



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

May 1992

Vol. 25. No. 5

The Real Wharf to Wharf

It all started Friday evening, Feb. 21 about 9:45. The phone rings. It's Debbie Bulger, asking if I'd like to do the Wharf to Wharf hike that weekend. After all, the Shasta trip was canceled, and I had expressed interest earlier in the beach hike. I told her I needed a few minutes to think about it. I hung up and looked out the window. It was raining. No, make that **RAINING!** Twenty minutes later - "Sure, I'll go." "Great," she says. "We meet at my house at 5:30."

I meet Debbie and Richard Stover seven hours later, hoping I've packed the right things for a three day beach backpack in the middle of a storm, and wondering if we're sane. We walk down to the wharf in the pre-dawn darkness.

It turns out that Debbie and Richard have spent months

scouting the route and have the full set of 7.5' USGS maps of the coast between Santa Cruz and Monterey. The campgrounds, stores and restaurants have already been picked out. One nice feature of the trip is that because we're so close to civilization the whole way, we don't need to carry much food.

At the other end, we stroll up to Monterey Wharf around 4:30 Monday afternoon. Before heading to the restaurant, we first squirm past construction fences for pictures in front of the Wharf sign, then perform the age old ritual of returning to the sea some water that was carried from the Santa Cruz Wharf. Our ride shows up as we finish dinner, then we reverse in one hour what had taken us sixty hours to hike.

I don't want to fill in too much of what happened be-

tween Santa Cruz and Monterey. It's a great hike that varies from 42 to 55 miles, depending on whether one is able to ford the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers.

Debbie gave them both a good try, but they were a bit much with the high tides, surf and river levels. Normally they would pose no problem. In fact, two weeks earlier, the Salinas River didn't even reach the ocean. It's possible to hike all but the first few miles on the beach. Although much of the beach gets a lot of visitors, there were a couple places where we saw no one for miles.

Despite the ominous start, the weather was not that bad. We had considerable sunshine, and were able to stay dry when it did rain. Even so, the trip was more exciting because of the storm and high waves. February is a fine time to go since there aren't too many people, and the ocean influence moderates temperatures and keeps it from getting too cold.

As an extremely untraditional PCS trip, I would recommend this trip to anyone who likes the beach and ocean, and likes walking. We now know all the details, and can make at

least one restaurant recommendation and one restaurant warning. High point: Capitola 100'. Total elevation gain: "500'.

— Kelly Maas

LOVE BEASTS

All that racket out in the swamps these May evenings—that chirping and buzzing—is simply a lot of rowdy young insects yearning for sex. Female fireflies lure mates with flashing thoraxes, male crickets and grasshoppers by chirping, and female mosquitoes by vibrating their wings. Hold a pitch between F-sharp and G during the campfire sing-along and you're imitating the siren song (about 384 cycles per second) of the female yellow-fever



mosquito. Of course, you have to be careful not to imitate your favorite insect too well, as the operators of a certain Canadian power plant discovered when one of their electrical generators malfunctioned due to the hundreds of thousands of love-starved male mosquitoes who threw themselves in vain at its humming, lifeless coils.

LITE LOFT

Slowly but surely the manufacturers of sleeping-bag insulation are closing in on the king of all fills, down. The latest advancement is 3M's Thinsulate Lite Loft.

Its warmth-to-weight ratio and compressibility set new standards for synthetics. Lite Loft's strength is providing warmth with a minimum of weight. It's a blend of 77.5 percent polyester and 22.5 percent olefin, and the fibers are several times larger in diameter than those of dense Thinsulate but only half the size of those in heavier Polarguard and Quallofil.

What it all means is that Lite Loft provides the same amount of warmth as other synthetics with at least a 16 percent reduction in weight (and bulk when compressed).

Lite Loft hasn't been around long enough for its durability to be gauged, but 3M claims it will last at least as long as other synthetic fills. (Good down outlasts synthetics by a wide margin.)

Three major manufacturers--L. L. Bean, Sierra Designs,

and Moonstone--have introduced a number of Lite Loft-insulated bags, at prices somewhere between those of other synthetic bags and the cheapest down bags.

Of course, Lite Loft performs better than down when wet--that's been the synthetics' trump card for years. Otherwise, Lite Loft is inferior to down, but it's as close as any synthetic fill has come to date.

