

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

Issue No. 37, July & August 1990

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

Greetings! The summer outings schedule is out (in the June *Bonanza*) with 25 peak climbs, 8 gorge scrambles, 2 saunters, and a number of other rather appealing activities (see the Calendar on the next page). While planning for some of the more strenuous trips, I sometimes ponder one of the basic philosophical questions: *why do we what we do?* Many of my friends and acquaintances think it would be anything but entertaining to literally thrust oneself up into the mountains every other weekend. Fortunately for my peace of mind, an excellent answer recently appeared in the January 1990 issue of the LA Hundred Peaks Section (HPS) *Lookout*. According to Tom Armbruster, there are several reasons: "some are selfish, some altruistic, some for me as an individualist, and some for me as a social animal." The reasons provided in his article are worth repeating:

Some reasons are common ones I tell anyone who asks. I love the physical challenge, hauling myself uphill hour in and hour out. It keeps me in great shape (along with running). I love incomparable views from the summits, especially those that combine a sweep from the Mojave Desert around to the coastline.

But there are also reasons I don't usually admit to, and probably some I don't admit to myself either. For example, I love it when people who don't climb ask me about it; then I get to sound like an expert. When I stand on a peak, it's like I've taken possession of it. Having completed the [HPS] list, I can look at the San Gabriels from my second floor office at McDonnell Douglas in Santa Ana, and feel like I own the whole range! And I'm hooked on little tokens of accomplishment; it's as if the HPS emblem was created with my ego in mind.

I like being among pine trees, going someplace off the beaten track. I feel like I did as an exploring five-year-old, when the whole world was new.

I also climb to overcome fear. Most of the time, at the start of an outing, I'm a little apprehensive about not being in good enough shape, or about getting lost, or about being hurt. When that fear passes, I've won a skirmish with myself.

I climb because I adore being associated with the Sierra Club, and our collective efforts to preserve the wilderness. I get a kick out of maybe leaving something for the people who will be born after I die: the spiritual enablement from the wilderness experience. That thought leads me to the social bonding. When I climb with a group, the peak experience links the group together, long after we're back at the cars.

I suppose climbing brings out the best in me. Sometimes I handle relationships well, and sometimes I really mess up. But I usually do OK with people when we're all headed up a mountain together. Climbing gives me a lot to look back on fondly.

What more can be said for this, or for that matter, any activity?

