



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

April, 1993

Vol. 26, No. 4

Next meeting

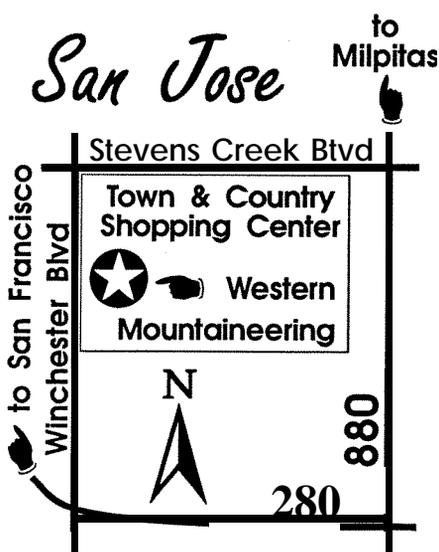
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 1993

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: Western Mountaineering
840 Town & Country Village,
across from the Winchester
Mystery House in San Jose
Program:

*Climbing in the Ruth Glacier
Amphitheater - Denali
National Park, Alaska*

Club member Dennis Meister
will show us slides from his
June, 1992 unsuccessful at-
tempt on the Moose's Tooth.



to 17

HAUTE CUISINE AT OSTRANDER HUT Jan. 1993

It says all you need to know about the snow conditions on our Ostrander trip that Joe Eder lost a ski on Sunday morning and had to walk 10 miles through the snow - and beat all but one of us skiers back to the car.

An unusually warm midweek storm had brought rain to the Yosemite high country, and the cold snap that followed glazed everything into something akin to bullet-proof Plexiglas.

Coming down Horizon Ridge, we tried clattering, out-of-control telemarks, death snowplows and eventually various forms of self-arrest - all to no avail. Tim Hult went down hard a couple of times and was quite slow in getting back up. If he had been Steve Young, Joe Montana would have been unzipping his warmup jacket on the sidelines.

Amid this carnage, Vreni Rau was snapping off crisp, precise telemarks - proof of the old adage that there is no bad snow, only bad skiers. But lower down, even Vreni had to

admit defeat and do what the rest of us did: utter a few choice curses, take off our skis and walk.

At least we had glorious sunshine. In the middle of the wettest winter in a decade, we luxuriated in t-shirt weather both days, and heavy on the sunscreen. It felt like late spring, not mid-January.

And the views were jaw-dropping spectacular. To the west Kelly Maas and Vreni pointed out the distant Mt. Diablo, and the eastern panorama took in everything from Tower Peak to the Sawtooth Ridge, Matterhorn Peak, Cathedral Peak, Half Dome, Mt. Starr King, the entire Clark Range and Mt. Dana - all draped in a glistening winter mantle of snow.

These Ostrander Hut trips tend to be an exercise in competitive gluttony, and once again we left rival parties drooling with envy. Vreni handled the dinner, and it set a new high-water mark for backcountry

continued on page 5

PRELIMINARY TRIP LIST FOR 1993 (updated)

The following is a list of tentative trips planned so far for 1993. The trip planning meeting (AKA the Mutual Beer Admiration Society meeting) produced most of these, but, as you can see, there are still holes to be filled. This means we need more people either willing to lead trips or co-lead trips if they are not a qualified leader. Please contact the scheduler if you are interested in participating.

The list below is necessarily tentative since many trips are dependent on obtaining a permit. As ~~finer~~ information comes to hand we will publish it; this list is published to give you an idea of what's coming up. Please do not contact the trip leader until the trip is formally announced. A more complete announcement will appear in Scree two months before the trip date. If a co-leader is not listed for a trip, one is needed. If you are interested, please contact the scheduler. Trips in need of a leader will be run as private trips if a qualified leader is not available.

