

THE



# **BOULDER**

**motherlode chapter · sierra club**

ISSUE NO. 57, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1993

## CHAIR'S CORNER

The September 1993 social meeting had a very interesting discussion regarding placement of registers in wilderness areas. Please see my article for details. One point from the discussion was that those of us attending agreed to stop placing registers on peaks within the wilderness area pending resolution of this issue. I request that all Peak and Gorge members comply with this policy.

Another item brought up at the meeting was that some subscribers have asked if we would resume printing a schedule of outings in the Boulder. I had not continued this practice when I took over as chair partly because it involved additional work and partly because I felt that we had other material of more interest to our readers. I was working under the assumption that our readers would also get the Bonanza with a more comprehensive schedule than we could provide. Since then, I have heard that at least one reader from out of the Mother Lode area would like to see them since he does not receive the Bonanza. Any other thoughts?

Trip write-ups are due early this time. I will try to call all regular submitter's but, if you didn't hear from me, I am to mail them to the Outings Leader by 28 Oct. If you miss the deadline but have a trip to submit, call me and we will see if we can get it in late.

The next social meeting will be 16 Nov 93 to accomodate Thanksgiving Holiday. It will be a cross country ski clinic at Al Gutowsky's house, 5700 Shephard Ave. (near Carlson and H Streets.) For those who are experienced skiers, bring your equipment. I hope to get some newcomers to the sport who would like to see what kind of gear they need, how it works, etc. Following that will be the Chirstmas Potluck on 14 December at my house, 6120 Rainier. Take Taylor Road exit from I-80 to Sunset, left on Sunset, left on Whitney, and left on Rainier. If I don't see you there, have a merry Christmas,

Bob Buckles

# OUTINGS

**OCT 28 WINTER OUTINGS SCHEDULE DEADLINE. ALL LEADERS SUBMIT TRIP WRITE UPS TO BOB BUCKLES.**

**NOV 5-7 COXCOMB MTNS--PINTO BASIN BACKPACK DESERT SURVIVORS.**  
CONTACT DAVE HALLIGAN (510) 769-1706

**NOV 6-7 RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK DESERT SURVIVORS**  
CONTACT ROCHELLE GERATT (510) 769-1706

**NOV 11-14 COTTONWOOD MOUNTAINS TRAVERSE , DEATH VALLEY DESERT SURVIVORS**  
CONTACT BOB ELLIS (510) 526-3788

**NOV 14 BEGINNER SKI TRIP CONTACT BOB BUCKLES 624-3620.**

**NOV 16 PEAK AND GORGE SOCIAL, CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLINIC. HOSTED BY AL GUTOWSKI**  
5700 SHEPARD AVE. 457-3338.

**NOV 21 MT. ST. HELENA MEET AT 11 & O 7:30AM, OR AT MURDER BURGER IN DAVIS AT 7:50.**  
LEADER JIM AVILA, 487-7089.

**NOV 25-28 GRAPEVINE PEAK / DEATH VALLEY BACKPACK, DESERT SURVIVORS**  
CONTACT STEVE TABOR (510) 357-6585

**NOV 27 BEGINNER CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP, BLUE LAKES ROAD AREA, WEST OF HWY 88.**  
MEET AT CSUS ARBORETUM AT 7:30 AM. CONTACT JOHN WATTERS, 488-8467.

**NOV 27 DONNER SUMMIT INTERMEDIATE SKI TOUR. MEET AT CSUS ARBORETUM AT 7:00AM.**  
LEADER AL GUTOWSKI. 457-3338

**DEC 4 OLD ELDWESS SKI AREA (CAMP SACRAMENTO) MEET AT CSUS 6:30 AM**  
LEADER AL GUTOWSKI. 457-3338

**DEC 3-5 CLARK MOUNTAIN, EAST MOHAVE SCENIC AREA DESERT SURVIVORS.**  
CONTACT BOB ELLIS (510) 526-3788.

**DEC 5 BEGINNER CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP. MEET AT ROSEVILLE SQUARE 8:00 AM.**  
CONTACT BOB BUCKLES 624-3620.

