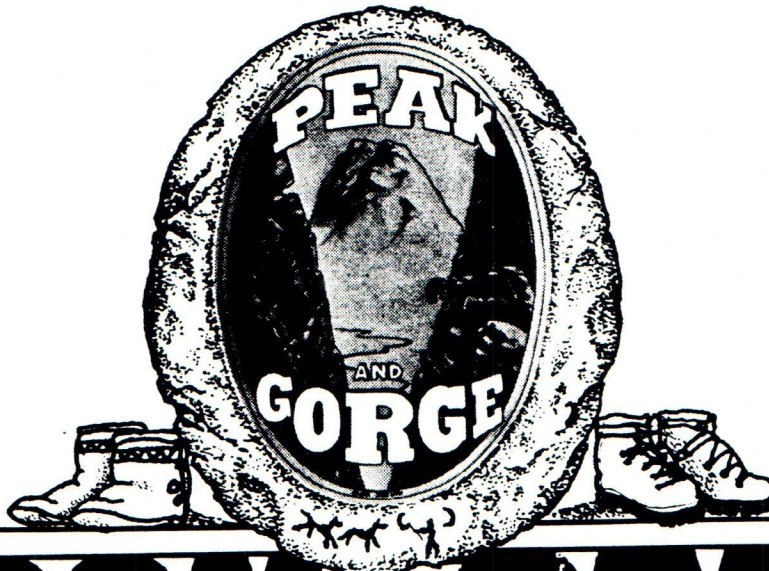


THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

May-June 1987 Issue # 21

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Summer's here at last, and we have a full and varied trip schedule. Please note that the schedule below represents only those plans at Boulder press time, and some changes will inevitably occur before the it is finalized for the Bonanza. Particularly, where several trips are shown for the same weekend, I will try to eliminate the conflicts, so do contact the trip leader to get the final date. Some trip leaders have agreed to accept an assistant but believe the assistant should contact them, so if you need leadership experience, please make arrangements with the leader.

In the realm of meetings, I'd like to draw your particular attention to three in May. We'll be honoring our Dan Dobbins awardees with a (pot luck) dinner at the McKinley Park Garden and Arts Center, Thursday, May 14. A short slide presentation is in the works. Our regular section meeting will be May 19 at Anne and Preston's, with Mark Green giving a talk on mountain weather patterns, see you at 7:30. Finally, the chapter banquet will feature Gary Snyder, see the Bonanza for details. A note of thanks goes to Judith Fairchild for hosting the April section meeting, and her guidance about which factors to consider when an injury may entail an evacuation.

Accompanying his request for trip writeups, Bonanza Schedule Editor Wayne Luney forwarded a questionnaire from Mr. Caden Blincoe, a Club member in Kentucky. Mr. Blincoe is gathering descriptions of outstanding or unusual outings for publication. I believe our gorge trips may appeal to him, and this may be a good way to popularize gorge scrambling. Can one of you please do a writeup (I've never done a gorge myself).

See you on the trail !

