



### NEXT MEETING

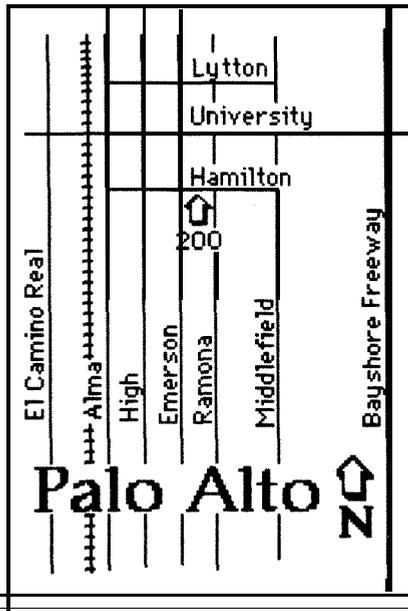
DATE: Tuesday, Nov. 14

TIME 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION :

The Pacific Mountaineer  
200 Hamilton Ave.  
Palo Alto

PROGRAM: "A Summer In The Sierra, 1994." Come join Charles Schafer and a motley assortment of PCSers as they go tramping through the Sierra in what is one of Charles' favorite summers of climbing. The climbs range throughout the Sierra over a wide variety of magnificent scenery, from Bubbs Creek in the south to Convict Canyon in the (almost) north with a few stopovers in the Pallasades. Find out why Charles carries that heavy piece of baggage hanging off his chest (and no, its not a counterweight to keep him from falling backwards due to his heavy pack).



# Ritter and Banner

**T**his isn't boring!" I don't specifically recall, but someone must have uttered these words during our trip. We had the usual auspicious start: Thursday evening traffic was horrendous, and our camp at Deadman Summit was surprisingly cold.

The next morning, we encountered a car driving north in the south-bound lanes of Hwy 395. And the weather report at the Mammoth ranger station predicted still cooler "autumn temperatures" and the possibility of thundershowers.

However when we arrived at the trailhead at 7:20, everyone was there and we were soon hitting the trail. The crew consisted of Charles Schafer and myself (leader and co-leader, and official photographers), Phyllis Olrich ("fashion poem"), Tony Cruz (Mr. Epic), Andy Skumanich (climber), Bill Kirkpatrick and Roger Crawley (comic relief), and Paul Magliocco (assistant to Mr. Kirkpatrick).

Roger had previously climbed Ritter, and Phyllis and Paul had been up Banner, while some others had never before visited the area. As we hiked the 6.2 miles to Ediza Lake and gazed up at the Minarets, we discussed our options for how to bag two peaks in the course of three days.

Several people quickly vetoed the idea of climbing one of them on the last day. And only Andy expressed any interest in doing much altitude the first day. So it was settled: cram both peaks into a long Saturday. Friday afternoon was thus devoted to fighting mosquitoes and to long naps amongst one of the most scenic Sierra backdrops.

It was at this time that a solo hiker set up camp nearby. He had a monstrous pack Phyllis estimated 100 lb) and became known to us by several names: Mr. Mill Valley, Blue Eyes (who came up with that one?), and Eric.

That evening, we had the usual bear bagging adventures. On his second attempt, Bill threw the rock in a beautiful arc over the tree limb, only to have the rope part company with the rock at the apex and fall uselessly to the ground. At the other end of camp, Roger turned tree climber in order to reposition another bear rope. Even the squirrels were in awe.

Summit day began with a 6:30 departure. In no time we were on snow, a major theme of the climb. We traversed Ritter by ascending the SE glacier, then descending to the Ritter-Banner saddle. A quick scurry up

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**Special collector's issue  
Full PCS bylaws inside**

## OFFICIAL PCS TRIP

MT. DIABLO

Nov 19

Organizers: Vreni Rau

(510) 582-5578

Cecil Magliocco

(408) 3581168,

pmag@ix.nctcom.com

Join Vreni and Cecil for a day hike up Mt. Diablo. The climb will start from the Macedo Ranch and continue up the beautiful southwest ridge!

