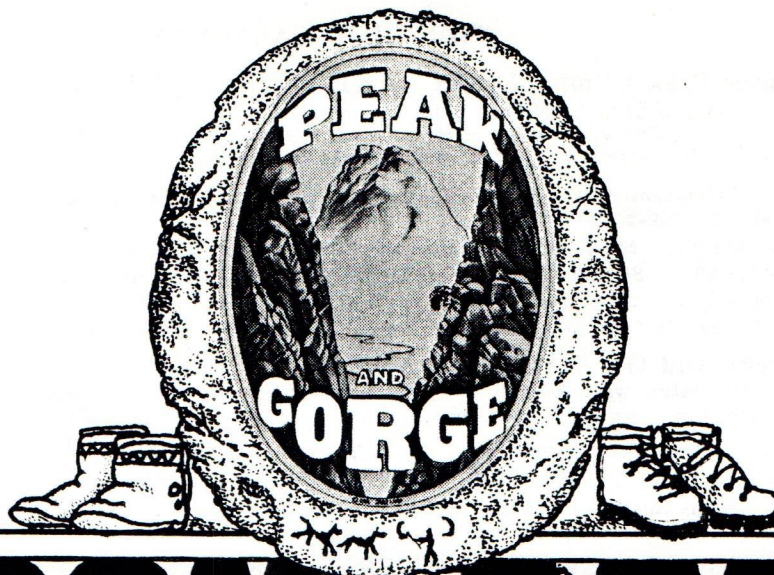


THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

Issue No. 35, March & April 1990

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Spring is just around the corner and it's easy to let one's thoughts drift toward summer trips. Picture taking a few days off to climb the Matterhorn (at least the one in Yosemite) and adjacent peaks along the Sawtooth Ridge; or perhaps, Ritter, Abbot, Humphreys, or higher peaks to the south. There's also Shasta and the closer Tahoe area peaks; and getting together on a spring or fall expedition to one of our fabulous California deserts (Death Valley, the Great Basin, etc.). All these destinations were mentioned by attendees at the beginning of the February Peak and Gorge social meeting, followed by some wet-your-whistle slides of previous trips up Boundary and Montgomery in the White Mountains, along with Brewer, Darwin, Williamson and others in the high Sierra (presented by Jackie S.).

While many in this section (myself included) could dwell on places-to-go for hours, I deem our peak and gorge lists to be the par-excellence of desirable places to go in the mountains. There's 61 suggestions for nearby Tahoe area climbs embodied in our OGUL Peak List (see page 3 in this newsletter), and the NAS Peak and SGS Gorge lists are a source of excellent ideas for longer excursions (copies available from Boris N. whose address is on back page). If by some chance, you don't grant that these represent the best our wildlands have to offer, please let me (429-8024) know what you think is better. Others may agree, and your ideas can be preserved for posterity in later editions of the lists. In fact, membership on a committee with the explicit objective of making substantive changes to the OGUL Peak List is now solicited. Along similar lines, anyone interested in promoting climbs of a "new and different" kind can contact John B. (348-3584) or Bill H. (415) 243-4566 to lend a hand in the development of our first Coastal Peaks List.

Another aspect of planning trips, obtaining permits, is getting to be a real hassle. If you haven't applied for reservations at a desired trailhead, I suggest you put in your reservation soon; some spots fill up quickly. March 1 is the first available day for obtaining a permit from most national forests (February 1 for Yosemite). And unlike the past "free" reservation system, you'll have to add a \$3 per-person, per-reservation, non-refundable fee for all quota trailheads (listed on page 5 in this newsletter) in the Inyo, Sierra, and Toiyabe National Forests. For the record, our section protested this fee.

Hope to see you at the March 20 meeting where John W. will present slides and a discussion of desert features in the Sahara, Mohave, Patagonia and Great Basin Deserts.

