

SCREE

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

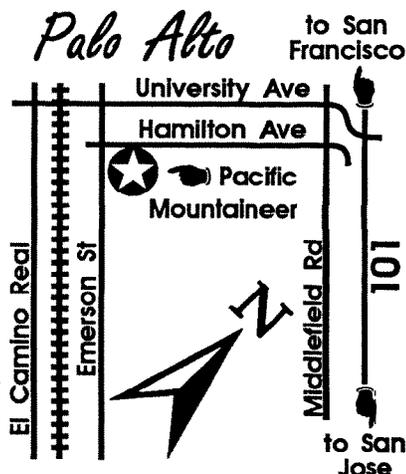
Nov. Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1994
Time: 7:30
Place: Pacific Mountaineer

Program:

The 14,000 Club

Join Al Hastings as he shares his adventures climbing the thirteen 14,000 foot peaks in California that can be climbed solo (no Thunderbolt or Starlight Peaks).



OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY NEEDS A HOME

We need to find a location for this year's Christmas party. The venue for the last two years has been SGI's cafeteria, but this year Aaron is going to be away and can't host us. If anybody can provide a location, please let Peter Maxwell know. It needs to be somewhere that allows alcohol and has some tables and chairs.

Please be forthcoming.
How could we have a Merry Christmas without the PCS party?

PCS Officer Nominations

And the nominees for PCS 1995 Officers are:

Chair: Debbie Benham
Vice-chair/scheduler: Paul Magliocco
Treasurer: Phyllis Olrich

Official PCS Trips

The Beginners Snow Camping Seminar

which PCS and STS have sponsored since it began, is now in its 22nd year. This is a golden opportunity for anyone interested in a cooler camping situation.

Classes (evenings):

Jan. 9,10,11,1995

Field trips:

Jan 28-29 and Feb 4-5,1995

Leaders: Chris Macintosh,
Marj Ottenberg; Dave Kutty,
Sheldon Firth, Tom Wolfe,
Jim Macrander

Round Top

10380' elevation

Class 3

Red Lake Peak

10061' elevation

Class 2

Date: November 5-6

Organizers: Aaron Schuman
415/390-1901

We'll make two day hikes from Carson Pass (8600 ft) to the mountains that frame the pass. Red Lake Peak was the first recorded peak climb in California.

Relive that golden moment. Markleeville and Silver Lake 15' quadrangles.



A committee composed of Dick Siipson, Debbie Benham, and Cecil Magliocco met to consider the proposed additions to the PCS by-laws that were published in last month's 'Scree'.

The committee's recommendations are:

1. Formal changes in the current by-laws are not necessary to accomplish the ideas presented;
2. Each officer and standing committee of the PCS should have a binder that includes the following information:
 - a. Current PCS by-law;
 - b. Leadership Guidelines;
 - c. Recommendations of PCS Leadership Qualification Committee (November 1974-to be updated);
 - d. Role and function(s) of specific officer and standing committee member;
3. The Mountaineering Committee should consolidate the Leadership Guidelines from the 1974 recommendations and those created this year, "Guidelines for PCS Leadership". The Mountaineering Committee should check current status of Sierra Club Membership for each leader, at least yearly,
4. To limit business discussion during the monthly PCS meeting, the officers would meet on an as-needed basis for pre-discussion purposes. At these meetings, other PCS members would be encouraged to attend to discuss issues that are important to them. For example: PCS members and officers could meet for dinner just prior to the monthly meeting;
5. The Social Committee should be appointed by the Chair. The Social Committee would coordinate activities necessary to encourage and maintain membership, help plan the July picnic and the Christmas party, greet new members/visitors, and schedule social events

Tentative Winter Trip Schedule

N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R
	5/6		Tahoe Condo Trip Red Lake Peak & Round Top			-Cecil Magliocco -Aaron Schuman	
	12/13		Pinnacles Night Hike			-Noreen Ford	
	19/20		Free1 Job's Sister			-Steve Eckert -Bob Suzuki	
	24 thru 27		Joshua Tree Rock Climbing Mirror Lake or Face of Half Dome Utah Trip			-Kai Wiedman -John Flinn -Marj &Bob	
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R
	4th		Mt. Diablo			-Kelly Maas	
	10/11		Pt. Reyes Backpack			-Paul Vlasveld	
	17/18		White Mountain Range Traverse			-Debbie Bulger	
	27 thru 29		Mt. St. Helena			-Debbie Benham	
J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	
	7/8		TransVentana Trip TransSierra Trip, North to South Antarctic Traverse			-Warren Storkman -Butch Suits -Eugene Miya	
	14/15/16		Pyramid Peak			-Palmer Dyal	
	22nd		Big Basin-Skyline to Sea & Back			-Phyllis Olrich	
	28/29		Crag & Finger Peak			-Bob Suzuki -Steve Eckert	
F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y
	4th 5th		Ridge Winery Dewey Point			-Ron Lingelbach -Ray Stafford	
	11/12		Mt. Carmel, Ventana Mt. Mendel, Couloir			-Aaron Schuman -Tim Hult	
	18/19/20		Mt. Shasta, Cassaval Ridge Mt. Mendel, Couloir-Part II			-Kai Wiedman -Tim Hult	
	26th 27th		Henry Coe Day Hike Mt. Mendel, Couloir-Part III			-Steve Eckert/Kelly Maas -Tim Hult	

