



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

Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 9
Time: 7:30 PM
Program: Annapurna III, Southwest Buttress

In October 1978 a team of people including Ann Reynolds made their way to Annapurna III with the objective of climbing the southwest buttress.

Avalanche conditions on the mountain forced them to rethink their route and a line up the west face was chosen. Join us for a slide show by Ann Reynolds recounting this journey.

A \$2 donation is requested for the slide show.

Location Peninsula Conservation Center 3921 East Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto, CA

Directions: From 101: Exit at San Antonio Road, Go East to the first traffic light, Turn left and follow Bayshore Rd to the PCC on the corner of Corporation Way. A sign marking the PCC is out front. Park behind.

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 1/28/2001 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Wilderness First Aid

To help trip leaders and would-be leaders get the required First Aid certificate, the Chapter sponsors a First Aid class each quarter, based on a nationally recognized first aid text, but with added material and emphasis on wilderness situations with no phone to dial 911. The next First Aid classes will be Saturday, Jan 13 and Sunday, Jan 14 at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto (from Bayshore/Hwy. 101 at San Antonio, turn toward the Bay; turn left at 1st stoplight, then right at Corporation Way to park behind PCC). Class is 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (1 hour for your bag lunch) and is limited to 12 people. To sign up, send choice of day, and a check for \$40 with a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to: Health Education Services, 200 Waverly, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Cancellations get partial refund if a substitute attends (you get to keep the Wilderness First Aid book). For more information, call 650-321-6500.

• Marg Ottenberg

2001 Publicity Committee

The PCS Publicity Committee for the year 2001 is the following:

Mailings: Paul Vlasveld
Listmaster: Steve Eckert
Webmaster: Jim Curl
Scree Editor: Bob Bynum

I will announce the various e-mail addresses and contact information once I get that straightened out.

We can also use more help with the printing and mailing. If you are interested, please contact me.

• Rick Booth, PCS PubComm Chair

Farewell As Webmaster

Back in 1994, when the world wide web was young, Silicon Graphics CEO Ed McCracken instructed all employees that the web was our future. He arranged to provide an internet server on the SGI site to be used for employees personal sites and for community service pages. I jumped at the opportunity, and without stopping to obtain permission from the Sierra Club, I created the first PCS web site on the SGI server. When I began, there were only 1.7 million pages on the entire web; today, if it is even still possible to count all the pages, there must be billions.

Over the six years that followed, through many changes, I have endeavored to maintain an interesting, informative, attractive presence web for the PCS. Several active members have told me that they discovered the PCS via online search engines. There is no praise more gratifying than knowing that I helped recruit climbers and expand our membership.

Incoming publicity committee chair Rick Booth has asked Jim Curl to take my place as pcs-webmaster. Jim is an excellent choice.

He is bright and industrious, and will bring fresh ideas to the PCS web site. I wish Jim well, and offer him my assistance during the transition.

I'll continue to be webmaster@climber.org. I look forward to seeing you on the internet and on the crags. Thank you all for your readership and support these past six years.

• Aaron Schuman

Farewell as Publicity Committee Chair

This is to announce that Rick Booth will be replacing me as Chair of the Publicity Committee, effective immediately.

I would encourage those with suggestions or complaints (of which I have received none) to contact Rick as he charts a new course.

Dee Booth feels that the PCS needs new ideas and that neither the Scree nor the website have "evolved" recently. I believed that delegating authority to the Editor and Webmaster was an appropriate way to let volunteers do an uncompensated task, and I think they did their jobs well!

I'm sorry if I have failed in any way. However, during my tenure I have gone out of my way to do things like putting old issues of Scree online, setting up searchable trip archives, and fighting for policies that have demonstrably increased the number of trips listed and the circulation of the newsletter.

Again, contact Rick if you want to influence our publications and make the PCS more the way you like it (whether that is larger or smaller or calmer or more exciting). If you don't speak up, you don't have a voice.

• *Steve Eckert*

Ice Climbing Anyone

I am keeping a list of people interested in ice climbing so that trips, etc can be organized. We are also using californiatech@climber.org.

We have been mostly going to Lee Vining and Ouray, CO. Some Tahoe. If you have access to these areas and are interested let me know.

• *Rick Booth, rwbooth@home.com*

Scree Input Wanted

The Scree is your newsletter. You, the PCS member determine its content. In the past I have used your trip reports and trip announcements as material for this newsletter. Also I have summarized gear discussions from the email broadcast lists.

We need to have those of you who are leaders lead official PCS trips. Also we need more of you to become leaders.

If there is anything that any of you specifically want in the Scree, please send it to me.

