

THE



# BOULDER

motherlode chapter-sierra club

Issue No. 52 Jan. & Feb. 1993

## Chairmans Column

As the rain comes down and the snow builds up in the mountains I am glad that more and more Peak & Gorge people are getting into cross country skiing. In October we had a very good clinic for beginning skiers at John Besbekos house and I am looking forward to seeing some of those who attended on up coming ski trips.

The last issue of the Boulder, as you might have noticed, was a bonus issue and while we do not expect them all to be so good we encourage anyone with trip write ups to send them in. Once again I am hoping to get some greater response from cross country skiers. We see many of these trips in the winter but very few write ups.

Anyone interested in presenting a program at one of the Peak & Gorge social meetings is welcome to contact me at 488-8467. We are looking for programs for this coming January and February in particular. The christmas party will be held at Robin's house again this year and I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We are still looking for people to help out with the Boulder. In the last several years we have seen a real improvement in the number of articles and the quality of the publication. In order to maintain this effort we need some further support. If you are interested give me a call or contact John B. Merry Christmas!

See you on the trail.

John Watters, chairman

### Winter Calendar

Jan. 1 Fri. Intermediate Ski Tour. Donner Pass. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457 3338.

Jan 1 Fri. Outings Leadership Training. Call Ken Green, 631-8203.

Jan. 6, Wed. Intermediate Ski Tour. Leader Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Jan. 9, Sat. Peak Climb/Gr 3C Day Hike. Mt. ST. Helena (4,343') Leader, John Sarna, 429 8024.

Jan. 9, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Leader, Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Jan. 9, Sat. Beginning Ski Tour. Leader, Bob Buckles, 624-3620.

Jan. 10, Ski Tour. Leader, Fred Fischietto, 773-0870.

Jan. 16, Sat. Beginning Ski Tour. Carson Pass Area. Leader, John Watters, 488-8467.

Jan. 23, Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Leader, Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Jan. 26, Tues. Peak & Gorge Social Meeting, hosted by Bob Buckles, 6120 Ranier Ave, Rocklin. 7:30 pm. For directions call Bob in Rocklin 624-3620.

Jan. 30. Sat. Ski Tour. Leader, Fred Fischietto, 773-0870.

Feb. 11-16. Thurs.-Tues. Peak Climb/Car Camp. Desert Peaks. Leader, John Sarna, 429-8024.

Feb. 13-14. Sat. & Sun. Intermediate Ski Tour. Yosemite. Leader, Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Feb. 13, Sat. Ski Tour. Leader, Fred. Fischietto, 773-0870.

Feb. 20. Sat. Intermediate Ski Tour. Leader, Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.

Feb. 21. Sun. Ski Tour. Leader, Fred Fischietto, 773-0870.

Feb. 28. Sun. Intermediate Ski Tour. Leader, Bob Buckles, 624-3620.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Bob Buckles, for being awarded an NAS EMBLEM  
as of October 31, 1992

## CONGRATULATIONS

Ann Stewart, for being awarded an OGUL EMBLEM  
as of October 18, 1992

## HIKING THE SOUTHLAND

Source: Angeles Chapter 81st Year Schedule of Activities

It's a nice place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live there, and I've been told that living there has gotten much worse since the riots (post Rodney King verdict). But as for hiking in the mountains around LA, it's a much different experience than driving or getting around in the City, and well avoids its more malevolent elements.

The LA Chapter of the Sierra Club sponsors a large number of outings through dozens of activity sections and groups. These include not one but three different peak-bagging activity sections: SPS, DPS, and HPS. A ski-mountaineering section is also active, though they're not into peak climbs. Peak lists, along with emblem qualifications, are available for \$1.00 apiece and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Information on where to order these lists is given below:

- Sierra Peaks Section peaks - SPS Secretary: Bob Wyka (310/827-4411), 3866 Via Dolce, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292.
- Desert Peaks Section peaks - DPS Treasurer: Ron Grau (714/622-5477), 456 Chester Pl, Pomona, CA 91768.
- Hundred Peaks Section peaks - HPS Peak Guide Mailer: Julie Rush (213/669-8382), 2432 Hidalgo St, LA, CA 90039.

