



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

December 1990

Vol. 23, No. 12

Next Meeting

Annual Holiday Potluck

Location: Rec Room at Eugene Miya's Apartment Complex--8 16 Bay, Mt. View

Time and Date: 7 PM,
Tuesday,
Dec 11, 1990

Get your slides in order. Bring out the old family recipes. It's time to share memories of trips and climbing friends, food, drink, and tall stories. Our December meeting will include all of the above plus PCS elections (see story at right).

Slides are limited to 10 each. Please look for those that show **PCSers** in action as well as those that show trips and mountain scenery. A projector and screen will be provided.

The potluck assignments are as follows:

Main Dishes-- A through D

Salads-- E through I

Desserts-- J through R

Beverages-- S through Z

Look through your incoming mail. Notice the first letter of your last name. Use this letter as

a key to finding out what you get to bring. Make sure there's enough for 8 **PCSers**. There is a hot plate and microwave to warm things up.

Please bring your own **knives**, forks, spoons, **cups**, and **plates**. We don't want to have to resort to paper plates and confirm the Sierra Club's worst suspicions about the environmental awareness of the average **PCSer** (Somewhere between Ronnie Reagan and the skipper of the Exxon Valdez). Bring your own seating, too.

If you want to use the jacuzzi or pool, bring a suit and towel.

To get to Eugene's from 101 take 85 South to El Camino North exit. Go one block on El Camino, turn right on Bay. Nearest cross street is Centre.

Coming from 280, take 85 North. Exit at El Camino North. Go **through** the light at Grant Road to Bay and turn right.

The recreation room is in the center of the complex, near the pool. Please park on the street. Parking in the complex is very limited.

PCS Elections

At our December meeting/potluck, we will elect our **officers** for the coming year. The nominations are as follows:

Chairperson--

Aaron Schuman

Vice Chair/Scheduler--

Debbie Bulger

Treasurer--

Debbie Benham

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor (or a PCS member, whichever is **more** coherent at that point).

We can also lead a **round** of cheers for our outgoing officers. They have done an admirable job. Kai saw to it that there were enough meetings. Aaron saw to it that there were enough tips. Dinesh saw to it that there was enough money. What more can you expect? (Please don't answer this question. Space in **Scree** is limited and needs to be preserved for serious matters like altitude records for **various** bodily functions.)

Upcoming PCS Trips

Dec 8-9

Pt Reyes Backpack to Coast Camp

Class 1

Leader: Anita Stewart
4159652293

Co-leader: Rob Rowlands
408-252-8576

13 miles first day, 8 miles second day.

Dec. 15 (Saturday)

Mt. Tamalpais

Class 1

Leader: Debbie Benham
408-945-8030

A holiday hike of about 10 miles. Leaves at 9:30 AM from Mt. Home parking area, towards East Peak, then round to Potrero Meadow. Bring water, lunch, and dessert to sham. Call for carpool information.

Dec. 15-16

Cross Country Downhill

Leader: Butch Suits
415-964-4227

Telemarkers, time to stretch out your knees and see if they still 'angulate' after a summer of atrophy. We will ski the downhill slopes of Northstar on Saturday and another resort on Sunday. Telemark lessons are available at Northstar for those who axe interested

Saturday evening features soaking in the Clair Tappan hot tub and other diversions. Lodging and meals cost \$60

For Sierra Club members, \$70 For non-members. Each person will be responsible for making his/her own reservations at Clair Tappan Lodge--916-426-3632. Telly Ho!

January 12-13

South Cone, 4965'

Class 2

Ventana Wilderness

Leader: Aaron Schuman

415-494-3299 H

(before 9:00 pm)

415-335-1901 w

This is a 15 miles round trip backpacking from China Camp. Expect to see lots of brushy ceanothus and chamise, and a few shady stands of oak, sycamore and bay.

Upcoming Private Trips

Dec 26-30

Central Oregon Ski Mountaineering

Leader: Eugene Miya
415-961-6772

Dec 30- Jan 1

Tuttle Mountains

Class 2-3

Sponsor: Desert Survivors

Backpack is 10 miles, and day hike is 25 miles. 605 miles to the meeting place from the Bay Area.