Any additions or corrections, please contact the Trip Scheduler

Private Trips

"Private trips are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club or he PCS. They are listed here as a *courtesy* fo the organizers because they may be of interest to KS climbers."

"Freel up Jobs Sister"

Peaks: Freel Peak

10881' elevation

Jobs Sister

10828' elevation

Map: Freel Peak quad

Date: November 19-20

Organizer: Steve Eckert

415/508-0500

eckert@netcom.com

Bag the highest peak in the Tahoe area from either Heavenly or Hope Valley, with a snow camp at either Fountain Place or Horse Meadow. Email or call leader second week in November for final plan, based on weather and road conditions. This trip will go in all but blizzard conditions assuming there are participants signed up. Expect snow shoes and ice axes, but if there is no snow the packs get lighter and we have to grunt through scree.

Mt. Diablo north side

3849' elevation

Class 1

Date: December 4

Organizer: Kelly Maas

Home: 408/279-2054

15 miles & 3000' gain Come get away from the holiday rat race by ascending Contra Costa's highest peak. Option for ambitious hikers to also bag the north summit. Rain or shine. Meet 9:00 at Mitchell Canyon trailhead or contact leader carpooling. Co-listed with the day hiking section.

If Kelly gets his first aid renewed by trip time this will be an official trip.

Desert Survivors

East Side Canyons/ Inyo Mountains Carcamp Moderate

Date: November 5-7 (Sat-Mon)

Contact Leader: David Holten

Phone: (916) 583-2021

Address: PO Box 671

Tahoe City, CA 96145

In the great sink of Saline Valley, we'll set up a car camp, probably near the hot springs. From this point (described elsewhere as "one of the few places you can reach by road that seems so separate from the outside world"), we'll day hike, explore as many of the wild and narrow side canyons cut into the steep east face of the Inyo Mountains as possible. We'll go south to north, sampling such remote and lonely spots as Craig, Hunter, Beveridge, Keynot and McElvoy. A short sojourn into the Saline Range is also possible. This trip is intended to be an opportunity for the moderate day hiker to experience a truly remote "10 scale" desert basin and its junction with a two-mile high mountain wall.

Broadcast to Peak Climbers and/or Broadcast to Day Hikers

Dec 17 - Sat Hiking -

MT. TAM - BUSHES AND BUMPS

4D+ LOOP.

Join Bond Shands on a strenuous, moderate-to-brisk-paced 17+ mile foray over Tam's North-West side. We'll encounter some narrow footpaths and contacts with brush as we explore Van Wyck and Swede George Canyons, Simmons Triangle and other special places. Bring flashlight and full day's water supply.

Rain or shine, drivers to Fairfax Parkade by 8:20 am. 650 #20/8:08 #23 GG buses.

Coso Petroglyph Tour/ Car Camp Easy

Date: November 12-13 (Sat-Sun)

Contact Leadee Rochelle Gerratt

Phone: (510) 769-1706

On this two-day carcamp, we'll visit the best-preserved petroglyph site in California. On the first day, we'll view petroglyphs on a guided hike at the China Lake Naval Weapons Station near Ridgecrest. The second day, watercolor artist Deborah Green will help us cap-

(Continued on next page)

Fall 1994 Trips

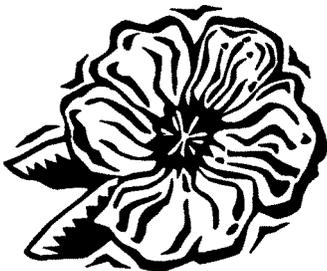
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ture our memories on paper. If we can, we'll participate in a tour of a nearby bird refuge with the conservation group Ducks Unlimited. A \$40 per person fee will be necessary for the guided petroglyph tour. Don't forget your camera and art supplies on this one!

