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# BOULDER

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motherlode chapter-sierra club

Issue No. 43, July & August 1991

The function of the Peak & Gorge section is to promote mountaineering, peak climbing and gorge scrambling wilderness activities. We also provide a forum for rock climbers and encourage their activities as much as possible. The section supports conservation and environmental issues particularly those impacting our activity areas; we sponsor leadership, orienteering, first aid and mountaineering training seminars as well as trips and lectures dealing with natural history, anthropology, and western americana.

The scope of peak and gorge activities is impressive and we are supported in these endeavors by many dedicated volunteers and enthusiasts. As I begin my tenure as chairman there is much to be proud of and much more to be done. My goals as chairman include: developing the ranks and improving the training of new leaders, expanding the active membership, improving the Boulder, developing more interest in class three mountaineering and promoting the development of environmental values through wilderness experience.

The extent to which I am successful in accomplishing these five goals depends to a large degree on the energies of our members. I ask for your support in the many tasks ahead. I am especially interested in having trip leaders write up their many adventures for publication in the Boulder, also I encourage members to become leaders and to participate in earning emblems. Please feel free at all times to write in or call with your ideas and suggestions on how to improve our section. I look forward to working with all of you, listening to you and accomplishing these goals together.

See you on the trail.

John P. Watters  
845 Fulton Ave #2056  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 488-8467



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- > **June 21-23, Fri.-Sun.** - Class 2 Peak Climb/Car Camp - MT. TOHAKUM (8075') & PYRAMID LAKE, leaving Sacramento at 7:30 p.m. Friday for our base-camp at Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation in Nevada. Saturday, we'll climb Tohakum from the east. Sunday morning, we'll explore the tufa pinnacles on the lake's north shore. Call for details. Leader: John Watters, 488-8467; assistant leader: Cristy Todaro, 729-5349.
- > **June 22-23, Sat.-Sun.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - MT. STANFORD (12,851'), leaving Friday evening. It's a 6 mile hike to our base-camp at Steelhead Lake from McGee Creek trailhead. Early Sunday, we'll climb this Class 2 Sierra peak. Limited to eight. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338, or assistant leader: David Quong 677-1292.
- > **June 29, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - DESOLATION WILDERNESS TRAVERSE. A 10 mile hike starting at Wright's Lake, going cross-country over the crest from Island Lake to Lake Aloha, hiking along its west shore, and returning on-trail to Twin Bridges via Horsetail Falls or Echo Lakes via Haypress Meadows. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:00 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **June 30, Sun.** - Class 1 Peak Climb - RALSTON PEAK (9,235'). No special mountaineering skills are necessary, only stamina. Starting from Hwy-50 near Camp Sacramento, we'll climb 2,735' up to the summit on a steep trail, the reward - a panoramic vista of the Desolation Wilderness. Bring (besides a camera!) boots, lunch, water, and a rain poncho. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 7:30 a.m. for directions to the trailhead. Leader: John Besbekos, 729-2725.
- July 3-7, Wed.-Sun.** SPS provisional climb of 7 Yosemite Backcountry Pks. Ldrs: Dave Petzold, Dale Van Dalsem, 213/822-0274.
- > **July 4-7, Thurs.-Sun.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - ANSEL ADAMS WILDERNESS, leaving Wednesday evening. After breakfast, we'll hike from the trailhead at Granite Creek to base-camp at Sadler or Joe Crane Lake. For the next two days, we'll explore this southern Yosemite area between Long Mtn. (11,502') and Post Peak (11,009'). There will be peaks to climb, lakes to fish, and your choice of activities. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- July 4-7, Thurs.-Sun.** PRIVATE OUTING up MT. SHASTA (14,162') via avalanche gulch. Interested parties should call trip coordinator, John Watters, 488-8467.
- July 4-8, Thurs.-Mon.** HPS climb of San Gorgonio + 10 Pks. Leader: Terri Sutor, 619/455-0786.
- > **July 13, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble III - DEVIL'S GATE. We will scramble the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River from the Last Chance bridge to Devil's Gate. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **July 13, Sat.** - Class 1 Peak Climb - MT. ELWELL (7812') & HASKELL PEAK (8107'). Two hikes for the price of one! This Gr. 3D day hike in the vicinity of Sierra City along Hwy-49 won't seem so bad since it's broken into two chunks. First, we'll tackle Elwell (8 miles and 2000' gain). After a short drive and hike, we'll partake of the great views atop Haskell (3 miles and 1100' gain). Bring lunch, water, and rain-gear. Meet at the 11th & O parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Gary Campbell, 454-5140.
- mid July mid-week PRIVATE OUTING - PEAK CLIMB/BACKPACK.** Call Al Gutowsky, 457-3338 if you're interested in a 3 to 5 day trip. I'm open to anything, the Pioneer Basin via Mosquito Flat, a loop trip into Northern Yosemite visiting Tilden and Jack Main Canyons from Leavitt Lakes trailhead or Hetch Hetchy, spending a few days exploring Spiller and Matterhorn Canyon from Twin Lakes, a hike from Virginia Lakes via Virginia Canyon to exit via McCabe Lakes at Tuolumne Meadows or Saddlebags Lake.
- July 18, Thurs.** - PRIVATE OUTING - ROCK-CLIMBER'S Social - A gathering to share recent experiences, tell stories, plan private trips, and perhaps even do some climbing over the river, swimsuit optional. We'll meet at 7:30 p.m. behind the "Caution" if swimming sign, on the west side of the American River, 100 yards/meters north of the Rainbow Bridge in Folsom, at an intersection of bike trails, and walk to a good bouldering spot. Parking is available on the east side of the river and south side of the street.
- > **July 20-21, Sat.-Sun.** - Gorge Scramble III on FEATHER RIVER. A relatively easy but long scramble of the upper Middle Fork of the Feather River from English Bar to Cleghorn Bar. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: John Schwind, 678-2942 (Dixon).
- > **July 20, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - MT. PRICE, DESOLATION WILDERNESS, as a Gr. 3C day hike. We'll take the trail east from Wrights Lake, eventually scrambling cross-country up to the summit of this 9,975' OGUL Peak in the Crystal Range. Limited to 15. Call for details. Leader: John Besbekos, 729-2725.
- > **July 20, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - JOBS PEAK (10,633') - A Gr. 3D day hike up to the fourth highest summit (it's on the OGUL list) in the Tahoe area. Besides the usual lunch and water, bring long pants for cross country travel amid desert sage. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Alan Cooke, 344-0957.
- > **July 21, Sun.** - Beginners Peak Climb - ROUND TOP PEAK (10,380') offers dramatic views and incredible heights. This Gr. 2B day hike is recommended for hikers who haven't climbed (much) in the Sierra, but want to! Those wanting to stay on the trail can wait at Round Top Lake while we go up the Class 2, stopping short of the Class 3 leading to the true summit. Meet at Hazel Avenue Park and Ride, just north of Hwy-50 at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
- > **July 23, Tues.** - Peak and Gorge Social - ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC/POT LUCK (6:30 p.m.) at Swanston Park. Let's get together and see how your summer (hiking) is going. And if you've never attended a Peak and Gorge Social before, we'd really enjoy meeting you. From Hwy-50, take Howe Ave past Fair Oaks, turning right on Northrop, look for Swanston Park on the right after Bell before Fulton. Don't park in the lot, it closes at sunset.
- > **July 25-29, Thurs.-Mon.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - THE TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS (think tarn lakes, water falls, and glacial moraines), leaving 5:00 p.m. Thursday. We'll backpack 6 miles in and 2500' up to our base-camp below Canyon Creek Lakes. Expect an exploratory Class 3, Gr. 2D day hike up Thompson Peak (9002'), and given energy, climbs up Hilton and Sawtooth on alternate days. Limited to 15. Leader: John Sarna 429-8024; assistant leader: Jeff Gottesman, 758-9942.
- > **July 27-28, Sat.-Sun.** - Gorge Scramble III - CAPE HORN GORGE. An easy overnight trip for first timers, going from Pickering Bar to the Colfax-Iowa Hill Bridge. Be sure to bring an air mattress to float through the long, slow pools. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **July 27, Sat.** - Class 1-2 Peak Climb - CRYSTAL RANGE PEAK CLIMB. An easy hike of 7-8 miles to climb the two high points south of Mt. Price. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Aug. 4, Sun.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - STEVENS & RED-LAKE PEAKS (10,061') from Carson Pass. Expect memorable views of Hope Valley and the surrounding Sierra, even without the optional bit of Class 3 at the top of Red Lake Peak, and more views as we run the ridge between the two peaks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Hazel Avenue Park and Ride just north of Hwy-50. Leader: Alan Cooke, 344-0957.
- > **Aug. 10-11, Sat.-Sun.** - Peak Climb/Car Camp - MT. MORGAN & SAN JOAQUIN, leaving Friday evening. After breakfast in Mammoth, we'll drive to Mosquito Flat to climb Morgan (13,748'), finishing with a good dinner out Saturday evening. We'll climb San Joaquin (11,600') early Sunday. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Aug. 10-11, Sat.-Sun.** - Gorge Scramble V - M. F. FEATHER RIVER, from Hanson Bar to Milsap Bar. Traverse this stretch of river with us and you'll realize why it was named Devil Canyon by the old-timers. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: John Schwind, 678-2942 (Dixon).
- > **Aug. 10-12, Sat.-Mon.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - THE CARSON-ICEBERG WILDERNESS is scenic, just out of day-hike range, but still relatively untrammelled, esp. for the Sierra. We'll backpack about 8 miles in to base-camp near Silver King Creek, leave our packs to scurry up Antelope and Mineral Peaks (optional), and do one Gr. 3D day hike up Whitecliff Peak (10,832'). Limited to 15. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024; assistant leader: Judith Fairchild: 485-0107.
- > **Aug. 10, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - ANDERSON PEAK (8683') & TINKER KNOB (8949'). This Gr. 3-4C day hike with 2500' elevation gain is almost all on the Pacific Crest Trail, and views some of the most beautiful high-country in the Donner Summit area. Be in good physical condition; and bring lunch, water, and rain-gear. Meet at the CSUS Arboretum at 7:15 a.m. Secondary