While (SPS) hikes in the Sierra are seldom led in winter, the next few months are prime season for peak-bagging in local southland (HPS) mountain ranges as well as in the Mojave Desert (DPS).

LA Chapter outings are open to everyone, Sierra Club member and non-member alike, as in the Mother Lode Chapter, but signing up for LA trips is a little more formal. Sign-ups are typically done by mail, and a SASE should be included with all correspondence. Reservations should be made as early as possible, since trips usually fill up quickly; however, last-minute sign-ins are sometimes possible, especially when there's no trailhead quota, which is fairly common for winter trips. Here's a list of some upcoming peak climbs which may be of interest to people in the Sacramento area:

- > **Jan 2-4, Sat.-Mon.** - Spectre Pt (4400'), Quail Mtn (5800'), Queen Mtn (5680'), Pinto Mtn (3983') on a New Year's weekend in Joshua Tree NM (entry fee). Sat 6 mi 2500' gain. Sun 12 mi, 3000' gain. Mon 9 mi 2400' gain. All travel is cross-country. Call leaders: Charlie Knapke, 714/530-1310; Asst leader, David Eisenberg, 818/247-4635
- > **Jan 9-10, Sat.-Sun.** - Chuckwalla Mtn (5229'), Cross Mtn (5203'), Scodie Mtn (7294'), Pinyon Pk (6805') as a strenuous cross-country hike over desert terrain north of town of Mojave in the S. Sierras. Carcamp Fri and Sat night. Call leaders: Frank Goodydoontz, 714/593-6148; George Schroedter, 714/599-3348.
- > **Jan 16-17, Sat.-Sun.** - Mitchell Pt (7048'), Edgar Pk (7162'), Providence Pt (6612') in San Bernardino County. Sat 9 mi 4000' loop + rock scrambling. Sun 6 mi, 2400' gain. Leaders: Dale Van Dalsem, 310/822-0274; Judy Ware, 714/779-6173.
- > **Jan 16-17, Sat.-Sun.** - Kingston (7323') Eagle #2 (3806') Sat 7.5 mi 3600' gain. Sun 3 mi, 1800' gain with easy Class 3 at top. Call leaders: George Hubbard, 818/992-8897; Michael Manchester, 818/445-1037.
- > **Jan 30-31, Sat.-Sun.** - Spectre Pk (4400'), Big Maria (3381') in Riverside County. Sat Big Maria, 4 mi 2200' gain, carcamp. Sun Spectre, 6 mi, 3600' gain. Call leaders: Larry Tidball, 714/882-6168; Scot Jamison, 714/626-1712.
- > **Feb 6-7 Sat.-Sun** - Pyramid Pk (6703'), Pahrump Pt (5704') as moderately strenuous dayhikes in the Death Valley area. Call leaders: Asher Waxman, 213/876-2889; Karen Leonard, 310/839-3457.
- > **Feb 13-14 Sat.-Sun** - Old Dad Mtn (4552'), Old Woman Mtn (5325') moderately paced reunion event for old timers, now doers, and newcomers in San Bernardino County. Sat Old Dad, 3.5 mi, 1800' gain, Sun Old Woman, 3 mi, 2300' gain. Call leaders: Bill Russell, 310/822-9044; John McCully, 310/545-9677.
- > **Feb 20-21, Sat.-Sun** - Nopah Range (6394') in Death Valley. Sat 10 mi 4200' gain on Nopah from Chicago Valley. Sun optional ascent of Stewart or Pahrump. Call leaders: Bob Hartunian, 714/953-7640; Mary McMannes, 818/780-3259.

The LA Chapter Schedule comes out every 4 months (the next one covers from March to June of 1993). It costs \$5.50 plus \$2.00 for mailing costs. Orders are taken by the "Sierra Club Angeles Chapter" (213/387-4289), 3345 Wilshire, Suite 508, LA, CA 90020.

by John Sarna

**Red (9307') and Silver (8930') Peaks** . . . . . Singles Backpack/Peak Climb of August 1, 1992

This laid-back singles trip into the heart of the Desolation Wilderness began early on Saturday morning when our group (consisting of Stephen Royal, Rodney Moy, Valerie Phillips, Fred Turkorish, and co-leaders Caroline Curry and myself) crammed into two cars to drive from Sacramento to Wright's Lake. From one of several parking areas near the lake, we began our hike up the trail marked Rockbound Pass. A rest at Maud Lake, in the cirque below the pass, proved to be the most hazardous part of the trek. Caroline, after successfully demonstrating an exotic method of cooling off, a hair emersion maneuver followed by a cute head flip, stubbed her middle toe on a rock near the shore. Caroline's toe had grown considerably larger by the time we got up to Rockbound Pass, but she did manage to hobble the rest of the way to our base-camp beside Lois Lake, which we finally reached at 4 pm.

