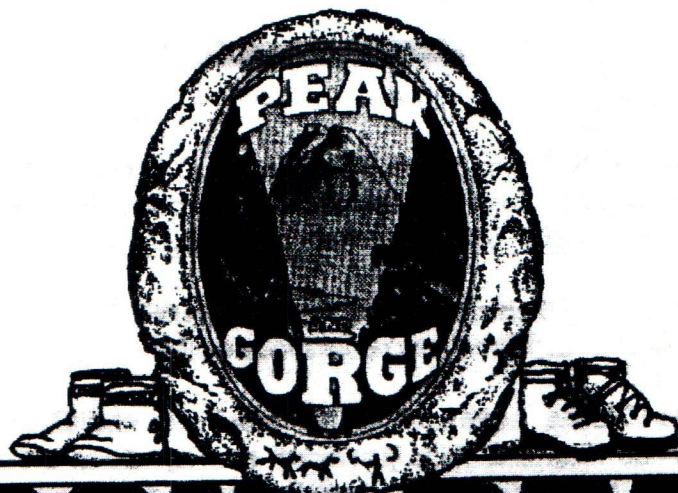


THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

Issue No. 62 September & October 1994

Chair's Corner

Another week, another peak. Though our day hike portion of the schedule has been a little weak, longer trips have been scheduled for almost every weekend since the beginning of July. In addition to the trips written up in this newsletter, Alan Cooke and I climbed Mt. Lyell in July and last week a group of us led by Alan Cooke climbed North Palisade - class 4 with ropes and a snowstorm to make it interesting. Since we have a full issue for this month already, you will just have to wait for that epic story.

As you can see from the schedule, more multi-day trips are planned for late August and September. Unfortunately, no one submitted hikes for the Sept-Nov submission for the Bonanza. I spoke to several of our regular leaders who pleaded other business, need for a rest, or just the desire to not be tied down. Maybe we need to get a few more people interested in leading hikes? If you can't find any trips in the next schedule, you can give me a call to compare plans for the weekend ((916)624-3620.) If nothing else shows up in the schedule, I might be interested in an October Desert Peak climb.

Don't forget to bring your slides and pictures to the September social. Assuming I didn't ruin my camera on Mt. Lyell, I should have a few good ones. Enjoy the rest of the summer bagging peaks and scouting good restaurants along the highway,

Bob Buckles

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.

Aug 20-21, Sat-Sun	Walker Lake/Gillis Range Carcamp(Desert Survivors) 2 days at this high desert lake, Sunday head to Gillis Range. Contact Steve Tabor (510) 357-6585
Aug 19-21 Fri-Sun	Whorl Mtn. Backpack/Peak climb (Sierra Club) 12,033' Class 3. Leave Thursday night & camp along Hwy 395. Climb to base camp Friday. Call John Watters, 488-8467.
Aug 20, Sat	Raymond Peak (Sierra Club) 10,011' peak in Ebbets Pass area. Possible climb of Reynolds Peak (9690'). Meet at Hazel Ave park & ride at 7 am. Bob Buckles 624-3620.
Aug 20, Sat	Dicks Peak (Sierra Club) Desolation Wilderness. 12 miles, 2 are off trail. Meet at El Dorado National Forest Supervisor office, 100 Forni Rd. (Forni Rd exit from Hwy 50 Placerville) at 7am. You <i>must</i> contact leader: Mark Olsen, 677-1010.
Aug 25-29, Thur- Tue.	Koip Peak, Backpack/climb (Sierra Club) 12,979' on Yosemite eastern border. Limited to 6. Call Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
Aug 25 Thur	Climbing the Mexican Volcanoes (REI Store) REI's Rick Kovacic will share his accounts of Iztaccichuatl(17,343'), Popocatepi(17,761), and El Pico de Orizaba(18,851') at 7pm, REI store in Birdcage Walk.
Aug 27, Sat	Tyron Peak (Sierra Club) Below Ebbets Pass. Meet CSUS arboretum at 6:30am. Al Gutowski, 457-3338.
Aug 27-28, Sat-Sun	Tule Mountain Car Camp (Sierra Club) Shasta Group outing to North Lassen County, Call Stan Weidert 474-3180.
Sep 3-5, Sat-Mon	Steens Mt/Wildhorse Backpack (Desert Survivors) High desert in Oregon. Contact Steve Tabor (510) 357-6585.
Sep 16-18, Fri-Sun	Disaster Peak Backpack/Climb (Sierra Club) 10,046' peak from Highland Lakes trailhead. Call Jackie Stroud, 457-6338.
Sep 27, Tues. eve.	Potluck Dinner & Slideshow(Peak & Gorge Social) Bob Buckles hosts. 6:30 pm. 6120 Rainier Ave., Rocklin, 624-3620.
1 Oct. 94	Freel & Job's Sister (Sierra Club) Meet Hazel Park & Ride at 7:30. Leader Bob Buckles 624-3620

Leavitt Peak

July 3, 1994: Climbed Leavitt Peak with brother Ned Dodds, 17 year old niece Karen Dodds and Karen's friend, Shelley Pope.

We left Echo Summit at around 0630, and arrived at Sonora Pass at around 0830, via Luther and Monitor Passes. Climbing almost immediately from Sonora Pass, we summited at around 1300. After not climbing in years, Ned was very slow- Shelley felt headaches and nausea at around 10,000 feet and Karen charged ahead, staying in sight at all times (soccer helps!).

