



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

March, 1993

Vol. 26, No. 3

Next meeting

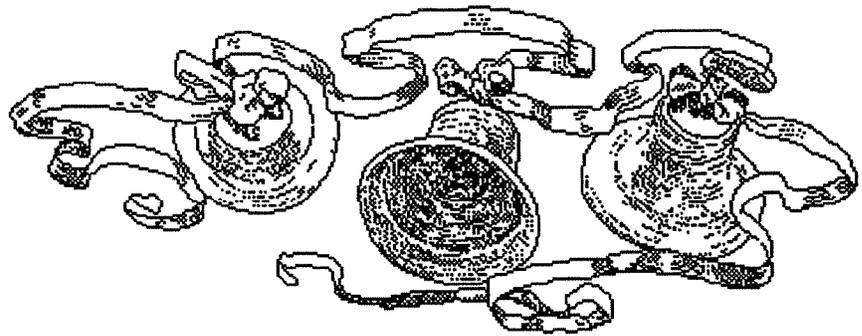
Date: Tues., Mar. 9, 1993

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Pacific Mountaineer
200 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

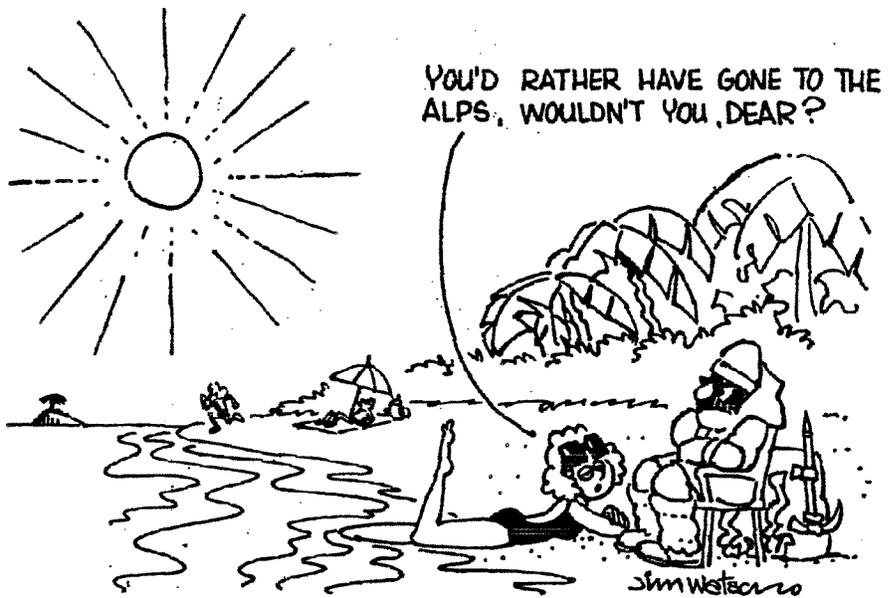
Program:

Ooh, la la! Wunderbar!
Peter Maxwell will give a France and Switzerland extravaganza. The first part consists of walks and a minor peak bag in the Chamonix area in the French Alps. Glaciers and steep, craggy peaks abound. We then move on to Zermatt, Switzerland, and show some of the easily accessible and beautiful trips in this area.



Congratulations!

Your local PCS gossip columnist is pleased to announce the engagement of our own **Kai Wiedman** and **Noreen Ford**. (Ahh, there's hope yet for all us lonely singles out there.. .) And we're all invited to the wedding, right Kai?



Honeymoon scene?



PRELIMINARY TRIP LIST FOR 1993

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 firmer 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)	LEADER/CO-LEADER
Mar 20,21	1	Esalen Hot Springs	Bill Hauser
Mar 27,28	2	English Mtn	Chris Yager
April 3,4		Three Sisters	Chris Yager
April 17,18	2	Alta Pk, Mt. Silliman	Chris Yager
April 17,18		Ski Cabin	Ron Lingelbach
April 24,24		Lamont Pk, Sawtooth	Chris Yager
May 22,23	1	Ridge Winery	Ron Lingelbach
May 29-3 1	winter	Mt Shasta (#)	George Van Gorden
May 29-3 1	2	Boundary/Montgomery Pks	Kelly Maas/
June 12,13	2	Kennedy Peak	Noreen Ford/
July 2-5	3	Black Kaweah	Aaron Schuman/Charles Schafer
July 10-1 1	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 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 3 1-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 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 4-6	2	Marion Peak	Chris Yager
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 Pk	Kai Wiedman/Bob Suzuki
Ott 2,3	2	Clouds Rest -> Yosemite	Debbie Benham/

