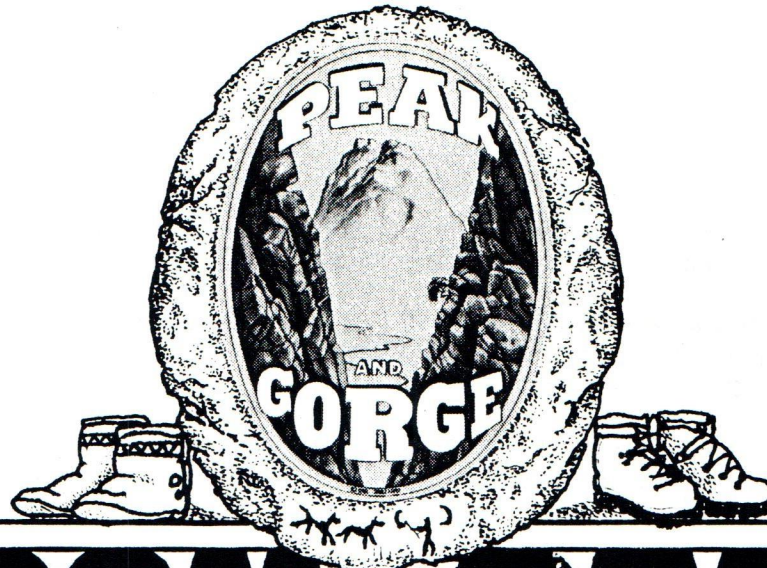


THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

Issue No. 46, Jan & Feb. 1992

Chairmans Column

For those of you who have missed the Oct. and Nov. Peak & Gorge meetings we have been doing a lot of planning and reorganizing for next year. At the October leader's social we discussed plans to increase the number of class 3 climbs next summer and fall. Leaders who have been involved with mainly class 2 climbing were encouraged to attempt at least two or three class 3 trips next year. Several means were recommended for accomplishing this goal. Leaders who are unfamiliar with class three climbing were instructed to consult climbing guides, bring experienced climbers along as assistants and to attempt peaks with only brief stretches of class three exposure. In this way we can bring class three climbing back to the Peak & Gorge and have a safe and successful season as well.

At the November meeting we discussed many of the controversial issues that seem to plague our business. The mountaineering restrictions are not going away but we can still extend our class three activities much farther than we currently do. We agreed to change the Ogul list according to a complicated plan that is outlined in this issue by John S. and Bob. B. Remember, tee-shirts on sale at meetings or the book store.

See you on the trail.

John Watters, Chairman

WINTER CALENDAR

Dec. 17, Tues. Annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring main dish, salad, dessert. Robin Reed Hostess: 3612 Rio Loma, 923-1553.

Dec. 21, Sat. Pt. Reyes High Points. A 13 mile loop to feature the two highest points in the park, Pt. Reyes Hill (1336') and Mt. Wittenberg (1407'). Meet leader at 11th & O parking lot at 7:30. Rain cancels, John Besbekos leader, 729-2725.

Dec. 21, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Camp Sacramento-Eldweiss Ski Area. There is a downhill northfacing slope here that when the snow is dry powder the downhill run is ecstatic. Meeting place: CSUS Arboretum, 7:00 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Dec. 22, Sun. Somewhere. A moderately paced trip for intermediate level skiers. Exact location to depend on snow and weather conditions. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Jan. 1, Wed. Intermediate Ski Tour. Donner Pass Area. We will go where there are not TV football games and the snow dry and deep. Be prepared for fun and enjoyment. Meeting Place: CSUS Arboretum, 7:00 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338. No football? Must be an all girl trip!

Jan. 4, Wed. Intermediate Ski Tour. Mt. Ralston. Bring the skins, the cold weather gear and be prepared for the 2000 foot gain. Meeting Place: CSUS Arboretum, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Jan. 10, Fri. The 1992 Peak Show! Begins at 7:00 p.m. Host: Pete Yamagata, 2109 10th Street #3 444-6319.

Jan. 11, Sat. Somewhere. A moderately paced trip for intermediate level Skiers. Exact location to depend on snow and weather conditions. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Jan. 18-19, Sat.-Sun. Whale watching and backpack. Point Reyes National Seashore. Trip limited to 15. Leader Ethan Gallogly, 758-6272 (Davis).

