

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

ISSUE 59, MARCH/APRIL 94

CHAIR'S CORNER

It's now been a year since I was elected chair of the Peak and Gorge Outings Section. The time has gone fast and sometimes I have not felt terribly successful in the job. Part of that is because I remember when I first became involved in P&G, we were still doing technical mountaineering, we had several training trips each year, and the social events had some good speakers and were very well attended. Since then our group has struggled a bit with low attendance at the social events, weak programs, and a dwindling number of leaders.

Some good things have happened recently. Attendance at our social meetings has improved. We have a some interesting speakers lined up, Jeff Stedifor on rock climbing and Tom Meagher on climbing in the Andes. We also expect to resume technical climbing due to changes in our insurance rules (see separate article.) Alan Cooke has joined John Besbekos and I on the Boulder editorial committee. Jackie Stroud has decided to start leading trips again. Backcountry skiing has had strong support and that may translate into more interest in peak climbing.

To maintain and improve the Peak and Gorge section, we need help. We need another member for the Boulder editorial committee. Duties include writing, reviewing article submissions and assembling the newsletter once every other month. For those who aren't on the editorial staff, submit articles anyway. We also need help organizing socials, finding speakers, etc. Do you have an idea for a program or a speaker? We need more leaders. When I look at my list, no new leaders have been added for several years. Anybody interested? Finally, if you enjoy our socials, tell others and invite them to come along. Mention this newsletter to others. Word of mouth advertising is the key to keeping a strong and interested membership.

Bob Buckles, 6120 Rainier Ave., Rocklin CA 95677, (916) 624-3620

Calendar

Note: The outings and events listed here are items that may be of interest to our readers. They are a mixture of private trips and other organizations as well as Sierra Club trips.

- March 4 - 6
Fri. - Sun. **Hot Springs Car Camp (Desert Survivors)** Saline Valley's Lower Warm Springs.
For info contact Catherine O'Riley, (510) 635-4908.
- March 5, Sat **Intermediate Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** Highway 88 to Highway 50. Start at Caples Creek and end at
Camp Sacramento, ski Pineapple Peak. Meet CSUS arboretum, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
- March 6, Sun. **Mt. St. Helena (Sierra Club)** 2000 ft. gain, 10 miles. Meet at 11th & O at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Pat Purcell, 428-0830 (6 - 9 p.m.)
- March 6, Sun. **Intermediate Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** Location based on snow conditions. Meet at Roseville Square 7:30 a.m. Lead
Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
- March 6, Sun. **Carson Pass to Lake Winemucca Ski Trek (California State Park Sierra District Winter Hike Program)**
Meet 10:00 a.m. Carson Pass Sno-Park. For info call: (916) 525-7982.
- March 11 - 13
Fri. - Sun. **Joshua Tree South Car Camp (Desert Survivors)** Hike Eagle Mountain (5350')
For info contact: Steve Tabor, (510) 357-6585.
- March 12, Sat. **Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park (Sierra Club)** Hike to top of Bald Mtn. Meet at CSUS arboretum 7:00 a.m.
Leader: Dana Fuller, 682-5236.
- March 12, Sat. **Carson - Hope Valley Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** For experienced skiers in good shape. Meet at El Dorado Hills Park &
Ride at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Dave Vandershaf, 933-3116.
- March 12, Sat. **Survival Clinic (California State Park Sierra District Winter Hike Program)** Intro to Cross-country skiing and tip
winter survival. Meet 10: a.m. at General Creek Campground entrance, Sugar Pine State Park. Info: (916) 525-7982.
- March 12 - 14
Sat. - Mon. **Black Mts/Funeral peak Backpack (Desert Survivors)** 3 day backpack in Death Valley.
For info contact David McMullen (510) 549-2645.
- March 13, Sun. **Ski Forestdale Divide (Sierra Club)** Intermediate ski tour. Meet Pollock Pines Safeway parking lot 7:30 a.m.
Participants must call leader. Bill Campau, 644-5339.
- March 13, Sun. **Intermediate Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** Location depends on snow conditions. Meet at Roseville Square 7:30 a.m. Le:
Fred Fischetto, 773-0870 Roseville.
- March 20, Sun. **Off Track Skiing (California State Park Sierra District Winter Hike Program)** For intermediate skiers.
Subjects cover skins, avalanche, emergency, speed control and difficult snow. 10:00 a.m. General Creek ski trail parkir
lot, Sugar Pine Point State Park. For info call: (916) 525-7982.
- March 20, Sun. **Intermediate Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** Location depends on snow conditions. For experienced skiers on hilly terrain.
Meet at 8:00 a.m. Hazel Ave. Park and Ride, Rancho Cordova. Call Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
- March 26 - 28
Sat. - Mon. **Panamint Dunes/Darwin Falls Car Camp (Desert Survivors)**
Contact: David McMullen (510) 549-2645.
- March 26 - April
3, Sat. - Sun. **Southern Nevada Backpack (Desert Survivors)** Muddy Mtns. Northeast of Las Vegas.
Contact: Bob Ellis (510) 526-3788.
- March 26 - Apr 3
Sat. - Sun. **Kofa Game Range Backpack (Desert Survivors)** Southern Arizona.
Contact: Steve Tabor (510) 357-6585.