While everyone else focused on preparing an evening meal, I hiked a few miles further to climb Silver Peak. Was I surprised when the register showed that I had missed meeting Pete Yamagata and his "companion-clairvoyant Krystal Ball" by only a couple hours (see Pete's write-up in *Boulder* Issue 50)! Knowing it must have been an out-of-body experience for Krystal to be hiking in her namesake "Crystal" Range of the Desolation Wilderness, I really wanted to follow them on to McConnell Peak and meet this unknown peak-bagger in the flesh, but thought better of it given the late hour. As it was, I barely got back to camp before all the day's light faded away at 9 pm.

The next morning, I found two stalwart companions, Valerie and Fred, ready and willing to try for Red Peak before packing out later in the day. We took the "Stock Trail," which goes up from between Lake Lois and Lake Schmidell, to gain the long north-south ridge just north of a prominent volcanic butte. We then walked north up to a rise in the ridge to see Red Peak more than a mile away, with several narrow and rocky false-summits enroute (I wonder why the north end of the ridge is the named summit rather than the highest point on the ridge, where we stood). Though our spirits fell on seeing how far we had to traverse, our bodies pushed on, and after an hour or so, finally carried us the very top of Red Peak. Signed in the register only one day before were Pete Y. and yet another female companion, Anna Chaput, another zealous climber of peaks. Valerie mentioned that she, coincidentally, works with Anna's sister at a medical center.

Unfortunately, the view from the top was poor, as it had been all along the ridge, due to smoke blowing from a fire of unknown origin. Lake Tahoe wasn't visible, and I couldn't even pick out Dicks Peak on the ridge between us and the lake, though it was but a few miles away. After taking in the limited views, we went down the east ridge to find an easier route *below* the long north-south ridge, taking us back to Lois Lake to arrive exactly 4 hours after leaving it, the latest possible time I had told the others to expect us back. They had already packed up most of their gear, being worried about the fire. Sharing their concern, the three of us soon followed suit. Then within a few minutes, we were all on the trail out. The fire was no cause for concern, however, as it was far to the south in the Yosemite area. That it was far away became apparent once we reached Rockbound Pass and saw only a light haze lingering over the route to the cars. Coming down past Maud Lake, Rodney got some unexpected excitement when he spotted a bear scampering in the rocks above. Laving Caroline, Steve, and the bear to fend for themselves, the rest of us choose a brisk march onward to reach the car (about 7 pm) and press on home. John Sarna

**EAGLE PEAK (2369'), NORTH PEAK (3557')** NOVEMBER 17, 1992  
**MT. OLYMPIA (2946'), MT. DIABLO (3849')**

What do you do in winter when you haven't got a tele partner and there isn't much snow on the peaks? Well, this 20 mile, 4,600+' gain saunter was up for **Rex Smith** and me on this blustery day!

The ethereal mists gradually rose over the delta as we drove to this trailhead, seeing rays of sunlight filtering through the clouds, and then enjoying a brisk pace through the oak-studded hillsides. We enjoyed reading through the registers on **Eagle** and **Olympia**, and topped on the big summit with the tourist area practically to ourselves. The views were clear and we wondered what was happening in the Sierra, with clouds across the Valley, as we had planned a climb of Ralston earlier. Our climb took 8 hours r.t., including summit stays and breaks. I wore my stretch synchilla vest over my mid-weight capilene shirt all day, being comfortable and returning with dry clothes to the car. Hooray for Patagonia! PY

CALIENTE MOUNTAIN (5106')

NOVEMBER 7, 1992

Rose Certini and myself drove down to meet over 50 HPS'ers at the southern gateway to Carrizo Plain to do this short climb/HPS list finish party led by Patty Kline (also a recent list finisher) and Frank Goodykoontz (now a 7X list finisher) for Jennifer Lambelet (also a first-timer). Roy van de Hoek, a BLM archaeologist and wildlife biologist led us through locked gates and onto a 2-2½ mi. o.w. hike to the top. Inversion layer weather gave us only views of faraway mountain tops with hazier views down into the adjoining valleys.