DATES	CLASS	TRIP (# = private)	LEADEWCO-LEADER
April 17,18		Ski Cabin	Ron Lingelbach
April 25	1	Henry Coe State Park	Cecil Magliocco
May 22,23	1	Ridge Winery	Ron Lingelbach
May 29-3 1	winter	Mt. Shasta (#)	George Van Garden/
June ?	2	Boundary/Montgomery Pks	Kelly Maas/
June 12,13	2	Kennedy Peak	Noreen Ford/
July 2-5	3+	North Palisade, Mt. Sill(#)	Jim Curl
July 2-5	3	Black Kaweah	Aaron Schuman/Charles Schafer
July 10-11	3	Adams Minarets	?/Daniel Lord (leader wanted)
July 17,18	2	Mt. Dana	Debbie Benham/Phyllis Olrich
July 17,18	3	Whorl Mountain	?/Jim Ramaker (leader wanted)
July 17,18	2	Gayley/Sing	Charles Schafer/
July 23-25	3	Mt. Darwin(#)	Jim Curl
July 24,25	2	Merced Peak	Kai Wiedman/Pete Davison
July 24,25	4	Mt. Gardiner	Mike Meredith/Chris Kramar
July 26-28	2-3	Convict Lake base camp	Debbie Bulger
July 30-Aug 2	2-3	Taboose Pass, Pinchot etc	Debbie Bulger
July 31-Aug 1	3	Mt. Whitney	?/Jim Ramaker (leader wanted)
Aug 7-8	3	Tower Peak	?/Pete Davison (leader wanted)
Aug 14,15	4	Unicorn Peak (#)	Brian Boyle
Aug 14,15	3	Mt. Lyell(#)	Tim Hult
Aug 20-22	3	Mt. Winchell(#)	Jim Curl
Aug 21,22	3	Echo Peaks	Palmer Dyle/
Aug 21,22	2	Bloody, Morrison	Charles Schafer/
Aug 28,29	2	Conness (car camp)	Judith Yarborough
Sept 4-6	3	Middle Palisade	Peter Maxwell/Charles Schafer
Sept 10-12	4	North Palisade	Chris Kramar/Mike Meredith
Sept 11,12	3	Temple Crag, Gayley	?/Daniel Lord (leader wanted)
Sept 18,19	3	Cleaver Peak	Kai Wiedman/Bob Suzuki
Oct 2,3	2	Clouds Rest -> Yosemite	Debbie Benham/

Chris Yager is planning the following outings this season. Climbs rated class 3 or higher are private ("cy"). If you would like to join Chris for any of these climbs, give him a call at (408) 243-3026 (h) or (408) 243-3027 (w).

Date	PCS/	Peak(s)	Elevation, Class
April 17, 18	CY PCS	Alta Pk, Mt Silliman Wolverton?	(11,204##1; 11,188#1)
April 24,25	PCS	Lamont Pk, Sawtooth Pk#1 9-mile Cyn.	(7,430#2; 7,970#2)
May 1,2	CY	Pilot Knob#1 ?'s ranch	(6,212#2)
May 8,9	CY	Lone Pine Pk & Mt Corcoran Tuttle Cr.	(12,944##2; 13,760#3)
May 15 16	CY	Lone Pine Pk & Mt Corcoran Tuttle Cr.	(12,944#2; 13,760#3)
May 22,23	CY	Mt Mills, Mt Abbott Mosquito Flat	(13,468#3; 13,715#3)
May 29-3 1	CY	Mt Bradley, Center Pk Robinson Lake	(13,289#2; 12,760#2)
June 5 6	CY	East Vidette Robinson L./Kearsarge Pass	(12,350#3)
June 12,13	CY	Disappointment Pk South Fork	(13,917#3)
June 19,20	CY	?	
June 26-28	CY	Mt Mendel (ICE) North Lake	(13,691#5)
July 2-4	CY	Mt McGee, Evolution region Lake Sabrina	(12,969#3;#4 etc)
July 10, 11	CY	more Evolution Lake Sabrina	
July 17, 18	PCS	?	
July 24,25	CY	Mt Humphries (Piute Pass)	(13,986#4)
July 31, 1	CY	Mt Genevra, Kings-Kern Divide Shepard Pass	(13,055#2;#3 etc)
Aug 7,8	CY	Mt Stanford Shepard Pass	(13,963#3)
Aug 14,15	CY	Mt Humphries Horton Lakes	(13,986#4)
Aug 21-23	CY	Mt Mendel (ICE) North Lake	(13,691#5)
Aug 28,29	CY	Mt Gardiner Kearsarge Pass	(12,907#4)
Sept 4-6	PCS	Marion Pk Taboose Pass	(12,207#2)
Sept 11, 12	CY	Giraud Pk, Evolution area South Pass	(12,585#2;#4 etc)

Official PCS Trips

Telemark/ Crosscountry/Alpine Cabin Weekend

**Date: Friday night April 16
to Sunday April 18**

Where: Apres Ski cabin, Kings
Beach, North Lake Tahoe

Contact: Ron Lingelbach
(408) 253-8036 (home)
1492 Pine Grove Way
San Jose CA 95129.