• *Bob Bynum, Scree Editor*

Annual Snow Camping Seminar

Class Dates: Tuesday, February 27, 2001
Thursday, March 1, 2001
Tuesday, March 6, 2001.

Field Trip: mid-March (exact weekend TBD)

Contact:

Chris MacIntosh,
cmaci@attglobal.net,
650-325-7841, or
Tom Wolf, twolf@snaptrack.com
650-961-2682

Annual Snow Camping Seminar will be held later in the season than before.

This course prepares you for camping happily in the snow, and gives tips for day skiers or snowshoers caught out overnight. Participants must be experienced summer backpackers as this course will give you winter information and tips but doesn't teach basic backpacking.

Sign up details and form will appear in the February 2001 Loma Prieta.

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.

Pyramid Peak

Peak: Pyramid Peak, Class 2, 9,983'
Date: January 13-15, Saturday-Monday
Leader: Palmer Dyal, H: 650-941-5321,
pdyal@msn.com
Topo: Pyramid Peak 7.5'

This will be a moderately-paced 3 mile snowshoe trip to climb a relatively easy peak in the Desolation Wilderness area southwest of Lake Tahoe. The elevation gain is about 1000' per mile and we plan to camp at tree line.

We will have time to build snow caves on the first day and view the marvelous glaciated scenery of the whole Tahoe basin from the peak on the second day.

There will be a choice of returning on Sunday or Monday depending on the weather, etc. This will be a good trip for beginning climbers.

Junipero Serra Peak

Peak: Junipero Serra Peak, 3D.
Date: Sun, Jan 14
Leaders: Arun Mahajan 650/327-8598 (H) or 408/585-
2114 (W), arun@tollbridgetech.com
Ron Karpel ronny@karpel.org.

Named after Friar Junipero Serra, the founder of the Missions, this peak is the highest in Monterey county. The walk up is mildly strenuous with an altitude gain of 3900+ ft, 6 miles one way on trail, but the view is well worth the effort. There may be snow on the summit, so please dress properly and wear proper hiking boots.

Pouring rain cancels.

Carpool: Carl's Jr. at Dunne Ave exit from 101 in Morgan Hill 7:00 a.m. or call leader for trailhead information.

Book Review:

Joshua Tree National Park Guide Books

There are several guide books to the rock climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. The original books were written by John Wolfe. I am fortunate to have a copy of the second printing of the original guide book to what was then the National Monument. It is 80 pages long and describes perhaps 200 routes. Many now classic 11's were originally described as aid routes! Now, there are over 4000 routes in the now National Park and more are added all the time.

There are two sets of guide books to Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP). The first guide book of interest is "Joshua Tree Rock Climbing Guide" by Randy Vogel. This was published by the Chockstone Press in 1992. The Chockstone Press was apparently sold to Falcon Publishing and now this guide book has been *reprinted* by Falcon. The now orange and white Joshua Tree guide book is a reprint and there is no new information in the reprinted guide although some numbering errors may have been corrected.

Randy Vogel's book is probably the essential basic guide to own. This book describes all of the climbing areas in the monument with one notable exception. The guide is partitioned into the various geographic sections of the monument and there are hand drawn maps at the beginning of each section illustrating how to find the various rock formations. The routes are documented with pictures of many of the formations and the routes are sketched out on each of the photographs. Using the guide book is fairly easy. If you are in an area described by the book it is easy to go to that area and read about the routes available. On the other hand, if you have a known route in mind then the index allows you to find the route and then go to the page and route description of that route. The only serious problem with this guide is that hand drawn maps usually leave out too much detail to accurately find anything specific especially if there is no picture printed to illustrate the route(s). As an example, I have been going to Joshua Tree for over twenty years and to this day I have no idea how to find "Room to Shroom" and there is a picture for that route! That said, if you are an occasional visitor to JTNP then this guide is the one to have. It is reasonably accurate, contains most of the routes, and is the lowest cost of the two options. Mr. Vogel has published two other guides for Joshua Tree and they are "Joshua Tree Select", 1990, and "Joshua Tree Sport Climbing", 1992. These two guides are also published by Chockstone and are likely out of print as of today.

