



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

July 1990

Vol. 23, No. 7

Next Meeting

Date: July 10, 1990

Time: 8:00 PM

Location:

Western Mountaineering
Town & Country Shopping Cntr.
San Jose

“Balance is the key to understand climbing, and this leads to the perfection of technique and style. The development of equipment technology and the social structure of climbing play a lesser role.”

The above is an excerpt from a talk by Eugene Miya, a computer scientist with 20 years of climbing experience, who will be our July speaker.

Sharpen the Pencil Await the Feelings That Point the Way Upward

Ray Stafford noticed a haiku writing contest announced in the *Crux*, a newsletter from a rock climbing group in Boston. He thought it would make a nice challenge for PCSers as well, so here goes:

Rules:

1. There are no rules about the subject of your haiku.
2. All entries must be sent to Ray Stafford, 932 Walnut St., San Carlos, CA 94070.
3. All entries must be received by Sept. 30, 1990.
4. The contest will be judged by judges whose names will be announced at a later date.
5. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. The prizes will be announced later.
6. The *Scree* reserves the right to print any submitted haiku in the newsletter.

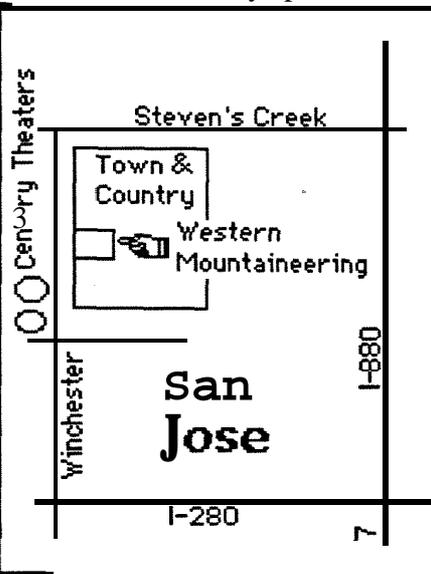
A sample haiku:

**Now being revealed,
by every beacon moment,
the mountain's summit.**

Guidelines for Writing Haiku

Adapted from *The Way of Haiku* by James Hackett.

1. The present is the touchstone of the haiku experience, so always be aware of this present moment.
2. Remember that nature is the province of haiku.
3. Choose each word very carefully. Use words that clearly express what you feel.
4. Use verbs in the present tense.
5. Write in 3 lines which total approximately 17 syllables. Many haiku can be well expressed in the Japanese line arrangement of 5,7,5 syllables.
6. Avoid end rhyme in haiku. Read each verse aloud to make sure that it sounds natural.
7. Remember that lifelessness, not beauty, is the real quality of haiku.
8. Don't overlook humor, but avoid mere wit.



Upcoming PCS Trips

Jul 14

Berry Creek Falls

Leaders: Anne Gaillard &

Debbie Benham

(415) 493-3464

Come celebrate Bastille Day with a walk in the redwood tree shade! 12 mile loop from Park HQ (1000') to Berry Creek (400') with the Skyline to The Sea Trail, and back with the Sunset Trail. This trip is also listed in the Loma Prieta.

Jul 14-15

Kuna Crest Bivouac

Class 3

Leader: Gary Pinson

(408) 997-0298 H

Coleader: Roger Crawley

(415) 321-8602

We'll ascend Mammoth Peak, following Kuna Crest to a planned bivouac near Parker Pass. Koip, Parker & Lewis Peaks will also be climbed. Must be in good shape, willing to travel fast and light. Limit 6.

Jul 14-15

Red Slate

Class 2

Leaders: John Esterl

(415) 526-2216 H

Bryan Scott

(415) 969-0991

We'll backpack in about 7 miles from McGee Creek trailhead and ascend this easy Class 2 peak either Saturday or Sunday. Perhaps a dip in Hot Creek after we're through. Beginners in good shape welcome. Topos are Mt. Morrison and Mt. Abbott. Call coleader for details.

July 21-22

Johnson Peak

Class 2

Leader: Chris MacIntosh

(415) 325-7841 H

Coleader: Liz Harvey

(415) 671-9950

Camp at Treasure Lake, and climb this 2nd class peak with views of Le Conte Canyon and Evolution area peaks. Group size: 6. Reserve by sending \$6 to Liz at 1390 Elderberry Dr., Concord, Ca 94521.

