



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

## Next General Meeting

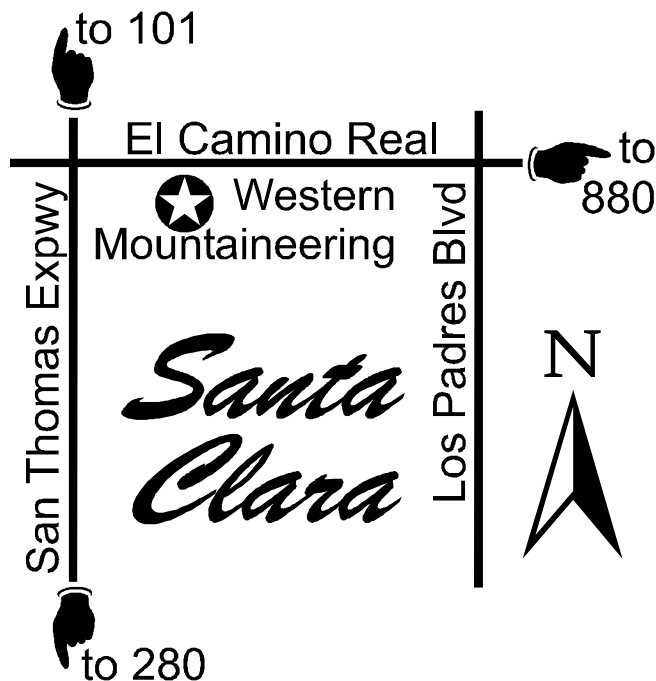
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Program:** To Be Determined

**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 3/26/2000 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Become A PCS Leader

Why should you become a PCS trip leader?

Leading is a great way to give something back to the club that taught you to climb.

Leading helps you polish your climbing skills in a way that following never can.

Leading guarantees that there will be PCS trips going to the destinations that you most desire.

How can you become a PCS trip leader?

Familiarize yourself with the requirements described in

<http://www.climber.org/pcs/Binder/LeaderGuidelines.txt> and

<http://www.climber.org/pcs/Binder/Responsibilities.txt>

Get your first aid certification, co-lead trips with current PCS leaders, and send a letter of application to the chair of the mountaineering committee.

Participate in PCS leader activities like leadership training hikes and the annual spring trip-planning meeting.

But what if you're not a great mountaineer?

If you only ever lead beginner trips, you would still be doing a service to the club and enjoying the personal benefits of PCS leadership.

• *Aaron Schuman*

## Mountaineering Leadership Course

The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter is offering a four-weekend class for people who want to lead mountaineering trips. The Mountaineering Leadership Course features trip on rock and snow as well as extensive classroom work on safety and trip management. Cost is \$100. The deadline to apply is March 8.

Prospective students should have made at least one rock trip with ropes and one snow trip involving ice ax and crampons.

For more details, visit the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Web site at <http://www.angeleschapter.org/ltc>. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to LTC Registrar Ron Campbell, 21432 Dockside Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646.

• *Ron Campbell <ronjanec@gte.net>*

## Basic Backpacking Course

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

**Date:** Tuesday Evenings April 18 to June 6

**Contact:** Steve Stearns, 650-941-8676, Dan Cobb, 650-631-9303, or Bob Bynum 510-659-1413, rfbynum@aol.com

Interested in learning how to backpack but don't know how to get started? Done some backpacking but want to learn the principles - what to buy, where to go, what to bring? The Backpack Section's "Basic Backpacking Course" is for you. The course includes seven two-hour classes covering equipment, wilderness manners, mountain first aid, finding your way and trip planning - and 3 backpack trips. The course will help the participants choose the right equipment. The discussion sessions will be held in the Palo Alto area on successive Tuesday nights from April 18 through June 6, 6:30-8:30 PM. The field trips dates are: May 6 and 7; May 20 and 21; and June 3 and 4 (drive up evening of June 2). The first trip is to a local park, the second will be a bit more remote (e.g. Ventana or Henry Coe Park) and the third will be to the Sierra, snowpack permitting. The trips are open to class members only, and a person must go on one of the first two trips to qualify for the Sierra trip. The class is limited to 40 people on a first-come basis. An adult must accompany anyone under 18 years of age. The cost of the course is \$75 per person including books. The class proceeds are donated to conservation and trail maintenance groups.

