



Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 9

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: Party and Slide Show!

Someone may kick you out if you show up empty handed or try to get by "on the cheap" with a liter of Coca Cola®! Bring your "best" potluck dish. If you need a suggestion for what to bring, follow this guide based on the initial letter of your last name:

- o A-F: Snacks, Appetizers, Salads
- o G-L: Drinks
- o M-R: Main course
- o S-Z: Desserts

NOTE: Names have been re-arranged for 1997 to avoid picking on the same people!

Location: The world famous. "Cafe Iris" on the Silicon Graphics Campus.

Dress Code: Black Tie and Balaclava Optional

There's a gif map to the Cafe Iris on the Web at:
<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/winter.html>

Check the Web for any last-minute changes and late breaking news. (Hey, it could happen!)

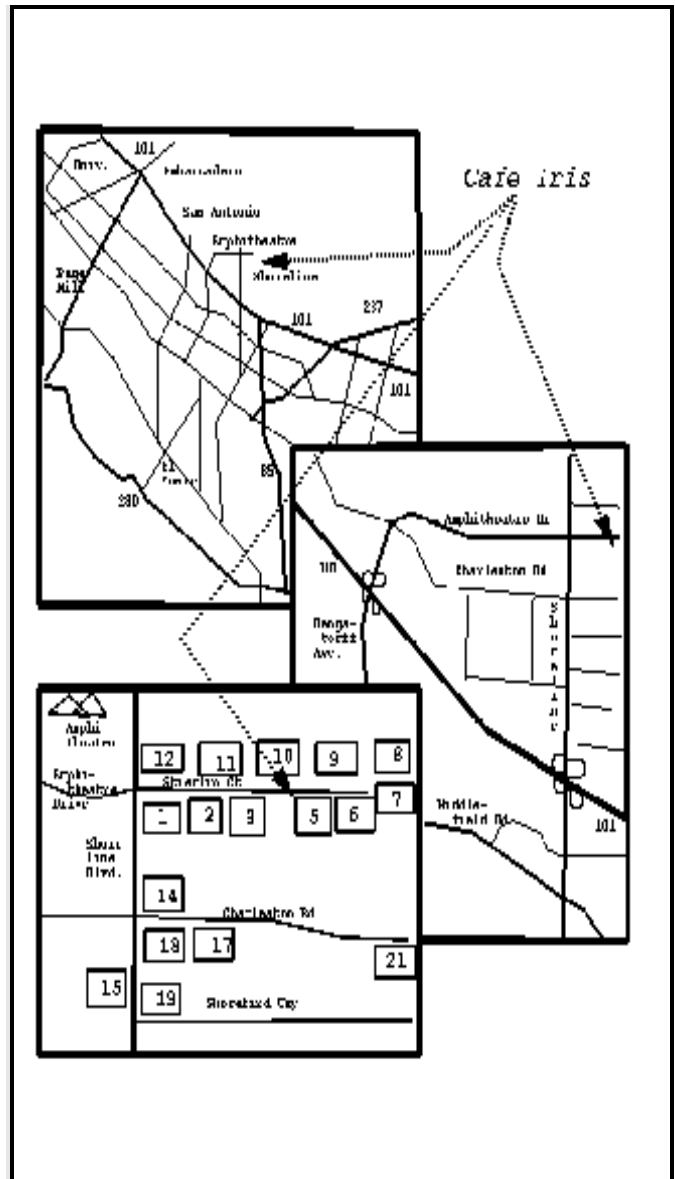
To get to Silicon Graphics, take the Shoreline Blvd. exit from US-101 in Mountain View. From either the northbound or southbound directions, make a right exit, then turn left at the top of the ramp, heading north through the industrial park 1.3 miles from the top of the ramp, there'll be the unmistakable Shoreline Amphitheater on your left - a giant two poled white tent Another landmark at the same corner is the charming red abstract sculpture on your right.

Turn right at that corner, onto Stierlin Court. You're on the SGI campus. Park anywhere that isn't a fire lane, a handicapped space, or a loading dock.

Building 5 (with Cafe Iris) is the fourth building on the right.

Bring ten of your most exciting, embarrassing, or "hideous exposure" slides to show at the party

PCS WINTER PARTY



Acupuncture was invented by a camper who found a porcupine in his sleeping bag.

