

SCREE

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

Next Meeting

Dale= Tues., May 10, 1994

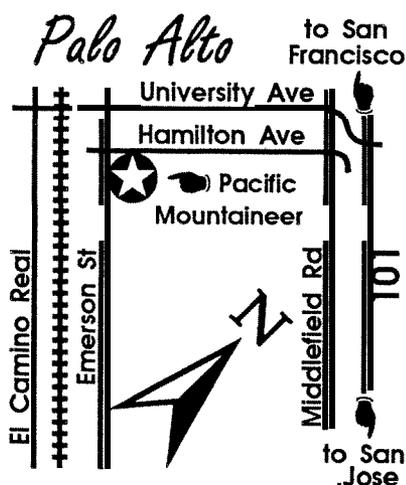
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Pacific
Mountaineering

Program:

"Journeys in the High Sierra"

Richard Sproul shares
his solo treks and climbs
in the Eastern Sierra
Kingdom.



New Leader Workshop

Take the mystery out of planning and leading a PCS event. You're invited to join us for 1 evening and a weekend field trip to the Eastern Sierras to learn more about the nuts and bolts of leading a peak climb. Come to the Thursday meeting, and you'll be guaranteed a slot on the trip. However, this does not commit you to the field trip, and you can just come to the Thursday meeting.

#1 When: June 2,7-9 pm, Thursday evening

Where: Judith Yarborough's home
2070 Mills Avenue
Menlo Park CA
415/854-9288

Topics: Deciding where to go; permit applications; phone screening of participants; scheduling and carpooling.

Presenters: Debbie Benham, Noreen Ford, Chris MacIntosh, Judith Yarborough

"Refreshments will be provided**"

#2 Field Trip: Laurel Mountain
11,812'
Class 1,2

Practice your map and compass skills and hone your route-finding abilities, We'll assemble at the Convict Lake trailhead.

Any questions or comments, please contact:

Debbie Benham at 415/964-0558

Or"

Noreen Ford at 415/347-5234

Official PCS Trips

Official Trips

The Sphinx

(9, 146' elevation)

Date: June 11-12

Leader: Aaron Schuman

Phone: 415-390-1901

Prior successes on highly exposed class 3+ summits are required of participants on our ascent of this enigmatic granite spire. Marion Peak 15' quadrangle.

Solstice Solitude Hard class 2, unscouted

Date: June 18-26

Leader: Steve Eckert

Phone: 415-508-0500 day/eve

Email: eckert@netcom.com

Cross through the most remote portion of the Sierra, looking for solitude by a combination full moon and summer solstice (longest day of the year). We will go over Hell For Sure Pass, through the Ionian

Basin, follow Disappearing Creek down the Enchanted Gorge, cross the Black Divide via Mt. McDuffie and then decide whether to wimp out over Bishop Pass or go over Southfork Pass.

Peak bagging possibilities are endless. This mostly cross country route will take us to the base of Goddard, maybe Black Giant, Scylla, Charybdis, Bolton Brown, and The Thumb. How many we get depends on the conditions and our conditioning.

If you have never carried a week's food, get ready for heavy heavy packs since there is no good place to leave a food cache.

If you don't have an entire week of consider doing only the first part of the trip to bag Goddard. We could use the carp001 drivers!

Mt. Warren (12,327' elevation) Mt. Dana

(13,053' elevation) Class 2

Date: June 25 & 26

Leaders: Debbie Benham
(415) 964-0558 eve
Debbie Bulger
(408) 457-1036 eve

No, your initials don't have to be DB to go on this trip. Saturday we'll climb 3300' to the summit of Warren starting from the Tioga Road. Our reward will be a spectacular view of Mono Lake. Optional climb of Lee Vining Peak. Sunday we'll reach even greater heights as we ascend Dana. Limited to 8 participants.

