



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

January 1991

Vol. 24, No. 1

Next Meeting

IDate: Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1991

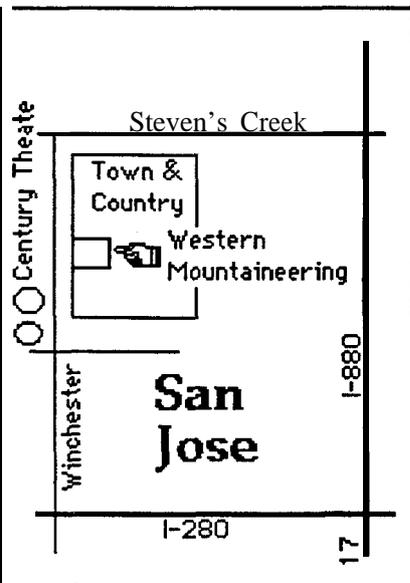
Time: 8 PM

Location:

Westem Mountaineering
Town & Country Shopping
Cnter.

SSan Jose

IDebbie Bulger will be our
presenter. She will show us
 views of trips we can lead and
 some that we can follow.



Treasurer's Report or Accounting for the Uninitiated

The PCS balance sheet is healthier now than it was at the beginning of the year. This is due to several reasons. In March the annual subscription fee was raised from \$8 to \$10.

The average issue of Scree had 7.17 pages during 1990 versus 8.5 pages during 1989, resulting in a decrease of about \$125 in printing costs. Also, the free mailing of Scree beyond subscription expiration date was discontinued. This resulted in savings of approximately another \$125. Wells Fargo Bank also waived its charges (\$72/year) during 1990.

All of the above factors combined to show an increase in assets during 1990 of \$431.90 versus a loss of \$186.66 during 1989. However, to determine the true financial health of PCS, it is necessary to determine its liabilities too; otherwise, as in the example where 50 new members sign up in December, assets would increase by \$500 without any red increase in the net worth of the organization.

The SEC or the American Society of Accountants may not agree, but a quick and reasonably accurate method is to assume that the PCS disbands as of the end of the year and returns pro-rata shares of unused subscription to members. Such an analysis shows a required return of \$1,080 leaving the PCS with a net worth of about \$239. If a similar analysis at the end of 1991 should show a significant decrease in net worth, then a dues increase should be considered in 1992.

Balance Sheet December 31, 1990

Assets

Wells Fargo checking \$1319.36

Liabilities

Number of members 188

Average refund owed \$5.145

Total refund owed \$1,080.00

Net Worth

\$239.36

Upcoming PCS Trips

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.

Mar. 2-3

Mt. Carmel

Class 1

Leader: Aaron Schuman

(415) 335-1901 w

Mar. 30-31

Anderson Peak

Class 1

Leader: Aaron Schuman

(415) 335-1901w

From the Editor:

Some of you may be wondering what happened to the trip reports you labored so to produce. Well, don't worry. They are safe in the editor's files (well, maybe a little worry is in order given the state of aid files) and waiting their turn for inclusion in Scree.

Rather than cut the reports to crowd in as many as possible, the Editor exercised her judgement (noticing the snug fit of some beloved jeans, she should have exercised something else as well) and is running each report full length in the order the trips occurred.

Upcoming Private Trips

Jan 25-27

Eastern Woman Mountains
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 Guer-
rilla Warfare Peaks. Some go
to the Columbia River for
worlds best windsurfing,
some go to Chamonix or
Yosemite or Bugaboos for the
world's best rock climbing, and

others go to the Diablo Range
of California for the worlds
best Guerrilla Warfare Climb-
ing!! 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.

Feb 2-3

Kaiser Crest Ski Traverse

Leader: Butch Suits

(4 15) 964-4227

This is a very strenuous,
unscouted trip for experienced,
fit ski mountaineers only. Our
goal is to ski the entire length
of the Kaiser Crest, from its
western origin to Kaiser Pass,
with Kaiser Peak (10,000'+) as
the high point. We will snow
camp somewhere along the
ridge Saturday night. Because
of the difficult mileage and
terrain and the short days, I am
limiting this trip to people I've
skied with on similar trips
(unless you can convince me
you have equivalent endurance
and experience).

Missing Something?

If you left anything behind at
the Holiday party you should
heck with Butch Suits who
says he has retrieved some
tensils and a mug. He'll bring
them to the next meeting, but if

**DU are anxious YOU can call
im at (415) 964-4227 .**

'February Preview

We will meet at Pacific
Mountaineer at 7:30 PM on
Tuesday, Feb. 12 to hear John
Flynn tell us about his adven-
tures around the world during
this past year.