Jul 28-29

Mt. Emerson (13,225')

Class 3

Leader: John Esterl

Coleader: Roger Crawley

(415) 321-8602H

(415) 324-2721 x464 W

From North Lake near Bishop we will hike just 2 miles and 1300' to Loch Leven, then scramble 2500' to the summit. We will have another climb on Sunday, and if time allows, a soak in Hot Creek.

Jul 30-Aug 8

Roper's 'High Route' Part 1

Leader: Ray Stafford

(415) 591-9348

Roper's High Route' parallels the John Muir Trail except that it is above tree line, off trail, crosses little used passes and is close to those peaks we love to climb! Please note new dates. Part 2 will be done next year.

Jul 28-29

Independence Pk & University Pk

class 3

Leader: Chris Yager

(209) 394-2696

Aug 3, 495

Tower Peak (11,755')

class 3

Leader: Roger Crawley

(415) 321-8602 H

(415) 324-2721 x464 W

We will approach from Buckeye Creek near Bridgeport.

Aug 11-12

North Peak (12,242')

Class 2

Leader: Peter Maxwell

(408) 737-9770 H

Coleader: Joseph Coha

(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

Tuolomne 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 Tuolomne 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, Tuolomne Peak, and Tenaya Peak. Families are welcome. There is plenty for non-climbers to do in and around the Meadows.

More PCS Trips

Aug 24-26
rower Peak (11,755')

Class 3

Leader John Ingvaldstadt
(408) 259-3399 H
(415) 604-3156 W
Coleader: Aaron Schuman
(415) 494-3299 H (before 9
PM)
(415) 335-1901 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
Class 2

Leader Chris Macintosh
(415) 325-7841 H
Co-leader: Judith Yarborough
(415) 854-9288 H

Beautiful hike up **Lyell** 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

August Preview

1989 Denali Climb

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

Tim Hult tells all at the August meeting at Pacific Mountaineer.

Private Trips

July 14-19

Minarets
Leader E. Miya
(415) 961-6772 H
A special trip by the **Sierra** Register Committee to Climb, check, and update summit registers **on** as many of the Minarets as possible. All **climbers** must be capable of moving over 4th class ground quickly. Some 5th **Class**, ice ax work might be needed.

Aug 4-5

Mt Geneva
Class 2
Leader: Chris Yager
(209)394-2696

Aug 4-5

Sheperd's **Chrest**
class 3
Leader:Larry Sasscer
(408) 458-1381

Aug 11-12

Mt Stanford
class3

Aug 18-19

Disappointment Pk
class 3

Aug 25-26

class4
Mt Gardiner

Leader for the above 3 hips:

Chris Yager
(209) 394-2696

Aug 31-Sep 4

Kearsarge to Whimey
Class3

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 Eugene for list of peaks to be checked. This trip is limited to 4 fast, capable climbers.

Equipment Review

Casio 376 Alti-Depth Meter, Wrist watch

I saw my first mountain altimeter 20 years ago. They have always seemed luxuries to me. But the knowledge of barometric pressure is not sensible (in the meteorological sense) to people. You can't touch, feel, taste or see it, and we must rely on instruments to determine subtle changes in the weather. So with the wonders of modern technology, and interest in gadgets in Silicon Valley [in the day and age of wrist calculators and TVs], here's a short review of the Casio 376.

Features: analog hands, LCD display with Altitude (Meters or Feet, Range $\pm 4,000$ Meters or $\pm 13,100$ Feet), Altitude alarm, Atmospheres (Millibars), Depth gauge for the Scuba divers (to 100 Meters [or feet] salt-water), count-down timer, stop-watch, alarm clock, controls: MODE, ADJUST, START-STOP, SPLIT-RESET buttons and control knob. Cost \$75 (introductory price) to \$95.

A tiny LCD cursor designates the mode the watch is running. An alphanumeric display shows the mode for two seconds before operation in a manner similar to many H-P calculators.

