

March, 1994  
Vol. 27, No. 3

# Scree

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

## Next meeting

**Date:** Tues., March 8, 1994

**Time:** 8: PM

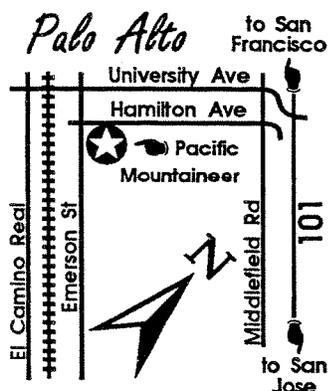
**Place:** Pacific Mountaineering

### Program

## Antarctica: The Continents

Presenter Eugene Miya spent 3 months working/vacationing in Antarctica on a National Science Grant; (Did a little peak climbing, skiing, but mainly drilled holes in ice.)

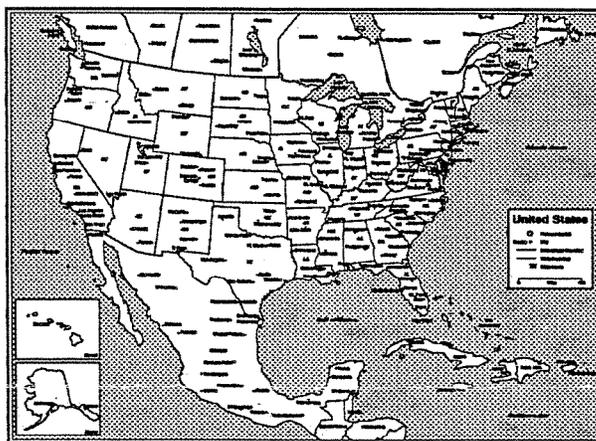
It is a big continent. In order to better appreciate the program, presenter suggests reading: Alfred Lansing's *Endurance* or Apsley Cherry Garud's *The Worst Journey in the World*, or anything about Antarctica, Robert Scott or Erenest Shakelton.



## Schedule for Abandonment of 15-Minute Topo Maps

### March 1- 31, 1994:

USGS map dealers may exchange USGS 15 -minute topographic maps that they have in stock either for credit at the discounted rate of \$1.25/map or for 7.5-minute maps, one for one. No dealer exchange or credit will be accepted after March 31, 1994.



April 1 - May 31, 1994: State agencies, the general public and map dealers may purchase remaining USGS 15-minute maps in stock for 56 cents per map, in minimum quantities of 100 maps per title [map name]

June 1, 1994: The USGS 15-minute maps are officially abandoned. This means that 15-minute maps will no longer be available from the USGS. However, copies of color separates will still be available for sale and descriptive information will be maintained for reference. Until each of the printed catalogs can be updated, Earth Science Information Centers and the Branch Distribution in Denver, Colorado, will insert 15-minute map abandonment notices in the catalogs.

15-minute quadrangles can be bought at USGS for \$2.50 each:

U.S.G.S.

**345 Middlefield Road, Bldg. 3  
Menlo Park, CA 940253591**

**415-329-4290**

**Hrs. S-4, M-F.**

Open Thursday night, evenings  
of lectures only)

**For further information, please contact:**

Gary W. North

703/648-5780.

# Official PCS Trips

## Eagle Peak Ski Traverse Class 3

(co-listed with Sk Pouring 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 with snow camping experience, able to move fast and light at high altitude and turn on steep slopes while wearing a backpack. Metal edge skis and skins required; avalanche transceivers highly recommended.

## Pt. Reyes Backpack Class 1



Date: April 9-10  
Leader: Noreen Ford  
Home: 415/347-5234

Time to try out those new backcountry recipe ideas and campfire stories. We'll leave Saturday morning to camp at Wildcat Camp, approximately 6-8 miles in.

## Mission Peak Classic 2517" Class 1 Saturday March 19

Come join us for a short leisurely day-hike through green pastures up a classic Bay viewpoint!

**We** will start hiking in mid-morning and picnic at the top.

Call Anouchka Gaillard to sign-up ((408) 737-9770 before 9:30pm).  
Co-leader wanted.

## Private Trips

## Telemark/Crosscountry Alpine Cabin Weekend Class 0

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

Cabin full for now. May have room at March meeting.  
Ask Victor Anderson or Ron Lingelbach.

