



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

Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 14
Time: 7:30 PM
Where: The Pika Club
Program: Ascent of Mount Lagomorph
 A slide show by Bugs Bunny
 Never before seen pictures of the Rabbit Direct on the previously unclimbed North Face of Mount Lagomorph.
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 9/26/2004 Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

PCS Trips

PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see back cover for details). Trips not received from the Scheduler will be listed as PRIVATE, without recourse.

Charlotte Creek Base Camp/ Mule Pack

Date: Sep 5-11 (Sun-Sat)
Goal: Recreational Dayhiking to Rae Lakes, Vidette Meadow, Charlotte Dome, Etc.
Difficulty: O Rated. This is a hiking trip. No rock climbing. Travel on established trails to basecamp.
Location: Eastern Sierra Nevada
Sponsor: Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, Mule Pack Section
Contact: Yvonne Tsai, yctasai@usc.edu
Contact: John Kaiser, kaiser@pulsco.com

A week of relaxation in the Sierra with no heavy pack to carry! Sunday morning hike from Onion Valley trailhead (9200') 8 mi via Kearsarge Pass (11823') with your daypack while hired packers carry your gear (up to 55 lbs) to scenic base camp by Charlotte Creek (10370'). Enjoy five full layover days to hike, explore, photo, fish, and enjoy nature at places like Charlotte Dome, Glen Pass, Rae Lakes, Vidette Meadow, etc. Saturday hike out. Limit 10.

Send two 4' X 9' Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes (SASEs) with recent experience + conditioning, rideshare info, H + W phones, email, and check for \$250 (payable to Mule Pack Section) .

Tower Peak

Date: Oct 2 - 4, 2004
Peak: Tower Peak (11,755)
Difficulty: class 3
Maps: Tower Peak 7.5
Leaders: Dee Booth diboosth813@sbcglobal.net, Linda Sun LINDASUN@sbcglobal.net or 408-378-7533

We will climb Tower Peak by the northwest face route which is described in the "Sierra Classics" guidebook. Its distinctive summit rises above the northern boundary of Yosemite National Park and rewards the climber willing to make the roughly 13 mile hike in with reputedly some of the best class 3 climbing in the Sierra.

Starting at Leavitt Meadows we'll hike to Tower Lake and make camp. On Sunday we will make our summit attempt and on Monday, hike out. You must have experience on class 3 rock and be in good shape.

First Aid Classes

Wilderness First Aid (Palo Alto)

Dates: September 25-26 8 AM to 5 PM
Description: Wilderness First Aid - 20 Hours
Pre-requisites: None
Contact: Bobbie Foster, bobbie@fostercalm.com, 530-265-0997

This is a great class for practicing wilderness first aid skills in an outdoor setting. In addition to a half day of outdoor scenario practice of first aid and leadership skills, this class focuses on practicing skills and covers wilderness first aid topics: patient assessment, shock and bleeding, head and spinal injuries, wounds, musculoskeletal injuries, heat and cold illnesses and much more. A three year Wilderness First Aid certification is available upon successful completion of this course and passing a written wilderness exam. There are pre-class reading assignments. Cost \$78
 For more information on Foster Calm go to www.fostercalm.com.

October Class

Dates: October 16-November 21
 with October 30-31 off
Location: San Francisco 5 Weekends (Sat and Sunday)
Description: Same as above

For Sale

North Face VE25 expedition tent: Sleeps 3. With large Vestibule \$125 (retail new \$500) Good shape. Rain fly has a few small tears that have been repaired. Contact Tim Hult, 408-970-0760, or timothy.hult@gd-ais.com

Lowe Expedition Pack: A huge hauler for your next expedition to McKinley. Quite a few miles on this monster classic sack, with a few more trail miles on it. One side pocket. Blue. \$50. Contact Tim Hult 408-970-0760 or timothy.hult@gd-ais.com

Diamond Peak 13127 ft

May 22-23, 2004

This was a trip led by Bob Suzuki of the Loma Prieta chapter's Peak Climbing Section. The plan was to hike 3500' and 6 miles up from the Baxter Pass trailhead in the Owens Valley up to Summit Meadow, camp, climb Diamond early the next morning, and then pack out.

Our group was five, including Eddie Sudol, Dot Reilly, Arun Mahajan, and myself - all veteran climbers, except for me, a rank novice. Sure, I'd done a little scrambling here and there, with some brief class 2, but until then I was mainly a backpacker. I had only taken an ice axe / crampon class (billed as 'basic mountaineering') up at Shasta two weeks before.

Our first day was about 3500' and 6 miles. Weather was pleasant and sunny, though the wind picked up a bit. Streams were flowing high, flush with spring snowmelt, and while at first I thought about taking my boots off, I saw Bob hop across logs with impeccable balance. I would continue to be amazed all weekend long. Some snow was present on the rocky canyon walls above, but the trail was clear. We enjoyed a pleasant mosquito-free evening, cool and clear.

