

# Scree

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

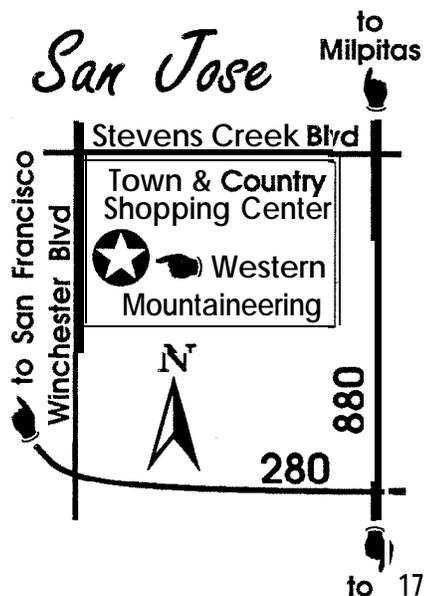
## Next meeting

Date: Tues., Feb. 8, 1994  
Time: 8: PM  
Place: Western Mountaineer

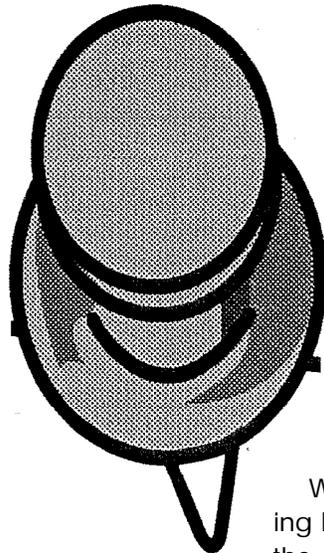
Program:

## Kayaking and Climbing Along the Arctic Riviera

Northeast Greenland.  
A Multi-Media (Video/slide)  
presentation of a g-person  
200 miles trip in the world's  
largest park.



## 1994 Trip Planning Meeting



With the '94 climbing season unfolding before us, we need to plan trips for the upcoming months. All current leaders are invited to attend, and, if you are not a leader, but are interested in co-leading, by all means, come! Newcomers are

welcome! If you are new to PCS and have some thoughts about what you'd like to do, we encourage you to come and help generate ideas. So many peaks... so little time!

Peter Maxwell has graciously agreed to have the planning meeting at his house on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00pm. Please bring your own drinks and money for pizza, which will be ordered after we're all in. Peter's address is 1417 Kitimat Place, Sunnyvale, and his phone number is 408, 737-9770.

Directions to Peter's house: It is located off Hwy 85 between 280 and 101; take the Fremont Ave. exit. Take the Sunnyvale direction (as opposed to Los Altos) and go about 1/4 mile to the next stop light at Mary Ave. Turn right and take the first right (Cascade - this is also the first stop light on Mary). Take the first left, Kitimat, almost immediately after you turn onto Cascade. The house is the third on the right.

If you cannot make it to the meeting, but you have trip ideas or suggestions, please call Debbie Benham at 415/964-0558

# Official PCS Trips

**NOTE: All official PCS trips should be submitted to the Scheduler prior to that trip taking place. For scheduling purposes, trip descriptions are accepted by first class mail or telephone. (D. Benham)**

## Maguire Peaks (1688') Class 1 Rescheduled

**Date:** February 27, Sunday  
**Leader:** Debbie Benham  
**Home:** (415) 964-0558

In sunoi Regional Wilderness, we'll hike about 10 miles with an elevation gain of 2000 ft. Meet at 8:30 at Page Mill Road and Hwy 280. Park 'n Ride, Palo Alto. Bring lunch and liquid. Rain cancels. Please contact leader if you have any questions.

## Eagle Peak Ski Traverse Class 2 (co-listed with Sk Touring Section.)

**Date:** March 19-20  
**Leader:** Butch Suite  
**Home:** (415) 325-4116

From Buckeye Hot Springs, near Bridgeport, we will climb up Buckeye Ridge, skiing Robinson and Victoria Peaks en route to our high camp at about 10,500 feet. Sunday we will attempt to ski Eagle Peak and possibly Hunewell Peak before descending Sawmill Ridge. This is a demanding, fast-moving, unscouted trip over steep terrain. You must be a very fit ski mountaineer wit snow camping experience, able to move fast and light at high altitude and turn on

step slopes while wearing a backpack. Metal edge skis and skins required; avalanche transceivers highly recommended.

Climbing Section and Apres' Ski Club. SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN-UP NOW!!

