



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

June 1990

Vol. 23, No. 6

## Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 1990

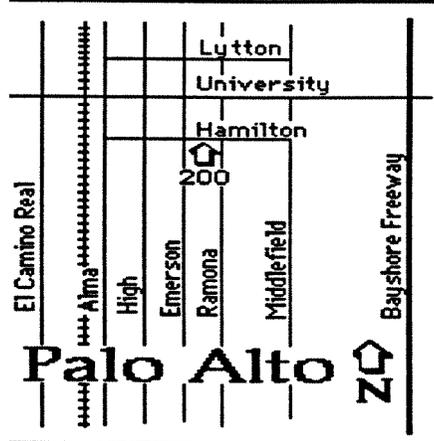
Time: 7:30 PM

### Location

The Pacific Mountaineer  
200 Hamilton Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Johann Richard Hechtel, who lists his birthdate as May 21, 1813, has climbed in the Alps, Pyrenees, Africa, the Caucasus, Russian Pamir, Hindukush, Himalaya, New Zealand, Alaska, the U.S., Mexico, Central and South America.

The Sierra Club awarded him the Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award in 1985. His slide show, *Climbing in the European Alps*, will show alpine and sport climbing in Central Switzerland, Italy, and Austria.



## And Now for Something Completely Different (and Rude)...

### Dear Editor,

April's article "Earth Day and Beyond" exploited the long held myth that **PCSers** are a bunch of dilettante yuppies, **reluctant** to dine in any but the trendiest Mexican restaurants. A brief review of back issues of SCREE should quickly dispel that myth. Consider the following:

"...**five** packages of instant oatmeal eaten at one sitting..." (12/87)

"...**eatery** that met PCS standards...**plenty** of food..."

"...**cheese**, crackers, cookies, nuts, pretzels, wine..." (both 12/89)

"...**carbohydrate** pig out..." (7/89 and 12/89)

"...**turkey** dinner pig out." (2/89)

"...**piles** of gourmet food and a cache of fine wines and cognac..." (2/88), and "...**our** packs were stuffed full of Haagen-Dazs ice cream, Fosters Lager beer, salad **fixings**, French bread..." (3/89).

These two entries were composed by a newspaperman who has a massive expense account to fund his adventures; you can be sure that if he was paying the tab his pack would have been stuffed with hot dogs and beer.

"...**desperate** attempts to eat her fodder..." and "...**the** inevitably hearty breakfast..." (8/89)

"...**ate** the biggest burgers the place could provide." (9/87)

"...**gourmet** pastas to instant soup, all cooked in sulphur water." (1/88)

"...**glorifying** in the weight of pastry in our stomachs..." (8/88)

I could go on, but I'll conclude by reminding you of how we all thrilled to **Kai** Wiedman's Ahabesque battle with the behemoth pizza (**Scree** 8/88). It's obvious to me, that **PCSers** are more gluttons than gourmets. AND PROUD OF IT!!!

An Irate Reader

# Upcoming PCS Trips

<p><b>June 16-17</b> Mt. Dana (13,053') Class 2 Leaders: Anne Gaillard (415) 324-3049 (408) 982-4288 Judith Yarborough (415) 725-1773 W (415) 854-9288 H A nice easy warmup for summer climbing. Car camp in Tuolumne Meadows. \$5 fee for campsite.</p>	<p>backpacking experience and be in good condition. There should be time to do one peak each day. Candidates include Twin Peaks and Monument Ridge, depending on snow conditions.</p>	<p><b>June 30-July 1</b> Graveyard Peak Class 2+ Leaders: Aaron Schuman (415) 494-3299 H (415) 335-1901 w Paul Vlasveld (408) 241-1144 h (408) 257-7910 w Enjoy spectacular views of Lake Thomas A. Edison from this rugged peak in the Silver Divide in the Sierra National Forest. Mt. Abbot Quad.</p>
<p><b>June 16-17</b> Highland Peak (10,974') Hawkins Peak (10,023') Class 2 with a few easy Class 3 moves Leader John Ingvolstad Co-leader: Kate Ingvolstad (415) 604-3156 (John at work) (408) 259-3399 H We'll take a break from our soak in Grover Hot Springs to climb. Car camp with day climbs. Don't leave home without it (Swimsuit)</p>	<p><b>June 23-24 Mew Trip</b> Tuolumne Multipeak Class 2-3 Leader: Gary Pinson (408) 997-0298 H Included a planned bivouac (bags and bivy sacks) this trip, though technically easy, is an alpinist's treat! We will travel high and light, attempting to bag six or more peaks, including Johnson, Rafferty, and Fletcher. Must be in good shape, willing to travel fast. Limit 6.</p>	<p><b>Jul 14</b> Berry Creek Falls Leaders: Anne Gaillard &amp; 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.</p>
<p><b>June 23-24</b> Green Lakes Class 2-3 Leader: Butch Suits (415) 964-4227 Coleader: Paul Burns <i>Note: Trip fill, taking names for a waiting list.</i> A short (5 mile) hike brings us to a high camp among the beautiful peaks of the Sierra Crest, northeast of Yosemite National Park. Beginning climbers are welcome, although you should have</p>	<p><b>June 30-July 4</b> Mt. Williamson (14,375') Class 2-3 Leader: Brian Healy 90-C Flynn Ave Mt. View, CA 94043 (415) 968-6234 A 5-day trip to California's 2nd highest mountain for those who are not up to doing Williamson in a weekend. About 22 miles roundtrip and a 10,000' total elevation gain. A 75' easy Class 3 section near the top of the peak. About 2/3 of the route is on the Shepherd Pass trail, the rest is cross-country. One night camping at the very isolated Williamson lakes (12,500') west of the peak. Mt. Whitney quad. To sign up, please send leader a check for \$5 and an SASE.</p>	<p><b>July 14-15 New Trip</b> Kuna Crest Bivouac class 3 Leader: Gary Pinson (408) 997-0298 H We'll ascend Mammoth Peak, following Duna Crest to a planned bivouac near Parker Pass. Koip, Parker &amp; Lewis Peaks will also be climbed. Must be in good shape, willing to travel fast and light. Limit 6. Co-leader wanted.</p>