Many munchies and champagne were consumed on the summit, and, after a "tailgate"-type party at the parking lot, we headed for Painted Rock, a site of Chumash pictoglyphs of international significance. I was amazed to see, despite the heavy vandalism, quite high quality depictions of the Chumash world and animal "gods," painted here in quite ancient times.

Caliente is also the highpoint of San Luis Obispo County, normally a 7-8 mi. o.w. hike along Caliente Ridge Road, or a good climb from the south.

PY

NORTH POINT (2600+'), "FISKE PEAK" (2800+') NOVEMBER 14, 1992

Upon our annual return to this easy conditioner, Rex Smith and I discovered that only about a month earlier, the BLM and BSA TROOP 464 Woodland had constructed "1½ miles" of new trail that most conveniently now leads up to our North Point and also the next peak south, "Fiske Peak," from the three benchmarks. We were surprised to see that the 1990 register was still there, with many additional sign-ins. The new portion of trail extends where previously, a steep, brushy cl. 2 scramble was required, and switchbacks up leading virtually to the summits of the now two registered highpoints, and of enough quality that I would consider a moonlight ascent and certainly a backpack to camp near the summit(s).

On our return we ran into a couple who had tried to follow the instructions of the MLC "favorite hikes" pamphlet, with bad words for it. More precise instructions may be found in the Jan.-Feb. '91 Issue # 40 Boulder, or call for up-to-date directions.

PY

## GUERRILLA MOUNTAINEERING

Now there's an official name for it! What we in the provinces have called "bagging a sneak peak" has now been publicly named "guerrilla mountaineering." This pronouncement was made by one "N. G." in the October 1992 issue of *Outdoor Photographer*. Supposedly a man of world-class mountaineering fame, N.G. doesn't give his full name because he was the primary proponent of an illegal climb he described in the magazine, and naturally, doesn't want to incriminate himself. The deed, an impressive ascent of Mt. Gurla Mandhata, standing at an elevation of 25,355 feet in Tibet, was done to avoid the huge tariff being asked by the Chinese, who control access to the peak. It's a multi-day trek by any approach, and the story of how N. G. eventually did succeed in bagging Mt. Mandhata is well described in the article. Even though he didn't mention our archetype activities in California (which probably is for the best in any case), he did bring national attention to this exciting and clandestine activity. I wonder, though, why N. G. published his picture with his story if he's so worried about being caught by the authorities. Certainly, my brother Raoul Mocho and I(too) would never divulge any such incriminating information.

I. M.

Lookout Peak

Sunday, October 11, 1992

For this trip, we met at Hazel Avenue at 7:30. Fourteen people made the trip. The peak climb started at the Pacific Grade Trailhead, roughly 2.9 miles past the Pacific Grade Summit on Highway 4, and roughly 12 miles east of the Mt. Reba turnoff. The basic hike is approximately 11 miles long with 2,000 feet elevation gain.

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For just under 3.5 miles, we followed route PG-5 in Jeffrey Schaffer's book, Carson-Iceberg Wilderness (Wilderness Press). This route takes hikers south on a dirt road for about 1.5 miles where the road dead-ends at a fence with a gate. This gate marks the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness boundary. Then, the route follows the Milk Ranch trail for just less than 2 miles, with the trail trending upwards steadily, but not steeply. At a point just under 2 miles the Milk Ranch trail levels off. This level area marks the general area where the route to Lookout Peak leaves the trail and heads cross-country. After leaving the trail, the route passes through a small band of trees and emerges into a wide-open area of volcanic rock and boot-depth brush and grass. From the tree line the route becomes obvious because you can see the entire ridge area.

