



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

MAY-JUNE 1986 ISSUE #15

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Those of you who wrote to the National Office about the climbing restrictions have probably received a recent update letter from Michele Perrault. Unfortunately the Club is not sharing with us exactly what options are still being explored. In addition, the answers to the first two questions are largely unsatisfactory and conflicting with other information given, although I am clear how we will implement the policy. Class 3 climbing is defined for us as "Easy climbing. Extensive use of foot and hand holds. Moderate exposure. Take a rope; some climbers may wish to be belayed." Because we believe it would be irresponsible not to provide training in the use of a rope as a backup on a Class 3 climb, we will not follow the suggestion to "put training on hold" this year. It seems to me rather foolish to take a rope and not know how to use it if needed. We should not carry a rope with the intent of using it for climbing.

Persons who wish to publicize private trips above Class 3 may do so in the Boulder as long as it is clearly stated that they are "private, non-Sierra Club" trips.

The Preview of Summer Trips is omitted from this issue because of inadequate information at this time. There was a very low leader turn-out at the April P & G meeting for the planning of summer trips and the discussion of leader and participant responsibilities. There is a particular need for day trips and more trips for beginning peak climbers. There is an ample supply of persons wanting to be Assistant Leaders, so the outlook appears good for developing new leaders. Let's give them some good experience this summer!

Many Peak and Gorge trips occur in the Tahoe National Forest which will be severely damaged by the proposed Land and Resource Management Plan. Plan alternatives proposed by the logging industry and the Forest Service call for the use of clearcutting, even on steep slopes and to the edges of moist meadows; herbicides to eliminate competing vegetation; increased cattle and sheep grazing, even in wilderness areas; and logging and roads in eight of nine roadless areas. These plans would result in the destruction of

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critical habitat for plants, fish, and wildlife; increased erosion with its attendant stream, river, and reservoir sedimentation, and loss of soil productivity resulting in poorer timber production over time; toxic contamination of our watersheds; sterile monocultures of conifers rather than a natural and mixed forest; and permanent loss of many recreational opportunities such as trails and fishing streams, as well as an aesthetic back-country experience.

The Forest Service proposal includes less clearcutting than that of the timber industry, but neither is based on good economic sense and both are much more destructive of other natural resources than necessary for the provision of necessary lumber. Criticism of the plans even appeared in the April 18 edition of the Wall Street Jo. (front page). The large timber companies are intent upon flooding the market with cheap lumber in order to be more competitive with cheap Canadian timber. The small private timber owners are also hurt by this cheap lumber. The federal government is actually subsidizing the large companies by building access roads and administering the sales since the receipts from the timber sales in many instances in national forests across the country do not even cover these costs. Therefore the taxpayer is paying for this short-sighted destructive "management".

Please send a letter (a brief one is good) opposing clearcutting in favor of selective cutting; opposing logging on steep slopes, especially near streams and rivers, and the use of herbicides, and other concerns you have. The deadline for public comment was extended to June 2. I have been advised that the best place now to send letters is: Zane Smith

Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region
USDA Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

With copies to:

Geri Larson
Forest Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest
Highway 49 and Coyote St.
Nevada City, CA 95959

It would be very helpful if you also send copies to your Congressional Representatives since the B.L.M. is the agency proposing increased grazing.

Jackie Stroud

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- May 5 Mon Bonanza summer schedule write-ups are due to me. Wayne Luney must have them by Sunday, May 11th.
- May 16 Fri Special potluck dinner at the home of Janet Wolfe, 10421 Ambassador Dr., Rancho Cordova, 6:30pm. Presentation of six Dan Dobbins Fund for Youth 1986 award winners, plus a slide show on the Ptarmigan Traverse in the Washington North Cascades. Call Roger Rollins if needed, 331-5609.
- May 17 Sat Peak & Gorge mountain rockcraft practice. A good chance to learn or review 3rd class climbing, knot-tying, or belays with the use of only the rope when needed on a class 3 climb. Call Doug Joy for sign-up (443-7564).
- May 20 Tues F & G social and training meeting, home of Barney Jones, 7425 Midiron Dr., Fair Oaks. (965-4274) Dr. Judith Fairchild will cover wilderness first aid, including altitude sickness, hypothermia, back-country treatments and transport.
- June 17 Tues F&G social and informational meeting at Barb Beddow's, 2717 17th St. (444-7774), 6:30 pm., to learn about gorge scrambles, equipment and techniques used, and to see slides of popular scrambles. Hot dogs provided. Bring a dish to share.

NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER to be
DEVASTATED by CLEARCUT LOGGING

During 1978, Congress set aside the North Fork of the American River upstream from Colfax as a National Wild and Scenic River. Under this classification, dams and diversions on the river are prohibited. In addition a quarter mile strip of National Forest land on either side of the water must be managed as "wild" without commercial timber cutting. Even though the steep canyon upslope from the "wild" zone was not included in the protected category, the Tahoe National Forest assured the public in a 1978 report that the canyon slopes would not be used for "intensive timber management" because steep terrain, scattered timber stands, critical soils and visual constraints associated with an area of state and national significance would make timber harvest difficult as well as uneconomical.

Conservation groups have been shocked to learn that the Tahoe National Forest has reversed itself. The proposed alternative in the draft Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan recommends that much of the scenic North Fork American River canyon, encompassing the south side of the river from Green Valley upstream to the Royal Gorge, be designated for "intensive timber management" which now means a multitude of large, ugly clearcuts up to 40 acres each. Like other clearcuts proposed in the Tahoe National Forest, these will be burned following logging and sprayed periodically with herbicides to prevent brush from crowding out planted conifers. Since many of the slopes proposed for clearcutting are very steep, the potential is great for accelerated soil erosion and consequent roiling of the now clear North Fork.

Under the proposed plan logging roads will criss-cross the Italian Bar, Mumford Bar and Sailor Flat trails while the Beacraft Trail will be obliterated. The North Fork American River Canyon and adjacent roadless area possess more than 15 percent of the hiking trails in the Tahoe National Forest and provide an important potential source of dispersed recreation for the rapidly growing Sacramento and Placer County region.

You can have a say in this matter. The Forest Service will accept comments from the public on the draft plan until June 2, but don't wait until the deadline. Ask that the North Fork American River Canyon be given rim to rim protection from logging and road-building. (Addresses given in the Chair's Corner.)

Eric Gerstung

1986 DAN DOBBINS FUND FOR YOUTH AWARDS TO BE MADE

The youth receiving the 1986 Dan Dobbins awards will be honored at a potluck and slide show on May 16, 1986. All are cordially invited to attend. The potluck will begin about 6:30. Please bring one of the following: casserole/main dish, salad, dessert, or soft drinks. Following the potluck, the awards will be presented. For the slide show after the awards we will be treated to scenes from the famous Ptarmigan Traverse by Jackie Stroud. The Ptarmigan Traverse is a challenging multi-day traverse through very difficult terrain in the north Cascade range of Washington. It involves many glacial crossings and class 4 and 5 rock work. These festivities will occur at Janet Wolfe's house, 10421 Ambassador Drive, Rancho Cordova. See ya there!!

Keeping Up with Magnetic Declination

Your topographic maps are obsolete. With rare exceptions, the Sierra and Basin and Range maps we use were last updated some 30 years ago. We can readily update one essential item on our maps, the magnetic declination. Based on a map and table in W.S. Kals' Land Navigation Handbook (Sierra Club, 1980), the declination for the central to northern Sierra has decreased by 3 degrees to an average value of 15°E. A similar decrease has occurred in the surrounding regions. We can simply write the new declination value above the old on our maps, and use the new value for the next decade or so. I strongly urge all Peak and Gorge members to do so, and readjust their compasses. This is one source of navigation error we can eliminate.

Kals describes a simple method to measure declination in the field, using only map and compass. Walk to a location several hundred feet from utility lines, fences, vehicles, etc., choosing a point that hasn't changed since your map was surveyed. Your location should be recognizable by topography alone, without reference to your compass. Carefully plot your location on the map, and the location of a narrow, visible landmark (e.g., a sharp peak). Measure on the map the true bearing of the line of sight from your location to the landmark and record that bearing. Sighting on the actual landmark, measure and record the magnetic bearing to it. Subtract the magnetic bearing from the true bearing (vice versa in the eastern U.S.), the difference should be no greater than 30°. The difference is the declination, by definition. The method's accuracy is limited mostly by your accuracy in measuring the magnetic bearing. A compass with sighting optics such as a mirror, prism, or lens is recommended to obtain results accurate to within 2°. Your compass instruction sheet shows how to measure true and magnetic bearings, or come to Harry's presentation at the next meeting.

