

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

Next General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 9

Time: 8:00 PM

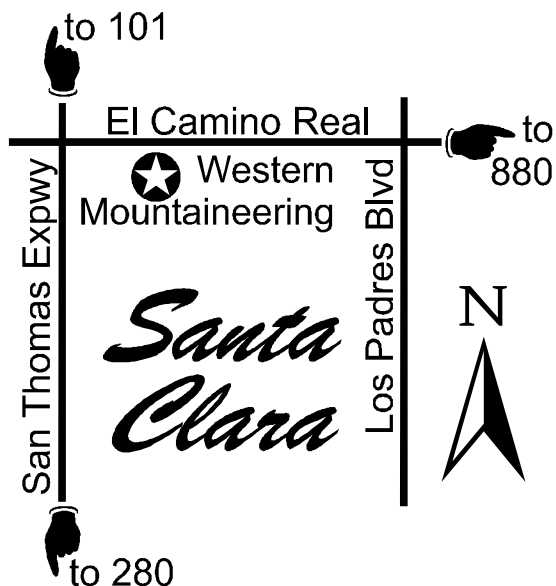
Program: Charles Schafer

Location: Western Mountaineering, Santa Clara

Come join Charles Schafer as he presents a slide show of his recent climbing trip in the Annapurna region of Nepal. His trip traveled over the highly scenic and popular Annapurna Circuit, a route which circumnavigates the Annapurna massif of the Himalayan mountain range, with side jaunts to climb several trekking peaks.

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 3/28/99 Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

Wilderness First Aid

Have you ever worried about how you would deal with a medical emergency in the wilderness? Sign up for the Wilderness First Aid Class offered May 7, 8, and 9 and find out. The evening of May 7 will be spent on CPR certification, and is optional for people with a current certification. This class will provide information and experience for applying first aid in an outdoor setting. There are pre-class reading assignments. The class will be taught at the Loma Prieta Chapter office in Palo Alto. The cost is \$63 for Sierra Club trip leaders, \$90 for the general public.

To sign up, call Dot Reilly at 415/585-1380 or send e-mail to der@gene.com by April 2.

Mountain Rescue

A Different Challenge

Have you ever thought of using your outdoor skills and experience through volunteer search and rescue? While there are many fine search and rescue teams (SAR), my experience is with an outfit called Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (BAMRU)

What do we actually do? Mostly, we look for missing people. They range from back country hikers to disabled children and folks that are stranded or injured.

What does it take to belong to BAMRU?

Useful abilities and experience include:

- Comfortable on 2-3 class terrain
- Good navigation skills
- Some experience with roped climbing and belaying
- Experience with harsh mountain weather

Attitudes needed include:

- A team approach to difficult problems
- A willingness to learn new subjects such as tracking and field medical care
- A measure of tolerance for governmental bureaucracy
- Willingness to leave work and family at the beep of a pager call

If you are interested in learning more about search and rescue, point your favorite Web search engine to "bamru" or contact me at hirst@hooked.net or 510 537-0271

• Will Hirst

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.

Mt Sizer

Peak: Mt Sizer class-1 (3,216 ft. - 980 meters)
Dates: March 21st (Sunday)
Leaders: Nancy Fitzsimmons <Pkclimber@aol.com>
(H)408-957-9681
Ron Karpel <ronny@luxsonor.com> (H)650-594-0211

March 21 Mt Sizer, Henry Coe- Sun. This is a wonderful loop with great vistas from the ridge. It will be about 14 miles and over 3000 ft of gain. Carpool 7:30am at Cubberly High in Palo Alto (Middlefield & Montrose) or Meet at Henry Coe Park Headquarters, 9am. HEAVY rain cancels. This is co listed with the Day Hikers.

Mt Diablo by the North Side

Peak: Eagle Peak(2359), North Peak(3557), Mt. Diablo(3849) Class-
Maps: Clayton USGS 7.5'
Date: April 11 (Sun)
Leaders Arun Mahajan. (h) 650-327-8598, (w) 408-585-2114, arun@tollbridgetech.com
Co-leader: Ahmad Zandi. 408-255-4233 home
408-616-5783 work. email: ahmad@zandi.com

Dayhike this beautiful east bay peak and two of its surrogate summits, Eagle Peak and North Peak by the North Side. Carpool from Cubberly School parking lot at the junction of Middlefield Road and Montrose in Palo Alto at 7am. The hike is a little less than 15 miles round trip and has 4000+ feet of gain. Cross-listed with the Day Hiking Section.