Official (PCS) Trips

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

Pack It In With Excelsior

Peaks: Excelsior Mt. (12,446') class 1 / snow
Dates: Dec 6-7 Sat-Sun
snow delays to Dec 13-14 Sat-Sun
Maps: Matterhorn Peak 15 min.
Dunderberg Peak 7.5 min.
Leader: Steve Eckert 650-508-0500
eckert@netcom.com
Co-Leader: Aaron Schuman H: 650-968-9184
schuman@sgi.com W: 650-933-1901

Join us for a two day snowshoe backpack from Conway Summit to Excelsior Mountain. Details at:

<http://reality.sgi.com/schuman/trips/excelsior.html>

Pyramid Peak

Peak: Pyramid Peak (9983'), class 2
Dates: Sat. Jan. 17 - Mon. Jan. 19
Map: Pyramid Peak 7.5 min.
Leader: Palmer Dyal, H: 650-941-5321, Pdyal@msn.com
Co-Leader: Wanted

This will be a moderately paced 3 mile snowshoe trip to climb a relatively easy peak in the Desolation Wilderness area southwest of Lake Tahoe. The elevation gain is about 1000' per mile and we plan to camp at treeline.

We will have time to build snow caves on the first day and view the marvelous glaciated scenery of the whole Tahoe basin from the peak on the second day. There will be a choice of returning on Sunday or Monday depending on the weather, etc. A good trip for beginning climbers.

Horizontal Mountaineering

Peak: Tomales Point
Date: Saturday, December 13
Leader: George Van Gorden H: 408-779-2320

Starting at the end of the Pierce Point Road in Point Reyes, we will go down to the beach and head north in an attempt to go around Tomales Point. We will have a minus 1.6 tide at about 5:00 P. M. which will give us at least a chance of actually making it, though it will not be easy and is seldom successfully done. As darkness is falling and the moon is rising over the hills beyond Tomales Bay, we will scramble up to higher ground and return to our cars by the Tomales Point Trail, perhaps surrounded by elk curious to know who would be out on such a winter's night. Rain does not cancel because we will be just as wet rain or no.

Annual Beginners Snow Camping Seminar

Dates: Tues. Eves. Jan. 6th, Wed. Jan 7th, Wed. Jan 14th;
Weekend of Jan 24/25 or Jan 31/Feb 1.
Leaders: Marj Ottenberg 408-867-4576 or Chris MacIntosh
650-325-7841 <chris@clbooks.com>.

A planned winter overnight trip in the Sierra can be wonderful or cold and miserable. A forced overnight due to

storm, injury or equipment failure presents far more hazards in winter than in summer. For the 25th winter, PCS (and STS) leaders present a snow camping seminar to help backpackers, climbers, and others enjoy winter sports safely and comfortably. Participants learn do's and don'ts of winter planning, clothing, food etc. as well as making emergency and non-emergency shelters in the snow, then put these skills into practice on a weekend trip to the Sierra (traveling by skis or snowshoes. \$40 cost includes 3 books and equipment maintenance.

PCS Trip Leaders Wanted

Becoming a PCS trip leader is easier than you probably think. The main requirement is climbing knowledge and experience. Here's what you need to do to become a PCS trip leader:

1. Join the PCS and the Sierra Club if you haven't already.
2. Take a Red Cross-approved first aid class and obtain a Red Cross first aid card.
3. Fill out the "Application for PCS Leadership" below.
4. Submit your completed application to the chair of the PCS Mountaineering Committee.

Mountaineering Committee:
Tim Hult
2256 Avenida Alumnos
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Phone: 408-970-0760 (H)
E-mail: Tim.hult@lmco.com>

Application for PCS Leadership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Sierra Club Number: _____

Are you over age 18? Yes___ No___

Are you a PCS member? Yes___ No___

What class of climb are you applying to lead?

Class 1___ Class 2___ Class 3___ Class 4___ Class 5___

Are you also applying to lead winter climbing trips? Yes___No___

Attach photocopy of your Red Cross first aid card.

Please answer the two questions below in order to verify that you have satisfied the requirements for leading the class of climb that you have checked. These requirements are listed following the questions.

1. Summarize your climbing skills, navigational skills, and any other information related to your mountaineering knowledge and experience.
2. List the major peaks you have climbed. For each one, include the class of the climb, the name of the leader (if a PCS climb), and whether you led the climb.

