



Newsletter of the Peak Climbing Section, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter

April 1990

Vol. 23, No. 4

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 1990

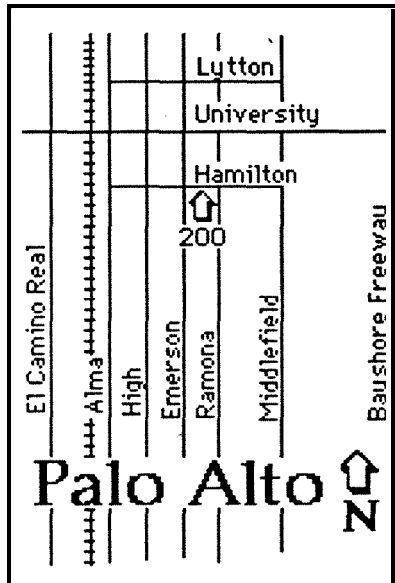
Time: 7:30 PM

Location:

Pacific Mountaineering
200 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto

Program:

Jonelle Geller will show slides of the Zodiac route up El Capitan (VI--5.1 1A3+)--A bold and painstaking climb. Join Jonelle for thrills and chills in this demanding climb.



Earth Day and Beyond...

Come April 22, lots of folks will be thinking about our planet and how to preserve its natural beauty for our pleasure and that of the generations who follow. Events of all kinds are planned, from fun runs to tree planting. For a day **at least** we will all be good environmentalists.

But what happens on April 23? Will we go about our business in the usual way, concentrating on planning trips and earning the money for gas to get there? Or will we still remember the promises we made to ourselves the day before: to get involved, to work harder, to really help save the planet?

The members of the Peak Section are sometimes chastized for their apparent lack of interest in matters environmental. Few of our members have earned a reputation for environmental activism that would rival their reputation for peak ascents under trying conditions or for finding the

best Mexican restaurant on the way home from the Sierras.

Why? Is it because we don't care? Probably not, since we of all people are conscious of the beauty and serenity of the wilderness. No, more likely it's because we are folks with busy lives and a somewhat shy nature that makes the prospect of standing on a street corner collecting signatures scarier than a Class 4 ascent.

And so to help make it easier for us to keep those April 22 promises, a new column in **Scree**, called *The Reluctant Activist*, will devote itself to environmental concerns, especially those of importance to peak climbers.

The name, *Reluctant Activist*, was chosen because most of us would rather be in the mountains than trying to save them. We would rather not have to worry about the effects of pollution or the greed of some developers. And one day, if the aims of Earth Day are successful, maybe we

(continued on page 4)

Upcoming Trips

April 14-15

Mt. Elwell & Adams
Class 2

April 21-22

Alta Pk & Mt Silliman
Class 1

April 28-29

Lamont & Sawtooth Pks
Class 2

For all the above trips, the leader will be:
Chris Yager
(408) 446-963 1

April 14-15

Bamaby Peak
Leader: Bill Hauser
(408)243-4566

Allow Mystic Bill to work his voodoo upon you. This trip begins on Saturday with a sweat lodge ceremony conducted by the Earth Circle Indian Group. After each participant has been spiritually roasted and pre-shrunk, with their souls safely hidden underneath the steel shank of Bill's climbing boot, the group will make a Sunday ascent of Bamaby Peak. As you have already guessed, this trip is co-listed with the Sierra Singles Section. Carp001 from the County Parking lot in downtown San Jose at the corner of North First Street and Hedding Avenue. Meet at 8:30 am on Saturday .

May 5-6

Black Cone (4,525")
Ventana Wilderness
Class 1

Leader: John Ingvoldstad
(415) 604-3156 W
(408) 259-3399 H
Good beginner trip. Hike in via Willow Creek from Arroyo Seco. Some cross country

May 6

Portola Peak
Class 1
Leaders: Henry Bugatto
(408)446-4062
Warren S torkman
(415) 493-8959

May 12 & 13

North Dome (7,542')
Class 1
Leaders: Debbie Bulger
(408) 476-2837
Kai Wiedman
(4 15) 347-2843
Hike past the top of Upper Yosemite Falls to the summit of North Dome where we will spend the night basking in the light of the recently full moon. About 4,000' elevation gain. The stunning view of Half Dome is worth the hike. \$5 campsite fee. Call leader for details. Lightning cancels.

