

# THE



# BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1985

ISSUE #7

## The Chair's Corner

Greetings for the New Year! This year the chairperson of the Peak and Gorge Section will be assisted by a steering committee. I wish to thank those individuals who have volunteered to commit some of their time and energy to help me keep the Section running. My primary responsibility will be to coordinate the outings program for the Section, to determine if persons are qualified to be leaders, and to pull the various other pieces together. Other committee members and their tasks are:

Roger Ehret	(1) 921-6286	Meetings planning
Harry Erl	481-3415	Training programs development
Pete Yamagata	444-6319	Newsletter editing & distribution
Debbie Bulger	454-5140	Outings Guidelines Com. rep.
Linus Platt	925-4982	Fund raising promotion

If you have ideas to share in any of the above areas, please contact the pertinent individual.

Although we recognize the importance of camaraderie developed through social functions and unofficial private trips, the Section's principal purpose will be to promote and implement a variety of peak and gorge club trips for the enjoyment and environmental appreciation of Sierra Club members. In this way we will be maintaining a Sierra Club tradition of mountaineering and exploration.

Concentrating on developing an active outings program will not be a short-term effort, particularly since additional requirements for new leaders are being formulated by the Outings Guidelines Committee. This year we will need to make greater use of trip assistant leaders in order to qualify future leaders. In addition, more of the current qualified leaders will be encouraged to lead trips. With the variety of current leaders that we have, the schedule would have something for everyone if each such leader would lead even a couple of trips!

Although there will not be a formal Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMTc) offered this year, we will continue to work on the improvement of skills of active Club members through the use of Section meetings and practice/instructional trips. Every trip provides a learning experience itself, whether in regards to sharpening your outdoor skills or learning about your environment, yourself, and others. So--- be active and have fun in the year ahead!

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

The new year brings a reorganization of Peak and Gorge that has placed me on top of this massive job of writing and editing, publication and mailing that the Boulder requires. With a new chairperson and the assignment of the various duties to our new committee people, I feel that a new impetus has charged into our efforts to better our organization and consequently provide better services and opportunities regarding our favorite activities.

Taking care of our little newsletter should not be a job for just one person, but the collective efforts of everyone involved with Peak and Gorge's activities. Lest this writing job for me become a ego-trip, I would like to take this time to ask for articles of outings, scheduled or interesting private, or "freelance outings" and also any interesting bits of information, announcements, and advertisements for the sale and purchase of outdoor climbing and hiking gear. Please, we need trip reviews, and one need not be the leader of the outing to write a description of the happenings on the climb, scramble, ski peak climbing event.

The idea of a newsletter was conceived a long time ago, and THANKS to Janet Erl, was brought into reality a year ago. Our organization needs a centerpiece of communication to keep members aware and reminded of all of the great activities that Peak and Gorge offers. Many have said that the Sacramento area just does not have the volume of climbers and adventurers to keep an organization like ours on foot with the massive Southern California Peak Sections. But our local area has many advantages unique to its location. Proximity brings opportunities for weekend and day adventure, and access to the beautiful places that are only a short distance away is no great problem. Perhaps, with an increase in membership, we will bring more services and ideas to spread around to ourselves and expand this newsletter to a more sophisticated format.

WE INVITE ALL SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE AND ASSIST WITH OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE PEAK AND GORGE TO EVEN LOFTIER HEIGHTS. PLEASE SEND TYPEWRITTEN SINGLE SPACED ARTICLES TO : EDITOR, PEAK AND GORGE NEWSLETTER  
2109 10th Street #3  
Sacramento, CA 95818

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU  
VEEERRRRRRYYYYY MUCH!

Pete Yamagata

## New Leadership Training Proposal of the Outings Guidelines Committee

by Debbie Bulger

The Outings Guidelines Committee is currently in the process of adopting a new leadership training program. This is primarily the result of an increasing number of problems on trips as our Chapter grows. The new program will not apply to existing leaders. Central to this new program is a field experience component designed to complement the present classroom only session.

In addition, new leaders will be certified to lead specific levels of trips rather than just designated as a "leader". For example, a leader may qualify to lead day hikes and day bicycle trips but may not be certified to lead technical rock climbs, ski mountaineering trips or class III and above river tours.

