

World Wide Web Address: <http://www.climber.org/pcs>

Next General Meeting

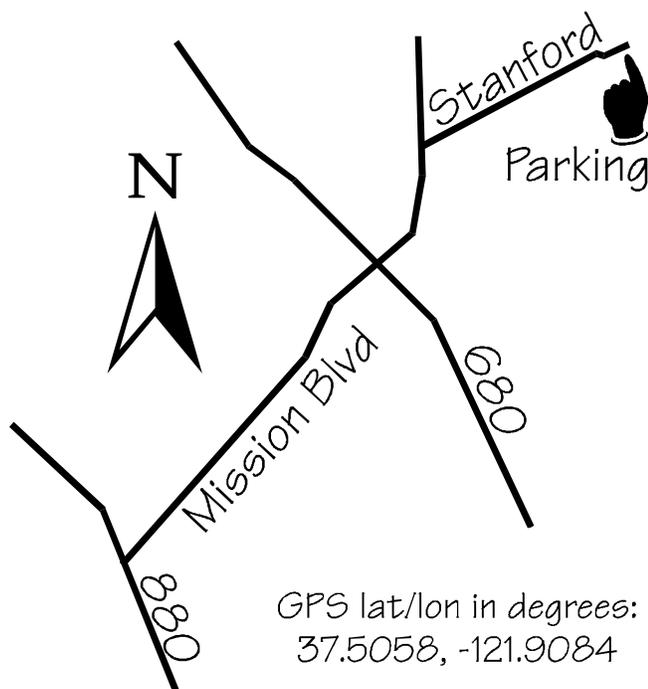
Date: Tuesday, June 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Program: Mission Peak Climb

Location: Stanford Avenue, Fremont
Rather than see slides of peaks at PCS meetings, lets go climb one instead!

Directions: Take 880 to Mission Blvd exit. Go under 680, about 1.5 miles, to the 3rd light. Just beyond Paseo Padre (the 3rd light), turn right on Stanford Avenue at the sign that says "Mission Peak Regional Preserve".



Deadline for submissions to the next Scree is Sunday 6/27/99 Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

A Bedtime Story

May 16, 1999

Once upon a time, there was a boy who fell in love with a rock. This, of course, resulted in a long discussion with his therapist. But in the end, it meant only one thing: he had to climb. And climb he did. But of all the rocks to climb, there was one that he most desired. And that rock was the fearsome and mighty DOODAD.

On a lovely spring day, not far from the little village of Pom Boobley, the boy and several of his very best friends gathered at the farthest shore of LakeLake 2 and prepared to embark on a wonderful adventure. The boy, JimJim No. 1, and his friends, JimJim No. 2, TweedleDee and TweedleDot, and the invincible Mr. Duck, loaded up their favorite camping toys and set out in search of the Doodad.

Soon after they started, they began to walk on snow.

"My feet are so cold", said TweedleDee.

"Quack! Quack!" said Mr. Duck.

Along and up they went, over brush, snowhills and around rock cliffs. They could see many great peaks along the way: Mt. Squat, Diddy Peak, and North Bump looked especially nice with all of the snow. The sun beat down upon their little heads as they walked and sang together:

Carrying packs as big as a car -- Doodad! Doodad!
Today we probably won't get too far -- All the Doodad day!
All the Doodad night! All the Doodad day!
I wonder what the neighbors will say?
All the Doodad day!

Late in the afternoon, they walked past the great Horse Tower, which greeted them with a loud "Winnie! Neighhh!" They were very tired by this point and Mr. Duck felt especially out of sorts. His webbed feet hurt him so, and He missed his pond very much. So they decided to camp below the Po Po Pass and rest for the night.

The wind came up and the clouds put on an exciting show. JimJim 2 was setting up his brand new tent when he noticed a very round cloud.

"That one looks like a hippopotamus", said JimJim 2.

Then, as the sun fell and the sky grew purple, it became very, very, VERY cold. Into their tents they scurried to stay warm. And they soon fell fast asleep. The surrounding mountains grinned happily at the icy scene and, shoulder to shoulder, hummed a soft deep chorus through the long night:

"Mmmmmmm Mmmmmmm Mmmmmmm Mmmmmmm.."

In the early morning, JimJim 1 crawled out of his tent and, shivering on the crunchy snow, exclaimed,

"What has happened to my thermometer here? All of the Fahrenheits have disappeared!"

They rose reluctantly and prepared for their day. The cold air made them move quite slowly, but soon they were ready to go. Then, TweedleDot said,

"There are many bears out there! And they will come to eat our food. So I will stay right here, while you climb the great Doodad!"

So they bid farewell to TweedleDot, and put on their spiky shoes. And up the giant slope they went, kicking and poking many holes into the snow. Mr. Duck found that his webbed feet would not fit into the footprints of his friends. So he used his large pointy beak to hold onto the slope. And he flapped his wings now and then.

At last they came to the other side and there was a magnificent sight: so many mountains and so much snow! It was very, very beautiful to behold. Around the corner they went and then carefully back up towards the top of the ridge. The rocks were very loose and slippery. So they took turns stepping on each other's heads to go higher.

Finally, they approached the sleeping Doodad.

"Shhhhhh!" said JimJim 1 to JimJim 2.

"Shhhhhh!" said JimJim 2 to JimJim 1.

JimJim 1 tiptoed as quietly as he could up to the great beast and slipped into its large mouth.

"Grrrraaaarrrrghhh!" said the half-sleeping Doodad.

"Yikes!" said JimJim 2.

"Oooof!" said JimJim 1, as he crawled up through its belly.

Then, as JimJim 1 stood on the Doodad's head, JimJim 2 wrapped string around the giant beast's jaw, to keep it from biting, and wiggled his way up through its belly. Soon, TweedleDee and Mr. Duck were also worming and squirming to the top. They took turns dancing on the Doodad's very flat head and singing:

Climbing up through snow and scree -- Doodad! Doodad!
No place else we'd rather be -- All the Doodad day!
All the Doodad night! All the Doodad day!
Wish we had more time to play
All the Doodad day!