At 100 feet below the summit, Shelley **refused** to go any farther, citing headaches, nausea, and loose rocks. Karen felt not normal; neither had been to this altitude before. So we discussed the effects of altitude as well as the grandeur of summit vistas while waiting for Ned-Shelley and Karen ate a little lunch and drank a little water. After a few minutes rest, we **all** made the peak.

The peak is broad and easy. We found the register under a small cairn on the apparent high point. The register had been placed by Pete Yamagata in 1991. Book one is full; book two is almost blank, with entries just on page one.

We met two SPS'ers on the peak: Mark Adrian and Richard Carey, both of the San Diego area. We yakked a while about mutual acquaintances and previous climbs, as well as Mark's rescue radio. What a small world!

The view from the peak was phenomenal: Banner and Ritter some 50 miles to the South, Mt Rose (or Freel Peak?) to the North. I could make out Mt. Diablo's vague outline through the valley haze about 125 miles to the West. Of course, Round Top, Highland, Mokelumne, Stanislaus and Tower Peaks were near at hand.

We left the summit around 1345, and judging from their distance ahead, Shelley's headache and nausea as well as Karen's 'not normalness' went away immediately. No further reports of loose rocks. Returned to the car around 1700. Back to Echo Summit at around 2000 after using up a lot of time trying to call Grandma Eunice (SPS Emblem #149) at the cabin via podunk telephone companies. It would have helped immensely had we written down the phone number...

Great Day Hike! Pacific Crest Trail to just below the peak, a couple of minor snow patches, use trails to the summit. And beautiful scenery.

Respectfully submitted, John T. Dodds.

Spring 1994 Desert Peak Bagging Trip-----Bill Hauser

After a nice 4 day Hot Springs and HPS Peak climbing trip, I met my Seattle friends in Las Vegas, Nevada at Gary Vespermans house. We all chipped in on a Chevy 4WD and headed out to El Grande Deserito!

Brown Peak 4947' April 3, 1994

After a nice soak in Tecopa Hot Springs we drove to Deadman Pass and camped out near a large desert pavement 1.9 miles north of Deadman Pass. The next day we left the cars at 7am and by 9:30am we were on top. Jim Pritchard, Ed Boulton, Max Junejo & I made it. Frank King turned back. After much study we took alternate route "c" north of the "B" route in the 1st edition of the desert guide. It was windy on top. We took the "best" route in the write-up by Dale & Canpy Jan 19-21, 1991. We were back to our cars by 1pm.

Tucki Mtn- 6732'

After a nice soak in Tecopah Hot Springs we drove to camp outside the Death Valley National Monument. The next morning we drove up the road past Telephone Springs and up to the Martin Cabin. We parked at Peak 5532. We left the cars at 9am and were on top of Tucki by 11:30am. Thereby cutting *hours* off the regular route from Skidoo. Jim Pritchard, Eddie Boulton & I enjoyed the summit vistas and a large pack rat nest in the summit rocks.

Canyon Pt. - 5960'

After a long rocky road from Stovepipe Wells we camped near a nice little stream and cottonwoods. Following the 3rd edition to the DPS guide we made the summit in 3 hours. In the beginning there was a somewhat tricky trail around a 100' hanging waterfall. We saw a few tiny Joshua trees and on top great views of the wild desert peaks. Jim Pritchard, Eddie Boulton & I had a great sunny desert day on this 300' gain. Canyon Pt. is the latest peak to be added to the DPS list. #97 I believe.

Needle Peak - 6805'

After a rest day around Furnace Creek and a nice soak in Tecopa Hot Springs we drove up Warm Spring Canyon to Willow Springs. The drive was tricky but once we saw the "Striped Butte" we were all set. After a burrow dominated night at Willow Springs we left at 7:30am for Needle Peak. We went around a small hill to a saddle at 3820' then SSE up a nice wash to the boundary. We went up class 2 gullies and found the marker. From here we headed to the top of Needle at 10:30am. 3 hours from Willow Springs. Jim Pritchard, Eddie Boulton, Max Junejo & I enjoyed the peak. On the way down we were glad that we placed ducks to mark the correct gullies. We visited the "geologists cabin" at Anvil Spring. It is a pretty little house with a fantastic view of the high valley and the Striped Butte (4773'). After a bone jarring drive down Warm Springs Canyon we stopped off at the old Borax mine and swam in the hot springs fed tile pool. At one time this was quite a place! We all enjoyed a nice soak in Tecopa Hot Springs then camped out below Potosi Mtn. in Nevada.

Potosi Mtn - 8514'

Jim Pritchard followed the 3rd Edition Guide and took Ed Boulton & Max Junejo to the top of Potosi where they had a terrific view of Las Vegas. I decided to sleep in because I led Potasi in 12/27/86. After a grand tour of Las Vegas led by Gary Vesperman we saw the Luxor Pyramid, the Tigers and the Pirate ships after a great buffet.

Santa Ana Mtns.

I left LA to do "Pleasants Peak" (4007') in the Santa Ana Mtns. IT was 2900' and 13 miles round trip. A great day for flowers. The intense green after all the desert peaks was fantastic. I have only one more peak to do now for the Orange County Group Peaks Award: Sitton Peak. The Santa Anas are changing with an obvious increase in migrant shack camps, especially in Trabuco Canyon.