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

Basic Backpacking Course  
2960 Monte Cresta Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002

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

## 2000 Advance Trip List

This is the list of trips planned for Spring and Summer. Please do not contact the leaders until the trips are announced in the "Scree" or on the broadcast list.

• *Dee Booth*

DATES	PEAKS	LEADERS
<b>MARCH</b>		
12	Tinker Knob	Aaron Schuman
12	Tinker Traverse	Steve Eckert
19	Round Top	Arun Mahajan Adrienne Van Gordon

<b>APRIL</b>		
1	Mt Diablo	Bob Suzuki & Rex Jennett
5, 8-9	Rock Climbing Class	Ron Karpel
8-9	Sawtooth Peak and Spanish Needle	Aaron Schuman
21-23	Siretta, Rockhouse, Taylor Dome, Sawtooth	Bob Suzuki & Joe Budman
29-30	Baker or Adams(Washington)	Steve Eckert
<b>MAY</b>		
6-7	Mt Lassen & Borkeoff Peak	Ron Karpel
6	Mt Lassen	George Van Gorden
7	Leadership Training	Kelly Maas
13-14	Split and Prater	Steve Eckert
27-29	Feather Peak	Kai Weidman
27-29	Mt Shasta, Bolam Glacier	George Van Gorden
<b>JUNE</b>		
3-4	Mt Shasta Sargent's Ridge	Kai Weidman
10-11	Lola & Donner or Castle	Aaron Schuman & Pat Ibbetson
10-11	Gilbert & Johnson	Dee Booth
10-11	Morrison & Bloody	Bob Suzuki & Sam Wilke
16-19	Thomson & Powell	Bob Suzuki
23-25	Mt Shasta Avalanche Gulch	No Leader
24-28	TBD in the Rockies (CMC exchange trip)	Steve Eckert
<b>DATES PEAKS LEADERS</b>		
<b>JULY</b>		
5-8	Mt. Rainerr Camp Hazard/Kautz Glacier	Ron Karpel & George Van Gorden
8-9	Four Gables	Debbie Benham & Chris Macintosh
14-16	Muah & Cartago	Bob Suzuki & Rich Leiker
22-23	Dana & Gaylor	Debbie Benham & Chris Macintosh

22-23	Mt Hoffman	Joan Marshall & Nancy Fitzsimmons
28-31	Mt Whitney & Mt. Russel	Ron Karpel
29-8/6	Climb-o-rama, Mt Stanford & Mt. Ericson Area	Bob Suzuki & Steve Eckert
<b>AUGUST</b>		
5-7	Mt Lamark, Goethe & Pilot Knob	Aaron Schuman
8-9	Bear Creek Spire & Mt Dade	Aaron Schuman
10-11	Mt Baldwin & Bloody Peak(day hikes)	Aaron Schuman
12-13	Iron Mountain & San Joaquin Mt(day hikes)	Aaron Schuman
14-15	Boundary Peak	Alan Ritter
16-20	Mt Whitney	Alan Ritter
19-20	Mt. Humphreys East Ridge	Bob Suzuki & Nancy Fitzsimmons
<b>SEPT</b>		
2-4	Highland Peak	Aaron Schuman
2-4	Sawtooth, Needham, Vandever, Florence	Bob Suzuki & Joan Marshall
9-10	Excelsior, & Warren(day hikes)	Joe Budman
15-17	University, Kearsarge, & Independence	Bob Suzuki & Joan Marshall
23-24	Blackhawk	Aaron Schuman
<b>OCT</b>		
28	Leavitt & Disaster	Aaron Schuman

## 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.

### Tinker Knob

Peak: Tinker Knob, 8949 ft, class 1 snowshoe/ski trip  
 Date: Sunday, March 12, 2000  
 Leaders: Aaron Schuman,  
 aaron\_schuman@yahoo.com,  
 Arun Mahajan, arun@tollbridgetech.com

Tinker Knob is a rounded hump of a peak in the Tahoe National Forest. It can be approached either from Sugar Bowl or from Squaw Valley. The PCS group will do a there-and-back trip from one of the ski resorts.

On the same day another group will do a one way ski traverse with a car shuttle.

