



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

January, 1990

Vol. 23, No. 1

**Next Meeting**

**DATE:** Tuesday, Jan. 9

**TIME:** 8 p.m.

**LOCATION:**

Western Mountaineering  
Town and Country  
Shopping Center  
San Jose

**PROGRAM:** A very special slide presentation by Sally McDoy of The North Face. The slides were taken on the 1987 American Everest Expedition and should start the year off with a program to remember.

If this peak is on your list, don't miss the meeting. Mountain Travel doesn't go there yet so you'll need all the expertise you can get

## Youth Wants to Know ( or at Least Kai Does)

Our new leader, Kai Wiedman, has lots of questions that only you can answer.

First he would like to know what trips you would like to see the section foster.

**Harder? Easier? Where?**

**When? Car camping? Back-packing?**

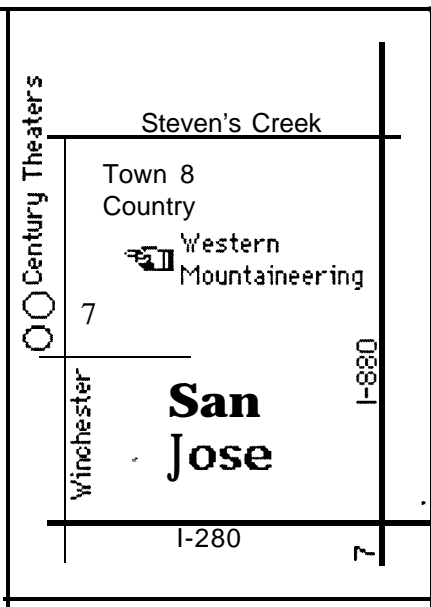
The answers to these questions and any other ideas you have about improving our trip roster will be much appreciated. We are having a trip planning meeting in February (see notice this issue) and having ideas from you may spark some interest on the part of would-be leaders.

Second he would like to know what classes or other activities the section should sponsor.

Knot-tying? Gear selection? Also he would like to know who can offer to help with these classes either as the instructor or as an aide.

And, finally, he would like to know why he took this job in the first place.

Please talk to Kai at a meeting or drop him a note so he can stop wondering and start acting (up).



## Treasurer's Report / 1989

The PCS has about \$200 less now than it did at the beginning of 1989. The difference is due to the year's newsletter expenses exceed subscription income. Some of these expenses were incurred in 1988, but not billed until 1989. Overall, our income and expenses are in balance. I advise watching the newsletter costs care

fully and if expense continues to exceed income, considering an increase in the subscription rate.

The T-shirt fundraise lost about \$30. I view producing the shirts as a worthwhile activity since it enhances our pride in the PCS, but we shouldn't depend on it for our solvency.

(Continued on P. 5)

## Upcoming Trips

Jan 27-28  
Mt. Sizer (3216')  
Class 1  
Leader: Noreen Ford  
(415)547-1074

Maybe we'll see some mountain lions, bobcats or wild boars on this 15 mile loop in Henry W. Coe State Park in Morgan Hill.

Jan. 14  
Mt. Diablo (Woo Koom)  
3849'  
Class 1  
Leader: Bill Hauser  
North side-3,000 ft. gain.  
10-12 miles. Meet 8 AM  
at Hedding and N. First in  
San Jose to carpool!  
(409) 243-4566

More square feet of the earth's surface can be seen from the top than from any other mountain except Mt. Kilimanjaro in East Africa. (That is if the smog/fog doesn't get in the way.)

### Trip Planning Meeting

On Tuesday, February 20, at 8 PM leaders and co-leaders will gather to plan the Spring/Summer 1990 PCS trips. As last year, we will pass the hat for pizza for those who arrive hungry. There will be no early signups at the meeting since we want to give everyone a fair chance. We will meet at 2070 Mills Ave. Menlo Park. Map will be February Scree.

Feb. 11  
Black Mountain  
Class 1  
Leader: Dinesh Desai  
(415) 969-2695

PCS members are welcome on this hike though trip is with another group. We will take the new scenic trail from Rhus Ridge Road. Meet at at Foothill College parking lot closest to El Monte/Moody Road junction.