— GLENN RANDALL

If anyone has experience with this synthetic, I will be glad to print "field test" reviews. — Ed.

Out of Context

A free "attaboy" (or, for the PC fanatics, an "attabeing") to anyone who can identify the source of this quote:

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

One hint: It has nothing to do with climbing., .

Scanner On-Line

In this issue, as in the last, a scanned image has been included. This time, one image was edited to stretch the rope (anyone remember this cartoon from last year?). Anyone wishing to contribute pictures for trip reports or general interest is now welcome to contact the editor, but remember that high contrast and simple pictures are the best.

As part of the software upgrade that allows pictures and scanned images, we now have access to OCR (optical character recognition) software. This should allow inclusion of articles from other publications without cut-and-paste or hand typing.

Frank King, of the (in)famous RCS, is available for house sitting for 1992. If you need someone to take care of your house, apartment, plants and some pets, call Frank:
days: 415-926-2296,
after 7pm: 415-265-1710



CLIMBER WANTED:

To climb Mt. Williamson, the one in the Sierra. Purpose: to return a copy of the original summit register (in a container, to the top). If you need a permit, we can get you one from the Forest Service, however, we must be fairly certain that you can make it to the summit. No novices, please. A permit is not an issue. Maximum party size cannot exceed 4 people:

E Miya, Sierra Register Committee, 415-961-6772.

Refer to the private trip announcements for late-breaking news — Ed.

FOR SALE:

Extra wilderness permit for Mt. Whitney, North Fork Lone Pine Creek trailhead. Permit dates are Aug 6 — Aug 9. The permit is for 6 people, and cost \$18. This is the trailhead to Iceberg Lake, which allows a limb up the Fast face of Mt. Whitney.

Please call Debbie Benham at (415) 964-055s



PCS 1992 TRIP SCHEDULE

These trips are listed in advance for your convenience only. **Please do not bother the leader until the trip is formally announced with a description.** Do not sign up for trips unless you are positive you have the time to go. Got it?

denotes trips that are definitely private

N denotes new trip or new information

Date	Class	Destination	Leader
N May 9	1	Ohlone Wilderness conditioning hike	Steve Eckert
May 10-16		canyon trip (Utah)	Marj Ottenberg
May 17	1	Ridge Winery conditioning hike	Ron Lingelbach
May 23-25	snow #	Mt Shasta	George Van Gorden
May 23-25		Waucoba, N.Y. Butte	Bill Hauser
May 30-31	2	Mokelumne Pk	Aaron Schuman
June 6-7		Mt Conness	Debbie Bulger
June 6-7	2	Half Dome	Brian Boyle
June 13-14	snow #	Mt Dana glacier/couloir	Kelly Maas
June 20-21	3	# Matterhorn Pk	Kai Wiedman
June 20-21		Trinity Alps (N Calif)	Butch Suits
July 2-5		Triple Divide Pk (south)	Vreni Rau
July 3-5	3	Mt Haeckel	Peter Maxwell
July 4 wknd		Yosemite Valley (esp. families/kids)	Bill Isherwood
N July 11-12	2	Twin Pks, Mt Silliman	Aaron Schuman
July 17-19	3	Mt Russell	Cecil Magliocco
N July 18-19	3	Tower Pk	John Flinn
July 18-19	2	Amelia Earhart Pk	Peter Maxwell
July 18-26		#Jefferson, North Sister (Oregon)	Eugene Miya
July 25-31		# Sierra Traverse, from West side to	PaliSti~rt
July 30-Au	2	3 Mt Sill, North Palisade?	
August	3	Mt Hoffman (co-leader needs leader)	Sally Glynn
Aug 1-9		#North Cascades (Washington)	Kelly Maas
N Aug 8-9	213	Pyramid Pk (Desolation Wilderness)	John Flinn
Aug 15-16	ice	#V-Notch Couloir (ref. Polemonium Pk)	Eugene Miya
Aug 22-23		Tuolumne Meadows car camp/clim&gil	Magliocco
N Aug 22-23	3	Mt Lyell	Kelly Maas
Aug 29-30	2	Simmons Pk	Noreen Ford
Sept 4-7		# Kearsarge Pass to Taboose Pass (Wl p)	Eugene Miya
Sept 5-7	3	Mt Stanford (south)	Peter Maxwell
N Sept 12-13	2	Mt Brewer	Kelly Maas
N Sept 19-20	2	Mt Hutchings	Aaron Schuman
Ott 2-4		Great Western Divide "marathon"	Butch Suits