D. Joy

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- May 14, 7:30 pm. Dan Dobbins awards ceremony and potluck. McKinley Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park.
Short slide show in planning (preview of Boris's?)
- May 19, 7:30 pm. Mark Green on mountain weather. 947 Cypress Lane, Davis, 758-0374.
- May 23-25 South Sierra peaks. Car camps. John Sarna, 429-8024. Needs assistant.
- May 23-25 Walker Mt. and others. Al Gutowsky, 457-3338. Needs assistant. May do Jun 7-8.
- Jun 13 Mineral Mt (Carson-Iceberg area). Al Gutowsky, 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Jun 14 Signal Pk., a moderately-paced day climb. John Sarna, 429-8024.
- Jun 16, 7:30 pm. Section meeting, a gorge sampler (with Jon Schwind?). At Doug Joy's, 570 39th St, midway between McKinley and H. 927-9288/452-7126
- Jun 20 Clouds' Rest from Tenaya Lk. Steve Thaw (415)376-3380 or Roger Rollins 331-5609.
Needs assistant.
- Jun 20-21 Mt. Abbott via cl.3 SE Buttress. Doug Joy 452-7126.
- Jul 3-5 Peeler Lk, Crown Pt; cl.2, others. Al Gutowsky 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Jul 3-5 Mts. Mendel, Darwin; cl.3. Ldr: P. Andrews. Call: D. Joy, 452-7126.
- Jul 18 Pks 9652, 9537 (Carson/Summit City area). Al Gutowsky 457-3338. Need assistant.
- Jul 21, 6:00 pm. Picnic at East Portal Park, M and 52nd Sts. Will also teach prusiking (see Sep 2 listing).
Details: see Bonanza or call (916)677-4600 / 927-9288.
- Jul 25 Pyramid Pk; cl.2 Gr 30 hike. John Sarna 429-8024 or Ellen Van Fleet 927-9288.
- Jul 24-26 Mts. Gilbert, Johnson; cl.3. Bill Hauser (408)243-4566. Needs assistant.
- Aug 1-2 Gabbro, Page, Epidote; cl.2. Al Gutowsky 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Aug 8-9 Sweetwaters/3 Sisters; cl.2. Camille Nahlovsky, (916)677-4600. Needs assistant.
- Aug 12-16 Ritter Range; cl.2-3. C. Nahlovsky (916)677-4600 or J. Sarna 429-8024
- Aug 14-16 Mt. Humphreys from west; cl.4. Doug Joy 452-7126.
- Aug 15 Tells Pk., (Loon Lk area). Al Gutowsky, 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Aug 18 (August section meeting cancelled for vacation)
- Sep 2, 6:00 pm. Prusik training at McKinley Park. Need Prusiks, harness, 2 slings, 2 carabineers. See Bonanza or call Preston (916)758-0374 or Doug 452-7126.
- Sep 5-7 Ehrnbeck, Hawksbeak Pks (Yosemite). Al Gutowsky 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Sep 5-7 Shasta/Whitney Glacier: glacier training (may try summit). Preston Andrews (916)758-0374.
Must attend Sep 2 class.
- Sep 12-13 Leavitt/Sonora Pass pks; cl.2, car camp. Camille Nahlovsky (916)677-4600.
- Sep 15 Section meeting, see next Boulder for details. Probably summer slides show.
- Sep 26 Duane Bliss, Genoa Pks; cl.2 (Tahoe). Al Gutowsky, 457-3338. Needs assistant.
- Oct 10-12 Duffer Pk, Calico Pk (NV); cl.2-3. Bill Hauser (408) 243-4566 or Howard Steidtmann 483-4597.

SPECIAL NOTICE

DAN DOBBINS AWARDS: The Dan Dobbins Award Committee is pleased to announce the selection of young people for cash awards for 1987. The persons receiving awards this year are:

Eric & William Beckwitt
Bret Alan Clark
Blaine Eslinger
Martin Flowers

Cory Hicks
Brett Hine
John Mathe
Todd Sturgis

The awards will be made at a potluck dinner in their honor on May 14, 1987, at 6:30 PM at the Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. Following the dinner, Boris Nahlovsky will present a slide show titled: Winter Ascent of Ojos Del Salado, 22,600'.

You are encouraged to join us and meet these deserving young people. The Dan Dobbins Award for Youth has been established in the memory of Dan Dobbins for the purpose of encouraging youthful participation in outdoor or conservation activities. Call Roger Rollins at 725-8254 for further information.

PRIVATE TRIPS

July 1-5 Wed-Sun. Mt Clarence King, East & West Vidette, & possibly South Guard. Must be prepared for extremely strenuous hiking and class 5 rock-climbing. If interested, call Pete Yamagata at 444-6319.

CORRECTIONS TO ARTICLES IN BOULDER ISSUE # 20

WE'VE MOVED TO YREKA: If you wondered who announced their move to Yreka in the last Boulder, it was none other than Harry and Janet Erl, creators of this newsletter. My apologies for not putting their names under their article.

BOULDER SUBSCRIBER & RECOGNITION LIST: Recognition also should have been given to Dave Kaplan for earning a National Alpine Section (NAS) Emblem. In addition, Pete Yamagata told me that he has earned the NAS Super-Emblem twice not several times over as mentioned in the article. Finally, those emblem holders who were not current Boulder subscribers were left off the list.

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

PART 1: STATE OF MIND, & BUILDING A 'DEBRIS HUT'

Have you ever wondered how best to insure your survival should you need to spend the night in the wilderness unprepared, or worse yet, should you get lost in the wilderness? Many outdoors enthusiasts are often aware of some of the steps to follow, but often they confuse their order of importance. I have condensed a few important tips on wilderness survival that I have gleaned from the pages of one of my favorite books - Tom Brown's Field Guide To Wilderness Survival. The author, Tom Brown Jr., is a nationally acknowledged tracker and survivalist, and his books on survival and tracking are highly informative and very entertaining. I hope any persons reading this article who venture the realms of the wilds will read Tom's books because he has so many good tips on survival that simply can't be explained in this short series of articles.

I hope to write several short articles on some of the most important survival basics I know. This first article will cover 'proper state of mind' and 'the debris hut'. Following articles will cover other topics such as 'snow shelter', and 'water'.