Kid Peak

(11458' elevation)

Class 2

Goat Mtn

(12207' elevation)

Class 2

Date: July 8-10

Leader: Aaron Schuman

Phone: 415-390-1901

From our trailhead at Zumwalt Meadows (5035 ft), we'll cover an unimaginably great distance and gain a staggering elevation in our march

through and out of Paradise Valley. We'll be poised for ascents of Kid Peak and Goat Mountain. On our third day, we'll loop through Copper Creek to return to our trailhead. Marion Peak 15' quadrangle.

Mills/Abbot

(13,468' 13,715'

elevations)

Date: July 16-17

Leader: John Ingvaldstad

Phone: 209-296-8483

Message: 415-299-8504

Starting from the Little Lakes Valley Trailhead (Rock Creek) its a short level hike to our camp near or above Long Lake. On Saturday, we'll continue beyond camp to climb Mt. Mills (13,468') leaving Sunday for Mt. Abbot (13,715") and the trip home.

Private Trips

"The Doodad"

11,600 ft. elevation

Class 3 Snow Climbing
Class 3.2 Rock climbing

Date: May 14-15

Leader: Kai Wiedman

Home: (415) 347-5234

Co-Leader: Bob Suzuki

Home: (408) 259-0772

Work: (408) 473-2402

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

Private PCS Trips

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.

Mt. Shasta (14,162 Elevation)

Date: May 28-30
Memorial Day

Leader: George Van Gorden
Home: (4.08) 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 as her beneficence. Crampons, ice axe and good physical conditioning required.

A forty degree, 500 foot snow couli is our first encounter. Here we'll bivvy up the pass to be in striking position for Sunday's summit assault. Ice axe and crampons will yield to ice shoes as 4th class climbing brings us to the spectacular 5.3 sumit 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.

Carson Pass Weekend Class 2

Date: June 3-5
Leader: Kate Ingvoldstad

Home: 209/296-8483
Time to get in shape! We'll car camp Friday & Saturday night at Grover Hot Springs. On Saturday, we'll climb Highland Peak (10,935') near Ebbetts Pass. This is basically a walk-up with a good scramble at the top. We should also have time to hit the hot springs back at camp. On Sunday, we will climb Scenic Round Top (10,380') right at Carson Pass. Great views and a relatively short hop back to the Bay area. Beginners welcome.

North Peak (12,242' elevation)

Mt. Conness, Shepard's Crest Class 2

Date: June 3-5
Leader: Anita Stewart
Home: (415) 965-2293
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.

State Peak (12,260") and Goat Mtn. (12,297')

Date: June 11-13
Leader: Ron Hudson
Home: (415) 872-1858
Work: (415) 244-2592
email: 70421.3642@compuserve.com

Two class two peaks from Kings Canyon. Expect snow drifts this early season trip, but ice axes (optional) should not be necessary. Have permit for 8 people. Relatively

strenuous trip; Friday backpack 8 mi, 5000' elevation gain up Copper Creek to Granite Basin. Saturday day hike State Peak (18 mi, 2500').

Mt. Conness (12,590') West Face

Date: June 11-12
Leader: Kai Wiedman
Home: (415) 347-5234

This peak's presence dominates northern Yosemite. The rock on the west face is clean, smooth and solid. Let's have a closer look at this peak's best kept secret. Camp at Young's Lake Saturday-summit Sunday-brunch Co-leader wanted

Cherry Creek Canyon (Emigrant Wilderness) Backpack Trip Class 1-3

Date: June 18-19
Leaders: Debbie Benham
(H): 415/964-0558
Judith Yarborough
(H): 415/854-9288

For the hearty hiker who wants a "wee" bit of adventure, this trip's for you! We'll start a round-trip circuit at Cherry Lake, follow the trail along Cherry Creek Canyon for about 12 miles, then camp by Hyatt Lake. On Sunday, we'll clamber straight-down the granite of Cherry Creek. Beginners welcome!