### Mt Diablo

Peak: Mt. Diablo (3,849')  
 Date: April 1, 2000  
 Leader: Bob Suzuki rsuzuki@dspt.com H: 408-259-0772  
 Co-leader: Rex Jennett datsrex@netzero.net H: 650-961-1618

Description: Bag this desirable peak and enjoy a 17 mile loop and panoramic views in this East Bay park. Wear boots if trails are muddy. Heavy rain cancels.

Co-listed with the Day Hiking Section.

Carpool Time: 7:00 AM

Carpool Location: Cubberly High (Middlefield & Montrose) in Palo Alto

Time at Trail head: 8:00 AM

Trail head location: Macedo Ranch at end of Green Valley Road in Danville

### Rock Climbing Practice

Dates: Tue. April 4th (evening session), Sat. April 8th (practice), Sat. April 15th (backup date)

Leaders: Ron Karpel, Kelly Maas, Rick Booth

Contact: Ron Karpel, email: ronny@karpel.org (W)510-771-3231

This is a restricted outing of the Sierra Club. To participate, you must be a Sierra Club Member. Participants must be experienced on class 3 terrain and will be required to use a helmet.

Our practice will emphasize safe rock climbing using rock climbing gear. The goal is to cover the kind of rock climbing situations one might encounter during mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada. We will practice climbing rock routes of class-4 and easy class-5 (up to about 5.4) levels. Participants will train in general use of ropes, tying knots, using harnesses, using protection devices, setting anchors, using slings and biners, providing belay to leaders top rope belay to followers, tying in to a belay station, using belay devices, and practice rappelling. We do not intend to train in leading rock climbing.

The theory session will take place in a suitable location in the Bay Area (the Peninsula Conservation Center is one option). The practice itself will take place in the Pinnacles National Monument.

### Ohlone Traverse

Peak: Conditioning hike  
 Date: April 8  
 Leaders: Cecil Anisoncecilann@earthlink.net (408)395-4525, Vreni Rau, (510)582-5578

Please come with us for a 20 mile hike from Del Valle to Sunol. With multicolored carpets of wildflowers, the Ohlone Wilderness Area is in its finest form. We hope to smell some of them along the way by hiking at a moderate pace. A key-exchange will make this a one-way trip.

**Last weekend a climber took a bad fall off Half Dome, crushing half his body. His left arm and left leg were both amputated. But don't worry, he's all right now.**

## Mt. Silliman

Saturday, January 22, 2000

We made excellent time leaving the bay area and arrived at the Lodgepole campground in less than 5 hours on Friday. Saturday morning the sky was clear and we started at 830.

There were others who camped nearby who also set off to ice climb, though it seemed too warm (the river was flowing).

The trail was easy to follow even with a few inches of snow (mostly ice), and we saw many footprints of recent travelers. After 2-2.5 miles we turned right to walk up the river, while the footprints continued up the trail. A faint use trail was visible in places that had no snow.

Around the 8000-foot level we put on instep crampons to make the going a little easier on the hard snow/ice. The correct thing to do would have been to keep following the river and follow the right fork once it splits. Then go up to Silliman Lake, but we were veering more and more to the right of the river to make the going less of a bushwhack, and foolishly decided to climb up to the ridge. This turned out to be very steep and hard snow at the top, but once we got up to the ridge it was quite easy.

Eventually we got to the part of the ridge directly across from Silliman and we realized that to follow this ridge all the way to the summit would involve many more steep ups and downs. But the descent to Upper Silliman lake looked equally steep and treacherous with the thick ice layer. Around this time the wind started howling and clouds began to fly by overhead.

We followed the ridge for another hour and found a snowy slope down to the upper lake (in the summer this would probably be class 3 but the hard snow made it much easier). From here it was a quick snowshoe to the summit in the soft mushy afternoon snow (1-2 feet on the ground).

As we got to the summit all clouds disappeared and the wind stopped, giving us incredible views in all directions. The Kaweahs looked especially striking. Even more incredible was the sea of clouds that lay below us to the west at the ~6500 foot level from which tops of peaks stuck out! Bakersfield and the whole central valley had a completely foggy day while the peaks were in the sun.

After digging out the register, I noticed that many of the pages seemed to be eaten by mice/rats/marmots/hungry hikers?! The canister looked intact. It was left open in the summer.

