

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

General Meeting

Date: October 9, 2007

Time: 7:30 pm

Where: Peninsula Conservation Center
3921 E. Bayshore Rd.
Palo Alto, CA

Program: **Canyoneering -
North Fork of the Kaweah River**

Presenter: **Toinette Hartshorne**

This past summer, Jef Levin and Toinette completed the first descent of the North Fork of the Kaweah River. Several weekends were spent scouting and rigging the technical sections in the beautiful granite canyons carved by this river. This slide show will cover highlights from 3 weekends spent on the river.

Directions: From 101: Exit at San Antonio Road, go east to the first traffic light, turn left and follow Bayshore Rd to the PCC on the corner of Corporation Way. A sign marking the PCC is out front. Park behind.

Editor's Notes

Winter made a brief appearance last week with snow falling in the mountains (see the Highland Peak report). Expect a gorgeous time of the year for outside activity in the wilderness using skis, snowshoes or just feet.

This year we introduce a new kind of trip for those who are more ambitious than the would-be tripper that curls up by the fire with a good book. Called the BSS, Backcountry Ski Series, the offering is a day trip into the backcountry once a month, typically in the Tahoe area. The trips are scheduled for Friday because Thursday night traffic after 7 pm is quick and smooth while Friday is terrible. Also a Friday outing allows the leaders to recover enough to race in the citizen class races each Sunday or Monday. People may attend one or all trips. Tips on Telemark and Randonee skiing will be available, but participants need to have advanced skiing skills. Typically there will be anywhere from good to great powder.

Avalanche beacons as well as shovels and probes are required on the BSS trips. A variety of avalanche courses are available to learn how to use these tools.

Tahoe:

<http://www.alpineskills.com/>

Kirkwood:

http://www.kirkwood.com/winter0607/backcountry_levellav.php

Bear Valley:

http://www.mtadventure.com/pages/avalanche/avalanche_education.html

Shasta:

<http://www.swsmtns.com/>

Gear Corner

4-Season Tents

By Frank Martin, PCS Equipment Guru
(sriprank@yahoo.com)

While our PCS equipment guru is out hiking on the northern California sections of the PCT, the Scree editor will supply the content of a brief email about 4-season tents. Winter is coming, and with it is the question of whether to use a bivy sack (see Sept 2007 Scree), a 3 season tent, or a true 4-season tent. Here are some of Frank's thoughts following a very windy spring trip to Mt. Shasta. – ed.

On Shasta all the tents made it. One was an older North Face 4-Season that was staked out with ice pickets. Mine was an Integral Designs MK1 XL with the optional vestibule. We had to restake it during the night but after that it was fine. The setup of mine with the internal poles is a lot like the Black Diamond. It is really important to get the poles secured in the velcro loops as tightly as possible.

The BD Lighthouse is considered to be a 3 1/2 Season tent. I know people who have used them in pretty extreme winter conditions (high wind and heavy snowload) and they have made it through but just barely. It is a very tight (taunt) pitch the fabric is light and the poles are much different that a Four-Season Tent.

The Bibler I-Tent (now owned by BD) is a 4-Season version of the Lighthouse. It comes in at 4lb 5ozs. without the additional vestibule. It is the lightest of all 2 person 4-Season Tents.

<http://www.bdel.com/gear/i-tent.php>

My tent is a bit heavier.

<http://tinyurl.com/2c4wza>

It is very similar to the Bibler Design but is a lower profile and longer. Mine has the Second door which also adds some weight but sure works well when you are using a vestibule.. I picked it up brand new on Ebay a few years ago for \$325. Intergral Designs made several versions of the same tent. There was once an Event version which was significantly lighter. I see them used on Ebay on very rare occasion and they go for big \$\$\$. There were not legal to ship to CA retail as Event does not meet the fireproof standards set by the State of CA for tents. They also make a 'lite-floor'

version which is the same tent but a lighter floor material.

All and all an excellent tent which will survive almost anything it is exposed to. The key is setting it up properly and sometimes that is difficult as to having an idea of the snow conditions at basecamp. I know on Shasta I brought snowstakes and SMC T-anchors. The T-anchors were useless as it was solid ice. In the end we used the snowstakes and ice-axes.

Here is the short YouTube clip of the winter trip at Shasta. I later went back and summited three different routes last year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu39OpvqJCY&mode=related&search=>

Take care,
Frank

Whoopee! A Stinky Shoe Fix

By Louise Wholey

Alas and alak and ala! Here is a product that actually works to get rid of the horrible odor emanating from the inside of shoes, especially rock climbing shoes. It is Natural Magic's "Odor Blaster". It has no odor itself, but claims to work by oxidizing and breaking apart the nasty sulfur compounds responsible for the odor. I used it on my rock climbing shoes, just sprayed liberally inside them. It worked! The odor is really gone! It is available at Mountain Hardware in Truckee, perhaps not convenient for everybody, but it is an Ace hardware store, and others in the chain may also have it. See the company's product literature:

<http://www.naturalmagic.com/odorblaster.aspx>.

Trip Report Index

Page Trip Report

- 6 Matthes Crest – End-to-End by Rick Booth
- 8 A Couplet – Birch & the Thumb by Lisa Barbosa
- 10 LeConte/Corcoran by Louise Wholey
- 11 Lover's Leap by Louise Wholey
- 11 Mt. Whitney Mountaineer's Route by George Van Gorden
- 12 Virginia & Twin Peaks by Lisa Barbosa
- 12 Highland Peak, A Winter Preview by Louise Wholey
- 13 Highland Peak Logistics by Lisa Barbosa

2007 PCS Trip Calendar

Oct 5-7 – Deerhorn Mtn.

Leader: Louise Wholey

Oct 13-14 – Silver Peak

Leader: Aaron Schumann

Oct 14 – Mokelumne Peak day hike

Leader: Lisa Barboza

Oct 19-21 – University, Kearsage, Gould (car camp)

Leader: Lisa Barboza

Oct 27 – Mt. Diablo

Leader: Arun Mahajan

Oct ? – English Mtn, Mount Elwell

Leader: Charles Schafer

Nov 3-4 – Pinnacles (climbing, hiking, biking)

Leader: Jeff Fisher

Nov 3 – Disaster Peak day hike

Leader: Lisa Barboza

Nov 16-18 – Tinker Knob, Adams Peak, Castle Peak

Leader: Lisa Barboza

Dec 1 – Pyramid Peak day hike

Leader: Lisa Barboza

Dec 15 – Mt. Diablo

Leader: Kelly Maas

Dec 28 – Backcountry Ski Series (#1)

Leader: Louise Wholey

Jan 5 ? – Juniper Serra

Leader: Arun Mahajan

Jan 18 – Backcountry Ski Series (#2)

Leader: Louise Wholey

Feb 15 – Backcountry Ski Series (#3)

Leader: Louise Wholey

Mar ? – Round Top

Leader: Arun Mahajan

Mar ? – Backcountry Ski Series (#4)

Leader: Louise Wholey

Apr 11-13 – Mt. Morgan (N)

Leader: Louise Wholey

Apr ? – Sawtooth, Owens

Leader: Charles Schafer

Private Trips Summary

Important: Private trips are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club. They are listed here because they may be of interest to PCS members. Private trips may be submitted directly to the Scree editor. Details on these trips follow the trip reports. In this issue.

