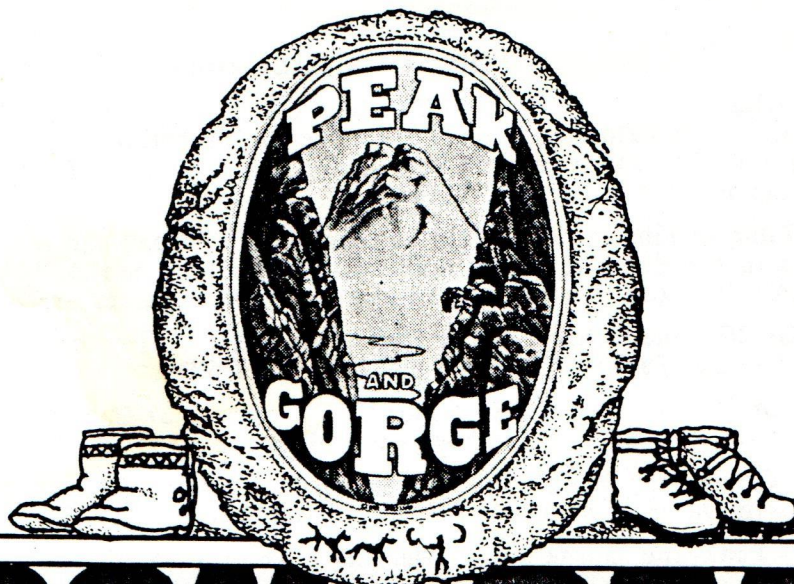


THE



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# BOULDER

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motherlode chapter-sierra club

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ISSUE NO. 33, Nov. & Dec. 1989

## THE CHAIR'S CORNER

This month's message must begin on a somber note. For the second year in a row, our outings leaders will not be able to offer club-sanctioned trips where use of either rope or ice axe is anticipated. Apparently, not one of the 50 mainline insurance companies contacted by the Sierra Club's Finance Director was willing to provide a "binder" for the cost of mountaineering liability insurance. As long as quotes cannot be obtained, only a major change in the status quo, such as forming a separate legal entity to conduct outings (to avoid having a deep pocket), will bring these "high risk" activities back into our outings program.

Unfortunately there is no going back to the "old" days of unfettered climbing. Even if mountaineering insurance can be procured, it is likely we'd have to collect fees (\$20 to \$100 per person annually) to pay for special coverage, and we'd still have to adjust to a rigid organizational structure that makes us appear less vulnerable to accidents. If you have a response to these developments, please express your views to Ed Vandercook (482-0113) or Jackie Stroud (457-6338). Something's amiss when anyone can pay \$22 to take an unsupervised rappel 300' straight down the wall of Moaning Cavern, while experienced climbers in our section are unable to voluntarily pass on their skills in a meaningful setting.

While the extension of the mountaineering restrictions is discouraging, it does not signify the end of this section's outings program. If outings leaders are willing to make specific plans to avoid steep snow and use easier routes, the vast majority of peaks and gorges on our NAS list can still be scheduled. Such trips, our social meetings, and this newsletter will serve as a means of meeting others interested in doing advanced mountaineering on private trips. Non-technical outings also serve a greater good, helping people learn to appreciate the vigorous wilderness experiences we enjoy, and of course, building a wilderness ethic.

We are currently addressing a number of other important concerns. The Forest Service is proposing to charge \$3.00 per person per reservation for wilderness permits in order to lower the number of no-shows (a letter suggesting other options is warranted; John Watters is compiling opinions on the matter; call 383-6150). Some people are taking register books off peaks to "preserve" them in private collections (see Pete Yamagata's article inside this issue to find out who to complain to). Also, I'm preparing to revise our peak and gorge lists to include the USGS Quad maps that objectives are on (to help locate them), the class (1-5) and a difficulty grade (1A to 9F) of the easiest route there. Please direct any general comments to me at 429-8024.

Happy Hiking, John Sarna



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 28, Sat. - Class 2/3 Peak Climb - RED LAKE PEAK AND STEVENS PEAK (both 10,061') and fall colors below in Hope Valley are the objective of this Class 2 hike (with one Class 3 Summit Block). Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 7 a.m. Limited to 12. Call for reservations. Leader: Doug Joy, 452-7126.

Nov. 4, Sat. - Time to finalize any Outings planned for Dec. 15 to Mar. 15 in order to have them published in the Bonanza; send your writeups to John Sarna, 12 Park Vista Circle, Sacramento, CA 95831 (due dates for publication in the Boulder are on the back page).

Nov. 4, Sat. - Gr 2C Yolano hike, Mt St Helena in Napa Valley, meet at 7 am at corner of 4th and C St. (Central Park) in Davis, Tobi Jones, 758-6779.