(Contd. p. 6)

Trip Report

THE GREAT SHASTA BAIL-OUT

Otherwise entitled "Lava Tube Conquerors Ignore Storms", this reports the adventures of the 21-strong Memorial Day PCS Shasta Expedition, led by Kai Wiedman. The faithful followers were Ursula Austin, Debbie Bolger, Brian Boyle, Henry Bugatto, Bob Cobold, Dodie Domish, James Eng, Anne Gailard, Liz Harvey, Chris Kramer, Dave La Plant, Kelly Maas, Peter Maxwell, Mike Meredith, Wolfgang Meryk, Etta Palmer, Larry Sessler, Balmukund Sharma, Dan Tupper and Paul Vlasveld.

The week leading up to the trip was plagued with weather uncertainties: would that high pressure system intensify enough to push the jet stream further north, so that mass of storm clouds wouldn't be brought in?

Forecasts changed from one day to the next, and it was truly a case of "wait and see".

Such was the enthusiasm and determination of the group, that even though Kai arrived at the meeting site (Military Pass Road) promptly at 8 am, he was the last person there. This was despite the downpour of rain the previous night. It was his luckless task to inform us all that the weather service predicted severe storms that night, with winds up

to 65 mph and only tapering off Sunday. With such predictions, Kai's advice was "Don't go." This was despite the fact that, at the moment, one could see most of the mountain, even the summit at times, and it seemed to be daring us to attempt it.

Most of us reluctantly agreed with Kai, after a considerable amount of discussion, and the anticlimax left us feeling really down. There were 8 who would not be dissuaded though, so Larry, Mike, Ursula, Chris, Bob, Dan, Liz and Balmukund decided to go for it regardless. Or so we thought. Apparently Mike and Chris never made it further than the parking lot, due to an "old knee injury" which mysteriously reappeared.

The other 6 suffered the fate that befalls those who ignore Kai's advice: progressively worsening weather to get to base camp, a miserable night of high winds and snow, and a retreat down the mountain again the next day. Maybe every snowflake was in the shape of a "K"

The rest of us, after considering a few options, decided to go to Lava Beds National Monument to explore, particularly as this place is so far from the Bay Area that it is unlikely to be visited unless on

the way to somewhere else. To get some exercise, we thought we'd climb Black Butte first, so back to Weed we went.

Wolfgang and James disappeared during this maneuver - they were going to telephone to find out the weather at Lassen, so we presumed they went on to there.

The remaining 9, still flushed with failure, banded together to form the "Bail-out or Bust Bunch," an exclusive clique. Putting the slogan to good use, we bailed out of Black Butte as well. The weather was worse here, and less than half of the butte was below the clouds, and it was considerably colder and windier. The decision was to meet at the visitor center of Lava Beds, so back along highway 97 we went.

Such must have been the intensity of the conversation in the car with Kai, Debbie and Dodie, that they missed the turnoff to the Monument. They didn't turn up until the rest of us had finished lunch, which provided us with cause for comments. The first item on the agenda was to try to find a campsite. The sign by the entrance station claimed the campground was full, but the nearest other one was so far away that we were prepared to go try our best here. Luckily we found a free site, and didn't have to push in

Trip Report (Continued)

between other sites. While equipment was being set up, Kai did the rounds of inspection: "You were going to take **that** tent on Shasta?"; "You were going to use **those stakes** on Shasta?"; "You were going to wear **those** boots on Shasta?". Perhaps it was just as well we bailed out!

For those who don't know (I didn't), this area is full of lava tubes, formed by molten lava **receding** from hardened exteriors, thereby creating cavities. These extend vast distances in a complex network. The 'safe ones' (i.e. without pits or multitudinous passages in which **to become** lost) have their entrances signposted. Because they are unlit, the visitor center loans large flashlights (for free), but we didn't avail ourselves of this service because they require them back by 5.30 pm, or **else they** assume you're lost and they mount a search party.

Exercise was the order of the day, so we embarked on a 3.5 mile (each way) trail that we thought led up to Whitney Butte, but on closer inspection merely skirted the base. We played around for a bit on the lava fields, where the trail ended, and returned. Still without a peak under our belts, the situation became so desperate that to save face Kai suggested the **fire** lookout tower on Schonchin Butte nearby. There was a road for some distance up

this hump, but at least a peak was finally bagged.

