



World Wide Web Address: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/>

Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Time: 6:30 PM Start charcoal

7:00 PM Start BBQ

8:00 PM Start of meeting

Program: BBQ and SWAP MEET

Bring your own main course to BBQ and your own liquid refreshment (alcohol IS allowed) and a side dish to share for the potluck. A \$2.00 donation will cover the picnic area and charcoal.

Electrical outlets are available at the table. Kids play area is 20 yards away. Bring your summer trip reports and mark your extra equipment for the swap meet with your name and a price.

Location: Junipero Serra Park, Sunnyvale, CA, USA, North America, Planet Earth, Solar System, Milky Way Galaxy

From I-280 turn North on DeAnza Blvd. in Cupertino then left on Homestead then right on Hollenbeck. The park is on your left.

From I-85 turn East on Fremont then South on Hollenbeck. The park is on your right.

A 90 person picnic area is 20 yards from the parking lot between the 2 sets of tennis courts. Park or unload here. Extra parking is 1/2 block away on the North side of the park and 1 block away on the West side.

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 7/26/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

Trail Repair

Pacific Crest Trail Repair

Tahoe National Forest

Date: July 17-20

Contact: Larry Krumm, 408/270-4513

Would you like to repair the wilderness? I am leading a work party July 17-20 in the Tahoe National Forest. A party of 12 (including a cook) will work form a 'car camp' basecamp to clear logs and restore tread to the Pacific Crest Trail. Cost: nothing. Food for the whole trip is included.

PCS Policy on Official Sanction for Advanced Trips

A PCS leader may lead official trips that need the use of 'mountaineering hardware' (ropes, ice axes, carabiners and the like). These would be either/or trips that are class 4 and above and trips in the snow that need at least an axe.

1. Submit to either Arun or Kelly or Peter, the trip description in an application form.
2. The mountaineering committee members and Hal Tompkins (the PCS MC and Hal form the chapter Mountaineering Oversight Committee) will then approve/disapprove of the trip based on the plans, leader qualification for that class of trip.
3. The chapter MOC then informs the leader of the approval/disapproval and sends the information to the national MOC.
4. The national MOC informs the chapter MOC of its approval.
5. Chapter MOC tells leader of approval.
6. Leader asks all participants to fill waiver forms and approves qualified participants. This may be done while awaiting national MOC approval.
7. After the trip is done, a list of all trip participants (sign in sheet including names/address/sierra club membership number of all participants) and the liability release signed by all participants should be sent to Cathy Benton at the address on the top of the application form. A trip report has to be sent to the chair of the PCS Mountaineering Committee as well.
8. The approval process is expected to take six weeks at least, so please plan to apply accordingly.
9. The training trip application form, general trip application form, sign in sheet and liability release are available on the PCS web site at these URLs:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Organization/app-trn1.pdf>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Organization/applicat.pdf>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Organization/liabrel.pdf>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Organization/signin.pdf>

If you need more detail, contact the PCS mountaineering committee:

Arun Mahajan arun@sentientnet.com, 650 327-8598

Kelly Maas maas@idt.com, 408-279-2054

Peter Maxwell peterm@araki.dtc.hp.com, 408-737-9770

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.

Twin Peaks

Peak: Twin Peaks 12,240 class 3
Dates: Jul. 25 - Jul. 26
Leaders: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036
Arun Mahajan 408-244-7912

Last year we climbed Virginia Peak. This year we are going back to get Twin. The trail from near Bridgeport leads us through amazingly beautiful country over Virginia Pass and into Virginia Canyon. I suspect the wildflowers will be spectacular this year. Perhaps the exposure will be equally spectacular. It may depend on the snow level.

Matterhorn Peak

Peak: Matterhorn Peak (12,279), class-2
Dates: July 25-26
Maps: Matterhorn Peak
Leader: Ron Karpel rkarpel@usa.net
Co-Leader and Contact : Nancy Fitzsimmons
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com
(408) 957-9683

This is a loop trip. Saturday we will start from Twin Lakes, take the Robinson Creek trail and camp in Little Slide Canyon. Sunday we will climb the peak by the Southwest slope and return to Twin Lakes via Horse Creek. This trip is suitable for strong backpackers and hikers with a desire to take on mountain climbing.

Mt. Irvine and others

Peaks Mt. Irvine, Class 3
Trailhead: Whitney Portal
Date: August 7-9
Leader: Chris Kramar 510-796-6651

The first day we hike to Meysan Lake. There is a possibility of climbing a peak on this day for those who are able. The second day climbs of Le Conte, Irvine, Mallory and McAdie (TBD) are possible. The third day we hike out.