But the singing and dancing woke the Doodad from its slumber. It broke Free of the string that was around its jaw and began to roar.

"WHOOOO IS ON MYYYYY HHHHEEAAAAD?!" the Doodad thundered.

"JUMP!!!" screamed JimJim 2.

The Doodad began to shake back and forth very fast. JimJim 2 dove off of the Doodad's head and slid down to the snow far below. TweedleDee hopped onto Mr. Duck's back and JimJim 1 grabbed one of his webbed feet.

Flapping his wings, Mr. Duck jumped off with his two friends. And half-flying, half-falling, they tumbled down to the snow.

At last, they all gathered together at the top of the giant slope. They could still hear the Doodad growling in the distance.

"That was close", said JimJim 2.

"I want to go home", said JimJim 1.

Back down the big slope they went, marked with the holes they had already poked. As they neared the bottom, they waved to TweedleDot... but she did not wave back. When they finally got to camp, they saw her clothes wrapped around a pole and axe and her hat perched on top. It was a scarebear she had made to protect their camp from bears. But where was TweedleDot?

Then they heard loud snoring coming from one of the tents. Inside they found her fast asleep, surrounded by many candy-bar wrappers and empty tins of food.

"Quack!" said a very hungry Mr. Duck.

"Burp!" said TweedleDot.

"Time to go", said TweedleDee.

So they gathered together their toys and slid back down the snow hill on their behinds. Soon they were at LakeLake 2 again, where their adventure had started. Mr. Duck was very glad to have water to paddle in again.

And of course, they all lived happily ever after.

The end.

• *Jim Curl*

Wild and Free In the 21st Century

A Campaign to Halt the Commercialization, Privatization and Increased Motorization of Recreational Opportunities on America's Public Lands

In the next millennium, will Americans enjoy free access to pristine forests, deserts, mountains, rivers and streams, or will wild nature be developed into recreational products and sold to those with thick wallets or those most willing to buy access? The answer to this question will be decided in the next few months and you can play a major role in determining the outcome.

In 1996, Congress began a test to determine whether people were willing to pay to visit public lands. This program, called the "Recreation Fee Demonstration Program" (Fee-Demo), was developed in partnership with the American Recreation Coalition (ARC). ARC is a trade association that primarily represents motorized recreation and has testified before Congress that "Recreation fees on public lands were one of the issues which prompted the creation of the American Recreation Coalition in 1979". ARC also represents numerous companies that are eager to construct and operate privately owned recreational facilities on public lands now managed by the US Forest Service and other federal agencies. Current laws severely restrict such private undertakings, strictly limit the fees which may be charged and attempt to exert some minimal level of regulation upon motorized wreckreation. ARC is industry's vehicle for getting around all of these obstacles.

Fee-Demo is a small part of the larger effort to promote Industrial Strength Recreation and to redefine how people recreate on public lands in the 21st century. Fee-Demo is intended to demonstrate how to most effectively charge for the enjoyment of amenities that have traditionally been free. Before 1999 ends, ARC and other proponents of this pay-to-play ethic will attempt to pass legislation to facilitate what many have dubbed The Corporate Takeover of Nature and the Disneyfication of Public Lands. Once it becomes legal to run public lands for their revenue generation potential, there will be no end to the new products and services that will be offered. For the US Forest

Service and their private partners, the perceived financial opportunities are simply irresistible.

In recent months, over 100 environmental organizations, outdoor recreation groups, state and local governments have called for an end to the highly unpopular Fee-Demo program. Bipartisan legislation, called the "Forest Tax Relief Act of 1999" has been introduced to immediately eliminate this program from all National Forests. Yet even with all this opposition, the land managers who stand to gain from charging recreational fees are telling Congress that people actually like to pay them. They are telling President Clinton that Fee-Demo is so successful, that he should call for fees to be permanently authorized without further delay.

To keep these lands wild and to continue the long tradition of free access, we must use the remaining months of this millennium to send an irrefutable message to Congress and the Clinton Administration. We must let them know that we OPPOSE being treated as customers and that we oppose the current attempt to commercialize, privatize and motorize lands that we own.

To ensure that our intense disapproval is heard loudly and clearly, Saturday, August 14, 1999 shall become a National Day of Action. In communities and on public lands across this nation, people will be demonstrating their determination to protect our forests and other special places and to keep them forever 'Wild and Free'.

For information on how you can participate in this special event, or to learn more about this extremely important issue, please contact:

Scott Silver
Wild Wilderness
248 NW Wilmington Ave.
Bend, OR 97701
phone: 541-385-5261
e-mail: ssilver@wildwilderness.org
<http://www.wildwilderness.org>

Congratulations Nancy Fitzsimmons!

I would like to inform you all that in late April the Chapter Excom accepted my resignation as Activities Chair and appointed Nancy Fitzsimmons as the new Chair.

Many of you know Nancy, as she's active in several sections. She's going to do an excellent job of helping you all with information, resources, and listening to your problems.

Id held this position for some years, and felt it was time to let someone else bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the role.

Id to thank all of you for an interesting and rewarding time. Im always impressed by how hardworking our leaders and officers are, and how eager to ensure outings participants have a good time and return for more. I hope that now Ill be able to go on more hikes, and lead some outings again.

You can reach Nancy at Pkclimber@aol.com, home phone 408-957-9683.

See you on the trails.

• *Chris Macintosh*

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.

Kings Canyon Peakfest

Peaks: 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, 831-457-1036,
dfbulger@cruzio.com

This week-long backpack will take us on a loop. The peaks are mostly second class. After ascending from the trailhead in Kings Canyon, we will proceed north in a counter-clockwise loop, both on and off trail, climbing as we go. If the terrain cooperates, we will cross from Volcanic Lakes to E. Kennedy Lake on our way to Kennedy Mountain.

