



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

March 1990

Vol. 23, No. 3

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 1990

Time: 8 PM

Location:

Western Mountaineering
Town and Country
Shopping Center

San Jose

Program:

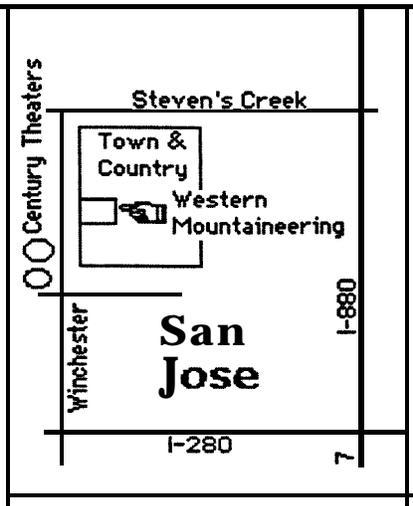
Doug Robinson's climbing journey across the United States. Robinson, one of the country's premier alpinists, ice climbers and mountain guides, takes us on a tour of his favorite rock climbing spots, from Yosemite to the Eastern Sierra, North Carolina and even Oklahoma.

Trip Planning Meeting a Success-- Pizza and Peaks Provide Pas(s)time for PCSers

The trip planning meeting was a success judged by the pizza consumed and trips scheduled. Take our word for the pizza and check pages 2 and 3 for the trips.

Now a little reminder to leaders: please send a few **sentences** describing your upcoming trip to Aaron **Schuman** so he can use it when your trip is written up in **Scree**. Since we will be giving details on trips 2 months in advance, please be sure that Aaron has your writeup at least 10 weeks before the trip is scheduled.

Helpful information for those who might want to go on your trip includes trailhead, length of hike in, **terrain**, any special features (hot springs, **wildflowers**, nearby Mexican **restaurants**, etc.), and the number of participants allowed by your **permit**. **At a minimum** you must give the names, **elevations**, and classification of all the peaks you intend to climb. A nice feature is to give the names of the quads that cover your trip so that folks can get any topos they need in advance.



CHAPTER THROWS PARTY FOR VOLUNTEERS

All present and past leaders, officers, editors, and other PCS volunteer do-gooders, the chapter is putting a party for you! It will feature live professional guitar music and **FREE** food. The chapter is doing this to say **THANK YOU** for your volunteer efforts. These efforts keep the activities sections alive.

Leaders from all the various activities sections will be there.

The time and place is **7:30 PM** March 15 at the **Baylands** Conservation Center, Palo Alto. R.S.V.P. with Dale Mead at (415) **494-9901** by March 12th so they know how much food to buy. Additional questions can be directed to Walt Melville at (415) 994-2158.

Upcoming Trips

Mar 24-25
 Dewey Point (7,385')
 Yosemite
 Leader: Ray Stafford
 (415) 591-934s
 Co-leader: Chris MacIntosh
 (415) 325-7841
 P.O. Box 802, Menlo Park,
 CA 94026

For those who have snow camped before or taken the Sierra Club snow camping class and are able to use skis or snow shoes

Send Chris: a self-addressed stamped envelop; \$6; work and home phone numbers; how many people you can carry in your car; car make, color, license plate number; if you have a tent and how many it sleeps; whether or not you have a winter stove; any special medical information we should know about you. We will mail directions and car pool information to you.

Mar 24-25
 Ohlone Wilderness Trail
 3817'
 Leader: John Flinn
 (415) 968-2050 home
 (408) 286-8779 work
 20 miles in 2 days. A great 2 day backpack trip in the Bay Area. We'll hike from Sunol to Del Valle, near Livermore, through oak-studded grass and along airy ridges with views of Sierra Nevada. Camp on or near summit of Rose Peak. Car shuttle. \$5/campsite. Call immediately if interested-- deadline is soon.

Here are four offerings from the intrepid Mr. Yager. You won't find them easily in any of the standard Sierra guides, so why not call Chris and at least find out what state they are in.