OLANCHA PEAK CLIMB

June 11-13, 1994

SPUR GROUP SETS OFF ON SEPARATE QUEST

To begin with a confusing apology is a fitting token of this Sierra Club outing with the summit of Olancha Peak as its objective. I apologize because this write-up begins at the *middle*, rather than at the *beginning* of the trip, although it will *end* with the end. If Alan Cooke's write-up can be found nearby, it should include the beginning of the trip, as well as its end for Alan, Anna Chaput, and Frank Palmer. For a taste of the beginning without Alan's write-up, picture us getting lost in the bowels of dusty place called Mulkey Meadows, just missing an arranged meeting atop Muah Mtn with Howard Steidman and Tobi Tyler, followed by and Alan and I hiking 5-hours further with our packs but without water, the last 2 hours of which was tracking the rest of our group in the dark to our rendezvous at Death Canyon Creek.

So, the adventure begins, or more properly stated, resumes, on Sunday morning. While people just a few cross-country miles east in the quiet community of Cartago were probably on their way to church, we rose with the sun coming over the heights of the lower high Sierra. Our camp had been made amid some large boulders below the outlet of Death Canyon and next to the Pacific Crest Trail.

What's most memorable to me about this particular morning is when I began to change out of the Lycra tights I'd worn since the previous day, having been too tired to take them off when Alan and I came in at 10:30 pm the prior evening. So, what could be memorable about some dirty tights? Well, along with the tights came a fresh 3-inch scab, the unanticipated product of a fall I took off a loose boulder while climbing Muah. Oooooouch!!! Nature is my witness that, a full month later, the scab which replaced it is still on me.

My breakfast on that fine morning was a granola bar and some nuts, which, although skimpy, was better than the zero-calorie dinner of the prior night. Soon, breakfast was consumed, and I prepared to resume hiking, as did the others. But where?

This was the first time all of us could talk at length on where to hike, all prior conversations having been over the phone. To our surprise, we all had different objectives for finishing the hike. Given that we also had different expectations for the first day of the hike, it's a wonder that we didn't end up camping in different places. Moreover, meeting everyone's (future) expectations seemed impossible since Howard and Tobi wanted to stay in longer to do an extra peak, while Alan, Frank, and Anna wanted to get out early enough to avoid a late night drive on Monday. Splitting up seemed impossible since there was only one car at the end of the trail at Sage Flat Drive, the other two having been left at Horseshoe Meadow, 15 low-quality-water miles back the way we came. But, where there's a will, there's a way. After a prolonged pow-wow, passengers and keys were exchanged with the agreement that Alan, Anna, and Frank would go off to climb Olancha in the afternoon, then hike out early Monday to drive Howard's truck to Sage Flat before traveling home themselves. Howard, Tobi, and I would climb Cartago first, and then climb Olancha the next morning before then hiking out. Ironically, each party thought they had chosen the "easier" hike. Farewells given, the others left shortly before Howard, Tobi and I left camp to begin hiking up Death Canyon Creek to meet our destiny on Cartago. Check Alan's write-up for their adventures from this point on. All I can do is relate ours.

After walking through the grassy pasture next to the creek for a mile, we turned east to climb 1000 feet up to the mile-wide Cartago summit plateau. Atop this plateau were dozens of high pinnacles, only one of which could be Cartago Peak. Finding the right pinnacle could have taken hours, especially since Cartago wasn't listed on any USGS map, and, in fact, was not even the highest point on the plateau. But, we had the magic SPS list, which identified the location of our destination within 100 yards. Once in the vicinity, Howard disappeared ahead, while Tobi and I wandered around contemplating what looked to be Class-4 climbs of several likely-looking pinnacles. After a time, we abandoned our quest, choosing to find Howard instead, which proved to be the best course of action, since he was already resting just below the summit of the most likely-looking pinnacle. Once together, we hesitantly climbed the short stretch of exposed Class-3 up to the top, and were happy to find the USGS markers stamped with Cartago along with the SPS register book. The great views we found of this part of the Sierra justified, in our minds, making this remote pinnacle an SPS peak. Olancha stood high up to the south, snow-covered Mt. Langley stood even higher to the north, and some spectacular granite cliffs lined Cartago Creek to the southeast.

The hike back to camp was uneventful, as was the backpack to the base of Olancha several miles to the south. There was one problem, however, in that we had counted on finding some seasonal springs a quarter mile below camp, a flat but dry site on a 10,600' saddle of the PCT. Out of direct sight, the

springs turned out to be a couple hundred feet below the trail and down some steep scree . In retrospect, it would have been easier to have filled up with water at Gomez Meadow and carried it up 1200' in elevation, as did the others in our party earlier that day. But for our desperate case, Howard and I resolutely drew water from the tiny spring-fed trickle, with the mosquitos seeming to suck away our blood faster than we could pump.

Camping where we did at the saddle put us in an excellent position to climb Olancha the next morning, and that we did, getting an early start to try to catch up to the others if at all possible. Despite being an SPS Emblem peak, probably because it dominates the area, Olancha wasn't much more than a pile of talus with some kind of monitoring station on top. It's saving grace was that one of the rocks on top overhung so much that Tobi decided to sit on its edge for a truly "rad" photo while Howard vainly tried to convince her to "play it safe," as the discussion turned to the frequency of earthquakes in the area.