Seven Gables

Peaks: Seven Gables & more if time permits (Class 2)
Dates: August 7 thru 9 Fri thru Sun
Maps: Mt. Pinchot & Marion Peak 7.5í
Leader: Charles Schafer (408) 324-6003 (w)
charles.schafer@octel.com

This trip is to a fairly remote section of the Sierra, but it is a west side entry so it should be really scenic.. We will hike in from Florence Lake on Friday and set up camp beside Seven Gables. Saturday we will climb Seven Gables and traverse over to Gemini if it doesn't look to be too painful. Sunday we will hike out, with an optional climb of Mt. Senger if time permits.

There will be plenty of snow yet so ice axes and crampons will be required. This should be a lot of fun, but it is a pretty ambitious trip so we are looking for experienced class 3 climbers to fill out the roster.

Great Western Divide Backpack

Peak: Milestone Mountain, 13,641', Class 3
Dates: Aug. 15-22, 1998
Map: Mt. Whitney
Leader: Roger Crawley 650 321 8602,
rcrawl@earthlink.net

From Cedar Grove in Sequoia Kings Canyon Nat'l Park we will hike the Bubbs Creek trail to our first camp at East Lake. Then we

will crawl over the Kings Kern Divide via Millys Foot Pass. The following days we will move down the line of 13,600' peaks that form the Great Western divide. My goal is to climb 3 or 4 of em: Thunder Mtn, Table Mtn, Midway Mtn, and Milestone Mtn. They are all class 3 climbs. Permit for 6 persons.

Rodgers Peak

Peak: Rodgers Peak (12,978') Class 2/3
Dates: Fri, Aug 21, thru Sun, Aug. 23
Leaders: Debbie Bulger (408) 457-1036
Debbie Benham (650) 964-0558

This striking peak on the eastern border of Yosemite should offer spectacular views to both the east and west. After a long backpack in (roughly 16 miles) from the June Lakes Loop, Rush Creek trailhead, we will set up base camp near Rodgers Lakes. The exposed east ridge may be a challenge for strong newcomers. We plan to stay together. Sunday we pack out and drive home. Limited to 8.

MT. Whitney & Muir

Peaks: Whitney & Muir, Class 3
Trailhead: Whitney Portal
Date: August 21-23
Leader: Chris Kramar 510-796-6651

This will be a loop trip. The first day we will travel to Iceberg Lake. The next day we will take the Mountaineer's route to the top of Whitney, then top off Mt. Muir as we proceed back to our second night's camp via the walking trail. Third day we hike out.

Johnny Get Your Goat

Peak: Goat Mountain; class 2-3, 12207'
Dates: Aug 22-23, Sat-Sun
Maps: Marion 15 min. or Marion & Sphinx 7.5 min.
Leader: Aaron Schuman H 650-968-9184
W 650-943-7532
aaron_schuman@yahoo.com
Details: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/goat.html>

Saturday, pack four steep miles up from Zumwalt Meadow (5035) in Kings Canyon, along Copper Creek, to our campsite at Upper Tent Meadow (8600). Sunday, hike two miles on trail to Granite Pass (10347), then follow the ridge for two miles to the summit (12207) of Goat Mountain. Enjoy stunning views of the sculpted stone of Cirque Crest and the unimaginable depths of Paradise Valley. This trip will be quite strenuous but only of moderate technical difficulty.

Notes and Requests

Medic/First Aid Classes

To help trip leaders and would-be leaders get the required First Aid certificate, the Chapter sponsors a First Aid class each quarter, based on a nationally recognized first aid text, but with added material and emphasis on wilderness situations with no phone to dial 911. The next First Aid classes will be Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto (from Bayshore/Hwy. 101 at San Antonio, turn toward the Bay; turn left at 1st stoplight, then right at Corporation Way to park behind PCC). Class is 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (1 hour for your bag lunch) and is limited to 12 people. To sign up, send a check for \$38 with a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to: Health Education Services, 200 Waverly, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Cancellations get partial refund if a substitute attends (you get to keep the Wilderness First Aid book). For more information, call 650-321-6500.

-- Marg Ottenberg

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.

Palisade Basin

Peaks: Your choice
Dates: July 2-5 (Thu-Sun)
Map: Mt. Goddard 15 min.
Contact: Jim Curl, 415-585-1380, jimcurl@juno.com
Co-contact: Dot Reilly, der@gene.com

This is a non-led trip to the Palisade Basin. The approach over Bishop Pass and Thunderbolt Pass is about ten miles, half of which is moderate cross country terrain. We will be camping together, but your climbing itinerary is up to you. Possibilities for peak climbing abound in this beautiful area. Be prepared for snow.

Trinity Alps Backpack

Peaks: Various peaks
Dates: July 3 - 5
Leader: George Sinclair (650) 941-2160
geosinc@aol.com

Avoid the heavy snowpack and mosquitoes of the Sierra with a visit to the Trinity Alps. I went here last year at this time and the conditions were great.