## Sea Kayaking Monterey

**Date:** March 26  
**Leader: Kelly Maas**  
(408) 279-2054(H)  
(408) 944-2078(W)

Considering Bill Isherwood's Greenland slide show, the PCSers I've heard talking about kayaking, and the ones I've bumped into on the beach, it's time for the PCS to

go paddling. This isn't really a "trip" - it's more of a get-together, and is intended for beginners, so no experience is required. For \$20, Monterey Bay Kayaks will outfit you for the day with a stable open deck kayak. There's usually lots of wildlife around Monterey - birds, otters, seals, sea lions, etc. Something everyone should try once. Bad or threatening weather cancels.

## Mt. Dana Snow Climbing Class 2



Date: April 8-10  
**Leader:** George Van Gordon  
(408) 779-2320(H)

Get almost high in almost winter without hopefully too much difficulty. We will go up Lee Vining Canyon (avalanche conditions permitting) on skis to Tioga Pass and then follow the standard summer route to the top. Two nights camping at either Ellery or Tiago Lakes. Skis, ice axe and crampons required.

## 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

## More Private Trips

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 good even in the spring. Snowshoes, crampons, and ice axe will be required. No extreme exposure is expected, but this trip is not for beginners,

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

### Rock Creek Canyon to Mammoth Ski traverse Skiing/Snow Camping

**Date:** April 1-4

Leader: Tim Hult  
(408) 970-0760 (H)

We are looking for one more expert cross country skier experienced in winter camping to join Kelly Maas, Elaine Holland and Tim Hult to do this traverse with us. The trip will involve crossing several high passes and steep descents over rugged terrain covered with snow and ice. **THIS IS NO WEENIE ROAST!!** Competent skiers only need apply.

### Nepal - Mera Peak

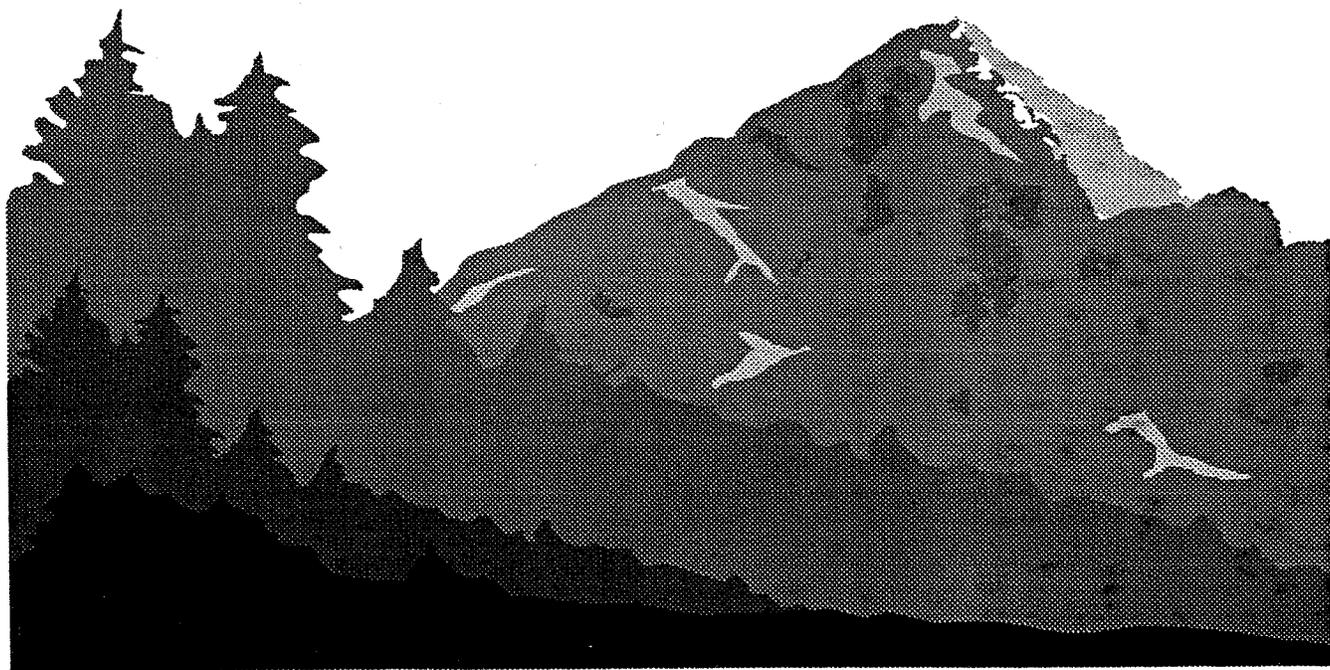
Those who are interested in an inexpensive but quality 23 day - Peak bagging trek this October - **Call Warren Storkman**  
(415) 493-8959