It is fairly common knowledge that in the event of becoming lost the first thing to do is to stay put so that rescuers can better find you. Though this is an important step to take, I feel the most important first rule to follow is to keep from panicking. Fear can often make a situation seem worse than it actually is, and panic can cause you to do something stupid, like run blindly in search of some highway. Relax and accept your predicament, regardless of how foolish it may seem, and assess the situation. You may find that you aren't really lost but just a bit disoriented and can reorient yourself properly and get back on track. If, however, you clearly feel you are lost and cannot reorient yourself, then stay put.

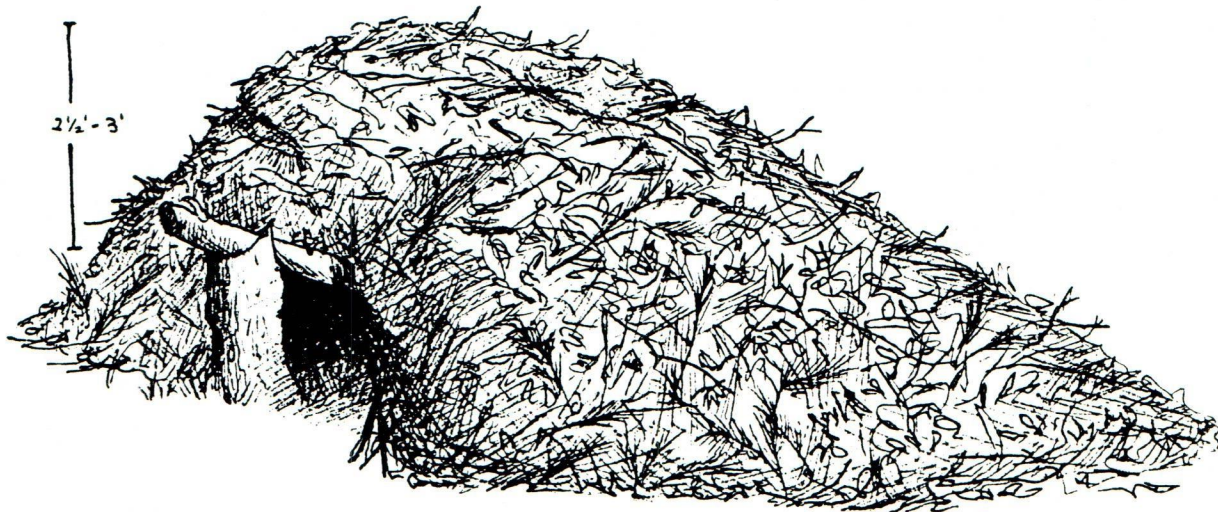
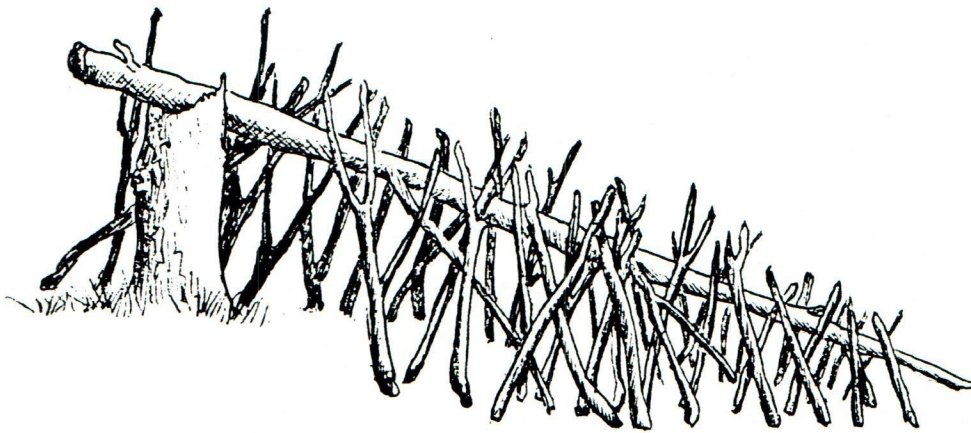
Assess what you will need to survive that day or evening. Form a plan of action and proceed with it. If for instance the temperatures are dropping rapidly and you have little warm clothing, then your first plan will be to make yourself warm. Most people often think then that they must make a fire; they reason a fire is the second basic survival need, but it is not. A fire will do little to keep you warm if it rains or snows and you become wet, and worse yet, what if you haven't the means or knowledge to start a fire. Chances are you could die of exposure in a matter of hours if the conditions are cold or wet enough outside. Next to a calm attitude, shelter is the most important thing to have. Whether your sheltering yourself from the cold and wet or from the burning rays of a desert sun, a shelter cannot only protect you from the elements, it will also reduce your tendency to panic and wander. If constructed properly, a shelter can not only keep you very warm, it can also keep you dry; and better yet, you need no special tools, knives, or blankets to make it.