Mar 31-Apr 1
 English Mtn
 Class 2
 Leader: Chris Yager
 (408) 446-963 1

Apr 7-8
 Three Sisters
 Class 1
 Leader: Chris Yager
 (408) 446-963 1

Apr 14-15
 Mt Elwell & Adams Pk
 Class 2
 Leader: Chris Yager
 (408) 446-963 1

Apr 21-22
 Alta Pk & Mt Silliman
 Class 1
 Leader: Chris Yager
 (408) 446-963 1

Apr 28-29
 Lamont Pk, Sawtooth Pk
 Class 2
 Leader: Chris Yager
 (408) 446-963 1

PRIVATE TRIPS

Late Mar to early Apr
 Yosemite
 Leader: Ray Stafford
 (415) 591-9348

Am planning a snow camping trip into Tuolumne Meadows from Yosemite Valley for a multi-day trip. If you'd like to come, please call.

Mar 24, 25
 Leader: Sandy Sans
 (415) 965-3822

Master the basics of safe low-angle ice and snow travel. Learn how to arrest, glissade, kick step, do an ice ax belay and much, much more. This course is offered through SIERRA ADVENTURES as an improved version of the PCS Ice Ax Course (which fell victim to the lack of Club insurance). This trip does cost money, but there is a 20% discount for PCS members! If interested, call Sandy for more information.

SNEAK PREVIEW:
 Next PCS meeting will be held at Pacific Mountaineering. Jonelle Geller will describe the Zodiac Route up El Capitan.

Spring/Summer Trip Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Peak</u>
May 5- 6	(1)	Black Cone (Ventana)
May 5-6	(2!)	<i>Pilot Knob #1</i>
May 6	(1)	Portola Peak
May 12-13	(3*)	<i>Mt Corcoran</i>
<i>May 21-22</i>	(3")	<i>Lone Pine Pk & Mt Corcoran</i>
<i>May 26-28</i>	(2")	<i>Shasta via Hotlum-Bollun</i>
May 26-28	(2")	<i>Keith, Bradley & Center Pks</i>
Jun 2-3	(3*)	<i>Mt Mills, Mt Abbott</i>
Jun 9-10	(3*)	<i>East Vidette</i>
Jun 16-17	(2*)	<i>Koip Peak</i>
Jun 16-17	(2?)	Dana
Jun 16-17	(3*)	<i>Disappointment Pk</i>
Jun 23-24	(3*)	<i>Mt McGee</i>
Jun 30-Jul 1	(2+)	Graveyard Peak
Jun 30-Jul 4	(3!)	<i>Williamson</i>
Jun 30-Jul 4	(3*)	<i>Evolution Range</i>
Jul 7-8	(5*)	<i>Mt Mendel ice climb</i>
Jul 7-15	(4&5!)	<i>Evolution Basin Base Camp</i>
Jul 14	(1)	Berry Creek Falls
Jul 14-15	(2)	Red Slate
Jul 14-19	(5!)	<i>Minarets with mules</i>
Jul 21-22	(2)	Johnson Peak
Jul 21-22	(3)	Independence Pk & University Pk
Jul 28-29	(4!)	<i>Mt. Clark</i>
Aug 4-5	(2!)	<i>Mt Genevra</i>
Aug 4-5	(3!)	<i>Shepherds Crest</i>
Aug 11-12	(2!)	<i>Peaks near Tuolomne Meadows</i>
Aug 11-12	(3!)	<i>Mt Stanford</i>
Aug 18-19	(3!)	<i>Disappointment Pk</i>
Aug 18-19	(2&3)	Peaks near Tuolomne Meadows
Aug 24-26	(3)	Tower Peak
Aug 25-26	(2)	Amelia Earhart Peak
Aug 25-26	(4!)	<i>Mt Gardiner</i>
Aug 31 -Sep 4	(3!)	<i>Kearsarge to Whitney</i>
Sep 1-3	(3)	Mt Gayley
Sep 1-3	(2)	Marion Pk
Sep 8-9	(2!)	<i>Giraud Pk</i>

* Private trip with ice axe required

! Private trip not necessarily requiring ice axe

What are the rules of the game?

Each month, Scree will carry all information about trips scheduled for the upcoming two months. If you think you want to participate, call the leader or co-leader to confirm that the trip is within your capability and to find out any further details of interest to you. Ask the leader if the trip is from a trailhead requiring a reservation fee or has a no-show deposit required. If so, send a check to the leader in the required amount. (Your place on the trip is not confirmed until you have sent in your check.)