Happy Hiking, John Sarna

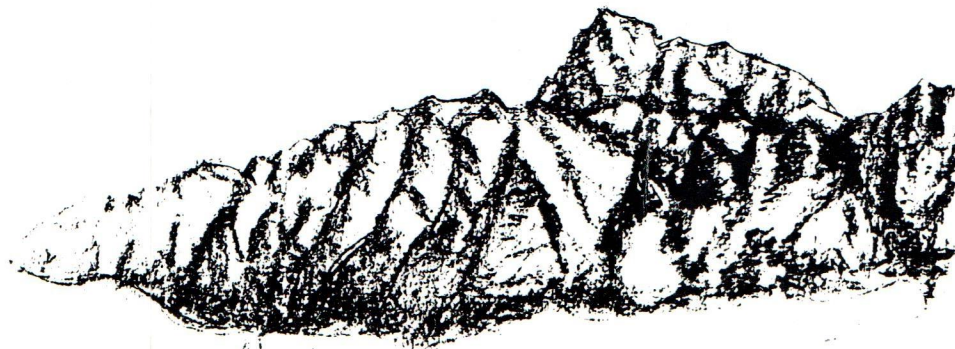
FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- > **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.
- > **June 30, Sat. - Gorge Scramble III - DEVIL'S GATE.** We will scramble the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from Devil's Gate to Bogus Thunder. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- June 30, Sat. - MLC Gr. 3B Dayhike up Twin Peaks.** Meet at 11th & O at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Purcell, 428-0838 (6-9pm).
- June 30, Sat. - MLC (Maidu Group) Gr. 2C Dayhike up Ralston Peak.** Meet at the El Dorado Forest Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road, Placeville (Forni Road Exit from Route 50) at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Bill Campau, 644-5339.
- > **July 1-4, Sun.-Wed. - Class 1-2 Peak Climb - THOMPSON CANYON AND BEYOND.** We leave Friday evening for Bridgeport. After breakfast, we'll start our 6 to 7 mile hike from Twin Lakes to Peeler Lake/Kerrick Meadows, followed by a short hike with modest elevation gain to our base camp on a ridge overlooking a canyon. The next day we'll take a short hike to climb Wells, Hawksbeck, and Ehrensbeck Peaks. On Monday, we'll hike leisurely down Kerrick Meadows to climb Mt. Price. Call for details. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- July 1-4, Sun.-Wed. - DPS - Wheeler, Ruby Dome, Arc Dome (Nevada).** Leader: Karen Leonard (213) 839-3457.
- July 1, Sun. - MLC - Gr. 2C Dayhike up Mt Lola.** Meet at 11th & O at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Purcell, 428-0838 (6-9pm).
- July 1, Sun. - MLC - Gr. 1B Dayhike up Echo Peak.** Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Marilyn Jouini, 334-7293.
- > **July 7, Sat. Gorge Scramble III - GREEN VALLEY.** A short scramble on the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from Euchre Bar to Green Valley with a 2000' climb out. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **July 12-16, Thurs.-Mon. - Class 3 Peak Climb - MT. WILLIAMSON AND TYNDALL.** Find out if it's worth hauling your backpack up 7000' to bag these two 14ers, including the second highest peak in California. Limited to 6 participants who are comfortable on rock. \$3 per person fee for permit. Call for details. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024.
- > **July 14, Sat. - Gorge Scramble III - DEVIL'S GATE.** We will scramble the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from Last Chance Trail to Devil's Gate, and time permitting, Bogus Thunder. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **July 14, Sat. - Class 1 Peak Climb - Gr. 2C Dayhike - MT. AGASSIZ.** We'll drive to our trailhead at Wrights Lake and either take the Smith or Forni Lake Trail to this peak which is located just south of Mt. Price in the Desolation Wilderness. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- Cn **July 14, Sat. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE'S EAGLE PEAK {CANCELLED}** via the Yosemite Falls Trail to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Leader: Steven Thaw (415) 376-3380.
- Cn **July 15, Sun. - SAUNTER YOSEMITE'S EMERALD POOL {CANCELLED}** via the Mist Trail to celebrate Yosemite's Centennial. Leader, Steven Thaw (415) 376-3380.
- > **July 15, Sun. - Class 1 Peak Climb, Gr. 2C - MT. LOLA (9143').** We'll take in the vistas from the summit of this Tahoe Sierra (OGUL) peak in the Donner Summit area. Expect 2500' elevation gain and 8 miles round trip on this moderately-paced hike through diverse ecosystems. Bring rain gear. Meet at 11th & O at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Gary Campbell, 454-5140.
- > **July 21-22, Sat.-Sun. - Class 1-2 Peak Climb - MADERA/SING/GALE PEAKS.** We leave Friday evening for our trailhead at Clover Meadow in the Sierra National Forest. On Saturday, hike 5 to 6 miles to our base camp in the vicinity of Chittenden Lake in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Late Saturday and early Sunday, we'll check out some of these peaks located in southeast corner of Yosemite National Park. Trip limited to 8. Call for details. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **July 21, Sat. - Gorge Scramble IV - GIANT GAP.** A scramble on the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from Green Valley through Giant Gap to Pickering Bar with a 2000' climb out. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **July 24, Tues. - Peak And Gorge ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC/POT LUCK (6:30 p.m.)** hosted by John Watters at 2911 25th St. From Broadway, go south onto 24th; turn left on 4th Ave; turn right on 25th (736-1251).
- July 27-29, Fri.-Sun. - MLC - Instruction in MOUNTAIN MEDICINE** at Clair Tappan Lodge. Dr. Eric Weiss shows a wide range of medical techniques for those who hike, bicycle, climb, etc. beyond the range of handy medical help. Information: Michele Perrault, (415) 283-6683. Call lodge for reservations, (916) 540-8349.
- > **July 28, Sat. - Class 2 Peak Climb - Gr. 4C Dayhike - SILVER (8930') & RED (9307') PEAK.** Climb these two OGUL Peaks in the Desolation Wilderness. Participants should be prepared for a long hike and cross-country scrambling over loose rock. Limited to 15. Call for details. Leader: John Besbekos, 729-2725.
- July 28, Sat. - MLC (Maidu Group) Gr. 3C Dayhike up Tells Peak.** Meet at the El Dorado Forest Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road, Placeville (Forni Road Exit from Route 50) at 6:00 a.m. Leader: Jim McErlane, 622-3436.
- July 28, Sat. - MLC Gr. 3D Dayhike up Mt. Tallac.** Call for details. Leader: Patrick Purcell, 428-0838 (6-9pm).
- > **Aug. 1-3, Wed.-Fri. - Class 1 Peak Climb of MT DAVIS.** We'll leave Tuesday evening for Mammoth Lakes and our trailhead at Agnew Meadows. The high trail will take us to our base camp in the vicinity of Thousand Island Lake. On Thursday, we'll leisurely climb Mt. Davis. After the hike out Friday, we'll climb San Joaquin and Two Teats. Trip limited to 6. Call for details. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Aug. 4-5, Sat.-Sun. - Gorge Scramble - FEATHER RIVER.** A scramble from Stag Point to Hartman Bar. Meet at 6:45 a.m. at the Bank of America in Roseville Square. Leader: John Schwind, 678-2942 (Dixon).
- > **Aug 5, Sat. - FALL OUTINGS SCHEDULE Deadline -** Outings Leaders, please send your trip writeups for the period of September 15 to December 15 to John Sarna, 545 Windward Way #114, Sacramento, CA 95831.
- Aug. 10-12, Fri.-Sun. - MLC - Instruction in NAVIGATION/ORIENTEERING** at Clair Tappan Lodge. Basics of map and compass navigation. Led by lodge manager Jeff Hartley, former senior instructor at Pacific Crest Outward Bound School. Cost \$70. Call lodge for reservations, (916) 426-3632.