Jan. 18, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Carson Pass---Stevens Peak---Highway 89. This trip will be dependent on snow conditions--lots of snow and not avalanche danger. This is one of those rare trips where there is 1500 feet more of downhill than uphill. Meeting Place: CSUS Arboretum, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutoswsky, 457-3338.

Jan. 19, Sun. Somewhere. A moderately paced trip for intermediate level skiers. Exact location to depend on snow and weather conditions. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Jan. 28, Tues. Ski Mountaineering Clinic. At this meeting we will discuss winter peak climbing. Bring some gear to demonstrate, experiences to share and a snack. Host: Bob Buckles 6120 Rainier Ave., Rocklin. Going east on I-80, exit on Taylor Rd., continue as Taylor becomes Pacific, left on Sunset, left on Whitney, left on Rainier. 624-3620, meeting time is 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 1, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Pineapple Peak. It's time to re-visit this famous Carson Pass peak. Meeting Place: CSUS Arboretum, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Feb. 2, Sun. Somewhere. A moderately paced trip for intermediate level skiers. Exact location to depend on snow and weather conditions. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Feb. 8, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Carson Pass to Highway 89---Blue Lakes Road. Meeting Place: CSUS Arboretum, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Feb. 8, Sat. Peak Climb: Alameda High Points. Meet behind Burger King in Lake Crest Village at 7:00 a.m. Leader: John Sarna, 429-8024. Asst. Leader: Diana Green, (209) 546-1947.

Feb.15-17, Sat-Mon. Class 2 Peak Climb/Ventana Wilderness Exploratory. We'll climb Black Cone and Junipero Sierra Peak (5,862"), highest point in Monterey County. Leader: John Sarn, 429-8024. Asst. Leader: John Bermeister, 756-7125.

Feb.15, Sat. Somewhere. Intermediate ski trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Feb. 22, Sat. Somewhere. Intermediate ski trip. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Feb. 29-Mar. 1, Sat-Sun. Ventana Wilderness Backpack. Leader: Ethan Gallogly, 758-6272.

Mar. 1, Sun. Intermediate Ski Trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Roseville Square. Leader: Fred Fischietto, 983-5607.

Mar. 7-8, Sat-Sun. Glacier Point, Ski Tour/Snow Camp. Trip limited to 10. For more details contact leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Mar. 7, Sat. Beginning Ski Trip. Carson Pass Area. Leader: Don Hoffman. Asst. Leader: Dianna Green (209) 546-1947.

Mar. 14, Sat. Outings Leadership Training. The session will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is scheduled to be held at the Rancho Cordova Community Library, 9845 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. A potluck lunch is planned. Contact Ken Green at 631-8203 by Mar. 1 if interested.

Mar. 24, Tues. Peak & Gorge Social. Natural History & Paleontology of Macedonia. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. Host: John Watters, 488-8467. From Hwy 50 go north on Howe Ave, turn right on Northrop and right again on Fulton. Take first right into appt. complex. 845 Fulton Ave. #2056.

CLIMBER/SKI MOUNTAINEER WANTED: Share gas, fees, for climbs or tours. Also mid-week conditioning hikes or climbs. Planning many 1992 trips already. Over 1,000 outings led or completed. You won't find any better! Contact Pete Yamagata, (916) 444-6319.

OGUL LIST REVISION IN PROGRESS

On May 7, 1991, the first meeting of the OGUL List Revision Committee took place in Carrows Restaurant due to the proximity of its 99-cent shortcake and a chance meeting. As you may recall from last year's Boulder, this committee was formed to respond to suggestions for substantive revisions to the OGUL Peak List. Membership was offered to anyone who expressed interest, and only Bill Hauser, Pete Yamagata, and myself, John Sarna, took up the cause.

At the meeting, not-with-standing the edibles laid out around us, the discussion centered on the two pages of proposed revisions I had already obtained from Al Gutowsky, Jack Rankin, Roger Winters, and members of the committee. Several others have since suggested further revisions, including Pat Purcell and Ann Stewart. The upshot of several close votes was that the following procedure be used to change the list:

- o A ballot will be mailed to all (currently 15) OGUL Emblem Holders, and each allowed one vote. Anyone who is not currently an emblem holder just because they haven't mailed in a suitable list of OGUL peaks (they go to John Watters now) will be encouraged to do so now and thus attain emblem status in time for the election (there's no cost). It is not necessary to subscribe to the Boulder to cast a vote.
- o Any proposed change will take effect if and only if a simple majority (more than 50%) of all emblem holders who vote do vote for it.
- o All changes must be published in the Boulder before they can be voted upon (see the back page of this newsletter for how to submit copy for publication). Anyone can recommend an addition, deletion, or whatever.

