



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

March 1992

Vol. 25. No. 3

Ostrander Hut in Yosemite has been closed indefinitely due to a case of relapsing fever that may have been caught by a skier at the hut. The disease, which is serious but rarely fatal, is spread by ticks which live on and round rodents, according to the Mariposa County Health Department.

Back country huts are one of the most common sources of human contact. Anyone who has recently visited Ostrander and who becomes ill with flu-like symptoms, including fever, shaking chills, severe headaches, nausea and muscle aches should see a doctor and advise him or her of possible exposure to relapsing fever. (At least two parties from the PCS stayed overnight at Ostrander around the time the skier caught the disease.)

After an incubation period of about a week, the fever typically lasts for three days, goes away for a few days, and then returns for a week or so. This cycle is repeated two to three times. It is particularly serious for pregnant women, and frequently results in miscarriages.

See your doctor immediately if you have been to Ostrander this season and develop any of these symptoms. If you have hut reservations for later in the season, check with the National Park Service before leaving. You may have to ski to Glacier Point instead.

— John Flinn

Editor's Note

If you have important news such as this, notify the editor to receive "front page" coverage.

Red Cross First Aid

The Red Cross offers the following classes in March/April. Call (408) 292-6242 (Palo Alto) or (415) 322-2143 (Santa Clara):

When: Mar. 10/12/17 from 7-10PM

When: Mar. 23/25/30 from 7-10PM

When: Mar. 31, Apr. 2/7 fr. 7-10PM

When: Apr. 9/14/16 from 7-10PM

When: Apr. 20/22/27 from 7-10PM

OTHER Health Info

The Sierra Club is co-sponsoring many high altitude and health lectures in April and May. Contact the Editor or Chair for "1992 Mountain Medicine Lecture" info.

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.

Meetings / Deadlines

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.

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.

Scree articles and contributions must be received by the editor no later than the last Tuesday of the month. Handwritten entries should be submitted one week earlier or they may not be included (depending on how much free time the editor has). Please notify the editor if your contribution must be included in the next Scree.

Official PCS Trips:

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

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 retracc our steps back to Cook Springs, where we'll retrieve our packs and return to the trailhead at Memorial Park.

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.

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 IO-12 miles of gently rolling terrain daily while carrying a full **backpack**.

Private Trip

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 Memorial

Date: May 23-25 (Sat-Mon) 14,162'

Where: Hotlum-Bolum Ridge

Contact: George Van Gorden
home (408) 779-2320

Assistant: Kai Wiedman
home (415) 347-2843

This is a non-technical route, though it is a little steeper than the standard route and somewhat more exposed. The views to the north are spectacular and unobstucted.

If you have clambd Shasta from the south, it won't even seem like the same mountain. Saturday we will ascend to a good site at about 9500'. If we are lucky, there will be water and we won't have to melt show. Sunday we will go to the top and back to camp — it will be a long day. Monday, back to the cars by noon.

Although not absolutely necessary, some experience with crampons is advisable. Good conditioning is a must as we will climb nearly 5000' vertical on Sunday..



Trip Planning Results

We had a good trip planning meeting. The pizza was great, we watched an instructional video (The Mountain, with Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner) and even scheduled some trips. Thanks to everyone who was there for making it a **success**.

Leaders - please remember to give trip descriptions to the Scree editor. That applies especially to a person with the initials C.Y.. Unless otherwise requested by the leader, trip descriptions will begin appearing in Scree approximately 2 months before each trip. Signups may begin at that time.

Many of these trips **do not yet** have assistant leaders. If you want to co-lead a trip listed below, contact the scheduler. If you want to co-lead a class 2 trip during the summer and need a leader, contact Chris Macintosh.

For example, Sally Glynn (our agent in Yosemite Valley) will co-lead a class 3 route on Mt. Hoffman in August, but needs a leader.