- > **Aug. 12, Sun. - Class 1 Peak Climb - Gr. 3C Dayhike - MT. ROSE (10,776')**. Enjoy a panoramic view from atop this NAS peak, which lies between Lake Tahoe and Reno. Expect 12 miles round trip, 2600' gain, and a moderate pace. Wild flowers and stupendous views should lighten our trek uphill. Be prepared for thunderstorms. Meet at CSUS Arboretum parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Gary Campbell, 454-5140.
- > **Aug 17-20, Fri.-Mon. - Cl. 3 Peak Climb - MATTERHORN PEAK AND THE SAWTOOTH RIDGE.** Classic high wild Sierra trip to one of the most scenic and spectacular areas in California, the Hoover Wilderness in Northern Yosemite. Thursday evening, drive from Sacramento to camp near Bridgeport. Friday, hike 7 miles and 4000' gain from the trailhead at Twin Lakes to base camp near Burro Pass. Saturday and Sunday, climb Matterhorn (NAS, 12,264') and other class 3 peaks in the area (possibilities include Whorl, Finger, Blacksmith, Cleaver and Dragtooth). Hike out Monday. Limited to 8. Fee: \$3 per person for permit. Call for details. Leader: John Watters, 383-6150. Asst. Leader: Doug Joy, 452-7126 (evenings).
- > **Aug. 18-19, Sat.-Sun. - Gorge Scramble V - MIDDLE FORK OF THE FEATHER RIVER.** Traverse Bald Rock Canyon from Milsap Bar to Curtain Falls with possible exit via Indian Creek. Expect towering granite walls, gigantic boulders, and thundering Sierras. Meet 6:45 a.m. at Bank of America in Roseville Sq. Leader: John Schwind, 678-2942 (Dixon).
- > **Aug. 18, Sat. - Class 1 Peak Climb - Gr. 3C Dayhike - PHIPPS PEAK.** A trip into the Desolation Wilderness via the Eagle Falls Trailhead to climb this minor Tahoe Basin peak. Group dinner afterward. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- Aug. 18, Sat. - MLC (Maidu Group) Gr. 2D Dayhike up Mt. Tallac.** Meet at the El Dorado Forest Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road, Placeville (Forni Road Exit from Route 50) at 6:00 a.m. Leader: Bill Campau, 644-5339.
- > **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 (415) 376-3380, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga 94556.
- > **Aug 25, Sat. - Class 1 Peak Climb - Gr. 2C Dayhike - CRYSTAL RANGE/MT. PRICE.** Starting at Wrights Lake, we'll hike to Island Lake before leisurely continuing to the top of Mt. Price. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Aug 25, Sat. - Class 2 Peak Climb - Gr. 3C Dayhike - RUBICON AND PHIPPS PEAKS** offer great panoramas of the Desolation Wilderness and Lake Tahoe. Some cross-county travel and a short car-shuttle. Bring lug-soled boots, lunch, and water. Meet 7:30 a.m. at 11th and O. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024. Asst Leader: Alan Cooke, 344-0957.
- Aug 25-26, Sat.-Sun. - HPS - Morris Pk, Mt Jenkins, Owens Pk.** Leader: John Cheslick 213/399-1839.
- > **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 (415) 376-3380, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga 94556.
- > **Sept. 1-3, Sat.-Mon. - Class 2 Peak Climb - SIMMONS AND PARSON PEAKS.** We leave Friday evening for Lee Vining. After an early breakfast, we'll drive up to Tuolumne Meadows wilderness parking area to start our hike; Rafferty Creek-Volgesang Lake-Volgesang Pass-Lewis Creek. Our base camp will be in the upper reaches of Lewis Creek or at Bernice Lake. On Sunday, we'll climb the two peaks. Trip limited to 10. Call for details. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- Sept 1-3, Sat.-Mon. - MLC (20-mile loop) Backpack in Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, with optional climb of Whitecliff Peak on Sunday.** Leader: Patrick Purcell, 428-0838 (6-9pm).
- Sept 8, Sat. - MLC (Maidu Group) Gr. 3D Dayhike up Pyramid Peak via Sylvia Lake.** Meet at the El Dorado Forest Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road, Placeville (Forni Road Exit from Route 50) at 6:00 a.m. Leader: Jim McErlane, 622-3436.
- > **Sept. 15, Sat. - Class 2 Peak Climb - Gr. 3C Dayhike - CRYSTAL RANGE.** We start at Wrights Lake and hike to Lake Catherine where we'll start the cross-country portion of this trip, climbing the ridge in the vicinity of Peak 9441. We'll then climb the minor high points along the ridge until reaching the Rockbound Pass Trail which we'll follow back to our starting point. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Sept. 15, Sat. - Gorge Scramble III - NEVADA POINT.** A short scramble on the Rubicon River from the Nevada Point Trail to the old washed-out bridge. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Bank of America in Roseville Sq. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- Sept 15, Sat. - MLC Gr. 3D Dayhike up Sierra Buttes.** Meet at 11th & O at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Mathias, (209) 944-5547.
- Sept 16, Sun. - MLC - Gr. 3B Dayhike up Red Lake and Stevens Peaks from Carson Pass and down to Round Lake.** Meet at CSUS Parking Lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dick Brock, 424-2429 (10 a.m. to noon).