The next morning we awoke to temps in the low 30's, cooled by a steady breeze. We watched the sun rise, and by 6:30 Bob, Arun, Eddie, and myself headed up the trail (Dot stayed in camp and read a book). We stayed on the trail to get up above a bluff and some falls, and then just followed the creek drainage across hard snow and occasional rock. Our goal was the southeast face of the peak.

While I had been looking forward to a snow climb, the snow pack in the southern Sierras was rather low, and we ended up going up some class 2-3 rock just to the east of a plateau around 3900 meters. I was extremely grateful to be coached by Arun and Eddie on the class 3 parts. Afterwards was one really exposed traverse on a band of snow just above steep rock with very little chance to self-arrest.

After this we sat and had a snack, then marched across the snowy plateau to the summit ridge, ascended another rock band, and finally there was about 50 feet on snow to get up to the summit. I put on crampons for this part because I was feeling winded and vulnerable, but everyone else just walked up in boots.

Hooray! By the time I had my straps done and carefully stepped up to the summit, the guys were already naming peaks, pointing out features, etc. The views were just amazing, and I took lots of pictures. The summit register came out, and we read some interesting entries.

Bob mentioned that we had to get down before too long, so we descended to the plateau, and from there prepared to glissade down a few hundred feet through one of the chutes we had seen on the way up. I felt rather nervous about this, but the class had

given me preparation. Some practice sessions with hiking buddies in the snow made me realize that steep slopes generally look worse when one is looking down them.

Still, I couldn't see the runout on this slope. Bob actually had stopped his glissade just above the place I couldn't see, and traversed left, over to a patch of scree. Eddie and Arun did the same. Finally it was my turn. I gripped my axe and down I went. Whee!

The dirt patch was above a steep chute, which led to another dirt patch. Bob and Eddie slid down, and then I saw Arun have kind of a rough landing, but he appeared to brush himself off, and so I headed down after. This slope was a little more steep and slippery than the first one, and I went into self-arrest a couple of times, since I was afraid of building up too much speed and hitting the scree too hard, but I finally made it.

The tough part was over. The remaining glissade was on a gentler slope, and had kind of a twisty bobsled feel to it. I gleefully watched Eddie and Arun demonstrate standing glissade while sliding on my backside.

From there we traversed quickly softening snow and headed back to the Baxter Pass trail a good ways above where we had left it. On the return to camp I thought about how I would apply what I had learned on future backpack trips with early-season snow cover.

After breaking camp, we made short work of the downhill, and said goodbye to that section of the Sierras for the time being.

• Rob Yang

Mt. Stanford

Northwest Ridge

June 12, 2004

I liked the traverse over the north-northeast ridge of Stanford so much I decided to try the west ridge from Pioneer Basin. I couldn't find any trip reports on the route but it seemed like it could be day hiked by going in over Mono Pass and returning by the Hilton Lakes trail. So at 4:30 AM, bleary-eyed, I started walking from the Mosquito Flat trailhead. Mono Pass was still covered with snow but Summit Lake was beginning to thaw. I lost the trail on the pass finding it again on the descent to Trail Lakes only to have it disappear again until after the Golden Creek crossing.

At about 9:30 AM I arrived in Pioneer Basin, a chain of lakes encircled by Mounts Hopkins, Crocker,

Stanford and Huntington. Just another breathtakingly beautiful place in the Sierra. The terrain is gentle and I crossed it easily with my sights set on the gentle slopes slightly west of the low point on the ridge. At about 12:00 I began climbing the ridge, which is broad and sandy with a moderate incline until just below the summit. Staying on the crest of the ridge will avoid some of the sand and make walking a little less tiring. The first obstacle is a rock tower on the eastern end of the ridge followed by a notch. I made the mistake of climbing the tower and, not finding an easy way down the other side, down climbed and skirted it on the south side into the notch. I got back on the ridge but this ended with no obvious way to the summit. Again I down climbed and traversed into the next gully which lead easily to the summit where I sat at 1:25 PM.

The route out was down the east slope of Stanford, following the drainage to Lake 10353. I skirted the lake on the north side and around to the outlet where I picked up the trail back to the

Hilton Lakes trailhead. I got to the road at 6:45 PM and started the one mile hike up to Mosquito Flat where I'd left my car. This felt like the hardest part of the hike. Total time was 14.75 hours, 16 miles and 5800 feet.

• *Dee Booth*

Needham with Bob

June 12-13 2004

Summer was here and Bob Suzuki had some unfinished business in the Sierras.

Needham peak has been denied to Bob twice in the past, by circumstances not entirely in his control. And Needham is not a difficult peak. Bob was not amused. So on the portentous Saturday morning of 12th May, 8 fearless mountaineers, Bob Suzuki, Arun Mahajan, Alex Sapozhnikov, Jeffrey West, Christopher Franchuk, Noriko Sekikawa, Robert Yang and Amit Bedajna assembled at the Sawtooth Pass trailhead at Mineral King, our determination writ large on their faces. There was a mission at hand. A peak had to be tamed. The mood was somber. The group was raring to go.

