



Next Meeting

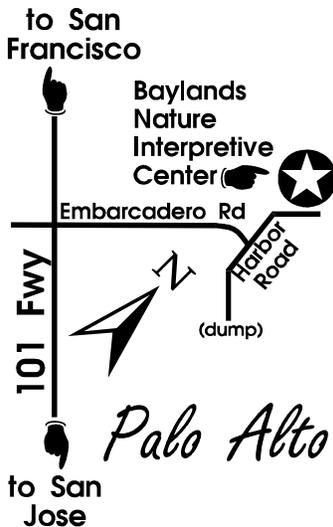
Date: Tuesday, January 14

Time: 7:30 PM

Program: Mount Everest

Dr. Mark Cole was one of the "Americans on Everest '95" team. Cole's support effort took him to 26,000' as part of getting two team members to the 29,028' summit. Come and enjoy this Expedition slide show!

Location: (new place! 415-329-2506)
 Baylands Nature Interpretive Center,
 2755 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 1/26/97. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

NOTE: We ran a similar Food Locker (Bear Box) list last year, which did not have several of the boxes listed here. Oddly enough, last year's list had several boxes not included on the flyer that Mark got, so those locations are marked with question marks below. Please send updates, additions, and corrections to the Editor, so the PCS can maintain this as a Web resource, with a copy in the PCS Binder.

Bear Box Locations (as of 9/96)

Woods Creek

- Lower Paradise Valley (2)
- Middle Paradise Valley (1)
- Upper Paradise Valley (1)
- Woods Creek Crossing/JMT (2)
- ?Arrowhead Lake? (1)
- Rae Lakes (3) [1 lower, 2 middle]

Copper Creek

- Lower Tent Meadow (1)

Bubbs Creek

- Sphinx Creek (2)
- Charlotte Creek (1)
- Lower Junction Meadow (2)
- Vidette Meadow (2)
- 9900' Elevation/JMT (1)
- Center Basin Creek/JMT (1)
- East Lake (2)
- East Creek (1)

Tyndall/Crabtree Area

- Tyndall Creek Frog Ponds (1)
- Tyndall Creek/JMT (1)
- Lower Crabtree Meadow (1)
- Crabtree Ranger Station (1)
- Wallace Creek/JMT (1)

Rock Creek

- Lower Rock Creek /PCT (1)
- Lower Rock Creek Lake (1)
- Lower Soldier L/Upper Rock Cr L (1)

Kern Canyon

- Junction Meadow (1)
- Kern Hot Springs (2)
- Upper Funston Meadow (2)
- Lower Funston Meadow (1)

Hockett Plateau

- Hockett Meadow (1)
- ?Hockett Meadow Cable?
- South Fork Meadow (1)
- Hidden Camp (1)
- Rock Camp (2)
- Horse Creek CABLE (1)

Charlotte/Kearsarge Lakes

- Charlotte Lake (1)
- Kearsarge Lakes (3)

Mineral King Area

- Monarch Lake (2)
- Franklin Lake (3)

Little 5 Lakes / Cliff Creek

- Big Arroyo Crossing (1)
- Big Five Lakes (1)
- Little Five Lakes (1)
- Cliff Creek Crossing (1)
- Pinto Lake (1)
- Columbine Lake (1)
- ?Moraine Lake? (1)

Lodgepole Backcountry

- Mehrten Creek Crossing/HST (1)
- 9 Mile Creek Crossing/HST (1)
- Bearpaw Meadow (4)
- Upper Hamilton Lake (2)
- Emerald Lake (2)
- Pear Lake (2)
- Clover Creek S Crossing/TLT (1)
- JO Pass Trail/TLT Junction (1)
- Twin Lakes (2)
- Buck Creek Crossing/HST (1)

Sugarloaf Valley/Roaring River

- Ranger Lake (2)
- Seville Lake (2)
- Lost Lake (1)
- Rowell Meadow (1)
- Sugarloaf Meadow (1)
- Roaring River Ranger Station (3)
- Comanche Meadow (1)

ABBREVIATIONS:

- ♦ JMT = John Muir Trail
- ♦ PCT = Pacific Crest Trail
- ♦ HST = High Sierra Trail
- ♦ TLT = Twin Lakes Trail

- Mark Adrian

Of Spirals And "S"s

This is the tale of two trips, primarily told by Peter Maxwell who climbed with Paul Scheidt and Jeff West over Labor Day 1996. Steve Eckert's comments are from a trip he did with Craig Clarence and Don Martin starting 10/5/96, merged to avoid duplication.

The drive up on Friday night was given more interest than normal due to the fires, the smoke from which was particularly bad going through Yosemite. At times it was so thick it was like a heavy fog. Added to that, we had the misfortune to get stuck behind three different bad drivers: one in a van who was swerving all over the road, one who was so timid that they braked on curves while even going uphill, and a Winnebago who treated a whole line of cars to 25 mph travel in the 45 zone.