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

Whorl Mtn
(12,029' elevation)

Class 3

Date June 25-26

Leader Kelly Maas

Home (408) 279-2054

Work (408) 944-2078

We'll approach this northern Yosemite peak from Twin Lakes and Horse Creek Pass. The suggested tactic is fast and light, as there is ample elevation to gain and trailless country to cross. There's plenty of class 3 climbing, plus a smaller amount of class 4. Sign up by June 15. \$8 registration fee.

North Palisade
(14242' elevation)

Class 3

Date: July 2-4

Leader: Peter Maxwell

(408) 737 9770

Co-leader: Charles Schafer

(408) 378 9682

Secor describes this as "THE classic peak of the High Sierra. It is striking from a distance, and it has routes that will challenge climbers of all abilities and preferences". We will take the original ascent route, out of Dusey Basin, rated by both Roper and Voge as Class 3, although Secor rates it Class 4. What it means is that this will be a difficult climb, and suitable for experienced climbers only. There will be a \$3 permit fee and a \$10 appearance bond (refundable at the trailhead).

Sauntering up Shasta with Santa

The holiday glow (or was it heartburn?) was still upon us as we packed up the cars on December 26th and drove through the rain toward the peak that has defied the PCS winter afterwinter. We figured (hoped?) that it would stop before peak day, but no one expected that the storm had completely missed Mt. Shasta!

Those of us who slept at Bunny Flat (Brent Asborn, Tony Cruz, Steve Eckert, Jeff Fisher, and leader Kelly Maas) cracked the ice off our bivy bags while Brian Boyle and Dan Ehrenfried drove up from the Flea Bag No-Tell in the village. As usual, "8am start" means "say hi at 8:00, change clothes at 8:30, repack at 9:00, and start hiking at 9:30". (Me? Sarcastic? Naah!)

Given the noticeable lack of snow on the mountain, with shiny spots and many completely bare ridges, we decided to leave all the snowshoes and skis in the cars. Veterans from February's slog might be thinking -hip deep trauma", but we found icy showshoe tracks that lead up to treeline where the snowdrifts held the weight of even the stoutest mountain mule. Well, usually.

Jeff and his nephew Brent turned back shortly after we started, since la-year-old legs could not posthole at the pace we were setting. Bigger feet might have helped, but it is wise to "know when to say when". We figured

that would be the last we heard of either of them..

We headed up to Green Butte, staying on the ridge and eyeing the 11,000' flat spot on Sargent's Ridge as a campsite within striking distance of the peak. By about 3:30 it was clear that Helen Lake at 10,400' was about as far as we could go before dark, so we cut off the ridge to the snowdrift known as a lake.

Fingers crystallized as we set up tents in temperatures dipping below 10 degrees. Predictions of vicious cold and an early start each turned out to be false. It warmed up to 20 degrees during the night due to cloud cover, and we spent an hour and a half getting out of camp. 7:45 does not exactly count as a "pre-dawn, alpine, eager-beaver" start, but it sort of went with the prior day's schedule.

(That's twice now... No reprisals in future issues are needed. We all know I am poking fun at the leader, but being an equal opportunity offender I expect to be the nail as often as I am the hammer.)

Almost immediately we began to spread out. Dan was trying to stay warm with speed instead of clothes, I was trying to measure every step like a metronome to avoid altitude sickness, and Brian was doing wind sprints trying to pick a pace. Tony decided to stay in camp, not feeling up to the peak Kelly waived but finally declared "EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF" and tried in vain to catch Dan.

We turned Red Bank to the left (the high side), and popped over the cornice right at the base of Misery Hill. Amazingly, Jeff was coming DOWN just as I started UP! He had spent the night with Brent at the Horse Camp and day hiked the entire peak, beating us all to the top by a good margin. After grunting up to the summit plateau on mixed rocks and snow, the stroll over to the summit proper was rather pleasant. Not much wind, clear skies, and crunching snow on which crampons were optional.