We started at 11am. Robert Yang suddenly developed wings and seemed to effortlessly fly up the trail. The rest followed at a whopping pace of one mile per hour, which probably left Bob a little doubtful of the group's abilities, so much so that at the Crystal Lake campsite, where we arrived 5 hours later, he delivered a small lecture on the necessity of maintaining a quicker pace next morning (-:-) The hike in was however pleasant. Distance covered was about 5 miles, with 3100ft elevation gain. Temperature was in the high seventies, and remained that way till we hit the sleeping bag. Total lack of winds resulted in a curtain of haze and smog hanging over the valley. The ranger had mentioned that we would be the first people to be camping at Crystal Lake this season, at least legally. We found some nice spots between the Crystal Lake and an unnamed lake at the base of the Mineral Peak, which, some of us fancied we had a little more energy left to climb that afternoon.

Sunday morning saw everyone ready by 6:30am. We gained the low point on the ridge between Crystal and Amphitheatre lakes by traveling east over nice slabs, scree and snow patches. The top of the ridge required one class 3 move. The east side was steep; however a succession of ledges provided class 2 descent opportunities. We traversed to the left, crossed a small low angled snowfield (crampons were not really necessary, although some of us used them for safety). I found it surprising that snow should be so soft that early in the morning, all of us were prepared for worse conditions. Upon reaching the meadow north of the Amphitheatre Lake (10992 ft), we took a small break and stashed extra gear like ice axe and crampons that wouldn't be necessary for the rest of the hike.

The south slope of Needham looked too full of scree, bearing slightly to the west provided opportunity to hop over boulders, interspersed by sections of scree. Although it was mostly class 2, we could choose our pleasure among several easy to moderate class 3 variations thrown in for good measure. We gained the saddle west of the peak and followed the ridgeline to the summit. The summit block required a few exposed class 3 moves and wasn't too difficult to locate. We reached there at 9:30am. The pinnacle was an exposed piece of rock. Some of us were quite content just 'touching' the top, while the more enterprising ones climbed on the top of that block and posed for

summit shots. Ours was the first entry in the summit register for 2004!

And it was there at the summit that for the first time the usual stoic-faced Bob burst into a smile. It was a beautiful moment.

It took us three hours to get to the summit from camp. An hour at the summit, and we reluctantly decided to return, following the same route back. A few class 3 down climbing opportunities provided entertainment when we were cliffed out on our traverse of the Amphitheatre Lake on the east face of the ridge separating it from Crystal Lake. We had reached a point too high, and had to down climb to the snowfield. We crossed it and four class 3 moves later we were at the notch. By the time we reached camp it was 1:30pm. The marmots had just finished a sumptuous lunch where Chris' hiking pole straps were served for appetizer followed by a main course of Robert's backpack straps. We packed out at 2:00pm. Robert fired up his nitrous cylinders and bang, he was gone. I met him at the trailhead at 6:00pm.

This is my first peak climb with the PCS. For the past one year my friend Heyning and I have heavily relied on climber.org trip reports written by PCS climbers for our summit attempts. So probably it was an eventuality that I'll join PCS for a chance to climb with those very people. I do have a lot of good things to say about the group I hiked with, especially about leadership qualities, mountaineering skills and strength of Bob and Arun. I appreciated their patience with the novice climbers (Bob and Arun would be there at every hard class 3 move to spot climbers), and their abilities to keep the group together for the whole 2 day adventure. So far I have climbed most peaks as day hikes. My friends believe that day hikes, contrary to popular opinion, is less strenuous than a multi-day backpacking climb. After this trip, I felt day hiking probably would have indeed been a less straining option for this peak. However, I loved the fact that I did the summit hike on a fresh day, which definitely gave me an opportunity to enjoy the summit more. I look forward to doing more outings with the PCS.

• *Amit Bedajna*

Mt Sill (14,153 ft)

Via the Swiss Arête (Grade II, 5.6/5.7)

July 4-6, 2004

Participants: Arun Mahajan and Scott Kreider

It had taken us about 6 hours on Saturday to slog up to Sam Mack Meadow with packs that were heavy since they included climbing regalia. The accumulating clouds had darkened and there was thunder and the crest of the Palisades was obscured. We were about to call off our attempt on Sill by the Swiss Arête for the next day by camping right at Sam Mack when two parties, Doug Nidever and two clients (the Nidevers) and Chris Jain and Michelle Park (CM) of the CMC came up. They convinced us to take our chances for the next day. So we followed them. It was an additional two-hour grind but we got to some fantastic campsites at Gayley Camp. The general idea is to stay left and to head towards the NW corner of the glacier staying on boulders, to get to Gayley Camp. The campsite is ideally located for those wanting to get to Glacier Notch and is high above the tarn of the Palisade Glacier. Here we also met the occasional PCS'er, Hakan Yalcin, who was climbing in the region with his friend.