This was subsequently discussed at the November 1991 Peak and Gorge Business Meeting. Besides deciding to allow the list to be revised, members present agreed to three additional conditions:

- o A maximum of 5 suggested changes per person will be allowed.
- o The reason for a change and its advocate(s) should be identified.
- o The results of the vote will be summarized at the April 1992 Peak and Gorge Meeting, where members at large can vote on whether or not to accept the results. This means that suggested changes must be submitted by mid-February for publication in the March-April Boulder.

If anyone is opposed to this procedure, please make your views known to Peak and Gorge Section Chair, John Watters, 488-8467. If you would like some help in submitting (typing) changes, please call me at 429-8024. And, if you know of an OGUL Emblem Holder who doesn't subscribe to this newsletter, please send me their address so I can correctly address ballots.

John Sarna

COUNTY HIGHPOINTS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

NOVEMBER 25, 1991

Using my AAA map and various 10 x 20 USGS topos, I believe what follows is the list of the Nevada County highpoints. Many Great Basin peakbaggers will be surprised that peaks led in the past correspond with these peaks, unlike our California List, partially probably due to the urge to explore a wide variety of areas and, of course, to climb the highest peaks in an area. If any corrections can be made to this list, they are certainly welcome.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| CARSON CITY | Snow Valley Peak (9214') |
| CHURCHILL | Desatoya Peak (9973') |
| CLARK | Charleston Peak (11918') |
| DOUGLAS | East Peak, Monument Peak (9501') |
| ELKO | Ruby Dome (11387') |
| EMERALDA | Boundary Peak (13146') |
| EUREKA | Diamond Peak (10614') |
| HUMBOLDT | Granite Peak (9779') |
| LANDER | Bunker Hill (11474') |
| LINCOLN | SSE Ridge, Mt. Grafton (10600+') |
| LYON | East Sister (10402') or NE Ridge, Middle Sister (10400+') |
| MINERAL | Mt. Grant (11245') |
| NYE | Mt. Jefferson (11949') |
| PERSHING | Star Peak (9834') |
| STOREY | Pk. 7600+, 1 mi. S. of Orleans Hill |
| WASHOE | Mt. Rose (10776') |
| WHITE PINE | Wheeler Peak (13063') |

I have done 10 of these, and if anyone is interested in doing some, I need Desatoya and Pk. 7600+, which can be done on any two day weekend. I also need East Pk., Monument Pk. which can be done as a ski tour. I am sure, on most winter weekends or whenever. I will welcome a trip to do Ruby Dome and Diamond in the late spring or summer. Please contact me at (916) 444-6319.

The Sierra summer season was coming to an end and I was wandering what last climb I could try before the snows hit. Alan Cook answered that question by inviting me to join him and Anna Chaput for a climb up Raymond Pk.

Our trip up Hwy 88 to Blue Lakes road and the Hope Valley treated us to a brilliant fall color display. The clear sky and cool breeze made for ideal hiking conditions.

Soon after leaving our car we were on the Pacific crest trail approaching from the west. We then veered to a saddle south of the peak via an easy cross-country route. From the saddle we began the actual climb. The scree wasn't too bad and a couple chutes provided some short, fun, easy class 3 scrambles. There was one problem in that the rock was very crumbly. Occasionally a good size chunk would get knocked loose. Since there were only 3 of us it wasn't too much of a problem, but I don't think I would lead a big group up this route. There would be too many rocks bouncing off too many heads.

We reached the top without incident and found the register. The views of course were superlative, but the wind was cold! It really felt like winter was right around the corner. (In fact it did snow the next weekend).

On the way down we noticed several springs still bubbling out of the slopes this late in the year. Judging by that and all the evidence of dry ponds around the peak base, this area must be pretty wet and mushy in early summer. Perhaps fall is the best time for this area for what looks like a potential mosquito assault area.

