

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

## Next General Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 1998

**Time:** 8:00 PM

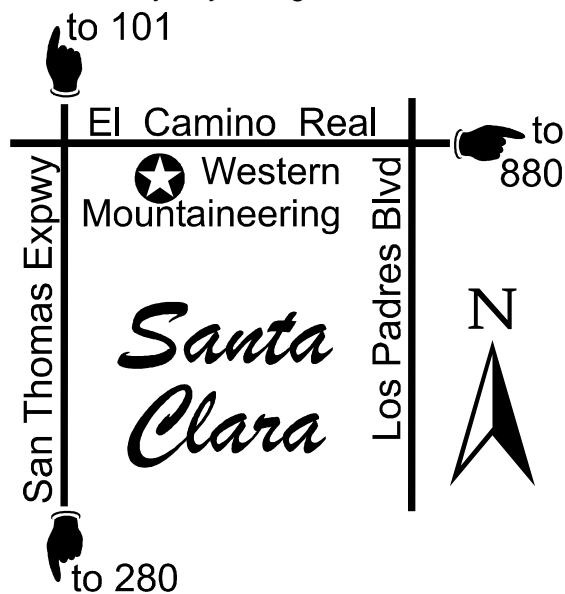
**Program:** Trekking In Peru

The program will be presented by Charles Schafer. Trekking in the Corderilla Blanca in Peru including the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu.

**Location:** Western Mountaineering, Santa Clara

2344 El Camino Real, Santa Clara (between San Thomas and Los Padres), parking in the rear.

From 101: Exit at San Thomas Expressway, Go South to El Camino Real. Turn left and the Western Mountaineering will be immediately to your right.



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 9/27/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

## Carpool Point Alert!

At two of our commonly used carpool points, **Livermore Airport and Murray Avenue in Gilroy**, there are some issues that need to be addressed. At Livermore Airport you need to go into the office and get a permit indicating how long you will be there.

At Murrey Avenue in Gilroy, there was vandalism of a PCS's car on a recent trip. We should not use this point anymore.

Aaron Schuman <aaron\_schuman@yahoo.com> is compiling information on carpool points for the PCS website. We want places that are legal, lighted and safe, where you have had good experiences:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/pcs/Carpool/>

-- Bob Bynum, Scree Editor

## Fall/Winter Trip Planning Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, September 22, 1998

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Purpose:** To plan and schedule climbing trips for fall & winter 1998

**Place:** Home of Arun Mahajan

1745 Alma Street, Palo Alto, Ca 94301.

Phone: 650-327-8598

**Directions:** Coming from 280, take the Page Mill exit, east bound and once you pass thru El Camino, take the ramp for Alma (North) which is a sharp right turn.

Coming from 101, take Oregon Expressway and head west. A few lights later (you have to cross Middlefield) is the sharp right turn for Alma Street. As you get to Alma, take a right turn to go north. Once on Alma (north), drive for a few blocks. On your left will be the train tracks. My townhouse is in a brown shingled four-plex with a gray roof, between Tennyson and Lowell. Off street parking on either Tennyson or Lowell.

It is hard to believe, but fall and then winter will be upon us soon and it is time to plan for trips for these seasons as well. To those (like me) who feel cheated of their climbing in this year's all-too-short-summer, never fear, to paraphrase the poet Shelly PB, who knew a thing or two about the seasons, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

This is the meeting where trip leaders and prospective trip leaders gather to propose and schedule climbing trips for fall and winter 1998. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring your trip ideas, trip proposals, and any maps and guidebooks that would be useful. Hope to see you there!

-- Arun Mahajan (arun@tollbridgetech.com)

## Avalanche On Mt Dana!

There was an avalanche July 3 on the east face of Mt. Dana. I don't have the full story, but apparently several skiers were seriously injured, requiring a helicopter rescue. Some friends and I saw the accident site July 4 when we were skiing up Glacier Canyon to the Dana couloir. The winter storms built huge overhanging cornices on the east face of Dana and one section had collapsed, nailing the skiers on the snow slope below. My rough estimate of the slide: about 1000 feet and about 200 feet wide at the toe, with lots of chunks of ice embedded in the debris. Judging from the number of ski tracks we saw, people like to stay high on this slope to speed up access to/exit from the couloir. We traversed much lower, near the lake, which seemed to be beyond the runout zone. Even at that distance, we could see several skis planted vertically in the debris. Apparently there had been no time!

