



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

General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 8th
Time: 7:30 PM
Where: Peninsula Conservation Center

3921 E Bayshore Rd
 Palo Alto, CA
 (see below for directions)

Program: *An Island In A Glaciated Sea presented by Ron Karpel*

When the early mountain climbers first saw Imja Tse (20,252 ft) they thought that it resembled an island in a sea of ice, surrounded as it was by the glaciers coming down from Lhotse, the fourth highest peak in the world. So, they named it Island Peak. It has become a popular trekking peak since.

Come follow the adventures of a group of trekkers, some from the PCS including your own Ron Karpel, as they follow the great Babu, Warren Storkman, into the Kumbhu region of Nepal. Some of the trekkers, including Ron and Arun climbed to the top of Island Peak. Photographs of the stunning mountain scenery, the exotic sights of Kathmandu, the temples, the stupas, the mani-stones, the ruddy-cheeked kids, the fluttering prayer flags and yes, even the yaks, make up the artful photography of Ron Karpel.

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.

Trips! Trips! Trips!

Here's a preview of upcoming trips and thanks to all who came to the trip planning meeting. Stay tuned for future write-ups! **Remember – if you'd like to post your trip announcement in the Scree:** (1) For official, Sierra Club trips, contact the PCS Vice-Chair, Chris Prendergast; (2) For private trips, contact the Scree editor directly. Contact information is on the back page. **Thank you!**

March

3/20 Roundtop (Mahajan/Van Gordon)

April

4/2-3 Freel Peak
 4/16-17 Adams, Sierra Buttes
 4/16 Double Cone, Ventana
 4/23-24 Telescope Peak
 4/29-5/1 Pinchot, Wynne

May

5/7 Lassen Peak
 5/13-15 Cartago, Muah Pks
 5/28-30 Boundary/Montgomery Pks
 TBD Basin Peak, east chute

June

6/11-12 Spanish Mountain

July

7/2-4 Mt Starr King, Mt Clark
 7/16-23 SE Yosemite
 7/23-25 Mt Russell
 7/30-31 Mt Conness fr Saddlebag Lake

August

8/5-7 Mt Gabb/Mt Hilgard
 8/6-7 Clouds Rest/Tuolumne Meadows
 8/12-14 Mt Hooper/Mt Senger
 8/13-20 Climb-o-rama

Trips! Trips! Trips! (continued)

August

8/27-29 Mt Humphreys/Mt Goethe

September

9/3-5 Mt Henry

9/10-11 Virginia Peak

9/10-17 Muir Pass area

October

10/1-8 Glacier Ridge, Whaleback

PCS Trips

PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see back cover for details).

Freel Peak

Date: April 2-3rd (Sat-Sun)

Peak: Freel Peak, 10881', Class 2, Winter Conditions

Map: USGS 15 min, Freel Peak

Leader(s): Charles Schafer, and Tom Driscoll, h: 650-938-2106

tldriscoll@eooinc.com

An easy, late-winter backpack on showshoes, to the high point of the Tahoe Basin. On Saturday, we'll cover 5 or 6 miles and camp below the summit ridge. On Sunday, we'll grab the summit and descend. Total distance is about 14 miles with 5000' of climbing/descending. Meeting point will be in the town of Meyers, 7AM on Saturday morning. Call leaders if interested.

Guidelines for Leadership

Interested in becoming a leader for PCS? Please read the guidelines (below) and fill out an application! Applications are reviewed by the PCS Mountaineering Committee. If you have questions and/or comments, contact the Chair of the PCS Mountaineering Committee, Dee Booth, at: (cell) 408-921-2633, or, dlbooth813@sbcglobal.net

PCS leadership status is granted on the basis of the general class of a climb. A leader may lead any trip at or below his or her class rating. There is a separate category for winter trip leaders. The guidelines listed here are generally followed, but the PCS Mountaineering Committee has the authority to grant or deny leadership at a given class regardless of the guidelines.

Class 1: Walking on a trail or easy cross-country

- Nothing beyond the basic requirements for PCS leadership are necessary

Class 2: Scrambling; the hands are used for balance

- Qualifications for First Class list
- Minimum two years mountain experience
- Demonstrated navigational ability

- Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 2 or harder PCS trips or equivalent.

