climbing. Please join us on this exhilarating adventure.

Morrison and Bloody

Peaks: Morrison (12,277'), Bloody (12,552')

Maps: Convict Lake, Bloody Mtn, 7.5' topos

Class: 2, snow

Dates: June 3-4 (Sat-Sun)

Contact: Bob Suzuki, w: 510-657-7555, h: 408-259-0772 bobszk@bigfoot.com

Sam Wilkie, w:408-765-7548, h: 650-941-1794 sam.wilkie@intel.com

Have you ever noticed the sheer face of Mt Morrison as you drive south of Mammoth Lakes on highway 395 and wondered how it would feel to summit this spectacular peak? Well, this is your chance! We'll also climb nearby Bloody Mountain on a separate day hike. Expect snow, and be prepared.

Where is Mt. Powell?

Peaks: Mt. Thompson (13,494), Mt. Powell (13,360), class-2 snow

Dates: Sat-Sun, June 10-11

Maps: Mt. Thompson, Mt. Darwin (W)

Contact: Ron Karpel, ronny@karpel.org, Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com, (H)408-259-0772 (W)510-657-7555 X223

Not only the SPS and the USGS disagree about the location of the "real" summit of Mt. Powell, the USGS itself changed it's mind a few times in the previous millennia. So, where is Mt. Powell? come and help us find out. There are 3 summits to chose from, and if you know Bob, he will probably make us climb all 3. As for me, I just have my eyes on the snow couloir on its northern slope.

As for Thompson, it's the higher mountain, but it is overshadowed by it's wandering neighbor. We will have to climb it simply because it is there. Ice axe and crampon experience required.

Gilbert and Johnson

Peaks: Gilbert (13,106'), Johnson (12,871')

Maps: Mt. Thompson, 7.5' topos

Class: 2/3, snow

Dates: June 10-11 (Sat-Sun)

Contacts: Dee Booth, 408-354-7291(H) rdbooth@worldnet.att.net Rick Booth, 408-354-7291 rwbooth@home.com

Join us for an early June trip into the Sierra. We will start at South Lake and hike into Treasure Lakes where we will camp. On Saturday we will also climb Johnson. On Sunday we will climb Gilbert and hike out. Participants should be prepared for snow, bring ice ax and crampons and know how to use them.

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

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 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.

Polemonium Peak

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

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 labeled '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 ascent of 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, 5th class climbing, and prepared for rappelling and possible off-route contingencies. Still looking for an assistant leader.

Khumbu region of Nepal

Peak: Island Peak 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
Aconcaqua 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.

Elected Officials

Chair:

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Rock Climbing Classifications

The following trip classifications are to assist you in choosing trips for which you are qualified. No simple rating system can anticipate all possible conditions.

- Class 1: Walking on a trail.
- Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance.
- Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing, rope may be used.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 6/25/2000. 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