**DEC 18 BEGINNER CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP. FROM ECHO SUMMIT SNOW PARK TO LAKE AUDRAIN.**  
CONTACT JOHN WATTERS, 488-8467.

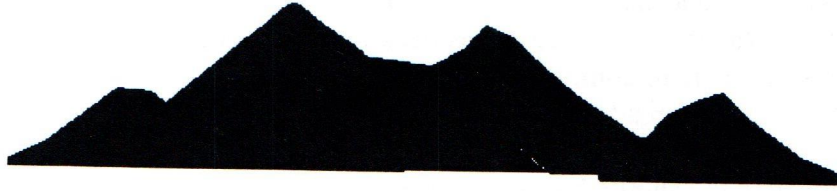
**DEC 24-26 FREMONT PEAK DESERT SURVIVORS**  
CONTACT STEVE TABOR (510) 357-6585

**DEC 27 - JAN 1 DESERT PEAK TRIP, EDGAR, MITCHELL, STEPLADDER, TURTLE, MOPAH, GRANITE #2,  
AND ROSA PT. ABOVE THE SALTON SEA. CONTACT BILL HAUSER (408) 243-4566.**

**JAN 3-17 100 MILE DESERT CROSSING BRISTOL LAKE TO THE COLORADO. DESERT SURVIVORS**  
CONTACT STEVE TABOR (510) 357-6585.

*PRIVATE TRIP WRITE-UPS FOR DECEMBER -- JANUARY DUE TO JOHN BESBEKOS BY DEC. 6, 1993.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN COOKE --



OGUL LIST COMPLETION !!!  
DESERT CREEK PEAK, OCT. 10, 1993

I HEARD IT THROUGH THE PEAKVINE V

Anna Chaput did Wheeler Peak (NV) and Mt. Washburn (WY) over a trip east with her family in September, 1993.

Howard Steidtmann and Tobi Tyler climbed Charleston Peak, Mummy Mtn., Mt. Stirling, and Hayford Peak in June, as well as doing North Maggie Peak, and Vogelsang Peak in the Sierra last summer, 1993.

A group led by John Sarna and Oscar Balaguer, including Frank Palmer, Anna Chaput, Howard S. and Tobi T. collectively climbed Mt. Humphreys, The Hermit, Mt. Goethe, Mt. Darwin, and Mt. Lamarck over the latter part of summer, 1993.



Ellen Van Fleet

Late last year John Watters led a successful climb of Banner Pk. but time constraints deprived of us bagging the big one in the Ritter Range. Therefore it was back to Mammoth for John W., Alan Cooke and myself along with 3 other new climbers to complete the task.

Once again we left Sacramento on a Friday night, arriving at the Mammoth Ranger station and campground about midnight. Saturday morning we were able to drive all the way to the Agnew meadows trailhead instead of having to catch the shuttle bus as in the peak tourist season. We had a relatively easy paced hike the 6 miles to Lake Ediza. We made camp at the tree line beneath the looming silhouette of Mt. Ritter.

The nighttime temperature was not as cold as expected, so we were able to arise at 5:00 A.M. without too much discomfort. By 6:00 A.M. we were heading up the slopes. We headed up the southwest glacier trying to skirt the snow and ice when possible. There were times however we had to negotiate the frozen snow without the benefit of ice axes. There were deep trench-like sun cups that looked like a series of slanted frozen over egg cartons that gave us a bit of trouble. Once off that last part of the ice field we were on sort of solid rock. It was mostly a boulder hop to the top with the usual occasional loose one to watch out for.

By 11:30 AM everyone was eating lunch and taking photos at the summit. The trip down took almost as long as the climb up. We had to be extra careful of not sending loose rocks down onto our fellow climbers below us. We also did a bit more slipping and sliding recrossing the ice fields. All of us made it down without serious incident despite a man-sized chunk of rock I was backing down over, breaking off and sliding out from between my legs.

