

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

January-February 1987 Issue # 19

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

This is the slow season for climbing trips, but there are many alternatives. Day hikes, ski trips and ski peak climbs can fill the winter weekends and keep you in good hiking trim. The section's calendar below highlights our own trips in the current schedule, check the Bonanza for other sections' trips.

I would like to urge each of you to use some of your time this winter in one of these pursuits:

- Update or improve your leadership skills. Get your first aid and CPR cards, take a course or study a book. The phone number for the Red Cross is 452-6541. If you have a Basic First Aid card, consider upgrading to Advanced.
- Plan a trip. Even if you aren't ready to lead it, you can work out the details and assist a Club-sanctioned leader, or suggest a particular objective. Dig through your maps and guidebooks - what would you most like to climb next summer? The Spring Schedule deadline is Feb. 1.
- Write a Boulder article, find a poem, or do a sketch. This is your news: share something with us all.
- Prepare a presentation for a section meeting. Once again, it needn't be involved or technical. Slides are helpful but not required. Contribute a little something to spice up the meetings.

In trips or meetings, remember, the quality of the section's activities depends on your support and effort.

The December potluck nearly didn't happen when no meeting place could be found and I was compelled to publish a cancellation. Fortunately, Preston's slide show of the Canadian Rockies played to a very full house, so some thirty people heard John volunteer his apartment for the potluck. Eleven made it for

a potpourri of good food and slides, including Ellen's incredible slides from the Mountains of the Moon (and someone else's slides of a wedding reception?). The point here is that the confusion about the meeting place would never have happened if one member could have volunteered his or her home before the deadlines were upon us. Neither I nor anyone else of the steering committee is willing to spend hours on the phone cajoling you and twisting your arms one by one to make the section work. It's up to you: volunteer and enjoy an interesting outings section, or let "someone else" do it all and wonder why Peak and Gorge is no fun anymore.

(By the way, Preston included close-up slides of the map before several scenery or climbing pictures, which greatly helped his audience grasp the sequence and relationships of the terrain.)

Please amend your address books: I've moved to 570 39th St., Sacramento 95816, telephone 452-7126. We're about mid-block between 'H' St. and the five-way intersection of 39th, 'D' and McKinley, at least several meetings are guaranteed to be here.

A prosperous and happy new year to all!

D. Joy

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY. RENEW YOUR BOULDER SUBSCRIPTION! Only \$4.00, check payable to "Peak and Gorge"; Mail to T. Tyler, 2016 28th, 2nd Floor, Sacramento 95816.

Jan. 11, Sun. Ski/snowshoe practice. Jack Rankin, 457-0776.

Jan. 20, Tues. 7:30 pm. Section Meeting - Preston will present the essentials of survival, focusing on winter techniques. Sign-ups for Jan. 31 trip will be taken. At Van Fleet's, 1105 Alamos Ave., 927-9288, or call Doug, 452-7126.

Jan. 31, Sat. CPR Saturday, training is free. Call early to register and set entry time, American Red Cross, 452-6541.

Jan 31-Feb. 1, Sat.-Sun. Winter survival field trip. Sign-up deadline Wed., the 28th. Call Preston, 1-758-0374.

Feb. 1. SPRING TRIP WRITEUPS DUE. Mail to: Doug Joy, 570 39th Street, Sacramento 95816. Also, first day to get summer permit reservations for Yosemite.

Feb. 1, Sun. Strawberry - Cody Peak ski tour, moderate. Jack Rankin, 457-0776.

Feb 14-16, Sat.-Mon. Desert peaks in Death Valley. John Sarna 446-6178.

Feb. 17, Tue. 7:30 pm. Social meeting/slide show: see Rex's All-Time Peak Sampler, bring a snack. Van Fleet's, 1105 Alamos Ave., directions: call 927-9288 or Doug, 452-7126.

Feb 28, Sat. Cisco Grove-Old Man Mt. via ski, vigorous. Jack Rankin, 457-0776.

Mar. 1 First day to get National Forest summer permit reservations.

Mar. 14, Sat. North Crystals via ski. Strenuous. Jack Rankin, 457-0776.

Mar. 17, Tue. 7:30 pm. Section meeting, details TBA, see March Boulder.

TBA - a presentation on mountain weather at an upcoming section meeting.

TBA - April ice axe, navigation training.

TBA - May, September beginning rock climbing training.

TBA - June, July, August intermediate rock climbing or prusiking practice.