Steve adds: Both groups entered at Onion Valley, and went over Kearsarge and down past Bullfrog. After hitting Bubbs Creek, you go left for a few minutes, until the valley widens and it looks like horses have been camping (or trampling!). There are several use trails crossing the stream on logs in that area.

An alternative title for this trip could also have been "Sandbagged by Secor", as we discovered two glaring errors and omissions in his guide. After reaching Vidette Meadow, Secor's first error soon became apparent. He indicates that the most challenging aspect of hiking up Vidette Creek is crossing Bubbs Creek, and he states that most hikers end up fording the creek. This is BS. After joining the Muir Trail at the junction of the Bullfrog Lake trail, one continues to where the meadows start. Very shortly afterwards there is a wide, shallow stream crossing, and just after this an obvious crossing of the creek presents itself, where a large log is lying across the creek.

Secor's second error really led us astray. He states that the way up Vidette Creek is on the east bank, which would have necessitated crossing this creek as well. As a result, after crossing Bubbs Creek we continued just on the other side until we reached Vidette Creek. Since it wasn't easy to cross it at that point we started up on the west side. Continuing on, it was evident that the west side was, in fact, the preferable side, and it was beyond our comprehension why anybody would want to hike up the east side. As if to ram the point home, on our return we discovered a very pronounced use trail that descended down the ridge (rather than closer to the creek where we were). This use trail emerged only a short distance from the original Bubbs Creek crossing!

Finding the trail from the bottom is problematical without prior knowledge, so to help others I'll add some hints. After the log crossing, continue east, parallel to the creek. The obvious landmark to look out for is a small wooden, run-down cabin. Just before this cabin is a large trunk lying across the path, and the trail starts straight up the hill from that point. It's impossible to know there's a trail there, but very shortly up the hill it becomes evident, and is easy to follow from there all the way up to Vidette Lakes.

Steve adds: Don't start uphill on the south side of Bubbs until you see that cabin, then go straight up the hill and stay away from the creek but well below the cliffs... you will find a pretty clear use trail on the west side of Vidette Creek if you stay on the shoulder or ramp that provides the easiest walking.

We arrived at the lower lakes around 5:30 pm, and immediately started arguing as to exactly which lake we were at. Since it was already late, and the arguing took up even more time, we decided to stay where we were. This was at the southern end of the group of lower lakes, at around 10500', and offered excellent bear bag opportunities at the cliffs of the rock wall at the end of the basin. Having heard of recent PCS bear encounters, we heeded the

ranger's warning, especially as we saw some bear droppings (they were old, but proved that bears did occasionally come up there) and protected our food by suspending it over the above cliffs. This was the only guaranteed safe way, as all the trees in the area offered little or no protection.

Steve adds: We camped at the same place, but stuffed most of the food in a bear canister. It was very warm and clear, with no bugs AT ALL. Minimum temps of 40 deg at night was a welcome change from a mid-September trip that had several inches of snow on the ground in the morning! Craig and I bagged West Vidette the same afternoon we hiked in, which is a nasty bit of large scree with a pleasant ridge walk at the top.

Next morning we were away by 7:30 am, to try to be on the peak for lunch. We'd made a good decision in camping lower, since the upper lakes are beautiful, but offer no bear protection. We met a group of hikers, who assured us they hadn't seen any sign of bears, but after having gone to all the trouble of suspending our food, we convinced ourselves we'd done the right thing.

There was a lot talus to negotiate, which became quite tiring. Abundant water was present, so we could tank up and not worry about having to scrimp at all. We were headed for the so-called northeast buttress, which leads to the lower northwest summit. There seems to be no best way to get onto this buttress, but we definitely chose the worst way! We had in hand a fairly a detailed description of a route which had been done by someone else, so we tried to follow this. [The very bottom section is what looked like slabs/cliffs to us. We thought it didn't look good to try to go straight up from the base, which is why we traversed right.]

Steve adds: The summit of Deerhorn is seen clearly as the left (slightly higher) peak in Secor's picture. Less clear is the well-defined shoulder to the left of the true summit, which appears flat from Bullfrog Lake, and appears humped from the 10800' lakes in Vidette Creek drainage. The saddle between the peaks is at the top of the snow chute in Secor's picture, with the what he calls the "northeast ridge" on the left of the snow and the "northeast buttress" on the right. This year (in October) the chute was full of old hard ice.

Our description indicated a traverse to the right, then a climb up a chute which leads to the main ridge. In hindsight, after an easy descent, the *correct* route would be better described by simply stating to get onto the crest as soon as possible, either by heading straight up the talus/scree as you look at it from the approach, or head for where the buttress terminates. We ended up traversing too far to the right to ascend a long, almost vertical, vaguely defined chute, putting us on the ridge 1/2 to 2/3 of the way up. Even before getting to the chute we had to cross over the top edge of a "snow" field whose surface was rock-hard, slick ice.