John Sarna

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- > **Mar. 3, Sat.** - Winter Peak Climb - LOON LAKE - MCKINSTREY PEAK (7933'). A longer-than-usual tour to this peak northwest of Loon Lake. The route runs outward via Ellis Creek and loops back via Jerrett Creek and Wentworth Springs. Outstanding views of upper Hellhole and the west side of the Sierras. 1500' gain and 16-18 miles requires an early start, 5 a.m. at CSUS Arboretum. Leader: Jack Rankin, 457-0776.
- Mar. 4, Sun.** - PCS - Monument Peak, on Ridge Trail. Meet at 10 a.m. at Denny's on Hwy 237 near 880 Freeway. Leader: Dinesh Desai (415) 969-2695.
- Mar. 10, Sat.** - MLC Ski Tour, Mt. Rose, for experienced skiers. Leader: Dave Vandershaf, 933-3116.
- Mar. 15, Thurs.** - PRIVATE - SPORT CLIMBING EXHIBITION - at Rancho Arroyo Sports Center, 443-1598, costs \$30.
- Mar. 17-18, Sat.-Sun.** - DPS - Grapevine & Palmer (East of Death Valley NM). Leader: Owen Malloy, (619) 934-9511.
- Mar. 18, Sun.** - MLC Day Hike, Gr. 2B - Mt. Hood Regional Park. 11th & O at 7:45 a.m. Leader: Anita Jewett, 442-1151.
- > **Mar. 20, Tues.** - Peak and Gorge - SOCIAL MEETING - Desert Features: Western Sahara, Mohave, Patagonia, and Great Basin, a presentation with slides by John Watters at 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. John Sarna will host, 12 Park Vista Circle, Sacto, 429-8024 (west on Florin from I-5, right on Greenhaven, left on Park Vista).
- Mar. 24-25, Sat.-Sun.** - PCS - Ski Trip & Snow Camp in Yosemite at Dewey Point. Leader: Ray Stafford, (415) 591-9348.
- > **Mar. 24, Sat.** - Winter Peak Climb - LUTHER PASS - FREDERICK'S PEAK - A moderately lengthy loop tour (14-16 miles) along the ridges and canyons northeast of the pass. Ascend peak (.9900') and explore various points of interest with great views of the Carson Mtn. Range and Valley. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6 a.m. Leader: Jack Rankin, 457-0776.
- > **Mar. 25, Sun.** - Gr. 2B Gorge Overlook - AMERICAN RIVER, Middle Fork of the North Fork. Good views of a deep river gorge as we make our way down to the river on its namesake trail. Meet at 11th and O at 8 a.m. and at the Auburn Courthouse at 8:45 a.m. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024. Assistant Leader: Andrea Gary, 823-9672.
- March 31-April 1, Sat.-Sun.** - SPS\Ski Mtners - San Joaquin Mtn. Leader: Bill Oliver (213) 839-5156.
- Apr. 1, Sun.** - MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SIERRA CLUB - Official meeting at Angeles Chapter Headquarters.
- Apr. 7-8, Sat.-Sun.** - MLC Ski Tour - Mt. Emma, Walker, Flat Iron, and Anna. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- Apr. 14-15, Sat.-Sun.** - DPS - Inyo & Keynot. Leader: Karen Leonard (213) 839-3457.
- Apr. 14, Sat.** - SIERRA RECORDS COMMITTEE - A private organization, under the direction of Robin Ingraham (P.O. Box 3141, Merced, CA 95344), will host a meeting in Yosemite for the sole purpose of discussing the summit register issue.
- Apr. 21, Sat.** - MLC Dayhike - Point Reyes Hill. Meet at 11th & O at 7:30 a.m. Leader: John Besbekos, 348-3584.
- > **Apr. 24, Tues.** - Peak and Gorge - SOCIAL MEETING - Leadership Philosophy. Discussion with active leaders about how they prefer to lead, gear requirements, participant preparedness, and dealing with the unexpected. At 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. Doug Joy will host, 570 39th St., 452-7126 (turn north from H in midtown, Sacto).
- Apr. 28-29, Sat.-Sun.** - HPS - San Rafael & McKinley Mtn. & Sta Cruz Peak (NW of LA). Leader: Patty Kline, (213) 455-1956.
- May 5-6, Sat.-Sun.** - MLC Ski Tour - Sawtooth Range. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- May 5-6, Sat.-Sun.** - SPS - Mt. Warren, Clouds Rest. Leader: Richard Fritsen (818) 359-2255.
- May 5-6, Sat.-Sun.** - DPS - Kingston Peak. Leader: Maris Valkass (213) 379-8592.
- > **May 5, Sat.** - Beginning Peak Climb - MT. TALLAC (9735'). This is a chance to tryout peak-climbing on a prominent (NAS, OGUL, and SPS) Tahoe Peak. Come to April 24 meeting for details or phone Doug Joy, 452-7126, or Bob Buckles, 624-3620. We expect questions.
- > **May 12, Sat.** - Class 1 Peak Climb, Gr. 3D Day Hike - THREE PEAKLETS and Mt. Olympia (2946') in Mt. Diablo State Park. A moderately-paced, all-day hike with car shuttle. Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind the Burger King in Lake Crest Village Shopping Center (first left after exiting West on Florin from I-5). Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024.
- May 12-13, Sat.-Sun.** - SPS - Rockhouse Pk. & Taylor Dome (South Sierra). Bill Oliver (213) 839-5156.
- May 12-13, Sat.-Sun.** - HPS - Tehachapi, Double, & Black Mtn. Leader: Martin Feather, (213) 390-5666.
- > **May 22, Tues.** - Peak and Gorge - SOCIAL MEETING - Summer Teasers. Bring your favorite slides from beyond our borders (Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, etc.). At 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. Johanna Gaedeke, will host, 237 Hartnell Place (between CSUS and Howe Ave), 927-9371.
- > **May 26-28, Sat.-Mon.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - ARC DOME WILDERNESS Exploratory. From Columbine Campground, portal to this recently-designated Great Basin wilderness area, we'll climb Toiyabe Dome (11,775'), car camp, and check out North and South Shoshone (unprotected) across the graben. Call for details. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024. Assistant Leader: Rich Strohl, 753-7657.
- > **May 26, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb, Gr. 1C Dayhike - RALSTON PEAK from Phillips Station. Spectacular views of Lake Tahoe and Desolation Valley. Lunch at Cup Lake. Call for Details. Leader: John Watters, 383-6150.
- June 2-3, Sat.-Sun.** - DPS - Boundary Peak and Mt. Montgomery. Leader Maris Valkass (213) 379-8592.
- > **June 2, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble II - NEVADA POINT. Enjoy a short scramble on the Rubicon River from the Nevada Point Trail to the old washed-out bridge. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- June 9-10, Sat.-Sun.** - SPS Intro Trip - Olancho Peak (South Sierra). Leader: Patty Kline, (213) 455-1956.
- June 9-10, Sat.-Sun.** - SPS Intro Trip - Kern Peak (South Sierra). Leader: George Toby (818) 345-2459.
- June 9-10, Sat.-Sun.** - DPS - Inyo & Keynot. Leader: Igor Mamedalin (714) 786-3918.
- June 9-10, Sat.-Sun.** - HPS - Pilot Knob and Owens Peak (Far South Sierra). Leader: Barbara Cohen (213) 533-1296.
- > **June 9, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble III - BOGUS THUNDER. We will traverse the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from the old mining settlement at Bogus Thunder to the Circle Bridge. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **June 16-17, Sat.-Sun.** - Class 1 Peak Climb - IRON MTN. Follow the trail through Devil's Postpile National Monument to the south side of Iron (11,149'), climb peak on Sunday and return. Call for details. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

- > **June 16, Sat. - Gorge Scramble III - LAST CHANCE.** We will explore the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River upstream from Last Chance Bridge. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- June 23-24, Sat.-Sun. - SPS - Moses & North Maggie Mtns. (South Sierra).** Leader: George Toby (818) 345-2459.
- > **June 26, Tues. - POT LUCK/GORGE SCRAMBLE CLINIC** - Come join us for an introduction to gorge scrambling - we'll show you what to bring and how to keep it dry, and show slides of some of our favorite trips. Bring an appetizer, salad or dessert, we'll supply hot dogs and drinks. Starts 6:30 p.m. at 2717 17th Street. Call Fred Fischietto, 983-5607 or Barb Beddow, 444-7774 for details.
- July 1-4, Sun.-Wed. - DPS - Wheeler, Ruby Dome, Arc Dome (Nevada).** Leader: Karen Leonard (213) 839-3457.

