



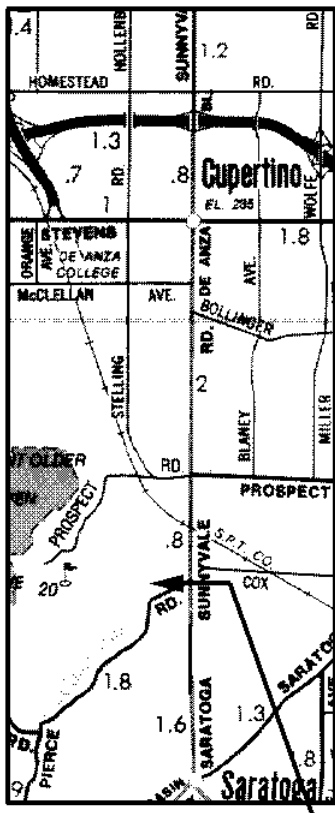
Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 13

Time: 7:30 pm

Program: It's a Mystery to the Editor!

Location: The home of Marj Ottenberg and Bob Wallace: From I-280 take De Anza (Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road) toward Saratoga. Turn right at Pierce Road and go 0.3 miles. When Pierce bends left, go right onto Foothill Lane (between giant trees). It's the fourth house on the left, with the Winter Solstice Festival (aka "Christmas") lights and a circular driveway. Bring a sweater, and since there isn't much street parking, please carpool. Lost? Call 408-867-4576



PCS Financial Report

Here is the second quarter financial report for the Peak Climbing Section.

- Jim Ramaker, PCS Treasurer

Loma Prieta Chapter -- Peak Climbing Section Quarterly Financial Report 4/1/96 - 7/1/96

Checkbook balance 4/01/96 \$1522

Expenses

Print & mail Apr newsletter	139
Print & mail May newsletter	200
Print & mail June newsletter	99
June slide show	20
Total expenses 4/01-7/01	458

Income

Apr newsletter subscriptions	190
May newsletter subscriptions	108
June newsletter subscriptions	180
Total income 4/01-7/01	478

Checkbook balance 7/01/96 \$1542

Editor's Note: It appears that even with reduced subscription fees and frequent 5-sheet issues of Scree, we are still running a small surplus in income. The Scree will return to 4 sheets when and if the budget requires it (as per the Treasurer's request), or when we run out of material (unlikely given the recent proliferation of writers waiting in the queue to be published).

Madcap Marmots

This morning on the Environment Show on the radio, there was a piece on marmots, specifically those at Mineral King in Sequoia National Park. They were talking about their propensity to enter into the motor area of a car from underneath and proceed to eat the various hoses and other parts of a car.

They have been able to ascertain that it is mostly young females who do this when they are pregnant. Consistently, they prefer older cars and particularly those that have been near an ocean. Apparently they are looking for salt and other minerals and there is more of a buildup on older cars.

Also, the marmots, after breaking the radiator hose and spilling the anti-freeze on the ground, have been observed getting together for happy hour to lap up the antifreeze off the ground. What would kill other animals seems to only give marmots an ethanol high because they have such tough systems. GET THIS....they said their systems were so tough that it takes more sedative to put a marmot under than it does a BEAR!!!

That is one tough little cookie!

- Drusha L. Mayhue <drusha@ix.netcom.com>

Loose on Taboose

Cardinal Mountain (13,397), Arrow Peak (12,958), Striped Mountain (13,189) Pinchot me. Am I dreaming? On Fourth of July week I am driving south on 395 in my new 4x4 truck, Stephen Sondheim on the tape player, snow capped peaks to the west. I must be in heaven. Richard and I are on our way to the Taboose Pass trailhead. Others had signed up to come along but canceled, so it's just the two of us. Luckily the road qualifies as four-wheel-drive so we have a chance to try four-wheel drive for the first time.

If you want taboose your confidence in your stamina, I suggest climbing the 6,000' elevation gain of the Taboose Pass trail. Twelve hours into the ascent, we finally set up our tent just shy of the snow at the top of the pass. To conserve on weight we had brought just one lightweight sleeping bag with a couplet sheet.

The next morning we needed a rest so we decided to climb Cardinal instead of continuing on to Bench Lake as originally planned. We took our ice axes since the 2000' climb of Cardinal still had a fair amount of snow. The view of Arrow from the summit of Cardinal is exquisite. The garnet crystals in the rock at the very top are an unexpected bonus.

Back in camp we hung around, rested and observed the musical antics of a high altitude subspecies of the white-crowned sparrow. The next day we continued on to a camp on the ridge overlooking precipitously perched Bench Lake. Unbelievably, we were the only campers at this beautiful large lake only one mile off the Pacific Crest Trail. Getting there took longer than expected since the snow melt was at its peak and the creek crossings proved challenging.

Early the next morning we set off for Arrow. This almost perfectly pyramid-shaped peak has a star before its name on the SPS list and provides one of the finest summit views in all of the Sierra. From its mid-Sierra stance, one has a 360 degree display of peaks. One can see the eastern Sierra passes and the western approaches from the same vantage.

Although the climb is not difficult, the approach this year was made interesting by the heavy snow melt. The marshy area shown on the map where the climbing begins was a deep ice cold lake. The bowl north of peak 3641 meters was heavily corniced. We scrambled up the slope to the south of the bowl and soon were in snow where our ice axes came in handy. We continued upward after reaching the saddle and traversed a mixed snow and rock route from Arrow Ridge to the summit where we found the names of PCSers Butch Suits, Jim Curl, Bob Suzuki, Steve Eckert and Chris Kramer from September 1993.

On the Fourth of July we leisurely backpacked to the heavily morained area south of Taboose Pass to put us in position for climbing Striped Mountain the next day. Had we been energetic enough, we could have climbed 700+ feet to the top of the loose rock ridge thrusting out from Goodale so we could watch the fireworks in Independence, but I was content to watch the rosy finches raid their sun cup refrigerators for cold bugs.

