

THE



# BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

March-April 1987 Issue # 20

## THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Thinking about summer trips? We can attempt any peak by any route this year, so let your imagination run. If we each bring just one or two suggestions to the planning meeting on the 17th, we can fill out a schedule that will interest everyone. As announced at the last meeting, Howard Steidtmann will have indexes on hand for the mass order of USGS topos, so you can get half price on the maps for every trip you anticipate taking. Bring some goodies too, there will probably be ample time to socialize after the planning. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Roger Rollins is taking nominations for the Dan Dobbins Memorial Award for Youth again this year. If you know of an active conservationist or mountaineer, deserving of recognition and 22 years old or younger, contact Roger at P.O. Box 555, Citrus Heights 95611, phone 331-5609.

The Chapter's annual banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at the Grass Valley Grange Hall. The featured speaker will be Gary Snyder, the renowned poet and conservationist. Tickets are only \$10 and include the dinner and program. I understand that Snyder is an outstanding speaker.

I stand corrected on two items I mentioned in my letter to the section's leaders. First, only Yosemite National Park accepts permit reservation requests dated before March 1. Second, Outing Guidelines strongly recommends but does not require leaders to hold a current CPR card. I thank Jackie and Debbie for pointing out these errors. On the other hand, I wish to reiterate that maintaining current first aid credentials demonstrates our good sense and judgement, and greatly reduces the liability risk that we and the Club must bear as long as we continue mountaineering. Our trips are not easy, and get more vigorous as we gain altitude, which presents a tremendous stress on participants' cardiovascular systems. Further, we expose ourselves to lightning and to drowning accidents in stream crossings and gorge scrambles more than any other section. I believe it would be irresponsible to lead a trip without the ability to respond to these types of accidents. I therefore insist that Peak and Gorge trip leaders have some demonstrable knowledge of CPR.

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.
- Mar. 14, Sat. North Crystals via ski. Strenuous. Jack Rankin, 457-0776.
- Mar. 17, Tue. 7:30 pm. Summer trip planning; share a few winter trip slides; order topos; possible safety topic; bring goodies. 570 39th St. (at the street light) between McKinley and H, 452-7126
- Mar. 19-22. Map reading class Thur., compass work Fri. 7:30-10. Saturday, I need five assistants to help set up the practice area. The practice will be Sunday, we'll meet 7:30 am at the Roseville Square bank. If you need instruction, plan to attend the classes. Everyone's welcome to join the practice - it's a fun spring tromp in the foothills. Fee: \$5.00. Call Doug Joy for details, 452-7126.
- April 7 and 9, 6 to 10 pm. Basic first aid class, update your card.  
Instructor: Renee Shahroka, 758-7336, Davis. Fee.
- April 11, Sat. Ski trip, Brokeoff Mt. to Mt. Lassen and all points between. Vigorous, with great views.  
Leader: Jack Rankin, 457-0776.
- April 12, Sun. Snow climbing and ice axe practice. When did you last do a head- first, on-your-back arrest?  
Leader: Andy Sawyer, 442-4215.
- April 13 Sign-up deadline for Sutter Buttes trip. Leader: Howard Cole, 343-3055, Chico; Sacramento coordinator is Tobi Tyler, 455-6455.
- April 21, Tue. 7:30 pm. Judith Fairchild will address the problems of transporting an injured person in rough terrain. 3561 Greenview Lane, on the east side of Watt, one block north of Marconi. Come meet the wolves.
- April 25-26, Sat.-Sun. Kid Mt. and Gilbert Ridge. Serious skiing with Andy Sawyer leading: 442-4215.  
Equipment requirement.
- April 26, Sun. Beginning mountain rock climbing. Basic movement and belaying.  
Equipment requirement, rope fee. Preston Andrews, 758-0374, Davis.
- May 2, Sat. Beginning peak climb, Castle Peak. Regulars welcome to help manage the students.  
Preston Andrews, 758-0374 Davis.
- May 3, Sun. Sutter Buttes trip guided by naturalist specializing in the area.  
Includes ascent of North Butte. Fee. See April 13 listing.
- May 16-17 Sat.-Sun. Intermediate rock climbing, intended for Peak & Gorge regulars.  
Preston Andrews, 758-0374 Davis. Fee, equipment requirement.
- May 19, 7:30 pm. Mark Green will discuss California and mountain weather. 947 Cypress Lane, Davis, 758-0374.  
Map in November '86 Boulder.
- May 23-25, Sat.-Mon. Five peaks near Lake Isabella in the south Sierra. Car camps. John Sarna, 446-6178.  
Assistant desired, call to volunteer.
- June 6-7, Sat.-Sun. Walker Mt. with exploration of nearby peaks and canyons. Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.  
Assistant desired, call to volunteer.
- June 14, Sun. Signal Pk., a moderately-paced day climb. John Sarna, 446-6178.
- TBA - September: beginning rock climbing training.
- TBA - July, August: intermediate rock climbing or prusiking practice.
- TBA - Early fall: glacier and ice climbing

