

BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1986 ISSUE #13

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

As you probably know, the Sierra Club was unable this past fall to obtain adequate liability insurance to cover its full range of mountaineering activities. Actually the Club had difficulty finding a primary insurer to cover its conservation/political activities and when it did find one, this particular company informed the Club that "mountain-climbing" could not be covered by its policy. The Club has interpreted this by prohibiting any climbing or climbing instruction above Class 3 until further notice. Doug Joy, Jim Moose, John Sarna, and I expressed our many concerns about this policy at the December Mother Lode Chapter Executive Committee meeting. Ex Com passed a resolution reaffirming the importance of mountaineering as a S.C. outings activity and urging the national office to obtain the necessary coverage in order to reinstate all mountaineering activities. Because "adventurous" outings of all kinds seem to be threatened, many members have contributed to the letter-writing campaign. A whole fist-full of letters was in evidence at the Ex Com meeting. We were told that it was the first time that one issue had brought in so many letters. Thanks alot! And if you haven't already, send your concerns and ideas to Michele Ferrault, President, Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, 94109.

We are 'stuck' with these climbing restrictions at least until next October 1 so we will have to adapt our trips accordingly. This means the avoidance of routes which are borderline Class 3-4. You must either find a safe Class 3 route or turn back. A rope may be carried and used for belays, but the use of hardware, slings, or other aids is not covered by the Club's policy. Ironically, this policy will force us to have more trips appropriate for beginning mountaineers which I advocated in last issue's Chair's Corner, even though Class 3 can also be very challenging and dangerous. You will perhaps recognize my favorite soapbox of using Club trips to build participants' experience gradually. There are many excellent Class 2 & moderate Class 3 peaks which can provide needed field experience in problem-solving, routefinding, and the concentration required for safe mountaineering. Happy winter planning and Happy New Year!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

One Saturday in January. CPR Saturday. Your chance to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Watch for announcements or call the American Red Cross for information.

Don't forget to renew your subscription to the Boulder!

- Jan 21 Tues P&G meeting at Barbara Hinkle's, 6013 Brett Drive at 7:00p.m. All leaders and prospective leaders are especially invited to this trip planning session. Short slide show. Bring something to eat or drink to share.
- Feb 1 Sat Date to mail applications for Wilderness Permits for Yosemite Nat'l. Park, especially for Sat-Sun summer trips.
- Feb 5 Wed Deadline for all Bonanza Spring Schedule (March-June 15) trip and meeting write-ups to Jackie Stroud, 4617 Buckingham Way, Sacto. 95819.
- Feb 18 Tues P&G meeting at Harry Erl's, 2520 Greenwood Ave. at 7 p.m. Instruction in wilderness navigation techniques by Harry and slides of the Ptarmigan Traverse in Washington by Jackie. Bring a snack or drink to share.
- Mar 1 Sat Date to mail applications for Wilderness Permits for Sequoia Nat'l. Park and popular wilderness areas in California.

DAN DOBBINS FUND FOR YOUTH 1985 AWARD PRESENTED

Linus Platt was the recipient of a \$450 check for the 1985 award from the Dan Dobbins Fund for Youth at the recent Peak and Gorge holiday potluck. The award was presented by Harry Erl who was instrumental in sparking Linus's interest in mountaineering. Dan Dobbin's father, George Dobbins, was also in attendance and presented the accompanying award certificate. Linus has been active in P&G since 1984 and has learned alot in the past two seasons of climbing. He has not yet decided which mountaineering training course he will take, but I'm sure he will take advantage of a good one.

The award is intended to encourage and support young people in becoming wilderness and conservation leaders. The award was announced late this year primarily due to revisions in the charter of the Dan Dobbins Fund for Youth. According to the charter, the chairperson of Peak & Gorge or appointee thereof shall be the chairperson of the Selection Committee. Roger Rollins has agreed to be the Committee's chairperson for 1986. He will be working with Bob Klein and Gene Markley to select and announce the 1986 beneficiary by April 1, 1986. If you have suggestions for nominees, please contact one of these persons.