Hardy, experienced backpackers welcome. Suitable for beginning climbers who are comfortable backpacking 10-15 miles/day with 4000-5000' elevation gain the first day.

Williamson and Tyndall

Peaks: Mt. Williamson (14,375) class-2, Mt. Tyndall (14,018) class-2
Dates: June 11-13 (Fri-Mon)
Map: Mt. Williamson 7.5' topo
Leader: Kelly Maas, 408-279-2054
kelly.maas@idt.com
Coleader: Ron Karpel, 650-594-0211
ronny@luxsonor.com

Mt. Williamson is the second highest peak in California, we will climb it from Shepherd Pass via the standard Bolton Brown Route. Mt. Tyndall is right there near Shepherd Pass, which is as good a reason as any to climb it. This is an MOC approved trip. Participant must be current sierra club members, must be experienced with snow climbing and the safe use of ice axe and crampons, including self-arrest. Participants must be in top physical condition. Friday, we will pack in from the trailhead at Symmes Creek to the top of Shepherd Pass (11-mile, 7,000') and setup camp. Saturday we will climb Williamson and return to the camp. Sunday we will climb Tyndall and pack out to the trailhead. Because of the early date, we expect to run into last winter's snow pack.

Mt Goethe

Peaks: Mt Goethe, class 1, 13264
Mt Emerson, class 2/3, 13204
Dates: June 19-20 Sat-Sun
Maps: Goddard 15 min.
Leader: Aaron Schuman aaron_schuman@yahoo.com
H 650-968-9184, W 650-943-7532
<http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/goethe.html>

Saturday, pack from North Lake (9200) to our campsite at Muriel Lake (11423). Climb Mount Goethe for the view into Evolution Valley. Sunday, as we hike out, we'll drop our packs near Piute Lake for a side trip to Mount Emerson. This trip will be strenuous but only of moderate technical difficulty.

Rolls Merriam

Peaks: Royce Pk (13,280) and Merriam Pk (13,103), class 2 / snow
Dates: June 19-20 (Sat-Sun)
Maps: Mt Abbot 15' topo
Mt Hilgard, 7.5' topo
Mount Tom, 7.5' topo
Leader: Steve Eckert, 650-508-0500
eckert@climber.org

By June much of the approach should be on trail, but the saddle between these two peaks is steep and there is a permanent snowfield.

We'll take crampons and ice axes for the summit but hope for dry camping at Pine Creek Pass. About a 4000' / 7 mile pack in, and about a 3000' / 6 mile summit hike means we'll be able to pack out the second day... but it will be strenuous. Views of Bear Creek

Spire, Seven Gables, and Humphreys will reward our efforts. Submit resume of recent experience and a \$10 deposit (refundable less any permit fees at the trailhead) with your Sierra Club membership number (this is a restricted mountaineering trip) to secure a spot. Trip is limited to 6 people.

On Guard, Brewer!

Peaks: North Guard (13,327) and Mt Brewer (13,570)
Dates: June 25-27 (Fri-Sun)
Leader: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org
Co-Leader: Richard Vassar, richard.vassar@lmco.com

Brewer has the better view; North Guard has the better climbing. Get them both in a classic weekend trip - we'll pack up the Sphinx Creek trail until the trail goes the wrong way, then go the RIGHT way and camp off the beaten path. Saturday's main goal is North Guard (3rd class), hopefully leaving time for Brewer (2nd class). The more gain we do on Friday, the more time we'll have on Saturday! Ice axe and crampons required if the snow conditions warrant, and a belay may be required for the summit block - submit resume of recent experience with your Sierra Club membership number to secure a spot.

Tune My Finger

Peaks: Tunemah Pk (11,894), Finger Pk (12,404)
Dates: July 23-26 Fri-Mon
Leader: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org
Co-Leader: Erik Siering

Pack in from Wishon Reservoir through Woodchuck Country to the Blue Canyon headwaters and bag these two fine (or at least remote) peaks. Good views of Black Divide and Enchanted Gorge should make up for the 20 mile pack in and lots of gain on the trail. Co-listed as an official trip with both the PCS (Loma Prieta Chapter) and the SPS (Angeles Chapter).

Middle Palisade

Peak: Middle Palisade, class 3
Dates: July 3-5 (Sat-Mon)
Map: Split Mtn 7.5 minute
Leader: Kelly Maas, maas@idt.com
(408) 279-2054 (h) or (408) 330-1717 (w)
Co-Leader: wanted

Middle Palisade is one of the Palisades; what more need be said? Three days allows plenty of time for this outing, which starts at Glacier Lodge on Big Pine Creek, high above the town of Big Pine. We will climb the easiest route, which is class 3. It will also involve traversing some snow on the Middle Palisade Glacier. Please note that the group size is very limited, so be sure to sign up early.

Mt. Bolton Brown

Peak: Mt. Bolton Brown, Class 2, 13,538'
Dates: August 1-3 (3 days)
Leader: Debbie Benham, 650/964-0558
benham4x@aol.com

After reading about Bolton's first ascents, and seeing Lucy Brown's footpath, my curiosity was peaked. This summit hides from viewing via Hwy 395 behind the magnificent eastern Sierra skyline. We'll see! Could be just a pile of old' scree. Trailhead is Birch Lake, out of McMurphy Meadows, off Glacier Lodge Road. Permit for 6. \$3 covers permit fee

Dragon Weekend

Peaks: Dragon Peak (12,955) Class 3 and Kearsarge Peak (12,598) Class 2
Dates: August 7-8 (Sat.-Sun.)
Map: Kearsarge Peak and Mt. Clarence King 7.5'
Leader: Bill Isherwood, isherwood2@llnl.gov
925-254-0739 (h) 925-423-5058 (w)

We will meet Saturday morning at 9 AM at the trailhead for Golden Trout Lake on Onion Valley Road out of Independence. A 2000-ft. climb will bring us to a camp near one of the two unnamed lakes just north of Golden Trout Lake. For the ambitious, Kearsarge Peak may be climbed Saturday. Sunday, we will climb Dragon Peak from the col immediately south of the peak. Hike out Sunday afternoon. Send a \$10 deposit (call first) to secure your spot. Trip limited to 8.

