

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

Issue No. 69 Jan - Feb 1996

Chair's Corner

Hello again from the Chair's Corner. It looks like the Ski Mountaineering season is under way. Bob Buckles, Fred Fischetto, and Al Gutowski have numerous ski trips scheduled.

With three OGUL List finishers last fall, I thought it appropriate to run some emblem holder lists. Unfortunately, what I found is that no such official list seems to exist. To start a process to rectify this short-coming, I went through the files that I inherited from Bob Buckles, and through the back issues of the *Boulder* to construct the lists. My results are contained herein.

I have no doubts that the lists published herein are incomplete. For example, Howard finished the OGUL List sometime back, but I found no evidence of when that happened. I know that Crystal Ball and her sister have both qualified for OGUL Emblems but I don't know when. Please take a few minutes to look for your name on the lists. If it should appear, and does not, drop me a note, call, or e-mail. For people that I know, a note will do, since I know your accomplishments are real.

As you may or may not have noticed, we are late again cranking out the *Boulder*. I would ask all of our subscribers to vow to start submitting articles from time to time. If everyone submitted one article every now and then, we could have a real **BOMBER BOULDER**. I am not asking from something from everyone for each edition, just something once and a while. While going through the *Boulder* to compile the Emblem lists I noticed people used to submit poems, book reviews, art work, lists of gear, and other articles of interest to the readers. Feel free to submit such articles.

On another topic, the next Leadership Training session is scheduled for Saturday, March 30. If anyone would like to become a leader, you must take the training class. It lasts most of the day but for experienced Sierra Clubbers it should be a snap. If you want more details, watch the upcoming *Bonanza*, or give John Watters a call at 916/683-2748.

Finally, remember that March 1 is the date you can start requesting reservations for the quota trailheads in the High Sierras. The February Peak and Gorge Social is geared towards trip planning. We have a new hiker in our group (unofficially at present) that led NOLS outings for a number of years. She has agreed to lead discussions on trip planning. I hope to see all the leaders at that meeting, and everyone else for that matter.

Alan Cooke, Peak and Gorge Chair (916) 756-5083 726 Adeline Pl., Davis, CA 95616



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 events of other organizations as well as Sierra Club trips. Unless noted all area codes are (916).



Feb. 25 - Sun.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Hood Mountain Regional Park (near Sonoma). Hike to the top of Hood Mountain via the Goodspeed Trail. Trail crosses three creeks. If rain causes creeks to rise, we'll go to the neighboring Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Trip totals 8 miles and 1,900 feet of elevation gain. There is a park entrance fee of \$5.00 per car. Sacramento hikers please meet in Sacramento at 11th & P at 8:00 a.m., and carpool to meet leader at 2nd and C in Davis. Leader will not come to Sacramento. Meet leader at 8:30 a.m. in Davis. This outing starts at the trailhead. Rain cancels. Leader: Alan Cooke (916) 756-5083.
Feb. 27- Thur.	Peak and Gorge Social (sierra Club) A former leader/instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Nancy Pallister, will lead a discussion on planning lengthy backpacking trips. Possible topics include planning routes, estimating trip time for expeditions into unknown areas, estimating food requirements, appropriate group behavior, or any other topic of interest to the group. Everyone – beginners, leaders, those who want to be leaders – is welcome. We will tailor the discussion to the groups needs. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack or drink to share to Jackie Stroud's house at 4617 Buckingham Way. It's in East Sacramento near the East Lawn Cemetery. For directions, call Jackie at 457-6338.
Mar. 9 - Sat.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Somewhere. Moderate trip for experienced skiers with plenty of hills. Meet at Hazel Park & Ride (just north of Hwy. 50) at 8:00. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
Mar. 17 - Sun.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Samuel P. Taylor State Park (near Pt. Reyes). We'll climb Barnabe Peak via a gratuitously circuitous route designed to wring 8 to 10 miles out of the park. The trip will entail roughly 1,800 feet of elevation gain. Heavy rain cancels. Sacramento hikers please meet in Sacramento at 11th & P at 8:00 a.m., and carpool to meet leader at 2nd and C in Davis. Leader will not come to Sacramento. Meet leader at 8:30 a.m. in Davis. This outing starts at the trailhead. Rain cancels. Leader: Alan Cooke (916) 756-5083.
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Mar. 24, Sun	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Somewhere. Moderate trip for experienced skiers with plenty of hills. Meet at Roseville Square (Douglas and Harding) at 8:00. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
Apr. 13, Sat.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Somewhere. Moderate trip for experienced skiers with plenty of hills. Meet at Roseville Square (Douglas and Harding) at 8:00. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
Apr. 13, Sat.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) SugarLoaf Ridge State Park. Approximate 10 mile loop. Meet 11th & P at 7:30am. Leader: John Besbekos 729-2725.