In summary, the proposed leadership training program will consist of the following requirements:

1. Completion of Leader's Application Form.
2. Attendance at classroom leadership training session. (Approx. 3 hours.)
3. Possession of basic American Red Cross first aid card.
4. Field experience appropriate to level of leadership desired.

For overnight class 1 and 2 peak climbs this requirement consists of five trips as a participant, or equivalent on non-club trips, assisting on at least one climb at this level, leading one trip under the guidance of an experienced leader with the latter being listed in the Bonanza. Trips requiring class 3 and above rock climbing or cross-country navigation by map and compass will have additional requirements.

The Section Chairperson will determine, after consultation with other leaders, if appropriate, when an aspiring leader has successfully completed the field experience component. When all requirements are fulfilled, Jackie Stroud will add that person's name to the list of certified leaders and notify the Peak and Gorge representative to the Outings Guidelines Committee.

Existing leaders are encouraged to refresh and update their skills as opportunity and necessity dictate. For example, classes such as advanced first aid, avalanche training, CPR, etc. are suggested.

It is expected that these new requirements will be adopted at the January 21 meeting of the Outings Guidelines Committee. The effective date of these requirements has not yet been determined. Questions about this new program may be directed to Debbie Bulger (454-5140).

Letters to the editor are welcomed on this or other topics.

### FIRST AID and CPR

The American Red Cross Standard First Aid course is given in one 8-hr. class on weekdays and weekends, incl. Sundays. The class is \$8.50 and the book is \$5.00. Call 452-6541 for scheduling info.

The American Red Cross will sponsor a CPR Saturday on January 26 (Sat). Classes are free and will be held at: Capital Plaza Holiday Inn (downtown), Mather AFB, Christian Brothers H.S., and Consumnes Com. College. Four-hour classes begin every hour from 8am.-8pm. You must sign up in advance. Call 1 (800) 222-4CPR for sign-up and 442-2242 for further information.

J.S.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Jan 26 Sat CPR Saturday (see article in this issue)
- Jan 28 Mon Trip write-ups for March-June schedule are due to Jackie.
- Feb 4 Mon P & G meeting at home of Jackie Stroud, 4617 Buckingham Way, 7:30 p.m. Slides of Arizona and Utah honeymoon trip of Harry Erl & Janet Friebus. Refreshments.
- Mar 18 Mon Special meeting for gorge enthusiasts at home of Barbara Beddow, 2717 17th St., 7:30 p.m.
- Apr 1 Mon P & G meeting at home of Andy Sawyer and Carol Bingham, Bridgeway Towers, 500 N. St., Apt. 1403. Slides of Andy & Carol's honeymoon mountaineering trip to Ecuador. Ice axe pointers to be provided. Bring your wish list of summer peaks to climb.
- Apr 29 Mon Trip write-ups are due <sup>to Jackie</sup> <sub>^</sub> for the June-September Bonanza schedule.
- May There will be no regular meeting of Peak and Gorge in May.

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## JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Anyone who is <sup>INTO</sup> ~~in the~~ rock climbing is well aware of one of the most popular rock climbing areas in the United States, Joshua Tree National Monument, in the Mohave Desert. Following Christmas, I spent several days in Joshua, climbing, hiking, exploring, and "kicking back."

The rock formations are unique all over Joshua - large, smooth appearing boulders and towers with routes for all abilities, including lots of cracks. Everything from bouldering to scrambling to high rock walls are available.

There are also a number of historical sites to see in Joshua, some requiring hiking to get to. The hiking trails require no more than moderate effort, the longest being 7.5 miles roundtrip.

Twelve campgrounds are available on a first come basis. You must bring your own water and firewood. The Fall and Spring are the best seasons to visit Joshua. Summers are hot. Even though a desert environment, the temperature was 20° F one morning and usually down to freezing by dark. However, I understand the weather was unusually cold.

For information about Joshua, maps, brochure, etc., you should contact:

## JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

74485 National Monument Drive

Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Roger Ehret

## TRIP REVIEW

MT. GILBERT (13,103') AND MT. JOHNSON (12,868')

JUNE 16, 1984

Only one individual signed up for this fairly strenuous double climb in the John Muir Wilderness, as could be expected with the lingering snows still blanketing much of the High Sierra. Rex Smith and I left after work for the Friday night drive over Carson Pass and south on U.S. 395.