Black Diamond

Peaks: Diamond Pk (13,126) and Black Mtn (13,289)
Dates: April 16-18 (Fri-Mon)
Map: Kearsarge Peak 7.5' topo
Leader: Steve Eckert
Co-Leader: Aaron Schuman / 650-968-9184 / aaron_schuman@yahoo.com

NOTE: Co-leader will take applications and maintain the trip roster. Spring fever? Ditch those downhill skis and strap on snowshoes or backcountry skis for a fine bowl between two high peaks. Black is closed much of the year to protect bighorn sheep, so you will find few names in the register (if we can dig it out!).

Hopefully we can drive to 6000' for this spring ascent, then bag both peaks on the second day. If not, we'll spend part of the second day moving packs and do one peak each on the second and third days. Ice axe and crampons required - 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.

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 because there is no co-leader.

Mt Goethe

Peaks: Mt Goethe, class 1, 13264, Mt Emerson, class 2, 3, 13204
Dates: Jun 19-20 Sat-Sun
Maps: Goddard 15 min.
Leader: Aaron Schuman H 650-968-9184
W 650-943-7532
aaron_schuman@yahoo.com
Details:
<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. .

Motherland of the Crows

Peaks: Big, Black & Red Kaweah, Triple Divide, etc; class 2 to class 3
Dates: Jul 17-25, Sat-Sun
Maps: Mineral King, Triple Divide & Whitney 15 min.
Leaders: Charles Schafer H 408-354-1545
W 408-324-6003
cgschafer@lucent.com
Aaron Schuman, H 650-968-9184
W 650-943-7532
aaron_schuman@yahoo.com
Details: <http://sj.znet.com/~cynthiam/crows.html>

Famed for its isolation, feted for its jagged crags, feared for its loose rubble, the Kaweah Peaks Ridge stands apart as one of the least known climbing areas in the Sierra Nevada. Join us for a challenging, arduous week in the land named by the Yokut Indians as "The Motherland of the Crows". (\$10 sign-up fee, refundable at trailhead, less cost of permit).

Sawtooth Peak (south) 7970 feet

On the 14th of February 1999, on a privately arranged trip, the four of us (myself, Ahmad Zandi, Don Peterson and Roly, the poly little Cairn Terrier) took a walk to the top of Sawtooth Peak in the Southern Sierra.

This is a very straightforward hike with a bit of bushwhacking and route-finding at the later third of the hike. Accurate details are in the book 'Exploring the Southern Sierra, East Side' by JC and Ruby Jenkins.

After spending a rather cold night at a small pullout on the Canebrake Flat road, we met Don Peterson and Roly at the dusty junction of 178 and Canebrake Road. The driving on this washboard surface road was doable for my generic sedan and after a few miles we were at the point where the PCT crosses this road. We started walking at 7.45 am on the PCT just as the sun came up in a cloudless sky and very soon we had removed the warm layers of clothing. We reached the saddle mentioned in the Jenkins book which is at about 6300 ft. At this point we took off left, cross country. There is a foreground hill and Sawtooth is the rocky peak that seems to peer over this first hill's right ridge.

It is a bit of a slog to go up this first hill but the moist scree made it tolerable and once we topped out, we were in a forest of pinyon pines and low brush. Don pointed out Sand Canyon and Ridgecrest and the Argus range in the distance. Continuing on this plateau and then traversing right we aimed for the ridgeline that is left of the summit hump with its interesting looking rocky ridge. At 10.45am, we were at the top. We were the first party to summit (sign in) this year. The summit register dates back to the 1960's. The view is spectacular and on this clear day we could make out Telescope and the Panamints, Whitney, Langley and (we guessed) the Kaweahs and the Mineral King group. The view of Olancha is the one that takes the breath away. It dominates the foreground and stands tall and solitary, almost like Shasta. Small wonder that it is an emblem peak.