Class 3: Climbing; the hands are needed for holding on

- Qualifications for Second Class list
- Recent experience with roped climbing, including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and/or anchor setting
- Recent experience with ice axe, crampons, self-arrest, and/or ice-axe belay
- Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 3 or harder PCS trips or equivalent

Class 4: Steeper climbing; a rope is usually needed

- Qualification for Third Class list
- Knowledgeable and experienced in all of the following: roped climbing, which includes belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and anchor setting; ice axe use, which includes self-arrest and ice-axe belay.
- Recent experience with crampons.
- Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 4 or harder PCS trips or equivalent

Class 5: Technical climbing

- Qualifications for the Fourth Class list
- Had to have lead at least three routes equal to or better than the class of climb to be lead
- Knowledgeable, and has demonstrated experience in all aspects of rope management and handling. Proficient with anchor setting, placing of protection for safety, belaying, and rappelling.
- Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two Class 5 PCS trips or equivalent

Winter Trips:

- Qualifications of class of climb to be lead
- Two seasons of winter mountaineering, including extensive snow camping
- Proficiency with skis or snow shoes, ice axe, crampons, and ice axe belays
- Substantial navigational experience, including white-out and storm conditions

- Advanced first aid preferred, with an understanding of hypothermia, frost bite, and pulmonary edema
- Avalanche course
- Demonstrated leadership on one PCS winter trip as co-leader

Leadership Guidelines can also be found on the PCS website:
<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/leaders/LeaderGuidelines.asp>

Loma Prieta PCS Leadership Application

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone/email: _____
 Sierra Club membership number: _____
 Sierra Club membership expiration date: _____
 Eighteen years of age or older? (circle one) Yes No
 PCS member? (circle one) Yes No
 Approved and Current First Aid card: attach copy of card
 Applying for leadership on what class of climb?

Please verify that you have satisfied the requirement for this class as stated per Guidelines for PCS Leadership by completing the following two sections:

- 1) Summarize navigational abilities, climbing skills, and any other information relating to your mountaineering knowledge and experience.
- 2) List the major peaks you have climbed, including the class of climb, leaders' names, if appropriate, and, if you led the climb.

I hereby apply for leadership with the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section.

Name _____
 Signature _____
 Date _____

Current PCS Leaders

[<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/leaders/PCSLeader.asp>]

The PCS Leader List, posted on the PCS website shows the following current list of leaders:

Jim Curl
 Bill Isherwood
 Ron Karpel
 Arun Mahajan
 Aaron Schuman
 Charles Schafer
 Linda Sun
 Richard Vassar

If you think you're a Sierra Club-PCS leader, and your name is NOT on the above list, please contact the Vice-Chair, Chris Prendergast. See back page of Scree for contact information.

It All Comes Out In The Wash Granite Mtn #2, 4331'

Date Climbed: 12/04

by Debbie Bulger [dfbulger@cruzio.com]

This report was originally posted on climber.org and is reprinted with permission from the author.

In the waning light we watched in awe as the leading edge of the water slid down the wash, paralleled the road for a bit, then flowed across the pavement. The water picked up speed, pushing foam and debris before it. Richard Stover, Jackie Stroud and I had been hiking near Chuckwalla Mountain, east of Joshua Tree National Park when the rain started.

The peak itself was obscured by the clouds, and we headed back to the BLM Corn Springs Campground where Jackie's truck was still parked. Our way back to the campsite was blocked by a rushing torrent crashing across the road. There was nothing to do but hunker down for the night. We found a relatively high, level spot next to the old highway, prepared a tailgate supper, and tried to sleep. At 4:30 a.m. all three of us were startled awake by the brilliant flashes of lightening in the sky to the south. Hastily throwing gear into the truck, we hightailed it to Blythe in a steady downpour, luckily having to cross flowing water only once.

I won't bore you with the details of our late night vigil at the Blythe Denny's, or our trek to the local K-Mart to replace the stove we ran over in our hurried flight, or our fruitless attempts to contact the County Public Works Department or BLM to learn the probability of our ever getting back to Corn Springs. Suffice it to say we eventually made it back, recovered Jackie's

truck, then proceeded to further adventures in the California desert.

We drove east on the sandy Palen Pass Road that afternoon with plenty of daylight to notice the wash out and feeble attempt by the BLM to route people around. Word of advice: Don't drive this road too fast or you might miss the detour. The resultant plunge into the wash probably wouldn't be fatal, but it would be a heck of a mess.