After the somewhat prolonged breakfast in Bishop, we made the start from South Lake at 8 a.m. Most of the trail was clear of snow to a point just past the largest of the Treasure Lakes--about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the car. We climbed into a large snow bowl and ascended to the Sierra Crest via a diagonal gully slanting to the left along a band of light-colored rock. Black Giant, McDuffie, and Goddard were discernable amidst the sea of ridges and peaks to the west.

Continuing north, we bypassed a small highpoint and completed the class 2 scree and snow hike to the summit of Gilbert. Rex seemed to have been doing quite well despite the short time for acclimatization from sea level plus 40 feet, having kept about 100 feet above me. We reached the top after  $5\frac{1}{4}$  hours of climbing. A direct view into the Kings River Canyon was afforded us from the high sandy slopes which might make nice skiing earlier in the year.

The large snowfield on the south made for poor glissading as it alternated from very soft snow to icy hard sections. Returning to the saddle, we traversed along the top of the crest with occasional class 3 moves to get by a gendarme or two.

On reaching the summit mass of Johnson, a gully filled with hard snow worried me as on my initial climb in September '81 we may have used it as an easy, sandy route. We got past the snow by climbing over broken slabs and ducking overhanging blocks to the right. There was one more gendarme to pass on the right, a short climb to the knife-edge, across to a ledge with a slab crawl-under, then a little reconitering to finish the final 50' or so class 3 to the top. I had been very pleased to discover this route 3 seasons ago, and was just as pleased to do it again.

We took pictures of ourselves with dramatic skies and snowy peaks as backdrop, then started down the easy south side by about 5 p.m. Back to the trail and a waiting can of soda pop, then, after sighting a porcupine on the trail, racing the dusk to the finish. Celebrating with dinner in Bishop, I drank two cups of coffee to begin the drive home. Unfortunately, along with the exciting memories of the climb, I failed to obtain a sound sleep at our car camp near Yosemite.

Weary from my induced insomnia, I followed Rex on a mile hike to the top of Lembert Dome. Returning on Hwy. 120 to the Central Valley afternoon heat nearly finished me. Having to stop for some additional stimulating brew in Oakdale. In spite of an early return home, I felt worse than on many late returns Sunday. However, these two peaks are more effectively done in one day, with less than 4500' total gain and under ten miles roundtrip.

Pete Yamagata



## TRIP REVIEW

EASTERN MOJAVE DESERT EXPLORATORY PEAK CLIMBS  
ATTEMPT ON PROVIDENCE MOUNTAIN (7171')  
EAGLE MOUNTAIN (3806')

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND  
NOVEMBER 21-25, 1984


After having to cancel on last year's trip due to a bad case of the flu, I was confirming participation on this weekend upon hearing of a favorable weather forecast. On Wednesday night, Rex Smith and I drove south on I-5 to Bakersfield, then to I-40 and Mitchell Caverns the next day to meet the Nahlovskys. The driving time was about 11 hours one-way. We took the guided tour of the limestone caverns-- a worthwhile hour spent for \$2.00 apiece. Afterwards, short trails provided late afternoon entertainment viewing the profusion of desert flora and watching the long shadows stretching across the flat desert floor. Camille provided a wonderful holiday meal for all of us with turkey and stuffing, gravy, sweet yams and cranberry sauce.

A low cloud had obscured the top of the mountain since our arrival. The next morning, the cloud was still there. I became skeptical of our chances, as the terrain was much more rugged than I had expected and without bearings, the maps were practically useless. However, the enthusiasm of the group carried us up the main gully to the right of the visitor center past a dry waterfall and through the oaks (a rarity for this area) and pinyons. Higher up, the gully split into many parts, with snow gorgeously encrusting the trees. The direction of the high point was in doubt, and Boris and Rex led some third class rock and were requested to turn back on encountering a fourth or fifth class move very close to a suspected high point.

The clouds parted to reveal what seemed to be a higher point, and a compass reading determined that to be the true summit. Many small cliffs precluded a direct traverse, and it seemed that a few hundred feet of downclimbing would be necessary to enter the correct gully. However, we were short on time-- $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours of daylight left--and with the worries of the leader, all agreed to head down. Vistas of the open desert appeared through the clouds, and the spectacular beauty of the range revealed itself in the dispersion of the gloomy mists. Bitter as defeat was, we all had had an interesting time with still another day of climbing to go.