Steve adds: There is no good or bad way to reach the base of the buttress, but straight up the drainage bottom will avoid messing around with slabs. We went up that way, and came down through the slabs at the south end of the 10800' lakes. You move from boulders to easy third class where Secor's picture shows the bottom of the buttress terminating in a snow field, and stay right on the crest of the buttress working back and forth to keep it low to mid-range third class. Peter's group unnecessarily avoided something that looked bad from a distance but was a piece of cake up close. In the next paragraph, their group was well to the right of the proper route, climbing a face instead of the buttress.

This initial traverse proved more than one of us wanted to do, so only two of us continued. The climb up to the crest of the buttress was terrible - all the rock was loose, and even large boulders

would give way at a moment's notice, crashing down onto the ice below, skidding and bouncing quite some time before eventually coming to rest. At one stage the thought went through my mind that that would be what I would do if I fell.

It was with a tremendous sense of relief when we crested onto the ridge top, and from there on up it was easy climbing over a giant staircase of boulders. This ridge led to the lower summit, however, which was unacceptable when the other summit was higher, so we had to traverse over to the saddle between the two. This traverse was trivial, and we then started our spiral of the peak, scrambled around the other (west) side of the peak, (the hidden side in Secor's photo) locating a couloir that took us to the southeast ridge

Steve adds: The ridge they crested in the paragraph above was where they joined the official buttress route! It's much easier to get on the buttress at its base. Also, forget all about Secor's advice to traverse starting 100' below the lower northwest summit - just keep the saddle in view as you get higher, and traverse DOWN to the saddle once you are about 100' above it. The traverse is very easy, so don't start too soon or you'll hit some cliffs. Both groups are now at the saddle between the two summits...

This was where all the airy stuff started. Cresting the ridge, we had a short downclimb down a notch, at the bottom of which was a tiny platform on the edge of lots and lots of air. Several hundred feet of vertical drop greeted us at that point, and we had to traverse about 15 feet on a ledge that was only about 18" wide. Good handholds were afforded, but this was "hideous exposure" all the same. We were now back on the side of the peak you can see in Secor's photo.

This ledge was followed by another steep chimney that had to stepped out of to the right to gain another ledge system which quickly led to the summit. We found out that we had just joined the exclusive club of people to summit this peak. The register had been placed in 1977 and was far from full. Each year from then, the largest number of parties summiting was five, and some years had only one. Even though the climb had proven to be very challenging, some entries indicated it to be "straight forward and enjoyable class 3", suggesting we'd definitely taken a non-standard route. We figured we may even have made a first ascent! Certainly the loose chute could have been avoided, and it turns out even the airy traverse could also, by ascending directly up the face from the saddle between the two peaks. We couldn't verify this, but Steve's October trip did. This route, combined with the correct approach to the buttress, makes the peak a super class 3 climb and highly recommended.

Steve adds: From the main saddle between the twin peaks, the easiest route is up an "S", going to the south of the minor bump Secor's picture shows between the twin peaks, and then left through a small saddle to the north side and turning right to the summit. You can see the summit block from the main saddle, and if you traverse too far around the southwest face you will wind up going right past the peak (we did, before we went back out onto the face and went straight up to the peak) and get into class four nonsense. The "S" route is easy class 3, and is the way we came down. Peter's group did a spiral route, forcing them to climb the ridge on the far side of the true summit, instead of staying on the ridge between the true summit and the saddle between the two summits.

Returning back to camp gave no problems, and we arrived around 4 pm. All the nervous energy and the boulder hopping over the talus had left us fairly tired, but we were still able to prepare a celebration dinner. Paul produced a huge can of Foster's Bitter, which went down very nicely. This tasted much better than Foster's Lager, which is a poor imitation of the version obtainable in Australia. He also produced a can of whipped cream to decorate the coconut cream

pudding which I made, to be eaten with Ghiradelli chocolates. A suitable pig-out to close a great day.

Steve adds: After returning from Deerhorn, we had time to move camp to just below Bullfrog Lake. The next morning we bagged Bago before packing out, and still reached the cars by mid-afternoon. Bago is not much to look at from the trail, but it dominates the drainage(s), and provides wonderful views.

Frost was on the ground for our hike out next morning. The highlight of this hike was the discovery of the use trail that I described earlier. I still think Secor is a good book, but in the light of our misinformation, my literary tendencies prompt me to adapt "Sing a Song of Sixpence", a well-known nursery rhyme:

Sing a song of Secor
A pocket full of rye
Four and twenty wrong facts
In his book you buy.
When the book is opened
The facts lead you astray
Now isn't that a tainty dish
To spoil your time away?