We were off to climb 4331' Granite #2, the highpoint of the Granite Mountains in the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. We opted for the approach from Palen Pass Road since we weren't sure of the condition of the 4WD approach to the other trailhead at Packard Well after the rains. Trip reports on this peak mention climbing the wrong mountain and returning after dark. I am happy to report we were no exception.

On our first attempt we left at 6:15 a.m. to hike up the 1.5-mile road which is now within the wilderness boundary and can no longer be driven. Then across the desert floor for almost 2 miles to the start of the climb. We chose the ridge approach; unfortunately, it was the wrong ridge. I had forgotten my altimeter at home. Everything looked right; we hiked over a point, traversed to the right and ascended a summit. The real peak was towering over us further north. "We'll just have to come back tomorrow," Richard stated. Jackie opted out and agreed to position her truck at the trailhead and turn on her headlights every 20 minutes or so if we didn't return by dark. The next day we left at 5:00 a.m. since there was plenty of moonlight and wouldn't be at sunset. It was no hardship since we had been in bed for hours. Taking more care with our navigation, we chose the wash route and had our selection confirmed by the plentiful DPS ducks.

The wash held quiet beauty. We found desert lavender in bloom, pools of water from the recent rains, a tiny black snail sporting a white shell with a black median stripe, and more. As we approached the ridge, it became extremely windy and cold. At last we made the summit at noon. Retracing our steps, we skirted the 25-foot class 4 waterfall, scrambling down 3rd-class rocks and managed to reach our strategically-placed strobe light just before dark. We held the flashing strobe aloft so Jackie could see we were on our way.

That evening we celebrated New Year's Eve with hot soup, a toasty campfire, and the company of a wee canyon mouse with its tufted tail.

The New Year's Day drive out to a paved road turned into an unexpected wildflower preview. The abundant rains had brought forth dune evening primrose, brittlebush, narrow-leaved popcorn flower, rush milkweed, brown-eyed evening primrose, fairy duster, sand verbena, desert sunflowers and more.

Vegas Vignettes

Date climbed: 12/02 (*I think...editor*)

By Alex Chiang [alex@chizang.net]

This report was originally posted on rec.climbing and is reprinted with permission from the author.

I. **Full Disclosure**

What are the ethics about informing your climbing partner that you are about to do something completely dangerous?

One school of thought equates ignorance with bliss, the theory being that if everything turns out ok in the end, it doesn't really matter what transpired in the middle. No blood, no foul, and what they don't know won't hurt them (or cause them to want to kick your ass). On the other hand, if you are trying to develop a partnership that lasts longer than a single route, it behooves you to develop an atmosphere of openness and trust. The more data points you have to form an opinion about the person to whom you are entrusting your life (of which you only have one), the better. Full disclosure is the only way to go.

I don't have time to explore either of these philosophies because Eric is about to run out of rope while four pitches up on Black Orpheus, 160 feet out from his last (first, and only) piece. I've been waiting for this moment for a while now, and have prepared by removing half the pieces from my two-piece anchor. As the last of the rope pays out, I unclip from the lone bolt belay and start simulclimbing, hoping that he can find a belay spot before I reach the blue TCU some forty feet above my head.

The climbing here is easy, but a fall would have rather serious consequences. That's what I think to myself as I clean the TCU. Luckily, at the belay, Eric understands and doesn't kick my ass.

II. **Tragedy Strikes**

Cara is in the hospital. Eric and I learn this as we stagger to the car some nine hours later. She's injured, but fundamentally ok. A hold broke off in her hand while leading Guise and Gals, and she fell pretty far due to a large amount of slack in the system. She got angle din the rope and flipped upside down, smacking her helmeted head. Her ankle is twisted pretty badly, and her weeklong climbing trip is no more, cut off at the second day.

Refusing to buy crutches from the hospital, the ecology major instead steals a beautifully gnarled pinyon branch from a National Conservation Area and gamey gimps about camp using a two-handed technique. We are sympathetic to her cause, but we still get bellyaches from laughing at the sight.

III. **Gems from the Red Book**

I'm at a hanging belay on Pink Tornado, clipped into quarter-inch bolts. There's an odd looking plate under one of the bolts that says "7-15-1976 STATION." My birthday was yesterday. I'm on my 24th lap around the sun, having started on December 30th, 1978. I slam in a Friend for back up.

Climbing with Larry means you never have to wait in line for a route.