We made it safely back to the car for a total round trip time of about 5 hours. An enjoyable end to the 1991 peak-bagging season for me. -----JOHN BESBEKOS

Bob Buckles

Summary of 22 Oct 91 Peak and Gorge Meeting

John Watters discussed ideas for winter and spring trips. Diana Green from Stockton expressed interest in assistant leading trips as experience for becoming a leader for trips starting from the Stockton area. We approved \$17 reimbursement to Pete Yamagata for register books which will be available at the next meeting. Policy on disbursements was discussed and general agreement was that all money requests should be presented to the Chair (John Watters.) He will bring them forth at the next members meeting for discussion and approval. After approval of the attending members, the Chair will contact the treasurer for payment.

Summary of 26 Nov 91 Peak and Gorge Meeting

Bob Buckles

Discussed schedule of future meetings. Though we have a good program planned thru June, we need ideas for topics and speakers for the remainder of the year. John Watters would like assistance in managing the Dan Dobbins Memorial Awards. After taking care of it for several years, he would like to have another qualified person take over the responsibility. Though no one offered to take it over entirely, several people said that they would be willing to assist on some part of the duties. Discussed equipment and other property of the section: first aid kits, ropes (to be available only as a safety precaution in case of accident), t-shirts, etc. Talked about coordinating some activities with the Winter Sports Section, no decisions reached. Suggestion was made that we have a section meeting in Davis to give people from that area a more convenient opportunity to attend a meeting. The issue of sex discrimination was brought up. Lynn Besbekos will check with other members of the section to determine if we should take any further action. Procedures for revision of the OGUL list were discussed. See John Sarna's item elsewhere in this issue for details of how to submit changes and voting to ratify changes. Meeting concluded with viewing some slides by members of trips this year including Mono Lake and Shasta.

PRIVATE CLIMB OF SOUTH BUTTE

November 1991

It was but one day after an unborn attempt to gain Hillock 3120+ on Little Blue Ridge, and thus lay claim to the high point of Yolo County. Recall that I once before made this same claim on Yolo after climbing Bereyssa Peak (3057') with Pinus Lambertiana, a mistake corrected by my brother Raoul Mocho in the very next *Boulder* (issue 44). He asserted that Hillock 3081' was the "true" high point, while well what goes around comes around. While Popeye was organizing another expedition to the true high point of Yolo, apparently missed the first time, I directed his attention to a yet higher 3120' contour in Yolo on the Willson Valley 7.5' USGS Map. I guess mistakes go with the territory. Even Josiah Whitney is more famous for being wrong than right, and look how he fared historically. John Muir got the better of him in their prolonged public argument about how Yosemite's deep gorges were formed, and yet, Mt. Muir is a lesser peak just off the trail on the way up to Mt. Whitney. Maybe Hillock 3120+ still stands today as the highest point in Yolo. Maybe it's never been summited by anyone, so well is it guarded by dense chaparral and obscurity before our band of roadless warriors was suppose to meet, Popeye discovered that BLM had recently locked a gate across the dirt road that we were going to drive on up to Little Blue Ridge. The extra 15 miles of walking, or 3 hours of driving to try the west side of the ridge, were but an annoyance to Raoul, but as far as I know, he couldn't get others interested in the longer tour.

That left the Sacramento contingent, Pinus Lambertiana, Minnie Mocho, and me, needing another hike to round out the weekend. So the day after the Yolo high point non-climb, we got our typical early start (1 pm) and drove up to the south slopes of Sutter Buttes, the closest one being South Butte, at 2131 feet, the high point of in the Sacramento Valley, the andesite remains of a much larger volcano, flanked by rhyolite and protruding out from the vast alluvium flatland on which we live. From the highway, Pass Road, a locked gate marked "No Trespassing" denied us access to a one-lane paved road winding up to some radio towers next to the peak. Not dissuaded, we drove around until we found a likely place to park, only a quarter mile east of the main gate and near a sign on another locked gate telling of a wildlife preserve to the south. The three of us then stepped over a break in the north fence and ran up into the buttes, trying to get out of sight before any cars passed below. Only one car passed while we were so exposed, but it didn't even slow down. After dropping out of sight behind a hillock, we found an old dirt road which conveniently branched left to avoid a barn. The road soon became a path which eventually joined the one-lane paved road we had seen from well below. For the record, no one was around to question our visit, and not one "No Trespassing" sign was passed enroute.