MAPS! MAPS! MAPS! MAPS! maps! maps! maps! MAPS! MAPS! MAPS! MAPS!

### TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Get ready for this year's climbing season now! I am planning to place a map order with the U.S.G.S. on April 2, 1987 (I am not fooling!). Not only is this your chance to obtain hard to find out of state and local maps, but you will **SAVE 50%** if a large enough order is submitted to the Geological Survey. This offer covers nearly any map that you could ever dream of owning (Gannett Peak, Wyoming; La Junta, Colorado; Pancake Summit, Nevada; Delta, Utah; Beverly Hills, California; Bumping Lake, Washington,.....??). **REMEMBER: Maps are a necessary ingredient for safe and enjoyable outings!** So order now, or forever be lost!!!!!!!

**HOWARD STEIDTMANN**

3117 Oak Cliff Circle  
Carmichael, California 95608  
(916) 483-4597

P.S. Some Index Maps are available to insure you order the right maps. Call me if you would like to see these before you place an order. Orders must include the map's name, state and scale in addition to half the current retail price of the maps. An additional 10% should be included to cover postage and sales tax if applicable. Any and all proceeds will be given to the Peak and Gorge treasury.



## SPECIAL NOTICE

Given the reprinting of topo maps in the metric system, how about starting a 4000 meter club as another goal to achieve when peak climbing? If interested, call Pete Yamagata at 444-6319.

\*\*\*\*\* WE'VE MOVED TO YREKA \*\*\*\*\*

Some of you have probably heard the news by now that Harry and I are moving to Yreka, California, and chances are that by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already moved. Harry was fortunate enough to land a good job up there, and it is such a scenic area, abundant with ample places to hike, climb, ski, scramble, fish, mountain bike, etc.... Mt. Shasta is just thirty minutes from Yreka and Castle Crags is just a short hop from there. With such an abundance of recreational opportunities and a good job offer, well, we just couldn't resist.

Once we've settled in and explored the area, we'll probably list some trips in the Bonanza or the Boulder. Hopefully, we will see some of you on those trips. If we don't see you on a trip, then perhaps our paths will cross at other times and we will meet again. Have many good adventures and many happy full moons.

### BOULDER SUBSCRIBER & RECOGNITION LIST

Preston Andrews	Judith Fairchild	Jim Herrell	Diane Reyersen
Robert Baldwin	Janet Farrar	Barbara Hinkle	Roger Rollins ----- X
Virginia Baron	Jeff Farrell	Doug Joy	Gayle Russell
Barbara Beddow	Fred Fischietto	Dave Kaplan	John Sarna ----- X O
Ingrid Bhend	Sue Furio	Dennis Kesselring	John Schwind ----- M
John Bowers	Johanne Gaedehe	Leo Krastins ----- X M	Phil Silva
Brad Bristow	Billy Gear	Vicki Lee	Charles Smith
Lloyd Brown	Mike Golden	David W. Lohn	Rex Smith
Debbie Bulger ----- X O	Jeffrey Gottesman	Joe Magruder	Howard Steidtmann -- M O
Thomas G. Clifton	Mark Green	Gene Markley ----- X M	Jackie Stroud ----- XX O
Howard Cole	Al Gutowsky ----- X	Wayne Monson	Denise Sutherland
Gary Darula	C. M. Gutowsky	Boris Nahlovsky ---- X O	Robert Thater
Roger Ehret ----- X O	Beverly Hanna	Camille Nahlovsky -- X	Tobi Tyler
Harry Erl ----- X O	Claude Hanna	Miles Pepper	Ellen VanFleet
Janet Erl	Bill Hauser ----- X	Linus Platt	Nancy Westerberg
		Jack Rankin	Pete Yamagata ----- XXX O