What are Private Trips?

Private trips are outings that are not endorsed or sponsored by PCS or Sierra Club. No Sierra Club or other insurance is available or provided. The leader does not necessarily meet the PCS leadership requirements. The trip may involve use of ropes or ice axes or in some other way fall outside of the activities sanctioned for an official Sierra Club section outing. All risk is assumed by participants. The trips are listed in SCREE simply as a courtesy.

Do we need more trips and if so how can I volunteer to lead/co-lead?

Yes, we do. To volunteer, contact Aaron Schuman (see back cover for phone number.)

Book Report

The Trekking Peaks of Nepal
by Bill O'Connor
Cloudcap Press
Seattle, WA, 1989
Hardcover, \$24.95, 224 pp

How many of us have dreamed of heading off to the Himalayas with a small group of friends to tackle one of the mountains that form the rooftop of the world? For most it was an impossible dream—until 1978, when the Nepal Mountaineering Federation set aside 18 peaks that could be climbed by foreign mountaineers with a minimum of cost and red tape.

These peaks, ranging in elevation from 18,330 to 21,830 feet, were designated as “trekking peaks.” The name has always been a bit of misnomer, since it implies the mountains constitute little more than scrambles for well-conditioned hikers. Many people assume, incorrectly, that it refers to little summits such as Kala Pattar, the oft-ascended vantage point near Everest basecamp.

Although some trekking peaks are more technical than others, even the easiest require mountaineering experience, proper equipment and careful route finding. These mountains may seem puny next to neighbors like Everest and Lhotze,

but 20,000 feet *is* 20,000 feet. Several of them, notably Imja Tse (Island Peak) and Chulu West, are regularly climbed by guided groups from Mountain Travel and the American Alpine Institute.

Many of the trekking peaks are within the capabilities of an experienced group of PCS climbers. The problem has always been finding information about the approach, route and objective dangers likely to be encountered.

Now a new book has arrived to fill that void. The Trekking Peaks of Nepal is more or less a standard guidebook, listing most of the known routes on the peaks, along with history, approach information, route descriptions, maps and diagrams. Just about everything you need to know to climb one of the peaks is contained in the book. For most peaks, the standard (easiest) route is described in detail, and more difficult lines are also noted. In addition, possible routes for first ascents are noted.

Other chapters offer valuable advice for planning lightweight expeditions, obtaining permits, hiring Sherpas and selecting equipment. There are plenty of pictures, both color and black and white, to whet one's appetite.

The book is also valuable for those shopping around for one of the guided expeditions. Readers can quickly discern which routes offer superb, airy face or ridge climbing, and which are mainly glacier slogs. It reveals, for instance, that on Lobju most parties reach a subsidiary summit well short of the actual one and call it a day. After a bit of prodding, the AAJ admitted that that's what they do on their trips.

Even if you have no intention of ever setting foot in Nepal, the book might be fun to browse. Guide books, after all, do more than provide route information. During the long winter months they also allow us—at least those of us with overactive imaginations—to dream of scrambling up the Gendarme Pitch on Bugaboo Spire, searching for holds on the Black Face pitch of the Grand Teton and making the pendulum into the notorious Stoveleg Crack on El Cap.

The Trekking Peaks of Nepal will take your imagination even further, allowing armchair mountaineers to imagine making the final steps up the summit ridge of Kwande Ri or Pokhalde, as a vast snow plume blows off the nearby summit of Everest.