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.



drawing by
Ellen Van Fleet
(as is drawing
on back page)

DAN DOBBINS AWARD CEREMONY 1990

The 1990 Dan Dobbins award ceremony was held at the home of Gene Markley on May, 18th. Five young mountaineers were given awards during the evenings festivities which also included a pot-luck dinner and slide presentation of historic Peak & Gorge outings. This years award winners were: Andi Brosi, Lori Hall, Pietrino Camalo, Connie Burger and Tom Shelby. Approximatly forty people attended this years very successful presentation.

John Watters

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Dan Dobbins Youth Award is now 12 years old.

INSURANCE, WAIVERS, AND MOUNTAINEERING RESTRICTIONS

Mountain climbing or hiking can be hazardous. Seems pretty obvious, doesn't it? Yet, lawsuits have been filed against climb leaders and climbing clubs because someone was injured on a climb. In today's society, it seems that many people are unwilling to assume personal responsibility for bad things that happen to them. When something goes wrong, they look for someone to blame. In a climbing accident, the leader and sponsoring organization are inviting targets.

Suits can be filed for a myriad of reasons. At one end of the spectrum are such things as willful misconduct or gross negligence. A leader pushing someone over a cliff or using an obviously worn, frayed and cut rope that breaks while arresting a fall might be examples of these causes of action. On the other end of the spectrum could be failure to warn. Let's say a climber was hit by a falling rock and injured because he wasn't wearing a helmet. It's conceivable that a suit could be filed against the leader and the sponsor because they failed to warn the climber that rocks do get kicked loose or fall on their own and that a climbing helmet is a smart thing to wear.

California recognizes the doctrine of "assumption of risk." This provides a possible defense against someone who is injured while participating in a dangerous activity. Several things are necessary for this defense to prevail, including proof that the participant know of the dangers and willingly participated anyway. One good way to prove this is to have participants sign a waiver of liability that outlines the dangers. While having such a waiver signed will not offer complete protection, or even much protection at all in the case of gross negligence, it can help immensely in other cases.

Jim Bily

NOTE TO OUTINGS LEADERS (from John Sarna, Peak and Gorge Section Chair, 429-8024).

I recommend that you (outings leaders) require anyone planning to participate in a Peak and Gorge Section (Sierra Club) outing to sign a waiver form at the meeting place. The waiver form published in the last issue (No. 36) of the *Boulder* can be copied and signatures solicited during sign-in (this form is already prerequisite to all outings conducted by the LA Chapter Sierra Peaks Section and Desert Peaks Section of the Sierra Club). And for their own protection, anyone leading a private outing should consider having participants do the same.

Could have. Could have done it. But I didn't. It was a long story. First, the afternoon and evening at camp were cold and very windy, the two worse things for a Bleuett stove. With my aluminum foil windscreen torn and full of holes, I couldn't get my water to full boil. Frustrated, I dumped the hot water into my snow-filled canteens anyway, risking Giardia. I thought better of drinking it later, and the continued windy weather led me to assume that the rest of the group would proceed the next morning only to Shepard Pass, from where climbing Mt. Tyndall (14,018') would be ill-advised. I could get out on my one bottle which I had packed up and hadn't drunk, so I left for the cars while the others left for the climb. Even Steve Thaw had said, "We'll be back in a few hours."