After a 45 minute summit dawdle and another bout of cross country crashing through brush, we were back at the saddle. Then a pleasant walk in the still warm sun on the PCT that was littered with pine cones brought the journey to an end. It was about six hours for the round trip.

On this day at least, there was very little snow and the axes remained on the packs. Much thanks to Don for getting us to the summit with unerring accuracy and for sharing his tremendous knowledge of the beautiful Southern Sierra and to Ahmad for carpooling with me for the long drive to the trailhead from the Bay Area.

Some details:

1. The Canebrake Flat Road is 9.2 miles east of the Onyx Store on 178, in case you are trying to find it in the night.
2. The PCT crosses this road, 0.2 miles before coming to the Chimney Creek Campground.. There is a sign that says so. This is where you start hiking.

• *Arun Mahajan*

Crater Mtn

December 22, 1998

Crater Mtn is the cinder cone ssw of Big Pine. Conditions were bleak today in the Owens Valley, +1 at dawn with an icy overcast. Joe Kelsey, Toby, and I picked out a project proportional to the conditions. We turned left off the Glacier Lodge road at the McMurray Meadow turnoff and were confronted by an unexpected "T" intersection after 50 feet. Common sense dictated the right hand branch, which proved to be not a great road. After a little over a mile and moving several rocks, it was clear that it was heading east, not south which we sought. We returned and took the left branch which proved to be the correct road, and excellent in quality. We parked west of our objective and after an hour of easy, although sometimes tedious walking cross country in the lava, arrived on the summit.

There was a register in what I would best describe as a drug container with a single entry from 1 November this fall by Andy Smatko, now 81, and several friends. It was very cold, so we just signed and left. One hundred feet below the top, Joe noticed that Toby had picked up a souvenir; he had the register in his mouth. They went back up and reset it. Crater Mtn is a worthy peak with a nice view of Big Pine and possibly the Sierra (we couldn't tell because of the clouds) and deserves a real register.

This could be a preliminary entry on the WIMP (Winter, Inyo, Mono, Peaks) list.

Round trip stats: 3.5 miles, 500 feet, 1 hr 45 minutes. Later in the afternoon Lori and I went running; it read 24 degrees on the bank sign. We had a few flurries.

• *Eric Beck*

Standard Peak

February 11, 1999

Standard Peak is the SE highpoint of the Tungsten Hills west of Bishop. Yesterday was cold and windy, although clear; a good day for a WIMP (Winter, Inyo, Mono Peak). I joined Joe Kelsey and Toby for this ascent. The name is given by Don Slager as it is a standard one hour ascent.

We drove up the Tungsten City road about two miles from Ed Powers road , took a short left and parked in an area which had seen much shooting. We followed the road up the canyon to the southwest about one half mile until the slope steepened. We worked our way up the slope on a series of switchbacks cut into the slope. Don says that these are not real switchbacks, rather they are just cuts into the surface looking for ore deposits. Indeed, several of them just ended in the sage. This section had several inches of snow. We gained the shoulder west of the peak, followed another cut along the south flank and then took a short use trail to the top. Amazingly, the most pleasant conditions of the trip were on the summit. There was a register with only the top half of a pair of nested cans.

Round trip stats: 3 miles, 1000 feet, 2 hours. It appears that coming from Buttermilk road to the south, one could drive to the shoulder west of the peak, only 200 feet below.

• *Eric Beck*

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 PCSmembers.

Mt. Reba

Peak: Mt. Reba
Date: March 6-7
Leader: George Van Gorden, 408 779 2320, before 9PM

Mt. Reba is near Bear Valley ski area. From the road the elevation gain is just over 1000 feet, but we will travel along a long ridge and the looking is good. We will meet at the end of highway 4 on Sat. at 12:00. We will ski or snowshoe in a short distance and make camp and then we can start having fun. For those interested in skiing, this area provides some good intermediate terrain.