- April 8 - 10
Fri - Sun **Red Rock Canyon Carcamp (Desert Survivors)** Mojave Desert.
Contact: Gerry Falt (415) 389-1105.
- April 8 - 10
Fri - Sun **Yucca Mt Project, Death Valley West side Road Car Camp (Desert Survivors)**
Contact: David Holton (916) 583-2021, P.O. Box 671, Tahoe City, CA 96145
- April 9, Sat **Intermediate Ski Tour (Sierra Club)** Location depends on snow conditions. For experienced skiers on hilly terrain.
Meet at 8:00 a.m. Hazel Ave. Park and Ride, Rancho Cordova. Call Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
- April 9 - 11
Sat - Mon **Cosco Petroglyphs Carcamp (Desert Survivors)**
Contact: David McMullen (510) 549-2645 before March 30.
- April 15 - 17
Fri - Sun **Fried Liver Wash Backpack (Desert Survivors)** Joshua Tree National Monument
Contact: Dave Halligan (510) 528-3360.
- April 22 - 24
Fri - Sun **Joshua Tree Central Car Camp (Desert Survivors)**
Contact: Lucy Dupertuis (510) 685-4836.
- Apr 28 - May 1
Thur - Sun **Mt Inyo and Keynot Peak Backpack and Class 2 Climb (Sierra Club)** 2 Peaks, 12.5 miles, 7000' elevation gain.
For trip details contact Alan Cooke 7:00pm - 9:00 pm at (916) 756-5083 (Davis).
- April 30 - May 1
Sat - Sun **Joaquin Rocks Backpack (Desert Survivors)** Diablo Range / San Joaquin Valley
Contact: Bob Ellis (510) 526-3788.
- May 1 - 7
Sun - Sat **Arches & Slots of the Waterpocket Fold Backpack (Desert Survivors)** Capitol Reef / Escalante Wilderness, Utah
Contact: David Holten (916) 583-2021, P.O. Box 671, Tahoe City, CA 96145.



N A S Emblems are available !!!
(Similar to illustration, pardon my computer art--JB)
If you qualify, contact Bob Buckles.

APPLY FOR WILDERNESS PERMITS SOON: In order to get permits for popular trailheads in wilderness areas you should apply for your permit with an application postmarked between Mar 1 and May 31. Included in this issue is a sample application. Remember that you must include \$3.00 per person with your application. Applications should be submitted to the appropriate office for each trailhead (call if you aren't sure.)

RETURN OF THE ICE AXE

Yes, it's true! There has been a change to the Sierra Club insurance coverage and we may be able to lead official outings requiring technical gear in the near future. Here is the information I got from Vicki Thorpe in the San Francisco office: The national chapter has been able to negotiate changes to our coverage which will include coverage for some trips using ice axes, ropes or other technical gear. There are many restrictions on these trips based on the language of the contract and our Club's agreement with the insurance carrier. All participants must be Sierra Club members. Participants must be carefully screened by the leader and are responsible for their own training, etc. No "training classes" will be done by the Sierra Club. All trips are to be approved by a central committee based in San Francisco in advance. There may also be a requirement for each participant to sign a waiver and each leader to submit a post-outing report after the event. Unfortunately this is just preliminary information. No committee had been formed when I last spoke to Vicki Thorpe and no details have been published beyond an announcement that some insurance restrictions would be lifted. I have taken this up with the Mother Lode Chapter Executive Committee and Wayne Luney agreed to take action to pursue the matter. I will also keep following up.