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR - continued from first page

- > **Aug. 16-18, Fri.-Sun.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - **EAGLE PEAK** (9,906'). Leaving Friday, we'll drive to the Warner Mountains in northeastern California. On Saturday, we'll climb Eagle Peak and return to base camp. On Sunday, we'll return to Sacramento via Lassen Volcanic National Park with a possible climb of Mt. Lassen (10,457'). Call for details. Leader: John Watters, 488-8467.
- > **Aug. 17-18, Sat.-Sun.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - **JULIUS CAESAR** (13,196'), leaving Friday evening. From Pine Creek trailhead, it's a 7 mile hike with 4000' elevation gain to base-camp at Granite Park. Early Sunday, we'll hike to Italy Pass and then up this Class 2 Sierra peak. Limited to eight. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338, or assistant leader: David Quong 677-1292.
- > **Aug. 17, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble III - **GREEN VALLEY**. A short scramble on the North Fork of the American River from Euchre Bar to Green Valley with a 2000 foot climb out. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **Aug 17, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - **HAWKINS PEAK** (10,023') from the Turtle Creek Recreation Site north of Markleeville. Approaching Hawkins from the east provides excellent views of the surrounding ranges and valleys. It's 4000' up and almost 10 miles of cross-country through open terrain with some white-bark pine. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 7 a.m. at the 11th & O parking lot. Leader: Alan Cooke, 344-0957.
- > **Aug. 24, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble III on **FEATHER RIVER**. A day in Bald Rock Canyon at the giant water slide below Curtain Falls. Towering granite walls, gigantic boulders, and thundering waterfalls make this the classic Northern Sierra Gorge. Be sure to bring an air mattress to ride the water slide. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: John Schwind, 678-2942 (Dixon).
- > **Aug. 31 - Sept 2, Sat.-Mon.** - Peak Climb/Backpack - **TWO NORTHERN YOSEMITE PEAKS**, leaving Friday evening. After breakfast in Bridgeport, we'll drive to our trailhead at Leavitt Lake and hike 6-7 miles to base-camp at High Emigrant or Emigrant Meadow Lake. On Sunday, we'll explore the area south of our base-camp, climbing Grizzly and Bigelow (10,539) Peaks. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Sept. 7, Sat.** - Gorge Scramble IV - **GIANT GAP**. Scramble the North Fork of the American River from Green Valley through Giant Gap to Pickering Bar with a 2000 foot climb out. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.
- > **Sept 7-8, Sat.-Sun.** DPS climb of White Mtn & Waucoba. Leader: Bill T. Russell, 213/822-9044.
- > **Sept 14, Sat.** - Class 2 Peak Climb - **TRYON PEAK** (-9900'), from Ebbetts Pass. Enjoy the fall colors on this easy 8 mile hike with 1500 feet elevation gain. Meet at CSUS Arboretum at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Sept 21, Sat.** - Class 1 Peak Climb - **YOSEMITE's MT. DANA** (13,053'). Accompany Jim Murphy to the top of his 247th SPS Peak, a list finisher. This moderately-paced saunter of 3000' gain is a joint excursion with the Angeles Chapter (SPS). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the free parking area one-quarter mile east of the Tioga Pass Gate. Coordinator: Steven Thaw, (415) 376-3380.
- > **Sept 21-22, Sat.-Sun.** DPS climb of Patterson & Glass. Leader: Patti Kline, 213/455-1956.
- > **Oct.5-6, Sat.-Sun.** - Peak Climb/Car Camp - **TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PEAK CLIMB**, leaving Friday evening. After breakfast in Bridgeport early Saturday morning, we'll enjoy the fall colors in the high country while climbing at least two of these Class 2 peaks: Tioga (11,513'), Mammoth (12,117') Johnson (11,070'), and Rafferty (11,120+). Expect a good dinner out Saturday evening. For details, call leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- > **Oct 19-20, Sat.-Sun.** DPS climb of Charleston & Mummy. Leader: Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin, 714/786-3918.

**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. ODS = Oakland-based Desert Survivors; 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Gene Markley** on receiving the conference award from the Conference of California Historical Societies presented at Bridgeport on June 15th for distinguished contributions to California history.

### READERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

JUNE 3, 1991

A total of six responses were received from the survey in last month's issue. As this constitutes only about 9% of the subscribers, no conclusions can be validly drawn; however, briefly, the results indicate that the respondents were experienced peak climbers with little gorge experience, fair attendance on outings, with moderate to prolific peak climbing yearly, with mostly moderate elevations (10-15K') achieved. Physical accomplishments were good, with all except one with over 20 mi.-4,000' gain in a day. Only three had led over 5.5 with 4 starting climbing after 1980. Four had spent between \$1-2.5K on gear, with one over \$2.5K. Three made over \$50K/yr., with 5 owning 2WD and one a 4WD. Three had traveled over 1,000 mi./outing, with 1 under 500 mi. All picked up trail litter, with a few building trails or other conservation activity. Peaks wanted on the lists included "Agassiz," Babbitt, Como, and coastal peaks in general. One respondent sought to eliminate the "bumps." Three didn't understand the question on staying in or leaving the Sierra Club, with the vote being 2-1 for staying. Future questions for the survey concerned following ability, solo climbing, waivers, ideas to stimulate articles for the Boulder, and sexual experience.