Roundtop

Peak: Roundtop, 10,600
Date: March. 21, Sunday
Contact: George Van Gorden 408-779-2320(before 9)

We will meet Sunday morning at Carson Pass snowpark at around 8:00 and climb Roundtop. Skis or snowshoes for the approach and crampons and axe for the last few hundred feet. We should be back to the cars by 3:00. I will be going up Saturday and camping at the near the pass Sat. night for those wishing to do same.

Telescope Peak via Surprise Canyon,

Peaks: Telescope Peak
Dates: March 26, 27, 28
Maps: Telescope Peak
Contacts: Bill Kirkpatrick, W (408) 279-3450;
H (408) 293-2447, Wmkirk@earthlink.net
Nancy Fitzsimmons, h 408-957-0983,
w 408-495-1761, pkclimber@aol.com

In this trip we will experience the western side of the Panamints. We will form up early on Friday, March 26, in Ballarat, motor up to Chris Wicht Camp and park. Then we backpack up Surprise Canyon on what's left of a miner's road to Panamint City, which is what is left of a miner's camp. On Saturday we will gain the ridge of the Panamints and climb to the top of Telescope. Sunday we walk back to the cars. This is likely to be a very demanding trip, with a total elevation gain of nearly 9,000 feet in two days.

Southern Sierra Day Hikes

Peaks: Spanish Needle, 7,851 ft
Sawtooth Peak, 8,000 ft
Rockhouse Peak, 8,383 ft
Dates: April 2-4
Contacts: Bob Suzuki (408) 259-0772 (H)
(510) 657-7555 (W)
Rich Leiker (510) 792-4816 (H)
(408) 453-4253 (W) after 4pm

Shake off that winter rust for an early season trip into the southern Sierra. We'll be climbing each peak as a day hike and car camping at night.

Breaking in Lassen

Peaks: Mt. Lassen (10457), Brokeoff Mt (9235) snow
Dates: Apr 3-4 (Sat-Sun)
Map: Lassen Peak, Reading Peak 7.5' topo
Leaders: Ron Karpel, ronny@luxsonor.com(H)
650-594-0211
Nancy Fitzsimmons
Pkclimber@aol.com(H)408-957-9681

Also known as Lawson's Peak, Mount Joseph, Mount Saint Jose, Snow Mountain, and quite a few other names, Mt Lassen is an easy summer hike, but in the winter it makes a challenging goal. Saturday, we will ski or snowshoe the 14 mile 3,500' round trip from Sulphur Works to the top of Lassen Peak. Sunday, we will ski or snowshoe the closer, lower, but challenging Brokeoff Mountain. This is not a beginner's trip. Ice axe and crampons as well as experience in using them are require.

Yosemite Valley Peak Climb

Peak: Grizzly Peak, Sierra Point, Mt. Broderick, Liberty Cap, and Eagle Peak.
Date: April 24-25
Contact: George Sinclair 650-941-2160;
geosinc@aol.com

Spend the weekend climbing some "peaks" about Yosemite Valley, including Grizzly Peak, Sierra Point, Mt. Broderick, Liberty Cap, and Eagle Peak. Some climbs will involve class 4 climbing.

Mount Shasta

Peak: Mt Shasta class-2 (14,161ft. - 4,317 m), snow
Maps: Mount Shasta USGS 7.5'
Dates: May 1-2 (Sat-Sun)
Leaders: Ron Karpel <ronny@luxsonor.com>
(H)650-594-0211
Nancy Fitzsimmons <Pkclimber@aol.com>
(H)408-957-9681

Early May on Mount Shasta promises superb snow conditions. From Bunny Flat to the summit is about 6 mile and 7000' elevation gain. This is a 2 day trip with camping on the snow on Saturday night. Saturday, we will ski or snowshoe the Avalanche Gulch or the Green Butte route depending on conditions. Sunday we will summit and return to the trailhead. Crampons and ice axe required for the summit.

Optional, bring a rope and climbing harness and join us practice glacier travel and crevasse rescue techniques in preparation for Rainier. If you like extreme skiing, from the top of Shasta suppose to be a hell of a run, and early may should be a good time.