STUFF FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PACK

(responses can be called in directly to Doug at 452-7126)

- Dan Dobbins nominations are coming up, know any deserving young conservationists or outdoorsy-types?
- Would someone like to write a "Gorge corner" for the Boulder?
- Your loyal chair would appreciate the services of a real typist, requires only a couple of evenings each three months. Volunteers?
- Anyone interested in presenting tips on photography or sketching at a section meeting?

BOULDER SUBSCRIBER RECOGNITION LIST

In the next issue of the Boulder, I intend to print a list of Boulder subscribers and accord recognition for NAS, SGS, and OGUL climbs and scrambles. This updated list was promised annually in Boulder issue # 13. If you wish recognition beyond that given you in that issue of the Boulder, please send a list of climbs or scrambles (as specified in NAS, SGS, or OGUL qualifying list pamphlet) to the Peak and Gorge Section Treasurer (Tobi Tyler, see back page of Boulder for address). If you think you've done sufficient climbs or scrambles for recognition (eg. an emblem), but also think its silly to keep track of names, dates, and leaders, you can talk to Peak and Gorge Section Chair (Doug Joy) about changing the requirements or getting a waiver. As changing requirements may be a controversial matter (your editor's opinion may be aired in a future editorial), letters to the editor will be printed in the Boulder on that topic (and any others of section interest) for those who wish to make public their opinions. Send such correspondence to your editor. (Articles on trips are infrequent in the winter, so there's plenty of space in the Boulder this time of year.)

John Sarna



drawing by E. VanFleet

INDEX TO PEAKS AND GORGES IN PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE BOULDER

Listed on the next page is an index of the collective experiences of many peak-baggers and gorge-scramblers. It is provided primarily to assist you when planning future excursions. We (naturally) cannot assume liability for the accuracy of any statements that appear in trip summaries, poetry, or other material referred to in the Boulder Index. Any corrections or additions to the index itself should be brought to the attention of the editor for inclusion in next year's index.

A DESERT PEAKS OUTING
SHEEPHEAD MTN (4270'), PYRAMID PEAK (6703'),
TELESCOPE PEAK (11,049'), AND CRATER MTN (9172')

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 27-30, 1986

Thirteen persons met at high noon Thanksgiving day at Furnace Creek Visitor Center in Death Valley National Monument for this ambitious desert weekend. We caravanned to Salsbury Pass to climb Sheephead, 2 miles with 1,000' gain. Reaching the top in late afternoon, we saw the long shadows stretching across the Greenwater Valley and cradling the convoluted ranges in low light and contrasts. We bathed at Tecopa Hot Springs, one of the nicest that I have visited, then enjoyed a typical turkey dinner at the Crowbar Cafe in Shoshone.

Awakening at 5:45 a.m. the next morning, we drove to a point several miles west of Death Valley Junction on Hwy. 190 to begin the climb of Pyramid (4-5 miles with 4,000' gain), a highly colorful and stratified mountain. Climbing the "standard" E-SE ridge, we climbed over rough rock and scree to find the semblance of a trail up the last 500 feet (probably from numerous single-file DPS groups). The views stretched from the Whitney group to Charleston Peak, with unbelievable desert geology in between.

After dinner in the Monument, we slept at Wildrose Campground. We drove to Mahogany Flat the next morning to climb Telescope. A cold, windy summit stay and descent followed the four hour trail walk to the top. The group split up by carload for various reasons, leaving four to bag Crater Mtn., the high point of the Mono Craters. Most arrived home by early Sunday evening.

Iron Man awards go to Rex Smith and Jim Baker for "going the distance." Honorable Mentions (3 peaks) go to Boris Nahlovsky (who bagged Wildrose Pk. instead of Telescope), Camille Nahlovsky, Barbara Baker, Howard Steidtmann, Tobi Tyler, Lasta Tomasevich, Howard Cole, and John Sarna. Other participants were Ellen Van Fleet (who preferred sketching to Sheephead) and Shep Iiams.

Pete Yamagata

Hawkin's Peak (10,023')

Aug. 16, 1986

The Sierra Club Hawkin's Peak Climb from the "other" side included 10 participants. Lead by Pat Purcell, we braved it from the Turtle Creek Recreation Site on the Markleyville side.

The road was rough, as there was no road, and part of the ascent consisted of class 3 rock scrambling or traversing shrubbery. We logged 3456' and a total of 13.6 miles, these precise measurements thanks to Rex Smith's altimeter and pedometer. At the top, we enjoyed a spectacular view on a clear, hot Sierra day of the "2 gallons of water" type.

Our man of the hour was Ben Stoeker, who seemed to mobilize our inner resources when we were lost, confused, or both, by declaring the whole trip "a piece of cake". Special mention goes to Bill Patterson's net that fortunately remained empty of butterflies, to Barbara Hinkle whose political support on the key issues were invaluable to this writer, and to the fearless pair of John Sarna and Mike Lee who did it their way.