- Peter Maxwell (with notes by Steve Eckert)

Advance Trip Schedule

Contact the Editor and the Scheduler if you have a change to this list, or if you wish to have your name listed. Leaders, get your announcements, with trip details and contact information, to the PCS trip Scheduler for the full trip announcement:

Jan 11-12	Little Picacho-----	SPS
Jan 12	Mt Sizer - Henry Coe Park -----	?
Feb 19-22	Mt. Tom-----	SPS
Jan 18-19	Pyramid Peak-----	Dyal
Jan 18-20	The Needles (Southern Sierra) -----	Miya
Jan 25	Mt Tamalpais-----	?
Jan 25-26	Round Top-----	Van Gorden
Feb 8	Mt Diablo -----	Schuman
Feb 15-17	Mt Eddy (near Mt Shasta) -----	Miya
Feb 15-17	Mt Lassen-----	Kramer
Mar 8	Waddell Creek -----	?
Mar 15-17	Excelsior & Dunderberg (SPS) -----	Eckert/Sexton
Mar 22-23	Ventana Double Cone-----	?
Apr 5-6	Lamont Peak & Pilot Knob -----	Schuman
Apr 12-13	Olancho -----	SPS
Apr 18-20	Gilbert & Johnson (SPS) -----	Eckert/Cohen
May 3-4	Spanish Needle & Owens -----	SPS
May 3-4	Mt. Dana -----	SPS
May 24-26	Birch, Tinemaha -----	SPS
Jun 7-8	Bolton Brown, Thumb -----	SPS
Jun 7-8	Wynne, Pinchot, Perkins -----	SPS
Jun 21-23	Izaak Walton & Silver (SPS)-----	Eckert/Hudson
Jun 21-22	Corcoran, LeConte -----	SPS
Jun 21-22	Black, Diamond -----	SPS
Jun 28	Mt. Mills -----	SPS
Aug 9-11	Disappointment, Middle Palisade -----	SPS
Aug 30-31	Mt. Ruskin -----	SPS

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.

Henry Coe State Park

Peak: Mt. Sizer (3,216') class 1
Date: Jan 12 Sun
Leader: Debbie Benham home: 415-964-0558
Co-Leader: Phyllis Olrich home: 415/322-0323
phylliso@Forsythe.Stanford.EDU

This is a wonderful loop with expansive vistas from the ridge. Meet at Henry Coe Park Headquarters, 9am. We'll hike about 15 miles, so bring lunch and liquid. Carpool point in Palo Alto: Montrose and Middlefield Rd. & we'll leave promptly at 7:30am. Any questions or comments, feel free to contact leaders. HEAVY rain cancels.

Palmer Picks Pyramid Peak

Peak: Pyramid Peak (9,983') class 2 - snow
Topo: Pyramid Peak 7.5'
Dates: Jan 18-20 Sat-Mon
Leader: Palmer Dyal 415-941-5321
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 tree line. We will have time to build snow caves on the first day and view the marvelous glaciated scenery of the whole Tahoe basin from the peak on the second day. There will be a choice of returning on Sunday or Monday depending on the weather, etc. This will be a good trip for beginning climbers.

Marin Headlands

Peak: Mt. Tamalpais, East Peak (2,571'') class 1
Date: Jan 25 Sat
Leader: Debbie Benham home: 415-964-0558
Co-Leader: Patty Haight

We'll start from the Muir Woods trailhead (plenty of parking), saunter around, up and down, summit East Peak (the highest of the three peaks of Mt. Tam), then loop back to where we started. Expect about 15 miles this day and a break for lunch. Carpool point in Palo Alto: Montrose and Middlefield Rd., leaving promptly at 7:30am. If you're not carpooling, meet at 9am in front of the Muir Woods Visitor Center. Any questions, please contact Debbie.

Lassen Is Largest

Peak: Mt Lassen (10,457') class 2 - snow
Topo: Lassen Peak 7.5'
Dates: Feb 15-17 Sat-Mon
Leader: Palmer Dyal 415-941-5321
Co-Leader: Chris Kramer

This will be an 8 mile snowshoe trip to climb the world's largest dome volcano. Lassen last erupted in 1915; only Mt St Helens is more recent. The elevation gain is moderate and we plan to camp at tree line. There will be time to build snow caves on the first day and view the colorful sunset if weather permits. On the second day we will climb the peak and return via Bumpass Hell to see the blue and green hot pools. If the going is easy we can return on Sunday or if not on Monday. This will be a good trip for beginning climbers.

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.

Mt. Lassen in Winter

Peak: Mt. Lassen (10,000 feet) class 3
Dates: Jan. 11-12 Sat-Sun
Contact: Eugene Miya 415-961-6772

Skis or snowshoes. Prior winter experience required. A simple winter ascent by the standard route. Skiing should be considered advanced or class 3 subject to weather and avalanche hazard. Party size will be limited. Cross-listed with the STS. Call before Dec. 21 or after Jan. 5.

