



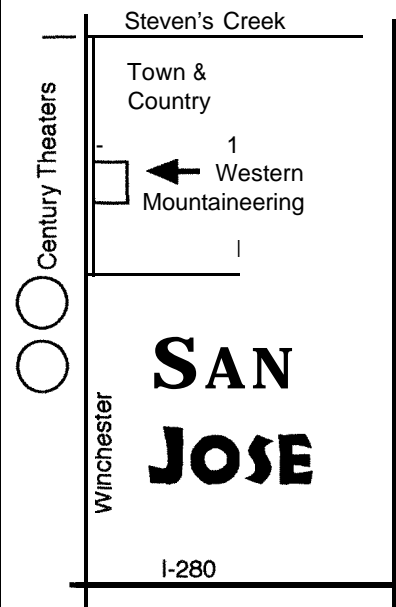
NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 13

Time: 8 p.m.

Place: Western Mountaineering
Town & Country Center,
San Jose

Program: "Royal Robbins: 40 Years of Adventure." During the '60s, when the sport of big-wall climbing was exploding, Robbins stamped his name on Yosemite's vertical landscape like no one has before or since. Come join one of America's most influential climbers for a look back at such landmark climbs as the first ascents of Half Dome's North west Face, the Salathe Wall and the North American Wall. (See March 1995 Scree for more on Robbins.) A \$5 donation will be requested at the door to benefit the Climbers' Access Fund.



Bad year for permits

V'ISIONS OF soaring granite peaks and sapphire blue alpine tarns danced through Peter Maxwell's mind as he mailed off his Labor Day wilderness permit applications on March 1.

But when he opened the return envelopes from the U.S. Forest Service a few weeks later, his jaw just about hit the floor.

"I got aced completely," said Peter.

He'd listed three different choices of trailhead for the Palisades and indicated he was willing to cut the group size down from eight to as low as four. No dice.

Peter wasn't alone this year. All in all, it was a fairly disappointing harvest of wilderness permits for PCS trip leaders. Siamak Navid, like Peter, listed several alternatives for Labor Day and didn't get a single one. Paul Magliocco applied for a permit for the Mcysan Lake trailhead (for Mallory and Irvine peaks) for Aug. 12-13 and was denied. His wife, Cecil Magliocco, applied for Mt. Russell for the following weekend and was also rejected.

Kai Wiedman's permit request for Mt. Ansel Adams over the Fourth of July weekend was nixed. Jim Curl applied for the Mt. Whitney Trail for Sept. 9, giving three alternatives. He whiffed completely.

"The ranger in Lone Pine told me they received about 2,500 Whitney trail permit requests postmarked March 1," said Jim.

Not everyone got aced on their permits, as a glance at the trip

schedule will show. (Private trips outnumber official PCS trips by more than two-to-one this season mostly because of the heavy snowfall, necessitating ice axes.)

But after a lull in the 1980s and early 1990s, it appears the backcountry is starting to get crowded again. No hard numbers are available, but the U.S. Forest Service says it has definitely noticed an upswing.

"Inyo National Forest had a big increase—a flood," said Gary Oye, a regional wilderness program leader with the USFS. "Also, it looks like people are figuring out the system. More people seem to know to postmark their applications March 1."

Resource manager Ken Cordell of the USFS is just now tabulating a national outdoor recreation survey.

"We thought we'd see backcountry use leveling off," he said, "but it's just the opposite. All kinds of backcountry use seem to be way up."

One place feeling the crush is the Mt. Whitney area. Due to the tremendous popularity of the lower 48's highest peak Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Park are instituting a new layer of backcountry bureaucracy: they will be designating a special management zone where special visitor permits will be required beginning in 1996.

All visitors to the zone, including backpackers and dayhikers on the Mt. Whitney Trail and hikers coming in from other trails will be required to have this special permit.

— John Flinn



ALTA/SILLIMANCARCAMP

June 16-17
1,204 feet, class 1
Leaders: Cecil and Paul Magliocco
(408) 358-1168;
~mag@ix.netcom.com
bpo: Triple Divide

Our reservation confirmation or Dorst Campground in Sequoia says that our group campsite "will accommodate 50 people, 11 automobiles or 7 busses." Bring the family for a fun time camping. There will be day hikes of Alta and/or Silliman on both Saturday and Sunday.

ARROW, PINCHOT, WYNNE

July 1-4
13,495 feet, class 3
Leader Kai Wiedman
(415) 347-5234
Topos: Mt. Pinchot, Aberdeen

Secor says the view of Arrow Peak from Bench Lake (our campsite) is one of the finest in the High Sierra. Our route is one of the hundred classics for the Sierra. Bolton Brown said this of his first ascent, "It called to me at breakfast, its rocky pinnacles beckoned me, its soaring summit challenged me...almost on the run for the sheer joy of that mountain and the delight of climbing up it." Please join me and experience the beauty of this seldom visited area.