In spite of some concern about the proposed procedures, I think that everyone interested in technical climbing thru the Sierra Club should appreciate what the national office has done. According to Vicki, the Club is spending an additional \$60,000 for this coverage. Though that may be a bit exaggerated because of some other adjustments made to the coverage at the same time, they have invested a lot of money to get us this coverage at a time when funding is a problem. As leaders and members of the outing section most likely to benefit from these changes, we have a special responsibility to cooperate with the national office in leading safe outings which comply with all the outings guidelines.

The "training class" prohibition is due to the accidents resulting in claims prior to imposing the restrictions. A class billed as training is more likely to have a litigation action, whether due to the inexperience of participants, the hazard of learning new skills, or perhaps the kind of participant attracted. If we do not provide any training, we can state that it is the participant's responsibility to have the skills required to participate in the activity. Unless the leader is negligent when screening prospective participants, the participant is at fault if he misrepresents his skills.

So what now? For a start, Jackie Stroud and I have submitted proposed outings requiring ice axes for the Spring Schedule. They are contingent on approval by the central committee and any other requirements under the new rules. Another rule which may limit our activities is special leadership requirements, if any are imposed. Most of the active Peak & Gorge members I have spoken to have minimal formal training in technical climbing. Aside from the introductory climbing workshops the Peak & Gorge Section conducted prior to the insurance restrictions, I haven't had any. Most of us have learned what we know by doing. We need all the help we can get. If any current or former leaders have more expertise, please contact me. Even if you don't lead technical outings, I would like your input on how we can rebuild our technical mountaineering program.

Here is my vision of where we should be going: I consider the Peak and Gorge group to be a mountaineering section. For those ready to

move beyond class 2 and easy class 3 climbs, additional skills are needed. These include use of ice axes, crampons, rope management and belaying, and SOME technical rock climbing. Rock climbing is not our goal, rather a means for extending our mountaineering efforts to include some high exposure class 3 (which easily deteriorates into worse if you get off route) and an occasional bit of class 4 or 5 to reach the summit block. My own interest is in extending our snow and ice climbing to include winter ascents of peaks and glacier travel which cannot be safely done without technical gear. I want to get Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lyell into our annual outings schedule.

In order to achieve that goal, we will probably move a bit slowly this first year. At a minimum, we need to reintroduce the ice axe as part of our regular gear. We may progress to crampons on snow fields (Mt. Shasta, Avalanche Gulch route.) If we have the expertise and can clear the approval hurdles, we can also get some practice with safety belays on easy class three routes with top roping for those who wish to take a harder line up the summit block. We should work within our limits and improve our skills in anticipation of greater challenges in the future. Welcome back to serious mountaineering!

Bob Buckles

Mt. Mauna Kea (13,796') Hawaii November, 1993
Boris and Camille Nahlovsky met Marilyn and me in Kona at Thanksgiving for a week of kayaking, swimming and exploring. Mauna Kea is the highest peak in Hawaii. The climb starts at sea level and then to the summit in one day. We all started out early (9 AM, a real alpine start) for our objective. We climbed up and up through many different climatic zones. At last we reached within 300' of our objective and had to stop; the 4WD that is! We were at the end of the ROAD! Tough climb for a peak this high! Out of the car and up 300' to the summit cairn. However, I did the peak three times in one hour; couldn't find the register; no pencil in the register; back to sign the register. Who else can say they've done a slightly less than 14,000' peak three times in one day.

We met one of the staff of the joint observatory (Hawaii, France, Canada) and he gave us a guided tour of the observatory, the largest in the world. It was very interesting. He will remain one of our good Hawaiian friends.

Boris and Camille brought their mountain bikes and rode all the way down to sea level, about 55 miles. While they were biking down, Marilyn and I drove over to the trailhead that goes to the summit of Mauna Loa, just 200' less than Mauna Kea. The road goes to a weather station at 11,200'. We will do that one next year.

