

THE



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# BOULDER

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## motherlode chapter-sierra club

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Issue No. 49, July & August. 1992

### Chairmans Column

Thanks to Fred Fischietto we had another successful gorge scrambling clinic this year and thanks also to John schwind for showing his gorge scrambling movie. We are still interested in receiving trip write ups from gorge scramblers se lets get those contribution in. We had a smaller turnout at the Dan Dobbins ceremony this year but nevertheless we handed out awards to two very deserving young people. Thanks to Gene for continuing to make his home available for this event. Thanks also to Ted Cobb for keeping up with our complicated requests and in general doing a good job of handling the Dan Dobbins accout.

Tee-shirt sales appear to be picking up a bit, we sold several at the last meeting and look forward to selling even more at the July picnic---keep it up Bob. We have received very few applications for NAS & Ogul emblems lately and I suspect there are a number of people out there who now qualify. Send in your peak list if you think you're ready or contact me with questions. The Boulder continues to gain new subscribers and we are always look for more trip write ups from as diverse group of people as possible. Remember more people are reading your articles than ever before. We still have an opening on the Boulder staff, if you are interested call me or John Besbekos.

There are many outstanding climbs on the summer schedule this year and I enourage new people to participate these. We will also be offering some trips from the Desert Survivors again and I am curious to know what these trips are like, if you go on one please tell me about it. If anyone is interested in doing a program at one of the social meetings let me know at the July picnic as we will be planning the fall schedule about then. In May we had a very nice joint slide show by Tim Island and John Sarna so if you have some slide collections and want to share you can contact me.

See you on the trail,  
John Watters, Chairman

## SUMMER CALENDAR

- Jul 3-6, MT BANNER and MT RITTER, private trip, class 3 and ice-axe. Contact John Watters 488-8467.
- Jul 2-5, Forester and Ansel Adams, Class 2, leave Wenesday night. limited to 8. Contact al Gutowski 457-3338.
- Jul 11, Lookout Peak, Class 2. Meet at Hazel Ave Park and Ride 7:30 AM. Leader Alan Cooke 34409570
- Jul 12, Ralston Pk., Class 1. Contact Pat Purcell 428-0838, 6 PM - 9 PM.
- Jul 18-26, East Central Kings Canyon Climbs, send SASE, \$3, experience to Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside DR., Moraga, CA 94556.
- Jul 18, Twin Peaks, Class 1. Meet 11th and O, 7:30 AM  
Leader Pat Purcell 428-0838, 6PM - 9 PM.
- Jul 18, Mt. Price and Agassiz, Class 2. Meet at Hazel Ave Park and Ride 7:30 AM. Leader John Besbekos 729-2725.
- Jul 19, Round Top Pk., Beginner peak climb. Meet Hazel AVE Park and Ride 8:00 AM. Leader Bob Buckles 624-3620.
- Jul 24-26, Mt. Abbot, Class 3. Limited to 8. Contact John Watters 488-8467.
- Jul 24-26, Kawich Range-Nevada Backpack, DESERT SURVIVORS, Contact Steve Tabor (510) 357-6585.
- JULY 28, TUES. ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC/POTLUCK, PEAK AND GORGE SOCIAL. 6:30 PM Swantson Park. From Hwy 50, take Howe Ave past Fair Oaks, on the right after Bell and before Fulton.
- Jul 31-Aug 2, MT. Conness Yosemite Backpack, Class 2. Contact John Besbekos 729-2725. Limited to 8.
- Aug 1, MT Tallac, contact Bill Campau 644-5339.
- Aug 6-7, Koip Crest Yosemite, Class 3. Contact Bob Buckles 624-3620.
- Aug 8-9, M.F. Feather River, Gorge Scramble V. Meet 6:00 AM Roseville Square. Leader John Schwind 678-2942 (Dixon).
- Aug 9, Reynolds Pk, Class 3, Meet Hazel Park and Ride 7:30 AM. Leader Alan Cooke 344-0957.
- Aug 21-25, Mt. Brewer, Exploratory trip, limited to 8. Contact John Sarna 429-8024.
- Aug 21-25, Gates of the Antipodes, Gorge Scramble III. Meet 7:00 PM Friday night at Roseville Sq. Fred Fischietto 773-0870.
- Aug 22, REI Service Project, Robb's Hut/Lookout, Contact Kitty Perry at REI 965-4343.

Sep 3-8, Adams Minaret and Volcanic Ridge, Class 3. Contact Don Cantwell (209) 523-6562 or Connie Harris (209) 529-6480.

Sep 5-7, Tehipite Dome and Spanish Mountain, Kings Canyon, Send SASE, experience, carpool info to Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga, CA 94556.

Sep 5-7, Amethyst Mountain Backpack, DESERT SURVIVORS. Contact Steve Tabor (510) 357-6585.

Sep 7-9, King Lear Pk./Jackson Mtns-Nevada Backpack. DESERT SURVIVORS, Limited to 8. Contact Bob Ellis (510) 482-0466.

Sept 12, Giant Gap, Gorge Scramble IV. Meet 7:30 AM in Roseville Square. Leader Fred Fichietto 773-0870.