ABC: Anarchist Brewer Climbers

Peaks: Mt. Brewer, North Guard, South Guard, Deerhorn, Francis Farquhar, West Vidette, Charlotte Dome
Date: July 3-9 (Friday - Thursday)
Contact: David Harris, harrisd@leland.stanford.edu (650) 725-8811
John Bees, jbees@dri.edu, (702) 851-0949

Join a merry band of climbers for a week in the Northern Great Western Divide. We are planning to share a campground, but go our separate ways to climb everything from 2nd class slag heaps to fifth class walls. The approach will give the opportunity for Deerhorn or one of the Videttes. We'll make a base camp near East Lake, giving access to technical and non-technical routes on Mt. Brewer, North Gurad, South Guard, and Francis Farquhar. Some of us may attempt the classic face of Charlotte Dome on the way out. Anything else in the vicinity is fair game too. If you are looking for technical climbs, find your own rope partner. If you prefer 3rd class, you are welcome to join the contingent doing those routes. Be aware that this is an "anarchist" trip with no central leadership except coordination of the permits and an opportunity for good company in camp.

Mt. Ritter: The Annual Pilgrimage

Peaks: Mt. Ritter (13,150'), Banner Peak (12,890')
Dates: July 5-10, 1998
Contact: Alan Ritter, jar@storz.com
W: 314-225-7600 x5362 (7:30am-5:00pm CDT)

Not one to give up easily, I will return to my namesake peak for a sixth attempt in July. We will meet at the Agnew Meadows trailhead on Sunday, 5 July, hike to Ediza Lake or nearby, and attempt Mt. Ritter on the first nice day thereafter. Route will be the Southeast Glacier, Class 3 per Secor. Ice axe and crampons required, given that Mammoth has seen almost 400" of snow by 1 March. Assuming success on Ritter, we may try neighboring Banner Peak a via the Ritter/Banner Saddle route, mostly class 2, but with a bit of class 3 snow just below the saddle. Success on both peaks may leave us with time to explore the Ritter Range and surrounds, which is worth the trip even without the climbs.

Oh My Goddard!

Peak: Mt Goddard
Dates: July 3-5
Contact: Tim Hult Ph: (408) 970-0760 AFTER June 17th
Climb Mt. Goddard with Tim Hult over the long weekend. Class 3 climb, but a stiff hike in. Space for 3 people

Kings Canyon Peakfest

Peaks: Goat Mountain, 12,207'
Kid Peak, 11,458'
State Peak, 12,620'
Dougherty Peak, 12,244'
Marion Peak, 12,719'
Kennedy Mtn, 11,433'
Dates: July 3, thru July 10
Contact: Debbie Bulger 408-457-1036

This week-long backpack will take us to three base camps. The peaks are mostly second class. After ascending from the trailhead in Kings Canyon, we will proceed in a counter-clockwise loop, both on and off trail, climbing as we go. If the terrain, sun cups and cornices cooperate, we will cross from Volcanic Lakes to E. Kennedy Lake on our way to Kennedy Mountain. Ice ax required. Crampons strongly recommended. Long weekenders (Fri-Sun) who wish to climb only Goat and Kid are welcome, however preference will be given to those opting for the whole trip.

Arrow & Ruskin

Peaks: Arrow, Mt. Ruskin, and more if time permits (Class 3)
Dates: July 10 thru July 13, Fri thru Mon
Maps: Mt. Pinchot & Marion Peak 7.5'
Contact: Charles Schafer (408) 324-6003 (w)
charles.schafer@octel.com

This trip is to an area which is not as often visited as some other Sierra locations, but not for lack of beauty or interesting mountains to climb. We will hike in over Taboose Pass on Friday and set up camp near the headwaters of the South Fork of the Kings River. Saturday we will climb Ruskin and do a traverse over to Marion if it doesn't look to be too much of a killer. Sunday we will attack Arrow via a classic 3rd class route, and also cross over to Pyramid if time permits. Monday we hike out.

There will be plenty of snow yet so ice axes and crampons will be required. This should be a lot of fun, but it is a pretty ambitious trip so we are looking for experienced class 3 climbers to fill out the roster.

Scotch on the Rocks

Peaks: Lyell (13,115') and Maclure (?) class 3
Dates: July 17-19
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick (408) 293-2774
Wmkirk@earthlink.net
Co-contact: Alex Keith (650) 325-1091
akeith@crc.ricoh.com

Starting from Tuolomne Meadows, we will pack through the Lyell Canyon on Friday. We will summit Lyell on Saturday and, if conditions permit, Maclure. The topo is Mt Lyell. Be prepared for snow. Permit for 6

Bear Creek Spire

Peak: Bear Creek Spire (13,713 ft.), Northeast Ridge Class 4
Dates: July 25-26
Maps: Mt. Morgan, Mt. Abbott, Mt. Hilgard
Contact: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234
Cecil Ann cecilann@earthlink.net
(408)358-1158

If you're ready to move beyond the typical PCS slog, this is the climb for you. We're looking for a few hardy souls willing to experience high adventure, vicious exposure and the beauty of a classic line. If you can appreciate a knife edge ridge, clean solid rock, and can stomach the spiralling abyss beneath your feet, please give us a call.