— John Flinn

**PCS MEMBERSHIP LIST
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1990**

**PCS MEMBERSHIP LIST
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1990**

PCS MEMBERSHIP LIST
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1990

PCS MEMBERSHIP LIST
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1990

Miscellaneous and Sometimes Questionable Contributions

An English-Chinese glossary of approximately 375 mountaineering terms has been compiled by William M. Bueler (PCS Member) and Zho Zheng (Chinese Mountaineering Association and China Association for Scientific Expeditions). A photocopy of the typed (English and pinyin) and handwritten (Chinese characters) glossary is available for \$2.50 (including postage and mailing) from *W. M. Bueler, 648 Lottie St., Monterey, CA 93940.*

--∞--

"Biding on a hard, narrow bicycle seat over long distances can temporarily impair the nerves and blood vessels which supply the penis. Problems include: numbness, temporary erection loss, and longer term erection impairment." (British Medical Journal, 4-89; 298; 1072)--Contributed by *Debbie Bulger out of concern for her fellow climbers who bike to stay in shape.*

Shopping the Peaks

Life is hard and everything has a price, mountains included, or at any rate several countries charge for climbing their mountains and, considering the difference in standard of living (a Frenchman is 50 times richer than a Nepali), it would be wrong to complain. That doesn't make it any less interesting for a careful shopper to compare the prices of climbing permits, which we have done.

The most expensive mountains are incontestably those of Bhutan: 6,000 meter peaks only cost 6,000 francs (*Note: 1 French franc = about 17¢*), but 7,000 meters can reach the price of 17,000 francs, which is higher than Everest. It is true though that Bhutan's 7,000ers are virgin.

For the more impecunious, we recommend India, where you can get a 6,000er for 3,600 francs or Nepal where summits under 6,600 meters cost only 3,300 francs. After 6,600 it costs you 7,000 francs which makes the Nepali 7,000ers quite a bargain, since the price isn't

raised again until you reach 7,500 meters.

Now let's go to the top of the line: climbers of 8,000ers will have to spend 10,000 francs in China (but other expenses will counterbalance this modest price), 13,000 francs in Nepal, and close to 16,000 francs in Pakistan. Of all summits, K2 (from the Pakistani side) is the most expensive: 20,000 francs while Everest is around 16,000 francs from Nepal or China.

Of course we should mention that there are no refunds if things go wrong.

Translated from Sept. 1989 edition of the French climbing magazine, Alpi-Rando, by Linda Smith who comments:

"Among other things this article shows that Europeans are even more caught up in the numbers game than we are. Last year, it was reported that one Swiss village wanted to spend \$65,000 to add 3 more meters to the local peak, Fletschorn, so that it could join the list of prestigious 4,000ers."

Classifieds

SEE YOUR AD HERE. Want to unload gear? Need a hard-to-find piece 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: Feathered Friends Snow Goose sleeping bag, rated to minus 40 degrees, \$250; Chouinard supergaiters, one rand ripped, \$15; jumars, \$40; Salewa step-in scissors crampons, \$65; 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: Two pair men's lightweight hiking boots: One pair Lowa all-leather, excellent condition. Size 11. Cost \$100. Sale \$40. One pair LL 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 Plinn. (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: Sierra Designs Goretex down parka-long style. Size Medium. Seldom worn, in great shape. \$75. 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: A partner interested in ice climbing this winter. Must have some ice screws and rock climbing experience. 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 Plinn (415) 968-2050.

FOR SALE: A16 Climbing Harness. Size medium. Padded. \$25. Sandy Sans. (415) 965-3822.

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 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 welt. Free. Call John Rawlings, (415) 723-3101 between 9-5.

CHAIRPERSON:

Chai 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
~~(408) 447-3158 w~~
(415) 335-1633

TREASURER:

Dinesh Desai
444 Castro St. #917
Mt. View, CA 94041
(415) 969-2695 h
(415) 9645760 w

SCREE EDITOR:

Judith Yarborough
2070 Mills Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(415) 854-9288 h
(415) 725-1773 w

SCREE is a publication of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. Subscriptions are \$8 per year. Checks should be sent to the treasurer, Dinesh Desai.

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

Trip classifications:

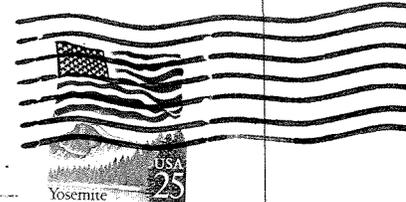
- Class 1: **Waking** on a trail.
- Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance.
- Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used occasionally.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

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, C-A 94025



90/08
DINESH & JOY DESAI
870 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE
LOS ALTOS, CA 94022-

**First Class Mail
Dated Material!**