McDuffie, Black Giant, Charybdis, Fiske, etc.

Peaks: McDuffie, Black Giant, Charybdis, Fiske, Huxley, etc. (Class 3)
Dates: August 7 thru 15 Sat thru Sun (9 days)
Maps: North Palisade, Mt. Thompson & Goddard 7.5'
Leader: Charles Schafer, (408) 324-6003 (w)
cgschafer@lucent.com
Co-Leader: Bob Suzuki, (510) 657-7555 (w)
bobszk@bigfoot.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. We will hike in over Echo Col on Saturday and set up camp near Helen Lake (at Muir Pass).

Secor says McDuffie, Black Giant & Charybdis are easily day hiked from there, so we want to give them a try. There are also a number of other peaks in that area that are worth climbing, and between Bob and I we'll go after most of them. Towards the end of the trip we will move south and climb Wheel, and perhaps others in that neighborhood. Saturday and Sunday we will hike out over Bishop Pass.

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. Ice axes and possibly crampons will be required.

Grand Canyon of The Tuolumne

Backpack: Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, Class 1/2, Yosemite National Park
Dates: August 20-22 (3 days)
Leaders: Debbie Benham, (h) 650/964-0558
benham4x@aol.com
Bill Kirkpatrick, (w) 408/279-3450
wmkirk@earthlink.net

Join us for a 'reverse' peak trip through a pristine wilderness canyon in beautiful Yosemite National Park! We will be out three days, walking approximately 23 miles total with roughly 4-5000' elevation loss and gain. We'll start at White Wolf Campground and finish at Lemberg Dome in Tuolumne Meadows, a one-way jaunt up the canyon. \$10 deposit required on sign-up and fully refundable at the trailhead. Permit for 8. Co-listed with Backpacking Section/Loma Prieta Chapter.

Merced Peak

Peak: Merced Peak, Class 2, 11,726', Yosemite National Park
Dates: August 27-29 (3 days)
Leader(s): Debbie Benham, h: 650/964-0558, benham4x@aol.com
Anouchka Gaillard, h: 408/737-9770, anouchka@cup.hp.com

A long hike in to another classic of the Clark Range set in lovely Yosemite National Park! Approximately 16 miles (one way) to the summit with 4,000' gain/loss over three days. We'll climb the northeast ridge after leaving the Red Peak Pass Trail near Upper Ottoway Lake. Hearty and fit newcomers are welcome, and must be able to carry full pack a long way on trail! Deposit of \$10 required for signup, which is refundable minus \$3, charge for permit. 10 on permit.

Mt. Langley

Peak: Mt. Langley (14,042), Class 1
Dates: August 28-29 (Sat.-Sun.)
Maps: Mt. Langley and Cirque Peak 7.5'
Leader: Bill Isherwood, isherwood2@lhl.org
925-254-0739 (h), 925-423-5058 (w)

This is the southernmost 14,000-foot peak in the High Sierra. Clarence King and Paul Pinson climbed it in 1871, believing that they were making the first ascent of Mt. Whitney. They found a cairn with an arrow on the summit.

We will meet Saturday morning at the Cottonwood Lakes trailhead (driving instructions from Lone Pine are available) at 10 AM. We will camp at Long Lake (11,135) on Saturday and climb the South Slope to the summit via the New Army Pass trail on Sunday. Drive home Sunday night. Join us for a leisurely climb with time to enjoy the scenery. There is a \$10 sign-up fee, refundable at the trailhead, less the cost of the permit. Send check to Bill Isherwood, 37 La Encinal, and Orinda, CA 94563. Space is limited to 8.

Yosemite: Petit, Piute, and Volunteer

Peaks: Petit, Piute, and Volunteer Class 2
Dates: Sep 4-6 (Sat-Mon) Labor Day weekend
Leader: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

A one-way walk through northeastern Yosemite should provide some of the best early fall scenery available. Hopefully the mosquitoes will be dead or dying, and hopefully it won't have snowed yet. The plan is to enter at Saddlebag, exit at Twin Lakes (requires car shuttle). There is a bit of cross-country travel at the beginning and some 2nd class near the peaks, but basically it's a lot of trail walking (15 miles/day) with an average of about 4000' of gain per day. To avoid a dawn-to-dusk sort of trip we'll need to move fairly quickly, but skipping one or two of the peaks or adding a fourth day could provide an easier trip if desired.

Kern Peak

Peak: Kern Peak (11510) LIST FINISH!
Dates: Oct 2-3 Sat-Sun
Leader: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org
Co-Leader: Erik Siering

Help the leader celebrate finishing the SPS Peaks List in good style. The 9-mile pack in, over almost-flat terrain with uncrowded camping, should give rise to a nice party Saturday. A quick 7-mile romp to the peak on Sunday and we're back in camp for the stroll back to the cars. Reserve a spot early and pack the good stuff (for the mother of all happy hours)! Co-listed with the Angeles Chapter SPS.

Yosemite Valley Peaks

April 24-25

There were five people on this trip (Dot Reilly, Jim Curl, Suzanne Novalis and her son Cameron, and myself). If all went as planned we would climb Sierra Point, Grizzly Peak, Mt. Broderick, and Liberty Cap on Saturday, and on Sunday climb the Three Brothers. If Roper's guidebook is correct, none of the climbing was expected to be harder than class 4.