It is not necessary that nominees be members of the Sierra Club or currently active in Peak & Gorge. High schools and mountaineering shops in the area will be receiving announcements. Beneficiaries of the award are to be no more than 22 years old, to have shown significant attainments and promise in mountaineering, climbing, or wilderness conservation, and to need financial assistance to pursue their goal.

Jackie Stroud

LIST OF EMBLEM HOLDERS

A long part of the tradition of the Peak and Gorge Section has been the qualifying requirements to obtain the once-coveted patches of the respective divisions, the Northern Alpine Section (NAS), and the Sierra Gorge Section (SGS). The details are spelled out in the new Peak and Gorge Booklet, now available for \$1.25 plus \$.75 postage from Harry Erl, Jackie Stroud, or Pete Yamagata. They may be purchased at any regular meeting of the Peak and Gorge Section.

The peaks list has undergone some minor revisions but these were not intended in any way to disqualify current emblem holders, or to set a credit date (now abolished) for the climbs or scrambles to be done after.

In the interests of history and to offer the opportunity for potential list achievements to be recognized, a list of emblem holders will be published periodically in this newsletter, with new qualifiers to be announced on a bi-monthly basis. Thanks to Robert Chesney of Penryn, we have a record of past qualifiers, but with some details incomplete. If anyone can furnish qualifying dates of past or new qualifiers, please notify the editor to make corrections. We must have the dates of ascent or scramble, the leader of the outing (if any) and the qualifying list of peaks climbed or gorges traversed. Please send the record to: Harry Erl, 2520 Greenwood Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Name	Qualifying Date		I	Name	Qualifying Date	
	NAS	SGS			NAS	SGS
Howard Allred		1972	I	Gene Markley	1970	1970
Heather Anderson	1979		I	Steven Markley		1976
Rachel Anderson	1979		I	Gordon Nash		1973
Robert Chesney		1976	I	Bart O'Brien	1978	
Dan Dobbins	1972		I	Loretta O'Brien	1978	
Dave Dubie		1973	I	Elinor Olsen	1972	1972
Robert Elder		1972	I	Susan Puccioni		1976
Harry Erl	1982		I	Jeannie Raber	1981	
R.J. Furnoy	1972		I	Steve Rogers		1976
Peggy Gerick	1972		I	Janice Schaap		1971
A.R. Gutowsky	1977		I	John Schwind		1971
Bill Hauser	1976		I	Howard Steidtmann		1979
Ernest Isaacs	1972		I	Jackie Stroud		
Dave Kaplan	1977		I	Steven Thaw	1980	
Bob Klein	1981		I	Helen Wauters		1980
Leo Krastins	1971	1971	I	Don Weiss	1985	
Carlton Lund			I	Jim Wirick	1972	
Roger Monroe	1972		I	Pete Yamagata	1973	

SUPER EMBLEM

1. Pete Yamagata First Qualification 1977; Second Qualification 1981

OGUL LIST

1. Harry Erl 1983
2. Howard Steidtmann 1983
3. Pete Yamagata 1983

DUES DUE NOW!!! *****

Now is the time for your subscription renewals to this gallant, spunky, energetic, informative, philosophical, artistical, intellectual BOULDER newsletter!!! Please, you must send \$4.00, payable to Peak and Gorge, to our treasurer Harry Erl, 2520 Greenwood Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821 or this will be your last issue (the mountain gods forbid!)

EXPLORING OUR OPTIONS ON CLARENCE KING
July 19-22

In moments of concentrated psychic energy, human beings (climbers included) often experience growth or insight---a new way of looking at things or whatever. Both climbers and psychologists call these rare moments "peak experiences" and I had one on Mt. Clarence King. I learned one of the subtle characteristics that make men and women different!! In the middle of hail and lightening, at 12,000', men try to "decide what the H--- to do". Women, on the other hand, "explore our options".