I hereby apply for leadership with the Sierra Club Loma Prieta chapter-Peak Climbing Section.

Signature _____

Date _____

Requirements for PCS Leadership

Class One (walking on trail):

1. At least eighteen years of age. PCS and Sierra Club member
2. Red Cross Multimedia First Aid or approved equivalent. Mountain Medicine course conducted by Red Cross and Sierra Club may be substituted at alternate renewal periods.

Class Two (walking cross-country; using hands for balance):

1. Qualifications for class one
2. Minimum two years mountain experience
3. Demonstrated navigational ability
4. Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two class two or harder PCS trips or equivalent

Class Three (use of hands for balance while climbing):

1. Qualifications for class two
2. Recent experience with roped climbing, including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and/or anchor setting
3. Recent experience with ice ax, crampons, self-arrest, and/or ice-ax belay
4. Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two class three or harder PCS trips or equivalent

Class Four (use of rope for belays):

1. Qualifications for class three
2. Knowledgeable and experienced in roped climbing (including belaying, rappelling, knot tying, and anchor setting) ice ax use (including self-arrest and ice-ax belay), and use of crampons.
3. Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two class four or harder PCS trips or equivalent

Class Five (technical rock climbing):

1. Qualifications for class four
2. Led at least three routes equal to or harder than climb to be led
3. Knowledgeable and experienced in all aspects of rope management and handling. Proficient with anchor setting, placing of protection for safety, belaying, and rappelling.
4. Demonstrated sound judgment, mountaineering competence, and leadership ability on two class five PCS trips or equivalent

Winter Trips

1. Qualifications for class of climb to be led
2. Two seasons of winter mountaineering, including extensive snow camping
3. Proficiency with skis or snow shoes, ice ax, crampons, and ice ax belays
4. Substantial navigational experience, including white-out and storm conditions
5. Advanced first aid preferred, with an understanding of hypothermia, frostbite, and pulmonary edema
6. Avalanche course
7. Demonstrated leadership on one PCS winter trip as co-leader

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.

Yosemite Half-Dome Winter Climb

Peak: Half Dome

Dates: Weekend of Dec 13, 1997

Contacts: Rich Calliger (510.651.1876) or Mike Rinaldi (415.564-9830)

Leave Bay Area Friday afternoon, winter-camp at Hodgdon Meadows or Sunnyside walk-in. (TBD). Be up early and on trail pre-dawn light. Snowshoe or boot option depending on conditions. Mixed mode welcome; snow-line may preclude anyway as trailhead is at 4300 feet approx. (May have option to ski if El Nino comes thru and dumps snow down to 3 or 4000 feet!) Crampons, (snowshoes optional) and ice-ax and heavy work gloves for cable required. Optional- bring harness to tie into cables for rest stops (cables are in down position). Return and stay at the Yosemite Lodge for the evening. Return Bay area Sunday night after another day hike Sunday morning- not so early or so far this time. Negotiable- 4 mile trail to glacier point or to top of Yosemite falls. Cost of room(s) to be split equally. \$88 per room. (Option- full facility cabin at \$75). Climb to be decided go/no-go once reach base of Dome and exact snow/ice conditions determined.

Valley is open "all-year round" and roads are plowed- so we will do something even if heavy snow at elevation or if snow line drops to the valley floor. Merced approach (Highway 140) usually open if 120->Big Oak Flat Road route is closed. Bring tire chains. Carpool to be determined.

Aconcagua Private Expedition

Peak: Aconcagua (22,841') class 2 / snow

Dates: 26 Dec 97 - 20 Jan 98

Contact: R.J. Calliger 510-651-1876
calliger@info-lane.com

Anyone interested? Please take a look at Secor's "Climbing Aconcagua" if you are, then contact me for further details via email. The main challenges to this climb are the altitude (22,841'), and the weather (-10F to -20F plus wind). It is the start of the summer there in December and with the altitude, expect conditions like climbing a 14'er here in late winter or early spring, but colder. Airfare is \$850.

Coneheads atop Ventana

Peak: Ventana Double Cone, 4853 ft, Class 2

Dates: January 24, 25 1998.

Maps: Big Sur 7.5' and Ventana Cones 7.5'.

Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick. Home: 408-293-2447, Work: 408-279-3450

Meet at Botcher's Gap (2000 ft) Campground in Big Sur on Saturday morning, January 24; pack about 6 miles to Pat Springs Camp (3800 ft). We will start Sunday morning at dawn for the long hike to the top of Ventana Double Cone, then return to pick up our gear and return to the cars after dark on Sunday. This is only 1.5 hour drive from San Jose. Heavy rain cancels.

It's A Cold, Cruel World

Peak: Matterhorn Peak (12,264') Class
3/snow
Dates: Feb. 14-16
Maps: Matterhorn Peak and Buckeye Ridge
Contact: Kai Wiedman 650-347-5234

Let's test our mettle against the elements. To reach a Sierra summit in winter is a major achievement. We may never climb in Alaska or the Himalaya, but a winter ascent of the Matterhorn could be our Everest. I would like to form two teams; one on skis and one on showshoes. Please give me a call if you would like to lead the snowshoe team.

1998 PCS Roster Update

We will have the current roster at the December meeting. Plan to attend, and to check your name/address/phone/email information! You can also email or send the form below, or you can fill one in at the meeting. The 1998 roster will be published in the January or February Scree, and will contain email addresses for those who wish to release them.

Whether or not you are on the email broadcast, you can list your email in the roster. You must contact the Treasurer if you wish to have your email info listed (just subscribing to the lomap-peak-climbing list is not enough).

Please provide all information so that we can update outdated information and maintain the best possible roster.

For the safety of our members, your street address will not be printed when the roster is published in the Scree/EScree, and you can choose whether to release your telephone number(s) at the bottom of the form.

Please remember we publish the roster so that other PCS members can reach you when coordinating trips, or to return gear that you left in their cars, so the more information the better!

Return this completed form to the *new* PCS Treasurer by US mail or email:

nancy_fitzsimmons@baynetworks.com
Nancy Fitzsimmons
1025 North Abbott Street, Milpitas CA 95035

(the form below will only look good in a Courier font!)

Type of Subscription? (one or both) **HARDCOPY / EMAIL**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone (with area code): _____

Work Phone (or enter "none"): _____

Email: _____

Sierra Club Membership Number: _____

Ok to release my phone number when publishing the roster?
Y/N___

Trip Announcement Procedure

If you want to announce a future trip in Scree, first decide if it will be an official Sierra Club PCS trip or a private trip without Club insurance. Then send it to the PCS Scheduler via e-mail, US Mail, or phone:

Arun Mahajan
3770 flora Vista Ave, #904,
Santa Clara, Ca 95051
email: arun@sientnet.com
Phone: (h) 408-244-7912

Please submit trip reports in the following format, so your overworked PCS officers don't have to reformat them for you:

*** Name of Trip

Peak: Name of Peak (elevation), Rating

Dates:

Maps:

Leader and contact info:

Co-Leader and contact info (if applicable):

Include a brief (50-75 word) description that will attract qualified people to sign up on your trip. Include details such as the level of experience required, the group size allowed, the area where the peak is located, or anything else that trip applicants will need to know.

Sample trip announcement:

*** Ansel Adams

Peak: Mt. Ansel Adams (11,760), Class 3

Dates: July 4-7 Thur-Sun

Map: Mt. Lyell 7.5 min.

Leader: Purdie Musclebound 999-555-1212,
climbing@thegunks.com

Co-Leader: Purina Catchow 999-555-1212, never@home.com

Steve Roper calls this peak a spectacular sight from the Lyell Fork of the Merced. The real attraction of this area lies in the remote, sublime beauty of these peaks, lakes, and views. Some of the most spectacular scenery in the Park is found in this area with its vast sweeping panoramas. Our trip will take us 22 miles into this rugged and remote landscape. Come join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Nota Bene: PCS trips must be submitted through the Scheduler. Trips not received from the Scheduler will be listed as PRIVATE, without recourse.

DAYHIKING RITTER

SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

When I first climbed Mt. Ritter (13,157') in my backpacking days 17 years ago, it was a major undertaking that required three days (hike in, climb, hike out). But based on my recent experience on David Harris's trip to Banner Peak, and on a note from Richard Carey on the PCS broadcast, I decided that Ritter is feasible as a dayhike. The stats for the climb are about the same as for hiking Half Dome -- 5000' gain, 18 miles round trip -- but at a far higher elevation of course. Arun Mahajan and I set out to test my dayhike theory on Sat., Sep. 27.