Anyone who has climbed Shasta in the summer may have trouble imagining the summit with no people, but we each summited one at a time with as much as 45 minutes between people. A solitary moment to look at volcanoes in Oregon, down to Lassen, and then to the reddish smoke haze over what we call the "civilized" part of California. I have never been to the top when there was less wind, or less people, or less of a hurry to leave.

While waiting for Brian to summit, I warmed my hands in the rotten egg steam vents, and climbed the OTHER 14,000' peak to the west of the usual peak (Check it out on the map - all of you 14k peak baggers probably missed this one!) From there the lack of snow on the northwest glaciers was very visible, with white streaks of snow packed into the crevasses but blue ice everywhere else.

The fun is over when you reach the top, right? Not so! No one wanted to climb back down the cornice by Red Bank, so we clawed our way over icy pumice toward Thumb Rock and went down the snow chute from there. Why is it called Avalanche Gulch? Has anyone ever seen a slide there? Anyway, Dan lost his footing, lost his cap, lost his ice axe, but kept his good luck by zooming into a patch of soft snow and making his own blizzard. I did a standing glissade on a hard drift that turned into a soft drift with a hard crust, prompting the only full-speed-head-first-on-your-stomach arrest ever required outside of ice axe practice (and it WORKS if you remember the drill). Kelly and Brian either made no mistakes or told no one about them. Jeff and Tony were back at the cars by then, taking any and all cool stories with them in silence.

Those who got back to camp early fixed a sunset dinner for those who arrived just at dark, and we zipped in feeling quite content. The red sunset was nice, but being horizontal was nicer. After my repeated attempts to change the agenda into two full-pack climbing days followed by a summit-and-out day, Kelly had to remind me at least once that it WAS possible to do Shasta on the second day. Then he mumbled something about finally being able to quit trying over and over, but I did not hear that part! Interested parties might contact Kai Wiedman or Butch Suits for some folklore (aka "historical context") on past trips.

We skipped breakfast the next morning, and hit the cars just after 8am. Our first early start... but then again, if you have ever had the two-pound pancake plate at Marilyn's Stage Stop you know what the rush was all about. Trust me, a stack of three pancakes cannot be eaten by a normal human. Take \$4 and a doggie bag.

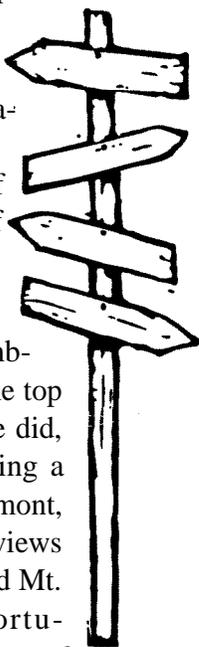
-Steve *Eckert*

Which Way Do We Go?

Like most PCS epics, it started out innocently enough. The eight participants gathered at the trailhead at the appointed time, and the leader checked a couple of them to ensure they were properly equipped for the rigors that lay ahead. And as we began our slog, the leader casually mentioned that she had been unable to locate the intended route while reconnoitering the climb. But that's as close as it came to being an epic. It ended a few hours later with casual good-byes and thanks all around to the leader for an enjoyable and ably led hike.

Yes, this was the legendary Mission Pk. climb of March 19, led by Anne "Anouchka" Gaillard. She was accompanied by a mixed group of friends, co-workers and PCSers: Cliff Brown, Dave Caldwell, Denyse Gazdag, Carol Greenstreet, Lucia Gonzalez, Kelly Maas and Joe Stephens. The varying abilities of this group kept the pace lei-

surely, with no Day Hikers anywhere to be seen. Anouchka livened it up by arriving at a fork in the trail by proclaiming that she didn't know which way to go. While it quickly was suggested that the lead was inept, she pointed out that what she was actually doing was empowering the participants by allowing us to make important decisions. This raised group morale to new heights, and we eagerly set off again. (There was, of course, no chance of actually getting lost.)