Pete Yamagata



MT. HARLAN (3262')

APRIL 28, 1991

The Sneak Peak Section (SPS) planned to climb Fremont Peak (3171') from the bottom rather than drive up the long road to the summit. Maybe we'd find some cannonballs from John C. Fremont's attack on the Mexicans in Monterey in 1848. Starting near the battle of Natividad we tried to get permission from the Jim Barden ranch. As the ranger in the Fremont Park said, "Oh, yes, people hike up to Fremont Peak all the time from the bottom and they start at the Barden Ranch." We drove up the long road to the Ranch House no problem past a few no trespassing signs. Many cars were parked out front...an old Ford pickup truck had a bumper sticker that said, "God bless John Wayne". After I saw that I told Popeye Iacocca to keep real quiet about the Sierra Club. He said that he'd say we were real estate agents and wanted to measure the distance from Fremont Pk. to Mt. Diablo. After a brusque "No, we don't want any hikers today" from a snotty "chip on her shoulder girl" we got to talk to the owner's daughter. Friendly and sporting a red Stanford sweat shirt, she also said no... "We don't want any hikers due to cattle drives" and the usual B.S. about cows and hikers. Popeye got her to say "No, we don't want any hikers" 6 times... I was proud of him and my fellow SPS'ers.

Undaunted we tried another route up Gabilian Creek to find it was all fenced (electric fences) off and very serious No trespassing signs due to heavy strawberry field plantings and possibly dope under the sycamore trees. We would have made a dash for the summit but it was already 10 a.m. and Fremont Peak was 15 miles away up the Cherry Tree Ridge and Rocky Ridge route. We were beaten by Fremont Peak---this is the first time the SPS guerrilla warfare section has been turned back since the first SPS climb on Mission Peak in 1969 (Before the famous peak was inside a park). I (Raoul Mocho) yelled, "Let's grab Mt. Harlan while we can!!"

Mt. Harlan is an unclimbed peak in the Gabilian Range north of the Pinnacles and south of Fremont Peak (Elevation 3262'). My AAA map showed a "Mt. Harlan Road." So off we went after refueling the "Popeye Mobile" in Hollister. We parked at 1000' or so and walked up the steep road. Fiesta flowers were everywhere. Too bad the Americans won the 1848 war. Violets were in bloom and filaree carpeted whole hillsides. After an hour we came to a locked gate and the usual gringo hyper- no trespassing signs. Us SPS simply ignore these... I always remove as many as possible and put them on my fireplace mantle at home--like battle mementos from our guerrilla warfare days.

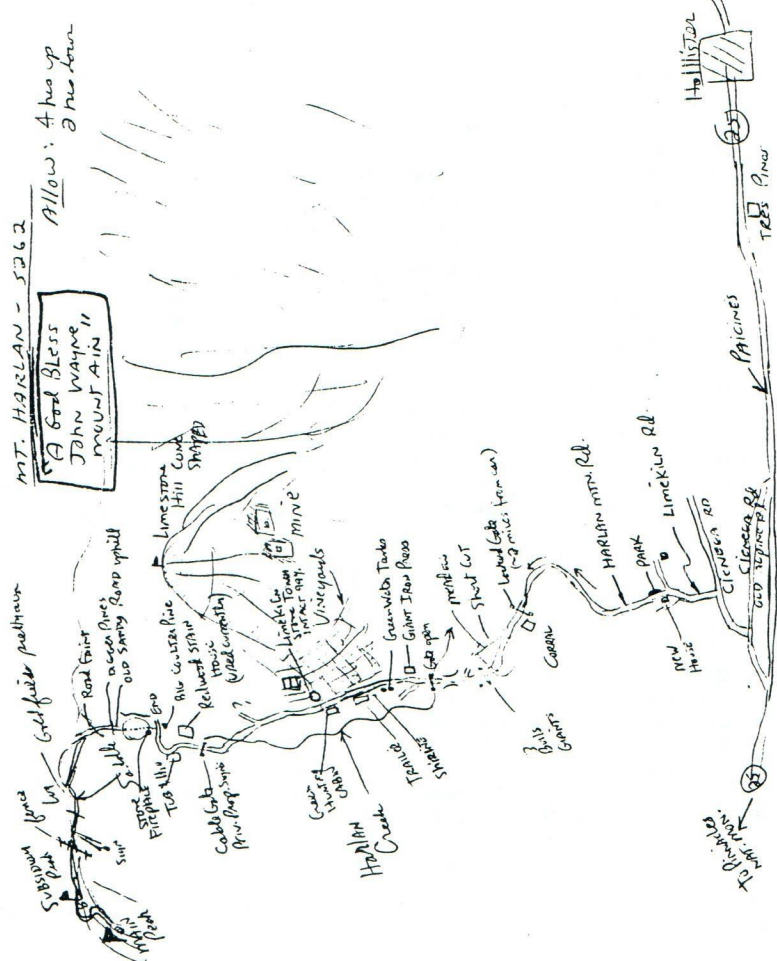
Oh, oh. 3 black bulls...right along the road. I had to explain to Mr. and Mrs. Popeye the difference between a bull and a cow. Many of us SPS'ers are so computer mesmerized by the VCR glare that they have lost the ability to tell a bull from a cow!! I can recall teaching Sierra Singles leaders on a recent trip to Sunol Park how to tell the difference between a bull and a cow. I'll postpone the explanation here but if any of those computer people are curious give me a call or see me at the next meeting (ask for Raoul Mocho).

We passed the bulls. Our next a mine, an old hunting cabin, modern trailers for a vineyard and at the road end a well-maintained redwood house. Luckily we sneaked around them all. A castle-like limekiin was admired by all--99% intact. Incredible. We saw 2 wild turkeys and a big buck deer plus signs of bobcat...a real wilderness exists on private lands away from the trail signs and golf course mentality of the local Bay Area parks. Here on private land we have no trails, no signs, no boundaries, no water fountains...only freedom to climb the peaks and sneak around the owners. I'll take private property climbs anyway!! Down with parks, long live freedom to roam and freedom from rangers and fees.

We were off the map now all on our own in a sea of Diablo Range vastness. Up a ridge. Check out 2 hills--no summit. Drop down--follow a rough road to a high point to the south--no summit--no benchmark. Follow ridge east. Nothing. I knew I was on a high point area but no markers at all. All of a sudden--Mrs. Popeye sees a pile of granite rocks 1/2 sub-

merged in mud. This is it--a pre-Colombian cairn!! We built it up a bit to 1991 standards, left a film container, signed in, and left. Great day; a hike of the decade in a sea of wildflowers.

P.S. Enclosed is sketch of Mt. Harlan climb.  
Mt. Harlan is on the Coastal Peaks List.  
Raoul Mocho (not macho)



THOR PEAK (12,306'), LONE PINE PEAK (12,943') JUNE 7-10, 1991  
Steve Thaw and I began hiking from Whitney Portal to Mirror Lake, and I left to solo Thor via class 3 ledges on the west side of the summit. Steve chose to hike up the trail and returned to meet me at about 4 p.m. to hike back. We had pizza in Lone Pine as well as a front seat for the big screen NBA finals.

The next day, we joined a California Mountaineering Club outing to pack the 4 1/2 mi. and 3,200' gain to Camp Lake via the Meysan Lake Trail. Sunday, while most of the group climbed LeConte (13,845'), with Steve and Rob Langsdorf (Chair of the San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club) also climbing Mallory (13,845') and Irvine (13,780'), I took an easy day reconnoitering Irvine and climbing to a overlook of the Whitney Trail. Four of us climbed Lone Pine Peak Monday via a steep snow/scree chute, getting great views of the entire area.

Pete Yamagata



Well, I came back and I got it! But whadda haul! Sixty-plus pounds to start--skis, boots, poles, ice axe, crampons, cold weather gear and two-man tent along with over a gallon of water and various incartations of Coca-Cola to be rapidly diminished over the 4,000' gain to base camp at Anvil Camp!

Yes, it was the California Mountaineering Club Shepard Pass Pick-a-Peak outing led by the fearless Henry Arnebold of Glendora along with assistant Steve Thaw and nine other stalwarts including CMC President R. J. Secor for what was to be a multiplicity of ascents including Williamson, Junction, Keith, Cal Tech Peak, as well as my solo ascent of Tyndall.