People with modems can E-mail trip write-ups and articles as either ASCII or UUE encoded binary files to JBDE@AOL.COM.

No computer? No Problem! Handwritten articles will be accepted. Member volunteers will type.

Alan Cooke and his wife Pam have got new **Snowshoes!**
Anyone wishing to do some snowshoe trips should call Alan at (916) 756-5083.

Congratulations to Alan Cooke for earning the NAS Super Emblem !!!

Congratulations to Howard Steidtman, Tobi Tyler, and Alan Cooke !

According to the last 2 editions of the Desert Peak Section's newsletter, they have qualified for DPS Emblems.

Holiday Reading

With the holidays upon us, I have a few minutes to write a special interest article. As I sit here I smell beef jerky drying and, believe it or not, I am reminded of Aldo Leopold. Mention Aldo Leopold and most people immediately say "Green Fire" in reference to the light in the eyes of a wolf killed by Adlo. I think of Aldo's statements about hobbies. Aldo defined hobbies as activities people undertook that are at least partially pointless. His example was sewing. You can buy a shirt at a store for less than you can make one so making your own clothing is somewhat pointless. I make my own jerky and energy bars for backpacking. This makes it a hobby I guess: it is pointless.

This discussion is also pointless except that it leads into my real point. I want to suggest two biographies. The biographies are *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* by Curt Meine and *A Wilderness Original: The Life of Bob Marshall* by James M. Glover.

Both men left enormous marks on the conservation movement that we have inherited. Aldo is credited with starting the process that led to establishment of wilderness areas, and also with working to kickstart a land and wildlife conservation ethic. Bob is credited with getting the wilderness ball rolling, administratively. Both were founding members of the Wilderness Society.

While Bob and Aldo had much in common, the biographies paint decidedly different men. Bob Marshall was an extraordinary hiker, frequently going on hikes of 30 or more miles. He lived life at 100 miles an hour -- flying off for meetings somewhere, visiting friends and going out dancing until all hours of the night, then flying off to Washington, D.C. for meetings the next day. Aldo was a family man who moved at a much more deliberate pace. Both were effective.

The men differed also in how they thought wilderness areas and wild animals should be conserved. Bob believed that the forests should be nationalized and administered by the government. Aldo viewed nationalization as the last resort, to be used only if private owners did not undertake necessary actions in necessary levels. Bob was a "No Compromise" guy when it came to wilderness protection. Aldo saw two sides to each issue. Aldo saw that the farmer needed to do certain things to survive; that these things might not be ideal from a conservation standpoint; and that some compromise or new way of doing things had to be found to keep everyone whole.

The Marshall biography reads more easily than the Leopold biography, but there is far more meat to the Leopold biography. Both are excellent books and are highly recommended.

Happy trails and good snow to all in the new year.

Alan Cooke

The Last Sierra Hike Before Snowfall

It was December 16 and I was wondering if winter was ever going to come. There had been only one snowstorm so far and it had mostly melted off except in the highest elevations. Were we in for another drought?

Since we were experiencing a spring-like day, me and my wife Lynne set off up Highway 50 for a hike. We started to go into Echo Lakes, but that shaded road had a couple inches of slushy snow on it. We continued over echo summit down to Tahoe. Heading along the western shore we stopped at the Mt. Tallac trailhead. Could we actually hike up that trail this late in the year? The ground was perfectly dry all the way to the parking area.

We began hiking up the trail, just as it began to get steep we found a few patches of maybe 2" of snow on the trail. As we stepped and slid around on it, we discovered it was frozen-solid ice that used to be snow! We crossed a few more patches of that but we mostly had dry dirt as the trail traversed the ridge along Fallen Leaf Lake.

We eventually climbed up the switchbacks that brought us to Floating Island Lake. It was frozen. There were dozens of rocks laying on top of the ice, thrown by day hikers testing the ice thickness. Lynne decided to go one better by actually venturing onto the ice about one foot from the shoreline. "Look I'm standing on water" she shouted gleefully. As if on cue the ice crunched and she was standing *in* water (although only about a couple inches). On that note we decided to call it a day and hiked (occasionally skating across the few snow-ice patches) back down to the trailhead. Real Winter finally arrived a couple days later and it will be next Spring before we'll be hiking in the Sierras again.