May 19-20

Buena Vista Peak, 9709',
Class 2
Leader: Aaron Schuman
(415) 494-3299
Don't be deceived by the low elevation of the summit - the trailhead (Wawona) is only

4200'. We'll get a healthy workout hiking up alongside Wawona dome and **Chilnualna** Falls. Expect sweeping views of the Illilouette Basin and the Clark Range. Yosemite quad.

May 28-29 (tentative)

Big Sur
Leader: Anita Stewart
(415) 965-2293
24 mile loop via Pine Ridge trail to Redwood Camp. Net elevation gain 2,500'. Call leader to confirm date.

August 20-29

Roper's 'High Route' Part 1
Leader: Ray Stafford
(415) 852-6310
Roper's 'High Route' parallels the John Muir Trail except that it is above tree line, frequently off trail and has many opportunities for peak climbing. Part 2 will be done next year.

Subscription Fee Increases to \$10

At the March PCS meeting, members voted overwhelmingly to increase the subscription fee for Scree from \$8 to **\$10**.

The price increase will allow us to break even, to use recycled paper (which is more expensive--go figure), and to deal with the upcoming increase in first class mail from 25¢ to 30¢.

Trip Reports

Cone Peak, Ventana

Jeffrey P. Schaffer in his book *Hiking the Big Sur Country* states: No other trail of comparable difficulty reaches such electrifying views as those obtained from the Cone Peak Lookout. Maybe he's right. The sturdy band of hikers lead by Debbie Bulger really can't attest to the fact since all they got to see was snow coming down in thick flakes obscuring anything more than a few feet away. But then we hadn't really earned the right to the great view either.

Debbie had found a good road leading from Highway 1 to within an hour of the peak so we only had to trudge up the nicely switch backed trail to gain our objective. Still it would have been nice...

To make up for the disappointment we tried going downhill with much more success. Starting from the same road a mile or so from the Cone Peak Trailhead, we dropped 2,000 feet ending at Kirby Creek Campground on Highway 1. As we descended, winter turned to spring and wildflowers emerged. We saw columbine, lupine, Indian warriors, and what looked very much like some sort of peony just about to bloom. This trail has all the advantages: great views, wonderful redwood trees (one so large that it took all 8 of holding hands to give it a hug),

and well graded switch backs.

We rewarded ourselves with a stop at Nepenthe for dinner before heading home.

Participants included: Debbie Bulger, Joe Edwards, Rebecca Riggs, Alan **Roddick**, Frank Shields, Vilma Siebers, Richard Stover, and Judith Yarborough.

Dewey Point--Mar 24-25

Spring weather was the theme for our camping trip to Dewey Point. Its short distance from the Badger Pass trailhead placed the trip's emphasis on relaxation and enjoying the great views.

Our group of nine included: Sandy Attardi, Dave Dorer, Craig Payne, Rob Rowlands, Paul Vlasveld, Don & Phyllis Weiss, Roland Wentz, co-leader Chris MacIntosh, and myself, Ray Stafford, leader.

After lunch from our overlook, the next order of business was competition for the best tent site, that is, closest to the edge with the best unobstructed angles and views of Yosemite Valley and El Capitan. Our warm evening gave everyone a leisurely time to enjoy the stars from above and lights from the valley before retiring.

After a leisurely breakfast (with quite a number of people insisting on hot tea being served to them before they would crawl from the

sleeping bags) we left before the snow became too soft. A great Yosemite spring trip!

Tenaya Lake-Tuolumne Meadows--Week of Mar 18

Our ski trip into upper Yosemite included Dave Dorer (from Boston), Don & Phyllis Weiss (travel writers) and myself, Ray Stafford. We climbed out of the Valley via Snow Creek Tral and camped in what is possibly Yosemite's finest camp site **located** across from the evening's crimson Half Dome.

Camping later at Tenaya Lake we found a protected site looking down the Lake where we could enjoy the morning and evening light on snow covered domes. This location also allowed us day trips into Tuolumne Meadows.

Photography was excellent, the days and evenings being clear and windless with a few clouds in the evening. We were also able to photograph a number of **valanches!**

Next year? We'll be back. Our plans have already been made and we'll be able to again enjoy the solitude of Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows.