The other guides are by Alan Bartlett. These are partitioned into seven separate sections in seven books. The claim is it makes for less weight when packing into the various sections of the park but I suspect the real reason is the guides could be released over the years while Mr. Bartlett worked on new sections of the park. Since each book runs about \$10 the cost of the seven sections is about \$70 which is about twice the cost of the Vogel guide. The Bartlett guides are, however, a very useful addition to the information store of the serious Joshua Tree aficionado. These guides have been released over the years of 1991 to 1998 by the Quail Springs Publishing Company which is located in the town of Joshua Tree. The Bartlett guides do not contain any photos but the topo descriptions of the routes are better and more accurate than the route descriptions in the Vogel guides. I once thrashed myself on a supposed overhanging off width 5.10d described in the Vogel guide only to discover that the route had no known first ascent as pointed out by Mr. Bartlett. Without the photographs, however, finding formations and routes with the Bartlett guides is very, very, difficult. The one section of Joshua Tree climbing not covered by the Vogel guide is the Chiriaco Summit area which is described in the "Rock Climbs of Pinto Basin" guide by Mr. Bartlett. This section of the park is of interest if you are at JTNP

during the winter and the weather has gone bad. Chiriaco Summit is lower and warmer.

Another guide of interest to JTNP is "Joshua Tree Bouldering" by Mari Gingery, also by Quail Springs Publishing. With the latest bouldering craze the second edition of this guide is a handy addition.

All guide books seem to have their limitations. Joshua Tree is so popular we are fortunate to have two guides to the park. Both sets of guides are valuable sources of information for the dedicated Joshua Tree climber. For the occasional visitor the Vogel guide is probably the one to choose.

Finally, there are many ways to visit Joshua Tree. Camping is available, most of it for no cost. Visit the Joshua Tree web site at nps.gov to find the latest information about camping at the park.

• *Rick Booth*

San Jacinto

Tram/Summit Dayhike

April 16, 2000

Driving out the night before to Palm Springs seems to be an ideal strategy for setting up to do what's now often referred to as "just" the "tram hike", an 8000' gain trail from near downtown Palm Springs, CA (about 500') to the tram station at 8500'. Last Saturday night, Palm Springs was more of a carnival setting with masses of spring breaker kids suffocating the main street through town, complete with police on horseback and clogged traffic -- entertaining to say the least. A surreal setting so close to a hiking trailhead though. Be that as it may, the "camping" at either the Desert Museum's lot or at the west end of Ramon Road are "adequate". Craig and I both slept in our vehicles at Ramon Road, but there are plenty of brushy areas nearby that would work as well, just keep a low profile, that is, be stealthy. :->

Sunday morning, Scott and Elena (who had camped at the Museum's lot) arrived about 4:45 and the four of us were on the trail at 5:15. Unknown to us, David Harris was nearby, but had misunderstood my trailhead directions.

The first mile or so of this trail has some deceptive spurs that must be avoided (in the dark) and we successfully navigated around them to intersect the spur access trail that begins from the Desert Museum. From here, the trail is in excellent condition and we made good time with only a few breaks along the way.

The morning's sunrise was a spectacular flaming orange fury through high clouds over the Orocopia Mountains and Coachella Valley. Keeping a strong pace, our group of four kept close together and we were passed by a lone female hiker about 8 AM that we never saw again. The weather remained cool for our ascent to the tram station (Long Valley), where we arrived at 11:30 for a short lunch. A cold breeze forced jackets. The final half mile to Long Valley is perhaps, the steepest section of the trail and a few non-threatening puddles of snow still remained.

After obtaining a mandatory hiking permit, we continued towards the summit despite reports of "solid snow". About a half mile beyond the ranger station, just after a stream crossing, indeed, snow was solid coverage except for a few small clear patches. Slippery too, but not as how stopper as it was only a thin blanket, no postholing. We were reconcerned about it icing up later in the day and this threat was enough to deter Craig who returned to his vehicle via the tram. The three of us continued on, following lots of footprints and trail fragments. About half way to Round Valley, I was stopped by a ranger (more like a high school kid on spring break) who "needed" to sign our permit, a rare event. Shortly thereafter, we came upon David Harris, who was returning from the summit after missing us at the trailhead. He had trammed up and was on his way back to the tram station, where we anticipated

he would meet Craig and drive him back to Ramon Road. We never saw either of them again.

So, on we trudged through Round Valley to Wellman Divide, where we arrive about 1:30. It was very cold and windy, so we layered up for the last 2.2 miles along mostly snowed-over trail. Leaving Wellman about 1:45, we arrived at the 10,804' summit block at 3:15, 10 hours after we'd started. Hazy skies obscured the long views, but it was clear enough to see the classic landmarks. We were all feeling well and I think our ascent time reveals we were a pretty strong group -- off (Sierra) season conditioning does pay off. After a few pictures and signing in at the cabin, we left there at 3:45 and arrived back at the tram station at 5:20. The snow facilitated a quick beeline descent off of Wellman rather than the zig-zaggy trail. Fortunately, the snow was still slushy and hadn't started to ice, but much later and we may have needed crampons or ice skates.