Clyde Minaret

Peak: Clyde Minaret (12281') Class 4/5
Dates: July 31 - August 2
Contact: Peter Maxwell (408) 737 9770

By a few feet Clyde is the highest of the Minarets, that fabulous craggy range visible from 395. The trip is spread over three days (Friday -Sunday) because the climb is likely to be a very long day. We'll camp at one of the Minaret Lakes and then spend all Saturday doing the peak. Depending on which route is taken the difficulty is either Class 4 or low Class 5. Ropes and climbing gear will be needed, as will ice axes and crampons - there is a large, steep snow field to cross to get to the start of the climb.

This is not a beginner trip. The actual number going will depend on who is interested and their level of ability. Interested experienced climbers should contact me and I'll collect a list. If you come, you'll be expected to sign the standard liability waiver.

Mount Ritter

Peak: Mount Ritter (13,143) Class-2
Dates: August 8-9
Maps: Mt Ritter, Mammoth Mtn (E)
Leader: Ron Karpel rkarpel@usa.net
<http://home.earthlink.net/~karpel/ron.html>
Co-Leader and Contact: Nancy Fitzsimmons
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@BayNetworks.com
(408) 957-9683

This is a private trip with ice axe and crampons. Previous experience with ice axe and crampons are required. Saturday, we will start from Agnew Meadows and hike to Ediza Lake. Sunday we will climb Mount Ritter via the Southeast glacier route.

Bear Creek Spire & Mt. Abbot

Peaks: Bear Creek Spire (13,720'+), Mt. Abbot (13,704'); class 3, 4
Dates: Aug 15-16
Maps: Mt. Abbot 15 min
Contact: Bob Suzuki, w: 510-657-7555,
h: 408-259-0772,
bobszk@bigfoot.com
Nancy Fitzsimmons, w: 408-764-1761,
h: 408-957-9683,
Nancy_Fitzsimmons@baynetworks.com

This weekend we'll attempt two of Moynier and Fiddler's "100 Best Climbs in the High Sierra." After an early Saturday morning backpack into Treasure Lakes we'll tackle the class 4 northeast ridge and summit block of Bear Creek Spire. Sunday's challenge will include ascending the steep snow and loose rock of Abbot's north couloir. Climbing harness, rappel device, helmet, ice axe and crampons required. Only climbers with the requisite gear and experience will be considered.

Editor's Note: Bob Suzuki has informed me that this trip is full. however he is keeping a waiting list.

Return to The Palisades

Peaks: Temple Crag (12,999'), Gayley (13,510'), Palisade Crest (13,520'); class 4
Dates: August 21-23, Fri-Sun, 3 days
Maps: Mt. Goddard 15 min.
Contacts: Bob Suzuki, w: 510-657-7555,
h (>8pm): 408-259-0772,
bobszk@bigfoot.com
Rich Leiker, w (>3pm): 408-453-4253,
h (<2pm): 510-792-4816,
leiker@san-jose.ate.slb.com
(7/15-8/5 contact Rich Leiker)

One of the Sierra's highest and most rugged areas will be the setting for these three climbs. From a basecamp at Elinore Lake our routes will include the southeast face of Temple Crag, the southwest ridge of Gayley, and the northwest ridge and class 4 summit pinnacle of the Palisade Crest. Expect a late return to the BA.

Ten Days in Milestone Basin

Peaks: Your choice
Dates: Aug 29 - Sep 7
Map: Mt. Whitney 15 min.
Contact: Jim Curl, 415-585-1380, jimcurl@juno.com
Co-contact: Dot Reilly, der@gene.com

Join us for a fun trudge with huge packs over Shepherd Pass to spend a long week in the Milestone Basin area. The peak climbing potential is vast and we currently have no set itinerary. Climb along with us or on your own, but be self-sufficient. This is not a led trip.

South of Mono Divide

Peaks: Hooper (12,349'), Senger (12,286'), Seven Gables (13,075'), Gemini (12,866'); class 1-4
Dates: Sept 4-7, Fri-Mon, 4 days
Maps: Mt. Abbot 15 min.
Contacts: Bob Suzuki, Rich Leiker same info as "Return to The Palisades"
(7/15-8/5 contact Rich Leiker)

If you can appreciate a typical PCS slog, this maybe the Labor Day trip for you! Long miles, rock slabs, talus, scree and sand - this trip should have it all! If you think you can stand the sweat and the pain, please give us a call.