Sept 13, Echo Pk., Class 1. Meet CSUS Arboretum 7:30 AM. Leader John Besbekos.

Sep 19, Maggies Pks. and Peak 9190, Desolation Wilderness. Meet CSUS ARBORETUM 7:30 AM. Leader AL Gutowski 457-3338.

Sep 19, M.F. Feather River, Gorge Scramble III. Meet 6:00 AM Roseville Square. Leader John Schwind 678-2942 (Dixon).

#### ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?

I'm sure that many of us have noted the appeals to "celebrate the 500th anniversary of mountain climbing" seen in the local chapter newsletter and elsewhere, spurred on by a mysterious organization in Davis, CA, called "Mountain Climb!" No names or phone numbers, only a P.O. Box identify anyone associated with this.

Barring that, I wish to clarify the presumptive arrogance that declares mountain climbing began with "Dompjulian de Beaupre at the summit of Mont Aiguille on June 26, 1492!" Literature available to me states that an ascent of Mont Ventoux (6,263') took place by the poet Petrarch on April 26, 1336 (Aiguille is 6,880'). Earlier still, Mount Etna in Italy was ascended by the philosopher Empedocles in the 400's B.C. Also, an ascent of Etna ordered by the Emperor Hadrian in the 100's A.D. and an ascent of a Balkan peak by Phillip of Macedonia in 350 B.C. were both undertaken "to gratify royal whims," as was the ascent of Aiguille (Charles VIII of France).

Certainly here in the West, the native Americans ranged far and wide in quest of food, and I have seen village sites, arrowheads, and other indications at remarkably high elevations.

Well, "fun and games," many will say, but who gets what out of this, besides the printers of the "booklet and photos?" It will be interesting to see what comes out of this, so I hope some type of report/investigation can be made on this!

## OGUL LIST REVISION STILL IN PROGRESS

Since I still haven't had time to contact those who previously gave me suggestions for revising the OGUL peak list (hey, post-divorce property settlement is looooots of fun) and the summer climbing season is here, I hope we can postpone submitting and voting on proposed revisions for a few months. See *Boulder* issues 46 & 47 for a description of this project.

John Sarna

### Announcement

Bill Hauser has climbed all County hi-points in Nevada.

### Sutter Buttes (S. Butte) Sutter County hi-point

Parking  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile East of the no. Tres. gate and climbing up the valley around the road is very exposed to vehicles and it's easy to be spotted plus it's impossible to hide. I suggest parking 1.2 miles West of the main gate and climbing the mountain by the West/Southwesterly Route totally. This Western Route will avoid the road, the conveyor belts, and comm. houses. It is steep grass but 100% safer than the road/valley approach.

Raoul Mocho

Reprinted from the *Sierra Echo* Vol. 36 #3

### "A Return to the Peaks"

by David Brower

[ The following passage is extracted from the above-titled article in the May/June *SIERRA* : ]

"I wish that every person who seeks to lead the environmental cause could experience the peak moments of a climb. Unfortunately, mountaineers no longer venture forth under the Sierra Club banner, and that causes me to reflect sadly on one of my most timid days, when as a Club director in 1988 I voted with my colleagues to sacrifice Club-sponsored mountain training and technical climbing in order to spare the organization an extra \$500,000 per year in payments for liability insurance. We thought we had no choice. Our insurers - who apparently knew little about mountaineering, but who did view the Club as ripe for accident claims - announced an abrupt and precipitous increase in the premium for "risky" outings involving the use of ropes or ice axes. So we axed our climbing sections.

"Sure, only about 4,000 of our then half-million members were participating in outings where technical-climbing knowledge was required, and there were many other wonderful ways to spend the premium money. But I was gloriously wrong in my decision to cut our climbers loose, and so was the Board. We should have put the half-million dollars in the Club's budget, sought financial and battle support from our allies, then fought like hell to straighten out the insurance business. With such a concerted effort - which I now urge - the Club would have assured continuity in the building of bold environmental leaders, so many of whom have come down from the mountains to save them. The world now needs these leaders as it has never needed them before."

Contributed by Bill Oliver

Reprinted from  
the *SPS Echo* Vol.36 #3

### The Compleat SPSer

by Bill Oliver

### The Handheld GPS Receiver

Tired of being lost? Need new direction in your life? Have trouble finding the North Star? Can't figure out magnetic declination? How about something that's immune to whiteouts, blackouts, and brownouts. The Global Positioning System [GPS] is a constellation of (soon to be) 21 Dept. of Defense [DOD] satellites which orbit the earth twice a day. With a GPS receiver, users can determine position information from anywhere in the world in 3-D (latitude, longitude and altitude). The nominal accuracy of positioning is +/- 15 meters in commercial models. [The military versions are much more accurate, but DOD controls and purposely degrades the particular signal received by commercial versions.]

The cheapest model offered by Challenge Electronics, Inc. [Warren, New Jersey] is their Sony Pyxis GPS model - \$995.00 (no sales tax to Calif.; S&H \$18.50 by UPS or \$28.50 overnight). Weight with 4 AA batteries is 1lb 5 oz. For more info/brochures call them at 1-800-LAT-LONG. [Topos not included.]