November 3-4, 2007 – Pinnacles

Mid-January 2008 – Kilimanjaro - Tanzania

March ?, 2007 – Mt. Lassen

PCS Trip Details

Deerhorn Mtn.

Peak: Deerhorn Mtn. (3rd class)

Date: Oct 5-7

Leader: Louise Wholey (louisewholey@yahoo.com)

Co-Leader: Jim Wholey

Approach via Kearsarge Pass and Vidette Creek. If group is slow we may only climb W. Vidette. Bad weather forecast cancels. Winter conditions may cause change of location.

Silver Peak

Peak: Silver Peak

Date: Oct 13-14

Leader: Aaron Schumann (aaron@climber.org 650-450-1437)

Co-Leader: needed

From Vermilion Lodge on Lake Thomas Edison, we'll backpack up to our campsite at Devil's Bathtub. If our group is fast, we'll try to climb up to the moderate class 2, 10000 foot summit on Saturday afternoon. Join us for some late-season fall color. Limit 8 people.

Mokelumne Peak

Peak: Mokelumne Peak

Date: Oct 14

Leader: Lisa Barboza (pcs-vice@att.net)

Co-Leader: needed

Day hike - drive from Bay Area to climb peak.

University, Kearsage, Gould (car camp)

Peak: University, Kearsage, Gould (car camp)

Date: Oct 19-21

Leader: Lisa Barboza (pcs-vice@att.net)

Co-Leader: Louise Wholey (louisewholey@yahoo.com)

Day hike these peaks from Onion Valley. Other targets may include Independence Peak and Mt. Rixford. Car camping at 9500 ft.

Mt. Diablo Conditioning Hike

Peak: Mt Diablo, 3849 ft
Date: Saturday, October 27th
Leader(s): Arun Mahajan (650-327-8598,
arun.mahajan@att.net)
Debbie Benham (650-964-0558)

North Side, approx. 14 mi, 3000ft gain. We'll start at Mitchell Canyon trailhead, traverse via Coulter Pine & Middle Trails, head to Devil's Elbow, summit, then head back via Bald Ridge Trail to tap Eagle Peak (2369') before returning to start. Carpool: Hwy 680 and Mission Blvd (2nd exit heading N), Park-n-Ride across from McDonald's, 8:00am; or trailhead about 9:00am.

English Mtn, Mount Elwell

Peak: English Mtn (cl 2), Mount Elwell (cl 1)
Date: Oct ?
Leader: Charles Schafer (c_g_schafer@yahoo.com 408-354-1545)
Co-Leader: needed
Enjoy these remote peaks north of Tahoe in lovely fall colors.

Tinker Knob, Adams and Castle Peak

Peak: Tinker Knob, Adams Peak, Castle Peak
Date: Nov 16-18
Leader: Lisa Barboza (pcs-vice@att.net)
Co-Leader: needed
Day hikes, driving between peaks, for a 3-day peak-bagging trip.

Pyramid Peak

Peak: Pyramid Peak
Date: Dec 1
Leader: Lisa Barboza (pcs-vice@att.net)
Co-Leader: needed
Dayhike from Twin Bridges if no snow, else private trip.

Backcountry Ski Series

Peak: Tamarack Peak, Castle Peak, or Mt. Judah
Date: Dec 28, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar ?
Leader: Louise Wholey (louisewholey@yahoo.com)
Co-Leader: Jim Wholey
Join us for a day of backcountry skiing in the Tahoe area. Advanced skiing skills; Randonee or Telemark skis. Climbing skis, avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe required. Location determined by snow conditions. We seek powder snow and will climb and descend multiple times. Limit 6.

Mt. Morgan (N)

Peak: Mt. Morgan (N), cl 2, ski mountaineering
Date: Apr 11-13
Leader: Louise Wholey (louisewholey@yahoo.com)
Co-Leader: Lisa Barbosa (pcs-vice@att.net)
Join us for an extension of backcountry skiing – ski mountaineering in the High Sierra. TH is Rock Creek if open, else Hilton creek. Ski to base of peak, snow camp, ski up and down peak, snow camp, ski out. Advanced skiing skills; Randonee or Telemark skis. Climbing skis, avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe required. Expect a hedonistic experience.

Attention PCS Members!

A change to PCS Operating Rules

Heads up! At the last meeting some new operating rules for the PCS were introduced. These rules, published here, if accepted, will replace the existing operating rules. For the publicity committee, see <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/details/rulesPubComm.asp> and for a description of the other committees, <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/details/bylaws.asp>.

The intent of the new rules is to bring more people into leadership roles in the section by subdividing tasks into smaller and more manageable units.

At the last meeting, after a preview of the rules in the previous issue of Scree, a vote was held on whether or not to publish the new rules in Scree. The next step, to be carried out at the next PCS meeting, is to vote on the implementation of the new rules. All it takes is a majority of those in attendance at the meeting to pass the new rules, so please come prepared by reading them in advance and vote your will!

Determination and Documentation of PCS Officer Responsibilities

PCS OPERATING RULE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For the PCS to function effectively, there are a number of duties and responsibilities that must be filled. To best address these needs, it is believed that those duties can be structured in a logical fashion that groups similar duties based on the overall intent of each duty. The structure that is suggested, and the overall purpose of each suggested entity, follows. This list of committees/functions is intended to be a guideline, spelled out for the sole purpose of listing the functions/duties that need to be addressed by any PCS Leadership Team. If an incoming group of officers believe they can address these functions with a slightly different structure, they may do so. As well, this is not intended to be an exclusive listing of functions, others may be added if so desired.

PCS Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of the elected PCS officers and the Chair of each of the standing committees (or their representative), and exists for the purpose of developing overall policies for the PCS, as well as coordinating activities amongst the different functions in order to maximize the overall impact to the organization.

PCS Mountaineering Committee

The Mountaineering Committee shall be comprised of four members, each of which is a qualified leader as well as an active leader and climber. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the PCS Chair. The Vice-Chair/Scheduler shall also be a member of the committee. The other two members shall be appointed by the Mountaineering Committee Chair with the approval of the PCS Chair. The committee is responsible for determining leadership guidelines based on Sierra Club policies and safe climbing practices and promoting leadership amongst the PCS membership.

PCS Training Committee

The Training Committee can consist of as many members as needed to carry on its mission, each of which must be a qualified leader as well as an active leader and climber. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Vice Chair of the PCS. The other members shall be appointed by the Training Committee Chair with the approval of the PCS Vice Chair. The committee will plan and execute training programs to promote safe climbing and leadership practices within the PCS.