### Crevasse Rescue Practice

**Date:** May 7

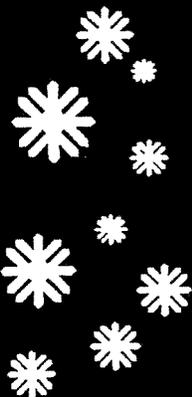
**Leader:** Kelly Maas  
(408) 279-2054 (33)  
(408) 9442078 (W)

Planning a trip this year over (non-Sierra) glaciers? Ti'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). Note that this is not a teaching session



# Trip Report

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## Yosemite Snowjourn

There are two ways to look at the Snow Creek trail: (a) 2500 feet of endless, heart-pumping switchbacks or (b) a direct, wildly scenic escalator to the Yosemite high country. The trail begins a mile beyond Mirror Lake, a vertical mile below Half Dome's sheared-off summit. With skis strapped to our packs, Kelly Maas, Andy Hudson, and I climbed above the forest that carpets lower Tenaya Canyon. As if on cue, sunshine burst through the clouds and lit the snow-seamed granite walls of Mt. Watkins, Clouds Rest, and the Quarter Domes.

Because it is south facing, the Snow Creek trail doesn't stay snowed in very long, and many skiers make it a part of a 3 to 4-day trans-Sierra tour. Our goal was less ambitious: spend the weekend skiing the forested slopes of Watkins to the west and Basket

Dome to the east. I had postponed the trip two weeks because of lack of snow. Now, despite predicted snow showers (prompting two people to drop out of the trip), we were keen to explore.

The expanding kaleidoscope of Half Dome and Tenaya Canyon entertained us as we labored upward. At the top of the switchbacks we were eye-to-eye with Half Dome's flat, massive upper face. We put on skis and climbing skins, crossed the snow-covered bridge over the creek, and skied through the forest to a clearing at 7700 feet on the shoulder of Watkins. We pitched our dome tent near a giant, gnarled snag. As we headed for the summit, only 800 feet higher, gray clouds boiled over the visor of Half Dome, obscuring the face.

On Watkin's wooded north slope, we were delighted to find that the snow underfoot changing from crust to powder. The logs and other obstacles bulging through the two-foot blanket, however, would dictate a cautious ski down. Meanwhile a river of cloud filled Tenaya Canyon. It sent a huge tendril our way, which engulfed us right below the summit, dashing our hopes of grand views of Clouds Rest and the upper canyon. With no reason to tarry, we ripped off our skins and carved turns through the powder, our reward for a long day of uphill,

We had so much fun, we didn't notice that we had crossed our uphill tracks. For 10 minutes or so we blundered around in a flat, densely

forested area with map and compass, scratching our heads. At last we found our tracks and returned to our nylon haven for evening victuals and rest.

Inside the tent, Kelly's ultralight philosophy paid off. The tent was so narrow that his two-pound sleeping bag was augmented considerably by the loft from my five pounder. Before we turned out the lights we fantasized that the clouds would deposit a foot of powder, then vanish by morning.

It didn't happen. When we unzipped the tent flap next morning, Half Dome still glowered under a slate-colored sky, and the snow that had softened Saturday would remain frozen Sunday. We packed up and carved labored, sometimes desperate turns back down to Snow Creek. The alternating patches of powder and breakable crust kept us on our toes, sometimes on our rears.

We cached most of our gear on the bank of the creek, and packed our backpacks for a day tour. The idea was, if it snowed, covering our tracks, we could still find the cache by following the creek. The original plan had been to ski up the side of Indian Ridge, then descend to Basket Dome. Because of the crusty snow, we went prospecting for powder on the north side of Indian Rock, the highest point of the ridge.