NOTE: Some outings carried by other Sections and other Chapters of the Club are listed for your information. Details are provided in other Sierra Club Publications; prior consultation with the outings leader is recommended for those unable to check the original (more detailed) description of the trip. MLC = Mother Lode Chapter; DPS = Los Angeles Desert Peaks Section; HPS = Los Angeles Hundred Peaks Section; PCS = San Francisco Peak Climbing Section.

PRIVATE TRIPS: If you're interested in a week-long trip this July/August starting from Bishop Pass (doing Agassiz), down into LeConte Canyon (to do McDuffie and Black Giant), then hiking down to do the Thumb, Birch and Split, and out Taboose Pass for a car-shuttle, call John Sarna 429-8024 soon so I can make reservations @ \$3 per person.

CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The California Mountaineering Club has been formed to lead trips to technical peaks in the Sierra Nevada, the desert southwest of the U.S., and Mexico. The membership standards are nowhere near as rigorous as rumor, gossip, hearsay, and speculation have made them out to be. In essence, the Board of Directors expects that every candidate knows how to rope up, belay, rappel, set anchors, and have experience in snow travel. All experienced mountaineers are encouraged to apply. Send a SASE to the CMC secretary: Rick Beatty, 110 S. El Nido, #40, Pasadena, CA 91107, and request an application for Charter Membership. (note: this will require the signing of a release/waiver and an initial \$20 application fee and newsletter--\$10 a year thereafter.)

Reprinted from Mugelnoos (Angeles Chapter)
Submitted by Pete Yamagata

NEW DRAFT OGUL LIST PREPARED

As previously mentioned in this newsletter, I've undertaken the task of updating the OGUL Peak List (all the same peaks) with better information. The result is listed below. Thanks go to Bill Hauser, Roger Winters, and Pete Yamagata for their comments on prior drafts. If no more comments are received, I'll go ahead and finalize this list using the introductory language and some of Janet Erl's art-work from the current list (for which we've run out of copies). Also, since several people suggested substantive changes to the list affecting requirements (adding Mt. Como; designating Dicks a "*"; etc.), I'm organizing a new committee charged with further OGUL revisions. Anyone interested in being a voting member (one person one vote) should contact me (John Sarna, 429-8024) in time to publish their names in the next *Boulder*. Anticipated would be a amended list which would appear in a subsequent issue for ratification.

IN THE SIERRA NEVADA		Least Difficult Route Possible w/2WD Drive-In			
	ELEV.	USGS TOPO MAP (15')	CLASS	GRADE	FROM
<u>North of Highway 70</u>					
* Adams Peak	8197	Chilcoot, CA	2	1B	Logging road to southwest of peak
<u>South of Highway 70</u>					
* Mt. Fillmore	7715	Downieville, CA	2	1A	Johnsville Road
Mt. Elwell	7812	Sierra City, CA	2	2B	Lakes Basin
Haskell Peak	8107	Sierra City, CA	1	1A	Haskell Peak Rd to southwest
Sierra Buttes	8587	Sierra City, CA	1	2C	Packer Lake
<u>North of Highway 80</u>					
* Mt. Lola	9143	Donner Pass, CA	1	3C	Hennes Pass Road
* English Mtn	8373	Emigrant Gap, CA	2	1B	Catfish Lake
* Black Butte	8030	Emigrant Gap, CA	2(S-3)	2B	Grouse Ridge Lookout
x Old Man Mtn	7789	Emigrant Gap, CA	2	2C	Fordyce Summit
Signal Peak	7841	Emigrant Gap, CA	1	1A	Fordyce Summit
Basin Peak	9015	Donner Pass, CA	1	3C	Castle Peak Trailhead (I-80)
* Castle Peak	9103	Donner Pass, CA	1(S-3)	2B	Castle Peak Trailhead (I-80)

(continued on next page)

DRAFT OGUL LIST (continued)