PCS Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee is a standing committee which can consist of as many members as needed to carry on its mission. The PCS Chair appoints the PubComm Chair and the PubComm chair in turn selects the rest of the PubComm members with the approval of the PCS Chair. The goal of the PubComm is to maximize awareness of and participation in activities which further the goals of the PCS. As such, the committee is basically the outward looking arm of the PCS, which will be responsible for all PCS publicity.

PCS Social Committee

The Social Committee is a standing committee which can consist of as many members as needed to carry on its mission. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the PCS Chair. The other members shall be appointed by the Social Committee Chair with the approval of the PCS Chair. The purpose of the committee is to promote participation in and member enjoyment of activities within the PCS. As such, the committee is basically the inward looking arm of the PCS, which will be responsible for member satisfaction

Webmaster/Email Broadcast Committee

This committee consists of the Webmaster and person in charge of the PCS email broadcast list. Both positions are appointed by the PCS Chair, and may appoint other committee members as the need arises, with the approval of the PCS Chair. These persons are in charge of providing for all digital communications that are required by the club.

Scree Publication Committee

This committee consists of the Scree Editor, and other members that the Scree Editor deems necessary to carry out their mission. The Scree Editor is appointed by the PCS Chair, and the Editor may appoint other committee members, with the approval of the PCS Chair. The Scree Editor is responsible for putting together the PCS monthly newsletter and assisting with any other news-type stories or articles that might be requested by the Publicity or Social committees.

PCS Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is a temporary committee which is formed for the sole purpose of nominating a slate of candidates for new officers for the next year. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the PCS Chair, and announced at the October meeting. If any of the Nominating Committee members do not meet the approval of a majority of the members present, the Chair shall call for nominations from the floor to replace the disapproved Committee members.

Trip Reports

Matthes Crest – End-to-End

August 11, 2007

By Rick Booth

The Cathedral Peak back country area is one of my favorite places in the Sierra. For some reason I have never tired of slogging up the Budd Lake trail and poking around at all the bumps and peaks back in this region. The Budd Lake trail splits off from the Cathedral Lakes trail quite early, however, the entire area is extremely popular with climbers, back packers, day hikers, fishermen, whatever. Indeed, there is usually a conga line of climbers on the South East Buttress of Cathedral. Further back from Cathedral, and around the corner of the Echo Peaks, is the Matthes Crest. This formation has been a popular climb for many years, however, its popularity has increased once it was included in the SuperTopo guide to the Tuolumne. Nonetheless, the distance from the road makes this climb somewhat problematic since it requires a fairly speedy ascent in order to do the climb and make it back to the trailhead in a reasonable time frame.

The SuperTopo guide describes a route that starts at the south and traverses the crest and ends at the North Tower. From this tower the recommendation is to rappel off and then head for home. This eliminates the north end of the crest from the climb. It turns out I have climbed the Crest twice before, once with Dee for her birthday, and once with Al on one of his visits to the Tuolumne. In both cases we rappelled to the scree from the North Tower. For the Al ascent the fact we got started from the trailhead around noon sort of obligated us to get off the crest at that point in order to avoid, uh, too much hiking with a headlamp.

Somewhere along the line this summer Noriko Sekikawa asked if I was interested in climbing the Crest. I wasn't crazy about the idea but relented under the condition we would go end-to-end. At about 6 AM on August 11, Noriko and I headed out from the Cathedral Lakes trailhead with the intent of climbing the Matthes Crest end-to-end in a day. We chugged up the trail, skirted around Echo Peak #3, and headed for the south end of Matthes Crest. When we arrived at the start of the route there were two parties there already. Fortunately, they were happy to have us head up first, and, in any event, these fellows were determined to stick to the SuperTopo description of the start for the Crest. We went up about forty feet to the left of the SuperTopo start and we not only stayed completely out of their way we never saw them again.

The location of the start to the Matthes Crest seems to be somewhat in question. For some reason, I remember a topo which indicated the start was to the left and across a short slab to a crack which meanders on up until it peters out in fourth class jugs and cracks. I cannot find this topo. SuperTopo seems to be sending people much further right, not in the dihedral (that is HARD), but around to the right of the dihedral in the broken area there. In any case, the slab to the crack is easy, maybe 5.5 to 5.6, but a little short on a lot of protection. This section of rock is also loose and caution should be taken when latching onto what would seem to be solid knobs.

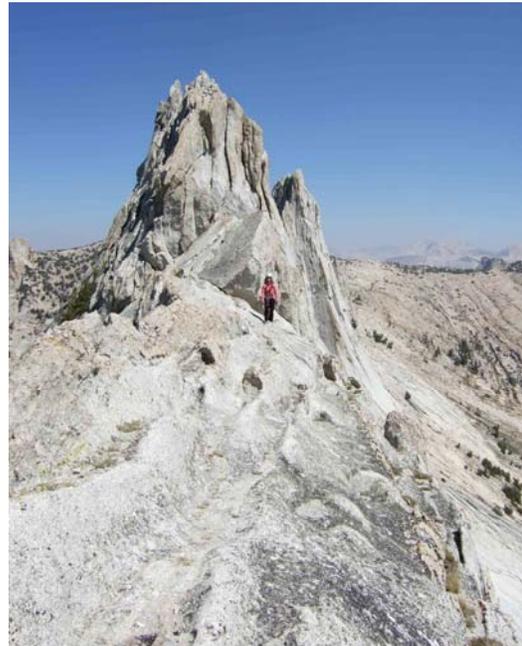
The first pitch goes across this short slab and follows a crack system. Noriko ran the rope out to about 180 feet on this pitch. From the belay it is another 150 feet or so to get right on the crest itself. This second pitch is maybe 5.4 to 5.5. The biggest issue with these two pitches is the loose knobs in this area of rock.

The picture below shows the first pitch. We climbed straight up from below the picture across the little slab and up the crack and knobs to the right in the photo. The two other parties are indicated to the left and are barely discernable. They are heading up the SuperTopo start. The hard dihedrals are in the left part of the picture.



First pitch: Matthes Crest

The end of the second pitch put us right at the crest. The next pitch looks intimidating but it is easy. We coiled the ropes and took off across the crest. There are a couple of fourth class moves along the way on the crest. We ended up soloing the fourth/low fifth class moves to get to the platform just below the North Tower, which is the summit.



Noriko on the third class section



This is looking back along the third class ridge. It is easier than it looks!

The crux pitch climbs to the summit of the North Tower. The South Tower can be climbed, it is third class to the summit if you stick to the ridge, and is fourth/fifth class to descend to the platform below the North Tower. This can be done by climbing directly down to the platform or retreating back the ridge a few hundred feet and then going around ramps on the east side. The crux is solid 5.7 crack climbing but well protected. There is a summit register and an official register box which I don't remember from my previous visits to the summit.