Well, the weather improved, and they went for the peak and got it. While I waited at the cars, I was informed by one of the crew that had to pack out and drive home that day. After 7:30 p.m., I presumed that they stayed up at camp, and drove into Independence to eat and camp. After breakfast the next morning, I drove back up to the trailhead, thoroughly read the L.A. Times, and took photographs of the fresh fallen snow which had begun coming down in the early morning. I took another short hike up the trail to see if I could spot them coming down. They returned at 3:30 p.m., successful after packing out through foot-deep powder.

At least I had been careful enough to convince Steve to climb Reversed Peak on Friday in case we didn't get Tyndall, as a storm was forecast. It should have been an easy hike as the maps showed a trail to the top. We followed a dirt road and a semblance of a trail for a short while, then headed cross-country, running into mountain mahogany and some bouldering to avoid the brush. The views were O.K., and we found a register. We still couldn't find the trail on the way down despite heavy map consultation and sweeps of the terrain. After tacos, burritos and a shake in Bishop, we drove and camped at the trailhead to meet a number of people from Southern California.

Well, the photography had been nice, with an incredible sunset and snow in the Owens Valley and on the Inyos. It would have been my 11th California 14'er, and a nice birthday peak. But another case of intestinal parasite... Am I turning into a wimp?

HOMER'S NOSE (9040+')

JUNE 2-3, 1990

Steve Thaw and I signed up for this SPS gourmet backpack and peak climb led by the renowned Doug Mantle (10 peaks short of his third list finishing) and Bob Hicks (Angeles Chapter Safety Chair). We started out at 6:30 a.m. from Clough Cave trailhead (elev. 3500') and thanks to Doug's excellent guidance, climbed 4500' gain on mostly abandoned trails to the divide and dropped 700-800' to our camp at Cahoon Meadow. We had lunch and lazed around the whole afternoon.

The dinner festivities began with plenty of wine (in original glass bottles, of course) including Cabernet Sauvignon, Barbaresco, and Chianti. A jar of antipasto was passed around, along with my contribution of onion and garlic almonds. Then came marinated mushrooms and slices of Gorgonzola cheese. Then the time was ripe for the main course, a hearty cioppino rich with clams, shrimp, scallops, and whitefish. We never got to the tortelloni with chicken and prosciutto or with Gorgonzola cheese.

I went to bed early, waking up once or twice to see a dazzling field of stars.

We moved out promptly at 6:00 a.m. to get the peak, which involved contouring and climbing around a few bumps. The view of Homer's Nose was impressive from "Homer's Brow," the high point and official summit. The Kaweahs were an outstanding feature of the view. Back to camp, Doug told Bob, "Lead them out." Unfortunately, we were led to the wrong saddle and subsequently missed Doug. After a two hour wait and search, we concluded that he had somehow gotten by us. Of course, we took the wrong route down, and after some serious bushwhacking and traversing, we gained the trail. We arrived at the cars at 7:00 p.m., finding Doug waiting after four hours of worry. Steve was pretty upset, but I reassured him that they were normally excellent leaders. I dropped Steve off at his car in Merced by 10:15 p.m., and after a detour off 99 due to a bad smash-up, I was home by 1:00 a.m. The total gain was over 8,000' with about 16-20 miles roundtrip.

Pete Yamagata

ARC DOME WILDERNESS, NEVADA MAY 26-28

This outing, planned and led by John Sarna, proved to be educational, beautiful and amazingly free of memorial day traffic and recreationists. The newly designated Arc Dome Wilderness area lies just south of US 50 in central Nevada. A six hour drive Friday eve delivered us in darkness to a sleeping spot in the middle of a dusty dirt road we figured to be near our destination, North Shoshone, 10,313'. Upon awakening we discovered we were not alone... a very curious alpha bull and his herd were all lined up staring at these strange brightly colored large worms which landed in their range overnight.

The morning light brought home the fact that we were now in classic "range and basin" topography. We had slept in the broad, dry, scrub sage basin between two north-south running ranges. The Shoshones lay just to the east. A little orienteering found us on a 4wd road following a drainage that led us to the base of our peak. Stepping out of our cars at 8,000' we had only 3-4 miles and 2,000' of elevation gain to go. Following the aquifer fed stream, which flows all year, we walked through freshly leafed poplars, lush green mini-meadows, and abundant spring flowers: flox, lupine, Indian paintbrush, pentstamen, columbine and more... A strenuous, straight up, crosscountry trek over loose talus and scrub and snow brought four out of six of us to the summit. I noted that only 2-3 parties per year made entries in the register. We commanded an uninterrupted view of the ranges and basins for well over a hundred miles in any direction. We could even see the Whites in Eastern Ca.