email: lingel@convex.com
Assistant: Sun Hoong Ow
(415) 752-5924 (home)

What: This is a repeat of the
trip we did Jan. 92. Last year
the group was made up of 7
telemarkers, 7 downhillers, 9
backcountry people and 6
beginning track skiers. Almost
everyone went to the hot tub
after a good day of skiing. Per

Sierra Club policy, you are
responsible for transportation.
On April 8, I will send out
maps and info on drivers/
riders for carpooling. You are
also responsible for your own
activities on Sat. and Sun; I
plan on telemarking at Mt.
Rose. Co-listed with Apres
Ski Club. SPACE IS LIM-
ITED SO SIGN UP NOW!!
(As of March 27, cabin was 2/
3 full including 7 PCS mem-
bers.)

Cost: \$45 for 2 nights lodg-
ing, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches,
and 1 supper. +\$10/weekend
for semiprivate room, if
available. +\$10 for non-
members of the Sierra Club.
ONE HOUSE CHORE RE-
QUIRED PER WEEKEND.
NON-REFUNDABLE UN-

LESS SOMEONE? REPLACES
YOU. No smoking in the cabin.
Send: Check made out to
Lingelbach and a long SASE to
Ron with the following: full
address, home and work tele-
phone, driver/rider status, # of
passengers, and the time and
place of departure.

Mt. Sizer Conditioning Hike

Date: April 25

Leader: Cecil Magliocco
Phone: (408) 358-1168

Join Cecil for a season-
opening conditioning hike up
Mt. Sizer in Henry Coe State
Park (San Jose). Total of 18
miles, with great views and
wildflowers. Call Cecil for more
information and to sign up.

Private trips

*Private trips are not insured, sponsored, or supervised
by the Sierra Club or the PCS. They are listed here
because they may be of interest to PCS climbers.*

Mount Shasta Memorial

Date: May 29-31(Sat.-Mon.)

Leader: George Van Gorden
Home: (408) 779-2320

Climb Mt. Shasta over
Memorial Day weekend from
the east side on what we hope
will be a fairly unfrequented
route on the Wintun Ridge.
This is a non-technical route,
which should be fairly easy.
Co-leader wanted.

Graduation on Mt. Lyell (Class 3)

Date: August 14-15

Leader: Tim Hult

Phone: (408) 970-0760

Email:

tim_hult@qm.is.lmsc.lockheed.com

Come celebrate the end of
Tim's academic career with
the ascent of one of
Yosemite's most sought-after
peaks. Permit is for 5 people
only and a waiting list will be

used. The hike in is a long one
through the scenic Lye11 canyon
(about 10 miles) and the return
will take place immediately after
the climb on Sunday. Partici-
pants must be in good shape,
able to carry themselves on snow
and ice using crampons and an
ice axe (prior experience a
must); be capable of scrambling
over moderate class 3 rock and
move fast and light. I will not
be bringing a rope for protec-
tion. *Not for beginners!!!*

Trip Reports

continued from page 1

cuisine. We stuffed ourselves with brie, pate, avgolemono soup, agnolotti in a tomato sauce with green and red peppers; all washed down with a selection of red wines from Heitz Cellars and Ravenswood Vineyards. Dessert was trifle, a yummy concoction of pound cake, rum, strawberries, pineapple, bananas, vanilla pudding and whipped cream.

Over dinner, Mark Malachowski regaled us with yarns from the lighter side of hazardous waste disposal. Tim tried to use his portable radio to pick up the BBC World Service, but instead dialed in a weather forecast for the greater Wellington area, courtesy of Radio New Zealand.

Later that night, Mark earned the Hero de la Republique medal for subduing a heavy snorer (not a member of our party) with maneuvers that would have done the World Wrestling Federation proud.

The snow conditions may have been the most unpleasant I've ever seen (although Greg Rau says he's seen worse – God help him), but the convivial company, brilliant weather and excellent food combined to make it a memorable and rewarding weekend. We'll be back next year.

Addendum for gluttons: Still not sated, Vreni, Greg and I

stopped for dinner in downtown Merced on the way home and were quite pleased with Jordan's Chateau at 408 W. Main Street. It's an elegant, white-table-cloth place, but they seemed only too happy to serve the likes of us – albeit in a booth in a darkened corner. The food was quite good – with the exception, perhaps, of the Velveeta fondue – the portions were large and the prices surprisingly reasonable. If you're in the mood for something finer than Carrows, Joe Bob says check it out.