Nov. 10, Fri. - Gr 2B Dayhike, Wildcat Pk (1211') in Wildcat Canyon & Tilden Regional Parks, meet at 11th & O at 8 am, Leader: Jack Bussio, 457-3794.

Nov. 11, Sun. - Gr 3B Day Hike, Pine Mtn in Marin County, meet at 7:30 at 11th and O, or at 4th and C St in Davis at 8:00, Pat Purcell 428-0838 (6-9pm).

Nov. 14, Tues. - Peak and Gorge Social Meeting - Annual BYO Slide Show at 7:30 pm. Show 15-25 of your best summer slides to new and/or old friends. Bring a snack to share. Ellen Van Fleet will host, 1105 Alamos, Sacramento 927-9288 (Between Del Paso and Rio Linda, north of Arden).

Nov. 18, Sat. - Gr 3B Dayhike, Mt Wittenberg in Pt Reyes, meet at 11th and O at 8 am, or at 4th & C St in Davis at 8:30, Pat Purcell 428-0838 (6-9pm).

Nov. 25, Sat. - Gr 3B Dayhike, Mt. Vision at Point Reyes, meet at 11th and O at 7:30am, or at 4th & C in Davis at 8:00am, John Besbekos, 348-3584.

Dec. 12, Tues. - Peak and Gorge Social Meeting - Annual December Pot Luck Party at 6:30 pm. Brad Brooks will host, 7500 Cottontree Way, Sacramento, 682-3810 (near Power Inn Rd and Gerber Rd).

**NOTE:** The Nov. and Dec. meetings are on the *second* rather than third *Tues.* of the month.

Some trips offered by the Desert Peaks Section (DPS) in LA are listed below for your information:

Nov 4 Mt Dubois. Leaders in LA: Toby, McMannes  
Nov 4-5 Spectre, Granite #2. Leaders in LA: Russell, Karen Leonard  
Nov 11-12 McCullough, Virgin. Leaders in LA: Karen Leonard, Jim Farkas  
Nov 11-12 Pyramid, Eagle. Leaders in LA: Fritsen  
Nov 18-19 Grapevine, Palmer. Leaders in LA: Doug Mantle  
Nov 18-19 Telescope, Sentinel. Leaders in LA: Dale Van Dalsem  
Nov 23-26 Humphreys, Navajo, Mt. Tipton, McCullough. Leaders in LA: Dale Van Dalsem, Karen Leonard  
Nov 2-3 Nelson Range, Black Rock Springs. Leaders in LA: Ron Jones, Lou Brecheen  
Nov 2-3 Tipton, Spirit. Leaders in LA: Doug Mantel, Hicks

**PRIVATE TRIPS** Space available for anyone who wants to call or write in a private trip.

## CONGRATULATIONS

John Watters	Awarded an NAS Emblem on:	Aug. 24, 1989
John Besbekos	Awarded an NAS Emblem on:	Oct. 17, 1989



### A Proposal Regarding the Sections's Climbing Ropes

Peak and Gorge owns three ropes now, which we cannot use in the foreseeable future due to the insurance restrictions. It has been suggested that the best use of these ropes would be to sell them, and turn the cash to other section uses. John Sarna and I have discussed this, and agreed that it is a reasonable course of action so long as no one objects. So the question is, should we sell these ropes, and if so, how?

This plan is moot without a buyer, so in part this article is an announcement that the ropes are up for sale. If you are interested, call John, 429-8024 or me, 452-7126. On the other hand, Peak and Gorge owns them through the efforts of many members, so the entire membership has a say in this issue, and we invite comments and suggestions.

The three salable ropes are: (1) a green 150 ft x 11 mm, manufacturer unknown, purchased about 1984; (2) a red Mammut 150 ft x 11 mm, May 1985; (3) a blue Mammut 120 ft x 9 mm, August 1985. Each cost

...continues

Ropes ... continued

about eighty dollars at purchase. Due to their age, none of these ropes should be considered safe for leading high-angle rock, but all have three or four years of safe use in low load situations such as top-roping, (slow) rappels, snow climbs, hand lines or hauling. The two 11 mm ropes have been used for about 100 top-roped pitches each, including catching about ten falls each. The red 11 mm has been used for several leads, but has never held a leader fall. The 9 mm rope has only been used for top-roped belays so far, and has held no falls yet to my knowledge.

We need to set a price (pretty cheap), and think of a way to ensure that Peak and Gorge, Mother Lode, and the Sierra Club cannot be held liable for an accident involving a rope we sell. It would be desirable to get good use out of the ropes before they age to the point of becoming useless.