Culture Comes to PCS

Bushwacking

(to the tune of *Jingle Bells*)

Crashing through the brush
Manzanita blocks the way
Bare legs turn to mush
Thistles cause delay

Alder trees abound
Willows sound the call
Poison oak is found
This sure ain't the mall!

chorus

Bushwacking, bushwacking
Oh, I love it so
Bushwacking, bushwacking
The only way to go

My legs start to bleed
Thank God Sally's a nurse,
Bandages I need
Perhaps I'll need a hearse!

Upper lip is firm
Machete held on high
Brush can't make me squirm
I wish that I could fly!

(Repeat Chorus)

Talus

(to the tune of *Swanee*)

Talus, how I love ya, how I
love ya
My dear old talus
I'd give the world to be
Among the rocks and scree
I love ya talus, baby

Talus, waitin' for ya, prayin
for ya
My knees just love ya
The folks at home will wait
for a while
When I get on that talus pile.



Liability Blues

(to the tune of *Sunny Side of the Street*)

Grab your boots and get your
hat
Leave your ice ax on the door
step
Ropes cannot be used
Oh, we've got the liability
blues.

Can't you hear those moans
and groans
Leaders crying in the
courtroom
Perhaps I'll take a cruise
Oh, we've got the liability
blues.

I used to climb on the rocks
With the best of the jocks
I wore holes in my socks
Lawyers hired-I've retired

Now I never use a rope
Crampons never touch my
instep
We're scared of being sued
Oh, we've got the liability
blues.

Valley Parade

(to the tune of *Easter Parade*)

In your climbing harness
Pink tights and day-glow rock
shoes
You'll be the hottest climber in
the Valley Parade

Hardware 'round my shoulder
I feel I'm getting bolder
Oh, I'm the hottest climber in
the Valley Parade.

On the Nutcracker
Bishop's Terrace too
I'll admit my dear, it's true
I'm falling, I'm falling, I'm
falling for you

Oh, I could write a sonnet
About the friendly hornet
who courted my belayer in the
Valley Parade.

(with apologies to Irving
Berlin)



The preceding ditties were
contributed by Debbie Bulger
who presented them at the
Holiday Party. She was
assisted by Debbie Benham,
Paul Vlasveld, and Anne
Gaillard. If you missed the
event, you missed the opportu-
nity to see the PCS Rockettes
in full climbing gear accompa-
nied by a cellist who was
reading her music by her
headlamp.

Trip Reports

Mt. Gayley --Sept 1-3

This trip was run over Labor Day weekend. The participants included John Ingvalds tad, Siamak Navid, Debbie Bulger, Kelly Maas, Doddy Domish and Allen Hu. We met in Bishop on Saturday morning for a caffeine and sugar-filled breakfast to get us up the trail. We got going out of the Glacier Lodge trail head out of Big Pine at about 10:30 AM. The temperature was very pleasant, and the view spectacular as we hiked up the south fork of Big Pine Creek. The initial hiking was typical of the east side of the Sierra--high desert scrub brush with numerous rocks and trees. However the hiking was fairly easy, and we gained elevation quickly while hiking on the trail.

After a couple of hours we left the trail at Willow Lake and had to slog over a large talus field to our base camp, which was on a large bench at about 10,500'. The hike in took longer than we expected to due to the long talus field. We did not arrive at camp until almost 4 PM. We had planned to climb Temple Crag on Saturday, but due to the lateness in the day, we decided to conserve our energy to climb Mt. Gayley or Mt. Sill on Saturday.

We got off to an early start on Sunday morning and by 10:30 AM we had a good view of Mt. Gayley, and the summit seemed close. The whole distance between our base camp and Mt.

Gayley was one large talus field. The going was slow, and we were fairly careful as some of the talus was loose. We followed Roper's instructions, which was customarily vague-- *Follow a large gully. Several variations are possible.* We went up a large gully, then went up Class 3-4 chutes, until we were challenged by a squeeze chimney which I judged to be a 5.6 or 5.7, even though it was short. We down climbed our route 200 feet short of the summit and traversed over to the ridge line between Mt. Sill and Mt. Gayley. On the ridge we found a pleasant Class 3 route which led to the summit. The view of the Palisade group from Gayley was very spectacular. You are right across from Sill and N. Palisade. You also have excellent views of Winchell and Agassiz. Norman Clyde Peak and Middle Pal can be seen to the south. The Palisade group have the most spectacular alpine scenery in the Sierra. There are ice couloir, the Palisade glacier with its many crevasses and the bergshrund in addition to the breathtaking mountains. It is much more interesting than the Whitney group where I had spent 4 days climbing in August.

