

BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

JULY-AUGUST 1985 ISSUE #10

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

The Peak and Gorge Section is in need of a new Boulder editor since Pete Yamagata recently informed me and the Committee of his resignation. Pete has worked conscientiously and hard by contributing both his writing and artistic talents to this task. I'm sure Pete will help us out by the provision of articles in the future.

The Boulder is still in its formative years and therefore is struggling to develop an identity. Since we have no paid staff writers the Boulder depends on the contributions of its subscribers and other interested readers. There is no required format or content, thereby allowing for the freedom to publish items of interest ranging from fact to fiction. Peak and Gorge is now seeking another volunteer for this job as editor. You do not need to be a prolific writer. More important is your desire and ability to find willing contributors of a variety of interesting material. Please notify me or another committee member if you are interested in this tradition-establishing assignment.

In May the Peak and Gorge Section was the recipient of a \$40.00 contribution from Christine Gibbs, an Englishwoman who taught at the UCD Vet School this past winter. Christine gave this to Barbara Beddow for the Sierra Club and because Christine regretted not being in California during the gorge scrambling season, Barbara thought it a good idea to donate the money to the Peak and Gorge Section. The Committee welcomes ideas of how this donation may best be used.

Due to the successful rockclimbing and ice axe field training sessions led by Harry Erl, Andy Sawyer, and Doug Joy, the Section was able to purchase (on sale) two 11mm kernmantel climbing ropes. There seems to be some agreement that a lighter (8.8-9.0mm) rope would also be extremely useful on easier climbs. These new ropes will be used only by participants of club-authorized trips, and every attempt will be made to maintain a 'history' of them to safeguard the users in the future.

Speaking of club-authorized trips, I would like to emphasize that club trips are intended to be group trips. It seems to me unfair when individuals decide to separate from the group to do their own thing, particularly when either the leader or the Wilderness Permit requires a maximum number of trip participants. Those persons left at home on the waiting list would not like to hear that their 'slots' were taken by persons more interested in a rider-sharing program than a Peak and Gorge trip. This is also, of course, a matter of concern to leaders who already bear enough burden of responsibility without worrying about unplanned jaunts of 'separatists'. Although group trips necessarily require some semblance of order and organization the leader usually provides enough flexibility for adventuresome spirits to be exercised and goals to be reached. Your thoughts and comments on this subject are welcome.

Don't forget the gorge scrambling clinic on July 10th and the P & G BBQ on the 16th!

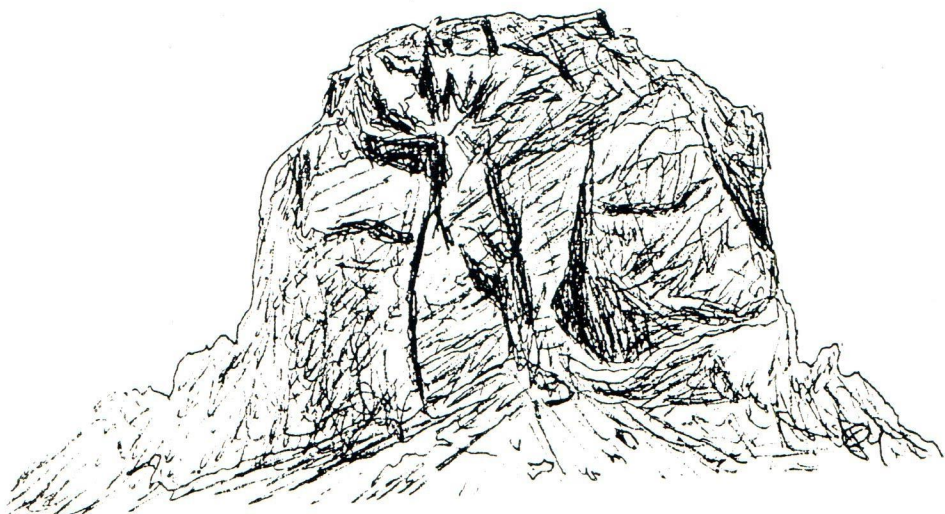
Jackie Strand

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 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! If you must send them later, please send directly to the Bonanza. (Typed & double-spaced.)