Once back at camp we had to pack up the tents and hike the 6 miles back out. This was turning out to be a bit much for my knees and for John Watters blistered foot. We soon fell behind the others. At one point we passed some other backpackers that had one poor girl with a bloody nose and vomiting. Later as we were struggling the last 2 miles climbing out of the canyon, those same people passed us! You know you are burnt out for the season when a sick, nauseated girl with a bloody nose can out-hike you! -- **JOHN BESBEKOS**

**JOBS PEAK (10,633')**

SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

**Jerry Adams** was out for a "walk," so we drove to the **Horse Meadows** Road USFS "051," took three left forks and parked about 5 miles from Hwy. 89 in the vicinity of the meadows. Sidehilling, then climbing up to the east ridge, we went over the false summit (which even has a pole, watch out!), and then along the spur ridge east that culminates in the summit. Our time up was 1:45.

Before the USFS had apparently acquired the land, the Horse Meadows Road had been posted, gated, and otherwise closed to vehicle traffic. Thanks, however, to Sierra Club letterwriting, the private lands have now been opened up, making the alternate lengthy routes from Horsethief Canyon, Star Lake, or Fountainplace unnecessary.

A mailbox has been placed on the summit, and we found a clutter of paper scraps and (surprise!) my old 1986 book. I tried to organize and compact the loose papers and business cards, and preserved them by stuffing them into a heavy-duty baggie, and then also placed a new book. The old book had gone up to about 1990, and most of the scraps seem to have been placed after the new route was made accesible. Some of the mess was reduced, with all of the signatures retained. Why some people want this destroyed, I really wonder!

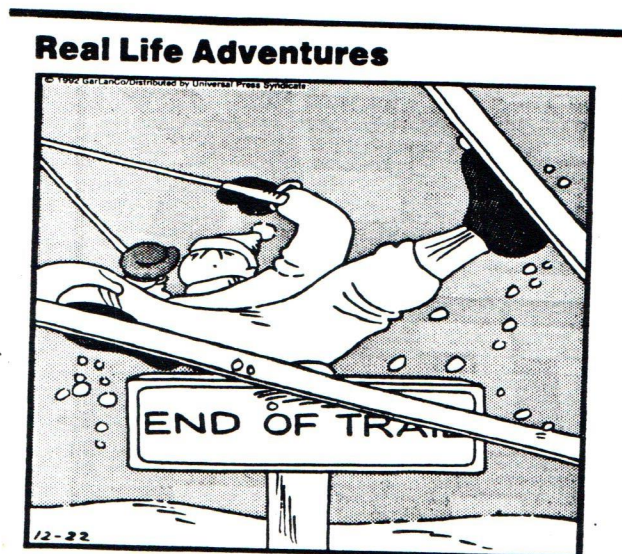
Due to approaching dark clouds, we aborted our planned three peak traverse and reached the car after about one hour. Also climbing the peak that day was Betsy and Chad Palmer, family of the SPS and DPS list finisher **Don Palmer**, living in Nevada.

After a bit of discussion with my group at the parking lot, we decided to climb the peak by way of Noble Lake. We ran into a crowd at the Ebbet's Pass trailhead where a relay race involving runners, horse riders and bicyclists was beginning. After starting down the trail at 10:30, we reached Noble Lake around noon. From there we began climbing up the shoulder towards Highland Peak. After a considerable trudge up loose rock and scree, we reached a high point which, for a few moments we thought might be Highland. Of course it was only point 10,284. We now had the opportunity to downclimb a few hundred feet, then head back up to the true summit of Highland at 4:00 p.m. The view was great but very windy with no shelter.

Having never climbed Highland from either direction before, I exercised extra caution leading the group down towards the Highland/Silver saddle, opposite the side of the mountain we had ascended. It was tough going for a while due to the combination of loose rock mixed with dense brush and cliffs. To avoid rock fall hazards, I insisted that we traverse down the open slopes in sequence, regrouping before we crossed back against our previous direction. Though a couple people objected, I felt justified everytime a few more softball sized rocks flew down the chute. The rest of the trip was uneventful as we reached the saddle and followed a ridge down to Noble Creek Canyon. Just above the trail, we hit a hundred yards of dense brush before following a stream bed to the trail. At 7:20 we reached the Noble Creek Canyon Trailhead where we had parked one car, shuttled back to Ebbet's Pass and headed home.