----- **John Besbekos**

Polemonium Peak, Mt. Sill

A Long Dayhike, 8-12-95

By Bob Sumner

So what elements make for an excessively long day? How about a long approach, a gnarly bergshrund, alpine ice, 4th class rock, two 14'ers, three foot suncups, swollen creeks, or vicious mosquitoes? I suppose any of these could contribute, but when they are all combined on one day I imagine you're in for about 18.5 hours of Palisade fun.

Departed the Big Pine Creek trailhead at 2:10 AM. The full moon shining, the headlamp was needed only in the dark shady spots. The sky was so awash with light that the Perseid meteor showers were invisible. The hours wore on as the shadows created eerie images for my entertainment. The ubiquitous whooshing of the creek was my only audible companion.

By dawn I was at Sam Mack Meadow munching breakfast. Not a cloud in the sky, a light breeze, but very chilly at this early hour. There was no one camped here, and only two parties camped higher up along the moraine trail. It really couldn't have been a nicer day, and when you're climbing Polemonium via the class 5 ice V-Notch Couloir, then a good weather day is strongly recommended.

The Palisade Glacier was still in the shade when I reached it. Followed a well-beaten trail across it to just underneath the V-couloir. Looking back I expected to see at least one or two parties coming up to try for North Pal. But no, the glacier was strangely deserted. This was probably due to the fact that the U-notch bergshrund was not in its usual condition. The only passage to that bergshrund appeared to be a ten foot wall of snow/ice on the right side. It was easily climbable with two axes, but probably not attractive to most.

Unfortunately, the V-notch bergshrund was not so pleasant. Here there were overhanging ice cliffs, ranging in height from 15 to 20 feet. Not good. I examined the right side - more of the same. The shrund itself was mostly filled in with blocks of ice the size of cars that had calved off from the cliffs. At this early time of morning, the cliffs were still quite solid and you could examine them in relative safety.

It seemed hopeless, but I decided to traverse far out to the left. Here I found some jumbled frozen blocks to surmount. This led onto a mixed traverse beside a rock cliff while on top of an ice lip above the huge bergshrund moat. Twenty minutes later I was at a 200 yard ice traverse that would take me back to the V-couloir. This horizontal traverse was strenuous - it took as much energy again as climbing the couloir itself.

At the couloir I had to bypass a couple of more mini-shrunds before starting up. You take the left branch of the 900-foot V-Couloir. The alpine ice was perfect for double-daggering, there was no rockfall at all coming down. The angle was not bad, mostly about 40-45 degrees, with a few brief sections a bit more. Midway up I stopped on a small rock platform on the left to rest. Munched and continued up, exiting on the left after passing under a huge snow mushroom looming on the crest. Emerged at the low point between Polemonium and Sill, stowed the axe and crampons, and continued on up towards Polemonium.

The false summit of Polemonium gives a good view of the final portion. From the top of the false summit, descend just a bit to the south. Then a short easy downclimb to where you begin the toetip traverse to the notch. There is a tri-cam wedged into a crack along this traverse - its short webbing loop makes for a nice "handhold", but undoubtedly constitutes the use of aid. After the toetip traverse you get to a small notch where you can catch your breath.

Next there is a short wall, then you go up the airy knifeedge to the 14,000' true summit. The peak is easy solo material with rock shoes; they were a refreshing change after the ice climb. Nice register on top, incredible views of North Pal, Thunderbolt, Devils Crag, and many other worthy Sierra peaks. Two guys were on Sill at the same time. I saw no other climbers the entire day. Guess the conditions had scared everyone off. Was after 1:30 PM when I left Polemonium.

Next came the boulder hopping traverse to Sill. Near the top of Sill it becomes immense class three boulders. You can traverse and wind around to the right to avoid these but they were nothing after what I had already done, so I just went straight up them. More superb views from the 14,153' summit. Palisade Crest was especially beckoning. It was twelve plus hours into the day at this point.

The descent to Apex notch started at a large duck on Sill's shoulder and was easy to follow. There was a downclimb of about 60 feet at one point and very steep. It was a bit exposed, indeed I caught up with the two Sill climbers here and they were rappelling. The rock was not as solid as Polemonium. Many people would take a belay here. The Sill climbers had many questions about my travels that day. I obliged their curiosity, and then carried on.