Delenda Est Cartago

May 17, 1998

"I am feeling very Punic today!" With these words we stepped out of our everyday world and into the desolate time and place of Hannibal. The bleak, flea bitten village of Cartago, California sits aside the tremendous alkaline salt pan that was once the basin of briny Owens Lake. The despondent pioneer who named the town must have been reminded of the site of Carthage, for when the Romans finally defeated the Carthaginians in the Punic Wars, they razed the city and plowed salt into the land that once sheltered it, so that nothing would ever grow there again.

We had meant to climb Cartago Peak from Horseshoe Meadows trailhead, but the extraordinary snowfall of 1998 left that road closed. So like the mountaineers of Norman Clyde's generation, we climbed all the way from the desert to the summit. Our group consisted of Steve Eckert (leader), Arun Mahajan, Dee Booth, Bob Evans, David McCracken, and co-leader and chief trip report exaggerator, Aaron Schuman.

The water that once irrigated Owens Valley and fed Owens Lake is now diverted to the swimming pools of Los Angeles. We parked alongside the L.A. aqueduct (3700') and walked through the sand and the sage brush. Stepping tall and slipping backwards on the soft surface, we painstakingly walked into a higher region of Joshua trees, then gnarled cedars, and then up to pinyon pines. We crossed a band of granite boulders, challenged by the weight of our weekend backpacks, and reached the first level area (8400'). The first goodly patches of snow were here (but not even a trickle of running snowmelt); we could melt some snow on our camp stoves for drinking and cooking water. We made camp.

We set out for the summit on Saturday afternoon, but after gaining another 500 feet, we admitted how tired we were from the backpack to our camp. We returned. A strong south wind had picked up. Far below, we could see the salts of Owens Lake being whipped upward into a huge alkali storm. I had read about how the L.A. Department of Water and Power had created this particular environmental disaster by draining the lake, but I had never before seen it. I hoped there would still be paint on my car when I returned. We huddled in what meager shelter we could find, behind snags and boulders, ate and rested.

Arun dined on couscous, the national dish of ancient Carthage and the co-located modern state of Tunisia. During the night the half gale roared:

Our tent poles shook and our tent flies pounded like the oars and sails of Roman warships, but the sky was clear and the stars were dazzling.

Sunday at dawn we set out for the mountaintop. The merciful wind had calmed. Though we quickly came into the area with heavier snow cover, we found no place on the mountain where there weren't substantial patches of bare rock and gravel. Four of our number carried snowshoes, but never needed them to cross the shallow, hard frozen snowpack. We found other good campsites up above, including a flat, wooded (but waterless) one around 9200 feet.

Cartago Peak is not shown on any published map; it is informally named by climbers. We wondered if such an unknown destination could be worth climbing, but we were not disappointed. The complex summit and fine views more than made up for the difficulty in finding a route to an unmarked point.

We dropped a couple hundred vertical feet to cross a small saddle, then gained the summit plateau. As our friend Owen Maloy had promised, it was "a wonderland of rocks". On a flat area of sand

and snow, there were a dozen towers each rising one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet. Just looking at them, we couldn't tell at all which was the tallest summit. Owen had described it as the southernmost tower. Mark Adrian had supplied us with UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) coordinates for the true summit, accurate to within ten meters. Steve's GPS (Global Positioning System) locked on to seven satellite signals and correctly pinpointed the 10480' peak. Getting guidance from outer space sure made the mirage of the ancient Mediterranean disappear like Caesar's ghost!

Bob remained behind on the plateau taking photos while the rest of us scrambled over the boulders to the top. There was a stunning view of the precipitous north face of Olancha Peak, especially interesting since several of us had made an easy climb up Olancha's southeast slopes last year. We also saw the snowy summits of Kern Peak, Mount Muah, Owens Peak, and Mount Langley, and across the desert to White Mountain Peak and Telescope Peak. "Delenda Est Cartago," vowed Roman Senator Cato the Elder, "Carthage must be destroyed," and memorializing the absolute Roman devastation, Arun sprinkled a small package of salt on the topmost rocks.

After returning to camp, we tried a different route to avoid the rocky band, but ended up instead in a patch of dense brush. We broke through, then plunged down the sandy east flank, past the wildflower strewn homes of roadrunner and snake, all the way to the aqueduct and the ruins of the ancient civilization we left behind. No, wait! It was back to the ruins of the modern civilization ... and really, it wasn't even ruined, just a little dusty.

Steve Eckert adds a detailed route description, waypoints and map. See <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Reports/1998/cartago.html>

-- Aaron Schuman

Editor's Note: The previous month's report of the same title was related but not a dup. Steve Eckert intended for his report, which appeared in the June 1998 Scree, to be a supplement to this report. Steve's write-up was edited so it would fit within the Scree. I eliminated the detailed GPS data because not all readers of the Scree are interested. I think that readers who are interested in the detailed data are most likely to own GPS units and are technically savvy enough to look up Steve's full report on the PCS website.