The sixth day of our trip found us using our ice axes to climb the northeast slope of Striped. The summit jutted out of the snow above us striped like the American flag. To complete the picture, an enormous Golden Eagle flew over our heads as we ate lunch on the top. As we rested, we watched a team of ravens frolic in the thermals around Goodale Mountain. Next, a human team of hang gliders replaced the ravens and competed for our attention. We had excellent seats in the over 13,000' section of the stadium.

(You can tell I've been watching the Olympics.) Those hang gliders must have been close to 15,000 feet high!

Descending, we circled around towards Goodale but decided against climbing it because of the abundant loose rock and general unpleasant appearance of the mountain. I suppose, if I ever get close to finishing the SPS list, I might reconsider, but for now it didn't seem worth risking getting hit by a rock just to sign the register.

Descending Taboose Pass the next day, we passed from snow to desert flowers. The canyon maples were full of winged red seeds. The flowers welcomed us back to spring, then to the heat of a July afternoon. Near the trailhead we noticed a rock grave marker with the inscription "Butch Jan 22-50." If anyone knows who Butch was, I'd appreciate learning more about this interesting monument. Our Fourth of July week included a star (Arrow) a Striped and more. It was a Cardinal experience.

– Debbie Bulger

State and Goat

July 4-7, 1996, Scott Sullivan and Elena Sherman

Our other plans had fallen through due to permit problems, so we arrived at the Cedar Grove Road's End ranger station at 4:45am Thursday morning to be second in line. We hoped to secure two of the five "day-of-hike" permits available for Copper Creek. The party in front of us was headed up Bubbs Creek, so that was no problem. The ranger arrived late at 7:15, and it was 8am before we received the permit, endured the lecture, and moved the car to the lot near Copper Creek.

We made decent time initially, arriving at Granite Pass at 4:30pm (11 miles, 6,000'). At this point, our progress was slowed considerably by snow obscuring the trail, difficult stream crossings, clouds of mosquitoes, and the effects of a long day. I had hoped to make Glacier Valley, but we settled for the States Lakes / Simpson Meadow trail junction which was reached at 8pm (5 miles from the pass).

The next morning we were off just before 7am. We followed the trail to upper State Lake and then followed R.J.'s broad chute on the southwest side of State Peak (class 2). By 11am it was clear the Marion would be too much for our tired bodies that day, so we stopped for lunch. We summited at 1:00, and spent two hours enjoying the beautiful views on this clear day. We returned to camp at a leisurely pace, arriving at 6:30pm.

Saturday morning we broke camp and hit the trail at 8am, reaching Granite Pass at 11:30. We stashed our packs and headed for Goat. We followed Larry Hoak's route up the drainage to the headwall beneath peak 12,076' (on the 15' topo), then southeast up a class 2 chute to a broad saddle. This saddle leads to the north ridge of Goat, which is an interesting jumble of trees and large boulders (class 2). We reached the summit at 3pm, enjoyed the clear weather and scenic views for an hour before returning to the pass at 6:30pm.

In retrospect, this climb would be easier from Granite Basin, but leaving our packs at the pass allowed us to camp there and avoid some (but not all) mosquitoes. Sunday we left the pass at 8:45am and reached the cars at 1:30. We carried ice axes but did not need them.

– Scott Sullivan

Notes and Requests

Join the Email Broadcast !FREE!

There is a new Internet Service Provider called "Juno", which provides unlimited email (send and receive) at no charge. There is no subscription fee, no connect charge, you don't give them a check or a credit card, and they guarantee a local phone number to dial up (or you can use their 800 number). Advertisers subsidize the service, just like radio and TV stations. This means you can access the SC-PEAKS email broadcast list for up-to-the-minute climbing conditions, expanded trip reports, and discussions of climbing issues even if you don't have a friendly employer to sponge off. All you need is a PC running Windows 3.1 or higher (sorry, Mac owners) and a modem. If you can browse the web, you can download the software from <<http://www.wideweb.com/juno>>, or if you have access to another email account (yours or a friend's) you can send a message to <info@juno.com> with your mailing address so they can send you a disk.

– Steve Eckert

Avocet Answer & Thanks

So many people replied to my Avocet question (both on and off the list), that I thought it would be more efficient to say thanks to everyone via a broadcast rather than reply individually! Other people have experienced the same flakiness that I have. The battery was the culprit in all cases except possibly one, which could have been due to taking the watch from a cold ski slope into a hot spa very quickly. Given that this is a common problem, and that many of us have Avocets, I thought that I'd reprint the replacement procedure.

I used a #0 Phillips screwdriver to remove the screws on the back cover. The battery is a lithium type "CR-2032". I found a replacement at my local Radio Shack for \$2.79. I then replaced the battery and pressed the reset button. After this is done, you need to calibrate the barometer part by either setting it to a known elevation or a known sea level barometric pressure (you also need to reset the clock, date, alarm, altitude, etc.). As far as I can tell, this calibration effects the barometer part only, not the altitude part. As I only use the barometer part for barometric changes, not absolute pressure, it is IMHO not imperative that this gets calibrated to the utmost precision. Someone can correct me if I'm wrong.

I also heard horror stories of dealing with Avocet. Their price for battery replacement has gone up from \$5 to \$10. Plus, it takes weeks for the thing to come back. I'd recommend the above procedure, or take it to a local watch repair shop. They can do it for you on the spot, except for the calibration part. Once again, thanks to everyone who replied.

– Tom Randel <trandel@filenet.com>

Orizaba and/or Itza - Request for Partners

I am not a PCS member, but have climbed with many of the members this summer. I would like to recruit partners for a trip to Mexico City. I hope to travel to Mexico City during the first two weeks in November, and climb Orizaba and/or Itza. I plan a 9-day trip, scheduled in such a way as to consume one week's vacation from work. Please call 408-749-2707 for info.

– John Zazzara

Omega Pacific Inc. Biner Recall

"Omega Pacific has discovered that some Omega Pacific Standard Symmetrical Non-Locking "D" carabiners with Lot #'s OG, OH and OI may not have been properly riveted at the hinge end of the gate. These carabiners were manufactured in October and November 1995 prior to Omega Pacific's move to its new facility.