Back at Apex notch, I enjoyed a nice long glissade down the North Couloir of Sill back to Glacier notch. Then the descent through the cliffs below the southeast side of Gayley. The rest of the way down to Elinore Lake was a mess. Three-foot slushy suncups. Too soft to walk on, I had to lift my legs up and down into each cup. Seemed like it took forever.

Down at Elinore I was swarmed by mosquitoes. Had to put all the goretex on, pants, jacket, hat, gloves. It was the only way to keep the bastards from biting, the repellent was marginal, but not great. I was boiling but it was better than being eaten alive.

Many ducks were missing from the cliff descent below Elinore. This ate up more time searching for the route down. The stream crossings to get back to the South Fork trail were intense. I just had to wade them, boots and all, with real danger of being swept away. Oh well.

The mosquito hassles got worse, I was ready to off myself to be rid of the bastards, that's how bad it was. The final test was the last crossing of the South Fork of Big Pine Creek. The water seemed to be four feet deep wherever I looked. The only way across was to walk on two slippery submerged logs. This was the only frightening moment of the day.

By the time I got back down to the road it was already dark enough for the lamp since the moon was not up yet. Didn't bother, just walked on down to the parking lot. Tired but happy upon the 8:40 PM arrival. There's not too many things better than getting back to your car at the end of a long day. Slurping the beverages, munchin chips and salsa, and just plain relaxing. What more can I say - nice peaks, nice climbing, a nice workout. Good stuff.

Antelope Peak (10,241) and Mineral Mountain (8,964) Labor Day Weekend, 1995

John Besbekos and I left Sacto early Saturday morning and drove to the Corral Valley (Rodriguez Flat) trailhead to climb two of Carson-Iceberg's forgotten peaks.

On Saturday we got moving about 11:00 for Antelope Peak. We had nice weather for the trip with partially cloudy skies. We started by heading uphill from the trailhead on the Corral Valley Trail. We followed this trail for approximately one mile to the junction with a trail heading to the west. The world's biggest DUCK sits on the hillside just to the west of this intersection. We went left, south towards Corral Valley.

From the intersection, the trail drops about 350 feet in elevation to a meadow and Corral Valley Creek. A couple hundred feet above the creek we stopped for a break, using a handy log for a bench. From our bench we visually traced Corral Valley Creek uphill to the east. The lowest visible section of the creek forms a muddy trail crossing in the meadow. The upper reaches of the creek provide water for an extensive grove of aspen. This grove starts near the trail crossing and extends uphill for over a mile. At the head of the creek is a low peak. Sweeping our eyes south and back towards the meadow a bit we saw the edge of a pine forest, then a rocky peak, then a sandy colored and slightly higher peak, and finally, a rugged ridge that drops down to the level of the trail just south of the meadow. From the map we deduced that the sandy colored peak was Antelope Peak.

From our bench we crossed the meadow heading east. We stayed to the north of the aspens, climbing a hillside covered with sage brush, currants, and other brush. We paralleled the creek for about a mile until reaching the upper reaches of the aspen.

At this point the terrain above the aspen grove causes the aspen to split into a V-shape. We crossed the creek and the aspen grove just below the V, and headed south up steep, forested (but not brush covered) slopes to the summit. We encountered one false summit – Peak 9,709 – before reaching Antelope Peak's summit.

Antelope Peak's summit is a table top with two large rock piles on top of the table. From Peak 9,709 you see the northern of the two summit piles. The southern pile is the high point. Cross the sandy hillside between Peak 9,709 and the northern summit pile, and climb to the top of the pile. The true high point is just a few feet distant. A U.S.G.S. survey marker provides proof you have reached the true high point.

I estimated our total statistics as roughly 9 1/2 miles and 2,750 feet of elevation gain. Antelope Peak is Class 2. The peak register on Antelope Peak had 10 entries totalling about 25 people. It had been in-place for over seven years. We saw ample evidence of bears everywhere on Antelope Peak. If you are backpacking, take all appropriate bear precautions.

Maps – the U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute *Lost Cannon Peak, Calif.* and the 15 minute *Sonora Pass, Calif.* quadrangles depict the peak. The (provisional) 7 1/2 minute *Coleville, Calif.* and the 15 minute *Topaz Lake, Calif.-Nev.* quadrangles depict the trailhead and the trail to the Corral Valley. The U.S. Forest Service's *Carson-Iceberg Wilderness* map serves well for this trip.

Saturday night we dined at the all-you-can-eat buffet at the Topaz Lake Casino and camped at the trailhead. On Sunday we climbed Mineral Mountain.