No regular P&G meeting in August.

- Sep 17 Tues P&G meeting at home of Janet Wolfe, 10421 Ambassador Dr., Rancho Cordova, 7:30p.m. Bring 10 slides to share at this end of summer get-together.



The volcanic monolith Jeff Davis Peak (8990') rises interestingly above the Hope, Faith, and Charity Valley areas. One of the more challenging climbs that the Northern Sierra has to offer, a Peak and Gorge outing led by John Skaglund placed a register to record visitations to the summit of this fifth class peak last June. The easiest route goes up from a bench around the right side.

CALIFORNIA PEAKS

Sierra Nevada

Far Southern Area
 * Olancha Peak
 * North Maggie Mtn
 * Kern Pk

12,123
 10,235
 11,510

Palisades Area

* Devils Crags
 * The Thumb
 * Disappointment Pk
 * Middle Palisade
 * Norman Clyde Pk
 * Mt Gayley
 * Temple Crag
 * Mt Sill
 * Polemonium Pk
 * North Palisade
 * Thunderbolt Pk
 * Mt Winchell
 * Mt Agassiz

12,600
 13,388
 13,917
 14,040
 13,956
 13,510
 12,999
 14,162
 14,000
 14,242
 14,040
 13,768
 13,891

Evolution Area

* Mt Goode
 * Mt Johnson
 * Mt Gilbert
 * Mt Thompson
 * Mt Powell
 * Mt Wallace
 * Mt Haecel
 * Mt Fiske
 * Mt Huxley
 * Mt Mendel
 * Mt McDuffie
 * Scylla
 * Charybdis
 * Black Giant
 * Mt Goddard
 * The Hermit
 * Mt Lamarck

13,092
 12,868
 13,103
 13,480
 13,400
 13,377
 13,435
 13,524
 13,117
 13,830
 13,691
 13,271
 12,939
 13,091
 13,330
 13,568
 12,360
 13,417

Humphreys Basin Area

* Mt Goethe
 * Mt Emerson
 * Mt Humphreys
 * Mt Hooper
 * Seven Gables
 * Basin Mtn
 * Mt Tom

13,240
 13,225
 13,986
 12,349
 13,075
 13,240
 13,652

Pine Creek to Ritter Range

* Mt Julius Caesar
 * Bear Creek Spire
 * Mt Dade
 * Mt Abbot
 * Mt Mills
 * Mt Gabb
 * Mt Hilgard
 * Mt Morgan
 * Red and White Mtn
 * Red Slate Mtn
 * Mt Baldwin
 * Mt Morrison
 * Bloody Mtn
 * Mt Laurel

13,196
 13,713
 13,600
 13,715
 13,468
 13,711
 13,361
 13,748
 12,890
 13,163
 12,614
 12,268
 12,544
 11,812

Baxter Pass to Mather Pass

* Arrow Pk
 * Mt Pinchot
 * Mt Ruskin
 * Tenipite Dome
 * Cardinal Mtn
 * Split Mtn
 * Mt Prater
 * Mt Bolton Brown
 * Birch Mtn

12,958
 13,495
 12,920
 7,708
 13,397
 14,058
 13,329
 13,538
 13,665

Ritter Range to Tioga Pass

* Iron Mtn
 * Clyde Minaret
 * Mt Ritter
 * Banner Pk
 * San Joaquin Mtn
 * Electra Pk
 * Rodgers Pk
 * Mt Lyell
 * Mt Maclure
 * Mt Florence
 * Vogelsang Pk
 * Koip Pk
 * Kuna Pk
 * Mt Gibbs
 * Mt Dana
 * Unicorn Pk
 * Cathedral Pk

