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# **BOULDER**

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**motherlode chapter · sierra club**

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1984 / ISSUE #1

1984 A YEAR OF PROSPECT AND CHANGES

In retrospect of 1983, Peak and Gorge has done well in maintaining its progress of activities, but 1983 has also shown much promise for Peak and Gorge. It is a promise that many of the new goals made will come into effect throughout 1984. Changes are already being made as a result of these goals, and these changes are painting a promising and progressive new year picture.

Though some of these goals and changes are still far ahead of us, others are assuredly coming into effect. One such change is the new Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMTC). BMTC classes will begin in February. This course is designed to aid interested persons in developing their basic skills in mountaineering. An accompaniment to the BMTC will, we hope, be an increase in Peak and Gorge mountaineering outings. Numerous members have expressed an interest in having Peak and Gorge not only develop a BMTC but to also expand its mountaineering outings section. To aid in doing this, it has been suggested that Peak and Gorge develop a collective of competent leaders who will remain active in scheduling outings of this nature. We hope these new changes will add some interesting dimensions to our organization, and that they offer you the scope of programming you want.

An additional but recognizable change we are making is our new format of communication. This newsletter signifies the start of our new newsletter the Peak and Gorge Boulder. A brief history of our newsletter's conception tells how it was born and why this change was necessary.

It seemed only natural that in time the Peak and Gorge general fund would feel the bite of mailing monthly newsletters, many of which were sent

to members who no longer participated in meetings and activities. Such mailers were costly and only partially effective, so a solution was necessary to reduce costs and increase effective communication; thus, the concept of this newsletter was born.

To effectively eliminate the problem of cost, it was suggested that a yearly subscription fee of \$4.00 be charged per subscribing member or household. This fee would cover most printing and mailing costs. The other advantage of having subscriptions is that it would allow us an opportunity to update our mailing list and relieve those poor souls who wish we'd stop cluttering their mailboxes with our newsletters. For all good intentions, though, the subscribed newsletter idea was not intended to merely reduce expenditures and update the mailing list, it was, on the contrary, designed to allow us an opportunity to upgrade our newsletter so we could effectively update both active\* and non-active\* subscribing members of the activities, goals, and developments of Peak and Gorge.

It may seem a simple solution for the problems at hand, but we feel it will succeed, and we likewise feel such a newsletter is vital if Peak and Gorge is to grow and stimulate new interests. We look to many of our sister organizations in the southern Sierra Club as models of success, and we hope that our newsletter, as with theirs', will help contribute to the growth of our membership and the unity of our organization.

If our newsletter and increased outing activity can bring about our desired goals of growth and unity, than our efforts will be worth while. We are already seeing some changes taking place, and it is both encouraging and enticing; but, these are only a small portion of the changes we will see in the future. We likewise know that we can't accomplish these goals without your support, and we ask that you help by contributing your suggestions, by participating in our outings and activities, and by subscribing to our newsletter.

Thanks for your support.

\* active member: A subscribing member active in outings, activities, meetings, etc.  
\*\* non-active member: A subscribing member not active in outings, activities, meetings, etc.

#### THE PEAK AND GORGE BOULDER

Now that we've explained the purpose of our newsletter, we'd like to outline its' format for you. Here's what you can expect to see in our bi-monthly newsletter:

- 1) Chairman's Column
- 2) Upcoming Monthly Meeting Outline
- 3) Recap of the Previous Meeting
- 4) Trip Review
- 5) Sounding Out (letters to the editor or chairman)
- 6) What's New (articles of varied topics relating to the wilderness)
- 7) Classifieds (equipment, trips, etc.)

Since this newsletter is still in infancy, we encourage you to submit suggestions, or -better yet- articles, to the editor (address below).

For all members interested in subscribing, Fill out the subscription form in this newsletter, and send it along with \$4.00 to Peak and Gorge Boulder, c/o Janet Friebus 2520 Greenwood Ave. Sacramento CA. 95821. Make checks payable to Peak and Gorge. Annual dues will be due by Feb.24, 1984 and will be good throughout 1984. You can expect to see your next issue by mid-march.