Ok, open for discussion! -- D. Joy

### A REGISTER CONTROVERSY

A few days ago, I received a letter from a SPS (Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club) officer detailing a problem in register maintenance. SPS policy states that registers shall be left on the summit permanently, except for the purpose of making copies as long as they are brought back. The SPS mountain records chair, Rob Roy McDonald, apparently upset at a Club supported action contrary to SPS policy, has sent out flyers (at his own cost) explaining the transgressions of a certain Robin Ingraham, the self-appointed director of the "Sierra Register Committee" (see Jan-Feb 1989 Sierra, p. 23). McDonald states Ingraham began removing registers "without any authority or official sanction from the Sierra Club," although he is now a member of the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee. Also, apparently there will be some kind of vote or policy decision within SPS shortly.

Certain idiosyncracies in Ingraham's logic and policy are pointed out. A Eugene Miya, Peak Climbing Section (PCS) of the Loma Prieta Chapter (South Bay Area), reports in Scree, the PCS newsletter, that registers have been removed from "Clyde Minaret (dating back to 1955), Mt. Robinson (to 1934) and Devils Crags #5 (1934); obtained registers from Rogers Peak (dating back to 1897!), Mt. Robinson (1934) and East Vidette (1910);" According to McDonald, they are being sent to Bancroft Library in Berkeley where "they are not readily available; they are located somewhere else. You must make a request sometime in advance. And they cannot be removed." In fairness it must be stated that Ingraham "placed the first registers on Echo Peak #4, Clyde Spires (north summit), Rambaud Peak, Devils Crags #9 and Devils Crags #8; and upgraded containers at Mt. Robinson (sic), Picture Peak, Hungry Packer Peak, and Devils Crags #5."

I personally believe in SPS policy. Once in the Mt. Williamson register, I read, "THIS BOOK IS NOT THE PROPERTY OF THE SIERRA CLUB--THE BOOK BELONGS TO MT. WILLIAMSON!!" Many Mother Lode Chapter peak baggers are accustomed to disappearing registers, given the ease of access to Northern Sierra summits. However, on the more difficult Sierra peaks, some of us like the thrill of finding an old register. Of course, a stolen register benefits no one except its possessor and unscrupulous climbers can easily take a historic book for a souvenir, ego trip, or to satisfy an Indiana Jones mentality. So a decision must be made--to try and insure the preservation of a register book by removal from the climbing environment into the dubious protection of a bay area warehouse, or to leave them on the peaks on the honor of all Sierra climbers. Hmmm...this reminds me of the California Condor controversy, only the books will never be brought back to the summits, by the Sierra Register Committee plans.



This seems to be in harmony with the recent Club actions against mountaineering (insurance, reduction of trips) by the people in San Francisco. The lack of consultations, the magazine articles with lack of mention of SPS, which has been placing and maintaining registers since 1955, seem to indicate a headquarters out of touch with its chapter outings membership.

The Mother Lode Chapter has been placing and maintaining registers through the efforts of certain climbers (such as Howard Steidtmann, OGUL peaks). I am not aware of any significant historic registers within the chapter boundaries, although some registers may go back to the early seventies, or even sixties. Some peaks, such as Shasta, Half Dome, and Mt. Tallac, would be cluttered with cans stuffed with paper and notebooks, generally of no interest or use to anybody if someone did not ascend occasionally to clean up the mess. I climbed San Geronimo to find a six inch high mailbox crammed tight with notebooks, sheafs of lined paper, and business cards. I declined to sign in, something that I otherwise always do.

Basically, I support a permanent register with books photocopied if any historic preservation is desired. Actually, it would probably be easier if a photographer was paid to record the entries on the summit using a camera set up for copy work. I already photographed some of the entries (Mother Lode Chapter climbers, funny or philosophical entries, interesting artwork, winter ascents, famous climbers, or just random samples of history. If I were supplied with film I would gladly record the entire book or books. For a peak like Darwin, say, this would probably take about three 36 exp. rolls of film (about \$30). Of course, I am in my waning years, but other climbers could certainly be persuaded into doing such for a fee.

One bonus with a central records authority, books could be examined and used for documented verifiability of emblems and list finishings. This seems an added necessity considering the system's reliance on word of honor currently. I was sitting on the top of Kaweah when I overheard a duo's conversation about not finding a sign-in as claimed by some other climber.

Sacramento members of SPS should be sure to vote conscientiously on this issue. Other interested climbers might want to write to the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee in San Francisco.

Pete Yamagata 10-18-89

MT. DAVIS (3750m)

JULY 15-16, 1989

After spending an enjoyable couple of days along the Eastern Sierra photographing the tufa at Mono Lake and the bristlecone pines in the White Mountains, I met Steve Thaw for his Bay Chapter outing to climb this fine SPS listed peak next to Ritter and Banner. Ten people began at 7:45 a.m. to hike past Shadow, Garnet, Ruby, and Emerald Lakes in the Ansel Adams Wilderness to arrive at our base camp on the north shores of Thousand Island Lake. The weather was excellent.