RED AND WHITE

July 15-16
12,850 feet, class 3
Leader: Chris Macintosh
(415) 325-7841
After June 30, contact John Ester1
(510) 526-2216
Topos: Mt. Abbot, Convict L. 7.5

Norman Clyde described McGee Creek as a good approach to this peak, but given his

reputation for toughness, that could mean anything! The Northeast Ridge is said to have less loose rock than other routes, helpful for a group ascent. This is a lovely area to visit. Besides a good peak and great views, we should also enjoy wildflowers and other Sierran delights. Snow/water conditions in July: anybody's guess at the time of writing.

UNIVERSITY, INDEPENDENCE

July 29-30
13,632 feet, class 3
Leaders: John & Kate Ingvaldstad
(209) 296-8483, (408) 996-7129
Topos: Mt. Pinchot, Mount Whitney

On Saturday, following a short backpack from Onion Valley to Robinson Lake, we'll climb University Peak. The Sunday climb of Independence is only a 1,200-foot gain, so you'll be on the road headed home early. Both

peaks are class 3 with Independence on the "easy" side.

EVOLUTION BASIN PEAKS

Aug 5-12
13,000+ feet, class 3
Topos: Mt. Goddard 15', Mt. Darwin 7.5'
Leaders: John Ingvaldstad, Kate Ingvaldstad
(408) 996-7129, (209) 296-8483

From Lake Sabrina it's only one day in to Evolution Basin via the col between Mts. Haeckel and Wallace. Once situated, many Class 2 and 3 climbs beckon, including Heackel, Wallace, Fiske and Huxley, all over 13,000. Deserving separate mention is Mt. Darwin, the highest peak in the area at 13,830, and arguably one of the best Class 3 climbs in the Sierra, featuring multiple chutes and route-finding, and very solid, clean rock. Don't miss this week of thrills!

Report from the e-Scree band

IT WAS a long, drawn out process where the committee sequestered itself for days: (honorary invited member) Dick Simpson's fire flickered and flamed, Phyllis was badly bruised, Peter was left raving mad muttering Kiwi-isms to himself (she'll be right, and no worries mate) while Steve and Tim fought like cats long into the night. .

From over 5,000 lines of e-mail discussion, the study group has reached the following conclusions. Feel free to contact me before the next meeting for further discussion of ideas we kicked around.

A brief summary of our recommendations are:

1. Electronic Scree will be available free of charge

2. It will not be subsidized in any way by hardcopy subscriptions.

3. It should not be posted on any public bulletin board.

4. People receiving only the electronic Scree will have to apply separately for PCS membership.

These have been formalized in what follows. Our ByLaws call for day-to-day operating procedures to be published and voted on as "Operating Rules." We feel that allowing electronic Scree subscriptions to have equal footing with hardcopy Scree subscriptions is important enough to vote on and make a written part of the PCS's charter.

Note that an Operating Rule is not the same as a ByLaw change, in

YODELS

IT'S A TOPSY TURVY WORLD

Lost your bearings? It may not be your compass' fault. As the U.C. Santa Cruz magazine Currents recently reported, the earth's magnetic field "is not well behaved."

Researchers have discovered that every so often — say, every few hundred thousand years — the magnetic field pulls a dramatic reversal, with the north and south magnetic poles switching places. No one knows why.

UCSC Professor Robert Cox learned this while studying ancient lava flows at Steens Mountain in Oregon. The volcano erupted 16 million years ago, just as the magnetic field was undergoing one of its flip-flops. As the lava cooled, grains of minerals locked in the direction of the changing magnetic field. After studying the formation for years, Cox was able to "read" the changing direction of magnetic north as it was captured in the lava flow.

What astonished Cox was how fast it shifted: up to six angular degrees a day. The whole switch, though, appears to have taken several thousand years.

STORY WITH A SILVA LINING

Speaking of compasses, Steve Eckert weighs in with the story of the early surveyors who relied on the compass to chart the frontier. Although many brands of compasses were available, the best known was the Tates compass. It was cheap, so many surveyors bought it. Unfortunately, it was highly inaccurate. Virtually every surveyor who ventured into the wilderness using one was never seen again. Thus the saying, "He who has a Tates is lost."

Uh, thanks, Steve.

No FIRST AID STIPEND

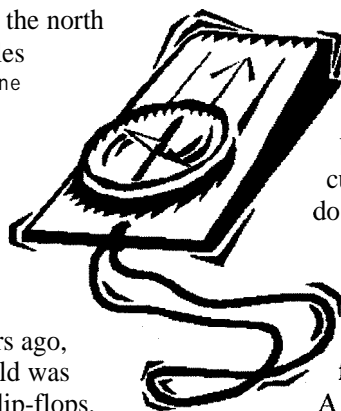
Four proposals concerning leader stipends for first aid card expenses were presented to the membership for vote at the May PCS meeting.

The first three proposals presented varying plans to give financial aid to leaders who must pay \$48 each time they take a first aid course (a

first aid card is one of the leadership requirements) The fourth proposal stipulated that no reimbursement be given at all, since current membership fees do not cover such expenditures, and special fund raising efforts would have to be implemented in order to pay for this aid.