## more...

Part way up, we emerged from the forest onto an exposed shoulder. In addition to Tenaya Canyon's peaks, we could now see Mount Hoffman and part of Matthes Crest. Zigzagging upward, we discovered deep, dry snow, steep but anchored firmly by the open forest. Anticipation of descending this cushiony layer kept us wallowing skyward. Kelly and I took off our skis and climbed 12 feet of wonderful, knobby granite to the top of Indian Rock. Now we could see most of the Cathedral Range to the east, and to the west, Cathedral Rocks and the top of El Capitan. Despite the overcast, it was a grand panorama dark forest and snow-limned granite.

We explored the south side of the summit ridge, looking for a natural bridge I had seen there last September. This required an improbable ski over exfoliating layers of granite barely covered with snow. Careful sidestepping got us down this staircase. The clouds engulfed us as we approached another outcrop. Around the corner, a sliver of granite bisected the sky. We skied right to the edge of the granite window, which is about 5 feet tall by 15 feet wide. Without trepidation, Kelly scrambled to the top of the narrow bridge.

We found a better way back to the north slope by traversing the west side of the ridge. Soon we were whooping and swooping through the delectable powder.

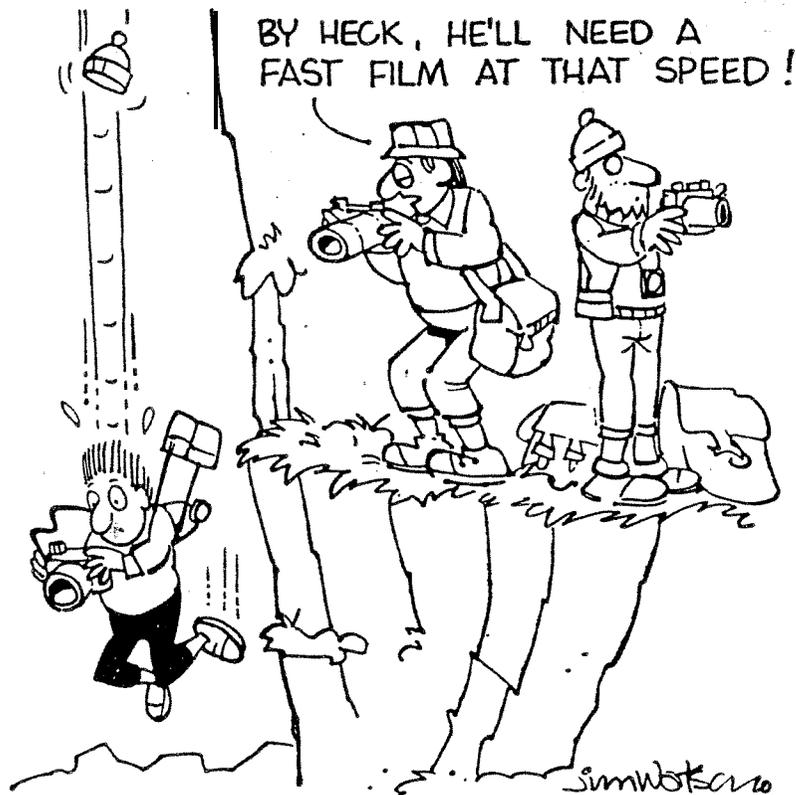
In mid-turn, intense pain hammered my left kneecap. I wobbled to a stop and looked back. A jagged rock that had been slightly buried by the snow was the culprit. The pain subsided and I realized, thankfully, that the knee was still structurally sound. Now I know why some telemarkers wear kneepads - I'll have to get a pair.

We continued down to our cache and reloaded our backpacks. The mile-long descent along the west side of snow creek was not much fun: thin, crusty snow m - in some places nonexistent, in other places

chock full of obstacles. Prime conditions for tripping up tired skiers. We resorted to the usual survival ski techniques: sidestepping, sideslipping, last-minute lunges, frenzied step turns.

At the rim of the valley, we packed our skis and pounded headlong down the trail, chasing the waning light. It was dark by the time we reached Mirror Lake, but we didn't care: we had plenty of time to reach the Curry Village pizza parlor before closing time.