After getting down the scree and back to our camp on the west side of Olancha, we shouldered our packs and raced south along the PCT, as best one can race with a backpack, to reach the presumed campsite of our compatriots. But they had abandoned it only two or three hours before. There were many nice campsites in the vicinity, however, along with some broad meadows near Olancha Pass. We boldly hiked past them all, stopping only to get off the trail for a string of horses loaded with shovels and other gear, which were being led back the way we came on the Olancha Pass Trail. As they passed, Tobi gave out a loud cough, hoping to spook them, since her opinion of horses on back-country trails was not exactly charitable. Her concern is that they pulverize the trail, and packers, having more political clout than hikers aren't well regulated by the Forest Service.

In any case, all our rushing out was in vain. We arrived at the Sage Flat parking area a little before 2 pm to find no one there. Unfortunately, neither was Howard's truck left there, nor was there any water at this trail-head. Conditions didn't look comfortable, since we only had a pint of H₂O left among us, and the hot sunny 100-degree-in-the-shade generated a seemingly unquenchable thirst. Thoughts turned to the long hike out to Hwy 395, which would be necessary if Frank, for some reason, wasn't able to drive Howard's 4x4 from where it was left at Cottonwood Creek campground to this desolate place, where we expected to find it. While contemplating the worst, down from the heights came most of the despicable pack-train of a half dozen horses, one man and the gear having been unloaded somewhere far above. Realizing that there was a half gallon of water in the cooler on the horse-van, I approached the mule-skinner for a drink. Either ignoring or unaware of our enmity for horses, he gladly provided us with a couple quarts of warm but cherished water.

After relaxing for an hour, Howard and Tobi decided to search for their truck, assuming it may have been left in a different parking area in the vicinity, though this seemed to be the only trailhead in sight. Before they were gone a minute, Frank and Anna drove up and received a heartfelt welcome. They didn't want to chat for long, though, as the afternoon was wearing on, and soon left for Sacramento. Howard and Tobi soon followed, with me stowed in the back of their truck, as they had obligingly agreed to drive me back to Sacramento before continuing to their home in the Bay Area. Despite predictions to the contrary one day prior, each party arrived home while it was still evening, and hence, we were all able to get a fair night's sleep before work the next day. What more may one ask?

John Sarna

**Congratulations to Debbie Bulger !!!
N.A.S. Emblem qualification.
June 21, 1994**



Attention Artists :

***We need some sketches
to use for cover-art!!!***

Olancha Peak and Mt. Muah

June 11 - 13, 1994

The outing started at 9:00 am at Horseshoe Meadows with John Sarna and Alan Cooke as leaders, and Frank Palmer, Anna Chaput, Howard Steidtmann, and Tobi Tyler along on the trip. Howard and Tobi were not ready to pull out at 9:00 am, so, since Howard and Tobi had not yet signed onto the outing, we split up and agreed to meet at either Mt Muah or Death Canyon.

Using the Mulkey Pass trail, we headed south and hooked up with the southbound Pacific Crest Trail. The bulk of the journey followed the PCT. The plan included bagging three Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) peaks, one of which, Olancha Peak, is an SPS Emblem Peak and an NAS Star peak. The other two peaks, Mt. Muah and Cartago Peak are SPS but not NAS peaks. Total statistics for the journey were estimated, prior to the trip, as 36 miles and 6,000 feet of elevation gain.

A major challenge on the journey was finding reliable, non-bovine polluted, water sources. On the first day, this caused us to plan to hike 14 miles (and 2,000 feet of gain) to camp at Death Canyon. En-route, we did note two other water sources, both well off the PCT. At Mulkey Meadow we got well off the PCT accidentally and noted a source of water, and above Ash Meadows, we found a group camping near one of the corrals who said there was water 1/4 mile east of the PCT.

Just short of Ash Meadows, John and I ditched our backpacks and made a side trip to Mt. Muah, a three-mile, 1,000 feet elevation gain side-trip. Anna and Frank journeyed on to camp at Death Canyon. Mt. Muah (11,106) is a class two peak, with the only technical difficulty being in the last one hundred feet of elevation gain. The 'summit block' requires some use of hands and if you chose the right route can actually involve climbing. Other than that, Muah is simply a slog through sand and forest. The view is not particularly impressive, but Muah was an 'okay' side-trip.

The side trip to Muah meant John and I reached Death Canyon after dark, roughly 10:00. We set up camp, had a quick bite, and crashed. The next morning John was heard to mutter "It's really weird waking up in a place you haven't seen." As everyone ate breakfast, we debated the agenda for the last two days of the trip. The plan that Howard and Tobi advocated was to climb Cartago, and bag Olancha on the 13th. Anna, Frank, and I wanted to bag Olancha on the 12th and skip Cartago, mainly to avoid turning the trip into a death march that culminated in a 2:00 am return to Sacramento. John wavered, and finally went with Howard and Tobi. So we split up for the second time, with John, Howard, and Tobi signing off the trip.

Frank, Anna and I finished packing our packs and headed south on the PCT. We ambled along at a nice comfortable pace and reached the west shoulder of Olancha Peak at about noon. After having lunch, we backpacked a little farther to what looked like a good approach, ditched our packs, and bagged the peak. From the west, Olancha Peak is an easy Class 2. The hillside is boulder-strewn, but it is easy to pick a route around, rather than over the boulders. In the last hundred feet, the climbing becomes a higher grade of Class 2, but it is still easy.

The view from the top is outstanding. You get extraordinary views of the Whitney group to the north, Kings Canyon to the west, and the desert to the east. In addition, you get distant views that appear to stretch as far as the Mt Brewer area. The east side of Olancha Peak is quite sheer, and looking over the deep end is, in itself, a little breath-taking.