A series of progressively shorter and steeper switchbacks ended with the road at a concrete block, from which a metal ramp and cable assembly extended at a 45-degree angle about 100 feet up to the radio towers. Climbing the scree beneath the ramp, we eventually got onto a complex of decks interspersed with the radio towers, metal shacks, and a few rock spires. Past this complex was a rock outcrop from which we saw the Erug Sutter County High Point, down a steep bit of Class 2 scree and then 30 feet up again. Pinus was not inclined to cross this steep section due to a recent injury from a 10 foot fall, the kind in which buttock hits rock and rock wins. So, while she looked on ambivalently, Minnie and I took all of 5 minutes to reach the actual summit. It's rumored that Pinus later stuck a pin through South Butte on her wall map anyway.

Once atop South Butte, only a few minutes of daylight remained to take in the grand expanse of the Lower Sacramento Valley to the south, with the other buttes and some rock spires in fine display to the north. The rich colors of setting sun were a delight to the eyes, albeit enhanced by rice-straw-burning and the recent volcanic eruption in the Philippines. Minnie and I followed Pinus back the way we came, but rather than slip down more scree with her, we diverged onto a good trail leading down from the lowest deck of the complex, well west of the ramp and cable assembly. Regrouped at the concrete block, we all rested and had a bite to eat. The last hour was spent walking steeply down the paved road with stars twinkling above and the lights of the Sacramento Valley sparkling below. At last, the one-lane road wound through the brown grass that earlier provided the foreground for several good landscape photos, and the hike ended with a clamber over the gate at Pass Road. A stroll down the road and couple of hours later, we were back in Sacramento, celebrating 11 county high points for Pinus, 5 for Minnie, and 30 for me. Itcoo Mocho

Note: The Peak and Gorge Division and the Sierra Club do not advocate trespassing on private land without permission.

Labor Day Weekend 1991
Northern Yosemite National Park: Grizzly and Quartzite
(to be cont'd)

I let everyone sleep in an extra 40 minutes. It had been a long time since I car camped at Monitor Pass, however, its a good place to acclimatize plus Walker is not too far away from a K & M breakfast. Quite a bit of the morning after breakfast was spent moving -- thanks to Ed's 4WD car -- our packs to Leavitt Lakes (9600'). By ten o'clock the hike began and little did we know what waited for us. First one has to hike along the old road to the top of Leavitt Lake Pass (10,640'). Hiking up I could only wonder why I had never skied the large bowl I was hiking through; once on top the views to the north...Walker, Tower and beyond. After a short stop on top we quickly lost more than a 1000 feet as we dropped into the saddle that allows access westward into Kennedy Creek or eastward into Kennedy Canyon. After lunch at the saddle we continued our second upward hike along the old road and an hour later were on top of Big Sam (10,824') which offered us our first view of the granite domes and lakes of the Emigrant Wilderness. We had so far hiked six miles but as the crow flies we were a little more than two miles from Leavitt Lake. From Big Sam it was downhill to High Emigrant Lake and our basecamp (9600') along the creek flowing out of this lake into Emigrant Meadow and shallow Emigrant Meadow Lake.

Not too early the next morning we broke camp and either hiking cross country or following the old road we came to our first objective of the day a volcanic plug with the name Grizzly Peak (10,300). Afterward we hiked southward down from the peak and found the high trail to Bond Pass (9730') which we reached about noon just in time for lunch. We were not at the pass too long before most of the members of the party started experiencing sleeping sickness. An hour or so later a miraculous recovery occurred and we were able to proceed with our hike. Hiking west from the pass, sometimes hiking along an old road, we reached the summit of Quartzite Peak (10,400'). The peak lies along the boundary of Yosemite National Park and the Emigrant Wilderness. To the south we could see Dorothy Lake, Forsyth Peak, and Jack Main Canyon. Eastward, Bigelow (next year), and many of the lakes making up the wilderness. To the north our route into the wilderness was clearly visible especially with Big Sam dominating the horizon. Afterward it was downhill past the old WW2 Platinium mine and to Snow Lake (9000') where we regained our energy by enjoying the waters. At the lake the leader was criticize for not having an integrated swimming area. This experience has lead the leader to consider asking the chapter's outings guidelines committee for guidance as to what is current policy toward mixed company skinny-dipping. After refreshing ourselves we followed one of the numerous trails in the area to our basecamp. The next morning bright and early we hiked out of the wilderness and by noon had returned to our cars which were located 1/2 a mile from the Sonora Pass-Leavitt Lakes turnoff.