After 9 hours of hiking and a strong finish at 7 PM, we rewarded ourselves with an outdoor dinner along the Markleyville's main strip, which offered a representative view of the local nightlife, and stirred much interest among the members of the group.

All in all, a well balanced day for the diehards, and another Pat Purcell success.

Ronnie Elvebakk

NEVADA PEAKS

Diamond Peak (10,614') and Roberts Creek Peak (10,133') October 11, 12, 13 1986

We all met in Austin, Nevada and mingled in with a Ferrari Speed Car Rally. Members of our "Ferrari Climbing Club" included Bill Hauser, leader, Rex Smith, Boris and Camille Nahlovski, Jean Brubaker, Roger Ehret, Tobi Tyler, and Howard (Howard Hughes) Steidtmann. No new snow yet on the Desatoya Range--just a little scattering on the North Face of "Bunker Hill" (Gene Markley's Bi-Centennial peak of 1976).

All those Ferraris got me into the rocket 88 mood and when I passed Boris I was going 90 mph---All of a sudden I saw a gumball machine comin after me---way out here--way out here east of Bob Scott Summit. No.....yes...\$110 fine!! However the Sheriff explained that there have been 6 deaths in the past 7 weeks on that stretch of U.S. 50!!! All killed I guess by hitting "those Brown-eyed Girls." (Cows)

Nice picnic at the Petroglyphs BLM. Eureka, Nevada by 3 p.m. Caravan up to Honwood Canyon. Howard scouted up to the end of the road. Decided to camp lower to a real pretty stream and golden aspens. Big bonfire--nice community dinner with lots of goodies.

Sunday. We had a nice fire at breakfast time too. Leave 9:30 a.m. Summit 12:30 p.m. Windy at times. Great day. Warm in afternoon. Cold (20-25°F at night). Bluebirds (Nevada State Bird I think) amidst snowbanks on the summit. Howard and I built a giant cairn. Great views of Schell Creek Range, Morey Peak, Duckwater and Currant, & Monitors. Nice forest of Limber Pines on west side of peak. Signs of Gold Rush miners cutting them down. We had a discussion whether or not cairns were intrusions to the natural features of a summit or whether a cairn is indeed an "altar" to worship the Great Spirit. We also talked about different register model for different peaks.

No register peaks	white tube register peaks (Harry Erl)	(Sierra Club) steel case type peaks
(i.e. Pancake Range) Mt. Diablo	Diamond Pk. Freel Pk.	Mt. Ritter Mt. Banner Mt. Whitney

Harry Erl can form a committee to classify peaks versus type of register!

Great day. Down to cars at 4:30 p.m. My knee that I'd been nursing all summer seemed to do O.K. I'm convinced it was that running on blacktop that did me in.

Big meal in wild and wooly Eureka, Nevada. All the gold mines are opening up and the town is booming. We all decide to tackle "Roberts Creek Peak" on Monday. Camp out in pitch black 9 p.m. Lots of shooting stars.

Monday Roberts Creek Peak (a Creek-Peak??). Clear, sunny. Hey, the road up to our "Creek-Peak" is on the other side of the Creek!! Found a bridge crossing O.K. Golden Willows. Golden Wild Roses. Saw 4 camps of Hunters along creek. Leave for peak at 10 a.m. Warm. Great desert day. All the threats of a storm were gone. The radio said snow to 5,000'!!! None of us believed it--really. Onward up to our "Creek-Peak."

By the way, the White Pine Range to the south is not named for white pines, it's the Limber Pine that looks like a White Pine. Saw 2 coyote carcasses dead right next to each other. We speculated poison. We all took different routes thru the Limestone crags. Low and Behold it was a false summit at 12:30 p.m. Saw helicopters booming in over our high valley & close to the summit. Corporate greed spreading into the Roberts Creek Range. I gave the Helicopters the finger; more corporate oriented members waved to them.

We dropped down 500' or so and got the exact summit of our Creek-Peak at 1:30 p.m. Howard and I built another cairn and placed a "Harry Erl" register. Howard pointed out "Western Peak" (9061')--possibly the only class 4 peak in Northern Nevada?? Good future

exploratory peak.

Big party at the "covered bridge" with Camille's pumpkin pie. We saw the home of the rare Nevada River Otter in Vinini Creek!! Howard stopped at Spencers Hot Springs and I stopped at Carson Hot Springs. Great trip. Great people. Home by 3 a.m.