After reading the register and signing in, we headed down. On the descent, we found a ducked route that was slightly easier than that we took. Up and down, the journey took about two hours.

We then backpacked down to the trail junction for the trip out, and camped. The next day, we backpacked down to the Sage Flat trailhead. I took Frank and Anna back to the other trailhead, and left. I was home by 9:00 p.m.

The outing's major vegetative attraction was Bristlecone Pines. The pines lined most of the route, except the trail to Sage Flat trailhead. If you like Bristlecones, this trail is for you.

Alan Cooke

Disaster Peak

Pam Coleman, Annie Coledog, and I spent the Fourth of July backpacking in Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. The way the trip worked out, our loop put me two-thirds of a mile from Disaster Peak (10,046), so I bagged it.

Our trailhead was the Upper Gardner Meadow trailhead near Highland Lakes. This isn't the fastest approach to Disaster Peak, but it may be the nicest.

We followed the trail leaving the northeast end of the parking lot. After 1/2 mile, we headed for Disaster Creek (to the left). We followed this trail for roughly three miles to the junction with the Paradise Valley trail, in the process dropping in elevation from a high of about 8,800 feet to a low of about 7,700 feet. We traveled through some very nice high elevation meadows. The whole place was alive with flowers. We saw lots of pedestrian flowers -- like Indian Paintbrush, Groundsel, Larkspur, and Columbine. We also saw lots of flowers that we had to look up in my flower guide -- like Deer's Tongue, Mountain Lungwort, Scarlet Gilia, and Fireweed.

At the junction of the Disaster Creek and Paradise Valley trails, we found extremely wet conditions. The fork of Disaster Creek coming down Paradise Valley was running high and spreading widely, causing considerable mud to wade through. I really wouldn't want to try crossing through there in a normal water year!

At this junction we took the Paradise Valley trail. Immediately after getting onto the Paradise Valley trail, we crossed Disaster Creek again, and this crossing was also challenging. That's when we first saw the bear. As a safety precaution, we put the Coledog on a leash. The last thing I wanted was for her to go running and barking after a bear!

The Paradise Valley trail heads straight uphill, going from roughly 7,700 feet to a saddle at 9,400 feet in just under five miles. We camped half-way up the hill in a well-used campsite. Farther uphill, the trail enters a large meadow (swamp in places). A group was camped at the east end of the meadow, but it was, in my opinion, mosquito hell, and I wouldn't recommend it in the bug season.

We broke camp at 9:00 and hit the saddle at noon. The saddle affords a convenient spot to leave the packs behind and climb Disaster Peak. From the saddle, the peak is two-thirds of a mile distant, with just over 600 feet of elevation gain. Pam and the Coledog chose not to go with me, so I left them to read *The Microbial Ecology of Leaves* and bagged the peak myself.

Except for the last 100 yards, you wander over easy terrain picking your way through a grove of trees to bag Disaster Peak. The last 100 yards crosses the talus debris eroding off the summit block, and an easy 20-foot class 2 scramble up a crumbling summit block. I found a USGS reference marker and a peak register on top (and the register didn't ruin my wilderness experience). I noted a number of signatures in the register that I recognized, including Howard Steidtmann and Pete Yamagata. As I dropped off the peak, I met two other peak climbers who, as it turned out, were also Sacramento residents.

From the saddle, we headed east and downhill. Within 1/4 mile we encountered the PCT. We took the PCT north for roughly six miles to the junction with a trail heading back to the Upper Gardner Meadows trailhead and Highland Lakes. As it was late in the day, we chose to camp at Asa Lake, 1/2 mile farther north on the PCT. Asa Lake offers a few nice camp sites, and a scenic little lake. During our visit, it also offered billions of mosquitos.

The next morning we backtracked to the last trail junction and walked two miles west back to the trailhead.

Total round-trip statistics: Roughly 19 miles and 3,500 feet of elevation gain, including Disaster Peak and a fairly liberal allowance (as opposed to an exact accounting) for ups and downs on the PCT leg of the journey. If you take the side trip to Asa Lake, add an extra mile (round-trip) to the mileage total. Elevation gain is incidental.

Alan Cooke



Point Lookout Mesa (8427') - Mesa Verde National Park

The last couple weeks of June were spent making a car tour of the southern Utah national parks. After staying in Moab, Utah and visiting Canyonlands and Arches I made an excursion into Colorado to see Mesa Verde.

The first couple days were spent going on the ranger led tours of the cliff dwellings, and perusing the museums. On our last day I found a trail at the far end of the campground that went to the top of the imposing land mass that dominates the entrance of the park.

A well maintained series of switchbacks zig-zags through the junipers up the back side of the mesa. The trail suddenly leveled out as I reached the summit, but I still had about a half mile to go to reach the far end of the mesa. It was very much like an island in the sky as I easily strolled along the flat top while being able to see miles on either side.

I soon reached the edge with its dramatic overlook of Hwy 160 and the Montezuma Valley. As I crept to the precipice to peer over, I realized that I wasn't on that good old Sierra granite, but crumbly sandstone. I beat a hasty retreat to a more centralized location. A couple photos and then it was back down the trail.

----- John Besbekos

Stanton Pk. (11695') Yosemite ---July 17, 1994

We had driven 6 miles on a dirt road just outside Bridgeport to the Green Lake trailhead on Saturday. The hike through the Hoover Wilderness and up over Virginia Pass (10,550') took longer than expected thanks to the obliterated trail on the northwest side of Green Lake. Arriving at our base camp below a lake southeast of Virginia Peak we were forced to delay our attempt of Virginia due to thunder clouds.