Tahoe Peaks

Memorial Day Weekend

This was a car camping trip that consisted of seven people: Dan Tischler, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Kelly Maas, Landa Robillard, Rich and Dee Booth, and myself. We camped at the Forest Service campground at Fallen Leaf Lake, which had empty sites all weekend. Perhaps the weather and heavy snowpack kept many people away.

On Saturday we climbed Mt. Tallac, which is just to the north of Fallen Leaf Lake, by a route that ascended the distinctive "cross" on the east face. This involved a climb of over 3,000 feet, and included crossing some very steep snow near the top. Ice axes were used on the upper part of the climb. Summit views were somewhat limited due to clouds. Lake Gilmore was completely frozen over. To avoid going down the steep gully we climbed up, we went down the north face about 300 feet before we were able to traverse back to the east face. However this also involved a short section of very steep snow.

On Sunday we drove to the north side of Lake Tahoe - about a 45 minute drive via the Nevada side - and climbed Mt. Rose. This was a slightly easier climb than Tallac, although the mountain sits somewhat farther from the road than one would expect. You get your first view of it after hiking about three miles. In all Mt. Rose involved a climb of about 2,700 feet. The final ridge leading to the summit was exposed to a severe wind which made walking very difficult. The summit is marked by a wood sign and the bottom portion of an old Sierra Club register (no top portion or book). Below us to the north we could easily see downtown Reno.

On Monday we awoke to rain and, after spending some time at the visitor center near Fallen Leaf Lake, we headed home.

-- *George Sinclair*

Sawmill? What Sawmill?

June 6, 1998

Official PCS mountaineering trip to Baxter & Colosseum

Leaders: Steve Eckert and Aaron Schuman

Participants: Marcy Barnett, Mike DeLorenzo, Brian Wachter

The trip REALLY started with filling out paperwork to convince the Mountaineering Oversight Committee we were qualified to lead the trip and knew how to screen people. That part is pretty easy, and other PCS leaders should not be avoiding the process. We mused as we hiked as to how a place with no trees came to be called Sawmill Pass. Not many trees along Sawmill Creek, either - the canyon is too narrow.

The hard part was the pack into camp: 5600' of gain with ice axes, crampons, and gear to camp on snow. There is good water once you get over the ridge into the main drainage, about 3 hours into a 9 hour hike at our moderate pace. We found a dry place at Sawmill Lake, but the solid snow started 9k and there were no clearings above the one we found at 10k. (Actually a lone backpacker told us about it before we got there, so we chose to go no further.)

Weather was an issue, with clouds coming and going at all hours of the day. We opted for an early (5am) start even though the plan for Saturday was just a short steep climb of Baxter. We hoped the snow would ice up overnight, allowing crampons, and we wanted to be down before the storm hit. (It turned out the storm never happened, and the sun was baking us all afternoon.) Marcy hung out in camp with blisters and either a touch of altitude sickness or allergy problems.

Secor mentions that the easy route on Baxter is closed due to big horn sheep restrictions. The third class face (see picture in the web version of this report) was plastered with snow, making it a 35 degree snow slope instead of loose crumbly rock. Very nice. You should definitely consider this one for early season, both to avoid the sheep closures and to avoid the rotten rock. We had some loose talus getting from the top of the snow to the ridge, and then it's good second class to the summit. The chute we picked is two gullies east of the one that Secor seems to describe (see picture in the web report). It has no headwall, it had no snow slumps, and it seemed less steep. (Call me chicken, call me safe, but don't call a medic.)

The summit has an east, west, and south bump, and we went to them all. It's only a few minutes between them, and in the clouds we could not tell which was higher. DeLorme's software and Secor's writeup do not agree, and the topo map is inconclusive. The register was buried in snow, so doing all three seemed reasonable (just in case? hypoxia? paranoia? peakbaggeritus?).

On Baxter at 10am, we had a snack and talked about the afternoon. In the warming snow, the chute was a steep glissade and we dropped quickly to the bowl. Mike headed back to camp and the rest of us headed toward Sawmill Pass as the sun came out and slushed up the snow. I had snowshoes, but everyone else in the group had left them in the cars... making the almost flat 2+ mile walk between the peaks a knee-deep slog at times. We decided the snow chutes up through crumbly cliffs would be too soft to attack in the late afternoon, so we skirted them and ascended the west ridge of Colosseum.

Tina Stough had been there (on a day hike?) just one day earlier, so we missed being the first register signers of the year. On top at 430pm, we agreed that the ugly climb to a boring peak was OK after all, since the view toward Clarence King was spectacular from Colosseum. Do this peak with snow on it if you can. There would be a lot of sand otherwise.

