

BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

MAY-JUNE 1985 ISSUE #9

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

The busy summer outing season is almost upon us and I am pleased to see that we will have a variety of trips for peak climbers and gorge scramblers alike, thanks to the generosity of our leaders. This summer will also see the beginning of what may become a Peak and Gorge tradition--a summer BBQ and equipment swap. Bring any outdoor gear, books, or magazines for selling or trading in a summer evening of fun, including swimming. (See Calendar)

Please note that beginning in July the P&G meetings will be on the third Tues. of the month. This will allow a little more time for recovery from those busy weekends and will also permit more timely input for trip schedule deadlines.

At the recent leadership training meeting there were several potential future Peak and Gorge leaders, including Howard Cole, Doug Joy, Vicki Kretsinger, Linus Platt, Scott Renger, and Rex Smith. Beginning with the summer schedule all new leaders will have field experience requirements so you should be seeing more active involvement of assistant leaders in our outings. We will continue to follow the Outings Guidelines of having only one actual trip leader; no "co-leaders"; only assistants. This provides that only one person will be ultimately responsible for the group. All persons desiring to be assistant leaders as part of their experience requirement should contact me or other trip leaders.

Leaders (and the future injured!) will be glad to know that before too long we will have refurbished first aid kits for the Section, including, hopefully, leak-proof plastic bottles to take the place of those gooey messes. This summer we will also begin to document our trips by completing a trip report sheet for each trip. These trip summary forms can provide valuable information for leaders planning trips into the same area in the future, as well as serve as historical documentation of the Section's outings.

Thus far this year we have had two successful field training sessions for interested Sierra Club members. These sessions in snow- and rockclimbing are intended for prospective mountaineers and are required for new leaders who will need these skills for their trips. Another rockclimbing practice will be on June 16. See you on some of those summer trips!

Jackie

SUMMER TRIPS PREVIEW

June 16	Rockclimbing practice for mountaineers
June 22	Mt. Shasta (via Red Banks)--ice axe & crampons required
June 22-23	Five Lakes Falls in Granite Chief Wild. Backpack & G. Scramble
June 23	Middle Fork American R.--moderate gorge scramble
June 29	N. Fork Amer. River (Class I)--Steven's Tr. to Iowa Hill Bridge
June 29-30	Red Slate Mtn., Class 1-2
June 29-30	Big Granite Ck. in Big Bend area. Backpack & Gorge Scramble.
June 30	Rubicon River. Gorge Scramble II.
July 3-7	High Rock Canyon. Nevada car camp.
July 4-7	Morey Pk., Big Fandango, Mahogany,--Nevada
July 13	Mt. Price (Class 2-3)--Desolation Valley Wilderness
July 13	N. Fork Amer. River--Euchre Bar to Green Valley
July 14	Tinker Knob (Class 2), Anderson Pk. (Class 1)
July 14	Middle Fork American River. Gorge Scramble II
July 14-16	Mt. Whitney (Mountaineer's Route ?)
July 19-22	Mt. Clarence King (Class 5.4), Mt. Gardner (Class 4)
July 27	Round Top--Class 3
July 27	N. Fork of Mid. Fork, Amer. Riv. Circle Bridge, Bogus Thunder.
July 27-28	Temple Crag, Mt. Sill (technical rock climbs--Class 5+)
July 28	Blue Canyon to N. Fork via the N. Fork of the N. Fork.
Aug 3	Crystal Range Traverse (Class 2-3)--Mts. Pyramid, Price)
Aug 3-4	Crown Point (Class 2)--Sierra Crest NW of Matterhorn Pk.
Aug 3-4	Cape Horn on N. Fork Amer. River. Gorge Scramble III
Aug 4	Freel Peak, Job's Sister--Class 2
Aug 10-11	Bear Creek Spire--Class 4
Aug 10-11	Hiram & Folger Pks.; Airola or Arnot--Ebbets Pass area, Cl 1-2
Aug 10-11	N.F. Amer. Riv.--Mumford Bar to Italian Bar--moderate
Aug 16-18	Box Canyon I. Gates of the Antipodes. Mid. Fork of Yuba. IV.
Aug 23-25	Mt. Clark (the "Obelisk")--Class 4, Yosemite Nat'l. Park
Aug 24-25	End of the World. Mid. Fork of the Amer. Riv. G. Scramble III
Aug 25	Red Peak (Class 2-3, 4C Day Hike)--Desolation Valley Wilderness
Aug 30-Sep2	Royal Gorge backpack.
Aug 31-Sep2	Forsyth Peak (Class 2-3)--northern corner Yosemite Nat'l. Park
Sep 7	Job's Peak (Class 1-2)--in Tahoe area
Sep 7-8	M. Fork. Amer. Riv.--Hartman Bar to Hanson Bar--advanced
Sep 13-15	Mt. Lyell (Class 3)--Yosemite Nat'l. Park
Sep 14	Bogus Thunder. N. Fork of Mid. Fork of Amer. R.--G. Scramble III