# More PCS Trips ,

**July 14-15 Red Slate**  
Class 2

Leaders: John Ester1  
(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 Lakes, and climb this 2nd class peak with views of LeConte Canyon and Evolution area peaks. Group Size: 6. Reserve by sending \$6 to Liz at 1390 Elderberry Dr. Concord, CA. 94521.

**July 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.

**July 28-29**  
Independence Pk & University Pk

Class 3  
Leader: Chris Yager  
(209) 394-2696

## Private Trips

**June 2-3**  
Mt. Mills  
class 3

**Jun 9-10**  
East Vidette  
Class 3

Leader for the above 2 trips:  
Chris Yager  
(209) 394-2696

**Jun 16-17**  
Koip Peak  
class 2  
Kai Wiedman  
(415) 347-2843  
Join us for this moderate peak climb via the historic Mono Pass trail. Trailhead Tuolumne Meadows. Ice axes needed for balance only as we explore the north side glacier.

**June 16-17**  
Disappointment Pk  
class 3

**June 23-24**  
Mt McGee  
class3

**June 30-July 4**  
Evolution Range  
class3

**July 7-8**  
Mt. Mendel Ice Climb  
class5

Leader for the above 4 trips:  
Chris Yager  
(209) 394-2696

**July 7-15**

Evolution Basin Base Camp  
**Class 3-Easy class 5**  
Leader: Kai Wiedman  
(4 15) 347-2843

The Evolution Region is one of the real gems of the Sierra with a concentration of Class 3 and 4 ridges and faces. We will attempt to climb Mendel, Darwin, Hoeckel, Huxley and the Hermit. Make plans early for this dream vacation. Must be a competent Class 3 climber.

**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.

## SCREE Editor Needed for August Issue

The August issue of SCREE should be completed the weekend of August 4-5 and get mailed out early in the following week. The process does not need to take long-- The topic, location, and starting time of the next meeting and the list of upcoming trips are the key items to include. Everything else is really a frill. Nor do you need to have a Macintosh -a typewriter can produce the necessary master. Please volunteer so your editor can leave on her vacation with as much of her sanity intact as possible. Call (415) 854-9288 to **Do the Right Thing.**

# Trip Report

Here I am in Phoenix, attending a conference tomorrow. The desert is in bloom on this April 29 Sunday as I set off from the trailhead intending to climb Superstition Mountain. Armed with instructions from the Desert Peak Section, I find the trailhead despite the fact all the street names have been changed since the write up was published.

The trail quickly runs into an old jeep road closed since wilderness designation, Cacti are quickly reclaiming the right of way, as they flaunt their brilliant yellow and pink blooms. I have never seen saguaro before, and here they are in bloom! Plump green stalks bulge from the ends of their arms and tops like candle crowns worn to celebrate a Swedish Christmas. The waxy white flowers are three inches across with yellow centers.

The trail winds into Hieroglyphic Canyon where Indian petroglyphs adorn the rock faces. The rocks themselves cradle precious pools of water still cool and clear this early spring morning.

Here the trail ends, and I begin climbing in earnest picking each step carefully to avoid cactus spines, loose rock and snakes absorbed in catching a few rays. After about 1500 feet elevation gain I take a break. I am carrying three

liters of water. The sun is hot. I haven't seen anyone since setting out this morning.

Then, over the rim of the slope below comes a man followed by two dogs. He is surprised to see another person and heads to the south to avoid me. I resume progress toward the summit 1500 feet above. This mountain is supposed to be second class, however, the route is elusive indeed, and I end up on some interesting third class rock.

The man reappears. He is also headed for the summit and must assist his dogs as we climb higher. At the top the dogs cannot make it, and I proceed while their master finds an alternate route. When he and the dogs arrive on top, I have been there for twenty minutes and have signed the register.