After rendezvousing in front of the Mountain Shop at Camp Curry at around 9:00am we set out for Grizzly Peak by way of Sierra Point. After following the old abandoned trail to Sierra Point, we headed up the Southwest Arete of Grizzly Peak which Roper's old guide lists as class 4. Unfortunately, after climbing several hundred feet of easy class 3 low on the route, we encountered rock more difficult than class 4. Nevertheless, we roped up and pressed on. Before long the going became easier as we moved directly up the spine of the ridge. On both sides the ridge dropped almost vertically for hundreds of feet. Eventually we came to what is the crux of the climb - a very narrow 30-foot 5.7 chimney. This was definitely something we hadn't bargained for in a so-called class 4 route. By the time each of us finished struggling up this slot, as well as hauling each pack up, it was rather late in the afternoon and it had started to rain. After one final roped pitch, we struggled upwards through dense brush for hundreds of feet to the summit of Grizzly Peak. It was late and we were all wet from the rain. Mt. Broderick and Liberty Cap would have to wait for some other day. From the summit of Grizzly Peak, we began the long descent down LeConte Gully, which required five rappels. Darkness overtook us before we reached the bottom, and we were forced to make the last two rappels in the dark. Finally, we reached Camp Curry at around 10:00pm.

On Sunday we got off to a slow start. Fortunately, the weather had improved and after some discussion it was decided that we would do Liberty Cap. From Camp Curry it took us about three hours to reach the summit of Liberty Cap.

From the top we enjoyed great views of Little Yosemite Valley, the South Face of Half Dome, Mt. Clark, Starr King, Yosemite Falls, and Glacier Point.

Fortunately, there were no surprises on Liberty Cap. It was class 2 just as

Roper said it was.

• *George Sinclair*

You'll never be awakened by the call of a loon if you have an unlisted number.

White Red Slate

Prologue: Those of you who wonder if 'getting married means the end of peak bagging' should meet my wife! She saw me pacing the house after a recent trip blew up (two people turned back and the remaining one twisted his knee), and almost shoved me into my car saying I'd feel better after being in the high country for a few days. Of course, no one else was free mid-week so this turned out to be a solo trip.

On May 7th, I flew over Carson Pass on wonderfully dry and deserted roads, spending about 6 hours from San Francisco to Mammoth. The McGee Creek road was clear of all snow (including the shoulders - it was BARE) to the trailhead, and it was about an hour's walk to where snow first covered the trail. Another hour later you needed snowshoes or skis in the afternoon, but the morning snow was hard as a rock.

The truly skiable snowline was around 9000' and by 10000' all the streams and lakes were buried in an amazingly thick blanket of snow. Of course I lost the trail as soon as it entered the trees, but the going is pretty easy with climbing skins on the right (north) side. Don't stay too close to the stream, but watch out for the rocky ridge that points toward Grass Lake... too high and it becomes cliffs. Anyway, this is a very scenic approach, with much more snow than I saw in the Convict Lake drainage once I got to the summit.

I wound up at my anticipated campsite around noon, so decided to camp higher (11000+ near Little McGee Lake) where there are no trees but plenty of soft windslab from which to cut snow blocks. I built a snug wall around my bivy bag and settled in for a nap just about when the wind kicked up. The next four hours were fairly unsettling - clouds raced in from several directions and wrestled directly overhead. They shredded each other and regrouped for another wave of kamikaze attacks while a higher layer darkened the sky. Oops? Nope. It was just a reminder who's boss: the clouds slowed down and drifted away just about as it got dark, but I had fair warning.

Friday (summit day) I was walking by 6am, at McGee Pass by 730, and on the summit of Red Slate by 9am. I wasn't going to wait for the return of the clouds! It turns out, however, that I could have left my skis in camp and taken only crampons. Dickey icy on skis! I used skins and tried to stay off the edges, preferring to go straight up the center of the drainage on heel blocks. There was no sign of any avalanches anywhere along my route, but there were some snowballs that had rolled off the rocks and made hash of the upper slopes. From the pass to the summit I left the skis and just kicked steps. Some places required two or three hard kicks with plastic boots to get a firm foothold, but the styrofoam would have been perfect for self-arrest had I slipped.

There will soon be a picture of the "ice cap" on the PCS website (www.climber.org/pcs/Reports/), but for now it should suffice to say that the register is somewhere under what looks like 5 to 10 feet of snowdrift. It should burn off quickly in the spring sun and wind... Did I mention the wind? I climbed in three layers of polypro and full coverage gortex, gloves, face mask, cap, and my hood pulled tight around my face. It was windy, and it was below freezing, but a spur of the summit ridge got me out of the wind for close to an hour of gazing and relaxing. Once back down to the saddle the clothes flew off and the late morning slush made for an easy ski back to camp. I should repeat that there appears to be NO avalanche danger in either the McGee or Convict drainages, but that's just my observation (the steep cliffs are bare,

and the less steep ones don't have any slumps or slides). Use caution

I saw some yo-yo-skier tracks, and two people had been in the area on snowshoes, but no one was around while I was there. Peaceful, mostly warm, no rain or snow, no traffic on the roads, just what the doctor (uh, "wife") ordered. Stopping in Mammoth for food and gas reminded me of what I had gone high to escape - crowds and noise and impatient people.

• *Steve Eckert*

A Homeric Epic

Not wanting to battle the brush described by Aaron Schuman in the 1996 Steve Eckert led climb of Homer's Nose, Richard and I decided to approach on dirt roads from the north. Here the East Fork of the Kaweah crosses the Mineral King Road, avoiding the brush as described by Mark Adrian. Despite the rather indelicate title of Mark's report, the directions were detailed and accurate except for one omission. That omission cost us three miles of cross-country.

As Mark reported, the climb is extreme class one. If his directions hadn't been so detailed, we would probably have spent more time looking at the roads on the map and checking UTM coordinates. What was missing from his narrative were two road intersections. As a result, we took the wrong road fork, climbed Salt Creek Ridge too early and traversed its entire length, paralleling the dirt road below us which we discovered on the way back.