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- May 25-27 The destination of this Memorial Day mountaineering practice trip is now determined to be Matterhorn Pk. with third class and above climbing.
- June 3 Mon Peak & Gorge meeting at Linus Platt's, 2320 Barcelona Way, 7:30Am. Slides of Washington Cascades and Canadian Rockies by Roger Rollins.
- July 10 Wed Gorge Scrambling Clinic. Bring a dish to share. At Barbara Beddow's, 2717 17th St., at 6:30p.m. Hot dogs provided.
- July 16 Tues P&G Social. BBQ and gear swap at home of Bill Wolverton, 8275 Royall Oaks Dr., Roseville. Bring swim suit, meat, a dish or beverage to share, utensils, and outdoor gear, books, etc. to sell or swap. 6:30p.m.
- July 24 Wed Deadline for Fall trip write-ups to Jackie. She leaves on vacation the 27th!
- No regular P&G meeting in August.
- Sep 17 Tues P&G meeting at home of Janet Wolfe. Take some slides this summer to share at this end of summer get-together.

SNOW TRAVEL AND ICE AXE TRAINING GOES WELL

BY Tarjan

This year's snow climbing and ice axe training went well. Twentynine participants in all were snow sliding and ice axe arresting at a nice bowl along the Carson Pass summit.

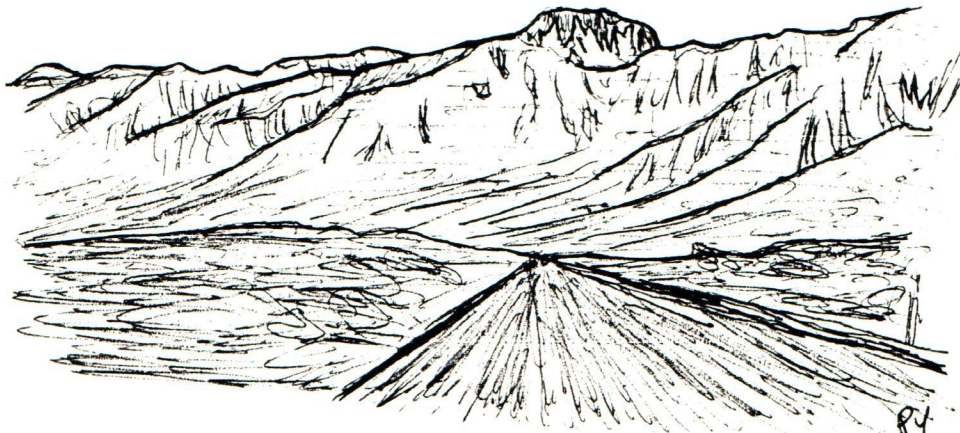
Instructors Andy Sawyer, Harry Erl, and Doug Joy demonstrated numerous aspects of ice axe arresting, snow traveling, and snow anchoring and belaying. Andy, Harry, and Doug whipped us all into shape all day by having us practice ice axe arrests for a majority of the day—just enough time to master the basics. The hard work was well worth it though and the weather was warm and sunny. Thanks guys!

MOUNTAIN ROCKCLIMBING DAY

MAY 4, 1985

Fair skies and a breeze greeted our 29 participants at Eagle Lake rocks. The program started with knotcraft, scrambling, and technique demonstrations. Alternately climbing (class 4-5) and belaying, the students gained confidence and competency through the day. Most also rappelled. Special thanks are due to J. Stroud, R. Ehret, R. Maher, J. Erl, L. Platt and C. Nagel for their on-the-spot help.