11,149
 12,281
 13,157
 12,945
 11,600
 12,442
 12,978
 13,114
 12,988
 12,561
 11,516
 12,979
 12,547
 12,764
 13,053
 10,840
 10,940

Clark Range and Vicinity

* Triple Divide Pk
 * Merced Pk
 * Red Pk
 * Gray Pk
 * Mt Clark
 * Mt Starr King
 * Half Dome
 * Clouds Rest

11,607
 11,726
 11,699
 11,574
 11,522
 9,092
 8,842
 9,926

Tioga Pass to Sonora Pass

* Mt Hoffman
 * Mt Conness
 * North Pk
 * Mt Warren
 * Pettit Pk
 * Volunteer Pk
 * Piute Mtn
 * Excelsior Mtn
 * Camiaca Pk
 * Dunderberg Pk
 * Virginia Pk
 * Twin Pks
 * Matterhorn Pk
 * Whorl Mtn
 * Cleaver Pk
 * Blacksmith Pk
 * Ecene Pk
 * Tower Pk
 * Forsyth Pk
 * Blackhawk Mtn
 * Leavitt Pk

10,850
 12,590
 12,242
 12,327
 10,788
 10,497
 10,541
 12,446
 11,739
 12,374
 12,001
 12,308
 12,264
 12,029
 11,761
 11,760
 11,581
 11,755
 11,180
 10,348
 11,570

Sonora Pass to Carson Pass

* Sonora Pk
 * Stanislaus Pk
 * White Mtn
 * Wells Pk
 * Lost Cannon Pk
 * Fish Valley Pk

11,462
 11,220
 11,398
 10,833
 11,099
 10,571

Carson Pass to Far North

* Freel Pk
 * Pyramid Pk
 * Mt Price
 * Mt Tallac
 * Dicks Pk
 * Jacks Pk
 * Twin Pks
 * Granite Chief
 * Needle Pk
 * Lyon Pk
 * Mt Mildred
 * Tinkers Knob
 * Mt Rose
 * Castle Pk
 * Mt Lola
 * English Mtn
 * Sierra Buttes
 * Haskell Pk
 * Mt Elwell
 * Mt Adams

10,881
 9,981
 9,971
 9,973
 9,971
 9,851
 8,871
 9,001
 8,971
 8,891
 8,391
 8,941
 10,771
 9,101
 9,141
 8,371
 8,581
 8,101
 7,811
 8,191

Cascade Range

* California Cascades
 * Brokeoff Mtn
 * Mt Diller
 * Mt Lassen
 * Mt Shasta
 * Shastina

9,231
 9,081
 9,045
 14,161
 12,331

Coastal Ranges

* Lower Area
 * Snow Mtn

7,001

Yolla Bolly

* South Yolla Bolly
 * North Yolla Bolly
 * Black Rock Pk

8,001
 7,861
 7,711

Trinity Alps

- x Monument Pk
- x Sawtooth Pk
- x Mt Hilton
- x Thompson Pk
- x Caribou Mtn

NEVADA PEAKS

South of U.S. 50

- Far Southern Portion
- x Charleston Pk

Scott Mountains

- Mt Eddy

Marble Mountains

- x Boulder Pk
- x Kings Castle
- x Black Marble

Siskiyou Mountains

- x Preston Pk

Eastern Desert

Mojave Desert and Death Valley

- x Clark Mtn
- x Kingston Pk
- x Awatatz Mtn
- x Eagle Mtn
- x Pyramid Pk
- x Smith Mtn
- x Corkscrew Pk
- x Telescopes Pk
- x Dry Mtn
- x Tin Mtn

Inyo and White Mountains

- x New York Butte
- x Mt Inyo
- x Waucoba Mtn
- x White Mtn Pk
- x Mt Dubois
- x Mt Montgomery