Chris Yager has planned the following trips. Contact him for further information. (408) 243-3027 msg (408) 243-3026 live

Date	Class	Destination	Leader
May 2-3	2	#Pilot Knob #1	CY
May 9-10	22	#Lone Pine Pk or Mt Corcoran	CY
May 16-17	2,3	#Lone Pine Pk or Mt Corcoran	CY

May 23-25	2	# Mt Keith, Mt Bradley, Center Pk	CY
May 30-31	3	#Mt Mills, Mt Abbott	CY
June 6-7	3	# East Vidette	CY
June 13-14	3	#Disappointment Pk	CY
June 27-29	ice	# Mt Mendel couloir	CY
July 3-5	34	# Mt McGee, Evolution region	CY
July 11-13		#more Evolution	CY
July 18-19	22	University Pk, Independence Pk	CY
July 25-26	4	# Mt Humphreys	CY
Aug 1-2	23	# Mt Geneva, Kings-Kern Divide	CY
Aug 8-9	3	# Mt Stanford (south)	CY
Aug 15-16	4	# Mt Humphreys	CY
Aug 22-24	ice	# Mt Mendel couloir	CY
Aug 29-30	4	# Mt Gardiner	CY
Sept 5-7	2	Marion Pk	CY
Sept 12-1 3	2'4	#Giraud Pk, Evolution area	CY

Sample Trip Reports

(or: Try To Top These)

People wonder why I don't express more interest in traveling around the world. The fact is, I really haven't completed exploration of my backyard! Two-dimensionally, I am jealous as Hell over your flying by the Himalayas! JEZUZ! !

But - after all - the other day I walked by some fresh green moss in my garden; this is a terrible confession for an old grizzled mountaineer to say - but that moss looked mighty impressive to me!

— Ansel Adams

The body of the Cathedral is nearly square and the roof slopes are wonderfully regular and symmetrical, the ridge

trending northeast and southwest. This direction has apparently been determined by structure joints in the granite.

The gable on the northeast end is magnificent in size and simplicity. The front is adorned with many pinnacles and a tall spire of curious workmanship. Here too the joints in the rock are seen to have played an important part in determining their forms and size and general arrangement. . . Here at last in front of the Cathedral is blessed cassiope, ringing her thousand sweet toned bells, the sweetest church music I every enjoyed . "

— John Muir

Official PCS Trips

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

Conditioning Hike

When: May 17 Sunday 8:30 am

Where: Ridge Winery Class 1

Leader: Ron Lingelbach
home 408-253-8036

Meet at the restrooms in the parking lot of Rancho San Antonio. From Interstate 280 exit on Foothill Expressway, go to the top of the hill and turn right on Cristo Rey. Go about 1 mile to the entrance of the park. The restrooms are in the parking lot to the far right. The trip up is about 3 1/2 hours with great views of the valley. Plan to send 1 1/2 hours for lunch and wine tasting. The hike back will take about 2 1/2 hours. Remember to bring lunch and at least 1 liter of water. It can get cold and windy on the ridge.

17 miles and 3,000 ft. elevation gain.

Doin' the Butte

When: May 23-25 Class 2 (?)

Where: Waucoba 11123'

Where: New York Butte 10668'

Leader: Bill Hauser
home (408) 243-4566

Let's climb these long but easy no-rope desert peaks. It's the perfect time of the year for the high alpine desert.

Meet at the junction of Hwy 395 and SR 168 just outside of Big Pine, California at 8 AM Sunday May 24 for a caravan to the base of Waucoba for a good climb of about 6 hrs round trip. Great views of Eureka Dunes and the high Sierra.

Later that day we'll caravan to the base of New York Butte for a very early start Monday morning. NY Butte is 6000' of gain and 10 hrs round trip.

Afterwards, we'll soak in Dirty Sock hot spring on the way home.

Mokelumne Peak

Date: May 30,31 (Sat-Sun) 9332'

Where: El Dorado Natl. Forest Class 2
Silver Lake 1.5' Quad

Leader: Aaron Schuman

Co-Leader: Joann McDonnell
home 415-573-8128

We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday at the trailhead (7400 ft.) at the Stockton Municipal Camp off highway 88, just west of Silver Lake. (Camping is available Friday nearby at Tragedy Spring USFS Campground.)