We were walking at 5.45 am, Sunday. The others had started earlier. We put on crampons right away to traverse the glacier

and reached the top of Glacier Notch just after 7am. The weather was looking perfect. In the distance, we could make out CM. They had gone up part of the way on the L-shaped snowfield between Sill and Apex Peak and were 3rd-classing their way up to the Swiss Arête towards a level part of the ridge. The Nidevers meanwhile had roped up much below, maybe just a little above the level of Glacier Notch itself (Roper describes this, 'proper' start). They were at a platform just below a right tilting obelisk, which looks the bottom part of a clothes-iron. We decided that speed was of the essence as we were still afraid of the potential afternoon storms so we followed the route of CM and topped out on the level portion of the ridge by going across the snowfield quite high up. We accessed the ridge via an easy 3rd class ramp, which angled left.

At 9am, we got our turn on this beautiful arête. The sun was on us and the weather was perfect and the rock, solid. We ended up in doing five belayed pitches with twin-60m ropes. Scott led pitches 1, 3 and 5 and I got to lead 2 and 4.

Pitch-1: 5.6, Scott.

(Scott's description): Straightforward pitch directly on the crest of the arête. Ended in a nice flat platform with a large block, which could be slung for a belay. Pitch-2: 5.6, Arun. A Friend when you need one. It started out easy enough and I stuck to the right of the first block and then over some more blocks and suddenly I was on a short vertical section with a crack on the right and this gave me a pause. A taller person could have grabbed the top but I could not reach. I was wondering about how to proceed when I looked inside the crack and saw an old (fixed) Friend! It may have traveled in there and had been over-cammed. A Friend right when I needed one. I clipped to this with a long sling, moved right onto the block, set a stopper/sling on a horizontal crack above and was able to reach a secure foothold on the left. This was the hardest move of this pitch.

Pitch-3: 5.7, Scott.

The wild step around. (Scott's description): In the beginning, I worked my way up just left of the crest following a series of cracks and ledges. Then up to a large flat area blocked by a nasty looking gendarme staring you right in the face. Moving right across the flat area I saw the step across move. The move is well protected for the leader by slinging a horn before leaving the safety of the ledge. The most difficult part was swinging your body weight out such that you could smear a right foot. After initiating the move the leader must then get some small nuts or cams in to protect the second from a nasty swing if they blow the crux (I also put an additional cam at foot level a few feet after the crux). After the short crux I stopped at the very first crack situated on the right side of an inside corner and set a belay. This was necessitated due to the horrendous rope drag at this point. Cleverly I left the crack for Arun to tackle.

Pitch-4: 5.7, Arun

Dude, where is my cam? Scott belayed me to this platform below the left crack after leading the wild and airy step-around. This jam-crack is not long, perhaps 15ft and there is a good flake on the right and there are small holds on the left. A #2 and a #3 cam were enough and I was soon over the crack. This jam-crack, along with the step-around are the two hardest moves of the entire climb (for me, that is). The climbing after that dropped to class-3/4 and I continued leading till almost the rope ran out. Pitch 5: 4th class with some 5.0 moves (Scott's description): This was perhaps the finest and most enjoyable pitch. 4th class mostly with the odd 5.0 mantle, which left me huffing and puffing. Chris smiled down upon us from on high.

It was 12.45 PM when we topped out. The Nidevers were getting ready to leave the summit. Chris and Michelle, who had kindly waited for us to come up, joined us in the descent. In the distance we saw clouds building and regretfully decided that it was time to go. We so much wished that we could have stayed longer to drink in more of the 'finest view in the Sierra' (Secor).

To descend, we went down on the ridge towards North Pal and then found the duck marking the hard right for the drop down. We saw some rap slings on our right and just below us, Nidever was lowering his clients. We decided to down climb this class-4 section. This can be intimidating and sometimes there could be snow/water but we did not need a rope this time. Then, a short up climb on a sandy ramp got us to the notch with Apex peak. Glissading and plunge stepping on the L-snowfield got us back to Glacier Notch where we met Hakan's party returning from Gayley. We cautiously down climbed the short, lousy section from the notch to the glacier and then traversed the glacier without crampons as the snow had softened.

We were back at camp a little past 4pm to make it a ten-and-half hour day. We were walking by 8am on Monday and were down to the cars in four hours. In retrospect, from our starting point on the arête, we could have made it in four full pitches (60m rope). We certainly skipped the two early pitches that the Nidevers did.

We referred to Secor, Fiddler-Moynier and the reports of Rick Booth and Zenta Tsuchihashi. Conversations with Rick, Ron Karpel and Bob Suzuki also helped us a lot. Thanks, guys. Also many, many, thanks to Chris and Michelle who convinced us that we should come with them to Gayley Camp when we had just about thrown in the towel because of the intimidating weather on Saturday.