-- Butch Suits

## Wilderness First Aid

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, November 14 and Sunday, November 15 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 choice of day, and 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

## 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.

### Florence Peak

Peaks: Florence Peak (12,432'), Class 2  
Vandever Mountain (11,947'), Class 1  
Dates: Sept 4-6th, Fri-Sun (3 days)  
Map: Mineral King USGS 7.5 min  
Leaders: Debbie Benham H 650-964-0558 (until 9 PM)  
dmbenham@aol.com  
Judith Dean H 650-854-9288 (until 9 PM)  
judith.dean@forsythe.stanford.edu

Join us for a lovely Labor Day stretch in beautiful Sequoia National Park! We'll hike into Franklin Lakes our first day, then climb two, very easy, non-technical peaks Saturday, then hike out and home on Sunday. Especially invited are those new to peak bagging with a bit of backpacking experience.

### McDuffie, Black Giant, & Charybdis

Peaks: McDuffie, Black Giant, & Charybdis (Class 3)  
Dates: September 4 thru 7, Fri thru Mon  
Maps: North Palisade, Mt. Thompson, Mt. Goddard 7.5'  
Leader: Charles Schafer (408) 324-6003 (w)  
charles.schafer@octel.com

If you've ever climbed to the top of Bishop Pass, looked off into the interior of the Sierra, and thought that those magnificent peaks on the horizon looked awfully appealing; then this trip is for you. Secor says the three peaks are easily day hiked from Helen Lake (at Muir Pass), so I want to give them a try from just west of Black Giant. We will hike in over Bishop Pass on Friday and set up camp near Black Giant. Saturday we will climb the three peaks (or just two, if that's all we can do). Sunday we will either climb McDuffie (if we didn't get it on Sat.) or go for something else in the neighborhood. Monday we will hike out.

This should be a lot of fun, but it is a pretty ambitious trip so we are looking for experienced class 3 climbers to join us.

### Tuolumne Family Car Camp III

Peaks: Warren, Gibbs; class 1  
Dates: Sep 12-13 Sat-Sun  
Maps: Mono Craters 15 min.  
Leaders: Cecil Ann H 408-358-1168  
cecilann@earthlink.net  
Aaron Schuman H 650-968-9184  
W 650-943-7532  
aaron\_schuman@yahoo.com  
Details: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/warren.html>

Bring your grandparents and your grandchildren to enjoy the pine air and cathedral views of Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows. Hearty adults and teens will enjoy the two day hikes, to Mt Warren (8 miles, from 9000 to 12327 feet) and Mt Gibbs (12 miles, up from 9600 to 12773 feet). The Tuolumne Family Car Camp, now in its third year, has become a real PCS tradition!

Contact Cecil Ann, not Aaron, to reserve a spot at our group campsite.

### Arrow Peak & Ruskin

Peaks: Arrow Peak, Mt. Ruskin, and more if time permits, (Class 3)  
Dates: September 18 thru 21, Fri thru Mon  
Maps: Mt. Pinchot & Marion Peak 7.5'  
Leader: 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 perhaps try 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 then possibly cross over to Pyramid if time permits. Monday we hike out.

Neither of the variations are required, and may not even be attempted. But either way this should be a great trip. It is a pretty ambitious undertaking, though, so we are looking for experienced class 3 climbers to come along. By the way, if this looks familiar it is a repeat listing of a trip listed earlier in the year which didn't happen.

### Izaak Walton

Peak: Izaak Walton 12099', Class 3  
Dates: September 18-20, Fri thru Sun  
Leader: Peter Maxwell (408) 737 9770

The intent of this trip is to have a good time exploring the Silver Divide area. We start by taking a ferry boat across Lake Thomas Edison (costs around \$10), then hike up towards Bighorn Lake, 3200' higher up. We may camp before that, at Mott Lake, or we may go beyond, depending on how time goes. At some stage we'll cross the Silver Divide at Rohn Pass (11240') and then climb the peak via the class 3 northeast ridge. The third day is the hike out and catch the boat back.

### A Climbing Marathon? Not

Peaks: Dragon Peak 12,927+, 3; Rixford, Mt 12,887, 2; Bago, Mt 11,870, 1; maybe Gould, Mt 13,005, 1s3

Dates: Sept. 19-20 (Saturday-Sunday)

Maps: Mt Pinchot

Leader: Bob Suzuki, 408-259-0772, bobszk@bigfoot.com

Co-Leader: Ron Karpel 510-771-3231 ronny@luxsonor.com

Web page: <http://home.earthlink.net/~karpel/Dragon.html>

Four peaks in 1 weekend? This could have been another one of those Suzuki-Karpel climbing marathons, but I hope not. Starting at Onion Valley, Kearsarge Pass is a short distance, and Gould and Dragon are close by. Rixford is connected to them with a high plateau. So it looks reasonable to climb these peaks in 1 day. And even if we delay climbing Rixford for early Sunday, Bago being lower and class 1 should not be too difficult. Since Bob already climbed Gould, it will be up to the rest of us and depending on how quickly we get there if we climb Gould. Climbing Gould would add about 300 ft elevation to the first day climb.