"In the interest of safety, if you purchased ANY Omega Pacific Standard Symmetrical Non-Locking "D" after September 1, 1995, please inspect the rivet at the pivot end of the gate by pushing in the rivet. If there is noticeable movement, IMMEDIATELY RETURN the carabiner to Omega Pacific for replacement at the following address:

Omega Pacific Inc., PO Box 1780, Airway Heights, WA 99001

"You may also return a "suspect" carabiner for inspection. Upon receipt, Omega Pacific will inspect the carabiner for the above condition. If it exists, we will replace the carabiner. If it does not, we will return your carabiner. It is Omega Pacific's quality control process to individually inspect all our carabiners and we apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause.

"However, Omega Pacific strongly recommends that you always inspect ALL of your gear for structural and functional defects prior to each use. If you have any questions, please contact Omega Pacific at (509) 244-0949."

– Cose Verde <mgreer@uoguelph.ca>, from *rec.climbing*

Svea Mating Season

I am still using a Svea after 20 years. Best thing about it is its multi-function capability. On a June canoe trip into Algonquin Park (Northern Ontario), we arrived at our campsite and started the Svea to boil water for tea. The Svea makes a rhythmic "Whump"... "Whump"... "Whump" sound until the tank heats up. One of my companions noticed that a similar "Whump"... "Whump"... "Whump" sound was emanating from several points of the compass in the underbrush around us. We were surrounded by six or seven ruffed-grouse in the bushes that were talking to, and advancing on, the Svea. Apparently it was mating season.

– SJ Estey <SEstey@aol.com>

Wanted: Suggestions for 1-Week Sierra Tour

I am interested in suggestions for doing a one week peak climbing tour in the Sierras at the end of August. The level should include up to scrambling with only occasional need for a rope. I still have to get permits so if this rules out the most popular routes, keep that in mind. I was thinking of possibilities including starting from near Tioga pass or further south. We will probably have to return to the start point but if you know of any exceptional one way trips requiring two cars that might also work. Thanks very much,

– John Hossack <hossack@acuson.com>

Fighting Fire With Fire

In May, Valentin Grimaldo, 40, who was bitten by a poisonous coral snake near Encino, Tex., survived by biting the snake's head off, slitting its body lengthwise, and using the skin for a tourniquet until help arrived. [McAllen Monitor, 5-11-96]

Non-Native Plant Eradication

As an NPS Resource Management Volunteer (Yosemite National Park) and a Sierra Club/Loma Prieta member, I'm recruiting volunteers for National Park Service in Yosemite to do non-native plant eradication (primarily bull thistle & mullein). The season begins late June and ends in early September. You can volunteer for one to several days at a time, weekdays and some weekends. Work parties are led by me and one other NPS volunteer. Participants are provided entrance to Yosemite & shared camping space for the time they are volunteering. Participants are on their own for meals, showers, camping gear, etc. Volunteers must be in very good physical condition, and for some (not all) of the work sites must be experienced cross-country hikers (day hikes only, no backpacking). If you are interested in having more info about this opportunity to help improve Yosemite's ecological integrity, send email to <gstigall@aol.com> or send an SASE to: Georgia Stigall-Volunteers, 17287 Skyline Blvd Box 102, Woodside, CA 94062.

– Georgia Stigall

Aldo Leopold, from "A Sand County Almanac"

"At daybreak, I am the sole owner of all the acres I can walk over. It is not only boundaries that disappear, but also the thought of being bounded. Expanses unknown to deed or map are known to every dawn, and solitude, supposed no longer to exist in my county, extends on every hand as far as the dew can reach."

– submitted by Butch Suits

Official (PCS) Trips

PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler (see back cover for details). Trips not submitted to the Scheduler will be listed as PRIVATE, without recourse.

Red and White

Peaks: Red and White (12,850') class 2-3
Dates: August 17-18 Sat-Sun
Leader: Chris MacIntosh 415-325-7841
chrism@CLBooks.com

A pleasant hike in to camp at scenic McGee Lakes, and an even more scenic and enjoyable climb of this peak will make for a good 2 day weekend. Room for 8. Send \$3 (permit fee) and your climbing/backpacking resume (if not known to leader) to confirm your place: Box 802, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Royce & Merriam With Roger & Bob

Peaks: Royce Peak (13,253') Merriam (13,077') class 2
Maps: Mt. Abbot & Mt. Tom 15' topos
Dates: Aug 24-25 Sat-Sun
Leader: Roger Crawley H: 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: Bob Suzuki W: 510-657-7555
(>8pm) H: 408-259-0772

We will be combining our separately permitted climbs, starting from the Pine Creek Pass trailhead near Bishop, so we hope to assemble a fun, lively group of participants. We climb 4000' to the top - about 11,200' - and camp. On Sunday we climb the southeast ridge to the summit of Royce. Climbing Merriam Peak will be an available option for Sunday. Permits for 14.

Marion Bury

Peak: Marion 12,207' class 2
Dates: Aug 31 - Sep 2 Sat-Mon
Leader: Chris Yager 408-243-3026

A real butt-kicker to get this in three days. Involves 5600' gain to the pass, then 10 miles to the lake. If we have time after Marion, we'll do some other peaks in the area.

Deerhorn

Peak: Deerhorn 13265' class 3
Dates: Aug 31 - Sep 2
Leader: Peter Maxwell 408-737-9770
Co-leader: Cecil Magliocco 408-358-1168

We will hike in over Kearsage Pass, to beautiful Vidette Meadow, from where we'll go cross country up Vidette Creek until we find a good camping site nearer Deerhorn. Secor's guide states "this fine-looking peak has some classic routes, none of which are trivial".

From camp we will climb the Northeast Buttress, which leads to the lower summit, traverse to the saddle between the two peaks (which involves some fairly exposed moves) and then find a way up to the higher summit. This should be great Class 3 climbing, but is not for the faint-of-heart because of the exposure. There will be a \$3 permit fee and a \$10 appearance bond, refundable at the trailhead.

The leader will be out of town until August 13 - interested people phoning before that date can leave a message.