It is certainly an area one would want to return to. I will return next year to climb Sill and N. Palisade. We spent an

hour or so on top taking in the views and resting. The talus slog back to camp took about 4 hours, and we arrived about an hour before dark. The next morning we hiked out and had lunch at the Bishop grill. The line of traffic from Mammoth to L.A. was one long parking lot, and I was happy that we were going north instead of south. Overall the trip was excellent, a good group, spectacular terrain, and everyone made the peak without incident.

--Allen Hu

Tower Peak

Dan Tupper noted that the Tower Peak trip report in the December Scree reminded him of a frightening memory--

In the summer of 1989, I was a member of a large Sierra Club climbing party to Tower Peak.

On descending we were still ready for extra adventure, so WE decided to go down through the Keyhole, down the chute so aptly described in John Ingvald. stad's trip report. I started down, followed by Rob Rowlands. Three other climbers were enjoying the view while standing on top of the ridge just to the north of the Keyhole. One of them dislodged a humungous rock and sent it sliding toward the chute below. Rob yelled, "Rock," giving me enough time to flatten myself against the wall of the chute. It missed me by a millimeter or

Trip Reports (Continued)

two. Only the grace of God and a faithful Guardian Angel kept me from being a statistic. If I had been anywhere else in that chute, I would have been history. I swore our little group to secrecy, but the remainder of our party may have noticed that I was a bit more subdued and religious for the rest of the trip.

Based on my experience, I would not recommend going through the Keyhole. Moments before the rock let loose, I had noticed that the floor of the chute was smooth and covered with fine rock powder. I remember thinking this might not be a good place to be.

By the way, we camped at the same place as John's party. It is one of the nicest campsites that I have seen.

Echo Peaks and Mt. Hoffman

Participants: Kai Wiedman, Debbie Bulger, Patrick Powers, Petra Wiedman, Ed Martin, Greg Rau, Vreni Ansbaugh, Gary Pinson, Kate and John Ingvaldstad, Craig Payne, Frank Holden, Dave LaPlant, Merl Payne, Brian Goldman.

We camped late on Friday night, Sept. 21, circling and circling the Tuolomne Meadow campgrounds, trying to locate campsites G5 and G6, perhaps the most difficult endeavor of our weekend trip. Next morning, we parked at

the Cathedral Peak trail head and walked about an hour in cloudy, increasingly more hostile weather to Budd Lake, where blue sky and sunshine suddenly broke through the beginnings of a snow shower. Walking past Cathedral Peak, where we were given an expert summation of the avenues of conquering this mountain by Kai and Debbie, we made our way up the scree slope to the Echo Peaks, all nine of them. Some of us decided to climb #7, supposedly Class 3, defined as 'if you fall you don't die, but you might break a leg.' Capably led to the top, the short climb was an exhilarating, adrenalin-rushing event, at least for this neophyte.

Others elected to start with #8, where the climber is met at the last 10 feet of the climb with a knife edge--a 'sidewalk in the sky,' as one climber put it. Kai and Patrick straddled their way to the top. Next, #5, a fine climb, with easy hand holds, 'jugs and buckets.' 'Remember, weight over feet, balanced, use your arms for balance, not to haul yourself over the rocks,' Debbie warned me.

Number 6, considered a Class 3, was left for a later day. Only Patrick mustered himself halfway to the peak. Peaks #1, #2, and #3 were climbed by half of us, before making our way down the slopes, back to Budd Lake, to our cars, resupplying at the store just outside Tuolomne Meadows

campground.

Climbing was easy compared to the vocabulary that this climber tried to understand. Who but an expert could understand Kai's colorful patter: 'jugs, buckets, do a traverse, up a system of shelves a bannister, jamming, budging a chimney, mantling, bomber hold.'

We slept well that night, after sampling each other's gourmet cuisine and listening to everything from bear stories to debate over the future leadership of the local Sierra Club

On Sunday, we packed up and left for the trail head of Mt. Hoffman, the weather ambiguous. We proceeded up about two miles to May Lake where it's possible for camper to stay at prepared dormitory-style housing, complete with meals. Few campers were present, even fewer fish were jumping in the cold lake waters. Some of us elected to hike on the trail to the top of Mt. Hoffman; others decided to climb the Class 3 rocks. At the time, the weather didn't seem particularly threatening. Breathtaking views of our previous day's climb were seen from the top of the first slope. We then proceeded to the top of the mountain, when it began to snow, lightly at first, then a harder powder.

(To be continued)

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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
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