## An autumn traverse of the Sweetwater mountain range

Bob Sumner and I recently dayhiked a South to North traverse of the Sweetwater Mtns. We sauntered over Mts Patterson (11,673'), Wheeler (11,661'), South Sister (11,339'), Middle Sister (10,859'), East Sister (10,402'), and all the intervening bumps on the ridge.

It was a delightful death march. We set up a car shuttle north of the East Sister, at the junction of the excellent dirt Risue Rd (FSO.50) with the obvious, unsigned turnoff (I-8014) for the Rickey Mine, 3.3 miles west from Hwy 338. We then drove on towards Lobdell Lake, to the established DPS Route A trailhead for Mt Patterson.

This was accomplished by heading west on the Risue Rd to the unsigned fair dirt FSO67 south. One first passes through two wire gates,

continues onward to pick up FS116 at Sheeles Camp, and then follows FS 115 to the trailhead parking.

Allow up to an hour for this slow, rough 4wd ride. The Toiyabe NFS map, Bridgeport District, is definitely needed to negotiate these roads. The shortest alternative shuttle would be to drive back south from the car drop, on Hwy 338 through Bridgeport and then up to Lobdell Lake. Starting out in the morning chill (hell, it was freezing), we were over Patterson and atop Wheeler in two hours.

Returning past Patterson, we continued along the undulating ridge to scale the barren summit of South Sister, occasionally tracing intermittent mining or motorcycle tracks, and traversing remnant patches of snow. The cold autumn wind blew constantly throughout the day. We then dealt with the drops of roughly 1700' and 1200' between the South, Middle, and East Sisters, respectively. Trivial.

Middle Sister has a nice, long boulder scramble of a summit. Ascending to the left of the south

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## New officers named to lead PCS to even greater heights

The nominating committee has recruited a slate of candidates for the 1996 PCS officer positions. They are: Chair, Charles Schafer; Vice Chair & Trip Scheduler, Phyllis Olricb; Treasurer, Jim Ramaker; Scree Editor, Steve Eckert

We're pleased to offer these candidates to the section for a vote at the December meeting. Each one of them has a proven record of hard work and dedication to the PCS, leadership, and good judgement. We're grateful that they've agreed to run, and confident that they will help make the PCS an even stronger climbing club in 1996.

The nominating committee consisted of Cecil Magliocco, Peter Maxwell, and myself, Aaron Schuman.

## ASK GASTON

Dear Gaston: When (at what temperature) does toothpaste freeze? This has obvious implications for mountaineering.

--Chris Kramar

*My dear Mssr. Kramar: Let us all pause for just a minute as Gaston once again lifts the problems of the entire world onto his weary shoulders. Uhnnn! They're getting heavier. Now where was I? Oh yes, toothpaste. Just the other day my good friend Lionel Terrain and I were discussing this very matter as we were sitting on the deck of the Argentiere refuse and staring up at the icily beautiful north faces of the Triolet, Les Courtes and Les Droites. And we agreed that no climb worth doing can ever be done when the temperature is above the freezing point of toothpaste. In fact,*



*no French alpinist worth his piolet has ever brushed his teeth in the Alps. We must leave that to you runny-nosed American scree sloggers with your Pepsodent smiles. Now go and bother me no more. Gaston has spoken!*

# Official PCS Bylaws

By-Laws of the Peak Climbing  
Section of the Loma Prieta Chapter of  
the Sierra Club

Last revision: January 1978

## ARTICLE I. Name of Section

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Section 1. The name of the Section shall be the Peak Climbing Section of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club

## ARTICLE II. Purposes

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Section 1. The purposes of the Section shall be to explore, enjoy, and preserve the mountain ranges and become familiar with their scenic resources; to preserve their forests, waters, wildlife and wildernesses; to enlist public interest and cooperation in protecting them; to cultivate comradeship in and understanding of mountain climbing; and to further the purposes of the Sierra Club.

## ARTICLE III. Membership

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Section 1. 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. Membership shall become effective on the first of the month following request for subscription and shall expire after one year.

## ARTICLE IV. Officers

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Section 1. Elected officers. There shall be three elected officers for the Section: the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. Qualifications for Office. Any member of the Peak Climbing Section may be elected to office. No Section officer shall hold an office for more than one full term consecutively, or for more than one full term and one partial term served consecutively.