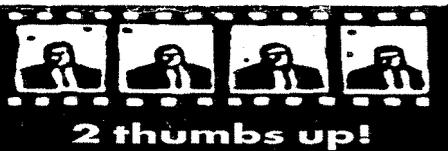
—Butch Suits



## Mountaineering FILM FESTIVAL

The Banff Festival of Mountain Films will be shown in Santa Cruz on March 12. The Recreation Department of UC Santa Cruz and Bugaboo are sponsoring the event. Show time is from 7:30 to 10:30 pm on the UCSC campus, Classroom Unit 2. Cost is \$7.00, general admission. For ticket information, contact Bugaboo at 408/429-6300. Films to be shown are a base climb of a 650m peak in Pakistan, climbing Devil's Tower, and paragliding in Switzerland.

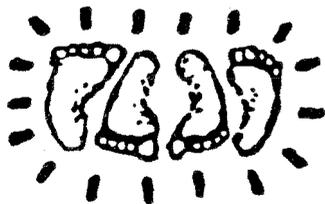
The Festival will also be shown in Berkeley, March 11th. This showing is being sponsored by REI in Cupertino; please contact REI for further information: 408/446-1991.



## For SALE

### Rock Shoes

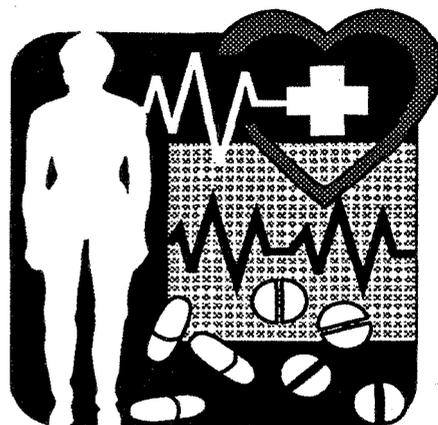
5.10 Alti, Size 8  
Fits men with street shoe size 9-9 1/2  
Slightly used \$75.00 or best offer. Kai Wiedman  
(415) 347-5234



**HAPPY FEET**

## First Aid Classes (Part 2)

### American Red Cross



To obtain a First Aid Certificate or to update an expired one, here's a list of classes:

### Palo Alto Chapter - 415/688-0415

Mar 12	9:430 pm	Sat
Mar 15, 17	6:30 - 10 pm	T, TH
Mar 16	9:00 - 4:30 pm	Wed
Mar 26	9:00 - 4:30 pm	Sat
Mar 28, 30	6:30 - 10 pm	M, W

### San Jose Chapter - 408/292-6242

Mar 14, 16	6-9:15pm M	, W
Mar 22, 24	6 - 9:15 pm	T, TH
Apr 4, 6	6 - 9:15 pm	M, W
Apr 16	9 - 4:30 pm	Sat
Apr 26, 28	6 - 9:15 pm	T, TH

**For further class listings, contact the American Red Cross. PCS trip leaders with expired first aid certificates and all new leaders must mail a copy of their current certificate to the Chair of the Mountaineering Committee before they will be allowed to lead a trip. Please send to:**

**Rai Wiedman  
313 N. Idaho St.  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
telephone 415/347-5234**

# Tentative Trip Schedule

Thanks to all who came to the trip planning meeting at Peter's house! There was a full house and lots of trips are in the works. Remember that this schedule is TENTATIVE ONLY because permits need to be acquired, MANY of these trips need co-leaders. Additionally, several PCS leaders said they would share the responsibility of a trip; in other words, they'd co-lead if someone else were willing to lead. Please call me (Debbie) for further information. Thanks!

We've decided not to publish the leaders as last year all leaders were immediately inundated with telephone calls for requests to be included on their trip. It is recommended that all trips be printed in 'Scree' at least one month prior to that trip taking place. Announcements should include: peak(s), elevation, class, leader/co-leader, brief description of route, and any other pertinent information.