I reluctantly chose to go, adamantly warning Steve of the additional snow this year as compared to last. My beliefs were proven correct, as we encountered snow at about 8,000' on the north side of the Symmes-Shepard saddle. Steve and I both carried skis and some others carried snowshoes but these proved quite unnecessary as the south facing slopes were mostly bare and quite walkable to 10,000'. After getting to base camp and boiling water, I took a short tour to the vicinity of the Pothole and took a few spills due to late evening snow on my sole tele run for the trip.

The others left camp at about 6:30 a.m. Sunday while I waited till 7:30 a.m. to get up, not sure whether I wanted to climb after my arduous ascent to camp. But, after my three-cup Cappuccino caffeine fix, I packed up and took off at 8:40 a.m. Running into a surprising number of persons out to enjoy skiing and the backcountry, I cramponed up to Shepard Pass and rested, happy with a time of 2½ hours to the pass. "It's in the bag," I thought as I looked at mighty Tyndall only a mere 2,000' above. I walked to the base of the west-facing slopes and cramponed up a moderately steep, rock strewn snowfield, having problems with sunsc reen getting into my eyes. At first, I thought I was going snowblind. However, I gained the ridge, and after some treasish traversing, I reached the top at 3:17 p.m. I signed in, noting I was the first for the year, and quickly shot about two rolls of film recording every peak and view, but in the rush forgot about my Stretch camera (the view of the Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide would have been perfect!) I plunge-stepped down some wind-packed powder on the north side, almost "losing it" on some hardpacked wind slab. I saw three persons returning from Williamson and another soloist coming back from Cal Tech Peak (12 hour day).

Upon returning to camp, I met Steve, who had been the first of us to return, having skied Keith from about the 13,700' level. Finally, the main party successfully returned from Junction at 7:30 p.m. with reports of unroped fourth-class climbing.

That night was a little windy with slight precip and white skies in the morning. We left for the descent in various groups, with the last to arrive at the trailhead by 12:45 p.m.

Steve and I drove to Bishop where I picked up some 50% discounted Patagonia and we visited with some local climbers. I drove a good part of the way home, arriving in Sac by 10:30 p.m. For Steve this was a 860 mile round trip journey, but, for the excellent company and the tremendous adventure and scenery, this was, for all of us, quite well worth it!

Pete Yamagata

**CLIMBER/RIDER WANTED** for aggressive peak climbs on high or low Sierra weekends and for multi-day/week outings to climb in various Pacific Western States. Lots of Coffeeshop meals, camping, and climbing. Share gas and fees. Experience necessary. Contact Pete Yamagata, (916) 444-6319.

Steve Thaw met me in Oakdale at 1:10 p.m. Friday, and hearing of the prediction that the Tioga Pass "washout" (due to thunderstorms and melting permafrost) would be fixed by 5 p.m., we drove to the entrance station and found, exactly on our arrival, that "the road patch had failed" and that the pass would not be opened till "Wednesday." We backtracked the hour drive to 108 and had a nice, scenic drive over Sonora Pass. There was still plenty of good, skiing snow visible driving back down to 120. We arrived in Big Pine by 10 p.m., and met two of our group, Len Ludwig (Wilderness Training Committee) and Roger Haddow. We drove up the McMurry Meadow Road and found the remainder of our group, Ed Ross (WTC), Randy (Ed's friend), and Barbara and Howard Eyerly (recent WTC graduates).

We awoke early Saturday and drove up via two high clearance vehicles, a VW dune buggy and a Toyota Forerunner, to the Red Mountain Creek trail-head. We arrived at the lower lake (10,160+) by 2 p.m., and windy and cold conditions dictated this as the more sheltered place to camp. However, the proximity of our camp to the "wind tunnel" lake outlet proved somewhat our undoing. We decided to forgo Tinemaha in the afternoon as planned, as some were tired from the 3,600' gain on steep, poor, trail. Steve, Ed, Len, Roger, and Howard left early for Split and Prater, while I slept till 8:30 a.m. and left by 10, taking Randy, who had only Whitney in his experience. Randy turned back; I used crampons for an icy snow traverse with a long runout. I gained the bare ridge and the summit by 2 p.m. Unbeknownst to me, the 4 point heel plate on my Salewa crampons had worked loose from the connector bar and had fallen off my pack. I enjoyed the view, took photos, and largely glistaded back to camp. I then found that I had lost a part. The Split/Prater group arrived back by 6:30 p.m. and their long, 5,200' gain day seemed to preclude the chances for the next day's planned climb of Tinemaha for the group, except for Steve, who simply didn't want to hike up this trail again!

The next morning, I offered \$10 to Steve to look for and find my missing part. He left by 8 a.m. to solo Tinemaha while Ed, Len, Roger, and Randy packed out. I left with the Eyerlys (they had the Forerunner) and Steve caught up with us about one hour from the car. Apparently, Steve had run into another couple, Tina and Joe Stephens (SPS/DPS), near the summit, and they had found my crampon part on a rock and gave it to Steve, who continued onto the top. I pronounced it a "miracle" that things happened the way they did, saving me possibly \$70 for new crampons if the part could not be had (15-year old equipment). We were back to Big Pine by 2:30 p.m., ate and shopped in Bishop by 4, over Tioga (opened Sunday), and home by 10:30 p.m.

DUANE BLISS PEAK (8658'), GALENA PEAK (9418'), JUNE 1-2, 1991  
MT. SIEGEL (9450')

Rick Kraft picked me up at 10 a.m. to drive to the trailhead for the Tahoe Rim Trail southbound from Spooner Summit for the 1 hr., 40 min. hike to the top of Duane Bliss. We enjoyed views of a still snowbound Crystal Range and the Carson Valley. The NAS register was still there.

We descended quickly and drove to Fort Churchill State Park in Nevada south of U.S. 50. We had a nice buffet dinner in Yerington and camped along NV 208 along the West Walker River at the mouth of Wilson Canyon.

We had breakfast at Topaz Lake and then drove up Red Canyon (4WD) up the east side of the Pinenuts. We parked at about 8200' and walked up dirt roads to the saddle between Galena and Oreana and climbed Galena, leaving a film can register. We walked along the ridge to bag Siegel three hours after starting (including a 30 min. navigation goof). My year old register had survived in plastic baggies without a can. We descended and drove out, stopping at Rick's abode in the Smith Valley. Home by 7:30 p.m.

Pete Yamagata



## Sneaking Up Berryessa Peak (3,057')

One fine morning, a trusty companion in trespass, Pinus Lambertiana, and I set out to conquer Berryessa Peak, the dreaded high point of Yolo County. The adventure began when ... Wait, before starting, I first want to thank my pen-brother Raoul Mocho. Reading accounts of the exploits of his small band of guerrilla peak-baggers inspired this discourse.

Our adventures began at the locked gate blocking access to the southeast shore of Berryessa Peak's namesake reservoir. With our backs to the bathtub ring of public land surrounding the water, kept by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, primarily for irrigation and speedboats, we climbed over the first of many barbed wire fences and vanished into the dark green grasslands like bedbugs into a carpet. Not even two browsing deer noted our approach until scared off by the click of my camera. Generally heading for a high point south of Berryessa Peak on Rocky Ridge, we climbed Jackson Peak to reconnoiter. Its elevation recalled to memory a tune from whence wilderness covered rather than dotted this continent: "In 1814 we took a little trip, along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississippi ..."

To our mighty chagrin, a deep valley lay between us and the peak. Worse, the route to the saddle between Jackson and Rocky Ridge was covered with thick brush brandishing patches of poison oak. Thinking some route through possible, it was not long before those damnable oily red leaves forced us "into places where a rabbit wouldn't go." Retreat is a bitter pill, but far more tolerable than a full-body rash that itches and can't be scratched. So we covered our faces, plunged back through the least noxious of the brush, and eventually came upon two paths worn through the brush by cattle on either side of a barbed wire fence. Carefully crossing the fence several times while following it to avoid further frontal attacks by the poison oak contingent, we were led steeply downhill to Tully Canyon Road. While the road leads toward the peak, it also presents an imminent risk of ambush by hunters from "Wilderness Unlimited," an organization offering *their* wilderness exclusively to those willing and able to pay the membership fee. Luckily, the road was deserted, as was an old dwelling we quietly slipped past. Further on was a hodgepodge of old signs, cardboard, wooden crates, 2x4s, and what have you, stacked together in a house-of-cards shelter, which I thought built by hunters but P. Lambertiana presumed to be an abandoned homestead used to work a mining claim. Yet further on was a spent arrow next to some critter's thigh bone lying in a creek-bed.

