



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

November 1992

Vol. 25. No. 11

Royal Robbins Slide Show Will Benefit Chapter

Royal Robbins is presenting "A Road Less Travelled: 40 Years of Adventure" \$6, a slide show to benefit the Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek. Thursday, Nov 12, 8 PM at the Walnut Creek store of Sunrise Mountain Sports.

The show will include a drawing for prizes. Robbins' biography by Pat Ament was just published. Slide will include numerous El Cap ascents and various first descents of major world rivers as a kayaker.

— Eugene Miya

On Saturday, December 12 at 2PM, Royal Robbins will be giving a \$5 slide show and signing copies of his biography at REI in Cupertino. He very generously asked REI if this event could also benefit our Chapter of the Sierra Club (the RCS & PCS will have an info table).

Robbins is one of America's most eminent climbers. To quote Steve Roper, "As the productive decade of the sixties dawned, Pratt and Robbins, totally committed to climbing, were the dominant figures."

— Chris Macintosh

Bribe Them Soon...

Nominating committee for selecting the officers for 1993:
Butch Suits, Kai Wiedman and Dinesh Desai.

Private Trips

November through February,
Tollhouse Rock and Vicinity

Eugene Miya is exploring the area around Toll House Rock and its environs. He is totally fed up with Pinnacles "rock" and prefers Sierra granite. Most winter weekends will find him going up to this area (except skiing and ski mountaineering weekends, see other parts of the Schedule). This is NOT rock climbing instruction. The easiest climbs in the region are 5.5 and most harder, into the 5.11 arena.

Most climbs are multi-pitch, (1-6 pitches) and a few even have single-bolt belay-anchors (not for the faint of heart) or are climbs on "unexplored" rock.

Be warned that the climbing here can be serious. Transportation is 4WD. Weather occasionally is a problem (3k ft. and higher). If you are interested in joining the crew who goes out here, phone: 415-961-6772.

November 8, Local Mountains

Date: Nov. 8 (Sat.) Mt. Caroline Livermore. Limit 8 people. Mt. Bikes allowed, but you must inform the leader. Costs: Ferry fees, camp fee (\$2), and a strict limit on tents as required by the State.

We will do some astronomy in the evening if the weather is clear (a waning moon).

Details: Eugene Miya at (415)-961-6772. We will meet in the South Bay and pool up,

Advance Trips

January	Tahoe telemark ski cabin
January	Point Reyes backpack
February	Mount Shasta climb
March	Crater Lake ski
March	Dewey Point ski
May	Ridge Winery conditioning hike

PCS Christmas Party

Aaron Schuman has reserved the Cafe Iris for the PCS Xmas Party from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8. The Cafe Iris is the new Silicon Graphics cafeteria, located in building 5, just down the street from the old cafeteria where we met last year.

He promises to come up with a better solution to the doorkeeper problem than last year. Maybe campus security will help.

This cafeteria has an enormous projection TV suspended from the ceiling. Is anyone interested in getting permission to use the TV and VCR for a climbing movie? What about live entertainment?

To get to Silicon Graphics, take the Shoreline Blvd exit from US-1 01 in Mountain View. From either the northbound or southbound directions, make a right exit, then turn left at the top of the

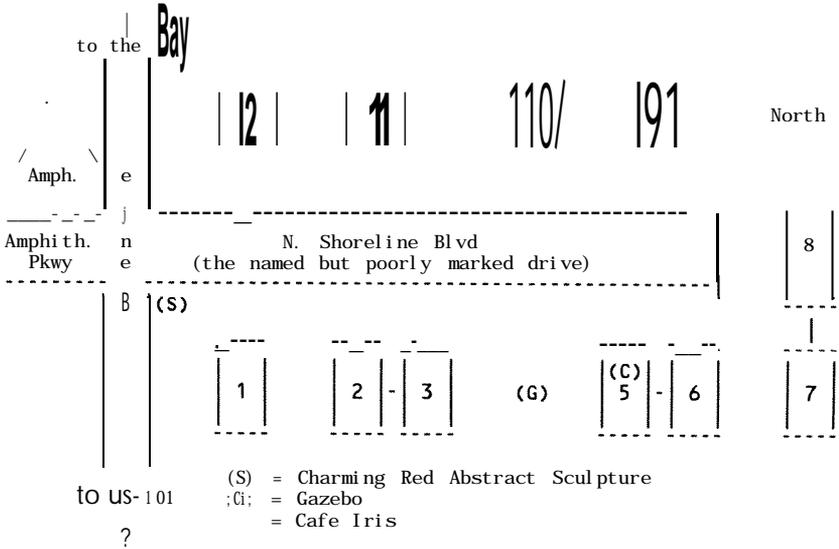
ramp, heading north through the industrial park.

