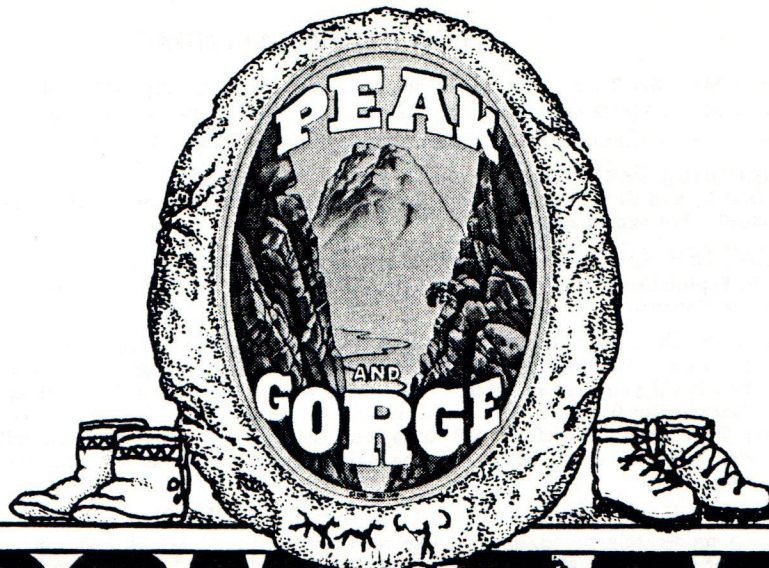


THE



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# BOULDER

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motherlode chapter-sierra club

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Issue No. 36, May & June 1990

## THE CHAIR'S CORNER

"National Mountaineering Committee Reorganizes" was the headline of an article in the most recent (April) issue of the Bonanza. The top item on this committee's agenda, "find a workable way to find insurance for club-sponsored technical mountaineering outings, which have been banned since 1988 due to insurance restrictions," is certainly a relevant issue to many of us in this section, with historic ups and downs. It became a dominant issue in last year's national Sierra Club election, but unfortunately, was not able to draw significant votes. Not surprisingly, candidates in the most recent election (I hope everyone read their statements and voted) make no mention of mountaineering, although many declared some close affiliation with Club-sponsored outings.

The only choice left us now is to accept the situation and continue to support the mountaineering committee's work to reinstate insurance, although no one is optimistic at this point in time. The question becomes one of how to accommodate those wanting to participate in now-restricted outings when the club cannot sponsor such trips. One "answer" is providing opportunities for interested parties to meet, share experiences, and plan private trips. Our Section's social meetings, non-technical outings, and this newsletter can certainly help make that happen. Another "answer" is assisting those willing to organize private trips. Two articles aimed at that end are being prepared for publication in a future issue of this newsletter. Judith Fairchild is preparing a list of people specifically interesting in rock climbing. And, Jim Bily is preparing a synopsis of the insurance situation which includes a discussion of a boiler-plate waiver of liability (see page 5 of this newsletter) that leaders can use to mitigate their own liability on private trips. Such a waiver is also recommended for Sierra Club trips (Outings leaders please note) to help build a case for the mountaineering committee that insurance should be restored. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee waivers will hold up in court, but they appear to carry weight under some circumstances. Those interested in discussing these and other approaches to dealing with the mountaineering restrictions are welcome to join us for lunch at Julian's Kitchen (18th and L St.) at noon on Friday, June 8.

Three other dates deserve special mention. Come see some "Summer Teasers" at the next Peak and Gorge meeting (May 22, Tuesday), or "tease" the rest of us with *your* favorite slides from "beyond our borders." Also, the Dan Dobbins Award will be presented to 5 youths on Friday, May 18. And, training for leading Sierra Club (Mother Lode Chapter) Outings will be given on May 5, and include free pizza and drinks. See the Calendar in this newsletter for details.