Since the climb was 22 miles and began at 2500 feet, we decided to do it as a two-day backpack, camping by a creek about 6 miles from the trailhead. We left Santa Cruz at 6:00 a.m. and were on the trail by 1:00 p.m. after issuing ourselves a self-permit at the Foothills Visitor Center. At the lower elevations the redbuds were in bloom and the wildflowers spectacular. There were many I had never seen before: blue fiesta flower, purple Chinese houses, rosy fairy lantern, two subspecies of common madia, whisker brush, Indian warrior, and wally basket. And lots of old favorites such as baby blue eyes, lupine, fiddle neck, poppies, penstemon, golden brodiaea, western wallflower, and white ceanothus. It was a glorious display.

As we climbed, we traversed several habitats: chaparral, oak woodland, grey pine/sugar pine, ponderosa pine and finally red fir at the 9023-foot summit. The snow level was at 7500 feet, but we did not need the snowshoes we carried. Few people climb Homer's Nose. We were the first party this year. I think only three groups had signed the register last year including Mark.

The historic aspects of the climb were very interesting: an old logging camp surrounded by enormous sequoia stumps and a few remaining living giants, and in another place, four circular bowls carved in the granite bedrock, each about four feet in diameter and at least a foot deep. What were they? Does anyone know? They looked like acorn grinding mortars but much, much bigger.

The extra cross country slowed us down and, as a result, we spent another night in camp. The next morning we hiked out just as the road grading crew was erasing the critter register signed in the wet weeks before by mother and baby bear, deer, mountain lion, Douglas squirrel, coyote, and others.

• *Debbie Bulger*

A Knack for Tallac The Rose Parade

May 15-16, 1999

We held a beginner spring snow-climbing trip to Lake Tahoe. Hakan Yalcin, Tony Stegman, Mike Bowes, Scott Renfro, and Greg Daggett participated, I co-led, and Charles Schafer led.

We car camped in the spacious and nearly empty Fallen Leaf Lake national forest campground. Saturday morning, we drove around the lake to the Stanford conference center, which became our trailhead for Mt Tallac. Soon after we hiked up from the 6700' lake, we met continuous snow cover, at around 7000'. Since the snow was still firm, Charles took the opportunity to introduce walking in crampons. Mid- morning, we found a steep bowl with a safe run-out, and spent an hour practicing ice axe self arrest in all of its variations: face first, on our backs, etc. After lunch, we shed the crampons and made a long grind up a snowy face, then up the summit plateau to the 9735' mountaintop. The view of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe, ringed by white peaks, was stunning. We met a snowboarder at the summit, and saw him carve 'S' turns down a steep face. We descended quickly with sitting glissades, plunge steps, and boot skiing.

Sunday, Tony went to do some hiking by the lakeshore, and the rest of us paraded up to the opposite end of Lake Tahoe to climb Mount Rose. We parked just below the pass on Nevada highway 431 at around 8800', and hiked into the backcountry on a snow-covered dirt road. Although we were in a wilderness area, where motorized vehicles were prohibited, there were at least a dozen snowmobilers, deafening us and perfuming the mountain air with their exhaust as they roared by. We turned cross-country up a canyon on the south side of the mountain, crossed over to the gentler north slope, and walked to the 10776' summit. We had a close up view of Reno, and distant views all the way to Mt Lassen and to the

Sweetwater Range. This peak had a snowboarder too. He chatted with us a bit, took group photos of us with our cameras, fortified his courage with a mixture of pot and some white powder, and then leapt on his board and plunged down a 1500' natural half pipe. We made a more stately descent. At the base of the mountain, we strapped on our snowshoes to practice our bowlegged waddle in the rapidly softening snow.

It was the first PCS weekend for Greg, Scott, Mike and Hakan, and it was a successful introduction to Sierra Club climbing. [Note: Technically, this wasn't a PCS trip, it was a private trip that included some PCS members.] Charles and I welcome the newcomers and wish them many more great climbs.

• *Aaron Schuman*

Butch Suits Adds

Aaron,

I encourage you to report the violation of a wilderness area by snowmobilers that you observed near Mt. Rose. The Nordic Voice website has an online form for this (<http://www.nordicvoice.org/>); writing a letter to the appropriate Forest Service Supervisor is better (Toiyabe for Mt. Rose?).

I too saw evidence of abuse this last weekend: snowmobile tracks in northern Yosemite National Park near Hawksbeak Peak. This after seeing two snowmobiles in Dinkey Lakes Wilderness in March.

Report all violations!

Crevasse Rescue Practice

"There's a rattlesnake!" Yes, a rattlesnake was the main safety concern of 15 people who joined me at Rancho San Antonio County Park on May 23 to practice crevasse rescue. Well, if you don't have real crevasses, you need something to worry about. The snake preferred a particular spot in the tall grass and thistles near the oak tree we were practicing on, but stayed just far enough away that we didn't risk stepping on him. This was roughly the fifth straight year I've organized this, and once again people came away with a newfound respect for the complexities involved in both the self-rescue and team-rescue. Anyone want to practice later in the year on a real glacier on Shasta?

• *Kelly Maas*

Unofficial 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.

Shasta Once Again

Peak: Mt. Shasta
Maps: Mt. Shasta USGS 7.5
Dates: June 26-27
Contact: George Van Gorden 408 779 2320

We will climb Shasta from the north side by either the Bolam Glacier or the Hotlum-Bolum Ridge depending on members and conditions. The Bolum Glacier would require roped travel. I could be persuaded to try the Whitney Glacier, but this climb would require on more day.

Broad Peak Expedition!

Peak: Broad Peak 26,400 ft
Dates: June-July 1999
Contact: Tom Masterson, masterst@ucsu.colorado.edu
phone, fax (303) 499-6363
250 31st Street, Boulder, CO 80303

We are a Boulder based group seeking to add 3-4 more members to our June-July 1999 expedition to attempt the standard route on Broad Peak.