### Navigation Trip and Peak Climb

Peaks: Mt Mendenhall 12277', maybe Bloody Mountain 12544', class 2-3

Dates: Sep 19-20 Sat-Sun

Maps: Bloody Mtn and Convict Lake 7.5 min

Leader: Kelly Maas H(408) 279-2054, W(408) 944-2078, maas@idt.com

This trip is planned as a follow-on to the navigation class, with lots of navigation practice and a bit of peak climbing too. We'll travel from Mammoth Lakes to Convict Lake following some trails, but also with plenty of off-trail travel. Participants should be comfortable traversing hard class 2 terrain with a pack on, and I can't rule out the possibility of a little bit of class 3. This means that light packs will be required. We'll probably climb some unnamed peaks and perhaps even Bloody Mountain, but the emphasis will be on navigation practice. Everyone is expected to bring compass and maps.

### Kearsarge and Independence

Peaks: Kearsarge Peak (12,598') class 1, Independence Peak (11,744') class 3

Dates: October 3-4, Sat-Sun

Map: Kearsarge Peak 7.5"

Contacts: Ron Karpel, ronny@luxsonor.com  
(W) 510-683-4668 X231, (H) 650-594-0211  
Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com  
(W) 510-657-7555, (H) 408-259-0772

Why think the peak climbing season has to end with summer? Try these 2 fall day hikes from the Onion Valley campground at 9,200', and enjoy the company of your fellow PCSers in the quieter eastern Sierra.

### Marble Mountains

Peaks: Kings Castle 7405', Black Marble Mtn ~7500', class 2

Dates: Oct 9-11 Fri-Sun

Maps: Marble Mountain Wilderness topo from Wilderness Press

Leader: Kelly Maas H(408) 279-2054, W(408) 944-2078, maas@idt.com, Co-Leader: wanted

This is a 2 1/2 day backpack and peak climb through the Marble Mountain Wilderness, the little brother to the north of the Trinity Alps. If that clue doesn't help to locate it, it's northwest of Mt. Shasta off Hwy 5. The peaks aren't high and most of the trip is on trail (including the Pacific Crest Trail), but it should be a great new area to explore, with many pretty lakes, and mountains that don't look like the Sierra. If we have time we can climb Boulder Pk which would put us at almost 8300 feet!

### Rockhouse Jail

Peaks: Rockhouse Pk, Taylor Dome, Sirretta Pk; class 2

Dates: Oct 17-18 Sat-Sun

Maps: Lamont Peak and Kernville 15 min.

Leader: Aaron Schuman aaron\_schuman@yahoo.com  
H 650-968-9184, W 650-943-7532

Web page: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/rockhouse.html>

Car camp in the scenic Rockhouse Valley, in the Domelands Wilderness of the Sequoia National Forest. Day hike to Rockhouse Peak (8383 feet), Taylor Dome (8802 feet), and Sirretta Peak (9977 feet). Savor the experience; it might be our last snow-free trip of 1998.

### Mt. Whitney

Peak: Mt. Whitney, class 1

Dates: Oct. 23-25

Leader: George Van Gorden H 408 779 2320 before 9:00 PM

After permits, the good old easy trail although summit day (Sat.) from 10,300 ft. is rather long, but ah, the brisk Oct. air, intimations of winter if it hasn't already arrived, that last glorious ascent into the light before the dark descends make the mundanity of such a slovenly slog all worth it.