Dinner by the way was at Sorensen's. After waiting a half hour to get seated at one of their three large tables, we enjoyed a fine, if slightly expensive meal. We appreciated it since the cook had stayed forty minutes past his quitting time of 8:30 to serve us.

Bob Buckles



The nice thing about cross country skiing is  
that you can get off the groomed trails  
and make your own.

TAHOE OGUL PEAK LIST

format revised 8/90

Peak and Gorge Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club

PURPOSE: To encourage peak-climbing in the Lake Tahoe Region.

BACKGROUND: OGUL is the Washoe Indian word for mountain bighorn sheep. The Indians hunted this agile mountaineer in both the Sierra Tahoe Region and the Basin and Range to the east. Though now extinct in the area, this once great mountain sheep is a fitting symbol for our Tahoe OGUL List.

RECOGNITION: The Peak and Gorge Section will recognize significant accomplishments in climbing peaks on this list by publication in our Boulder Newsletter. Emblem status is conferred on those who have reached the summits of:

- 1) 10 star (\*) peaks on this list,
- 2) 5 star (\*) and any other 10 peaks on this list, or
- 3) Any 20 peaks on this list.

List completion status is conferred on those who have reached the summits of all peaks on this list.

For recognition, a list of peaks climbed indicating the date of ascent and the leader of the outing (if any) should be submitted to the Peak and Gorge Section Chair whose phone number appears in the Chapter Outings Schedule. A Tahoe OGUL T-shirt is awarded, at cost, to those who have achieved emblem status.

THE NAS & SGS LISTS: In addition to the OGUL List, the Peak and Gorge Section maintains a list of Northern Alpine Section (NAS) peaks and Sierra Gorge Section (SGS) gorges. NAS peaks cover a much wider area than the OGUL list and provide opportunities to explore a variety of mountain ranges throughout California, Nevada's Great Basin, and adjoining states. Gorge Scrambles on the SGS List bring one into remote, wild, and scenic places in California where few people have gone before. Recognition is given for significant accomplishments in each.

INTERPRETATION: The peaks are classified as Star (\*), Emblem (X), and Mountaineer ( ) peaks according to their view, difficulty, and dominance of an area. Star peaks are primary in setting with exceptional views and are generally of greater difficulty. Emblem peaks are secondary. Mountaineer peaks comprise the remainder. All provide a rewarding experience.

Elevation (ELEV.) is the height of the summit (in feet) above sea level.

Each peak on the list can be located on a USGS topographic 15-minute quadrangle (TOPO MAP). These are available from many stores that sell mountaineering equipment or directly from the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO 80225. In some areas, 7-1/2 minute quadrangles are also available which show greater detail.

Peaks are assigned two difficulty ratings (CLASS AND GRADE). It is assumed that climbers use the least difficult, but not necessarily the most commonly-used, route accessible by automobile (not a 4 wheel drive vehicle). Driving time is not a factor. A class of 1 to 6 is assigned to convey what type of terrain may be encountered. Briefly, Class 1 is hands-in-pockets hiking; Class 2 is rough cross-country travel; Class 3 is simple climbing with some exposure; and Class 4, 5, and 6 represent increasingly difficult climbing requiring the use of ropes and special equipment. A class prefaced by an "S" is sometimes added to convey a greater degree of difficulty in climbing a summit block. Grades are assigned as follows: 1) up to 5 miles round trip, 2) 6-10 miles round trip, 3) 11 to 15 miles round trip, etc. and A) up to 1,000' total elevation gain, B) 1000' to 2000' total elevation gain, C) 2000' to 3000' total elevation gain, etc. For example, a 21-mile jaunt climbing a total of 3500 feet is graded 5D. See the Mother Lode Chapter Outings Schedule for a more detailed explanation of these ratings.