Official PCS Trips

Esalen Hot Springs

Date: March 20-21

Where: Big Sur Area - Esalen Hot Springs and Rare Santa Lucia Firs at Landels-Hill Big Creek Preserve

Leader: Bill Hauser

Home: (408) 243-4566

I have obtained special permission to visit the rare Santa Lucia firs on the Landels-Hill Big Creek Preserve owned by the University of California. The preserve was established through joint efforts of the Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, and UC Santa Cruz. The State of California has more botanical variety than all other 49 states combined. On this trip we will make a sacred pilgrimage to the rare Santa Lucia firs and Esalen Hot Springs.

Esalen is an educational center, but lets the public soak from 1 AM to 3:30 AM daily. Cost is \$10.00. Six tubs inside/ four tubs under the stars and only 50' above the crashing surf. Pure mineral water. Bathing suits optional. No alcohol, no drugs, no valuables, and if you bring your own water, it must be in plastic bottles.

Meet Saturday, March 20 at 9 PM. at 1st and Hedding in San Jose (where the County Building is) to carpool. Regroup in front of Mortimers

Cafe in Seaside. Caravan to Esalen Hot Springs. We will soak above the crashing surf from 1 AM to 3:30 AM, then carcamp off Highway 1. Sunday hike to rare Santa Lucia firs (about three miles). Limit 10 people total. Co-listed with Sierra Singles.

- m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m

San Francisco Conditioning Hike

Date: April 3

Leader: Judith Yarborough

Home: (415) 854-9288

A conditioning hike around the hills of San Francisco. Armed with topos and guide-books, we will scale hills via steep streets and public stairways before heading for a North Beach restaurant for some pasta and vino. Limit 8.

- m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m.m

Telemark/ Crosscountry/Alpine Cabin Weekend

Date: Friday night April 16 to Sunday April 18

Where: Apres Ski cabin, Rings 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 car-pooling. 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 LIMITED SO SIGN UP NOW!!**

Cost: \$45 for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 supper. +\$ 1 O/weekend for semiprivate room, if available. +\$10 for non-members of the Sierra Club. **ONE HOUSE CHORE REQUIRED PER WEEKEND. NON-REFUNDABLE UNLESS 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 telephone, driver/rider status, # of passengers, and the time and place of departure.

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.

.....

Opportunities for Nature Lovers

1. Wilderness First Responder Course

If enough people sign up, there will be a Wilderness First Responder course offered in Santa Cruz on March 26-April 4. The 80-hour course includes SOLO's Wilderness First Responder curriculum and American Heart Association CPR certification. The cost is \$425, including books, but not including lodging in Santa Cruz. To register, send a check for \$150 to Matt Chirman, Box 1023, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. If you have questions, please call Matt at (408) 427-2606.

-grobbs@apple.com

2. For all you wannabe rangers...

Hey all of you Bay Area residents who like to get into the great outdoors! I am a member of a docent guild which does volunteer work at a couple of the state parks. Not only do I choose which kinds of activities I work on, I have free access to the facilities at the parks. With camping fees reaching the stars, this is a nice situation. Free use of the "back country" sites is also included. With 100 hours of service, you will be able to visit any Santa Cruz District state park for free (day use) and utilize overnight facilities at most. With 200 hours of service, the same privileges are offered at any California State Park.

We are a diverse group of people. But we all have the preservation and enjoyment of our parks in mind. Some of us do interpretive walks. Some transplant seedlings, build trails, work on historic buildings, and other labor related activities. There are a few who like to work in the Visitor's Center.

...and the parties are fun.

Docents must be at least 16 years of age. Come on out and enjoy your state parks!

Third Annual Docent Training - Portola and Castle Rock State Parks

March 13,20,27, and April 4

Volunteers in Portola is proud to announce the third annual Docent Training session to be held at Portola and Castle Rock State Parks and Montebello Open Space Preserve. Docent Training is open to all who wish to participate in volunteer led interpretive activities (walks, children's programs, campfires, trail building and maintenance, and other special programs).