D. Joy, H. Erl



Mt. Williamson looms grandly over adjacent Sierra peaks from this view looking south from U.S. 395--an admirable goal for all mountaineers.

BEAR CREEK SPIRE



Summit: 13,713 ft
4,180 m.

Trip Dates: 8/10-11
or 8/3-4

Leaders: D. Joy, A. Sawyer

View: Traced from photo
in Closeups...

Shows east(?) ridge
NE ridge is right
skyline

"To the northwest of Mt. Tom looms a steep, pyramidal mountain... Bear Creek Spire, perhaps the finest of a number of peaks that encircle [the] granite basin containing Lake Italy. Bear Creek Spire rises at the northeast corner of the basin... an unusually impressive mountain of the Matterhorn type. Its summit is a monolith only a few feet in diameter from which [its] jagged aretes radiate. The view from this perch is superb. To the east is Mt. Tom, to the south the lofty and commanding Mt. Humphreys, Seven Gables, and Hilgard; to the northwest the group containing Mts. Dade, Abbot, and Mills."

(Norman Clyde, Closeups of the High Sierra)

Our attempt on the spire is scheduled for early August (the permit requests 8/3-4 or 8/10-11). We'll drive Friday evening and rendezvous at Mammoth Lakes for Saturday breakfast, an hour from the Rock Creek trailhead. Four miles of hiking (some trailless) and a thousand-foot gain takes us to Dade Lake and camp. Enough daylight should remain to undertake any of: scout Sunday's climb, review anchors and belaying, or hike over the col to tower-encircled Spire Lake.

Sunday's route of choice is the Northeast Ridge (Clyde, 1932, class 3-4). Axes may be needed - the topo shows snow on the approach from camp. We'll rope up for the class 4 sections. An early start and careful pushing for speed will get us up, down, and out with time to soak in a hot spring en route home.

D. Joy

MT. SHASTA

Considerable interest has been expressed this year in climbing Mt. Shasta, certainly the largest single mountain in California and offering many and varied mountaineering pleasures. There will be at least one Peak and Gorge trip to it this year--June 22 with Pete Y. as leader and Harry E. as assistant. Perhaps because of its size and predominance in the region, there almost seems a certain aura about Shasta that fosters legends and cults and that attracts persons to return again and again to its slopes.

Who knows how much longer Mt. Shasta will be with us, and in what form? Does it have the same fate as Mt. Saint Helens? The effects of fire and ice over the eons are everywhere apparent, as are the effects of erosion by water and wind. The logging interests continue to rape the base of the mountain so that most of the lush forests of a hundred years ago are gone.

Yet the following words of Clarence King ring as true today as on September 7, 1870 when he and fellow climbers were perched on the summit:

After we had walked along a short curved ridge which forms the summit, representing, as I believe, all that remains of the original crater, it became my occupation to study the view....So high is Shasta, so dominant above the field of view, we looked over it all as upon a great shield which rose gently in all directions to the sky.

Whichever way we turned the great cone fell off from our feet in dizzying abruptness. We looked down steep slopes of névé, on over shattered ice-wreck, where glaciers roll over cliffs, and around the whole broad massive base curved deeply through its lava crusts in straight cañons.

These flutings of ancient and grander glaciers are flanked by straight, long moraines, for the most part bare, but reaching down part way into the forest...What volumes of geographical history lay in view! Old mountain uplift; volcanoes built upon the plain of fiery lava; the chill of ice and wearing force of torrent, written in glacier-gorge and water-curved cañon.

from Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada

Submitted by Jackie-



The slopes seem to stretch forever upward--here ascending toward the Red Banks from the vicinity of the Heart. The warm mid-morning sun begins to soften the ice--the first weekend of summer.

Most serious hikers and climbers would, I'm sure, agree that the wilderness is not the place for vanity. Beyond the first day of any extended trip, it's just not practical to have clean fluffy hair and a sweet body aroma. The nature of such excursions dictates that greasy locks and tasty odors be the inevitable fashion whether you like it or not.