We drove back to I-40 and then north on Kelbaker Road to a dinner stop in Baker. Driving north on State 127 to an isolated spot in the Greenwater Valley near Shoshone, we car camped and I did some star photography with ASA 400 film. The next morning brought overcast skies and the top of the planned objective, Pyramid Peak (6703') was hidden from us. The decision was made to climb Eagle Mountain (3806') as I knew an exciting third class route up through seemingly impassable cliffs. This beautiful peak is somewhat unique in its "island"-like existence surrounded completely by playas and washes. Upon the return from this six-hour jaunt, the group split up with Rex and I to head south to I-15 and home via I-5, and the other vehicle to brave the snowy conditions of Donner Pass via U.S. 95.

I once thought of desert peaks as being too easy and of a kind of monotony that one experiences while driving through Nevada on I-80. However, a visit to these charming regions provides a special surprise of new experiences and adventures that the Sierra Nevada just does not offer.

PETE YAMAGATA 

## TRIP REVIEW

EUREKA PEAK (7447') AND MT. WASHINGTON (7360+')  
EXPLORATORY SKI TOURS AND SNOW/CAR CAMP

DECEMBER 29-30, 1984

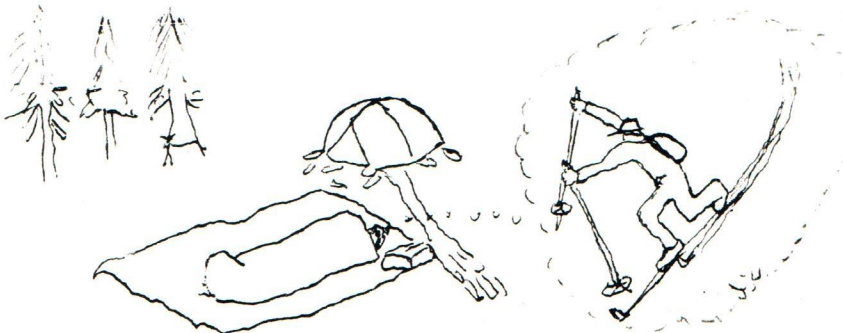
Four persons met at 6 a.m. at the Arboretum to see this never before scheduled (in recent times) tour area. We drove in two cars through Oroville and along the Feather River Highway on a roundabout approach to Plumas-Eureka State Park, where we were met by three more participants who had driven up separately. The road was plowed to Plumas Ski Bowl, where one chair lift was operating.

We began skiing somewhat after 10 a.m., starting from the ski area and then heading past Eureka Lake to the peak. After the obligatory visit to the top, we found a bowl with very nice snow which we skied and reskied vigorously, with most skiers making several runs as if powder had no tomorrow. Finishing with the "S"'s by about 2:30 p.m., we traversed back to the resort where some demonstrated parallel skiing very aptly. Two persons elected to leave the trip at this point.

After checking in to a private campground, we enjoyed a nice Mexican dinner in Portola. I returned to our camp and retired to my bag rather early, and was asleep when the others returned to their cars or tent. The skies cleared up around 5 a.m. awakening me due to the sudden chill from dissipated radiation heat reflection. A temperature reading was taken at about 7 a.m. which showed the temp. at 24 degrees.

A nice breakfast was had at Randy's, a small, pleasant, restaurant in Portola next to our dining spot. A cat drew our attention as it played on a car just outside our window. Returning to the state park, we skied up the road to Jamison Mines, then crossed Little Jamison Creek on foot to tackle the NE ridge leading to the summit of Mt. Washington. We enjoyed an excellent view of the west side of Mt. Elwell. No register was found at either of the peaks we skied, although the one on Eureka may have been buried by snow. We traversed down a somewhat unnerving (to me) hard snow slope to continue south along the ridge in search of another powder slope. Finally, we made the descent into Florentine Canyon where we connected with a ski trail that led back to the highway a short ways from our cars. Excellent powder to rutted ice made not a comparison of enjoyability of one gradient to another.

Both of the cars from Sacramento returned via Truckee and I-80 to dine near Auburn, arriving back to CSUS by about 8:30 p.m. These two peaks are very nice goals for easy peak skiing, just enough of a workout for a mellow, leisurely holiday tour. Regarding list inclusion, they may be nice hikes (there is a short trail to the summit of Eureka Peak) but the gain is insufficient to be worthy of the NAS list. This is an enjoyable area, though, with the views beyond criticism despite the relatively low elevations.