Keep those trips coming in since there are still many openings in the schedule. And

let the scheduler know of mistakes or changes in this list.

ADVANCE NOTICE TRIPS

These trips were discussed at the Trip Planning Meeting. They may or may not **actually** happen, but this should give you a chance **to adjust your plans and discuss options with the leaders**. The listing was received after the Scree deadline, so it is not very pretty: The date is followed by an optional class designation and the destination. Trips marked with “#” are definitely private trips, not official PCS trips.

March 28-29 2 English Mtn (NW of Tahoe)

April 4-5 Three Sisters (Fresno)

April 4-5 2 Cone Pk (Ventana)

April 10-1 3 ski Crater Lake

April 18-1 9 Alta Pk, Mt. Silliman (W Kings Canyon NP)

April 25-26 2 Lamont Pk, Sawtooth Pk #1

April 25-26 Henry Coe backpack

May 2-3 2 # Pilot Knob #1

ADVANCE NOTICE TRIPS, continued

May 3 local conditioning hike TBD
May 9-10 2,3 # Lone Pine Pk or Mt Corcoran
May IO-I 6 canyon trip (Utah)
May 16-I 7 2,3 # Lone Pine Pk or Mt Corcoran
May 17 1 Ridge Winery conditioning hike
May 23-25 snow # Mt Shasta
May 23-25 2 # Mt Keith, Mt Bradley, Center Pk
May 23-25 Wacuba, N.Y. Butte
May 30-31 3 # Mt Mills, Mt Abbott
May 30-31 Mokelumne Pk (S of Tahoe)
June 6-7 Mt Conness
June 6-7 3 # East Vidette
June 6-7 1 Half Dome
June 13-I 4 3 # Disappointment Pk
June 13-I 4 snow # Mt Dana glacier/couloir
June 20-21 3 # Matterhorn Pk
June 20-21 Trinity Alps (N Calif)
June 27-28 ice # Mt Mendel couloir
July 2-5 3,4 # Mt McGee, Evolution region
July 2-5 Triple Divide Pk (south)
July 3-5 3 Mt. Haeckel
July 4?-5 Yosemite Valley (esp. families/kids)
July 11-I 2 Alta Pk, Mt. Silliman (W Kings Canyon NP)
July 17-I 9 Mt. Russell
July 18-I 9 2,3 University Pk, Independence Pk
July 18-I 9 2 Amelia Earhart
July 18-26 # Jefferson, North Sister (Oregon)
July 25-26 4 # Mt Humphreys
July 25-31 # Sierra Crossing, from West side to Palisade Basin
July 31-Aug 3 Mt. Sill and North Palisade
Aug 1-2 2,3 # Mt Genevra, Kings-Kern Divide
Aug 1-9 # North Cascades (Washington)
Aug 8-9 3 # Mt Stanford (south)
Aug 15-I 6 ice # Mt Mendel couloir
Aug 1 5-I 6 ice # V-Notch Couloir (ref. Polemonium Pk)
Aug 22-23 4 # Mt Gardiner
Aug 22-23 Tuolumne Meadows car camp (climbing too)
Aug 29-30 2 Simmons Pk
August 3 Mt. Hoffman (co-leader needs leader)
Sept 4-7 # Kearsarge Pass to Taboose Pass (and peaks)
Sept 5-7 2 Marion Pk
Sept 5-7 3 Mt. Stanford (south)
Sept 12-I 3 2,4 # Giraud Pk, Evolution area
Sept 19-20 2 Goat Mtn
Oct 2-4 Great Western Divide "marathon"

Kings Beach Ski Cabin

Jan 18-19 1992

Elevation 6280 ft.

Leader: Ron Lingelbach

30 snow enthusiasts from the PCS, the Ski Touring Section, and Apres Ski Club met at the Apres Ski Club cabin for a high energy fun-filled weekend. The PCS contingent included Ron Lingelbach, Paul Vlasveld, Richard Mihailin (Telemark Guru), John Baltierra, Kelly Maas, Liz Harvey (Hot-Tubber Extrordinaire), and Bob Dudgevski.