In retrospect, this hike could serve as a nice scenic Grade-2B day-hike in the *winter* season. If hikers are not allowed near the property, a trail which remains within BLM land, either on the west slope of Davis Creek or along the creek itself, could be cut through the chaparral. But why is it that the public must go to such lengths to avoid private property, while the landowners freely graze their stock on public (BLM) land, grazing often being recognized as the most environmentally destructive activity in the West. Perhaps the time has come to check the ever-encroaching agricultural revolution and have the government allow everyone free access to all undeveloped lands, *except* where it would degrade its natural character.

John Sarna

#### PEAK BAGGING ALONG VOGELSANG PASS 30 MAY 1992

On Friday, May 29, my friend Dan and I decided to beat the crowds with an early season Yosemite backpack. We arrived at the park entrance at 10:30 AM and asked the rangers about the snow conditions in the high country. We were told that the Vogelsang pass area had only patchy snow. So we headed up the Tioga Pass road to our Tuolumne Meadows trailhead.

We hiked in to Fletcher Lake beneath looming Fletcher Pk. adjacent to where the Curry Co. sets up their Vogelsang High Sierra tent cabins in July. There was very little snow, but the ground was real soggy. Fortunately it was still too cool and early for mosquitoes. We set up camp and had just finished supper when a rain and hail storm forced us into our tents and an early bedtime.

The next morning was clear and we set out for Vogelsang Pass. After struggling through several soft snow fields we reached the pass. I wanted to do Vogelsang Peak, but the only non-exposed route I could see was a chute filled with snow. We then looked to the ridge on our left at an unnamed peak on the opposite border of Vogelsang Lake.

This peak appeared to be as tall as Vogelsang and was along the same route that could take us to Fletcher Pk. After some class 2 boulder hopping, we bagged the mystery peak. We paused long enough for a quick lunch and to scope out a route along a narrow ridge that would avoid ice-fields and get us on the slopes of Fletcher Pk.

About 30 minutes later we were trying to decide which rock tower was the official top of Fletcher. We climbed the we decided was highest while keeping an eye on the gathering storm clouds. We enjoyed a brief but dramatic view down on Fletcher lake and our campsite before making a hasty retreat as occasional hail and raindrops began to fall. We arrived at our tents minutes before we were pelted with a 2 hour rain and hailstorm.

The storm broke at 7:30 PM finally allowing us to retrieve soaked food bags. Sunday morning we dried out our gear and hiked out.

----- JOHN BESBEKOS

## YOLO COUNTY HIGH POINT

AT LONG LAST FOUND AND NAMED

It was May 2, 1992. On the isolated dirt Rayhouse Road running south then west from Cache Creek Regional Park, I and six other hikers grimly pored over maps, trying to identify the best route to what was hoped to be the highest point in Yolo County. Right then, it looked to be a brown ellipse designating a ridge (3120+ feet in elevation) on the Wilson Valley 7.5-minute USGS map.

Readers of this newsletter may recall that the two Mocho brothers, on separate occasions, both erroneously claimed an ascent of two separate Yolo County High Points. In *Boulder* Issue 43, Itoo Mocho first reported an ascent of Berryessa Peak (3038') with *Pinus Lambertiana* as a conquest of this elusive high point. His claim was refuted by Raoul Mocho in *Boulder* Issue 44, who reported that, with fellow hikers Popeye Iacocca and Alegria Alta, a higher point, at 3103' in the northwest corner of Yolo, was found and climbed on their third attempt, the main obstruction being stifling summer heat. Well, we've all found our share of false summits, but how many can claim to have stood on a false-summit, as not only was the wrong peak climbed, i.e. Lang Peak to the southeast, but their objective, point 3103', was later revealed to be the second highest point in Yolo, our current destination, Ridge 3120+ in Yolo, being a few feet higher.

Notwithstanding all this confusion, we decided to return to the false-false summit of Lang Peak to recover the register proclaiming it to be the high point. A long dusty drive this was, but once found, easily climbed, a couple from Eureka taking their two kids to the top. The view from the top was pleasant, but unfortunately, no boom to navigation, as all the chaparral-covered slopes looked the same.

On we drove on Rayhouse Road, past a reservoir capturing the flow from upper Davis Creek, and on up to a sign marking the county line only a few miles south of our objective. The now-important choice was which 4x4 road to take, as the surrounding chaparral was virtually impassable to hikers. Our choice led a couple miles north before turning east away from the peak and down toward Davis Creek. Some kind of structure was evident only a few hundred feet further on, but no one was willing to bushwack through the chaparral to reach it. So, we all backtracked, hoping to find a road or path going further north. No such path was gained, but we did find a short bushwack over to a sheep-grazed grassy swale, which did lead over to the structure. On close inspection, it turned out to be a kind of homestead with sheep, chickens, geese, and ducklings running all about. We quickly walked past it to find and follow an access road going generally in the right direction (north), and further along, found a sign indicating there was "No Trespassing" back in the direction of the homestead. Other signs along this access road indicated the adjoining land was to be subdivided and ranched out.