From the summit the standard escape is to make a couple of rappels straight down to the scree. The other option is to continue to the north on the remainder of the ridge. This section of the Matthes Crest turned out to be far more interesting and difficult than the south end of the Crest. Noriko and I had to do rope length belays for just about all of the rest of the north ridge. This is characterized by mostly fourth class ridge traversing with several hair raising down climbs which were about 5.8 at the hardest.



Looking back from the north ridge. The North Tower is behind Noriko.

The north ridge continues along and passes over a curious "wave" of rock which sort of looks like a wave at the ocean beach about to break on the shore. After this wave it is possible to continue along the ridge over two towers. We got stuck on the second tower and rappelled off from a rap station which was there. The remainder of the tower had several rap stations here and there so we could only surmise it was difficult enough to force others off, too.

Once off the rappel we decided to head for home. We headed towards Echo Peak #9 and passed it and Echo Peak #8 on the right hand or eastern side of them and walked over to the scree in Wilts Col which splits Echo Peaks #8 and #9 from the rest of the Echo Peaks. From there it is a stroll down to Budd Lake and the trail. We got some more water from the lake and headed down the trail just as it was getting dark. We arrived back at the car around 9:30 PM and headed back to the campground, yet another Budd Lake Trail hike out by headlamp. Apparently, this seems to be my destiny.

Final

The complete Matthes Crest turned out to be a great route, in fact, the north end of the crest is more interesting than the south end. It is NOT easy. We used one 60M rope, a set of stoppers, and a set of cams consisting of single Aliens from green to red, and a single set of Camalots, from .75 to #3. Maybe the #2 was doubled. We were able to rappel from the dead end on the tower near the very end using the one 60M rope. Barely. A 50M would have been too short.

References:

"Tuolumne Ultra Classics", Greg Barnes, Chris McNamara, Steve Roper, Todd Snyder, SuperTopo, www.supertopo.com

There are some notes about this route in Secor's book and the Moynier and Fiddler book but these are next to worthless.

Notes:

A Couplet – Birch & the Thumb

August 3-5, 2007

By Lisa Barbosa

We left the hot desert floor to climb to the rarely visited Birch Lake, caught beautiful brown trout, explored the dying glaciers to gain the spectacular view of The Thumb, crossed ancient glacial moraines and buried rock glaciers replete with warming induced full-running glacial creeks to climb Birch, and descended back to camp over a three day adventure.

Trailhead: Birch Lake Trailhead, Eastern Sierra near Big Pine, CA. Camp: Birch Lake. Inyo National Forest. Climbers: Bob Suzuki, Jim & Louise Wholey, Lisa Barboza, Alex Sapozhnikov, Eddie Sudol

The Peaks – We bow to thee ~ The Thumb – a magnificently shaped piece of granite, (although its namesake is not the summit), and home of the gods – 13,602. And Birch Mt. 13,665 – Yes, a pile of metamorphic on granite (yes, a roof pendant), and a bit of a slog – but still a great peak with fabulous views from the summit.

Abstract: August 3, 4, 5 2007

Day 1: Birch Lake TH 7200' to Birch Lake 10,800 – 5.5 miles and 4400 feet.

Day 2: Camp to Southeast Slope approach to The Thumb – 2.0 miles and 2800 feet; Thumb to Birch – 2.0 miles and -1300 feet, then + 1600 feet, then down to camp -2850 feet and 1.6 miles.

Day 3: Hike out to the Trailhead, drive home

DAY 1: August 3rd, 2007:

Our merry band of adventurers gathered at the Big Pine junction early in the morning of August 3rd, 2007. With us were Bob Suzuki, leader, Louise Wholey, co-lead, Jim Wholey, Lisa Barboza, Eddie Sudol, Bob Evans, and Alex Sapozhnikov. Our goal was to climb Thumb, make the traverse from the Thumb Col to Southfork pass, and then climb Disappointment, and hike out.

Finding the Trailhead to Birch Lake – Steve Eckert has a good description on <http://climber.org/>, and there is a waypoint list as well. But here are the directions. From Glacier Lodge road, turn left on McMurray Meadows road; drive about 5.75 miles on the gravel road. Just past Birch Creek, look for a right hand turn on your right – It is a 4WD road, although a 2 wheel drive, low clearance vehicle can go up it for about 1/3 mile and there is space for 1 car only at that point. After that 1/3 mile, it's a true 4WD road, with several large rocks. Bob Evan's 4x4 actually bottomed out several times and we had to back up and make a high-speed (like 10 mph) go around one particularly large outcrop where he was spinning his wheels.

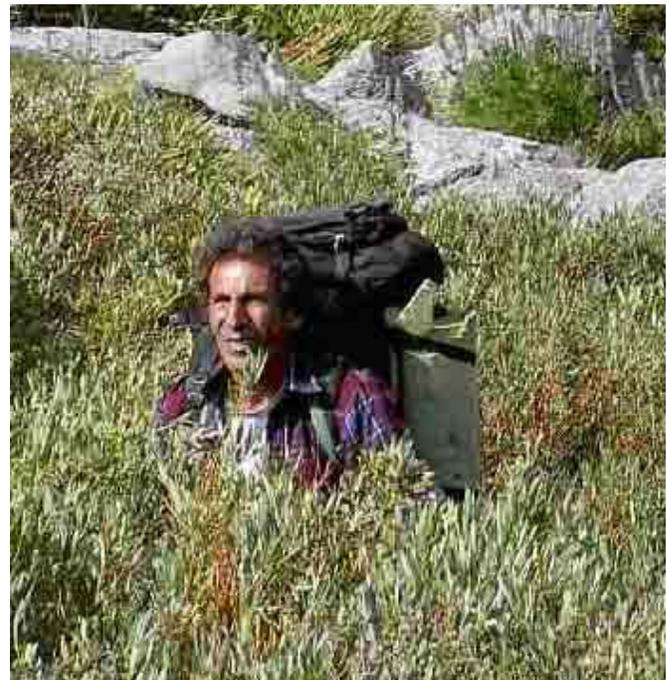
There is 1 parking space on the Trailhead road (a RHT off the gravel road) where a car could park, and then a short walk probably 1/3 mile, to the actual TH. The TH has a sign indicating "Birch Creek TH", and is quite official. We parked at the TH, where there is parking for about 4 vehicles.

Note that Normal passenger vehicles will not be able to get to the TH. Recommend that you park a vehicle up the McMurray Meadows gravel road an additional .9 mile and park next to the McMurray Meadows corral. There's a big flat spot there for parking.

Once at the Trailhead, Finding the Trail – You will innocently follow a trail through a (wet) meadow, that seems to be the right way to go. The trick is to find the turnoff to the right. Head towards Birch Creek on the trail, but DO NOT go up the Birch Creek drainage. The actual trail is one drainage north, we marked the turnoff with a large cairn, and it appears to the right as twin tire tracks for a short distance. There was running water from a creek (even in a dry year August) about 1 mile up the trail. But you're best advised to tank up at the TH. Most of us carried 2-3L of water.