Sunday morning Jackie Stroud, Frank Palmer, Jeff Gottesman, Valerie Phillips, and I hiked to the saddle between Virginia and Stanton. Virginia Pk. looked too crumbly and exposed to some of us so Jackie and Frank went on, while the remaining 3 of us decided to do Stanton instead.

Valerie balked at going straight up the ridge from where we stood due to the exposure and I wasn't particularly keen on that route myself, so Jeff led the way around the slopes to the opposite side of the ridge. There were a lot of really big loose boulders that made the going a bit slower than we had anticipated. Occasionally we would pause and monitor the progress of our comrades on Virginia. From our vantage point it appeared that they were having a bit of a problem finding a safe route at first.

Soon we took a pause below the summit block, and heard whooping in the distance. Jackie and Frank were on top of Virginia Peak! They sure made fast time after their initial hesitation! Well it was now our turn to bag our peak. It was my turn to take the lead and we soon detoured around a false summit and were straddling the rather narrow summit of Stratton Pk.

We waved back and forth to Jackie and Frank and ate lunch while admiring the views of Matterhorn and Whorl that loomed across the canyon. You could see just about every peak in the park, Lyell and Conness in the distance and even further off Clouds Rest and Half Dome just to name a few. Eventually it was time for the knee-jarring boulder hop back to camp.

(Stanton Pk. --Continued)

We packed up our gear and got to enjoy the steeper side of Virginia Pass on our way back out of the park. From the pass it was all down hill until we got to Green Lake where we got to go up and down the hillside searching for a route through the tangle of underbrush and fallen trees. Once past the lake we were back on nice trail. That nice trail sure seemed to have grown since we came up it the day before, like the Energizer Bunny commercial - "it kept going and going and going." Of course we eventually arrived at the vehicle and were soon devouring burgers in Bridgeport celebrating our dual peak bagging expedition. ----- **John Besbekos**

7-Day Backpack (Hoover Wilderness - Yosemite Loop)

July 31 - August 6 -----John Besbekos

Frank Palmer and I drove to Bridgeport on Sunday Afternoon and managed to secure a back country permit the same day. Our trailhead started at the Mono Village Resort at Twin Lakes just outside of Bridgeport. Since we did not get going until after 2:00pm, we only hiked about 5 miles and 1000' elevation gain past Barney Lake and its crowd of Boy Scouts.

On Day 2 we climbed up to Peeler Lake which sits right on the crest that forms the border for the Hoover Wilderness & Yosemite NP. We crossed over into the park into beautiful Kerrik Meadows, which is a wide flat canyon bordered by steep, low granite walls. A large stream meanders down the middle and wild flowers were plentiful. We kept on pushing down the canyon and it got hotter. We decided to try to push the full 14 miles to Benson Lake. We had to descend from around 9600' to 8600' and then climb back over Seavy Pass. At this point I was beginning to think this was a big mistake. We trudged on over the pass and eventually made our way down to the beach-front shores of Benson.

Day 3 we decided to just do a short 4.6 mile hike to Smedberg Lake and give ourselves a rest. Once again we had to go up over a pass which made the "short" hike a little less leisurely. As I set my thermarest mattress on a granite slab in the shade, Frank bounded off to bag Volunteer Peak which dominates the area beside the lake.

Day 4 our 10 miles once again took us down another canyon then over Benson Pass into Matterhorn Canyon. Our campsite was in a large open meadow with an outstanding view of the Sawtooth range. The polished granite pools beside the flowing stream made for some luxurious soaking on that hot day.

Day 5 was highlighted by the steep climb up to Burrow Pass (10650'). Incredible views of Matterhorn, Whorl, the Sawtooths, etc. While we lounged on top, taking photos, Frank got the urge to climb Matterhorn. I told him I'd already done it before, but I'd watch the packs if he wanted to go. He took off and spent the next few hours taking group photos for all the hiking groups coming over that popular pass. Frank came back and said that there were 12 people crowding the top of that 12000' peak!!! We continued down into upper Slide Canyon and once again had a campsite with a million dollar view.

Day 6 of course meant going over another pass, this time Mule Pass, and crossing back into Hoover Wilderness from Yosemite. This was my favorite area with its jagged peaks, high narrow passes, and ridge top lakes. We spent our last night at Crown Lake, nestled between Crown Peak and Slide Mountain.

Day 7 we cruised the 8.2 miles down the trail to Twin Lakes. I even found a dollar bill on the trail! After 7 days on the trail and within one mile of the parking lot we crossed paths with a Forest Ranger who politely demanded to see our permit! I couldn't believe it, we weren't even in the restricted wilderness area anymore! Oh well, I carried that thing around in my front pocket for a week so I guess it wasn't for nothing. We had a great time but I was ready for home and **REAL FOOD!!!**

Food Gourmet Restaurant Guide

We left Clover Meadow via Beasore Road and Bass Lake and when we arrived in Oakhurst we looked for some place to eat. None of us knew where to eat unless it was McDonald's or some pizza place. There must be better places around here to eat. I made the suggestion that I knew of a place in Mariposa so we drove to this Motherlode community and ended up eating at a restaurant that left a lot to be desired. That's when the idea came to me. Why not place an article in the Boulder requesting that its membership drop me a line describing the restaurants they have enjoyed either before or after an outing. Boulder readers must know of some good to great places to eat.