Our total time was almost exactly 12 hours for the 21 miles, 10,600' gain route, and I was able to shave 2 hours off last year's time. The final stairs up to the chalet's bar were as expected, grueling, but they were more than mitigated by a schooner (or two) of microbrewery's finest. Needless to say, we (or at least I) got a few stares from the "clean cut" tourist crowd. One "kind" tourist proclaimed: "here come the professionals". Well, our shoes were all soaking wet and we did look just a little ragged and weary. But, at least, our "look" was respectably earned.

We caught the (gratis) 6:30 tram down and a through some creative solicitation, obtained a ride back to Ramon Road from a vacationing family in their massive new Expedition truck. We departed Palm Springs near sunset, exhausted, but content with the day's efforts.

Thanks to Craig, Scott and Elena for their company and endurance. Same time next year?

• *Mark Adrian*

Picture Perfect Trip

May 2000

When I saw an SPS trip to climb three non-sps-list peaks I'd never been up, I immediately signed on! This was an "exploratory trip" with an ambitious schedule and an agenda of clarifying routes plus evaluating the peaks for possible addition to the SPS Peaks List.

The trail from Sabrina Lake was snow-free until about Blue Lake, patchy until Dingleberry Lake, and we were on solid snow above that. With a not-too-early start and leisurely breaks, it was about 3pm before we reached our camp on some dry slabs just below the outlet of Echo Lake. Most chose to remain in camp instead of attempting Powell that afternoon, but Secor and Stephens (leader and co-leader) set off with me in tow... and in doubt. I didn't set a specific turn-around time, but I told everyone I'd turn around when it became apparent we wouldn't get back to camp by 6:30. For me, that point came before 5pm, and I headed back to a windy camp that was already in the shadow of the surrounding peaks. Our brave leaders pressed on reaching the peak (via the snowfield I'll describe later) just after 6:30 and racing back to camp just before sunset. They left a register in nesting tin cans after finding an old Band-Aid can with nothing inside. This is the REAL Mt Powell, not the ones the USGS maps have improperly labelled as Powell, and not the one that's on the SPS list... see the waypoints below. There are three bumps that have been called Mt Powell: Secor refers to them as Point John, Point Wesley, and Point Powell, from west to east. See waypoints PTJOHN (the real Mt Powell as per the USGS in 1911, and the highest of the three), PTWESL (the west corner of a plateau), and PTPOWL (the north corner of a plateau, which the SPS has on its peaks list and which overlooks Sunset Lake).

Sunday morning we were up at first light, walking around 6:30am, after battling the wind all night and through breakfast. It wasn't the kind of wind that knocks you down, but it was the kind of wind that knocked Secor's pot off his stove and had me chasing down various items of clothing. Siering just packed out for reasons unknown, Waxman and Sulkin decided to do Powell instead of Clyde Spires (a shorter and easier day), so the remaining 5 of us walked across Echo Lake (with open water at the edges!) and cramponed up to Echo Col.

Traversing west from Echo Col (waypoint ECHOCL), under the 12955' shoulder labelled "Clyde Spires" on the 7.5' topo, we went from crampon hard ice to slush before we reached the south ridge of the true(?) Spires. Heading up the prow of the ridge, we stayed right of a cleaver and found mostly 2nd class climbing. Near the top we crossed the ridge and reached the notch between the two candidates for "high point of Clyde Spires".

Some explanation of Clyde Spires is required, and the waypoints below may help. Following the ridge from Wallace toward Echo Col, you hit a bump called Crumbly Spire (waypoint CRUMBL) which is 13240' and not interesting... even though it is higher than either of the points we climbed. Next you come to the west spire (waypoint CLYDEW) which is sometimes mistakenly referred to as the north peak. CSWest is really a spire, but receives only passing mention in the West Ridge route of Secor's second edition where it is described as a chimney climb. Next comes the notch we climbed to and then the east "spire" (waypoint CLYDEE) which isn't a spire at all (the summit mass is wider than it is tall). Secor's second edition says CSEast is lower, and a difficult slab climb. The two peaks (CLYDEW and CLYDEE) are just under a tenth of a mile apart, and are both at 13200' as far as I can tell from the 7.5' topo (shorter than CRUMBL).

Standing there between the candidates, we decided the west spire was by far the most like a spire and since we couldn't tell which was taller we headed west! It's 3rd class to the base of the spire, and we stayed on the south side or on the crest until we ducked north under a huge chockstone on the ridge. On the north side for about 10', we crossed back to the south and were stymied for a bit before finding a way around the south. About 20' of 4th class led us to the chimney that makes up the spire. This chimney can be protected by throwing a rope over the south rock and wriggling up onto its flat top: A bit of a stretch and you can reach the register on the north rock! A short rope and a couple of slings are adequate for these two bits of 4th class (on CLYDEW). The register is in a crummy PVC pipe placed by the UC's "Sierra Register Committee" in 1988, and its moldy pages claim this spire as the high point. No one has been there in 5 years.