Since **our** activities hadn't been all that adventurous, we sought other topics of conversation back at camp, and the inevitable gear comparisons started. We learned all the things we'd wanted to know about gear but were afraid to ask - footwear, tents, stoves, you name it.

Paul was the star at dinner time, with gourmet food prepared in plastic bags that he used to dump into boiling water for re-heating purposes. Brian seemed unimpressed, however, obviously enjoying his Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, claiming he ate this at home anyway. An interesting way of getting home cooking wherever you go.

As luck would have it, the rain started just after we retired. It wasn't too heavy, but there was plenty of wind to go with it, and as I was lying snug and warm inside I thought of what it must have been like on Shasta, and was glad to be where I was. Next **morning** saw us exploring some of the caves. We found permanent ice in a couple, pretended to get lost in Catacombs and failed to find the golden dome in Golden Dome. That is except for Kelly, who walked a little further and found it, but then got lost and started walking in circles for a while. We were waiting for him up top and wondering what had happened. Henry and Debbie proved to be

keen explorers on this 'Cave Trek' and went 'where no PCS person has been before' bringing back tales of twisty little passages.

Having completed our underground exploits, Kai was still not satisfied that we'd done enough exercise, so another hike was embarked upon, this one about 6 miles over the more or less flat terrain. The place looks so barren that it's hard to imagine all the trouble that was gone to to evict the Modoc Indians **from** their natural tribelands in the area, a sad series of events.

We were tempted to stay another night, but the thoughts of traffic nightmares the next day, coupled with a very long distance, tipped the scales in favor of leaving and travelling part way back. **Kai** was heard to use the word 'motel' but other hardier types camped.

The trip was long (970 miles in total) but a lot of fun after the big initial let-down. For those wishing to join the Bail-out or Busters, entry requirements are to show up for an equivalent trip with no ice axe experience, 3 season or less tent, summer stakes and lightweight, flexible boots. Preference will be given to those with cotton clothing and summer sleeping bags.

--**Peter Maxwell**

Equipment Review (Cont.)

The Barometer is **settable**. **This** in fact is essential. Once a **setting** has **occured**, it **recalibrates** itself. There should be **temperature** and humidity compensation. The barometer **takes 3** samples for a **measurement**. It **resamples** every **9 seconds** for the first 5 minutes and then once a minute for an hour before reverting to watch **mode**.

Obvious question: What **happens** when I exceed the **MAX ALT**? An maximum message of "FULL" is displayed. Got to try this on a 14,000 footer!

Resolution: **5** meters or 20 feet, and **1Mb**. An owner should have a through **understanding** of the relation between **pressure** and altitude, because **unlike** conventional portable **altimeters**, an owner must modify two separate parameters instead of one. There is a base altitude setting (as part of the altitude **alarm**).

Redundant set of hands (**non-luminous**, and hard to read) and CD clock. I would prefer a **straight** LCD face.

Tolerance: you can watch the watch bounce between two readings.

Temperature sensitivity at about **4K** ft from **40F** to **90F**, it changed 100-120 feet. This might be a serious variation. Consider your purchase **carefully**.

No light: real minus. Difficult to read analog style hands, the hour hand uses a circle to distinguish it from the minute hand. Some illumination, even if passive **phosphorescence** on the watch hands would help, but the design is not easily amenable to this.

Advantage: self contained, lighter than watch altimeter combination.

Would I recommend buying one? Well, I've never owned an altimeter before, so I am unable to answer a few of the above questions for sensitivity, etc. But I will be conducting other tests throughout the summer to find out. It's a gimmick if you like to collect them.

Eugene Miya

Now Here's a Real Challenge for SPS

The Sneak Peak Section **proposed** in the April **Scree** should consider an immediate **expedition** to the German peak, "**The Brocken**," to symbolize their goal of freeing restricted peaks. This 1142 meter peak with a gradient similar to Mt. **Tamalpais** has been called 'the worlds hardest peak--you can't climb it

from either **side**.' **The** reason: it straddles the East **German**-West German border with the summit falling within the Eastern sector. At last report, the **area** was protected by **the** full Iron Curtain--mine fields, sentry dogs, and trigger-happy machine gun toting guards.

Better hurry, **SPSers!**

Trip Report

Our ambitions were modest, simply to ascend Buena Vista Peak, a summit so minor that Roper had nothing to write about it, yet we were to discover how cruelly deluded we were in our estimation of the rock.