Al Gutowsky



July 4th Weekend 1991
Southern Yosemite National Park: Ishberg, Post and Long
(to be cont'd)

It was a warm mosquito infested morning as eight of us broke our car camp for the short drive to Clover Meadows Ranger Station where we were to pick up our permit for our four days of hiking in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. By ten o'clock we had left our trailhead at Granite Creek Campground behind. The trail gains approximately 1000 feet over the first two miles as it twists and turns its way up toward the saddle or notch in the ridge. Upon gaining the ridge the trail gains elevation slowly as it proceeds northward past Cora Lake and Detachment Meadows before it follows the East Fork of Granite Creek to Sadler Lake. We reached our basecamp (9,000') by four o'clock. The camp was located in a flat area on the east side of the creek approximately halfway between the trailfork to Joe Crane Lake and Sadler Lakes (twenty minutes away).

By eight o'clock the next morning the eight of us broke camp and followed the trail past Sadler (very popular) and Ishberg Lakes to Ishberg Pass (9800'). From there we followed the ridge of broken sedimentary rocks to the top of Ishberg Peak (10,996'). Hindsight suggests that the best way to climb this peak is to leave the trail before it reaches the pass and hike toward the saddle between the two high points that make up this peak. After lunch on top we returned to the pass and followed the trail or went cross country toward Post Peak Pass where we climbed the large granite blocks that make up Post Peak (11,009') and another high point (10,900') along the ridge. The views from the top were outstanding. To the north was the headwater of the Merced bounded on the west by the Clark Ridge which seemed like a ten minute walk away with Triple Divide Peak anchoring the south end of the range while the bold mass of Mt. Florence laid to the northeast. We returned to our basecamp by five o'clock by going cross country over the granite covered and grassy slopes that lie between Post Peak and McClure and Sadler Lakes.

The next day we again broke camp by eight and followed the trail past Sadler Lake. However, just before the trail breaks westward toward Ishberg Lakes we hiked cross country gaining elevation by crossing clean, flat granite slabs and grassy areas which took us above McGee Lake. A short time later we reached the base of Long Mountain. We started to climb directly toward a ridge that lead to the summit, however, before reaching the ridge we started to hike directly toward the summit. The hike upward was delightful with small granite rocks and blocks surrounded by decomposed granite grains which allowed for easy hiking. The view from the top (11,502') to the northeast Foerster, Ansel Adams and Electra Peaks [which I will schedule for 1992]; to the east and starkly in front of us were Banner, Ritter and the Minerats; to the west the Clark Range and southward, Ishberg and Post Peaks. Ah, to be a mountaineer. After an hour or so on top we returned leisurely back to our basecamp by going cross country to Sadler Lake via McGee Lake.

The next morning we broke camp early and were back to our cars by noon. After a mid-afternoon lunch in Madera we drove north to Sacramento which we reached by early evening. Al Gutowsky

Mt. Price: A Friendly Rebuttal or Difference of Opinion

I do not believe "the Lyons Creek approach to be the most reasonable." If I were asked what was the "best" route up Mt. Price I would say start at Wrights Lake by taking the Island/Twin Lakes trail. At the trail's junction with the Grouse Lake Trail I would take either the Grouse Lake Trail or the more preferred cross country route to Hemlock Lake. From Hemlock Lake one can pick up the trail to Smith Lake. I would stay on the north side of Smith Lake and cross country to the saddle in the ridge. There is a sidewalk wide ledge that gives easy access to the saddle.

Upon attaining the saddle I would contour upward along the ridge gradually gaining elevation until I came to a high saddle in the ridge which provides one with two routes to the summit. The first (Jackies') route is to follow the ridge directly and enjoy the class three exposure. The second route (class 1-2) is to drop down onto the west side of the ridge and quickly regain the west ridge. The summit is right there. However, the best is yet to come. The return trip requires one to walk down the ridge from the summit about a 100-150 feet (thanks Ann) until one comes to a gully that allows easy access to gentle west slopes of Mt. Price. Staying high to allow an easy crossing of a long water or ice filled gully one reaches the grass covered, flower abundant middle and lower west facing slopes of Mt. Price. There is nothing like the stark contrast between this route and our hot dry stone covered up hill route. Upon reaching Twin Lakes all one has to do is gain access to the Twin Lakes Trail and follow it all the way back to your car.