Section 3. Term of Office and Election. Officers shall serve for a term of one year. Election of officers shall be held annually at the regular meeting in November. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman and announced at the October meeting. If any of the Nominating Committee members do not meet the approval of a majority of the members present, the Chairman shall call for nominations from the floor to replace the disapproved Committee members. Committee members nominated in this fashion shall be approved by a majority of those members present at the October meeting. The Nominating Committee shall publish a list of candidates for the offices to be filled in the issue of the Section newsletter preceding the November meeting. Additional names may be placed in nomination from the floor immediately prior to the election. A candidate may be nominated for only one office at the yearly election. Voting shall be by written ballot. A majority vote of the Peak Climbing Section members present shall be required to elect. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, another ballot shall be cast, dropping the name of the

candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first ballot. This procedure is repeated until a majority is obtained. Installation of officers shall take place immediately following the election.

Section 4. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of Chairman shall be filled by the Vice-chairman. Vacancies in the other offices shall be filled for the balance of the term by election at the next regular meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy.

Section 5. Duties of Officers. The duties of the officers of the Section shall be as follows:

a. Chairman. The Chairman of the Section calls and presides at the meetings of the Section, enforces the By-Laws of the Section, and appoints and may remove members of committees to carry out the work of the Section. The Chairman of the Section shall attend, or appoint an alternate to attend, the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Loma Prieta Chapter.

b. Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman of the Section is responsible for the selection of leaders for, and the scheduling of, the outings of the Section, subject to the approval of the Mountaineering Committee. During the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall act in his place.

c. Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Section shall keep an up-to-date roster of members; keep minutes of all meetings (and notify members of meetings); and manage all financial matters of the Peak Climbing Section, keeping proper records thereof.

Section 6. Removal of Officers. An

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officer may be removed by a 3/5 vote of members present at a duly constituted meeting of the Section, provided that a petition signed by five members of the Section has been placed in the immediately preceding issue of the Section newsletter. Upon receipt of such a petition for recall, the editor of the Section newsletter shall print the petition in the next issue of the Section newsletter.

**ARTICLE V. Meetings**

Section 1. Section meetings shall be held monthly or when called by the Chariman Notices of meetings of the Section shall be given to the membership through the Section newsletter prior to the date of the meeting. Upon the written request of ten percent of the membership, the Chairman shall call a meeting within thirty days of the receipt of the request.

Section 2. Quorum. A quorum for the conduct of business shall consist of ten members or ten percent of the Section membership, whichever is larger.

**ARTICLE VI. Committees**

Section 1. Standing committees shall include a Mountaineering Committee, which maintains a list of peaks and lists of member and leader qualifications, conducts training seminars, and assists the Vice-Chairman in scheduling outings; an Equipment Committee, which maintains the equipment belonging to the Section; a Publicity Committee, which publishes the Section newsletter and announces meetings; and a Social Committee.

**ARTICLE VII. Funds**

Section 1. No dues shall be assessed or collected by the Section. Voluntary contributions will be accepted

**ARTICLE VIII. Operating Rules**

Section 1. Rules for making more explicit the operating procedures of the Section may be adopted or modified by the following method. Rules as defined in this article shall not be in conflict with the B y l a w s

a. A proposed rule shall be presented at a duly constituted meeting of the Section for discussion.

b. Upon approval of the proposed rule by a majority of those members present, the proposed mle shall be published in the next issue of

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page 1)**

Banner followed, then a descent from the saddle

The highlights follow: Crampons proved very useful when the ascent to the glacier became steep. Except for a 100 to 200 yard class 2 rock band the entire ascent was on snow and was straight forward. Neither the weather nor the summit views could be better.

Several people tried to identify all the visible peaks, but finally gave up. It was with considerable regret that we left the summit. From the top of Ritter, it appeared to be almost straight down to the saddle with Banner.

The descent first involved heading down a loose class 3 ridge, where Paul earned enormous praise for his assistance to Bill. It was also here that Phyllis suffered the only notable injury, when she was hit on the calf by a rock she dislodged herself. We were then forced into front pointing down a 50+ degree snow-filled gully.