This is a non-commercial, non-guided, non-profit expedition! Price-wise, it is a great deal: Land costs should be about \$3800, plus airfare of 1200-1500. We want to put together a Colorado-based team, so that we can climb together this winter & spring, get to know each other and get used to climbing with each other. Experience climbing over 20,000 ft very helpful. For more information call Tom Masterson at 303 499-6363 or Mike Marsh at 303 499 3395.

Arrow Peak

Peak: Arrow Peak, Northeast Ridge, Class 3
Dates: July 3-5
Contacts: Kai Wiedman (650)347-5234.
Cecil Ann, cecilann@earthlink.net

John Moynier says Arrow Peak is a beautiful, symmetrical mountain when viewed from nearby Bench Lake. Kelly Mass calls it the best 3rd class climb he has done in the Sierra. The Northeast Ridge is an ever narrowing, hideously exposed, knife edge. We will go light and fast as we leave the desert floor to climb to Taboose Pass with its breathtaking views. From here, our adventure takes us to our camp at Bench Lake with its classic view of Arrow Peak.

Castle Mountain, Colorado

Peak: Castle Mountain, 14,265
Dates: July 3-5 (Sat-Mon)
Contact: Bill Isherwood, isherwood2@lnl.gov
925-254-0739 (h), 925-423-5058 (w)

This is a class 2 climb up one of Colorado's beautiful 14'ers. The plan would be to fly to Denver Friday evening, drive to the base of the climb Saturday, make the climb on Sunday and stay overnight in the Aspen area, returning to the Denver airport on Monday for return home. Contact leader for coordination of travel plans.

Tower Peak

Peaks: Tower Peak (Class 3)
Dates: July 3 thru 5 Sat thru Mon (3 days)
Maps: Tower Peak & Pickel Meadow 7.5'
Contact: Charles Schafer, (408) 324-6003 (w)
cgschafer@lucent.com

This trip will expose us to some new and different views of the area just north of Yosemite. Tower Peak is said to be the northernmost Sentinel of the High Sierra, in that the character of the range changes at about this point. It is the tallest peak in the neighborhood, so the views from the summit should be great. It is also rated as one of the Sierra classics, so it should be a very satisfying, although not too difficult, climb. It is a long hike to get to it (about 15 miles), which is why the trip is scheduled for three days.

This should be a great trip, but you'll need a bit of class 3 climbing experience to join us. Ice axe may be required.

Taboose: Climb-O-Rama '99

Peaks: Wynne, Pinchot, Pyramid, Striped, Goodale, Cardinal, Ruskin, Pinchot, Marion, State, Prater, and Observation
Dates: July 3-11 (Sat-Sun, July 4th week)
Leaders: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org
Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com

We're planning another Climb-O-Rama for peakbaggers who just can't live with only one peak per day. This year's trip features fewer campsites (we hope to spend two nights in the same place several times) and more seldom visited peaks (probably including some first ascents of the year) and you get at least one peak every day, but the first one.

Editor's Note: This trip is full. However, a waiting list is being kept so send in your name anyway.

Mt Sill

Peak: Mt Sill 14,162' Class 3,
Map, USGS Mt Goddard 15
Dates: July 17, 18, 19, 1999
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick, wmkirk@earthlink.net
(408) 279-3450, H(408) 293-2447
Co-contact: Ahmad Zandi, ahmad@zandi.com
(408) 616-5783 H (408) 255-4233

Secor says that Mt Sill "has the best view from any summit in the Sierra." We will climb from the southwest ridge. Leaving from South Lake, we will backpack about 10 miles over Bishop Pass and Thunderbolt Pass to camp in the Palisade Basin. To gain the summit we will have to cross difficult terrain and climb about 4,000 feet. Use of ice axes and crampons may be required. This trip will be a lot of grunt work, but worth the effort. Permit for six.

Ragged & Conness

Peak: Ragged Peak (10,912'), Mt. Conness (12,590')
Map: Tuolumne Meadows 15' topo, Class: 2-3
Dates: July 24-25 (Sat-Sun)
Contact: Bob Suzuki, w: 510-657-7555 >8pm: 408-259-0772; bobszk@bigfoot.com
Bonnie Ruesch w: 408-795-1393 h: 408-997-8323, BonnitaR@aol.com

Enjoy a moderate backpack hike from Tuolumne Meadows to our basecamp at lower Young Lake; we'll bag Ragged Peak on the way in. Sunday morning's ascent will reward us with scenic vistas from the summit of Mt Conness. Expect mosquitoes and bears. Ice axe maybe useful.

Note: Trip is full, but we will maintain a wait list.

Lucky Sevens: Mt. Ritter Annual Pilgrimage

Peaks: Mt. Ritter (13,150'), Banner Peak (12,900')
Dates: July 26-31, 1999
Contact: Alan Ritter, jar@storz.com
(314) 225-7600, x5362 (7:30 - 5:30 p.m. CST)

Reference: <http://www.climber.org/pics/Feature/Ritter1998/>

Not being one to give up easily, I will make a lucky seventh attempt at my namesake peak this summer. Trailhead date is Monday, 26 July, at Agnew Meadows. We will hike in via the Shadow Creek trail and camp near/above Ediza Lake (9,200'). From there, the climb will follow the same route as last year (sans route-finding error!), via the Southeast Glacier and on to the summit of Ritter. Summit day will involve about 3,500' of gain, almost all class 2, perhaps a little low class 3 snow, depending on conditions. Ice axe and crampons will be required. Time, weather, and energy permitting, we will attempt neighboring Banner Peak (12,900') one of the following days. Plan to return to Mammoth on Friday, 30 July or Saturday, 31 July.

Palisade Crest

Peak: Palisade Crest 13520', Class 4
Dates: July 30- Aug 1
Contact: Peter Maxwell (408) 737 9770

We'll start off hiking the South Fork of Big Pine Creek, heading to camp at Elinore Lake. The route up the peak will be the Northwest Ridge, which leads off from Scimitar Pass. This is a class 4 peak for experienced climbers only. The trip is private and participants should be known to the organizer, or be able to be vouched for by someone known to the organizer.