Happy Hiking, John Sarna

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

APR 23-29

~~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 5, Sat. - SUMMER OUTINGS SCHEDULE Deadline** - Outings Leaders, please send your trip writeups for the period of June 15 to September 15 to John Sarna, 545 Windward Way #114, Sacramento, CA 95831; they must arrive by May 5 to be published in the Bonanza.
- > **May 5, Sat. - OUTINGS LEADERSHIP TRAINING** - This day-long, classroom training-session meets one of the three requirements for leading Sierra Club Outings in the Mother Lode Chapter. Please leave your name and phone number with John Sarna (916) 429-8024 if you plan to attend. Meet 9:15 a.m. in Recreation Room B at River Point Apts: just north of the American River in Sacramento: from I-5 (either direction), exit turning right (west) onto Garden Highway; turn right again (at 0.5 miles) onto Gateway Oaks; then turn left (at 0.1 miles) onto River Plaza Drive; park 0.6 miles further at the second entrance to River Point Apts; walk into the "Grey" Section on the right; Recreation Room B is past the laundry room. Bring a chair, and if you want coffee, a mug.
- > **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 18, Fri. night - DAN DOBBINS AWARDS CEREMONY, Pot Luck, and Slide Presentation.** Awards will be given to 5 young mountaineers, followed by a presentation featuring slides of historic Peak and Gorge Activities. At 6:30 p.m. Dinner is pot-luck (hamburgers will be provided). Gene Markley will host, 7016 Filbert Ave (from I-80, exit on Greenback, left on Hazel, right on Elm, left on Filbert, see house on right) 988-0791.
- > **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 8, Fri. Noon lunch meeting to discuss mountaineering restrictions;** at Julian's Kitchen, 18th and L St.
- 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. - MLC Gr. 2B Dayhike - Red Mtn - Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 8 a.m. Leader: Jack Bussio, 457-3794.
- > **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 16, Sat. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE'S WALLS AND FALLS**, via Four Mile, Glacier Point, Panorama, and Mist Trails to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Meet leader, Steven Thaw, at the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley at 7 a.m. for this Gr. 4D strenuous saunter John Muir Style.
- > **June 17, Sun. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE FALLS CREST**, to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Meet leader, Steven Thaw, at the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley at 8 a.m. for this Gr. 2D strenuous saunter John Muir Style.
- 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.

- > **June 30, Sat. - GORGE SCRAMBLE II - Palisade Creek.** Starting from Cascade Lake on Devil's Peak Trail, branch cross-country to Palisade Creek. Continue down creek until it intersects the trail further down for return. Includes rock-scrambling, bush-whacking, and wading; some pools for swimming. About 10 miles round trip. Meet at Auburn Courthouse at 8 a.m. Leader: Terry Davis 888-0383 of Auburn; Co-leader: Helen Wauters 663-2303 of Newcastle.
- July 1-4, Sun.-Wed. - DPS - Wheeler, Ruby Dome, Arc Dome (Nevada).** Leader: Karen Leonard (213) 839-3457.
- > **July 14, Sat. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE'S EAGLE PEAK,** via the Yosemite Falls Trail to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Meet leader, Steven Thaw, at the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley at 7 a.m. for this Gr. 4D strenuous saunter John Muir Style.
- > **July 15, Sun. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE'S EMERALD POOL,** via the Mist Trail to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Meet leader, Steven Thaw, at the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley at 8 a.m. for this Gr. 2B saunter John Muir Style.
- > **Aug 24-27, Fri.-Mon. SIERRA PEAKS SAUNTER (John Muir Style) in Kayopha's Range of Light -** Mt. Farquhar (12,893'), Mt. Brewer (13,570'), North Guard (13,327'), and South Guard (13,224'). Send qualifications, carpool info with Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelop to Leader: Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga 94556.
- > **Aug 30-Sept 3, Thurs.-Mon. SIERRA PEAKS SAUNTER (John Muir Style) in Kayopha's Range of Light** Mt. Finger (12,404'), Tunemah (11,894') in Kayopha's Range of Light. Send qualifications, carpool info, and \$3 permit deposit with Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelop to Leader: Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga 94556.