## Seven Gables (13,075)

August 7-9: Six of us – Charles Schafer (leader), Jim Ramaker, Landa Robilliard, Kelly Maas, Andy Skumanich, and Roger Crawley enjoyed perfect weather, a plethora of wild flowers, lovely Sierra lakes and meadows, and a great mountain climb over three days Aug. 7-9. We met at the Ranger Station on the road in to Florence Lake, secured a permit, and boarded the 8:30 am ferry to cross the lake. It was hot and there was a plethora of mosquitoes on the trail to Sally Keyes Lakes and Selden Pass. Seven Gables is only about one mile from the pass. At 5 o'clock we made camp at on the east side of one of the Marie Lakes. In the morning we went around the shoulder of a ridge and dropped a little to Sand Piper Lake and the base of our mountain. There's a short, steep section up through some bushes and ledges and then about 400 yards of open sandy and rocky terrain to the saddle on the east rim. We made our way over boulders up to a ridge near the summit. We got out our ice axes for a short crossing of steep, hard snow and scrambled up easy rocks to the top. Views were the normal outstanding with very clear air and no clouds. Charles started down to try and find a route with a third class chimney and some ledges over to a pass to the south and thence over to Gemini (12,866). It didn't look like much fun and when we considered how long it would take, one by one, the rest of us became mutinous. Charles finally let us have our way. But he grouched. That's a fact. On the way down we all tried to ski and glissade down the snowfield. On the way back there was

ample time and in the warm sunshine we flattened ourselves on some granite and dozed and gazed at the shimmering lakes. Next morning we headed down and cooled ourselves in Florence Lake while waiting for the ferry.

-- Roger Crawley

## Clyde Minaret

**Short Report** (i.e. useful info if you plan a trip there):

**Topo:** Devils Postpile (15 minute)

**Trailhead:** Minaret Lake, leaving from Devil's Postpile. The bridge washed out in January 1997 is still not replaced. Either go 0.9 miles south to Red Meadows where there is a bridge, or wade the San Joaquin River, which was running very high.

**Time of Year:** end of July in El Nino year (98).

**Conditions:** mostly snow free to Minaret Lake, large amount of snow to Cecile Lake.

**Length:** 2 1/2 days with 12 hour summit day.

**Elevation:** 12281' Clyde Minaret summit, trailhead, 7600'.

**Equipment:** crampons, ice-axe, one rope, slings, very small rack.

**Summary:** camped at Minaret Lake (9850') because it was free of snow, summited from there.

**Summit Route:** Starr's Route. Up the drainage to Cecile Lake, climb the red rock to the ledge running across the northeast face, climb 45 degree snow field to rightmost chute, climb chute to ridge, follow ridge to summit. 5 hours up, 6 hours down due to slow downclimbing required.

**Comments:** Rated as class 4 but everyone thought it was solid class 3 and a rope really wasn't necessary, but it was good to have it anyway. A belay at the top of the chute while descending might be appreciated by some. Crampons and ice axe indispensable. Much loose rock was encountered.

### Long report:

According to Webster's: minaret: a slender lofty tower attached to a mosque and surrounded by one or more projecting balconies from which the summons to prayer is cried by the muezzin

Five of us responded to the "summons of Clyde" on July 31 and August 1,2, and set forth to climb this lofty tower. The group consisted of John & Chris Kerr, Charles Schafer, Conor Rafferty and Peter Maxwell. Both Conor and I had attempted this peak last year and failed due to inadequate equipment (no crampons or ice axes). Another necessary addition to Secor's description: he makes no mention of having to ascend a 45 degree snow slope just to get to the start of the rock portion of the climb, if one starts from the area of red rock in the cirque above Cecile Lake. The convenient ledge running across the northeast face is cut by this snow slope, which perhaps melts out much later in the season, but if it's there, the only way to avoid it is to take either the Rock Route or the Glacier Route, starting from the north side of the lake.

This time we weren't going to make the same mistake so made sure we were properly equipped. Conor, who lives in New Jersey and keeps up his skills by scaling 5.8 fences, was out here on a climbing vacation and turned up in a rental car with a model name of "Achieva" - how could we go wrong with such a good omen?

Unlike many people who climb in the Minarets, we started from Devils Postpile rather than Agnew Meadows, heading towards Minaret Lake. The first thing we had to achieve was to get to the other side of the San Joaquin River. The bridge near Devils Postpile that got washed out in the 1997 floods was still out (your

tax dollars not at work) and the river was running much higher than last year, making wading it a dicey proposition. Conor tried at one point where it looked shallow but almost got swept off his feet, without being encumbered with a backpack, so we decided to walk the 0.9 miles south to Red Meadows where there is a bridge.

The trail to Minaret Lake is beautiful and highly recommended. The cascades of Minaret Falls made a delightful lunch backdrop. An earlier start would have put us beyond this, but all the messing around with the attempted river crossing, plus the extra 1.8 miles, plus our leisurely 9:15 am initial departure meant we didn't get all that far by lunch time. We got to Minaret Lake by mid-afternoon and decided to stay there, rather than push on to Cecile Lake, which is 600' higher up and guaranteed to be surrounded by snow. There were also very ominous clouds building all around us and that, coupled with the much lower than average temperatures put us off the snow camping concept.