STILL IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

	ELEV.	USGS TOPO MAP (15')	CLASS	GRADE	Possible w/2WD Drive-In FROM
<u>South of Highway 80</u>					
x Devils Peak	7704	Donner Pass, CA	3	1B	Cascade Lakes
x Snow Mtn	8014	Granite Chief, CA	1	3C	Cascade Lakes
Mt. Mildred	8398	Granite Chief, CA	1	2B	Logging road near Dolly Creek
<u>West Side of Lake Tahoe</u>					
Anderson Peak	8683	Donner Pass, CA	1	3C	Donner Summit
Tinker Knob	8949	Granite Chief, CA	2	3C	Squaw Valley
* Granite Chief	9006	Granite Chief, CA	1	2C	Squaw Valley
x Needle Peak	8971	Granite Chief, CA	2(S-3)	3C	Squaw Valley
Lyon Peak	8891	Granite Chief, CA	2	3C	Squaw Valley
x Twin Peaks	8878	Tahoe, CA-NV	2	2B	Barker Pass
Ellis Peak	8740	Tahoe, CA-NV	1	1B	Barker Pass
<u>Southwest Side of Lake Tahoe - East Ridge</u>					
x Rubicon Peak	9183	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	1C	Rubicon Estates, Lake Tahoe
Phipps Peak	9234	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Bayview Trailhead (Hwy 89)
* Mt. Tallac	9735	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Fallen Leaf Lake
x Dicks Peak	9974	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Fallen Leaf Lake
x Jacks Peak	9856	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Fallen Leaf Lake
<u>Southwest Side of Lake Tahoe - West Ridge</u>					
Tells Peak	8872	Robbs Peak, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
McConnell Peak	9099	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
Silver Peak	8930	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
x Red Peak	9307	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
x Mt. Price	9975	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Wrights Lake
* Pyramid Peak	9983	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Twin Bridges (Hwy 50)
Ralston Peak	9235	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	1	2C	Sayles Flat (Hwy 50)
<u>South of Lake Tahoe</u>					
Waterhouse Peak	9497	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	1B	Luther Pass
Stevens Peak	10061	Markleeville, CA	1	1C	Hwy 88, via Crater Lake
x Red Lake Peak	10061	Markleeville, CA	1(S-3)	1B	Carson Pass
<u>South of Highway 88</u>					
* Round Top	10380	Markleeville, CA	2(S-3)	1B	Woods Lake
Hawkins Peak	10023	Markleeville, CA	2	1B	Burnside Lake Road
Markleeville Peak	9417	Markleeville, CA	1	1B	Blue Lakes Road
* Jeff Davis Peak	8990	Markleeville, CA	5	1A	Blue Lakes Road
The Nipple	9340	Markleeville, CA	2	1B	Blue Lakes Road
* Mokelumne Peak	9332	Silver Lake, CA	2	3C	Shriner Lake Trailhead
<u>North of Highway 4</u>					
x Raymond Peak	10011	Markleeville, CA	2	3C	Ebbetts Pass
x Reynolds Peak	9690	Markleeville, CA	2(S-3)	2C	Ebbetts Pass or Wet Meadows
<u>South of Highway 4</u>					
x Silver Peak	10774	Markleeville, CA	2	3D	Noble Canyon Trailhead (Hwy 4)
* Highland Peak	10934	Markleeville, CA	2	3D	Noble Canyon Trailhead (Hwy 4)
Lookout Peak	9584	Markleeville, CA	2	2B	Pacific Valley (Hwy 4)

IN THE CARSON RANGE, SIERRA NEVADA

<u>Northeast of Lake Tahoe</u>					
* Mt. Rose	10776	Mt Rose, NV	1	3C	Mt. Rose Summit (Hwy 431)
<u>East of Lake Tahoe</u>					
x Snow Valley Peak	9214	Carson City, NV	1	3C	Spooner Summit
Duane Bliss Peak	8658	Carson City, NV	2	2B	Spooner Summit
Genoa Peak	9150	Carson City, NV	1	2B	Daggett Pass
<u>Southeast of Lake Tahoe</u>					
* Freel Peak	10881	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	1D	Fountain Place
Jobs Sister	10823	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	2D	Fountain Place
x Jobs Peak	10633	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	3D	Snowshoe Springs (Hwy 88/89)
Wade	9367	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	3C	Snowshoe Springs (Hwy 88/89)

IN THE PINE NUT MTNS (East of Highway 395)

x Mt. Siegel	9450	Mt. Siegel, NV-CA	2	2C	Slaters Mine to north of peak
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IN THE SWEETWATER MTNS (East of Highway 395)

Desert Creek Peak	8969	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	1C	Risue Canyon Road
x East Sister	10402	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	2C	Rickey Mine to north
x Middle Sister	10859	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	3D	Rickey Mine to north
* South Sister	11339	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	3C	Lobdell Lake
* Mt. Patterson	11673	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	2C	Lobdell Lake
x Wheeler Peak	11664	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	3D	Swauger Creek

* -> star peaks, dominant in setting or with exceptional views

x -> emblem peaks, somewhat less difficult and secondary in setting

Peggy Lehman awarded a Tahoe OGUL Emblem
on January 26, 1990,
completing all requirements in 13 months

Rex Smith awarded a Tahoe OGUL Emblem and NAS Super Emblem
on January 27, 1990
having completed 13 extra OGUL and 50 extra NAS peaks

WILDERNESS PERMIT
RESERVATION FEES
REQUIRED ON THESE TRAILHEADS:

QUOTA TRAILS

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

MONO LAKE RANGER DISTRICT (619) 647-6525
P.O. BOX 429
LEE VINING, CA 93541

MARIPOSA RANGER DISTRICT (209) 683-4665
41969 HIGHWAY 41
OAKHURST, CA 93644

Rush Creek
Shepherd Crest (from 20 Lakes Basin)

Chiquita Pass/ Quartz

MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 148
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

MINARETS RANGER DISTRICT (209) 877-2218
NORTHFORK, CA 93643

Duck Pass
Deer Lakes
Red Cones, JMT So.
High Trail (PCT)
River Trail
Shadow Lake

John Muir Trail N.
Minaret Lake
Beck Lake
Fern Lake
Fish Creek

Mammoth
Walton
Isberg
Jackass
Fernandez
Norris

KING'S RIVER RANGER DISTRICT (209) 855-8321
34849 MAXON RD.
SANGER, CA 93657

WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT (619) 873-4207
798 NORTH MAIN STREET
BISHOP, CA 93514

This trail is administered by the Pineridge Ranger District.
All reservation applications and fees must be sent there.

Maxsom

McGee Creek
Hilton Lakes
Mono Pass
Little Lakes Vly.
Pine Creek
Piute Pass

Lamarck Lakes
Sabrina Basin
Treasure Lakes
Bishop Pass
Big Pine, N. Fork
Big Pine, S. Fork

PINERIDGE RANGER DISTRICT (209) 841-3311
P.O. BOX 300
SHAVER LAKE, CA 93664

Florence
Bear Creek
Devil's Bathtub/Graveyard
Potter Pass
Deer Creek
Mono Creek
Billy Creek

MOUNT WHITNEY RANGER DISTRICT (619) 876-5542
P.O. BOX 8
LONE PINE, CA 93545

The Sierra National Forest will not be making reservations
over the phone. All reservations must be made by mail or in
person.

