



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

February 1992

Vol. 25, No. 2

Annual Trip Planning Meeting, **AND PIZZA FEAST**

That's right . . . the trip planning meeting is also a pizza feast! The idea is to have an informal gathering where we can stuff our faces and plan summer trips.

Everyone is welcome, including all trip leaders and anyone else with an idea for a trip. Aspiring leaders are especially encouraged to attend. If you have questions about a certain destination or don't have a destination at all, others will be there to offer suggestions. Leaders will be looking for co-leaders.

Of course it's not a requirement that every spring and summer trip be announced at this meeting, but it helps the scheduler plan things. Also, remember that if you are thinking of leading a trip from a popular trailhead, you probably want to plan it now so that you can get your Wilderness Permit -request -in

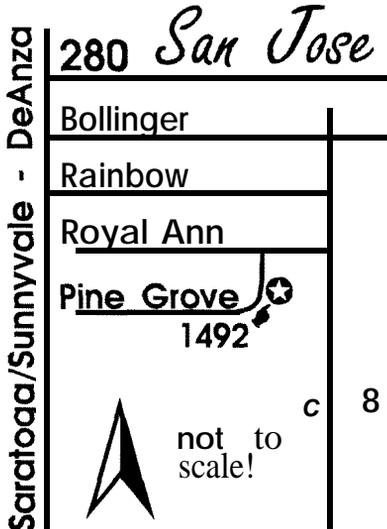
early. (See related article elsewhere in Scree.) We'll have permit forms and information at the meeting.

If you cannot attend but have a trip

planned, please contact the Scheduler in advance so it can be included. If you can't make it at 7:00, don't worry -just come when you can.

Bring your calendar, your own drinks, and money for pizza. Don't miss out - it's guaranteed to charge you up for the coming climbing season.

— Kelly Maas



When: Tuesday, February 25

Time: 730 pm

Where: Ron Lingelbach's house
1492 Pine Grove Way, San Jose
(408) 253-8036 in case you get lost

A Ridge Too Far

(or, Revenge Of The Gummy Bears)

We were lashing our gear and eating a cold breakfast sometime before the sun rose on Labor Day weekend. A wrangler opened a nearby gate and whistled 20-odd pack animals through the parking lot, kicking up dust clouds and waking anyone still snoozing. Beware of the small sign at the Agnew Meadows parking lot, near the barb wire fence, that says "No Camping"-there's a good reason this time.

The sixth person didn't show or got lost so five of us headed to enjoy some R + B, Ritter and Banner that is: Debbie Bulger-leader, John Baltierra, Dave Caldwell, Debbie Benham, and myself.

The pleasant hike into Lake Ediza went quickly and we continued on to a suitable camp at the base of Mt Ritter, about 10000 ft. The group stocked the day packs for an ascent of Ritter which is 13157 ft. We scrambled up the lower grassy slopes onto mixed rock which eventually led us to the base of the glacier facing the south side of Ritter.

We grabbed some energy food and it was here that I began to appreciate Dave's capacity for sweets. He hauled up what must of been a 3 lb. bag of rubbery creatures that some 60's psychedelic meltdown turned entrepreneur created.

Everyone's heard of gummy bears but these were new to me, gummy dinosaurs. This was after eating a whole box of Entenman's coffee cake, with a little help from Debbie, before reaching Lake Ediza. I admit that the rest of us helped consume the little rubber monsters at each rest stop.

We trudged up a stretch of loose rock covered dirt onto some loose rock covered rock onto some loose rock covered loose rock. Nothing terribly dangerous but damn annoying. The gully we followed led us to the wide open south side which brought the summit into view.

At this point Dave was feeling a little less than enthusiastic about continuing and decided to relax a wait for us. We guessed that the large wad of multicolored pseudo-rubber in his stomach had reacted to the decrease in atmospheric pressure causing a rare condition called gastrogummyenteritis.

The condition seemed to be spreading because John stopped to recline on a large slab about ten minutes later.