Another good day hike in this area is to start your hike at Wrights Lake and proceed to Island Lake via the Twin Lakes Trail. At the upper end of Island Lake one climbs -- staying to the right -- toward the saddle in the west facing ridge. Upon reaching the saddle you drop down to Clyde Lake and take the trail from the lake to Mosquito Pass. From the pass one drops down to Lake Aloha and follows the PCT to the second trail junction which allows access to Haypress Meadows and Echo Lakes. By the way, you will need a car shuttle for this trip but the hike is well worth it. Overall a moderately paced hike can cover these 12-15 miles in approximately seven hours including an hour or so having lunch and enjoying the Desolation Wilderness scenery.

Al Gutowsky

ROUND TOP (110,381')

SILVER PEAK (11,878')

OCTOBER 19-20, 1991
This outing was blessed with fine fall weather but tragically marked with the report of the deaths of the California Mountaineering Club newsletter editor along with his pregnant wife and in-law in an auto crash during the CMC climb of the Guardian Angels in Zion.

Our group, led by Dave Petzold, met at 8:30 a.m., and packed up to the Devil's Bathub where we made camp. Steve Thaw and Skip Perry climbed Graveyard Peak (11,494') via a 4th class route on the west side (no ropes) while Boris and I headed up an easier route (up to the south ridge and up). I turned back, worried about time, while Boris reached the summit at 3:45 p.m. Shouting ensued between Boris and Steve and returning from Silver as a day climb, but in the midst of a serious predicament. One climber had slipped on mossy slabs and slid some 50' and had twisted or broken an ankle, effectively de-mobilizing him. Skip carried him into camp, where he was given first-aid. His companions hiked out to get a helicopter, which flew in the next morning.

We started after 7:40 a.m. and climbed 2,000' gain over a ridge and down 400' to a small lake, and then up the class 2 slopes to the summit. We had a nice, sandy run down the peak, and returned to camp at a good hour, and were back to the cars by 4:30-5 p.m. Steve and I drove home, passing through Shaver Lake before dark, enjoying this late spell of fine weather.
Pete Yamagata

BULLRUN PEAK (9493') AND HENRY PEAK (9352')

OCTOBER 24, 1991

Jerry Adams, Martin Anderson, and I left Sacramento at 8:30 a.m. to drive to Pacific Valley trailhead on Hwy. 4 to hike these unlisted peaks. We took the Spicer Lake trail to a saddle and up scree and new snow to the top of Bullrun. The nice views were appreciated, with beautiful, hazy light along with a light dusting of snow. We also hiked Henry, and thus left a register on each peak. The good restaurants and fairly short drive (if you know the shortcut roads) left us to plan a return to the Bear Valley area for some winter touring (along Hwy. 4, Mt. Reba lookout, and assorted bumps).
Pete Yamagata

SIGNAL PEAK OR RED MTN. (7841')

OCTOBER 30, 1991

Hearing of the "heavy" snows the days previous, Rex Smith and I took warm clothes, ice axes, and gaiters for this normally mundane hike. After a stop for coffee and breakfast at Cisco Grove, we hiked the normal approach up the Fordyce Lake Road and then up the jeep trail. Being mostly on a south-facing slope, we had little difficulty with the residual snow that there was. We reached the top in under 2 hours, now a large, radio/microwave facility. Some PG&E employees were surveying about the summit, which they had driven up on a new, wide, access road. We descended rapidly, taking short slides on the patchy snows. We had an early dinner at Cisco, and got home early.
Pete Yamagata

SAILOR FLAT TRAIL: NORTH FORK AMERICAN CANYON HIKE NOVEMBER 9, 1991
Rex Smith, Anna Chaput, and I met in Auburn at 8:15 a.m. for this "monster hike" deep into the North Fork Wilderness, starting from the trailhead at 10 a.m. The road to the turnout was all paved now, and the hike was mostly well signed. I had backpacked out 20-25 lbs. of garbage on a 1972 Peak and Gorge service trip under the leadership of the original Peak and Gorge, Gene Markley, who was noted leading a group at our Auburn meeting place this day! We arrived at the river at 12:10 p.m., enjoyed lunch, and due to worries about our car, started up at 12:45 p.m., visiting the Trinidad Mine stamp mill enroute, and completed the hike by 3:25 p.m. It is better for a standard car to park closer to the pavement and not straddle the "speed bumps" on the descending dirt road to the USFS start. We finished the day with dessert and coffee or tea at the newly remodelled Foresthill Lodge (recommended!).
Pete Yamagata