WARNING: Hiking and climbing conditions do change, and some information given here is subjective. The Peak and Gorge Section does not accept responsibility for outdated or incorrect information. Please help future climbers by sending corrections to the Peak and Gorge Chair who is listed in the Chapter Outings Schedule.

IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>USGS TOPO MAP (15')</u>	<u>Least Difficult Route Possible w/2WD Drive-In</u>		
			<u>CLASS</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
<u>North of Highway 70</u>					
* Adams Peak	8197	Chilcoot, CA	2	1B	Logging road to southwest of peak
<u>South of Highway 70</u>					
* Mt. Fillmore	7715	Downieville, CA	2	1A	Johnsville Road
Mt. Elwell	7812	Sierra City, CA	2	2B	Lakes Basin
Haskell Peak	8107	Sierra City, CA	1	1A	Haskell Peak Rd to southwest
Sierra Buttes	8587	Sierra City, CA	1	2C	Packer Lake
<u>North of Highway 80</u>					
* Mt. Lola	9143	Donner Pass, CA	1	1B	White Rock Lake
* English Mtn	8373	Emigrant Gap, CA	2	1B	Catfish Lake
* Black Butte	8030	Emigrant Gap, CA	2(S-3)	2B	Grouse Ridge Lookout
x Old Man Mtn	7789	Emigrant Gap, CA	2	2C	Fordyce Summit
Signal Peak	7841	Emigrant Gap, CA	1	1A	Fordyce Summit
Basin Peak	9015	Donner Pass, CA	1	3C	Castle Peak Trailhead (I-80)
* Castle Peak	9103	Donner Pass, CA	1(S-3)	2B	Castle Peak Trailhead (I-80)
<u>South of Highway 80</u>					
x Devils Peak	7704	Donner Pass, CA	3	1B	Cascade Lakes
x Snow Mtn	8014	Granite Chief, CA	1	3C	Cascade Lakes
Mt. Mildred	8398	Granite Chief, CA	1	2B	Logging road near Dolly Creek

IN THE SIERRA NEVADA (continued)

	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>USGS TOPO MAP (15')</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
<u>West Side of Lake Tahoe</u>					
Anderson Peak	8683	Donner Pass, CA	1	3C	Donner Summit
Tinker Knob	8949	Granite Chief, CA	2	3C	Squaw Valley
* Granite Chief	9006	Granite Chief, CA	1	2C	Squaw Valley
x Needle Peak	8971	Granite Chief, CA	2(S-3)	3C	Squaw Valley
Lyon Peak	8891	Granite Chief, CA	2	3C	Squaw Valley
x Twin Peaks	8878	Tahoe, CA-NV	2	2B	Barker Pass
Ellis Peak	8740	Tahoe, CA-NV	1	1B	Barker Pass
<u>Southwest Side of Lake Tahoe - East Ridge</u>					
x Rubicon Peak	9183	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	1C	Rubicon Estates, Lake Tahoe
Phipps Peak	9234	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Bayview Trailhead (Hwy 89)
* Mt. Tallac	9735	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Fallen Leaf Lake
x Dicks Peak	9974	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Fallen Leaf Lake
x Jacks Peak	9856	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3D	Fallen Leaf Lake
<u>Southwest Side of Lake Tahoe - West Ridge</u>					
Tells Peak	8872	Robbs Peak, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
McConnell Peak	9099	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
Silver Peak	8930	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
x Red Peak	9307	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	3C	Van Vleck Ranch Road
x Mt. Price	9975	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Wrights Lake
* Pyramid Peak	9983	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	2	2D	Twin Bridges (Hwy 50)
Ralston Peak	9235	Fallen Leaf Lake, CA	1	2C	Sayles Flat (Hwy 50)
<u>South of Lake Tahoe</u>					
Waterhouse Peak	9497	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	1B	Luther Pass
Stevens Peak	10061	Markleeville, CA	1	1C	Hwy 88, via Crater Lake
x Red Lake Peak	10061	Markleeville, CA	1(S-3)	1B	Carson Pass
<u>South of Highway 88</u>					
* Round Top	10380	Markleeville, CA	2(S-3)	1B	Woods Lake
Hawkins Peak	10023	Markleeville, CA	2	1B	Burnside Lake Road
Markleeville Peak	9417	Markleeville, CA	1	1B	Blue Lakes Road
* Jeff Davis Peak	8990	Markleeville, CA	5	1A	Blue Lakes Road
The Nipple	9340	Markleeville, CA	2	1E	Blue Lakes Road
* Mokelumne Peak	9332	Silver Lake, CA	2	3C	Shriner Lake Trailhead
<u>North of Highway 4</u>					
x Raymond Peak	10011	Markleeville, CA	2	3C	Ebbetts Pass
x Reynolds Peak	9690	Markleeville, CA	2(S-3)	2C	Ebbetts Pass or Wet Meadows
<u>South of Highway 4</u>					
x Silver Peak	10774	Markleeville, CA	2	3D	Noble Canyon Trailhead (Hwy 4)
* Highland Peak	10934	Markleeville, CA	2	3D	Noble Canyon Trailhead (Hwy 4)
Lookout Peak	9584	Markleeville, CA	2	2B	Pacific Valley (Hwy 4)

