



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

August 1990

Vol. 23, No. 8

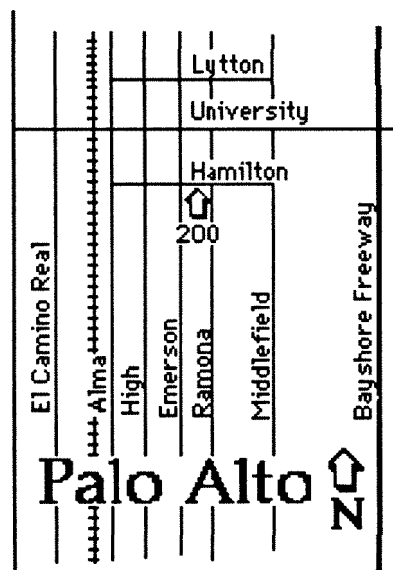
## Next Meeting

Date: August 14, 1990  
 Time: 7:30 PM  
 Location:  
 The Pacific Mountaineer  
 200 Hamilton Ave.  
 Palo Alto, CA 94301

### 1989 Denali Climb

- See the towering mountain!
- Experience the storms!
- Hear of the epic struggles!
- See Laurel's bum!

Tim Hult tells all.



## Trip Report

GREEN LAKES  
 JUNE 23-24

Leader: Butch Suits

What turned out to be one of the finest weekend trips ever experienced started as the group met over breakfast in Bridgeport at 7:00 Saturday morning. Butch Suits, Ken George, Paul Burns, Sally Glynn, Joy and Dinesh Desai, and Chris English made up this lucky team.

After a breakfast of pancakes a la "grand temanio" we struck out for the trailhead which was located at the end of Green Lake Road in the Matterhorn Peak quad. A short 3 mile hike brought us to Green Lake, which boasts Virginia Pass as an ornamental backdrop. The view was spectacular as we ate lunch. We soon struck out for our final destination - West Lake - which lies in a hanging valley some 1000 feet above Green Lake. About one hour later, and after a set of moderate switchbacks, we arrived at an alpine lake surrounded by Monument Ridge to the north

and east, and Twin Peaks and "IRS" Peak (it is actually the peak near West Lake that has a 10400' contour near the summit which we named) to the west. After setting up camp, we decided to test our legs on the 10880'+ IRS Peak.

The climb began as a moderate scree slog and finished in an "appetizing" 80 foot piece of class 3 rock. After clearing the ridge to the north of the peak, our hard work was rewarded by spectacular views of the emerald green Par Value Lakes,

(continued on p 3)

## BE A HERO!

This opportunity comes only once a year.

Come to the rescue - we have no place to hold the annual December party/meeting. And no, it's not too early to start looking for a place. Contact Kai Wiedman if you have any leads.

Also, keep taking those candid photos to show at the party!

## Upcoming PCS Trips .

**Aug 11-12**

**North Peak** (12,242')

Class 2

Leader: Peter Maxwell

(408) 737-9770 H

Coleader: Joseph Cocha

(408) 252-7053

We will take the scenic Eastern approach in from Lundy Canyon. Call to sign up. Limited size group. \$5 deposit

**Aug 18-19**

**Tuolumne Meadows**

Class 2 and Class 3 climbs

Leaders:

Cecil Magliocco

(408) 946-1238 H

Gary Pinson

(408) 997-0298 H

We reserved a group campsite at Tuolumne Meadows, so there's lots of room for people with varied interests. We'll lead day trips to peaks in the vicinity - possible destinations are Echo Peaks, Tuolumne Peak, and Tenaya Peak. Families are welcome. There is plenty for non-climbers to do in and around the Meadows.

**Aug 24-26**

**Tower Peak** (11,755')

Class 3

Leader John Ingvoldstad

(408) 259-3399 H

(415) 604-3156 W

Coleader: Aaron Schuman

(415) 494-3299 H (before 9

PM)

(415) 3351901 w

It's a long way in to this Class

3 jewel on the Northern boundary of Yosemite. Start from Leavitt Meadow. For the ambitious, there's a second challenge on our climb day, Ehrnbeck Peak 11,240', Class 3

**Aug 25-26**

**Amelia Earhart Peak** (11,982')

Class 2

Leader Chris MacIntosh

(415) 3257841 H

Co-leader: Judith Yarborough

(415) 854-9288 H

Beautiful hike up Lye11 Canyon, followed by a great view of Yosemite high country.