We were the first group on the summit in 2000, and after taking many photographs we didn't start down until 3:45.

From the upper lake we followed the course of the river to where it splits and followed that back down to the trail. We made it to the campground at 6 just as night fell. If we had followed this route up, it would have taken only 3-4 hours (6 miles, 4500 feet gain). Sunday the plan was to do Alta, but the weather Gods foiled those plans.

After some photography in the sequoia groves we took off when the snowfall became really heavy. We escaped from the snowy part of the road minutes before chain requirements were posted - one in every 3 cars that we saw driving out had crashed into the rocks or trees alongside the road.

The relatively short mileage and mild slopes (if you go up the easy way!) make Silliman a really good winter dayhike. If you have time to go up to one of the highpoints on the ridge on the other side of the lake, you also get a good view of the area between Silliman and Alta Peak/Pear Lake, which is obstructed from the real summit.

• *Joe Budman and Alex Kuperman*

## Kilimanjaro 2000

Jan 17-23, 2000 (summit Jan 22nd)

At the bottom is a list of participants, several URLs to other reports from our group, the URL where you can mail order a good topo map, the email address of our guide/hotel, and GPS waypoints for some points along the route. I was frustrated by a lack of solid info about a climb that has thousands of people on it every year, so please forgive my overuse of numbers in the report that follows. Also beware "the tyranny of a single data point", since conditions and weather patterns that we encountered may not be typical.

We had an overnight layover in Amsterdam and two nights in Tanzania before the climb. That was long enough for several of us to start having cold, flu, and GI tract problems... no surprise when you cross 11 time zones and eat unusual food after washing your hands with water that is unsafe to drink. (I know, the guides are fond of saying that all the water is just fine, but a bunch of us got sick anyway.)

Already popping Cipro pills, and after two nights in the Marangu Hotel (4700', waypoint MARHOT), we bounced up a very dusty road to the Machame trailhead (6200', waypoint MACHTH) where we all signed in and ate lunch. It was all uphill to the Machame Hut camp (10200', waypoint MACHAM) with some mud deep and sticky enough to remove Rebecca's shoe. (Did I mention she was hiking in running shoes because the brace around her stress-fractured-ankle hurt in hiking boots?)

One of our duffels showed up late to camp the first day, and we never saw that porter again. For the rest of the climb, our tent was up and our duffels were waiting by the time we got into camp. I had brought my own Sierra Designs expedition tent, wanting something more sturdy and roomy than the standard trekking tents Marangu provides, and it was always an adventure to see how the complicated poles were rigged since the porters had never seen a tent like this before. None of the "huts" on this route are what you could call climbing huts - they were used for cooking only by other groups, and we were seldom camped within sight of them. The first campsite was near treeline, and featured a stagnant pool of drinking water that made those who brought water filters glad we had them. My 4 micron pre-filter clogged every two quarts, and needed frequent backflushing, but did protect the main filter element.

Day 2 dawned damp but clear, and we headed up the steeper trail as the temps dropped and the clouds built in. By noon, our group was well spread out. Those of us at the back could no longer see the front when they stopped for lunch and hot tea, so my plan to light a Twinkie and have the whole group sing for my wife's birthday fell apart. By the time we reached camp (2:30pm) it was starting to sprinkle and my (unrefrigerated? 2 day old?) beef sandwich lunch was exploding in my gut, so I skipped dinner in what turned out to be the low point of the trip for me health-wise. I managed to drag myself out of the tent and present the "birthday cake" twinkies (with 39 wooden matches standing in for candles), but mostly tried to sleep it off.

Shira Camp is at 12800' (waypoint SHIRAH), but we hit 13000' that day as the trail popped up onto the plateau. GREAT scenery here, by the way, with scrub brush and moss on the rocks but no streams except the murky one in camp. The experts say you're supposed to gain 1000 to 1500 feet per day to avoid altitude sickness. We stayed at 4500', 10000', and then 13000'. People weren't feeling all that great, and we were looking forward with false hopes to an easier third day.

Day 3 saw us leaving camp as much earlier clouds started to form. Overnight temps had been in the 20s (F), and threading our way along sandy paths between volcanic boulders was a sharp contrast to the jungle that was behind us. The Cipro was working (both on my GI problem and my bronchial infection?), and I selected a spot near the back of the group to establish a plodding but sustainable pace. Rebecca had never been over 10000' before, so every step was a new personal altitude record... and an exercise in pacing herself.