Pete Yamagata

With ten peaks over 5000 meters, many of them easily accessible, Ecuador offers a great opportunity for an introduction to high altitude climbing. The best weather is in December and January, making Ecuador one of the few places Carol Bingham and I could climb on our December honeymoon.

We arrived in Quito December 2. We spent the first two days sightseeing, figuring out transportation for the rest of the trip, and getting acclimatized to the 2800m. (9200 ft.) elevation. December 6 was a holiday to commemorate the founding of Quito, but the festivities, including nightly dancing in the streets, had already begun.

Day three we took on our first "warmup" peak, Corazon. A bus ride from Quito, and a short taxi ride up a dirt road took us to the start of our climb, at a dairy on the slopes of the peak, at 8:00 a.m. We followed a dirt road farther up the slopes of the peak, then struck out over open paramo towards the summit. The paramo is a vegetation zone above treeline, found only in the tropics between Costa Rica and Peru. We reached the rocky summit ridge, about 4450 m. (14,600 ft), at 12:30. Carol waited there, while I pushed on to the summit, arriving at 1:15. Thick clouds, which had kept the summit out of view all day, limited visibility from the summit to a short distance down the summit ridge. Despite its 4788 m. (15,709 ft) elevation, Corazon is free of snow during the dry season. The climb was not technically difficult, with only a short distance of class 3 climbing, but the over 1500 m. (5000 ft) elevation gain provided a good workout. We hiked back down below our starting point to where we could catch a taxi on its regular route, which for 20 cents took us to the bus stop, where we paid another 20 cents for the ride to Quito.

The next day we visited a market in Saquisilí, then headed back to Quito for more dancing in the streets. Day five we took the bus to Banos. With its hot springs and waterfalls, beautiful trails and narrow bridges across the river gorge, Banos is a must stop for any visitor to Ecuador.

The following morning we took a truck, on its usual route serving a nearby village, the high point on a dirt road below Tungurahua. From there we hiked through a thickly vegetated area, so thick that in many places the trail was a tunnel surrounded by vegetation, to the hut at 3800 m. (12,500 ft.)

We started the climb by moonlight, at 5:00 a.m., up scree slopes. Shortly after reaching the snow line, we reached a flat area above the crater, where a long crack continuously vented out steam. With no wind and the tropical sun beating down, the slopes to the summit were uncomfortably warm, in sharp contrast to the cold weather previous parties had encountered. We reached the 5016 m. (16,457 ft.) summit at 11:00 a.m., then returned to the hut for the night.

The following morning we hiked back down to banos, arriving in the early afternoon, and recuperated in the hot springs.

We had arranged to climb the highest peaks with an Ecuadorian guide. On December 11, we took the bus to Riobamba, where we met our guide, Enrique Veloz Coronado, and our driver, Segundo.

Enrique was not able to start the trip until the thirteenth, so we took a day of hike on the twelfth between Chimborazo and Carihuarzo where we saw an Andean condor.

On December 13, we drove to Cotopaxi National Park. From the end of the dirt road it was a short hike up to the hut. That night it hailed, and the wind blew fiercely, but the weather let up by our 1:00 a.m. starting time. As it turned out, the climb was not as difficult technically as anticipated. Most of the crevasses were easily seen and easily avoided, the others were so big you couldn't possibly fail to see them, even in the worst visibility. Enrique and I set out on a route that headed more or less directly to the summit. Carol was unable to join us; she had adapted easily to the altitude, but was having a bit more trouble getting used to the organisms encountered in Ecuadorian food and water. Our direct route turned out to be a mistake. The wind had piled up deep drifts, slowing our ascent, and twice we had to detour far down and to the right to get around large crevasses. We ended up behind two other parties, who had started an hour later climbing a ridge route.



Ecuador (continued)---

Most of the day we were in a lenticular cloud, with wind and blowing snow, but when we reached the summit, it cleared up and gave us a good view. We reached the 5897 m. (19,348 ft.) summit at 9:30 a.m. and were back to the hut at 4800 m. (15,700 ft.) by noon. Then we drove back to Riobamba.