Debbie, Debbie, and I continued on soon reaching the summit. The weather had been absolutely perfect without a cloud in the sky. The views were exhilarating as usual. **W**e could see much of the next day's route up the south side of Banner. The march back to camp was uneventful except for my finding a First-Need water filter sitting on a rock half-way down the mountain.

I'm only mentioning our dinner here for two reasons. One is because of the known fact that Svea stoves don't support pots very well as demonstrated by Dave's and Debbie's dinner splattered all over our cooking rock. The **other** regards Dave's sweet tooth which satisfied itself on a bludgeoned vending machine berry pie.

Sunday we rose fairly early to attempt Banner and decided on a route which almost proved to be too much. From camp we headed north over a ridge to Garnet Lake, then over another ridge to Thousand Island Lake, then heading east we took a steep "shortcut" over another ridge which led to a glacier on the lower north flank of Banner.

With the crampons still in our packs we attempted to cross the snowlicelrunning water. Realizing our mistake we scrambled off the glacier and skirted it on the rocks. The gang ascended two more small ridges where Lake Catherine finally came into view.

The group was getting tired by then and we still had to surmount another ridge, crampon up the large glacier to the Ritter/Banner saddle and ascend 900 ft. more to the summit. It was about this point in time that we began to grumble at each other every time there was a discussion on route selection. It's always curious and part of the fun to see whose experienced guess prevails.

Upon reaching the Ritter/Banner saddle from the east I ran into a solo climber who had come up a snow chute from the west. This route shot directly back at our camp. I was excited to tell the others of this much shorter route back to camp. When they reached the saddle they agreed to check out the route but had left their crampons and ice axes on the glacier below. Someone in the PCS told me shortly after I joined that your gear is pretty much worthless unless you have it with you.

We finally made the summit by about four o'clock, soaking up the rewards of eight hours of climbing. We had been following the progress of another party climbing Ritter from

the saddle. Roper doesn't recommend this route because of the exposure and loose rock.

The party must have been experienced on rock because they summited and downclimbed rather quickly. They ran into trouble exiting onto the glacier. Their route led them to the top of a crusty snow tongue frozen in the shadows.

A scream echoed as a female climber slipped bouncing 60-70 ft. before bouncing off one side onto some dirt and rock. She was ok but very lucky because just below here was wide open glacier with lots of large rock and debris strewn about. Apparently they had no crampons or ice axes.

It was getting late so we cramponed up hoping the other party would get down. It was decided to use the fairly steep snow chute to descend from the saddle. The snow was soft on top and afforded decent footing but the going was slow. Eventually this opened up to a more gradual glacier

It was getting dark when we dragged into camp and were glad to see Dave's headlamp guiding us in. He had seen us descending on the snow and had remarked "that had better not be my Debbie up there." I explained to him that we would still be hiking way after dark had we retraced our earlier route. We were promptly rewarded with a large bag of lime pterodactyls.

Monday we hiked out and ate a hearty lunch at a gourmet deli, the name escapes me, just as storm clouds began unloading on Mammoth and the Minarets. There's nothing like capuccino on a rainy day in the Sierras.

— Larry Sasscer

Wilderness Permits

Believe it or not, it's **almost** time to start sending in those wilderness permit applications. Not only do most PCS trips require wilderness permits, but the appropriate authorities (Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, Inyo National Forest, etc.) usually restrict the number of people entering popular wilderness areas during the summer.

When such quotas exist, usually about half of **the** quota are made available by advance reservation while the remainder is kept for first-come-first served availability. Although a few trips have been daringly pulled off by arriving early at the permit office on the day of the trip (actually the day before), it is less stressful simply to reserve a permit.

The US Forest Service and Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks begin accepting permit reservation requests March 1, while eager Yosemite will accept them as early as Feb 1.

For a couple years now, Forest Service Wilderness Permits have cost \$3 per person when reserved in advance. For example, it costs \$24 to reserve a permit for 8 people. This concerned some leaders.