The ridge is "dominated" by a near-by prominent peak -- Peep Sight Peak. To the right (west) and off in the distance, roughly one mile away, is a brown topped peak that looks and is lower than Peep Sight Peak. The more distant peak is Lookout. Interestingly, Pete Yamigata had topo maps that named both peaks Lookout Peak. By usage, the higher peak appears to have become known as Peep Sight Peak. This is the name attached to the peak on Jeffrey Schaffer's map.

This was a quasi-exploratory outing. Although I had been there earlier, fog was so thick that I could not even recognize the area. Since Peep Sight Peak was the closest peak, we climbed to it first. With the topo map and a compass, we determined exactly where we were. Then, we climbed Peep Sight and ran the ridge to Lookout. It would not be an extraordinary trick to climb Lookout first. To do so, hikers should leave the trail earlier than we did and climb the side of the ridge. This route journeys through a more extensive forested area while climbing fairly steeply up the hillside. The group that was with me, however, included a couple of slow hikers. While I knew about this route, I felt it best to get everyone to the open hillside where we could split up, allowing some hikers to climb both peaks, while still keeping all hikers in plain sight.

With the exception of the slower hikers, everyone climbed both peaks. We were back to the cars by 5:00.

One final note concerns our morning trip to the trailhead. Varying inclinations among those at the meeting place offered an interesting (if somewhat unscientific) experiment. Through "experimentation" we "determined" the fastest route to the Pacific Grade Trailhead. My car went to Sunrise, out to Highway 16, down Highway 49 to Angel's Camp, and up Highway 4 from the west. Another car went up Highway 50 to Latrobe Road (El Dorado Hills area) then south to Highway 49 and Highway 4. The third car went up Highway 50, south on Highway 89 through Markleeville, and then up Highway 4 from the east. The Highway 50/89/4 route was the fastest by about 15 minutes. Going south on Latrobe road was second fastest, and the Sunrise/Highway 16 route was the slowest. All routes were 126 to 133 miles and took 2:30 to 2:45. (One person joined us from Oakland, and it really didn't take him much longer -- 3:30 -- than it took us.)

ALAN COOKE

Wade Peak

November 21, 1992

Anna Chaput and I met at the Camino Ranger Station at 7:30 for this extremely late season peak climb. We were both unwilling to admit the peak-climbing season was over. By day's end, we were almost ready to admit the season was over--but we did achieve the summit.

We started our hike at roughly 10:00 at the Horsethief Canyon trailhead. This trailhead is along Highway 89, about two miles east of the intersection of Highways 88 and 89 (i.e., Pickets Junction) and directly across Highway 89 from Snowshoe Springs campground. The trailhead provides access to a distinct trail heading north into the Carson Range area that contains Jobs, Wade, and Freel Peaks as well as Job's Sister. The Horsethief Canyon trailhead is the standard for Wade and Jobs Peaks.

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After leaving the Highway 89, the trail heads straight up the hillside and out of the canyon road occupied by the highway. The trail switches back and forth up the hill, gaining 1,000 feet of elevation over a distance of about one mile. After the initial elevation gain, the trail levels out somewhat with the next mile covering a moderately upward sloping area. About two miles from the trailhead the trail "ends." Next to the trail -- for whatever reason -- is a sign that states this is the end of the maintained trail. Actually, the trail transforms into what once was doubtlessly a good dirt road. Where the sign is encountered, the trail intersects a dirt road. Follow the road to the right. (Eventually, the road does take on an unmaintained appearance.)

The Wade Peak trail follows this road for about two miles. The trail undergoes a couple of undulations, crosses a creek, and eventually straightens and follows the hillside for some distance. About one mile after intersecting the road, the trail travels across an open area which, when not covered with snow, is covered with sage brush and mules ears. A little farther, the trail curves towards the east and heads into an area which, while still fairly open, has trees on either side of the trail.

Roughly two miles past the initial intersection with the road, the trail starts heading downhill slightly. This signals the approximate point at which the trail should be abandoned. However, if the trail is abandoned too early, the last part of the journey is longer than necessary. At the point where the trail starts downhill, the trail will have just finished going around the base of an obvious high point (off to the right of the trail). This first high point is not Wade Peak. The most direct route to Wade Peak continues to follow the road through this area for another 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Then, the direct route heads off-trail to the right (south), goes up and over a minor ridge, and then heads straight up the hillside to the peak. Eventually, the Wade Peak summit comes into view.