We rapped back down to the chockstone, and over Secor's mild objections headed for the OTHER summit. (What's the point, when we've already found the register?) Reaching the summit mass (of CLYDEE), we understood the guidebook's "difficult slab" description. It's hard to protect, it's exposed, and it's steep if you follow the south ridge. Stephens figured it out after we all hunted around a bit: Go to the east ridge and follow it to the peak instead, where the worst move is a 3rd-class mantle (unless you don't like knife-edges. The south ridge to the east ridge is not described in Secor's second edition, and is easier than any of the routes described. There is an SPS register on top, and again no one has been there in 5 years!

So which of the Clyde Spires is higher? I used my angle-of-elevation compass arm to sight from CLYDEE to CLYDEW, and the east peak seems a bit higher. CRUMBL is about a tenth of a mile directly behind CLYDEW when viewed from CLYDEE, and only 40' higher according to the topo map. Sighting along the ridge, it seemed to me that about 200' of CRUMBL was visible above CLYDEW, again indicating that the east "spire" is higher. Neither of these observations changes my judgement that the west spire is REALLY A SPIRE, and I think the SRC register is on the

worthy peak (even though there are higher bumps on each side of it).

Aminian and I decided there was enough time left in the day to try traversing from Echo Col across the bowl and up the northwest face of Powell. Mistake. We should have gone back to Echo Lake and followed the route up the permanent snowfield on Powell's north face. We hit steep slabs with just a few inches of snow on them, but managed to find a 3rd-class way through the cliff band. Once higher on the slope, we kicked up slushy corn snow to the ridge at about 13000', which goes from 2nd to 3rd class as you approach the notch just west of the summit. I have no idea how hard the rock would be under all the snow we climbed. We had to drop a bit and traverse around the final obstacle on snow, then up easy third class to the summit from the notch. We made camp almost by 6:30, a 12-hour day with uncharted routes and vague beta that was one of the most varied and interesting days I've had in the Sierra.

The wind continued. All day, all night, all the next morning. It was getting a bit old, but Stephens had packed up a crisp salad with Bernstein's dressing that made dinner seem just a bit less dismal. Cheetos and chocolates rounded out the happy hour Aminian and I had missed, but we got remnants!

Monday saw four of us (Eckert, Geiger, Secor, Stephens) heading up Picture Peak (waypoint PICTURE) on crampons while the others slept in. We started early so the snow would be hard, but I was a bit surprised to find the surface texture felt unsecure: The top layer was probably fresh, and had a lot of air in it. When kicked, it would send a shower of crystals down the slope. The main risk was not getting the crampons fully into the solid layer underneath, but I think I was more bothered by the snow quality than the others. The chute we went up (from waypoint PICBOT to PICTOP) measured over 40 degree slope in places, and we stayed left as it branched twice. The snow got us to a couple hundred feet below the peak, leaving a moderate 3rd-class climb up and to the northeast. We enjoyed the view, ate Waxman's chocolates, and talked about petitions to change the peaks list before descending and packing out.

We didn't stay together packing out, but regrouped at Dingleberry where the temperature and view (and lack of wind) made for a VERY pleasant lunch stop. From there to Blue Lake the trail is hard to follow, and tracks in the snow tend to go everywhere you look. We stopped to check a map where the trail does a 180, and somehow lost sight of each other in about 30 seconds after deciding to regain the trail to the south. Two people met up where the trail crosses a stream, two people headed south for a bit and then (not seeing the other two) inexplicably turned around and went north. We waited on the trail for about 20 minutes, then decided the lost pair had a GPS and maps (and might even be in front of us after taking some brutal cross country route) and they were on their own. Fortunately, they saw us walking the trail on the other side of a drainage, and we all hiked to Blue Lake in close formation. Our luck continued, as we caught the three who had skipped Picture Peak just as they crossed the Blue Lake outlet... so Stephens got his group photo after all!

• *Steve Eckert*

Seven Gables

North Peak Direct East Face Grade IV 5.9

September 21-23, 2000

Participants: Risa Hvelasquez and Craig Clarence (author)

I wanted to finish the season with a remote alpine climb that I'd never heard anyone climbing, and Seven Gables seemed to fit the bill. Double digit approach mileage coupled with two cross country passes over 12,300 feet guaranteed a long approach day and no company on the route. The plan was to climb the North

Buttress of Merriam Peak on the way out, as the approach goes right under this impressive face. It turned out that trying to do both routes in 3 days was too much - we'll have to go back for Merriam.