James Ing was on his first PCS outing. His motoring companion, Bryan Scott, assured him that he could throw himself upon the steep first leg of the trip, up along the side of Chilnualna Falls, and once that was completed the rest would be easy.

And it was, in a manner of speaking. Bob Coble flew up the trail like a desperado fleeing **from** a posse, with Paul Burns (the former champion bicycle racer) close behind. Coming upon a challenging ford of Chilnualna Creek, Noreen, herself a challenging Ford, damaged the seat of her **trousers** but led us to safety. We found a tiny spring gushing the purest water in Yosemite, and Noreen conducted a brief tasting ceremony.

In our camp at last, at Crescent Lake, Liz Harvey showed us how bouldering is supposed to be done. Paul uttered the name of the Creator of Yosemite with great enthusiasm, and reminded us that James Brown before him had also-exalted the Lord. Around a campfire that evening, Noreen sang to us a bittersweet ballad about Al the Alligator. Al, it

Trip Report (Cont'd) and Yet More Trip Reports

seems, engaged in a life of crime, centered around the petty theft of small appliances.

Yet for reasons only subtly hinted at in the libretto, the roguish reptile reformed his character and ultimately became a selfless fisherman.

Perhaps Paul recognized parallels with his own life, or in the lives of people close to him, for he once again recalled James Brown and worshipped with alacrity.

In the morning, we made an enjoyable class 2 ascent of the summit. We found it to be aptly named, as it had a splendid view of the Lyell group, the Clark Range, Yosemite Valley, and even the Coast Range. We descended, struck camp, scurried down the trail, repeated in reverse the challenging ford, and finally returned, utterly exhausted to the trailhead.

Liz revealed my dark secret to all the others, that Sunday was a seventeen mile day, and that our little conditioning hike was in fact a thirty mile round trip with 5500 feet elevation gain. So beware, friends, of a leader who lusts for the most distant goals, beware of a reporter who turns Your spangle of existence into subject matter for one of his farcical fables, and, if you haven't guessed already, beware Of yours truly, **Aaron Schuman.**

New Species Discovered at Grover Hot Springs

Move over skinheads; the tentheads have arrived. This newest sub-species of the human race was first spotted last month in the Grover Hot Springs campground by a six year old girl. Her mother said that maybe the guys walking by with fully assembled tents over their heads just may not have any umbrellas and were trying to stay dry on their way to the restrooms during the drizzle. Wer father wondered aloud if these were not tent thieves.

I had told John Ingvaldstad that Warren Storkman and I would be at the Grover Hot Springs campground by 6 pm and as such he had given me the reservation slip for the campsites. However, because of our unscheduled stop at a saloon in Markleville, John and Kate beat us to the campground, got in by showing their charge-slips and set up camp. A little later, we drove up, showed our reservation slips and set up our tents in another part of the campground. Eventually, when it was agreed that the Ingvaldstads had the bigger and better campsite, we carried our tents over. (I felt more like a knucklehead than a tenthead everytime I crashed into a low branch.)

Saturday morning, eight of us drove to the Crystal Springs campground near Woodsford and set out for the Hawkins Peak. This route is all cross-country with about 4,500 of elevation gain. Paul and Cecil Magliocco had pictured about a 2,000' climb and had their work cut out carry an extra 35 lbs on their back with that little Vulgarian, Joseph, in the pack. About an hour into the climb, the skies became threatening (some thunder, too) and John said it would be wise to turn back if it got any worse. Luckily, the weather held and all of us made it to the peak. We then descended on the other side and picked up the trail to the campground.

John had a Highlands Peak (5,000' climb) in mind for Sunday, but all that soaking in the hot springs followed by plenty of wine at dinner that evening made him realize that something more modest might be more appropriate. And he was right as only four hardy ones (John, Warren, Roger Crawley, and Bob Suzuki) chose to climb Tryon Peak near Ebbets Pass on Sunday.

Thanks to John and Kate, everyone had a good time and a peak or two more under their belt.

Dinesh Desai

Note: Kelly Maas has volunteered to edit the August Scree. Please send all copy to him at <address deleted>

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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. 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
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