-John Flinn

(Note: John adds that Joe's ski was found. -ed.)

A DAY IN GRAND CANYON

We awoke in Flagstaff at 5:00 the morning of 27Feb93, grabbed the packs that we readied the night before, poured the coffee water into a thermos, and drove away at 5:20. Before we left the Flagstaff city limits, the Grateful Dead tape was cheering us on, I had poured my coffee and settled back in my seat with my portable breakfast.. very glad to be a passenger rather than the driver for a change.

Arriving at Bright Angel Lodge at 6:45, we had some breathing room before we caught

the 7:10 shuttle to the Kaibab trailhead. The forecast was for heavy snow by afternoon. Remembering the words of my ski-patrol buddy Hal, and the stories he has told me, I slipped my heavy-weight "bottoms" into my pack at the last minute. What's a few more ounces when you're already carrying crampons, extra GoreTex, down, wool, polypro, three quarts of water and enough Power Bars, trail mix and fruit to feed many more than myself!

On the rim the wind was cold and howling; as we descended the icy trail, we dropped below the "wind line" and became considerably warmer. As a person whose hiking has always been "first you go up and then you come down," descending into a canyon is still new to me. I was somewhat slow on the downhill, although in retrospect I realized it was better to get the downhill over with while I was still fresh and able to hold my weight in my upper thighs, rather than my knees (a technique I've spent years developing!).

We joined the Tonto Trail and meandered west.

The hike was beautiful in many, many ways and very difficult to describe. . .changing colors, changing natural sounds, the feeling of so much openness.

The weather stayed pleasantly cool (I don't do Reat well) and we only saw a few other humans the entire day. We were rewarded with songs of canyon

wrens.. .a sound that all by itself is worth many more than the 14 miles we hiked. We also saw turkey vultures and a lone golden eagle. There were times when we actually had **absolute silence** – something that is rare even in “wilderness.”

We spent a lot of time in the canyon so that we could fully enjoy the experience, and to be able to hike some portion of the return after nightfall.

As we began to climb Bright Angel trail, I was in my element (“first you go up.. “. As we were climbing, clouds quickly formed and we had about 30 minutes of driving snow. Just long enough to be fun, but I didn’t have to add layers.

We arrived on the Rim at about 9:30 exuberant and hungry, ate a quick pasta meal, and made it back to Flagstaff before the biggest part of the storm moved in. All in all, a wonderful trip!

--*Georgia Stigall*

CLIMBING HIGH IN ECUADOR Dec. 1992

During the holiday season late last year, several PCSers and a couple friends went to Ecuador to do a little climbing and research how the human body functions (or doesn’t function) at high altitude. We consisted of Dave Blockus, Tim Hult (instigator), Paul McCandless, Bill

McConachie, Mike Sogard, Dan Tupper, and myself, and we called our adventure the Whymper Memorial Expedition.

Edward Whymper, of Matterhorn fame, had visited the Andes of Ecuador in 1880 and completed several first ascents, then wrote a nice book about it. Our objectives were the two highest peaks in the country – Chimborazo at 6310 m and Cotopaxi at 5897 m. If there was any extra time, we would also try Iliniza Sur, a lower but more challenging peak. Paul and Tim went down a week early so that they could acclimatize by snorkeling and photographing wildlife in the Galapagos Islands. It also allowed them to follow in the footsteps of another famous European explorer.

We took acclimatization seriously, and started by spending three days in Quito at a bit over 9000 ft. It’s a pleasant place since it’s nestled amongst the high peaks in what is known as the Avenue of the Volcanoes. We allowed a day to climb a small peak next to town, and thought we could get a ride part way up. But a prospective taxi driver sped away when we asked him about it. Hiking from the hotel, we didn’t reach our final objective and weren’t able to see any big peaks due to clouds, but the hike was fun, gave us a great view of Quito, and the carbon monoxide in town helped us to acclimatize (or asphyxiate) even more.

Although Ecuador is completely bounded by Colombia and Peru, it must rank as one of

the best countries to visit in South America. Rather than safety, we worried more about navigating the unsigned roads with poor maps and cars, and communicating with broken Spanish. Had it not been for photocopies of maps borrowed from Chris Yager, we might never have found our way anywhere within the country.

We allowed a day to climb a small peak next to town, and thought we could get a ride part way up. But a prospective taxi driver sped away when we asked him about it.