Southern Sierra Rock Climbing

Peak: Needles (Southern Sierra: 5-8000') class 5
Dates: Jan. 18-20 Sat-Mon
Contact: Eugene Miya 415-961-6772

Skis and prior winter experience required. The rock climbing potential on this trip could be as high as 5.8. Depending on the weather, this could be an exploratory skiing recon, climbing on rock, or a combination of both. Party size will be limited to four. Cross-listed with the Ski Touring Section. Call before Dec. 21 or after Jan. 5.

Mt. Eddy in Winter

Peak: Mt. Eddy (9000') class ?
Dates: Feb. 15-17 Sat-Mon
Contact: Eugene Miya 415-961-6772

Mt. Eddy is the peak across Interstate 5 from Mt. Shasta. The summit is just above treeline, and the owner of the Fifth Season notes that in a good year, it is possible to ski into the town of Mt. Shasta from Eddy's summit. The intent is to ski the bowls and surrounding cirques. Prior winter experience required. Skiing should be considered advanced and subject to weather and avalanche hazard. Max. party size will be eight. Cross-listed with the STS. Call before Dec. 21 or after Jan. 5.

Round Top

Peak: Roundtop (10,600') snow/class 2
Dates: Jan 25-26 Sat-Sun
Trailhead: Carson Pass
Contact: George Van Gorden

We will meet in the late morning at Carson Pass. After a very short walk, we will make our camp. That afternoon we will do some skiing or snowshoeing on the north side of the highway. Sunday morning we will climb to the saddle to the west of the Roundtop. The terrain is easy for snowshoers and skiers alike. From the saddle we will climb the last two or three hundred feet using ice axes and crampons. For those who don't wish to go any farther the views from the saddle are great, and the skiing back to Lake Winnemucca is mighty fine.

Packing It In

Peak: Excelsior (12446'), Dunderberg (12374') snow
Dates: Mar 15-17 Sat-Mon
Leader: Steve Eckert eckert@netcom or SASE
Co-Leader: Tom Sexton

ex.cel.si.or [ik-'sel-se--*\ n [fr. L, higher, compar. of excelsus high, fr. pp. of excel]here : fine curled wood shavings used esp. for packing fragile items [Originally a trade name]

Snowshoes and ice axe required for this climb. Great views are promised, and great glissading is hoped for. At least the snow will keep it from being a scree slog! Bad weather delays by one week. We'll try to finish in 2 days, with a third day just in case. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email or SASE with experience to leader. Official SPS trip with Angeles Chapter.

Rocky Mountain Highs!

Colorado solos by Rich Calliger, August 1st - 8th, 1996.

Grays 14,270 and Torreys 14,267

Class 1-2, SE approach- Navigation was a little bit of a problem as REI & everyone I checked were out of topos-(bring your own before hand)-- but these two were easy ridge walks of less than 2800' total gain and 9 miles (from my high camp) with smallish summits but excellent panoramic views (if I got the correct 14'ers!) A nearby lower peak had an observation (?) hut on it that looked geodesic and interesting... but I did not go over to check it out.

3-4 open & ominously deep mineshafts (vertical, with no covers, rails or warning signs, but spooky dripping water- (especially at night)) livened up the approach walks a little. Seriously, at the lower elevations around 10000-11000 between the peaks, in several areas I went exploring in on the approach- there were numerous meadows w/tall, dense-ish blooming wild flowers which grew right to the edge of these mineshafts. This presented a real hazard as the shaft entrance appeared quickly out of "nowhere!" (Jeep and other trails were mostly non-existent in my approach. If I do again, I might take one of the more beaten own goat paths on the W-SW side from Loveland Pass and hike the Continental Divide trail... (Starts at 11400+ from HWY 6 just off I-70) but it was too populated for me.. so I drove around other side to make high camp and make my own (minimum impact) TH. (since it was legal ya know!!! :-)) --- it is about a 40 mile drive to get around.. but well worth it.

Best guide book I have seen is "Colorado's Fourteeners From Hikes To Climbs," By Gary Roach. He defends the "foot" over the "meter", BTW, with a very simple but in my opinion, powerful statement which he is serious about: "There would be no 14'ers if we switched to the metric system." Ever climb a 4,267'er????

BTW- at this time in August at this elevation it was mid-spring season/weather here as everyone probably knows, and there were numerous meadows of reds, whites, blues, oranges, whites and innumerable species of other exquisite flowers in full bloom that seemed to go on forever and seemed to cover hundreds of acres-- but looked like thousands-- in several of the large meadows I came across-- they will leave a lasting impression to say the least- it was so inviting to lie down in and rest---yup... so I did---), and had a great nap on the way back down!

