

Scree

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

Next Meeting

Date: Tues., April 12, 1994
Time: 8:00 p.m. Sharp
Place: Western Mountaineering
Program:

ZION Na toinal Bark

Presenter John Thacker will cover rock climbing in Zion National Park Three extended big wall climbs in the Zion Canyon will be featured.

New Leader Workshop

Coming in June! This workshop is designed to take the mystery out of planning and leading a PCS event. We'll have one night of planning, then a subsequent weekend field trip to the Eastern Sierras. Watch for more information in the May issue of "Scree". Set aside the night of June 2, and the weekend of June 11-12.

Orienteering Events

Orienteering is a sport of navigation where strategy and map reading team up with walking and running. If you're a new leader (or an old one!) or would just like to sharpen your navigational skills this group is for you. At each event, you search out triangular markers placed by the organizers at points indicated on the map. and punch a card as you find them. The route difficulty is up to you, and it typically takes an hour or two. Here's a schedule of events:

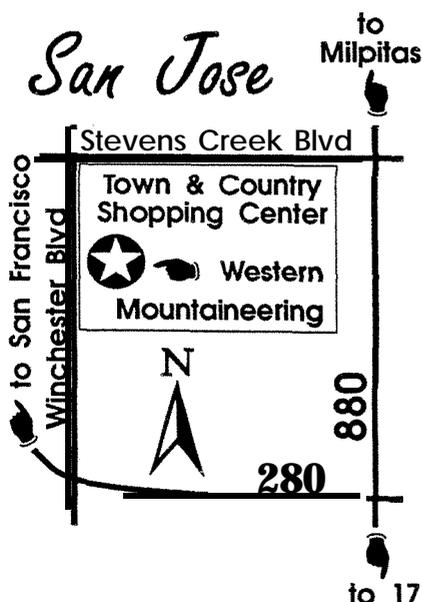
- April 10 Sunol Regional Park, Sun01
- April 24 Indian Valley, Novato
- May 14 Juana Briones, Martinez
- May 22 Joseph P, Grant, San Jose

For general information and direction, please contact Ron Gross at 510/846-1093.

Navigation Tip

Are you trying to navigate cross-country through the forest? Here's a tip I learned from my friend John Langbein: After you take your compass bearing, estimate the angle between your compass and the shadows cast from the tree trunks. Maintain this angle with the tree trunk shadows, and you'll stay pretty close to the bearing.

—Butch Suits



Private PCS Trips

Private Trips

North Peak

112,242 elevation)

Mt. Conness, Shepard's

Crest

class 2



Date: June 3-5

Leader: Anita Stewart

Home: (415) 9652293

Work: (415) 502-5207

Co-Leader: Tawna Wilsey

Home: (408) 729-9650

Work: (408) 894-2376

Start from Saddlebag Lake.

Camp in basin above Saddlebag

Lake. Relatively easy class 2

scramble.

Snow cancels

Mt. Shasta

(14,162 Elevation)

Date: May 28-30, Memorial

Day

Leader: George Van Gorden

Home: (408) 779-2320

We will climb the Hotlum-Bolum Ridge on the north side of the mountain. Our camp site will be an island in the sky, and on our climb we will be embracing and rather intimately and rudely at that the white-mantle sulfur-smoldering goddess of the island. May she pardon our presumption and favor us her beneficence. Crampons, ice axe and good physical conditioning required.

"The Doodad"

11,600 ft. elevation

Class 3 Snow Camping

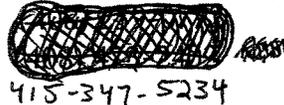
Class 5.2 Rock Climbing

Date: May 14-15

Leader: Kai Wiedman

Home:

Work:



Yep, its back to the Sawtooth Ridge for another extraction. This time we'll try to crown the Doodad.

You may have wondered what that funny cube shaped peak with the overhanging summit monolith is as you traveled up to the Matterhorn. Well, that's the Doodad.

This climb will test many of your alpine skills as we move cross-country to the Dragtooth Glacier. Here we'll bivvy at the pass to be in striking position for Sunday's summit assault. Ice axe and crampons will yield to rock shoes as 4th class climbing brings us to the spectacular 5.2 summit block,

Oh, by the way, this is one of those go light, go fast, kick butt (or get butt kicked) type of trips. Not for the vertically impaired. \$8 registration fee.



Mt. Rose

class 1



Date: April 23

Leader: Greg and Vreni Rau

Home: (510) 582-5578

Come feast your eyes on carpets of wildflowers on the beautiful Ohlone Wilderness Trail. This is an excellent conditioning hike. We'll ascend 4000+ft. on a 20 mile hike from Livermore to Sunol.