Warning: If you go up the creek, you'll be faced with a lot of sidehilling, brush, and an eventual climb over the ridge to get to the drainage north of the creek. There is a use trail there – but don't take it.

The trail proceeds through high desert, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and climbs for about 4400 feet from the TH to Birch Lake. Towards the end, the trail disappears into a set of willow thickets that abound near the streams heading down the mountain, trending southeast. These are spring fed and run all year round. The trail after going x-country. It's best to go high, above the willow. By doing so, you will avoid most of the bushwacking. Otherwise, should you choose to go through them, you can do so, but there really is no trail through them that we could find. Bushwacking through the thickets is interrupted often by precipitous falls into small streams that appear out of nowhere.

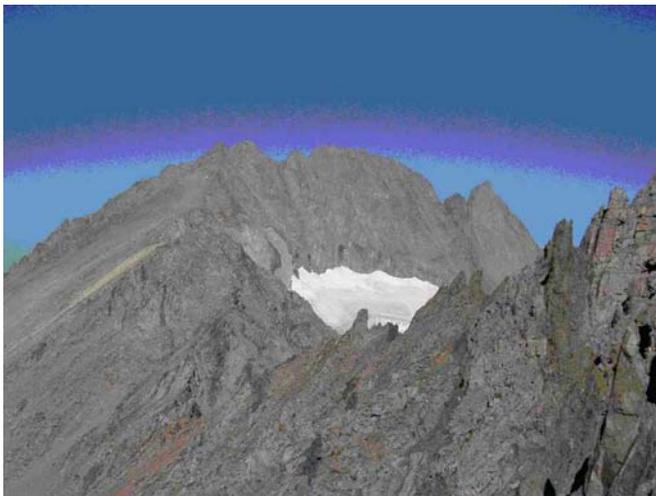


Eddie – deep in the willows

Birch Lake, judging by the appetite of the numerous Brown and Rainbow Trout, is seldom visited (at least by fisherman). Jim was able to catch a fish every 5 minutes (Oops! There goes the fishing). We camped at the NE side of the lake. There is a large (10X20) gravel spot, with 1 other spot for a tent as well that don't trample meadowgrass or other vegetation. Tent sites are scarce, but there is also room for about 5 bivi sacks in isolated sites. This is also quite a windy spot as the cold air drains for the mountains at dusk.

DAY 2 August 4th, 2007:

Climbing Thumb/Disappointment: We left at 6AM for our attempt to climb Disappointment. We contoured around the north side of Birch Lake (Counter clockwise), staying close to the lake surface. We went up the mountain at a small cliff defect and climbed the slab bands, which lead into the bowl that yields to the Southeast slope around Thumb Peak. The Thumb, a near vertical granite peak with a wide chimney crack that runs To reach the bowl, we climbed up a defect (the obvious route) below the no name peak between Birch and Thumb to the large bowl below The Thumb. We arrived at the col, about 800 feet SSW of The Thumb, where we had intended to down climb to SouthFork Pass, too late in the day. We had exceeded our turnaround time, and discretion won the argument over valor. As a result, we decided to climb Thumb, and then, a smaller party would climb Birch. Thumb is an obvious climb from the saddle, but if you are at the saddle, you're advised to keep it to CL2 by going around the right hand (east) side of the false summit. The left hand side might go at CL3. There is a bit of CL3 near the summit, but it's easy. There's a great view of the Middle Palisades from the summit – I personally could have spent about a year up there! (Back in my treeplanting days, I was a member of the Thumb Crew, in Eugene, Oregon, and I was present at the Mt. St. Helens eruption, witnessing the event from 10 miles away!)



The View from Thumb Col

Cimbing Birch – South side, CL2. We (Alex, Eddie, and I) traversed over the glaciers and moraines, after downclimbing from the Thumb Bowl. A sad sight. Wanting for water, we dug a small hole in the ice to procure some. Little did we know that we would be confronted with rivers of the stuff. As we progressed closer to the Lane Pass saddle – we found at least 5 glacial creeks. These were 2 feet wide, a foot deep – and running cold and fast. It as though the glacier was melting before our eyes, and another objective evidence of increased global temperatures, likely from

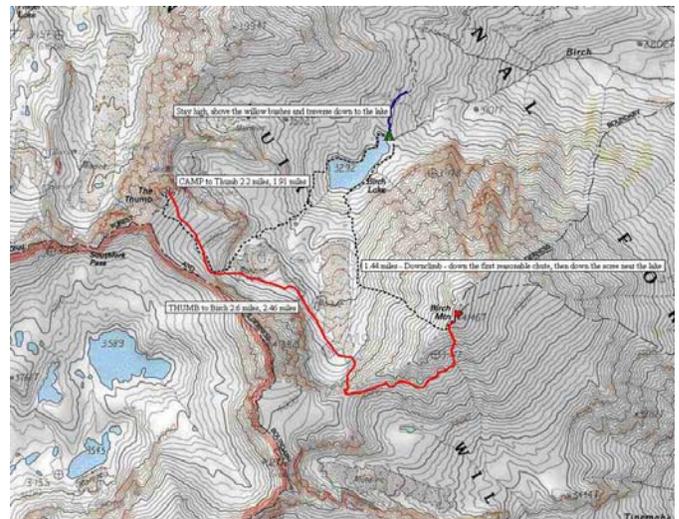
anthropogenic influences. Pretty scary from a GW perspective (that's Global Warming, not W Bush).

Once past the glaciers and moraines, we went over "Lane Pass", at the saddle between Birch and the unnamed peak to the west. In this subnormal snow year, there was no snow in the saddle. The saddle chute is 2nd class if you pick the right route, although you could probably get into CL3 if you tried. We observed proper climbing rules as there is significant rockfall on this loose chute. Then, we traversed the south side, until we found a chute that went to the summit. The summit is a few 'bumps' over.

Downclimbing Birch - we went about 300 yds west of the summit on the north face of the peak along the ridge, found an obvious chute down, and promptly went down about 1200 feet. It looks like there is a cliff at the bottom but it does go. Ours had rock ribs on the right hand side, but the rock was quite loose, so be careful. But it's a wide chute so you can go down in parallel. We went down a sandy chute just above the south side of the lake. I wouldn't want to go up that way, and recommend the counterclockwise route described previously. The route on the lake shore is straightforward. To get back to camp, you have to cross the lake outlet – which- you guessed, is obscured by willows. There is an invisible rock bridge (human built) across the stream outlet, and quite camouflaged by dense willows. You're advised to find it, and use it to cross the outlet stream. By the time we were down at lake level, the wind was blowing close to 30 knots, and we spent a windy, but comfortable night.