We'd spent about 10 hours on Thursday slogging over Kearsarge Pass, Glen Pass, and Rae Col following Andy Sawyer to Sixty Lakes Basin. With constantly worsening skies we couldn't even see the peaks and the incredible rain/hail mixture created another 60 lakes on what few flat spots we could see. The weather service in Bishop called it "an intrusion of subtropical moisture"; some kind of Baja California monsoon. The next morning we got a late start as it looked like more monsoon until 8:00---after that it just looked like possible rain. Pete stayed back with a sore throat which left seven: Andy, Bill Wolverton and Don Hoffman along with Jackie Stroud, Barbara Hinkle, Debbie Bulger, and Diane Ryerson. A few hours later we were under the summit blocks of Mt. Clarence King (12,905'). The weather worsened with periodic rain/hail as Andy led the final summit blocks. Bill followed a few minutes later as the hail increased. Most of our team was poised above for the final top-rope problem (5.4), and the others were thrashing up a 5th class pitch just to reach the final block. Then distant thunder moved a little closer and Andy decided what the H--- to do.... we got off with efficient style (i.e. retreated) via 3 successive rappels. Although the lightening never showed up, no one doubted the wisdom of a judicious departure. Lower on the mountain, in a momentous burst of hail, Hoffman and Hinkle found the shortest descent route by engineering a rappel from a small pine tree adjacent to the "black waterfall". Sour grapes Sawyer called it being "off-route".

The next day we were hoping for some improvement and sure enough, we got some. We could at least see the nearest peaks. By the time we made 60 Lakes Col (looking over at Mt. Gardiner and Gardiner Lakes Basin, we could see about 20 miles---and we saw rain clouds to the west---oh well! By that time, Gardiner, our objective, looked too far and the weather too marginal for the whole group to make it. This time we explored our options and decided that a moderate and successful ascent of Mt. Cotter (12,721') would be better than a death march up Gardiner. With a constant eye over our shoulder at the western sky we hurried up the 3rd class ridge and finished the exposed 3rd class summit blocks in great style. A hurried descent to the 12000' foot level and we ate lunch at about 1:00. Bill Wolverton had done Cotter before and opted for a solo ascent of Peak 12,000+' (listed in the summit register as "Overguard Spire"---his was the first ascent recorded in 6 years and only the 10th or so on record; 2nd-3rd class). We couldn't see Bill but we could see the clouds---they started coming in over Mt. Brewer and the Great Western Divide which was west of us. The Sierra Crest was to our east and, far to the south, we could the Kings-Kern Divide joining the other ranges. It was a great place to visit but we still remembered the lightening from our backpack in. Hoffman found another unlikely return route and a little wandering down benches/terraces avoided any pine-tree rappels. At 3:00 we picked up our gear and let the cold clouds chase us back through Rae Lakes Basin to a high, cold camp near Glen Pass. On Monday, this left only 8-9 miles back to our trailhead at Onion Valley on the east side of Kearsarge Pass. Someone estimated that it was four days, 29 miles, 12,000-15,000 feet of elevation gain, and enough tears to wash away the bad memories. The sun was bright, the trudge up Kearsarge was glorious, and my feet were dry for the first time in 4 days- so who's complaining???

Don Hoffman

TRIP REVIEWS

SOUTH SISTER, SWEETWATER MOUNTAINS (11,339')

AUGUST 10, 1985

Leo Krastins and I were saving this peak for a likely weekend. We had attempted driving to the trailhead last June only to be stopped by a snowbank on the road about 4 miles from Lobdell Lake. This was the last major Sweetwaters Summit for me.

We left Friday night to camp at Topaz Lake, then, after having the ham and eggs \$1.99 special at the Lodge, we drove to the trailhead just past Sheeles Camp. The road had a high center and rocks near its end, but with careful driving it was passable to my wagon. We hiked along a jeep road down Desert Creek, moving a herd of cattle in front of us. We reached the East Fork, found a faint trail that crossed and recrossed the small stream, then began contouring up to the saddle just SE of point 9777'. This was a long stretch of sagebrush walking, weaving through the bushes and occasional aspen groves. On reaching the saddle, we found a few tracks that headed somewhat in the direction that we wanted. We crossed the head of a few gullies, came to a small reservoir, then headed for the south ridge of the peak. Leo gave up after ascending a sandy gully through a band of cliffs and small pinnacles. I continued to the ridge which was only a short distance higher. Approaching the summit, I encountered a stratum of very thin, flaky, rock plates, strewn and protruding everywhere. I felt terrible about stepping on and cracking many of these unavoidable platelets.