A majority of those present at the meeting voted for the fourth proposal, so in the future, no first aid card fee reimbursement will be given.

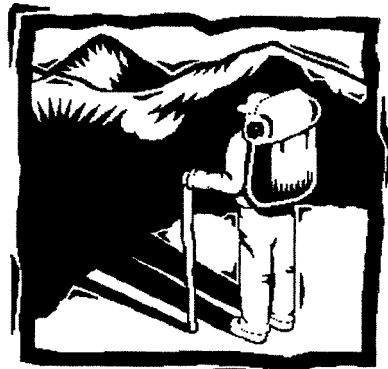
— Phyllis Olrich



RYBACK'S BACK

Those of you who were backpacking in the early 70s might remember Eric Ryback, the peripatetic youth who was among the first to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, and who wrote about it in "The High Adventure of Eric Ryback."

Ryback, who also hiked the Appalachian Trail and the obscure Continental Divide Trail, humping an 80-pound pack up to 30 miles a day, eventually disappeared from the backpacking scene. As Backpacker magazine reported recently, he's



resurfaced — as a highly successful mutual fund manager

Now 42, Ryback runs the \$3.5 billion Lindner Dividend Fund, which has grown more than 100-fold since 1982, yielding an average annual return of 13.5 percent.

Ryback no doubt advertises his mutual fund as the best place to invest your money for the long haul.

Now YOU KNOW

Q: Most of us have seen Illilouette Falls near Glacier Point in Yosemite. What does "Illilouette" mean?

A: According to the Chronicle, it is a translation of the original name Too-lool-lo-we-ack, which means "Man relieving himself on cliff."

THE LAST WORDS

6 i What do you call the first day of sun after two days of rain? Monday." — *overheard by Butch Suits at a climbing gym*

' 'The Edge. There is no honest way to explain it because the only people who really know where it is are the ones who have gone over." — *Hunter S. Thompson*

' ' Play for more than you can afford to lose, and you will learn the game." — *Winston Churchill*

' 'From a certain point onward, there is no longer any turning back. That is the point that must be reached." — *Franz Kafka*

ARMCHAIR MOUNTAINEERING

Anchors away: the art of Protection

CLIMBING ANCHORS by
John Long; Illps;
Chockstone Press; \$11.95

ACK WHEN I learned to climb, in the days of **B** Dulfersitz rappels and Tricouni nail boots, aspiring climbers went through a long apprenticeship before they felt ready to tackle moderate-to-hard fifth-class rock routes.

The idea was to practice the arts of placing protection and setting bombproof anchors until they were second nature. These skills, we understood, were more essential to staying alive than jamming, stemming, smearing and other flashy climbing moves. Only after mastering them would we venture onto the harder climbs. (And even then, some of us never got past the "moderate" level.)

Today's climbers, schooled in rock gyms and shod in sticky rubber, often seem to bypass this apprenticeship. They're whizzes on the rocks, to be sure, but their casual anchors send a chill down my spine. Often, they consider a couple of cams stuffed willy-nilly into shallow pockets to be sufficient.

In recent years, at Lover's Leap and Yosemite Valley, a few of these climbers have come to grief. They were tackling 5.9 and 5.10 climbs without much of an idea how to protect themselves, and when they fell their anchors popped like a wad of Double Bubble.

All this is by way of recommending a new how-to book, "Climbing Anchors," by John Long. Part of Long's "How to Rock Climb" series, it's a short but comprehensive manual covering everything from slinging horns to constructing complex, multidirectional, equalized belay anchors.

Because of the name I thought it would deal exclusively with belay anchors, but half the book concerns placing wired stoppers, Hexentrics, Tri-cams and camming devices for protection on lead. Long moves from theory to practical advice, illustrating his lessons with photographs that clearly show the essential points. It's sobering to discover how dubious some fine-looking placements actually are.

One of the most valuable parts of the book is an critique of several real-life belay anchors. Long notes the pros and cons of each set-up, and it

becomes clear that the perfect set of cracks is about as rare as the perfect limb for bear bagging. Craftiness and compromise are often necessary, and it quickly becomes evident that the difference between a good anchor and a death trap is sometimes very subtle indeed.

For me, one of the best discoveries in the book was an interesting new way of equalizing belay anchors. Called a "cordette," it consists of a 16-foot piece of 6 mm perlon cord tied in a loop. A climber clips it through three or more pieces of pro, pulls down the section of cord between each piece, ties off the sections with an overhand or figure-eight knot and clips into the resulting loop. (This is easier done than said, as illustrations in the book show.) I'm not sure what you're supposed to do with the 16-foot loop of perlon while you're climbing hut nevertheless it looks promising.

Anyway, Climbing Anchors is highly recommended for aspiring leaders, rock gym rats venturing onto the real stuff for the first time, sport climbers moving onto traditional routes and experienced climbers who rather think they know what they're doing.