Taboose Pass
Sawmill Pass
Baxter Pass
Golden Trout Lakes
Kearsarge Pass
Shepherd Pass

George Creek
Mount Whitney Trail
Meysan Lake
Cottonwood Lakes
Cottonwood Pass

TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

BRIDGEPORT RANGER DISTRICT (619) 932-7070
P.O. BOX 595
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517

Buckeye
Green Creek
Virginia Creek
Leavitt Meadows

Twin Lakes -
Horse Creek
Cattle Creek
Robinson Creek
Blacksmith Creek



CHRISTMAS 1989 DESERT PEAK BAGGING TRIP

I had 5 people interested from the Bay Area, 2 from Sacramento, and 2 from Hayward. From the Bay Area only one, Brian Healy, showed up in Baker, California, at 7 a.m. on 12/27/89. Howard Steidtmann and Tobi Tyler showed up also. Boris and Camille had car trouble so they wouldn't make it the first day for the Mt. Clark ascent.

MT. CLARK. After winding around mine tailings, dumps, and substations, we finally got to the BLM campground. Pete Yamagata's directions were very helpful. We decided on the easterly ridge and the class 3 cliff band route. Howard and Tobi went ahead to the class 3 "step" while Brian Healy hesitated on the ridge and dropped down to a wide ledge. He followed the ledge to the step and waited there for us. Howard, Tobi, and I "roaped" up to the top in 1/2 hour. The White Fir trees on Mt. Clark are actually growing along north facing cliffs deep in the shadows. These White Fir at 7900' are relics from a long past glacial age. Descent was easy. Brian thought about going to the top but decided against it when Howard described the route because he was feeling a bad flu bug. We all saw the crashed airplane on the way down. Back at the BLM C.G. we fed and played with a delightful kangaroo rat named "Tobi." Brian left the trip and the rest of us went to Jean, Nevada, for a big buffet!!

Howard and Tobi didn't want to eat the buffet so I went in alone. Sure enough at 5 p.m., Boris and Camille appeared!! We soon left by caravan for Mesquite, Nevada, and then camped out near Virgin Peak. VIRGIN PEAK. Up 6 a.m. Parked at 4400'. The peak is 8000'. We had a long day. Luckily we had Howard's 4WD truck to take us up the wash/canyon to about 6000'. We stuck to the notes I had from past "Desert Sages," and got the peak! It was a very tiring 2000'--all brush and loose limestone rock, but it was a clear warm day. We could see for 100 miles. The only distracting factor was a layer-like, dark cloud at 5000'--someone thought it was a layer of Las Vegas smog. Anyway, 5 of us made the peak--Boris, Camille, Howard, Tobi, and I. We all raced down to beat the darkness, then had a giant, first-class buffet at the Peppermill at Mesquite, Nevada. While Boris was going back for thirds, a woman asked him if he had any extra sugar!! Evidently, Boris looked like a waiter in his climbing suit. We all had a big laugh!

Coming out of Mesquite at 7 p.m., it was actually raining! Big clouds from the south hit us. Anyway, we went west toward Glendale, and after a series of goof-up's in the dark, found the trailhead for Moapa Peak for the next day. Up at 6 a.m. Real high winds. Actually had high (60 m.p.h.+) winds all night. I woke up a few times and thought it was an earthquake! Boris and Camille's tent kept them up all night. I cancelled the climb due to the knife-edge ridge on Moapa. Boris still wanted to go, but Camille restrained him. We all met down at Glendale, Nevada's coffee shop for strategy sessions.

Boris, Camille, Howard, and Tobi headed south to Needles, CA, and I went to the Sports Club in Vegas for a swim and short workout. We were all to meet the next day at 6:30 a.m. at the trailhead to do Stepladder and Chemehuevi. I slept in until 11 a.m. so I missed the peaks. Boris, Camille, Howard, and Tobi did two peaks that day; I don't know the details but I heard that they had a good time. I went back into Vegas from my camp-spot near Goodsprings, Nevada, and saw the 30 million dollar volcano at the new Mirage Hotel. I sort of looked askantly at it, but boy, when that volcano erupted--I was indeed impressed. The Mirage also has a rainforest atrium and a white tiger!!

I drove to Christmas Tree Pass, south of Searchlight, Nevada, that night, and met Howard and Tobi. The next morning, Boris and Camille showed up and we all five made it up on Spirit Mtn. at 5600'. The view from the top was real special. The climb was only 1500' vertical, but it took us four hours. Anyway, we could see Mt. Charleston, Virgin, McCullough, Providence and Mitchell, the blue Colorado River, the Laughlin casinos, Mt. Tipton, and the Cerbat Pinnacles---I would say at least 100 miles around. Shirt sleeve weather on top was great. We went to see Penis Rock and the petroglyphs but Boris and Camille's car broke down ending a spectacular week in the desert.

I spent New Year's Eve at my old nuclear power friend Gary Vespermann's in Vegas and went on a Sierra Club hike out at the Valley of Fire the next day. On Jan. 2 it rained all day with snow down to 5000'!! Vegas was real pretty.

Bill Hauser, leader
408-243-4566

STILL FOR SALE: Epoke 900 skis, 200 cm., wax, with 3-pin bindings. \$50.
Windy Pass day pack, 2000 cubic in., fair condition. \$20.
MORE FOR SALE: Thermarest self-inflating pad, full length. Used once. \$30.
Phone message recorder with some idiosyncracies. Free.
Bolex Rex 16mm movie camera. Needs some repair. \$250. (with four lens)

Contact Pete Yamagata, 444-6319.