The omens changed for the better as we got higher. After a short rest in an ungrazed meadow of lupines, we walked up to a gate which proclaimed that we ought not to have been where we were. It was at this point, I suspect, that we entered U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Study Area 050-332, containing 7,450 acres of public land. The BLM did not find this area of dense chaparral and occasional meadows to be suitable for wilderness designation, stating in their Final Inventory of California BLM Lands (1979) that there were no outstanding opportunities for solitude since "the permanent facilities, a fire lookout and microwave tower on Berryessa Peak, are easily observable throughout most of the area." The political nature of this observation became a source of personal consternation, supplanting that of the politic. Having lost my map somewhere in the brush, I had hoped to use the peak as its own guidepost. But it was lost to the heavens. Only after Pinus and I had climbed within a few hundred meters of Windy Point, two miles away, did the microwave towers come into view *behind* us. So, it was down, *up*, and more *up*, all without a glimpse of the "easily observable" facilities, until we practically reached the summit.

But even a belated victory is sweet, and so were the views, especially the North Coast Ranges rising up out of this edge of the Sacramento Valley. Indeed, it was too short a time before we had to retreat well below the cold and breezy heights, finding a sheltered spot to enjoy a few snacks for dinner. Darkness closed in as we made our way further down, and we had to be careful not to step on the dozens of ruddy salamanders that were crossing the road. Could it be simply to get to the other side? The moonlight guided us well past the little fellows, and as Tully Canyon opened up, we climbed over three locked gates barring the way home. A fourth gate was guarded by two horses, but they were far more interested in getting a handout than in alerting the neighbors. Too bad for them that the dogs in the nearby ranch-house picked up our scent, as their barking spurred us to skeddadle under the gate, literally kissing the *public land* ahead which lay on the periphery of Reservoir Berryessa.

Reckless living once again brought us to a bad end, i.e. a midnight arrival in Sacramento after a long drive, an alarm set for far too early the next morning, work, etc. Ah, but for glory. Now, I can smugly add this tough sneak peak to my list of attained summits. And someday, perchance, I'll reminisce on another of these journeys that too infrequently rise and fall beneath the wondrous heights.

Iroo Mocho

I flipped between news and the Weather Channel, checked my crystal ball, called John Waters and finally made the decision: Yes, we are going. Not about to let any snow storm interfere with my trip to Mono Lake. Of course attendance was off a bit. From a group of 14, only five of us were left, including John, Meden, Ethan Gallogly, Pat Nash, and myself. The drive down was without incident, only a bit of drizzle and some snow on the roadside. Friday night was clear but cold at our Lower Lee Vining campground.

The next morning we spent a couple hours at South Tufa and Navy Beach Tufa formations. For those who haven't been to Navy Beach to see the sand tufa, you have missed the best part! John talked me out of trying Crater Mountain, a good thing as we soon found out. The weather was beginning to deteriorate on the south shore of Mono Lake so we decided to go around to Black Point and search for the Hidden Fissures which had eluded me on a previous trip. After turning off the paved road toward Black Point visitor area, we took a left on to another dirt road which curves around Black Point and ends in a good parking area just west of the fissure. I use the singular since only one is really worth the visit. This cut in the ground runs perhaps a quarter mile with a section several hundred feet that deepens to 40 or 50 feet deep before it bursts from the hillside.

As we emerged from the fissure we could see snow flurries both north and south of us on the higher ground. Mono Craters were engulfed in a dark cloud. The rest of the afternoon we were chased by snow as we climbed Black Point and visited Rattlesnake Gulch ghost town. Back at camp, I sat in my lawn chair, snacked on Wheat Thins, read my magazine, and brushed snow flakes off the pages. A pleasant afternoon, if somewhat cool.

Sunday we woke to a dusting of snow on the ground but clear skies overhead. It was time for some peak climbing. We began with a tour of Panum Crater, a rhyolite cinder cone with large obsidian blocks in the central plug. After an hour or so at Panum, we headed into the sand roads west of Mono Craters. After a false turn and nearly getting one of our cars stuck, we found our way to the foot of Crater Mountain. The hike was really only about 3/4 of a mile on the map, 1700', straight up a soft pumice and pine needle hill side. The ascent took about two hours with a couple short breaks to catch our breath. There was a small bit of easy class three climbing to bypass a snow field and at the summit block. The view from the peak was great, a favorite for me. We stood atop the summit block with several shorter blocks encircling a rock and snow filled bowl. To the north were the other Mono Craters, each a bit different though all barren rock. John sneered at that moonscape I had considered traversing (I'm still tempted!) Beyond was Mono Lake, mirroring the clouds against Conway summit. To the southeast were the White Mountains, to the west, the Sierras.

After lunch we made a quick descent (one hour), made a few more stops around the lake, then stopped by Bodie. We went to Bodie by way of Highway 167 and Cottonwood Canyon Road, which is not a bad route though it includes a long stretch of dirt road. After that we headed for home, not even stopping to eat after a long weekend.

Bob Buckles



HALF DOME, YOSEMITE NP (8852')

14-16 Jun 91

After reserving our permit in February, we were looking forward to climbing Half Dome. Scott and Charlotte Wise, John and Lynn Bebekos, and I spent the night in Yosemite Valley suffering through mosquitoes and camp fire smoke. Our consolation for the mosquitoes was the roaring waterfalls at this time of year.

After a slow start Friday morning, we began winding our way up the Mist Trail with our packs. True to its name, we were soaked to the skin before we reached the top of Vernal Falls. The spray from the falls rained down and ran in streams off the stair step trail. We were soon soaked to our skins. After lunch and a bit of drying out, we continued up to Nevada Falls and on to the Little Yosemite Valley Campground. Hiking time including breaks was about 3 1/2 hours for 5 miles and 1700' elevation gain at a modest pace.

Our campsites wasn't meant for solitude in the wilderness. There were about 200 backpackers with dozens of bear boxes to protect food and several noxious smelling chemical toilets. As the evening wore on, many groups started campfires. Soon the air began to resemble that down in the main valley--smoky. There were also plenty of mosquitoes to encourage retiring to the tent before dark.

Going to bed early did not guarantee a lot of sleep. Sometime around midnight, I heard a commotion across the clearing and could see the flash of lights through my tent wall. As the chorus of yelling continued, I poked my head out of the tent. "Looks like a bear must be around," I thought to myself. About then I hear a voice shouting from behind a flashlight: "Bob Buckles, where are you?" John had lost track of our tents in route back from the toilet (Easy to do when several more tents have set up since you went to bed.) John told us that, yes, there was a bear. It had nearly run into him while being chased by a group of campers. It had also shredded one man's backpack (no food in it either!) There were several more visits that night, but none in our small part of the campground. As in a school of fish, we were protected by numbers from attack.

Saturday morning we took our day packs and headed for the peak. Four miles one way, the trail climbed steadily for about 2000' to the northeast side of Half Dome. In route we saw a rattlesnake. He was about four feet long, 4-5 buttons on his tail. He didn't care for our company and moved swiftly into the brush. This was on a warm southern hillside about 7000' elevation.

We ate lunch and then proceeded on to the famous Half Dome cables. The cables are held up by metal posts sunk into the rock and have wooden planks spaced every 10-15 feet up the rock side. With this addition, a climb that would be difficult with good technique and climbing shoes becomes easy for anyone in decent physical shape. You hoist yourself up using the cables as handrails whenever footing is difficult. Whenever you get tired, rest at a plank and then start again. This goes on for about 300' upwards. Of course there are all kinds of people on the route at the same time you are, some terrified after climbing the first fifty feet, some looking like they will push you off if you get in their way. It reminded me of the carnival ride lines except that this line was on the ride itself.