Gear: See Rick's report. A cool thing about this route is that it provides many opportunities for slinging horns as well. Extra slings recommended. Scott adds: I would also HIGHLY recommend taking a PB (poop bag) to keep Gayley camp clean.

• *Arun Mahajan*

Mt Dade - North Face Route

July 17/18 2004

Over the weekend of July 17 and 18 Arun Mahajan and I climbed what we think was the North Face Route on Mt Dade. Or maybe it was the Cats Ears Couloir. Not too sure what the hell it was.

Arun and I had traded emails trying to set up a trip. My workload had gone from zero after I got laid off to 16 hour days working as a consultant and manager of a friend's start up. This left me with just the occasional weekend for trips so Arun graciously agreed to a two day trip to climb Mt Dade via the North Face Route.

The trip started off in poor style. Stopping for the night Friday near Tioga Pass was fine until it started raining about 1 AM which went on for a couple of hours. Saturday morning it was cloudy already and Arun and I tried to improve our optimism with breakfast at TPR. This was further improved by getting a permit in Mammoth Lakes for the Treasure Lakes out of the Mosquito Flat Trailhead, which we expected to be filled.

At the crackling alpine start time of 12 noon Arun and I headed up Little Lakes Valley. Within an hour it was raining and within three hours we arrived at the Treasure Lakes area. The cutoff for the Treasure Lakes is just past Long Lake after about 2.5 miles and then runs through a boggy area jam-packed with mosquitoes. We found a decent campsite near the outlet of the

upper Treasure Lake where it flows down into the lower Treasure Lake. The camping in this area is extremely sparse. Looks flat on the map but it is nothing but boulders.

Sunday morning Arun and I were moving by 6:20 AM. We headed up towards the North Face. This required moving up along a rocky ridge thing which ended at the base of about 300 feet of brutal scree. Above the scree we headed towards the snowfield at the base of the North Face and went up towards the 'schrund with our crampons and ice axe. Above the 'schrund a rock rib stuck down into the snow field and while it looked pretty easy above us to get to the summit ridge it looked like the topo in the Monier and Fiddler book indicated we should be somewhat further to the right so off we went. The snow ended in short order and we were in a class 3 to 4 gully that went all the way to the skyline. This was "Sierra loose", as usual, and treacherous. Arun found a somewhat easier path up the right hand side but it was still kind of nasty.

We arrived at the top of the couloir about four hours after leaving camp. We were blocked from going toward the summit area by a serious looking gendarme on the ridge heading to the south from our place at the top of the couloir. We thought this would be fourth class but it was about 5.7. This went up to the right about 60 feet to a rappel anchor, which allowed us to rap down to a bunch of second to third class junk.

We headed from there to the summit, which was approximately 50 yards away arriving at the summit about 11:45. This was uneventful, however, the weather was starting to deteriorate. We perched on the summit blocks for ten minutes or so and then beat it down to the top of the Hour Glass Couloir. We sat and ate lunch there and enjoyed the non-stop hail, which was now falling. The Hour Glass Couloir had about fifteen minutes of snow left in it so it was mixed scree and snow heading down towards Treasure Lakes. Two hours after leaving the summit we were in camp at Treasure Lakes and a little over two hours after packing up we were back at the car.

Final notes:

The approach to Treasure Lakes is uneventful. The decent camping seems to be near the outlet from the upper Treasure Lake.

Route:

Well, that is a good question. No real idea if we were on the North Face Route. I would put my money on the Cats Ears Couloir as indicated in the Moynier reference. We used one 50 M rope and a small rack. We used maybe three pieces in the technical end of things but it isn't clear if we were on route. Bring sling to back up the junky rappel.

References:

The High Sierra, Peaks, Passes, and Trails, second edition, R.J Secor, The Mountaineers, 1999, ISBN 0-89886-625-1.

Climbing California's High Sierra, second edition, John Moynier and Claude Fiddler, The Globe Pequot Press (Falcon Guide), 2002, ISBN 0-7627-1085-3. No idea what the topo is indicating

• Rick Booth

Dana All-'Round

July 31-Aug 1, 2004

Once again, I found myself huffing and puffing to the top of 'ol Dana (13,053') and saying to myself, once again, why was I hiking up this hulk of a mountain? The whole idea had been to come up with something different, something for newcomers, something with outstanding views....at least that was the thought

last year at this time!! Looking at all that is Dana from Tioga Peak across the way, the Dana Plateau looked intriguing and another way to summit Dana proper rather than hiking up the use trail we've all grown accustomed to lo' these years past. Short story: On a scouting trip, I discovered Dana Plateau ends at a Class 4 ridgeline; jumbled teeth of slate and granite; hideous exposure on either side; unstable as heck. Decision: Offer three hikes -- one, to Dana Plateau; another, to Dana's summit; and finally, a Dana-Gibbs traverse. Whew. We divided up and off we went.