We'll hike in 3 miles to the site of the Plasse Trading Post (8400 A), and enter the Mokelumne Wilderness there. It'll be 4 miles hiking to our campsite at Long Lake (7800 ft). 3 more miles up and down the trail takes us to the northeast ridge, where we begin a 1 mile cross country to the summit. Whether we climb the peak on Saturday or Sunday depends on the interests of the group.

All of Half Dome

Date: June 6,7 (Sat-Sun) 8842'

Where: Yosemite Valley Class 2
Yosemite Valley 1:24000 scale topo

leader: Brian Boyle
home 408-973-0640

Co-Leader: Sally Glynn

Join us for one of the best day hikes in California. We will car camp in Yosemite Valley. Limit 12 persons.

On Saturday morning we will hike past Vernal and Nevada Falls, pass through Little Yosemite Valley, and ascend the cables on the East Face of Half Dome. We will eat lunch on the summit of Half Dome and return to the valley before dark. Sunday's agenda is undetermined.

Official PCS Trips

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

Silliman & Twin

Date: July 11,12 (Sat-Sun) 11188'

Where: Sequoia National Park Class 2
Triple Divide 1.5' Quad

Leader: Aaron Schuman
home 415-968-9184
work 4153351901
email schuman@sgi.com

Co-Leader: WANTED

From the Lodgepole trailhead (6720 ft) on Generals Highway, we'll hike 8 miles to our campsite at Twin Lakes (9000 ft). After we make camp, we hike 1/2 mile to Silliman Pass (10400 ft), then 1/2 mile cross country to Twin Peaks (11000+ ft).

Sunday, we'll hike 2 miles cross country to Silliman Creek, then up to the summit of Mt Silliman.

Mt Hutchings

Date: Sept 19,20 (Sat-Sun) 10785'

Where: Kings Canyon Park Class 2
Marion Peak 15' Quad

Leader: Aaron Schuman
home 415-968-9184
work 415-335-1901
email schuman@sgi.com

Co-Leader: WANTED

Starting at Zumwalt Meadows trailhead (5035 feet), at the end of highway 180, we'll hike 5 steep miles up to our campsite at Lower Tent Meadow (7825 ft).

Sunday we climb 3 miles cross country to the summit and return to the cars.

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).

Ohlone Odyssey

When: May 9 (Sat) 3,817'

Where: Ohlone Wilderness Class 1

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

This is an official Loma Prieta Day Hikers trip, but you can think of it as a short conditioning hike: 29 + miles, 7000' feet of gain. A great introduction to the fine art of pacing yourself, and a way to stop the Day Hikers from talking about us.

We will bag both Rose and Mission Peaks, perhaps even a jaunt over to Discovery Peak (of recent Scree fame). This one-way trip starts in Fremont and terminates at the Del Valle reservoir, near Livermore. Tail-gate party follows the hike.

NEW: Bike Hike

When: May 22-26

Where: White Mountain

Contact: E. Miya 415-961-6772.

Maybe bike up (or near) White Mountain.

I am leaving Thursday May 22 after work and returning before Monday May 26. This is an early-season mountain biking trip. Those driving up earlier might do something around Bishop. We'll think of something. We will meet in Bishop on the afternoon of Saturday, May 24.

Depending on the number of 4WD vehicles, we will pool to the one White Mountain Campground. Bring gallons of water. No dependable water in the Whites. Early

the next morning we will start up the road. Snow is likely, and we must be prepared for storms, high winds or lightning.

The non-leader reserves the right to bail out or walk rather than ride. We are starting at a very- high elevation for bicycling (11K Ft). The seriousness of this altitude cannot be over-stressed. The road is rough, and each participant must understand all the hazards involved in biking this road. This tour is very difficult (on bike) and this maybe too early in the season to do it. We shall see. Descent: possibly Silver canyon.

Mt. Shasta Memorial

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

Where: Hotlum-Bolum Ridge

Contact: George Van Ciorden 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 unobstructed. If you have climbed Shasta from the south, it won't even seem like the same mountain.

Saturday WC will ascend to a good site at about 9500'. If we are lucky, there will be water and we won't have to melt snow. 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.

Prospective co-leaders should take the initiative in contacting leaders listed above or in the advance trip listings, rather than waiting for leaders to call them. Co-leaders may contact the scheduler to learn who is leading a particular trip.