Jan 25-27

Eastern Woman Moutains Class 1

Sponsor: Desert Survivors

Backpack loop is 17 miles. 566 miles to meeting place from Bay Area.

For further information about the Desert Survivors' trips, contact Steve Tabor, 415-357-6585.

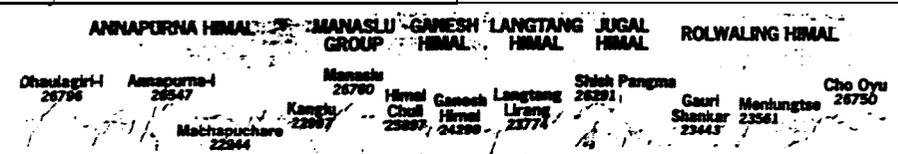
Jan 16

Guerrilla Warfare Climbing Leadership Training Session

Lecture/discussion series for future SPS leaders. Seminar given by veteran Sneak Peak Section climber and developer of SPS rating system. Prepare for SPS Class S5 and above! Get inside scoop on Mt. Isabel, Poverty Ridge, and Mt. Lewis.

We'll also discuss a special status for Diablo Range Guerrilla Warfare Peaks. Some go to the Columbia River for worlds best windsurfing, some go to Chamonix or Yosemite or Bugaboos for the worlds best rock climbing, and others go to the Diablo Range of California for the worlds best Guerrilla Warfare Climbing!! It isn't a wilderness. It isn't a park. It's a Guerrilla Warfare Sneak Peakers heaven!!

Call Mr. Raoul Macho 408-243-4566 for location and time.



GREAT HIMALAYAS

Trip Reports

The Perilous Trek to Teddy Bear Lake
(Continued from Nov. issue)

Day 7: August 4, 1990

Alas, the planned detour to Teddy Bear Lake was not to be. Veary hikers, their bellies too full of food, with an injured member, decided to lower their expectations and start heading down to the hedonistic delights of Bishop. Quickly they descended to Paiute Pass where they once more began to see a number of other hikers.

The valley and its restaurants beckoned, but the happy campers resisted going all the way to the bar. Instead they stopped just at noon, hiding in the cool shade. Rob and Charlotte arrived first, found a suitable campsite and waited for the others. Don and Phyllis arrived next and, not wanting to wait by the trail, constructed a very nice duck, at least five rocks high. Prominently displayed was the cardboard box from a roll of Kodachrome 64 P (for Professional) film. Feeling sure that Ray and Dave would notice the duck, knock it down and then wonder about the unusual film, would come looking for the rest of the group. Overestimating the perspicacity of the fearless leaders (a dangerous pastime), Phyllis spotted them as they began to pass by the campsite which was out of sight of the trail.

The afternoon was spent in pleasant conversation, relaxation and a lesson on rock climbing for

Charlotte. Having three instructors was confusing, but she managed with her usual aplomb.

Then it was time for dinner. Soup was vegetable soup, a little "crowded" as Dave liked to term it. We all had a bowl or two and then sat back to wait for the piece de resistance, curried turkey with rice. We waited, the rice was having a little trouble at over 10,000 feet. The sun began to go down with a blaze of glory worthy of Michaelangelo. Reds, yellows, oranges, pinks, crimson, carmine, ocher, cadmium, purple, violet, scarlet, cinnabar, gold and heliotrope. It filled us with the magnificence of nature, not even a IMAX theater could do so well.

But back at the campsite, the rice was still not done, so most had another cup of soup and then hit the desert, Chocolate Mousse.

We were never quite certain who poisoned us with what, but the most awful gas began to develop in our stomachs. Released with explosive intensity, at frequent intervals all night long. It became and remained a topic of conversation throughout the evening and into the next day.

Day 8: August 5, 1990

We left. We were heading

home. Tanned, fit, no leaner perhaps than when we started. As we plunged down the trail, we encountered the the trap-pings of civilization. A mule train, complete with wrangler in a black Stetson and a dog, passed us going uphill, loaded with backpacks for some lazy hikers. Then we met the week-end backpackers, the ones with dead white skin, bellies jiggling over their waistbelts. Brand new packs, immaculate white shirts. We, who smelled like seek old pairs of gym socks, passed rapidly, unwilling to spoil the pristine nature of our trip by stopping to talk with these eager beaver campers.