D. Joy



The relatively heavier snowfall this year provides some great opportunities to enjoy the added length of skiing time on the high peaks. This pleasant, aesthetic form of descent may be undertaken on a variety of equipment modes; alpine skis are preferable for the steep, long, and challenging runs while nordic mountaineering skis have the attraction of faster ascents with the graceful telemark runs on slopes of intermediate difficulty.

Certainly, the ski mountaineering season gives those eager climbers an early start on compiling the higher peaks count for the year!!

Pete Yamagata

THE FORCE OF WATER

The following table has been designed to help someone assess his or her chances of survival during stream crossings.

Time for "log" to travel 100' in seconds	Stream speed in feet per second	Stream speed in miles per hour	Force of water in lbs. on 1.2' ² of body surface
68	1.5	1	4.3
23	4.4	3	33
14	7.3	5	103
10	10.2	7	179
7	14.6	10	366
5	21.9	15	926

The idea is to toss a piece of wood or some type of float (perhaps the assistant leader?) into the water and time it over a measured distance to determine the stream speed. "Stream speed in feet per second" has been included for those without 100' of rope. The "Force" column is from Hal Roth's Pathway in the Sky, pp. 112-113. 1.2'² represents the amount of surface the human body exposes into the water when wading a stream waist deep of so; streamlined legs have been figured in.

One fact that should be stressed when using this chart is that a 150 lb. human doesn't necessarily weigh 150 lbs. when standing waist deep in water. (According to the Coast Guard, an average male has 12 lbs. of buoyancy in salt water when not moving.) Also, I doubt that many people are able to do leg lifts with 100 lbs. of weight on their feet, with repetitions.

R.J. Secor
Reprinted from the
May-June 1984 SPS Echo

RATINGS OF HIGH POINTS OF WESTERN STATES

With this climb (Gannett), I finished all 11 high points of the contiguous western states. I offer my relative ranking of these peaks as to technical difficulty and overall difficulty by my routes, which generally corresponded to the easiest routes. Overall difficulty takes into account remoteness, weather, routefinding, and other related factors. A "1" signifies the most difficult. It should be noted that many might rank Ranier number 1 on both counts.

Peak	Technical Difficulty	Overall Difficulty
Borah <i>PK 12662 ID</i>	5	7
Boundary <i>13144 NV</i>	6	8
<i>AT</i> Elbert <i>14433 CO</i>	9	11
Gannett <i>PK 12797 MO</i>	2	1
Granite	1	2
Hood <i>11235 OR</i>	3	6
Humphreys <i>12670 AZ</i>	7	10
Kings <i>13528 UT</i>	8	4
Rainier <i>14410 WA</i>	4	3
Wheeler <i>PK 13161 NM</i>	11	9
Whitney <i>14493 CA</i>	10	5

A number of our SPS peaks are more technically difficult than any of these 11 peaks. Considering the distance, weather, and other factors, I would rank few if any SPS Peaks ahead of Gannett in overall difficulty. On Gannett, Granite, Rainier, and Kings, weather plays an important role: Granite and Kings are each three day trips in good weather (I made Kings in two--ed.). Rainier is a big complex mountain, etc. But of course Devils Crags and Norman Clyde Peak....

Jim Erb (Reprinted from the
August 1980 SPS Echo)

EASTERN SIERRA RESTAURANT REVIEW SUMMARY
GOOD EATS ALONG U.S. 395

MINDEN-GARDNERVILLE: Several good Basque restaurants--J.T. Barr's, Country Inn (by the golf course), and other along Main Street (forget the name). Probably about \$10 for a family-style meal. Pony Express has great marinated beans. Sharkey's is a bit noisy and usually crowded Fri. nights--expect slow service. Maddy's has good burgers starting from about \$4 with a nice potted plant decor. Arby's Roast Beef is very good and reasonable. Carson Inn, a new casino, stands unreviewed but seems very popular.