— Joltn Flinn

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that it requires only a simple majority vote and does not require Chapter approval. Article III of the PCS ByLaws states "The membership roster shall be those members of the Sierra Club who subscribe to the Peak Climbing Section newsletter or who, already having access to the newsletter, send to the Secretary a written request for membership."

The new Rule 9501 would clarify this Article as follows: Proposed Rule 950 1: "The Peak Climbing Section newsletter shall be published in hardcopy format and in

an electronic format. Electronic subscriptions will be free, but will not be subsidized by hardcopy subscriptions. People receiving only the electronic version will have to apply to the Secretary to be on the membership roster. Because of Chapter policy that trips are not advertised outside Club publications, the electronic Scree shall contain a directive that it not be posted on public news groups."

Voting for the electronic Scree does not increase your subscription fees in any way, whether or not you elect to receive the electronic version.

Electronic subscribers will not have to pay fees for their subscriptions because there are no costs associated with the electronic version. Electronic subscribers may wish to receive a hardcopy subscription also, to keep in a drawer or so they can see the illustrations. Electronic subscribers will receive only the text for now, since pictures require large files or non e-mail access to the Internet, but this may change in the future.

— Steve Eckert, for the e-Scree Study Group (Tim Hult Peter Maxwell Phyllis Olrich. and Dick Simpson)

TRIP REPORTS

Another weekend, another adventure on Auberry Road

AFTER BEING snowed and blown off almost every peak I've tried this year, it was refreshing to drive to the Sierra under perfect skies on May 19.

We had great plans to bag Three Sisters as a day hike, then pack in to do Spanish Mountain and Tehipite Dome as an overnight trip. We also had common sense! The roads around Wishon and Courtright dams are plowed to where people live or spend money. They are not plowed to where people like to start hikes. Since Courtright is under 12 feet of snow, and will not be plowed until mid-July, we parked in Hall Meadow (the

Courtright turnoff from the Wishon Dam road) and headed toward Eagle Peak.

It's not Three Sisters, but it's over 10,000 feet and has a great view toward our overnight trip. The road is plowed to the power station between Wishon and Courtright, but it's gated and you have to walk between nine-foot walls of snow hoping no service vehicles come barreling down the mountain.

The Friday day hike crew consisted of Steve Eckert, David Harris, Bob Haxo and Ron Hudson. We tore up the three to four miles of dry pavement, but snowshoes were required as soon as we left the road for our cross-country jaunt.

Route choice debates raged as we traded miles for elevation gain, with the snowshoes changing the normal balance. We finally opted to

head straight for the peak, on a compass bearing through the trees. Uneventful climbing (walking?) led to a windy ridge with snow hard enough to take off the snowshoes around 9,500 feet. Eagle Peak had a register, with surprisingly few entries and none from this year. It felt more like February than May, and several of us wished we had skis (and skills) to enjoy the broad smooth slopes on the way down.

We had enough time left to pop over an unnamed dome on the way out, said "hi" to a marmot, and started some small snowslides glissading on snowshoes. (Well, Harris actually made it seem more like competitive diving with a fact plant glissade, but I promised not to embarrass him by saying anything here.)

Hudson and Harris played "Don't

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CLASSIFIEDS

PARTNERS WANTED: African Photo Safari and Kilimanjaro climb. Late Sept.-early Oct. We have a small party traveling to Africa to do the tourist route on Kilimanjaro then enjoy the "Chit of Africa" experience in the game reserves. Interested? Call Tim Hult 970-0760.

FOR SALE: Wilderness permit for Kearsarge Pass. Aug 5, four people. I'm going to the Canadian Rockies that weekend and can't use it. Phone Tim Hult (408) 970-0760

FREE PERMIT: Trailhead: Sabrina Lake. Party size: 8. Entry date: Thursday, July 27. Contact Debbie Benham (415) X3-0558 for confirmation letter.

FOR SALE: Stickers...4 x 11, white letters on green. **HIKE TIL YOU PEAK** and **NATURE HAPPENS**. \$2.00 each from Georgia, PO Box 2152, Sunnyvale, CA 91087-0152

A S K GASTON

DEAR GASTON: What do I do when it's 2 a.m., I'm bone tired but can't get to sleep because my partner is snoring so loud it sounds like a freight train about to mangle me over?
(Signed) Sleepless on Shasta

My dear Sleepless:

The great North Fares are out there to be conquered, the Last Great Problem of tired Himalaya awaits a solution-and you're bothering the great Gaston with...snoring? Fortunately, The World's Smartest Alpinist@ takes pity on you. Your letter reminds Gaston of all the sleep he's lost over the years due to the window-rattling snoring of his fellow climbers in the Argentiere Hut. Having spent countless wakeful hours contemplating revenge, he finally arrived at a solution. Opening his trusty Swiss Army Knife, Gaston tiptoed over to the bunk of the worst



offender and slit open the feather pillow right next to his mouth. This fellow's next snore resulted in him ingesting somewhat more than his minimum daily requirement of feathers. Gaston realizes this solution is probably not of much use to you on Mt. Shasta. How about a squirt gun? Now go and trouble me no more. Gaston has spoken.