Bird Song Day Hike

Peak: Vogelsang (11,400') class 2
Date: Sep 13 Sat
Maps: Tuolumne Meadows 15' quad
Vogelsang Peak 7.5' quad
Leader: Aaron Schuman (no RSVP)

We'll hike on trail to Tuolumne Pass (10000'), and climb to the summit. 18 miles round trip. The Bird Song and Conservation of Energy Day Hikes require no RSVP. Campers at the PCS Tuolumne Meadows Group Camp and other hikers just meet at the Tuolumne Campground group site ready to hike at 7:00 a.m.

Conservation of Energy Day Hike

Peak: Mount Gibbs (12,800') class 2
Date: Sep 14 Sun
Map: Mono Craters 15' quad
Leader: Aaron Schuman (no RSVP)

From Dana Meadows (9600'), we'll hike on trail to Mono Pass (10600'), The Bird Song and Conservation of Energy Day Hikes require no RSVP. Campers at the PCS Tuolumne Meadows Group Camp and other hikers just meet for a carpool to the trailhead from the Tuolumne Campground group site at 7:00 a.m.

Note: Gibbs proposed three laws of thermodynamics

1. Conservation of Energy
2. Increasing Entropy
3. Unattainable Absolute Zero

This trip name may now mean something even to the readers who slept through physics class in pursuit of Law #3.

Hiske and ?

Peak: Mt Fiske 13,524', Mt Huxley 13,117' class 2-3
Dates: Sep 14-15 Sat-Sun
Leader: Chris Yager 408-243-3026

Approach via Haeckle-Wallace Pass or Echo Col, traverse and descend when necessary.

Muriel Peak

Peak: Muriel (12,942'), Goethe (13,240') class 3
Dates: Sept 14-16 Sat-Mon
Leader: Roger Crawley 415-321-8602
Co-Leader: Bill Kirkpatrick

This is the Glacier Divide between Humphrey's Basin and Darwin Canyon. From the North Lake trailhead we go up 2000' over Piute Pass and camp at Muriel Lake (11,336'). Sunday we take the class 2 knapsack pass up through the keyhole (12,560') then up the southeast ridge to the summit of Muriel Peak. Next we drop down to Alpine Col (12,320') and climb the class 3 NE ridge on Mount Goethe. Permit for 8.

Annual Mt Clark Pilgrimage

Peak: Mt Clark (11,522'), Quartzite (10,440') class 3
Map: Merced Peak 15' topo
Date: Sep 21 Sat
Leader: Steve Eckert 415-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com

This is a 30-mile day hike with 8000' of gain and loss. Storkman used to do this each year on his birthday, and has asked me to pass on the route to those who are interested. It is a one-way loop trip from Happy Isle in Yosemite Valley, ascending through Little Yosemite and returning by Starr King. The hiking is mostly trail or class 2, but the summit is both challenging (may be skipped if you choose) and stunning. Fast pace with few breaks, starting before dawn. We may be able to get a campsite in Yosemite for Fri and Sat. Co-listed with Day Hiking Section - come defend the honor of the PCS!

Langley

Peak: Mt Langley (14,000') class 2
Trailhead: Cottonwood Lakes, near Lone Pine
Dates: Oct 12-14 Sat-Mon
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320

Beautiful area, the yellowing aspens, the meadow grass not so verdant and riotous, the frenzy of the long summer nights abating, a good time of the year. The trailhead is at 10,000' and the trail into Cottonwood Lakes is very good, making this probably the easiest fourteener in the state. We will hike into our camp on Sat and climb the mountain on Sun. It is possible to get back to your car and drive back on Sun night, though you would get home rather late.



Shasta: Response To Article

Editor's Note: This article is related to the report filed by Bob Gross last month. Responses or clarifications to articles will normally be printed if they are not argumentative.

I'd like to comment on the article in the July Scree regarding the '20th Annual Mt. Shasta Climb/Ski'. There was reference to 'a nasty accident' wherein 'two innocent walkers' were knocked off their feet. As one of those 'innocent walkers', I can comment further. Dana and I had taken two relatively inexperienced climbers with us for the Shasta climb. They both had had some ice-ax practice, but by the time we reached the top of Red Banks, it was clear that at least one (Kathy, a physician) was not up to the climb. As Dana went on with Nancy to the summit, I descended with Kathy. The slope was icy, but Kathy had managed to get down the steepest part and appeared to be doing fairly well.

At that point, a man slid past out of control, missing us by only a few feet. Only a few minutes later we saw another man (the son of the first) also sliding out of control, right at us. As we tried to get out of his way, Kathy tripped and I had my legs whipped out from under me. Despite a chest sling, Kathy lost her ax before being able to effect an arrest. I managed to stop within about 25-30 feet.

I proceeded down the slope, picking up gear from all three sliders. (I could see that Kathy was being attended to.) All three had lost their ice axes, along with miscellaneous other gear. Kathy had slid the farthest, probably about 1000 feet, and had come to rest close to a woman Forest Ranger. Kathy had scrapped considerable skin off one arm (hence the blood referred to in the article) and suffered considerable bruising, including possible fractures of one elbow and ankle.

After some bandaging by the Ranger and some on-site recovery, I assisted Kathy to Helen Lake in small increments. At Helen Lake, Kathy rested until Dana and Nancy had returned - about the time weather was beginning to turn nasty. Because of the injuries, we decided to descend as soon as possible. The woman Ranger volunteered to assist in dragging Kathy's pack as far as the Sierra Club hut. It was still a slow (wet) descent, reaching the cars just before dark.

We were met by Kathy's husband (also a doctor), who drove Katy back to the Bay area that night, for immediate x-raying and evaluation in the morning. On our return to the Bay area the next day, Kathy had been evaluated and it was determined that no bones were broken, and it was unlikely she would need a skin graft (one of our early concerns). She was back to work in a week and is now anxious to get back to the mountains (with a little more preparation).

The main lesson to be learned is that Shasta (or any steep snow mountain) can be dangerous to anyone without excellent skills with an ice ax. An arrest on steep, fast ice, takes almost instinctive reactions, which come only from lots of practice. Be sure of the skill level of people you agree to take on a climb. We tend to underestimate Shasta, because it has such a long run-out, but a long tumbling fall can still be potentially serious.