Mt Evans 14,264 and Pike's Peak 14,110

Class "0" ??- are both drive-up 14'ers. It is stated on my map that Evan's is the "Highest Paved Road in the United States" (lower 48 ??) Unlike the Pike's Peak drive (which is "sealed" dirt most of the way) Evans did not cost \$5 in toll fee to get to the top- and Evans' road is much better maintained. The views from both were gorgeous and spectacular beyond belief.. I have been told that the Colorado ranges are noted for having the highest concentration of 14'ers in the smallest area and it sure seemed like it as I tried to identify various peaks from the guidebooks. The Pike's Peak drive was more enjoyable as it was about 5 miles longer than Evans, but Evans is 13' (so what?) higher and has more areas to explore.. Pike's Peak is located west of Colorado Springs and Mt Evans is west of Denver. Each drive was on the order of an 2-2.5 hrs depending on # of stops. Both roads do offer some pretty good "exposure" with no guard rails or lighting. One last factoid- I had forgotten, but "America The Beautiful" was written on the top of Pike's. BELIEVE IT!! You can see both oceans (oh well... gotta get around the horizon though!! just a little stretch here- sorry.)

Bierstadt 14,060

Class 1-2: at Evans' approximate 10500 level is located a parking area which serves to my understanding as a TH for Bierstadt, westerly ~5-6 trail miles. I moved out of peak-bagging mode as I put a little more time into the search (see below) effort than I realized or maybe even should have, plus the approach walk was more than satisfying as again I encountered numerous fields and high meadows of flowers

between stands of forest. Snow fields were smallish sized on almost all peaks. As I gained elevation the views were even more spectacular, again the quantity, density and close proximity of peaks amazed and almost overwhelmed me in their beauty. I reached 13500 in about 3.5 hrs over indistinct trails, but easy route finding, and no bushwhacking. I sat on a prominent ledge for about an hour scanning the area with binoculars for the search effort but to no avail. (I went AROUND the dense willows and growth!)

A mid-sized search and rescue was underway at this time in this area, for a 16 year old female had "wandered" off. I counted at least 8 S & R vehicles plus a CP w/ generator set up. A helicopter was standing by but in discussions with the pilot he said it was too windy aloft to go up. After getting a description of the missing person I set off on my climb/jog.. Upon returning down I circled a mile or so but ran (there's a pun!) across no one... Subsequent conversation at day's end revealed that she had had a fight with her boyfriend, dumped her pack off a cliff, and went home. Oh well! I suggested that they send her and her parents the S & R bill. A serious laugh from the pilot resulted as I told him I thought it was being considered in California.

Longs 14,255

Class 3 after Keyhole-(13100) I only partially succumbed to the Rangers advice of being on the trail head at 3AM and "slept in" till 4:30 and arrived at the TH @ 5AM ready to go w/ a 5-LB backpack, parka & gloves, shorts and running shoes. I jogged most of the way up and reached the keyhole at about 7:15 AM for a gain of about 3500' in 7 miles and ~2+ hrs... I was quite pleased with it all-- the gentle switch backs and tundra presented a very pleasant run. However, I was past most of the Ledges at about 7:30AM and would have probably summited before 8:30 AM(!) but my vertigo-ish/agoraphobia took over and I had to return to the keyhole very nauseous. If anyone can help me or give advice on this--it has been getting serious/ worse the last year--I never had this problem before.

After one more failed attempt to get past the ledges, with my vertigoishness kicking in worse now, I returned down a few hundred feet and traversed south with the objective of achieving the SE-NW ridge from Meeker to Longs. So for about another 1.25 miles I boulder-hopped and scree-scrambled to the south-south-west just under the Northern face. There were two short Class 3- ledges and I obtained the southeastern ridgeline at 13,700 for another summit attempt with no exposure. However I did walk out onto a cornice-like stone overhang that I did not realize was one until I saw in front of me a square vertical hole running the thickness of the overhang (about 2') with a spectacular TV set like view 2500'+straight down. Continuing on, a vertical wall & slabs blocked the way at 13,900 so this route proved just to be good exercise & I had a short but exhilarating 500' glissade down one of the remaining ice/snow packs on the peak. I returned down to 12500 and then back up to the keyhole. After a leisurely brunch there talking to some of the many people on the trail, I completed my return run/jog back to the TH, arriving @ about 2 PM. Clouds had started accumulating about 1PM and we had scattered light but pleasant showers at high camp that evening with light 5 MPH wind gusts.

– Rich Calliger

Notes and Requests

Our Clubhouse Burned Down

On page 1 of the peninsula section of [the] SJ Mercury News (12/22/96), there is a story and a photograph of the Pacific Mountaineer wrecked by fire. It looks like the devastation is complete.