Day 3: August 5th, 2007:

The hike out, for those of us who were tired of bushwacking and chose a higher route, was quite satisfying. The others became very intimate with the species *Salix lasiandra*, Yellow Willow (in fall). The scientific name for the willow genus, *Salix*, is thought to come from Gaelic words meaning "near water." And how true! We hiked the 5.5 miles out in about 4 hours. And a good time was had by all!



Our routes

LeConte/Corcoran Aug 31 - Sept 3, 2007

By Louise Wholey

As we all know, life is good! It does not get any better than flying to Bishop after a storm, then spending four days in the mountains



scrambling up numerous peaks and feasting on fresh trout. Participants on this whirlwind tour south of Whitney were Bob Suzuki (choreographer), Jim Ramaker (assistant), Linda Sun, Harry Xue, Eddie Sudol, Jim and Louise Wholey.

Trails, both maintained and “use”, brought us amidst intermittent rain showers on Friday to our camp at Meysan Lake. Saturday, at first light, we scrambled up and out of the cirque around Meysan Lake via gully just left of the black water stains. Our first target was Irvine. From there we looked at McAdie, which most participants had already climbed, and found little interest from the leaders to do it. But we saw an incredibly large rock slide on its north side. Many gullies that normally contain snow are subject to serious rock slides this year. We heard many of them. Be careful!



Big Rock Slide

While Bob and Eddie retreated to camp, Jim, Jim Linda and Louise traversed to Mallory aiming for the twin spires of rock high on Mallory’s East Ridge. Past that the south side was easy walking.

The descent was interesting. At first it was an easy slope, but it steepened into horribly loose scree as we descended the middle of a huge bowl between Mallory and LeConte, then a steep gully through the rock band. At a fork in the gully most of us stayed too far right and had to slide precariously down steep firm snow. Linda went left and fared much better. At least now we knew which way not to go up and which way to go down. Back at camp several people took a hand at fishing and were rewarded catching big ones on which to feast.

Sunday was the big day – climb LeConte and traverse to Corcoran across the steep long ridge across numerous gullies and ridges. The first issue was how to climb the rock headwall surrounding the lake. Clearly the descent route of the previous day would have been worse than tedious, though some others camped near us took that route – and took forever to get up it. We chose the rock gully just left of three snow patches and just right of the furthest left gully. It was nice third class climbing and put us on the NE ridge leading directly to the base of LeConte.

Bob chose the northeast face for the ascent of the LeConte despite complaints from the group that Secor calls it class 4. It was a very nice class 3 climb, not particularly hard, especially when a good climber (Bob) finds the way for everyone including a group of 3 SPSers that followed us the whole way.

For the traverse we had to descend a few hundred feet toward the waterfall pitch on the northwest chute, then go up to the left. The key to finding this obscure route was a trip report by David Harris <http://climber.org/TripReports/2001/782.html>. When to go up and down in the gullies as well as where to cross the ridges was important. We had many cairns to follow along the way, until we neared the summit and found no more cairns, just Steve’s rock window. We climbed up there as it seemed appropriate - on some of the most difficult class 3 rock we had seen that day.

Jim Ramaker took copious notes on the route details, so send your questions to him. ☺ When we returned to the waterfall pitch, a bit tired, we chose to use a hand line to descend it. A speedy traveler scooted past us scrambling down the pitch and quickly disappeared from sight – probably a day-hiker bagging half a dozen peaks that day. At camp we found that Jim had devised a catch and release scheme for fishing. We had used all but a tiny bit of our fuel cooking the many fish on the first two days.

Most of the group chose to hike out on Monday for their long, slow drive back home, but Jim and I elected to climb Lone Pine Peak via a dreadfully loose and uninviting looking scree gully. We climbed the delightful left side on solid rock, a fun class 2 climb. On the summit shoulder we met two climbers who had tried to climb the north ridge the previous day. Our first knowledge of them was an after dark scream “Help!” We had seen lights from their bivouac spot and wondered if they were in big trouble. The fellow had a big cut down the full length of his cheek; the lady said she just freaked out and called for help once, the call we heard. They were indeed just fine. We suggested they check in with the ranger to tell them they were ok, as our group planned to report the incident. Our climb continued across the boulder strewn slopes to the summit, passing an interesting rock window on the way. The descent was easy, just shuffle down the scree – good practice for the upcoming ski season. Round trip from the trail was about 4 hours.

Lover's Leap, Sep 15-16, 2007

By Louise Wholey

What a phenomenal trip! A huge group of climbers came out for a beautiful cool fall (though calendar said summer) weekend. The group consisted of Jeff Fisher (leader), Natalie Guishar (co-lead organizer), Richard Gigax, Kelly Maas, Landa Robillard, Judy Molland, Joe Baker, Mike and Andrea Snadden, Caroline Rault, Rémy Goglio, Julius Gawlas, Rick Booth, Vicky Wong, Misa Gieseey, and Jim and Louise Wholey. Most climbers were out to enjoy a first visit to Lover's Leap and to refresh their "trad" climbing skills. For me it was a revisit after a 35 year absence!

Four people, Natalie, Richard, Remy and Jim, joined Landa on Saturday on a successful hike up Pyramid Peak via Sylvia Lake. Meanwhile, back at the rock, Mike and Andrea along with Joe and Judy took off early on Saturday to try the Hogsback routes. They invited me to join them. My main objective for the weekend was to climb Corrugation Corner. When it became clear that it would not happen Saturday, I dashed off in my crocs, the wrong approach shoes, to join them. Mike, Andrea and I had great fun on Knapsack Crack and Deception. I learned how a double rope system with a Guide ATC can be used to bring up two seconds at the same time. Each second cleans the gear on their rope.

Late in the day people continued climbing in the comfortable warm sun rather than retreating for a daylight dinner. Mike and Andrea tackled Harvey's Wallbangers, Center, while Kelly Maas and I sped up the Right side climb. Dinner, wine, and campfire stories followed as we caught up with the hikers who scaled Pyramid Peak.

A late start Sunday due to early morning cold allowed some warming before Kelly and I headed off to do the classic Corrugation Corner. The steep rock presented wonderfully challenging climbing, a mix of corner stemming, face climbing, a bit of jamming, laybacking, chimneying, and waltzing up the amazing dikes. The dikes were thin sheets of very hard rock, extruded between much larger regions of sheer granite walls. Most of the dikes were almost waist high for me, a big step.

Mike and Andrea and also Joe and Judy set off to climb the Farce then finish off the various climbs on Hogsback. Others hiked about or tried a difficult bolt routes. Rick and Vicky scampered up Corrugation Corner so that Vicky could work on leading outdoor climbs. Most folks got an early start home to beat the traffic.

A note from Rick:

"Glad everyone had fun. I got half my projects for the weekend done, Surrealistic Pillar Direct, but didn't get to the other one. Vicky and I cruised up CC. First time for me. It was fun. Vicky lead the whole thing which was a step up for her and she did a great job."