The register was found in a hole in the small cairn, with the standard NAS pipe and curled-up notebook. I had lunch, expecting Leo to show up; instead, he chose to wait where he chose to stop. The time for the ascent took about 4 hours. We drove out and home to enjoy a day of rest or sleep Sunday.

ATTEMPT ON MT. MILLS (13,486')
GLASS MOUNTAIN (11,123')

AUGUST 18-19, 1985

Driving to Mono Lake the night before, Tobi Tyler, Rex Smith and I awoke at 5:30 a.m. to eat at Mammoth for breakfast, and then to continue on to Rock Creek Lake Road and the trailhead for Little Lakes Valley for this rescheduled climb. We started hiking while others were still asleep at the nearly full parking lot. Climbing up the Mono Pass trail, we reached Ruby Lake after an hour. Heading cross-country to Mills Lake, we aimed for the scree fan that marked what I thought to be the third-class route: a gully cutting through the otherwise impassable wall of Mills. The sandy slopes were steep and loose, full of precariously perched rocks. There were two possible routes. I chose the left gully, and Tobi made an awkward, sloping move in continual danger of slipping on the sand-covered boulders. I then chose to terminate the climb on account of the high rockfall danger (which was seen in descending even only this section) and had a look at the other chute which was blocked by a large chockstone apparently requiring some fourth-class moves to get past it. The route past this obstacle looked even less promising than the first chute.

We descended to a large snowfield and had lunch. There was some debate in my mind whether to go for Mt. Starr, but this was dropped for the choice of a drive to the White Mountains for a view of the Owens Valley and the eastern escarpment with a quick tour of the Bristlecones in Schulmann Grove. We watched the sunset from Sierra View point and then drove back to Bishop for dinner.

The next morning, we drove east on 120 to drive up a very good dirt road to Sawmill Meadows, the starting point for Glass Mountain. Rex led us up sandy, obsidian-filled scree slopes to the summit plateau, where we gained the north summit after 2 hours and 20 minutes of hiking. The view of the Long Valley area and the steep wall of the Sierra was a spectacle enhanced by telephoto lens and binoculars. We had lunch, with Rex's donation of some wonderful Danish butter cookies, then proceeded to the south summit which was said to be 12 feet higher. Finding a good scree run was somewhat defeated by variable rock conditions and the steepness of the slope. We returned to the car by 3:00 p.m. and drove home, stopping at Deer Ridge to find extensive remodeling and correspondingly higher prices. We returned to CSUS by 11:00 p.m.

Pete Yamagata

TRIP REVIEW

VICTORIA AND EAGLE PEAKS

NOVEMBER 2-3, 1985

Dave Vandershaf led this moderately strenuous double climb in the Sawtooth Ridge Area (more exactly, Buckeye Ridge) meeting Saturday morning at CSUS to carpool. Roger Ehret, Howard Cole, Peggy Grow, Boris Nahlovsky and myself formed the remainder of this strong and determined group.

We packed up Robinson Creek for a few miles, and basecamped at a modest 7600' elevation in a sloping sage flat. All of us made a short hike to Barney Lake, with its awesome view of Crown Point. I believe that I had seen an elusive small bobcat or perhaps a feral cat enroute while hiking ahead. Howard found a convenient fire ring and lots of downed wood to keep us going till after 9:00 p.m.

The next day, we awoke at dawn and proceeded up a 3,000' gain scree chute which afforded us splendid views looking across the canyon to the towers and spires of Sawtooth Ridge. We reached the main ridge and headed N.E. to shortly gain the summit of Victoria (11,732'). The weather was warm and sunny (T-shirt weather in the High Sierra in November?!!) although there was plenty of snow around. The traverse to Eagle (11,845') took about 50 minutes. A cold wind came up, and we were glad to return to the scree chute we had climbed up earlier for a speedy descent, slowed somewhat in my case by slippery hardpan. We were back to the cars by 4:30. By a fluke of the weather we thus enabled ourselves of such spectacular views and good exercise in an end-of-end-of-season climb!