Seamus had said there was a 15.5k pass, but I think it was more like 15k. Actually, there were two or three cold ridges to cross in the blowing fog-clouds, each adding to the day's gain, before we dropped steeply down to Barranco Camp at 13200' (waypoint BARNCO). Along the way we saw our only good clear-water stream of the trip, and I pumped a couple quarts of cold water as we relaxed in the sun before waking up the guide and finishing the day.

Day 4, and we're losing people. Betty had turned back after the first day, and now Leanne and Dixie were headed out via the Umbwe Trail - as much to avoid climbing "the wall" out of Barranco as anything else. The trail climbs steeply up a cliff face, looking very exposed from below, and there are one or two places where hands should be used. The maps are all wrong here, since the trail climbs in and out of valleys where the map shows a level traverse.

We did 1200' of climbing, 1400' of dropping, and wound up in the Karanga Valley (13000', waypoint KARANG) where our guide wanted to spend the night even though we had all paid extra for a layover day at high camp. Continuing up to Barafu Camp involved 2400' of additional gain and would take us over 15000', but staying in Karanga meant we'd have only half a night at high camp before the summit. We were told there was no place to camp between the valley and high camp, but that was not true. We walked by several areas that were flatter than our site at Barafu. Since all the water had to be carried up from the valley to high camp, stopping somewhere halfway up would have been easier on the porters.

But wait, there's MORE! The group voted to stay in Karanga Valley, as our guide requested, but someone in the other lunch tent started a stampede and we headed up the trail shortly after voting not to. I still haven't gotten anyone to tell me what happened in the other tent, but someone there should have a role in presidential politics! As an added bonus, it started raining just after we started walking, and the rain slowly turned into snow which accumulated on us and the ground as we lost sight of each other and plodded our way up the hill. Jeff stayed behind with altitude sickness, probably enhanced by a chest infection or the flu setting in.

Enrique arrived at Barafu way before the rest of us, and was astonished to find the porters (some dressed in thin cotton, no gloves, bad shoes) huddled under rock outcroppings to stay out of the still-falling snow. The guides, needing them to set up camp, threw handfuls of dirt and snow up under the overhangs to drive out the porters. As our climbers arrived, several were hypothermic (one took her temperature to check, another just got thrown into his sleeping bag). We should have stayed in the valley. It wasn't a very fun afternoon, and the long day probably stopped a couple of people from climbing the peak.

[Weinstein comments on this report: "I don't agree with your opinions or observations regarding staying at the Karanga valley. I believe the number of people who made the crater, and the relative health of those people (Ray aside), speaks for the

correctness of the decision to respect our original itinerary, and the height of the mountain. In any case, most everyone seemed to enjoy the vacation and to complete it safely. In the final analysis, that's all that matters."]

Day 5 was a layover day at Barafu (15300', waypoint BARAFU). Some people did an afternoon hike about 1000' higher, but most of us laid around in our tents. Some had headaches that lasted the entire time we were at high camp, the result of climbing too fast too soon. Others were having GI problems, and I think a few tossed it, but I just read my book and tried to keep drinking fluids. Jeff showed up after all, but didn't feel well even though his climb had been broken into two days.

Summit Day! Up at 11pm, walking at midnight, our guides set a pace so slow that even the sick among us could keep up. They kept us in a tight group for quite a while, but as various people turned back each of them took a guide with them. Others who weakened had a guide assigned to them (carrying day packs, in some cases steadying them as they climbed). As we climbed, it started to snow again: This was good news and bad news! It was far degrees warmer than just a few nights before, when climbers reported below-zero (F) temps, and the thin skiff of snow which collected on the ground reflected the full moon so we could see better. On the other hand, the wind and high humidity really made the 15F temp feel much colder. I had my baffled gore-tex down parka and expedition mitts on, and was not overly warm. This is the first time I've used chemical handwarmers in those mitts when it was above zero (F), and I've never buttoned up the down coat while climbing (not even on Denali's summit!). I was not at my best, still fighting off various ailments and afflictions, but pacing myself was easy on the mostly-dirt trail.