X -> National Alpine Section (NAS) Emblem Holder  
XX -> National Alpine Section (NAS) Super-Emblem Holder  
XXX -> earned NAS Super-Emblem several times over

O -> Tahoe Ogul List Emblem Holder  
M -> Sierra Gorge Section (SGS) Emblem Holder

The above list is furnished to recognize notable achievements and enhance coordination among scramblers, climbers, etc. Please forgive any errors or omissions in the above information; recognition can only be accorded based on available information. I'll be happy to print corrections (or accord recognition for new status's) in future issues of the Boulder; mail 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).

It has also been brought to my attention that, in the last issue of the Boulder, I made the following enigmatic statement, "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." Permit me to (hopefully) clarify. As in any real set of rules, a balance must be struck between two opposite positions, 1. Everyone should be held to the same set of rules! 2. Allowances should be made for individuality and imperfections inherent in human nature!

The purpose of the NAS Section of the Peak and Gorge Division is, "to give peak climbers the opportunity to climb and explore a variety of mountain ranges throughout California, the Great Basin, and Southern Oregon," which can and should be used to set guidelines. For example, if someone can't remember the exact dates he or she made all the climbs or scrambles necessary to complete an emblem, I would say a waiver of the rule requiring exact dates is justified (given other assurance that the goals were made), since the purpose of our section is still well served. However, although that's my opinion, it's also not my decision to make; our section chair, Doug Joy, by virtue of his position, is responsible for deciding such issues or, if warranted, give our membership the opportunity to collectively do so.

Some readers may think this much-ado-about-nothing and perhaps wonder why anyone would even want to keep track of wheres and whens. I believe it makes as much logical sense as any other reasons to climb peaks or scramble gorges, but these include many fine reasons to continue.

editor: John Sarna



## THE 1987 TRAINING PROGRAM

Spring is the season to refresh your mountaineering skills and to learn new ones in preparation for the summer's peak-climbing and gorge-scrambling season. The Peak and Gorge Section has already sponsored an avalanche seminar and conducted winter-survival training (see reviews in this issue of the Boulder), and several more training sessions are scheduled (watch the Bonanza and "For Your Calendar" in the Boulder for dates). These include last year's popular navigation training lecture and field trip, a snow climbing and ice axe practice, a beginning rock-climbing session, and an intermediate rock-climbing weekend. For you gorge scramblers, navigation training will be useful for finding your way in to and out of those isolated gorges and a knowledge of movement on rock, emphasized at the beginning rock-climbing practice, will help you across those steep traverses above the river. Plans also are being made for a fall practice session on ascending a fixed rope with prusiks (necessary for crevasse rescue) and a weekend on Mt Shasta's Whitney Glacier practicing glacier travel, crevasse rescue and basic ice-climbing techniques.

The need for thorough training in mountaineering skills is emphasized by this extreme, and perhaps funny, excerpt from "Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1986":

### **STRANDED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE, DEHYDRATION**

#### **Utah, Zion National Park**

On August 4, 1985, a man (37) left his car and began hiking upstream in the Virgin River Narrows. He carried 15 meters of nylon clothesline, a hatchet, some steel tent pegs, a large hunting knife and a fanny pack with a canteen. He did not have a topo map, but had a Park mini-folder given to him at the entrance station.

He hiked to the end of the paved trail, then continued about a kilometer further upstream against the river current and over slippery boulders. He consulted his mini-folder map and noticed a trail parallel to the river that would be an alternative route back to his car. (The trail is located about 200 vertical meters and several kilometers distant.)