Before I explain the how to's of shelter building, it is important to remember some guidelines about choosing your location site, for not to do so could result in disaster. Here is a list of guidelines to following in choosing a site:

1. Choose a site that is protected from natural hazards such as avalanche slopes or dead snags or overhanging dead limbs.
2. Find a place away from wind, rain, snow, glaring sun, preferably at the edge of a clearing and on the lee side of incoming weather systems.
3. Build in a dry, well drained area; don't build right next to a stream or river; that way you won't get unexpectedly flooded; preferably build fifty yards from your water source; also avoid locating in washes, troughs, depressions, or valleys - areas that might flood.
4. If you plan to have a fire then don't build atop fire hazards such as pine boughs, peat bogs, or dry grasses.
5. Don't build near animal or insect hazards such as bear dens and ant nests.
6. Look for an area with an abundance of building materials such as leaves and branches.

Though there are many types of shelters that can be constructed from available materials and these shelters can take many shapes and forms, the one shelter I feel that is best suited to a variety of conditions is a design borrowed from our brother squirrels. The basics of construction are to build a simple framework and cover with lots of debris and stuff with insulation. Tom Brown refers to his type of shelter as a 'debris hut'. Though this 'debris hut' design may be of no use in areas such as vast plains or high alpine areas with little or no vegetation, I believe it is a must for outdoors people to learn to build a 'debris hut'.

The 'debris hut' is a simple framework design comprised of one end of a long ridgepole (about 4" thick) placed in the crook of a stump or tree or a free standing tripod comprised of two short stakes. Large sticks are then propped against the ridgepole to create an 'A-frame tent' like ribbing along the ridgepole. Smaller sticks and brush are then laced between the bigger sticks to create a latticework that will keep the debris from falling in. Lastly a two-and-a-half foot to three foot layer of debris is piled atop the latticework. The debris should be comprised of leaves, grasses, sticks, brush, moss, bark slabs, tree boughs, and anything light and airy that is not damp loam. If the weather is extremely cold then add an extra foot or two of debris. Remember that thickness counts not only for insulation but also for keeping the rain out. For added rain protection, however, it is recommended to lay protective shingling such as slabs of bark or mats of absorbent moss. Add a final layer of heavy outer brush to keep the lighter stuff from blowing away in a storm and your 'debris hut' is almost ready.



Next, stuff the interior with the driest, fluffiest materials you can find such as dry leaves, ferns, dry grasses, cattail fluff, etc.... Get inside and pack down and repeat the stuffing and packing process two more times. When this is done set a arm full of material next to the entryway of your hut, this is your sleeping plug and will be used to cover the entryway once you've snuggled inside your hut. Tom also suggests constructing an entryway door. To do this, weave together a dozen or so finger-thick saplings into a matt and stuff with debris. Pile the outside of your door with debris and secure by weaving saplings around the debris. When your ready to retire to your hut, pull your sleeping plug in around you and close the door.

There are many variations and ways to design shelters and huts which I haven't the time to describe. You may for instance wish to give yourself a small working space in your hut or a space to store things. You may incorporate materials or things I haven't mentioned, or perhaps you'll make use of a natural overhang or burnt out log. What is important to remember is to be observant. Look for natural shelters, if none are available, then look for suitable areas to build a hut. The simple principles that makes the 'debris hut' so effective are that, one, lots of debris is insulating. Two-and-a-half feet of debris can protect you to about ten degrees Fahrenheit; four feet of debris can protect you to about forty below. And, two, the steeper the pitch of your outer roof, the more rain protection you will get. If your hut's design can maintain thick insulation and a steep pitched roof then regardless of its general shape or basic structure, it should keep you warm and protected.

I would like to add a final statement about my philosophy on using materials to build a 'debris hut'. While in an emergency situation I highly recommend building a shelter if that is what is necessary to survive; I do not, however, recommend that people clamber to the outdoors and frequently practice hut building simply for the sake of practice. While I do not object to some practice, I feel if a person becomes familiar with the simple methods of 'debris hut' construction then little practice will be needed to make an effective hut when it becomes needed. Please respect the resources of the Mother Earth and if you feel you must practice, then use only dead materials. When you are finished replace the area to its former condition. If, on the other hand, you are in a survival situation and must use living plants, then please do so with as little impact as possible.