- Bill Isherwood

Stalwart 7 Successfully Summit

North Palisade is, according to Secor, *the* peak to climb in the High Sierra, and on the July 4 weekend seven of us set out to do

it by *the* classic route - the U-notch. With 007 people, we had a license to kill all thoughts of failure. The “magnificent seven” were Debbie Benham, Brian Boyle, David Harris, Kelly Maas, Peter Maxwell (organizer), Paul Scheidt and Joe Stephens.

Due to some people waiting at the wrong trailhead, we didn't start hiking until 9:15 am. Progress was further slowed due to Paul's suffering the aftereffects of eating bad food the day before. Voracious mosquitoes were everywhere, requiring copious amounts of bug juice.

Second Lake was as far as we got for lunch, and we didn't arrive at Sam Mack Meadow until sufficiently late in the afternoon that it didn't seem worthwhile trying to go higher. “Leader's privilege” meant nothing on this trip. After having set up my bivvy bag in what I thought was a very nice location, Kelly shamed me into moving by using the argument that I'd claimed one of the few tent sites. Suitably humbled, I found a spot nestled among the rocks, but neither of us was aware of the palatial ballroom that Joe found a short distance away. We were above the worst of the mosquitoes, but there were still enough around to require bug juice to repel them.

Friday morning saw us reasonably efficient, in that we were up at 6 am and left camp at 7:30. From the meadow at 11040' we hiked up to 12200', where we made camp on snow on the flat top of the moraine about 50' up from the little lake where the Palisade Glacier terminates. Were it not for the snow we would have had a hard time trying to find flat spaces for the three tents, since the ground was basically rocks. This was a campsite with a view! We were surrounded by the Palisades, starting from Gayley on the left and ending with Agassiz and Robinson on the right. The luxury was added to by discovering a large pool of water by a boulder in the middle of camp. This avoided the necessity of having to melt snow.

We arrived around 9:30 am, and noted that already there was a party of four climbing up the U-notch. More on this later. After setting up camp, David, Kelly and Paul went off to climb Sill, Joe (who claimed he was out of peak bagging mode now) and Brian stayed at camp, and Debbie and I went out for a “stroll” to the ridge between Gayley and Temple Crag.

In the Sill group, David appeared to have been shot out of a cannon as Paul and Kelly lagged behind. At Glacier Notch they met a gal named Kelly, whose friends were off climbing Polemonium. The softening snow made the ascent of Sill's northern snow field a real trudge, but Paul was miraculously rejuvenated by the nearness to the summit. The traverse to Sill's west ridge was the usual dicey affair, which was class 3 except for one move that was proclaimed class 4. A short scramble then put them on the summit at 1:00. One amusing register entry by Reinhold Hardman told of obtaining the summit via a Tyrolean Traverse from Mt. Alice. His elapsed time from the trailhead was 1:38:43. David dropped the register down a crack, then went in head first, up to his knees, to fish it out. Further register reading indicated that this stunt had been performed previously!

By mid-afternoon those of us at camp were starting to wonder why it was that no-one who went up the U-notch ever came back. There was the original party of four we saw, and two more guys who had come through our camp around 10 am. Eventually these two did show up and turned up back at our camp around 5 pm. It turns out they were *day hiking* North Pal, having started from the carpark at 6:30 am! They didn't have any ropes or equipment with them, either. The other four finally appeared around 8 pm, but didn't make it to our campsite until 11:15 pm! They were

shining their lights everywhere and talking, “Oh, people are camped here”.

Next morning we were up at 5 am, in temperatures just cold enough to put a thin layer of ice on my bivvy sac. We eventually left camp around 6:20 am, making the 1000' climb to the bergschrund by 7:30. We were lucky to be able to step over it at the far right hand side (one large step up onto a snow bank), so one potentially really challenging task was easily accomplished. From there to the top of the couloir took us until 8:45, which wasn't too bad. Much of this was in the shade, which was perfect for energetic climbing, and it kept the snow in pristine, hard condition, perfect for cramponing. We kept to the right hand side as there was quite a lot of rockfall evidence on the left - some larger boulders had fallen down, slid down the snow and leapt the bergschrund. Just before quitting the snow for rock we encountered some ice, but it wasn't enough to cause any problems. The final scramble up very loose rock was definitely a concern, and it was just as well that we had spread out a bit by then.

At this point, apparently most climbers descend the other side a little to do the easier *Clyde variation*, but we were intent on doing the classic *chimney variation*, which goes up two pitches of a 5.4 crack (Roper calls this class 4, but it's definitely not). With seven of us climbing, teamwork was essential, and we set up two ropes, one for each pitch. These enabled people to be climbing in parallel and really shortened the time required. Kelly led up the first pitch and then belayed up Joe and Paul. Joe stayed to belay the rest up the first pitch while Paul led up the second pitch, then belayed people up there. We finished this grand exercise at 11:45 and were then faced with exciting class 3 ridge scrambling to reach the summit by 12:30, just in time for lunch.

After leaving the summit at 1:30, the descent was pretty quick, rappelling down each pitch. Everyone but I had figure-8 descenders, and my method of pitons crossed over a carabiner was met with amazement and polite scoffing. I had to explain that when abseiling (one doesn't rappel in Australia) down canyons into pools of water, one doesn't want to have to disconnect the descender from the harness in order to unclip from the rope - one slip and the descender disappears into the murky depths. Once over the bergschrund it was possible to glissade down the rest of the steep snow, which was in perfect condition. It was then an easy downhill walk back to camp, where the last of us arrived at 6:30.

Next morning, Joe was packed and ready to leave at 6:30 am, the time the rest of us were waking up. David left before the rest of us, accompanied by another person who had shared our campsite with us. He agreed to carry *both* ropes for us on the condition that we have lunch in Bishop *regardless of the hour*.

True to our promise, we all joined together for lunch at Sizzler, followed by the most dangerous challenge - the drive home. During the course of conversation it came out that Paul, like myself, brews beer, so for much of the time we were exchanging experiences, talking from one end of the table to the other.