Waking up to start by 7:00 a.m., we hiked the "trail" to Glacier Pass where we gained a fine view of Lake Catherine. Many of the bay chapter people turned around at this point. However, Steve, Andrea, Boris, Camille, and I continued to traverse and climb to the summit. We had a great view of the glacier route to the Banner-Ritter saddle. Returning back to camp by 3:00 p.m., Boris, Camille, and I took off for the nine mile hike via the PCT high trail back to Agnew Meadows. I arrived at 7:30 p.m. in time to be home by 1:45 a.m. Monday morning.

Pete Yamagata

VOLCANIC RIDGE (11,501')

AUGUST 5, 1989

Rex Smith and I reattempted this peak which had eluded us on an earlier trip. We hiked from Agnew Meadows past Shadow Lake and almost to Lake Ediza to bear south cross-country up class 2-3 terrain. We took a low 3rd gully to the ridge from where the summit was an easy walk. The view, as promised by the Climber's Guide, was indeed fantastic. I shot about 1½ rolls recording the routes and faces of the incredible Minarets. It took us 5 hours to reach the top.

We had a fine meal at the Panda Place in Mammoth and drove north to reconnoiter the roads to Siegel the next day, and then made a consolation climb of Elephant's Back for a good one hour hike to the top where I left a register.

Pete Yamagata



A Week of Excitement  
by Matt and Andrew Hinkle

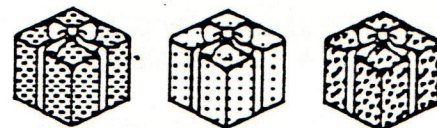
Last spring, we received Dan Dobbins Stipends from the Peak and Gorge section of the Sierra Club which we used to cover our expenses for a week at the Yosemite Mountaineering School.

We began the application process for the award in the spring-time and found out by June that we had won. Both awards were for \$300 and covered most of our expenses. Soon after, we were on our way to Yosemite.

We left from Sacramento on Sunday, the day before the class began. We arrived at the camp spot in the mid-afternoon, set up our stove and other equipment, and checked in at the Mountaineering School. Our week of camp-life was, at the least, very interesting. We had trouble using our stove a couple times, we were rained on several times (our tent leaked some), and we damaged the muffler on our car when we drove into the camp spot. Even with these minor set-backs, we still managed to have an enjoyable week.

Each day's climbing left us tired but with satisfied feelings. Our five lessons covered basic climbing, setting up belay stations and anchors, aid and crack climbing, snow climbing, and advanced climbing. The snow climb was one of the more enjoyable days but the last day was the most exhilarating. On it, we did the advanced, guided climb. We climbed in groups of four on the walls next to Tenaya Lake for a few hours. We started by climbing a vertical crack and a smooth face above it. Our next pitch took us along another crack up to a ledge. The third and final pitch was the easiest; it placed us on top. We then hiked down the side of the rock to finish our week.

All in all, the week we spent in Yosemite was most enjoyable and exciting. The staff at the school was very professional and safety conscious—the biggest "disaster" by either of us was a ten foot fall on the last day. We truly recommend the Yosemite Mountaineering School to anyone who enjoys the outdoors. We would also like to thank the Sierra Club for helping us with the cost of the trip.



## MOUNTAIN MERCHANDISE

### ■ IVY SHIELD

*"Skin protectant cream. Helps prevent Poison Ivy and Poison Oak" Net Wt 1.25 fl oz. \$4.95*

Mugwort has never worked for me. So I've always dreamed of some magic remedy. I even remember considering the use of Ice Blue Secret spray deoderant, since I had heard that if used before exposure it's clay base would provide protection. But I never tried it, since it's an aerosol. So imagine my joy at finding a squeeze bottle that "Helps prevent...Poison Oak". Wow! I bought it on sight.

OK I admit I wanted it to work. So the following "test" is maybe a bit less than rigorous or scientific. But on the other hand (or leg) I'm especially reactive to any contact with poison oak. If it's in the air I break out. Despite this, I still prefer to wear shorts when hiking, and I love to tramp through Griffith Park on Wednesday nights, so I've had it a lot—Ray Riley's Upper Zuma oak forest once earned me a week in an oxygen tent. But so far, after my first trial (and I know I brushed against some oak) I'm still unscathed.

"Ivy Shield" lists its active ingredients as TEA stearate and steramide MEA. It goes on like a thick white lotion but it spreads easily, dries quickly and invisibly. It leaves the faint odor of stop bath on your body, but you probably won't notice it.