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Follow the Leader” and took a drainage route back, while Haxo and Eckert retraced their route down the road and saved half an hour of plowing through the increasingly wet snow. We camped near the spillway on Wishon Dam, and enjoyed warm sun and snacks as the sun set.

The next morning we were joined by Scott Kreider, Ted Raczek Suzanne Remien, Warren Storkman and Bob Suzuki. The trip was revised from two peaks to one: our day hike had convinced us to ditch any attempt at Tehipite due to mileage and snow conditions.

We missed our start time by almost an hour, but took off cross country at a pretty good pace. It became clear that the snow would be too soft to sidehill along the route of The trail, so once again the route debate raged and we wound up Following Hudson and Haxo up to Spanish Lake for the night.

Stream crossings were not too difficult, with snow bridges in many places and quite a few freshly downed trees to walk on. It stayed warm and windless all day, and we got to camp early enough (4 p.m.) to relax, eat and build a fire big enough to all sit around and dry our boots.

Ron “The Termite” Hudson tried to build a fireproof platform out of bark plates tom from a dead tree. This worked for a while, but they smoldered through the night and melted four-foot-deep holes in the abundant snow.

It barely dipped below freezing at 8,500 feet, so rousing people at 5 a.m. was less difficult than expected. We started for Spanish Mountain around 6 a.m. and arrived at the peak before 8 a.m. The snow was hard hove treeline, and the bear tracks (really!) looked to be a few days old. No crampons were needed, but the cleats on the snowshoes came in handy Ice axes stayed on the packs of those foolish enough to have brought them!

The return to camp surprised us all: Snow hard enough to kick steps in just an hour earlier was now

breaking through to our knees. Sun-facing slopes, even those steep enough for ice axes, were wet and heavy with hip-deep snow. The early ascent saved us from a real slog!

WC got comfortable with skiing on snowshoes (except for Storkman, who claims never to have worn snowshoes before and were back in camp by 9. The hike out took almost as long as the hike in, but we took a more interesting route along the ridge above Saturn Meadow. A couple of raging streams, one wrong turn, one **person** abandoning the group, and we were back on dirt!

We chased a bear out of his/her meadow (sorry!) and stomped down the ridge to the Crown Valley Road. The road had quite a bit of snow, but we made it without snowshoes. The wind was picking up and the clouds were getting thick. By the time we reached the cars (4 p.m.) all of the hilltops around Wishon were gone and it was downright chilly.

O.K., now about Aubeny Road: Remember last year when the Mt. Henry trip report included mention of two cars getting lost coming back? I now know what happened! Auberry Road has two intersections with Highway 168, and it suckered Suzuki this time like it got me and the other car the last time.

I’m revising my driving instructions (which always work for *getting* there) to see if we can actually get everyone buck next time. Stay tuned! This trailhead is only 4 hours from the Bay Area, and there is a lot of great country there, but getting back should be faster than from Shasta.

– Steve Eckert

Call him Ishmael, for the great white monster beckons

HERE SHALL a skier go on a **W** holiday weekend? Mt. Shasta? Been there, skied that. The Benson Ski Hut with Bob Gross and the Ski Touring Section? Been there, skied that... Well, call me Ishmael.

Seen from the East Bay in early twilight, Pyramid Peak shadows a distinct silhouette. It takes a careful look, but I can recognize it. Pyramid is the highest peak bordering the Desolation Wildcmcss east of Sacramento. It looks southerward, down to Lovers Leap’s dikes and the American River. Many climb Pyramid during sunny summer weather, and it becomes a great white nemesis during winter.

Palmer Dyal (leader, our Ahab?), collected 13 people for a mid-winter journey, but our trip was delayed a month from a stormy Martin Luther King weekend filled with rain and snow to President’s holiday. Time took its toll, and attrition took its toll. The weather was terrible: sunny, clear, still. Palmer (as leader), Tony Cruz, Dennis Hiipakka, Dave Bedell, and I (co-leader) gathered to make a snowy attempt up Pyramid Peak by the SE Ridge.

Dave was my rider and potential tentmate (in case he had to bail from his planned snow cave). He attended the snow camping field lesson the weekend before with SPS and STS members.

Five hearty souls: four snowshoers and myself as the lone skier left Twin Bridges. The entire climbing party took a steep unrelenting line to attain the SW Ridge. The snowshoers at times slid backward with their direct assault while I zig-zagged behind as trailsweep. Snow coverage was thin on this south-facing low elevation slope, and we occasionally broke through bush crevasses. We finally made the ridge and followed it to a late lunch.

Palmer, ever smiling, continually checked his latest toy: a Global Positioning System (GPS). His extended arm held many different navigational aids: GPS, compass, etc. We weren’t going to get lost. Camp was several hundred feet lower than expected. The remaining sunlight was used to dig caves and melt snow for water. Or to ski.