On top the crowd thins out a bit. You can choose a point away from other people or crowd with the rest on to the 'Visor', looking down on the valley and Tenaya Canyon. There were some people eating snow from an old bank on the top (Too dirty for my liking.) The view is excellent from everywhere on several acres of granite dome. In spite of the crowds, its worth going at least once.

Our descent was uneventful. Surprisingly, there were people still headed up as late as 4:00 PM. This included two men who planned to get back to the valley that night (stumbling in the dark!) After another night at our campsite, this time without bears, we tramped down the John Muir trail, then headed for home.

Bob Buckles

## OLD MAN MOUNTAIN - TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE

When I see the term 'DAY hike', I think of daylight, sunshine, RA riding his golden chariot across the sky. I have now learned not to take the word 'day' so literally when on a hike led by John 'Prince of Darkness' Sarna.

June 1st was to be my first trek in the Sierra for 1991. I decided a good early season peak bag would be just the thing for getting my climbing legs back into shape. We were warned by "Sundown Sarna" that he may have miscalculated the mileage and that there was a good chance it could be dark by the time we returned. With an extra pair of batteries for my headlamp stowed in my pack I was ready to go.

The hike in provided us with vistas of snow covered ridges, shimmering granite, stuck 4 X 4's, numerous log and rock crossings, and one particularly frigid knee - deep fori. It was late afternoon when we made our direct assault on the peak which was an interesting class 2 scramble.

After a rest and photo session, we were back down to the trail at which time our estimated arrival back at the cars varied from 8:00 to 9:30 PM. Unfortunately we were on one of those time warp - vortex trails that are twice as long going out as they were coming in. After a long slog and one wrong turn, the forces of darkness released us to our vehicles at 10:30 PM.

Eventually Sarna's "Midnight Express" rolled into an all night Denny's in Auburn. As tired as I was, I was glad that John Watters was doing the driving back to Sacramento. I believe he was even able to stay awake for a good portion of the drive, (fortunately the truck knew the way home). By 2:05 AM I was in bed and one of my more memorable season opener climbs was history. ----JOHN BEBEKOS



Half Dome as viewed from North Dome



#### STORTIND'S UNCLIMBED SOUTHWEST RIDGE

Havard Nesheim had viewed with awe the impressive, unclimbed Southwest Ridge of Stortind many times from the Ullsfjorden Ferry. The ferry is the main transportation link between the quaint village of Lyngseidet and Tromsø, the closet major city in Northern Norway. He had been itching to challenge the unclimbed ridge for a number of years but conditions and circumstances had kept him away until now.

Little was known about the spectacular ridge. From the maps and viewing the ridge from the nearby ferry, Havard knew that it would not be your typical climb. The Southwest ridge is very long, challenging and exposed, jutting up more than 3000 feet above the glaciated valley floor. In many places the ridge narrows to a knife edge with near vertical drops on both sides.

Havard knew all of this, but Dick Ratliff, my climbing partner from California, and I did not. I had been in Norway for just ten days and had not seen the route. Dick was under the false impression that we would be climbing a different, less difficult, route on Stortind.

All we knew is what Havard told us the night before the climb as we sorted through our equipment in his lovely home near Lyngseidet. The home is surrounded by grandeur. The back looks out over the Kjosens Fjord and from the front one could look straight up at the Lyngen Alps. Havard was very tight-lipped while we clamored for information. We learned little that night. All I could pry out of Havard was that it would be a long route and I should bring a little extra food.

What in the world did that mean, I muttered under my breath? Should I bring an extra apple or plan for a multi-day epic? Since I had just met Havard hours earlier, I had no idea how long was "long." What was "long" to him might be considered routine or conversely an epic marathon to me. However, I did know that he had successfully climbed Mount Everest in 1985 and had climbed many extreme routes in Norway and around the world. With this in mind, I doubled my lunch to last me a full two days, if necessary.

In retrospect, it was clear that he down played the severity of the route as not to alarm us or his wife. As it was, she was very apprehensive about the climb. She knew of the reports from the earlier unsuccessful attempt in which several of Havard's friends attempted the ridge but turned back early on in the climb. They reported that it was a very long and technically demanding ridge requiring an estimated 13-15 hours to complete.

I too became somewhat concerned after taking a self-guided tour of their home and viewing several photographs of Havard in some desperate climbing conditions around the world. One that made a deep impression on me was of a climber and two port-a-ledge anchors to the sheer face of the Troll Wall in Winter. For some reason that photograph stuck in my mind as I struggled to sleep that night. Needless to say I did not sleep well.

At 5:30 the next morning I saw the route for the first time as we skied into the base of the peak and snow couloir leading up to the ridge. One look at the imposing route made me reconsider again whether I

wanted to climb the peak or spend the day ski touring in the area. Maybe it was for this very reason that Havard had not shared with us the particulars of the climb the night before.

I also wondered why Havard, a climber of considerable reputation, was taking two climbers from California, that he hardly knew, on such a difficult climb? What about his local climbing buddies? Why wasn't he climbing the route with one of them? Had they all turned him down in the past?

I would make the climb, but I reasoned to myself that while in the snow couloir I could back down at any time and let Dick and Havard continue on. What I didn't realize was that the couloir was much longer and steeper than it appeared from below. It took us nearly five hours of climbing in the couloir to reach the ridge. As the couloir steepened from 40 to 55 degrees near the half point, we roped up. Once roped, I was committed. I now could not go down with out taking the other two down with me.

We reached the ridge just in time for lunch. I was glad I brought some extra food, as Havard had suggested, as we had been skiing and climbing for about six and a half hours and hadn't even started the real part of the climb.

The ridge was plastered with snow, ice and rime driven by high winds from the North and South. This sculptured rime characterized the entire Southwest ridge as well as the descent route down the North ridge. It built up in frothy, feathery layers that exaggerated the size of the rock it encrusted, resulting in grotesque, overhanging, heaps of unconsolidated crud. It was beautiful to look at, but tough to climb.

These granular ice tufts were more air than snow/ice, rendering our ice axes nearly useless. We resorted to digging out hand, finger and arm holds in the rime in place of more conventional ice axe techniques.

We started up the ridge with running belays as the ridge was less severe here than we would encounter higher up. In 4-5 pitches, possibly more, we came to a point on the ridge that could not be climbed or avoid by traversing left onto the Northwest Face. We rappelled about 70 feet down the right side of the ridge and traversed left across steep snow for half a pitch. From this belay point we continued to traverse across step rock, snow and ice for 80 feet and then left up into a steep gully of more snow, rock and ice (about 70 degrees). One more pitch in the gully and we regained the ridge.

From here on the climbing became more difficult with the ridge narrowing and the obstacles becoming more numerous and larger. We continued up the ridge by staying directly on top of the ridge where we could. Many times we had to drop down to the left, traverse across and up the Northwest face back to the ridge to avoid difficult if not impossible obstacles that lay directly on the ridge. This continued for about 10-15 pitches.

We passed over two false summits before reaching the true summit. After each false summit the climbing became more and more difficult. After passing over and down the last false summit we encountered the



most difficult climbing of the route for 4 leads which culminated in the true summit. Three separate rock/rime steps had to be climbed. They were not big steps, 20-25 feet, but they were vertical or near vertical and quite difficult to climb given the feathery rime conditions. All three rock steps were thinly covered with snow and rime that would unpredictably break off from the smooth rock face as we struggled to climb up and over. These three steps were the crux of the climb.

On the first step Harvard tried in vain to find a route around it by moving left onto the Northwest face. Directly up and over the step would have been difficult as the exposed rock face was smooth with no opportunities to place protection. Harvard considered removing his crampons at this point and climbing the step with his double plastic boots, but was not energetic about the prospects. Finally, we found a very obscure route on the right. We dropped down a near vertical 15 feet and then left, directly up a near vertical gully back to the ridge. The next step was not as difficult and was directly climbed. The final step was the most difficult and there was no way around it. Harvard did a masterful job on the vertical step which put us directly on the summit.