**Cost:** \$120 **Beginning Package:** lodging, lessons, equipment, passes

or

**\$45 Standard Package:**

2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 supper.

+ \$ 10/weekend/person for semiprivate room, if available.

+\$10 for non-members of the

Sierra Club.

## Private Trips

### Telemark/ Crosscountry/Alpine Cabin Weekend

Class 3 Snow Climbing

**Date:** Friday night March 11 to  
Sunday March 13

**Leader:** Contact Victor Anderson  
(415) 851-1090 (H) or  
Ron Lingelbach  
(408) 253-8036 (H)  
1492 Pine Grove Way  
San Jose, CA 95 129  
email lingel@convex.com

**What: This is** a repeat of the trip we did April 93. Last year we had 6 beginning track skiers and 16 experienced skiers. This year we have a low cost beginning track skiing package that includes 2 days of equipment rental, trail passes and lessons at Tahoe Nordic Center (Sat.) and Royal Gorge (Sun.). Beginners have on the cabin sign up. Per Sierra Club policy, you are responsible for their own activities on Sat. and Sun. Co-listed with the Peak

ONE HOUSE CHORE REQUIRED PER -WEEKEND. NON-REFUNDABLE UNLESS SOMEONE REPLACES YOU! No smoking in the cabin...

**Send:** Check made out to Victor Anderson 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.



## Mt. Shasta (14,462') Class 3 Snow Climbing

*Date:* February 19-21

Leader: Kai Wiedman  
(415) 347-5234 (H)



If you have ever dreamed of climbing in Alaska or the Himalaya, this is the chance to test your mettle. A winter ascent of Sahasta is a significant achievement.

The Green Butte Ridge soars vertically to meet Sargents Ridge. From there the steep upper part of Sargents Ridge will take us to the summit. This is full-blown winter mountaineering — NOT A WEENIE ROAST.

## Wilderness Permits and Trailheads

### For your Records

It has been brought to my attention by Chris Yaeger that two of the listings in the Wilderness Permit listings will not do you any good, i.e. wrong numbers. So please update your January Scree (if you still have it) or make special note to avoid frustrations later on.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST  
Mono Lake Ranger District  
P.O. Box 429  
Lee Vining, CA 93541  
(619) 647-3000

WEST SIDE  
TRAILHEADS  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks  
Sierra District Office  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
(209) 565-3341

## Trip Reports

### COBB MOUNTAIN, WEST RIM (a *sort-of Sneak* Peak trip)

On October 9, 1993, Bill Hauser, V.K. Leary and Gary Suttle climbed the highest point of all the 9 Bay Area counties. Previous to the co-discovery by Leary and Hauser of the Cobb Mountain West Rim high point (4480+ ft.) it was thought by all that Mt. St. Helena was the Bay Area high point at 4343 ft. And lo and behold! Cobb Mtn. West Rim-not Mt. St. Helena-is the highest point in Sonoma County. This discovery put a temporary wrench into Suttle's new book with Wilderness Press called "California's 58 County High Points"; just as Suttle's book was going to press, V.K. Lcary (a Buddhist monk) and Houser co-discovered Cobb Mtn.! We also had a List Finisher Party for Suttle (of San Diego), the first person ever to climb all 58 of California county high points. Incidentally, the easiest way to Cobb Mtn. West Rim is now from the town of Whispering Pines.

Climbing Cobb Mtn., we circumnavigated the mountain; coming up from the geothermal plant area, then came down cross country through BLM virgin forest, down a rough jeep road to Whispering Pines; from there we went to the town of Cobb, up Bottle Rock Road to a pass at 3600 ft. and back to camp at 3500 ft. above the geothermal plant.

Some of this property is private and off limits to the public, but Leary is a property owner on Cobb Mtn., and got us past the security guards.

by Bill Hauser

(typed for Bill by Marj Ottenberg)

Thank you Marge, --editor

### Cleaver Peak Sept 17-18, 1993

For all you who did not go on this trip eat your hearts out!!!!. This trip had all the ingredients for a successful and fun trip. They included a challenging peak, beautiful surroundings, a great group, and the Saturday summit/Sunday relax.

The great group included Kai Wiedman (leader), Bob Suzuki (asst. leader), Jim Ramaker, Steve Polson, Paul Vlasveld.

Cleaver peak for those of you who did not go on this trip is part of the Sawtooth Ridge which includes the Matterhorn and the Dragtooth. even though the peak is only 11,760 ft. in elevation it was a true 3rd class challenge.