5:30 a.m., in the woods near downtown Mammoth... My internal clock tells me it's probably time to get up, and I open my eyes to the cold and pitch darkness. As I get out of my sleeping bag and call to Arun, a pack of coyotes breaks the pre-dawn silence with a chorus of blood-curdling screams. An omen, or just a welcome reminder that even in a state with 32 million people, there are still places where wildness reigns? In 10 minutes, we're in the car and on the way to the trailhead.

6:30 a.m., Agnew Meadows trailhead... After breakfast beside the car, we head up the trail in the grey pre-dawn light.

7:45 a.m., rest stop on the hill below Shadow Lake... The morning sun finally hits us, and we stop to take off a couple layers of clothes. The day is starting out mild, windless, and crystal clear, with small clumps of aspens on the hillside to the east glowing in their yellow and orange fall colors. A great day to be in the mountains.

8 a.m., Shadow Lake... First view of the peak. Arun is impressed.

9:10 a.m., timberline above Ediza Lake... We wanted to get here within three hours, and we've done it in just over 2 1/2. This crazy plan is working well so far. We have a snack, enjoy the views and the morning sun, then hike up the creek into the beautiful alpine valley above us.

10:15 a.m., cliff below the Southeast Glacier... In describing the route up this cliff, Secor takes several sentences to describe a frightening series of zig-zag ledges. The correct route, at the left side of the cliff, just wanders up grassy benches and easy class-2 slabs and rubble. To find this route, start from a long narrow boulder at right angles to the creek and head due southwest, toward the prominent pinnacle about 3/4 mile south of Ritter.

11 a.m., Southeast Glacier... The snow has softened slightly in the sun, and has large suncups. We use our axes, but don't need our crampons. You could climb this section without either one by using the suncups and the scree along the margins -- it's all low angle. A party ahead of us is doing just that.

12 noon, top of the Southeast Glacier... What is this? We see two gullies instead of just one heading up the south face of Ritter. The one on the right is wide and gently angled, with class-2 scree. The one 30 feet to the left is steep, narrow, dark, and wet -- the obvious choice. From my ascent long ago, I remember the gully as being fairly challenging, with some class-3 steps, and the right hand gully just looks too easy. I persuade Arun that the right-hand gully might not go all the way up, and we should take the left-hand one.

12:30, top of the gully... "That was fun, hey Arun?" Some nice short vertical class-3 steps, with class-2 rubble in between. I climb up onto a pinnacle between the two gullies and see that the right-hand gully is indeed a wide, class-2 highway to the summit slope. Oh well, we took the wrong gully, but at least we got in a little sporty climbing. Above us, a very low angle scree and snow slope rises to the summit. Starting up it, our lack of

acclimatization starts to hit us. Sea level to 13,000 feet in 16 hours just doesn't make it.

1:30, the summit... Glad that last bit is over. Views are incredible, especially west to the seldom-visited hinterlands south of Mt. Lyell. We can see about eight large lakes to the west -- the three Ritter Lakes, Lake Catherine, the two Twin Island Lakes, the two Blue Lakes, and more. Views of Half Dome, the Clark Range, and all of Yosemite north to Tower Peak are wonderful. We sign in, recline on the boulders, snack, and chat with four guys from the East Bay. They depart, and we relax in the warm, incredibly peaceful silence of this mountain top. The weather was exactly the same last time I was up here, in August 1980. We could easily fall asleep. But we've miles to go.

2:30, just below the summit... A guy climbing up calls my name. My God, it's Mike Delorenzo. Three weeks ago he and I started up Ritter, but I decided we should back off because Mike has no balance or hearing in one ear and is a bit shaky on hard class 2. Then two weeks ago, when I was leading a climb of Dana and Gibbs, I ran into him on Dana. Now here he is on Ritter, like a reappearing apparition. He's soloing Ritter and going strong for the top. We wish him well.

3:00, on the way down the gully... This whole route is really something of a fraud. The cliff coming up to the glacier and this gully above the glacier are both class 2 -- in fact large parts of them have use trails and are class 1. The glacier in between is very low angle, except for the top 50 feet, which is still moderate. There's no class 3 on the route (unless you go looking for it, as we did). Maybe this route is harder in early summer, when it has lots of frozen snow, but on this day it's a walk. Alan Ritter, we wish you were here.

3:30, back on the glacier... Nice standing glissades down the suncupped snow. We easily pass the guys from the East Bay, slowly picking their way down the scree.

