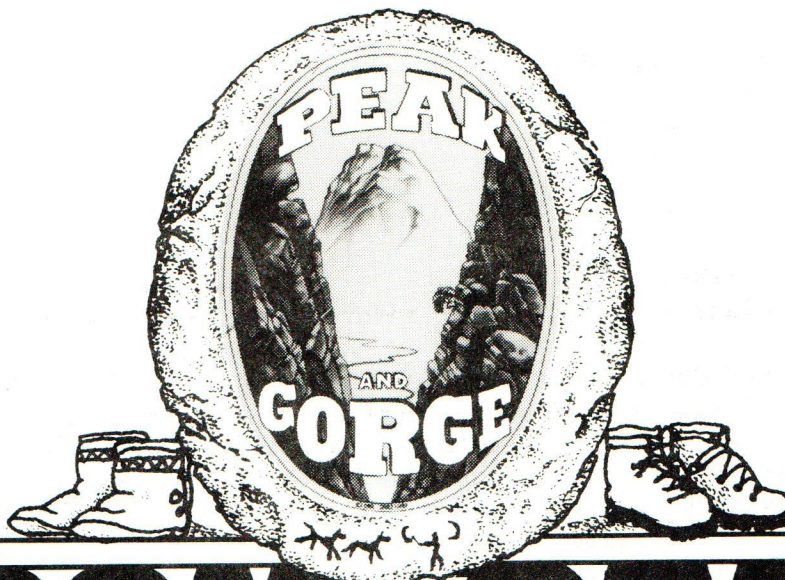


THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1984/ ISSUE # 6

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

With the coming of the festive season comes the ending of the '84' year, and so to comes the nearing of my term as chairman. Many new changes have occurred as I had hoped for with more improvements yet to be ironed out, but all in all this year has been productive. I'd like to thank all of you for supporting Peak and Gorge, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This November's meeting produced some very constructive solutions for the Peak and Gorge structure. It was agreed by the attending members that the political structure of Peak and Gorge be comprised of five committee members who will perform the multiple tasks that the chairman has traditionally performed.

The committee will act as a board of directors who meet and plan the calendar of events for the upcoming year. Each member will voluntarily take responsibility of one or more of the following tasks:

- 1). Outings Schedule Coordinating
- 2). Newsletter Editing and Distributing
- 3). Meetings Scheduling
- 4). Fundraising
- 5). Attending Outings Guidelines Committee Meetings
- 6). Presenting Training Programs
- 7). Coordinating NAS and Ogul Peak lists.

Of these five members a chairman will be chosen who will supercede the committee in organizing its activities.

There are several people who have volunteered to fill these positions. Their names are as follows:

cont...

CONT...

Jackie Stroud
Debbie Bulger
Rodger Ehret
Pete Yamagata
Linus Platt
Harry Erl

Anyone else interested in volunteering is welcome to do so, but you must announce your plans to do so either before or at the December 3rd meeting.

The committee members will be officially appointed to their chosen duties at the December 3rd meeting. Attending members of that meeting will cast their votes of approval, so if you are concerned about who is going to run Peak and Gorge, then we strongly suggest you attend this meeting.

Accompanying this newsletter is a write-in ballot for those of you who are or know someone who is interested in volunteering for the committee. Please send write-in ballots to :

Harry Erl
2520 Greenwood Ave.
Sacramento CA. 95821

Hope to see you in December!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next outings leadership orientation program will be held from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Tuesday, November 20th in the Senate Chambers in the Student Union at California State University Sacramento.

By the time you receive your newsletter Harry and I will be on route to the southwest canyons of Utah and Arizona. We hope to explore the canyons of the Mogollon Rim,, Zion National Park, and the Grand Canyon. What a way to spend a honeymoon!

NEWSLETTER RENEWAL:

The 1984 newsletter subscriptions are nearly expired and the 1985 subscriptions are due by January 9, 1985.

I hope you've enjoyed this past year's 'Boulder'. I wish I could have written more articles, but editing is task enough.

I'm not continuing on as editor; fortunately, Pete Yamagata has graciously volunteered for the position. Pete has been our newsletter's most prolific writer, and I feel he will do a successful job of editing. Thanks Pete!

Please renew your subscription. It will be much appreciated.

The subscription fee is still \$4.00. Please make checks payable to:

Pete Yamagata
2109 10th St. #3
Sacramento CA 95818

END OF THE WORLD - AN (UNSCHEDULED) GORGE SCRAMBLE
MIDDLE FORK - AMERICAN RIVER

"You'll love it!" Barbara Beddow enthused when I called her on Thursday night. "It's just a nice, easy float down the river from Cape Horn to the Iowa Hill Bridge. June Ritzman and I do it every year; we just float and talk all the way down the river." A great way to relieve the tensions of the past working week!