Long hike from trailhead, so expect long arduous days.

Group size:6. Reserve by sending \$3 to Judith at 2070 Mills Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025

**September 1-3**

**Temple Craig** (12,999')

Mt. Sill (14,162') or

Mt. Gayley (13,510')

Class 3

Leader: John Ingvoldstad

(408) 259-3399 H

(415) 604-3156 W

Approach from the east (south fork of Big Pine Creek). Temple Crag on the first day. Climbing Sill depends on finding a Class 2 or 3 route to the south of the glacier, which I think we can do. Otherwise, we'll climb Gayley for a spectacular view of the Palisades.

**September 1-3**

**Marion Peak** (12,719')

Class 2

Leader: Chris Yager

(408) 243-3026

**September 22-23**

**Mt. Hoffman** (10,850')

**Echo Peaks** (ca. 11,000')

Class 3

Leader: Kai Wiedman

(415) 347-2843 H

Car camping at Tuolumne Meadows. Let's go climbing, enjoy the outdoor life. Class 1 peak baggers and day hikers welcome. \$5 camping fee.

**October 6-8**

**Jack's Peak** (10,198')

**McAfee Peak** (10,439')

**Copper Mtn.** (9910')

Leader: Bill Hauser

(408) 243-4566 H

Let's sojourn north of Elko Nevada and climb these three NAS peaks in Humbolt National Forest. We will also explore Wild Horse Hot Springs and the ghost town of Tuscarora.

### September Preview

#### Volcanoes of Ecuador

Rob Rolands tells all at the August meeting at Western Mountaineering.

## Private Trips

**Aug 11-12**

**Mt Stanford (13,963')**

**Class 3**

**Leader: Chris Yager**

**(408) 243-3026**

**Aug 18-19**

**Disappointment Pk(13,917')**

**Class 3**

**Leader: Chris Yager**

**(408) 243-3026**

**Aug 25-26**

**Mt Gardiner (12,907')**

**Class 4**

**Leader: Chris Yager**

**(408) 243-3026**

**Aug 31-Sep 4**

**Kearsarge to Whitney**

**Class 3**

**Leader: Eugene Miya**

**(415) 961-6772 H**

Another special trip by the Sierra Register Committee. It might also go North on the Muir trail instead. Contact Eugen for list of peaks to be checked. This trip is limited to four fast, capable climbers.

**Sept 8-9**

**Giraud Peak (12,585')**

**Class 2**

**Leader: Chris Yager**

**(408) 243-3026**

**Sept 28-30**

**North Palisade (14,242')**

**Class 4+**

**Leader: Kelly Maas**

**(408) 279-2054 H**

**(408) 944-2078 W**

## Trip Report

(continued from p 1)

Virginia Pass and even a framed view of Yosemite. Butch, Paul, Ken and Sally summited as Joy and I waited at 10800'. [What happened to Dinesh? - ed]

That evening we enjoyed beef stroganoff and chocolate mousse. The altitude had us all giddy as we almost finished four litres of a most warming if not tasteful red wine. Sally, Joy and I managed to start a fire after sawing through a steel tempered log with a sierra saw. Certain doubting Thomas' were asked to refrain from enjoying its warmth.

The following morning, after breakfast, Dinesh and Joy decided to leave and do some climbing in Yosemite as they proceeded home in a leisurely fashion through Tioga Pass. The rest of the group set out to attempt the highest point on Monument Ridge.

Our route took us northwest to Bergona Lake. We enjoyed several waterfalls as we climbed to this 10320' table lake. Photo opportunities abounded and several stops were made to take advantage of them. We finally began a serious climb up good scree

and rock to the second highest point on the ridge just west of the high point. After an hour, we found ourselves on "Hell Peak" (so named in the register we found in an empty coffee jar. It is actually the unmarked contour circle north of Bergona Lake). Mono Lake, and no less than fifteen emerald jewels could be seen from our perch. We next followed the ridge east and down over the saddle between the two peaks on the ridge. Our final climb took us to 11778' up some challenging large rock. After summitting, a class 1 followed by class 2 route from the north following Tamarack Creek became obvious. However, I would recommend our more enjoyable route. The views were still magnificent as Mono Lake loomed to the south. After a short rest, we began our descent down the scree channel (south of the saddle between the two peaks) which leads directly to West Lake.

A short rest and a moderate hike out and we began our return to reality from what all felt was a magnificent trip. Butch should be commended on his patience, attentiveness, and overall ability as a group leader. Butch, thanks from all of us.