1.3 miles from the top of the ramp, there'll be the unmistakable Shoreline Amphitheater on your left - a giant two poled white tent (easily visible from the left side of your plane when you descended into San Jose).

Another landmark at the same corner is the charming red abstract sculpture on your right. Turn right at that corner, onto a named but poorly marked drive. You're on the SGI campus. Park anywhere that isn't a fire lane, a handicapped space, or a loading dock. Refer to the campus map for directions to building 5.

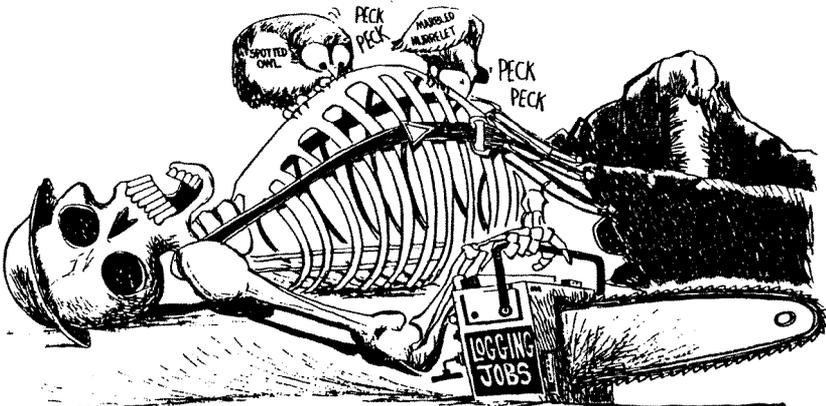
<p>Due to a lack of material, the Christmas Party "blurb" is running early. It will be repeated again next month.</p> <p>Do not attempt to adjust your calendar. There is nothing wrong, and the editor does know that it is not yet Thanksgiving (but thanks for asking).</p>
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How to Find the Fun



And now, equal time for a view from the far side:
 (this *is* real, printed in Portland several weeks ago)

The Sunday Oregonian



THE PECKING ORDER

'CONSUMER CORNER

Packaged Beer Lightens The Load

PRODUCT: South Hills dehydrated beer.

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$5.95 for 6 packets.

COMPANY: Executive Network, Inc. (503) 343-3558
765 Mimosa Ave., Eugene, Oregon. 97405.

DESCRIPTION: A beer-flavored, non-alcoholic, carbonated, dry beverage made with maltodextrine, natural and artificial beer and malt flavors, dried beer, and corn syrup solids. It's packaged in 5-ounce (150g) packet that must be mixed with 8 fluid ounces (250 ml) of cold water for drinking.

PRO: It has a refreshing taste, though a bit sweet, and is best when mixed with extremely cold water. Its taste is remarkably similar to beers produced by micro-breweries. It's a quick source of liquid carbohydrates, and it's easy and light to pack and mix.

CON: The instructions say to wait for the head to subside after mixing, but that takes better than 5 minutes... In very cold water the mix clumps up unless you add water slowly and stir constantly

COMMENTS: Although it doesn't compare to a fine lager, it suffices quite nicely when your taste buds crave a cold one in the backcountry and you don't fancy carrying a six-pack. The manufacturer mentions one can add clear grain alcohol or vodka to achieve an alcoholic beer.

— Peter Maxwell

September Thunderbolt Peak Trip

Chris Kramar and Jim Curl report attaining Thunderbolt Peak in late September. It was on that incredibly gorgeous weekend of September 26-28, after putting the trip off several times for all kinds of unexpected reasons, that Chris and Jim hiked up Bishop Pass on Saturday into Dusy Basin. They climbed Thunderbolt the second day and returned on Monday.

Traveling up the 3-4 class route in the first gully past Thunderbolt Pass, the going was not easy. This has to have some of the worst loose (read dangerous) talus in the Sierra. Ending up in a notch straddling the north and south sides of the Palisades, they were unable to find the 4th class route and ended up doing some 5th class, which put them at the foot of the daunting summit block.