Our route went uphill from the trailhead on the Corral Valley Trail to the aforementioned trail junction with the world's biggest duck. This time we took the trail heading to the west towards Fish Valley, Poison Lake, and Silver King Creek and Trail.

The trail wanders past the six foot duck then heads downhill. Over the course of approximately 2 1/4 miles, the trail loses nearly 1,000 feet of elevation. You reach the bottom when the trail crosses Silver King Creek. We took off our boots to make the crossing. I imagine this crossing would have been impossible in July of 1995 – an incredibly high snow year.

Immediately after crossing the creek we found the trail junction to turn (northwest) onto the Silver King Trail heading towards Poison Lake and Poison Flats. The trail heads uphill and, immediately thereafter, reaches a fork where the trail to Poison Lake branches off to the left. We kept to the right. We followed the Silver King Trail over the ridge and down to where the trail

levels out along the edge of the meadow at Poison Flat. Mineral Mountain sits directly across the meadow from the trail.

Our only question was where to leave the trail. We looked for the point where the Silver King Trail branches off from the trail heading through Poison Flat to Soda Springs. However, the trail junction was unsigned and very difficult to spot.

Heading downhill we noted the Silver King Creek heading away from the trail to the north. The creek flows through a modestly impressive gorge carved through grayish rock. Our direction of travel took us past this gorge and into a meadow. Shortly thereafter we reached a point where the trail leveled out along the southern edge of the meadow. We went off-trail, to the north, across the meadow and uphill. Two "high points" were visible from the trail. Both were false summits. We headed for the eastern of the two high points.

We then headed around the false summit on the left, or west side. After circling the false summit, we continued climbing and shortly reached a plateau where the true summit presented itself. The true summit is a reddish-brown pile of talus. We crossed the plateau, passing another false summit en-route, and climbed through talus to the top.

A U.S.G.S. survey marker provides proof you have reached the true high point.

The return trip brought up memories of a Pat Purcell backpack years ago. It is hard work making the last uphill pull from Silver King Creek to the world's biggest duck. Along the trail are widely spaced, large, and scenic junipers. One in particular stands out in my memory as the 'tree of misery' that we all huddled around in a state of near heat exhaustion. John and I didn't need to huddle on this day – the memory was conjured up by a group of teenagers we saw huddled around the tree.

A bit farther up the trail we saw a large field of yellow monkey flowers blooming next to the trail. Hard to believe that this was September.

Total Round-Trip Statistics: I estimate total statistics at roughly 12 miles and 2,750 feet of elevation gain. Antelope Peak is a Class 2 peak.

Parting Notes: Sage brush, currants, and buckbrush cover Mineral Mountain, tearing at ankles and socks, and filling the tops of your socks with burrs and seeds. If you don't like getting scratched, wear long pants.

We saw a mother bear and her cub foraging just below Mineral Mountain's summit. We saw thousands of currant bushes. About 1 in 10 bushes had berries left. The bears were busy.

In September 1995, the peak register on Mineral Mountain had a half dozen entries totalling about 15 people. It had been in-place for over six years.

Maps: The U.S.G.S. (provisional) 7 1/2 minute *Coleville, Calif.* and the 15 minute *Topaz Lake, Calif.-Nev.* quadrangles depict the peak, trailhead, and almost all of the trail approach to Poison Flat.

Missing is the trail junction at the Silver King Creek crossing. The U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute *Lost Cannon Peak, Calif.* and the 15 minute *Sonora Pass, Calif.* quadrangles depict the creek crossing. The U.S. Forest Service's *Carson-Iceberg Wilderness* map serves well for this trip.

Permits – Carson-Iceberg Wilderness requires permits for backpacking but not dayhiking. Wilderness rules limit group sizes to 15 people.

Getting to the trailhead – From the intersection of NV Highway 88 and U.S. Highway 395 in Minden, Nevada, take U.S. Highway 395 south for approximately 27.3 miles to the intersection of Highway 395 and CA Highway 89. Continue south on Highway 395 for another 7.9 miles to the turn-off for Mill Canyon Road. A National Forest sign signals the turn-off. The turnoff is 15.8 miles north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 395 and CA Highway 108.

Follow the dirt-surfaced Mill Canyon Road to the trailhead. At 0.3 miles, stay to the right at the junction. At 6.5 miles, turn left at the junction. Drive 1/2 mile to the trailhead and park. The road's first 6.5 miles have a very good to excellent surface. The road is wash-boarded, and quite steep in places. Two creek crossings may also be problematic at times. The last 1/2 mile is a dual set of tire tracks with innumerable large rocks sticking up out of the dirt. On a subsequent trip, I only went half way up this last 1/2 mile before pulling out and parking.