We six who summited Dana took about 2 1/2 hours to get to the top. Sky Pilot was in full bloom and just lovely. An escaped chain-gang of marmots greeted us at the top. Boy! Incredibly fearless and one grabbed a hiker's daypack when their back was turned! Absolutely stunning views from the top and I guess that's why I do this...

Chris Prendergast, Anthony Stegman, and Lynne Pedersen headed off to summit Mt Gibbs. We waved a fond farewell and asked them to send postcards. Chris P asked that we please save some chips and dip for them and not to drink all the wine at our Saturday evening campsite soiree!

Chris MacIntosh led several sturdy hikers up to Dana Plateau -- - From the Tioga Pass entrance station we started on the trail to Mt Dana, but cut left as we approached the mountain, and stayed fairly high. We crossed easy boulder fields, avoiding willows, and contouring around to Glacier Canyon. Every so often we'd find a trail, follow it until it petered out, and then strike off on the likeliest route. In the green, lower, meadow of Glacier Canyon, we hopped across the fast-flowing stream, startling a dipper, which flew upstream, exactly following the curves and bends of the stream. We followed a few shelves up to the plateau proper. This slopes upwards but at a fairly gentle rate. There's a wet, green collection area at the low point, draining down to the canyon. We saw only one patch of snow left up there. The surface is mostly bare rock, or rocky soil with mats of very low plants, only 1 or 2 inches high. Towards the N and NW the plateau slopes upwards and there are small stands of western whitebark pine, sheared by the wind into thickets just a few feet high. Plants we saw up there included snow willow, mousetails, a blue gentian (perhaps Dane's gentian), some penstemon davidsonii and more. We met another group of 4 hikers on the plateau.

Saturday evening found us at the Campfire Circle with Ranger Jane (I forget her real name, actually). Did you know that bears don't really hibernate? Two very, very, brave researchers discovered this when they entered a bear's winter den and tried to take the bear's temperature rectally.

Sunday, David Hough led us on a long and visually delightful, cross-country hike up Rafferty Creek, around Johnson Peak, then back to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, paralleling Elizabeth Creek as we walked due north. Stunning granite, crystal blue lakes, and cozy pines -- AHH, WILDERNESS!

Participants: Debbie Benham (leader, co-author); Alice Cummings; David Hough; Allen Hu; Chris MacIntosh (leader, co-author); Jean Mangerich; Lynne Pedersen; Powell Pocs; Chris Prendergast; and Anthony Stegman.

• Debbie Benham

Short Joke

Question: What do Winnie-the-Pooh and Alexander-the-Great have in common?

Answer: The same middle name.

Eldorado, Forbidden, Liberty Bell (Washington State)

Lofty snow-clad peaks rise seven thousand feet from the U-shaped valleys below. Icefalls tumble off the glaciers into the turquoise lakes. Granite ridges, horns, and domes overlook the firn-filled rain forests. Too many peaks to be the Tetons. Too much snow to be the Sierra. Too close to be the Alps. We're on an adventure in the North Cascades.

I had scarcely heard of the North Cascades until I planned to spend a summer in Portland. My previous Washington climbing knowledge had been limited to some of the volcanoes. The state has a reputation for nasty weather and ugly bushwhacks. But this weekend I encountered some of the most enjoyable and varied climbing of my life.

Dee Booth and I climbed the East Ridge of Eldorado Peak, the Becky Route of Liberty Bell, and the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak on July 29-31. We were joined by Jim Tschanz and Haydar Kutuk for Forbidden. The routes are more than adequately described in Smoot's "Climbing Washington" and Nelson and Potterfield's "Selected Climbs in the Cascades." Becky's three-part Cascade Alpine Guide is the definitive guide to the region, though it includes the crud piles of little interest to out-of-staters. So this trip report will focus on some impressions of the routes.

The East Ridge of Eldorado Peak culminates in a 200 foot long snow fin overlooking one of the largest glacier-filled basins south of Canada. The climb is a 6700-foot grunt from the Cascade River canyon, off Highway 20 near Marblemount (about two hours from Seattle). Like much of the North Cascades, the lower part of the mountain is covered in nearly impenetrable forest: snags of fallen trees, slide alders, and tall ferns on steep slopes. Though there is no official trail and no path shown on the map, a brutally efficient climber's trail ascends directly through the forest at an angle well beyond the usual guidelines. It begins with a promising log across the river and 50 yards of bushwhacking to keep out the riff-raff, and then becomes very well trodden. It eventually ascends a long talus field, and then breaks into a magnificent basin near tree line at 5000'. After crossing a rib into the next basin west, the route ascends the Inspiration Glacier. The lower part of the glacier was showing bare ice in places but the crevices were not too large. The upper part is nearly flat and joins the Eldorado Glacier to span an enormous high plateau. The East Ridge is easy but narrow and dramatic with steep snow dropping off each side. We reached the 8800' summit in seven hours at a moderate pace with plenty of breaks along the way.