Steve Thaw invited me up to his place at the Lake, and after getting up to clear, crisp, and beautiful weather, we decided to climb Red Lake Peak---easy (1500' gain over 3 miles r.t.), convenient, and Steve hadn't climbed it before. We had to buy a Sno-Park permit at Sorenson's (up to \$3 a day and \$15 a year) to preclude getting a \$75 ticket, and we left the Carson Pass parking lot (nice restroom facilities now) by 10:30 a.m. We simply headed up the S-SW ridge which did have some snow on it but was about 75% bare. A use trail was taken to the summit pinnacles. Steve got way ahead and climbed the lower pinnacle inadvertently, but later pronounced it as easier than the higher one. He probably did some 4th class face climbing and a knife edge traverse in gaining the true summit. I was able to remember some of the route from ascents in times past. We looked, but found no register.

I placed a can and book, and we sat on top for about 45 minutes enjoying the wintry view. Steve commented later that I only wanted to get back to the Keno games in Stateline (this was a sign that I was already a "goner"). It had taken me a slow 2½ hours to make the ascent. Returning in about 1¼ hours back to the car, I had a nice dinner with Steve and his folks at the SLT Sizzler, then enjoyed the free drinks and entertainment in Nevada. Actually, I just liked being given lots of 7-up, orange juice, and egg nog from the beautiful cocktail waitresses.

Who needs Mammoth or Utah?

Pete Yamagata

CLARK MOUNTAIN (7907') AND ATTEMPT ON
NEW YORK MOUNTAIN (7532')

JANUARY 5-7, 1990

Meeting in Merced at an early 6:00 p.m. on Thursday the 4th, Steve Thaw and I loaded our gear into Rose Certini's car, and filled the six hour drive to Barstow with animate conversation, speaking of peaks and desert conservation. We went into Barstow for breakfast, then continued east on I-15 to Mountain Pass where we spent a good two hours looking for the road into the BLM campground. Stopped by snow, we hiked the 15 minutes to the trailhead, and proceeded directly up rock and scree slopes to the notch in the rock band. Steve, with his usual vigor, climbed a 15 foot 4th class wall in his efforts to get past the rock band. I was able to guide Rose up the standard 7 foot 3rd class section. The summit, hence, was only a half-hour away, and we saw Bill Hauser, Howard Steidtmann, and Tobi Tyler signed in from their climb only 2 weeks before. We were on top at 2:30p.m., and the low light and clear views made for a dramatic summit stay.

We were able to descend quickly, and then headed for Stateline, Nevada, and Whiskey Pete's for a buffet dinner and \$5.00 winnings at Keno (for me). We then came back to California and a nice car camp in the Ivanpah Valley.

We made breakfast the next morning and visited Nipton, CA for some cultural interest, then headed south for our trailhead to climb the high point of the New York Mountains. We stopped to photograph the desert landscape covered in snow, then arrived at our trailhead in beautiful Caruthers Canyon, with its numerous campsites surrounded by hundreds of boulders and rock formations somewhat like Joshua Tree N.M. We began by 11:25 a.m., which I thought was plenty of time to climb 2,000' gain. However, the terrain was rough, with snow-covered rocks and lots of brush. At about 2:15 p.m., Rose and I began to sense that we would not make it and wanted to turn around to get back before dark. However, Steve continued and reached the 3rd class summit by 3 p.m. I declined to follow as I was worried about the time, with a highly exposed step-across with some chimney climbing that might have been 4th class beyond. I took some photos, and a few photos on the difficult down-climb, having rarely had the opportunity to take pictures of a sunset during the middle of a descent.

Having gotten back to the car, we continued our auto loop around the New York Mountains in the dark, and stopped by a DPS list finisher's abode to visit and chat. We reached Baker at 11:00p.m. for my hamburger dinner. After an interesting sunrise, we stopped in Barstow for breakfast again and toured the BLM museum. We also stopped in Boron to see the 20 mule team museum, and then looked for the Tropic Gold Mine museum near Rosamond but couldn't find it, and returned to Merced by 6:00 p.m.

Pete Yamagata 1-9-90

9700'

It's a worthy peak, but it has no name. It's that knobby peak that stands between Raymond Peak and Reynolds Peak. The topo gives it "9700'", so I'll call it that for now. The peak is memorable to me for challenging fourth class climbing, and for the sharing of the the climb.

I attempted the peak with Jonathan Lawrence who at fifteen is twenty-eight years my junior. Prior to this peak, we had climbed Mt. Dana, Hawkins Peak, and Half Dome together. Before those peaks we had backpacked a couple of times, and car camped and hiked together during our ten year acquaintance.

I must warn the reader that I'm in a reflective mood, and am inclined to explore the personal, emotional significance of this trip. I'm using bold type to provide the sort of outline that will allow the peak bagger to find the pertinent information about the peak climbing, and, if the reader wishes, to avoid the introspective stuff.

I may have led Jon on his first hike with his mother and sister somewhere near Big Trees State Park when he was five years old. Family recollections and definitions of "hike" might dispute that claim, but I was delighted way back then to be walking with those two children and their mother, discovering things together along a stream, investigating, moving on, investigating some more, finding a route down the rocks and finding our way back to camp.

Since that early outing, which required the sort of choreography that would allow an abundance of discoveries as distractions from the exertions involved, we progressed (years later) to a backpack trip where I carried the camp gear for both of us while he ran on ahead with only his personal gear. He was always willing to do his share when called upon to help and was a cheerful companion.

The following year, his sprinting ability confronted a long hard climb from Yosemite Valley to the top of Half Dome. He did sprint early on, but eventually, the rigors of the route required that he cut back his cocky pace. When the long haul was finally behind him, his energies returned, and he was delighted and fascinated with the opportunities to get out to the edge and look down the vertical wall of Half Dome.