NOVEMBER 16, 1991

Jerry Adams and I began skiing up the PCT by 10:05 a.m., but I had to run back to get my camera, left in the car. I alternately carried and used my new skis, there being low snow cover with many rocks. We arrived at the Lake Winnemucca outlet at about 12:40 p.m., and continued on foot, with ice axes or ski poles. The snow was firm and crusty, making good climbing. I used a pair of instep crampons for extra security and we arrived at the summit at 2:20 p.m. I placed a new book in the SPS canister, where a book placed in September was full. The low afternoon light made some dramatic views. We plunge-stepped down back to our skis, and returned to the car by 4:40 p.m.
Pete Yamagata

ITALIAN BAR TRAIL: N.F. AMERICAN RIVER NOVEMBER 24, 1991

After doing the Green Valley Trail from the south in the mid-week previous, Rex Smith and I returned to complete this fine hike into the Wild and Scenic River area. We had obtained a copy of USFS detailed descriptions of many trails in the Tahoe National Forest, and were in the process of doing many of them, including Loves Falls and the Devils Postpiles north of Hwy. 49.

There was some snow on the road near the parking area, but we made it just fine. Time to the river was 1:11. There was a makeshift shack at the bottom, with lots of gas cans and debris. Temps were cool, just right for the 2,600' gain hike out, done in a leisurely 2 hours. We had nice views of snowcapped peaks as well as nice fall colors in the oaks, dogwood, and maples, and then drove back to I-80 for a treat of nachos, pie, and coffee at the new Denny's before returning home.
Pete Yamagata

CASTLE PEAK (9103')

DECEMBER 1, 1991

Well, we couldn't wait till New Year's Day (or whenever, if ever!), so Adams and I disregarded the old warnings of getting hurt or killed, along with "the worst day of the year for I-80 traffic," and just went for it! Ascending along the standard Grubb Hut trail (packed powder with good coverage), we climbed a slight way above Castle Pass, left our skis, and kicked steps and did the icy class 3 to the top (the REAL top!) and placed a large book and can. Ascent time was just over 3 hours.

We descended back to our skis and encountered two other tourers going for the summit, and noted a number of persons enjoying the trail. Our time down was an easy 1:40. I figured Adams would just tuck down that jeep road, but I caught him at the freeway. Real nice conditions...too bad it's missed by so many!
Pete Yamagata

BEACROFT TRAIL: NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER DECEMBER 5, 1991

To have completed sauntering all of the official trails down to the North Fork American was a thought-of goal realized as I did the final section (for me) between the Beacroft and Mumford Bar Trails Junctions along the American River Trail (which traverses the river between Sailor Flat and Mumford Bar).

Rex and I had descended down to the river in 1:20 and had lunch. After exploring the trail to Mumford Bar (2 1/4 mi.), we came back up the 2,700' gain under 2 hours from the American River Trail junction. We had a great view of Big Valley Bluff across the canyon on the north side. Still lots of fall colors. Picking up some trail litter, we got back to the car by 4:15 p.m. We ended the day with dinner at Foresthill Lodge.

For the record, I liked the Sailor Flat trail the best, but I thought that the section of the river near the Euchre Bar Bridge was the most scenic. By the way, the USFS guide was inaccurate but it encouraged us to do these trails and to have a little adventure in finding the trails. All were well worthwhile and I shall be doing them again.

Pete Yamagata

THE BOULDER: *Published bimonthly by the Peak and Gorge Outings Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club.*

EDITORS: *John Besbekos, Bob Buckles, and Pete Yamagata.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS: *Dues are \$5.00 per year (6 issues). Address labels will note what issue will be your last unless you renew. Send checks (payable to "Peak and Gorge") to this Section's Treasurer: Gary Walker, P. O. Box 141, Weimar, CA 95736, who can be called at 637-4240.*

SUBMITTALS: *We encourage you to submit copy for publication. Articles, letters, fiction, poetry, and artwork that would be of interest to the Peak and Gorge Section are welcome. Copy should be typed single-spaced on 8.5 x 11" paper with half- to one-inch margins, and sent to: Boulder Editorial Committee; C/O John Besbekos; 4428 Old Dairy Drive, Sacramento, CA 95842; phone 729-2725. Submittals will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

DEADLINE: *About a week before social meetings on even-numbered months. The next deadline is: February 18, 1992*

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