Arriving at the trail head, we loaded our six backpacks and six bodies into the arriving car and drove to Bishop. Within two hours we were seated at the table at Sizzler's restaurant, our plates mounded high with salad, great raw pieces of red meat being served to us. Ah, the delights of returning to civilization.

--Ray Stafford

A special Thank You to ^{Judy}Judy Sloane, the manager of the Wells Fargo bank on Castro St in Mt. View for the free checking account for PCS during 1990.

--Dinesh Desai

Trip Reports (Continued)

Mt. Emerson (13,225')--July 28-29

This one turned out OK. We had no stinkin' wilderness permit so we just did day hikes. We met at Bishop Creek Ranger Station at 8 AM, Saturday. Our leader, John Esterl, had driven by himself because his riders backed out on Friday. Lion Lingelbach, John Baltierra, and myself, Roger Crawley, were kinda jumpy after swatting flies all night at our crash site near Crowley Lake, but at least our breakfast at Ben's 3 roasted Chicken was pretty good.

We parked the cars at North Lake and with day packs quick-marched up the Paiute Pass trail to Lech Leven. There is a granite rib approach to the peak, and we huffed and puffed our way up about 2,500', staying pretty much just west of the crestline of the rib. Probably it would have been pure Class 3 if we had climbed up on top of the rib instead of the easier terrain up its west side. We had good views of Mt. Humphrey, Mt. Darwin, and Piute Crags right next door. Leonard Daughenbaugh had signed the register the prior weekend. We returned to North Lake and luckily found a campsite (all the camps were full when we checked the Ranger Saturday morning). John and Ron went down to Bishop for dinner.

Sunday was a much easier day. We drove to South Lake and walked up the Bishop Pass trail, then followed another trail around Chocolate Peak. What a pretty loop it is! You pass by Chocolate lakes and get a good look at the Incon-solable Range that rises 2,000 above. On top of Chocolate Peak there are good views of Mt. Agassiz and Mt. Johnson. The summit register, you know: the white plastic plumbing pipe kind that has been reported on ad nauseum..well, we almost needed the jaws of life to pry it apart. All morning Ron subtly had been inserting comments about the wonderful food served at Taco Bell, so when we got down to Bishop that's where we did lunch. Later we had the obligatory soak in Hot Creek and that really was wonderful!

Here is a tip about going through Yosemite: Tell them at the entrance station that you're traveling through the park and not stopping; they won't charge the \$5, but they carefully note how long it takes you to drive through.

--Roger Crawley

Six Thumbs Up on Larry's First One

Three intrepid adventurers: Dottie Domish, Liz Harvey, and Noreen Ford, decided despite the lack of reviews to attend Larry Sasscer's first official PCS trip to Shepherd

Crest, August 3-5.

They met at Livermore Airport Friday night and proceeded to eat their way via Ferrarese's and Nicely's to the Virginia Lakes trail head out of Lee Vining for a 9 AM start Saturday morning. By 2 PM after about 5 miles and some cross-country traversing to Onion Lake, they decided (forsaking a swim in the gloriously warm lake) to attempt a summit bid that afternoon. They n-eked through grass and some low shrubs to Shepherd Lake before they could begin the assault up to the 12,015' highest point on the crest.

From Shepherd Lake the initial route to the highest point on the crest was proposed to be up the saddle between the two furthest crest peaks. Larry and Dotie took up the front line while Liz and Noreen followed through the boulder fields (rocks varying from car-sized to small junk-sized). Within the hour everyone was relieved that they had packed rain gear as afternoon clouds rushed in bringing some rain, hail, and thunder and lightning.

Upon closer approach, a more effective route was determined to be up a huge slab on the left side of the last peak. From there Dotie and Larry reported that it was a walk up to the ridge, and they summited by approximately 5 PM. They described views of Yosemite

Trip Reports (Continued)

Valley and Saddlebag Lake. Liz and Noreen were about 45 minutes behind and with more rain in store along with nightfall, they determined to forsake the peak and regroup with Larry and Dotie for the scramble down through the boulder and snow fields to Shepherd Lake and the ascent back to Onion Lake.

