

THE



BOULDER

motherlode chapter · sierra club

Issue No. 70 Mar - Apr 1996

Chair's Corner

There is lots to talk about this time around. First, the Sierra Club has loosened the regs governing technical climbs. They have done away with the fee for insurance coverage. Yeah! We can also do some training for trips. You still must get outings approved in advance. The routine for approvals remains unchanged. Send applications to the Chair (me, for the time being), to National, and to our local person for screening such outings, Jackie Stroud. If you need more info, give me a call.

Next, I will be leaving to move back east. That means you will need a new Chair. I talked to Jim Biley and he said he would be willing to give the Chair a go. However, the Chair is an elected position, and it would be nice to actually have a choice. Anyone wanting to step forward and run against Jim is welcome to do so. Let me know. The need for an election will be a topic of the April meeting.

On a related topic, I would suggest that the Section needs a Vice Chair as well as a Chair. As many of you know, I have been out of town on business on the date of our last two meetings. For cases like this, it would be nice to have a Vice Chair to fill in for the Chair. Volunteers are needed for that (presumedly elected) position as well.

Fourth, June 1 is National Trails Day. I encourage everyone to get out there on June 1 and participate in one of the many events and outings intended to raise awareness of the need for continued care and maintenance of our precious system of trails.

Finally, I got some feedback on the lists of emblem qualifiers that was published in the last edition of the Boulder. Most notable, it was pointed out that we have a gorge scrambling emblem that I left out of the discussion. I have fixed that oversight. I also adopted a convention of noting the emblem qualification by the date that the qualifying list was received. Earlier I had attempted to note the qualification by the date the climber actually climbed the requisite number of peaks. In some cases that was impossible, and in the case of three OGUL List Finishers who did not submit paperwork, it cannot actually be done. In the latter cases, I noted two list finisher accomplishments for dates I know to be either correct, or at least pretty close. In the third case I noted the accomplishment in 1994 -- a date I know he completed the list -- but I believe he first finished the list in about 1987 (a date that would put him second on the list). Without documentation, however, I would be loath to list him ahead of others, and then listen to the complaints.

All said. Good luck in your climbs this summer. See you all later. Alan Cooke, (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).