I'm delighted to report that the only unusual feeling is having legs without perspiration after a workout. I make no guarantees that it will work for you, but until there's a rash on me, I'll continue hoping it does what it claims. —Louis Quirarte

### ■ TECNU POISON OAK-N-IVY CLEANSER.

*"Long lasting relief. Removes poison irritant. Promotes natural healing. Professional strength formula. Doctor recommended" Net Wt 4 fl oz. \$4.95*

Since I bought the Ivy shield, I haven't had any need for this stuff, and I hope I never do. But it's a comfort to have some sort of cleanser beside soap and cold water—which have never worked for me.

Tecnu claims its cleanser is formulated to "remove the rash causing oily irritant (urushiol) from the skin". To do this they offer two strategies (1) If you know you've contacted the "hikers bane" but have no symptoms, you may effectively apply their lotion as directed to unwetted exposed skin—if you do so within six hours, (2) If a rash has begun, you may minimize the damage by washing with their cleanser in hot water.

Tecnu claims their cleanser will remove any remaining (unabsorbed) irritant and promote healing within 6 days. If anyone in the HPS has tested this stuff let us know. —Louis Quirarte



JACKSON MOUNTAINS--DAN DOBBINS PEAK (9104')  
& KING LEAR PEAK

OCT. 8,9,10, 1988

We all met at the jct. of 95 and 140 about 31 miles north of Winnemucca, Nevada, Friday at 9 p.m. Participants were Bill Hauser, leader, Bob Wallace and Marge Ottenberg; San Jose, Boris and Camille Nahlovsky, and Dr. Rex Smith of Sacramento. We all had a long drive and camped out at 10 p.m. Boris had us all up at 7 a.m. before the sun came up, and we headed past the Battle Creek Ranch, DeLong Ranch, and headed up Trout Creek. This is an excellent road all the way to the saddle above Jackson Creek. It is also a very popular road as we saw 8 cars while driving to the saddle below the Redbird Mine. I thought (from the maps) that we had to hike to Dan Dobbins Peak from the saddle; however, the excellent road went all the way up to 7,200' est. and we parked the cars. We all left at 10 a.m. by 11:30 we were on pk. 9104', the highest point in the Jackson Range! We thought a dome-like peak  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the NE was higher. We hiked over to the dome but decided to call the steep peak directly above the mine the high point.

We built a nice cairn with a "puka" and placed a register inside the puka. The USGS map had the high point at 9104' but Boris read 8940' and Rex read 8825' on their altimeters; however this couldn't be true because King Lear is 8910' and the USGS map shows our peak to be higher than King Lear. Anyway, the pyramidal summit looks highest and has great views of the Black Rock Desert. We all had a nice view and relaxed in the 80° F heat. Bob Wallace, a geologist, determined that the mine was a magnetite mine (very high in iron). We picked a nice campspot along a abandoned mine road with coloring aspens and a little creek. We decided to camp here because it was high, pretty, and not so dusty as down on the valley floor. A nice evening with a campfire and a planet Mars view was had by all. We decided to camp here and leave early for a eastern approach to King Lear from the Trout Creek side.

#### Sunday

We were up at daybreak; however, Boris wanted to do "King Lear" from the west up McGill Canyon. Boris was low on gas and wanted a return route closer to a gas station. King Lear from the west is 4,700' and a long day. King Lear from the east is 4-5 hours up and a 3,000' climb. We all went around to the west so Boris could get gas easier. I decided not to try King Lear due to the late start (10 a.m.) and the fact I've climbed it twice already. We all drove down the Jackson Creek road to the main west side road. I pointed out the lone cottonwood that points out McGill Canyon and Boris, Camille, Bob Wallace, and Rex Smith headed for King Lear. Marge Ottenberg & I explored McGill Canyon and saw a mountain sheep on a ridge just above the McGill Creek. It was quite a sight. At first I thought it was a pronghorn antelope but pronghorns live on the plains, not on steep rocky ridges. Bob Wallace turned back from King Lear at 2 p.m. to pick up Camille on the way down.

Evidently, Bob was only  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour from the summit. Bob Wallace & Marge Ottenberg followed Camille to the cars. I waited for Boris and Rex at the canyon mouth and about 7 p.m. they came dashing out and exclaimed, "We got the King!!"

We camped at McGill Canyon mouth and had a balmy night under the stars. The next day we drove to Denio Jct. to get gas and then go to Bog Hot Springs. People rushed out of Bog Hot Springs after Narge and Camille saw millions of tiny red worms in the 85°F water.

All in all we had a good trip and had a lot of desert scenery. We are planning a Xmas trip to do Las Vegas Peaks Spirit, McCullough, Moapa, and Virgin and Kino so give me a call if you are interested.

Bill Hauser  
(408) 243-4566

#### Private Trip Announcement:

I will have five three day weekends during the upcoming winter season. If anybody is interested, I am willing to lead desert trips or ski mountaineering outings to negotiable locations. Member of Desert Peaks Section and Ski Mountaineers, Angeles Chapter. Call Pete Yamagata, 444-6319.