He decided to climb out to the trail using a crack and chimney system he noticed on the west wall. He ascended by pounding tent pegs into the crack with his hatchet, then looped the clothesline over a peg and pulled himself up. He lost his fanny pack (with canteen) while trying to throw it ahead of him onto a ledge. About 60 meters above the river, he came to a chimney roof that he had trouble getting past. It was very exposed, with loose rock and poor hand and foot holds. His efforts caused a rock slide, and he lost most of his tent pegs. He then tied his hatchet to the clothesline and threw it over the roof to and around the base of a six centimeter diameter tree on a ledge above. He then pulled himself hand over hand on the clothesline to the ledge.

He continued, eventually causing another rock slide—in which he lost the clothesline and the rest of his tent pegs. He continued his ascent by hammering his hunting knife into cracks with the hatchet, then standing on the knife or using it as a handhold, then removing the knife. He eventually came to a point where he could ascend no further, estimated to be 120 meters or more above the river. So he began to descend using the hatchet-knife method.

About 60 meters above the river, he caused an additional rock slide, destroying a critical section of his ascent route and stopping his descent. He rested on a ledge area. In the late afternoon hours he noticed some hikers headed downstream by the river below. He frantically began chopping down small trees and throwing them off in an effort to attract their attention. He almost hit the hikers. (They were upset and later reported the incident.) It was not relayed to park rangers until the following day. The rushing river prevented any verbal communication.

The next morning he saw additional hikers and was able to yell over the river noise for help. The hikers contacted park offices and a two-man technical rescue team was dispatched about 1030. The team climbed up through much loose, rotten rock. They dislodged one huge block in their climb. (They rated the climb a 5.8 difficulty, but emphasized they would never climb in horrible rock like that unless they had to.) After reaching the victim, they placed two bolts and lowered him to the canyon floor.



He was given liquids and escorted to Park Headquarters. Because of the hazardous position in which he had placed himself, the hikers below and his rescuers, he was issued a federal citation for disorderly conduct and subsequently paid the fine. (Source: Bob Lineback, Ranger, Zion National Park)

#### Analysis

The victim had once been shown how to climb by a friend using a rope and pitons. From his memory of that day, he created his tent peg-clothesline ascending system. While in adequate physical condition, his outdoor skills were minimal. He seemed to realize his mistake and promised to seek professional instruction before doing any more climbing. While he suffered some scratches and abrasions, his major problem was dehydration as he went 24 hours without drinking during two days when the high temperature exceeded 30°C. (Source: Bob Lineback, Ranger, Zion National Park)

*(Editor's Note: This is the kind of accident the media will pick up to demonstrate how dangerous climbing is and to illustrate "the true nature" of climbers. This accident is not part of the data pool.)*

We owe it to ourselves and to the safety of our climbing companions, and to the reputation of the Sierra Club and the sport of mountaineering, to have an understanding and proficiency in the basic mountaineering skills that the Peak and Gorge training program offers.

Preston Andrews  
Training Coordinator

#### Avalanche Seminar

Jan. 10-11, 1987

A 2-day basic avalanche seminar was taught by Rodney Babcock, instructor for Alpine Skills Institute, at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge. Most of us arrived Friday evening, enjoying the social atmosphere of the lodge's living room. Several members of the group, who were Trivial Pursuit experts, discovered that an inexperienced British team could successfully overcome the cultural bias of the American game.

The seminar began Saturday morning and most of that day was spent in the lodge watching films and slides, and discussing meteorology, snowpack analysis, metamorphism of snow, avalanches, terrain analysis and path recognition, stability evaluation and rescue. A short trip outside was made about midday to dig a snow pit and analyze snowpack structure. After dinner 2 films were shown in the cafeteria and Rodney answered numerous questions from a large crowd of lodge guests.

Sunday was spent in the field, skiing from Donner Ski Ranch to Lake Angela and then up onto the east end of Boreal Ridge. During the day we stopped periodically to evaluate snowpack structure, practice rescue techniques with probes and transceivers, and discuss safe route selection in avalanche terrain. On Boreal Ridge, we dug a large pit, conducted a thorough analysis of snowpack structure, and evaluated the stability of the snowpack using several types of shear tests. We each returned to Donner Ski Ranch, exhibiting varying degrees of skiing ability, and finished with a run down through the ski area.