Dinner found us at Carol's Country Kitchen in Austin, Nevada, "the town that refused to die", an old mining community with more churches than bars and gas stations combined. Carol's cuisine was abundant, cheap, and dished up in a quaint, rustic building on the north side of main street.

Another long drive on dry dusty roads delivered us in the dark to Columbine campground at 8,000'. Our peak, Arc Dome 11,788' lay 7 miles away mostly by trail... While the Sierras were being dumped on by a late spring storm, we enjoyed clear starry skies. By the AM high clouds covered the sky... Eight of us started the uphill trail slog in cool breezy overcast weather. Three hours and 5 miles later we found ourselves at 10,500' on a large table top formation. Our peak, still mostly covered in snow, loomed over us as did the quickly moving storm clouds, in fact it was already beginning to snow. A short pow-wow agreed us all to retreat, some of us more reluctant than others.... Marching across the large snow covered table, I felt like we were a party of explorers trekking across the lunar surface, no other humans for millions of miles... Suddenly a silhouette vaporized out of the edge of visibility, a solitary figure whose form was punctuated by the antennae like protrusion of the ice-axe on his pack... We met and talked. Jim was his name, a middle age peak bagger with over three hundred peaks marked of his list, his sights were set on Arc Dome.

ARC DOME cont....

Although he found the weather discouraging, he wanted to push on. One of our party members, Tom Venus, decided to sign off our trip and join Jim in the summit attempt. We parted ways and as I watched them disappear into the mists I was simultaneously struck with apprehension and jealousy, fearing their demise, desiring their adventure.

A rugged downhill exit route delivered us to camp in a couple hours and we passed the rainy afternoon eating soup and crackers in a makeshift kitchen under a tarp pulled between two cars. Tom and Jim appeared sooner than expected. Tom's ear to ear grin spoke of his accomplishment before he even mentioned it. The weather didn't allow them to linger on the summit, but it was a satisfying accomplishment none the less.

We camped in the rain that night. The ping pinging of the rain on tent flys stopped about four AM. When I popped my head out to greet the morning sun I was surprised to find 3 inches of wet sticky snow, with more falling by the moment. A hasty retreat through the now lush green basins on 60 miles of slick slimey mudroads took us through Berlin, an abandoned mining operation turned state park. Eventually we connected with paved roads, RVs, traffic...oh yeah, we quickly rememberd it was memorial day and the world was on parade. We stopped of at Travertine Hot Springs near Bridgeport. These geothermaly heated hot springs are free and open to the public on BLM land. Our group dispersed after a long relaxing soak with views of the sawtooths and the Hoover wilderness across the valley.

I'm sure we all returned, somewhat reluctantly, and slightly changed by our experiences in the remote and beautiful Nevada Wilderness, a nice place to get into and away from it all!

RICHARD STROHL

Panoche Hills - One Step Ahead of the Rain (February 3, 1990)

Originally scheduled as a beginner's backpack, this trip was changed to a casual dayhike (up to the high point of the area) because a storm approaching from the northwest threatened us with a cold, wet camp. And though the sun was evident Saturday morning at 8 a.m., when we arranged to meet, only 3 of the 7 who intended to come materialized. One carload and 3 hours of driving later, we found ourselves on a gravel road on a ridge less than a quarter mile from the high point of the Panoche Hills (2674'). A short and windy walk later, we were rewarded with good views of San Benito Mtn. to the south and the white-capped Sierra to the east. Bob Asmus and I then went exploring down a ravine while Pete Yamagata slowly made his way back to the car taking pictures.

After a short drive back along the ridge road, we decided to get some real exercise along one of the dirt roads by going down into the "roadless" BLM area. Unfortunately, it's not roadless any more, being crisscrossed by many ORV tracks. These must be relatively new since the area was included in BLM's roadless-lands inventory ten years ago. It was also apparent that the foliage had suffered much from the drought; it's all brown except for sporadic spring-green cover along the north-facing slopes. I hope the few endangered species living there survive. In any case, we soon were on our way back to Sacramento, met by heavy rains in Stockton, and continued after fortified by a Taco Bell dinner.

SYNOPSIS: Drive south from Sacramento on I-5 138 miles to Little Panoche Road (J-1) signed Mercey Hot Springs (it's a private resort). Continue west then south for 14 miles, turning left on a gravel road marked with a BLM sign, just before the Mercey Hot Springs Resort. Continue up main road 4 to 5 miles, taking the right fork when almost up to the ridge, and parking 4 to 5 miles beyond. Walk along an ORV-made road up and west for .2 miles. There's a USGS collector on top that looks like an old radio antenna.

by John Sarna

This is a new wilderness area in San Diego County down near the Mexican Border (California Wilderness Act of 1984). I wrote the Cleveland National Forest for trail information but they said, "In a sense, the Hauser Wilderness could be considered the last frontier of the Cleveland National Forest; there are no developed trails in the Hauser Wilderness."