Pete Yamagata

A DESERT PEAKS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
RABBIT PEAK (6623'), VILLAGER PEAK (5756'),
AND INDIANHEAD (3960')

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 1985

Five persons from the Mother Lode Chapter, Boris and Camille Nahlovsky, Rex Smith, Lloyd Brown, and myself met eight others from Southern California at 7 a.m. Friday morning for the overnight backpack to bag two desert peaks in the Santa Rosa Mountains on the east side of Anza-Borrego State Park. Due to the cooler weather, it was decided that only a minimum of six liters should be carried at the start of our hike to the waterless base camp 4800' above us. Lew Amack of the DPS led us to a ridge and upwards along a steady but gentle incline to a windy, mist laden camp just below the summit of Villager Peak. Our time to camp was a surprising 5 hours. Most of the afternoon and evening was spent inside our tents due to the high winds and chilly temps, but I managed to go outside for some night shots of the moon shining on the Salton Sea and the lights of the Coachella Valley below.

The next morning dawned fair and the entire group made the short hike to the summit of Villager. Three persons chose to turn back and pack out while the rest of us made the 7 mi. r.t. to the summit of Rabbit. Returning to base camp at about 2:20 p.m., we packed up hastily and I joined the first group of backpackers leaving camp. The hikedown the ridge was done with few stops as we were all concerned about the impending early darkness with a 7 mile hike back to the cars. Thanks muchly to Lloyd Brown's excellent navigation, three of us arrived back at the cars only a few feet away along the highway at 6:15 p.m. One lone Escondido man arrived a short time later, but the main group was nought to be seen or heard. A few of us went to Salton City for dinner, and on our return, the rest of the group wandered in at 9:15 p.m. We camped at the trailhead and the next morning Lloyd and I went to Borrego Springs for breakfast. We met the remainder of the group (the Nahlovskies and Rex Smith had to start driving home that day) at the Borrego Palms Canyon trailhead. After a scenic hike and scramble along the canyon bottom through a stand of Washington Palms, it was left to the leader, myself and one other to attain the class 2 summit of Indianhead. Great views of the Borrego Valley and the San Ysidro Mountains were had beneath dramatic skies. The return was simple and straightforward, with the rest of the group to meet us close to the trailhead at about 4:00 p.m.

I chose to stay another night at Borrego Springs campground, and began the long drive home on Monday (not without stopping in West L.A. and sampling some of the culture there for a well-spent holiday weekend!).