Although leaders must front the money themselves, the PCS will ensure that leaders are able to recoup the money (less the leader's \$3), even if the trip does not fill. Note that if your permit is not granted, your check will be returned. Be sure to specify an alternate trailhead or day since even a March 1 postmark is no guarantee that you will get your first choice.

Detailed information on Inyo National Forest and Kings Canyon Sequoia National Park permit

applications will be available at upcoming meetings, including the trip planning meeting.

Hot tip: The Convict Lake trailhead (just south of Mammoth on Highway 395) never has a quota!

The Yosemite backcountry permit recorded message phone number is (209) 3720310. Basically, it says to mail starting and ending dates and trailheads, principal destination, and the number of people to: Wilderness Office, Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389. It might be a good idea to give them your name and address too. Group size is apparently limited to 8 when traveling off-trail. In a continued effort to worsen its budget problems, Yosemite apparently wants no money for these reservations.

Your Want Ad Here...

The price is right (it's free) and the audience is captive (but cheap).

Recycled Down Vest

Dixie Storkman has a down vest that's up for sale: \$25. Those who attended our last meeting have already seen it. Call (415) 493-8959.

Scree Scanner Wanted

If you have access to scanning software, or if you are willing to re-type articles from past Scree issues, contact the Editor. Thanks!

Trip Leaders

This is a frequently discussed topic on trips, but it's been a while since the club has seen it in print. Without leaders the club cannot function.

It is far better to have many leaders who each lead one trip a year than to have just a few leaders support the whole club. I think we would all like to see a full and varied trip schedule. It's been a bit thin lately.

My personal goal is to get at least five new leaders this year. Last year there was only one! Note that you do not need decades of mountaineering experience. I'll start bringing application forms to each meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kelly Maas

"HES" First Aid

When: Feb. 29 or March 1

cost: \$35

This is an 8-hour course taught at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto. To register, call Health Education Services at (415) 321-6500. Attend either Saturday or Sunday. This meets the Sierra Club leadership requirement for two years. This particular class has been well received. Because many of the stu-

dents are from the Sierra Club, it may be possible to have the instructor address wilderness situations.

Red Cross First Aid

The Santa Clara Red Cross offers the following classes in February. Call (408) 2926242 for information:

When: Feb. 18/20 from 6-10PM

When: Feb. 14 from 8AM-5PM

When: Feb. 21 from 8AM-5PM

The **Palo Alto** Red Cross offers the following classes in February/March. Call (415) 322-2143 for information:

When: Feb. 19/24/26 from 7-10PM

When: Mar. 7/14 from 9AM-1:30PM

Trip Classifications

These classifications are to assist you in choosing trips for which you are qualified. No simple rating system can anticipate all possible conditions:

Class 1: Walking on a trail

Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance only.

Class 3: Climbing which requires use of hands, occasional use of a rope.

Class 4: Climbing which requires rope belays.

Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

Private trips are listed only because readers might be interested in them. They are not authorized, insured, sponsored or supervised by the PCS or the Sierra Club.

Trip Leader Qualifications

Leadership applications are made to the PCS Mountaineering Committee, of which Dave Caldwell is the chair for life. Before leading trips for the PCS, you must demonstrate the following qualifications, based on the difficulty of the trip you are planning:

Class 1: Walking on a trail:

- At least 18 years of age, and Sierra Club member.
- Red Cross Multimedia First Aid or approved equivalent.

Class 2: Walking cross-country, using hands for balance only:

- Qualifications for class one list.
- Minimum two years mountain experience with variety of second and third class routes.
- . Demonstrated navigational ability.
- Demonstrated competence and ability on two PCS second class trips as co-leader.

~~Class 3: Climbing which requires use of hands, occasional use of a rope:~~

- Qualifications for class two list.
- Recent experience with roped climbing, including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and anchor setting.
- Recent experience with ice axe, crampons, self-arrest, and ice axe belay.
- . Demonstrated sound judgement, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two PCS second class trips as leader and one third class trip as co-leader.