In the world of climbing, it's getting to the top that counts. That we did, with the reward being a thrilling view of Fremont, and above average views of San Francisco and Mt. Tamalpias. Unfortunately, it was not one of those extraordinary days when you can see the Sierra. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the shelter of the summit rocks before Anouchka, who was starting to get cold, roused us for the stroll back down. This went uneventfully, except for Lucia's ill-fitting boots which caused her great pain. Also, we discovered very large gopher holes, augmented considerably by water erosion, that we dubbed Mission Pk. crevasses. We would have had a photographic record of a "victim" inside one of these "crevasses," except that the camera later turned out to be devoid of film

Alta/Silliman Cross-Country Trip Report

Steve Eckert (leader), Jeff Fisher, and Bob Suzuki set off at the crack of dawn (well, how about 10:30am?) for the first Sierra backpack of the season (April 16). We headed up to Panther Gap from Wolverton, and followed the trail to slightly west of Tharp's Rock. A suitably steep snow chute swept skyward to the summit, with a single set of ski tracks to spoil the snow.

You guessed it, Chris Yager was there first. Same day. We made him an honorary member of the trip so he did not beat us.

The trail was snowy from the trailhead, but solid from about 8000' up to the Gap. Southern exposures and ridges were patchy up to 9000'. Surprisingly, snowshoes were not required, nor were crampons.

With our late start, we carried full packs over the summit of Alta Peak at about 5pm. We dropped off the northeast ridge and camped in the bowl above Pear Lake at about 10000'. The original plan was to follow the ridge around to Table Meadow and Silliman Crest, but the leader was outvoted. Hey, it's a democratic country!

Our new route took us below the cliffs under Point 10962, at an elevation of around 9200'. If you want to do the traverse in the summer, this looks like it would be good second class even without the snow. Not sure about the ridge near Alta, since it was buried deep under

round drifts, but we were on rock with plastic boots for a mile or two.

Contouring above the 9300' knob north of Tokopah Falls, we went too high searching for better terrain, and wound up dropping off a very steep cliff with hip-deep snow. Fun if you like that kind of thing, but here the leader was definitely pulling on the leash. We camped on snow in a great tree-filled valley southeast of Silliman, at about 10000', with running water and dry ground to sit on under the trees.

Monday we hit the slopes with a day pack around 7:30am to avoid soft snow. That great big red line on the map which marks the Silliman Crest also hides the fact that there is a nasty hill between where we camped and the true summit. We down climbed a hundred feet of rock (high second class) on the west side of the ridge and stepped onto the only ice of the trip. Should have brought the crampons. They were in camp, but with a little coaching on turning the toes out and jamming the heels in we made it around the hill without any self arrests. First or second class from the bowl to the top.

At the true summit, we were rewarded with a 270 degree view of snow covered peaks. It was perfectly clear for the first time that weekend (sleet the day before). With glee, we read that Yager had climbed the hill thinking it was Silliman, then we realized that he beat us by a day...

no one else had been there for six months. Somehow, I think he planned it that way!

The route out was to follow the creek southeast of Siiman down to about 8800', then contour above the brush below some slabs and above the cliffs until we could drop onto the Willow Meadow trail and clomp back to Lodgepole, then hitch a ride back to Wolverton. The drive out took only about 4.5 hr with no weekend tourist traffic, which I think makes Monday a better choice than Friday for a 3-day trip.

-Steve *Eckert*

Mauna Kea, Hawaii

March 21, 1994

--by *Debbie Bulger*

Mauna Kea means "white mountain." At 13,796' it's the highest point in the state of Hawaii. For two days we camped at about 4000' in Volcano National Park to begin acclimating for the climb. Tonight we are at 9300' at Hale Pohaku. A dirt road across from the Visitor Center leads to a power substation and a fine hidden camping spot. It's close enough so we can use the bathroom at the Visitor Center. Another camping option, although less private, is the trailhead itself where there is a picnic table.