– Peter Maxwell

Unofficial (Private) Trips

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

Western Divide Peaks

Peaks: Table, Thunder, Jordan, etc. 13000+, class 3
Dates: Aug 3-11 or Aug 10-18 Sat-Sun (week)
Contact: Chris Yager 408-243-3026

Entry via Shepherd Pass, hook around the south side of Table Mtn. Ice axe, crampons, rope required.

Darwin and Mendel

Peaks: Darwin (13831) Mendel (13710) snow/rock, class 3-4
Maps: Mt. Goddard 15' topo, Mt. Darwin 7.5' topo
Dates: Aug 16-18 Fri-Sun
Contact: Bob Suzuki W: 510-657-7555
(>8pm) H: 408-259-0772
Co-Contact: Charles Schafer W: 408-324-6003
H: 408-354-1545

This weekend will begin on Friday with a hike over Laramie Col and into upper Darwin Canyon. Saturday we'll ascend the Darwin Glacier and West Ridge route, traverse the summit plateau and finally climb the class 4 pinnacle of this mountain that Secor calls "the monarch of the Evolution region." An optional Sunday climb of Mt. Mendel will require an early start. Permit for 8.

Dana Day Hike

Peak: Dana Couloir technical snow
Date: Sept 14 Sat
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320

A long day's climb. Hard snow and possible ice. The glacial basin is spectacular and as we near the top of the couloir the views of Mono Lake make the effort worthwhile. We will put in protection: ice axe, crampons, and harness required. A few ice screws could be handy. We should be back to the cars by dark.

Call to sign up after August 21, and before 9pm.

Whorl Mountain

Peak: Whorl Mtn (12,033') class 4
Map: Matterhorn peak 15' topo
Dates: Sept 21-22 Sat-Sun
Contact: Bob Suzuki W: 510-657-7555
(>8pm) H: 408-259-0772
Co-Contact: Debbie Bulger H: 408-457-1036

Here's another opportunity for a challenging climb of this picturesque peak in northeastern Yosemite. We'll begin Saturday from Twin Lakes, hike over Horse Creek Pass and setup camp just south of the pass. An early start Sunday will allow us time to search for one of the class 4 chutes up Whorl's glacial-carved east flank. A harness, rappel device and prior experience with roped climbing will be required to join this private outing. Limited to 8 climbers.

Toulumne Meadows Carcamp

Trip: Car Camp in Toulumne Meadows
Dates: Sept 14-15 Sat-Sun
Contact: Cecil Magliocco 408-358-1168
cecilm@ix.netcom.com

Enjoy the meadows after Labor Day. Bring the family along as we have a group campsite reservation. This carcamp is coordinated with Aaron Schuman's Yosemite climbs on the same weekend. A \$5 non-refundable reservation deposit is requested.

Tenaya Canyon Ascent

Trip: Tenaya Canyon class 3-4, maybe 5
Dates: Oct 12-13 Sat-Sun
Contact: David Harris 415-497-5571
harrisd@leland.stanford.edu
Co-Contact: Bob Suzuki 510-657-7555
bsuzuki@aol.com

According to Secor, "This adventurous cross-country route should only be attempted by experienced mountaineers; many tourists are rescued from this canyon each year." We will ascend Tenaya Canyon from Mirror Lake to Tenaya Lake. Finding the optimal route is non-trivial, so we will bring ropes and you should be a comfortable class 5 climber in the event we resort to brute force.

Yosemite Valley Carcamp

Trip: Car Camp in Yosemite Valley
Dates: Oct 12-13 Sat-Sun
Contact: Cecil Magliocco 408-358-1168
cecilm@ix.netcom.com

Enjoy this fall in the valley. A group campsite is reserved so non-climbers are welcome (of all ages). Co-leader wanted to lead one dayhike. A \$5 non-refundable reservation deposit is requested.

Palisades Report

Weather was almost perfect in the Palisades over the holiday weekend. Almost too warm! The sun was so hot on top of Mt Gayley (13,500+) that David Erskine and I sought shade under boulders to cool off. It must have been close to 80 degrees. On some nights, snowfields around 12,000 feet did not freeze. Mosquitoes were in abundance.

I recommend the third-class ridge from Glacier Notch highly. It's a wonderful staircase of solid blocks just right of the ridgecrest, with more exciting variations available on the crest itself. The view of the Palisades from this outlier peak is incredible. Bergshrunds were showing on the glacier, but I gathered from other climbers that they were not difficult to cross. To get to the Palisades Glacier, we used the big gully from 3rd Lake up beside the north faces of Temple Crag and Gayley--scenic and definitely a fast descent compared to Sam Mack Meadow.

Dave and I also climbed Moon Goddess arete on Temple Crag. It's a spectacular climb with lots of exposure and sections of great rock mixed with the occasional loose block. About 14 pitches, most about 5.6. We think we found the elusive traverse around the Ibrium tower--the crux was a few moves of 5.7-5.8.

— Butch Suits

Shasta: The Ridge From Hell

Solo trip done on April 15th '96. (The title reference is to a PCS trip report in the June '96 Scree). Standing on the edge of Shasta's Sargents Ridge at about 11000 feet I remembered the emailed trip report & Phyllis' words: ("laying down, toes digging into the snow, winds over 80 MPH... it was the ridge from hell") as the wind starting picking up to 40-50 MPH and was not slowing the higher I got.

I fastened my ice-axe strap more securely to my wrist as I was getting a little fearful about loosing it down the 45 degree slope and making up my mind to turn around and descend as clearly the wind, today as well owned this hellaciously windy ridge. Thoughts of many debates as to whether or not to fasten the ice strap to one's wrist crossed through my mind as well - at this point I knew what was correct - as in my mountaineering courses - always tie in to the ice axe! If you lose it "up here" one is in serious jeopardy! In avalanche areas maybe not as you want to get rid of everything if you are caught in one. (But I debate that also - if I am buried a pack may come in handy as needed air space?)

Putting my gloves on after tightening my crampons and getting water, I dropped a glove and tried to catch it and then proceeded to do one of those funny balance dances with arms flailing in circles, and the winds did not help one bit. Even in crampons, Newton will not have any of his laws broken, and zip with the next large gust of wind I headed face first in a in-glorious swan dive down the fall-line of the slope towards the cliff 100 feet away, my ice axe, still securely fastened to my wrist at this time, did a 360 degree cartwheel next to my head as I fell, apparently in time to the previous flailing of my arms.... I heard it whooossh by my ear... and then whammp- it slammed pick first 3" deep into the snow and ice!!