IV. There's More to Trad Climbing Than Climbing

Rachel asks me what pitch I want to climb. I've been studying the SuperTopo for a few minutes now and without the slightest hesitation, I say I want the second one. We're roped up at the bottom of Varnishing Point, and before she heads up, I ask her if she wants to take a quick glance at the topo so she knows where to go. Too late, she realizes that the first pitch is only 5.6, and makes a few complaining noises, saying that she thought both pitches were 5.8. This is the sort of thing that happens when two somewhat selfish lead hogs climb together.

I laugh in her face. She's been a climbing bum for over six months now, living out of her truck in Yosemite, scarfing tourists' food, climbing way more than me, but there's still a thing or two I can learn her. He who controls the topo controls the route.

Gendarme Peak and Peak 13,218'

Date Climbed: 9/24/04

By Reiner Stenzel [stenzel@physics.ucla.edu]

This report was originally posted on climber.org and is reprinted with permission from the author.

Both peaks are in The Inconsolable Range north of the Palisade Range, east of the Bishop Pass trail. Gendarme Peak (13,267') is climbed infrequently and the unnamed peak, 13,218' just south of Picture Puzzle Peak (13,276') may have been unclimbed altogether since the peak is not even marked on the map and there was no human record on its summit.

On a beautiful day in Fall, I climbed these peaks from the Bishop Pass trail via Jigsaw Pass (12,756'), having spent a night at Lake 11,920' 0.2 mi SE of Bishop Pass. Jigsaw Pass is reached via the third chute north of Agassiz, which starts where a white diagonal rock band ends on a talus fan as clearly seen on a picture of Jigsaw Pass. It is a typical cl 2-3 chute with lots of loose rock but better than other chutes which end up in class 4 terrain. There is a wooden post at the top of the pass and a pass register. The east side is much gentler and leads down to the fifth of the Big Pine Lakes. From Jigsaw Pass, one can also ascend nearby Aperture Peak (13,265') which we did a year ago. Gendarme Pk and Two Eagle Pk (12,966') are just northeast of Jigsaw Pass.

Starting from Jigsaw Pass, I headed north, passed just east of Peak 12,856' to climb the ridge leading east to Gendarme Pk. This ridge is class 2 but near the summit, it turns into easy class 3. since there was new snow on the rocks, I stayed slightly north and below the ridge. From the summit, one can see at least four impressive rock columns to the east, the gendarmes. A traverse along the East Ridge over the gendarmes to Two Eagle Peak would be at least a class 4 climb. The summit register was in a small glass jar with a small notebook dating back to Aug 967 with the original signatures of the first ascent by Smatko et al. The newer spiral notebook from 1978 averages less than an entry per year. From the summit, one has a fine view of the Palisade Range, the Inconsolable Range and the lakes of the North Fork of Big Pine Creek. Looking west one

has a clear view of Picture Puzzle Pk which Barbara Berne and I climbed earlier via the north ridge and east couloir.

About 0.1 mi south of Picture Puzzle Pk is another prominent peak, which is not marked on the 7.5' Mt Thompson topomap. It is an isolated peak, not a subpeak of Picture. Seen from the west (Bishop Pass Trail), Peak 13,218' appears to be the most prominent and impressive peak on the crest of the Inconsolable Range. I climbed it from the east, which involves a steep climb on loose talus blocks. It is a straightforward class 3, but the challenge is to find stable rocks on this disintegrating mountain. There was not summit cairn or register on this unmarked peak. I left a signed notebook in a plastic box under a newly constructed cairn on the peak. My GPS with WAAS averaging read UTM 11 363446E, 4109760N (NAD227) and an elevation of 13,218'. The summit views were outstanding: to the west is a near-vertical drop-off toward the green Bishop Lakes; to the north is the rugged c14 south face of Picture Puzzle Pk; to the east is Gendarme Pk and in the south looms the high Palisade Range. I descended carefully and continued the ridge south toward Jigsaw Pass. On the way, I passed over Peak 12,856' wondering why this peaklet is marked on the North Pal topomap. After descending carefully down from Jigsaw Pass, I hiked out to the car and drove home.

RENT THIS SPACE!

Gaston's Back!!

Gaston Rabbitface, our favorite raconteur, has just returned from climbing the north face of Chuchubalstering II (6000m) with two climbers from Club Alpino Italiano. Once again, he answers our most pressing mountaineering questions with his usual aplomb and savoir faire! He's with us until end of March, then flies to Pakistan and K2 (8611m) via the Abruzzi Ridge with his Italian compatriots.