Alta/Silliman

Cross-Country Snowshoe Triple Divide Peak quad

Date: April 16-18

Leader: Steve Eckert

415-508-0500 day/eve;

eckert@netcom.com

Co-Leader: Bob Suzuki

(408) 259-0772 eve.

(408) 473-2402 day

A loop from the Lodgepole area takes us over Alta Peak (11204') and Mt Silliman (11188') by way of Table Meadows. This route is much shorter than would be possible in the summer, assuming there is snow over the brush. Plan on real navigation without trails, because we will be trading elevation gain for distance as we make our way around deep canyons.

Our high traverse will keep us over 10000' for most of the trip, so snow conditions should be

Light snow may modify the objectives, but will not cancel the trip unless roads are closed. Rain or high wind cancels.

Nepal - Mera Peak

Those who are interested in an inexpensive but quality 23 day - peak bagging trek this October - Call Warren Storkman (415) 493-8959

Crevasse Rescue Practice

Date: May 7
 Leader: Kelly Maas
 (408) 279-2054 (H)
 (408) 944-2078 (W)

Planning a trip this year over (non-Sierra) glaciers? It's one thing to read about crevasse rescue techniques, but it's another to practice them. Very enlightening. Bring your own equipment and knowledge to Rancho San Antonio (Hwy 280) for a morning of practice. Suggested reading is Selters' "Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue". We'll practice prussiking in a big oak tree, and practice victim hauling on the ground (bring ice axe for an anchor).



For those of you who were not at the meeting when I told it, here's a story you may enjoy -Warren Storkman

With my wife and six men we planned a trip to climb Mt. Elbrus in the Russian Caucasus. Mt. Elbrus being the highest mountain in Europe, this would become a nice climbing trophy. Our group chose to enter Russia through Istanbul. Most all articles I've read say "one of your most memorable experiences will be with Russian Aeroflat." After sitting on the tarmac for short of two hours before take off plus a total of six hours being late was just a small part of the overall Aeroflat adventure.

Going through customs at two a.m. we were dreary eyed in filling out our entrance forms. One question was how much U.S. money we were taking into their country- With my wife in the restroom I filled out both our forms to speed custom entrance. Due to miscalculations we shorted ourselves by \$1,000 on the forms. I generally take a fair amount of U.S. cash when traveling with a group- solves allot of problems.

After our group had a successful climb the return flight was on the following Monday, a once a week flight. The Russian guide said be ready at 6:00 a.m. for the four hour airport bus ride. At 5:30 a.m. after a knock on the door we were told the bus's brakes were broken; no bus! His remark of "Don't worry" was not reassuring. He then bribed the driver of the local bus serving the Valley, to take us. I'm sure many people were late for work In

our seven days in Russia the stories go on and on.

Going through exit customs the young man wanted to count our American cash. He pointed out we had \$1,006 more cash than we came in with. He said "You have a problem! This money cannot be taken out!" I gave a lengthy explanation on our oversight to no avail. The young inspector then called his supervisor over, who gave the same answer, "You can't take this money out with you!" This \$1,000 at the time was worth one and a quarter million rubles a small fortune.

One of our climbing members became hyperactive saying "Stay in Russia another week or give it away, but don't leave it on the table".

What I did next devastated the inspector\ Faces dropped and arms flew in the air. American Yankee ingenuity came into play. I picked the money up and tore it into pieces, at the time putting the serial numbers into my pocket. There on the table was the pile of torn greenbacks. The inspector, who was looking through our open duffel bags, caught me off guard and dumbfounded. He motioned for me to put all the tom money into my open duffel bag! Showing disgust but with secret pleasure, I scooped up the pieces and threw them into my bag. After returning home my wife and I took a roll of scotch tape plus thirty minutes or so and put the pieces back together. Taking our taped artwork to a U.S. bank we were rewarded with a \$1000 dollars.

Trip Report

Shasta Already...

by Steve Poison

I knew the time had come to get this trip going when my ever tolerant spouse said either get the gear out of the living room or get climbing. You see, this trip was originally supposed to take place on President's Day weekend - 3 weeks ago! But the time had come to get going as the weather was clear over Shasta.

Kai Wiedman and myself took off on Friday, March 11 bound for the mountain. Not having been there recently, I didn't realize how close it is. Part of the sensation may have been, however, that we were able to clearly see the mountain from over 100 miles away while still well south of Redding! As we got closer, the mountain got bigger and we started thinking about our route.