I then cartwheeled around hanging from it. Hanging, next to apparent oblivion, from my ice axe strap, the ONLY thing saving me from going over the edge. I guess you could say my ice-axe did a real, A+ "self-arrest". (yes, I did somehow catch that damn glove even in the wind...) I got back into control & climbed up my ice-axe shaft and then continued my descent to try another summit route up upon very rubbery and shaky legs. I traversed and descended into the Gully where- yes! the wind was just a breeze.

I think I will bronze that ice axe and put it over my fireplace. Since then I have been very vertigo-ish and probably just plain scared as hell. So this weekend (25-26th May '96) I went to the Alpine Skills Institute of Truckee, Ca. for a refresher course in rope work, high altitude juggling, balancing acts, and other nominal circus stunts one can do on narrow ridges.

Their cure? Cure?!! Several class 4 vertical climb scrambles and a short low class 5 top-rope climb!! Plus 4 longish pitches up the 50 degree incline of the snow/ice side of Donner Peak! Plus 30-traverses, kick-stepping up + down on a 45 deg slope to practice (atone??) for my "lovely" slide down Shasta! Then- an unroped summiting to "top" the trip off!

I think now without a doubt the way to go on any snow/ice over 30 degrees with exposure is to wear a harness and tie into the ice-axe with a web strap. As once tied into the harness it is very easy to change hands as needed without removing the strap- especially useful in exposed windy areas- as one does their pied-a-plat/piolet-ancre's/piolet-ramasse up the slope.

– Rich Calliger

Diamond Head

I climbed Diamond Head, the high point of a volcanic crater in Hawaii, on Tuesday June 11th. After spending the morning snorkeling, I convinced the tour driver to drop me at the crater instead of at my hotel. The ascent from the crater floor was a grueling 15 minutes and nearly 500 feet of elevation gain. The guidebooks warn of 99 steps on the trail, a number exceeding the number of switchbacks on the Whitney Trail.

As the entrance to the crater is on the east side and my hotel was on the beach on the west side, I decided to attempt a cross-country descent of western face instead of retracing my steps down the trail. Ducking under a "Warning: Dangerous Cliffs" railing at the top, I followed a narrow use trail around the crater rim. The cliffs were nearly vertical and would have required a 75 foot rappel; as I left my rope at home I traversed along a class 2-3 route atop the cliffs in a clockwise direction. After about half a mile, I found a class 3 descent of the Direct West Buttress that was safe to do in sandals.

From the base of the buttress, I worked my way back counterclockwise on a narrow trail. Access to the street was blocked by many houses, so I had to follow the trail, dodging cactus and other sharp plants, until I finally reached a brush-choked dry stream bed which led out through a back yard to the street. From the street, I completed an epic 2.5 mile deathmarch back to my hotel, slowed by the loose sand and scree on Waikiki beach and by the crowds of scantily clad sunbathers I had to pass.

– David Harris

Mt Conness

Over a 2 day weekend (13/14th July 1996), Scott Kreider, Thomas Vu and I (Arun Mahajan) attempted Mt Conness in Yosemite (12590 ft) by the class-2 route from the Young Lakes.

After about six and half hours of hiking from the Dog Lake trailhead in Touloumne, we were at the lake (10500+ ft) described in Secor. To get to this place, we had to hike an hour and half north of the upper young lake. We decided to camp as high as we could but still couldn't get rid of the mosquitoes. It looked like rain and all the peaks around had clouds hanging over them, so we decided to do Conness the next day. This lake is just a collection of ponds with grassy islands in between. There was nobody else there except us three. We put the food in bear-containers but there were no bear visitations.

We set out on the use trail towards Conness and came to the base of the summit block in two hours after leaving base camp. After some careful climbing over the short exposed knife edge we were at a small but steep snowfield, but it was soon negotiated and we were at the top, 30 minutes after. There were lots of entries in the register as expected, but we saw no one else. We did see some people trying to traverse the glacier in the distance to the east. We were back at base camp at noon and to the cars at 5 pm.

If anyone goes there, get LOTS of bug repellent. An axe would be useful on the snowfield near the summit, but I felt that one could get by with kicking steps.

– Arun Mahajan

Climbers in the Mist

Wherever you go, whatever peak you climb, it's clear to me that mother nature rules! A storm front had moved in on Mt. Rainier when we arrived and moved out when we left. While we did not summit, visions of headwalls, icefalls, seracs, and deep crevasses linger in my mind.

Our group included: Kelly Maas, Paul Ward-Dolkas, Will Hirst, and myself, Debbie Benham. Greg McDonnell and his son, Sean, joined us for the hike up to Camp Muir. At a first sighting of Rainier from above, I was awestruck with its girth and massive glaciation. At last ready on Sunday, we headed up to Camp Muir, a sheltered plateau at 10,000' and basecamp to the 'tourist route' of the Ingraham Glacier. It was quite a sight to see groups of at least 25 following the Rainier Mountaineering Guide.

Kelly was the first to Camp Muir and saved us a spot at the public hut which saved us the work of putting up tents. As we were preparing dinner, the National Park Ranger came in to get our names and numbers, as well as tell us the weather forecast - bleak - "Storm coming in. You may want to wait it out." We checked at midnight (clear); at 1:30am (windy); and again at 3:20am (howling). I decided to wait. We rolled out of our sleeping bags about 8 am, and looked outside. It was cold, and bright with wind blowing clouds up and down the glacier. After some discussion, we decided to rope up, head up and see what we could see.

Paul led the way up the Ingraham Glacier direct route. It was fairly straight-forward as the Rainier Mountaineering Guides had flagged and pounded the trail. As such, however, it was 'dicey' in spots, especially when you had to walk up and over a gapping crevasse. This was my first time on a roped team and I found I had to pay attention to the rope, watch where I put my crampon-booted feet, and, simultaneously, look at the beauty around me. What a time - exciting, scary and wonderful. At 12,760', we stopped between and above Disappointment Cleaver and Gibraltar Rock. Tired, with more and more snow coming down, we headed back to camp.