Class 4: Climbing which requires rope

- † Not an approved Sierra Club activity at this time.

Class 5: Technical rock climbing:

- Not an approved Sierra Club activity at this time.

Winter Trips:

- Qualifications for class of climb to be led.
- Two seasons of winter mountaineering, including extensive snow camping.
- Proficiency with skis or snow shoes, ice axe, crampons, and ice axe belays.
- Substantial navigational experience, including white-out and storm conditions.
- Advanced first aid preferred, with an understanding of hypothermia, frost bite, and pulmonary edema.
- . Avalanche course.
- Demonstrated leadership ability on one PCS winter trip as co-leader.

Co-leader:

- No requirements.
- Subject to the approval of the trip leader.

Official PCS Trips:

Official PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see back cover).

The Real Wharf-to-Wharf

Date: Feb 15-17 (Sat-Mon)

Where: Monterey Bay

Leader: Debbie Bulger
home (408) 457-1036

Co-Leader: Richard Stover
home (408) 427-0249

Starting at 6AM on the Santa Cruz wharf, we will hike the shore of Monterey Bay, ending with dinner on Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. We will travel light, sans tent or stove, buying food along the way.

Leader permission required for this very strenuous backpack of about 45 miles. Rain cancels.

Mt Tamalpais Day Hike

Date: Feb 15 (Sat) 2567'

Where: Marin County Class 1

Leader: Aaron Schuman
home (415) 9689184
work (415) 3351901
Email schuman@sgi.com

Lets's take a conditioning hike to the top of Marin, with a long view of the headlands, the Farralon Islands, and The City.

No advance reservations are required. Meet to form carpools at 8:00 a.m. at the southeast corner of the parking lot at Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto.

(That's the corner closest to El Camino Real and the University Ave. overpass.)

Cone Peak

Date: Apr 4-5 (Sat-Sun) 5155'

Where: Ventana Wilderness Class 2

Leader: Aaron Schuman

Co-Leader: Charles Schafer
home (408) 378-9682

Cone Peak is one of the finest and highest peaks in the Ventana Wilderness. Although it can be day hiked from the Pacific side of the coast range, we'll take the longer approach from the Salinas Valley side.

We'll start at Memorial Park campground, at 2100 feet, and backpack up to Cook Spring at the coast ridge. Expect to hike about 8 miles on Saturday, gaining 2700 feet of elevation and losing 300 feet.

On Sunday we'll day hike 5 miles to the summit, losing 800 feet and then gaining 1600 feet. Then we'll retrace our steps back to Cook Springs, where we'll retrieve our packs and return to the trailhead at Memorial Park. This makes for an 18 mile Sunday!

Be forewarned that trails in Ventana aren't maintained as well as in other places you've hiked, and that poison oak is abundant in the spring in Big Sur.

NEW TRIP LISTING:

Crater Lake Circum-Ski

Date: Apr 10-14

Where: Oregon xc ski

Leader: Butch Suits
home (415) 964-4227

In 4 days, we will drive to and from Southern Oregon and circumnavigate thee 30+ mile rim of Mt. Mazama (which encloses beautiful Crater Lake) on skis.

Participants must be experienced snow campers and must have the skill and endurance to ski lo-12 miles of gently rolling terrain daily while carrying a full backpack.

Private Trips

Private trips may be submitted directly to the Scree Editor,
but the Scheduler may be able to help the leader avoid conflicts (see back cover).

Mt. Shasta

Date: Feb 15-17 (Sat-Mon) 14,162'

Where: Green Butte Ridge Class 3

Contact: Kai Wiedman
home (415) 347-2843

If you have ever dreamed of climbing in Alaska, come test your mettle on this mini-"major" expedition.

Our route will ascend the symmetric Green Butte Ridge which rises continuously in an upward thrust until it intersects Sargents Ridge. From here steep and airy snow climbing lead to the summit.

Only experienced alpinists need apply.