We raced the sunset back to camp, ending a 15 hour day by eating in the dark and hopping into the tents just before the wind started. A little light hail overnight and much colder temperatures contrasted with the perfectly clear sky Sunday morning, but the clouds returned during our hike out and by the time we reached the cars the peaks were gone again.

One never conquers a mountain, but it's nice to be allowed a summit visit now and then. Two in one long day is more than can be asked for, especially in the company of interesting people.

-- *Steve Eckert*

PS: Mountaineers looking for a good meal on the way up are often disappointed in Bakersfield, but we discovered that the Oswell exit of highway 178 in Bakersfield (one exit east of Mt Vernon) seems to have a wide variety of restaurants: see the waypoint "FOOD" below if you have a GPS, and head southeast from the exit. You can't see any of them from the freeway, and most are not visible until you turn into the mall area.

The Harringtons & the Kennedys

June 13-14

Harrington is one of the classic peaks of the Sierra. Being away from the Sierra Crest and relatively low elevation, 11,000 ft. has caused it to be often ignored. But this peak has a beautiful summit that is well worth a visit. It has been climbed only 3 times since 1996. All by PCS and SPS groups. We were the first entry in the register this year.

In the weeks prior to the trip we spent time planning the trip, investigating route choices and snow conditions. Thanks to the mountaineering committee members Arun Mahajan, Kelly Mass, and Peter Maxwell for helping make this an official Sierra Club Mountaineering trip which included the use of ice axe and other necessary climbing gear. Also thanks to David Harris for providing crucial up to the moment information about snow conditions on the summit.

There are 2 trailheads leading to Frypan Meadow, from which both peaks can be climbed, Lewis Creek and Deer Cove. We chose Deer Cove because it has no major creek crossing. Another big advantage for Deer Cove is that it is on Forest Service land not on the National Park and thus requires no permit. We could have saved the time and hassle of getting the permit and started on the trail earlier, but I wanted to be as legal as possible. So we got a permit.

After setting camp in Frypan Meadow we headed for Kennedy. We immediately lost the Kennedy Pass trail under the snow, so we continued cross country. A long and tiring climb up the Southern ridge brought all but me to the summit. I stopped 500 ft short of the summit, too tired to continue. Clouds were drifting in and out, but I was able to snap a few pictures of the group climbing up to the summit. We were back at camp by 8:30 PM exhausted from the 7,500 ft elevation and the 14 mile hike, half of which was done with full packs, the other half kicking steps through the snow. At camp we meet Kai Wiedman and Dot Reilly who were also going to attempt Harrington the following day.

The partly cloudy weather of Saturday was replaced by extremely warm Sunday. Temperature on the summit were in the mid 70. And the sky was mostly clear. Snow line was at about 9000 ft. with patches down to 7500 ft.

We started late on Sunday to allow everyone a good rest after the long day we had on Saturday. (Dee stayed back in camp nursing bad blisters.) The unmaintained trail to Grizzly Lake disappeared under the snow after about a mile and we continued cross country trying to follow the trail path as best we could. Harrington's impressive summit block came in to view. We could see 2 sets of steps in the snow. One set going to the South ridge which we assumed belong to Kai and Dot. The other set going to the North ridge which we assumed belong to David Harris and his girl friend. We followed the steps to the North ridge up the wide snow couloir to the saddle between Harrington and the snow hump just to its North. This seemed to be a reasonable class 3 climb if the rock was clear. But the wet snow, which covered all but a short wet section of rock, made it a bit more interesting. Ice axes were used for self belay. Self arrest was almost impossible as Ahmad demonstrated on an unfortunate, but harmless slide.

Once on the saddle we examined the ridge going up to the summit. There was snow accumulation in several places, it was hard to see how it could be climbed. Bob Suzuki took a belay and started to pass the first snow field, but he quickly found a way on solid rock, and we all followed unbelayed. As we were climbing we found that the climb was not too bad. Snow did cover some of the route making the climb a bit more challenging, but never harder than a high class 3. Some of us used ropes for belay at several places, but it was not strictly necessary. Almost at the top, Steve, Arun, and Karon made some exposed moves using snow for hand holds. But Jim was able to kick steps right through the snow, and the rest of us followed the more protected route

On the way down El Nino snow pack treated us to some great glissading. I estimated we glissaded some 2,000 vertical ft in several runs. The longest was continues for about 500 ft. We got back to camp after 6:00 PM, packed up, and headed to the trail head. Unfortunately, it was 10:30 PM when we got to the trailhead, too late to drive all the way home.