Bear Creek Spire

Peak: Bear Creek Spire (13,713 ft.), Northeast Ridge, Class 4
Dates: Sat. July 31 - Sun. Aug. 1
Maps: Mt. Morgan, Mt. Abbott, Mt. Hilgard
Contacts: Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com
W 408-259-0772, H 510-657-7555
Co-contact: Jim Ramaker, ramaker@vnet.ibm.com
W 408-463-4873, H 408-224-8553

People who climb this route rave about the exhilarating climbing, great rock, and spectacular setting. We have room for one or two more rope teams -- let us know if you're interested.

Colby Pass Cleanout

Peaks: Glacier Ridge (12416) Kern Point (12789)
Picket Guard (12302) Whaleback (11726)
Dates: July 30 - August 3 (Sat-Tue)
Contact: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

I'll be joining RJ Secor for part of his CMC trip, entering on my own permit a week after he starts and exiting before he does. Expect some high mileage days, and a bit of class 4 near the summit of Glacier Ridge. Whaleback is class 3, the others are class 2 with trail approaches to all of them. Since we're joining another group mid-trip, schedules may change and everyone should be comfortable without a formal leader.

School's Out

Peaks: Recess, Gabb, and Hilgard
Dates: Aug 13-16 (Fri-Mon)
Contact: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

A somewhat mellow west-side trip starting near Lake Edison. The permit is full, but there is a short wait list if you want to get in line. You could also get another permit and join us!

Agassiz & Winchell

Peaks: Agassiz (13,893'), Winchell (13,775')
class 2,3
Maps: Big Pine, Mt Goddard 15' topo
Dates: August 28-29 (Sat-Sun)
Contact: Bob Suzuki, bobszk@bigfoot.com
w: 510-657-7555 >8pm: 408-259-0772
Nancy Fitzsimmons, Pkclimber@aol.com
w: 408-764-1761, h: 408-957-9683,

Last fall our attempt to climb these 2 magnificent peaks in the Palisades never got beyond Sam Mack Meadow. Constant snow almost from the trailhead encouraged us to save these high peaks for another weekend. We'll try again this August.

A fast hike in to basecamp will be followed by an assault on Agassiz via the class 2 south ridge. Sunday won't be easier. We'll enjoy the classic east arete of Winchell, then backpack out to the cars for a late return to the BA, hopefully, with fond memories of two successful climbs.

Clarence King & Gardiner

Peaks: Clarence King and Gardiner.
Dates: Sept 3-6
Contact: Rick Booth, 408-354-7291
rick_booth@worldnet.att.net
Dee Booth, rdbooth@worldnet.att.net

Pack in from Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass and Glenn Pass into Rae lakes and eventually into Sixty Lakes Basin. Estimated distance is 10 miles. This is kind of a chug.

Clarence King has a fifth class summit block requiring a few moves of about 5.4. Gardiner has a longish fourth-class summit ridge.

Requirements: Both peaks require rope and modest rock climbing skills. You should know my wife or me or know someone who knows us. This is a private trip.

Capitol Peak, Colorado

Peak: Capitol Peak, Colorado (14,130')
Dates: Sept 4-6 (Sat-Mon)
Contact: Bill Isherwood, isherwood2@llnl.gov
925-254-0739 (h), 925-423-5058 (w)

This is a class 3-4 climb up one of Colorado's more difficult 14'ers, noted for its exposed knife-edge ridge. The plan would be to fly to Denver Friday evening, drive to the mountain and hike in to a high camp on Saturday, make the climb on Sunday and hike out, staying overnight in the Aspen area. We would return to the Denver airport on Monday for return home. Roped climbing experience required. Contact leader for coordination of travel plans.

Needsaw, Hamtooth

Peaks: Needham (12467), Sawtooth (12343) class 2
Dates: Sep 18-19 (Sat-Sun)
Contact: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org

Depending on who signs up, we'll do the standard grunt to Needham over the top of Sawtooth, or we'll skip Monarch Lake and go directly to Needham (which might involve a bit of class 3 scrambling on an unscouted route). This area is great in the fall, when the bugs are dead and the marmots have their fill of salt bush (so your car doesn't look like a buffet). Needham could be done as a very long day hike if you just want to join us on Sunday's climb.

High Sierra Guidebook, Second Edition

The new and improved edition of "Encyclopaedia Polemonia" (the working title [for the book titled "The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails"]) is now in The Mountaineers' warehouse. It is about a third bigger than the first edition, in a 7 x 8½ format (easier to photocopy onto 8½ x 14 paper), with improved maps, more and better photographs, and an index featuring named as well as unnamed places. 432 pp.; \$29.95. It should be available in a week or two at better mountain shops and bookstores. And at some pretty ordinary mountain shops and bookstores, too. If you can't wait, order it direct from The Mountaineers' bookstore: 1-800-284-8554.

• RJ Secor <rijsecor@earthlink.net>

NOTE: RJ posted this note on the sierra-nevada@climber.org email list, where you will also find trip reports and information not included in the Scree due to space limitations.

Due to a mixup in communications, our errata page didn't make it into this printing of Secor's book... but you can still check the web for comments, updates, and corrections to this valuable guide book:

<http://www.climber.org/Secor/>

(and yes, the page was sanctioned by the publisher and author - see the URL above for a copy of the memo)

Please send submissions to "webmaster@climber.org", including passages you think should be clarified and typos you might find (like which summit of Seven Gables is higher).

Thanks in advance for helping make this a useful resource!

• Steve Eckert <eckert@climber.org>

The best backpacks are named for national parks or mountain ranges. Steer clear of those named for landfills.

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Visit our website at **climber.org/pcs**

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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 6/27/99. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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