For your safety sake, I hope you won't need to build a 'debris hut', but, if you must, then at least you should sleep snug and warm.

by Janet Erl

Winging It

Most of you know I am travelling across this beautiful country in my current job. I have had the opportunity to hike at Torrey Pines State Park north of San Diego, climb Mt Wilson in the San Gabriel Mountains in a foot and a half of snow in my running shoes, and walk around Andrew Johnson's home in rural east Tennessee. With your editor's permission I'd like to share a few of my trips with you. Sort of like Charles Kuralt's "On the Road" or Robert Louis Stevenson's Travels with a Donkey. You decide.

Debbie Bulger

PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT, PIPESTONE, MN

March 25, 1987

It has been raining hard for two days, and I am scheduled to fly out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota in three hours. Luckily the downpour has stopped, giving me an hour to visit this sacred place. "You can't hike the loop trail," the ranger warns. "The creek is up, and the trail is impassable." Just the sort of challenge I enjoy.

The two mile track first loops around the pit quarries gouged into the prairie. Here, under a layer of hard red quartzite, lies a layer of catlinite, a soft carvable red stone that the Dakotas used for their calumets or pipes. At the visitor's center I had seen the beautifully carved and inlayed pipe Buffalo Bill had given Sitting Bull. Now I would see the quarry of its origin.

Using hand tools, the Dakota Sioux quarried, carved, drilled and smoothed this red rock; attached long wooden stems, and offered the smoke in sacred ceremonies. The pits, filled with water after the long rain offer only glimpses of the 12 inch layer of catlinite.

Continuing on, I cross a small section of restored prairie -- now only a shadow of the vast undeveloped expanse that once supported endless herds of buffalo.

The sound of water rushing ahead draws my attention. Large outcroppings of red quartzite thrust from the prairie, and small scrub oaks grow more abundantly. The ranger is right, Pipestone Creek is a raging torrent, plunging over the lip of the sometimes gentle fall and roaring over the trail at its base.

Undaunted, I retreat briefly and climb up the quartzite. My yuppie business associate in suit and tie follows up the easy third class staircase. (He deserves a medal for adventurous spirit and a voucher to use to have his suit cleaned)!

We hike upstream until we can negotiate a crossing, dodging raindrops as we continue the loop. On the ridge beyond the falls we pause briefly to view a little 19th century graffiti. John Fremont and others laboriously incised their initials on a rock when they passed through in 1838.

The rest is easy. My running shoes get a little damp, but at least I'm not in dress shoes like my friend.

"We did it," I tell the ranger. "We did it."

---Debbie Bulger

We will follow Debbie on another
of her distant journeys in the next issue

(Continued from last issue)

26 DEC

Camille and Rifka had a real cheering fire for us along with a terrific chicken soup. No chicken fat!! The soup was so inviting that a coyote (called God's dog by Edward Abbey) came within 50' of our fire. We all liked the camp spot. Being so tired after Hayford Pk. I wanted to crawl into the sack, but, alas we had to be at our 3rd meeting place by 7 a.m. the next morning. We already missed the 2nd meeting place due to the 4000' all on snow (fresh). It was a good thing that we had a backup meeting place as suggested by Roger Ehret.

We camped out off the "Potosi Pass Road" 5500' at 11 p.m. Cold, clear, starlite. We could see the big hulk of Potosi Mtn. in the starlight.

27 DEC POTOSI MTN. 8512'

Up 6 a.m. Meet Howard Steidtmann and Roger Ehret and Tobi Tyler at Mountain Springs Summit (5502'). Cold. There they were; right at the "Old Spanish Trail" monument. I explained that we got "Hayford" but hiked out in the dark at 6 p.m. and was sorry not to have been at the Alpine Inn. However, today is a new day and we have MOUNTAINS to climb. Snowy, wild, atheistic mountains. It took 2 hours to find the safe roadhead due to all the no parking signs, wrought iron gate barriers at the normal Boy Scout camp roadhead, and insidious no trespassing signs nailed to the poor pinyon pines. I found a good spot to park and all the cars were arriving but Roger objected to parking right in front of a no trespassing sign. He drove up the road further and said he found a spot with no signs. We all followed but when I got there this spot placed us behind a hill which we would have to climb up and over to get to the powerline route. So I said to go back to the original park spot and let's climb this mountain and not worry about a few 10¢ no trespassing signs. Roger said he always reprimands me for violating the law on these peak climbs. I said if he didn't watch it I'd nail one of those no

trespassing signs onto the trunk of his car. With that we all got down to the serious business of mountain climbing.

Boris steamed up the snow on the powerline road, then he steamed up the deep snow on the forest ridges. When in the limestone gully Howard took over and literally flew up the steeper snow and rock. Howard got on some class 3 rock but he didn't see the nice ledge around the base of this. Tobi took the ledge over to the main gully and up the snow to the saddle. From here we all went various ways over the false summit down to a saddle and up to the top at 11:30 a.m. The register went back to 1959 and we saw Walt Wheelock's name on top (La Siesta Press owner).