Dear Gaston,

Catch this! There are supposedly a whole bunch of unclimbed peaks in the Sierra Nevada! I plan on nabbing as many of them as I can this summer. I am concerned about being beaten to the top of these new peaks by other climbers. What should I do if I encounter another climber at the top of these new peaks? These are first ascents, dude!!

Whacked in Whiskey Creek

Dear Whacked,

AHHHH...by new peaks, are you referring to the new collection of pathetic bumps on the ridges that took 28 hours of differential GPS measurements to determine that they met the criterion for a new peak? Zat iz, they stuck up 1.8 meters above the adjacent terrain? Pardonne moi, but how do you know it isn't just an enormous pile of marmot doo-doo? No matter mon ami. If these are genuine first ascents and another climber is encountered, I would advise using the French ice axe technique, piolet de

mort, and dispatch the intruding clown. However, it is in all likelihood that you will be merely scraping marmot doo-doo off your boots. This can be done with another French ice axe technique, piolet de merde.

Dear Gaston,

I am an avid outdoorsperson and have recently met someone with the same love for climbing and hiking. I have been seeing this guy for about six months and am beginning to think after all these years this might be the real deal. His touch makes me sizzle. His eyes make me melt. His lips oh his lips, well, I think you get the picture. However, there is one slight problem...his personal hygiene habits. His feet stink and his nose-picking is really nasty. He claims he bathes everyday, puts odor-eaters in his boots, and trims his nose hair every Thursday night. As you can imagine, after a long day on the trail, and we come back to the tent for serious cuddle time, this whole body-thing is a real problem. I don't know how long I can go on holding my nose and not watching his nose. I hope you can help me!!

Jessie in Jamestown

Dear Jessie,

Ah, zee carefree life of zee mountaineer! Oft times, zee little peccadilloes of bathing are pushed aside, non? A simple reminder of how deliciously clean your body is and how he will not get any of your body if his is not zee same may do the trick. Bon chance!

Dear Gaston,

I was on a hike with several people many of whom I was meeting for the first time. Wildflowers were abundant and so were the ticks. We were having a wonderful time and midway through the hike, the leader made an announcement to be careful of brushing against the shrubs and plants on the trail and also sitting in grassy areas because she had read this was 'high' tick season. She also suggested that people 'buddy' up with someone at the end of the hike to check that person for ticks. She said we should remove clothing to see if the little buggers were hiding in dark places, ie: armpits, etc. Everyone immediately glanced around to find someone to check out. This could be a good way to get to know someone that you may be interested in for a date and possibly more. How much do I reveal (literally and figuratively) of myself if I really like the person without feeling too slutty?

Bugged in Bishop

Dear Bugged,

Zee mountain air, zee sunshine, zee open space...all add to our well-being, mais oui? Zee French have not zee same viewpoint of disrobing as zee American, therefore I would advise prudence in the presence of others. However, once you and zee

other hiker are together alone, ahhh, the word is your oyster...c'est vrai? Chiche e parfait mon ami!

Private Trips

Private trips are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club. They are listed here because they may be of interest to PCS members. Private trips may be submitted directly to the editor.

Date: March 19, 2005

Sugar Bowl to Squaw, cross-country ski traverse

Contact: Tim Hult, 408-970-0760, timdhult@sbcglobal.net

Date: April 15-17 (Fri-Sun)

Ventana Double Cone, 4854'

Contacts: Bill Kirkpatrick, 408-244-7607, wmkirk@earthlink.net; Nancy Fitzsimmons, 650-938-2106, pkclimber@aol.com

Date: May 2 -16, 2005

Lasha, Tibet [with optional trek to Nepal following]

Contact: Warren Storkman, 650-493-8959, dstorkman@aol.com

Date: July 10-24, 2005

Slovenian Alps "Hut-to-Hut"

Contact: Arlene Blum, Arlene@arleneblum.com

Website: <http://www.burger.si/SLOIndex.htm>

Date: January 14, 2006

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania [optional safari following]

Contact: Warren Storkman, 650-493-8959, dstorkman@aol.com



Denali: A Crux Move

Someone once told me that climbing a mountain was a lot like a relationship. The climb has its ups and downs... those bone-tiring moments versus acute, breathtakingly marvelous minutes with slow-slog stretches. Much has been written of climbing Denali and I'll not try and replicate any of that here. I wanted to give you a taste of Denali to whet the appetite. I asked six PCS'ers, who've been there and back, six questions and I've compiled them ungraded and unnamed, below. One quote stands out: "Denali is really two mountains. From 7000' to 14000', it's like a trek. But, from 14000' on, it's a different mountain entirely. Having a strategy of how you will climb the mountain becomes critical."