The fire originated next door in the frame shop, which was also totaled. The bagel bakery was also damaged. 43 firefighters were needed to stop the blaze from spreading further.

We need to revise our meeting schedule for 1997. Does anybody know of a good north county site, or should we all plan on more trips to our other meeting location, Western Mountaineering, in San Jose?

The Pacific Mountaineer has been generous towards the PCS for years, letting us use their space for meetings. If they are able to reopen their business, we should return the favor by supporting them with our shopping.

– Aaron Schuman

List Finishers Unite!

I am not content to commute on weekends to the Sierra to bag a few peaks, so starting June first (approximately), I intend to relocate to the Sierra to complete a long time goal, the SPS list of some 235 peaks. I am looking for (a) partner(s) interested in all/part of this project. I have done 100 of the more difficult ones already. Please realize, I am in terrible shape so the pace will be slow initially. Call or fax 415-674-8508.

– Steve Brewer

Key & Ski

A friend of mine and I, who are both experienced back country skiers and mountaineers, are planning a trans-Sierra telemark trip. We are planning on leaving from Mammoth around March 20, 1997, going over Donohue Pass to Tuolomene Meadows, and after some day tripping in the Tuolomene area, going down to Yosemite Valley by either the Sunrise or Snow Creek trails. We plan to leave the area around March 29. As you are certainly aware, transport back and forth across the Sierras in winter is extremely difficult. Therefore, we are trying to hook up with some people who might be interested in doing a trans-Sierra in the opposite direction around the same time, and swapping car keys with them in the middle, so that both parties could return to a common starting point with a minimum of hassle. Since my friend and I will be flying out to California from the east coast for the occasion, right now, we can be flexible as to where we would fly to in order to begin and end our trip. If you have any other suggestions for us concerning the organization of our trip, I would be grateful to receive them. Write to 655 West Baltimore St., Room 4-002, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-706-0413.

– Prof. Douglas Frost <dfrost@umabnet.ab.umd.edu>

Being a veteran of leading 10 Trans-Sierra Group Backpacks (summer) for the Sierra Club, swapping keys in the middle is quite risky. The odds are quite good that you'll never actually meet your other half; 30% of the time is my experience; winter would probably be even higher. It is much better (reliable) to give your car to the other half at the beginning of the trip with specific instructions on precisely where to leave your car at YOUR intended final destination. They do this with a SPARE key with specific instructions also for what to do with it as they embark on THEIR trek, from putting it someplace in the trunk, to sending it to you in the mail, to handing it to you in person IF, with some luck, you met up as planned. With YOUR car waiting for you in a known location and YOUR regular key safely in your pack, no matter what calamity or change of plans may infect THEM, YOUR plans are in-the-bag.

– Dave Bybee <103275.155@CompuServe.COM>

Third Class (how far down?) vs. Terminal Velocity

Terminal velocity takes 10-15 seconds to reach and will involve a longer fall than just about any taken during climbing (> 1000'). Controlled flying is around 120 MPH. Dives can exceed 150, and one can go as slow as about 100. Freefall *is* a strange and enjoyable feeling, and everyone ought to try it at least once. As another poster has pointed out, anything over about 50' into a solid surface with no intermediate deceleration is likely to be fatal. US Government safety information from 1980 I have says any unexpected fall of 20' onto a hard, unyielding surface (they give the example of falling off a 2nd story roof onto a driveway) is 50% likely to cause fatal injuries.

– Dave Rotheroe <rotheroe@convex.com>

Himalayan Explorers Club

The Himalayan Explorers Club homepage is at:

<http://www.abwam.com/himexp/>

We have a newsletter, trip reports, website, and our clubhouse in Kathmandu keeps tabs on the many trekking and guide services. While in Kathmandu, you can stop by the clubhouse to use the telephone or email, pick up your snail or emails, store baggage, or just relax and have a cup of tea. We also assist the local people of the region through a home-stay program, sales of local handicrafts, and a volunteer service placement program. If you email me your snail mail (postal) address, I will send you a copy of the "Himalayan Explorer," our club newsletter as well as information about how to join. Best wishes!

– Regis L. Chapman <rchapman@leo.vsla.edu>

Radiosonde to Sender

Last weekend while hiking through the local desert, we came upon a weathered weather balloon. Nearby was a shoe-boxed sized styrofoam package which contained a battery and an electronic circuit board. Upon further inspection, we unraveled a "return to sender" envelope for the electronic components. The plastic envelope requested where the device was found as well as my name and address. So, I've mailed (postage paid) this back to NOAA in Kansas City. Apparently, they're interested in flight and wind patterns. If you should come across anything like this while out hiking, you should consider sending it in as well as cleaning up the "trash". The envelope is buried in a small pocket within the styrofoam package, so you may have to explore to find it.