Apr. 23, Tues.	Peak and Gorge Social (Sierra Club) Time to elect a new chairperson! Meet at 8:30pm at John Watter's house, 9142 Paseo Grande Way, Elk Grove. From I-5 south to Laguna Blvd. head east for 3.5 miles to left on Dilusso. From Hwy 99 south to Laguna Blvd go west for 1.5 miles to right on Dilusso. Once on dilusso, take first right onto Romanzo, go around 2 corners then right onto Storia. Take first left to Paseo. John is on corner of Storia and Paseo.(916) 683-2748.
May 1 - Wed.	Outing Schedule Deadline (Sierra Club) Outings leaders should submit trip writeups to appropriate section chair. Outings schedule will cover June 15 to August 15. <i>Submit private trips to the Boulder anytime.</i>
May 4, Sat.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Moderate trip for experienced skiers. Meet at Roseville Square(Douglas & Harding) at 8am. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
May 4 - 5 Sat. - Sun.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Hwy 395 Ski tour. On Saturday ski Sonora Ridge near Mt. Emma Car camp Saturday night. Sunday ski either Dunderburg, Crater Crest or Matterhorn Peak via Horseshoe pass. Contact Al Gutowsky, 457-3338.
May 5, Sun.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Mt. Tamalpais. From Pan Toll a loop trip through the Rock Springs area. Meet at 11 th & P at 8am. Second stop in Davis around 8:15 am at 2 nd & C. Leader: Marilyn Jouini, 334-7293.
May 11 - 18 Sat. - Sat.	Backpack (Sierra Club) Escalante River Canyon, Utah. Leader: Paul Plathe, Stockton, (209) 463-4366.
May 11 - 12 Sat. - Sun.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Car Camp along Hwy 395. Day trips around Bridgeport. Could stay in motels. Contact Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
May 25 - 27 Sat. - Mon.	Sea Kayak (Sierra Club) Mono Lake. Must provide your own boat. Contact John Watters for details. 683-2748.
National Trails Day June 1, Sat.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Middle Fork of American River. Placer County Big Tree Grove of Giant Sequoias. After lunch swim in a stream. Possible poison oak along trail so bring long pants. Meet at Roseville Square(Douglas & Harding) at 8am. Leader: Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
National Trails Day June 1, Sat.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Maidu Trail or "Cardiac Hill". Short, steep hike. Meet at Roseville Square at 10:00am. Leader: Marilyn Jouini, 334-7293.
National Trails Day June 1, Sat.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Tomales Point, Point Reyes. 10 miles round trip. Meet at 11 & P at 7:30am. Leader: John Besbekos.
National Trails Day June 1, Sat.	Sea Kayak (Sierra Club) Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. Launch at Baldwin Beach. Meet at CSUS arboretum at 7am. Must provide your own boat. Contact John Watters for details. 683-2748.
Jun. 8, Sat.	Day Hike (Sierra Club) Red Mountain. 6 mile hike, 2,000' gain. Meey CSUS arboretum at 8 am. Leader: Jack Bussio, 457-3794.
Jun. 8, Sat.	Day Hike(Sierra Club, Maidu Group) Rubicon Trail in D.L. Bliss and Emerald Bay State Parks. Meet in Safeway parking lot, at Pollock Pines. (Sly Park exit from Hwy 50) at 8 am. Leader: Bill Campau, 644-5339.
Jun. 9, Sun.	Intermediate Ski Trip (Sierra Club) Depends on snow conditions. Meet at Roseville Square at 8am. Contact Bob Buckles, 624-3620.
June 16, Sun.	Day Hike/ Peak Climb (Sierra Club) Stevens Peak (10,100'). About 4 miles round trip. Mostly off trail. Meet at CSUS arboretum at 8 am. Leader: John Watters, 683-2748.
July 14, Sun.	Day Hike/Peak Climb (Sierra Club) Reynolds Peak. Climb from Indian Valley, approx. 7 miles round trip. Meet CSUS arboretum at 8 am, Leader: John Watters, 683-2748.
July 14, Sun.	Day Hike (Sierra club, Tuolumne Group) Mt. Watkins in Yosemite. South of Tioga Rd. near Olmstead Point. 7 miles round trip. Meet at Wayside park in Groveland at 8am. Leaders: Jerry Fuselein (209) 962-5197 and Carol Arechiga, (209) 962-5529.

☎ 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.

Congratulations to Bob Sumner of Incline Village, Nevada, for qualifying for the NAS and Super NAS emblems !!!

? Should the Peak and Gorge Section ? Enter Cyberspace

Well, just about everybody else is doing it, why not us? Here's a few examples of what's available for the intrepid mountaineer/net-surfer:

Angeles Chapter Sierra Peaks Section List

link to: <http://www.edgeinternet.com/sps/spslist.htm> for the list of SPS peaks

link to: <http://www.edgeinternet.com/sps/russel02.htm> for SPS peak trip writeups

Angeles Chapter Desert Peaks Section List

link to: <http://www.edgeinternet.com/dps/dpslist.htm> for the list of DPS peaks

link to: http://www.edgeinternet.com/dps/arch_uc.htm for DPS peak trip writeups

Angeles Chapter Hundred Peaks Section List

link to: <http://www.edgeinternet.com/hps/hpslist.htm> for the list of HPS peaks

Loma Prieta Chapter Peak Climbing Section

link to: <http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/index.html> for their general index

link to: <http://reality.sgi.com/csp/pcs/Reports/reports.html> for their trip writeups

Can You Envision a Peak and Gorge Section Homepage?

To make a long story short(er), I've started putting together a Personal Homepage on the Internet with references to peak-bagging activities, several of which are a subset of Peak and Gorge Activities. I've already included a copy of the Tahoe OGUL List, some stories I wrote for the Boulder, and since I cite the Boulder for the articles, a copy of the last page of the Boulder with subscription/submittal-type information. You can check it out at "<http://www.mother.com/~beren>".