Arriving at the Roseville Square meeting spot on Saturday morning, we were told there was a fire somewhere near Steven's Trail (an area through which our route would take us). Could we still go? Barbara had tried getting in touch with the Forestry and thus far had gotten no information. We decided to regroup at Raley's in Auburn and try again. This time she finally got through only to be told they would appreciate our staying out of the area. Where to go? End of the World had been suggested as an alternate and June and Barbara decided to do it. Everyone climbed into the vehicles and we headed for Foresthill and Mosquito Ridge Road - a long and winding scenic drive, with the tree and brush covered hills descending steeply into the canyon.

We started hiking down a dirt road which turned into a trail and then off the trail and up and over a hill which seemed to be made up mostly of loose rocks and dust and the accompanying almost constant shout of "rock!" down to a super reward for the effort - a deep (cold!) emerald green pool fed by a spectacular waterfall. It looked as though the riverbed had been sliced cleanly across, allowing the water to fall over the edge in three separate sections with greenery sprouting in between. This seemed a perfect spot for lunch, for which we took 15 minutes, Fred Fischietto informing us that we had four or five hours of scrambling ahead before reaching the chosen camp of sand and cedar trees! It was every bit of four or five hours! Forget Barbara's easy floating gossip session! There seemed to be a lot of time spent sitting on the top of boulders and trying to determine which would be the easiest and safest way down and wondering how deep the water might be at the bottom of numerous little falls - would it be that quick jerk when your pack hits the water and "floats" you back up or would there be twisted ankles from sliding off a slippery and/or unseen rock? Should you try it here or pick yourself up and cross the river to check out the situation over there? But no complaints - there were wonderful pools to swim and float through, letting the cool water sooth rebellious muscles and tired ankles and knees.

By this time, the group had split into two sections. When, led by John Schwind (he was way out in front there), we finally and thankfully reached our designated camp, there was no sign of the following group; after darkness fell we gave up on them, figuring they had decided to stop for the night further up the river. (They surprised us by arriving, whooping and hooting, sometime between 8:30 and 9:00 and therefore created a new activity - gorge scrambling in the dark!)

The night was fairly warm and windy and with the moon shining down on us and the sound of rushing water all around it was tempting to stay up and enjoy it, but nope, too tired! The next morning found quite a few of us hobbling about, wondering if the old muscles would ever loosen up but we took heart when Fred informed us that this would be a much shorter day. Well, perhaps it was a shorter day but that last stretch of river seemed a bit rougher...ah, well, this might have been due to tired bodies. There were some spectacular areas - one long narrow stretch where we rested in the sun enjoying the sight of a sheer rock wall towering over us on the other side - very wild-looking, very dramatic. More pools - great to float through them instead of fighting rocks. Then at last, power-lines - we were reaching the PCWA plant - the end of our trip and were we ready! There was even a waterfall to wash off under just a bit up the road from the cars - what a really great scramble - thanks, leaders!

Denise Sutherland

TRIP REVIEWS

FREELANCE OUTING--ATTEMPT ON RED MOUNTAIN (9307')
CRYSTAL RANGE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1984

There had been some discussion amongst a few peak climbers on the feasibility of a long one-day traverse of the four northernmost high points of the Crystal Range--Tells, McConnell, Silver and Red peaks. Having this free weekend, I enjoined Leo Krastins to make this exploratory hike. Inquiring at the new Pollock Pines USFS visitor center, we got a permit and were informed of the approach from the west side.

We drove up the Loon Lake road to the sign for the Van Vleck ranch. Driving on asphalt, then dirt, we arrived at the locked gate where there was parking for three or four cars. We hiked up the road and passed the beautiful setting of the ranch--still resided in presumably. Going on past, there was a broken signpost with arrows indicating the Red Peak trail junction. We took a right turn on this dirt road and in about a half mile came to a large meadow where many cows were grazing.

Crossing the stream a few times, we found the faint trail on the right hand side of the creek, starting from a large logging slash over a mound created by earth movers. The trail was fairly good despite not having been maintained for 10 years. After several miles the trail peters out about a hundred yards before the junction with the trail from Wrights Lake. A large iron sign "501" marks the turnoff point. The trail goes left to Lake No. 3, which lies about 1000 feet below Red Mountain. We did not have time to go for the peak. A pair of mountain cyclists rode past us as we rested on some lakeshore rocks. I estimated that the distance here was six or seven miles from the car.

Luckily, the days were still long, so the return was finished by dark. I decided that if a daylight traverse was to be made, an early start was preferable as at least ten hours of hard moving would be necessary. Save this trip for June or July!