**NOTE:** Some outings carried by other Sections and other Chapters of the Club (NOT marked with a ->) 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; SPS = Los Angeles Sierra Peaks Section; DPS = Los Angeles Desert Peaks Section; HPS = Los Angeles Hundred Peaks Section; PCS = Loma Prieta Chapter Peak Climbing Section.

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

### CONGRATULATIONS

Pete Yamagata awarded Tahoe OGUL -> *LIST COMPLETION STATUS*  
on April 19, 1990

### Outings Leadership Training

will be given on May 5, 1990 in Sacramento. This day-long, classroom training-session meets one of the three requirements for leading Sierra Club Outings in the Mother Lode Chapter. Please leave your name, address, and phone number with John Sarna (916) 429-8024 if you plan to attend. Meet 9:15 a.m. at River Point Apts. See directions for how to get there in Calendar on opposite page. Bring a chair and a mug (for coffee). Free pizza and soft drinks will be provided for lunch.

### YOU ARE INVITED

to join us in congratulating  
Andrew Brosi, Lori Hall, Pietrino Cumala, and two others  
on receiving the

### Dan Dobbins Youth Award

for outstanding leadership  
in wilderness education and mountain outings.

May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Gene Markley, 7016 Filbert Ave, 988-0791. See directions for how to get there in Calendar on opposite page. Dinner is pot-luck; hamburgers will be provided.

## A MESSAGE FROM JOHN MUIR

(on display in the Sierra Club room at the John Muir Historic Site)

"Saunter" was one of John Muir's favorite words. He used it in place of "hiking" which he considered a vile word. John Muir told this story to a group of returning climbers. "You know, when the pilgrims were going from England to the Holy Land, the French would ask them 'Where are you going?' and they did not speak French very well, but they would say "Sante Terre! (Holy Land). That is where we get our word 'Saunter' and you should saunter through the Sierra because this is a Holy Land, if there ever was one."

contributed by Steven Thaw



### SAWTOOTH RIDGE, ZONE-42 SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR EXPLORER WILDERNESS PERMIT

THE SAWTOOTH RIDGE UNIT ENCOMPASSES FOUR SMALL DRAINAGES: LITTLE SLIDE, BLACKSMITH, HORSE AND CATTLE CANYONS. THERE ARE SEVEN LAKES AND SEVERAL SMALL CIRQUE GLACIERS WITHIN THIS 7,300 ACRE AREA.

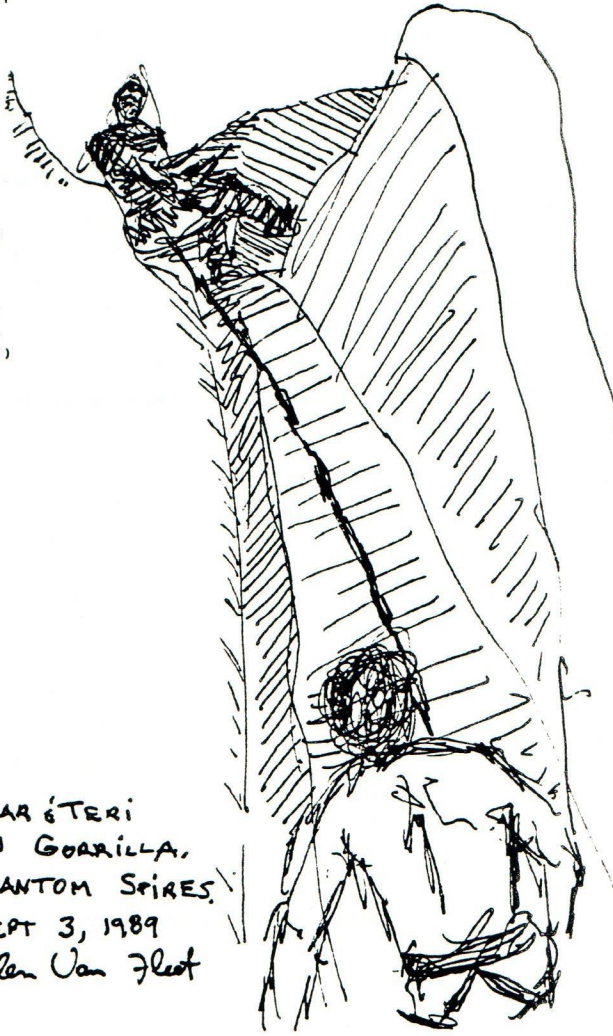
THE TOPOGRAPHY IS THE MOST RUGGED TO BE FOUND WITHIN THE HOOVER WILDERNESS. IT IS CHARACTERIZED BY EXTENSIVE ROCKY AND BARREN TERRAIN WITH SCATTERED ALPINE AND SUBALPINE VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES. THIS FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM HAS PROMPTED MORE STRINGENT PROTECTIVE MEASURES:

1. STOVE-USE ONLY. OPEN FIRES ARE PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY.
2. MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE IS LIMITED TO EIGHT PERSONS WHO MAY TRAVEL OR CAMP TOGETHER.
3. NO CAMPING WITHIN ONE HUNDRED YARDS OF ESTABLISHED TRAVEL ROUTES.
4. APPLICANT MUST POSSESS MAP READING ABILITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF SAFETY PRACTICES RELEVANT TO THIS TERRAIN. (OBTAIN USGS 'MATTERHORN PEAK' QUAD)

Reminder: NO Wood Fires!



HOOVER  
WILDERNESS  
TWIN LAKES  
SAWTOOTH  
RIDGE  
ZONE-42  
AREA  
YOSEMITE  
NATIONAL PARK



OSCAR & TERI  
ON GORRILLA,  
PHANTOM SPIRES,  
SEPT 3, 1989  
Ellen Van Fleet

The PCS Scree lists a number of private trips, including Corcoran, the San Rafael Swell in Utah, Shasta via the Hotlum/Bolam Ridge, and an Evolution Basin base camp.

Both the Desert Peaks Section and the Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, are effecting a mandatory waiver policy on all listed outings. Participants are required to sign a standard liability waiver in the hope that the Club's climbing insurance can be restored, and to reduce incidents and lawsuits from trips. This action was taken on the recommendations of the National Mountaineering Insurance Committee and could be instituted on a wider scale.

The release language is printed below, and subsequently available for individual or group use, however, the Peak and Gorge Section and the Sierra Club neither endorse its use nor warrant its validity.

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### RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

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I hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in mountaineering and/or mountaineering instruction or training, hereinafter referred to as "activities".

I am aware that the activities are hazardous, involving risk of serious bodily injury, death, or property damage and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with knowledge of these dangers including, but not limited to, slips, falls, objects or persons falling on persons, equipment failure, injury from pointed equipment, high altitude injury, improperly administered first aid, lightning, hypothermia, and/or drowning.

As lawful consideration for being permitted by the \_\_\_\_\_ or any of its officers, agents, servants, volunteers, activity participants, or employees, herein referred to as releasees, to participate in these activities and/or use their equipment, the undersigned does for him/herself, his/her heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, guardians, distributees, and assigns, collectively referred to as releasors, hereby release, waive, discharge, and relinquish any action or causes of action for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death which may hereafter arise from the activities or any pursuit incidental thereto wherever or however said pursuit may occur and for whatever period said activities and pursuits may continue. The undersigned further agrees that under no circumstances will releasors prosecute or present any claim against releasees for any causes of action, for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death, whether the same shall arise by the negligence or non-intentional conduct of any of said releasees from the activities or any pursuit incidental thereto.

The undersigned and the remaining releasors hereby agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless the releasees and each of them from any loss, liability, damage or cost (including attorney fees) which releasees may incur as a result of injury, death or property damage to the undersigned, or from suit from such personal injury, death, and/or property damage to the undersigned.

This document is intended to be as broad as is permissible under the law of the State of California and this agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of California. If any portion of this agreement is invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full force and effect.

The undersigned has read and voluntarily signs the release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement and further agrees that no oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from the foregoing written agreement have been made.