Bill Hauser 408-243-4566

* ***** TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ***** *
* PLEASE DISPATCH \$ 4 TO Peak and Gorge Treasurer TOBI TYLER *
* (address on backpage of Boulder) *
* and you will not miss an issue of this inspirational newsletter *
* Dues are delinquent February 24 (Don't let that happen to your dues) *
* MAIL a check for \$ 4 to Tobi TODAY !!! *

OLD MAN MOUNTAIN (7789')

October 18, 1986

With the arrival of light snows the night before, two hardy souls elected to go on this mid-fall climb. Despite the disclaimer "early snow cancels," we set forth from the low pass on the Fordyce Lake road over 1-2" of fresh powder, down the jeep track to the trail that runs along Fordyce Creek from which we began the climb of the southeast face.

Climbing a little further right of the easiest way, searching for some third class to expedite routefinding, John Watters proved a good participant, staying right behind me. Unfortunately, Bradley Brooks, a strong, well-equipped climber strayed to the right a little too far, and despite entreaties to climb down and over to stay with the group, seemed to continue upwards and was not seen again until our return to the main dirt road.

John and I waited in vain for Brad to show up, at which time I surmised that either he was already on or near the top, or dead or injured after possibly slipping on snow, ice, or rock attempting to force a line through the band of rock cliffs that lay between the summit and where we had started. We climbed to the top--no Brad! Thanks to John, I deduced that he was beyond our help after leaving the group--"probably went back to the car." The view of snowy peaks to the east and south, and the bare south facing slopes of English Mtn. and Sierra Buttes to the north made for a wondrous summit stay. I placed a new book (old one gone) in the NAS register.

After a tedious down climb over brush and talus, we hit the trail that runs on the north side of the creek. Just below the peak's SE ridge (?) is a section of Fordyce Creek that I dearly love--cascades, smooth bare granite slabs and medium-deep pools. We spotted Brad's tracks headed back to the car, relieving me of an amount of worry. Incidentally, we saw bear tracks on the way up that morning. Joining Brad at Fordyce Lake, we continued back and up to the car over now mostly bare ground--the snow had melted quickly! A beer at Cisco cleared up some of the misunderstanding that went on on the peak. Apparently Brad had taken note of our pleas to stay together and traversed over to where he had seen us last, but we were gone. The lesson is that climbing routes often diverge, and even if the leader is not 100% sure of the route he is taking, the group should follow and take heed of the leader's directives. Too often a participant has strayed from the easiest and most expedient route, taking often others in the group with him/her. Unless immediately handled by strong leadership, the situation can easily worsen and spoil the rest of the climb--there's not much worse about worrying about missing persons all day/weekend.

Pete Yamagata

DESERT EXPLORATORY OUTING
MITCHELL (7048') AND PROVIDENCE (7171') PEAKS
MT. SAN GORGONIO (11,502')

NOVEMBER 7-11, 1986

Thursday night John Watters and I drove to Bakersfield, then in the morning investigated Black Mtn. (6,600+'), an HPS Peak in the Tehachapis. After some driving around, we dismissed it as unapproachable due to private land. Continuing on, we visited Red Rock Canyon State Park, which will be expanded under Senator Cranston's Desert Protection Bill. This proved to be a very photogenic locale, with eroded towers and cliffs bringing to mind ancient cities à la Cecil B. deMille. We drove on to Randsburg, a desert mining town with its share of local color and history. Next, we stopped at the Barstow museum where exhibits of tools found near Calico were said to be of prehistoric man of 400,000 years ago, shattering many theories. We saw Rainbow Basin, an auto tour of geologic interest and enjoyed a fantastic sunset lighting up the sky with reds, yellows, and oranges.

The next morning we met for the DPS outing to climb Mitchell and Providence. Doug Mantle was leading (see article) and he led us on sandy roads to the trailhead near the Bonanza King Mine. About 15 of us traveled up a canyon, then to a ridge enjoying increasingly better views. The summit of Mitchell appeared after rising to a peaklet and the traverse looked long and tricky. However, with the expert leadership of the DPS, we gained the summit by lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The return was simple, and we drove to a clearing to enjoy our "South of the Border" gourmet potluck dinner. My contribution of 14 bottles and cans of varied brands of Mexican beer was supplemented by John's black bean soup. Tamales, jalapeño pasta, lots of chips and guacamole, chili verde, and a kind of enchilada/taco (I forget the name) and a good campfire made this a great après peak!