North Palisade

Date: Summer 1992

Where: Fresno County

Contact: Dinesh Desai
home (415) 969-2695
on a good day (800) NO-SWEAT

In order to do all 58 county high points, I need to get to the top of North Palisade, Fresno County high point. If you are interested in pulling me up along one of Roper's supposedly class 3 mute, call me.

Chimborazo

Date: Christmas 1992 (!) 20,000'

Where: Ecuador

Contact: Tim Hult
home (408) 970-0760

Anyone else interested in climbing one of the major Ecuadorian peaks and doing some sightseeing in the Indian villages?

NEW TRIP LISTINGS:

Coe Conditioning Hike

Date: Feb 8 3,216'

Where: Henry Coe State Park trail

Contact: Steve Eckert
home/work (415) 508-0500

Join the Loma Prieta Day Hiker's Section and prove you can keep up.. . Brisk pace and steep hills make the relatively low-elevation Sizer Peak seem larger than it is. Length of the loop depends on the group, but expect 20 to 30 miles and 5000' elevation gain/loss. Call for info, or meet at Coe Ranch 8:30AM. Rain cancels.

Desert Survivors

"Desert Survivors is an affiliation of desert lovers committed to experiencing, sharing, and protecting desert wilderness wherever they find it." *And they also climb some peaks:*

Date: Feb 15-17

Where: Pyramid Peak

Contact Steve Tabor for info on his Death Valley Car Camp, at (510) 357-6585

Date: April 3-5

Where: Avawatz Peak

Contact Steve Tabor for info on Avawatz Mountain Backpack, at (510) 357-6585

Date: April 11-13

Where: Kingston Peak

Contact Bob Ellis for info on his Kingston Mountains Backpack, at (510) 482-0466.

Date: May 23-25

Where: Mt Warner, Oregon

Contact Steve Tabor for info on his Hart Mt Refuge Car Camp, at (510) 357-6585

The Telemarking Gourmet

Anyone who's ever skied into Ostrander Hut knows that the outing is above all an exercise in culinary one-upmanship. The object, simply stated, is to produce meals of such lip-smacking gastronomic quality that the other skiers will drool with envy.

Tim Hult and I have organized several of these moveable feasts in the past, and we've always managed to hold our own. But the competition is getting stiffer, so this year we brought along a ringer: Ray Stafford, aka the Telemarking Gourmet. Ray is to backcountry ski cabins what Anatole, the chef in P.G. Wodehouse's Jeeves novels, is to English country manors.

Thanks to Ray, we supped triumphantly. We started with a selection of cheeses, crackers and pate; moved on to corned beef and cabbage in a stew of carrots, potatoes, onions and turnips, accented by a horseradish sauce of thermonuclear strength, and ended the meal with a ginger orange pudding flambe--named Pudding a la Hub in honor of Tim's past incendiary efforts with a Coleman Peak 1 stove. We washed it all down with a selection of excellent domestic and foreign red wines, and capped the meal with Bailey's Irish Creme.

By coincidence, fellow PCSer Debbie Bulger was also at Ostrander that night. We had plenty of food to spare and offered her some, but she politely declined. She pronounced herself fabulously delighted with her supper of beans and rice.

Another party caused us a few nervous moments when they unveiled their repast of coq au vin. But then they made the unpardonable er-

ror of accompanying it with a bottle of 1988 Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay. This was akin to marching crisply down the field to our five yard line and then fumbling away the snap from center.

Of course, a trip to Ostrander entails more than strapping on the old feed bag. We had to do something to work up an appetite, after all, and the 10.5 mile trail in took care of this quite nicely.

There was plenty of snow, but the tracks were so glazed that at times they resembled an uphill ice skating rink. If you have never herring-boned for two straight miles, count yourself lucky. I felt a little bad about this since, as the voice of experience, I had told Kai Wiedman and Noreen Ford that climbing skins were unnecessary.

Dave Blockus and Kelly Maas, the waxable boys, cruised up these slopes with little trouble. It was sweet revenge for them after enduring all sorts of smug taunts from the waxless crowd back in the parking lot.