At dawn, the morning snow held a walkable sun crust. We continued

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up the ridge past our intended campsite and up the now bald ridge. Soon other skiers and hikers travelled around us. Shortly before reaching the summit, our party was overtaken by a group of skiers from Sacramento.

In an amusing "small world" experience discussion revealed that this party's strongest skier appeared in Scree Editor John Flinn's book with Mark Wellman. This skier was the BASE jumper who leaped off Half Dome to be arrested by partners of Wellman; BASE jumping being an illegal activity in Yosemite. His story was amusing.

The summit offered views of various ski areas, the moguls of the formerly named Sierra Ski Ranch (life is too short to ski moguls.) Closer were Lake of the Woods, the southern bits of Fallen Leaf Lake, Lake Tahoe, Heavenly Valley, and Kirkwood Mt. Diablo and Mammoth. In the Leadlands the Mendocino peaks, Sierra Buttes to the North and Kirkwood to the South were further.

Descending, pyramid's skiing is similar to Cascade volcanos but shorter and less steep than skiing the conical peaks. No powder; this was a south-facing slope in spring conditions. The snowshoers struck with the ridge while the alone skier took to slopes.

We realized that if we stayed the additional night as planned, our steep ascent slope would be rock hard in the morning hours. Coupled with the short distance and abundance of time, we broke camp a day early and started down.

The trip's only minor epic occurred when one member got ahead, down and southward, missing a critical turn where the rest of the party turned left. Too far ahead to catch, the rest of the party descended in small groups thru the snowy bushfield.

Our lost orphan had a small epic on the descent. Using binocs, we watched our one lone, stray member thrash through the steep brush and

slabs, but all worked out safe. After all, palmer beckons.

— *Ishmael Miya*

Exciting springtime climbing on Shasta's Green Butte Ridge

OUR SHASTA trip had been postponed at least two times and the party had dwindled to the two of us by April 22. I'd almost bailed due to personal reasons but Kai's enthusiasm as he talked of the "stellar" weather forecast was contagious and fortunately, I caught it.

Since we were planning to have a pretty easy day on Saturday, we had a nice breakfast in Shasta City, then stopped in at the Fifth Season for a final check on conditions. The weather report was for clear skies, although we were advised that no one had been making it up our intended route, the Green Butte Ridge. There was supposedly a huge cornice and that as well as high winds had been turning parties back.

Also the Gulch was not recommended due to avalanche danger, We decided to try our luck on the Green Butte despite the caveat.

At the parking lot were several groups of climbers, most doing the Casaval Ridge. One other party claimed to be doing the Green Butte and when we told one of the snowboarders about the cornice, he guffawed and said he'd just tunnel through the thing.

We couldn't have ordered better weather - not a cloud in the sky and no wind. We snowshoed up to the ridge and made camp early in the afternoon. Later, the snowboarders camped above us. Some climbers coming down the ridge reported that they'd turned back because of loose rocks pulling out as the ice melted and ice breaking off in large chunks. We decided to leave at dawn and see for ourselves.

The Green Butte was **glorious**. On one part we walked right on top of the ridge looking down at steep

slopes on either side. Later, we wound our way on mixed rock and ice through the towers high up the ridge. We never saw a big cornice. After a steep traverse, we rested at Thumb Rock. The rime ice stuck straight out from it like metal shavings to a magnet. On the other side of Misery Hill, we met a ranger who again warned us not to descend Avalanche Gulch as it was not safe.

We weren't alone on the summit and enjoyed the views with other climbers. It was slightly windy and cool. The register said that no one had summited for the three weeks before and we felt lucky that our trip had been postponed. Coming down from the summit we met a skier who was camping with the snowboarders. He planned to ski down the gulch despite the warnings. There a glint in his eye and he seemed pumped to do it. Oh well. I wondered how he'd fare.

Back on the Green Butte, the snow had softened up and was balling up badly in our crampons. The traverse looked a lot steeper going down with the snow conditions as they were and we decided to return by a slightly higher route.

We joined up with a couple of climbers and descended the steep stuff together, facing in to the mountain most of the time. That was tedious and took us longer than we'd planned. Just as we got to the snowboarders camp, the Avalanche Gulch skier and one snowboarder quickly sailed by us right to their tents with huge grins on their faces. There was just enough time left to pack up our gear, head out and make it to the car by dark. Thanks, Kai, for another great Shasta trip.

— *Cecil Magliocco*

MROSD director needed

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is looking for a new board member to represent a district covering Mountain View and north Los Altos. Submit applications to MROSD District Office, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos 94022. Deadline: June 16.



Private trips are neither insured, sponsored nor organized by the Sierra Club, the Loma Prieta Chapter or the PCS. They are listed here as a courtesy to the organizers because they may be of interest to PCS climbers.

PFEIFFER/BIG-SUR CAR <AMP
 June 9-10
 Organizer: Anouchka Gaillard
 (408) 737-9770

Come enjoy the Pacific Coast and the Ventana Wilderness from Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground, on a nearly full moon. I have reserved two family campsites for a maximum of 12 people (four cars). You are on your own for day hikes. Day-hike leader wanted. Please call after May 9 to reserve your spot. (Best to call between 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m).