IN THE CARSON RANGE, SIERRA NEVADA

<u>Northeast of Lake Tahoe</u>					
* Mt. Rose	10776	Mt Rose, NV	1	3C	Mt. Rose Summit (Hwy 431)
<u>East of Lake Tahoe</u>					
x Snow Valley Peak	9214	Carson City, NV	1	3C	Spooner Summit
Duane Bliss Peak	8658	Carson City, NV	2	2B	Spooner Summit
Genoa Peak	9150	Carson City, NV	1	2B	N. Benjamin Rd, Daggett Pass
<u>Southeast of Lake Tahoe</u>					
* Freel Peak	10881	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	1D	Fountain Place
Jobs Sister	10823	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	2D	Fountain Place
x Jobs Peak	10633	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	3D	Snowshoe Springs (Hwy 88/89)
Wade	9367	Freel Peak, CA-NV	2	3C	Snowshoe Springs (Hwy 88/89)

IN THE PINE NUT MTNS (East of Highway 395)

x Mt. Siegel	9450	Mt. Siegel, NV-CA	2	2C	Slaters Mine to north of peak
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IN THE SWEETWATER MTNS (East of Highway 395)

Desert Creek Peak	8969	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	1C	Risue Canyon Road
x East Sister	10402	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	2C	Rickey Mine to north
x Middle Sister	10859	Desert Creek Peak, NV-CA	2	3D	Rickey Mine to north
* South Sister	11339	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	3C	Sheeles Camp
* Mt. Patterson	11673	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	2C	Lobdell Lake
x Wheeler Peak	11664	Fales Hot Springs, CA-NV	2	3D	Swauger Creek

At the 28 Sept 93 Peak and Gorge Social, Karen Leyse, Recreation Technician for the Forest Service spoke to us about the issue of peak registers in Desolation Wilderness and other national forest areas. Apparently, some Forest Service rangers are removing registers from peaks in and around the Wilderness area. This has become an issue of concern for the Forest Service and after discussing it with her supervisor, Karen decided to approach us for input. Karen brought some of the register material with her. It included everything from the quality brown cover paper notebooks that our section has previously put on the peaks to a plastic bag stuffed with scraps of paper (found on Pyramid Peak.) There is no consistent written policy either within the Pacific Ranger District or at the national level. Some other districts across the country have their own policies based on local interpretation of forest management law and directives. For example, in the Sequoia Kings Canyon District, there is an agreement that historic registers will not be disturbed. Karen did not have a copy of the written agreement and was not clear on the details about what constituted a historic register.