After spending 2 hours trying to lasso something on the summit, they decided to go by the book. This worked. If you try Thunderbolt, DO use the method listed in several of the climbing books, which says to throw a weighted end of a rope over the summit to a waiting climber on the other side. It then becomes a 5.9 fixed-rope climb (use an ascender.)

Upon return, they crested Thunderbolt Pass at about 18:40. With no moon and the sun setting at 19:00, they stumbled around the lake in Dusy Basin for 2 hours in the pitch black darkness with one flashlight until they found their bivy spot. They think they came pretty close to NOT finding camp. It would have been a cold, hungry night.

— Chris Kramar

HIKE 'TIL YOU PEAK

GEORGIA, P.O. BOX 2152, SUNNYVALE, CA 94087-0152

The Business of Climbing]

You can purchase the bumper sticker above from Sierra Club/PCS member Georgia Stigall. White letters on green background, \$2.00 each. P.O. Box 2 152, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Wanted: Buy or Borrow

A copy of "Norman Clyde of the Sierra Nevada-Rambles Through the Range of Light" Call Jim Curl (408) 452-6506.

New Snow Claws (new price)

Sherpa Tucker model TUC100 with TG-7 & toe guard. Cost \$89, asking \$60. Contact Rich at 5 10-7958411 after 8PM.

New Snow Shoes (new price)

Sherpa Featherweight SSF825. Cost \$130, asking \$90. Contact Rich at 5 10-795841 1 after 8PM.

Williamson Weekend

June 27-28

Transport to trailheads on the lower east side is always problematic, and with three of the six participants calling in sick in the couple of days prior to the trip, loose ends set them back an hour and a half Saturday morning.

Although it was later than they had planned, they still found time to do the requisite "pack messing" at the trailhead. Jim thought he had packed light, but to be sure he

looked at Chris's pack. After lifting it, he went back to his car and started dumping things out of his pack into his trunk. After the packs were light enough (no tents, stoves) Chris Kramar, Jim Curl, and Mike Meredith set out at 8:45 am for Shepherd Pass. As they were going ultra-light, they were able to move quickly and clear the 12,000 foot pass just before 3:30pm. Consensus was that

they had held a reasonable pace and the 45 minutes of breaks on the way up were adequate.

The group was resting just beyond the pass when they noticed a group of six men sitting in lawn chairs near the lake. Mike was intrigued enough to approach them and learned that the men were on an annual expedition to monitor the Cutthroat Trout population in the Williamson Bowl. The group included a biologist and a state fish and game guy.

Their story was that the Williamson lakes were seeded with Cutthroat Trout from Colorado in 1938 and had flourished in the lower 2 of the lakes. They reported that the fish had done so well in the isolated Williamson Bowl, that an effort had been made to use the stock there to re-establish the Cutthroat variety in Colorado, since the Williamson fish are the only remaining pure form of the fish. They also mentioned that in the many years they

had been coming up to the bowl, they had never seen a Big Horn sheep, though the biologist and wildlife guy had found scat and heard tell-tale rockfall.

After a long pause at the top of the pass and eating half of their dinners, the three moved quickly over the Alpine desert to the edge of the Williamson Bowl. Although having traversed many sorts of scree, talus and moraine in the Sierra, they found the Williamson Bowl nearly in a class by itself as a boulder-pile obstacle course.

It looks like a land that time forgot, and for which history has no meaning. Looking out over the bowl, one may question whether one is on the planet Earth. Then one asks oneself, "why am I here?" The rocks are big enough to be dangerous but small enough to often be loose, and as the nominal trip leader/trail sweep, Mike was very concerned with maintaining visual contact with the two guys in front of him.

Nonetheless, they crossed the bowl and bivouacked at the outlet of the uppermost Williamson lake at about 12,600 ft. by 6:30 pm. This was a hike of 12 miles with a net altitude gain of 6,000 feet in 9 hours. Good time, but they were zonked and felt rather perplexed as they looked up at the south side of Williamson and read Roper's terse route description. Using the 7.5 minute map (which proved to be indispensable) they were able to draw a one-to-one correspondence between each little peaklet on the map and each peaklet rising in front of them.

They then made their best guess as to which was the "obvious gully" up and to the left of the "obvious water stain." This gully is not at all visible from the bowl, and as Jim said, "it's an act of faith" to head left of the stain for said gully, because one would be committed at that point and have no time left to start another summit approach.