The Doodad

Peak: The Doodad (11600'+) Class 4
Dates: May 15-16
Contact: Jim Curl <jimcurl@juno.com> 415-585-1380

Scanning along the skyline of the Sawtooth Ridge, one can't help but feel affected by the alpine character of the area. The dark rock, precipitous and beautifully serrated, pocketed with glaciers, along with a blanket of snow in the foreground, makes this one of the most attractive regions of the Sierra. But just west of Matterhorn Peak, sandwiched between the Dragtooth and the Three Teeth, one's eye is caught by a rather odd protuberance, an ungainly wart of stone sticking up embarrassingly from the ridge top -- it's The Doodad.

Climbing it is not a popular goal. Attaining its summit will not garner any fame. More likely, admitting that you've climbed it will cause your friends to smirk. But its unique qualities, even if scorned, are precisely what makes climbing it so attractive.

Mt Tinemaha

Peak: Mt Tinemaha (12,561) Class 2 / snow
Dates: May 15-16 (Sat-Sun) (weather may delay by a week)
Map: Big Pine 15' topo
Contact: Steve Eckert <eckert@climber.org>
650-508-0500

Tired of every trip requiring lots of experience? Want to get out in the spring snow, but don't have a long resume? This is the trip you've been waiting for! We'll pack from about 6500 to about 10500', a pretty long day, starting on trail and probably finishing on snow.

It's not steep and I don't expect ice axes will be required. The peak itself probably WILL require an ice axe, but won't be hard climbing (Secor rates it Class 1 in the summer).

Only 2000' of gain on summit day leaves us some time to review ice axe and snow travel techniques, but THIS IS NOT A CLASS. I'll be happy to share what I know and to discuss what you know, and I'll even watch if you want to practice, but you should have taken a class or read Freedom of the Hills or had some experience with the axe before you come.

Sign up at your own risk. See required waiver at:
<http://www.climber.org/eckert/LiabilityWaiver.pdf>

If you've never climbed with me before you should check out
<http://www.climber.org/eckert/ClimberExpectations-SRE.txt>

Anyone with a 4WD vehicle willing to give me a ride goes to the head of the waiting list! (It's about 2 miles more each way without 4WD.)

Mt. Stanford & Mt. Morgan

Peaks: Mt. Stanford (N) and Mt. Morgan (N) (Class 3, Snow)
Dates: May 29 thru 31, Sat thru Mon
Maps: Mt. Abbot and Convict Lake 7.5'
Contacts: Charles Schafer (408) 324-6003 (w)
cgschafer@lucent.com, Steve Eckert, (650)
508-0500, eckert@climber.org

Come join us for an interesting traverse of Mts. Morgan and Stanford.

Saturday we will hike in to our base camp at Davis Lake, on the eastern side of Mt. Stanford. Sunday we will climb Mt. Stanford, traverse across to Mt. Morgan, then descend back to our camp. Monday we hike out. That is, unless conditions dictate that we do it differently, in which case we will do it differently (a lot depends on the state of the snowpack).

You must be proficient with ice axe and crampons, since we are expecting there to be plenty of snow. You will probably need snowshoes or skis, and snow shovels and avalanche transceivers may be de rigueur, again depending upon the snowpack. This should be a fairly strenuous trip; just how strenuous will, again, depend on the conditions.

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
address: 250 31st Street, Boulder, Colorado
U.S.A. 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.

Taboose: Climb-O-Rama '99

Peaks: Wynne, Pinchot, Pyramid, Striped, Goodale, Cardinal, Ruskin, Pinchot, Marion, State, Prater, Observation
Dates: July 3-11 (Sat-Sun, July 4th week)
Leaders: Steve Eckert, eckert@climber.org 650-508-0500
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.

It's a 9 day trip but all the peaks except Observation fit into an 8 day schedule (spare day for weather!) with no day over 12 miles and only one day over 5000'. You can skip a peak now and then to relax, or skip entire days by leaving the group and joining us later. Send \$10 (payable to Steve Eckert and refunded less permit fees if you show up at the trailhead) with any requests you have for peaks we forgot (be prepared to lead or solo). Tell us as much as you can about your skill and conditioning. We'll collect names and decide in a month or so about the exact schedule and trip roster. In addition, we'll need a signed copy of this liability waiver:
<http://www.climber.org/eckert/LiabilityWaiver.pdf>

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

Nepal October 1999

Peak: Chulu West
Date: October 1999
Contact: Warren Storkman
4180 Mackay Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Phone 650-493-8959
FAX 650-493-8975
dstorkman@AOL.com

Climb or Trek, We'll combine both for the ultimate adventure.