I'd never met Risa but we had spoken a few times and she seemed up for an alpine route. I cleverly forgot to bring a map of the Seven Gables area so she was unable to note the long mileage and veto the idea. Seven hours into the approach from Pine Creek to Vee Lake in the Bear Creek drainage I was wishing she had. It took almost 10 hours from the car to make it to camp that night. We barely got dinner cooked and eaten before darkness and exhaustion drove us into our bags.

The crux of this route (besides the approach) was determining which peak to climb. Looking at Secor (2nd Edition) after I got back, I noticed he had drawn a line on the photograph of the south peak and labeled it the "Direct East Face." Not only was this not the route we climbed, it was not even on the same peak!

A note to John Moynier (co-author of the "100 Sierra Classics" book) quickly set things straight. The line drawn on the south peak and labeled "Direct East Face" in Secor's book is incorrect. The correct route is on the north peak, which is the prominent pyramid-shaped mountain on the right side of the picture in the "100 Sierra Classics" book. This means that the "Chimney Route" drawn into Secor's picture is also incorrect.

Moynier is a bit vague in his written description of this route, but I'd guess that the route we took more or less followed the first ascent line. Beginning at the middle of the north face, we headed up a series of corners and discontinuous cracks. About half way up the face is a prominent clean-looking dihedral which ends at the crest of the arete - we started underneath this dihedral and climbed through it. The dihedral itself turned out to be 40 feet of classic stemming and jamming over clean rock.

From the top of the dihedral the route follows the ever-steepening knife-edge arete to the summit of the north peak. I felt the final pitch was the crux, probably a bit harder than 5.9. Actually, the climbing on all 8 pitches was sustained and interesting. We saw no signs that anyone had ever been on the route, which I've found to be a rarity for climbs listed in the "100 Sierra Classics." Traversing from the north peak summit to the notch, we dropped our packs and scrambled up to the high point on the south summit. Legions of boy scouts/outward bounders/sierra clubbers had filled the register - kind of surprising considering the peak's relative remoteness.

The route took six hours, but by the time we got back to camp our original plans of packing up and moving back towards Merriam Peak were forgotten. We did a slow retreat the next morning.

The clean rock on this route, it's sustained nature, and the remote setting make this one of the most challenging and satisfying climbs I've done in the Sierra.

• *Craig Clarence*

Mt. Goddard

September 7-9, 2000

The SPS trip I was scheduled to go on had been canceled. Since I had already planned to take a day off from work, I had a choice to make: stay home (and work on the house), or plan another trip. After agonizing over the decision for several seconds, I decided on a solo attempt of Mt. Goddard from the west side.

The good news about a west side entry is that permits are not a problem (at least in this area). The woodchuck trailhead (where I left from) has no quota, and getting a permit requires nothing more than calling the ranger station and then picking up your permit in the night drop box. The bad news is that accessing the trailhead requires hours of driving (o.k only an hour and a half) on

winding mountain roads - a lot different than 75-80 MPH on highway 395.

I left the nearly deserted trailhead (one other truck) at 6:30 thursday morning on a route that would take me above wish on reservoir, up the woodchuck creek drainage, through crown pass, around scenic half moon lake, and eventually down to the north fork of the kings river where I made camp at 3:30 near some slabs along the river at ~9,500 ft. While the hike in was long (18+ miles), the trails were in good shape, the weather was perfect, and the elevation gain was administered gradually. My goal was to pick a campsite that would get me close enough to Mt. Goddard so that I could climb it in one long day - but not too close, otherwise I'd be hauling my backpack in (and out) farther than I needed to. In retrospect, I came close to that goal - faster hikers may be able to get away with staying a little farther away.

I was off the next morning at 6:30 again. From camp I angled northeast up into blackcap basin and through Lightning Corral Meadow using the high point on the ridge northwest of Ambition Lake to help guide me. After locating Ambition Lake, I went around it's south side and up a nice ramp northeast of the lake to Valor lake. You can get around Valor Lake on either side - the east side is shorter, but requires passing through a boulder field - the west side (which I took on the way back) is a little longer but is over easier terrain. Once around the lake, any one of several ramps will get you up to Valor Pass.

Descending from Valor Pass was a little tricky as I was trying to minimize the elevation loss while traversing over to the large gap above and east of Martha Lake. The most direct route was interrupted by several 30-40 ft cliffs which forced me to take more of a circuitous route than I'd hoped (some class 3 climbing required). Also, as I neared the point where the route turns east (north of peak 12,432), I ran into several other cliffs which slowed me down. Others may find it easier to simply descend to about 11,000 ft, follow the easier terrain on the east side of the lake, and then ascend to the gap.