The undersigned acknowledges that he/she has read the foregoing paragraphs and is completely aware of the potential dangers incident to engaging in the activities, and is fully aware of the legal consequences of signing the within instrument.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## TEMPORAL CHANGE IN DECLINATION

by Bill Oliver

We are all aware that magnetic declination changes slowly but steadily with distance along the length of California - from 13.5° East in Joshua Tree National Monument to 17.5° East at Mt. Shasta, for example. (Of course, there is no change between, say, San Francisco and S. Tahoe as this path corresponds to a contour of constant declination.) It may surprise many of us, however, to learn that declination has a significant temporal, as well as geographic, variation.

For example, from 1800 to 1935 the declination in Los Angeles increased from 11.5° E to 15.5° E. Since then it has uniformly decreased to the current value of 14° E. The corresponding figures for Mt. Whitney are 13°, 17° & 15°; and for San Francisco are 13.5°, 18° & 16°. For the past 50 years then, this corresponds to a rate of change in California of roughly -1 degree E per 25 years. It is this temporal change that accounts for the 1.5 to 2.0 degree decrease in declination observed between the older 15 min. topos and the newer 7.5 min. versions.

There is a widespread belief that the compass points toward the magnetic pole. As a matter of fact, in large areas the direction of magnetic north differs by 10° or more from the direction of the magnetic pole. The compass is simply aligning itself with the orientation of the local magnetic field. We need not dwell here on the hairy physics behind an understanding of the earth's dynamic magnetic field. It is interesting to note, however, that declination not only changes slowly in terms of years ("secular" change), but there are also small systematic variations seasonally as well as even daily (on the order of 0.1 degrees). In the U.S., exclusive of Alaska, the change in declination in the course of a magnetic storm (due to a solar flareup) may, on rare occasions, be more than 4 degrees (which, no doubt, accounts for our getting lost on rare occasions!).

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Office publishes both U.S. and world declination maps at five-year intervals. I have redrawn the curves from these large maps onto the accompanying Western U.S. map. Tens of thousands of measurements

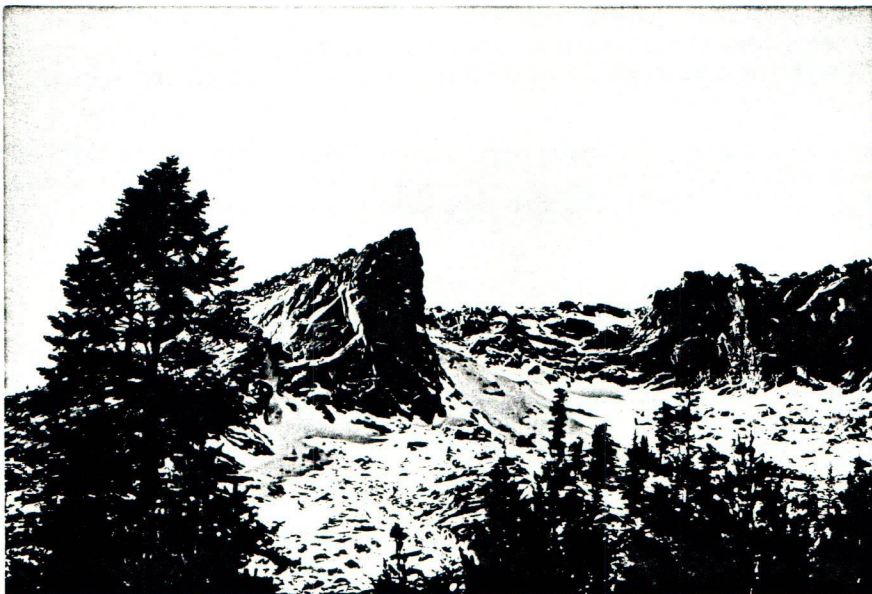
are used to generate these mathematically-smoothed curves, which should be accurate to within 0.5 degrees. The lines exclude the very local effects of magnetic anomalies, the largest such disturbance in S. Cal occurring in the Chino Hills, about 10 mi. S of Pomona, where the actual declination is +3.4 degrees E more than the chart would read. The only anomaly is the Sierra Nevada occurs near the town of Downieville in Sierra County (-3.5 degrees E).