"Apparently, there was a no campfire restriction in place for the LL campground. Not sure why they don't check Saturday night but whatever. We got a written warning Sunday morning for our campfire since we are such old weasels we needed a fire Sunday morning."

I sure hope the next visit to the Leap will be sooner than 35 years. An annual event would be terrific! "Trad" climbing is very different than sport (gym) climbing and is a richly rewarding experience.

Mt. Whitney Mountaineer's Route

Oct 8, 2007

By George Van Gorden

Participants: Dave Chang, Martin Falkire, Ken Westmoreland, Larry Hamowitz, Dale (sorry but I forgot your last name) and George Van Gorden (leader)

We met at the Whitney trailhead at 6:30 AM on Oct. 8th. Our plan was to climb the mountain using the Mountaineer's Route and to come down using the standard Whitney trail. We got started just before 7. After about 1/2 mile on the regular trail, we turned off onto the trail that leads up along the north fork of Lone Pine creek.

We reached Lower Boy Scout Lake at just over 10,000 feet in a little over an hour. From Lower Boy Scout we did better than usual in avoiding bolder crossings on our way to Upper Boy Scout Lake. Just before Upper Boy Scout we veered slightly to the south and started the long slog up to Iceberg Lake. After a couple of minor route finding mistakes, we reached Iceberg shortly after 11.

We rested for about twenty minutes at the lake, refilled water bottles and ourselves, and started up toward the gully at about 11:45. There was no snow in the gully and we scrambled with little difficulty (except for the shortness of breath always present at altitude) up the rocks on the north side of the gully. There were quite a few people in the gully that day and we were worried about rockfall. And our worries did not go unfulfilled. We heard people shouting "rock," and shortly thereafter some very large rocks came down in the gully just to the left of us. We went on a little shaken and maybe moving a little quicker, though a little quicker was certainly all that we could manage.

We reached the top of the gully before 2 and after a very short break continued on to the summit. From the top of the gully we did not climb directly to the summit, but rather traversed farther to the west before turning south and gaining the main Whitney trail. We lingered on the summit for about 1/2 hour, taking pictures, eating chocolate and all that and then at about 2:45 we headed down. We had some clouds but it looked like we would be alright.

Everyone had summited and everyone was back to the cars before 7. As usual, the walk down was beautiful in the evening light and with the alpenglow on the Inyo's. We did meet a ranger on the way down who asked us if we had a permit. We told him that it was our understanding that on the Mountaineer's Route for day use a permit wasn't needed. He acknowledged that we were right but suggested that in the future we stop at the ranger station and get one. He said the gully was becoming very crowded and they were having quite a few problems with people who were unprepared for the difficulties encountered.

I don't know whether I will use the Mountaineer's Route again as I felt the danger of serious rockfall was high with so many people.

Virginia & Twin Peaks, Jun 23-24, 2007

By Lisa Barbosa

An open weekend beckoned, and with a minimum of advance notice, we drummed up climbers for an early Summer climb of the brooding Virginia, and the hidden Twin Peaks. We enjoyed the long days and short nights and made the most of a two day trip.

Trailhead: Green Creek Trailhead, Eastern Sierra near Bridgeport, CA. Camp: In the valley below Twin Peaks. Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest. Climbers: Lisa Barboza, Chris Franchuk, Frank Martin

The Peaks – some wonderful metamorphic rock awaits on both Twin Peaks and Virginia Peak.

Abstract: June 23, 24th 2007

Day 1: Green Creek TH to Virginia Pass, 5.8 miles, 2500 feet to Virginia Pass (10480), then long, gentle traverse 1.25 miles to Camp at 10,490. Climb Twin Peaks from Camp; 1.25 miles, 1800 feet.

Day 2: Camp to Virginia Peak 1.15 miles, 1500 feet. Hike out to Trailhead.

DAY 1: June 23, 2007: Our climbers drove up the night before, had a great dinner at the Bridgeport Inn, and camped at the Green Creek campground. The turnoff from HWY 395 south of Bridgeport is obvious. We picked up our permit from the night drop box at the Bridgeport Ranger Station. The Green Creek campground had plentiful sites, and was close to the trailhead. The trailhead is obvious and well marked. We rose at 5:30 am and were on the trail by 6:30 AM. There is a good trail to Green Creek, and a poorly marked trail to the desired Virginia Pass. The first sign indicates Green Lake to the left, and East Lake to the right. This sign is incorrect. Actually, Green Lake is to the right, and East Lake is to the left. It's true that the 1st turn will take you by Green Lake, but wait until the second left turn off the main trail; it leads down to the north side of Green Lake. This trail runs around the north side of the lake and will lead to Virginia Pass. Once you leave the lake, stay to the north side of the stream that feeds the lake. On the way to Virginia Pass, at the west side of Green Lake, you'll find old mining equipment and a tumbled-down log cabin. At any rate, we arrived at Virginia Pass (10,480) at 10 AM, and then headed for the upper reaches of the valley below Twin Peaks. Finding a pure gravel campsite that was dry proved to be difficult, and we ditched our packs in a non-optimum spot and started the climb up Twin Peaks. This is the Return Creek Valley.

The summit of Twin Peaks isn't visible from the valley floor, but the namesake of the mountain is. There are twin metavolcanic and metasedimentary rock peaks visible, and the summit is quite a bit behind them. A traverse is possible between Virginia and Twin Peaks, but we didn't have time to do both peaks in one day as we hiked in that morning. To climb Twin Peaks, head just to the east of the obvious Twin Peaks cliffs up a CL2 sand slope, which yields to a glacial moraine-talus slope after about 800 feet. The route is CL2, and you will be in the shadow of the cliffs that make up the

buttresses of the Twin Peaks. We turned west just below a snow slope and gained the ridge plateau leading to the actual summit. The true summit of Twin Peaks is about 4 bumps over from when you gain the ridge plateau. We summated at 3:00 PM and were back in camp by 6:30. We decided to move our camp to a sheltered, gravel spot about 100 feet above the lake. The lake is below the cliffs of the namesake Twin Peaks, and is at 10,425 elevation. There is a nearby stream and the GPS Coordinates of the campsite are listed at the end of the report.

Day 2: June 24th, 2007 – Climbing Virginia Peak. We left camp at 6:00 AM, and went up the streambed defect just above camp. Our camp was just above the lake at EL 10,395 and the gully is on the SE side of the namesake Twin Peaks. The streambed starts off with some talus and there was enough snow, at low angle, to climb easily as well. After about 500 feet, we took a southwest heading across the numerous granite benches. These benches form an extensive ledge system which will lead easily to the low point in the saddle along the ridge between Virginia and Twin Peaks. The CL3 route between the two is quite visible here and it looks straightforward; although we didn't take it. Virginia Peak is quite imposing on the way over to it. However, once the saddle is gained, the peak can be easily climbed on its northwest ridge and it's CL2 to the top with a few CL3 spots near the summit. You can easily avoid the CL3 if you stay closer to the ridge. We summated at 9AM, spent a leisure half hour on the summit enjoying the views of Matterhorn & Whorl, and headed back to camp. The summit has a living room sized flat spot and room for plenty of happy climbers. On the hike out, we saw a coyote and several deer, which didn't pay any attention to us – that's a good indicator that this is a seldom visited area.