**-Chris English**

We'll climb via the U-Notch. If the couloir is all ice, an alternative peak, such as Winchell, will be considered.

# Trip Reports

## WHY ISN'T KOIP PEAK IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK?

KOIP PEAK  
JUNE 16-17  
Leader: Kai Wiedman

I am devoted to Yosemite and tend to climb only its peaks. So why did I bother with Koip Peak which is located in Inyo National Forest? Because Kai Wiedman was leading the trip! Well, that and because Koip Peak was part of Yosemite National Park from 1890 to 1905.

This year is the centennial celebration of Yosemite's park status. John Muir struggled long and hard to make Yosemite a national park, thereby protecting it from sheepherders, loggers, miners and other exploiters.

We understand the year 1890; what happened in 1905? Why were the Minarets, Mt. Ritter, Koip Peak and others no longer part of YNP? Simply stated, the mining interest had more money than the Sierra Club (founded in 1892) and succeeded in pressuring the Federal Government to reduce YNP's boundaries. Sound familiar?

Evidence of eager gold-seekers can be found at Mono Pass where we visited on Sunday. Larry Hester and Julie Carlyle led us there to see the native whitebark pine log cabins used by the miners.

On Sunday our thoughts were with the miners; on Saturday, however, our thoughts were with the mountain sheep. Debbie Bulger had informed us at the trailhead that Koip Peak was named by the USGS in 1883 from a Mono Indian word meaning mountain

sheep. Why had the park's bighorn sheep died out a hundred years ago? Disease carried by the domestic sheep that were brought to the high sierra in the 1860's was the cause. John Muir once worked as a sheepherder, but later deplored the activity of the "hoofed locusts" in such pristine areas as Tuolumne Meadows and took to the pen to save the land. It worked; Yosemite's high country became a national park in 1890. The Yosemite Association located a herd of bighorn sheep from the Mt. Baxter region (Kings Canyon National Park) to Lee Vining Canyon in 1979. By 1987 five were spotted a few miles northeast of Koip Peak, fulfilling Muir's hope that the "noblest creatures living in nature" would some day return to Yosemite.

Still thinking like mountain sheep, Kai Wiedman, Debbie Bulger, Dotty Demish, Ray Stafford, Linda Smith and I attempted the summit by Roper's northwest glacier route. Eventually we followed Kai and Debbie's route instead. Leaving our basecamp at 2:00, Kai charged up through rock and snow. The snow travel was fun; the snow covered rock sections were tiring. At least 1/2 of us were on the verge of losing interest in the climb, 2/3 of us had headaches from either altitude or sun exposure, and all of us had we, soggy boots. It came to a point at 4:15 where a couple of us asked about a turning back time. Kai said 5:00 and suddenly Debbie became the driving force leading us up the worst section

of the route. Up we went over steep, snow blanketed talus which, as Kai remarked, "was tedious, difficult and loose."

Somehow it was 5:15 and we had finally reached the top. There was no wind at the top; there were no paper and pen in the register. Thanks to Debbie, the register has been replenished. The view from the top included former Yosemite peaks - Banner, Ritter, and the Minarets, and our much welcomed homeward route. Our route would be Roper's standard one - from Koip Peak Pass down some very ominous-looking switchbacks (1/4 mile net vertical drop) to Parker Pass. The hour was getting late and we did get off route, but I kept Kai to his word that we would return home by the trail! Special thanks go to Debbie, Dotty, and Linda who helped me through a rough section while trying to get onto the trail. The exhausting return to basecamp ended at 8:15 and was rewarded along the way by sights of butterflies and ptarmigans (non-native, introduced for the hunters!), tracks in the snow left by coyotes, white-tailed rabbits, and ground squirrels, and smells of buttercups, phlox and sky pilot.

Kai continues to lead successful Saturday summit/Sunday brunch adventures.

*-Laura Sefchik*

## Trip Reports (Continued)

Graveyard Peak

June 30 - July 1

Leaders: Aaron Schuman

and Paul Vlasveld

After being soundly defeated on my first PCS trip (The Great Shasta Bailout), I signed up for amore mundane trip. It turned out to be a real sleeper and rather more successful in its objectives.