We would like to invite all of our Sacramento friends to join us on some climbs this coming year. We plan to do the Emmons Glacier route on Rainier and Baker, Glacier and Olympus. Please give us a call.

Roger and Marilyn Ehret Gig Harbor, WA (206) 851-6957

With the encouragement of John Barna, who asked me to keep sending peak climb stories for the Boulder, I will describe some of the peaks that highlighted my 1993 climbing season.

Square Butte, Montana (8990') July, 1993
Marilyn and I decided to seek out this prominent peak that is the focal point of many of Charles Russell paintings. Not knowing if there was a route through the cliffs that surround the peak we searched for a road that would get us within a reasonable distance to make the peak. As luck would have it the owner of the local bar and restaurant called a rancher in the area and arranged permission for us to use a private road for access to the peak. Without too much trouble, we picked a route up through the scrub and rocks to the flat summit which was about a mile in diameter. There was goat hair hanging from the low tree branches everywhere but we didn't see any goats. The views from the edge were great in all directions.

Mt. WDW (8030') Cascades August, 1993
This was probably one of the worst peak climbs we did this year, definitely not a WDW. Fred Becky describes the spectacular views in the guide book but all we could see was FOG. We climbed and scrambled in the clouds and fog all day to make the peak hoping we would climb out of the clouds. No such luck. This was a climb with our friends in the Tacoma Mountaineers. It was good to get back to Washington and climb with old friends.

Mt. Ellinor (5944') Olympics September, 1993
Although Marilyn and I have done this peak a number of times, it was strange to do it with no snow. Usually, the route is up through a steep avalanche chute, but we found a trail that went all the way to the summit. We never realized there was a trail on the mountain except at the lower elevations. The views are vast from the summit as you can see Mt. Baker all the way down to Mt. Hood in addition to the Seattle skyline in the distance.
Roger and Marilyn Ehret

You'll have to pay more for the beauty of Yosemite

Bee Staff

Campers headed to Yosemite National Park this year will have to dig deeper into their pockets to come up with the required fees.

The new campsite charges, which went into effect at the first of the year, are:

- \$14 per night at Yosemite Valley campgrounds (Lower and Upper River, and Lower, Upper and North Pines). Reserve through MISTIX, 800-365-2267, up to eight weeks in advance.

- \$12 per night at Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows. (Reserve through MISTIX).

- \$10 per night at the Wawona,

Bridalveil Creek and White Wolf campgrounds, and \$6 per night at Tamarack Flat, Porcupine Flat and Yosemite Creek. (All are first-come, first-served and cannot be reserved in advance.)

- \$3 per person per night at the Sunnyside walk-in and Hetchy Hetchy backpackers campgrounds. (Both operate on a first-come, first-served basis.)

- \$35 per group campsite. (Reserve up to 12 weeks in advance through MIXTIX.)

Camping fees at Yosemite last were increased in 1990.

This year's hikes add \$2 to \$3, depending on campsite, to the cost of an overnight stay.

THE BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS MAGAZINE

Kool-wahr

Couloir

Get the latest scoop on:

- New Gear
- Adventure
- Cozy Huts
- Avalanches
- Clubs & Trips

Earn Your Turns

To Subscribe send \$9.50 to:

Couloir Publications
6438 Penn St., Suite A
Moorpark, CA 93021

All prices in USD \$12 in Canada \$25 Overseas

Excellent little magazine!

Desert Peak Trip

Dec. 28, 1993 - Jan. 1, 1994

Melanie Hoots and I drove to Vidal Junction, south of Needles on U.S. Highway 95, to meet Bill Hauser for his desert peak trip. We arrived 15 minutes early and waited for an hour and a half. We finally decided Bill was not coming and drove off to camp.

Bill's trip write-up said he would climb Stepladder the next day, so we drove to the roadhead for that peak. L.A.'s Desert Peak Section (DPS) sells a road and climbing guide for the peaks on their list. Using this guide we attempted to reach Stepladder. However, a road the DPS rates as "poor" was impassible. We then drove across Highway 95 to try Chemehueva. The DPS rated the road to Chemehueva as excellent, and it was.