The trekking peak is Chulu West 21,750 ft. (6630 m). Its rating classifies it as moderate -difficult. Chulu West is on the Annapurna circuit, north of the village of Braga. After the climb we pass over the Thorung La Pass (17,700 ft)

Our walk down to beautiful Muktinath brings us to a Hindu religious setting. You'll see many older Indians from India who made this arduous journey. Most of the older people consider this visit the fulfillment of their religious life.

Before reaching Jomson Airport There will be a side trip to Kagbeni, A village that lost its way in time.

Its a 19 day trek from Besisahar, return from Jomson

	Trekkers	Climbers
A) Trek Cost	\$1235	\$1330
B) Internal bus & Air	\$180	\$180
C) Sherpa -walk-in W/food, equip etc.	\$55	\$55
D) Climbing Sherpa / Ins 3 persons @ \$27		\$90

E) Permit fee
 10 persons @ \$350 \$35
 Total Cost \$1470 \$1690

D and E could swing a little either way.
 B could swing a little also.
 Thai Air \$1200 from San Francisco.
 I'm only the facilitator, you pay the provider.

The Coming Millennium Celebration

Peak: Kilimanjaro 19,340 Uhuru Peak.
 Date: Jan 12, 2000
 Contact: Warren Storkman
 4180 Mackay Drive
 Palo Alto, CA 94306
 Phone 650-493-8959
 FAX 650-493-8975
 dstorkman@AOL.com

Visit Africa for a walk-up of one of the seven continental summits. We'll leave San Francisco January 12th 2000 arriving in Arusha, Tanzania. This special package of 4 hotel nights plus 6 nights on the mountain is around \$1000 1998 prices. The prices should hold for 2000.

The standard package is for 2 hotel and 4 hut nights.

Why longer for us? Jet lag and acclimatization . We are looking for better than the average success rate. 20% not good enough.

K.L.M. Air looks attractive. '98/'99 price \$1240.00

San Francisco to Kilimanjaro Airport.

We have 26 persons with a strong commitment. Lets make it a century for the millennium.

Tungsten Hills Highpoint (6348')

February 18, 1999

Today dawned nicely enough, then the wind started to rise. Auspicious conditions for a WIMP (Winter, Inyo, Mono, Peak). From Ed Powers road, we drove up the Tungsten City road, good dirt, easy 2wd, about three miles to the saddle near BM 5435 (old 15 minute map). This is only a few hundred yards from the end of the road and the easiest parking spot for Tungsten Peak.

Toby, Joe Kelsey and I headed almost directly for the peak. This was easy open terrain in the sage. En route I found an excellent bleached antler. A few minutes later, Joe had found a pair of antlers complete with a fragment of the intervening skylld and a bit of fur. The wind increased dramatically as we neared the peak. Near the summit it was gusting and knocking us over. We estimated the velocity at 50 mph with gusts to 60+. On the summit there was a rudimentary register with a metal film can, a few entries from 95 and 97. We left an excellent real register, and the antlers, then descended several hundred feet to a warmer spot for a quick bite to eat.

Descent went well in the sandy terrain. Back at the vehicle, we made a weak search for benchmark 5435 (Mark are you proud of us?) without success. When we started the Sierra Crest was clearly in view. Upon return, no Sierra peaks were visible and it appeared to be precipitating lightly on our peak. Upon return to town the television was out. The local radio reported that a cottonwood had taken out a power line near the airport and all of Bishop was without cable. Winds of 100 mph had been reported at Chalfant, 8 miles north.

Round trip stats: 4 miles, 900 feet, 2 hours, class 1.

• Eric Beck

Editor's Note: It is unusual to run three trip reports from the same leader in a single issue of the Scree. Also note that the Standard Peak and Tungsten Peak trip reports are very similar. I decide to run all three due to the WIMP designation. It is important to be familiar with small peaks that we can climb in winter when we cannot or are not willing to trudge through heavy snow.