Liberty Bell is reminiscent of some of the granite domes in the Sierra. It is at the north end of a row of spires on a ridge; the south Early Winter Spire at the other end is another classic climb. Becky's route ascends from just below a notch on the ridge for four pitches of 5.6. The first pitch is short and easy. The second pitch ascends some cracks to a chimney that looks difficult but has plenty of holds inside to keep it exciting 5.6. The third pitch has a short finger traverse to bypass an overhang. The fourth pitch scales a short slab and some broken rock. Again, there were great views from the top. The east face is much taller and features several classic Grade V climbs.

Forbidden Peak is usually climbed from Boston Basin, a spectacular cirque ringed by Forbidden, Boston, and Sahale peaks and their glaciers and moraines. The trailhead is three

miles up the Cascade River road past the Eldorado trail. Getting a permit is very difficult on the weekends because they cannot be reserved in advance and are only obtained from the ranger station on the day before or day of entry, so they are usually gone by the morning of the climb. We hadn't expected to be able to get a permit and thus had packed to day hike Forbidden, but Dee and I picked one up on Friday morning on our way to Liberty Bell.

Jim and Hydar met us back at the Boston Basin trailhead late Friday night, where there was a zoo of climbers camped for early departures. They were packed for a day hike as well, so we decided to depart at 4:30 am and not take advantage of the permit; unfortunately, we had no way to notify the ranger station that it was freed up. The trail is similar to Eldorado Peak, climbing steeply through dense forest, ferns, and a tumble of trees on an avalanche slope. We began in the fog and worked up quite a sweat before the sun rose. The clouds began to clear as we reached Boston Basin and headed for a small glacier below the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak. At the camp around 6400', we met a ranger who asked us if we were camping. We told him that we had a permit but were not using it. He radioed back to the station to free it up for a lucky group of climbers. He emphasized that we absolutely must not camp without a permit. From the glacier, we ascended a tongue of 40' snow until reaching a 10' pillar of ice that we had to bypass on nasty low 5th class rock on the left. We were stuck there behind two parties; the one immediately in front of us caused some rock fall. We eventually climbed around them on more nasty 4th class rock in the gully and reached the notch at noon. By this time, I was worried about our rate of ascent.



David Harris on Forbidden Peak Photo: Dee Booth

The ridge above us is listed among the 50 classic climbs of North America. It is a classic knife-edge of excellent granite. Difficulties are readily bypassed on the left (north) side. Dee and I kicked into simulclimbing overdrive, climbing the eight-pitch route with just one intermediate belay. The route can be protected by almost anything. We used a set of nuts and four cams; slings around horns would also work well. As we pulled the 5.6 crux, we realized that we'd forgotten to change into climbing shoes in our haste to get going, but we were having too much fun to care. We passed two other parties by veering onto the north face and reached the summit in an hour and a half of spectacular climbing. Overall, I thought the route was much like climbing the Swiss Arête twice, but without the thin air.

After enjoying the summit for an hour and a half, we started back down the ridge to find Jim and Haydar. They'd been belaying each pitch and got stuck behind slow parties. In the interest of time, they stopped at the west summit and we all began rappelling and down climbing the ridge. We avoided the nasty crowded gully by a series of single-rope rappels down the

face directly to the south. That route was tedious as well, but we reached the glacier around 7pm. A helicopter was circling and the ranger at the high camp said a climber had broken his leg in rock fall on the North Ridge. He checked again to be sure we were really hiking out that night. We retraced our route, reaching the woods by dark and the cars by 11 pm after a long but splendid day.

• *David Harris*

Name That Graffiti Contest

So you have traveled to the Sierras many times. Tahoe to the north, Yosemite and the Tuolumne to the East, Kings Canyon, Sequoia and Courtwright Reservoir to the southeast, Pinnacles to the south, and up and down the Owens Valley from Olancha to Bridgeport. You know it all, every restaurant, every sneaky bivy site and off beat camp site, every dirt road in and out of God-knows-where, every passing lane to blow by the jerk in the 48 ton motor home, the cheap gas stations (where are they anyway?), every nifty donut shop, weirdo bathroom, cheap motels, whatever, from the Oregon border to Mexico.

Ok, then tell me where this photo was taken. A prize you want for getting the right answer first? Allrighty then, a six pack of Negra Modelo delivered to a PCS meeting. For those of you who may win and won't attend a PCS meeting, a copy of "A Climbers Guide to the Sonora Pass Highway" by Brad Young, Hope Wolf, and Jim Lundeen.



Email your guess to Rick Booth at rwbooth@comcast.net.

• *Rick Booth*

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.

Trinity Alps Traverse

Peak: Trinity Alps
 Dates: Sept 4-6
 Contact: Tim Hult, 408-970-0760

This is a 3 day traverse of the seldom visited little cousin of the Sierras. Think Granet peaks and rushing streams but on a smaller scale. We'll drop a car at one end and circle around to begin our trip on the North. An attempt on Mt. Thompson will also be made on the 2nd day.