Feb. 3-4  
Leader: Kai Wiedman  
Ventana Double Cone  
4850'  
Class 1+  
(415) 347-284

Apparently Kai's recent complete neurological makeover hasn't worked. Once again, Kai is pushing the PCS towards an astronomical goal. The challenge is great and so is the reward: 19 miles the first day (only 7 miles with full pack) and 7 miles out the second day. Or you can just say no, and enjoy a pleasant 14 mile round trip backpack to Pat Springs. Rumor suggests that the notoriously overgrown trail to the Double Cone has recently been cleared.

## If You Read It In the Times, It Must Be True...

From the December 26, 1989 Science Watch column of the New York Times entitled "Climbing Tied to Brain Harm"

"Oxygen deprivation suffered by mountain climbers who reach the tops of Mount Everest or other peaks may cause minor brain damage, like temporary memory loss or motor dysfunction, researchers say. Scientists at the University of Washington School of Medicine examined 35 young mountain climbers from 1981 to 1984. They studied the climbers before and after they climbed the 29,028-foot Mount Everest on the border between Tibet and Nepal, or the 25,230-foot Tirich Mir in Pakistan. After suffering oxygen deprivation, climbers could not recall simple lists of words or series of pictures as well as they did before their climb, according to the report which appears in the current issue of The New England Journal of Medicine."

*Now that explains a lot!*

# Trip Reports

## MAGNIFICENT SIX RIDE AGAIN

DEC. 16- 17-

Reinhold Messner would have been disappointed. No, we had not climbed our two summits by 'fair means.' Instead we used motorized assistance to ascend Signal Mountain and Mt. Lincoln, which crown the downhill resorts of Donner Ski Ranch and Sugal Bowl. Of course, our principal aim was to ski down these mountains. To that end, six stout telegeeks sneered at the 'marginal snow' reports and braved gravelly moguls, kamikaze snowboarders, and roving coyotes to hone our ski mountaineering skills.

Day one at Donner Ski Ranch was a bit disappointing. Not until we had paid the full fare did we discover that half the mountain was unskiable. Nevertheless, starved for snow, the Magnificent Six assembled in formation on the bunny slope. One by one, members of our free-heeled phalanx peeled away on bended knee, demonstrating a bizarre array of telemark styles.

The top of the mountain held terrors to test both our gear and our guts. Icy moguls guarded the only way down. We skittered, we scraped, we crashed and burned as our metal edges slipped on ice and bit into the rocks which lay millimeters beneath the snow. Meanwhile, howling hordes of snowboarding adolescents converged on us. We paused frequently to swat them away with our ski poles.

That night we baptized Phil Hauzer's new Acura on the frozen ruts of some nearby logging roads as we looked for cold but cheap lodgings. Soon we found a tent site within sight of the Truckee Dump.

After midnight, I awoke to a blood-curdling chorus of howls, screams, and coyotes. Our tent door was open, and Phil looked like he expected to feel dog breath on his face at any moment. "Don't worry," I said. They avoid humans." (Especially those swathed in smelly polypro.)

The next morning in the Sugar Bowl parking lot, dozens of cars disgorged alpine glitterati dressed in chic designer bibs and Frankenstein boots. One car, however, burped forth an odd sextet clad in a combination of Army surplus and

Pataguchi. They wore boots that actually bent when they walked and carried long, skinny skis. One turned to a woman nearby and asked "Did you hear the coyotes last night?" She shook her head. "Oh, then you must not have slept at the Truckee Dump," he exclaimed. She slowly backed away, a bewildered look on her face.

The slopes of Sugal Bowl were a godsend to our intrepid band. Most of the intermediate slopes were groomed, so we had a thin layer of shavings on top of the hardpack. However, the hard, fast conditions soon revealed the shady history of several of our party. All too easily did they lapse into parallel turns and the rest of us questioned whether we were indeed true telegeeks.

The guilty parties apologized for their transgressions, and the Magnificent Six once again broke into formation, like the squadron of fallen Blue Angels. By the end of the day our smiles were broader than the bruises on our butts.

(Participants: Dave Erskine, Phil Hanger, Charlie Doland, Dave La Plante, Larry Krumm, Butch Suits.)

Correspondent-Butch Suits

# Trip Reports (Cont.)

## 'BEAT THE CLOCK' GOES TO THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

(Dec. 9-10---Sea to Skyline  
Trail)

Yup, the six of us did the Skyline to the Sea Trail. Nope, wrong on two counts: Four of the six participants did the whole gig, and they did the Sea to Skyline Trail. (You shouldn't always believe everything that you read on trail signs.)