The remaining couple miles were easy. A side road left the access road and took us up to Butte Rock, which established our position. To ensure no further false summits were climbed, I took a compass bearing (it was almost due east from there to Ridge 3120+), and we all followed a convenient firebreak going in that direction. Soon after the excitement caused by the appearance of baby rattler crossing the firebreak died down, the path went left and I decided to continue on my compass bearing straight up to the top of Ridge 3120+, though it was a steep bushwack interspersed in the chaparral. All but two others continued on the firebreak, where I assumed they'd eventually get bogged down in the much thicker chaparral on the north slopes. About 15 minutes later, I reached the top of Ridge 3120+, scratched well about the arms, only a few feet from the high point. But as luck would have it, most of the others were already there, having found a connecting firebreak which ran right up the ridge.

Reinforced by the sight of no higher ground on the Yolo side of our locale, we all agreed we stood on the highest peak, point, ridge, or whatever. A vote officially named it "Little Blue Peak," my alternative nomination, "Little Blue Boy," not getting a vote, even mine. I had to scour the area for sufficient rocks to build a prominent rock cairn, having several close encounters with ants in the process; and then we all signed in a new Peak and Gorge Section Register Book with much ado. Finally, an old wooden bench was pulled up from somewhere below the ridge, and one of the two who took my route through the skin-scratching chaparral was laid on it for a mock-heroic medical operation, but he remained as ornery as ever, maybe worse.

After an hour or two of this obscure ritual merriment, we began our trek back. An easy Class 2/3 scramble to the top of Butte Rock (3065') drew all six of us not in a state of post-operative recovery. Once back at the homestead, the rest of us got a well-deserve rest, having to wait while a worker unloaded some fencing and drove off. Though we remained next to the chaparral on the far east side of the fence, which we assumed marked the property boundary, it seemed prudent to avoid any possible argument as to why we were there, and since the access road led in the wrong direction, that we needed to go back the way we came.

MAY 2-4, 1992

BIRCH MOUNTAIN (13,602')  
Twelve climbers met on McMurry Meadows Road near Big Pine for this CMC "Pick-a-Peak" outing. Unfortunately, due to the situation in L.A., the leader could not attend the first day of climbing. Even more unfortunately, organizing the locating of the proper trailhead and the 4WD carpools resulted in a delay in getting started.

We packed up the 3700' gain to base camp on good trail. Some climbers left camp at 3 p.m. to attempt the Thumb, but turned back 900' short of the top due to lack of time.

On Sunday, the group left by 7 a.m. to proceed to the saddle between Birch and the main Sierra Crest to attempt Mt. Bolton-Brown, cramponing up a 50' chute that, in my imaginings, I would ski for a great run back to camp. But gladly, back at the cars, we had all made the decision, due to the paucity of snow this year, to leave skis and snowshoes behind. I left the group to head directly up a chute to climb Birch. Skip Perry, impacted by the leader's failure to meet the group, had no axe or crampons, but followed me up on adjacent talus ribs. I had to chop steps and give Skip an ice axe belay to assist him in crossing an icy gully. We summited at about 12:30 p.m. and I waited for the group which, except for three, we could see had turned around from Bolton-Brown. After plenty of summit photos with the Palisades in the background, we sit-glissaded 1700' down a steep couloir directly from the summit area.

The next day, four of us packed out while the remainder, joined now by the leader, did the Thumb. We were all back at the cars by 4 p.m., and, after enjoying a dessert visit with Bishop friends, drove safely home. PY

MAY 9-17, 1992

SOUTHERN SIERRA ROUNDABOUT  
Teaming up and riding with Fred Johnson (Berkeley), we climbed mostly HPS peaks in the Lake Isabella region. We started our sojourn with Spanish Needle (7841'), a SPS peak with a nice cl. 3 summit. This was led by Dave Petzold, current SPS Chair. After our party hearty, Fred, Steve Thaw, and I drove past Kennedy Meadows for an attempt on Crag Pk. (9440+'), where I had to turn back due to lack of time. Fred had soloed Smith Mtn. (9515'), and we drove to Walker Pass to meet a Bay Chapter group that had just done Owens Pk. (8453'). Monday, Steve and his group did Pilot Knob (6200+), while Fred soloed Scodie Mtn. (7294'), and I did Morris Pk. (7215') via the PCT.

Tuesday, Fred and I did Aquila Pk. (5174'), or Five Fingers, and drove to Lone Pine stopping at Fossil Falls enroute, a climbing area used by the Angeles Chapter rock climbing training before the great insurance bust. We stayed in Lone Pine, and Wednesday, we climbed Trail Pk. (11,623'), a snow hike with good views of Langley. We drove back to Walker Pass, where Thursday we climbed Pinyon Pk. (6805'), and then enjoyed the Kern Co. Library in Lake Isabella. Friday, we backtracked to climb Skinner Pk. (7120') via the PCT, and practically drove up Sorrell (7704') and Pute Lookout (8326'). Fred continued on Bald Eagle (6181'), which I had already done.