Our group, consisting of Aaron, Paul, Mike Lambert, Chris English, Patty Haight, Bryan Scott, Jim Schollard and myself, was to assemble at the Thomas A. Edison Lake ferry landing at 8:00 Saturday. Only later did we learn that since the reservoir was at 20% of capacity, the landing had been moved a couple of miles out to the new lake edge. After breakfast at Vermilion Resort, Chris, Paul, Jim and I stumbled on the others at the trailhead somewhat after 8:00.

We correctly surmised that, being late,, some of the others had stopped for breakfast at Denny's in Fresno.

A relatively leisurely five mile hike brought us to Devil's Bathtub, beneath Graveyard Pk. The only things devilish about the lake were the mosquitoes.

We ate lunch after establishing camp at the far end of the lake, then took off for the summit (2200' up) as clouds drifted by. As Graveyard Pk. is a point on a relatively long and serrated ridge, we could only guess at which point to head for. Aaron led us in the general direction, accross the bottom of a loose looking gully to a slightly steep but much more solid gully. Getting there involved a short section of relatively steep rock, which

slowed down part of the group. Shortly after this Aaron and Mike turned back.

Jim led on, proving to be the real mountain goat of the group. A couple of hours brought us to the top of the ridge, but still some ways from the summit which was finally visible as a small rocky finger pointing skyward.

Since the climbing to this point had been tiring, and because it now became harder, Bryan, Patty and Chris elected to wait as Jim, Paul and I continued to the summit. The ridge turned out to be very pleasant, slightly exposed class 2, 3 or 4, depending on the moves chosen.

At the summit, we found an entry made by a Butch Suits led climb in 1987.

Fortunately the threatened rain never materialized, but the clouds and wind kept things cool. Despite this and the long time we spent at the summit, the other three waited for us until we were off the ridge.

We returned to camp with just enough time before sunset to fix dinner and apply large quantities of insect repellent.

When Jim and I decided to go tentless, we forgot to consider the mosquitoes, which then dictated a fully zipped sleeping bag. Jim was slightly uncomfortable in his sub-zero bag as the temperature dipped into the low fifties that night. And the mosquitoes still got him, leaving him with large bumps on his forehead the next morning.

Instead of reattempting the peak at 4:00 AM as he had threatened, Aaron woke up most of us with a pseudo-scream as he jumped into the

(very mild) lake.

As we slowly broke camp, we had lively discussions on important matters, and Chris explained his theory of saving weight through the careful use and rationing of toilet paper.

We all hiked back around Devil's Bathtub and walked at our own paces back to the cars. Once there, it was agreed that we deserved a reward for our efforts. Hence another stop at Vermilian Resort and a boysenberry pie before hitting the road.

All in all, a very pleasant trip, despite the mosquitoes. A short hike, mild weather, good company, a beautiful lake, and an enjoyable peak.

- Kelly Maas

### Minarets July 14-19

Eugene Miya, Butch Suits and myself partook in a Sierra Register Committee trip to check and place as many registers on the 17 Minaret summits as possible. We were the only ones on the trip because of several last minute cancelations. We succeeded in climbing Riegelhuth, Pridham, Kehrlein, Starr and Adams Minarets, as well as an unnamed peak that Butch appropriately dubbed Crockery Pk.

Rain every day kept us off the more serious peaks, but allowed all of us to read a copy of **Rock and Ice** cover-to-cover, and to verify that Butch's boots are waterproof on the inside.

Although unable to place any of the aluminum registers we brought, we did place all of the plastic ones. It's a beautiful area, and I will certainly be back.

- Kelly Maas

**CHAIRPERSON:**

**Kai Wiedman**  
927 S. Delaware St  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
(415) 347-2843 h

**VICE CHAIR/SCHEDULER:**

**Aaron Schuman**  
3875 Park Blvd. #22  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
(415) 494-3299 h  
(415) 3351901 w

**TREASURER:**

**Dinesh Desai**  
444 Castro St. #917  
Mt. View, CA 94041  
(415) 969-2695 h  
(415) 964-5760 w

**SCREE EDITOR:**

**Judith Yarborough**  
2070 Mills Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(415) 854-9288 h  
(415) 7251773 w

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**. To insure an uninterrupted subscription, checks must be received no later than the last Tuesday of the expiration month.

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

**Trip classifications:**

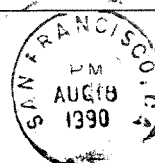
- Class 1: Walking on a trail.
- Class 2: Walking **cross-country**, using hands for balance.
- Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used occasionally.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

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.**



**Peak Climbing Section  
2070 Mills Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**



**First Class Mail  
Dated Material!**