We bagged the peak with the round-trip taking roughly 5 hours. Chemehueva provides nice views of the desert to the south and west and of Lake Havasu to the east. The peak is rated as class 2. If you follow the ducks up the "official" DPS route, it is a moderate class 2. If you play around as we did and get off-course, it escalates to class 3 or higher. I got into one spot that had sufficient exposure to cause me to back off and try a different route. Overall, this is a nice climb for this time of year.

I wanted to climb Rabbit Peak so we drove to Salton City and went for it. Rabbit Peak (Moby, for short) is a DPS Emblem Peak. The DPS guide calls Moby "perhaps the most difficult peak on the list." At 14 miles and 6,600 feet of elevation gain, all cross-country, it is obviously difficult. The DPS Guide doesn't tell you that the fragile desert foliage is particularly fierce.

We spent the night at a nearby county park. We broke camp at about 6:00 and were at the roadhead at roughly 7:10. That was our first mistake. We should have been hiking at 6:00. Our second mistake came 15 minutes later. The hiking guide directs: follow a wash at the base of a levy for half a mile, leave the wash and head to the left for 100 yards until encountering another levy, then follow the levy. We left the wash and saw another levy but it was more than 100 yards. I think we left the wash too soon because we never found some of the later landmarks. The route up Moby seemed pretty obvious, so we just pushed forward.

We followed the second levy in a southwesterly direction until we came to the edge of the cultivated area. Before us stretched miles of boulders, gullies, fragile desert foliage, and in the distance, Rabbit Peak. If we had been on the official DPS route, we would have found an old jeep trail and painted white rocks to mark the route. We did not find any of these markers, although we did find occasional ducks as we crossed this wild landscape.

We took about an hour crossing the field. We then ascended a ridge that stretched out west to east to the north of the eastern face of Rabbit Peak. (The ridge appeared to be the correct ridge per the DSP instructions; our ridge separated Alamo and Sheep canyons.) This ridge stretched on for miles, gaining considerable elevation, then losing a few feet before heading upward again, over and over, four or five times. Ultimately, we reached a point where we could cross the head of Alamo canyon. The peak was now 2,000 feet of elevation gain and one mile distant. However, it was 1:00 and it looked like we were not going to get there. We went until 2:00, at which time we decided we did not have sufficient flashlight battery power and water to make the peak and get back in one piece. Thus, someday we will have to go back.

The return to the car was an adventure. About four miles from the car, Melanie's batteries died. This made life interesting. We used my headlamp to light my path and Melanie's, while watching for the ocotillo, pencil cholla, teddy bear cholla, yucca, and agave that constantly attempted to spear us. Both of us received numerous puncture wounds from this experience. Once off the ridge we followed a wash that, lo and behold, dumped us out on the jeep trail. We got back to the car at 10:45. If we had bagged Rabbit, it would have been about 12:45 or later.

One botanical note: the boulder strewn field at the base of Rabbit did not have much foliage -- barrel cactus and ocotillos. Up the ridge, the ocotillos, teddy bear and pencil cholla, yucca and agave became more numerous. About half-way up, we found six-foot tall yuccas and juniper. Rabbit Peak, via our route, offers an interesting cross-section of plant life.

The next day we drove through Joshua Tree and toured the Cholla Garden and the Ocotillo Patch. We also bagged Ryan Mountain, about a 3-mile hike with relatively tame elevation gain. While there, we saw a rather unique cross training session -- some rock climber on-rope and in harness climbing a nearby rock face with swim fins on his feet. Bo Jackson, move over!

Alan Cooke

MT. DAVIDSON (7,864')**DECEMBER 16, 1993**

I usually don't gamble, but this mid-week, I took advantage of the special deal at Circus-Circus Reno to stay in comfortable lodging (\$22 a night) and learn the intricacies of "gamblage." I visited the BLM office and picked up a nice wall map of Nevada, and did some shopping in the various wilderness supply houses. I also drove to Pyramid Lake (now a \$5 day use fee) and photographed the stormy light on the Needles and on the snow-covered Lake Range, with its highpoint of **Tohakum Peak** (8,075') in the clouds.