On Saturday after a big breakfast everyone went on their own. Some went downhill skiing, others polished up their telemarking skills under the tutelage of Richard, and others went backcountry skiing to Ludlow hut or Mt. Rose. For one person his weekend fun was somewhat dampened when he broke his ankle while telemarking.

Saturday afternoon, almost everyone went to soak tired muscles in the hot tub. They had a great time. After dinner some decided they needed more fun so they went skiing by

moonlight or went dancing at the local casinos.

On Sunday, it was Saturday all over again with most deciding to go cross-country skiing at Mt. Rose. The snow was superb, the telemarking needs work. The entire weekend was a blast for everyone.

— Paul Vlasveld

Missionary Zeal

I walked up Mission Peak in January and again in February.

— anonymous hardperson

See, it 's not so hard... Keep sending in those really fun trip reports — Ed.

You Need To Know

Maximum amount of fat that the average American man should eat per day: 60 to 80 grams.

No offense ladies, I just print 'em — Ed.

Grams of fat in a Burger King Double Whopper with cheese, 61; in two Hostess Twinkies and a glass of milk, 18; in a croissant, 15; in a chocolate candy bar, 14; in a slice of cheese pizza, 10.

The Cremation of Sam McGee

There are strange things done 'neath the midnight sun
by the men who toil for gold.

The arctic trails have their secret tales
that would make your blood run cold.

The northern lights have seen queer sights
but the queerest they ever did see,
was that night on the marge of Lake LeBarge
when I cremated Sam McGee.

Now Sam McGee was from Tennessee
where the cotton blooms and blows.
Why he left his home in the south to roam
'round the poles, God only knows.
He was always cold, but the land of gold
seemed to hold him like a spell,
though he'd often say in his homely way
that he'd sooner live in Hell.

On a Christmas day we were mushing our way
over the Dawson trail.

Talk of your cold, through the parka's fold
it stabbed like a driven nail.

If our eyes we'd close, then the lashes froze
'till sometimes we couldn't see.

It wasn't much fun, but the only one
to whimper was Sam McGee.

And that very night while we lay packed tight
in our robes beneath the snow,

and the dogs were fed, and the stars o'er head
were dancing heel and toe,

he turns to me, and "Cap" says he
"I'll cash in this trip, I guess.

And if I do, I'm asking that you
won't refuse my last request."

Well, he looked so low that I couldn't say no,
then he says with a sort of a moan,

"It's the cursed cold, it's got right hold
'til I'm chilled clean through to the bone.

Yet tain't being dead, it's my awful dread
of an icy grave that pains.

So I want you to swear that foul or fair,
you'll cremate my last remains."

Well, a friend's last need is a thing to heed,
so I swore I would not fail.

We started on at the streak of dawn,
but, God, he looked gastiy pale!
He crouched on the sleigh, and he raved ail day
of his home in Tennessee,
and before nightfall, a corpse was ail
that was left of Sam McGee.

There wasn't a breath in that land of death,
and I hurried on, horror stricken.
With a corpse half hid, that I couldn't get rid,
because of a promise I'd given.
It was lashed to the sleigh, and it seemed to say,
"You may tax your brawn and your brains,
but you promised true, and it's up to you
to cremate these last remains. "

And every day that quiet clay
seemed to heavy and heavier grow.
But on I went, though the dogs were spent
and the grub was getting low.
The trail was bad, and I felt half mad,
but I swore I would not give in.
And I'd often sing to the hateful thing
and it harkened with a grin!