In the summer of '87 Jon and I got started on some more challenging peak climbs. Our warm-up climb that year was **Hawkins Peak**, near the juncture of Carson Pass and Luther Pass. I chose a route that flirted with the steep, rocky cliffs that protrude well below the summit. After that first taste of third class climbing, we proceeded to the summit, playing as we went, testing our abilities against the volcanic extrusions along the way.

I let Jon lead the way down. His interest in a distant point led us back to the top of those cliffs, a bit further into the steep section. "You choose the route," I reminded him.

"We can't go down there," he said, pointing to a vertical wall. "But," he added, "we could go down there." He indicated a very steep section with good hand holds. I laughed to see that he could recognize a route that was quite challenging, but manageable for one with skill and confidence. The joke was on me. I had been giving him a gentle introduction to rock climbing, being careful not to push him into anything he

wasn't ready for, and he suddenly opted for adventure. I was surprised and delighted, and I followed his lead.

The next day we climbed Mt. Dana, just south of Tioga pass, and just on the eastern-most edge of Yosemite. The peak (13,053') was a worthy achievement for Jon, and it did tax his endurance a bit, but I was pleased most of all with Jon's performance on the ascent of the rocky route to Dana Plateau. We left the usual hiking route early on in favor of a more vertical route up to the rocky points at the north end of the plateau. Jon had consistently displayed a combination of physical skill and good route finding as he picked his way behind me.

I dropped the ball the next summer. I did go out to help a troop of scouts climb Shasta, but I never got together on a climb with Jon in the summer of '88. **And 1989 had begun to portend disappointment as well.** Jon and I had headed into the Sawtooth Ridge area too early in the season and had been driven down by cold rain. We took a side trip to Bodie, and for me, the consolation on this early trip was my first (and Jon's first) positive sighting of an immature golden eagle. That, and the kayacking on Lake Natomas on a Sunday that would otherwise have been the last day of our climbing trip had we not returned to our respective homes on Saturday night.

During prime climbing time, Jon was off to Yellowstone with his dad and to British Columbia with his mom and sister. Meanwhile, I had explored the area around Virginia Peak with my friend, Tom Jankowski, and had climbed Red Slate Mountain with the most wonderful collection of adult friends I could have hoped for. With the school year about to begin for Jon, I called him to propose the trip.

Kids grow and change. You can't expect that a growing, changing boy will be who he was a month ago just because you as an adult in your age of slow time have put a kid into a cubbyhole in your own mind. So it was with some eagerness that I began to plan our trip when Jon expressed his readiness to head for the hills again.

Scheduling was a problem, since my business runs on a standard five day week, while Jon's services are most in demand on Saturday. Jon works at Hibbert Lumber Company in Davis. One of his bosses once told me that a customer had looked to her for verification of Jon's advice. "He's just a kid," the customer observed. "**He's not just an ordinary kid**", she replied. Maybe it was because Jonathan is not an ordinary kid, that after all his time off for vacations, Jon was given **another** Saturday off to go climbing with me. Halle-lujah! We had a full weekend.

On Friday night we headed up Highway 50. **Raymond Peak and Reynolds Peak** had been called to my attention months before by John Waters as we were driving down Monitor Pass returning from the east side of the Sierra. Raymond seemed to be a good objective for this hasty trip. We took Luther pass to the junction of Luther and Carson passes, then taking the Blue Lakes road into the area where wide-bodies like my van sacrifice their dignified coats of paint to the encroaching flora. We had had a chance to survey the country before dark came upon us, and we kept looking at one pretty peak. Was it Reynolds or Raymond or what? Dark

was settling down as we found a place to park the van and rest for the night.

In the morning we got a new view of the terrain. We drove to a likely take-off point in Indian Valley - southwest of Raymond - west and a little north of Reynolds. Using a compass and the fifteen minute Markleeville map, we determined that the provocative point we had seen the night before was "9700". With our gear evenly divided between us, we headed off through a herd of cattle that morning, following a drainage that led us to a ridge which ran from Reynolds Peak (9690') to '97'. As we approached the top of the ridge, staying high and to the north, our proximity to '97' kept it out of our view. We were now close to the top of the ridge, and our plan was to descend into Pennsylvania Creek drainage to camp for the night before climbing Raymond on Sunday. Since we were up so high and were so close to the peak, and since we were tired of carrying our packs, we stashed our packs and probed the area, walking, scrambling or climbing as the terrain allowed.

Third class routes became scarce. As I led the way up the first stretch of fourth class climbing, I remembered that John's mother, Shirley, had provided a release for medical treatment. Of course that would be unnecessary, but I was touched at that moment to think of the sort of mother's love that gives her child the freedom to go out in the world and experience life, while recognizing that life involves risk. And I was touched, too, by the fact that my dear friend was willing to entrust her son to my care. I joked with Jon, admonishing him not to fall since explaining his demise to his mother would be such an uncomfortable chore.

I watched Jon as he skillfully made his way up a steep wall. It was all quite manageable; steeper than a ladder, but with adequate holds. It only required the ability to use those holds and the confidence to proceed in a situation where a fall could result in injury. In most people, the fact that failure could mean injury weighs more heavily than the fact that the task is manageable. Fear of failure distracts attention from the task at hand and makes failure more likely. Jon concentrated on the challenges before him and enjoyed his successes.

At last, after a tortuous, arduous climb, involving a few impasses and backtracks, **we got to the base of the summit block.** Summit blocks is more the case, there being a series of them looking like the tops of three or four baguettes stood on end and leaning against one another. This side trip had turned out to be more than we had bargained for. I had come up to explore, leaving Jon to rest on a plateau below. Now, having found the beginnings of a route to the summit of the topmost baguette, I summoned Jon, who had gained a second wind as he was faced with this challenging summit climb.