Descent was easy but exposed in places. Our ice axes and some care where the snow came off the rocks was needed. This peak I called the EIGER NORWAND of Nevada because of its steep snowfilled limestone north face. I don't think that north face gets any sun for a month or two in winter. The snow didn't even melt on the way down. Cold, powdery, fluffy. The DPS route description was sure a necessity. 3 p.m. cars. Warm now that we hit the sun. I was tired from the last 3 days and 3 peaks but happy. Now we all were headed into Las Vegas to visit a big time casino and stay at Gary Vesperman's house. Big smog bank over Las Vegas. 44°F.

We got to Gary Vesperman's house and we took showers, baths, etc. Gary gave us a choice of 5 or 6 types of shows. Some with orangutans, some with elephants but no orangutans, some with 7 girls and orangutans but no elephants, some with 7 girls, elephants, but no orangutans, and some with 7 girls, magicians, orangutans, and some with 12 girls, orangutans, but no elephants. Some cut rate show with magicians and 3 girls only.

LAS VEGAS

The choices bewildered everyone. Being frugal, communist Sierra Clubbers, no one wanted to see a show except me! Gary said he'd seen all the shows and recommended the one with elephants but that show was not open till New Years. Tobi rejected the shows because she doesn't believe in wild animals to be used as actors. Gary said the animals looked like they really enjoyed being on stage. We all agreed to go to a tour of Glitter Gulch and the "STRIP." Gary toured us around in his "Grey Whale." We all were going to go in his car--all 7 of us. "Roger" whispered to "Tobi" and said..."I don't really want to go 7 in one car." So Roger said..."Gary...I don't want to go 7 in one car." So Gary said,"O.K. you take your car and we'll meet you at Caesars Palace to see the Omnimax Dome movie with 98 speakers."

The 5 of us got in Gary's car and headed out to eat first. It's hard to explain Gary's '68 Olds with 300,000 miles on it and the spray can paint job. But there we were riding down the strip with the tourists pointing at us and giggling. I asked Gary how could he have got 7 people in this car because 5 seemed pretty full up. Gary said, "Easy. 3 in the front and 4 in the back is 7!" Well it was a big night in Las Vegas. I missed visiting a friend of mine called "Meeka"...he manages the Crazy Horse topless club. Maybe next time. We all camped in Gary's nice new house.

28*DEC

We all slept late 10 a.m. Roger and Tobi leave the group to do something on their own. Howard and Boris were planning to do Mt. Charleston(11,918') and Mummy Mtn (11,530') but changed their mind because of the short days and deep snow. Camille was still ill. She stayed with Gary and the rest of us headed out for the Hot Springs waterfall south of Hoover Dam. Just past the 4.0 mile marker on 93 we saw the sign: White Rock Canyon Colorado River 2.2, Hot Springs 2.9.

We left for the Hot Springs waterfall around noon.... Boris, Howard, Rifka, and me. Nice, pretty hike down a spectacular canyon to the Colorado River. We headed down-stream along a myriad of trails. Howard spotted the Coast Guard marker out in the river as an indicator of the correct canyon. Walked up 1 mile or so....warm stream. A little further a ladder over the waterfall and above a spectacular pool of warm water. The warm water just gushed out of a hole in the rock wall. Really a unique place. Must have been 15 Or 16 people; most of which took a boat to the canyon from Willow Beach Resort "Boat People." We all took many, many pictures. Soaked in the springs and stood under the hot waterfall. Out by 5 p.m. dusk. Great relaxing day.

We all drove back into Vegas to get Camille. Had a nice Mexican dinner in Henderson along 93. Howard had to get a headlight because he got stopped by the Gendarmes of

Arizona, of which there were many. Everywhere we looked in Arizona we saw cop cars... like mosquitoes in an Alaskan bog. After the dinner and installing Howard's headlight we blazed south into Arizona Territory. Camped out west of Dolan Springs. Cold. Quiet. Stars. Coyotes.

by Bill Hauser

tune in next issue for the final installment of this exciting saga where Bill Hauser and company reach out for Weaver's Needle, Arizona

JUNIPERO SERPA PEAK (5862') AND WEST PINNACLES HIKE

MARCH 28-29, 1987

Due to bad weather or some fluky reason, this climb was rescheduled a week later than advertised, so early spring go-getters Rex Smith, and Boris and Camille Nahlovsky joined me for the drive down I-5 to camp at a state ORV park near Hollister and make a clean getaway to breakfast in Salinas. Uncertainty about the approach roads led us to Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation where we stood in line with wild pig hunters to get information on the trailhead.