We met a HPS group Saturday, led by Patty Kline and Frank Goodykoontz, and climbed in a group of 24 to do Heald Pk. (6901'), named after the founder of the HPS. Most also did Nicolls Pk. (6070') while those of us with the peak already made an early return to the cars. After a short pot-luck, garbage bag salad dinner, we finished on Sunday with our climb of Lightner Pk. (6430') which has a cl. 4-5 summit block which was climbed by that master, Greg Roach. My total stats were about 56 miles and 19,000' gain for the nine days. Anyone for some more HPS'ing this fall? PY

Note: We were watching Tom Brokaw when the announcement came: 30 climbers from five nations had topped Everest Tuesday. Part of the group that were making these ascents were two well-known SPS'ers, Doug Mantle and Randy Danta. Doug has planned to do the Seven Summits, moving onto Vinson (Antarctica) next, and will finish on Kosciusko (Australia), with a party (all welcome) if you can make it!

PROMETHEUS PEAK (8058'), ARC DOME 2X (11,773') MAY 23-24, 1992

Rick Kraft picked me up Saturday morning, and we drove out to Austin, NV, where I hiked Prometheus Peak, or Lander Hill by the benchmark, from about the second switchback on U.S. 50 above Austin. From there it was about 800' gain (35 minutes), and no register was found. This would have been much easier from Austin Summit.

After staying at Bob Scott campground, we had an early breakfast at the International Hotel, and then drove via the Reese River Road to Col-umbine Camp, where a number of people were camped (no one in '85). Another party of 6 was also hiking Arc Dome, and we followed a much improved trail over the pass and along the ridge to the top (4 hr., 42 min.). The NAS pipe was still there, with a jar cap covering one end, with two books going back to 1988-89.

One of the other party was writing a book on "Wildflowers of the Great Basin," and another was doing the Nevada State Counties highpoints as well as the California 14'ers. I left a book and nesting cans, and we then descended in 3 hrs., 40 min. Having done with the climbing, we drove home via Ione to U.S. 50, and had a nice dinner in Fallon before getting home at 2 a.m. Monday. PY

ECHO PEAK (8895'), ANTELOPE PEAK (10,241') MAY 29-30, 1992

FISH VALLEY PEAK (10,571')  
Leaving Sac at 12:20 p.m., Friday, Rex Smith and I breezed Echo Peak in Desolation Wilderness in 4 1/2 hrs. r.t., mostly spent walking along Echo Lakes, including 20-30 min. spent on top. The peak has great views, and I left a register, but OGUL peak? That would be HPS-izing the list!

We began at 7:30 a.m. the next day from Rodriguez Flat to bag these remote NAS-listed peaks. We took the Corral Valley trail and cut off to ascend directly up a wooded slope to gain the top of Antelope. Feeling well enough, we undertook our 2 hour traverse to Fish Valley Peak, dropping some 200' below the ridge to avoid undue brush and rock scrambling. Summiting at about 12:50 p.m., we then dropped down to the head of Upper Fish Valley, caught the trail, and, stopping to see Liwellyn Falls en-route, returned via the Silver King Trail, also passing the "Monument" enroute. Our return time was about 6:45 p.m.

We had signed in the plastic registers that Boris Nahlovsky had placed some years ago, all in good shape. Stats for Saturday were about 4,900' gain and 15-16 miles r.t. PY

FREL PEAK 6X (10, 881'), JOBS SISTER 5X (10,823') JUNE 6, 1992

Advised that the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) had been completed in the Frel Peak area, Anna Chaput and I took U.S. 50 to Pioneer Trail, then drove 0.9 mile up to turn right on Oneidas Street, then 4.1 miles up the main, paved road to the USFS gate. We then hiked up the Armstrong Pass Trail to its junction with the TRT. This trail contours and climbs along the west side of the Frel massif, and crosses a col at 9680'. We took a new trail (already) climbs to the summit of Frel. I placed nesting cans about the baggie-wrapped register book placed on 9-1-91 (about 1/3 full) by Rose Strickland and Dennis Ghiglieri. Our time to here was 3 hrs., 37 min. We traversed over to Jobs Sister in the face of menacing, dark clouds and thunder to the south and west. I placed a new can and book with my register left in '91.

We descended to the small meadow just north of the Frel-Jobs Sister saddle, and then climbed back to the TRT col, then shortcutted down from the TRT to the Armstrong Pass Trail down a brushy slope and an aspen grove. We were back in about 3 hours after leaving Jobs Sister. A young man at the trailhead, related to the owner, told us that despite the "Private Property" sign, hiking through was "O.K." Anna was jittery about the drive home, so we didn't stop for eats. Stats were about 3800' gain over 10-12 miles r.t. Also, we were lucky in that the weather largely missed us, as there was snow/hail on the ground as well as substantial rains observed on the way home. Not a good day to be climbing peaks elsewhere! PY

RAYMOND PEAK (10,014') 3X

JUNE 13, 1992

Rex Smith and I got a late start from the Blue Lakes Road-PCT junction and walked two hours to a saddle with two posts from where we headed up a jeep track to the base of the west side of Raymond. We opted to head straight up through volcanic formations and steep scree, where Rex loosed a 200 pounder by "just barely touching it." We did some 3rd in crossing over to the easy NE side, and found the register on the northernmost summit.