I explored the northern entry but it is surrounded by a RV area--all damaged earth and noisy motorcycles all over. The next day, I explored the southern entry and found a delightful trail along the boundary.

So I hiked down HAUSER Creek in HAUSER Canyon, looking up at HAUSER Mountain, and enjoyed the oaks, sycamores, and little pools in the creek. HAUSER Campground has been closed due to a flood in 1981 but one can still see the nice grove of oaks where it used to be. I also saw the famous Marine Memorial plaque on a big granite boulder. This is a memorial to 9 Marines killed while fighting a forest fire in Hauser Canyon in October 1943.

All in all, the Hauser Wilderness itself is real wild and inaccessible except for long bushwhacks through the chapparel. Morena Butte looks like a good granite rock climb though. The ORV area on the northern boundary is well developed by the USFS---almost like a ski area---trails, maps, color coded motorcycle runs with advanced, intermediate, and beginner "runs." In contrast, the Hauser Wilderness doesn't even have one trail--so it's easy to see where the USFS mentality is focused.

After being robbed in Mexicali, B.C., at knifepoint (10" cuchillo), I drove around to Border Field State Park on the Tijuana River. While driving along the road, I spotted 4 illegal aliens coming down a gully. I pulled over and waited for a Border Patrol car to come along...sure enough, one came along. I said, "Hey, I've got 4 illegal aliens for you right where the gully empties into the culvert going under the road..follow me!!"

The Border Patrol Macho man said, "That's O.K., I know where they are." He drove off and totally missed the spot where they were hiding (3 p.m.). Not discouraged, I waited for another Border Patrol car to come along, still keeping my eye on the 4 illegal aliens crouching in the culvert (3:15 p.m.).

I said, "Hey, I've got 4 illegal aliens--follow me!!" He parked and followed me--sort of hesitatingly he peered over the edge of the road into the culvert and said, "I'll be darned--4 illegal aliens--O.K., Boys, come on up." Handcuffing 2 of them, he took all 4 illegal aliens into his car. They looked like nice Mexican fellows and I then started to feel guilty. The Border Patrol man said, "Don't feel bad, they'll try it again in a day or two." The Border Patrol man thanked me for getting him 4 illegal aliens and in appreciation he gave me an official U.S. Border Patrol hat!!

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High Hills

There is much comfort in high hills,
and a great easing of the heart.
We look upon them, and our nature fills
with loftier images from their life apart.
They set our feet on curves of freedom, bent
to snap the circles of our discontent.
Mountains are moods; of larger rhythm
and line,
moving between the eternal mode and mine.
Moments in thought, of which I too am part,
I loose in them my instant of brief ills.--
There is a great easing of the heart,
and cumulance of comfort on high hills.

STORMED OFF SHASTA

Sometime last year I helped talk John Watters into leading a Mt. Shasta climb. He led it, however I wasn't able to make the trip for reasons which have faded from memory. I thought "No problem. I'll be able to do it later." The second weekend of May was to be my make-up trip along with Bob Buckles.

The two of us took off Friday and drove to the trailhead at Bunny Flat, then backpacked the short distance to the Sierra Club hut. We briefly considered heading up to Helen Lake, but the sky looked cloudy and I predicted a cold night so we put up our tent near the hut. Soon afterwards a big snowstorm blew in. It continued to snow, lightning and thunder all night. Hail threatened to beat through the tent fabric and hourly we would awaken to find the tent walls collapsing under the weight of the ice and snow. We spent a wonderful night of alternately shaking the snow off the walls and trying to keep things dry from the leaking floor.

At 4:00 AM we woke to a winter landscape, but the storm had passed and the air was still and somewhat foggy. By 5:00 AM we had gotten our climbing gear together and set off up the mountain. The mist began to lift as the morning grew more light and I began to feel good about our shot at the summit. After 2 hours we reached the low cloud level and experienced a white-out. During this time we veered off course and when we broke through the clouds, found that we had put ourselves at least 40 minutes off our scheduled pace. The sky above however was a bright blue and we felt strong. We found we had to put on crampons sooner than expected, but they helped us quicken our climbing somewhat.