Sweetwater Mountains

- x Mt Patterson
- x Mt Wheeler
- x South Sister
- Middle Sister

Warner Mountains

- x Warren Pk
- x Squaw Pk
- x Eagle Pk
- x Emerson Pk

OREGON PEAKS

South of U.S. 20

Southern Cascades

- x Mt McLoughlin
- Mt Scott
- x Mt Thielsen
- x South Sister
- x Middle Sister
- x North Sister
- x Mt Washington

UTAH PEAKS

Great Basin

Deep Creek Range

- x Ibapah Pk

NOTE

This is a preliminary draft of the newly revised Northern Alpine Section (NAS) list. This is submitted here to allow members of the peak section to indicate approval or critiques of the specifics regarding peak inclusion, ratings, peak omissions, details such as elevations and list organizations before this is taken to booklet publication. Please send comments to: Pete Yamagata, 2109 10th Street #3 Sacramento, CA 95818.

The NAS List has been a long tradition with the Peak and Gorge Section, with its obvious suggestions for climbing value and desirability. Rating, then, is a highly subjective matter, with members wishing that peaks that they have already climbed be give a higher rating, or perhaps, downgrading the peak after ascertaining the ease of ascent. This tendency has been avoided as well as possible, with relative ratings made between peaks in the same general area, with more objectivity emphasized than previous attempts at formulating goals for Northern California peak climbers.

As a peak climber, I have visited the summits of well over half these mountains, and have made inquiries as to others opinions of the former NAS list. With the limited initiative that Northern California peak climbers have in regards to the need for a revision, I have taken some minor reshufflings and sought to give a more "fair" listing and rating system in regards to rating criteria--that is, view, accessibility, technical difficulty, height, and prominence within an area.

For persons unfamiliar with the rating plan, a star peak will be preceded by an asterisk (*) and will be generally prominent in the area, often of more challenging technical difficulty, have superior views, and sometimes will be remote and inaccessible to a greater degree. Emblem peaks (x) will generally be easier, less prominent in the area, and perhaps of an easier technical difficulty than most star peaks. Mountaineers peaks (left unsigned) are simply undistinguished peaks in an area relative to the other peaks of a higher rating.

The Peak and Gorge booklets will contain more details on the specifics on the rating system, origins, and goal plans of the NAS List.

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TRIP REVIEW

ARC DOME (11,788') AND
SOUTH SHOSHONE PEAK (10,063')

MAY 25-27, 1985

Boris Nahlovsky, Claude Hanna and I took this trip to explore the Great Basin ranges about Austin, NV. I drove solo Friday night to discover the two on the highway looking for Bob Scott campground at midnight. I led them to the spot, and early next morning, we drove into Austin for breakfast and then drove to Columbine camp at the base of the peak. Starting at about 9:30 a.m., we followed the generally good hiking guide instructions and followed the standard route to the peak. We viewed the immense glacial cirques on both sides of the main ridge. Somewhat played down in the guide was a 400-500 foot drop to a saddle necessary to climb the peak. We reached the top at about 3:00 p.m., staying about 40 minutes to enjoy the view. The hike back was sometimes cold and gusty, with the two others pushing ahead of the leader. Upon returning to Stewart Creek, we encountered a Placer County group led by noneother than Gene Markley himself. Upon our return to our camp at dusk, I ate an apricot bar and promptly disappeared into my car and sleeping bag.

The next morning saw the appearance of Roger and Sharon Ehret who drove up Saturday night to join our campgroup. Beautiful, temperate weather greeted us for the hike to South Shoshone. Boris, Claude, Roger and myself carpooled to the trailhead at the mouth of Bonita Canyon on the east side of the range. We hiked up the canyon on a jeep road then gained the ridge and the summit. The total ascent time was $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours. Roger wore a knee brace due to an injury while attempting telemark skiing on most of the climb. The view was very similar to that obtained on North Shoshone a few years before. Back to the car by mid-afternoon, I left to drive to the Ichthyosaur State Park and arrived just in time for the guided tour. After a chicken dinner in Fallon, I arrived home at about midnight. The rest of the group, I hear, took an easy, relaxed drive home Monday, with the exception of Claude and his wife, who were staying extra days.