Six of us PCSers gathered together on one fine morning in December, (minus one of the above) at the Castle Rock State Park trailhead. Kai Weidman (leader and chief timekeeper), Anita Stewart (backup timekeeper), Patrick Powers, Debbie Bulger, and John Kehoe began walking (no, I mean running) up the trail from the Pacific Ocean (only one around) at the Rancho del Oso trailhead starting blocks. Yours truly, having missed crossing paths with the group, did some cogitating (whatever that means), and salvaged what could have been a lost weekend of a beautiful hike, by hiking down at a leisurely pace to meet the group from Bib Basin State Par HQ. Point intercept was near scenic Berry Creek

Falls, which nobody saw anyway. I was breathlessly greeted to join the Humpathon. ( You know, it's hard to get 20 miles of hiking from point A to point B, when you sart hiking at 9:30 AM on one of the shortest days of the year by walking at a leisurely pace.) We commenced the Hump up the hill together. As the sun can barely penetrate the redwood tree canopy at this time of year, it's probably just as well that the pace was ferocious in those cool, shaded groves.

After enjoying a well deserved lunch in the hot sun at Big Basin State Park HQ, and getting psyched up for the next 15K run up the trail, we split. There is quite a convoluted mass of trails near the parkHQ, which we successfully negotiated (failure of which would have meant a long, cold bivi somewhere on the trail cuddled and snuggled up next to a warm banana slug). Despite our best effort, and our liberal use of moleskin and molefoam, we could not beat the clock. El sol descended with 3 miles remaining on the clock.

Thanks to the use of a half-moon, one each, (much help that was considering the amount of sunlight that trickled through those cool redwood groves) we stumbled our way along the trail (obscured by shadows) in quite good spirits. A deviation along the way brought our entourage to dangerous Highway 9. After

fending off civilizations's gift to concrete and asphalt for a bit, we gratefully reach our camp at Waterman's Gap at a civilized hour of the night. (Shhh, I'm not supposed to say that most of us cached our gear there in order to avoid carry all that crap around all day, and inflicting even more pain on our embattled hides.) Ah, at last, the rewards of camplife: Good company, good food, good beer (beer?), and being at peace from the day's relentless pace in order to acheive the rewards of camplife. After a mellow card game of Hearts on contented stomachs, we retired to the fart sacks to get a good night's sleep for an early start next morning.

Having learned from yesterday's experience that an early bird gets home earlier, we got a typical Sunday morning slug special start at 9 o'clock. Oh, well. Since the Skyline to the Sea Trail follows Highway 9 to Saratoga Gap, we elected to follow the Saratoga Toll Road Trail to the Gap. Far more scenic, less noisy, but far more confusing to follow, especially with outdated trail maps. We done it, nonetheless. Unfortunately, we lost one of our brethren due to a miscalculation of logistics. (I won't discuss detail, except if you send a self addressed stamped envelop.)

So, five strong, we frantically damned the torpedoes, and full sped ahead to the Gap (not the

clothing store, mind you). We enjoyed a peaceful lunch break in the midst of some recently built housing subdivision on the west warning us to stay on the trail (i.e. the paved road) or face death defying consequences. The light in all of this darkness was the fact that this cut a crucial 1.4 miles from the day's log of mileage. consequently we emerged from the wilderness(?) in plenty of time to get back to the Bay Area and catch 60 Minutes on the tube. Unfortunately, we had to wait 60 Minutes to rectify the above mentioned miscalculation of logistics. so that we missed 60 Minutes anyway.

All told, everyone enjoyed the hectic pace through this redwood country. And, as former President Reagan once said, "If you've seen one redwood, you've seen 'em all." So I guess we saw 'em all. (And then some.)

Correspondent: Jeff West

## Classifieds

**SEE YOUR AD HERE.** Want to unload gear? Need L hard-to-fti plor. 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:** Plastic boots, Asolo AFS 101s, size 10 1/2, \$150; Feathered Friends Snow Goose sleeping bag, rated to minus 40 degrees, \$250; Chouinard supergaiters, one rand ripped, \$15; lithium headlamp, \$10; jumars, \$40; Salewa step-in scissors crampons, \$65; Chouinard Piolini ice axe, \$20; Chouinard alpine bod harness, \$10; Patagonia sychilla pants, full zip, \$25; face mask, \$5; Chouinard mittens with shells, \$15. Celso Frazao, (408) 266-6932.