Attendance is mandatory at all four weekend sessions. Plan to arrive at 9 AM sharp. Bring a lunch and prepare for all kinds of weather and classes outdoors. Training ends each day at 3 PM. Docent Training will include the following sessions:

Saturday, March 13 (Portola State Park)

- Introductions, general information
- State Park organization
- Portola Facilities walk
- Lunch with a local resident
- What is interpretation
- Portola overview

Trip Reports

NORTH PEAK CLIMB October '91

Friday afternoon traffic on Rte. 237. Thick, slow, and monotonous. Just one of the many impediments and obstacles we flatland dwelling mountaineers must overcome before we can practice our sport and achieve, for a few brief days anyway, that altered state of mind that we get when climbing in the "Range of Light." Other pressures have kept me from having many of those days lately, so when Kelly Maas and I heard the weather report calling for thunder showers as we sat in that daunting traffic the first weekend of October, my frustration level hit the red mark. "Kelly, I'm really keen to do this climb, and am willing to hike right up to the base of the couloir in the rain before backing off. How about you?" "Sure," he replied. We now had a pact for not wimping out at the smallest weather-related excuse, failure of nerves, or late starts. If necessary, we were going to turn this weekend into a success.

We now had a pact for not wimping out at the smallest weather-related excuse, failure of nerves, or late starts.

As it turned out, we needed all the fortitude we could muster. Rain peppered us as we set the

tent up on Friday night, and the sky was a sea of billowing dark clouds that swelled up from Mono basin on Saturday. The dark boils were already dumping showers in the low country, and threatened to test yesterday's resolve. Luck was with us however, as only light showers grazed us, just enough to give the illusion that we were doing an alpine peak in the Cascades. By the time, we were half way around Saddlebag Lake, the sky was clearing to a beautifully crisp fall day with just the right amount of clouds casting contrasting shadows on the mountains and adding a dramatic contrast to a blue sky.

The approach to the couloirs on North Peak is not as straightforward as it first appears. There's no trail or standard route to the glacier and getting tangled up on the granite terraces is easy to do. The climbing quickly becomes 4th class for short stresses which is no picnic in plastic boots. Not very much fun. Our progress slowed so much that it was noon by the time we had reached the terminal moraine. From here, the glacier ascends steeply up to the bergshlund, then to the ice tongues occupying the 45-50 degree couloirs on the peaks themselves.

Finally, we are standing at the lip of the bergshlund looking

up a sheet of beautiful water ice. The drought has had a withering effect on the glaciers in the Sierras and the North Peak couloir had melted out tremendously since I was last on it three

Having to stand on one's toes all day and hang by picks stuck into hard water ice leaves the muscles trembling and screaming for a rest.

years ago. I remember points where we belayed from then that appeared to be 10- 15 feet above the current ice level. All that melting has made the ice a challenging climb. Where normally the couloir would have been one half snow or neve with only patches of exposed water ice, now it was hard, blue ice wall to wall. Aged by a long, cold burial, its drought-exposed and oft-melted surface was glass smooth, presenting none of the usual resting pockets found in newer ice. One advantage of climbing on such centuries old hard ice however, is that there is no doubt that one's tools will stick when thrust in vigorously enough, and massive "dinner plating" is kept to a minimum. A good helmet is a must though, as your partner will send showers of ice shards down with each blow of his tools.

Now the fun part. A short vertical wall of hard ice that must be surmounted. Bit tricky

CHAIRPERSON

Kelly Maas
2422 Balme Drive
San Jose, CA 95122
(408) 279-2054 H
(408) 944-2078 W

VICE CHAIR/SCHEDULER:

Peter Maxwell
1180 Blackberry Terrace
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 737-9770 H
Email: peterm@eoraki.dtc.hp.com

TREASURER:

Brian Boyle
7678 Rainbow Dr.
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 973-0640 H

SCREE EDITOR:

Phyllis Olrich
750 Homer Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2907
(415) 322-0323 H
(415) 7251541 W
Fax: (415) 723-2011
Email: phylliso@forsythe.stanford.edu

Scree is a publication of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. Subscriptions are \$10 per year. Checks should be sent to the treasurer. To ensure an uninterrupted subscription, renewal checks must be received no later than the last Tuesday of the expiration month.

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 front page 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 1/2" diskettes (Mac or DOS), fax, or U.S. mail okay. Black and white photos welcome.

Deadline for the next issue is March 30!



**Peak Climbing Section
157 Kellogg Way
Santa Clara, CA 95051**



94/02
STEVEN R. ECKERT
1814 OAK KNOLL DR.
BELMONT, CA 94002-

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