The next morning at 8:00 a.m. we left the Mitchell Caverns Ranger Station to follow approximately the same route that I had led two years earlier (but failed). After some downclimbing near the top, we summited by 12:30 p.m. Much of the proposed East Mojave National Park is visible from this point. On the descent the poor assistant leader suffered some cactus spines in her tush and had to lower her pants for removal (ahhhh!). We were back by 4:30 and most ate at La Scalia's in Barstow.

John and I proceeded to Big Bear Lake and on Monday, climbed Gorgonio in a quick four hour ascent on the Dollar Lake trail. We backtracked to climb Jepson (a small bump) and I did Charlton (another HPS Peak). Back to Poopout Hill, we were on the road by 4:00 p.m. and I steeled myself for the long haul to Northern California with coffee and ice cream. I dropped John off at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morn and had most of a day to run errands, well-rested and suffering from no lack of sleep on a pleasant, interesting desert holiday weekend.

Pete Yamagata



THE GOURMET WAY

Mantle is an attorney and avid mountaineer who has climbed between 1,200 and 1,300 peaks in the Sierra and throughout Southern California and Nevada—an inexact figure, he admits, because after a thousand or so peaks, who counts?

Looking to add a bit of spice to his mountaineering expeditions, Mantle, a Sierra Club leader, began organizing "gourmet backpack trips with a theme."

If you once thought camp cooking meant Kraft macaroni and cheese, consider this menu from one of Mantle's latest trips, "A Greek Feast at the Peak."

Hors d'oeuvres included canapes of tahini and ground filberts on crackers, Greek olives, marinated mushrooms (*a la grecque*, of course), smoked oysters, tabouli and leek *a la Greek*.

Appetizers finished up with *dolmades* (grape leaves stuffed with meat), *dolma* (rice in grape leaves) and figs stuffed with feta cheese.

The main course was *moussaka*, and "some smoked salmon slipped by," Mantle says.

Dessert: *baclava* and *halava*, washed down with copious amounts of retsina wine, metaxa, brandy and ouzo.

Mantle and friends also managed to fit in a 2,500-foot climb of Mount Stirling, all during the two-day backpack to the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas.

"It keeps your interest up in the mountains after you've climbed them all a few times," Mantle concludes of his moveable feasts.

Reprinted from the "Echo"
credit to City Sports
Magazine

Mt Goddard(13,568') and Mt Scylla(12,939') in the John Muir Wilderness
August 28-Sept. 2

Leader: Debbie Bulger Coleader: Camille Nahlovsky
Followers: Tobi Tyler, Ellen Van Fleet and John Sarna

The "Scylla five" trip to Mt Goddard this summer was the highlight of my summer hiking but I have been unable to write down the experience adequately, but I don't want that trip to pass unheralded. Yip, Yip, Yip.... Hipocolyse for that Odyssey!

E. VanFleet

TOWARD AN ORGANIC PHILOSOPHY

SPRING, COAST RANGE

The glow of my campfire is dark red and flameless,
The circle of white ash widens around it.
I get up and walk off in the moonlight and each time
I look back the red is deeper and the light smaller.
Scorpio rises late with Mars caught in his claw;
The moon has come before them, the light
Like a choir of children in the young laurel trees.
It is April; the shad, the hot headed fish.
Climbs the rivers; there is trillium in the damp canyons;
The foetid adder's tongue lolls by the waterfall.
There was a farm at this campsite once, it is almost gone now.
There were sheep here after the farm, and fire
Long ago burned the redwoods out of the gulch,
The Douglas fir off the ridge; today the soil
Is stony and incoherent, the small stones lie flat
And plate the surface like scales.
Twenty years ago the spreading gully
Toppled the big oak over onto the house.
Now there is nothing left but the foundations
Hidden in poison oak, and above on the ridge,
Six lonely, ominous fenceposts;
The redwood beams of the barn make a footbridge
Over the deep waterless creek bed;
The hills are covered with wild oats
Dry and white by midsummer.
I walk in the random survivals of the orchard.
In a patch of moonlight a mole
Shakes his tunnel like an angry vein;
Orion walks waist deep in the fog coming in from the ocean;
Leo crouches under the zenith.
There are tiny hard fruits already on the plum trees.
The purity of the apple blossoms is incredible.
As the wind dies down their fragrance
Clusters around them like thick smoke.
All the day they roared with bees, in the moonlight
They are silent and immaculate.

poem by Kenneth Rexroth
IN WHAT HOUR (1940)

Castle Pk and Dinder Cone
drawings by E. VanFleet



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CORRESPONDENCE: We encourage you to send articles or other material of interest to the Peak and Gorge Section. Please type single-spaced on 8.5 x 11" paper and send copy to editor prior to the first of odd-numbered months.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify editor.

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→ Cinder Cone