The following day we drove to the base of Chimborazo, Ecuador's highest peak, and hiked up a short distance to the hut at 5000 m. (16,400 ft.). We started the climb at midnight. Carol joined us for the start of the climb, but found she was still feeling the effects of her intestinal ailment, and turned back early. Enrique and I took a route to the west of the Thielmann Glacier. We climbed up steep, but easily ascended slopes of crusty snow, traversed below a rock band, and followed up a ridge to join the Whympner route. From there it was a long trudge to the summit. Seeking to return before the snow softened, Enrique and I pushed hard, reaching Veintimilla summit at 6:45, and the highest 6310 m. (20,703 ft.) Whympner summit at 7:15. It was clear but cold and windy up top, and we turned right around, reaching the hut by 10:00 a.m.

From there it was back to Riobamba, then to Quito the next day, where we got in some sightseeing and shopping before heading back home. We were sorry to leave. We found good climbing, scenic countryside, friendly people, cheap handicrafts, inexpensive transportation that would take you almost anywhere, good food and good beer--everything a peak bagger needs.

#### TRIP REVIEW

WINTER ATTEMPT ON MT. SHASTA (14,162')

Linus Platt

Dennis and I had intended on doing Bear Creek Spire originally, then we thought Mt. Clark might be more fun; until we found out there was a major storm from the south moving north. We then decided to go north, away from the storm. Mt. Shasta was the answer! Sargent's Ridge would be the safest take, so it was.

We parked the car about 3 miles from the old ski bowl and started skiing in. We had planned on skiing to Shasta-Rama at 11,200' and camping, but shortly after starting up the ridge, high winds prevailed. We found the last cluster of trees on the ridge, and dug in about 4 feet to settle in for a long night. Later on, the winds got up to 80 and 90 mph. Because we had to cook inside the tent, my (ugh!) down bag was getting moist. We got a pretty late start in the morning (9:00 a.m.). We left the skis and began to crampon up Sargent's Ridge. As the afternoon approached, we battled 40 mph winds, but there wasn't a cloud around; just wind! We climbed past our proposed camp at 11,200', and on to 45 degree snow to regain the ridgecrest once again. There we were, just below Thumb Rock at around 12,000'. We were both fatigued, I was altitude sick and it was 2:00 p.m. We were way behind schedule as we looked at class 3-4 basalt ahead of us. We knew we wouldn't make the summit, so we turned around and headed to camp, not wanting to take the risk on the rock. We got back to camp, packed up, and skied to about 7400'. This time we were camped in the open; our luck, 60 mph winds--ALL NIGHT!! Got up next morning and skied the lousy, icy, breakable crust back to the car./End of trip.



PEAK AND GORGE BOULDER:

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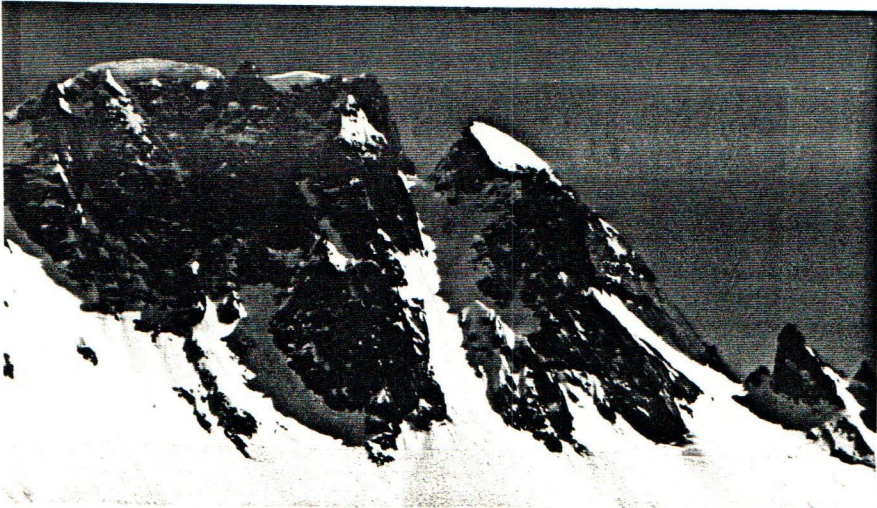
CORRESPONDENCE:

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 months.

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Sacramento, CA 95818

Peak and Gorge, Sierra Club-Mother Lode Chapter  
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2109 10th Street #3  
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The North Face of Mt. Gilbert (13,103')  
Photo taken May 83 by Pete Yamagata  
45+ degree chutes await!