Initially, Kai had thought of attempting Green Butte ridge but the staff at The Fifth Season (the climbing shop in the town of Mt. Shasta) said the only good camping sites were around 9500 ft.. We felt this was a bit low as the summit day would require us to ascend 4500 ft. We were told that Avalanche Gulch (a name that inspires confidence) was declared safe that day and it might be a good alternative as there where camping sites at Lake Helen around 10,500 ft. So our choice came down to either doing the regular route (Avalanche Gulch) or Green

Butte with it vistas and challenge. We decided to go for the highest chance of success and take the regular route.

The Avalanche Gulch route starts at the Bunny Flat parking lot (around 7000 ft.) and passes by the Sierra Club hut on the way to the Avalanche Gulch proper. In the winter, the route passes through some giant moraines, away from the cliffs to minimize avalanche exposure, then straight on to Lake Helen. From the lake, a gruesome 2000 ft. climb to the top of Red Banks sets up the approach to Misery Hill. Appropriately named, Misery Hill seems larger than 600 feet due to its approximately 13,400 ft. base elevation. Once up the hill the summit plateau leads to the summit pinnacle and the top.

Friday night was spent in the parking lot at Bunny Flat. At one point well after dark, three kids were dropped off with snow boards and packs. They said they were heading out over the ridge at which point they took off, without head lamps, into the trees. We never did see them again. A while after that another car pulled up, the occupant got out, slapped some boards on and he too disappeared into the forest. Kai and I began to wonder if they knew something we didn't

Saturday morning we were up early, well reasonably early, and on the trail by 7:30 I was on rondonee skis and Kai on snow shoes. I got quite a good jump on Kai and headed for the base of the Casaval ridge and the hut. Unfortunately, I started up the

Green Butte trail which explained why Kai was nowhere in sight. A map check a quick course change and a traverse through a beautiful pristine magic forest and Kai was in sight again.

We met a local back country skier at the hut and proceeded to start up the hill with him. By the way, according to the signs there is only emergency sleeping in the hut. Anyway, we started up the hill with this guy who was quite personable - and also acclimatized and in great shape. We made surprisingly good time to Lake Helen through the moraine hills while talking with him and trying to not look too much like wimps.

We arrived at the lake about 1 in the afternoon. Kai looked like he was in pretty good shape, but the sun had taken its toll on me. It was very hot on the snow with a cloudless sky. It was so hot that I wound up drinking 4 quarts of water that day.

Since it was still early, we decided to get a jump on the summit the next day by climbing another 600 ft; or so. We spotted a small ridge on the east side of the gulch that would provide us reasonable protection from rock fall and stopped for the day. This was around 11,200 ft.

Other than having to dig a sleeping platform the camp site was great with a commanding view of the town below us and Mt Lassen off in the distance. A caveat, however, was that if you dropped anything it was gone for good down the hill. With plenty of time to set up camp, we were able to relax and enjoy dinner

and a beautiful sunset.

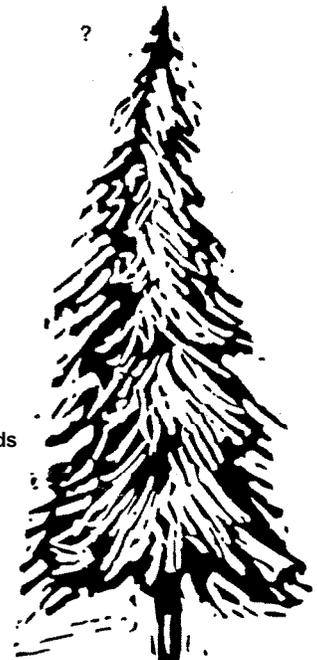
The night was calm and the stars brilliant. We slept well but had the usual difficulty getting out of warm bags at 4:30 in the morning. After a hot instant oatmeal breakfast and the requisite quiz, we set off on the frozen snow.

From camp, we ascended a steep but direct snow field east of the main route that would position us for a leisurely traverse to the bottom of the Red Banks cliffs. Once at Red Banks, we kick stepped up a coulier to gain the ridge top and ascend to Misery Hill. There is something about climbing in the early morning light and the cold air that defines the alpine climbing experience for me. The crunch of the crampons, the rhythmic deep breathing, the manipulation of the iceaxe all bring sway to the meaning of the sport.

Once upon the summit plateau, we headed for the peak on the far side. We climbed a short rotten ice chute and were, rather abruptly, on top. The view again was superb in all directions. It had taken 4 hours.

It continues to amaze me how fast one can get off the mountain in comparison to the effort to get up. We were back in camp in 2 hours and completely off the mountain in 3 more. As is always the case with these weekend trips, you can't possibly fit more into them and yet they seem all too short.