Dropping down to Raymond Lake, a beautiful backpack destination in use by several parties, we took the trail back to join the PCT, using two hours in returning to our cut-off saddle, then enjoyed brief snow flurries with sun and clouds before arriving back to the car at 7:30 p.m.

In doubt over the weather, we had dinner in Minden, and then decided to camp near Markleeville in preparation for more climbs along Hwy. 4. It began snowing again during our breakfast, with solidly dark, overcast skies with white-out on the summits, so an abort was decided. A mid-Sunday return was then enjoyed.

We saw several campers parked on spur roads at various points along our saunter, so apparently this jaunt could be cut by 6-8 miles r.t. with a good vehicle and some road navigation. Our stats were about 12 miles r.t. over 2,700' gain. PY

RUBICON PEAK (9183'), DEVILS PEAK (7704') JUNE 20-21, 1992

Doing these peaks with Bill Hauser, I was reminded of the "Peak Guides" of the DPS and HPS, Angeles Chapter, and thought that maybe a set of guides for the OGUJ list peaks would be useful to most people not going on outings. With that in mind, here are some instructions for these two easy peaks:

1. Drive 1.2 miles from the north boundary sign for D.L. Bliss State Park on Hwy. 89 (west shore, Lake Tahoe) to Rubicon Properties subdivision, and turn left (west) on Scenic Drive. A complicated maze of roads (r on Scenic, l on first unnamed drive, r on Woodland, r on Manzanita, r on Lakeview, r on Crest, l on Forest View, l on High View) leads to Highland Drive to turn right and park at the gate. Take the main dirt road which turns into a trail. This follows the ridge to the SE of Lonely Gulch and becomes a ducked route up the north side of the peak. Take the right side of the pinnacled that comprises the summit. One may take the first gully to the short, cl. 3 knife edge that leads south to the top, or go further around the right to easier climbing around the "back." Our time, with long breaks, was about 2 1/2 hrs. 4 mi. r.t., 2200' gain.

2. Drive to Old Hwy. 40 and turn right on Soda Springs Rd. then right on Pahatsi Rd. which passes Royal Gorge Lodge, then turns into a good dirt road which continues for some miles to Royal Gorge warming hut (Devils Overlook?) where most will park. A few feet further, one comes to a fork. Take the right fork which goes around the north side of Cascade Lakes (one may walk across the dam). Follow the main, sometimes rocky road about a mile to a junction with a better road that comes from I-80 and go south (left). This forks shortly, and take the left fork (the right is signed "Private Property"). This ascends toward the north side of the peak. We took a left fork which drops around the east side of the peak. One may take a track directly up the north side which turns into a cl. 3 scramble which leads to a false summit. To climb the peak directly from here, one must climb a cliff band (cl. 4-5) or contour around the west. From the jeep track on the east, one travels cross-country to the south shoulder then up connectable talus to the base of the cliffs where a short use trail leads to a lower angle gully which is climbed (easy 3) to the summit ridge where a use trail leads along the knife-edge to the northernmost summit where the register is located. We sought to return on a use trail on the high east slopes below the cliffs, but this has been wiped out by avalanches and erosion. 5 mi. r.t., maybe 1500' gain. PY

WHEGISTA WAMBLINS

Seen on Morris Peak, Southern Sierra (no date):

"Well I'm sitting on this peak trying to think of something short and sweet to write I hate those people who ramble on and on and on about this thing or that thing or the other and you have to keep reading and reading wondering if there ever going to say anything before they take up the whole page they just keep going in one long winded sentence just spewing out verbal detritus like the vacuous slimy malodorous batch of parrot droppings that they are! Don't you hate that too? Oh I know, this is a nice peak."  
"Dave Clegg"

Seen on Tinkers Knob:

"October 22, 1988"

"We have been camping approximately one thousand feet below the peak for three days now. We came because we had heard rumors of the area being fairly devoid of people, in fact, that animals had frightened most of them away. In the 20th century? In the age of highways, toxic chemicals, nuclear weapons, high powered rifles? In an area where grizzly bears, mountain lions, sasquatches, and other creatures that might have been threatening to us have disappeared? We were skeptical about this mythical place, yet felt compelled to visit.

On the second day, some deer hunters set up camp not far from us. From the sound of it, there were two of them, and they got fairly wasted that night.

The next morning we arose early from our bedrolls and began to walk around the forest. We knew this was the best time to view the wild beasts if there were any to be seen. We walked for two hours. The sun began to rise. And we had seen nothing.

Suddenly, a great crashing sound in the bushes turned us in our tracks. Heavily seeped in what George Bush calls the "L-word" tradition, we both expected it was our boisterous neighbors trying to flush the prized hooved mammal from the alders.