We had plenty of time to make cups of tea and prepare dinner. John gave us several different versions of "a study in rocky repose", each involving sprawling out on the rocks in a position of total relaxation. The cool temperature and the wind kept the mosquitoes at bay and we weren't bothered by them at all.

In deciding what time to get up the next morning, Chris was insistent that she had almost never known any group to get their act together and leave within 90 minutes of waking up. We were no exception to this rule so after a 5:30 wake up we were on the way around 7:00. Camping at Minaret Lake meant extra time was involved. It took around 45 minutes to get to Cecile Lake, more or less following the drainage up, and discovering a nice ledge system to go up the final headwall. As anticipated, the lake was still largely frozen over and surrounded by snow, much as it was a month earlier the previous year. The ranger had told us everything was about a month late this year, and this was an accurate description of everything we found.

We encountered the first of what was to be a fair amount of loose rock throughout the climb while scrambling up the red rock to get to the ledge across the face. Even though we took a lot of care everyone sent pieces down as unwelcome presents to those below them. Chris dislodged a very large rock which hit her foot as it fell. Luckily nothing was damaged but it left sobering thoughts with us. We weren't on the ledge for long before we encountered the snow slope. Our route was Starr's Route, and we had to determine exactly which couloir to aim for. The best thing is to ignore counting chutes, as there are more than the three mentioned, and simply head for the rightmost, before the obvious arrete which separates this from the Rock Route. From where we were this involved climbing up and diagonally to the right on the snow.

Once off the snow we dumped our crampons and ice axes - no point in lugging these to the top - thereby eliminating any chance of returning via the Rock Route should we have wished to do so. The climbing was solid class 3, with the chute narrowing until it was almost a chimney just before cresting onto the ridge at the top of the gendarme separating this from the Rock Route. Although very steep, handholds were good, and the only problem was that we had to be constantly careful of loose rock, carefully testing before putting any weight on anything. We noticed a few slings on the way up so figured some people considered rope necessary.

Very close to the summit we encountered the "short class 4 move" described in Secor, which involved a vertical wall of about 10'. However, nobody thought this was class 4, since there's no significant exposure and plenty of holds. From here it was 5 minutes to the summit, which was attained at noon - 5 hours for the climb. It was warm and there was not a breath of wind, and very difficult not to resist the temptation to spend the whole afternoon up there. John took

the opportunity to give us yet another demonstration of his "power lounging" technique while I marveled at the steep, craggy nature of the rocks and peaks around us.

Going back down was slow progress as everything was sufficiently steep that downclimbing was necessary. On several occasions Charles piped up with "Did I tell you I hate downclimbing?". Progress was sufficiently slow that at the top of the main chute, where it was the narrowest and steepest, we figured rappelling down might be faster. This one section was much more potentially class 4 than the wall at the top and some people would appreciate a belay here. As I was putting my camera on a convenient rock my pack took on a life of its own and decided to start tumbling down the chute with my rappel device inside! By a stroke of luck it wedged itself just about at the end of the rope, about 25m down. I guess I could have borrowed someone else's rappel device, but to save time I just used the rope as an aid to speed up the downclimbing.

After that first rappel we decided we weren't saving any time so continued unroped downclimbing. The snow had softened up somewhat by the time we got to it, but it still looked formidable. We all had to downclimb this also, some using crampons and some not. Not wanting to return via the red rock route due to the unstable rock, we went all the way to the bottom of the snow, then cut northeast across the cliff faces above Cecile Lake until we could descend by the easy ridge leading to the northwest side of the lake.

The snow descent had some interesting moments. Chris was carefully doing a stomach glissade, lying on the ice axe, and was priding herself at her control when she went right over the edge of a bergschrund. Luckily it was not very wide at that point or she would have experienced more than the abrupt stop that happened. For Conor and myself, it was the "fun run" at the end of the slope when both of us slipped and slid the last 100' or so trying to self arrest in snow that was too soft and ending up plowing into the bushes. Charles saw me coming straight toward him, crampons first, and fled in panic out of the way.

From there it was plain sailing back to camp, where we arrived at 7 PM, almost exactly 12 hours after we'd left. This was one of the rare peaks where coming down took more time than going up: 5 hours up and 6 hours down. As a celebration of our climb, Conor offered fine brandy. Charles insisted that we hadn't "conquered" the mountain, but had merely "visited" it. Mosquitoes visited us, also, as it was warmer and there was less wind, but luckily there were not hordes of them. Looking back at the peak we realized that our route was clearly marked by a prominent dark straight line running up the gully (although this was not evident from close up).