Mar	send for Permits cyICE/ski	Chris Yager (408)243-3027 mq (498)243-3026 live (498)982-4800 x2443 (w)
5 6		
12.13	cyICE/ski	
19.20	cyICE/ski	
16.27	cyICE/ski	
Apr		
2 3	PCSEnglish Mtn(8,373)	Eagle Lakes
3,iO	PCSThree Ssters(i 0,619)	Tamarach Flat
16.17	PCSAIta Pk; Mt Silliman (day trips) (11,204: 11.188)	Wolverton: Lodgepole
23.24	PCSMt Lola (9,143#2)	Peter Grub Hut
May		
30. 1	cy ?	?
7, 8	cyLone Pine Pk &I Mt Corcoran (12,944; 13,760)	Tuttle Ct.
14,15	cyLone Pine Pk &I Mt Corcoran (12,944; 13,760)	Tuttle Cr.
2122	cyMt Mills, Mt Abbott(13,468; 13,715)	Mosquito Flat
28.29.30 cy	Mt Bradley, Center Pk(13,289; 12,760)	Robinson Lake
Jun		
4, 5	cyEast Vidette (12,350)	Robinson L./Kearsarge Pass
11.12	cyDissppointment Pk (13,917)	South Fork
18.19	cy ?	?
25,26,27 cy	Dissappointment Pk (13,917)	South Fork
Jul		
2, 3,4	cy/ Mt McGee, Evolution region (12,969;)	Lake Sabrina
9,iO	cy/more Evolution (week trip)	Lake Sabrina
16,17	cy?	?
23.24	cy/Bloody Mtn(ice), Laura1 Mtn(rock) (12\$44:11,812)	Convict Lake
30,31	cy/ Mt Geneva. Kings-Kern Divide (13,055) (week trip)	Shepard Pass
WI		
6, 7	cy/ Mt Stanford (13,963)	Shepard Pass
13.14	PCS/Mt. Morrison, Mt Baldwin (12,268;12,614)	Convict Lake
20.21,22 cy	Mt Mendel (ICE)(i3,691)	North Lake
27,28,29 cy	Mt Mendel (ICE) (Darwin) (13,691) (13,830)	North Lake
Sep		
3, 4, 5	PCSMarion Pk(12,207)	Taboose Pass
10,11	cy/Giraud Pk, Evolution area (12,585)	South Pass
17.18	cy/?	?
24,25	—	
Oct		
1, 2	—	
8, 9	—	
15,16	—	
22,23	—	
29.30	—	
Nov		
5, 6	—	
12.13	—	
19.20	—	
24,25,26,27	—	
Dee		
3, 4	—	
10.11	?	
17,18	?/Far, far away - higherthan the clouds	
24.25	?	
Jan		
31, 1	—	
7, 8	—	
14.15	—	
21,22	—	
28.29	—	
Feb		
4, 5		



Certification Guidelines for Mountaineering/Rock Climbing Trips

The Sierra Club has obtained limited insurance coverage for activities that require the use of ropes, ice axes, carabiners, etc. This coverage allows Sierra Club to engage in most types of mountaineering and rock climbing activities, but does not allow mountaineering courses or operating climbing schools. Training can occur during the course of a trip, but the purpose of the outing may not be for training. These are interim guidelines ONLY - insurance coverage may change somewhat.

The following is the interim process for having mountaineering/rock climbing trips certified through the Mountaineering Oversight Committee for all chapters, groups, and sections.

1. For each mountaineering/rock climbing trip proposed, the leader will submit a trip plan to:

A. An experienced person, qualified to make a judgement on a proposed trip, appointed by the outing or activities chair for that particular chapter or group. In the Peak Climbing Section, the Trip Scheduler will coordinate this part of the process. and,

B. Cal French, Mountaineering Oversight Committee Chair
1690- N. 2nd St.
Upland, CA 91784

and; C. Cathy Benton, National Coordinator for Chapter/Group outings

730 Polk Street
San Francisco, CA **94109**

The Trip Plan Should Include:

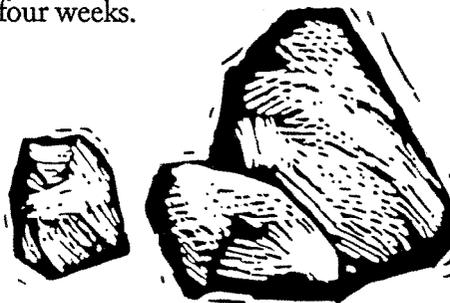
- The name of the trip
- Trip dates
- The names of the leaders
- A description of each leader, including experience, first aid, and mountaineering certification
 - A technical description of the trip difficulty
 - A detailed description of the intended route
 - A detailed description of the participant screening process
 - A detailed description of the experience requirements for the participants

2. The chapter representative will review the plan and inform the leader(s) and Cathy Benton of his/her decision.

3. The Mountaineering Oversight Committee Chair will review the trip plan and inform both the leader(s) and Cathy Benton of the decision

4. No trip may be advertised to members, nor can any signups be taken, until written approval of certification has been obtained.