They rose at 4:30 the next morning, and after a hearty breakfast of Power Bars, Gatorade, and analgesics (no stoves, this was ultra-light), set out for the summit. During the Class 3 ascent they tried to stay close together to avoid each other's rockfall and to make well-thought decisions on the route. After getting past the spring-fed waterfall with the black water-stain they headed north by northwest and up towards an obvious gully (now visible).

They stayed in the main gully all the way up to the 75 feet of Class 3 described by Roper. This is top Class 3 under the best of conditions, and with some of the rocks having a coating of transparent smooth ice on them, it was fairly daunting. They took their time and still found themselves on the summit plateau by 7:30 am. So the final ascent took over two hours.

Mike started to drill the first hole and promptly

cracked the rock. Mike then started on another hole and of course, to make it fair, the bit broke in half. Jim continued with the broken bit and Chris surveyed the register box registers and contents and took pictures of the whole scene for Eugene Miya.

Chris finished up the drilling and bolted down the box. In all, including placing the historic register and repairing the summit register box, they spent two hours performing these tasks. If there was any one thing that really slowed them down here, it was that the register box, which had been under a cairn since the 1930's, was beat to shit [sic].

They happened to know that two other groups were planning attempts on this summit over the following Fourth of July weekend, so they left notes for both. Mike left a note to the California Mountain Club group suggesting that they were doing the trip over three days in

order to have time to get close to the Big Horn Sheep, and threw a few condoms into the envelope for good measure. Even though Trojan is the next peak down range, Mike figured you can't be too explicit at high altitudes, so he added a line about "use water base lubricants and protect America's wildlife."

On the other hand, Chris decided to be nice the four day group led by fellow PCS'er Brian Healy, and left a congratulations note with several outdated Burger King coupons. Said Mike, "We're nice guys."

One must say though, the niceness began to wear thin during the 14 mile march back to the cars. The highlight of the return was encountering a group of four men carrying 80 lbs. each worth of inflatable kayaks and assorted river gear up towards Shepherd Pass. Their plan was to pack all the way to the headwaters of the Kern, and then take the river all the way down to Lake Is-

abella. The weather was excellent until the three climbers approached Shepherd Pass on the return. There was an incredible front moving in from the west. Most of it was too high for precipitation, but the wind seemed to gust up to 50 m.p.h., and nearly blew several of them off the trail while on the switchbacks.

They reached the trailhead at about 6:30 pm. Due to the last minute cancellations, and partly due to the fact that he had planned on possibly knocking off Mt. Tyndall on the way back, Jim had driven up alone. He decided to break up his tiresome drive by sleeping at Camp 9 and getting up early in the morning to go to work.

The wind was howling at Camp 9 and since there had been horses there recently, Jim's face was continually coated with turd-dust all night long. He made it to work the next day. He confirmed that this trip was the most physically demanding and draining trip he had ever

been on, and that perhaps it was more difficult than he had planned. Jim said he was so beat on the trip back to the car that had he climbed Tyndall in addition to Williamson, one would have had to bury him there.

Chris and Mike fared a little better on the trip back as they were able to switch off driving, although while traveling through Tuolomne, the passenger almost had to beat the driver just to keep him awake enough to continue driving. Loading up on caffeine at Oakdale provided the impetus to make it home in one piece and go to work monday morning. They got in at 3 am.

On monday, Chris told Mike that waking up to go to work at 8 am reminded him of getting out of bed after waking up from knee surgery, still groggy from anesthesia. So Williamson in two days is possible but pushing it.

— Chris Kramar
— Mike Meredith

Shepherd's Crest

September 19-20

Tuolumne Meadows was the base camp for a hike to Parker Pass and a climb up Shepherd's Crest. Our cast of characters included leaders Debbie Benhan and Anouchka Gaillard, Carol Anton, Mike Johnson, David Cadwell, and Mark Woolbright, with a special appearance by Ron Linglebach on Saturday.

Saturday was a leisurely hike from Tioga Road to Mono Pass. From there we left the trail to investigate the remains of some log cabins from the days of the silver miners. We could see mines dug into the mountain side above us. We went cross-country to Parker Pass, and then to a small lake at the foot of a trio of craggy stone towers that were part of Kuna Crest. The lake had an intense blue color, perhaps due to traces of minerals in the water. We had lunch by the remains of another log cabin

overlooking the lake. We picked up the trail and headed back to camp.