When Anna and I climbed Wade, on the return trip, we encountered a line of signs marking the edge of the national forest. These signs ran perpendicular to the trail and ran almost directly from the trail towards Wade Peak. If these signs can be located, they would mark the ideal point to turn off the road.

As noted earlier, when first leaving the road the trail heads straight up the side of the canyon. Through this stretch, the trail follows Snowshoe Creek. On this day, the creek was frozen. In this frozen state, the creek resembled the deposits found somewhere like Carlsbad Caverns with the water frozen into corrugated flows tumbling from rock to rock. Snow conditions were quite varied across the area traversed on this day. At the trailhead, there was no snow worth mentioning. We encountered significant amounts of snow for the first time at the 8,000 foot elevation level. In forested areas nearer the summit, snow drifts were 2 feet deep. In more exposed areas, the snow had a crust that both Anna and I could walk on. For the most part, the snow was roughly 1 foot deep and one of us had to break a trail through it that the other could follow. However, we achieved the peak, and that makes it worthwhile.

For the record, the hike is approximately 11 miles and 3,000 feet of elevation gain.

Alan Cooke

RITTER PEAK (13,143')

10-12 October 1992

Saturday morning, Jackie Stroud and I set out from Agnew Meadows for our base camp at Lake Ediza. It was a beautiful fall day, pleasantly warm, with clear skies. The cottonwoods and aspens had changed to yellow and the meadows were filled with gold and red colors. The low autumn sun cast long shadows over the granite. It was an easy 6 miles in and we had camp set up by 3:00. We took a side trip to the cliffs overlooking Iceberg Lake. On the way, Jackie described her last visit to the lake some years ago. They had to carefully pick their way along the snow bank that ran down into the water. No snow in sight this trip! I woke up later that night, getting a bit too warm even with just a bivy sack and sleeping bag.

We began the climb the next morning about 7:30 by climbing just short of the unnamed lake below the Ritter-Banner Saddle. We then turned left and started up a series of ledges which went up to the right, into the eastern cliff face of Ritter. Though the route looked uncertain, it turned out to be very easy except for one point where we had to cross a mix of snow, ice and

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running water left from a recent mild storm. This route would be much more difficult if there had been any more snow. A couple hundred yards short of the cliff face, in an area with some brush, we turned upwards and climbed up out of the ledges into a talus field. We continued up and to the right, staying close to the cliff face of Ritter, until we reached the glacier south of Ritter. We skirted the edge of the glacier. It was flat with a mix of ice, sand and gravel at the edge, giving us no difficulty. There were two chutes climbing up from the glacier. We chose the second. We talked to another pair of climbers about their ascent using the first chute, which sounded as bad or worse than ours. The second chute was mixed sand, gravel and talus with some very large, loose boulders. Dangerous rock slides in this chute are a significant hazard.

After climbing a few hundred feet, we emerged onto a gently climbing talus field. I fell behind Jackie and was a little puzzled as I saw her and a couple other people milling around a small rock outcropping. The climb was getting tough again and I wouldn't let myself believe that I was near the end. Finally, as I reached them and looked down the steep north side to nearby Banner Peak, I could celebrate. It had not been a bad climb at all. Allowing for my typical slow climbing, we had made the ascent in less than 5 hours and it had been almost all easy class 2. But from the top, the North face looked like a nasty class 3 route at best. John Watter's decision to skip it last July, with or without snow, was a good call. We ate our lunch and enjoyed the views for a while before starting our descent. It was a busy day on the peak with three other people (one couple and a lone climber) on the top with us, and another four or five coming up just after we left. The descent was without incident except that I got sick (my fussy stomach) almost at the end. We reached camp about 4:30.

Monday we broke camp and followed a poor but usable trail around the north side of Lake Ediza. We used one of the several good summer stream crossings below the mouth of the lake to rejoin the main trail. We enjoyed ourselves on the way out, taking pictures and watching the trout in Shadow Lake. For me, it was the most beautiful trip of the season. Why hadn't we planned more October climbs? I took in my last views of the golden autumn landscape, knowing the snows would come before I returned to the high Sierras.