Most of us know that the reason for such primitive fashion is that the convenience of showering is often impractical if not impossible, especially when it's 15 degrees outside and the shampoo, soap, and towel were left in the car because your pack was too full. Often times water is available in such small quantities that there is barely enough for drinking, thus cleanliness becomes too trivial for serious consideration. And yes, as nature would have it, you just can't win on her turf, for in exchange for a wilderness experience you play host to one of man's unmerciless foes - bacteria!

Sanitation, or the lack of it can be a serious thwart to some back country endeavors. I'm sure many of you heard the story about the team of climbers who suddenly got sick at the same time with the same symptoms. The cause being food contamination from a pot luck meal. Food they contaminated with their own hands because someone didn't wash up after their morning dump. The solution to such problems I am told is to not contaminate the group utensils and food. In other words don't get your grubby hands in the pot luck pot! The best way to avoid doing so is to have one spoon in the pot that is used to spoon food into your bowl-without touching it - you know, just sort of drop it in there. If everyone in the group does likewise, the result should be that everyone's germs keep just to themselves. The other solution, of course, would be for everyone to wash their hands before preparing dinner. Of course that sounds fine if the weather is warm and the water ample, but if you just spent the last twenty minutes burning your precious fuel so you could melt down enough snow to drink, than you'll think twice about washing your hands.

Of course if the digestive ailments aren't enough for you to worry about there are other sanitation problems that can wreck havoc on your trip. It's the same kind of discomfort babies get and it doesn't get better by scimping on toilet paper. This so called "sludge pit" rash can be almost as much problem as the digestive maladies because the discomforts associated with such a rash can really disrupt your concentration when and where it is needed. This can be a lot worse than blistered feet.

One almost wonders if there is any recourse in this battle against the organisms. the odds appear in their favor;ahhh, but alas technology spares man! Consider the plight of the working mother with a new born infant. She doesn't worry about her babe getting diaper rash - she just wipes the kid up with "Wet Ones" and tosses the dirty towelette in the trash. Some climbers and hikers have discovered the advantages of these sanitary baby wipes and use them as all purpose body wash-ups.

Just one towlette a day can be used to wash your face, hands, armpits, and crotch (in that order), and no water is needed. Plus, you need not bare your flesh to the elements for long cause the solution dries off your body quickly. Disposal is easy and leaves no impact; just toss in a small ziplock bag and carry out with you, or do what suits you.

Each towelette is made of durable tissue that is soaked in a mild bacteria-killing solution. Several manufacturers sell these baby wipe products, and, as is to be expected, you'll find them in the diaper section of the supermarket. They come in a variety of packaging ranging from individual foil packets to small wallet size plastic containers on up to larger tubs. I prefer the wallet size container cause it's small yet contains some thirty towelettes, enough for several washes a day for many days.

These baby wipes may be a far cry from a hot scapy shower, but they can at least keep you sanitary. And anything that stops the woes of the bacteria foes is a welcome addition.



Roundtop (10,380)

April 27, 1985

Ever since I first saw Roundtop, about five years ago, I wanted to climb it. Dark and majestic, this third class peak dominates the Carson Pass area. For one reason or another, however, I hadn't made the climb. Finally, I had my chance.

Eight of us left Sacramento at 6 a.m. on a bright spring day and put on our skis about 2 1/2 hours later by the monument at Carson Pass. Spring was definitely in the air. Tree boughs wore gold in anticipation of future greenery. The snow was becoming sparse.

A short ski tour brought us to Winnemucca Lake and a brief snack before the climb. The plan was to ski as high as possible and then switch to ice ax and crampons for the ascent of a small couloir on the north side leading to the summit.

We began the climb, some with skis outfitted with skins, some using wax, one on foot and I in my good old waxless touring crowns. At the base of the couloir most paused to exchange skis for crampons. Naturally, Jack Rankin continued the ski ascent a bit farther.

Pressing my bicycle helmet into double duty, I set off up the 45-55° slope following John Skaglund's lead. The climbing ropes we had brought for insurance were not needed. One hour later and 500 feet higher we reached the top of the couloir just shy of the summit. We removed our crampons and completed the short third class climb to the top.

Lunch at last! Oh yes, the view was spectacular. I was glad I had waited. Ascending the snow couloir was far better than the traditional route from the saddle. Seated on the bench mark, we basked in the sun and enjoyed the carpet of peaks spread out on all sides.