1989 TAHOE OGUL LIST FINISHER DRIVE:  
DUANE BLISS PEAK (8658'), DESERT CREEK PEAK (8969'),  
RED PEAK (9307'), SILVER PEAK (8930'), LOOKOUT  
PEAK (9584'), MT. MILDRED (8398'), MCCONNELL PEAK (9099')

VARIOUS WEEKENDS  
JUNE-AUGUST 1989

On June 3, after staying overnight at the Thaw residence in South Lake Tahoe enjoyed with Steve a leisurely hike via the Tahoe Rim Trail to the summit of Duane Bliss. The NAS register was present, even with Toni Tennille's signature.

On June 11, I hiked with John Sarna's group to get Desert Creek Peak (described in a previous article). Then, on June 24, I joined Carolyn Clark's outing to climb Red. I had to sign off a few hundred feet away from the summit to get the high point and register. I debated for some time, but inevitably headed north along the ridge to get Silver solo. It took about 1½-2 hours to make the one mile traverse. I returned to Lake No. 3 to see if the group was still swimming or relaxing, but they were all gone. I returned to the car at Van Vleck Ranch trailhead in the evening by myself.

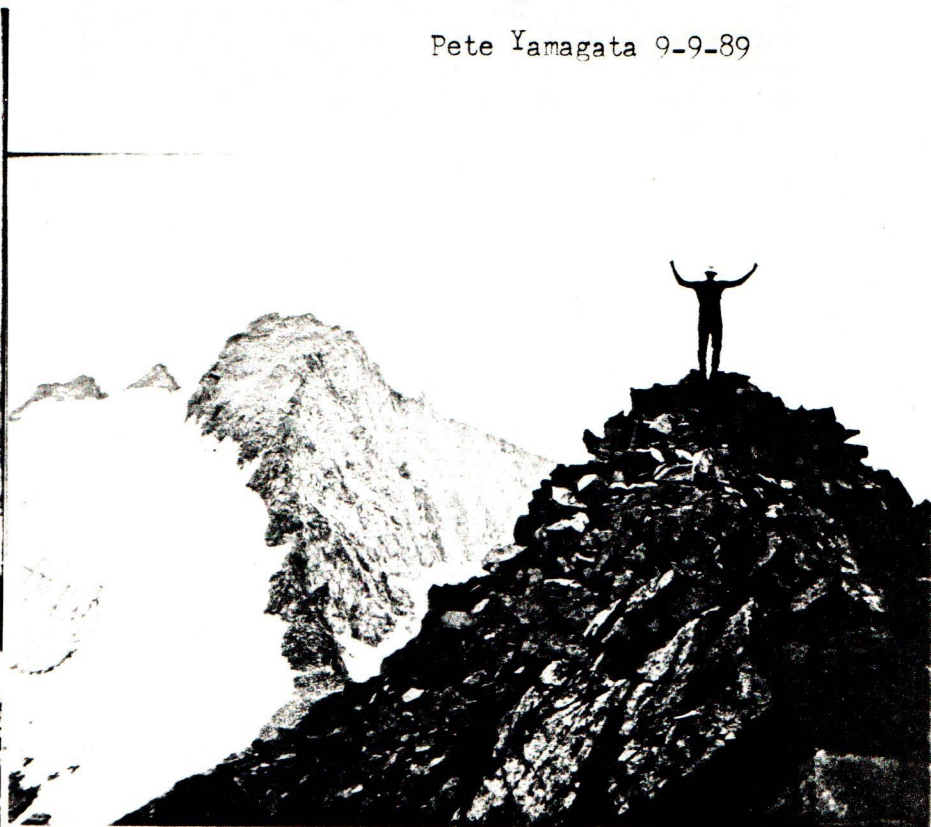
The weekend of July 22, Rex Smith and I drove up to Ebbetts Pass highway to start for Lookout by noon. Taking the Pacific Valley trail for a few miles, we cut north through forests and flowery sagebrush hillsides to gain the summit. For me, the views were very unique, offering a different panorama of Highland and Silver Peaks, as well as other Ebbetts and Sonora Pass peaks.

The next weekend, Rex and I had a very enjoyable dinner of chicken fried steak (5.95) at the Foresthill Lodge Saturday night, then visited Placer County Big Trees, and camped at French Meadows Reservoir (good paved road to there). We started early Sunday to hike through Picayune Valley for a six-mile hike to the summit of Mildred. I lost my hat on the way down, having had to wipe my brow many times on this warm day.

Finally, on August 19, Rex and I took the Tells Peak trail and cut off to climb McConnell. Encountering some bad brush going around the first hill, we crossed over to the east side of a large gendarme to follow class 2-3-scrambling along the ridge to the top. With one false summit, we continued 200 yards to achieve the high point with the register. Mostly Mother Lode Chapter peak baggers were signed in.