The morning after with my meager winnings, I drove to **Virginia City** and tried to follow **Fred Johnson's** description (see Issue #56 Boulder) to the top of the **Storey County** highpoint. I headed up through powder and quickly reached the summit, rent with poles and wires, and also snow-plastered shrubs. Visibility was great, with ranges seen in all directions on this crisp, beautiful day. I came down and enjoyed a safe drive home on I-80. PY

VABM FISKE (2868'), "NORTH POINT" (2600+')**JANUARY 11, 1994**

Anxious to examine our registers, **Rex Smith** and I used the slowly overgrowing, eroding trail to the top of **Blue Ridge** where we found the can and book on "North Point" to be missing. We didn't care to place another due to the restrictions and the fact that this was a minor summit in the first place! Checking Fiske, we found that the book was being chewed away by sil-verfish (?). Reading some anti-Sierra Club remarks along with weird entries, I left a better can. Maybe registers should be removed(?). Our round-trip time was about 5½ hours. I couldn't convince **Rex** to stop at "Indian Bingo" in Brooks! PY

THOMPSON PEAK (9340')**JANUARY 18, 1994**

"There's no snow," some of my mountain contacts tersely informed me, so **Rex Smith** and I started from **Luther Pass** to ascend directly up the south slope of this notable peak that I had been saving for such an occasion. The ground was 80-90% bare, and we climbed up pine duff and fine granitic sands through increasingly steep boulder fields for a 2 hour ascent in weather conditions that were better than on many summer days. We were stripped down to shirt and t-shirt when we reached the top where we found no trace that anyone had been there (except for one-rock ducks?). We enjoyed the great view of **Hope Valley** with the meandering **Carson River** through it. Our descent took about an hour. This was an easy 1,600' gain over about 0.8 mile each way. PY

PEAVINE PEAK (8266'), SEVEN LAKES MTN. (6049')**FEBRUARY 1-2, 1994**

Rex Smith and I left Sac at 7:30 a.m. to drive to the Stead Blvd. Exit 76 off U.S. 395 north of Reno to park at the RR tracks and hike the 12 mi., 3,000' gain r.t. to the summit of this mundane peak. This is certainly a drive-up, but really needing the exercise, we enjoyed the best views of Reno that I have ever seen from a mountaintop. We stayed at the bargain **Circus-Circus**, and I chatted over the phone picking the experiences of **Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club** people. The next day, we drove north again up 395 to **Red Rock** (a colorful formation that deserves state park status), and then through a remote valley to hike up **Seven Lakes Mtn.**, a 1½ hr. climb with jeep roads to the top. **Rex** measured a net gain of 1300' with his altimeter, probably over about 1½-2 miles o.w. We stopped by the **University of Nevada** to see the Historical Society Museum before arriving home by about 6 p.m. PY

THOUSAND PEAKS SECTION?

With the growing numbers of peak climbers throughout the West with advanced statuses, perhaps it is time for the most elite peak section to be formed! **Boris Nahlovsky** proposed a prototype list with this in mind in the late '80's. Therefore, a new proposal for the structure of this new section follows:

The new **Thousand Peaks Section** would utilize all current, official, California Sierra Club lists---SPS, DPS, HPS, LPC, NAS, and OGUL---for qualifying peaks that would count toward section pins, badges, or statuses. Peaks comparable to listed peaks in gain, mileages, and difficulty could also be counted. Out-of-state and foreign peaks could also be counted to ensure credit for all of one's "worthy climbs." "Big" peaks could get additional credit.

A total of 250 peaks climbed would qualify one for membership, with, of course, 1,000 peak ascents qualifying one for emblem status. A complete multiple list finish would provide the ultimate challenge attainable by only the most determined peak baggers.

Anyone interested may contact me at (916) 444-6319, or write to me at: 2109 10th Street #3, Sacramento, CA 95818-1313. Pete Yamagata

PEAK LIST STATISTICS

Peak List	No. of listed peaks	Minus overlap with preceding (above) lists
SPS	247	
DPS	97	
HPS	276	-5
LPC	56	
NAS	283	-179
OGUL	<u>63</u>	<u>-34</u>
	1022	804*

* Certainly, 196 peaks of comparable quality could be determined, and added to total the 1,000 peaks. The DPS "Explorer's List," the Coastal Range List, or more Northern California peaks could supply the needed numbers. I prefer counting repeat ascents to fill in as "peaks." PY

A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE USFS?