The return to Devil's Postpile took only 3.5 hours. People were less worried about getting wet so we waded the river rather than make the detour. Also, we weren't sure if what we'd done had been dangerous or not, but there were plenty of signs warning us that wading the river was, so this heightened the sense of adventure. We found that the best place to cross at the very broad bend downstream from where the bridge used to be, just before the river goes into a much narrower canyon. The water depth here was barely above the calves. Those of us without fancy sandals plunged in boots and all, not bothering to try to keep them dry. Conor didn't even bother to empty the water out and I could hear him squelching during the short walk back to the cars.

-- Peter Maxwell

## Steve Eckert Adds: Ice Axe Arrest Info

Thanks for sharing this moment of learning! My experience suggests that a "standard" ice axe pick arrest is non-functional most of the time in the Sierra Nevada. The soft afternoon corn

snow does not provide enough drag to make the pick effective. (Those who think it is working are usually doing the work with their toes.) You need to get the point (end of the shaft) in the snow with enough leverage to stop yourself. If your wrist loop only attaches to the head of the axe, it's hard to get enough leverage without wrenching the axe out of your hands. If your shaft does not have rubber (or bicycle handlebar tape) on it you cannot hold on with wool or fleece gloves. With a proper wrist loop, you can drive the shaft in like a picket and hang off the axe OR you can face down slope and use it like a canoe paddle to brake. Practice with runoff!

-- Steve Eckert

## Bear Creek Spire, NE Buttress

August 15, 1998: A web version of this report is at <http://home.earthlink.net/~karpel/BearCreekSpire.html> "I feel so fulfilled, that climbing another mountain tomorrow can only detract from this weekend's sense of achievement." That is how Arun express his satisfaction from climbing Bear Creek Spire. He was not alone. Indeed, we all felt quit satisfied in our achievement on this terrific mountain.

We left the trailhead at Mosquito Flat at 8 AM that morning, setup camp at Treasure Lakes, and continued around Dade Lake to the saddle between BCS and the peaklet on its northeast. This point is literally the beginning of the Northeast Buttress. By now, dark clouds gathered around us and it seems as it was raining in several places. But we were in the dry, so we decided to go ahead in spite of the weather. The Buttress itself is an enjoyable class-3 climb, and despite its look, the rock was solid for the most part.

At it's upper end, the buttress abuts the east face of BCS, and here the climb turns to class-4. A couple of pitches got us to the summit ridge. The ridge started with a delicate move, but quickly eased to class-3. The exposure on the ridge remained high until we descended a bit on the west side and merged with the standard northwest route. One could get here from Cox Col by climbing the northwest slope. Once on the ridge we were surprised to see the extend of the storm brewing around us. There were dark clouds everywhere. It looks like it was raining in several places, and we felt a drop or two ourselves. Dade and Abbott to the North were in the clouds, but we were still in the dry, so we press on. From this point to the summit was another pitch of class-4 a short traverse and then we stood in front of the final summit bolder. The summit bolder looks like an oversized refrigerator tilted on its side. The up most part is really one of the corners. Sitting on top with legs on either side feels like riding a humongous camel. And the ferocious wind made it feel as if the camel is swaying trying to kick you off. Jim hanging on protections to one side belayed the rest of us one at a time to the top, and back down again. Jim and Bob free climbed the entire route, while the rest of us used belay as we felt needed. I was on belay almost the entire time it was offered.

The register is on the ridge below the summit bolder were there was barely enough room for the 8 of us. The storm was still

brewing around us, and it was getting late, so we quickly returned to the rappel point and came down the west face. Then we descended the northwest slope to the top of Cox Col. From the top of Cox Col to the snow field below was a short section of loose class-3. And then partly glissading partly heel stamping, we made it down the snow slope back to our camp by Treasure Lakes. It was now 8:30 PM, almost completely dark, but the sky was clearing up. The storm had pass, and we were still dry.

We got up late on Sunday, people were still tired from the long climb of the day before. The prospect of climbing the loose rock on Abbott did not look very attractive to anybody. So we took our time packing and hiking out, and headed home.

Participants: Bob Suzuki (leader), Nancy Fitzsimmons (co-leader), Arun Mahajan, Dot Reilly, Jim Curl, Linda Smith, Sam Wilkie, Ron Karpel (scribe).