HOLBROOK JCT.-TOPAZ LAKE: Juanita's (open till 10 p.m.) has fine Mexican food with plentifully good combination dinners and good albondigas soup, hot sauce and chips. Topaz Lake Lodge has a seafood buffet Fri. night (about \$10) and an all you can eat spaghetti dinner with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread and wine for \$3.75 on Sun. from 5-9 p.m.

WALKER: K & M Bakery has good breakfasts, and good dinners, I am told.

BRIDGEPORT: Bodie Union Mining Company Eatery and Saloon (formerly the Trails) might still have the Miner's Sandwich, a roast beef plate that is very good and well priced (probably about \$4.25. The Sportsman's Inn has fair breakfasts and OK chicken dinners.

LEE VINING: Nicely's has good chicken dinners for 5.75 (I am not sure if this is still all you can eat). Bodie Mike's has a fair salad bar. Mono Cone (a drive-in) is good enough if you're on the run, with good milkshakes. The Mono Inn about 5 mi. north of Lee Vining is highly reputed.

MAMMOTH LAKES: Only three miles off U.S. 395, there are about 50 places to choose from. Las Montanas has a gigantic tostada for 4.75. I recommend the Rafters for good food and atmosphere (dinners probably run from \$9-10). There are fast food outlets such as McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Shakey's with prices a bit higher than you'll find in Sac. There is an Anderson's Pea Soup, too. For breakfast the best place is the Stove (the Sierra Sunrise, a pan full of potatoes, green peppers,--cheese, onions, ham and eggs is great if you're really hungry) with high quality pancakes and other items. Good breakfasts are also had at Schatze's, usually open at 6 a.m.

BISHOP: Denny's (open all hours) is convenient if you've got a big day ahead. Copper Kettle (usually not open till 7 or 8) has the best breakfasts, with plate sized pieces of ham. There are McDonald's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried, and Jack in the Box for fast food addicts. El Charro Avilla has fair Mexican food (the quality has seemed to go down with the new location), and Whisky Creek has rock music, a big bar, and expensive dinners. The Sizzler has a very good salad bar. Perry's Pizza has huge pan pizzas with slices of pepperoni for 1.09 a slice. Jack's Waffle Shop has been a meeting place back in the 70's.

BIG PINE: Country Kitchen has passable fare, It advertises as open 24 hours, but has been found infuriatingly closed at times. It has good sandwiches and is a good meeting spot for breakfast (count on 7 a.m. in the summer).

INDEPENDENCE: The Independence Inn is said to be the only good place-- The Inyo County attorneys are reputed to eat only there.

LONE PINE: Sportsman's Cafe is the place for breakfast. Cantina Sierra has fair-good Mexican food, with Hussong's beer (1.95) and a passable chimichanga (6.95). The combinaciones are better. Bobo's Bonanza is recommended by DPS review.

OLANCHA: The Ranch House Cafe is the only place (open all hours); this is a truck stop with surprisingly good food.

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One cannot generally expect the quality and value of a good big city restaurant, but occasionally good finds can be made. This review has been compiled from notes sometimes dating several years, but most of the information is updated or with prices inferred from inflation percentages. But, as always, prices may change--usually higher. One can get an early breakfast in the bigger towns or resorts in the summer--usually at least one place will be open by 6 a.m. Hours may change for the off-season, though.

More reviews will be forthcoming. Comments on any eating place or additional review is welcome. Updates on prices, menu, or hours will be appreciated.