As I approached the small lake at ~12,000 ft, the climbing became much more loose and crummy. I found the going a little easier (although not much) by staying north of the lake and on top of the various piles of rubble. At this point, I found some very interesting rock that had fractured off from a band up on the south side of Mt. Goddard. It was a "pinkish purple" color and very heavy. I continued heading northeast until I could see the large lake at 12,240 ft. at this point I could also see the chute that would get me up to the south ridge - it didn't look like much fun (loose) so I continued traversing the east slope hoping to find a more enjoyable route. On the way, I found what appeared to be a small piece (3'x4') of fuselage from a private airplane - no other wreckage was visible. After passing several other chutes, I found one that looked o.k. and started up it. It soon became disappointingly loose so I exited onto the left rib of the gully (south side) and followed it (class 3) up to the south ridge. From here, it was class 1 with a couple of easy class 3 moves to the summit, which I plopped onto at 12:30. After some lunch and soaking in the panoramic view, I headed back down. The return to camp was uneventful and I chugged back into camp at 5:00 ready for a soft rock and some hot tea.

Since I wanted to get home for dinner, I left the next morning at 4:30 and was treated to a beautiful sunrise as I hiked out of the canyon. As I approached the spur trail to Chimney Lake, I ran into the first humans on the trip (I'd had plenty of visits from deer, squirrels and sage grouse in my camp) - 2 guys who were heading in for a week long trip. These were the only other people I saw on the whole trip - a refreshing change from some of the more crowded trailheads. I eventually reached my truck at 1:30, and was back home in time for dinner.

•Ron Norton

Telescope Peak

October 28, 2000

Susan Carlsson & I left LA at about 4AM. Hit the trail at Mahogany Flats at 8:40. Mostly clear skys with only a small cirrus cloud on the horizon. Susan led all but 100 feet of the 14 miles. During the first hour she tells how she isn't feeling energetic and I started wondering if I should have brought a second flashlight. At the saddle south of Bennet peak the sky was covered with cirrus. At 10000 feet we had lunch and Susan had a coughing spell that set us back about a half an hour. I was thankful for the break as I was eating No-Doze like candy trying to keep up with her. We arrived at the summit at 1:40. Kern was already hidden by low clouds and now there were lenticular clouds forming up and down the Sierra. After chatting with the only other six people on the trail that day we left. Without stopping except to look at the rocks, trees and birds we made it back at 4:25 with plenty of daylight. Susan whipped that mountain into submission like it was a lazy thief. All night long the jet stream intermittently swept down and tried to blow up off the ridge. High of 42 Saturday and low of 38 that night. Cruised back to LA through Death Valley visiting the geological spectacles there. What a wonderful trip.

• Ed Lulofs

Joshua Tree Night Adventure

November 23-26, 2000

At Thanksgiving I had arranged to climb at Joshua Tree National Park (JT) with friends from the Bay Area. Thursday I hiked, Fri I rock climbed with the group around Indian Cove (IC) - beautiful weather. Three of the group, Nancy, Patty, and Tom had gone on a hike rather than climb Fri; a long loop via the "Boy Scout Trail" and intending to come back through Willow Hole, the Wonderland of the Rocks and Rattlesnake Canyon (RC). Another of their group had returned early from the trail part, but now it was dark and the 3 had not returned. By 9PM we (there were about 15 of us there) had weighed the plight of our missing hikers and did not feel the situation did not warrant calling search and rescue yet. The night temperatures would be well above freezing, and they were likely to have matches and the sense to find a safe way to spend the night. It seemed they had no flashlight either. We kind of decided to, at worst, wait until 9 AM before alerting the rangers.

I had been on the route before; there are a lot of rocks to get lost in, which would be much more difficult at night with no moon. In this kind of situation, there are unknowns, like somebody could be injured, and timely assistance could be very worthwhile. I felt like doing some more hiking and had had plenty of sleep the night before. Also, not many people have done that route and coming to ones aid, avoiding rescue involvement seems appropriate. It felt it would be a good challenge and the right thing to do, so I volunteered to go looking; I could not enlist anybody else, so I packed some things including 5 flashlights, spare batteries, and extra food, water, and clothing for the "victims" if I should find them. I brought also, mainly for my own safety, a sleeping bag, and tiny ham radio. At 10:15PM I was given a ride by Jim Curl over the day use gate and began walking.