Harvard summited at 11:30 pm, I at 11:40 pm and Dick at 11:50 pm, just ten minutes before mid-night. As I belayed Dick up this last desperate step, I kidded with him to hurry up if he wanted to complete the climb today for in ten minutes it would be tomorrow.

I was able to get a picture of Dick and Harvard on the summit but the light was very low. This time of the year Northern Norway has light for 24 hours a day although it is very faint for several hours around midnight. We had been climbing on the ridge for 12 hours plus the 5 hours in the couloir. We descended the North ridge to a prominent saddle and continued down to the west where we returned to our skis and finally back to the road and car at 6:30 AM after 25 hours of continuous climbing.

In all, we climbed about 25-30 pitches with one short rappel. The ridge became more and more difficult and exposed with the obstacles becoming larger and more frequent as we approached the summit. There are no escape routes down either side of the ridge. The best way down lay on the other side of the summit. We became more and more committed to finishing the ridge the further out on the ridge we climbed as the prospect of retracing our steps was unthinkable. The climb down would be just as difficult and take as much time as the climb up.

Harvard led the entire route and did a masterful job of route finding and climbing. Without his strong leadership and expert climbing ability, Dick and I would not have completed the route. It was a great challenge and wonderful experience that I am ready to repeat!

#### SUMMARY STATISTICS

Area: Lyngen Alps, Northern Norway.  
Peak: Stortind, 4959 feet (1512 meters).  
Route: First ascent of the Southwest Ridge, April 27, 1991.  
Elevation Gain: 4959 feet.

Equipment: small assortment of friends, chalks, pitons and 3 snow flukes.

Number of Pitches: 25-30.

Climbing Time: 25 hours round trip.

Personnel: Havard Mesheim, Lyngseidet, Norway; Dick Ratliff, Rotsund, Norway and Sacramento, California; and Paul Richins, El Dorado Hills, California, U.S.A.

#### "THREE WEEKS IN PARADISE"

The Lyngen peninsula is located in Northern Norway at a Latitude of 70 degrees North, far above the arctic circle. The area is just North of the University town of Tromso, the largest city in Northern Norway. The Lyngen peninsula is literally crowded with peaks and glaciers, with the mountains rising directly out of the fjords to a height of 6,000 feet. The area is referred to as the Lyngen Alps.

Due to the warm ocean currents the fjords are ice free all year and the weather surprisingly mild. Being further North than Alaska, I expected much colder temperatures. However, the lowest temperature I recorded was 6 degrees Fahrenheit on the top of Markusfjellet, a 5,000 foot peak. Most of the mountain temperatures ranged in the teens to low twenty's with ample amounts of sunshine.

My experience in Northern Norway was truly memorable in which I met many wonderful people and was introduced to a paradise of mountains and skiing that I did not know existed in such superb quality and abundant quantity. Mountains were everywhere and provide excellent skiing and climbing for all abilities, from the casual skier to world class climbers.

I spent three wonderful weeks (April 18-May 8, 1991) climbing and enjoying some truly great cross country skiing. In my visit with Dick Ratliff and family in the small fishing village of Rotsund, we skied to the summits of five peaks--Cillagai'sa, Markusfjellet, Baes'setinden, Jiehkkevarri, Kveita, and climbed four others--Stortind, Piggtind, Store Lenangstind and East Lenangstind.

The ski ascent and descent of Cillagai'sa was an excellent ski tour as the powder snow conditions were perfect and the slope of the mountain provided for a moderate and continuous ski descent all the way to the car. It was a pleasant introduction to Northern Norway and prelude for what was to come in the following three weeks.

The ski traverse of Jiehkkevarri and Kveita via the Blaisen Glacier and descent via the Fuglebreen Glacier was truly spectacular and memorable. The ski descent of the Fuglebreen was unnerving as we had to wind our way through ice bulges and towers. The bottom portion of the glacier was very steep with concern for avalanche danger. In addition, we could not see, from above, whether or not there was a route all the way down and off the glacier. We could not determine whether or not the glacier ended in an ice fall that would block our descent. However, we had heard from Havard that he thought the route was manageable on skis. Based on this, we went for it, as the alternative of climbing back up and over the summit was unthinkable.



The ski across the Koppangsbreen Glacier and climb of Store Lenangstind and East Lenangstind was the frosting on my "three weeks in paradise" and my favorite. The scenery was most outstanding as the glacier was rimmed by beautiful peaks pushing up through a sea of snow and ice. The glacier was as smooth as glass with no sign of crevasses as the winter snows had covered all of the glacier's rough edges.

The glacier is very accessible and the ski up from the small fishing village of Koppangen was quick and easy. We were to the base of Store Lenangstind in less than four hours. The slope of the glacier is perfect for skiing up as well as down, steep enough to get you there quickly but not too steep to wear one out. The fresh dusting of powder on the glacier enhanced the skiing even further.

On Store Lenangstind and East Lenangstind we encountered similar climbing conditions and difficulties as on Stortind but on a much smaller scale. We reached the summit of Store Lenangstind in eight pitches via the East Ridge. Near the summit of East Lenangstind, the Southeast ridge narrowed to a knife edge. On this lead I straddled the apex of the ridge by sitting down with one leg on each side of the edge and inched myself forward. We climbed both peaks in a light snow storm and whiteout. At times, the visibility was so poor that I could barely see Dick at the opposite end of the climbing rope. This was the only tour/climb in the three weeks that we had bad weather.

My tours in the Lyngen Alps were truly fantastic. I highly recommend the area for skiing and climbing in April through mid May or hiking and climbing in July. I look forward to returning soon.

#### HASKELL PEAK (8107'), EUREKA PEAK (7447') JUNE 13, 1991

Rex Smith, fresh from his retirement (Congratulations, Rex!!) and I drove up the Haskell Peak Road (open despite fallen trees and snow) and did Haskell in 45 minutes via a heavily ducked trail with lots of mud and snow near the top. We looked about the three cairns marking the top, but couldn't find a register, and so placed a book and can.

We drove to Plumasa-Eureka State Park and started from the ski lift parking lot to hike to the top of Eureka via a dirt road and trail which was mostly buried under snow at the upper portions of the hike. No register was found, but there was a benchmark and several wooden posts.

Getting back to the car by 5:30 p.m., we drove to Truckee and had a nice Mexican dinner. Eureka, as well as adjacent Mt. Washington, certainly deserves to be on the OGUL list, with about 2,000' gain involved.

#### ROCKHOUSE PEAK (8383'), TAYLOR DOME (8802'), SIRRETTA PEAK (9977'), SAWTOOTH PEAK #1 (8000+'), LAMONT PEAK (7429') JUNE 15-17, 1991

Fred Johnson (Berkeley), the sixth person to join the DPS (June, 1946), drove Steve Thaw and me leaving Friday noon to the Big Meadow trailhead near the Domeland Wilderness to meet a SPS group weekend out- ing. Saturday, we hiked the 16-18 mi. r.t. to Rockhouse, led by Dave Petzold, a soon-to-be SPS list finisher (about 40 peaks to go). We had a nice party in the evening at the trailhead camp---lots of chips, dip, and salsa, wine, buffalo wings, caramel/chocolate brownies, and various other items.