Mar	19	Mission Peak/Class 1
	26	Monterey Bay/Seakayaking
Apr	8 } 9 } 10 }	Mt. Dana/Winter trip-private Pt, Reyes/Class 1 /Backpack trip
	16 } 37 }	Mt. Aita-Silliman/winter trip - private
	23 } 24 }	Ventana Wildernes/Co-leader wants leader
May	7	Ranch0 San Antonio/Crevasse Rescue
	14 } 15 }	Hamilton Lake Backpack-Sequoia NP/Class I [30 mi)
	28 29 30 1	Mt. Shasta/private
Jun	4 } 5 }	Carson Pass CarCamp/Class 1,2
	11 } 12 }	State Peak/Goat Peak/Class 2/Co-leader wants leader Mt. Conness fr Roosevelt Lake/Class 4/private Sphinx/Class5/private
	18 } (6/ 18-6/26) }	Mt. Williamson/Tyndale/Class 2 Cherry Creek Canyon/Emigrant Wilderness/Class 2 Courtright Reservoir to Dusy Basin/private
	25 } 26 }	Mt. Warren/Class 2

## Tentative Trip Schedule (continued)

Jul	2 } 3 } 4 }	North Palisade/Class 4? Split Mountain/Class 2/Co-leader wants leader (7/17/5 Palisades Traverse/private
	9 } 10 }	Mt. Sill/Class 3/private Kidd Peak/Goat Peak/Class 3
17 (7/1 & 7/E)	}	Mt. .Abbot/Mt. Mills/Class 3 Milestone Pass to Great Western Divide
23 (7/23-7/25)	}	Seven Gables/Class 2
	24 } 31 }	
Jul/Aug	1 }	Mt. Clark/North Face/Class 5
<hr/>		
Aug	6 } 7 }	Iron Mountain/Class 2 Mt-Dana/Mt.Gibbs/Mammoth Traverse/Class 2
	13 } 14 }	Tenaya Peak/Class 2 Bear Creek Spire/NE Ridge, Class 4/private
	20 } 21 }	Mt. Tom/Class 1,2/Coleader wants leader
	27 } 28 }	Mt. Russell/Class 3 Mt. Brewer/Class 2
<hr/>		
Sept	3 } 4 } 5 }	Black Giant/Class 2 Mt. Humphreys/Class 4/private Mt. Haeckel/NW Ridge, Class 4/private Mt. Lyell/Mt. McClure/Class 3/Coleader wants leader
	10 } 11 }	Mt, Henry-Le Conte Divide/Class 2
	17 } 18 }	Mt. Morrison/Bloody Mtn/Class 2
	24 } 25 }	Mt. Tallac/Dick's Peak/Class 1,2
<hr/>		
Oct	1 } 2 }	Virginia Peak/Class 2,3
	8 } 9 }	Mt. Whitney/Mountaineer's Route/Class 3

# Local Sources for Rental Equipment

Store	Rock Shoes	Ice Axe	Cramp- ons	Tents	Back- packs	Sleep Bags
PACIFIC MOUNTAINEER 200 Hamilton Ave. Palo Alto 4 15/324-9009	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
REI 20640 Homestead Rd. Cupertino 408/446-1 991	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
REI 11 1 9 Industrial Blvd. San Carlos	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y

## Sitting Bull

There is a plaque set into a rock near **the Temelpa Trail on Mt. Tamdpais:**



Behold my brothers, the spring has come. The earth has received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the result of all that love! Every seed has awakened and so has every animal life. It is through this mysterious process that we too have our being and we therefore yield to our neighbors, even our animal neighbors, the same right as ourselves to inhabit this land Yet, hear me people, we have now to deal with another race. Small and feeble when our fathers first met them **but now great and overbearing.**

Strangely enough they have a mind to till the soil and the love of possession is a disease to them.

These people have made many rules that the rich may break but the poor may not. They take tithes from the poor and weak to support: the rich who rule. The claim this mother of ours, the earth, for their own and fence their neighbors away. They deface her with their buildings and their refuse. That nation is like a spring fresher that overruns its banks and despoils all who are in its path

- wing Bid& 1877

**A point of view that you don't hear very often From that spot you can see an enormous expanse of land but you have to go to the other side of the mountain to**

pretend you are in the woods.

**BROADCAST TODAY HIKERS**

# Participant's Guidelines

*Peak Climbing Section events provide an opportunity for those who love the mountains to climb high peaks and learn about the wilderness environment. In order to make sure that the e-vents are beneficial to both leaders and participants, we offer the following guidelines:*

## CHOOSING AN EVENT

Choose an event that interests you and that is within your abilities. Although motivation can make up for some lack of experience or skills, the mountains can be challenging. Factors to consider: distance to be traveled; on trail or cross-country; moving with a full pack or only a day pack; altitude; and elevation gain. A cross-country, 10 mile hike with a 30-40 pound pack at high altitude will demand much more from you than a 6-8 mile hike on trails with a day pack at sea level,

Remember that you will be part of a group. To a certain extent, the group will be there to support you so you can take on challenges that would be hard to do as an individual. However if you have overestimated your ability to keep up, you will be jeopardizing the enjoyment of others.