Participants: Steve Eckert, Dee Booth, Arun Mahajan, Karon MacLean, Jim Ramaker, Bob Suzuki, Ahmad Zandi, Ron Karpel

Some notes:

The Deer Cove trail is a bit faint in few places. In particularly, we missed the last junction about 1/4 of a mile before Frypan Meadow, which cost us precious time. The 15 minutes map displays the trails wrong in several places. The 7.5 minutes map is fine. There is a good bear box in Frypan Meadow.

See home page: <http://home.earthlink.net/~karpel/ron.html>

-- Ron Karpel

Harrington by Harris

June 6-7

Laurie Price and David Harris attempted to climb Mt. Harrington from Cedar Grove this weekend (June 6-7). We were turned back at the north end of the summit ridge because the ridge had overhanging cornices and significant snow cover at what appeared would be difficult, exposed 3rd class moves. It is possible to bypass the snow on rock, but I would recommend that any party attempting the ridge in the near future carry proper gear for technical rock.

The snow level in the area is nearly continuous above Frypan Meadow at 7800', though camping in the meadow is good. The trail from Frypan to Grizzly Lakes is long unmaintained and appears to be non-existent in places; it is also mostly covered in snow. We had a challenging four mile navigation exercise from Frypan to the summit ridge in fog restricting visibility to about 100 yards. It was complicated by what appears to be a software bug in my Avocet altimeter; the altimeter started to read 400 feet high during the first 2000 feet of climb in the morning, causing navigation confusion that was only fully resolved by pressing the mode buttons in the altimeter until I discovered it was reading the correct altitude again. I intend to purchase a GPS after this experience.

For those contemplating Mt. Harrington in the future, the south ridge looks like very appealing 4th class climbing, though the approach is awfully long

for the amount of climbing available. Harrington and Kennedy can both be climbed from a base camp at Frypan Meadow (about 4 miles to each camp); making the approach and doing a summit the same day in current conditions would be extremely strenuous. There is a bear box at the meadow.

-- David Harris

Buena Vista Peak

Sunday June 14, 1998

Today I hiked up the striking dome known as Buena Vista Peak overlooking the Redwood Mountain Grove of Giant Sequoias in Kings Canyon NP.

Although the forecast was for snow, around 11 a.m. it became quite obvious that no significant threat was going to materialize, and I headed up the road to Kings Canyon NP, arriving at the gate in about 20 minutes. I then took the General's Highway southeast to the Kings Canyon Overlook, which is at the very tip of the sharp hairpin turn west of Buck Rock. Around the back side of the hairpin and a couple hundred feet south of the vista point parking lot is a small dirt parking area with room for 2 or 3 cars. I brought my full overnight pack with me, hoping to get some exercise, but when I got out of the car and discovered how pleasant it was I decided to take only my camera and ice axe.

There is a faint one-mile-long trail that goes almost to the top of the 7,605 foot dome, but it was buried under what I would call the best snow I have ever had the pleasure of hiking on. With no trail to be seen I hiked up the crest of the ridge and walked south along the gentle half mile slope to the base of the dome. The north face, although not vertical, was way too steep for my liking, so I traversed around to the east face and climbed up the most enjoyable 200 foot snow slope I've ever had the pleasure of experiencing.

Near the top the slope became a bit more challenging and it became obvious to me that the trail climbs the south side of the dome (it doesn't appear on any maps). On top of the slope are 5 or 6 very large (10 feet tall?) boulders. The tallest of the boulders was the one perched along the edge of the vertical 2,200 foot west face of the dome. There is large depression in the large boulder, and an all too conveniently placed 3 foot diameter rock resting along side the larger one. One quick class 3 move and I was on top.

Being so close to Alta Peak, I expected the summit to be cloudy, and it was, but only to the south and west. To the north and east was one of the most spectacular panoramas I have ever seen anywhere. This is one peak that definitely lives up to its name! Six thousand feet of Spanish Mountain's 8,000 foot south face were only a few miles away. Behind it were countless peaks, the most impressive of which was gigantic Mt. Goddard, which dwarfed everything in sight. To the east was 8,500 foot Buck Rock (Obelisk's "brother" according to Native American legends) standing guard over expansive Weston Meadows. Three groves of Sequoias grow on or near the slopes of Buena Vista Peak and can clearly be seen: Buena Vista Grove, Redwood Mountain Grove, and Tenmile Grove. Many more grow on the slopes of the lower peaks nearby.

The 30 minute hike up the peak was made much shorter by glissading down the northeast slope of the dome. I stopped to investigate some really big boulders (20+ feet high) on the way down but still reached the car in about 20 minutes from the top.

Hiking Buena Vista Peak isn't exactly a world class mountaineering feat, but the short trip to its summit is just as enjoyable, if not more. If you are ever in Sequoia or Kings Canyon NP with an hour to kill, this would be a most rewarding way to do it.

-- Pat Ibbetson

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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.

Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 7/26/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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

First Class Mail - Dated Material