The view is spectacular. Weaver's Needle rises to the northwest; the town of Apache Junction spreads to the east. The man is packing a 357 magnum pistol. He has two rounds of birdshot for snakes and the rest regular bullets. My New England upbringing is unused to pistol packing-hikers. We choose a second class gully for the ascent to make it easier on the dogs. Suddenly a rattlesnake buzzes a warning. The man draws and cocks his pistol before I can blink.

"I'll blow your head off," he warns the reptile.

"Don't shoot," I say. "It'll back off."

But the snake remains coiled. The stranger tosses stones at the rattler who reciprocates by vibrating its tail. My heart pounds, anticipating the explosion. "Let's try this way," I suggest, leading up the ravine bumping into an agave with my bare leg. The stranger reconsiders, uncocks his weapon and follows.

"My name's Alan," he volunteers. I smile. "I'm Debbie."

As we descend, the route again becomes third class. The dogs cannot easily follow. Soor I am pushing the large dogs off boulders into Alan's waiting arms eight feet below. Fritz and Angel would have preferred an easier route, but would have followed Alan anywhere. The way becomes easier. Now we are talking about the cactus blossoms. Alan points out the bullet holes in the saguaros.

"Who does that?" I ask.

"Jerks," he replies.

I give Alan a pint of water for his empty canteen and show him the petroglyphs as we water the dogs. Back at the cars Alan reflects, "YOU know, I could have had that head and rattle for my mantelpiece."

"I'm sure the snake was thinking the same about you," I counter.

We smile. The desert has indeed blossomed this day.  
-Debbie Bulger

# Another Trip Report

May 12-13

## NORTH DOME

Leaders: Kai Wiedman and Debbie Bulger

It couldn't have been easier--Debbie Bulger had reserved a truly 'easy to find location in the Yosemite Park campgrounds and then managed to bribe the management for a fine window table at the exclusive Yosemite Lodge Cafeteria for breakfast.

Then, the trip was uphill. Up the Yosemite Falls trail, one I'd never been on--and should have. At the top we enjoyed views of the Valley and checked out Lost Arrow, asking ourselves that eternal question: Do I really want to do a Tyrolean Traverse? Finally out to and, interestingly, down to North Dome. Of course, the evening and morning views were great. Need you ask?

This is where the trip began to pick up. Kai's sister, Pietra, was on the trip and we found that she shares many family similarities with Kai: his good looks, great sense of humor and the abilities to produce a strong reason not to share a tent with him.

Then, Debbie Wiedman began emulating Kai's lightweight backpacking techniques by visiting everyone at supper time to see if they had any uneaten food. (The name change came from Kai's sister--

not your ace reporter).

The next morning, the U.C. Santa Cruz Backpacking Class' field trip became interesting. The evening before, their esoteric/philosophical discussion around the campfire was not interesting. The naked young man chanting mantras to the rising sun was interesting; the young women with their T-shirts flipped over their heads displaying painted breasts were interesting.

After that, the trip went downhill, first to Arch Rock, then cross country to the Snow Creek Trail, and home.

--Pietra Wiedman, Marid Pinson, & Ray Stafford

Aaron Schuman reports that he has recently climbed Mt. Manuel in the Ventana Wilderness from Botcher's Gap and that the trail condition has improved considerably since it was written up in Jeffrey Schaffer's guide book to the area. Aaron recommends this as a good winter or spring trip over a two day weekend.

## Climbing Partner Wanted

Balu Sharma would like to find someone interested in climbing in the Cascades, North Cascades, or Pallisades during the period June 30-July 10. Class 3 and up. Contact him at (408) 946-6255 (home) or (408) 434-7693 (work.).

## Pacific Mountaineer Summer Events

June 21--Route Finding for the Backcountry Traveler by David Beck. This course will be given in two parts involving a classroom section to be held in the sotre on Thursday night to be followed on Saturday, June 23 by a four hour field section. This course is designed to teach the skills necessary to navigate by map and compass, but be prepared to learn a lot more. If you missed David's avalanche course this winter, you will not want to miss this opportunity. Please call for cost, reservations, and specific times.

June 26--American Climbing Odyssey with Doug Robinson. This slide show will following climbing from Yosemite Valley in the 1960s where Doug lead the clean climbing revolution and a hammerless ascent of Half Dome, into the Sierra crest, the Wind River Range, and then back to California for a look at the recent excitement at the Needles. This will be a great history lesson on the growth of climbing both for those who have been and still are a part, as well as for those who only know active climbing and sticky rubber. Free in store, 7:30 PM.

**CHAIRPERSON:**

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

**VICE CHAIR/SCHEDULER:**

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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:**

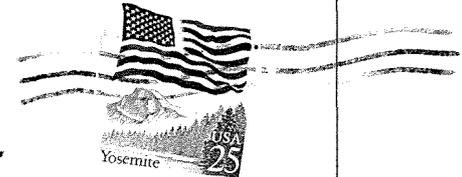
- Class 1: Walking on a trail.
- Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance.
- Class 3:** Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used **occasionally**.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock **climbing**.

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 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**



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