We started at Twin Lakes on Saturday with the intention of climbing the peak on Saturday and resting on the 7th day. We started out at a good pace however as the day wore on we were uncertain whether we would make it. As we got closer the peak looked even more difficult than we thought. Roper's route was nowhere to be seen. At 3:00 p.m. we set ourselves a goal of reaching the summit at 5:00 p.m. At first, it was quite straight forward, we would climb from one ledge to another, then we reached a dead-end. Kai and Jim tried all possi-

*Continued on page 4*



bilities. After almost 40 minutes they gave up. then Paul found a 2ft wide slot which we could pass through only if we had our packs off. This is why it is important to have a light pack. No one wants to lift my pack again. Once we made it through the slot it was a piece of cake to the summit. The summit block is an exposed 3rd class move. After our brief glory we had to move quickly in order to reach camp before dark. I am glad we did not take the steep scree slope gully going to the peak. This was a classic scree gully filled with sand and loose rock.

We arrived at camp right at dark with the orange & pen-glow reflecting off of the Matterhorn and the Sawtooth Ridge. It truly magnificent. We were camped in the paradise of Big Slide Canyon. This is truly a slice of heaven. Since we had already climbed the peak on Saturday we could relax and sleep in on Sunday. I believe that the Saturday summit started by Kai could become the wave of the future.

On Sunday we slept in until the ungodly hour of 8:30am. During the night our water bottles had frozen shut. After a leisurely breakfast, we continued our loop back to Twin lakes. the rest of our route took us past Little Slide Canyon over Mule Pass and the descent back to the cars. The descent turned out to be much longer and more difficult than all of us thought it would be. The route winds past several beautiful lakes and passes through several plant zones. We finally arrived at

## Treasurer's Annual Report

Addendum

The PCS annual balance sheet was incomplete in the January Scree. Following you will find the complete balance sheet.

-- editor

## Balance Sheet December 20, 1993

**Assets**  
Checking \$2,329.39

**Liabilities**  
Potential Funds  
Owed \$1,203.76  
Net Worth \$1,125.63

## PCS Leadership List, January 1994

Compiled by Paul Vlasveld

Current	Class	Red Cross Card Expires
Benham, Debbie	2	Feb 1994*
Bulger, Debbie	2	April 1994*
Crawley, Roger	3	June 1996
Esterl, John	4	June 1994*
Hauser, Bill	3	March 1994*
Healy, Brian	3	Sept. 1994*
Ingvolstad, John	3	May 1996
Ingvolstad, Kate	2	Sept 1995
Macintosh, Chris	2	Feb 1994*
Maas, Kelly	2	July 1994*
Maxwell, Peter	3	Dee 1995
Ottenberg, Marj	2 + winter	Jan 1995
Storkman, Warren	2	May 1994*
Suits, Butch	3+winter	May 1994*
Wallace, Bob	2 + winter	Jan 1995
Wilsey, Tawna	1	Feb 1995
Wiedman, Kai	4+ winter	March 1995
Vlasveld, Paul	2	April 1994*
Gaillard, Anne	2	Oct 1994*
Dyal, Palmer	3	Aug 1994*
Suzuki, Bob	2	March 1995

\* Red Cross expires this year.

the start at about 5:00pm. Maybe we should not have slept-in. The total distance was about 25 miles with about a total of 7000 ft elevation gain.

This was a fantastic trip. A true 3rd class climb, fantastic group, beautiful pristine scenery, and sleeping in on Sunday. It was heaven.

**-Paul Vlasveld**

## Ferdinand Castillo-

### Yosemite Park Ranger

#### SFChronicle

Ferdinand Castillo, a Yosemite National Park ranger who greeted visitors at the Tioga Pass entrance station for 39 years, died Tuesday of natural causes at age **76** in the Tuolumne County town of Groveland.

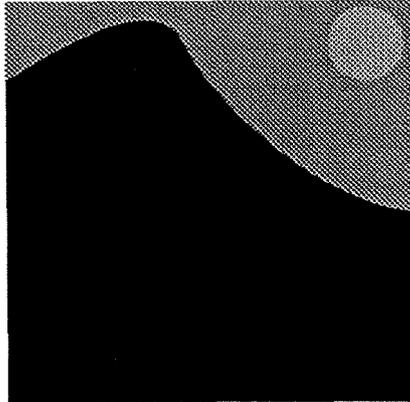
Mr. Castillo, who distributed park information, handy tips for enjoying Yosemite and corny jokes in equal parts, had thousands of fans around the world, but no family. Park personnel officers who went through his files after his death were unable to find any mention of relatives or beneficiaries.