Roger and others searched desperately for an alternative, but there was none. Though few in the group had ever been on such steep snow before, it was within every one's ability, and the emergency rope stayed in my pack. One side effect was to render the later descent from the saddle on steep snow trivial, and a number of people later called it all a good experience. Everyone certainly got plenty of crampon practice that day.

From the saddle, Phyllis and Bill headed for camp while the rest of us scrambled up the class 2 slope of Banner. Tony was already completely



PCS climbers cramponing on 50-degree slopes on Mt. Ritter. Photo by Kelly Maas

spent, so he climbed purely on motivation - something we shouldn't have allowed.

To get down safely, he became very slow and deliberate. The route was obvious and he eventually made it back to camp, with Charles monitoring his progress much of the way.

It was almost 1 lpm when the epic ended. Our return day was pretty routine. We met Eric for lunch in Mammoth then Roger and Phyllis basked in Hot Creek during a drizzling rain before heading home.

Side notes: I had my permit checked for the first time ever in the Sierra. Andy's noting that Phyllis was not a fashion statement but rather a fashion poem. The real fashion statement was in the form of a full-body bug suit, being modeled along the trail on our hike out. Several people were heard to comment that they had a good time.

— Kelly Maas

## A chilly, late-season attempt on Virginia and Twin peaks

Gennady Farber and Steve Eckert headed up the Green Lake trailhead on 10/21/95 for a late-season attempt at Virginia and Twin Peaks. The leaves were glowing brilliant yellow, and softly carpeting the trail as we started up the unfamiliar route.

To make a long story short, the trail signs are WRONG: The first junction is marked "Green Lake" to the left, "West Lake" to the right. It turns out that East Lake is to the left, and Green Lake and West Lake are both to the right. So we wound up on some unnamed saddle looking down on Summit Lake, with great views of Dunderberg and others.

That's when we decided to make it a big loop: We dropped down to the valley between Virginia Peak and Virginia Pass to camp, then did a big loop following the third class ridge from the south of Virginia up to Twin Peaks, and returning down the second class chute between the twin peaks.

The incessant wind howled the whole time. I wore heavy fleece with wind shells top and bottom much of the day. On Virginia, my cheap thermometer showed 25 degrees at 9:30, with 40 mph winds that gusted strongly enough to have us grabbing each other for support. Water bottles were freezing instead of thawing, but by early afternoon it was up to 40 degrees even though the wind kept up.

Along the way, we traded stories about climbing Mt Elbrus in Russia (which I did as a tourist and Gennad) snuck up as a citizen of Russia who was officially prohibited from climbing higher than the pass), about climbing from peak lists (here) and from government approved pass lists (there), etc.

We managed to find Virginia Pass on a way out, and other than

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one nasty ice field without ice axes the hike out was uneventful.

The brilliant leaves had turned to mostly brown and black in just two days, and ice stayed all day along streams as low as 9500'.

It's not over, but this season is definitely on its way out!

– Steve Eckert

## A Mineral King double solo in late September

**T**his was a solo trip, so on the first day of autumn, 22 September 1995, with the support of family and friends, I left the Bay Area for Mineral King on Friday afternoon. A six hour drive, with a stop for dinner in Visalia, got me to the Cold Springs Campground in Mineral King. I found a walk-in site to my liking at the far end of the campground and set up camp.

On Saturday, I did a warm up like to an alpine basin containing Eagle Lake. One of the interesting aspects of this hike was that the trail passed by a large sinkhole into which Eagle Creek flowed and disappeared Peak day, Sunday, promised to be a long one, so I got up in the dark, eating breakfast and packing my pack by headlamp.

I drove to the Eagle: Mosquito trailhead and started hiking on the Franklin Pass trail at 6:15 AM. 't was just light enough to see the ground underneath my feet. The morning was cool, with frost on the ground I saw 9 deer (7 does, 1 buck, and 1 yearling) on the way to Franklin Lakes. There was still a plenty of water but there was no difficulty with the stream crossings of Crystal Creek and Franklin Creek—quite a different story from Debbie Bulger's trip in July.