Lost:

Red Pile Wilderness Experience Jacket with Navy Blue trip. If found contact Butch Suits
(4 15) 964-4227

Private Trim

May 5-6

Pilot Knob #1

Class 2

Leader Chris Yager

(408) 446-963 1

May 12-13

Mt. Corcoran

Class 3

Leader: Chris Yager

(408) 446-963 1

May 5-12

San Rafael Swell, Utah

Central commissary base camp

trip. Mostly dayhikes, 1 possible

overnight. Class 2-4, elevation

1,000-6,500'. Petroglyphs,

pictographs, stunning scenery:

possible rope climbs. For

application, call Marj Ottenberg,

Bob Wallace, (408) 867-4576.

May 21-22

Stone Pine Pt & Mt Corcoran

Class 3

Leader Chris Yager

(408) 446-963 1

May 26-28

Mt Shasta (14,162')

Class 2

Leaders: Kai Wiedman

(415) 347-2843

Brian Boyle

(408) 973-0640

Via Hotlum/Bolam Ridge. "The safest and most reliable route on the North Side." Come join us for a magnificent alpine adventure

Earth Day (Cont'd)

won't have to. Until then though, this column will try to make it as easy as possible to do our part.

We will offer tips that you can incorporate into your daily lives in order to live more lightly on the planet. We will focus on efforts to preserve or restore areas of interest to mountaineers. And we will try to highlight the activities of Peak Section members who are preserving as well as enjoying the wilderness.

To make the column a success, we will need lots of ideas, information, and nominations for a *Reluctant Activist* Award. So fight down your shyness long enough to send your editor material to keep the column healthy and interesting from Earth Day and beyond.

Just to get us off on the right foot, we will arbitrarily award the first *Reluctant Activist* Awards to Sir Edmund Hillary and Reinhold Messner.

Jul 7-15

Evolution Basin Base Camp

Leader: Kai Wiedman

(415) 347-2843

To help you plan your summer vacation, we are giving more advance warning than usual about this trip. Call Kai for more information.

Hillary has given his patronage to the Himalayan Adventure Trust which is designed to ameliorate impact of climbers and trekkers on the Himalayas. They are working especially to clean up rubbish.

Mountain Wilderness, led by Reinhold Messner, has obtained permission for a K2 expedition whose goal is not the summit, but the removal of 10,000 meters of fixed ropes from the normal route and cleanup of the K2 and Broad Peak base camps which have come to resemble garbage dumps. They are also working with the Pakistani authorities to require future expeditions to leave the mountain as clean as they found it.

Who will be next to join the select company of award winners? Watch this space next month and find out.

THANKS are due to Debbie Benham who helped by mailing our the March Scree and to Linda Smith who contributed the material about Messner and Hillary.

May Meeting Preview

The estimable Mr. Suits will hold us spellbound at Western Mountaineering with his slides of ski mountaineering.



Miscellaneous (and Sometimes Questionable) Contributions

It was the inaugural adventure of the Sneak Climbing Section, the group which is dedicated to attaining summits on posted private land. Though it was not co-listed, three infamous members of the PCS may have been involved: Raul Mocho, Popeye Iacocca, and yours truly, Yoshi Van Winkle. These are not our real names, of course, but this report will contain sufficient clues for those who need to know.

Raul wanted to climb Oso Peak, a high point of Stanislaus County, but we were discouraged by the exposure. To a Sneak Climber, a summit that is treeless, not very steep, and the property of a hunting club is

Note: The editor is getting sick of the same old ads and so unless notified to the contrary will remove all ads that have run in more than one issue.

very serious exposure. They could see us from anywhere and they all have guns. It must remain on Raul's peak list for a while longer.

Instead, Popeye suggested Red Mountain, which was, according to his Triple-A map, the highest point in Stanislaus. It was an easy summit, involving only skulking around an A-frame and a quarry. At the 3800 summit, Raul discovered that the AAA map reports that nearby Mount Boardman has a height of 3645 feet, but the USGS Bay Area map shows it as 4089', so after getting caught at dawn camping at the base of Red, we set out for where four counties meet, for Mount Boardman.

There were many obstacles: locked gates, ranch shacks, clearings and jeep trails. But we hid in the chamise when danger approached, and got to the top and back in eight hours.