To facilitate scheduling, we rented two small cars. Though packed to the brim and not in the best of shape, they did get us to 4800 m on Chimborazo. It’s possible to leave Quito and arrive at the Jose Ribas Refugio on Cotopaxi the same day, but we broke up the 2000 m elevation gain by spending a night lower down on the mountain. It was both our only night camping out and our only rainy night. Dan was the odd man, but his old bivy sack couldn’t keep him dry. In the morning, he looked like a drowned rat. His down bag took days to dry out.

We didn’t see Cotopaxi until that morning, and even then only between breaks in the clouds. We continued climbing the dirt road to what we called the parking lot at the end of the world. High up the side of the

volcanic cone, it afforded quite a view. From there, it was only 50 minutes and 200 m of climbing to the refugio at 4800 m.

That day and the next (Christmas Eve and Christmas day) were primarily rest days, but even minimal exertion could not prevent some in the party from feeling poorly. On the 25th, Bill, Dan, and I reconnoitered the first 300 m of the route.

Then it was back to Quito for some wild New Year's Eve revelry.

Feeling lousy when I returned to the hut, I vowed not to overexert myself on the climb. Sure enough, a very alpine start and steady pacing got six of us to the top the next day. (Dave was still not feeling well, and turned back early.) Though roped on the glacier, the climbing wasn't technical and the crevasses were easy to avoid. Fortunately the best weather was saved for this day. The views were great, but it was a struggle to appreciate them. In particular, Tim and Dan appeared to be on their last legs.

Descents can be tiring too, and we were wasted when we returned to the hut. Despite earlier thoughts of leaving the mountain that same day, we couldn't muster the required energy. That day an AA1 group arrived. We chatted with them, and the next day (as we were leaving), they blitzed the peak, and actually returned to the

parking lot at the end of the world at the same time we did. Note that guides are very effective at keeping things moving along.

By now, Mike had come down with something that would not be cured by lower elevation. After some discussion, we drove towards Chimborazo, but laid over the next day in Ambato and caught the weekly market. More money changed hands as the gringos loaded up. Needing to stay near a bathroom, we left Mike in town the next day and headed for Chimborazo on a pristine equatorial day. Now somewhat used to the altitude, we went straight to the Whymper Refugio at 5000 m. Later that day, the AA1 group showed up. We would all blitz the peak the next morning (except Dave and Tim).

At the appointed (early) hour, we arose, then departed into the icy air. Dan absolutely detested the first 400 m of scree while the rest of us took it in stride. As we paused at the glacier's edge, what was left of the AA1 group raced by (their numbers were similarly reduced by illness). Placing ice screws in the steepening glacier, we did not get much further. This was more technical than Cotopaxi, and one of us was not feeling comfortable with the conditions. By the time we had belayed him off the ice, we were so cold and had lost so much momentum that the decision to turn back was an easy one. We all felt that it's most important to return safely. The peak isn't everything, even

when you've traveled thousands of miles to climb it. Unlike Sierra peaks, success on big mountains should not be assumed.

Thus ended the climbing, but not the excitement. We picked up Mike and went to Banos. It's a nice little resort town, but we didn't find the time to actually get into the hot baths. Then it was back to Quito for some wild New Year's Eve revelry. We finished up our shopping at the Indian market in Otavalo on January 1, then returned to Quito and learned that our airline reservations had been canceled. Somehow we got home.

-Kelly Maas

At a recent conference, a person speaking on virtual reality was asked if two people working on a virtual reality system could design a mountain, then climb it.
"Yes," he replied. "But you wouldn't."
"Why not?"
"Because, IT ISN'T THERE!"

Classifieds

WANTED: Plastic boots to borrow, rent, or buy. We need three pair, for people with running shoe sizes of 8-1/2, 9, and 10-1/2 Please call John Flinn at (415) 968-2050 h or (415) 777-8705.

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For change of address, contact Paul Vlasveld, 157 Kellogg Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051; (408) 241-1144 H, (408) 257-7910 W.

PCS meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. See Scree for meeting location and program information.

The following trip 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.
- Class 3: Requires use of hands for climbing. A rope may be used occasionally.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

Scree articles and contributions must be received by the editor no later than noon on the last Tuesday of the month: email, 3 112" diskettes (Mac or DOS), fax, or U.S. mail okay. Black and white photos welcome.

Deadline for the next issue is April 27!



**Peak Climbing Section
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94/02
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