Then I came to the marge of Lake LeBarge
and a derelict there lay.
It was choked with ice, but I say in a thrice
it was named the "Alice May".
I looked at it, and I thought a bit,
then I turned to my frozen chum,
and "This" said I with a sudden cry
"is my crematorium! "

Some planks I tore from the cabin floor
and lit the boiler fire.
Some coal I found that was lying around
and heaped the fuel higher.
The furnace roared and the flames they soared,
such a blaze you seldom see.
Then I burrowed a hole in the glowing coal
and I stuffed in Sam McGee.

Then I made a hike, for I didn't like
to hear him sizzle so.
And the heavens scowled and the huskies howled
and the wind began to blow.
It was icy cold, but the hot sweat roiled
down my cheeks, I don't know why.
And the greasy smoke in an inky cloak
went streaking down the sky.

I do not know how long in the snow
I wrestled with gristly fear.
But the stars were out and they danced about
'ere again I ventured near.
I was sick with dread, but I bravely said
"I'll just take a peek inside.
He's probably cooked, it's time I looked."
Then the door I opened wide.

And there sat Sam, looking cold and calm
in the heart of the furnace roar.
He wore a smile you could see a mile,
and he said "Please shut that door!
It's warm in here, but I greatly fear
you'll let in the cold and storm.
Since I left Plumtree, down in Tennessee,
it's the first time I've been warm."

There are strange things done 'neath the midnight sun
by the men who mail for gold.
The arctic trails have their secret tales
that would make your blood run cold.
The northern lights have seen strange sights,
but the queerest they ever did see
was that night on the marge of Lake LeBarge
when I cremated Sam McGee.

— Robert W. Service

On Fear and Independence

(an untitled work)

"When a man knows how to live
amid danger, he is not afraid to
die. When he is not afraid to die,
he is, strangely, free to live.

"A people who climb the ridges
and sleep under the stars in high
mountain meadows, who enter the
forest and scale the peaks, who
explore glaciers and walk ridges
buried deep in snow--these people
will give their country some of the
indomitable spirit of the moun-
tains.

"We can keep our freedom
through the increasing crises of

history only if we are self-reliant
enough to be free. We cannot
become self-reliant if our domi-
nant desire is to be safe and se-
cure; under that influence we
could never face and overcome the
adversities of this competitive age.
We will be self-reliant only if we
have a real appetite for inde-
pendence.

— William O. Douglas

We seem to have a serious shortage of trip reports: Thank Aaron Schuman for these two items, and let me know if you want more — Ed.

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For change of address, call or write the Mailings officer as listed above.

To subscribe to Scree, send \$10 per year to the Treasurer as listed above.

To ensure an uninterrupted subscription, renewal checks must be

received no later than the last Tuesday of the expiration month, as listed at the top of your mailing label.

Next Meeting: Mar 10

LOCATION: Pacific Mountaineer, 200 Hamilton, at the corner of Emerson in downtown Palo Alto (see map below).

TIME: 7:30 PM Tuesday (3/10/92)

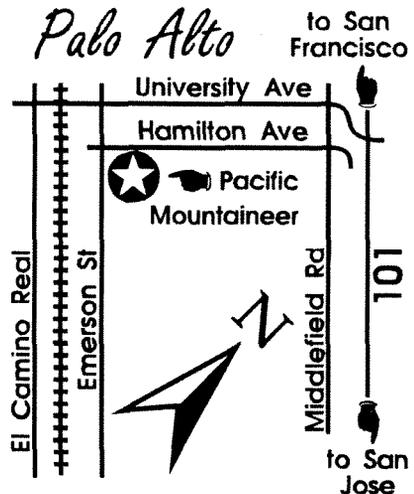
REMINDER:

Bring your own reusable cup to cut down on waste, and \$1 to repay the member who provides refreshments

PROGRAM:

Peak Bagging in the Khumbu Himal

John Flinn will present a pilgrimage to a mystical Shangri La of fluttering prayer flags, chanting Bhuddist monks, and all-night chang houses in Nepal's Everest region. John gets dragged up Pokalde (19,049') and Imja Tse (20,305') by world-class Sherpas.



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