Not to worry: one should bear in mind that the current local declination can always be determined as accurately as one's compass-reading ability allows. One needs to be certain of his or her exact position on a topo map and then carefully plot and measure on the map the true bearing to a certain distant landmark. Shooting the field bearing of the same landmark with the compass should then reveal the declination as the difference between the two readings (E declination if the magnetic north is east of true north, etc.).

I am deeply indebted to Ms. Jill Caldwell of the Branch of Global Seismology & Geomagnetism, USGS, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225. She has been unfailingly patient and helpful and provided me with a complete copy of the out-of-print "Magnetism of the Earth," 1962, by Nelson, Hurwitz and Knapp (Publication 40-1, U.S. Dept. of Commerce), as well as a complete, computer-generated historical record of declination in California.

As with topo maps, one may order declination maps from the USGS: United States (1985): GP-986-D, \$6.20 and the world (1985): GP-987-D, \$3.10.

*[see map of declinations in the Western US on opposite page]*



View of Phillips Crag  
from Hwy 50.

Photo by Charles  
Watters

Proposed site  
of rock climbing  
training.

**\*\* NEVADA \*\***

**Wilderness** — Conservationists celebrated the passage of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act Dec. 7, the state's first addition to the wilderness system since the Jarbidge Wilderness was established in 1964 (Dec. 18). S. 974 was introduced by Nevada Senators Harry Reid (D) and Richard Bryan (D) May 7; it designated 14 national forest areas totaling 733,400 acres as wilderness (May 22). A House companion bill, H.R. 2320, was introduced by Rep. James Bilbray (D-NV). Nevada Representative Barbara Vucanovich (R) offered several amendments to weaken water rights, reduce or eliminate wilderness areas, or to open up areas for snowmobiles or mineral sampling, but these were soundly defeated. A compromise was reached that allows military ground equipment installation and the retention of military overflight training routes, and the bill passed the House 323-75. President Bush then signed it into law (Nov. 10).

**Areas:** The bill designates the following wilderness areas in the Toiyabe National Forest:

- *Alta Toquima*, 38,000 acres;
- *Arc Dome*, 115,000 acres;
- *Mt. Charleston*, 43,000 acres;
- *Mt. Rose*, 28,000 acres; and
- *Table Mountain*, 98,000 acres.

In the Humboldt National Forest, the bill designates:

- *Currant Mountain*, 36,000;
- *East Humboldts*, 36,900 acres;
- *Grant Range*, 50,000 acres;
- a 48,500-acre addition to the *Jarbidge Wilderness*,
- *Mt. Moriah*, 82,000 acres;
- *Quinn Canyon*; 27,000 acres;
- *Ruby Mountains*, 90,000 acres;

and

- *Santa Rosa*, 31,000 acres.

Finally, in the Inyo National Forest, the bill designates the 10,000-acre *Boundary Peak Wilderness*.



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MAP OF DECLINATION, WESTERN U.S.  
SEE ARTICLE, PREVIOUS PAGE

**CALIFORNIA CLIMBING UPDATE (CONTINUED)**

4-15-90

The California Mountaineering Club is underway with Issue #1. The schedule for the upcoming spring and summer includes four Sierra spring snow climbing weekends with a number of technical climbs for the summer, including North Palisade, Thunderbolt, Clarence King, Palisade Crest, Clyde Minaret, and Starr King. A number of less technical climbs are also listed, such as Lyell, Ritter, Clark, Abbot, Darwin, Stanford, Jordan, Thunder, Table, and Milestone. Currently, the club has 46 members. For less or non-sponsored persons, a new category, the Provisional Member, is created to allow for sponsorship, or a mentor relationship, from an Active Member who must accompany the Provisional Member on outings. Persons wishing photocopies of the application and waiver/release forms, policies and purposes of the CMC, can contact me at the below number.