Participants in the seminar were Anne Adams, Preston Andrews, John Antle, Brad Brooks, Stuart Clancy, Howard Cole, Judith Fairchild, Janet Farrar, Mark Green, Doug Joy, Rory Lamp, Bob and Renee McDougal, Boris Nahlovsky, Mark Rosen, Charle Smith and Rick Trnka.

Preston Andrews



## CLIMBING BEYOND THE LIST

For the practical Sacramento weekend, the NAS list suffices very well, with all or most of the peaks climbable within a three day weekend, with the more remote ones limited by backpacking time rather than driving time. But, how about those peaks just beyond the boundaries of the NAS list?

Of course, there are other lists, most notably the Angeles Chapter DPS and HPS lists providing coverage throughout the California, Arizona, and Southern Nevada regions, and the non-NAS listed peaks on the SPS list. But, for the adventuresome and eager that may wish to climb some more distant, and often more challenging and beautiful peaks, on perhaps a week or longer jaunt, one can easily consult a map of the western states to seek out new and different areas. Some suggestions follow.

**CENTRAL AND NORTH CASCADES:** Oregon has a few notable peaks north of U.S. 20, chiefly, Mt. Hood and Jefferson. Of course, Washington has a collection of glaciated mountains that bear a list of their own: Rainier, Adams, St. Helens, Baker, Shuksan, and Olympus. There are a large number of peaks in the North Cascades such as Challenger, Bonanza, Eldorado, Index and many others that require considerable time and skill.

**THE IDAHO ROCKIES:** Accessible in the southern half are the Sawtooth Mountains which contain a few fifth-class summits with the third-class high point of Thompson Peak (10,832'), and the adjacent White Cloud Mountains with the highest point of Castle Peak (11,830'). Mt. Borah, the state's high point, is a good one-day third class climb.

**WYOMING AND MONTANA:** The Grand Tetons are the obvious lure, and the Wind Rivers with mighty Gannett Peak offer a very high challenge that is not to be found in California. There are various other ranges with which I am not that familiar.

**UTAH:** The Wasatch range offers many hiker's peaks, with substantial amounts of gain. Mt. Timpanogos is a fun 4,500' gain on trail that offers great views. Mt. Nebo, the highest point in the range, is another good hike. For remoter summits, the Uinta range offers many high peaks, including King's Peak (13,528') which takes about a 10 mile trek to base camp from the north and is the high point of the state.

**COLORADO:** With 53 14,000' summits, this state is a peak climbers paradise. Many of these are fairly easy one day climbs with possibilities for multiple ascents. However, for most California peak climbers, climbing all of them will be a life goal unless one has considerable amounts of free time and energy (although the record for completion has been set in 21 days).

**NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA:** New Mexico's high point of Mt. Wheeler Peak (13,161') is a relatively easy one day hike. Arizona has many desert peaks, aside from the high, forested San Francisco Mountains with Mt. Humphreys (12,633'), another one day hike.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** The Angeles Chapter lists cover the area well, with some Mother Lode Chapter ascents done on extended weekends. Mts. San Antonio, Gorgonio, and Jacinto are all good one-day hikes. Many smaller, but interesting summits are profusely scattered throughout the desert.

**MEXICO:** There are some fine desert peaks close to the border, especially in Baja.

One can certainly spend a life time in climbing the thousands of peaks in the Pacific west with only limitations of time, money, and energy. However, by ambitious weekends and well-planned vacations with luck and good weather, the advanced peak climber can certainly explore and climb the best, or more interesting peaks in a relatively short time period.

Pete Yamagata



Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1937

Winter Survival Outing

Hoping for sufficient snow to build emergency snow shelters, 15 of us arrived at the Boreal Ridge Snopark area near Donner Pass on Saturday morning. At the parking area we discovered we had competition from 25-30 Bay-area Sierra Club members who were planning a similar exercise in about the same general area. Equipped with snow shovels and saws, and carrying full packs, we started up the trail towards Castle Pass by mid-morning. We followed the trail about 3/4 mile and then climbed in a southwesterly direction to the broad shoulder of Andesite Ridge, descending slightly onto its southwest side. We found an accumulation of 4-5' of snow - marginal for snow-cave construction. After lunch we began our attempt to dig snow caves by first throwing snow down onto the site from the crest of the slope above. But after several entrances caved in, Doug led part of the group in constructing snow trenches, while a few of us remained to work on completing at least one cave. When our afternoon of snow slinging was finished our snow village consisted of 2 caves with low ceilings, 5 single-person trenches, an igloo and a 4-person Chouinard Pyramid.