Alan Cooke

OLD MAN MOUNTAIN (7,789')---OGUL LIST FINISHER---BILL HAUSER
November 6, 1995

Fred Johnson and I camped out Sunday night in the fabulous Woodchuck Flat C.G. (no fee!!) about three miles up the Fordyce Rd near Cisco Grove. Up at 6:00 a.m. after a barrage of five logging trucks barreled by at 5:00 a.m. A quick, cold breakfast, then on to Fordyce Summit (7,150'). It was 20 F at 6:00 a.m.! The road to Fordyce Lake has been greatly improved, but erosion ditches are so deep that I could get no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down it on the north side of the summit. However, high clearance cars and trucks can now drive to the dam with ease, thus eliminating at least three miles of hiking and 700' of gain on the return.

We hiked down the road for 45 minutes to the two PG&E houses, then took the left jeep fork down to Fordyce Creek. It is about 15 minutes from the fork to the creek. Before we got there, I could hear the creek roaring. We reached the creek at 8:30 a.m. As for crossing it, Fred said: "No way....it's a raging torrent." I agreed. I couldn't cross it in 9/94 with Pete Yamagata because PG&E was letting water out of the dam. Stopped cold once again at this customary crossing which until recently has been easy to ford. We wasted no time trying to find a place to cross the inflamed creek. We headed back to the main road and crossed the dam. At the north end we climbed a metal ladder to rock ledges. After climbing about 50', we then descended a steep, loose scree gully about 100' to the creek.

Soon we found a waterflow measuring tower and shed, from where a fisherman's trail followed the creek down to its traditional crossing point. Here we saw the broken cable, big cast iron wheel, smoke stack, etc. With all the trouble I've had crossing Fordyce Creek, I suggest that people go over the dam, which is no more than half an hour more than crossing the creek. It also may be preferable to climb down the good firm talus of the face of the dam rather than taking the somewhat longer approach via the metal ladder and climbing down the loose and potentially dangerous scree gully to the creek.

We followed the well used jeep trail easily---until it suddenly ended up in the swollen creek!! Luckily we had Alan Cooke's report, which advises to turn right (west) here and plunge into the brush. After a few feet we found the trail, which, once out of the bushes, becomes well defined, continuing along Fordyce Creek to the Eagle Lakes road. We followed it past the impressive cataracts to the base of the SE ridge of OLD MAN. At 10:45 we left the trail to head up the formidable looking granitic ridge of our peak. I felt I was on a desert trip-just rocks and a few brushy areas of manzanita. We climbed the 1,700' vertical on a nice cool, sunny, autumn day. After I placed a duck (not cairn) on the false summit, we continued around to the base of the final 300' summit dome. By 12:30 I was on top. Fred arrived shortly after and promptly brought forth a bottle of champagne for my OGUL list finish party. Yes, I had finally done it!

I couldn't drink the champagne, but, as Fred said, it's the symbol of success more than anything else! No cairn, no register on top. Howard must have taken them down. The anti-register sentiment of the '90s has made its way to OLD MAN-MTN. Incredible. OLD MAN should be an Emblem Peak because of its rise above I-80. Everyone sees OLD MAN on the way up I-80!!

After an ample summit sojourn, we retraced our steps down the class 2 rocky ledges and easy slopes to rejoin the trail at 3:00 p.m. Fred's sore knee slowed us down a bit, but by 4:30 we had surmounted the top of the dam and retrieved our sneakers, which we had stashed after not needing them for the creek crossing. An uninspiring hike back up the hill, reaching the car by 6:00. A long day, but a good peak and a new route over the dam. Happy at last: NOW I am the OGUL!! - B M

Return of the White Stuff

As some of you may remember from my last article, December looked pretty glum for those of us who ski in the backcountry. When I got my new Fischer E99 Double Crown skis, I had trouble getting enthusiastic about getting the bindings mounted. In mid-January, it already looked as if the season was over. That has changed. Before we forget the first winter of 1995-96, I'll record my tales.