Pete Yamagata (916) 444-6319

## TWO SNOW CAMPS

HORTON LAKES, JOHN MUIR WILDERNESS  
POTHOLE MEADOWS, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

FEBRUARY 10-11, 1990  
MARCH 10-11, 1990

These were two overnight ski tours planned by Steve Thaw for full moon weekends. The first was a private trip, and the second was a rescheduled outing from his postponed Washington Birthday weekend trip.

We drove south on U.S. 395 on Friday night, the 9th of February, to meet Ed Ross, an Angeles Chapter BMTC instructor, at the K-Mart in Bishop. Schober Campground was closed, so we made a quick decision to try the BLM Mill Pond Recreation Site and threw our bags out near the closed campground there (nobody bothered us). I was surprised by the warm night, seeing my water bottle hadn't frozen in the morning. We went back into town for breakfast, then filled out our self-issue permit as the USFS ranger station was closed on weekends (winter season), and then proceeded up the South Lake Road to the Buttermilk Country Road. We soon encountered snow on the road, so we transferred gear into Ed's 4WD and drove over the snow to the intersection of the mine road (7500') that leads up to our planned destination.

I had problems with waxing as the sun warmed things up. Starting with blue, I went to purple, then added a red kicker, which finally worked. Steve and Ed used skins over waxless. We arrived at the Hanging Valley Mine (10,000') by 4 p.m., where Steve and Ed immediately laid claim to the two spring bedframes. I laid out my gear outside the cabin in a snow moat to test out sleeping with a lot of clothing inside a 2½ lb. down bag. The night passed quietly. My only problem was getting an itch which required removing 3 or 4 layers to scratch.

Steve and Ed had initially planned a climb of Mt. Tom (13,652'), which I tried to get them to forgo, knowing the difficulties and dangers in the winter. They started out at 8:30 a.m., but after 15 minutes, they returned. Apparently, the postholing in the deep snow convinced them. We began the ski out by 10:30 a.m., which was easy enough, being all on a road. However, Ed couldn't ski well, so he did a lot of walking. We were out by 3:30 p.m., and were treated to magnificent 395 scenery on the drive home.

Terry Hubbard called me back, frantic to go skiing, so we met Steve in Yosemite Valley Friday night for another nice sleep out. The next morning, we went to Yosemite Lodge Cafeteria where I spent \$7.15 for 2 eggs, 2 big sausages, hashbrowns, and coffee. Driving up to Badger Pass, we anticipated a nice weekend. The rangers said, "Three to five inches of snow expected tonight with 55 m.p.h. winds at the summits." We figured this would just blow by.

Rocketing down the icy track (set by a snow grooming machine), we reached Bridalveil Creek in about 1½ hours. We stopped at Clark Range View for lunch, and then the snow began coming down fairly hard. We continued (against my wishes) to the vicinity of Pothole Meadows where we decided to make camp. Steve and Terry worked on a huge trench with a tarp roof, while I built snow walls for my tent. They went touring in the late afternoon to the base of Sentinel Dome (they couldn't see anything), while I laid around in my tent and melted snow and ate dinner. It was a long night, with Terry good enough to come by at 1 a.m. to shovel snow off my tent.

I figured that we had gotten a foot, but Terry said later that the rangers said 1½ foot had fallen. I got up early and started packing without breakfast as I just wanted to get back. I broke trail for 1½ miles, with snow up to my knees, till I reached someone else's tracks leaving their camp. I tried twice to scrape my red and purple wax from the last tour, but I think I needed wax remover. Steve and Terry cruised by, and I managed a glide whenever the sun came out and warmed up the powder. But the snow kept falling, and I was reduced to clomping along and traveling in the snowshoe lane as I approached Badger Pass. I arrived 1¼ hours after the others, and just in time to find that the road to the Valley had reopened after a bad accident. Steve and Terry had already put chains on, so we slowly drove to the Valley floor, where chains could be removed. We had a nearly wondrous view of icy El Cap with drifting mists, just needing a little more sun. Terry and I drove home via Merced while Steve continued with chains on 120.