We passed through the Helen lake area a little after 9:30 and I was still confident of success. A long slope later we were heading up the Red Banks actually gaining on another party that started out ahead of us from a camp at Helen Lake. The situation then began to change. A large cloud front drifted in overhead and the wind began to pick up. I vainly hoped it would blow over and continued to struggle upward. It began to snow steadily and the frigid wind put icicles in my beard. Visibility began diminishing as Bob and I exchanged concerned glances. I half-heartedly pushed on a little higher until the wind chill got worse, my fingers went numb, and we were treated to another white-out. I began to see the vague shapes of the party ahead of us giving up and struggling back down from the top of the Red Banks about 100' above me. I knew now that it was time to save my fingers and toes. Bob and I managed a few short glissades as the weather worsened. My stocking cap was now frozen like a helmet and the icicles on my beard were getting heavier. We eventually made it down low enough to get out of the frozen blast of wind. We sullenly trudged down following the footsteps of other defeated climbers. Three hours later we were back at the hut where we broke camp and trudged back out to the vehicle. Back in town a spaghetti dinner and some consolation souvenir T-shirt revived our spirits. We vowed to return and conquer Shasta, maybe later, maybe next year, if it's nice out.

JOHN BESBEKOS

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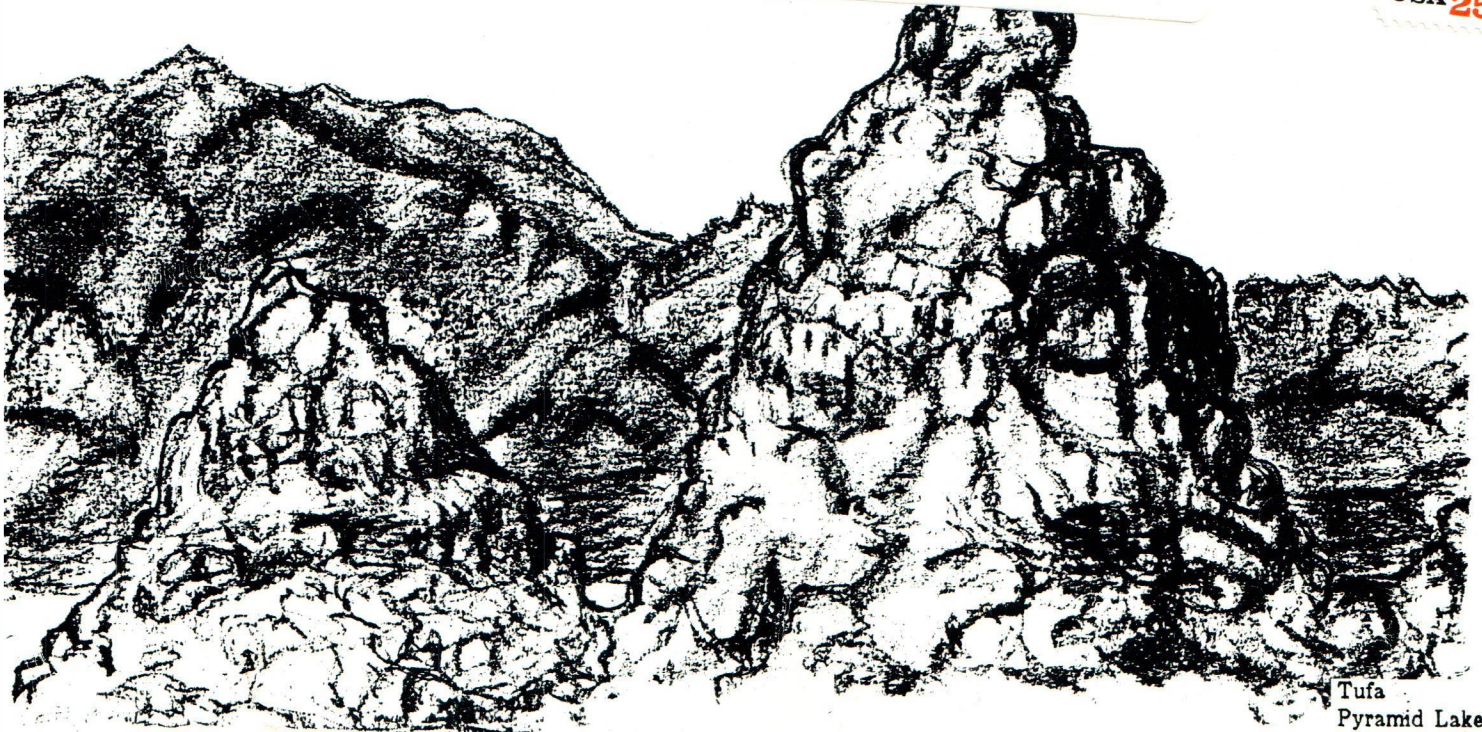
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DEADLINE: *Around the third thursday of even-numbered months. The next deadline is: Thursday, August 23, 1990.*

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