FREELANCE OUTING---TUOLUMNE PEAK (10,845'), YOSEMITE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1984

Carol Shapiro joined Leo Krastins and me to investigate this list candidate as an easy climb and diversion from the local area peaks. We left town Friday night and were able to secure a spot in a USFS Campground just outside the park on Hwy. 120. Cooking our own breakfast, we managed to start around 8:00 a.m. for an apparently long hike from the May Lake trailhead. The guide, I was told, listed the routes on the close side of the peak as various class 5, so we decided to hike to the far side of the peak on the Ten Lakes trail and ascend where the route was listed as class 2.

Leo became fatigued at that point and decided to hike back with some backpackers that we had run into. Carol and I made the 1000' gain to the top which possessed very good views of the domes area. We could see no obstacles to bar us from descending directly to the May Lake side, and indeed, it was class 1. We even found an old trail that switchbacked down from the southwestern slopes of the peak. We hit the main trail ahead of Leo, who was slow in his return. We hiked in the setting sun back to the car. I had a good look at Tenaya Peak, a list potential, which was a high point on a ridge surrounded by even higher points.

Finding Romero's closed early, we continued to Stockton to eat. We had decided that there was no other fitting peak (that I hadn't climbed already) in the vicinity to preempt an easy Sunday at home or on another local hike.

Pete 

TRIP REVIEW

FREELANCE OUTING-- ANGELES CREST PEAKS
MT. SAN ANTONIO (10,064'), HARWOOD, CUCAMONGA PEAK (8859'),
AND MT. BADEN-POWELL (9399')

OCTOBER 4-8, 1984

Initially, the plans were to head for northeastern Nevada to climb whatever peaks that we could in the Ruby Mountains or the East Humboldt Range and also enjoy the glorious fall colors of Lamoille Canyon. However, weather reports indicated a large storm front over the state bringing heavy thundershowers with no predisposition to move. Therefore, the last minute change in plans was decided upon by Leo Krastins and me to head south for good weather.


Leaving Sacramento at 7 a.m., we headed down I-5, over the Grapevine, and into a steadily thickening atmosphere of good ol' L.A. smog. As we cruised on Highway 210 into Pasadena, I felt fear that the heavy pollution would ruin the photography. Entering the approach canyon for Mt. San Antonio, there was heavy mist that obscured the views of the peaks. We camped at Manker Flat, a USFS Campground surprisingly near empty despite the proximity to 12 million people.

Finding the ranger station closed, we had to rely on bulletin board instructions on climbing our first peak. Old Baldy, as it is also known, is approached from the top of a ski area which is reached by a four-mile dirt road closed to cars at the paved highway. There is a steeper trail unknownst to us at the time that leads to the Sierra Club hut situated in the bowl beneath the peak. Anyway, one traverses from the ski area on what is called the "Revil's Backbone," a narrow ridge on which signs tell us four persons were killed from slips on ice or snow. In the dry season it is simple class 1. The climb was begun at 7:45 p.m. and completed by dusk for a long, leisurely day hike. Also, Mt. Harwood, named after Aurelia Harwood who was a Sierra Club president, was easily picked up on the way back. We also had seen two desert bishorns near this summit earlier in the day.

The next day, we had a leisurely breakfast at the Buckhorn and got a permit for Cucamonga Peak. Unfortunately, there had been a bad burn some years ago, so some of the hike was made through blackened forests. However, the memories of the turned maples in Icehouse Canyon made things more pleasant. We celebrated our climbs at the Big M somewhere near Rancho Cucamonga off Fontana.

Driving to the north side of the San Gabriels, we slept, then had a very good breakfast at Papa's Pantry in Wrightwood, a kind of mini-Mammoth ski town. The ascent of Baden-Powell was 2800' gain on a very nice trail through ancient limber pine forests near the top. Returning to the car by 1:30 p.m., we headed north through Phelan and over to U.S. 395. Endless deserts and parched peaks formed my general impression of the southern portion of this beautiful highway. Finally, we reached Olancha and the High Sierra showed its craggy night.

Another Big Mac and fries, then up the next morning to enjoy the brilliant sunshine, beautiful blue skies, and the just turning cottonwoods. The continued drive home was enlivened by visits to Convict Lake, the June Lake loop, and Lundy Canyon for some spectacular fall aspen photography. I never believed there could be so much good color in the Eastern Sierra! We reached home by about 3:30 p.m., logging over 1100 miles on this thoroughly relaxing outing to some surprisingly scenic mountains.

Pete 

WRITE IN BALLOT

Please write in your name or anyone's name who you know would be interested in being a board member on the line below. Please also specify in what area you would like to help.

PEAK AND GORGE,
SIERRA CLUB-MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER
C/O JANET FRIEBUS
2520 GREENWOOD AVE.
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95821