Pete Yamagata

CLIMBS OF YEARS PAST

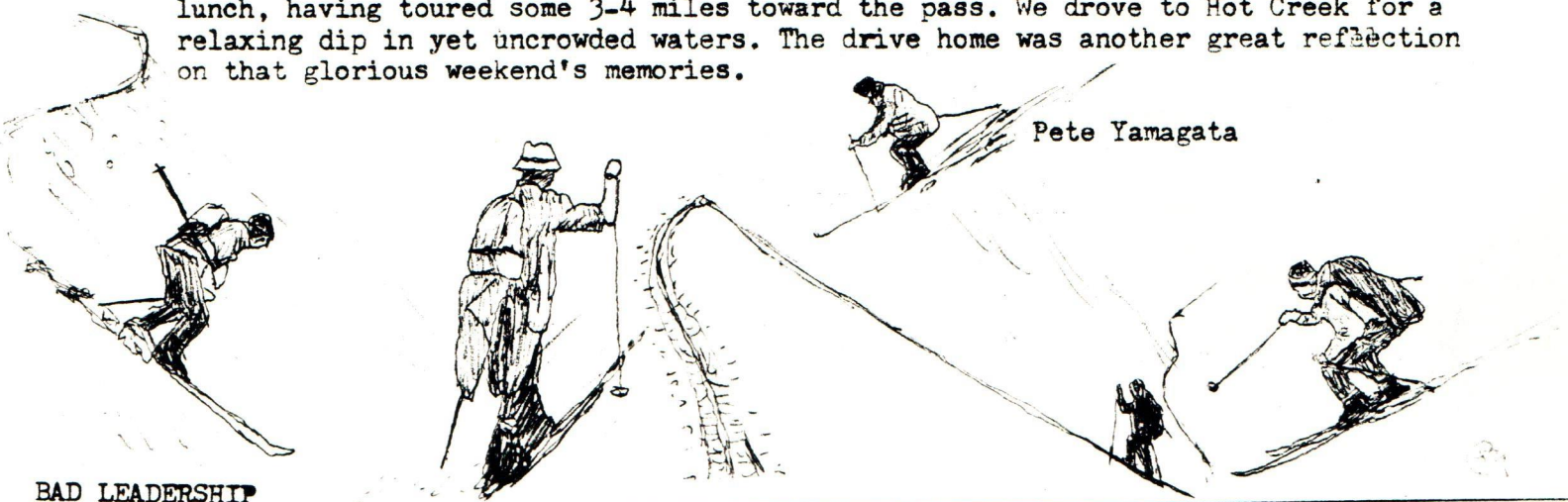
MATTERHORN PEAK (12,264') SKI TOUR AND
TOURING THE DUCK PASS AREA NEAR MAMMOTH

MAY 13-14, 1978

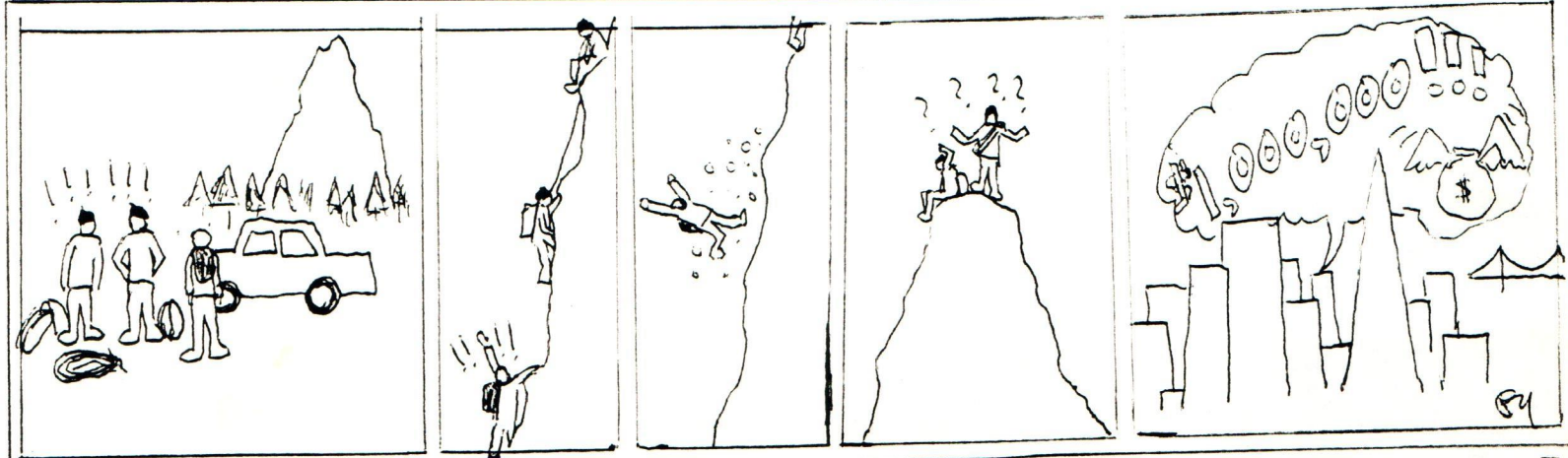
After seeing many a false start on scheduled outings, Andy Sawyer and I headed south on U.S. 395 Friday night for a one-day ski ascent of Matterhorn Peak, a somewhat highly reputed and popular ascent. This is a climb with a total gain of about one vertical mile, starting at Twin Lakes (7100') at 8:00 a.m. We hiked up the trail to about 8,000', then donned our skis to climb up Horse Creek Pass, then around the SE side of the peak to posthole most of the way to the top. We reached the summit at about 2:30 p.m. and took a hour-long, leisurely, late lunch. In those days, Andy had a wooden pair of light touring skis and I had a pair of Trak Mountain skis.