While discovering in order to participate in a Sierra Club scheduled "ski safety" tour I required some 50 hours of training, the subject was changed (not by me!) to registers in the **El Dorado National Forest's Desolation Wilderness**.

The point was made to me that **Desolation** receives a large amount of use, and of the kind where registers are filled with trash entries consequently meriting removal. My own experience around the Tahoe area and peaks in general are that entrants are pretty respectful and the occasional obscene or objectionable entry are in a small minority. Apparently, this is not the case in **Desolation**, where the peaks are held "too accessible." My argument that that was a First Amendment issue was not held valid, nor was the argument that "if someone sprays graffiti on a building, that it's not the building's fault!" After listening to ½ hours quotes of the Wilderness Act and USFS Rangers' policies, despite recitation of Peak and Gorge previous agreements with the USFS, I had to end the discussion. Also, apparently, the Sierra Peaks Section has agreed to no longer place or maintain registers in these areas.

Therefore the acts of "signing in" will no longer be a part of the outings of the Peak and Gorge Section in these areas, and perhaps a discussion of "de-listing" the **Desolation** peaks may be necessitated since no corroboration of a successful ascent without photo documentation is possible.

Pete Yamagata

PROPOSED LETTER REGARDING REGISTERS IN DESOLATION WILDERNESS

The following is my proposed text for our response to Karen Leyse' request for input on the issue of register in Desolation Wilderness. I welcome any feedback regarding this draft. I plan to request approval of a final version at the March social meeting and will then run it by the Mother Lode Chapter Executive Committee.

To: Karen Leyse/_____

This letter is in reply to your request for a position from the Peak and Gorge Outings Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club. Please note that this letter is an opinion by our outing section only, not an official Sierra Club position.

The majority view, based on a recent survey of our Boulder newsletter subscribers, is that having registers on peaks is good. It contributes to the mountaineering experience, creating a sense of camaraderie with those who have gone before, and a sense of accomplishment when one has the opportunity to sign in after a strenuous climb. Historically, people have been doing it almost as long as they have climbed mountains for sport. We would like to maintain this tradition.

Regarding which peaks should have registers, most members felt that common sense rather than formal rules should dictate. Several indicated that if someone felt a peak deserved a register, who is to say otherwise? Most agreed that peaks named on USGS topographical maps are reasonable candidates for having a register.

We look upon the register problems as one of good housekeeping rather than a question of whether the register should exist. Even if our organization were to stop supporting registers, other people will leave something behind. If there is not a register to sign in, a business card in a plastic bag may be left instead. The "bag of marmot chewed trash" left on Pyramid Peak is an example of what happens when you do not have proper registers available. Advocating a pristine wilderness without registers would only work if EVERYONE cooperated. That is not likely to happen.

Instead of a source of conflict, we would prefer that peak registers served as a focal point for cooperation between our organization and the Forest Service. We would be happy to work with your office on determining what containers and contents are best for peak registers. We can help in placement of acceptable registers and removal of unacceptable materials (especially for infrequently climbed peaks that your personnel seldom visit.) We can also solicit funds to support purchase of register materials.

Please advise us of your policy decision regarding this issue quickly. If you find against placement of registers in Desolation Wilderness, we will abide by that decision and discourage them to the extent our organization has an influence. In any case, we wish to avoid having registers placed, removed and placed again without a clear policy.

In conclusion, we recommend against a policy removing peak registers from wilderness areas. We believe this policy will not achieve the stated goals of minimizing impact on the wilderness and maintaining a pristine environment. A better organized program for placing and maintaining registers would serve those goals better. And this would have the added benefit of registers on peaks for mountaineers who want them.