• Bob Bynum, Scree Editor

Traipsing Around Tucson

February 8-19, 1999

For this month's Scree, it seems that I don't have as many trip reports as I would like to have. This is partially due the snow in the high Sierra that prevents some of us from climbing. My solution is to go out create some of my own.

For two weeks in February, Gretchen Luepke and I visited her mother in Tucson, Arizona. While the Sierras are covered in snow and the Bay Area weather was cold and rainy, the weather in Tucson was warm and sunny. Tucson, a city surrounded by several mountain ranges, is a hikers heaven. Within a few minutes of the city there is every type of hiking anyone would want. Terrain includes perfectly flat hiking right in town along the Rillito (Spanish for little river) to various degrees of strenuousness in mountains ranging from 2,500 feet to almost 10,000 feet. In addition, there is plenty of technical rock climbing. Gretchen and I went out on three different hikes.

Geologically, Southern Arizona is what is know as basin and range country. This means that you have mountain ranges rising out of the flat basin areas. In some cases there are just individual mountains that look like they have been placed on a flat surface like chess pieces on a chess board. Tucson (elevation 2410') is located in an area known as the Sonoran Desert, an area that covers most of Southern Arizona and extends into the Mexican state of Sonora.

The flora on the Sonora desert is unlike anything else in the United States. On my first trip to Tucson several years ago, I walked around in awe, feeling like I had landed on another planet! Having lived in New York, Alabama, and the Bay area, I was more accustomed to broad leafed trees and pine trees.

In the Sonora desert the only trees you find are mesquite and palo verde. These are bush like plants that grow to about 10 feet in height. In size and structure, they are like the manzanita which we find in many of our Bay Area open spaces.

Many of the plants in the desert are cactuses. They come in all shapes and sizes. Most prominent is the saguaro (pronounced sow-war -owe), which is the stereotypical cactus that is always associated with the Western United States. It is the giant cactus with multiple arms. They often grow to over 15 feet in height and can be as old as 200 years. Although many cheap western films show these cactuses as being in Texas and Nevada, they only grow in the Sonoran Desert in Southern Arizona.

Other cactuses include the prickly pear that we have here in the Bay Area, the cholla(pronounced choy-yah), which has cute fuzzy-looking branches that are actually tiny sharp spines, and the barrel cactus which is shaped like a beer keg and has fish hook shaped spines on it. There are many other varieties as well.

At first the desert appears barren, but with a little experience, you learn to look for the small things such as different types of lizards scurrying about, the teddy bear cholla glistening in the sun. Appreciating the desert is a like appreciating a Beethoven

symphony or fine Cabernet Sauvignon wines. It is a special place that is appreciated only after some study and hiking there several times.

Some people associate the desert with hazards such as poisonous snakes and Gila Monsters. However, much of these hazards are myths created by corny westerns or cheap science fiction movies. Poisonous snakes and Gila Monsters are there but in many cases they are elusive creatures that avoid confrontations with humans. According to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum snakebite victims for 1995 were 95% male between 15 and 25 who were handling the snakes, 80% were white, 98% were drunk, 85% of bites were on the hand, and 90% of the victims had tattoos. So go figure how great the hazard is.

With regards to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum that I just mentioned, this is a great institution for learning about the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. On display here are all kinds of desert animals in natural habitats, plus geological and plant exhibits. If you are in Tucson, this museum is a must see.

Golden Gate Mountain

Our first hike was on the David Yetman trail. This trail goes around Golden Gate Mountain, a 4288 Ft peak in the Tucson Mountains, a range to the northwest of Tucson. We hadn't set out to do this mountain, but were just passing by, saw the trail and decided to go on an impromptu hike. As is true of most of the trails in the Tucson Mountains, the Golden Gate Trail is basically a desert ramble with your usual assortment of prickly pear, cholla, and ocotillo (a spiny member of the lily family).

There are no trees to provide shade here. This is the land of mesquite and palo verde, of the saguaro, prickly pear, cholla, and hedgehog cacti, of creosote bushes, ocotillo, and catclaw.