We returned to our skis and began descending from a little ways above the pass. I made stem after stem turn, with many falls on steep sections due to fatigue. I also made many traverses and kick-turns in those days. The snow was great, but many sluffs were seen on the canyon walls--indications of wet-snow avalanche danger. Upon returning to the steepest area on the descent, I noticed a small slide had crossed my tracks. This scared me somewhat, wanting to get "the hell out of there." We skied down to the final descent towards Twin Lakes, and met several parties on their way up with backpacks and skis or snowshoes. Andy continued to do as much skiing as possible on the remnants of snow through the denser timber of the lower canyon walls.

Back to the car by 6:00 p.m., we drove into Bridgeport where I enjoyed a chicken dinner at the Sportsman's. That night, I drove to Mammoth while Andy had a fitful snooze. The next day, we toured from Lake Mary in the direction of Duck Pass. Ascending various hummocks and gullies, I noticed that Andy was developing a bad case of sunburn, having to cover his face with a bandanna. I opted to turn back at lunch, having toured some 3-4 miles toward the pass. We drove to Hot Creek for a relaxing dip in yet uncrowded waters. The drive home was another great reflection on that glorious weekend's memories.



BAD LEADERSHIP



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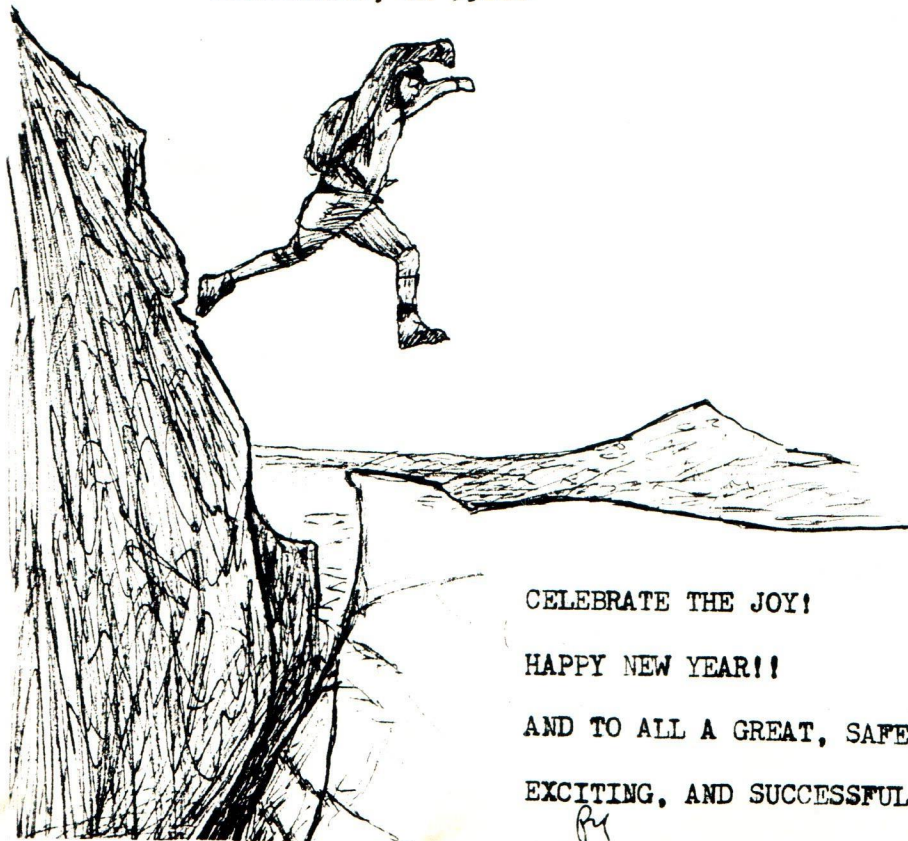
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CELEBRATE THE JOY!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

AND TO ALL A GREAT, SAFE,

EXCITING, AND SUCCESSFUL CLIMBING YEAR!

PY