One of the principal issues regarding placement of the registers according to Karen is the how it relates to Wilderness management policy as understood by the Forest Service. It is their responsibility to maintain wilderness areas in their "original state" as understood when the area is established. That is generally thought of as undisturbed by man. Placement of a new register on a peak from this point of view is considered littering and damaging to that original state. This general point of view is justification for the rangers removing registers. However, preservation of wilderness areas also includes a charter for preserving items of historical significance. Because of this additional obligation, there are some who have argued that if maintaining registers on a peak has been a tradition, then that may provide grounds to continue the practice. If this point of view is accepted, the problem then becomes more of a housekeeping issue. How do we keep registers in good condition, stored in an appropriate container, minimizing the impact on the rest of the alpine environment?

While Karen described the issue from the Forest Service perspective, those attending frequently asked questions or offered opinions. They included John Sarna, John Besbekos, and Anna Chaput. One discussion centered on how registers impacted the wilderness experience. Obviously, since they had not been explicitly directed to remove registers, some rangers felt that the registers were not desirable based on their own feelings about what constituted wilderness. Other people had expressed similar feelings about the issue to Forest Service personnel. On the other hand, most of the peaks in or outside of the Wilderness area had registers on them and many people, including Karen herself had signed those registers upon reaching the peaks. This behavior indicates endorsement of having registers on peaks. Karen also mentioned that the mere existence of registers, peak lists, etc. encouraged people to climb the peaks. Though this means that people are getting an opportunity to enjoy the wilderness area, it also means that these areas are becoming more crowded with people, putting additional pressures on the environment and having numerous adverse affects.

The discussion concluded with a request from Karen that our organization take the following actions: First, pending a review of their policy, her organization requests that we stop putting registers on any peaks in Desolation Wilderness Area. Those of us in attendance at the meeting agreed to this temporary action. I recognize that some people affiliated with our organization may not agree to this policy. I request that you honor it during the next few months while we try to resolve the situation. Karen also



indicated that it was not district policy that they seek out and remove registers. Second, she asked that our organization submit a position paper expressing our views on this issue. Points that might be of importance include information on how long registers have been on the peaks, why a peak warrants a register, and what can be done to mitigate the undesired impacts caused by peak registers. Based on our position paper and other inputs, the Forest Service would like to develop a memorandum of agreement with us and other organizations that would remove registers where possible or establish acceptable rules for where and how registers are placed. Karen recognizes that we are just some of the many people who may place registers and that our organization cannot control those other people. On the other hand, most of the registers found in Desolation Wilderness were placed by members of our organization.

I request that all of you who are interested in this issue should contact me or the Forest Service (preferably both in writing) with your opinion. Address correspondence to Karen Leyse, Pacific Ranger District, El Dorado National Forest, Pollock Pines, CA 95726, (916) 644-2349. I have also included a questionnaire in this issue of the Boulder as a quick way for you to give me your opinion. Over the next couple months I will continue asking for opinions in order to formulate a position to take to the Forest Service.

Bob Buckles, Chair, Peak and Gorge Section

#### REGISTER REMOVAL?

The **Sierra Club** has been placing and maintaining summit registers almost since the Club's inception in 1892. Recently, the **National Park Service**, the **United States Forest Service**, and the **California State Park System** have been placing more "official" registers on the more popular peaks as well as on trails. Registers have helped locate **missing climbers**, provided route information, weather statistics, in addition to the main purpose of providing enjoyment and recognition for a peak's many summitteers.

Unfortunately, working against us have been vandals, registerthieves, misdirected governmental employees, and an occasional poor thinker to whom the placement appears to be "garbage." It is a sad mark against the Mother Lode Chapter that a former chapter chair and his cronies have chosen to align themselves with this latter group.

If we are to think of a "pure" wilderness, why are there dams, communication facilities, bridges, trails, signs, stock gates, fencelines, as well as bear boxes and cables, and other pretty much permanent fixtures within the said areas? Obviously, the issue is a "red herring" wasting time and thought better used on really saving wilderness. Beautiful, pristine areas are desperately in need of legal protection, especially in the MLC's own backyard.