When we could focus our gaze through the dusk, we realized that it was indeed our friends. However, misfortune seemed to have befallen them. Each hunter was proudly displayed skewered on the antlers of a ten point buck. The deer paused and looked at us as if to allay our skepticism and declare that the myth was true. Then he dropped his trophies and bounded down a gully and disappeared.

We packed our stuff and climbed out of the valley. Indeed, as all writers in this book concur, it is a beautiful place. But it belongs not to us and we will never return."  
"RAF & LAF"

Submitted by Pete Yamagata



## List of California's County High Points

Here is a "new and improved" list of the 56 highest points (two are redundant) in each county in California. These points are usually, but not always, named peaks on USGS maps. Unnamed high points are typically bumps on a ridge going up into higher ground in the next county. The prior list published in Boulder Issue 42 contained several errors, and corrections were generously provided by Dinesh Desai (Mountain View), Bill Hauser (San Jose), and Gary Suttle (San Diego) at our first October 1991 County High-Pointers' peak climb. I believe the list is now as accurate as possible without surveying to correct USGS maps. A major problem in climbing the high points on this list is that those marked with an "\*" are on private land. Gary, who is writing a book on climbing these high points for Wilderness Press, diligently contacted the land-owners, but most denied his request to hike over their property to reach the high point, even though given a signed liability-waiver and a copy of Section 846 of the California Civil Code, which limits the liability of property owners who allow strangers on their land solely for recreation. A much more interesting problem is deciding what to call the unnamed "peaks." Named by vote last May 1992 on the last county-high-pointers' climb, was Little Blue Peak, a 3120+ foot ridge in Yolo County. Dinesh also proposes: Discovery Peak (Alameda), Frog Leap Peak (Butte), Parsons' Pew (Mariposa), Mt. St. Helena East (Napa), Alaskan Peak (San Joaquin), Mount Lulu (Sierra), and Sugar Pine Peak (Yuba). I suggest Helen's Double (Napa), Green Teats (San Joaquin), Carpenter's Overlook (Sacramento), Lola's Point (Sierra), and Logging Road Peak (Yuba). Any other suggestions?

John Sarna (429-8024)