In addition to checking field guides and maps, contact the leader for advice on how well your experience matches to the demands of the trip. Trip leaders can give some help in making an honest self-assessment and can relate your skills to the skills of others on the trip. Ultimately, the enjoyment of the trip depends on you.

**A group called 'The Mountaineers' recommends the following TEN ESSENTIALS - an integral part of any trip.**

Be **prepared** to have **them and to use** them.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Map of area (in a case)                   | 8. Pocket knife                      |
| 2. Compass                                   | 9. Matches in waterproof container   |
| 3. Flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs | 10. Firestarter                      |
| 4. Extra food                                | And the 11th PCS essential is water. |
| 5. Extra clothing                            |                                      |
| 6. Sun glasses                               |                                      |
| 7. First aid kit                             |                                      |



## COME PREPARED

In addition to having the needed stamina and skills, the right equipment is important. If the trip is listed as suitable for beginners, the trip leader may be willing to help you learn to use some equipment.

## THE START

Plan to show up promptly and completely prepared at the trailhead. As soon as you think you may have a change **in** plans, let the trip leader know. That way those on the waiting list can be alerted that they may be able to get on the trip and can begin to plan accordingly.

Just a reminder: PCS trips start at the trailhead. Although the trip leader may make suggestions for transportation and campsites before the official trip start, Sierra Club policy leaves these responsibilities up to you

## WHAT IF AFTER ALL THIS, YOU DON'T ENJOY THE TRIP?

If after following all these guidelines, you find something not to your liking, do something about it. If the actions of another participant bother you, don't put up with it. Talk to him/her first and if that doesn't resolve the matter, talk to the leader. If you have concerns about the the actions of the trip leader, you should also talk directly to him/her about the problem. If the response you get doesn't

*(Continued on next page)*

him/her about the problem. If the response you get doesn't satisfy you, contact one of the PCS officers so the matter can be investigated.

We can't resolve what we don't know about, and we're **always** interested in your comments and suggestions on how we might do even more to satisfy our members.

### AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS!

The guidelines above are designed to help ensure your comfort and the comfort of others on a PCS-trip. What guideline can't convey is the joy of sitting on top of a peak looking out at the landscape below you and knowing that your preparation and skills are a major factor in your successful summit.

### In dosing, remember the words of John **Umi**

"Only by going without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter."

**Climb on!**



## Call for Slide Shows

**We need slide shows!** Interesting and varied slide shows have always been a feature of PCS meetings. The more interesting the presentation, the more people come and get to meet each other, and the better time is had by all.

If you or anybody you know is willing to give a slide show or other presentation, please let Peter Maxwell know (phone numbers are on the back page). This doesn't have to be a PCS member either: sometimes external speakers are happy to give talks on some aspect of climbing.

**We particularly need a speaker for April, but there are other vacancies also. If you know someone, speak up!**



## Wilderness Etiquette *By Emily Postpile*

Dear Emily Postpile,

When visiting another person's snow cave during a snow camping trip, is it proper etiquette to knock before entering? If so, where does one knock?

*From Reticent at Round Top*

Dear Reticent,

The well-mannered snow-camper hangs a bandana from a ski pole outside the **cave**

entrance **when** he or she is "at home" to visitors. If no bandana is visible, the residents request privacy or are otherwise occupied.

If the bandana is flying, well-mannered visitors will call *melodiously* into the entryway rather than following the coarse

modern practice of using knuckles to signal their presence. Have your card ready to present to the butler.

-Emily

## CHAIRPERSON:

Peter Maxwell  
1417 Kitimat Place  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
(408) 737-9770 (H)  
Email: pecerm@aoraki.dtc.hp.com

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(415) 964-0558 0%

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Email: pattb278aoL.com

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 Vlaaveid, 157 Kellogg Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051; (408) 241-1144H, (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 l&r 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 March 25!



Printed on recycled/recycleable paper



Peak Climbing Section  
151 Kellogg Woy  
Santa Clara, CA 95851



**First Class Mail  
Dated Material!**