My first trip didn't happen. After getting a bad cold, I had to send the three brave souls who showed up to their fate without a leader. They survived and a couple even showed up for my next trip, December 30. This weekend had plenty of precipitation--rain at Castle Peak. Not in the mood to ski in a drizzle, we drove on, reaching Tahoe Meadows. This area is 8700' elevation at the road. It is one of the best introductory back country areas, given to early snows and a wide variety of terrain. To get there, go I-80 to Truckee, Hwy 267 to Kings Beach, continue east on Hwy 28 to Incline Village. Look for a Y shaped intersection (Hwy 431) with signs for the Mt. Rose ski resort and Reno. You will immediately start climbing, driving for about 6.8 miles to a flat area with roadside parking. Unless you are in a blizzard or get there very early, you should expect plenty of cars and maybe a few snowmobiles. A lot of people use the hill on the north side of the road for sledding. The snowmobilers play around on the flat area but are not a problem as long as you are reasonably tolerant. Once you climb into the trees, you leave them behind. The flat meadows and surrounding hills are excellent for beginners. Tahoe Meadows has two disadvantages. First, it is a long drive, especially for beginners who won't be skiing long. Second, the Mt. Rose area is very avalanche prone. Though you are safe enough in the meadows and adjacent treed hills, be very wary of steep open slopes.

As we got out of the car, we had a mist even here. The drizzle stopped before we began skiing. Nice weather but heavy snow. The downhill runs were slow and turning was difficult, even for telemarkers. We climbed up the hill north of the road, playing in an open stretch that looked down on the sledders and Lake Tahoe. We continued up through the trees for another hour, then stopped for lunch. It was the first trip out for several. That and the altitude dictated a short trip, ending after four hours. If anyone had any regrets about the long drive, they were cured as we hit the rain again climbing up from Truckee.

My second trip this year was a reminder to not push intermediate skiers too hard. On January 7 we went to Carson Pass after going by mud near Echo Summit. Hoping to repeat a trip from last year, we set up a car shuttle to allow a descent into Forestdale Divide. We had a good start, climbing up from Carson Pass to Frog Lake. The lake was almost without snow, covered with slick ice. With the wind pushing us forward, we sailed across. We ate lunch looking down over Hope Valley. Ice skaters were playing with their dog on the lake as we left.

My first clue that my shuttle wasn't such a great idea should have been the descent off the ridge. Near Elephant Back we had to climb down through brush and rocks. Now committed, we began our descent following a drainage. Suddenly I realized that I had overestimated the skills of our small group of five. Even where the snow was okay, some skiers kept falling. Snow conditions didn't help as we fought ice on the North facing slopes of the drainage, brush in the center, and bare ground on the South facing slopes. With all of us struggling down through the brush, we finally got to the road. It was typical of the day that I got an edge, fell and scrapped my arm heading down the road. We made it out about 4:30 in the afternoon.

My third trip of the season, 20 January was at the beginning of our "second winter." With a couple major snow falls, we could now ski from the Echo Summit Sno-Park. We climbed up from Benwood Meadow, onto the ridge. A strong wind and churning clouds was enough to call off my plan to follow the ridge around to the top of the old ski area. We retraced our path, then cut over to the old ski runs. We should have spent the whole day here. Soft snow over a firm base made for good telemarking. The threatening weather held back. We continued making runs down the hill until everyone had enough, about 4:00 p.m.

First nothing at all, then too much of a good thing! On 27 January I went on Fred Fischietto's trip. Instead of looking for the place with the most snow, we chose the opposite at Sagehen Hills (Hwy 89, north of Truckee). We passed up Castle Peak, fearing bottomless drifts. After having some trouble getting a good place to park, we settled for a pullout by the Little Truckee River. From the road, we headed east, fighting through 12 inches of new, heavy snow. We had a short tour followed by lots of runs on a practice hill. Pushing through the snow downhill was almost as much work as climbing uphill. Still, it was a beautiful day. There is now plenty of snow to keep us going for another month. As I write this, another storm is arriving. If it keeps up, how long can we ski? Maybe until July again!