Bob Buckles, Chair, Peak and Gorge Outings Section

INYO NATIONAL FOREST RANGER DISTRICTS AND QUOTA TRAILS

MONO LAKE DISTRICT
 Post Office Box 429
 Lee Vining, CA 93541 (619) 647-3000
 Rush Creek

WHITE MTN. RANGER DISTRICT
 798 North Main St.
 Bishop, CA 93514 (619) 873-2500

McGee Creek	Lamarck Lakes
Hilton Lakes	Sabrina Basin
Mono Pass	Treasure Lakes
Little Lakes Vly.	Bishop Pass
Pine Creek	Big Pine, No. Fork
Piute Pass	Big Pine, So. Fork

MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT
 Post Office Box 148
 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 (619) 924-5500

Duck Pass	John Muir Trail, No.
Deer Lakes	Minaret Lake
Red Cones, JMT So.	Beck Lake
High Trail (PCT)	Fern Lake
River Trail	Fish Creek
Shadow Lake	

MT. WHITNEY RANGER DISTRICT
 Post Office Box 8
 Lone Pine, CA 93545 (619) 876-6200

Taboose Pass	George Creek
Sawmill Pass	Mount Whitney Trial
Baxter Pass	Meysan Lake
Golden Trout Lks	Cottonwood Lakes
Kearsarge Pass	Cottonwood Pass
Shepherd Pass	

APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS VISITOR PERMIT

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE #(OPTIONAL) _____

Reservation Fee: # of people X \$3.00=\$ _____
 (Check/Money order to USDA Forest Service)

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

METHOD OF TRAVEL _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

NUMBER OF PACK OR SADDLE STOCK _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS: *Best Estimate*

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

SECOND CHOICE

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS:

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

THIRD CHOICE

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS:

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

THE United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7806 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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

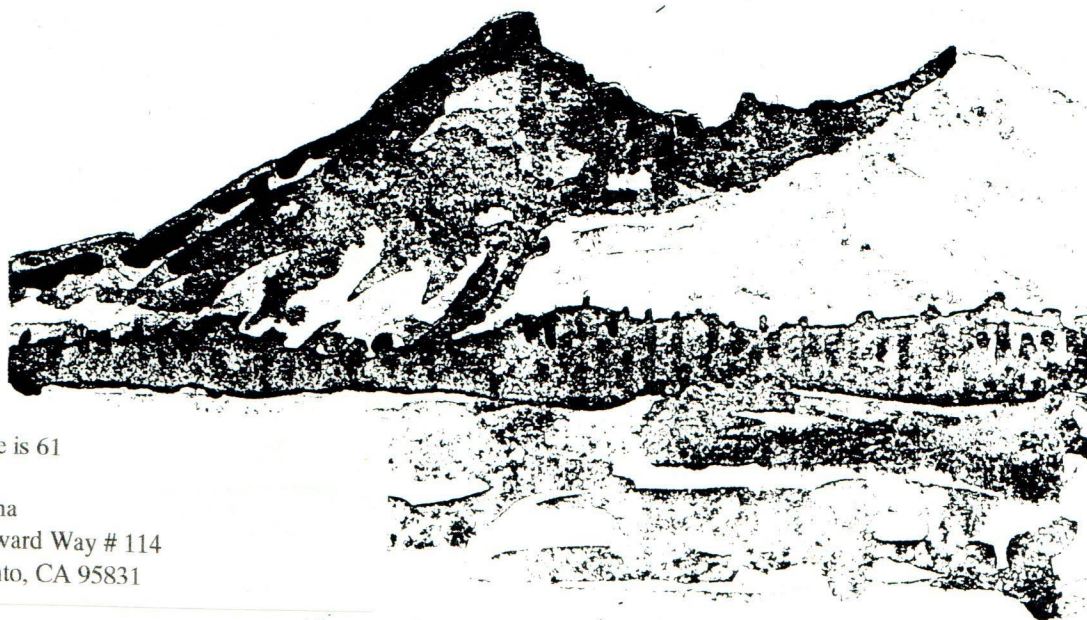
EDITORS: John Besbekos, Bob Buckles, and Alan Cooke

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 the Section's Treasurer, John Besbekos, P.O. Box 417415, Sacramento, CA 95841.

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: *April 5, 1994.*

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



Last issue is 61

John Sarna
545 Winward Way # 114
Sacramento, CA 95831