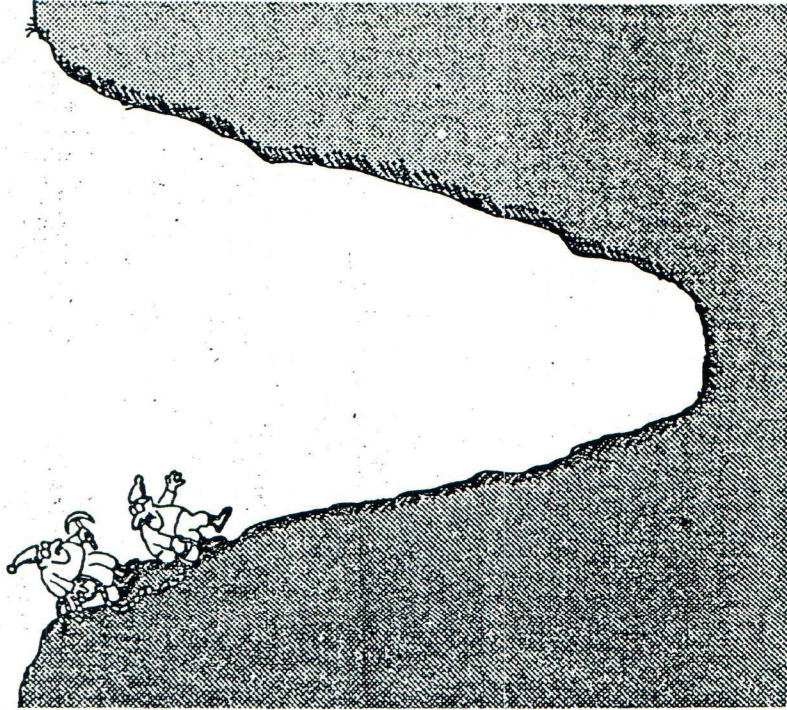
Sunday, we climbed Taylor Dome (class 3), and afterwards, some of us climbed Sirretta in the afternoon. Fred, Steve, and I had a nice Mexican dinner in Kernville and drove to a camp at the Chimney Peak campground.

Awakening early, we climbed Sawtooth in 3½ hours via use trails from a good guidebook description (see Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra by Jim Jenkins) and Steve and I also climbed Lamont, 1900' gain in 1½ hours. Finishing at 4:30 p.m., we had dinner in Bakersfield, and I got back home by midnight for a 3-day total of about 11,000' gain. Hotcha!

Pete Yamagata

## THE FAR SIDE/GARY LARSON

Chronicle Features, 1982 *Larson* 2-5



*Markley's Gorge* *Sawtooths*  
Because it's not there



HIGHPOINTS OF THE STATES

AUGUST 1989

STATE	HIGHPOINT	ELEVATION (FEET)	CLASS	TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS
Alabama	Cheaha Mtn.	2,407 (2,405)	Drive-up	Cheaha Mountain, Ala.
Alaska	Mt. McKinley	20,320	4	Mt. McKinley (A-3), Alaska*/Talkeetna (D-3), Alaska*
Arizona	Humphreys Peak	12,633	1	Humphreys Peak, Ariz.
Arkansas	Magazine Mtn. (413916)	2,753	1	Blue Mountain, Ark./Magazine Mountain NE, Ark.
California	Mt. Whitney	14,494	1	Mount Whitney, Calif./Mt. Langley, Calif.
Colorado	Mt. Elbert	14,433	1	Mount Elbert, Colo./Mount Massive, Colo./ Granite, Colo.
Connecticut	Mt. Frissell - S. slope	2,380	1	Bashbish Falls, Mass.-Conn.-N.Y./Sharon, Conn.-N.Y.
Delaware	Unnamed (555095)	442	Drive-up	Wilmington North, Del.-Pa.
Florida	Unnamed (686282)	345	Drive-up	Paxton, Fla.-Ala.
Georgia	Brasstown Bald	4,784	1	Jacks Gap, Ga./Hiwassee, Ga.-N.C.
Hawaii	Mauna Kea	13,796	1	Mauna Kea, Hawaii/Puu Oo, Hawaii
Idaho	Borah Peak	12,662	3	Borah Peak, Idaho
Illinois	Charles Mound	1,235	1	Shullsburg, Wis.-Ill./Scales Mound East, Ill.
Indiana	Unnamed (835298)	1,257	1	Spartanburg, Ind.-Ohio/Whitewater, Ind.-Ohio
Iowa	Unnamed (806153)	1,670	1	Sibley East, Iowa
Kansas	Mt. Sunflower	4,039	Drive-up	Mount Sunflower, Colo.-Kans.
Kentucky	Black Mtn. (312868)	4,145 (4,139)	Drive-up	Benham, Ky.-Va./Appalachia, Va.-Ky.
Louisiana	Driskill Mtn. (097873)	535	1	Bryceland, Louisiana
Maine	Mt. Katahdin	5,268	1	Katahdin, Me.*
Maryland	Backbone Mtn. (309440)	3,360	1	Davis, W.Va.-Md.
Massachusetts	Mt. Greylock	3,491 (3,487)	Drive-up	Williamstown, Mass.-Vt./Cheshire, Mass.
Michigan	Mt. Arvon	1,979	1	Skaneec South, Michigan
Minnesota	Eagle Mtn.	2,301	1	Eagle Mountain, Minn./Mark Lake, Minn.
Mississippi	Woodall Mtn.	806	Drive-up	Iuka, Miss.
Missouri	Taum Sauk Mtn. (007605)	1,772	1	Ironton, Mo.
Montana	Granite Peak	12,799	4	Granite Peak, Montana/Alpine, Montana
Nebraska	Unnamed (815398)	5,426	Drive-up	Pine Bluffs SE, Wyo.-Nebr.-Colo.
Nevada	Boundary Peak	13,143 (13,140)	2	Benton, Nev.-Calif.*/Davis Mountain, Nev.-Calif.*
New Hampshire	Mt. Washington	6,288	Drive-up	Mt. Washington, N.H.*
New Jersey	High Point	1,803	Drive-up	Port Jervis South, N.J.-N.Y.-Pa.
New Mexico	Wheeler Peak	13,161	1	Wheeler Peak, N.Mex.
New York	Mt. Marcy	5,344	1	Mount Marcy, N.Y.*
North Carolina	Mt. Mitchell	6,684	Drive-up	Mt. Mitchell, N.C.
North Dakota	White Butte	3,506	1	Amidon, N.Dak.
Ohio	Campbell Hill	1,550 (1,549)	Drive-up	Zanesfield, Ohio
Oklahoma	Black Mesa	4,973	2	Kenton, Okla.-Colo.
Oregon	Mt. Hood	11,239	4	Mount Hood South, Oreg.
Pennsylvania	Mt. Davis	3,213	Drive-up	Markleton, Pa./Meyersdale, Pa.
Rhode Island	Jerimoth Hill	812	1	East Killingly, Conn.-R.I.
South Carolina	Sassafras Mtn.	3,560 (3,554)	Drive-up	Eastatoo Gap, S.C.-N.C.
South Dakota	Harney Peak	7,242	1	Custer, S.Dak./Hill City, S.Dak.
Tennessee	Clingmans Dome	6,643	1	Clingmans Dome, N.C.-Tenn.
Texas	Guadalupe Peak	8,749	1	Guadalupe Peak, Tex.
Utah	Kings Peak	13,528	2	Kings Peak, Utah/Gilbert Peak NE, Utah-Wyo./ Bridger Lake, Utah-Wyo./Mount Powell, Utah
Vermont	Mt. Mansfield (736344)	4,393	1	Mount Mansfield, Vt.
Virginia	Mt. Rogers	5,729	1	Whitetop Mountain, Va.
Washington	Mt. Rainier	14,410	4	Mt. Rainier West, Wash./Mt. Rainier East, Wash.
West Virginia	Spruce Knob	4,863 (4,861)	Drive-up	Spruce Knob, W.Va./Circleville, W.Va.
Wisconsin	Timms Hill	1,951	1	Timms Hill, Wis.
Wyoming	Gannett Peak	13,804	4	Gannett Peak, Wyo./Bridger Lakes, Wyo./ Fayette Lake, Wyo./Fremont Lake North, Wyo./ Fremont Peak North, Wyo./Ink Wells, Wyo./ Torrey Lake, Wyo./Hays Park, Wyo.

This list of the high points in the 50 states was submitted by Don Holmes. Information on membership in the Highpointers Club can be obtained from Don by writing to him at 14732 Mansa Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638.



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