There had been only a little snow this year; anymore and it would have created a lot of difficulty as it was very soft, with me often sinking to my thighs. This was a good desert trip, having been my third or fourth scheduling of this peak, but cancelling due to weather or lack of interest. Now on to other peaks!

Pete Yamagata

PYRAMID PEAK (9983')

JUNE 8, 1985

A total of ten people chose to make the ascent of this highly visible peak from the Sacramento skyline by the possibly easiest approach from Lyons Creek trailhead. This route entails a net gain of only 3300' gain over nine or ten miles r.t.

Starting from the trailhead by 10:00 a.m., we encountered the first snow shortly before Lake Sylvia. We had lunch on the shores of a still frozen, unnamed lake in the cirque formed on the west side of the north ridge. I proceeded to climb to the north ridge, as I believed that there was a third-class route that would "go." Instead was a precipitous headwall with routes that might go fourth or fifth. Scouting out the east side revealed another hundred foot drop that could be circumvented only by passing underneath on a steep snowfield, descending on a third-class route further to the north. I returned to the group to take them up the west-southwest ridge that rises above Sylvia, with some scrambling to gain that ridge. We arrived about 3:00 p.m. at the summit and placed a register in another probably vain attempt to start a record of ascents for the year. We descended back to Lake Sylvia via a very nicely glissadable chute on the north-west side of the WSW ridge. We arrived back to the cars at a reasonable hour, then stopped at La Vista restaurant near Camino for a fine repast to top off the day's activities. Participants on this trip were: Jim Moose, Rita Dowell, Claude Hanna, Barney Jones, Howard Buckner, Rob Wiener, Debbie Bulger, Hilary Anderson, Michel Roberge, and myself.

Pete Yamagata

TRIP REVIEW

ROCKHOUSE (8383'), TAYLOR DOME (8774')
AND OLANCHA PEAK (12,123')

JUNE 15-18, 1985

Temperatures soared well above 100° in the Valley for the time period of these peak climbs. However, undeterred, I made the 8 hour drive Friday afternoon down I-5 through Bakersfield to meet the SPS group at Horse Meadows campground in Sequoia National Forest. This area is reached by driving through Kernville, a resort town along the Kern River extremely popular with white-water buffs for obvious reasons. Twenty Southern Californians showed up to make the long day hike to climb Rockhouse Peak in the Domelands Wilderness.

The hike to Rockhouse was typified by more snow plants than I have ever seen on any hike, although they were beginning to wilt in the boreal heat. The hike begins on a new trail not shown on the topo, descending to Manter Meadows, one of many beautiful settings surrounded by granite domes not quite as big as the Yosemite versions, but spectacular nonetheless. We climbed to a saddle and left the trail to head for the peak. Some short navigation is needed, and the route that we took up the peak was fun third. The round trip on this climb was estimated to be 15 miles from Big Meadow.

I made the drive back to Kernville to eat at a restaurant, taking one other SPS'er along. The roads were fairly good, either paved or good dirt back to the Kern River highway. We returned to find the group asleep, having somewhat expected a rousing campfire and party.

The next day saw an easy climb of Taylor Dome, also a very fun third class climb. The views on both peaks were spectacular and very different from all of the other peaks that I have done. The registers were well maintained. We were back to the cars by 11:30 and all departed for various locations south. I drove east on Hwy. 178, having a late lunch in Ridgecrest and toured the Naval Weapons Museum.