As of this writing I still have Siegel and Ellis (party!) to go.

Pete Yamagata 9-9-89





## The Elwell Option

Oct. 21, 1989

ft. Tallac this summer, Marlene Mirassou and I conceived of a late October car-water Mountains to complement last June's hike up the northern peaks in the S/OGUL peaks were planned, Patterson, Wheeler and S. Sister. Unfortunately, a storm appeared in the north pacific only days before we were suppose to start. Hiking to be deterred, met at Marlene's place at 5:30 pm Friday, ready to drive up at Lob Dell Lake (9000'). This included Rochelle Gerratt, Bruce LaBelle, and Peggy. But, the clouds had just started rolling in, Marlene had a bad case of Bronchitis, Peggy's special radio predicted snow down to 8000'. Consequently, we decided to warm, sheltered night, followed by a dayhike up Mt. Elwell (7818'), as opposed to wet car-camp and, perhaps, being snowed under rather than conquering the

by Eric Cartwright, we met at 6 am Saturday morning for an early start. Rochelle was in the Bay Area and told some good earthquake stories to cheer us on. It was already raining to rain as we left Sacramento and continued to get worse the closer we drove to the Lake Trailhead. Once there, we gingerly stepped out into the heavy rain and resolutely hiked up the well-marked trail. Peggy (who took over as Assistant Leader) led the way, almost staying uphill, as I puffed away in the rear (being out of condition).

We started crunching ice on the trail at about 7000', and then gushing through new wet snow. The trail eventually took us up to a very windy spur next to the summit rocks. Having come up from the forested northeast flank of the mountain, where the wind was reduced to a breeze, the exposure on the ridge was debilitating. A short distance up a ducked use-trail, it became so windy that Rochelle, in a Poncho, had to retreat back to the trees below. The rest of us somehow prevailed against the wind and rain to reach the top a long couple minutes later, remaining a few seconds before beating a hasty retreat ourselves. The view consisted of a few nearby piles of rocks, the clouds obscuring the many lakes below. The need to get warm predominated as we regrouped, and Peggy led us back down the trail at a trot, dropping down to a scenic lake a half hour later. Here, I managed to squeeze a couple ounces of water from each pocket in my rain jacket. Cold food and drink were then had and a decision made to continue back to Bruce's truck rather than do the longer hike we had originally planned. The fact that, despite rain-gear, we all were soaked to the skin, was incidental.

It took an hours drive to find a place to get a cup of hot anything; that was at Downieville where a lone Pizza place was open. I expect we averaged two hot chocolates and a cup of soup apiece. We were further rewarded with flashy fall colors in Yuba River Canyon. As we entered Sacramento, the sun snuck out from under the clouds just before it set, and the rain finally stopped. With the next storm predicted to drop a foot of snow down to 6000', the higher hike up Patterson (12,000') in the Sweetwaters was definitely forgettable. But Marlene and I plan to organize another trip down there in the Spring. Of course, if she finds out what she missed, she may change her mind and suggest we obtain some therapy rather than more peak-bagging & body-soaking.

John Sarna

## A SNOW SLOG UP MT. WHITNEY

I DECIDED THAT 1989 WOULD FINALLY BE THE YEAR I WOULD HIKE UP WHITNEY. APPARENTLY SO DID A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE I COULDN'T GET A PERMIT UNTIL SEPT. 21. BOB BUCKLES AND I PLANNED TO DRIVE DOWN TO WHITNEY PORTAL ON WENESDAY THE 21ST. OUR PERMIT WAS FOR THUR.- SAT.

A STORM WENT THROUGH THE AREA ON MODAY AND TUESDAY, DUMPING A LOT OF SNOW. WHEN WE ARRIVED ON WED. AFTERNOON THE RANGERS SAID SOME PEOPLE HAD TO BE RESCUED BUT THAT THE WEATHER WAS NOW CLEAR. DUE TO CANCELLATIONS AND NO-SHOWS WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE OUR PERMIT FOR A DAY EARLIER. IT WAS 2:00 PM AND WE DECIDED TO BACKPACK TO THE 12,000' TRAIL CAMP AND THEN DAYHIKE TO THE SUMMIT THE NEXT DAY. THE TRAIL WAS COVERED WITH SNOW AND SLUSH AND WAS QUITE SLIPPERY. AS THE DAY WORE ON IT BEGAN TURNING TO ICE AND OUR FEET WERE GETTING VERY WET AND COLD. JUST AS IT GOT DARK WE STUGGLED TO SET UP MY 3-SEASON TENT IN THE SNOW IN SPITE OF ONE OF THE FROZEN FIBERGLASS POLES SNAPPING. TOO COLD FOR COOKING WE HUNKERED DOWN IN OUR SLEEPING BAGS MUNCHING ON GRANOLA BARS FOR SUPPER.



THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER A CAN OF FRANCO-AMERICAN SPAGHETTI FOR BREAKFAST WE WERE READY TO JOIN A FEW OTHER PARTIES IN ROUTEFINDING UP THE SNOW COVERED SLOPES. AT TIMES WE WERE ABLE TO TELL WHERE THE SWITCHBACKS WERE BURIED AND SOMETIMES WE JUST SLOGGED STRAIGHT UP.

BY THE TIME WE REACHED THE SEQUOIA PARK BOUNDARY AND CROSSED OVER TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIDGE, BOB HAD DECIDED HE HAD ENOUGH OF THE ALTITUDE INDUCED NAUSEA. I TRUDGED ON ALONE TRYING TO STEP IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF A PARTY OF GERMAN HIKERS WHO HAD GONE UP EARLIER. A FEW PLACES GAVE VERTIGO WHERE THE FOOTPRINTS SEEMED A BIT CLOSER TO SOME SHEER DROPS THAN WAS NECESSARY, AND ME WITH NO AXE.

AT 2:15 PM I STOOD ALONE AT THE TOP, ONLY ONE PEAK AWAY FROM MY NAS EMBLEM. WE SPENT ONE MORE NIGHT AT BASE CAMP.

WITH MUCH OF THE SNOW MELTED ON THE THIRD DAY WE ENJOYED A PLEASANT AND DRY HIKE BACK DOWN TO THE TRUCK.

JOHN BESBEKOS

DICKS AND JACKS PKS. 14 OCT. 1989

NEEDING ONLY ONE STAR PEAK TO COMPLETE THE NAS REQUIREMENTS, I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT BARNEY JONES HAD SCHEDULED THIS CLIMB IN DESOLATION WILDERNESS. AFTER A CONFUSING START THAT SAW ONE OF OUR VEHICLES GO TO WRIGHTS LAKE INSTEAD OF FALLEN LEAF LAKE WE WERE ON OUR WAY UP THE TRAIL NEAR THE SUMMIT OF DICKS PASS. OUR LEADER BARNEY BEGAN TO FEEL ILL. AT THAT POINT WE PAUSED FOR A LUNCH BREAK. HALF OF THE GROUP DECIDED TO STROLL BACK TO THE TRAILHEAD WITH BARNEY AND HE APPOINTED JACK RANKIN AS THE LEADER FOR THOSE THAT WOULD CONTINUE TO THE SUMMITS. FROM DICKS PASS WE FOLLOWED A VERY OBVIOUS RIDGE ROUTE TO THE SLOPES OF DICKS PEAK, SOME STEEP ROCK SCRAMBLING BROUGHT US TO THE PEAK AND MY NAS EMBLEM!

I WAS NOW READY TO GO HOME AND CELEBRATE BUT JACK STILL HAD AN "HONEST DAYS HIKE" PLANNED FOR US. THE RIDGE LINE OVER TO JACKS PEAK WAS A STEEP AND QUITE LOOSE PILE OF 6" DIAMETER TALLUS OR SCREE OR WHATEVER YOU CALL A PAIN IN THE ANKLE BUNCH OF ROCKS. AT THE BASE OF JACKS PEAK WE FOUND A STEEPER AND OCCASIONAL CLASS 3 SCRAMBLE TO THE TOP. IT WAS THERE WE FOUND ONE OF OUR WAYWARD WRIGHTS LAKE ADVENTURERS. THE HIKE DOWN THE FAR SIDE OF JACKS PEAK WAS EVEN STEEPER AND FULL OF KNEE STRAINING LOOSE ROCKS THAN DICKS PEAK, BUT THIS THE ADVENTURE AND FUN WE CLIMB FOR. AFTER MAKING A LOOP THROUGH SOME NEW TRAILS WE GOT BACK TO THE TRAILHEAD A LITTLE AFTER DARK IN A SPECTACULAR MOONLITE. ALL OUR OTHER HIKERS WERE WAITING FOR US AT THE CARS. WE HEADED INTO TAHOE FOR A MEXICAN DINNER, SATISFIED WE HAD EARNED IT WITH OUR HONEST DAYS HIKE.

JOHN BESBEKOS

**Amen**

President Bush, speaking before the Boy Scouts at their recent International Jamboree, announced his belief that "whatever you love to do—whether it's hiking, hunting or kayaking—hang on to it [such hobbies will provide] a source of relaxation and replenishment that will never fail you."



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Boulder Editorial Committee  
C/O John Sarna  
12 Park Vista Circle  
Sacramento, CA 95831



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12 Park Vista Circle  
Sacramento, CA 95831

paid til issue 37

*A. Makany*

BREAKFAST BEFORE  
GREAT SKI DAY 4/24