From Bill Hauser comes the following points:

1. The holdovers from Reagan/Bush would have the removal of a data base which shows that many, many people use the area.
2. This will be an end to the joy for novice climbers to sign in along the names of the many who love and enjoy the summits.
3. This riddance of mountaineering would further please those who would destroy our wildlands.

Let's not fall prey to "sour grapes" logic of those who have fared poorly in the quest for summit successes and wilderness skills finesse and firmly oppose those who would suffer all of us with their brand of misery!

Pete Yamagata

## AN APPEAL -- NO MORE REGISTERS ON PEAKS

I never thought that registers on peaks would become an irritant. But they have. Last year I climbed Wade Peak from Horsethief Canyon. When I reached the peak I noticed it had two summits. So I climbed the one on the right. It was too low to be the summit. So I climbed the second. However, I noticed a plastic container, a register, on the summit. However, the weather and elements had caused the register to become brittle to the touch and the contents of the register were starting to spill out.

It was then that I ask myself. Why a register on this relatively obscure, desolate peak? I could think of various reasons. But are they good enough. One reason is that signing one's name into a register gives one recognition and a sense of immortality. To place one's name, along with other personal observations, on a piece paper (whatever its condition or kind) reveals to the rest of humanity a personal accomplishment. However, I've always thought that reaching a summit was a personal, private accomplishment that did not need public recognition. On the other hand, who cares if you climbed this or that summit last week, last year, or ten years ago.

Another possible reason for a register is to validate that I have climbed this or that peak when I apply for a PG badge. But this reason is invalid. No leader of the PG section would climb all the peaks I have allegedly climbed and sift through the contents of numerous registers to verify that I have climbed this and that peak. To minimize the expenditure of time and effort PG relies on the honesty and integrity of those requesting a peak badge. If you want to claim a few peaks that you never climbed go ahead. Its only your personal integrity, honesty and conscious that will suffer.

Another possible reason for a register is to inform yourself that you located the "right" summit. But why do you need to be informed that you are on the right summit? The adventure and thrill of peak climbing is to find the high point yourself, however, part of that adventure is to find yourself on the wrong summit. An important part of peak climbing is to make mistakes and to, hopefully, learn from them so that one becomes a more competent mountaineer.

The most compelling argument against peak registers is that they ensure that more than footsteps are found on summits. So much of modern human activity results in litter. If you want to insure the presences of litter and other evidence of human activity wherever you go, even on the unlimited high points of the Sierras, place a register on it. Here I am climbing a minor high point on a ridge overlooking Dicks Lake and what do I behold but a register. A junky register just thrown together. What do I find in and about it; part of someone's lunch, matchbook covers, business cards, and other scraps of paper despoiling the pristine summit.

All things considered I would urge the Peak and Gorge Section to consider not placing registers on Sierra peaks. Lets leave the summits as they were, free of any evidence of human presences, except for footprints.

Peak and Gorge Questionnaire  
Regarding Registers

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Put  
Stamp  
Here

TO: Bob Buckles  
6120 Rainier Ave  
Rocklin CA 95677

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please complete this questionnaire, fold, stamp and return to Bob Buckles.

1. Do you think registers should be placed (check more than one if you agree)  
\_\_\_ On all significant peaks \_\_\_ Not in wilderness areas \_\_\_ Never  
\_\_\_ On Ogul/NAS list peaks only Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you consider to be a significant peak? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you object to a Forest Service policy banning registers from  
wilderness areas? Yes or No All Forest Service lands? Yes or No

4. Do you think that the Peak and Gorge Section should support placement  
of peak registers? (Check all that you agree with.) \_\_\_ Through increased  
Boulder subscription prices. \_\_\_ Through higher pricing of T-shirts.  
\_\_\_ Through separate donations. \_\_\_ No financial support. \_\_\_ No support of  
registers in any way.

5. Any other comments regarding registers or other Peak and Gorge issues?

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**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: 6 Dec 93

Boulder Editorial Committee  
C/O John Besbekos  
P.O. Box 417415  
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paid til issue 61

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