If one were climbing Mt. Shasta, ski mountaineering Mt. Lassen, hiking Castle Peak or Round Top, driving west on Highway 108 after leaving Kennedy Meadows, driving through Bishop or Mammoth or going on a multi-day trip in Kings Canyon or Sequoia National Park - Where is there a good place to eat?

I would appreciate receiving from the membership the names of restaurants they have enjoyed; be it breakfast or dinner. For each restaurant I would want to know its location, type of food served and your opinion about the restaurant.

As a starter, the restaurant should be located in the area bounded on the west by Interstate 5 and on the east by Highway 395. The northern boundary of this area could be a line running from Mt. Shasta or Weed to Alturas or Susanville. The southern boundary could be a line running from Visalia or Bakersfield to Lone Pine. This area includes all the major trans-Sierra highways and entry ways into the southern Cascades and northern and southern Sierras where most of our trips occur.

For example, on Highway 395, I have either eaten at or have had the following restaurants recommended to me:

Cut Throat Saloon (Markleeville) for one beer before sleeping on Monitor Pass.
K&M Bakery (Walker) Breakfast and a wide selection of dinners.

Are there any other good places in Walker?

Hays Cafe (Bridgeport) Good breakfast, does not serve dinner.

Twin Lakes Cafe (Twin Lakes-Bridgeport) Good breakfast.

Virginia Creek Settlement (South of Bridgeport before the Bodie turnoff) Italian food.

Lots of food and reasonably priced.

I doubt there is a good place to eat in Lee Vining!!!???

Tioga Pass Resort (Highway 120 just east of the pass.

Breakfast and dinner.

Carson Peak Inn (June Lake) Dinner only.

Swiss Cafe (Mammoth) Breakfast

Anything Goes (Mammoth) Dinner

Mexican Gringos (Mammoth) Dinner

Whiskey Creek (Mammoth) Dinner

Firehouse Grill (Bishop) Breakfast

Copper Kettle (Bishop) Breakfast

Whiskey Creek (Bishop) Dinner

All recommendations should be sent c/o the Boulder. Thanks for your assistance. All recommendations and responses will appear in a future Boulder. ---- Al Gutowsky



List of California's County High Points

Here is a "newly improved" list of the 56 highest points (two are redundant) in each county in California. These points are usually, but not always, named peaks on USGS maps. Unnamed high points are typically bumps on a ridge going up into higher ground in the next county. High points marked with an "*" are on private land. The prior list, published in Boulder Issue 49, contained several errors. This should be (hopefully) the final word, given that this list is now consistent with a newly-published book on these high points by Gary Suttle of San Diego, who, thus far, is the first and only person to climb them all. If you want particulars on routes, historic notes and such, order *California County Summits* from Wilderness Press (800/443-7227) for \$14.95.

John Sarna (429-8024)