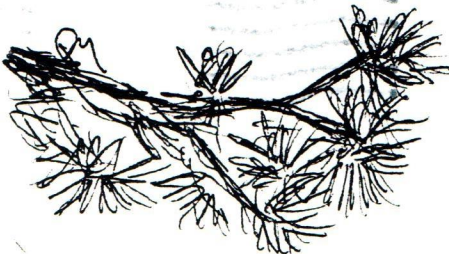
Pete Yamagata

MT. MANUEL (3379')

MARCH 29, 1986

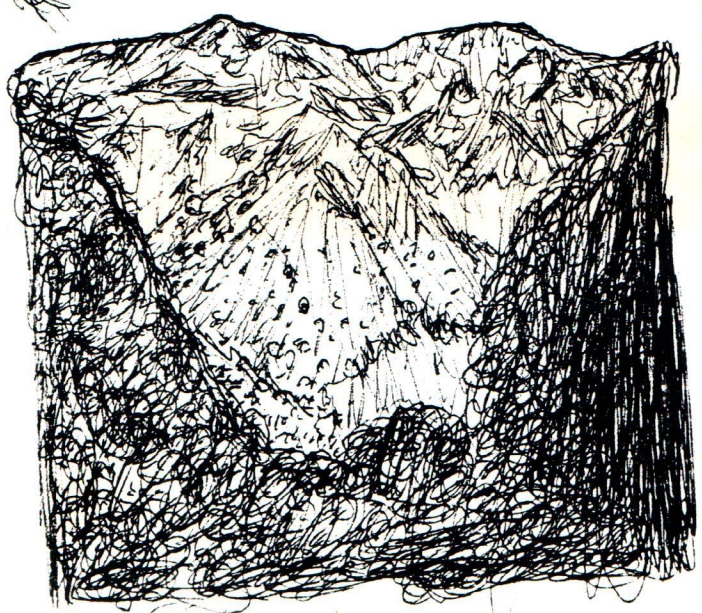
Leo Krastins and I left Friday night for this peak which was listed by the local chapter as a "perfect conditioning hike." We carcamped Friday night along Hwy. 1 just south of Carmel Highlands. Apparently, there is little restriction for people to sleep in their vehicles along the road as we saw many pulled off during the late hours of the night.

After a good breakfast at the Village Inn in Carmel (about 10 miles back), we continued onto Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park. The trail begins near the picnic area with plenty of parking space and restrooms. The sign says "Mt. Manuel, 4 miles." One passes the homestead cabin and takes the fitness trail to a turnoff clearly marked as "Mt. Manuel, 4.3 miles!" Our weather was high fog and clouds, with low light making photography difficult. The trail contours high above Big Sur River Gorge which might make an interesting scramble. As we climbed, the clouds parted and blue sky and sun appeared overhead. We gained views of some beautiful peaks within the Ventana Wilderness--similar to the rocky and domed mid-elevations of the Central and South Sierra.



Passing pretty outcrops of white rock sprinkled with paintbrush and occasional agave, we reached the top of the ridge. Here the trail was cut recently through thick brush which obscured any possible high points. We continued until the trail began a clearly continuous descent. I climbed one small bump with a stick and a pile of rocks, but no register and definitely not a high point! High fog prevented us from getting the views that we deserved, having had to brush off scores of ticks enroute! Inquiries with other hikers led us to believe that there was no true summit--this was just a long ridge. Manuel is not the highest point on this ridge, but, well...we had a good hike anyway! After staying the night in the campground below, we took a short hike (0.4 mile) to see Pfeiffer Falls, a 60-70 foot waterfall surrounded by beautiful redwood groves. Our plans for a second peak, Cone Peak, were scrapped in favor of a tour of the Monterey Peninsula---the 17 mile drive, Fisherman's Wharf, and Cannery Row. The drive to this scenic area was moderate---about 3½ hours to Monterey and another hour or so of stops and picture-taking to reach Big Sur (26 miles). Perhaps February would avoid the fog and those worrisome ticks!

Pete Yamagata



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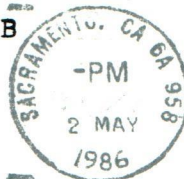
EDITOR:

Pete Yamagata, 2109 10th Street #3, Sacramento, CA 95818

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify labeler Harry Erl, 2520 Greenwood Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821

PEAK AND GORGE, MOTHER LODE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB
c/o Pete Yamagata
2109 10th Street #3
Sacramento, CA 95818



John Sarna
1500 Seventh Street #9D
Sacramento CA 95814

Spring skiing, for some, is the most enjoyable variation on peak climbing. Here tourers carry skis up a steep section of slope in the vicinity of Onion Valley near Independence, CA.