"The whole world was his family," said park spokeswoman Debi Drake.

Mr. Castillo, whose job consisted mainly of collecting entrance fees, took it upon himself to personally greet every motorist who drove through his station. To many visitors, he was Yosemite personified.

"Ferdinand loved Yosemite and its visitors," Park Superintendent Michael Finley said yesterday. "To many, he was a part of Yosemite. We shall miss him greatly."

Eventually, however, Mr. Castillo's enthusiasm and attention to the smallest detail at Tioga Pass caused such traffic jams that he was transferred this year to the much quieter Hetch Hetchy park entrance, a move he considered a demotion.



Hundreds of visitors came to his defense, among them actor Robert Redford, who met the old ranger making a film. Redford called him "a national treasure."

Mr. Castillo was born in San Francisco in 1917 and attended the University of San Francisco, where he tried out for the football team. His enthusiasm was greater than his talent, however, and he ended up as the water boy. He went to work for the National Park a service in Yosemite in 1954 and spent nearly all of his time at Tioga Pass. At the time of his death, he was stationed at the Big Oak Flat entrance station on Highway 120.

Funeral services are pending.

-Carl Noite

*My personal reflections on Castillo's death:*

*His will to live came to an end with his removal from the Tioga Pass entrance. I feel he died from a broken heart. The authorities used poor judgement in taking him away from his job."*

-Warren Storkman

## Medic/First Aid Classes in March

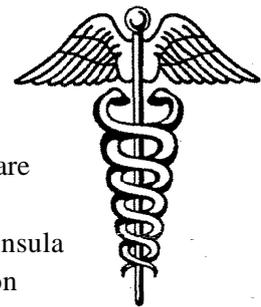
Sierra Club trip leaders must have current First Aid certificates from either Red Cross or Medic/First Aid. To help leaders and others acquire that training, Loma Prieta Chapter sponsors a Medic/First Aid class quarterly. This is a basic 8 hour course, with some emphasis on wilderness situations, and it meets Chapter leader requirements for two years.

Classes are limited to 14 participants, and are held in the NEW Peninsula Conservation Center, at 3921 E.

Bayshore, corner of Corporation Way( 1st street north of San Antonio), Palo Alto.

The next classes are Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. To register, send a check for \$38 with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your choice of Sat. or Sun. to Health Education Services, 200 Waverly, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For more information, call 415/321-6500. In case of cancellations, partial refund of fee will be made if a substitute participant attends (you get to keep the book).

Schedule of classes on page 7.



# The following is a quote from "Scrambles Amongst the Alps"

By Edward Whymper

Before we part, a word upon the graver teachings of the mountains. See yonder height! 'Tis far away-unbidden comes the word "Impossible!" "Not so," says the mountaineer. "The way is long, I know; it's difficult-it may be-dangerous. It's possible, I'm sure; I'll seek the way; take counsel of my brother mountaineers, and find how they have gained similar heights, and learned to avoid the dangers." He starts (all slumbering down below); the path is slippery-may be laborious, too. Caution and perseverance gain the day-the height is reached! and those beneath cry, "Incredible; 'tis super-human!"

We who go mountain-scrambling have constantly set before us the superiority of fixed purpose or perseverance to brute-force. We

know that each height, each step, must be gained by patient, laborious toil, and that wishing cannot take the place of working; we know the benefits of mutual aid; that many a difficulty must be encountered, and many an obstacle must be grappled with or turned, but we know that where there's a will there's a way; and we come back to our daily occupations better fitted to fight the battle of life, and to overcome the impediments which obstruct our paths, strengthened and cheered by the recollection of past labours, and by the memories of victories gained in other fields.

I have not made myself either an advocate or an apologist for mountaineering, nor do I now intend to usurp the functions of a moralist; but my task would have been ill performed if it had been concluded without one reference to the more serious lessons of the mountaineer. We glory in the physical regeneration which is the product of our exertions; we exult over the grandeur of the scenes that are brought before our eyes, the splendours of sunrise and sunset, and the beauties of hill, dale, lake, wood, and waterfall; but we value more highly the

development of manliness, and the evolution, under combat with difficulties, of those noble qualities of human nature-courage, patience, endurance, and fortitude.

Some hold these virtues in less estimation, and assign base and contemptible motives to those who indulge in our innocent sport. "Be thou chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny."