RC is a great place to go with its rock caves, year-round water and trees, protection from wind and sun, and some crags for climbing. The route from the parking lot winds amidst the sand, boulders, water sculpted rocks and brush rocks for a half mile or so, then is a sandy canyon of about a mile, then climbs upward among large boulders. I knew the logical route was via an unmarked side canyon, and used my GPS and map as I went along. It was a good navigation exercise to find the canyon. I needed to be within 50

meters or so to be certain I would be on the right route rather than just trying the tapered canyon sides; all boulder fields and piles. It took me 30 minutes to figure it out because the map had no lines and I had to interpolate, draw without a ruler, approximate and fixate using my flashlight to figure out my location closely. Only hazy forms above was I able to distinguish in the starlight. So with some back and forth climbing I went upwards among the room-size boulders. It was mostly class 3 rock climbing or lower, above some deep holes, in and out and up and around the rocks. I did check position and altitude with the GPS; finally the steep drainage began to flatten out. I yelled every so often, hoping for a response.

I got to a little valley and vaguely remembered a rock face I saw ahead in outline. I continued up and around the drainages and remembered that before I had visited an interesting little shack that someone had fashioned under a large rock. The only prints were from hooves and paws; few humans venture back here. That is what is nice about it, and other wild backcountry in JT. A couple little valleys, and lo! I heard a response to my cry. At 1:30 AM I had found them! There they were, at the little shack, uncomfortable and tired but surviving okay. The clothes and water were very welcome, and they were warm enough; the area was not lacking in natural fuel. They still had some food, too. Apparently they had been wandering around as it got near dark and did not find a route back down to RC. The maps they had were not detailed enough either.

I then weighed the possibilities for going back. There were options of the trail end above, the trail end where they started, and another canyon down to IC. But I felt the way I came would get us back the quickest. Climbing there would be dangerous at night, so we elected to start a little before daylight, and get back hopefully before 9 AM. We then tried (but failed) to get some sleep, and lifted up our bodies (got up?) at 5:00. We were ready for our usual bath, lounge, miracle cream workover, massage, and champagne buffet, but could not locate the spa. (< ; So, packing our meager items and thoroughly erasing our traces we started out at 5:30. It was not fast getting down the bouldery route, finding and assisting at the moves using hand and foot holds. But I guided it safely and the weary group made good progress in the daylight. It was nice to walk again when we got to the sandy wash below the rock piles, later followed by another hundred or so yards of rock hopping. Then finally the RC parking lot and another mile up the road to the campsite, and got back to camp and the others at 8:00. A bit hungry and sleepy but safe and secure! Happy faces and food and comfort! All was well as we ate and rested. Ah, the memories of misery! Such adventures are the ones I don't forget, when I think of wild places. After receiving hearty thank yous, I still went rock climbing for 3 more good days at JT.

• Ron Hudson, rjhudson@att.net

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.

Lee Vining Ice Climbing

Peaks: Ice climbing in Lee Vining canyon
Date: Jan. 13 (afternoon) and 14
Contact: George Van Gorden 408 779 2320
Looking for some company to do top-roped ice climbing

Mt. Hoffman

Peak: Mt. Hoffmann, 10,500
Date: Feb. 17-19, 2001
Leader: George Van Gorden, 408 779 2320,
gvangord@mhu.k12.ca.us
Co-Leader: Adrienne Van Gorden,
avangorden@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us

We will take the Snow Creek trail out of the valley and try to get up to 7500 feet on Sat. Sunday we will climb the mountain on snowshoes using axes and crampons if necessary, and after the climb we will return to our camp and time permitting back to the cars.

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

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.

Peaks in Denali National Park

Peaks: Peaks in Denali NP north of the main Alaska Range
Date: April 15-18
Contact: George Van Gorden 408 779 2320,
gvangord@mhu.k12.ca.us

We will meet in Anchorage on April 15 and head north. We will camp in Denali NP and climb minor peaks during from April 16-18. These peaks are 4000 and 5000 feet, snow of course, and we will probably need crampons. The weather should be good, though snow is possible. If we get sun, the days should get into the thirties or even forties. The park will be very empty and we should get some good views of Mckinley. The days are long with light to at least eleven PM.

Sierra Emblem Challenge

Peaks: 10 Emblem Peaks in 10 Days
Date: August 2001
Contact: Bob Burd, snwbord@hotmail.com
Steve Keltie, dns306@cs.com
Info: <http://members.nbci.com/snwburd/emblem/>

The Sierra Emblem Challenge is a series of dayhikes to the most impressive peaks in the Sierra Nevada. All of these hikes are very strenuous in both miles logged and vertical feet gained. Ten of 15 Emblem Peaks have been chosen for this 10-day event beginning Aug 4, 2001. The Challenge is open to anyone. This is a Wilderness experience, with serious risks that are each participant's responsibility. No emergency services of any kind is available to those in trouble.

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Rock Climbing Classifications

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

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

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 1/28/2001. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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