COUNTY	HIGH POINT (Elevation in feet) [those on private land marked by an *]	USGS TOPO MAP (7-1/2 or 15 minute)	MTN. RANGE (with location in DeLormes Atlas - North/South book, page number, then section on page)
Alameda	1 mile north of Mt. Lewis (3,841)*	Mt. Day (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N116A1)
or more likely	1.4 mi east of VABM Rose (3,840+)*	Mandenhall Springs (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N106D1)
Alpine	Sonora Peak (11,462)	Sonora Pass (15)	Sierra Nevada (N100B3)
Amador	Thunder Peak (9,402)	Silver Lake (15)	Sierra Nevada (N89C7)
Butte	near Frog 2 VABM 7088 (7,120+)	Peacock Point SW (7.5)	Cascades (N58D3)
Calaveras	One of three bumps (8,160+ & 8,170) 2.2 miles west-north-west of Bear Valley, see UTM 4263 North and 755 East	Tamarack (7.5)	Sierra Nevada (N99A7)
Colusa	Snow Mtn. East (7,056)	Crockett Peak (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N75A6)
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo (3,849)	Clayton (7.5)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N105A6)
Del Norte	Bear Mtn. (6,411)	Devil's Punchbowl (7.5)	Siskiyou Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N23B6)
El Dorado	Freel Peak (10,881)	Freel Peak (15)	Carson Range, Sierra Nevada (N90B1)
Fresno	North Palisade (14,242)	Mt. Goddard (15)	Sierra Nevada (N123D5)
Glenn	Black Butte (7,448)	Plaskett Meadows (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N65C6)
Humboldt	Salmon Mtn. (6,957)	Salmon Mtn. (7.5)	Salmon Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N34C1)
Imperial	Blue Angels Peak (4,548)	In-ko-pah Gorge (7.5)	Jacumba Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S124D1)
Inyo	Mount. Whitney (14,495)	Mount. Whitney (15)	Sierra Nevada (S27D4)
Kern	Sawmill Mtn. (8,750+)	Sawmill Mtn. (7.5)	San Emigdio Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S77B4)
Kings	King (3,473)*	The Dark Hole (7.5)	Table Mtn, Coast Ranges (S46A2)
Lake	Snow Mtn. East (7,056)	Crockett Peak (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N75A6)
Lassen	Hat Mtn. (8,737)	Emerson Pk (7.5)	Warner Mtns, Basin Ranges (N41C7)
Los Angeles	Mt. San Antonio (10,064)	Mount. San Antonio (7.5)	San Gabriel Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S94B2)
Madera	Mt. Ritter (13,157)	Devil's Postpile (15)	Ritter Range, Sierra Nevada (N111C7)
Marin	Mt. Tamalpais, East Peak (2,586)	San Rafael (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N104A1)
or less likely	Mt. Tamalpais, West Peak (2,604 less the height reduced when an FAA Facility was constructed on top)*	Tuolumne Meadows (15)	Cathedral Range, Sierra Nevada (N111B6)
Mariposa	NNW ridge of Parsons Pk (12,000+)	Mendocino Pass (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N65B5)
Mendocino	Anthony Peak (6,963)	Mariposa Peak (7.5)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (S20A2)
Merced	Laveaga Peak (3,801)*	Eagle Peak (7.5)	Warner Mtns, Basin Ranges (N41B6)
Modoc	Eagle Peak (9,892)	White Mtn. Peak (15)	White Mtns, Basin Ranges (N113C7)
Mono	White Mtn. Peak (14,246)	Junipero Sierra Peak (7.5)	Santa Lucia Range, Coast Ranges (S31C7)
Monterey	Junipero Serra Peak (5,862)	Mount St. Helena (7.5)	Mayacma Mtns, Coast Ranges (N84C1)
Napa	.3 mile west of Mt. St. Helena (4,200+)	Donner Pass (15)	Sierra Nevada (N81A5)
Nevada	Mt. Lola (9,143)	Santiago Peak (7.5)	Santa Ana Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S104C3)
Orange	Santiago Peak (5,496)	Granite Chief (15)	Sierra Nevada (N81C5)
Placer	Granite Chief (9,006)	Donner Pass (15)	Sierra Nevada (N81A5)
Plumas	1 mi.N.of Mt. Lola (8,842)	San Jacinto Peak (7.5)	San Jacinto Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S106B3)
Riverside	San Jacinto Peak (10,804)	Clarksville (7.5)	Sierra Nevada (N87C6)
Sacramento	BM Carpenter (828)*	New Idria (15)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (S33B6)
San Benito	San Benito Mtn. (5,241)	San Geronio Mtn. (7.5)	San Bernardino Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S96D2)
San Bernardino	San Geronio Mtn. (11,499)	Hot Springs Mtn. (7.5)	Peninsular Ranges (S114B4)
San Diego	Hot Springs Mtn. (6,533)	San Francisco South (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N104B2)
San Francisco	Mt. Davidson (927)	Mt. Boardman (7.5)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116A3)
San Joaquin	.5 mile north of Mt. Boardman (3,626)*	Caliente Mtn. (7.5)	Caliente Range, Coast Ranges (S61D6)
San Luis Obispo	Caliente Mtn. (5,106)	Mindego Hill (7.5)	Santa Cruz Mtns, Coast Ranges (N114B4)
San Mateo	Borel Hill (2,572)	Big Pine Mtn. (7.5)	San Rafael Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S75C7)
Santa Barbara	Big Pine Mtn. (6,800+)	Lick Observatory (7.5)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116B1)
Santa Clara	Copernicus Peak (4,372)	Castle Rock Ridge (7.5)	Santa Cruz Mtns, Coast Ranges (N115C5)
Santa Cruz	Mt. Bielawski [McPhearson] (3,231)	Lassen Peak (15)	Cascades (N58A2)
Shasta	Mt. Lassen (10,452)	Donner Pass (15)	Sierra Nevada (N81A5)
Sierra	1 mile north of Mt. Lola (8,842)	Shasta (15)	Cascades (N36A4)
Siskiyou	Mt. Shasta (14,162)	Mt. Vaca (7.5)	Vaca Mtns, Coast Ranges (N95A5)
Solano	Mt. Vaca (2,819)*	Mount. St. Helena (7.5)	Mayacma Mtns, Coast Ranges (N83C7)
Sonoma	Mount. St. Helena (4,343)	Mt. Stakes (7.5)	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116B3)
Stanislaus	Mt. Stakes (3,804)*	Sutter Buttes (7.5)	Sutter Buttes (N77C7)
Sutter	South Butte (2,132)*	Lassen Peak (15)	Cascades (N58A2)
Tehama	Brokeoff Mtn. (9,235)	Weed (15)	The Eddies, Trinity Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N36B2)
Trinity	Mt. Eddy (9,025)	Mount. Whitney (15)	Sierra Nevada (S27D4)
Tulare	Mount. Whitney (14,495)	Merced Peak (15)	Sierra Nevada (N111C6)
Tuolumne	Mt. Lyell (13,114)	Sawmill Mtn. (7.5)	San Emigdio Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S77B4)
Ventura	Mt. Pinos (8,831)	Wilson Valley (7.5)	Coast Ranges (N84A2)
Yolo	0.8 mile east of Bear Spring (3120+)	Strawberry Valley (7.5)	Sierra Nevada (N69D6)
Yuba	1 mile north of Rose Ranch (4,825)		

**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 \$6.00 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: August 25, 1992*

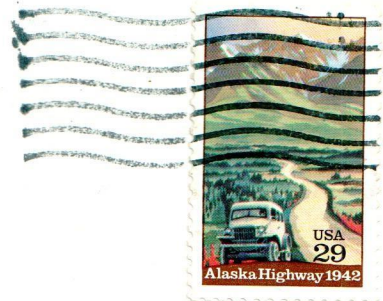
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*please renew!  
 Thanks*



Calif. Mountaineering Club members enjoy the summit of Birch Mtn. (13,602')  
 May 3, 1992