Pete Yamagata



SAN JOAQUIN RIDGE AND PEAK 10,255'

MARCH 31, 1990

This ski tour has been described as "one of the best" nordic tours in California, but that probably stems from the author's origins in Mammoth Lakes! However, it does offer some nice touring with great views of the Minarets, Ritter Range, the U.S. 395 Domes area, the White Mtns., and the High Sierra south. What brought me back here, some 10 years later, was running support for a SPS-SMS group of three making a ski traverse of San Joaquin Mountain (11,600') from Mammoth Lodge to June Mountain. I was still suffering from the flu, with a stuffed-up nose and cough, so I volunteered to shuttle the van around as then, I was able to do some shopping and sight-seeing in the town of Mammoth Lakes (high about 52°).

This tour was now heavily overrun by snowmobiles and skiers attached to snowmobiles but there were still plenty of nordic types to be found. I remained on Pk. 10,255' while Steve Thaw, Reiner, and Nancy continued along the ridge to the summit. Waiting until 11:20 a.m. for the snow to corn up, I returned to the parking lot. Being a Patagonia hound, I had plenty of time to scour the shops for sales, but could find only 20-30% off sales which were generally bettered by stores in Sacramento.

Driving around to June Mtn. parking lot, I anticipated an early finish by the group. People were coming off the main gondola from the upper slopes as the lower runs were low on snow, and I scanned each load for my friends. At 5:30 p.m., the last load emptied out and the clean-up crews began their work. Horrified, I envisioned having to call 911 and waiting throughout the night for their appearance. I could just see another major news media event similar to the Convict Lake tragedy, with helicopters and 200 ski patrollers mobilized for the search. But, I noticed the chair lift moving, and, rejoice, there they were! They arrived as the last few people were preparing to close down, and got them to start up the chair (for free, even!). We had a happy dinner in Mammoth at Perry's Pizza, camped at Shady Rest (also free this time of year!), and, after the others completed a short tour around Obsidian Dome Sunday, enjoyed a scenic ride home north on 395.

Pete Yamagata

MT. SIEGEL (9450')

APRIL 7, 1990

Rex Smith and I met Howard Steidtmann and Tobi Tyler in Minden, Nevada, to take a myriad of dirt roads leading to the northern approach to Mt. Siegel. After 20 miles' worth of scrapes and knocks under my Datsun, we reached Slater's Mine, where we parked and headed for Siegel.

The climb took us two hours, and we assiduously searched the big cairn for a register. Nothing was found, and it just happened that I was without a can, so we wrapped our new book in several plastic baggies, and placed a number of rocks around to protect it in the top of the cairn. Hopefully, someone climbing Siegel later this year will bring up a can or a jar, as the set-up probably wouldn't survive a winter. The drive out took 1½ hours, and I was grateful for blacktop! Rex and I drove to Reno for a great buffet at Fitzgeralds, after which, suspecting some poor weather Sunday, we decided to drive home.

Pete Yamagata

ELLIS PEAK (8740')\*\*OGUL LIST FINISHER\*\*

APRIL 14, 1990

Rex Smith gave me my wake-up call at 6:45 a.m. and we were off from Rex's by 7:15 a.m. to drive up I-80 and 89 to McKinney Creek trailhead for a hike up the south side of Ellis. I believed that the southern exposure of this route (10 mi. r.t., 2400') would contribute to having a snow-free route. I was wrong; the route was about 80% covered, but we had ice axes and snow-proof boots. We walked up mostly 4WD roads to the summit where we couldn't find any register, so I placed my book and can. Times were 3½ hours up, 2¼ hours down. On the road again by 4:30 p.m., we shopped in Truckee (some good sales--call for details), and finished the day with a Mexican dinner at the Copa Del Oro (prices still reasonable compared to the other places) and an uneventful drive home.

Pete Yamagata

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**DEADLINE:** *At least one week prior to the first of odd-numbered months. The next deadline is: Thursday, June 21, 1990.*

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