As dawn approached, we were within sight of Stella Point. The group took almost no rest breaks, but I was stopping on my own to fiddle with boots and gloves, and to tank as much water as I could. (Seamus said not to drink more than a quart, and we were provided nothing to eat for the 10+ hour summit climb, but I sloshed down 2 quarts of water and about 1500 calories of snacks brought from home.) A short sprint to the crater rim (waypoint STELLA) allowed some sunrise photos INTO the crater, plus a nice sunrise shot of the rest of the group. It was about a 45 minute stroll over to the high point on low-angle trail from there to the high point (waypoint UHURUP, 19.3k).

As far as I can tell, Kilimanjaro refers to the entire mountain with many summits, Kibo refers to the highest volcano which is part of Kilimanjaro, and Uhuru Peak is the high point on the rim of the Kibo crater. Our arrival at Stella Point put us between Gillman's Point, where the standard route reaches the rim, and Uhuru.

By Stella Point, our group was mixed with others and we had no idea how many had turned back. At the summit, we thought about 12 people had made it. As we headed down some time later, we were surprised to pass several of our group still ascending (in all, 20 out of 30 made it all the way to Uhuru). At least one of the late arrivals was unresponsive, not looking at me or acknowledging my greeting, but no one keeled over and died. Does that mean we were safe, or that we got away with it? Ray turned back at Stella after his vision started to go - later examination suggests it was early cerebral edema, with the vision problems caused by a burst blood vessel in the eye. His vision returned in a day or two, but it was frightening to know that he could not descend on his own even after a rest in Barafu.

The descent back to camp went very quickly, aided by guides who knew where to charge down sandy chutes and where to cross rock ribs. Generally the return route stayed north of the ascent route between Stella and Barafu. We relaxed in camp until the last

people returned (several hours later), then headed down the Mweka Trail. From sand to rocks to mud, it was a damn long way down to our final camp (waypoint D6CAMP, which may or may not be the Mweka Hut at about 10000'). We passed one hut along the way, where people offered us water, but continued to the lower camp where you can buy beer. It rained within minutes of the last person reaching camp, but no one cared.

NOTE: Waypoints&pictures are in the web version of this report: <http://www.climber.org/TripReports/2000/kilimanjaro.html>

• *Steve Eckert*

## Traipsing Around Tucson 2000

In February, Gretchen and I traveled to Tucson, Arizona so that she could exhibit her mineral collection at The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, the largest show of its kind in the world. While in Tucson, we went on several hikes in the area. In the March 1999 Scree, I gave a trip report on three hikes I took last year. This year I had to do get out and do some hiking. While the Sierra is socked in with snow pack, Tucson is enjoying temperatures in the upper 70's.

### Waltzing up Wasson

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mt Wasson at 4687 Ft is the highest peak in the Tucson Mountains, the range that borders the city to the west. The trailhead starts at about 2800 Ft and the distance to the top is 4.6 miles. We started at 10:27 AM and I summited at 1:02 PM. Gretchen summited 10 minutes later. We left the summit 35 minutes later at 1:37 PM. One interesting feature at both the head of the trail and close to the summit was a logbook where we signed our names, city, time of entry, time of exit on return, and whether we had water. This is a good idea from a safety standpoint so that rangers can know where to look if a person is missing. We took a slower pace so that we would not become dehydrated in the desert sun. We wanted to conserve our energy and our water. We arrived back at the car at 4:30 PM.

The trail and Wasson Peak is located in the western section of the Saguaro National Park. Here you see an exceptional display of the giant Saguaro Cacti as you climb the peak. Saguaro cacti can grow as tall as fifty feet, live to as old as 150 years, and weigh as much as eight tons. Here you can see the cacti in all stages of growth ranging from tiny plants a few inches tall to 30-foot giants with as many as eight arms. The cacti grow straight up like a narrow pole until they reach seventy-five years in age. Then they will sprout their characteristic arms, which first appear as tiny buds.

Although Wasson's 4687-foot summit is nowhere close to the elevation of the 12000-14000 footers where we hike in the Sierra, it is still a very respectable peak climb offering spectacular views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We have to ask ourselves why climb a peak in the first place. Do we climb to see what elevation we can achieve? Do we do it for exercise? Do we climb to see the scenery along the way? Do we climb for the great views? For me personally, I climb for all of these reasons. Even though this peak is a relatively low peak, it still offers all aspects of class 1 climbing. Also I enjoy seeing different plant life. The Sonora Desert is like no other place on earth.