Peering down at the bowls below, we spied ant-like creatures moving downhill on seemingly level surfaces. Suddenly a familiar cry shattered the air. Fred Fischietto! Of course, Barney Jones was leading a ski trip far below. For a few minutes we broke the solitude with shouts back and forth between base and summit.

Returning to our skis via the saddle and a spectacular glissade, those of us who could, grandly telemarked down to Winnemucca Lake. Others traversed and tumbled, but in grand style just the same.

Back at the base we regrouped. As Jack Rankin was leading since Roger Ehret was emulating Pegleg the Pirate, we were not allowed to rest on our laurels. Instead, we circuitously returned to Carson Pass by way of Woods Lake. The final 500 foot climb back to the pass assured our ending the day on a high note.

--Debbie Bulger

TRIP REVIEW

SKIING IN THE SAWTOOTH RIDGE AREA
CRATER CREST (11,394')

APRIL 27-28, 1985

Dave Vandershaf led this outing to enjoy very good spring conditions in this favorite area close to home. Meeting at 7 p.m. Friday night at CSUS, Dave and I drove to Bridgeport to meet Pat McGaughy, Maxine Weiss, Al Schonemann, and Sarah Michaels Saturday morning.

We drove to the Twin Lakes area where stiff competition for parking with opening day fishermen led to our parking a little farther from the resort gate. Starting at an early 7:30 a.m., we hiked up the trail, carrying our skis past the 8,000' snow line and up the main canyon. We donned our skis and climbed up steep terrain to a lunch spot at about 10,400'. Dave and three others took off to explore the Dragtooth Glacier and skied to a notch on Cleaver Ridge. Pat and I rested, enjoying the views and watching the others making tracks on the side of the ridge.

We regrouped and headed down our steep ascent route, with me being left behind by much better skiers aggressively tackling tree skiing on 35 degree slopes. The snow was a little too icy for me, lagging way behind on the steep drop between 8200' and 8800'. I was astonished to see a petite figure clad in red skiing the fall line, making quick parallel turns on 40 degree slopes! I reached a more level section and finally dared to link telemarks several times between pants. We hiked back down the trail together and reached the cars at about 5:30 p.m. Maxine chose to drive home, and the rest of us drove into Bridgeport for dinner at the Trails. We found a nice isolated spot to camp--all USFS campgrounds being filled with trout fishermen, no doubt.

The next morning, the four of us were off--Dave, Al, Sarah, and me--to climb Crater Crest, starting from a road on the south side of the lower lake. We carried our skis to the top, arriving between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. to enjoy great views while eating lunch. The register can and book that I placed two years ago were still there, with Barbara Lilley and others as some of the few notable sign-ins. We skied from a saddle a short ways north of the summit, enjoying mostly continuous snow down to about the 8000'-8400' level on moderate terrain. However, the snowfield was narrow between the trees and the bare ridge in some sections. Our early 3:30 p.m. return allowed for a leisurely drive home in daylight to end a good workout along with a great skiing weekend.

Pete Yamagata



Another day,
another outing--
Ski Mountaineers
carry skis to the
top of another fine
run--this one being
Winter Alta (11,200')
from Pear Lake Hut,
Sequoia Nat'l Park.
April, 1982.

CLIMBS OF YEARS PAST

MT. EMERSON (13,225'), INCONSOLABLE PEAK (13,501'),
AND VAGABOND PEAK (13,356')

AUGUST 14-15, 1982

Al Schonnemann, Erin Cory, and Pam Fraser joined me Friday night for this adventure on these High Sierra climbs. These peaks have the advantage of being accessible in one-day outings from their respective trailheads from the Highway 168 area above Bishop, CA.

We met Bill Hauser at a restaurant in Bishop early Saturday morning. Ed Vandercook and Linda Costello also appeared, having completed a backpack trip in the Minarets area. After having breakfast, we drove to the North Lake trailhead where we awaited Ed and Linda. They failed to appear, and after a search which delayed the trip one hour, the five of us took off up the Piute Pass trail. Passing Loch Leven Lake, we began ascending a large scree gully toward what appeared to be the summit crags. After a few hours of "trudgery," we gained the ridge and began traversing to the right for the high point.