I passed Franklin Lakes at 9:00 AM and met the first group of hikers I had seen about half a mile above the lakes. I pressed on reaching Franklin Pass, 8.6 miles from the parking area

at about 10:30 AM. Where the trail crossed, there was a large snowfield on the south side of the divide which was a challenge for backpackers as the snow was very firm. From Franklin Pass I headed east through an area with large rock outcroppings toward the base of Florence Peak. The easiest route, as I soon discovered after trying to find a route between the large rocks, is to stick to the scree just below the rocks on the south side of the pass.

Two sizable snowfields remained on the northeast ridge of Florence Pk. On the way up I went below and to the south side of the two snowfields. Near the summit, large boulders made the climbing borderline class 3 in spite of the class 2 rating in Ropa and Secor. I summited at noon. There was an excellent view from the summit (elev. 12432 ft) with Franklin Lake and Tulare Peak below and the Kaweahs to the northeast.

I found the register box (an ammo can) and unfortunately both register notebooks were damp. I signed in and noticed that a few parties had done some of the technical routes on the northwest face above Franklin Lakes earlier this year. On my way down, I went a different route staying to the north of the snowfields.

This proved more difficult than the route up, but soon I was back at Franklin Pass and the trail. It still looked like there was plenty of daylight left so I decided to go for Rainbow Mountain to complete my double. After a short hike back down the trail, I left the trail and headed diagonally up a mixed scree and rock slope to the southeast ridge of Rainbow Mountain. Once on the ridge, the climbing was easy all the way to the summit. I summited at about 2:15 PM.

There was a good view from the summit (elev. 12043 ft.). I found the trail register in another ammo box. It was one small notebook going back to 1982. Apparently Rainbow Mountain is not climbed all that often (a result perhaps of people not wanting to climb a peak that isn't on the SPS list). Fourteen parties had climbed the peak

this year, not many when you consider that it is just above popular Franklin Lakes. In some years only 4 or 5 parties had signed the register.

After taking some photos, I took the direct route down to the lake. The mountain was steep and I ended up doing a lot of scree glissading. If you try this route just remember to watch out for the cliffs. After refilling my water bottles at Franklin Creek below the lake (it was a warm day), I hiked quickly out along the trail, reaching the parking area. It was a long day up two fine Sierra peaks (12 hours, 19 miles, 5400 ft elevation gain). On Monday, I decided to hike up to Crystal Lake before driving home.

When I arrived at the trailhead there were no other cars at the Sawtooth-Monarch parking area. Wow, this place really clears out after the weekend. I had a beautiful hike into isolated Crystal Lakes. The weather was alternately cloudy and sunny with the mountain summits sometimes shrouded in fog. Mineral Peak (elev. 11550 ft.) is a striking peak just north of Lower Crystal Lake. The class 2 route from Crystal Lake in Secor's book appears to start at Upper Crystal Lake (there is a use path marked by a duck branching from the trail just below Lower Crystal Lake) and ascends the southeast slope.

Secor mentions that the summit rocks are best approached from the south. I can't vouch for that since I didn't have time to go for the summit. A loop trip including Monarch Lakes, Mineral Peak, and Crystal Lakes looks like an intriguing possibility.

According to Browning's book, Sierra Place Names, prior to the acceptance of its current name Mineral Peak was sometimes called "The Matterhorn" since it resembles that peak from certain angles. After lunch, I hiked back out to the trailhead. I drove back to the Bay Area, arriving about 9:00 PM. All in all, the trip was a highly enjoyable fall weekend getaway to the High Sierra.

– Richard Vassar

# PRIVATE TRIPS Adventures in outdoor cooking: a hunka hunka burnin' Coleman

MT. SHASTA

Nov 10-12

4,162 feet

Organizer George Van Gorden  
(408) 779-2320

We will climb the Avalanche Gulch route. Meet Friday noon at the Fifth Season climbing store in the town of Mt. Shasta. Stay in the hut Friday night. Summit Saturday if good weather prevails.