Bob Buckles

#### **FOURTH SEASONAL SNOW CLIMB OF RALSTON PEAK (9235') DECEMBER 1, 1992**

It began as a testout for snowsealed boots and to combat the mid-winter doldrums when there wasn't enough snow to ski, and then, with our continued successes, it became a standard conditioner with its 2,800' gain aided by the years of drought to lay much of the trail bare of snow. **Rex Smith** and I, joined by **Anna Chaput** last season to celebrate my birthday with Calistoga water and Easter cake on the summit, again were surprised by the lack of snow on the south-facing slopes, despite this year's previously fallen three feet of snow about a month ago.

I used my latest Patagonia layering system, with mid-weight capilene to start, then a stretch Synchronilla vest covered by a Synchronilla pullover and my featherweight jacket, all purchased at 30-50% discounts around town. I used the vest and t-shirt climbing, then wore everything on the summit, enjoying watching the sunlight playing on Pyramid and Price through the clouds, then used only the t-shirt on the descent. I was warm, mostly dry and comfortable all the way.

The 1989 register was gone, or moved and buried by snow, all with the names of various climbers including "Arlene Blum, Berkeley," (author of "A Woman's Place is on Top," of the American Women's climb of Annapurna fame) for a number of times. We left a new register, both of us bitterly disappointed by the absence of our favorite reading material!

I used my new Nature Company panorama camera which uses a roll of regular print film instead of the single-use Kodak camera.

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Our time was 2½ hours up and about 100 minutes down. We brought our ice axes, with firm snow on the ascent, then crusty and slushy on the descent. We stopped by Strawberry Lodge to check on their pies/desserts, then Rex had a peanut butter pie at Denny's in Placerville. Having left town at 7:30 a.m., we were back by 5:30 p.m.

PY

#### MATTHES CREST OUT OF TUOLUMNE MEADOWS -AUG. 19 1992

On August 19th Jacqui Moore and I climbed up onto the Matthes Crest, a 3/4 mile long knife edge of rock. Our intention was to reach the North Peak at 10,978'. Our route was 2 1/2 pitches of 5.3 face and crack, relatively clean. We thought getting up onto the knife edge was the hard part but it was easy. The easy part, the knife edge, turned us back. It was thin, seemed rotten and was unbelievably precarious. We backed off to try again some other time. I can't wait.

Two women made the climb, but we had a lot of wonderful help. I got some route advice from Andy Sawyer and from Pete Yamagata I learned to get info on the crest itself. Doug Joy was instrumental in teaching Jacqui and I a myriad of techniques we needed, and lent us equipment. And thanks to Jacqui, Curtis Meusborn and Bill Carney for shlepping the climbing equipment into basecamp. What a dandy crew, what a great bear-bagging rock, what an incredible knife edge of rock.

-ELLEN VAN FLEET

#### NAPROSYN SUB-SECTION?

I have only recently subscribed to "Boulder", and vicariously enjoy the accounts therein of summits climbed (often several, or four or five, etc. peaks in one day). To date, I have not joined in on these climbs for one main reason- I am not sure that I could keep up! From the photos and descriptions that appear in this journal, everyone seems so blasted young! Although I am an experienced hiker, backpacker, and rock scrambler, and love the outdoors like nothing else, I am also 62 years young. Hence, my question, or rather my proposal- there must be others like me out there, say 50 years plus, who would love doing one summit a day and at a moderate pace. If so, what about forming a sub-section that caters to this group--- maybe call it the "Naprosyn Sub-section" (after a favorite muscle relaxant taken after a hard hiking day). I'm serious! If you need a contact to form such a group, put me down---Dave Holten, (209) 836-5249!

#### LIGHTENING UP

Regarding some negative input on my article, "Anniversary of Mountain Climbing?," I apologize if factual disclosure and my attempt to better educate the readership has proved inappropriate or offensive to anyone. The article was written to provide some additional historical background to mountaineering, and should that disturb or annoy readers, my heartfelt condolences!

PY

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"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;  
P.O. Box 417415, Sacramento, CA 95841; 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: Feb. 18, 1993

Boulder Editorial Committee  
C/O John Besbekos  
P.O. Box 417415  
Sacramento, CA 95841

.....paid til issue 55  
John Sarna  
545 Windward Way #114  
Sacramento, CA 95831