– Mark Adrian <mark.adrian@Ebbs.Cts.Com>

**Nothing in life is to be feared.
It is only to be understood.**

– Marie Curie

1997 PCS Member Roster (send corrections to the PCS Treasurer)

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Angeles Chapter Hot Spring Emblem Information

THE NEED: Cleanliness is next to Godliness, and in the wilderness it is next to impossible.

PURPOSE: To encourage cleanliness in the wilderness and to lower our impact on others when we first return from the wilderness.

LIMITS OF CLEANLINESS: Anyone introducing soap of any kind into a hot spring shall be **EXPELLED!!!**

CREED: There is nothing quite like the power of hot water welling up out of the earth to make you truly appreciate the delightful person beside you.

HOT SPRING PATCH: As evidence of one's commitment to the attainment of Emblem Status, the Hot Spring patch is available. To qualify, one must submit evidence of having accumulated 10 points by sinking one's bod in the listed spring (each spring counts only once) and computed by the schedule & list below, together with \$3 and a SASE (size 10 self-addressed stamped envelope) to the Keeper of The List. Membership in the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, is NOT required to obtain the patch or pin.

EMBLEM STATUS: Emblem status is attained by accumulating at least 20 points in a minimum of 7 Emblem hot springs. A gold cloisonné enameled Emblem pin is available for \$10 and a SASE from the Keeper of The List.

SAFETY POLICY: Trespass is not encouraged; thus, some springs with access problems are not included on The List. For example: Benton, Bassett and Coso. Some springs are rated as Class VI (totally unsittable) and are not included. For example: Casa Diablo (boiling) and Devil's Kitchen (acid content). Do not attempt Pyramid during dangerous spring high water currents. Note that the bubble in Hot Creek is Class VI in late summer and fall (low water); whereas, during spring runoff, it is merely a test of courage.

ETIQUETTE: Non-commercial wilderness hot springs are, by ancient tradition, clothing optional environments. A few are posted by current local authorities; for example, Big Caliente is posted "Clothing Required", and Tecopa is posted, by way of Indian land covenant "Clothing Prohibited". Lacking any signs, the fundamental concept of hot springs should prevail: that they are places of nourishing solitude and harmony. The custom is: whom ever is there first sets the stage. If you wish to disrobe in the presence of clothed soakers, ask first. Usually they'll say "fine...".

ABOUT THIS LIST: Latitude & longitude coordinates have been either extracted from official government Geothermal documents or computed by the author from USGS topographic maps using his own field experience. These coordinates will allow navigation to the hot spring source to within +/- the 100 yard length of a football field. One hot spring on this list is documented no other place in any published literature that the author is aware of. A special award will be made to the first person documenting (like a pix) achieving it.

This edition of The List has been expanded to add to the richness of reward that the pursuit of hot spring "bagging" can afford. To anyone who might attempt Emblem status, you have an adventure in store that will take you to many unusual and beautiful places you might not otherwise ever go; from volunteer built Bagby, a splendid example of the wood butcher's art, deep within the Hood National Forest, to the culture that exists in the Mexican "outback" of Guadalupe, to the grandeur that *IS* John Muir's Range of Light.

A handy reference for in-depth descriptions and directions to many of these springs are Jayson Loam's Hot Springs & Hot Pools guide books, Southwest & Northwest editions; available from the Keeper of The List for \$19.50 per copy, post paid.

- Dave Bybee, Keeper of The List-1993

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⇒ POINTS SCHEDULE ⇐

	<u>All Year</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Winter</u>
Any <u>commercial</u> hot spring with natural, unchlorinated water not otherwise on this list -----	1/2		
Any <u>natural</u> hot spring not otherwise on this list -----	1		
Buckeye, Crab Cooker, Crowley, Hot Creek, Hot Tub, Little Hot Creek, Pulky's Pool, Shepherd's, Red's Meadow (Note: Reds Meadow is Emblem only on winter ski in) -----	1		2 ski in
Lil' Eden, Mono, Drakesbad (Note: source pool is Emblem only on winter ski in, 1/2 summer) ----		1	4 ski in
Saline -----	2	4	
Blaney, Iva Bell (Fish Creek), Jordan, Kern -----		2	4 ski in
Soda Both -----	1		
by power boat -----	1		
by canoe -----	1 1/2		
by swimming -----	2		

NOTE: Due to its length, the list of hot springs has been omitted from the Scree. A postscript version of the hot spring list is on the PCS web site <<http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/index.html>>, currently under the Resource link, or you can contact the Keeper Of The List. Now you have something to do while you wait for the return of the Summer Sierra Climbing Season - Ed.

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

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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 broadcast, 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". 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 postscript).

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:

Trip Reports: Boundary Glass, Mexican Topos, Alta Silliman
Compendia: Restaurants, Winter Tents
Special Features: Shocking Kids, Shoes Of My Soul

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 1/26/97. 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