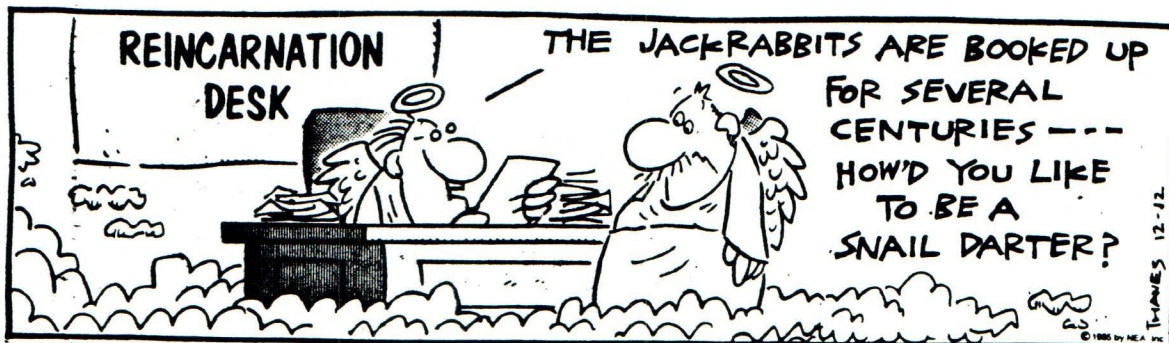
After a straightforward drive into the National Forest, we found the trailhead parking (signed) and an obvious unsigned trail. Passing a colorful display of gold-fields, we wound up a sloping canyon/gully to then switchback through the monotonous chaparral. The 6 mi. o.w., 4,000' gain was completed through partially burnt pine forests in due time, and we all climbed the shaky-looking lookout tower to obtain clear, panoramic views of the Ventana Wilderness, and snowy Cone Peak (5155'), with a glimpse of the Pacific Ocean.

Back to the cars by dusk, we had dinner in King City, then camped at West Pinnacles (a weary drive for me). The next morning we climbed a small bump (Scout Peak?), passing through a myriad of wildflowers and the steep, foreboding volcanic towers all around us. We continued along the spectacular High Peaks Trail to Chalone Creek Parking Area where rangers were busy directing traffic on this most beautiful of days! Continuing back through the talus caves on the Balconies Trail, we finished the 8 mile loop and then stopped to inspect or buy fruit at the big produce stand near Pacheco Pass on the way home, arriving back to Sac at a very decent hour!

Pete Yamagata

** Incidentally, Junipero Serra Peak is a ways further south than Mt. Langley!??!

Frank & Ernest



A resolute Ellen VF, Rifka O, Camille N (asst leader), and myself left on the 12th to meet our destiny in Death Valley National Monument. A giant of a storm followed us across Echo Summit, blocking this route to Death Valley for several others who had to take the 199 Route through Bakersfield the next day. Our drive down 395 was enlivened by a side trip to the Tufa formations at Mono Lake and the adjacent Panum Crater, each taking about an hour and being well worth the time.

The next morning it took a good 2 hours to get from our quick-and-dirty camp on the highway 267 pullout at the entrance to Death Valley to the usual starting point for Tin Mtn from the West. Some uneventful 4000' up and 2 miles later with simply spectacular views of Racetrack Valley brought us to a ridge within a half mile of Tin. But, just as we mounted the ridge and expected our first view of the peak, the good weather gave way to a blinding snow storm. But, the climb was not easily abandoned! Camille had pinpointed our exact position on the map and, given a proper azimuth, we walked ambivalently toward what we trusted was the peak. Fears of being hopelessly lost evaporated when the next high point revealed a DPS register. Even more miraculously, strong winds began a battle with the clouds surrounding us sometimes winning us glimpses of shrouded pinnacles. By the time we got back to where we came into the white-out, the wind had conquered and a pure blue sky greeted us making the remaining steep descent quite enjoyable. We then drove to Ubehebe Crater in the twilight where dinner was cooked while a number of Friday-the-13 worshipers marched down into the crater's depths under a full moon. The warm food and good company were sufficient to dispel more than a brief concern with the satanic screams that occasionally drifted up out of the crater.