COUNTY	HIGH POINT (Elevation in feet) <i>[those on private land marked by an *]</i>	USGS TOPO MAP <i>(the 7½ minute quad)</i>	MTN. RANGE <i>(with location in DeLorme Atlas - North/South, page number, then section on page)</i>
Alameda <i>or more likely</i>	1 mile north of Mt. Lewis (3,841)* 1.4 mi east of VABM Rose (3,840+)*	Mt. Day Mandenhall Springs	Coast Ranges (N116A1) Coast Ranges (N106D1)
Alpine	Sonora Peak (11,459)	Sonora Peak	Sierra Nevada (N100B3)
Amador	Thunder Peak (9,410)	Caples Lake	Sierra Nevada (N89C7)
Butte	2 mi southeast of Humboldt Pk (7,120+)	Peacock Point SW	Cascades (N58C3)
Calaveras	One of three bumps (8,160+ & 8,170) 2.2 miles west-north-west of Bear Valley,	Tamarack UTM 4263 North and 755 East	Sierra Nevada (N99A7)
Colusa	Snow Mtn. East (7,040+)	Crockett Peak	Coast Ranges (N75A6)
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo (3,849)	Clayton	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N105A6)
Del Norte	Bear Mtn. (6,400+)	Devil's Punchbowl	Siskiyou Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N23B6)
El Dorado	Freel Peak (10,881)	Freel Peak	Carson Range, Sierra Nevada (N90B1)
Fresno	North Palisade (14,242)	North Palisade	Sierra Nevada (N123D5)
Glenn	Black Butte (7,448)	Plaskett Meadows	Coast Ranges (N65C6)
Humboldt	Salmon Mtn. (6,956)	Salmon Mtn.	Salmon Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N34C1)
Imperial	Blue Angels Peak (4,548)	In-ko-pah Gorge	Jacumba Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S124D1)
Inyo	Mount. Whitney (14,491)	Mount. Whitney	Sierra Nevada (S27D4)
Kern	Sawmill Mtn. (8,818)	Sawmill Mtn.	San Emigdio Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S77B4)
Kings	King (3,473)*	The Dark Hole	Table Mtn, Coast Ranges (S46A2)
Lake	Snow Mtn. East (7,056)	Crockett Peak	Coast Ranges (N75A6)
Lassen	Hat Mtn. (8,737)	Emerson Pk	Warner Mtns, Basin Ranges (N41C7)
Los Angeles	Mt. San Antonio (10,064)	Mount. San Antonio	San Gabriel Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S94B2)
Madera	Mt. Ritter (13,143)	Mt. Ritter	Ritter Range, Sierra Nevada (N111C7)
Marin <i>or less likely</i>	Mt. Tamalpais, East Peak (2,571) Mt. Tamalpais, West Peak* (2,604 less the height reduced when an FAA Facility was constructed on top)	San Rafael	Coast Ranges (N104A1)
Mariposa	NNW ridge of Parsons Pk (12,040+)	Vogelsang Peak	Cathedral Range, Sierra Nevada (N111B6)
Mendocino	Anthony Peak (6,954)	Mendocino Pass	Coast Ranges (N65B5)
Merced	Laveaga Peak (3,801)*	Mariposa Peak	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (S20A2)
Modoc	Eagle Peak (9,892)	Eagle Peak	Warner Mtns, Basin Ranges (N41B6)
Mono	White Mtn. Peak (14,246)	White Mtn. Peak	White Mtns, Basin Ranges (N113C7)
Monterey	Junipero Serra Peak (5,862)	Junipero Sierra Peak	Santa Lucia Range, Coast Ranges (S31C7)
Napa	.3 mile west of Mt. St. Helena (4,200+)	Mount St. Helena	Mayacma Mtns, Coast Ranges (N84C1)
Nevada	Mt. Lola (9,148)	Independence Lake	Sierra Nevada (N81A5)
Orange	Santiago Peak (5,687)	Santiago Peak	Santa Ana Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S104C3)
Placer	Granite Chief (9,006)	Granite Chief	Sierra Nevada (N81C5)
Plumas	Mount Ingalls (8,372)	Mt. Ingalls	Sierra Nevada (N70A2)
Riverside	San Jacinto Peak (10,804)	San Jacinto Peak	San Jacinto Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S106B3)
Sacramento	BM Carpenter (828)*	Clarksville	Sierra Nevada (N87C6)
San Benito	San Benito Mtn. (5,241)	San Benito Mtn.	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (S33B6)
San Bernardino	San Geronio Mtn. (11,502)	San Geronio Mtn.	San Bernardino Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S96D2)
San Diego	Hot Springs Mtn. (6,533)	Hot Springs Mtn.	Peninsular Ranges (S114B4)
San Francisco	Mt. Davidson (927)	San Francisco South	Coast Ranges (N104B2)
San Joaquin	.5 mile north of Mt. Boardman (3,626)*	Mt. Boardman	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116A3)
San Luis Obispo	Caliente Mtn. (5,106)	Caliente Mtn.	Caliente Range, Coast Ranges (S61D6)
San Mateo	High point of Long Ridge (2,600+)*	Mindego Hill	Santa Cruz Mtns, Coast Ranges (N114B4)
Santa Barbara	Big Pine Mtn. (6,800+)	Big Pine Mtn.	San Rafael Mtns, Transverse Ranges (S75C7)
Santa Clara	Copernicus Peak (4,360+)	Lick Observatory	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116B1)
Santa Cruz	Mt. Bielawski [McPhearson] (3,231)	Castle Rock Ridge	Santa Cruz Mtns, Coast Ranges (N115C5)
Shasta	Mt. Lassen (10,457)	Lassen Peak	Cascades (N58A2)
Sierra	1 mile north of Mt. Lola (8,844)	Independence Lake	Sierra Nevada (N81A5)
Siskiyou	Mt. Shasta (14,162)	Mt. Shasta	Cascades (N36A4)
Solano	Mt. Vaca (2,819)*	Mt. Vaca	Vaca Mtns, Coast Ranges (N95A5)
Sonoma	.6 mi southwest of Cobb Mtn (4,480+)*	Whispering Pines	Mayacma Mtns, Coast Ranges (N83B7)
Stanislaus	Mt. Stakes (3,804)*	Mt. Stakes	Diablo Range, Coast Ranges (N116B3)
Sutter	South Butte (2,120+)*	Sutter Buttes	Sutter Buttes (N77C7)
Tehama	Brokeoff Mtn. (9,235)	Lassen Peak	Cascades (N58A2)
Trinity	Mt. Eddy (9,025)	Mount Eddy	The Eddies, Trinity Mtns, Klamath Ranges (N36B2)
Tulare	Mount. Whitney (14,491)	Mount. Whitney	Sierra Nevada (S27D4)
Tuolumne	Mt. Lyell (13,114)	Mt. Lyell	Sierra Nevada (N111C6)
Ventura	Mt. Pinos (8,831)	Sawmill Mtn.	San Emigdio Mtns, Peninsular Ranges (S77B4)
Yolo	0.8 mile east of Bear Spring (3120+)	Wilson Valley	Coast Ranges (N84A2)
Yuba	1 mile north of Rose Ranch (4,825+)	Strawberry Valley	Sierra Nevada (N69D6)

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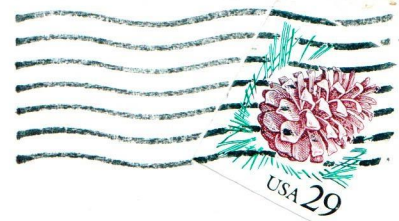
We encourage you to submit copy for publication. Articles, letters, fiction, poetry, and artwork that would be of interest to the Peak and Gorge Section are welcome. Copy should be typed, single-spaced on 8.5 x 11" paper with half to one inch margins and sent to: The Boulder c/o John Besbekos, P.O. Box 417415 Sacramento, CA 95841. Submittals will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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