Big Maria Mouniuins Backpack Moderate

Date: November 24-27 (Thu-Sun)
Contact Leader: Steve Tabor
Phone: (510) 357-6585

These pretty desert mountains rise steeply above the Colorado River Valley near Blythe. The rock is beautiful multi-colored marble and quartzite thrust-faulted from Arizona. It is thought to be the same rock metamorphosed, as that revealed in the Grand Canyon's walls. Our four days of backpacking will be unrushed and mostly in canyon bottoms and washes, but we must carry water. We'll take a day to climb Big Maria Peak (3381'). Days should be warm, nights cool with brilliant stars. Early rains may have leafed out the shrubs by the time we get there. Let's look forward to the spiny green wands of newly-leafed ocotillo!



Marble Canyon/Death Valley Backpack Easy

Date: Dec 24-26 (Sat-Mon)
Contact Leader: Steve Tabor
Phone: (510) 357-6585

My holiday gift to you: easy backpacking in a well-decorated canyon on Death Valley's west side. Marble and Cottonwood Canyons are known for their beautiful rock and petroglyphs. We'll backpack in one day, explore without packs on the second, and backpack out on the third. Water shows on the map, as do tight, twisting canyons and side canyons. Expect some cold, short days, plus brilliant stars. Rain enhances.

Orocopia/Mecca Hills Carcamp Easy/Strenuous

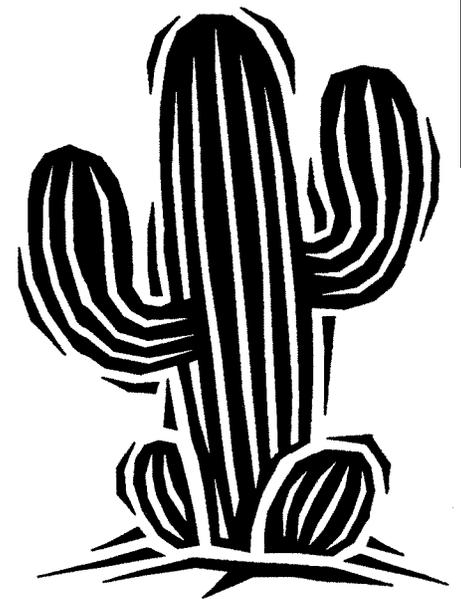
Date: Dec 31-Jan 2 (Sat-Mon)
Contact Leader: Steve Tabor
Phone: (510) 357-6585

Features of this desert carcamp include an exploration of the twisting sandstones of Mecca Hi, a climb of Orocopia Mountain (3815') with its excellent long views, and a visit to the fabled Salton Sea, below sea level at -234'. Hiking will be easy, except for the peak which may be quite demanding (hikers need not climb the entire distance). Enjoy the desert's clear air and low, photogenic shadows. Days will be short & nights long - our campfires will be welcome beneath starlit skies.

Granite Mountain/ Cadiz Valley Carcamp Easy/Strenuous

Date: Feb 18-20 (Sat-Mon)
Contact Leader: Steve Tabor
Phone: (510) 357-6585

Granite Mountain rises high above Cadiz Valley's sandy floor, intriguing the enterprising peakbagger and goading him or her on. We'll spend a couple of days in the valley and its dunes and bordering ranges, and one day climbing the peak. This range is at the breakoff point between Mojaavean and Sonoran vegetation, which should make for some interesting botanizing. Days are short but sweet this time of year, but temperatures should be warming up, and good rains may have already leafed out the brush. Hikes on days one and three will be easy. The Peak (4353') is strenuous, but hikers need not go to the top.



Frozen Farewell and Homer's Nose



Marc Jablonski, David Hough (rhymes with tough) and I headed up to Mineral King for mid-October ascents of Mt Vandever and Sawtooth Peak. The weather report was iffy but we had hope in our hearts. At the roadhead, low, dark clouds covered the sky completely. We couldn't see any summits. We walked up the trail to Farewell Gap. We saw

snowflakes almost immediately, and by 9000' we had snow accumulating on our clothing. By 10000', the trail was obscured. In Farewell Gap (10458'), visibility was only a couple hundred feet, the wind was raging and conditions were worsening. We crouched behind a boulder and ate. In the 15 minutes we were stopped, fresh accumulation and wind drift eliminated our footprints. We retreated.

We decided that for Sunday we'd try a lower elevation outing, so we went to the South Fork trailhead, near Three Rivers. There's a charming free campground called Clough Cave with only nonpotable water, at about 3600'. Two trails lead from the road's end to groves

of Big Trees. We chose the Ladybug trail, followed it beyond an attractive campsite beside Cedar Creek at about 5050' and picked up a signed but unmaintained northbound trail. It was overgrown but passable, at least by rabbits. We followed the trail to about 6000', but decided against attempting an ascent of 9005' Homer's Nose because of our late start.

We agreed that the South Fork of the Kaweah is an enjoyable area, and that Homer's Nose is an attractive granite dome worth a return visit. I'd like to make a late season two day trip, camping at Cedar Creek and day hiking Homer's.

-Aaron Schman

Tahoe
Lodging
for
\$14
a week.

Ski cooperative is seeking a few new members to share the cost of renting a fully equipped condo on the N. Shore for 5.5 months. Cost is \$370. Our group has been together for 10 years, always renting the same, well located condo in Tahoe City. Please phone or e-mail Phone Tim Hult with questions.
HULTAA@fallbrook.com

DON'T BE SO SOFT, NIGEL -
YOU CAN'T GALL THESE
CONDITIONS 'ARTIC'



Mt. Hooper September 3-5

Over the Labor Day weekend, after acquiring Debbie Benham's Florence Lake Wilderness Permit, seven of us went on a backpack trip to Mt. Hooper. Our hastily assembled group consisted of: Leighton Nakata, Dan Tischler, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Carol Springer, Zenta Tsuchihashi, Jemetha Clark, and myself. We had hoped on taking the ferry across Florence Lake, but because the lake level was so low the ferry service had been discontinued for the year. Our planned ten mile hike into a basecamp at Sally Keyes Lakes became more like a fifteen mile hike. The long climb from Blaney Meadows up to Sally Keyes was particularly tiresome, and consequently there were a number of weary hikers at camp that first night.

The following day we headed for Mt. Hooper by way of Seldon Pass. After we left the trail and scrambled up over some rocks we got our first view of the mountain, which is the highest and most distinctive peak west of Seldon Pass. To the east the view was dominated by the large mass of Seven Gables. As we worked our way up the southern ridge of Mt. Hooper we met another group that was also heading up the mountain. We later learned that one member from this other group had climbed Mt. Everest two years before. Unfortunately, I do not remember his name. The Mt. Everest veteran and Zenta reached the summit pinnacle first and both immediately climbed to the very top sans belay. The rest of us arrived a short while later and used the safety of a rope to climb the summit pinnacle. We climbed

the crack that is located on the south side of the pinnacle, which is about class 5.6 in difficulty. Unfortunately, we did not find the ladder that Roper describes in his guidebook. As we prepared to descend, a third group appeared. It was a busy day on Mt. Hooper!

We arrived back at Seldon Pass around 2:30pm. It was still somewhat early and three of us - Leighton, Zenta and I - decided to try for another peak, so while the rest of our group hiked back to camp, the three of us worked our way up the northern side of Mt. Senger. Eventually we gained the ridge just west of, and a few hundred feet below the summit. A short while later we were on top. It was a beautifully clear day, and we could spot peaks far in the distance. Although our route of ascent - which was class 2 in difficulty - is not in Roper's guidebook,

we could see footprints so we knew that it had been done before. Easy slopes lead from the summit of Mt. Senger directly down to Sally Keyes Lakes. We arrived in camp at around 6:30pm.

On the third day of our trip we hiked back to the cars. It took us about half the time to descend to Blaney Meadows as it took us to go up. When we got to Florence Lake we decided to abandon the trail and try and walk directly as would be possible across the drained reservoir. We stayed on the east side of the reservoir until we reached the dam, at which point we crossed over to the west side via a pathway directly underneath the dam. Although this ended up being a very interesting alternative to the well used trail, I doubt that it saved us much time.

- *George Sinclair*

Wilderness Etiquette *By Emily Postpile*

Dear Emily Postpile,

I thought you might want to pass on these handy tips for unique uses of panty shields to your female readers-

Don't want to pack in clean underwear on your backpacking trip? Just carry some panty shields and change those as needed.

And one female PCSer recently discovered this novel use for her panty shields. She was developing some hotspots on the balls of her feet on the hike up to base camp. Applying moleskin did not provide

quite enough padding, so she cut up some panty shields and inserted them in the bottom of her boots, and voila! - no blisters.

Can you think of any other ideas?

Signed-Prepared in Palo Alto

Dear Prepared

Three cheers for being prepared. The first thought I have is potholders. I cannot count the times I have scorched myself on a hot pan or coffee pot, when if I would have had a panty shield close by... Well, you know the rest.

Emily

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For change of address, contact Paul Vlasveld, 789 Daffodil Way, San Jose, CA 95117; (H) 408/247-6472, (W) 408/257-7910x3613

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.



Deadline for the next issue is November 25, 1994.

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First Class Mail
Dated Material!