• *Bob Bynum*

## Tinker Knob

Saturday February 19, 2000

After getting back from Tinker Knob last week, I saw that both a ski tour and a snowshoe trip there are planned for March, so we probably should have climbed a different peak... Anyway, hope this helps people going to that area soon:

We started on the little turnout from 89 south marked O8/Pole Creek. A few skiers and snowshoers had been on this road in the previous days, but there were still lots of powder and snowshoes became necessary almost immediately as the sun came out and the temperature climbed.

The road is quite curvy in places (we stayed on O8 - a few other roads branch from it) but gets you up to 8000' quite fast. It took us about 2 and a half hours to get to the brand new Bradley Hut, which is apparently open for free for the public.

We saw many ski turns on Silver Peak and surrounding slopes, but no skiers. We went up to the pass in the ridge just to the right of peak 8597', which was very heavily corniced, as were many parts along the ridge. Besides the possibility of those sliding, the avalanche danger seems to be fairly low in this area once a few sunny days help consolidate the snow...

We dropped about 500' from the main crest (the slopes are much steeper higher up), meeting what must have been the PCT since we followed a pretty well-cleared path through the trees to the plateau 200' below Tinker Knob. There was a group of about 30 skiers taking a class from some guiding company, so the summit wasn't too quiet that day! Views in all directions were nevertheless excellent.

I originally had the overly ambitious plan of traversing to Granite Chief, but the powder had made the going slower. The traverse seems to involve plenty of elevation loss and gain - many of the peaks along the way have very steep summits and shoulders, so it's probably easier to follow the PCT route approximately.

Any skiers going there this winter might be interested/amused by a HUGE ski jump that was built about 1/4 mile west of the summit, at the edge of the summit plateau area. It's hard to exaggerate how big it is, and the slope a few feet out increases to well over 45 degrees!

No matter how much new snow falls this winter, I'm sure this jump will remain visible. If you dig out the middle, you'll have a snow cave with room for a small army.

• *Joe Budman*

**Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were on a camping trip.**

**They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Holmes said,**

**"Watson, look up. What do you see?"**

**"Well, I see lots of stars."**

**"And what does that mean to you?"**

**"Well, I guess it means we will have a nice day tomorrow."**

**"What does it mean to you, Holmes?"**

**"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."**

## 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 Tinker, And Beyond!

Peaks: Mt Judah (8243), Mt Lincoln (8383), Anderson Pk (8683),  
Tinker Knob (8949), Granite Chief (9006)  
Rating: "Class 2" snow, no ice axe or crampons  
Date: Sun, Mar 12  
Contact: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

This is a ski traverse over intermediate terrain, timed to coincide with another group's snowshoe trip. We'll start together, and the snowshoers will return from Tinker Knob while the skiers complete the traverse from Sugar Bowl to Squaw Valley. If we have time for Granite Chief at the end of the day, there will be one black diamond run and we'll finish on groomed slopes. With GC, it's close to 15 miles and 5000' of gain, but there are ways we can shorten it (like taking the ski lift to start, and skipping GC.)

### Roustabouts Roundabout Roundtop

Peak: Roundtop  
Date: March 19, 2000  
Details: Roundtop, 10,381 feet, snow/winter  
Contacts: Arun Mahajan arun@tollbridgetech.com,  
(w)408-585-2114, (h)after 9 pm: 650-327-8598  
Adrienne Van Gorden, 831-728-2160

The locals of the quaint town of Jackson, Ca, pick daffodils and dandelions this day to herald the arrival of spring. Paying no heed to this mushy stuff, we gnarly souls from the PCS will attempt to climb Roundtop in snowshoes or skis with axes and crampons on the ready for the final summit ridge. Meet at 8 am at the Carson Pass snowpark on Sunday the 19th of March (remember to get a snow park permit else face the hefty fine). Snowshoes or skis for the approach and axe and crampons for the summit ridge needed. Basic ability to use axe/crampons a must. Get adequate warm and windproof winter clothing and footwear. We should be back to the cars by 3pm.