5. Chapter and group leaders should expect this process to take three to four weeks.



If Your Outing is Approved:

If the outing is certified, the trip leader will be required to submit a post-trip summary evaluation within **30** days of the trip. This will include a complete trip roster/sign-in sheet of all participants, including addresses and membership numbers, a check for the AD&D collected from the participants, and the "Trip Members Responsibility and Liability Release" must be signed by all trip participants before the trip commences. This post-trip information should be sent to Cathy Benton.

All participants must be covered for Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, except for leaders who are covered by workers camp. The exact amount that will be charged for AD&D is yet to be determined..

What We Need:

Chris Macintosh, Chapter Activities Chair, has asked for a rough idea of the number and type of mountaineering trips that may be forthcoming in 1994. Again, those are trips that would involve use of rope, ice axe, crampons, etc. Contact Debbie Benham, Trip Scheduler, (address on back of Scree), then I can forward the total number on to Chris. If you have questions about the interim certification process, contact either Chris Macintosh at 415/325-7841, or Cathy Benton at 415' **776-2211**.

Open House

U.S.G.S. Western Region Center

345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA
10 am. to 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
May 21&22,1994

- See exhibits and displays of USGS research
- Talk with scientists about their work
- Learn fascinating facts about our earth
- Tour USGS laboratories
- Bring your favorite rock, fossil, or mineral for identification
- Learn how maps are made
- See how computers assist in USGS research
- Learn about resources for teachers
- Enjoy educational videos
- Investigate new career opportunities
- Buy USGS earth science books and maps

FYI

The San Jose Red Cross has a new phone #:
(408) 577- 1000
Courtesy of Chris Yaeger

Will Trade or Sell

- 1 pr. of never used lg. Gortex "or type" lined expedition mitts
- 1 pr. of med. sarne or similar
- 1 pr. of lg. Kelty down booties
- 1 pr. med. for same or similar

Contact:

Jim Schollard
Day (408) 264-7723
Eves. (408) 439-0708

SCREE Trading Post

Useful Yosemite Phone Numbers

Park Information (Lots of Voice Mail Options)	209-372-0200
Backcountry Conditions	209-372-0307
Badger Pass Snow Conditions	209-372-1000
Ostrandor Hut Ranger	209-372-2317
Tuolomme Meadows Snow Conditions	209-372-0450

PCS Leader Hotline

Have you thought of leading a PCS trip, but were just not sure where to start? Do you have question about peaks to climb, routes, difficulty and class of climb, permit applications...? The following leaders are available to answer any questions you may have about mountaineering and leading:

LEADER	AREA	TELEPHONE
Kai Wiedman	San Mateo	e4i5/347-5234
Vrenni Rau	Castro Valley	510/582-5578
Kelly Maas	San Jose	4081279-2054
Debbie Bulger	Santa Cruz	408/457-1036
Warren S torkman	Palo Alto	415/493-8959

Wilderness Etiquette *By Emily Postpile*

Dear Emily Postpile,

What is the proper etiquette for skinny dipping on PCS trips? Some people frolic stitchless amongst their peers as if they're in a revival of "Oh, Calcutta!" Others discretely submerge themselves into a far corner of the lake, like a full moon setting on tranquil waters. (And don't tell me to carry a swimsuit. No weight-conscious backpacker would consider such a thing.)

From Abashed at Lake Aloha

Dear Abashed,

This is an age old question. And quite frankly I do not have the answer. Seems to me, if a person has what it takes to dip into ice cold water and not wear any protection, then go for it. If frolicking through the camp is part of the ritual, then I say get out those cameras. We are always looking for interesting photography for the slide shows.

-Emily
7

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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 (payable to the PCS). 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, 1.57 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 Friday of the month: email, 3 1/2" diskettes (Mac preferred), fax, or U.S. mail okay. Photos welcome.



Deadline for the next issue is April 21!

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Peak Climbing Section
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Santa Clara, CA 95051



**First Class Mail
Dated Material!**