4 p.m., alpine valley below Ritter... We refill our water bottles and have a snack. All done now except for the long hike out. We take our last close-up look at the tremendous twin peaks of Ritter and Banner, and at the valley around us, its meadowgrass and bushes taking on the yellow and reddish hues of fall. Then down into the woods.

6 p.m., Shadow Lake... Running out of energy. We stop for the last snack of the day, and our last look at the peaks. A cool breeze blows across the lake, and for the first time since early morning we put on a second layer of clothes.

7:20 p.m., 1/4 mile from Agnew Meadows... An unexpected fork in the trail that we didn't notice on the way in. Which way to the parking lot? We're tired, it's pitch dark, and we don't want to get lost right now. Arun says the right fork looks a little more traveled. We take it.

7:30, Parking lot. We made it! We wash up a bit at the handy faucet, change from boots into running shoes, and depart.

8:30 p.m. Grumpy's Restaurant, Mammoth. Enjoying hearty soup and huge salads served by a beautiful waitress, watching our choice of three different football games on big-screen TVs. It's a hard life in the PCS.

Jim Ramaker

Doing the Domelands

October 24-26, 1997, scheduled PCS trip. Bob Suzuki was supposed to lead this trip, but had some trouble with a tendon.

Those of you who never lead trips and frequently cancel after signing on need to wake up. You have no idea how time consuming it is to answer all the questions, take down all your contact info, write up instructions so you can find the trailhead, distribute a participant list, REVISE the participant list when someone cancels, and so on. Just keeping track of who is going can sometimes take as long as researching and planning the climb! DO NOT sign up if you don't plan to go. And don't give me some weak-as-water excuse about "things got busy at work" or "my wife wants me to stay home" when you cancel the day before a hike. I drove several hours each way to lead Friday's dayhike, in an area I had just been one week before, only to find that most had canceled and the rest had just decided not to bother showing up even though they had not canceled. Thanks.

So I dayhiked Moses on Friday after having a nice pasta dinner by a campfire at Mountain Home.

Friday afternoon I flew over to Big Meadow (off the Sherman Pass Road). If you're into mountain roads, this is the route for you. Just try to go when no one will slow you down! Good fun drifting through piles of leaves and needles in gusty wind and bright fall colors.

Saturday morning we scooted up Taylor Dome in less than two hours. The SPS list rates this as Class 2, but I question that. We all used our hands, even with some scouting around for the easy way. There is a register just west of the twin summits, down low, from where you can traverse around to the north side to reach the easiest way up. The real register is on top, and indicates that the "official" name is "Miranda Dome" (vs. the name on the SPS list).

After a leisurely lunch at the cars, we headed for Siretta from the north end of Big Meadow. This trail is made of buried cinder blocks for a ways, apparently to minimize the damage done by horses and (legal) motorcycle use. It gets sandy higher up, but the tire tracks continue past the point we turned off to cross-country to the peak. No tricks here, except that the peak (with a BM and the register) is 9977' whereas a bump north of that is 9980' according to the 7.5' topo. Not to worry, someone drug mortar up there and built a 3.5' cairn on the summit, making it 6 inches taller than the other bump.

Nights were running about 20 degrees so when I roused everyone at 5:30 am there was much grumbling. Some have even invented stories that I said the sun was up, but they must have been blinded by the Coleman lantern! We hit the trail for Rockhouse at first light (6:30am) with a brisk pace to ward off the cold. Coming from the west, the trail is uphill, then downhill to Manter Meadow, then a LOT downhill before it turns up to the saddle between Rockhouse Peak and White Dome. We cut off the trail before the saddle, intending to climb from between Rockhouse's twin peaks. That route goes as class 3 with maybe one class 4 move, but we had several people on their first peak climb so we went around to the friction ramp on the east side. Lots of brush and some yucca between the trail and the peak, but the summit is stunning! This is the best view I've seen of the Domelands.

Back at the cars by 4pm, we wasted some serious time on a restaurant along the Kern before heading home via Bakersfield. Participants were Steve Eckert (leader), Alan Duvall, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Maggie Hudson, Ron Karpel, Rich Leiker, Arun Mahajan, Landa Robillard, and Jeff West. A very enjoyable crowd.