After an uneventful hike out, we hit the road and were home in the Bay Area quite early.

Camp GPS Coordinates:

TOPO! GPS Data Format UTM NAD83 ElevFeet Local-Time
VTCAMP,11S,293980,4216341,10396,06/23/2007,21:08:39,

Highland Peak, Sep 23, 2007

A Winter Preview

By Louise Wholey

If you are not subscribed to the Sierra Club list LOMAP-PCS-ANNOUNCE, you are missing last minute trip announcements, such as the Highland Peak trip. To subscribe, go to the website <http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?SUBED1=lomap-pcs-announce&A=1>. There are many Sierra Club lists, all of which are listed on <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/index.html>.

Bad weather for Thursday through Saturday made Tower Peak look rather undesirable. Not only is it a long walk in and out, but the prospects of climbing third class rock covered with snow resulted in the cancellation of the trip. To maintain whatever conditioning might remain in my body after 3 weeks without climbing a

mountain, I was game for most anything. A few others were similarly willing to drive forever to day-climb a peak. Lisa Barbosa, Brian Roach and Rémy Goglio were the ambitious souls.

What? Leave at 4 am? Ok. We did it. We got up early and packed into a 4WD vehicle in case the roads were as bad as the weathermen seemed to expect. We saw lots of clouds but no ice on the road as we drove up to Ebbets Pass. As we descended to the trailhead on the east side the sky became partly sunny. Our spirits were high as we started up the Noble Canyon Trail. Our route included a few miles on the trail then a left turn to climb up the gentle west ridge.

Above 10000 feet the ground became snow-covered. Rime frost decorated the scrub brush and rock outcroppings.



Rime ice and Scree editor, Louise

The route was class 1 though due to steep rock outcroppings we had to descend and ascend through tricky footing in the snow. We could not see the summit due to cloud cover, but, of course, our trusty and not so rusty GPS devices told us exactly where to go. The rust now tends to collect on the map and compass navigation skills.

Freezing temperatures reminded us that winter weather is not as forgiving as summer. On the summit the sky began clearing in earnest. The snowy frosty scenery on the way down was splendid, another reminder that winter is very special. People frolicked briskly down the snow-covered scree slopes; snow brings out the "kid" in us all.

Highland Peak Logistics

By Lisa Barbosa

Leader: Lisa Barboza; Co-Lead, Brian Roach

To get the the TH for Highland Peak, go east on HWY 4 through Murphys and over Ebbets Pass. The TH is 7210 feet, peak is 10,905. The trailhead is at the first of two hairpin turns, when headed east past Ebbets Pass, about 4.3 miles from the pass. The trailhead sign is not immediately visible from the road; but if you stop at the first hairpin (there is parking for about 4 cars), and peer south for about 100ft, you will see an official trailhead, named Noble Creek Trailhead (with overnight permit sheets and

everything). It's a one-way trip of 5 miles, and a gain of 3695 feet. To climb the peak, head up the well-used trail from the trailhead, heading south on Noble Creek. You will pass through a white fir-aspen-ponderosa pine forest, crossing Noble Creek on trail, which eventually yields to a red-fir, lodgepole pine forest. You will cross several creeks, and about 2.9 miles along the trail (2.5 miles as the crow flies via GPS to the cars, and 1.54 to the peak itself), you want to head up a nose of a ridge, avoiding the streambed. This means that you should head up before the stream (the 4th stream you come to after you cross Noble Creek). You will be at an elevation of 8000, and you will climb to the saddle between Silver Mt. and Highland, which is 10,150. Once at the saddle (We encountered about 4-10 inches of snow on our route) you will take a heading south along the ridge. We stayed to the west of the ridgeline, and were able to avoid any CL3 climbing (which would have been dangerous with snow and ice cover). For most of our climb, we were unable to see the peak and visibility was limited to 400 feet. Dual GPS receivers and prudent map reading got us to the summit. Once at the summit, the sky cleared to the north, and we actually had a view.

We left the cars at 8:50 AM, summited at 1:00 PM, and were back to the cars by 3:50 PM, for a 7 hour round trip total.

Private Trips

Note: Private trips are not insured, sponsored, or supervised by the Sierra Club. They are listed here because they may be of interest to PCS members. Private trips may be submitted directly to the editor.

Nov 3-4 – Pinnacles Climbing

Contact: Jeff Fisher (jeff_fischer_5252@sbcglobal.net, 408.733.1299)

Alternate: Rick Booth (rwdbooth@gmail.com)

Join us for our annual fall trip to the Pinnacles south of Hollister for class 5 climbing, or simply hiking or biking. We have a group campsite reserved on the east side. Cost is usually about \$8 per person.

There will be climbers of varying abilities. Bring shoes, harness and helmet needed if you are going to be climbing class 5. Ropes and leaders are especially welcome.

Mid-January 2008 – Kilimanjaro - Tanzania

Contact: Warren Storkman (650-493-8959, dstorkman@aol.com)

Climb Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Take an optional safari. Inquiries are welcome.

March ?, 2008 – Mt. Lassen Climb

Contact: Stephane Mouradian (mailto:smouradian@hotmail.com)

Overnight snow camp, ski or snowshoe. Crampons and ice axe required.

Elected Officials

Chair:

Kelly Maas / kelymbase-pcs@yahoo.com
1165 Smith Ave. Unit D, Campbell, CA 95008
408-378-5311

Vice Chair and Trip Scheduler:

Lisa Barboza / pcs-vice@att.net
4382 Moran Drive, San Jose, CA 95129
650-493-8099

Treasurer and Membership Roster (address changes):

Toinette Hartshorne / toinette@pipeline.com
650-556-9497

Publicity Committee Positions

Scree Editor:

Louise Wholey/ screeditor@yahoo.com
21020 Canyon View Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070
408-867-6658

PCS World Wide Web Publisher:

Rick Booth / rwdbooth@gmail.com
237 San Mateo Av., Los Gatos, CA 95030
408-354-7291

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

Our official website is [http:// lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/](http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/pcs/)

Email List Info

If you are on the official email list (lomap-pcs-announce@lists.sierraclub.org) or the email list the PCS feeds (pcs-issues@climber.org), you have a free EScree subscription. For email list details, send "info lomap-pcs-announce" to "listserv@lists.sierraclub.org", or send anything to "info@climber.org". EScree subscribers should send a subscription form to the Treasurer to become voting PCS members at no charge. The Scree is on the web as both plain text and fully formatted Adobe Acrobat/PDF.

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 Monday, Septemeber 24th. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.



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