As the rest of us were fixing dinner, Mike suddenly decided to make a mad dash up Lembert Dome. He returned in the dark as we started to light a campfire, and described the view from the top of the dome as the sun set over the ranges of Yosemite.

Sunday we broke camp and drove to Saddlebag Lake. We followed an easy trail along a series of lakes. The highest lake was at the base of a ridge that runs from North Peak to Excelsior Peak, with Shepherd's Crest rising beyond it. Carol decided to stay by the lake to read, relax, and provide ground support. We considered various routes up the ridge.

There did not seem to be a direct way up this great stone wall, so we went diagonally

up and southward over a series of benches. We went along the ridge top northward to the intersection with the ridge that forms Shepherd's Crest. We looked down on McCabe Lakes and had a unique view of Half Dome aligned with Cathedral Peaks and Unicorn Mountain.

We scrambled up the side of this new ridge on stable white granite. The ridge got steeper as it got higher until at the top of the Crest we found ourselves perched precariously between a cliff and a precipice. We looked out across a great number of peaks as well as Mono Lake. Members of the group pointed out mountains which they had climbed, and related stories of their adventures. We went down the crest to the first ridge. We found remnants of a trail which seemed to offer a way to the lake that was shorter than our round-about way up. But after a while the path faded and we carefully worked our way down through nooks and crannies in the rocks to the

lake where we rejoined Carol.

Looking back up at the ridge, it once again looked like a vertical wall and we could not see how we managed to find a way down. From there we hiked back to Saddlebag Lakes and began the ride home.

— Mark Woolbright

Club Dead

James Diehl, a former "trap boy" at the annual Fred Coleman Memorial Pigeon Shoot in Hegins, Pennsylvania was quoted as saying:

"One time the local SPCA came out and said, 'Boy, you sure take care of your pigeons. They're watered and fed and taken very good care of before they're shot.'"

At this year's event, held Labor Day weekend, some 7,000 pigeons were released from cages and shot at by 250 participants. One hundred fourteen animal-rights protestors were arrested on charges including aggravated assault (of a state trooper), possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), criminal trespass, theft, disorderly conduct, and underage drinking.

Seems like the good guys kind of have an image problem, too-Ed.

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.

You may Email or FAX entries to the Editor as indicated on the back cover. A computer dialup (modem) is available upon request, and both DOS and **high-density** MAC disks can be sent.

Scree articles and contributions must be received by the editor no later than noon on the

l a s t

NO ICE IN
MINE , THANKS



Chair: Ron Lingelbach
1492 Pine Grove Way
San Jose, CA 95129
(408) 253-8036 H
Email: linge@conver.com

Vice Chk*Schedukc* Kelly Maas
2422 Balme Drive
San Jose, CA 95122
(408) 279-2054 H

Treasurer Charles Schafer
5143 Paseo Olivos
San Jose, CA 95130
(408) 378-9682 H

Scree **Editor:** Steve Eckert
1814 Oak Knoll Drive
Belmont, CA 94002
(415) 508-0500 H/W
(415) 508-0501 FAX
Email: eckert@netcom.com

Mailings: Paul Vlasveld
157 Kellogg Way
Santa Clara, CA 9505 1
(408) 241-1144 H

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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.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Phyllis Olrich will be taking over as Scree Editor next year. That means we will be back on a MAC!

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

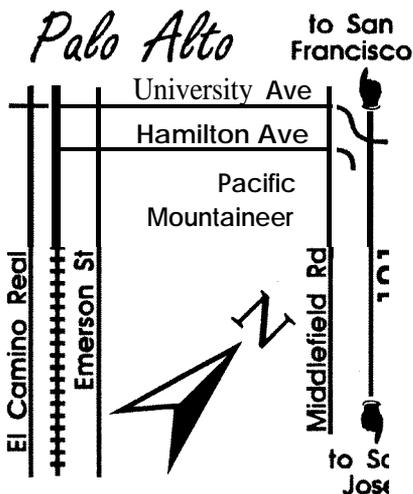
T/ME: 7:30 PM Tuesday (11/10/92)

Kai and Butch and their Teton Adventure

Come see alpine climbing slides, but don't ask what the mountains were named after.

REMINDER

Bring your own reusable cup to cut down on waste, and \$1 to repay Marcia McCord, who is providing refreshments.



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