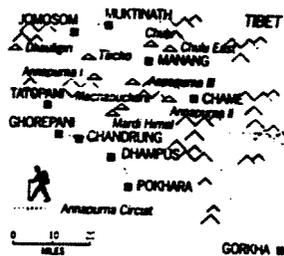
By 8:30 PM everyone was accounted for back at camp, although three baggers (we won't say who) ended up overshooting Onion Lake too high and practicing a lot more boulder scrambling (Moral: Follow the leader even if it is open country, and it's his first trip.) The feasting continued with a communal main course supplied by Chef Larry. Tortellini a la Larry had fresh red peppers, peas, salmon, wine sauce and freshly grated parmesan cheese. Dessert provided by Dotie was some incredible bar creation by Sweet Inspirations (we were inspired). The full moon added to the atmosphere of the fashionable late supper and the formal attire of Liz's black pants draped stylishly around her head.

Sunday morning featured yet more demonstration of Larry's artful navigation skills. He determined that we could save some time by dropping over the saddle above Onion Lake to pick up the outward bound trail. And, we did--in the process

getting some more great views of Virginia Peak and the Hoover Lakes Valley and saving at least an hour. An hour, in fact, the group determined to spend soaking in the upper pool at Hot Creek hotshipings out of Mammoth. Quick burgers at PJ's cafe in Groveland (got there right before they closed at 7 PM) lasted the group until their 10 PM return to the Livermore Airport.

Overall, it was another great PCS weekend of swapping peak stories and getting rock and hot springs action. Dotie recommends spending three days at the Crest: one day into base camp at Shepherd Lake (can't guarantee the temperature is as warm as Onion Lake), one day climbing all the peaks in the crest, and one day out (could even be a loop returning via Saddlebag Lakes out of Tuolumne Meadows). The Virginia Lakes trail head through Hoover Wilderness is high recommended as it includes incredible granite vistas along with a multitude of lakes.

--Noreen Ford



Tower Peak-Aug 24-

Three-day trips are a boon to the leisurely climber. For the somewhat more ambitious, however, having one day devoted to climbing connotes visions of multiple summits, such as Ehmbeck and Hawksbeak for dessert following a main course of Tower. Visions be as they may:

While the legs have their spring and the heart beats strong,

There's no thought of retreat or relent. But, as the sun is sinking into the West.

It's time to return to your tent.

Our small but festive group consisted of John and Rate Ingvaldstad, Aaron Schuman, Patty Haight, Laura Sefchick-Larsen, and resident party animal, Toklat (the husky) Sefchick-Larsen.

The road into Leavitt Meadow from Hwy 108 is closed, leave your vehicles in the lot 1/4 mile to the east of Leavitt Meadow Lodge. The trail begins east of the parking lot in the campground, take the bridge over the West Walker River and head'er south.

Many miles later (about 12) we arrived at beautiful Upper Paiute Meadow and the cabin of Ranger Tim. We informed him of the latest saber rattling

Trip Reports (Continued)

in the Middle East. He persuaded our permit and recommended a tree-protected campsite along the creek at the opposite (upper) end of the meadow, where we commenced to spend the next two nights.

We awoke to first light to Aaron's lilting call and as we left camp, the sun was still marked behind the eastern ridge. Above the Meadow the canyon narrowed to a V; we ascended a few hundred feet up the right side rock wall and were greeted by the sun in a magnificent scene. All about us were stands of evergreen amongst the shimmering granite canyon walls. As we gained elevation the light breezes gave way to every-strengthening winds. At the saddle above Tower Peak, Fatty found an Indian arrowhead.

Roper's route from the saddle north of the peak to the Class 3 chute is an easy ridge scramble. We decided to stay low (to the east), using the ridge as protection from the now-powerful wind. Running out of real estate below Tower's ramparts, we crossed to the west side of the ridge via the 'keyhole,' a short, steep ramp with an amusement-park floor, parallel rock walls about 5 feet apart, and large rocks perched across the top (about 20 feet up) like a canopy. The

ridge would have been easier though inclement.

The chute leading to the top was easy to locate and ascend, with just a bit of exposure 10-20 feet from the summit. The air was clean, the view extensive; to the southwest Lyle and her glaciers were prominent. We watched the clouds race across the sky only slightly above our perch, dissolving, expanding and metamorphosing as they hastened to the northeast. The clouds began to thicken, draining the sun's warmth from our bastion and threatening us with meteorological uncertainties--it was time to go.