Sawtooth Peak the hard way

Date: Sep 18 (Sat)
 Peak: Sawtooth Peak (12,343ft)
 Difficulty: class 2
 Location: southern Sierra Nevada
 Contact: www.climber.org/WhosWho/Amit_Bedajna.html

This is basically a dayhike announcement. I have thrown in the Sawtooth Peak to take care of the twinges of conscience that overcomes one if a peak is not climbed on a day of outing. The hike should be a roller coaster ride as far as the elevation profile is concerned: Mineral King trailhead (7800)-] Franklin Pass (11,400) -] Little Claire Lake (10,420) -] Soda Creek-(8,600)-] Lost Canyon -] Columbine Lake (10,970) -] Sawtooth Pass (11,720) -] Sawtooth Peak (12,343) -] trailhead (7800). Someone told me that the distance is 31 miles (without peak), I haven't checked. I'm looking at a 13 hr day. Secor describes Sawtooth Peak as class 2 from the pass. People usually backpack this over three days, but who has so much patience!:-)

Nepal - Chulu West 21,700 ft

Date: October 1, 2004
 Peak: Chulu West
 Contact: Warren Storkman, dstorkman@aol.com

A trekkers peak- Class A - moderate to difficult 16 daytrek/climb

Moses, Dennison + Sequoias

Date: Oct 2-3 (Sat-Sun)
 Peak: Moses Mountain (9331'), Dennison Mountain(8650'), Dillonwood Grove of Sequoias
 Difficulty: class 1, class 2, class 3
 Leader: Steve Eckert <eckert@climber.org>
 Leader: Mike McDermitt <mike@mcdermitt.org>

Enjoy a fall weekend of dayhikes and car camping in the isolated, infrequently visited North Fork Tule River basin southeast of Visalia. The Dillonwood Grove was the last grove of giant sequoias in private ownership until being acquired by Sierra NP a few years ago. We will car camp on national forest land adjacent to the park. Participants may join us climbing on one or both days, and/or spend one or both days walking old logging roads haying sequoias (and there are at least a few true giants up there). Both climbs are new routes and thus involve uncertainties as well as hopefully rewards. Dennison (~3500' gross gain, 8-10 miles R/T) will be Saturday's objective, a mostly x-ctry loop probably involving some bushwhacking, some class 3, and maybe a giant sequoia or two. Sunday we will attempt the west face of SPS-listed Moses, a short steep route (4500' gross gain, ~6 mi R/T) with some class 3 probable. Good clearance 2wd or 4wd suggested for access road. Maximum of 8 for climbs only. Bear canisters required. Helmets suggested for Moses. Contact Mike to sign up.

Aconcagua 22,800 Argentina

Date: December 28, 2004
 Peak: Aconcagua
 Contact: Warren Storkman, dstorkman@aol.com

A difficult walk-up to the highest peak in South America

Virginia Peak 12,001 ft

Dates: October 9/10 Sat/Sun
 Map: Matterhorn, 15' topographic
 Leaders: Tom Driscoll, tdriscoll@eooinc.com (650)938-2106 or Debbie Benham, (650) 964-0558
 Enjoy Fall at its finest!! Saturday we'll hike up Glines Canyon and camp at an unnamed lake at the foot of Virginia Peak. Sunday morning we'll summit our peak from the saddle between Twin and Virginia. After enjoying sumptuous views, we'll hike out. Must be comfortable hiking cross-country.

Elected Officials

Chair:

Pat Callery / pcs-chair@climber.org
1225 Bracebridge Court
Campbell, CA 95008
408-871-8702 home

Vice Chair and Trip Scheduler:

Linda Sun / lindasun@sbcglobal.net
P. O. Box 3208
Saratoga, CA 95070
408-378-7533

Treasurer and Membership Roster (address changes):

Jeff Fisher / hanlcanne@msn.com
876 Lewis Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
650-207-9632

Publicity Committee Positions

Scree Editor:

Bob Bynum / pcs-editor@climber.org
510-659-1413 home

PCS World Wide Web Publisher:

Roger Dettloff / pcs_webmaster@climber.org
(650) 474-0352

Publicity Chair:

Arun Mahajan / pcs-pub-chair@climber.org
650-327-8598 home
1745 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Scree is the monthly journal of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. Our official website is [http:// lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/](http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/)

Subscriptions and Email List Info

Hard copy subscriptions are \$13. 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 the official email list (lomap-pcs-announce@lists.sierraclub.org) or the email list the PCS feeds (pcs-issues@climber.org), you have a free EScree subscription. For email list details, send "info lomap-pcs-announce" to "listserv@lists.sierraclub.org", or send anything to "info@climber.org". EScree subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge. The Scree is on the web as both plain text and fully formatted Adobe Acrobat/PDF.

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 9/26/2004. 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