Persons interested in submitting articles for the March-April issue should send them in no later than Feb. 27, 1984. Please send them to the above address.

## TRIP REVIEW

### BEAUTY AND THE RAIN

By Tarjan

The weather looked only minimally promising that day, so I figured few people would show for the scheduled day hike. In all, there were seven of us, and we regrouped at Foresthill. The timing couldn't have been worse. We hoped for a partial clearing, which the weatherman indicated was due, but as soon as we all piled out of the cars a dark blue cloud dumped a wet load on us. We scampered into the donut shop and deliberated like a jury over the possibilities of hiking. No one was particularly interested in hiking down to Mumford Bar in a down-pour, no one that is but me. I've hiked in rain so often and have come to appreciate the beauty of the wet wilderness such that rain is not disenchanting to me. I was set on going, besides I had just gotten a new rain suit the day before and I wanted to give a thorough shake down; so, I thought, what better circumstances could occur; it was late fall, Mumford Bar Trail is easy and well groomed, and it was pouring like the dickens. Three members of the group declined the wet invitation and went off in search of dryer activities, so we officially cancelled the trip. But the rain didn't heed Harry, Mike, Patty, and myself from hiking, and so we headed up the ridge to the trailhead.

I'll not forget Mike's decision to leave his camera behind, for he apparently figured that taking pictures in the rain would be very inconvenient. I told him he would probably regret his decision because I felt that there would be an abundance of unique pictures to take. I was right.

Perhaps it was a sixth sense that told me the hike down would be extraordinary, or maybe I only thought that because Mike didn't want to take his camera; Mike always takes his camera, and it would be just his luck that the scenery would be beautiful. As fate would have it, it was beautiful. The trail was lavishly dotted with mushrooms and fungi of numerous varieties. It was almost like walking through an exotic botanical garden. What made it even more thrilling was knowing that those fungi were in maturity for only a short while, and we were there to witness it.

The rain, contrary to what you might think, enhanced the character of those mushrooms by making them glisten and reflect the subtle colors of the blue-gray forest and the reddish brown forest floor. Those colors, added to the saturated ochres, siennas, and bone colors of the mushrooms, made the forest seem like a colorful Hobbit Land.

It was hard for me to keep up with everyone else because I couldn't help but gaze often at these intricate little wonders; for during their maturation they take on such creative shapes and forms. I consider them to be some of the most sensual living sculptures of the earth (plus they also look very appetizing).

The spectacle of the hike wasn't dominated just by the mushrooms. When we arrived at the river and got to Mumford's cabin, the apple tree that Mumford must have planted himself had just dropped the last of its incredibly high crop. These golden delicious apples tasted tangy and wild, almost a bit like quince, and they were big too. Certainly I assumed they were from an old breed of hardy apples, something we don't see or taste much today. I, of course, was more than happy to savor their wild, hardy taste while resting at Mumford's clearing.

I'm a bit of an opportunist when it comes to getting free food, so I talked Harry into carrying out as many apples as he could carry while I too carried a load. The walk back along the Bar was colorful. Many of the big-leaved Maples were just dropping their brilliant yellow leaves, and the tree tops as well as

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the forest floor were intensely yellow; set against the deep blue gray hue of the rainy forest it was indeed impressive.

The hike out of the canyon wasn't as easy as I thought. I have a tendency to underestimate the length of the trail, and I almost always forget that the trail rises 2700 ft. from the river. But we finally reached the top just in time to see a few snow flakes.

It's ironic that only 20 minutes after we reached the cars the weather decided to clear up. Our drive down the Foresthill Divide was so bright and sunny that I was nearly blinded by the light. The weather was contrasting itself by huge extremes, but then so too is the nature of a storm's finale--in a flurry one moment, followed by serenity the next moment.

So much happened that day that I didn't acknowledge the discomforts and hazards of hiking in such torrential conditions, but had I done so, I might not have enjoyed myself so much let alone even gone. It was fortunate for me that I didn't let my fears dominate me, for I would have missed a quintessence of beauty and contrast.