NEW: Tuolomne Trek

When: May 23-25

Where: Tuolomne Canyon

Contact: Larry Hester
evening 408-867-3669
days 408-922-9345
fax 408-954-0616

Memorial Day Weekend trip through the Tuolomne Canyon from White Wolf to Tuolomne Meadows (car shuttle). Should be warm with lots of water. Have space for 4 more people.

NEW: Trinity Traverse

When: June 20-21 **Class 3**

Where: Siligo Peak **8162**

Contact: Butch Suits **415-964-4227**

This is a fast-paced, lightweight semi-loop trip to a cluster of peaks in the Trinity Alps of Northern California. Saturday we ascend nearly 4000 ft up Long Canyon, including a cross-country traverse to our campsite at Echo Lake. Middle Peak (8095') and Granite Pk (8091) are nearby goals.

Sunday we hike north over Little Stonewall Pass and attempt Siligo (8162') and Gibson (8400) peaks before we cross Bee Tree Gap and descend to our cars. Participants must be strong backpackers, ready for Class 3 scrambling. This is an **unscouted** trip.

“Mount Starr King is the most symmetrical and beautiful of all the dome shaped masses around the Yosemite. Its summit is absolutely inaccessible. It will never be trodden by human foot.”

— Josiah Dwight Whitney

Matterhorn Traverse

Date: June 20-21 (Sat-Sun) **12,264'**

Where: Matterhorn Peak Class 3
Matterhorn Peak Quad

Contact: Kai Wiedman
home (415) 347-2843

Assistant t: Noreen Ford

Join us for this dynamic traverse of Matterhorn Peak. Once over the summit our adventure continues as we loop behind the dramatic spires of the Sawtooth Ridge, to exit via Little Slide Canyon.

Light and fast is the word as we leave Twin Lakes, head up Horse Creek Canyon to the Matterhorn Glacier and the foot of the East Couloir. An ice axe is required to ascend this third class snow gully to the summit.

Here the exposure assumes hideous proportions, spiraling into the abyss beneath us while we traverse to the Northwest Ridge. An urgent search for a campsite, hot food, and well deserved sleep ends our day's activities.

The next day will lead us around the Sawtooth Ridge, down the vertigo-inducing walls of Little Slide Canyon and back to Twin Lakes.

NOTE: There is a non-refundable \$6.00 reservation fee (includes the permit).

NEW Williamson Weekend

When: June 27-28 **14,375'**

Where: Mt. Williamson Class 3
John Muir Wilderness

Map: Mt. Williamson Quad 7. 5'

Contact: Mike Meredith 415-969-6773

Assistant: Chris Kramer

Join us for this spirited grudge-rematch up Mt. Williamson.

After climbing up the wrong couloir and missing the summit by 100 yards last June, we WILL climb Williamson.

The trip involves a 12 mile, desert to alpine zone, 5000' elevation gain hike over 12,000' Shepherd Pass. Then, 2 to 3 miles of heavy scree-talus hopping and a brief overnight rest in the Williamson Bowl.

The next morning, we summit at dawn, return to the bowl to pick up our bags, then hike back to our cars. Optional climb of Mt. Tyndall for those who may have time on the way back.

This is a rare opportunity to climb the State's second highest peak. Although our route is non-technical, it is not a walk up a trail. Access to Williamson is strictly controlled, and only available December 15th through July 15th due to the peak residing in a Bighorn Sheep Zoological Preserve.

This trip is an attempt to revive the tradition of 'Old John' trips. Climbers should be in good condition and it is essential that climbers be able to 'go light'.

Some people may feel more comfortable with an ice axe while summiting.

NOTE: There is a non-refundable \$3.00 reservation fee to cover the permit charge.

NEW: Holiday Triple

When: July 2-5 Class 2-3

Where: Triple Divide Peak 12,634'
Sequoia National Park (south)

Contact: Vreni & Greg Rau
510-582-5578

Celebrate July 4th on this aerobic excursion to the heart of the South Sierra. It's a long hike in, but this beautiful peak is worth it! Should have sweeping views of Whitney, Williamson, the Kaweahs, etc. Trailhead will be at Crescent Meadow.