**CONNES, MAMMOTH PK,
 KUNA CREST**
 June 10-11

12590 feet, class 3, snow
 Organizer: Kelly Maas
 (408) 279-2054 Home
 (408) 944-2078 Work
 Topo: Tuolumne Meadows 15'

Ease into summer with an early venture into the highcountry of Yosemite. Car camping with day hikes of the peaks. Unfortunately the Tuolumne Meadows campground may be closed. Expect plenty of snow. An ice axe may be useful.

BLACK KAWEAW
 June 15-19

13680+ feet, class 3, snow
 Organizers: Aaron Schuman
 (408) 378-9682 home
 (408) 324-6003 work
 Charles Schafer
 charles.schafer@octel.com
 Topos: Mineral King, Mt Whitney

The Kaweah mountains were named by early explorers who believed the high distant peaks were the source of the Kaweah River. Only after other travelers approached the ridge did it become clear that the river originated in the Great Western Divide, and the giant Kaweah mountains loomed above but far behind. Such massive mountains are a worthy destination for the boldest climber! From Mineral King (7,434 ft) we hike up the Sawtooth Pass trail to Monarch Lake, then cross country over Glacier Pass (11,080 ft), and down to Spring Lake (10,200 ft), gain a trail for Black Rock Pass (11,600 ft) and down to the headwaters of Big Arroyo (9,700 ft). We'll climb the summit via the Southwest Ridge. We return via the same route. If we have time we'll climb another peak in the vicinity. Spring conditions will prevail. The passes will be snowbound and possibly corniced. The Kaweahs are renowned for their loose rock; helmets are strongly recommended.

GOAT PEAK

June 17-18
 12,207 feet, class 2
 Organizer: Siamak Navid
 (415) 361-8548 H
 (408) 553-3850 W
 Topo: Marion Peak

The hike starts at road's end (5,000 feet) at Cedar Grove (Kings Canyon NP). We will take Copper Creek trail to Grouse Lake (10,473 feet) the first day. On the second day we will climb the peak and return to the trailhead.

MATTERNHORN PEAK

June 23-25
 12,264 feet, class 3
 Organizers: Debbie Benham

(415) 964-0558 (home, 7-10 p.m.)
 Brian Stave

Topo: Matterhorn Peak

We'll take the "...normal route from Twin Lakes. An obvious couloir on the east side of the NE ridge leads to the east ridge. Follow ridge to the top." Whew!! (Get ready for the adventure of my lifetime!) Ice axe and crampons required. All hale and hardy participants will be asked to read and sign a liability waiver.

MT. SHASTA, WHITNEY

GLACIER

June 24-26 or 27
 14,162 feet, moderate snow
 Organizer: George Van Gorden
 (408) 779-2320
 Topo: Mt. Shasta

This is one of the more difficult routes on Shasta. There are crevasses and some route finding difficulties through the icefall. We will be roped together and some training in crevasse rescue is necessary along with the necessary equipment.

IONIAN BASIN PLUS PEAKS

July 1-9
 13,000+ foot peaks; class 3
 Hard class 2 cross country with packs
 Organizers: Steve Eckert
 (415) 508-0500;
 eckert@netcom.com
 Warren Storkman
 (415) 493-8959;
 DStorkman@aol.com
 Topos: Blackcap, Goddard, Big Pine

Cross through the most remote portion of the Sierra, and get some choice peaks along the way. We will go over Hell For Sure Pass, through the Ionian Basin, follow Disappearing Creek down the Enchanted Gorge, cross the

lack Divide, and then hike out on
ail over Bishop Pass. Snow may
e encountered! Peak bagging
ossibilities are endless. This
mostly cross country route will
ke us to the base of Goddard,
maybe Black Giant, Scylla,
Chrybdis Hansen, McDuffie,
Wheel, Citadel, etc. If you don't
ave an entire week, consider
oing only the first part of the trip
to bag Goddard (3-4 days). To
ign up, send \$10 deposit and
SASE for waiver to Steve Eckert,
814 Oak Knoll Drive, Belmont
CA 94002. See "Eckert Note"
below.

CHERRY CREEK CANYON

July 1-3

Class 2 cross country

Topos: Cherry Creek, Kibbie Lake
Organizer: Kate Ingvoldstad
(209) 296-8483

Last year's trip to the canyon
brought rave reviews. This year
We'll begin further up the canyon
and cover more ground. No need
to cross the main stream. Wild-
flowers!! Mosquitos??

VOLUNTEER, PETTIT PEAK

July 3-8

10,788 feet, class 2

Organizer: Debbie Bulger
(408) 457-036

Topos: Tuolumne Meadows,
Matterhorn Peak, Hetch Hetchy
Reservoir

We will start from Tuolumne
Meadows, head north on the
Pacific Crest trail crossing Virginia
Canyon, Matterhorn Canyon and
Benson Pass until we arrive at
Benson Lake, the "Riviera of
northern Yosemite," according to
Secor. After climbing the two
peaks, we head downhill to Pate
Valley. We complete the loop by
treking 5,000 feet up the Grand
Canyon of the Tuolumne to
Lembert Dome. The waterfalls
should be spectacular. This will be
a private trip due to the heavy
snow year. Ice axe recommended.
A \$5 check reserves your place.