Many thanks to: Steve Eckert, Bob Evans, Will Hirst, Tim Hult, Charles Schafer, and Linda Smith

1. What was unexpected about climbing Denali?

"The place is huge [and] bigger than anywhere else I've been, except maybe Everest Basecamp area. The distances are vast, the glaciers huge, [and] the altitude very high." "It was a lot of work. Besides hauling your stuff, you have to build walls out of snow and make a place for your tent. Besides marching up and down Mission Peak, I should have been digging ditches to train!" "Many people on the mountain were younger and I wish I'd had the experience built up at a younger age to climb it. I talked to people on the mountain who were much older than I, so they're there." "How committing and truly raw it was. When you stand on the glacier and look around, all you see are rocks and snow...it was just staggering ..."

"The number of climbers on the mountain and the degree of organization. It starts with the fly-in to the Kahiltna Glacier, where a marked landing strip has been set up in the snow; complete with a woman who is up there the whole climbing season to act as Air Traffic Controller. The sleds stay up at Kahiltna through the season, like grocery shopping carts. The guides maintain the fixed ropes that make the climb possible for people like me." "Even though I had heard about the toilet situation, I still found it amazing." "Not much [was unexpected]. I grew up in Anchorage. I helped pack expeditions for Ray Genet back in the '70's. My best friend climbed Denali when he was 15."

2. What was expected and planned for in climbing Denali?

"Bad weather and high altitude."

"Meals."

"Carrying 50 lbs plus pulling the sled."

"...just about every possible contingency, short of a 14000' tsunami."

3.

4. If you had it to do again, what would you do differently?

"More than two people would probably be safer, but only if they were all skilled and compatible. We never had any crevasse trouble, but a single person rescue is tricky." "More than two people for sure, but picking competent partners outweighs simple quantities of bodies." "I neglected to practice lifting the 50 lb pack from the ground onto my back, and, when I got to Denali, that was a problem." "I'd bring less food [because] if you have excess food and fuel, you try to give it away so you don't have to haul it out." "Use a sled, not a drag bag."

5. In thinking about equipment and hardware, what's one piece of equipment you wouldn't be without?

"Spare gloves." "Spare glacier glasses." "A sense of humor." "Rope – most of the climb is glaciated so the prudent thing is to be roped up." "For women, the dreaded funnel is a necessity." "Don't pack too many warm clothes. Pack what you need and don't pack any more than that. Bring extras of things you can't do without or may easily get blown away; crushed; lost; forgotten: sunglasses, hat and gloves, stove repair kit, extra pot, thermarest repair kit." "A bombproof stove is very important." "My camera. Actually, there is no one piece of gear that stands above all the rest. You're trying to survive in a very harsh environment, so you need good quality gear that will enable you to do just that."

6. How did you choose your climbing mates?

"I decided to do a guided climb because I didn't think I had the experience or ability to be part of an independent team. I only expected to try it once and a guided trip maximized my chance of success." "I got a call from a prior climbing partner that I'd met on a trek in Nepal. They chose me." "Reputation." "Mutual respect. We both had a fair amount of high altitude experience and he had been on Denali before."

7. If you could give one piece of advice to someone about to climb Denali, what would that be?

"Prepare the best you can, but remember a little humility. It doesn't depend on your abilities. It depends on the weather. A 12 year old girl reached the summit the day before I did, but, on other days, famous mountaineers had to turn back. You don't conquer this mountain. If you are lucky, it lets you climb it." "Know yourself, know your partner, know your combined limits. You're there to visit and sneak up between storms, not conquer the damn thing." "In your zeal to climb the mountain, don't forget to enjoy some of the flavor of the mountain along the way. Weather can impact chances of attaining the summit, but not what a climber can take from the mountain." "Have a plan and a strategy of how you will climb the mountain. Be as informed as you can about conditions and the route. Don't confine yourself to reading the park-service provided guide alone. The team must agree in advance what sort of schedule they will follow and what the individual expectations are for this climb." "If you're thinking about doing it – go! **Just go.**"*Debbie Benham, editor*

Elected Officials

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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 Friday, March 25th. 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