NEW: Williamson #2

When: July 3-6 Class 2+

Where: Mt Williamson 14,384'

Contact: Brian Healy 415-968-6234

This is a 4-day trip to California's second highest mountain, starting from the Shepherd Pass trailhead. I plan to spend one night camping at the Williamson lakes (12,500') west of the peak. Limited to 4 people due to permit. Ice axes recommended - Class 2 with 75' of easy Class 3.

NEW: Minarets CarCamp

When: July 11-12 Class 2-3

Where: Mammoth Mountain Area

Contact: Gary Pinson 408-997-0298

Classic Minaret loop hike with Class 2 ascent. Next day Class 2-3 ascents. Non-hikers can tour Devil's Postpile, gondola up Mammoth Mountain, or lounge by the river or in hot springs. Lakcs waterfalls, many restaurants, etc. nearby.

Camp fee \$6.00 each before June 15th (\$5.00 each after).

Cascading With Kelly

When: August 1 - 9

Where: North Cascades

Contact: Kelly Maas
home 408-279-2054

The mountains in and around North Cascades National Park afford true alpine climbing unlike anyplace else in the lower 48. I'll be spending an active week up there trying to get in as much climbing as possible between rainstorms. Experienced and motivated mountaineers may contact me if interested.

NEW: V-Notch Ice

When: Sometime in August

Where: White Mountain

Contact: E. Miya 415-961-6772.

The "V-notch" is a 900-foot high, 50-degree ice couloir which rises above the Palisade Glacier between Mt. Sill and North Palisade. This is not a beginner ice climb.

The crux is usually surmounting a near vertical schrund. 6 people max. Each climber should be capable of leading any ice pitch, should have own gear (rope, crampons, ax/hammer/tools, ice screws, biners and other rock pro) and should be capable of ascending the complete climb (900-ft) in approximately 3 hours or bailing.

The leader reserves the right to send a slow party back on short notice. Partner/climbers must have experience to do this climb on their own. An opportunity to ascend Mt. Sill can follow completion of the climb for those who want a summit.

David Brower's Regret

"I wish that every person who seeks to lead the environmental cause could experience the peak moments of a climb. Unfortunately, mountaineers no longer venture forth under the Sierra Club banner, and that causes me to reflect sadly on one of my most timid days, when as a Club director in 1988 I voted with my colleagues to sacrifice Club-sponsored mountain training and technical climbing in order to spare the organization an extra \$500,000

per year in payments for liability insurance. We thought we had no choice. Our insurers—who apparently knew little about mountaineering, but who did view the Club as ripe for accident claims—announced an abrupt and precipitous increase in the premium for “risky” outings involving the use of ropes or ice axes. So we axed our climbing sections.

“Sure, only about 4,000 of our then half-million members were participating in outings where technical-climbing knowledge was required, and there were many other wonderful ways to spend the premium money.

“But I was gloriously wrong in my decision to cut our climbers loose, and so was the Board. We should have put the half-million dollars in the Club’s budget, sought financial and battle support from our allies, then fought like hell to straighten out the insurance business. With such a concerted effort—which I now urge—the Club would have assured continuity in the building of bold environmental leaders, so many of whom have come down from the mountains to save them. The world now needs these leaders and it has never needed them before.

— David Brower

Thanks for the thought., but it 's a little late now. Perhaps the PCS could help reverse the Club 's decision. --Ed.

More on Perspectives:

I was climbing the long ridge west of Mount Clark. It was one of those mornings when the sunlight is burnished with a keen wind and long feathers of cloud move in a lofty sky.

The silver light turned every blade of grass and every particle of sand into a luminous metallic splendor; there was nothing, however small, that did not clash in the bright wind, that did not send arrows of light through the glassy air.

I was suddenly arrested in the long crunching path up the ridge by an exceedingly pointed awareness of the light. The moment I paused, the full impact of the mood was upon me; I saw more clearly than I have ever seen before or since the minute detail of the grasses, the clusters of and shifting in the wind, the small flotsam of the forest, the motion of the high clouds streaming above the peaks. There are no words to convey the moods of those moments.

— Ansel Adams

Bear Baiting

(excerpted from the New York Times)

A late-night encounter with a grizzly bear has become the mother of invention for William Pounds, an outdoor equipment retailer who has developed a hot pepper spray for use by wilderness hikers.