EL CAPITAN

July 8-9

Class 2

Leader: Judith Yarborough
(415) 854-9288 (before 10 PM)

Those of us who don't aspire
to big wall climbing need to be
tricky if we want the same views.
We will leave from Tamarack
Campground on Saturday morn-
ing and hike as far as possible up
the back side (sounds a bit
prurient) of El Capitan. Limit 8
people (including leader). Camp-
ground for Friday night reserved
at Hogdon Meadows.

SPLIT MOUNTAIN

July 8-9

14,058 feet, class 3

Organizer: Charles Schafer

Co-organizer: Bob Suzuki

(408) 259-0772 h (eves)

Topos: Split Mtn, Fish Springs
7.5's

Saturday will be a route-
finding adventure as we try to find
our way to the trailhead, then the
trail to Red Lake where we'll make
camp. Sunday will be peak day,
then we'll head on out. Since Split
is at the southern end of the
Palisades and right on the Sierra
Crest, we should get some rather
spectacular views from the
summit.

MT. HAEKEL

July 21-23

13,435 feet, class 3

Organizer(s): Phyllis Olrich

750 Homer Ave.

Palo Alto, CA 94301-2907

(415) 322-0323 (home)

phylliso@forsythe.stanford.edu

Debbie Benham

(415) 964-0558

Topos: Mt. Goddard (15'), Mt.

Darwin, Mt. Thompson (7.5')

From Lake Sabrina we'll hike
up the Middle Fork of Bishop
Creek to set up basecamp at
Hungry Packer Lake on Friday.
Saturday, we'll take the east ridge
approach to the summit (bring a
harness, just in case). If time

permits, we'll also do Mt. Wallace
(13,377 feet). All participants must
sign a waiver. To reserve a spot,
send \$3 (to cover permit fee) and
contact information (name,
address, phone, fax, email) to
Phyllis at the above address.

DEERHORN, ERICSSON, JUNCTION, EAST VIDETTE

Aug 10-14

13,888 feet, class 3 peaks

Hard class 2 cross country with
packs

Organizers: Aaron Schuman

(415) 390-1901 work;

schuman@sgi.com

Steve Eckert

(415) 508-0500;

eckert@netcom.com

Topos: Mt. Whitney, Mt. Pinchot

We enter Bubbs Creek on
Aug. 10 and camp around East
Lake. On Aug. 11 we move the
packs to the lakes between
Ericsson Crags and Mt. Stanford,
and climb Deerhorn if we have
lots of time. On Aug. 12 we move
the packs to the saddle, bag
Ericsson, and drop around
Caltech Pk to camp between
Diamond Mesa and Caltech Peak.
On Aug. 13 we move packs to
Forester Pass and bag Junction
Peak. The last day we bag East
Vidette and pack out. See "Eckert
Note" below.

*Eckert Note: Each trip will require
a \$10 appearance bond and your
signature on a liability waiver.
Different trips have different
contact info, so read carefully?
PCS members have preference
until one month before the trip,
when it is strictly first come first
served. Your check will be cashed
immediately (make it payable to
the person you are sending the
SASE to), and you will receive a
refund at the trailhead after permit
expenses are deducted.*

CHAIRPERSON

Debbie Benham
 1722 Villa St. #2
 Mountain View, CA 94041
 (415) 964-0558 (11)

VICE CHAIR/SCHEDULER

Paul Magliocco
 15944 Longwood Dr.
 Los Gatos, CA 9.5032
 (408) 358-1168 (h)
 e-mail: pmag@ix.netcom.com

TREASURER

Phyllis Olrich
 750 Homer Ave.
 Palo Alto, CA 94301-2907
 (415) 322-0323 (h)
 (415) 7251-Q.1 (w)
 e-mail: PhyllisO@forsythe.stanford.edu

SCREE EDITOR

John Flinn
 133 Promethean Way
 Mountain View, CA 94043
 (415) 968-2050 (h)
 (415) 777-8705 (w)
 e-mail: jnflinn@aol.com

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

PCS meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. See Scree for 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 bands 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.

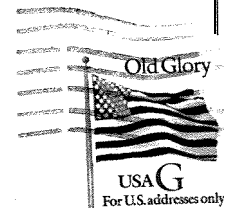
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INTERNET

PCS Email Broadcast Information: eckert@netcom.cslll
 General Sierra Club Net News: alt.org.sie&a-club
 General Sierra Club Web Page: http://liwww.sierraclub.org



Peak Climbing Section
789 Daffodil Way
San Jose, CA 95117



“Vy can’t ve chust climb?” -- John Salathe

First Class Mail