Sat, the four of us met Terry D, Dave B, Jim & Carol M at Stovepipe Wells Village at 8 AM and, after extended discussion, drove to a saddle on Titus Canyon Rd to explore an unfrequented route up Corkscrew Mtn. A ridge led us over many bumps, providing us with views up to 100 miles to the west, including that of Mt Whitney. The peak was conquered forthright, and rather than climb each bump again, we decided to go for a direct descent to Jim's car, parked near Hole-in-the-Wall Spring. This did not save much time. Although going down steep scree was easier, it was also slow. Also, Ellen found a natural arch badly in need of pictures with people under it. Furthermore, although we followed ducks left by the DPS all the way to Hwy 394, Jim's car wasn't there to greet us, a great disappointment to all. So, Jim went up the highway and Camille and Terry down the highway in search of transportation. The rest rested until Jim drove up after finding his car one troublesome mile away.

We all met again on Sunday at 8 AM, but only Ellen, Terry, Dave and I wanted to climb another peak. As the others transformed into typical tourists for a day, the 4 of us decided an assault of Eagle Mtn would be most challenging in the available time. Rumors of a difficult, hard-to-find class 3 approach plagued us, however, as we drove up to a group of parked cars near where the trek should start. Fortunately, a Mountain Rescue Group from around LA had preceded us by less than an hour and we were able to follow occasional flashes of colored clothing to strategic gullies and ridges. We replaced the MR group on top after a scant 1.5 hour. After taking a similar time on top to enjoy the views (the wind was now battling clouds on more distant peaks), we easily backtracked and drove to Zabriski point for the sunset, another world of enchantment.

To complete this odessa, 6 of us climbed down into Ubehebe Crater the following morning. The only trace left from the Fri night revelry was a distinctly patterned babushka which Rifka secured. The morning fading away, it could only be followed by the long 10 drive home along 95 in Nevada. But, what a weekend!

SUMMARY: TIN: 6 mi rt; 4500' TEG; started on dirt road 10.5 mi S of Ubehebe Crater; in 8 hours. CORKSCREW: 10 mi; 1800' uphill; 4500' downhill; started at saddle on Titus Canyon Road; ended on Hwy 374 @ 2800' el; in 7 hours. EAGLE: 5 mi rt; 1800' TEG; started at wash 200 yds E of Hwy 127 8 mi S of DV Junction; 1.5 hr up; 1 hr down.

John Sarna

from The Climbers Guide to the High Sierra
All class 3 routes up

Matterhorn Peak (12,264)

This is the peak which defeated Jack Kerouac. It is probably the most popular mountain climb in Northern Yosemite, and although badly named, it is a nice peak and commands a superb view.

Route 1. Southwest Side. Class 2. From Burro Pass contour east and climb a broad scree gully to the summit.

Route 2. Southeast Side. Class 2. An easy ascent can be made from the vicinity of Horse Creek Pass.

Route 3. East Couloir. Class 3. This is the normal route from Twin Lakes. An obvious couloir on the east side of the northeast ridge leads to the east ridge. Follow this to the top.

Route 6. Northwest Side. Class 3. From the notch between Matterhorn and Dragtooth climb a gully or a face to the top.

drawing on this and back page
by Ellen VanFleet



PEAK AND GORGE BOULDER: Published six times a year by Peak and Gorge Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club

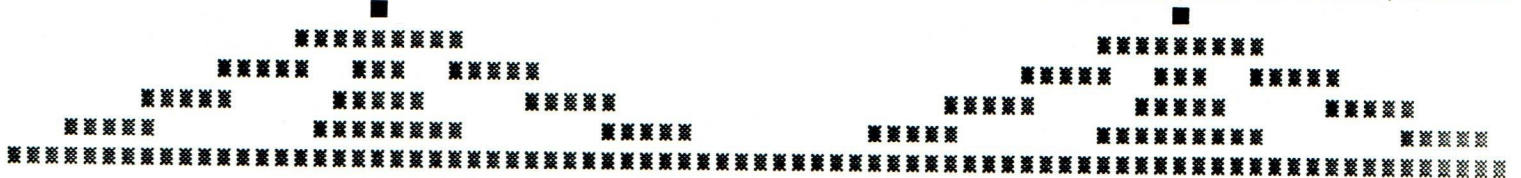
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Dues are \$4.00 per year and are delinquent Feb. 24. Subscriptions expire December 31. Please send remittance (by check payable to "Peak and Gorge") to: Treasurer Tobi Tyler; 2018 28th St. --- Sacramento, CA 95816

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.

EDITOR: John E. Sarna --- 12 Park Vista Circle (916) 429-8024 Sacramento, CA 95831

PEAK&GORGE&PK&GORGE | PEAK&GORGE&PEAK&GORGE&PK&GORGE&PEAK&GORGE | PEAK&GORGE | PEAK&G



PEAK AND GORGE, MOTHER LODE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB
C/O John E. Sarna
12 Park Vista Circle
Sacramento, CA 95831