"It was my first night in Montana," Mr. Pounds said in recalling the 1977 bear scare. "It was dark, and I was in my tent. The bear was digging around outside. There was nothing I could have done. A weapon would have been quite useless in the dark, and a liability in the tent."

The spray he developed for use against the grizzly is based on the hot red pepper, oleoresin capsicum, used in Mexican and other spicy food. The spray, Counter Assault, is a natural product, nontoxic and non-lethal, intended to divert a bear, not maim it, said Mr. Pounds. It is meant to "create a problem" so "he can't find you."

Counter Assault sprays a fiery mist up to 30 feet, temporarily burning the eyes and causing disorientation. The product was tested for six years

by the Border Grizzly Project, a former research group that was affiliated with the University of Montana. Results have indicated that its effects are temporary, said Dr. Charles Jonkel, a project zoologist. "We never had a single case where it failed."

The success of the spray in warding off bear attacks has prompted Mr. Pounds to repackage the product recently for use against human assailants. Counter assault causes a person to shut his eyes and double over, said Linda Reddish, vice president of Bushwacker. "It burns your eyes and turns them red," she said, "but you're all right again in a matter of minutes."

Counter Assault OC-5, made with a 5 % pepper solution for personal use, is being marketed in a 4-oz size for \$19.95. A stronger version is made for law-enforcement officials. Available at sporting stores, or call (800) 695-3394.

— Barbara Lloyd

There is a 15-oz size for \$40 that is legal to carry in CA, but the smaller sizes are apparently a felony "possession" — Ed.

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.

Scree articles and contributions must be received by the editor no later than the last Tuesday of the month. Long 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.

A computer dialup (**modem**) is **available** for use **by all PCS members, and is the preferred**

This Month's Material

This month, the Editor had more time to hunt down quasi-interesting items and stories, and time to type them up. Don't get used to it!

Aaron provided the Ansel Adams quotes, Warren and Ray sent over some interesting previously-published items, and there were a couple of new trip announcements.

We still need more of you to contribute, either in the form of trip reports or articles you found elsewhere.

Modem or disk entries would be most appreciated. Last month, there was no time for typing several available entries, or even for running a spell checker. Sorry!

method of submitting Scree articles. You may also FAX entries to the editor or Email them to the Chair, as indicated on the back cover.

If dialing in is not possible, consider sending a floppy disk: 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.

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Advance Trip Notices
- Bearly MACE
- Mosquito Madness
- PCS and Private Trips
- Return of the Want Ads
- Synthetic Stuffing
- Wharf Report

Officers of the PCS

Chair: Ron Lineelbach

1492 Pine Grove Way
San Jose, CA 95129
(408)253-8036 H
Email: lingel@convex.com

Vice Chair/Scheduler: Kelly Maas

2422 Balme Drive
San Jose, CA 95122
(408)279-2054 H

Treasurer: Charles Schafer

5 143 Paseo Olivos
San Jose, CA 95130
(408) 378-9682 H

Scree Editor: Steve Eckert

18 14 Oak Knoll Drive
Belmont, CA 94002
(415)508-0500 H/W
(415) 508-0501 FAX

Mailings: Paul Vlasveld

157 Kellogg Way
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408)241-1144 H

Please read the instructions **below carefully before sending money or a change of address.**

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

Next Meeting: May 12

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

TIME: 7:30 PM Tuesday (5/12/92)

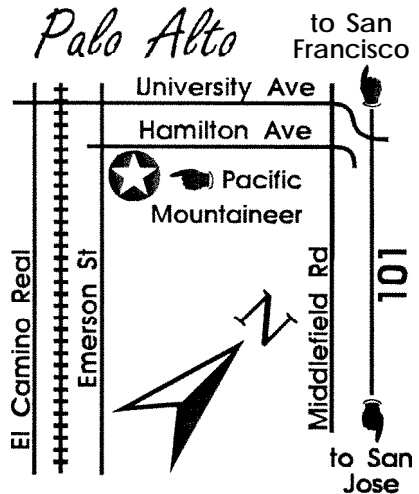
REMINDER:

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

PROGRAM:

Rocky (Mountain) Horror Picture Show

A slide show of Kai Wiedman's and Butch Suits' climbing trip to the Colorado Rockies in August 1991. Alpine climbs featured include Spearhead, Long's Peak, Sharktooth, and Hallett Peak.



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

NOTE: Contact the Chair if you have suggestions or material for future slide shows.