After changing into dry clothing, our kitchen area became alive with the roar of stoves as dinners were prepared. To stay warm after dinner we all sat around the kitchen roaring with laughter as several stories of hilarious outdoor adventure by Patrick F. McManus ("A Fine and Pleasant Misery") were read. We all retired to our respective shelters about 10 p.m. At least 2 members of the group tried out "real" bivouacs (i.e. without sleeping bags) for part of the night and decided that they could survive in varying degrees of discomfort with just what they would carry in their winter day packs. Discussions in one snow cave centered around how to survive a collapsed snow cave. But everyone awoke in intact shelters and emerged rather late into sunshine under blue skies. While it was generally agreed that the warmest shelters with floors higher than their entrances, were the warmest shelters (Chinese water torture testified to that fact), Miles, one of our artists-in-residence, won the award for creating the most aesthetic shelter - an igloo à la stegosaurus. One of the inhabitants of the cluster of snow trenches, known as Babylon City, found that the survival value of a one-person snow trench could be enhanced by double occupancy. Camille found that the interior of her Chouinard Pyramid could be maintained at about 50°F when there were 4 people inside and a stove was going, but that 2 people were insufficient to maintain a comfortable temperature when sleeping during the night. This emphasizes the benefits of the insulation value of snow and that a comfortable temperature will be difficult to maintain in a shelter with too large a volume for the number of occupants.

We spent the morning drying wet clothing on skis and poles, packing and dismantling our shelters. After lunch several members of the group took turns cutting snow blocks and practicing igloo construction. Others took the opportunity for a little skiing, with one member of our group discovering a disgruntled group of Bay-area Sierra Clubbers camped high on Andesite Peak in insufficient snow and under windy conditions.

Taking part in this outing were Anne Adams, Preston Andrews, Howard Cole, Melanie Pettig, Johanna Gaedeke, Doug Joy, Jolie Libsig, Boris and Camille Nahlovsky, Ruben Negrete, Miles Pepper, Scott Renger, Charlie Smith and Ellen Van Fleet.

Preston Andrews



drawing by Ellen VanFleet  
(from Winter Survival Outing)

poem by Charlie Smith, untitled  
( from South Center Basin  
NE of Forester Pass )

These mountains so vast  
my mind unable to take it all in

Granitic forms tower  
over lakes, sedge meadows

full with wild buckwheat  
alpine gentians and shooting stars

There is knowledge  
of the forces at work here:

glacial scooping of lakes and basins  
uplift that continues still today

chemical weathering, erosion  
a plant life that creeps upward

clings on through adversity--  
but the complexity

grand and minute  
still baffles me



## DESERT PEAKS--CHRISTMAS 1986 GRAND SWEEP

The objective of this trip was to make a grand sweep of peaks on the official D.P.S. (Desert Peaks Section of the Sierra Club) list starting at a point in which we normally couldn't get to easily on a 3-day weekend. A second objective was to visit as many remote hot springs as possible between the peak climbing. After we cleaned up all the Arizona peaks I planned a second American ascent of the highest peak in the state of Sonora, Mexico. It turned out that we never got  $\frac{1}{2}$  finished in Arizona and Southern Nevada. All the peaks were full daylight endeavors....most of them we hiked back with no daylight to spare or in the dark.

A big challenge was coordinating all the people who wanted to join me.....all at different meeting places out in the gran desierto. Boris and Camille would meet me on the 25th of December 7 a.m. at Indian Springs, Nevada; Roger Ehret and Tobi Tyler would meet me at the Alpine Inn up on Mt. Charleston on the 26th 6 p.m. (they needed a secondary meeting place in case of bad weather). The secondary meeting place was to be at Mountain Springs Summit west of Las Vegas. Howard Steidtmann would also meet us at Mountain Springs at 7 a.m. on the 27th Saturday. A 4th meeting place was to be at the new house of an old PCS friend of mine--Gary Vesperman in Las Vegas. Another person called from Eureka, Calif. and she wanted a 5th meeting place but I said that I had no idea where we would be after Las Vegas, and that 4 meeting places was my limit.