I led the way to the top, grimly cautious, determined that everything should be distinctly within Jon's abilities and my own. At one point, I attempted a route which took me up to a small bulging overhang which I had to reject as risky. Jon had watched my effort, and he suggested a route to the right up a series of vertical cracks. I went part way up and backed down. Jon suggested that a slightly different approach might get us over the hump. I retraced my steps, followed his

suggestion and got past the crux of the piece. Jon followed. From there it was hard work, but nothing too tricky until we got to an exposed section just short of the top. We just tightened our jaws and did it.

The rest of the trip was only slightly anti-climactic. There was plenty of hard work climbing back down to the packs. Once off the summit blocks, we tried to find the easy way back, but found ourselves settling for a similar route, once again going past the old wrecked airplane on the west slope, climbing up and down some of the same steep sections we had climbed down and up, and taking one detour which turned out to be less steep, but at least as strenuous as the route on the way up.

We ate lunch, took up our packs, gained the top of the ridge and descended into the drainage of Pennsylvania Creek. Jon would have preferred to camp higher, but he accommodated the requirements of my old bones. We followed the creek bed itself, climbing down numerous steep cascades until the land was flat enough and the water was plentiful enough for me to concede that we had arrived at a suitable camp site. He cheerfully did his share of camp chores, and as always was packed up and ready to go in the morning before I was.

We hauled our gear part way back up the creek before heading northeast to our designated peak, Raymond. **At 10.011', Raymond offers a nice view.** I caught a moth, bare-handed, and my friend, Bill Patterson found it worthy of a place in his collection. I signed the register, but Jon was not interested in making his mark in that way.

We descended, took up our packs again and hiked a different route up to that ridge between Reynolds and '97'. It was good to look again at the window in the ridge that had entertained us as we approached it the day before. I looked again at Raymond Peak, the trip's objective, and I looked at the steep rocks that marked the beginning of the side trip of the day before. I felt happy to have seen it all, but most of all, I felt privileged to have shared the climb with this fine young man.

by Terry Wenner

Lechuguilla Cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in the State of New Mexico

until recently Lechuguilla was considered "just another minor cave" among Carlsbad's 75 caves. Recent explorations, however, have turned up dramatic new information that, according to cave experts, may make Lechuguilla the finest cave in America.

The recent explorations have established that the cave is over 1,500 feet deep, making it the second deepest cave in the United States; that its 21-mile length makes it the 13th longest cave in the nation and the longest "deep cave" (greater than 1,000 feet deep); and that the cave is filled with magnificent gypsum deposits and formations.

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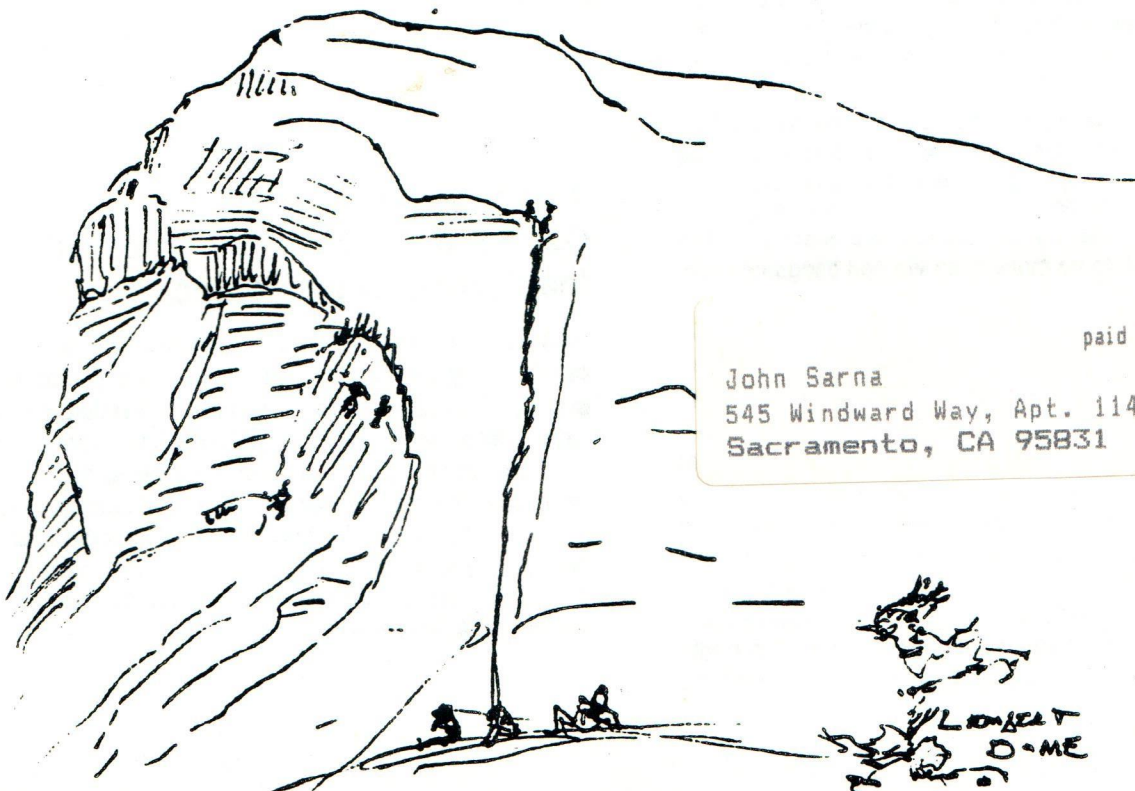
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SUBMITTALS: *We encourage you to submit copy for publication. Articles, letters, fiction, poetry, and artwork that would be of interest to the Peak and Gorge Section are welcome. Copy should be typed single-spaced on 8.5 x 11" paper with half- to one-inch margins, and sent to: Boulder Editorial Committee; C/O John Sarna; 545 Windward Way #114; Sacramento, CA 95831; phone 429-8024. Submittals will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

DEADLINE: *At least one week prior to the first of odd-numbered months. The next deadline is: Thursday, April 19.*

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paid til issue 37

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