It had been a surprisingly long day. We returned to camp satiated, one peak had been enough.

The night was chilly; the morning found small ice crystals in our water bottles. Our hike out was anticlimatic and lacking in the relative seclusion of the previous two days. There were people (including a Sierra Club national trip) and a wide range of creatures including dogs, horses, and fishermen. Toklat had a field day; there were many hounds to greet including two setters, a spaniel, a couple of mixed breeds, and most noteworthy of all, a cute Doberman that brought Toklat to display, in addition to his usual congeniality, an ample portion of masculinity.

About visiting the backcoun-

try: Ranger Tim is a sociable and helpful guy. Consider a stop-and-chat. Every third year this de facto wilderness doubles as a cattle range, and 1991 will see the *Return of the Bovines*, probably around August 1 when the meadows have dried out.

One last thing: We're sorry, Lassie, regrets Benji, condolences Rin-Tin-Tin, but Toklat...um...didn't make it...to the top.

--John Ingvaldstad

Minding our Manners

While doing your holiday shopping, please remember the merchants who give us space for our 'meetings each month: Pacific Mountaineer and Western Mountaineering.

We have grown to such a size that it would be very difficult to meet in someone's home as we used to do, and we won't even mention the inevitable map reading frenzy required when the meeting place moves every month.

If you do stop by these stores to pick up a few necessities (day-glo nose coatings, the latest in Patagucci PhrizziPhiber, a new nostrum guaranteed to prevent blisters and attract the opposite sex), say *Thank You* for the club.

Bewildered by Roper? Enlightenment Is Near

Although I am certain that Roper's is currently the last word when it comes to re-researching a High Sierra route, I do believe that each year this club, as a result of its climbing efforts, can accumulate a corpus of route information that can, if not replace, supplement current data sources. In response to such a need, I would like to ask that all future trips taken by club members, whether official or not, be documented in the following manner.

On a 3x5 card, place the following information on the front:

1. Name of major destination (i.e. Mt. Shasta, Mono Hot Springs, Motel 6, etc.)
2. Name and phone number of trip leader, names of group members
3. Dates of trip
4. Rated class of climbing routes (list each separately)
5. Trail head, base camp, hiking mileage to base camp, USGS Quad name or map used. If more than one camp is used, list by day with separate mileage (including substantial vertical movement)

On the back, place the following:

1. General description of trip
2. Description of routes attempted (technical and non-technical)
3. Any other valuable information.

Mail or give the completed card to:

Christopher D. English
106 Rosewell Way
San Jose, CA 95138
408-226-5422.

The trip need not be a climb, it need not be successful, and most of all, it need not include names (however, it would be helpful for historical purposes).

Once a year, I will publish a route listing and distribute it to club members at printing cost. The information will also be available to all members by phone or at scheduled meetings.

--Christopher English

Giving as Well as Taking

From time to time, each of us has probably wondered how a trail was built and maintained. And each of us, as we headed down by the light of the moon or our headlamp (a favorite PCS activity), has probably said a fervent *Thank You* for the path back to our camp and some hot food.

We have a chance to learn how such trails are maintained and to give back a little for the many blessings of trails we've used.

The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association needs volunteers to help with a wide variety of trail maintenance activities. For more information, call Tony Look at 415-948-6790.

Haiku--Good Things Take Time

The following haiku were received after the end of our contest, but they are clearly worth your attention.

The first set comes from Linda Clements, who notes that with two small children she hasn't time for climbing or PCS meetings, but her memories of climbing prompted the following:

We crawl across rock
Earthbound, yet striving to fly.
Unheeding, a jay.

On the rock, light fades
Yet the knife edge beckons still.
Unmindful, we climb.

Slipping, sliding down
We rush in scree against the
night.
Too brief, the summit.

Rain pours from wet gear
We slog on through clinging mud
Where are the grand peaks?

My work stays undone
My mind remains on the rock,
Climbing, with my soul.

And from Debbie Bulger
inspired by Yosemite and
Monterey Bay Aquarium:

Wind pushes treetops.
Lying back I gaze skyward
watching redwoods sway.

Waves rule kelp beds.
Lying on the floor, I see
forest sway above.

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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.**



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