### SAN JOSE

All the peaks on the DPS List are tricky in either routefinding and/or road head finding. Luckily I saved trip report writeups from past issues of the DPS newsletter. I spent a good portion of a day researching the peaks and roadheads trying to figure out a way to do a peak, drive to the next peak, and fit a remote hot springs in between on days that a next peak was too far away from the previous peak.

I was invited by a very wealthy mentor friend of mine to attend his gala Christmas party. I said that I'd be mountain climbing on the 25th. He said..mountain climbing on Christmas!!! I said..yes, mountain climbing on Christmas to escape the heavy materialism of Silicon Valley. He said...mountain climbing on Christmas was un-American and that I was a god dam hippie atheistic communist. I said he was a greedy god dam Gringo Capitalistic Christian Asshole and that he knew nothing of the spiritual side of mountain climbing. He said...go do what makes you happy...I've got enough people for my Christmas party anyway. I said...I think I'll do just that and wished him a Merry Christmas. He wished me a Merry Christmas and said he'd see me after the 5th of January.

### 23 DEC.

Left San Jose at 3 p.m. No traffic over Pacheco Pass! Camped out past Barstow to cool temperatures and a perfect starlite night. Some rain over Tehachapi Pass.

### 24 DEC.

Tecopa Hot Springs resort. Nice free County of Inyo pool but it was crowded and dirty so I went to one of the 4 private resorts and paid the \$7.50. Amargosa River flowing just a little bit. Tecopa is a big retirement area. I much prefer Harbin Hot Springs with all the nice young females milling around. I enjoyed listening to "A Christmas Carol" and various Christmas music tapes I had in my car. Saw a wild burro near 160 & 95 just outside "Johnnie," Nevada. A special Nevada Reindeer.

### 25 DEC MT. STIRLING 8217'

Real cold near Indian Springs (50 miles north of Las Vegas). Lots of frost on my sleeping bag since I slept out under the stars. Maybe a vapor barrier sleeping bag is a good idea. 7 a.m. as the sun rises. Meet Boris, Camille, and RIFKA OFFENBACH (a tomato plant expert from ISRAEL) at the casino in Indian Springs. Boris had an electrical fire in his VW bus so he was late. We (Boris and I) got into my Toyota Celica and raced up to Mt. Stirling 8217! Camille was recovering from the flu so she and Rifka would tour the Mt. Charleston area. The roadhead is 11.3 miles north of the water tower in Indian Springs. It was real tricky to decide which way to turn once up the dirt road. In general stay right but at 7.1 miles bear left. In 1976 I made all "rights" and ended up on a false summit too far from the peak. We parked at 8.9 miles from U.S. 95.



1½ hours from the highway. Snow stopped us at 6500'! Boris kicked steps to the ridge. We dropped down to the saddle then up to the peak through Piñons but we did see a ½ dozen Jeffrey Pines on a little saddle just below the summit. Top at 1:30 p.m. Great Views of Death Valley, Telescope Peak, and as far away as Troy Peak way up in the Grant Range. Left top at 2:30 p.m. We saw one petroglyph but the snow must have covered the other ones. I would say it was 20°F or so on top. Cars at 3:30 p.m. There are a number of unnamed and unclimbed peaks in the Spring Range. i.e. Peak 8450', 8600', and 9168'. I don't know why Mt. Stirling is on the list. Perhaps because that it is a remote Northern outlying peak of the whole range. Cars 3:30 p.m. Meet Camille and Rifka for a big Christmas Buffet at the Indian Springs Casino. Camille couldn't eat the whole buffet so she ordered soup. However, the soup was so bad she would not eat it....she said it was boiled chicken fat and hot water and she refused to eat it. Boris wouldn't eat his prime rib either,...he said it tasted like soap!! People at the table next to us were not eating their prime rib either...so maybe theirs tasted like soap suds too. Anyway the buffet was O.K. except for the fact it took the waitress about ½ hour to bring us our plates—Oh well, that's life in Indian Springs, Nevada.