That evening we descend from our campsite to the Visitor's Center which we find swarming with middle school students from Honolulu. Typical young teens they

are chatty and restless. One girl is being given oxygen by a nurse. They wear blankets around their shoulders since they have no warm jackets. Outside, their science teacher has set up a 10" telescope. Richard listens in horror as the school liaison from the University of Hawaii gives incorrect astronomical information to the science teacher.

By 8:30 a.m. the next morning we are on our way. Richard calls the Keck supervisor to confirm our appointment for a tour of the observatory on the summit. We expect to arrive between 1 and 2 p.m. In all there is a 4500' elevation gain.

The climb is spectacular. Behind us, across the saddle, the magnificent long slope of Mauna Loa ends in snow capped splendor. Before us, red cinder cones mark the way across the old aa lava. The only distraction are the hideous ducks marking the trail. Why they are here escapes me. All the guidebooks describe them and caution the hiker to keep them in view in order to avoid getting lost. When there is any visibility at all, losing the way is difficult with the peak leading uphill and Mauna Loa and the saddle clearly to the south. So much for the average hiker's ability to navigate!

At 12,400' we reach the sacred adz quarry. Here 15th century Hawaiians mined the dense blue-black basalt as heads for massive carving tools. This spot is more than an archeological site, however. It is an active quarry. Later, in Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau, the City of Refuge, we watch a skilled woodcarver carefully wrap his adz to store it for the evening. His compan-

ion tells us how that very stone was quarried in a sacred ceremony high on Mauna Kea.

The rockbound shores of Lake Waiau greet me at 13,020'. It is said to be the highest lake in the United States.

Finally the summit and its telescopes are in view. They are of various shapes and designs: the spherical Japanese Sabaru telescope under construction, twin Keck telescopes looking like enormous golf balls, a rectangular observatory, a radio telescope sporting a large "satellite dish," the Cal-Tech facility which resembles a football helmet, and several others.

Since we are late for our appointment, we proceed directly to the observatory. At 10 meters, the Keck is the largest telescope in the world. The mirror is constructed from large hexagonal segments giving it the appearance of a giant honeycomb. It is thrilling to see the large spectrograph which dominated the Lick Observatory shops in Santa Cruz dwarfed by the immense dome housing. Later, the warmth and comfort of the staff break room provide a welcome respite from the chilly outside.

As we leave, it is snowing lightly. About a mile down the road, a jeep responds to our extended thumbs. We hiked up; who needs to stress knees walking down? Instead, it is our panic buttons which are stressed by the casual driver who turns to face us in the back

seat when he speaks, all the while, bearing down heavily on the gas pedal. The jeep is being tossed around on the precipitous rocky road (sans marshmallows). A typical Hawaiian driver, our jeep jockey swings into the oncoming lane at curves and hurtles down the mountain. I am praying my body is not hurtled over the edge.

I am very happy when we arrive at the Visitor's Center in one piece. The next day we drive to the Weather Observatory on Mauna Loa, across the saddle. It is overcast and snowing lightly over 11,000'. I am fearful at times that the rental car will slide off the narrow road into the rocky lava. We decide to climb Mauna Loa another time. In less than an hour we are in a tropical paradise at sea level.

* * * * *



Class One: [walking on trail]

1. At least 18 years of age, PCS and Sierra Club member.
2. Red Cross Multimedia First Aid or approved equivalent. Mountain Medicine course conducted by Red Cross and Sierra Club may be substituted at alternate renewal periods.

Class Two: [walking cross-country; using hands for balance]

1. Qualifications for First Class list.
2. Minimum two years mountain experience.
3. Demonstrated navigational ability.
4. Demonstrated sound judgement, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two PCS trips or its equivalent.

Class Three: [use of hands for balance while climbing]

1. Qualifications for Second Class list.
2. Recent experience with roped climbing, including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and anchor setting.
3. Recent experience with ice axe, crampons, self-arrest, and ice-axe belay.
4. Demonstrated sound judgement, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two PCS trips or its equivalent.