Others, again, who are not detractors, find mountaineering, as a sport, to be wholly unintelligible. It is not greatly to be wondered at-we are not all constituted alike. Mountaineering is a pursuit essentially adapted to the young or vigorous, and not to the old or feeble. To the latter, toil may be no pleasure; and it is often said by such persons, "This man is making a toil of pleasure." Let the motto on the title-page\* be the answer, if an answer be required. Toil he must who goes mountaineering; but out of the toil comes strength (not merely muscular energy-more than that), and awakening of all the faculties; and from the strength arises pleasure. Then, again, it is often asked, in tones which seem to imply that the answer must, at least, be doubtful, "But does it repay you?" Well, we cannot estimate our enjoyment as you measure your wine, or weight your lead,-it is real, nevertheless. If I could blot out every reminiscence, or erase every memory, still I should say that my scrambles amongst the Alps have repaid me, for they have given me two of the

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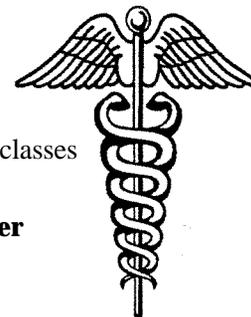
least, be doubtful, "But does it repay you?" Well, we cannot estimate our enjoyment as you measure your wine, or weight your lead,-it is real, nevertheless. If I could blot out every reminiscence, or erase every memory, still I should say that my scrambles amongst the Alps have repaid me, for they have given me two of the best things a man can possess-health and friends.

The recollections of past pleasures cannot be effaced. Even now as I write they crowd up before me. First comes an endless series of pictures, magnificent in form, effect, and colour. I see the great peaks, with clouded tops, seeming to mount up for ever and ever; I hear the music of the distant herds, the peasant's jodel, and the solemn church-bells; and I scent the fragrant breath of the pines; and after these have passed away, like floating mist, cutting off sunshine, and chilling the remembrance of happier times. There have been joys too great to be described in words, and there have been griefs upon which I have not dared to dwell; and with these in mind I say, Climb if you will, but remember that courage and strength are nought without prudence, and that a momentary negligence may destroy the happiness of a lifetime. Do nothing in haste; look well to each step; and from the beginning think what may be the end.

\* Toil and pleasure, in their natures opposite, are yet linked together in a kind of necessary connection.-Livy

## First Aid Classes

One of the requirements for PCS leadership is current First Aid Certification. Often standard first aid. **A** First Aid Certificate expires 3 years from date of issue. To become certified or to update an expired certificate, here's a list of classes held locally on the Peninsula:



**American Red Cross: Palo Alto Area Chapter**  
(415688-0415)

Feb. 14, <b>16</b>	6:30-10pm M , W
Feb 23	9-4:30pm W e d
Feb 26	9-4:30pm Sat
Mar 7,9	6:30-10pm M , W

**San Jose Area Chapter (408) 292-6242**

Feb 19	9-4-4:30pm Sat
Feb 22,24	6-9:15pm T , T h
<b>Mar 1,3</b>	6-9:15pm T , T h
Mar 14,16	6-3:15pm M,Wx

For further class listings and more information, contact the American Red Cross.

## Wilderness Etiquette *By Emily Postpile*

Food-What to do...

**Dear Emily,**

Is it OK to leave dinner scraps in the pot overnight at basecamp? As a serious mountaineer, I realize that (1) not washing the dishes means I have more time to rest up for the next day's alpine start, (2) the previous evening's scraps will fortify my meager breakfast of instant oatmeal, (3) a dirty pot left out in freezing weather is hygienically equivalent to putting leftovers in the freezer. As a somewhat civilized person, however, I also realize some peoples don't like morsels of tuna fish showing up in their hot cereal. What should I do?

Signed,

**Troubled in Tuolomne**

**Dear Troubled in Tuolomne**

I do not know if you realize the Pandora's box which you have opened. Not only is it unkosher to mix dairy (hot cereal) and meat (tuna fish) it is also totally unkosher to fix these items in the same cookware. If you believe yourself truly to be civilized, you will need to carry 2 pans-one for meat and one for dairy products. To make things even worse, you will need separate utensils for cooking and eating.

This may be a system that works well for you-two of everything, one set for breakfast and one set for dinner. Always eat the same thing, and have Powerbars for lunch.

Problem gone.

**-Emily**

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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, 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 1/2" diskettes (Mac or DOS), fax, or U.S. mail okay. Photos welcome.

Deadline for the next issue is February 18



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First Class Mail