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

**FOR SALE:** Merrell mountaineering boots, leather (like Asolo Yukon). Size 11. Free. MSR climbing helmet, large, \$25. Forrest insulated expedition overboots (covers entire boot, for use with crampons) Excellent construction. New. \$30. Asolo

## Treasurer's Report (Cont.)

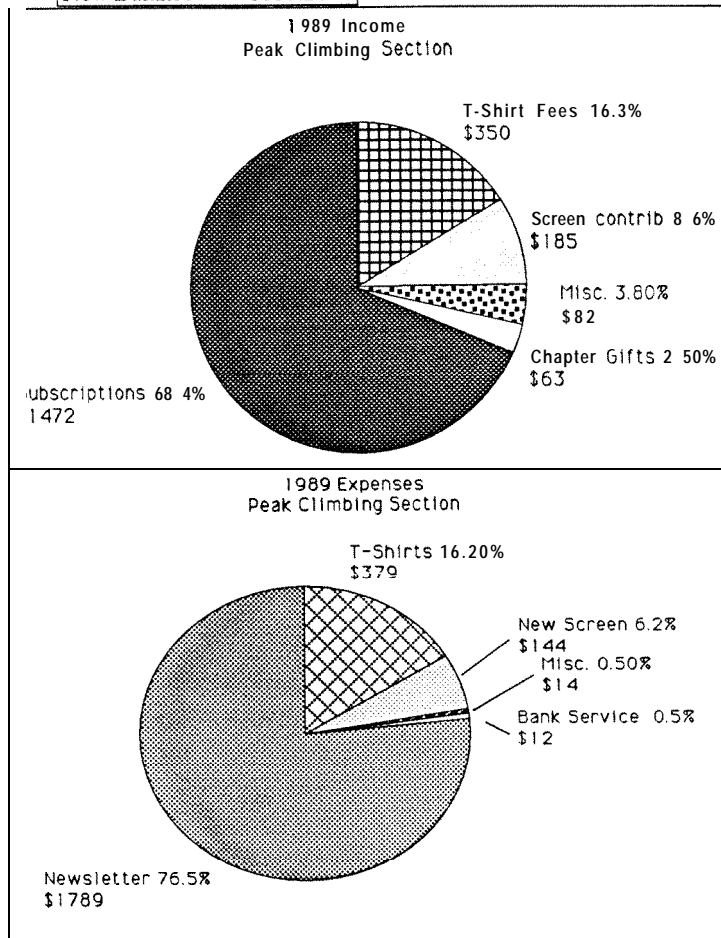
Member contributions more than paid for the purchase of a new screen. Wells Fargo stopped offering free checking last October. We now pay more than \$6 per month for our account. I suggest finding a cheaper bank immediately.

Brought forward	\$1073.92
Total Income	2152.00
Total Expense	(2338.66)
New Balance	\$887.26

We collected \$63 in member contributions to the Loma Prieta chapter, but that money hasn't been turned over to the cheaper yet. That obligation should be fulfilled soon.

Previous years' experience shows that we should be prepared for a summer slump in our account balance.

Aaron Schuman--1989 PCS Treasurer



Supersoft plastic boots, size 11, little wear. \$120. REI McKinley ice axe, wood shaft, 80 cm, \$20. Chouinard supergaiters, old style, strap under sole, size apr. 9-10 1/2, depending on weight. Free. Call John Rawlings, (415) 723-3101 between 9 and 5 and leave message.

**FOR SALE:** Two pair men's lightweight hiking boots: One pair Lowa all-leather, excellent condition. Size 11. Cost \$100. Sale \$40. One pair L.L. 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 eves.

**FOR SALE:** Moonstone pile pants. Size: men's medium. Full side zips. Never 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:** Vuarnet PX-5000 Mountaineer glasses. New. Advertised for \$70 in REI catalog, will be given away at \$50! Dave Caldwell. (408) 945-8030.

**FOR SALE:** The 1986 American Alpine Journal: \$5. 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.

**WANTED:** Old copies of Climbing, Rock and Ice, Mountain or other mountaineering magazines. If they're taking up space in your closet I'll take them off your hands. 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.

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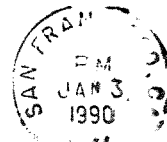
**Trip classifications:**

- 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.



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