The terrain is a jumble of boulders and craggy ridges and is of volcanic origin. Winter is the perfect time to hike here. In summer it becomes way too hot.

The trail itself has little elevation gain so I decided to go off trail and head straight up the peak. Going off trail and up a peak in the Sonora Desert can be tricky. Although there is plenty of space to step among the cactuses, you need to be careful not to actually bump into one. The spines on cactuses have a structure similar to fishhooks such that they enter the skin with ease, but are very difficult and painful to extract. The worst spines are the little hairlike ones found on the teddy bear cholla. You can hardly see them, but they are quit painful and can remain embedded in you skin for weeks.

I knew that we didn't actually have time to summit. It was late afternoon and we were expected home for dinner. When I went off trail, I headed straight up a chute for several hundred yards so that I at least could get a good view. I did a little of class 3 climbing. One needs be especially careful when doing this because cactuses can grow in the smallest of rock crevices.

As you gain elevation you can see Old Tucson Studios. Built in 1939 by Columbia Pictures for the filming of the first outdoor western, *Arizona*, the set has been home to many Westerns since then. Also the TV series *Gunsmoke*, *High Chaparral*, and *Bonanza* used this set. In the exact area where we were hiking, outdoor scenes in many westerns have been filmed because there are no power lines in the area. When you look out over the desert from a high elevation, it seems to stretch out endlessly.

Picacho Peak.

Picacho Peak is a 3374' peak that rises majestically 2000' out of the Sonoran Dessert about 35 miles north of Tucson and is a state park. It is just off of I-10. Difficulty wise it is comparable to Mission Peak in the Bay Area. In the spring, there is a brilliant display of wildflowers, if there have been winter rains.

This peak is an extinct volcanic neck with a dual summit. When seen by moonlight, it looks like the Night on Bald Mountain. scene in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*. During a thunderstorm at night it is a quite a show!

We started out late and began hiking at 3:00 PM. Due to a 6:00 PM dinner engagement, we did not go all the way to the summit, but we had a great hike and had spectacular views. We decided to hike independently and I decided to turn around in 45 minutes. On this peak you take a trail up to a saddle between the dual peaks and them drop before ascending the taller left peak on the back side. There are lots of cables along a rocky trail. Many types of cactus grow out of the rocks. Gretchen made it up to the saddle and I made it partially up the peak on the back side. This was mostly class 1, but on the steeper parts was class 3. Our hike lasted about an hour and a half and was a nice little climb for an afternoon.

Mt. Kimball

On Thursday, February 18 we climbed Mt. Kimball which is a 7258' peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains, Tucson's highest and most rugged mountain range. The trailhead was at 3100' and the trail is five miles long or 10 miles round trip. Elevation gain is 4158'. This hike is comparable to climbing Half Dome from Happy Isles due to similarities in elevation gain and elevations of trailhead and summit. Since I had not reached the summit on our other two hikes, I was determined to reach the top this time.

For the first mile or so, the trail is relatively flat and goes through an impressive forest-like stand of saguaro cactuses. After that the trail climbs relentlessly for the next four miles through a steep canyon. As the trail ascends in elevation, the flora changes. Saguaro cactuses disappear and then at the higher cooler elevations, the flora changes to pinon pine, juniper, manzanitas, and oak.

We started hiking at 11:19 AM and I summited at 3:21 PM. I returned at 5:55 PM. Gretchen did not go all of the way, but she had a good 5 hour, 25 minute hike. She decided to turn around at 2:00 PM and returned at 4:45 PM. I summited in 4 hours and took 2 hours, 25 minutes to return. I was absolutely exhausted and I drank water constantly for the next several hours.

This was a very exhausting day, but I had the satisfaction of reaching a goal. The views were worth every step and the scenery was spectacular. There are stark cliffs towering above tall pines. On the summit you can look out in all directions with views comparable to what you find in the Sierras. It is great to be able to do such a peak climb without a six hour drive.

• Bob Bynum, Scree Editor

Note: Some of the material in this report is taken from the book *Tucson Hiking Guide*, by Betty Leavengood (1997).

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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 3 /28/99. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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

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