We were accompanied partway by erstwhile PCSer Laura Sefchik, now a volunteer Yosemite park ranger. She had planned to spend the night with us, but a cracked bale on a Chouinard binding forced her to turn back. (This wasn't the only equipment failure. The toe piece on Tim's Asolo Snowfield boot cracked almost all the way off, but somehow held together through the trip. It was all a little unnerving, especially since this stuff ain't cheap.)

On Sunday morning we lingered over Ray's sumptuous breakfast spread while waiting for the sun to

soften the snow. We stuffed our cheeks with fresh-ground coffee, orange juice, a selection of sweet rolls, fruit compote and an asparagus fritata.

Debbie once again turned down our offers; she had yummy Cream of Wheat. On the way out, Kai discovered the virtues of using climbing skins while going downhill. Not wanting to scrape Kai off a pine tree, Dave took pity and loaned him his pair. They transformed the mile-long luge run below the hut into a cakewalk. "My training wheels," Kai called them.

Some of us had more trouble in the icy snow conditions. Occasionally someone would take a wild, tumbling, agony-of-defeat eggbeater, scattering gloves, sunglasses, hat, ski poles and foam pad in the snow. This kind of fall is known to the cognoscente as a "yard sale."

A little lower on Horizon Ridge, everything came together. The sky was a stunning blue, the air crisp and sweet, and the vistas exploded to reveal half of Yosemite--Half Dome, Mt. Hoffman, Cathedral Peak, the Cockscomb and the Clark Range, all sparkling magnificently with their winter mangle of white.

And, to top it off, we unexpectedly found lots of tasty, knee-deep powder--a little gloppy, perhaps, but quite serviceable. As we carved turn after turn down through this fluff, with grins on our faces, good food in our bellies and great friends--both old and new--by our sides, I was reminded of that beer slogan: It doesn't get any better than this.

— John Flinn

PCS meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. Each month's meeting location and time is printed in the Scree which arrives near the first of that month. See back page for the next meeting.

A computer dialup (modem) is available for use by PCS members, and is the preferred method of submitting Scree articles. DOS-format diskettes are preferred over MAC format, and ASCII text files are preferred over word processor formats. Hardcopy should be provided in all cases.

Pre-publication and old Scree issues are available for review, word searches, retrieval, etc. Trip announcements and articles may also be reviewed for correctness by the author prior to publication. Contact the Editor for information and authorization codes.

Scree articles and contributions must be received by the editor no later than the last Tuesday of the month. Please notify the editor if your contribution must be included in the next Scree, or if it can be delayed due to a full issue.

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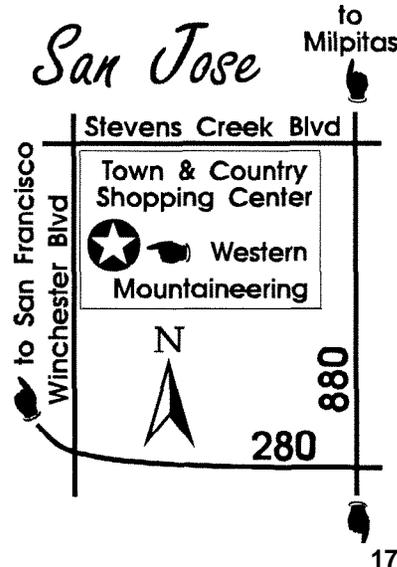
Feb 11
Next Meeting: Jan 14

LOCA TION: Western Mountaineering 840 Town and Country Village, across from the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose (see map below).

TIME: 8:00 PM Tuesday 2/1 1/92)

REMINDER:
 Bring your own reusable cup to cut down on waste, and \$1 to repay Debbie Benham, who will provide refreshments.

PROGRAM:
First American Ascent of Noshaq
 George Barnes will present this classic slide show of a 24,580' peak in Afghanistan. The Western Women's Altitude Record set here lasted 10 years.



SCREE is a publication of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter.