

Scree

December, 1995

Peak Climbing Section, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Vol. 28, No. 12

Next Meeting

PROGRAM: Party!

DATE: Tuesday 12 Dec 1995

TIME: 7:30 pm

LOCATION:

The famous Cafe Iris at Silicon Graphics



To get to Silicon Graphics, take the Shoreline Blvd exit from US-101 in Mountain View. From either the northbound or southbound directions, make a right exit, then turn left at the top of the ramp, heading north through the industrial park.

1.3 miles from the top of the ramp, there'll be the unmistakable Shoreline Amphitheater on your left - a giant two poled white tent. Another landmark at the same corner is the charming red abstract sculpture on your right.

Turn right at that corner, onto Stierlin Court. You're on the SGI campus. Park anywhere that isn't a fire lane, a handicapped space, or a loading dock. *Building 5* (with Cafe Iris) is the fourth building on the right.

Bring your "best" potluck dish. If you need a suggestion for what to bring, follow this guide based on the initial letter of your last name:



- ◆ A-F: snacks, appetizers, salads (28%)
- ◆ G-L: drinks (25%)
- ◆ M-R: main course (24%)
- ◆ S-Z: desserts (23%)

NOTE: Names have been re-arranged from last year to avoid picking on the same people!

PCS Holiday Party

We looked for graphics of a pine tree, a menorah, the Matterhorn, a crèche, etc.... But in the end we decided to use these pretty pictures instead so as not to offend anyone! If you care about the name of the party, make sure to bring it up at the meeting.

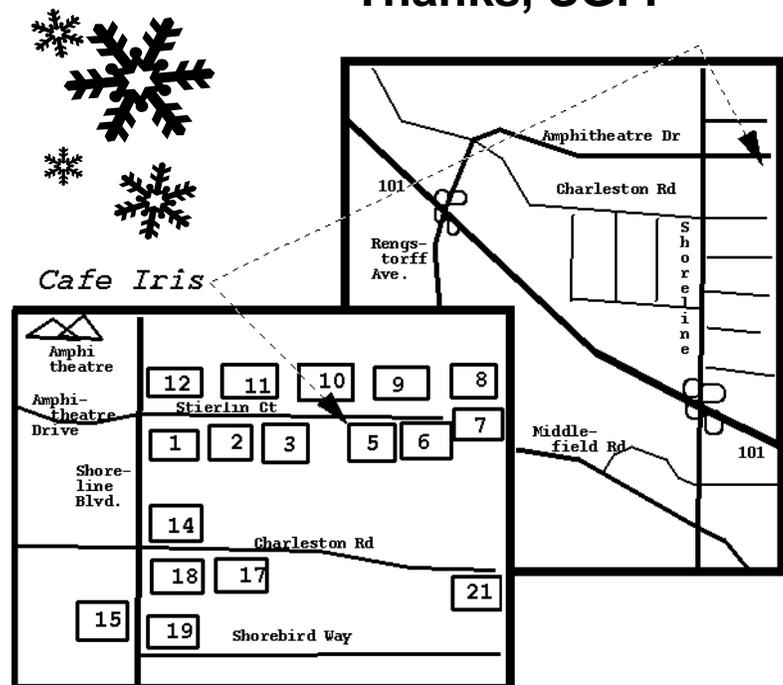
This Winter Climbing Celebration (sometimes called "The Christmas Party", by people who don't know about the Chanukah Celebration, the Solstice Fling, or the Kwaanza Bash) will be a rousing evening of food and drink, songs and games (nerds are welcome also, according to one of the organizers). There will be a potluck dinner, followed by a slide show of everybody's favorite trips. Bring ten of your most exciting, embarrassing, or "hideous exposure" slides to show at the party!

There's updated information and even a gif map to the Cafe Iris in

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/xmas.html>

Aaron and Anouchka, our co-sponsors at SGI, managed to get access to this facility at no charge.!

Thanks, SGI !



1996 PCS Roster Needs Updating

Paul Vlasveld will have the current PCS *mailing list* at the December meeting. Plan to attend, and to check your name/address/phone/email information. The 1996 roster will be published in the January or February Scree, and will contain email addresses for those who wish to release them. You must contact Paul if you wish to have your email info listed (just being signed up for the SC-PCS *Email broadcast* is not enough because your name is not always associated with your email address).

We need to help the new PCS treasurer (Jim Ramaker) start the official *membership list* at the meeting also, now that those who have a free EScree subscription (as opposed to the hardcopy Scree) can still be listed as PCS members with the right to vote.

Multi-Media Trip Reports

Those who read trip reports on the PCS web page should be overjoyed to see the arrival of multimedia reports. Kelly's story of his trek up Mount Ritter in August 1995,

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/Reports/1995.8.html#ritter>

includes a bit of highlighted text referring to a photo. Click on that text, and you download a splendid gif image (retouched by Anouchka) of four of Kelly's companions struggling up the glacier.

Peter's July 1995 trip to Mont Blanc ("Aiguille to Disagree") is another example:

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/Reports/1995.8.html#argentiere>

I'd encourage PCS reporters to provide me with multimedia material. Photos are the likeliest extension to prose, but I'll take audio tape, video tape, virtual reality models, you name it. If it can be sent over the web, I'll publish it.

The kind of pictures I want are action shots of PCS people having fun climbing. Or PCS people scared out of their minds climbing. Or PCS people freezing their butts off climbing. Good facial expression is everything in a photo. I don't need scenery shots without people. I don't really like posed summit photos unless they tell a story.

If you are lucky enough to have a color scanner, you can email scanned images to <schuman@sgi.com>. But for everybody else, just loan me your prints. I'll scan them for you and return them.

If you can view MPEG video, take a look at Jim Curl's glorious ascent of Mount Sill on July 3, 1993, in Victor Anderson's video,

<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/MultiMedia/sill.mpg>

– Aaron Schuman

PCS / STS / DHS / CMC / SPS OnLine!

Whether or not you are receiving the hardcopy Scree, consider signing up for the SC-PCS *Email broadcast*: We exchange up-to-the-minute road conditions, items of general interest for which there is not room in the Scree, and last-minute trip announcements. Anyone can send messages to the entire list, which now has about 170 subscribers, compared to 200 hardcopy Scree subscribers. For information, send email to <listserv@netcom.com> with the one-line message

info sc-pcs

or subscribe with the one-line message

subscribe sc-pcs

There are several other lists associated with the Loma Prieta Chapter. I'm working with the Ski Touring Section to get their newsletter (Track) sent out via email, and the Day Hiking Section already sends their schedules over their broadcast list. To find out more, just replace "sc-pcs" with "sc-sts" or "sc-dhs" in the info/subscribe lines above.

In a similar vein, there is an email broadcast list for the California Mountaineering Club. This group has broadcast their climbing schedule also. For information, send email to <listserv@netcom.com> with the message

info ca-cmc

or subscribe with the one-line message

subscribe ca-cmc

If you would like an electronic copy of the National, Chapter, or PCS bylaws, you can get them by sending Email to <ftp-request@netcom.com> with one or more of these lines in the message:

GET /pub/ec/eckert/broadcast/SierraClubBylaws.txt

GET /pub/ec/eckert/broadcast/LomaPrietaChapterBylaws.txt

GET /pub/ec/eckert/broadcast/PeakClimbingSectionBylaws.txt

For a complete list of the files available, including a list of Sierra Peaks and Ranger Contact info, the last few issues of the EScree, and official Sierra Club policies, send this two-line message to <ftp-request@netcom.com>

DIR /pub/ec/eckert/broadcast

DIR /pub/ec/eckert/SierraClubArchives

We just received word that the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) and several other sections from the Angeles Chapter intend to start broadcasting their climbing schedule also, since we often climb in the same places and many people are members of both groups.

At this time, I don't plan to include the SPS schedule in the Scree, since they have so many hikes, but I'll certainly consider it if there is a demand. On the next page you'll find an extract of their most recent schedule, in case you're going to LA for the holidays

– Ed.

SPS/DPS/HPS December Schedule Summary

Here's a summary listing of the next month's outings of the Angeles Chapter's climbing sections (HPS, DPS, SPS). Members and nonmembers welcome.

If it's welcome, I plan to post a regular monthly list of Angeles climbing outings [on the sc-pcs email broadcast] for anyone who's interested and around to join us.

We're getting the climbing sections working together on common interests, both inside and outside the Chapter. Our recent ExComm election is a demonstration; half of the ten-member board are now SPS members/leaders.

Let's get more inter-Chapter outings participation and dialog going. The SPS (and CMC) has facilitated some of that, with it's far-flung membership. Your list server is a great example of what can be done.

- DEC 2 - O: Topatopa Bluff (6367')
Strenuous, 14 miles, 4500' gain.
- DEC 2-3 - I: Last Chance (8456'), Sandy (7062'): Two moderate trudges in Death Valley
- DEC 2-3 - I: Sheephole Mtn (2927'), Pinto Mtn (3983'): Sat easy 9 mi rt, 2400' gain, Sun 5 mi rt, 2100' gain.
- DEC 2-3 - I: Rosa Point (5038'), Villager (5756'): Tough class 2 cross-country peaks in Anza Borrego.
- DEC 2-3 - I: Rabbit Peak (6640'), Villager (5756') Very strenuous approximately 21 mi, 7400' gain backpack all cross-country.
- DEC 9 - O: San Gabriel (6161'), Mt Disappointment (5994'), Mt Deception (5796'): 6 mi rt, 1300' gain.
- DEC 9 - O: Round (5272'), Luna (5967'), Rattlesnake (6131'): Moderately easy, 8 miles, 2200' gain.
- DEC 9-10 - I: Stepladder Mtn (2927'), Chemehuevi Peak (3694'): Moderately paced climb in San Bernardino.
- DEC 13 - SPS Annual Banquet Celebrating 40 Year of Sierra Club Climbing.
- DEC 16 - O: Monrovia Peak (5409'): Strenuous 12 mi rt, 5000' gain hike from Monrovia Canyon Park.
- DEC 16-17 - M: Kofa (4877'), Castle Dome (3788'): Join aging leader for class 3+ scramble in distant Arizona.
- DEC 16-17 - I: Beauty Pk (5548'), Iron Springs Mtn (5755'), Combs Pk (6193') Two bush heaps.
- DEC 30 - O: Josephine Peak (5558'): Prepare for the New Year with this moderate hike to local peak; 6mi rt, 1800'.

– Erik Siering (very much condensed for Scree)

Winds In The Night

Siamak Navid, Bill Kirkpatrick, and I (Jim Ramaker) drove over to the Palisades to tackle Mt. Winchell (13,768) on a three-day weekend in mid-September. We spent the first night at Deadman Summit on Highway 395 -- if you're heading over to the Bishop area, Deadman Summit is far warmer and more comfortable than Camp 9, and it's only about 1000 feet lower, so you still get some acclimatization.

On Friday morning we drove to Glacier Lodge on the Big Pine Creek road for breakfast, then shouldered our packs about 9:30 and hiked up past First, Second, and Third Lakes. About 2:30 we arrived at Sam Mack Meadow, a 100-yard long patch of bright green grass amid the rocks at 11,000 feet, with one of those wide, shallow alpine creeks running down the middle of it. We set up camp in the rocky grove of trees to the right and took naps in the afternoon sun.

A wind came up in the late afternoon, and things cooled off quickly as the sun dipped below the massive 14,000 foot ridge of Thunderbolt Peak to the southwest. After supper the wind really started blowing, so we climbed in our bags around 7 to keep warm. We thought we'd lie awake for hours waiting to get tired, but actually it was a wonderful experience lying there toasty warm while the wind roared across the ridges and through the trees, the sky slowly darkened, and the stars and the Milky Way appeared.

Saturday morning we were up at 6 and rolling just after 7. A steep snow gully at the west end of the meadow offered a direct route to the alpine basin above, but it was rock hard at this hour so we turned right and climbed up ledges toward rockbound Sam Mack Lake. At the far end of the lake we got caught up on a hump with cliffs dropping off to left, right, and center, but Siamak found a way to climb down so we could go forward instead of retracing our steps. For the next two hours we walked gently upward across snowfields and moraines, arriving at the base of the peak around 10.

We spotted the two gullies mentioned in Secor, separated by a steep buttress with two pinnacles on top of it. Just right of the two pinnacles, high up in the right hand gully, is a prominent area of white rock. We climbed up the right hand gully to the top edge of the area of white rock (which is about 50 feet from the top of the gully), then traversed left and crossed the buttress into the left hand gully, which is much easier than the right hand gully at this point. From there, a couple hundred feet of easy class 3 took us to the summit.

Siamak and I topped out at 11:30, and then Siamak generously climbed down several hundred feet to check on Bill, who'd been climbing at his own pace. After awhile all three of us were on top, enjoying the views of Thunderbolt, North Pal, and their glaciers, and Dusy Basin and the Mt. Goddard area to the west. Last night's wind had died down, so we spent over an hour on top, taking hero photos, eating lunch, and reading the register.

Descent down the gully and the moraines, past a snowbound, iceberg-filled lake, and down the steep snow gully to the meadow took about 2 ½ hours, so we had plenty of time for another great afternoon nap before cooking supper. Around 6 the wind came up again, so we retreated to our bags again around 7 to get warm, thus ensuring a PCS record for hours of sleep on a weekend climbing trip.

Sometime in the wee hours I was jolted awake by a weird yowling sound close by, and next morning I found some large prints with claw marks in the mud by the creek, so it's possible we were visited by a mountain lion. I carefully scanned the barren valley for him next morning but of course the phantom had disappeared.

Over breakfast we talked to a couple of technical climbers camped nearby. They were planning to do the Palisades traverse from Thunderbolt Peak to Mt. Sill, but they gave new meaning to the term non-alpine start—at 9 a.m. when we hiked out they were still puttering around cooking breakfast.

The hike out was pleasant except for the last hour through treeless high-desert sagebrush in the hot sun. Thankfully, we were at the car by noon, and by 1 p.m. we were sitting in the air-conditioned Sizzler in Bishop, as another grueling PCS epic drew to a close.

— Jim Ramaker

The Ladies And I Go For A Stroll

Twice in October I listed an extreme hike with both the Day Hiking and Peak Climbing Sections. Twice in October I was the only male on the trip. Hey, guys, what's up? Gone soft? It's not *all* bad to be surrounded by the opposite sex, but it makes you careful about the jokes you tell... Anyway, here's just a quick note about each climb:

Clouds Rest and Half Dome on 10/14/95: Dee Booth, Suzanne Remien, Bonnie Reusch, and Steve Eckert took advantage of Cecil Magliocco's Yosemite car camp arrangements as a jumping off point for this day hike. We gathered at Happy Isles (in Yosemite Valley) just at first light and stormed up the Mist Trail. Despite the fears of some, the "mist" was only a memory at this time of year, the steps were all dry and the climb was not as cold as anticipated. Two of us stopped for water in Little Yosemite Valley, and spent the next hour and a half trying to catch Dee and Bonnie. Dee summited first, singing "Rocky's Theme" and dancing on the rocks. (OK, not really dancing, but showing the obvious advantages of concerted training.)

We had a nice long lunch and headed over to Half Dome, where the cable supports had already been taken down for the season. It was late enough in the day that the crowd was thinning, and we took advantage of the pile of gloves at the bottom of the cables. The cables had to be picked up as you walked up the slope, but this was not really a problem. Dee got to the cables first, but decided not to go up again, and Bonnie had a last-minute surge of energy as perhaps

the last person to summit that day. We made our way back to the cars as it got dark, after about 8000' of gain and 27 miles, and finished off the day with beer and chips in the Valley (more smoky than usual due to "controlled burn" fires).

San Jacinto on 10/28/95: Dee Booth, Bonnie Reusch, and Steve Eckert joined the Coachella Valley Hiking Club for their third annual "Cactus to Clouds Challenge" day hike. Dinesh Desai tipped us off that this climb was becoming a classic: The "Outlaw Trail" starts in Palm Springs (at the west end of Ramon Road just off Highway 111) and winds up through the desert to Long Valley (the upper end of the aerial tram). This trail is not maintained, but it's not illegal either. From the tram station, the angle of ascent tapers off and the trail becomes official.

The Angeles Chapter's Desert Peaks Section, and the San Diego Peaks Club, also did climbs of the same route on the same day, for a reported total of 80 people! It was astonishing to those of us from the Bay Area that a day hike with over 10,500' of gain could draw such a crowd, but people in their 60's were slugging it out with best of us. By starting before dawn, we avoided most of the heat. The peak was cool (mid-40s) with high cloud cover and haze in the valley, but we enjoyed it just the same. For reference, the CVHC has 700 members, and is only 3 years old: That's an outreach program, eh? Anyway, on the way back down, we stopped at the top of the tram for an "Alpine Mudslide" - some concoction with Kahlua and whipped cream and who knows what else. It did knock the aches off the day.

— Steve Eckert

WANT AD: Roommate

M/F Roommate Wanted to share Townhouse: Santa Clara near 237. \$450/mo + 1/2 utilities includes: off street parking, access to swimming pool, private bath, furnished living spaces, use of kitchen etc. Non-smoking and non-TV addicted only please. Phone 408-970-0760, or email <HULTTAA@alisa1.lockheed.com>.

— Tim Hult

Thanks & Goodbye to Kai

Kai Wiedman has resigned as Chair of the Mountaineering Committee after serving five long years. If any PCS member is interested in filling this vacancy, please notify Debbie Benham at 415/964-0558. The Mountaineering Chair is appointed by the Section Chair, coordinates the Mountaineering Committee (comprised of two other people, one of whom is the current Trip Scheduler), and is one of three people to oversee PCS Leadership. They review completed leadership applications and decide eligibility for leading official, Sierra Club PCS trips. Interested persons should be an active, experienced leader of the Section and have shown sound judgment and mountaineering skill.

— Debbie Benham

Climbing and Training Insurance Is Back!

This article appeared in the "Group And Chapter Outings Newsletter". This is a Sierra Club Publication dated November 1995, Edition III, Sierra Club Outings Department, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 923-5652

Questions on outings policies and insurance (including certificates of insurance): Cathy Benton (415) 923-5652 or Hamilton Leong (415) 923-5574. You can also access these and other Sierra Club people through the Internet at <firstname.lastname@sierraclub.org>

– *Charlie Knapke*

MOUNTAINEERING COVERAGE EXPANDED! Limited training now allowed!

The Club's insurance coverage has been renewed and expanded effective November 1st. We are pleased to report that we negotiated broader coverage for our domestic liability insurance while keeping the premium the same.

Leaders have done an exemplary job of conducting outings and events where safety is of primary concern.

We're also please to report that limited training, which was previously excluded on rock-climbing and mountaineering trips, will now be allowed. This coverage extends to instruction courses designed to improve or certify climbing skills for leaders of such activities, or to instruction courses or training schools for participants who are Sierra Club members, designed to improve climbing skills. As in the past, all rock-climbing and mountaineering activities must be certified in advance by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee, (Cal French, chair). For information or an application, contact Cathy Benton (see resources box, page 4).

Participants on rock-climbing/mountaineering outings will no longer be assessed a \$10 per day fee for Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage, nor will the leaders have to pay for Workers Compensation coverage, though they will still be covered by the policy.

Leaders will still be required to complete an After Trip Report within 30 days of the trip end date. By applying for, obtaining approval for, and running a mountaineering/rock-climbing outing, leaders agree to fulfill this essential part of the requirements.

As with any trip, leaders are also required to return an Accident or Illness Report whenever an injury or accident occurs. Any serious injury should be reported immediately by telephone and followed up with a written report.

Our thanks go out for all the Outings Leaders for their efforts in contributing to an effective risk management program.

The risk management team is planning to update the insurance manual for distribution in the spring. If you have any questions or comments that would help make the manual more effective, please let us know very soon so that we may incorporate your comments.

– *Cathy Benton and Hamilton Leong*

Changes Coming for Permit Reservations

Peter and I checked at a few ranger stations on Labor Day weekend to find current quotas for trailheads. We were told that the backcountry permit system was to be revamped for the next permit season and to be taken over by a private service. Quotas also may be changes, we were told. We were to keep checking back. I can't remember if this was mentioned at any of the meetings.

Today I called Mike Morse, (619)924-5511, at the Mammoth Ranger station to check on the status of the situation. He's the backcountry ranger, I think. He said that they're still accepting bids from folks to take over the system, but that it would be in place by March 1. When I asked him if it also affected Yosemite, with the Feb. 1 deadline, he said he thought it only involved the Inyo National Forest trailheads.

Peter and I had thought the change was to cover the whole Sierra. So that's the latest info. Morse advised me to call again in January and to also check the papers as it will be explained there as well.

If I'm not at the next meeting, arrive late, leave early, etc., will someone please report this information? Thanks,

– *Cecil Magliocco*

Below is an UNVERIFIED post from the rec.backcountry newsgroup on the Internet. - Ed.

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 1995 16:28:49 GMT

From: brick@ix.netcom.com

Newsgroups: rec.backcountry

Subject: All Mt Whitney Trips Will Require \$ Permit - Even Day Trips

Beginning in 1996, ANY visit to the summit of Mt. Whitney will require a special permit. If you have hiked from Yosemite on the John Muir Trail, you will need this permit to complete the trip from trail junction to the summit.

There will be a fee charged to get the permit, in addition to a quota system. The exact details will not be worked out until January, but the decision has been made.

This was a "management decision," and did not require public comment, or approval. For further information, contact the Mt Whitney Ranger Station, after January, at 619-876-6200 The person responsible for this change is:

Patricia Franco White Mountain Ranger District
798 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514

– *Brick Robbins*

Unofficial (Private) Trips

Private trips may be submitted directly to the Scree Editor, but are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club or the PCS. They are listed here because they may be of interest to PCS members, not because they are endorsed by the PCS. OK?

Desert Peaks

Peaks: Avawatz, Granite II, Turtle, Rosa Point
Date: Dec 27-Jan 1 Wednesday-Monday
Contact: Bill Hauser 408-243-4566

Meet in Baker, California at the Junction of Highway 127 and Business 15 on Wednesday, 12/27/95, at 7:00 AM to climb Avawatz Mountain. The elevation is 6,154 feet and there is 2,500 feet of gain. Next we will climb Granite II (2,500 foot gain), Turtle (2,100 foot gain), and Rosa Point (4,000 foot gain). We will be car camping. The trip can be windy and cold at times. Call me for any further explanation.

Conditioning Bike

Peak: Mt Tamalpias Class 1 - 2,517'
Date: January 27 Saturday
Raincheck: February 4 Sunday
Contact: Phyllis Olrich 415-322-0323
phylliso@forsythe.stanford.edu
Co-Contact: Patt Baenen 415-494-3022
pattb27@aol.com

Join Patt and me for a killer mountain bike ride up Mt. Tam. If off-road conditions are too muddy, we'll opt for a 40-mile road ride up to Skyline from Palo Alto. Rain postpones to the Raincheck Date.

Aconcagua Acclimatization

Peak: Mt Shasta Snow - 14,162'
Dates: January 5-7 Friday-Sunday
Contact: Steve Eckert H/W 415-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com

This trip is not for beginners, but is not intended to be an ice climb either. We will sleep on the summit plateau Saturday night for maximum altitude conditioning. Aconcagua climbers are encouraged to bring heavy packs and gear, and to climb with their intended partners. Non-expedition climbers are welcome also. Bad weather shortens but does NOT cancel this trip. Plan on below zero temps and high wind, like you would expect on any really high peak.

Meet outside the Fifth Season in Shasta Village at 7am on the 5th, *fully packed and ready to drive* to the trailhead. Form your own climbing teams in advance: no need to contact the Contact unless you want to know who else is looking for partners.

Official (PCS) Trips

PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see cover).

Speak of Diablo

Peak: Mount Diablo Class 1 - 3,849'
Date: January 7 Sunday
Leader: Kelly Maas H: 408-279-2054
maas@idt.com W: 408-944-2078

Start off the new year with a local climb. We'll ascend the north side of Mount Diablo, which is quite different from the other sides. Expect about 17 miles and 3500'. Meet at 9:00 at the Mitchell Canyon trailhead in Clayton or carpool from the Bank of America on Calaveras (237) at Hillview (near 680) in Milpitas at 7:40.

Palmer Promises Pyramid Peak

Peak: Pyramid Peak Class 2 - 9,983'
Date: January 13-15 Saturday-Monday
Leader: Palmer Dyal H: 415-941-5321
W: 415-604-6545

Co-Leader: Wanted
Topo: Pyramid Peak 7.5'

This will be a moderately-paced 3 mile snowshoe trip to climb a relatively easy peak in the Desolation Wilderness area southwest of Lake Tahoe. The elevation gain is about 1000' per mile and we plan to camp at tree line. We will have time to build snow caves on the first day and view the marvelous glaciated scenery of the whole Tahoe basin from the peak on the second day. There will be a choice of returning on Sunday or Monday depending on the weather, etc. This will be a good trip for beginning climbers.

Mt. Harrington Trip Report

Four of us set out on Friday, 9/22/95, for Kings Canyon to climb Mt. Harrington. The participants were Jim Gardiner, Greg McDonald, Jeff West, and Paul Magliocco, the trip organizer. The plan was to meet Steve King, who was driving up from his house near Fresno, at Road's End on Saturday morning.

We stopped for dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory on the north side of Highway 180, just a short distance east of Highway 99. This is connected to the Old Spaghetti Factory in San Jose, for those of you who like the place.

After entering Kings Canyon National Park, we started the proverbial Friday night discussion of "where should we crash for the next few hours without getting hassled by rangers." Well, we think we found a great spot. To get there, go 4.4 miles past the sign that says Grant's Grove Village (toward Cedar Grove). You will come to a dirt road on the left with a sign listing three trailheads. Take the dirt road for about a quarter mile until it splits three ways. Take the middle fork about six-tenths of a mile to a bend in the road where there is a big flat area to park and sleep.

This is National Forest land, so it's supposed to be legal to sleep there. No noise, no traffic, no hassles.

On Saturday morning, we found Steve at Road's End and drove back to the Lewis Creek trailhead. Starting at about 4,400 feet, we took off for Frypan Meadow at 7,800 feet. About a mile up the trail, we came across a rattlesnake that we estimate was about five feet long. He slithered slowly off, so we did, too. The trail from Frypan Meadow to Grizzly Lakes is steep and not maintained, disappearing in a few places. We finished the trudge to camp around 4:00 PM and relaxed, taking in the great view of Mt. Harrington and the Canyon below.

We woke up Sunday morning to a sky completely filled with a light cloud covering and to equipment completely covered with lots of condensation. Packing wet gear, we moved our packs toward Mt. Harrington, dropping them near the trail, and continuing on toward the peak with day packs. Mt. Harrington has an impressive final 300 feet of granite, looking very steep from all angles. The plan was to go up the class 3 north ridge. We ascended the gentle valley to the east of the summit, climbed over the ridge connecting to the final 300 foot summit block, and proceeded up the class 3 rock. The rock was superb, as was the exposure on the east side, making the climb very enjoyable. We were on the summit a leisurely 1.5 hours after dropping our packs.

The view from the top is absolutely spectacular. We could identify peaks from Milestone Mountain to Banner and Ritter. This peak (or nearby Kennedy Mountain) is a must for all serious peak gazers. Best of all, the peak looks like it is climbed only a few times a year.

We descended from the summit, dropped directly out of the notch below the summit into the gentle valley we had ascended, grabbed our packs and headed out through Wildman Meadow, exiting at Deer Cove around 3:45 PM. This is about 1.5 miles from Lewis Creek along Highway 180. The Wildman Meadow trail offers much better views than the Lewis Creek trail, both of Mt. Harrington and of the Great Western Divide. We didn't see any other people from the time we left our cars Saturday morning until we returned on Sunday afternoon. It was a nice trip late in the summer season.

– Paul Magliocco

Mid-September On Shasta

We met up with the rest of our party at the intersection of 97 and Pilgrim Creek Road that was to take us to the Brewer Creek trailhead. They were Kelly Maas, Rick Woodin, and Jonathan Penn. In our car were Kai Wiedman, leader, Dave Erskine, and myself. After hearing how little sleep they'd gotten by the railroad tracks, we were glad we couldn't find that spot the night before.

Our guide to the Brewer Creek trailhead was the new Fifth Season map which accurately guided us to where we wanted to go. This was much unlike our trip of several years ago when we diligently followed the directions on the

old map but ended up on a road that changed from bad to worse and got out and walked. Now we know those directions were wrong.

After leaving the cars, we hiked up the trail a bit, then cut cross country towards the easily visible Hotlam Bolam ridge. We looked back as we walked so we could retrace our steps. There are horror stories of people searching for their cars on the way out.

Once on the snow, we strapped on our crampons and headed up to the Hotlam Glacier, our intended route. When we hit the glacier, we roped up into two teams. There were plenty of crevasses, large and small, to be found, but the snow bridges were solid and provided safe crossings. We hoped to make it to 11,700 that night which would put us in good position to do the summit, descend, and drive home the next day. When we reached that spot, we were happy to find it to be very accommodating. There was little remodeling to do for those of us who had tents, and there were good bivy sites for the others. A bonus was a trickle of running water close by which saved us from melting snow.

From our vantage point, we could look up at the ice formations and crevasses towards the summit and down at a storm that was threatening close by. Fortunately, it didn't come our way.

In the morning we headed up for the summit. Kai wanted to go up to the steeper upper end of the glacier and cross the bergshroud. There was some concern (Kai called it trepidation) as we could see a snow bridge but didn't know if it would take us where we wanted to go. The other rope team chose to go a lower route.

We had to remind ourselves that we were in California. Kai called it a glaciated paradise! He said it was like going window shopping but not having to buy (i.e. fall into a 50-70 foot crevasse).

After the bergshroud, we belayed a tricky traverse which put us in the right spot to ascend our couloir. There we were, unroping, and looking up at 800 feet of 45 degree imposing ice in front of us. On the way up the couloir, Kelly suddenly appeared from the side and said that the other two parties on his rope team weren't feeling well and wanted to return. Kelly, coleader, graciously volunteered to go back with them.

It seemed that the couloir would go on forever. When we looked up it seemed that we were making very little progress, but finally the steepness relented. The payoff was that the summit was only 300 feet above us.

Several parties were already on top and had come up by various routes. The weather was unbeatable but we stayed only a little while, remembering that we had a long day ahead of us. Descending by almost the same route, we easily found the car and after a quick dinner in McLeod, headed back to the Bay Area for one of those well known PCS 2:00 a.m. returns.

– Cecil Magliocco

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Rock Climbing Classifications

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.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

In Upcoming Issues:

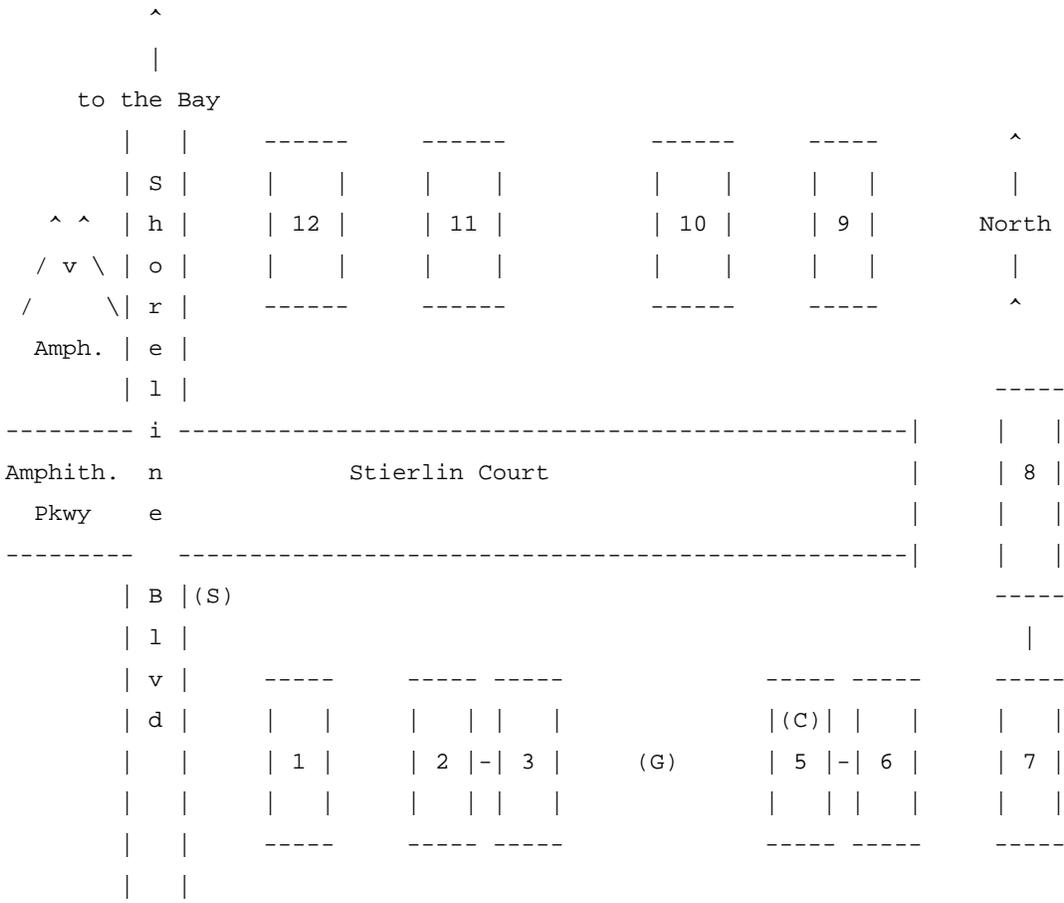
- New Mazones Guidebook
- The Lamont Loop
- Day Tripping Up Telescope The Hard Way
- solo trip report "Just Me and Mr. Marmot"
- The original "pondering" article for the Scree
- "Describe Your Closest Shave" compilation
- Ramaker's Rules for Reducing Rockfall
- Hi. My name is Jim C, and I'm a peak bagger.

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is 12/26/95. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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First Class Mail - Dated Material



(S) = Charming Red Abstract Sculpture
 to US-101 (G) = Gazebo
 | (C) = Cafe Iris
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