-- Steve Eckert

Matterhorn Peak and Whorl Mountain

August 2 & 3, 1997

Rich was the first one to reach the top of the headwall of the gully that we had been scrambling up, and as he topped out I heard a loud "Damn! There's no where to go! We're lost!" My heart sank. That was not what I wanted to hear, and was quite a comedown from the high expectations that we had held up to this point.

After all, we had made reasonable time up Horse Creek Trail, in spite of losing the trail in some loose talus and flailing around a bit. And the country (and Horse Creek in particular) is really quite pretty, there are a variety of nature's splendors on display. There are stands of forest, marshy flats where the stream meanders a bit, steep hillsides where the creek cascades down, semi-alpine areas where a few trees and flowers mix with large boulders; and always looking down from above is the magnificence of Sawtooth Ridge (just a stunning view).

The last 1000 feet, however, did seem to drag on forever as we crossed over a very large field of medium-sized talus intermixed with several snowfields. In fact, at the very end the pass seemed a very forbidding place. There was no vegetation at this point and the walls were closing in on us as we approached the crest, with just the rock and the snow and a cold wind blowing through the pass itself. However, we were rewarded for our perseverance when we popped through the narrow opening onto a sunlit, relatively flat, open expanse with the whole of northern Yosemite laid out before us. It felt like we had just landed in a scene from *The Sound Of Music*.

We quickly made camp, and then 5 of us capitalized on our re-energizing by heading up towards the summit of Matterhorn, which lifted up right over us. We cast about a bit but found a reasonable route, and very quickly summited. The views all around were pretty amazing, and we spent a good deal of time savoring our success before dropping back down to a well-earned dinner and sleep.

On Sunday we split up. Three of us decided to forgo Whorl, preferring a more leisurely hike out in order to minimize the damage to some very sore knees. Jeff, Rich and I opted to push on. We got a relatively early start, but it seemed to take forever to get around Whorl to where we could find anything resembling a gully headed up into the massive formation. We wound up getting too high, to where traversing around was difficult and we couldn't see the summit ridge, so we had to drop back down a bit to continue. Then, finally, we spotted what seemed to be the ticket - a bonafide gully. We headed up and after a lot of scrambling got up to the headwall.

OK, it was time to settle down and explore the options. I climbed around a few boulders, then to a vantage point on the other side of the headwall. There were some sandy ledges here that led back over to the north ridge of the peak (as mentioned by Secor), but they were partially covered by a large, steeply angled snow field which was still in shadow, making a traverse risky. Then, after toying with the idea of some 4th class climbing along the back side of the ridge, we dropped back down into the gully and looked for a way to move into the next higher one. Up and over we climbed. Then, deciding that this gully looked no better, we tried to go even further. Again we found a way over into the next gully, and again it looked no better. I was beginning to think that Rich was right, and now it appeared that some storm clouds were brewing to the south. Besides, we had gullied ourselves out if one could believe Secor. But there was still another possible route into yet another

gully, so we tried it and could hardly believe our eyes when we saw what appeared to be Secor's fabled chockstone. We climbed up to it, and it was.

But there were still clouds, and the day was getting late, so we bid farewell to the splendid views and headed back down. We decided to go down the gully which was just above the one we ascended, which should have been the correct one according to Secor. When we finally got to the bottom we discovered that we were just 30 feet from the gully we had taken, and that the correct one (according to Secor) looked more like just a cleft in some rocks as opposed to the gully-looking one we took. Oh well.

We arrived back at camp at about 4:00, then quickly packed up and headed out. Thanks to the snowfields amongst the talus, we were able to make good time and got back to the cars by around 7:00. We got back home a bit late, but the trip was worth it.

Participants were Gary Jost, Rich Leiker, Jeff West, Carol Stickles, Jeanie Harsha, and your trusty scribe and leader Charles Schafer.

o Charles G. Schafer

Notes and Requests

Greetings From Your New Editor!

Greetings from your new SCREE editor! When the election committee was looking for PCS officers, they asked me if I would be willing to be the SCREE editor. After thinking about it for a few days, I decided to take up the challenge. I see this position as an opportunity to serve the PCS and to return favors to all of the trip leaders on whose trips I have been a participant. Since this is my first issue, it will probably be smaller than some of the others that you have seen. I want to run trip reports, but don't want to repeat any from previous issues.

For your convenience, I am relisting the proposed trips list so that you can do some advanced planning. Also I am relisting the advertisements.