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#### PEAK and GORGE CALENDAR

Feb. 6, Mon.	Peak and Gorge Meeting
Feb. 23, Thurs.	Introduction to Snowcamping
Feb. 24, Fri.	Articles due for Mar-Apr. Boulder issue
Feb. 25,26, Sat-Sun.	Snowcamping Outing
Apr. 2, Mon.	Peak and Gorge Meeting
Apr. 5, Thurs.	BMTC Introduction & 1st lecture
Apr. 7, Sat.	BMTC 1st outing- Conditioning hike
Apr. 26, Thurs.	BMTC Lecture #2
Apr. 27, Fri.	Articles due for May-June Boulder issue
Apr. 28-29, Sat-Sun.	BMTC Outing-Rockclimbing & Navigation
May. 1, Tue.	Summer Outings Trip Write-up Deadline
May. 7, Mon.	Peak and Gorge Meeting
May 10, Thurs.	BMTC Lecture #3
May 13, Sat.	BMTC Outing-Snow Travel & Ice Axe Technique
May 19, Sat.	Peak and Gorge Mountain Rendezvous
May 24, Thurs.	BMTC Lecture #4
May 26-28, Sat-Mon.	BMTC Outing-Snowcamp & Peak Climb
June 2, Sat.	Trail Service Trip- Greenvalley Trail
June 4, Mon.	Peak and Gorge Meeting
June 16-17, Sat-Sun.	BMTC Experience Peak Climb



UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING OUTLINE

Feb. 6, 1984 Monday-7:30 pm

- 1). **BMTC: Basic Mountaineering Training Course.** We'll be discussing the course as well as the schedule. Persons interested in instucting as well as participating should attend.
- 2). Exchange ideas for the summer schedule.
- 3). Discuss upcoming trips and activities.
- 4). **Peak and Gorge Logo:** Now that we have the silk-screen, should we make posters and print on long-sleeved shirts as well as sweatshirts? How profitable would it be and what other brainstorm might work well? Come and help us brainstorm.

MEETING PLACE: 2520 Greenwood Ave. Sacramento. Just off El Camino Ave. past Eastern Ave.

March 5, 1984 Monday-7:30 pm

- 1). **Expeditions:** we helped sponsor them in the past, why not again, and if so, what kind of prerequisites will be required of applicants and how much financial contributions should be given. Persons interested in supporting this kind of service should attend.
- 2). **Equipment fund:** How much do we need and how should we raise the money?
- 3). Review of the BMTC program and its' progress.
- 4). Review of the past winter and fall trips.
- 5). **Summer outing schedules** are due in May. It would be helpful if all leaders could bring a tentative outline of their summer trips. This way we can troubleshoot some of the major conflicts in scheduling prior to the due date.
- 6). **SLIDE PROGRAM:** Mexico's Volcanos Expedition 83-84.

MEETING PLACE: 2520 Greenwood Ave. Sacramento. Just off El Camino Ave.

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a leader, would you like to receive letters and correspondence materials pertaining to leadership activities? \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribers, what ideas or suggestions do you think would help improve our newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_  
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PEAK AND GORGE BOULDER:

Published 6 times a year by the Peak and Gorge Section, Motherlode Chapter, Sierra Club.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Dues are \$4.00 a year and are delinquent Feb. 24th. Subscriptions expire Dec. 31st. Send remittance, payable to Peak and Gorge, to chairman Harry Erl, 2520 Greenwood Ave., Sacramento, CA, 95821.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We encourage you to send articles and letters pertaining to Peak and Gorge activities. Please send single spaced copy to the Editor prior to the first of odd numbered months.

EDITOR:

Janet Friebus, 2520 Greenwood Ave., Sacramento, CA, 95821.

Peak and Gorge, Sierra Club-Motherlode  
c/o Janet Friebus  
2520 Greenwood Ave.  
Sacramento, CA. 95821



*John Serra*  
1500 7th St Apt 9D  
Sacramento, CA 95814