## CLIMBING NEAR RIDGECREST

Nov 22-26

Organizer Eugene Miya  
:ugene@pioneer.arc.nasa.gov\

An exploratory climbing trip in the vicinity of Ridgcrest, CA. While some interesting rocks exist in these areas I will also be considering some Low Southern Sierra and North Mojave desert peak bagging or skiing if the snow level permits. We have to play this by ear. A limited number of 4WD vehicles are involved. These are important because of deep sand in some trailhead areas. The driving distance is about the same as a summer Palisades trip. Elevations up to 8K will be considered, but this should be regarded as a winter trip even if we are climbing on desert rock.

## DESERT PEAKS

Dec 27-Jan 1

6,100 feet

Organizer: Bill Hauser  
(408) 2134566

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 6,151 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 (3,000 foot gain). We will be car camping. The trip can be windy and cold at times. Call me for any further explanation.

Who says there's nothing interesting on the Internet? Steve Eckert forwards this discussion: "Has anyone heard about the dude that burned down three townhouses with his campstove? He was trying it out in his basement and now has 2nd degree burns and no place to live."

"I have used a Coleman model 500b (sort of an ancient version of the more current featherweight for years and have gotten comfortable enough with its quirks to continue using it. Talk about growing pains, however. I thought I would burn down Banff N.P. one year when the generator unit became unknowingly plugged with carbon. All I noticed was a flickering orange flame coming from the burner where there should have been a steady blue flame. Then WHOOF! - the whole works caught fire in a steady three-foot high bonfire. Unfortunately, my immediate reaction was to grab the pot of macaroni and water I planned on cooking and flung it on the flames. This only succeeded in producing a river of burning fuel floating on top of the water as it flowed down the picnic table to the

ground.

"Fortunately, however, the table was centered on a nice gravel pad and the fire soon burned itself out. Talk about panic, though! Images of being pictured as the enviro-terrorist who burned down part of Banff were going thru my mind at the time.

"After that first initial incident, there haven't been any other problems. However, I was on a backpack to Berg Lake, B.C. a couple years ago and got up early one morning to brew up some coffee in the campground's kitchen shelter. I had just finished drinking the last of this when I casually noticed the fellow sitting the next table over fussing with his stove - yes, it was the same Coleman model...with a slow orange flame rolling out of the burner. I tried calling to him: "hey, i think that your stove needs a new generat..." when, sure enough, WHOOF it caught fire."

And, we might add, Tim Hult was nowhere near the scene.

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ridge on East Sister avoids much of a heavy brush band down low. The summit offers fine views towards Lake Tahoe and Reno. A 700' scree run on its north slope quickly brought us to the old jeep trail leading north out of Little Smith Valley

The trail drops alongside a creek bed and eventually turns into the good dirt Rickey Mine Rd at a corral. The road passes through a wire gate before intersecting the Risue Rd within a mile. We earned valuable additional exercise by parking at the Risue Rd. Dinner was later served up at the fine Rhino's Bar and Grill in Bridgeport

(well, they do have hot food and cold beer). The beauty of the Sweetwater Range is its endless variety of terrain and vegetation. And the solitude.

Only a few fisherman and campers were encountered on the roads. We had clear views of the northern Sierra, the White Mtns, and relatively unfamiliar ranges to the northeast in Nevada. This rambling traverse of the Sweetwaters was approximately 18 miles in length, 6500' gain. Most all of it cross-country. Bob and I took a leisurely 9 hours. Your mileage may vary.

- Erik Siering

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**For change of address, contact Paul Vlasveld, 789 Daffodil Way, San Jose, CA 95117; (408) 2474472 (h), (408) 257-7910 a3613 (IV)**

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 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.

## INTERNET

PCS Web page: <http://reality.sgi.com/csp!p&index.html>  
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General Sierra Club Net News: [alt.org.sierra-club](http://alt.org.sierra-club)  
General Sierra Club Web Page: <http://www.sierraclub.org>

**Deadline for next issue: Monday, Nov. 27**



*Peak Climbing Section  
789 Daffodil Way  
San Jose, CA 95117*

*"Vy can't ve chust climb?" -- John Salathe*

**First Class Mail**