Special thanks to Jim Curl and Bob Suzuki who expertly and patiently belayed the rest of us to the summit.

### Alternate Route:

It seems to me, and we had a confirmation from a guy we met on the trail, that it is possible to avoid the ridge traverse. From the point on the buttress where it meets the face and become class-4, traverse to the left on many obvious ledges (looks like class 2 from the top). Then once below the summit, climb directly up 2 class-4 pitches to the summit area. Secor calls this the Northeast Face Route.

-- Ron Karpel

## 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 PCSmembers, not because they are endorsed by the PCS.

### 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.

### Dana Coulor

Peak: Dana Coulor, Class 3 Snow  
Date: September 26, Saturday  
Contact: George Van Gordon, after August 20  
408-779-2320

### Mount Tyndall from Anvil Camp

Peaks: Tyndall, 14,018'  
Dates: October 10, 11, 12  
Maps: Mt. Williamson 7.5  
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick, W (408) 279-3450; H (408) 293-2447, Wmkirk@earthlink.net

Tyndall is a class-2 peak, but we may need ice axes and crampons to get over Shepherd Pass.

### Telescope Peak via Surprise Canyon

Peaks: Telescope Peak  
Dates: November 13, 14, 15  
Maps: Telescope Peak  
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick, W (408) 279-3450; H (408) 293-2447, Wmkirk@earthlink.net

Contact leader for more details.

## Work Parties

The following list of trips are work party trips for the purpose of maintaining the Sierra Clubs huts. These are listed separately from peak climbs and are considered to be private trips.

Dick Simpson, a PCS leader, is organizing the following work parties where the participants help to build backcountry ski and snowshoe huts. People of all skills are needed. Optional peak climbs (class-1 and class-2) are possible. Car camping nearby (or a simple backpack in some cases). Tools and supplies and food will be provided.

Please contact Dick at 650-494-9272 or rsimpson@magellan.stanford.edu if interested for any of the following.

### New Bradley Hut Work Party

Dates: September 12-13, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: September 19-20, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: September 26-27, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: October 3-4, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: October 10-11, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: October 17-18, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: October 24-25, Sat.-Sun.  
Dates: October 31 - November 1, Sat.-Sun.

### Peter Grubb Hut Work Party

Dates: September 26-27, Sat.-Sun.

## Great Western Divide Backpack

August 15-22

Three days into this trip an injury occurred that led to a helicopter rescue and caused us to exit early. We didn't climb a single peak. However, I am grateful that we returned safely. The participants were Ron Perkins, Chris Bidle, and PCS'ers Bill Kirkpatrick and Roger Crawley. We started from Cedar Grove in Sequoia-Kings Canyon at about 5 PM on Friday and hiked up the twenty switchbacks on the Bubbs Creek trail to our camp at Sphinx Creek. Next day we crossed Bubbs Creek one-half mile below East Creek and camped at East Lake. It rained in the late afternoon. We continued up passed Lake Reflection and to the base of Milly's Foot Pass. Instead of heading for the obvious notch on the left, I went up the broken ledges above the fan of rocks on the right that Warren Storkman told me about. It wasn't safe without a rope so I told the others to go left to the notch. Then I watched Chris slide down a snowfield; he stopped after 200 feet. He got up and seemed to be okay and he climbed back up. I continued on my route, reached the top, and came down the ridge to the top of the notch where Chris arrived first. Chris showed us the cut on his leg; it was a deep eight-inch

long gash. We patched him up and went down the Kern side of Milly's to the first flat area. In the morning the cut was oozing blood a little and we all agreed that Chris should not move. Bill and Ron stayed with him while I hiked back down to the Cedar Grove Ranger Station, arriving at 7 PM. The Rangers could not have been nicer and after questioning me and conferring with rangers in other locations by radio they arranged for a helicopter to evacuate Chris early the next morning. The N.P.S. helicopter operates out of a heliport near the Ash Mountain Entrance Station (on the road up to Sequoia NP from Visalia). I drove down there that night and in the morning talked to the crew before they took off. In only one hour they returned and delivered Chris! I drove him to a hospital in Visalia. Now he has a story to tell and an ugly scar to show. We drove back to Cedar Grove and the next afternoon we picked up Ron and Bill. When ordering a helicopter rescue the following points are important: try to get the victim to a flat landing site; be able to tell the authorities very precisely the rescue location, i.e., longitude-latitude coordinates; provide a detailed description of the terrain and land features; provide an assessment of the condition of the victim and a profile of him – weight, general health, drug tolerance. Before the helicopter landed the pilot made a pass and observed the ripples of a nearby tarn to determine wind strength and direction. The National Park Service certainly came through for us. The Ranger told me this was their 55th rescue this summer.