### 26\*DEC HAYFORD PEAK 9912'

We caravanned in the dark through the rocky dirt roads of the desert wildlife refuge. Joshua trees all over. Up 6:30 a.m. Cold. Clear. Dry. I slept out under the stars and no frost on my sleeping bag this time. I asked "Boris" our "Doctor of Thermodynamics" and he said the air was so dry that the night chill was not enough to cool the air below its dew point. We also agreed that we must be above the inversion layer. Boris and I stormed (8 a.m.) up the Deadman Canyon Road from 6000' to 8000'! We hit snow at 6500'. Cold, powdery, fluffy snow. Boris punched steps all the way to the cabin at Hidden Forest at 8000'. I was pooped plowing through the foot of snow but Boris was energized by it all. It may have been better to head up one of the south facing ridges to the summit that were snowfree but we plowed on up the regular route. Cabin 11 a.m. A real pretty cabin in a big forest of Jeffrey pines and white fir. Water. Very photogenic with all the snow. It was a long tiring snow climb to the summit. 2 p.m. Bristlecone pines all over. I've never seen so many Bristlecones on any Nevada Summit. Cars 6 p.m. It was a long day. My boots stayed semi-frozen all day long.

Bill Hauser

\*\* Learn about Camille's "inviting" chicken soup & Potosi Mtn as this saga continues in the next issue \*\*

NORTH PEAK (3557') & MT OLYMPIA (2946')

Feb. 7, 1987

A Sacramento based expedition visited the Diablo Mountains on this Saturday, fearlessly led by John Sarna and the undersigned. Including representation from Stockton and Modesto, our group totaled 12 (Paul & Jane never showed up). We had all of the following: spring-like weather in the East Bay, a warm clear day with a light breeze to cool us off, varied hiking terrain, and spectacular views from the peaks.

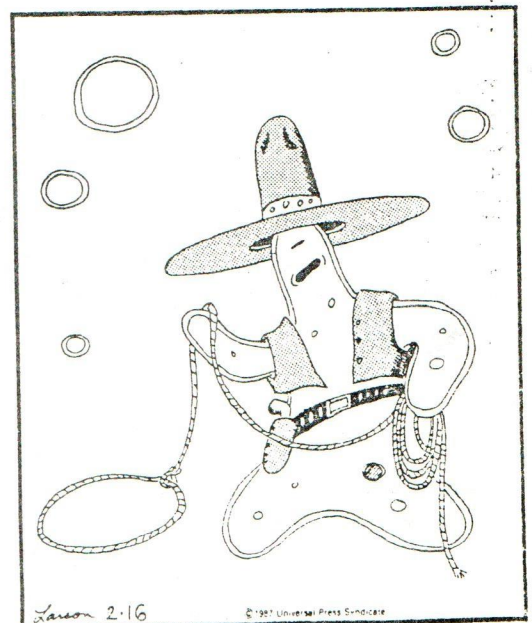
We didn't bag the big devil (Diablo) - there's a paved road up it, but stayed with the less-accessible North Peak and adjacent Mt Olympia. Observed on the trail in unusually laid-back style were Pete Yamagata and Pat Purcell. If you missed "Ebony Towers" on Channel 6 TV, you missed it again on North Peak, interpreted by Pat with total audience involvement. Our descent down the East Trail was steep and rapid, and we were down well before the closing of the park gates at sunset.

John's ingenious car-shuttle worked again and we moved onto the Sea View Inn in Antioch, where we played "Who found Seafood in the Seafood Dish?". However, we all found nice views of the river, the company inspiring, and the day worthwhile.

SUMMARY: 11 mi, 2900' TEG, started from Michael Canyon Trailhead, ended at saddle on Marsh Creek Rd, Total Hk Time: 6 hrs.

Ronnie Elvebakk

## THE FAR SIDE



"So, until next week — Adios, amoebas."



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LOOKING AT MT SEYLA  
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