### Waddell Beach to Saratoga Gap/Highway 35

Date: May 13, 2000  
Time: Before Daylight  
Contact: Joan Marshall (jmarshall@legato.com or eves.  
408-972-8222) Claire Marshall  
(clairem14@excite.com) Bonnie Ruesch  
bruesch@worldnet.att.net Bob Suzuki (408-  
259-0772 rsuzuki@dsptlg.com)

Details: Rated 6E, 28 miles, approx. 4,500 ft. gain  
Hike may take twelve hours, depending on how much partying and lollygagging goes on. Many of you have done this hike downhill, but how about UPHILL? Some of us crazies would like to try it. But, we will need help and lots of planning to make it work. That's why the notice is going out SO early! It would be fun to organize another group of hikers going down, (those who have to work on getting the knees in shape) to meet the Uphill Crazies somewhere in the middle for dessert and drinks. Also, looking for kind souls willing to volunteer to shuttle these sick, sick, people to Waddell Beach at an ungodly hour in the morning, or shuttle them back to Waddell Beach in the evening. Leaders are working on some sort of reimbursement, but right now the reward is good Karma. All participants must sign up, and be experienced day hikers.

### Spring Split Break

Peaks: Split Mtn (14,042), Mt Prater (13,471)  
Rating: "Class 3" snow, ice axe & crampons but no rope  
Dates: Sat-Sun, May 13-14  
Contact: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

Get high this spring! People seem to like the 14ers, so I've agreed to go back to Red Lake (10500) and bag Split from the east side. We should have steep hard snow, not the rubble you'll find here in the summer, so you must be comfortable with self arrest and crampon techniques. If time allows, we'll get Prater on the way back from the saddle between them. If you haven't been to Prater, beware the 10' knife edge that pushes the Class 2 rating.

### Feather Peak

Peak: Feather Peak (13,242 ft.), Class:4 snow  
Date: May 27-29  
Contact: Kai Wiedman, (650)347-5234

Feather Peak is a striking landmark dominating the Royce Lakes basin. As a climbers' peak, known not only for its isolation but for its difficulty by any route, it has earned the respect of many a Sierra climber. We will attempt the North Couloir featured in the book "Sierra Classics."

### 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.

### Mt. Shasta via Avalanche Gulch

Date: June 23 - 25, 2000  
Details: Mt. Shasta, 14,161 feet, class 2/snow  
Contacts: Joan Marshall jmarshall@legato.com  
Beginners Trip. No Leader.  
Backpack. Details to come later. Trip limited to six.

### San Benito County Peaks

Peaks: Laguna Mountain & others in San Benito County  
Date: No set date  
Contact: Bill Hauser, 408-243-4566  
Bill Hauser is looking for people to climb San Benito County Peaks.

### Nepal

Peak: Chulu West, 20,500 ft.  
Date: October, 2000  
Contact: Warren Storkman, 650-493-8959,  
dstorkman@aol.com

Climb or Trek, We'll combine both for the ultimate adventure. The trekking peak is Chulu West, 20,500ft. Its rating classifies it as moderate-difficult. Chulu West is on the Annapurna circuit, north of the village of Braga. After the climb we pass over the Thorung La Pass (17,700 ft) Our walk down to beautiful Muktinath brings us to a Hindu religious setting. You'll see many older Indians from India who made this arduous journey. Most of the older people consider this visit the fulfillment of their religious life. Before reaching Jomson Airport, there will be a side trip to Kagbeni, a village that lost its way in time. It's a 19 day trek from Besisahar, return from Jomson

## Elected Officials

### Chair:

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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.

Visit our website at **climber.org/pcs**

## Subscriptions and Email List Info

Hard copy subscriptions are \$10. Subscription applications and checks payable to "PCS" should be mailed to the Treasurer so they arrive before the last Tuesday of the expiration month. If you are on one of the email lists the PCS uses (either the sierra-nevada@climber.org discussion list or the california-news@climber.org read-only list), you have a free **EScree** subscription. For online info, send Email to info@climber.org. **EScree** subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge. All subscribers are requested to send a donation of \$2/year to cover operating expenses *other* than printing the **Scree**. The **Scree** is on the PCS web site (as both plain text and Adobe Acrobat/PDF) at <http://www.climber.org/pcs/Scree/index.html>

## Rock Climbing Classifications

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

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

**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 3/26/2000. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.**



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