Bob Buckles

First Name	Last Name	NAS	OGUL	Ogul Finish	Super NAS
Heather	Anderson	✓ 1979			
Rachel	Anderson	1979			
John	Besbekos	1989	1989		
Bob	Buckles	1992			
Debbie	Bulger	1987	1987		
Anna	Chaput	1992	X		
Annie	Coledog		1995		
Alan	Cooke	1992	1990	1993	1995
John	Dodds	1994			
Roger	Ehret	1987	1987		
Harry	Erl	1982	1983		
Terry	Flood	1994			1993-4
Don	Fox		1994		
R.J.	Furnoy	1972			
Peggy	Gerick	1972			
Al	Gutowsky	1977			
Bill	Hauser	1976	X	1995	
Ernest	Isaacs	1972			
Fred	Johnson	X	1994		1994
Marilyn	Jouini		1989		
Dave	Kaplan	1977			
Bob	Klein	1981			
Leo	Krastins	1971			
Peggy	Lehman		1990		
Harry	Ley	1989			
Gene	Markley	1970			
Roger	Monroe	1972			
Boris	Nahlovsky	1987	✓ 1987	1987	1987
Camille	Nahlovsky	1987			
Bart	O'Brian	1978			
Loretta	O'Brian	1978			
Elinor	Olsen	1972			
Jeannie	Raber	1981			
Paul	Richins	X			
Sierra	Richins	1991			
Roger	Rollins	1987			
John	Sarna	1987	1987	1990	X
Eric	Siering	1995	1995		1995
Rex	Smith	X	1990		1990
Howard	Steidtman		1983		
Ann	Stewart		1992		
Jackie	Stroud	1987	X		1987
Bob	Sumner		1990	1995	
Steven	Thaw	1980			
Tobi	Tyler		X	1994	
John	Watters	1989	1989		
Don	Weiss	1985			
Roger	Winters	1993	1993		
Jim	Wirich	1972			
Pete	Yamagata	1973	✓ 1983	1990	1977



Note: Beyond the year of qualification, the order of qualification for emblems cannot readily be determined at this time with information readily available to the current editors of the *Boulder*.

All entries dated 1987 were compiled from a list published in the March - April, 1987 *Boulder*. No information was found in previous editions to indicate when emblem status was attained.

An "X" is placed for people believed to have attained the emblem, but for which no record was found.

Good News !

Many of the Sierra Club insurance restrictions on mountaineering have been lifted.

Some ice-axe and rope use will now be allowed. We should have the details in the upcoming *BOULDER*.

WARNER MOUNTAINS SEPTEMBER 1-4, 1995

After arriving late (11:00pm) Friday evening at Mill Creek Falls Campground, we were off early Saturday morning to climb Warren Peak (9710').

Fifteen of us got into several cars and headed for the trailhead at Pepperdine Camp. We left half the cars at Pine Creek Trailhead as this was a shuttle hike.

From the trailhead (6700') we climbed through an arid landscape dominated by Mountain Mahogany to the summit ridge of the Warners. The views both east and west were stunning. The vegetation changed to mixed conifers and meadows as we climbed higher.

There was interest in climbing Squaw Peak (8646') so half the group and I detoured to it's summit. After rejoining the group, we later left the trail at a point where it started to descend towards Cottonwood Lake.

We approached Warren Peak from the northwest along the edge of the east facing cirque. This was a splendid route providing awesome views of Patterson Lake, the cliffs above it and desert to the east. We had lunch at the summit, descended some scree slopes and picked up the trail to Pine Creek Trailhead.

Pine Creek Basin was bursting with wildflowers and streams. We passed several small lakes, stopping to swim at the largest one. The hike was about 12 miles long.

We had dinner in Alturas at the Brass Rail (good), a local Basque restaurant.

Sunday, we climbed Eagle Peak (9892'), the high point of the Warners. The group was down to 11 people as we headed to the trailhead at Soup Springs (4800').

We climbed a ridge, dropped down to cross Millcreek and started up the Slide Creek Trail, passing through aspen forests along the way. We left the Summit Trail about a ½ mile south of it's junction with the Slide Creek Trail (7800').

We headed southeast along a very steep ridge covered with Whitepine trees until we reached the summit. The view was superlative; Mt. Shasta, the Modoc Plateau, Surprise Valley and many peaks eastward into Nevada.

After lunch we descended a south traversing ridge until we intersected the Summit Trail. We turned west along the Poison Flat Trail, briefly losing the trail at Poison Flat. We then followed it all the way back to Mill Creek Falls campground (5800'). We stopped to swim in Clear Lake (cold) along the way. This was about a 14 mile hike.

We again had dinner in Alturas at an excellent Italian restaurant, the Pizza and Pasta Place.

Monday, on the way home, six of us headed southeast to Eagleville to locate some hot springs. We inquired locally, and much to our delight, we had the place to ourselves. The view was terrific, typical of the Warners. (By the way, the road from Eagleville to Gerlach is now paved.)

If you're looking for a different place to hike, with few visitors, don't miss the WARNER MOUNTAINS!

MARK OLSON

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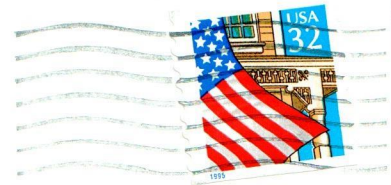
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