Fourth Class: [use of rope for belays]

Guidelines to be determined.

Fifth Class: [technical rock climbing]

Guidelines to be determined.

Winter Trips

1. Qualifications of class of climb to be led.
2. Two seasons of winter mountaineering, including extensive snow camping.
3. Proficiency with skis or snow shoes, ice axe, crampons, and ice axe belays.
4. Substantial navigational experience, including white-out and storm conditions.
5. Advanced first aid preferred, with an understanding of hypothermia, frost bite, and pulmonary edema.
6. Avalanche course.
7. Demonstrated leadership ability on one PCS winter trip as co-leader.

FREE/OBO

Wilderness permit for 8 people: Mono Creek (Edison Reservoir) for July 22 (Friday) entry. I can't use it, but will gladly help a leader plan a trip into this area between Yosemite and Kings Canyon. An ideal goal is Seven Gables, but there are many options. Free/OBO (Cost **824**)

FREE Wilderness permit for 8 people: Mono Creek (Edison Reservoir) for July 22 (Friday) entry. I can't use it, but will gladly help a leader plan a trip into this area between Yosemite and Kings Canyon. An ideal goal is Seven Gables, but there are many options. Free/OBO (Cost \$24)

4-Sale**Gregory Backpack**

Model - Snow Creek
 Year- 1987
 Size- Large
 Frame- Internal
 Condition- Looks like new
 Price- **\$75.**

Mike Johnson
 Phone- (408) 253-9024

FYI

The Scree Editor will not be attending the May meeting. I am going down the Grand Canyon. There may be slides. Sorry for the inconvenience getting materials to me. Thanks,

PattBaenen

An Important Note

With all the changes about limited insurance coverage in the Sierra Club and use of ropes on trips, a reminder that is taken from the Outing Leader Handbook (p.85):

Ropes and ice axes may be carried by the leader and assistant leader only to ensure the safety of an outing in unexpected situations. Examples are stream crossings and rescues. Ropes and ice axes MAY NOT be used as climbing aids or on any outing where their use is recommended by the opinion of experienced local climbers and leaders; the insurance restrictions require that such outings NOT be conducted by the Sierra Club." [Sierra Club internal policy per the Club President's directive of March 3, 1989.]

The Sierra Club is an environmental organization. Plan and execute all your outings to protect the areas you explore and enjoy, as well as to promote the conservation goals of the Club. Good practice still means take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints."

p. 45, Outing Leader Handbook)

TIME TO CLIMB

The Los Gatos Swim & Racquet Club offers 'arete' rock climbing for the beginner to the more advanced climber. They have a bouldering wall and three aretes, complete with bolted-in handholds and cracks. Individual, family and group rates are available, as well as lessons (these need to be scheduled in advance). A day pass is \$7 during the week and \$8.50 on the weekends. Hours are Mon-Fri 3:00-8:00, and Sat - Sun 10:00-7:00. Please contact L.G. Swim & Racquet Club for more information: 408/358-3576.

Mount Rainier — Basic Mountaineering Training Course

A Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMTC) will be offered in preparation for a mid-July attempt on Mount Rainier via the Emmons Glacier. The BMTC will be conducted during three weekend outings in May-June and will address the following topics: rope techniques (belaying, repelling, knots), Ice axe/Crampon use (French and German techniques, Ice Axe arrest), Crevasse Rescue, and Glacier Travel. Participants wishing to attempt Mt. Rainier will have to pass a series of tests. Those interested should send a S.A.S.E. to:

Howard Steidtmann/Tobi Tyler
 20720 Angus Way
 Hayward, CA 94541
 (510)538-5699

Experienced climbers are encouraged to participate in the training outings, and are invited to attend an instructor's outing the first weekend in May.

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Email: peterm@aoraki.dtc.hp.com

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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 second to 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 May 20!

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