-- Roger Crawley

## Mt Hutchings & Goat Mtn

August 22-23, 1998

Johnny get your goat. On August 22, 1998, we set out to climb 12207 foot Goat Mountain in Kings Canyon National Park. The party consisted of Scott Kreider, Jeff West, Gwendal Grignou, Greg Johnson, and yours truly, trip leader Aaron Schuman.

They are unstoppable. Our plan was to start at 5035 foot Cedar Grove, camp Saturday at 8600 foot Upper Tent Meadow, and summit Sunday morning. But since we arrived early at Upper Tent, I polled the team, and the decision to continue to 10473 foot Grouse Lake was unanimous and enthusiastic. When we reached 10300 foot Copper-Granite Gap, not far from the lake, I asked if anybody wanted to make a detour to 10785 foot Mount Hutchings, and even though we were almost out of water, everybody wanted to visit the peak.

Hutchings was a short, enjoyable scramble to a high point with a stunning view into Kings Canyon. The highest rock challenged us with a six foot nearly vertical face. It was studded with plenty of half inch deep hand and foot holds, but it threatened us with an awkward landing if we should fail to grab those rungs securely. Some members of the group only looked admiringly upon the summit block, but you should still consider them to be successful ascenders of the peak.

Since from the summit of Hutchings, we had an unimpeded close-up view, we scouted the route up Goat Mountain. Everybody took a turn using the topographic maps and the compass, getting practice correlating the printed page with the scenery. I decided that Sunday we would take a route going northeast from Grouse Lake to the low point on the south flank of Goat Mountain, then turn north and follow the ridge to the summit.

We descended to Grouse Lake, dined, slept under the starriest sky that ever hung over the Sierra Nevada, woke up to sleeping bags covered by frost, and tried out my route up Goat.

And now it is time to play "two truths and a lie." Guess which one of these three statements is false:

1. We chose the cadillac sized granite blocks of the south flank over the sandy scree of the west flank because we preferred the mountaineering challenge.
2. Since Hutchings, the south flank and the summit of Goat are all in a line, I didn't realize how many gendarmes I had put in our path.
3. Climbing a false summit or two on the way to the true summit happens all the time and is no big embarrassment.

The top of Goat Mountain, on a clear morning, offers one of those unlimited Sierra Nevada vistas that we have all come to love. We admired Goddard, North and Middle Palisade, Split, Brewer and Thunder Mountains. We told each other many nearly truthful stories about our adventures on the peaks that we now saw.

We had spent three hours climbing Goat, but we hurried down in one hour so that we could temper the midmorning heat with a plunge in Grouse Lake. To answer your predictable questions:

- \* Of course it was, it's melted snow.
- \* None of your business.
- \* They're still being developed.

Back on the trail to Cedar Grove Road's End, we plummeted into the canyon at (according to my altimeter) 2300 vertical feet per hour. The air got denser, hotter and dustier with each step we took.

We could handle the temperature, because we knew we could get soft-serve ice cream at the soda fountain at Cedar Grove. Much to our dismay, they no longer serve ice cream! Don't they know that ice cream is the Eleventh Essential? "If you're really desperate," the server gloated, "there's ice cream 17 miles up the road at Kings Canyon Lodge." We *were* desperate, and we were going that direction anyhow. The Lodge has a grubby hunter's bar, with unchained growling dogs and moth-gnawed mounted trophies, but they now possess the ice cream monopoly on upper highway 180.

Fortified, we drove back home. Scott and I carpooled with Jeff, picking him up in Gilroy. Back where Jeff's 1971 Pontiac LeMans was parked, we were irritated to discover that over the weekend, a thief had removed one hubcap and the lug nuts from one wheel, but apparently had been frightened off before he could steal the tire. Jeff couldn't drive home with the wheel all wobbly, and there is nowhere to buy spare lug nuts at 10:00 PM. A parade of Gilroy lowlife characters watched as Jeff popped off his other hubcaps, removed one lug nut from each wheel, and fastened the tire with the cannibalized lug nuts. With four mostly secured wheels, Jeff was at last able to drive home. We avidly disrecommend Murray Avenue in Gilroy as a carpool rendezvous spot.

-- Aaron Schuman

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

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<<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/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.

**Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 9/27/98. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.**



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

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