Due to lack of campgrounds in the area near the Olancha trailhead, I chose to enjoy the convenience of an air-conditioned motel in Cartago. The next morning, I awoke at 4:30 a.m., had a quick breakfast at the Ranch House Cafe (open 24 hours) and started up the trail to Olancha Pass by 5:40 a.m. Feeling good, I completed the 3300' gain over 6 miles (posted) in 2 hrs. 40 min. The trail connects with the P.C.T. and leads, after about another 4 miles or so, to a saddle under the peak at 10,600'. A steep 1500' ascent through high altitude trees, then large boulders and scree brought me to the summit. A spectacular view of several expansive meadows, the parched Owens Valley, and the Whitney group and the Great Western Divide was shared with an inquisitive eagle and numerous rosy finches. The return was straightforward, retracing steps and getting back to the car by 6:30 p.m. The total stats were in the order of 6500' gain over about 22 miles. I enjoyed and extensively photographed a beautiful sunset while driving north on 395. After an acclimatization carcamp at 8000', I drove home to reach Sacramento at about noontime. This was a fine short trip to explore the far Southern Sierra and see lots of different, exciting scenery!

Pete Yamagata

A View of Olancha Peak from the Pacific Crest Trail about 3/4 mile south of the 10,600' saddle. Heavily forested about the base, beautiful old snags grace the upper slopes.



TRIP REVIEW

MT. SHASTA DAY CLIMB

JUNE 22, 1985

This outing went fairly nicely, with the best Shasta weather that I have ever experienced. The group of nine met between 8:00 p.m. Friday night and 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning at the old Shasta Ski Bowl parking lot. We began the climb at 5:40 a.m. in quite comfortable temperatures and little wind. Climbing to the ridge saddle and traversing over to Avalanche Gully, we arrived at Lake Helen after only about three hours of climbing. Three persons elected to stop here or turn back. We continued on past the Heart area, which was full of rockfall and avalanche debris, and through a "slot" snow gully that led through the middle of the Red Banks. Barney Jones went ahead to reach the summit at noon. Other participants reached the top ranging from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. These were myself, Peter Doody, Mike Cullen, Claude Hanna, and Charlie Smith. We had a very nice stay on the summit, with little wind. I required only a polypro T-shirt and windbreaker for comfort.

Descending was a bit tricky, with lots of rock debris and discontinuous glissade trenches. On reaching Lake Helen we saw Mike Horner of the Yolano group leading his overnight trip. We arrived back at the cars at about 6:30 p.m. After a dinner in Redding, Barney and I arrived back in Sacramento at about 12:45 a.m. I couldn't get up in time to go on the scheduled peak hike the next day--older age?

Pete Yamagata

Sonora Pass Peak Climbing - June 8-9, 1985

There's nothing like a well-planned car-camp peak climb to kick off the summer climbing season. This was the Sonora Pass trip led by Pat McGaughy. Some of us spent Friday night near Monitor Pass with a stop at K & M in Walker for a hearty breakfast. Others went all the way to Sonora Pass. We were pleased to see that a first class outhouse and attractive small parking area have recently been constructed near the pass. Since we had brought full water containers, we camped right there.

Saturday we climbed Sonora Peak from the east and then headed northwest for Stanislaus. This latter peak really stands out by itself and although it is mostly steep loose rock toward the top, it provides a nice view to the north and leaves one with a feeling of accomplishment. It was a long day since we left the cars at 9:15 a.m. and returned at 7:15 p.m. Our return was mostly on a trail along the west side of the Sonora Peak ridge. The evening was spent eating and relaxing on lawn chairs and parking lot posts. Boris and Camille had their usual gourmet fare in their van.

Bright and early at 8 a.m. on Sunday we set off, ice axes in hand, to the south of Sonora Pass toward Leavitt Peak. We climbed snow fields and rock slopes and hiked along the Pacific Crest Trail. This is a very scenic route, with many interesting rock formations to see. Lunch was on top of course, along with the great views of the snow laden north faces of the higher Sierra to the south. We had one splendid glissade on the return and even surprised ourselves by getting to the cars (& cold drinks) at 3:30 -- in time for pleasant afternoon relaxing during one of the longest days of the year before the trip home.

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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Peak and Gorge, Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter
c/o Pete Yamagata
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The summit crags of Cathedral Peak (10,940') offer a fine fourth class climb in themselves. Mother Lode Chapter rope teams have explored many variations on the fifth-class southeast face.