Please let me know if there is anything that you would like to see included in the SCREE. I see a lot of articles, gear discussions and trip reports on the E-mail list and sometimes it can be overwhelming to sort through it all so let me know if there is anything special you would like to see published here.

o Bob Bynum <rfbynum@aol.com>

Proposed Winter Trips

The trips listed below were proposed at the Peak Climbing Section winter trip planning meeting on Tuesday, October 14. This list is intended to prevent trip scheduling conflicts and to help you plan your winter climbing schedule, not to enable people to sign up way in advance.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE LEADERS TO SIGN UP FOR THESE TRIPS. The time to sign up is after the trip is formally announced in the Scree, with a full description and a designation as a private or official PCS trip.

If you are planning a trip, or if your plans for a trip on this list change, please contact the Trip Scheduler to keep this list up to date.

o Arun Mahajan / arun@senticnet.com

DATES	DESTINATION	LEADERS
Dec 13	Tomales Point (Pt. Reyes)	Van Gorden
Dec 20-21	Tinker's Knob, Granite Chief	Eckert, Hult
Jan 2-4	Mt. Morgan, Mt. Stanford (N)	Eckert, Taylor
Jan 10-11	English Peak, Adams Peak	Eckert, Ramaker
Jan 17-19	Pyramid Peak	Dyal
Jan 24-25	Ventana Double Cones (Big Sur)	Kirkpatrick
Feb 1	Junipero Serra Peak (Big Sur)	Mahajan
Feb 7-8	Round Top	Van Gorden
Mar 7-8	Destination TBA	Ress

McKinley Redux

I'm looking for a qualified partner(s) for another attempt at North America's highest peak. After two trips on the mountain, I'm practically a "guide," which simplifies planning.

Qualified partners MUST possess high altitude experience above 20,000 ft, multiday expedition experience, have the right cold weather gear or be willing to purchase it, have adequate vacation time, XC ski (or be willing to learn) and not snore. First time want-to-be's will not be considered. Send email or call me at 408-970-0760 home, 408-543-3135 work.

o Tim Hult <tim.hult@lmco.com>

clitems for Sale

'97 North Face Lunar Light Tent: 2 person, 3 season, under 5 lbs, full warranty, fully seam sealed, like new, used one night -- \$150 (retail \$245). Boreal Flyers approach shoes: size 9 U.S. men's, smooth soled sticky Fusion rubber, like new, used once to walk around the block -- \$35. Garmont Sticky Weekend approach shoes: size 10.5 U.S. men's, very good condition, used for about a week in the Tetons -- \$30 or \$25 and a pint of good ale. Wanted: Size 10.5 Five Tennies.

o Jim Curl <jimcurl@juno.com> 415-585-1380

Crampon Quest

I'm looking for a decent used pair of strap-on flexible crampons for occasional use with my leather Raichle Mountain Guide boots. Please email me if you have a pair to sell.

o Aaron Grossman <aaron_grossman@hp.com>

Andes and Himalayan Expeditions

I am looking for climbers interested in a summer 1998 trip to the Peruvian Andes. My intention is to focus on some of the more technical routes in the Cordillera Blanca, but I'm open for discussion on other objectives.

I am also interested in joining a Himalayan expedition in 1998. If you are planning a Himalayan expedition and are in need of another team member, please call 415-309-0570 or drop me a line at P.O. Box 8757, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

o Craig Clarence <sharpend@telis.org>

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

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Subscriptions and Email List Info

Hardcopy subscriptions are \$10. 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 list (discussion version or lower-volume news version), you have a free **EScree** subscription. For broadcast info, send Email to <listserv@lists.sierraclub.org> with the one-line message "INFO lomap-peak-climbing" or contact a human at <list_owner@juno.com>. EScree subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge. All subscribers are requested to send a donation of \$2/year to cover operating expenses *other* than printing the Scree. The Scree is on the PCS web site (as both plain text and Adobe Acrobat/PDF at <<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/Scree/Scree.html>>.

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, rope may be used.
- Class 4: Requires rope belays.
- Class 5: Technical rock climbing.

In Upcoming Issues:

Jan 98: Hal Thompkins - Broad Peak 8000m:
Feb 98: Butch Suits - Skiing the High Sierra
Mar 98: Bob Denihe: 415-747-7135

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 12/28/97. 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