On our descent, Tuesday, we awoke to a crystal clear morning! We saw spindrift on the high ridges above and socked-in, cloud cover below us. Mt. Adams rose above the clouds and we could have walked to his summit on that billowy carpet! At 9,000', we hit white-out conditions. With Will as our prow, we took a bearing and steered our way to the trailhead at Paradise.

A "thank you" to all in our group for your experience and knowledge of glacier travel, and, for a wonderful trip!

– Debbie Benham (6/21/96)

Palmer balm(i)er

Trip report of the unofficial PCS trip to Palmer Mt (11250 ft) and Sphinx's Crest (11265 ft) on the balmy weekend of 8/9th June 1996. Trip participants: Siamak Navid (leader), Jim Schollard, Dennis Hiipakka, Nancy Fitzsimmons, David Lou, Shailesh Chutani and Arun Mahajan.

We started off from the ranger station at road's end beyond Cedar Grove in the King's Canyon National Park. The ranger warned us of snow above 8500 ft, so we took axes. Some of us had ski-

poles, but we did not take crampons. We were to find out later that the snow line was at about 10000.

Within four miles of gentle switchbacks, we came to the Bubbs Creek junction where the river was in spate. There, we took the trail to Avalanche Pass. After seemingly endless switchbacks, and then a couple of interesting stream crossings, we were at 10000 ft. At that point, we decided to back down to 9500 feet to camp on the banks of a stream. It was 5 pm then. It had taken us 8 hrs to do a little less than 11 miles and about 5000 ft of gain. The next day, starting at 7.30 am, we headed up to the pass. The trail kind of gives up at this point. There, we took a vote. With the time at hand and by accounting for the time to hike out, we figured that we should be back at camp at 1 pm. Siamak, Shailesh and Jim decided to head towards Sphinx Crest. They had never done it before and wanted to find the route to it. David, Nancy, Dennis and I decided to head east for the more obvious Palmer Mt.

Avalanche Pass to Palmer Mt : At this point onwards, there was snow and it was hard enough to climb on. We gained altitude quickly and soon were on the ridge leading to the summit. After going around one more rocky hump, we came to the summit block. We scrambled up the small class-3 section and got to the summit. The summit has a couple of solar panels and wires run out to a small wooden hut which is locked. We had great views all around. The last entry in the small summit register (pieces of paper stuffed into a rusty canister) was from 1993 and the entry before that was in 1989. We headed down by the boulders instead of the snow, which was getting softer as the day wore on. We were back at camp at 12.30 (3 hrs to summit, 2 to get back). The other group came back at 1 pm after having successfully found the route to Sphinx Crest. They said that it was not as hard as they expected, but they were all strong and fast hikers, and I think they were just being modest! Here is the insert from Siamak Navid describing their part:

Avalanche Pass to Sphinx Crest: Once you get to Avalanche Pass, the lower summit of Sphinx Crest is to your SE and about 0.5 miles away. The higher summit is not visible from the pass. We decided to aim for the saddle between the two high points and then stay on the crest to the top. While we were climbing we did look for the other group that was on Palmer, but we never saw them.

Starting from the pass, it took us about 2.5 hr to get to the high point of the Sphinx Crest (11500'). The terrain above tree line was mostly class-2 (boulder fields with some snow). At the top we found a register (glass jar) placed by SPS in mid-eighties with only 3 entries. The last entry in the register was in 1989. Having a clear day, we could see from the Palisades to the Kaweahs. Our view towards Mt Whitney area, however, was blocked by what we thought was Mt Brewer and its environs. Since our maps did not cover that area, we were not completely sure what we were looking at.

We headed out at 1.30. The steep switchbacks seemed even more hard, the packs even more heavy and the distance even longer, but we still made it back to the car at 6.40 pm in fine spirits. Some of us even had some fine spirits in a cooler at the trailhead. Over a salt-laden dinner at the Grant Grove Village we mused on why so few people climbed peaks as nice as these, and why these peaks don't make it to the SPS list. While the answers to these musings were not forthcoming, not one of us was displeased at having done them.

– Arun Mahajan

Scree is the monthly journal of the Peak Climbing Section of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter.

Elected Officials

Chair:

Charles Schafer / charles.schafer@octel.com
408-354-1545 home, 408-324-6003 work
115 Spring Street, Los Gatos CA 95032-6229

Vice Chair and Trip Scheduler:

Roger Crawley
415-321-8602 home
761 Nash Avenue, Menlo Park CA 94025-2719

Treasurer and Membership Roster (address changes):

Jim Ramaker / ramaker@vnet.ibm.com
408-224-8553 home, 408-463-4873 work,
188 Sunwood Meadows Place, San Jose CA 95119-1350

Appointed Positions

Scree Editor, Email Broadcast Operator:

Steve Eckert / eckert@netcom.com
415-508-0500 home/work, 415-508-0501 fax
1814 Oak Knoll Drive, Belmont, CA 94002-1753

PCS World Wide Web Publisher:

Aaron Schuman / schuman@sgi.com
415-933-1901, <http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/index.html>
223 Horizon Avenue, Mountain View CA 94043-4718

Hardcopy subscriptions are \$10/year, plus a requested donation of \$2/year to cover operating expenses. Subscription applications and checks payable to "PCS" should be mailed to the Treasurer so they arrive before the last Tuesday of the expiration month. If you are on the PCS email broadcast, you have a free **EScree** subscription. For broadcast info, send Email to <listserv@netspace.org> with the one-line message "INFO sc-peaks". EScree-only subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge, and are encouraged to donate \$2/year to the PCS.

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:

(if you sent something that is not here, please send it again)

Trip Reports: Ojos del Salado, Aconcagua

Trip Reports: Shasta, Williamson, Tyndall

Trip Reports: Blackcap, Sill, Onion Valley

World's 60 Highest Mountains

Bear Damage in the Eastern Sierra

NOTE: Reports over 1 page long will be shortened by the Editor!

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 8/25/96. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

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



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

First Class Mail - Dated Material