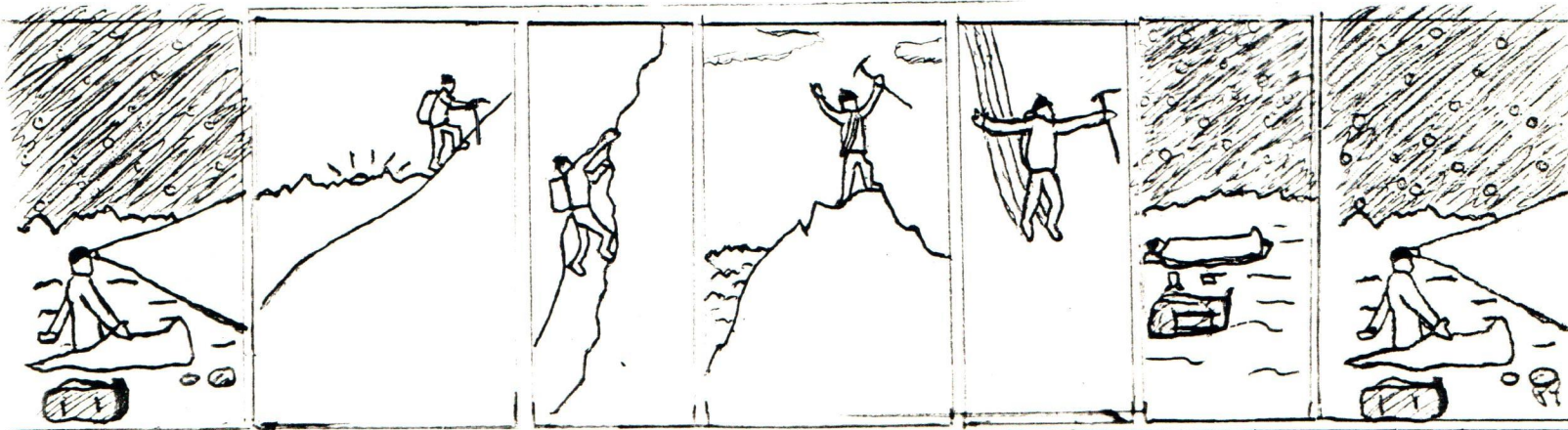
Running into some route-finding difficulties, Al opted to stop and await our return. The rest of us continued, with time running out, as we sought the class 2-3 route that leads to the summit. With many possibilities, I made a correct guess finding some ledges traversing over a few gullies to a spur that led to the summit. We signed in a very nice register, then descended to pick up Al, and down the scree slopes back to the trail. Bill practically flew down the sandy slopes, having a terrific scree run, beating the rest of us by a half-hour. We arrived back to the cars by dusk, then drove into Bishop to carouse at Whiskey Creek. Ed and Linda joined us, having gotten lost on the drive that morning.

We drove back up Highway 168 to a campground where we sacked out for a short night's sleep. The group split up, leaving four of us to go for Inconsolable. Starting up the Green Lake trail from the back of Rainbow Lodge (formerly Parcher's Camp), we hiked up a steep grade past lovely lakes to ascend a large ridge connecting the Hunchback and Inconsolable. From a high, grassy plateau that reminded me of Colorado peaks, we traveled over long, gentle scree slopes to a point where the two girls elected to stop. Al and I continued over a hump, dropped 400 feet and ascended the class 1-2 slopes to the final class 3 summit blocks. Apparently, this is a popular spring climb, with records of ski and snowshoe ascents by several Angeles Chapter outings.

On the way back, I climbed the hump "Peak 13,356' " and found a register naming the point as "Vagabond Peak," placed by the Vagmarken Climbing Club (formed by employees of a Southern California aerospace company, I am told). The hike back was a bit hurried, with the sobering realization that the work week began just around the clock. Back to the car by 5:00 p.m., we arrived back to Sacramento by about midnight--the weary end to a 8500' gain weekend.

Pete Yamagata

EARLY RISER



PEAK AND GORGE BOULDER:

Published six times a year by the Peak and Gorge Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Dues are \$4.00 a year and are delinquent February 24. Subscriptions expire December 31. Send Remittance, payable to Peak and Gorge, to Treasurer Harry Erl, 2520 Greenwood Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821

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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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Skiing in the vicinity of Alta Peak
Sequoia National Park--late April.