Back in the map room in the Mellow Park USGS office, Popeye discovered that the 7.5' quadrangle also shows Board-

man as being 3645', in disagreement with the USGS Bay Area map. So it turns out that we did climb the high point of San Joaquin County, but we did not simultaneously breathe the thinnest air in Stanislaus. That place, we now believe, is Mount Stakes. Since Stakes is also on private property, look for another Sneak Climbing Section outing. Trip announcements will be spray painted on freeway underpasses near you.



Classifieds

SEE YOUR AD HERE. Want to unload gear? Need a hard-to-find piece of equipment? Looking for a partner for some far-flung adventure? Try a classified in SCREE. The price can't be beat: it's free. Just send your ad to the editor. But please inform him when you've bought/sold/connected with whatever you sought.

FOR SALE: Feathered Friends Snow Goose sleeping bag, rated to minus 40 degrees, \$250; Chouinard supergaiters, one rand ripped, \$15; jumars, \$40; Salewa step-in scissors crampons, \$65; Celso Frazao, (408) 266-6932.

WANTED TO RENT: Couple wants to join an existing ski cabin in the Truckee/Donner area. Call Gaby Westat (415) 595-0723 h, (415) 966-8810 w.

FOR SALE: Two pair men's lightweight hi boots: One pair Lowa all-leather, excellent condition. Size 11. Cost \$100. Sale \$40. One pair LL Bean leather/Gore-Tex. Never worn. Size 11 1/2. Cost \$80. Sale \$40. (Both too small for me.) Jim. (408) 463-4873 days/ (408) 224-8553 evcs.

FOR SALE: Moonstone pik parts. Size: men's medium. Full side zips. New used. \$35. John Flinn. (415) 968-2050.

FOR SALE: REI/SMC crampons. 12-point, flexible, non-adjustable. Bring size 9 or 9 1/2, or possibly 10 boots to the next PCS meeting for sizing. Asking \$15. Eugene Miya.

FOR SALE: Vuarret PX-5000 Mountaineer glasses. New. Advertised for \$70 in REI catalog, will be given away at SM! Dave Caldwell. (408) 945-8030.

FOR SALE: Sierra Designs Goretex down parka--long style. Size Medium. W&M worn, in great shape. \$75. Tim Hult. (408) 732-0814.

FOR SALE: Brand new, never used Gregory Snow Creek internal frame pack. Size small. \$200. Dave Stover. (415) 832-1560.

FOR SALE: Locking Baerecrafters ski rack. Fits cars with rain gutters. Only \$15. Chris MacIntosh (415) 325-7841.

WANTED: A partner interested in ice climbing this winter. Must have some ice screws and rock climbing experience. Tim Hult. (408) 732-0814.

WANTED TO BUY: Used mountaineering books. Are those Himalayan epics gathering dust on your shelf? Can't bear to make that verbal approach march to Everest basecamp one more time? Give me a call. John Flinn (415) 968-2050.

FOR SALE: A16 Climbing Harness. Size medium. Padded. s25. sandy Sans. (415) 965-3822.

FOR SALE: Merrell mountaineering boots, leather (like Ado Yukon). Size 11. Free. MSR climbing helmet, large, \$25. Forrest insulated expedition overboots (covers entire boot, for YE with crampons) Excellent construction. New. \$30. Asolo Supersoft plastic boots, size 11. little wear. \$120. REI McKinley ice axe, wood shaft, 80 cm, 520. Chouinard supergaiters, old style, strap under sole, size apr. 9-10 1/2, depending on welt. Free. Call John Rawlings, (415) 723-3101 between 9-5.

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SCREE is a publication of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. Subscriptions are \$10 per year. Checks should be sent to the treasurer, Dinesh Desai.

PCS meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. See SCREE for meeting location and program information.

Trip classifications:

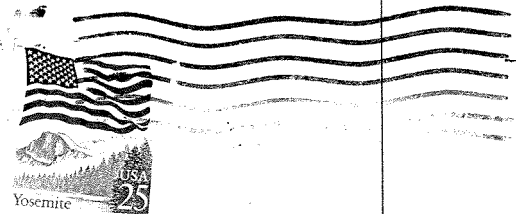
- Class 1: Walking on a trail.
- Class 2: Walking crosscountry, using hands for balance.
- Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used occasionally.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

Deadline for SCREE contributions is two weeks before the next meeting. Mail your contributions to the SCREE editor.

For change of address or address corrections, write or call Paul Vlasveld, 157 Kellogg Way, Santa Clara 95051. (408) 241-1144 h / (408) 257-7910 w.



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