If people think it'd be useful, I'll create a simple Homepage just for the Peak and Gorge Section. It could be listed under the Mother Lode Chapter Homepage, which is at: "http://spider.lloyd.com/~bparks/organize/sc_mlc.htm". The "Sierra Singles" have already entered cyberspace with a homepage there. Some information we could include are: 1) the NAS, OGUL, and Coastal Peak Lists, 2) schedules for peak-climbs, 3) blurb about the Boulder, and 4) other non-lengthy information about our Section and its activities.

However, while I can code computer files for access on the internet, the Section should determine what to include, realizing that people all over the world would be able to access the information, although our primary audience would be hikers from Northern California. We could reach some of those on the net, if the webmasters for various hiking/recreation homepages on the internet are willing to include a link on their Homepage referencing others to a Peak and Gorge Homepage (they probably would). BTW: It would be best to have someone artistic graphically-design our Homepage, since that's something I don't have the time or the ability to do well.

So, if you think we **should** start a Peak and Gorge Homepage, please let me know. Moreover, if you're willing to help out in this effort, **please** volunteer.

John Sarna 916/227-7609 e-mail c/o beren@mother.com

RECOGNITION (EMBLEM AND LIST-FINISHER) LIST

The Peak and Gorge Section Records show the following people have requested and received recognition as an emblem-holder or list-finisher. If you are qualified (see our Northern Alpine Section (NAS), Sierra Gorge Section (SGS), and Tahoe OGUL Qualifying Lists for what it takes), you can submit a request for recognition to the Section Chair, the Section Treasurer, or the Editor of the Boulder. Documentation should consist of a list of the peaks you have climbed, the date that the peak was climbed, and either the leader of the trip if the trip was a Sierra Club outing or a fellow hiker if the trip was a private outing. Recognition of your accomplishment(s) will be printed in a subsequent newsletter and recorded in the Section's archives.

NAS and SGS Emblem qualifiers can purchase a patch (pictured at the bottom of the page) from the Section to commemorate their achievements. To obtain a patch, send a check for \$5 per patch and a copy of your request for emblem recognition to either the Section Chair, the Section Treasurer, or the Editor of the Boulder. Be sure to indicate clearly the address where you wish to have the patch sent.

OGUL EMBLEM HOLDERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Harry Erl	1983	Rex Smith	1990
Howard Steidtmann	1983	Bob Buckles	1990
Pete Yamagata	1983	Alan Cooke	1990
Debbie Bulger	1986	Roger Winters	1990
John Sarna	1986	Ann Stewart	1992
Roger Ehret	1987	Don Fox	1994
Jackie Stroud	1987	Fred Johnson	1994
Bill Hauser	1987	Annie Coledog	1995
Camille Nahlovsky	1987	Eric Siering	1995
Boris Nahlovsky	1987	Bob Sumner	1995
John Besbekos	1989		
John Watters	1989		
Marilyn Jouini	1989		
Peggy Lehman	1990		

OGUL LIST FINISHERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Boris Nahlovsky	1987	Tobi Tyler	1994
Pete Yamagata	1990	Bob Sumner	1995
John Sarna	1990	Bill Hauser	1995
Pete Yamagata - 2X	1991	Pete Yamagata - 3X	1995
Alan Cooke	1993		
Howard Steidtmann	1994		



NAS EMBLEM HOLDERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Gene Markley	1970	Don Weiss	1985
Leo Krastins	1971	Debbie Bulger	1986
R.J. Furnoy	1972	Roger Rollins	1986
Roger Monroe	1972	John Sarna	1986
Ernest Isaacs	1972	Roger Ehret	1987
Jim Wirich	1972	Jackie Stroud	1987
Peggy Gerick	1972	Boris Nahlovsky	1987
Carlton Lund	1972	Camille Nahlovsky	1987
Dan Dobbins	1972	Harry P. Ley	1989
Elinor Olsen	1972	John Watters	1989
Pete Yamagata	1973	John Besbekos	1989
Bill Hauser	1976	Rex Smith	1990
Al Gutowsky	1977	Sierra Richins	1991
Dave Kaplan	1977	Anna Chaput	1992
Bart O'Brien	1978	Alan Cooke	1992
Loretta O'Brien	1978	Bob Buckles	1992
Heather Anderson	1979	Roger Winters	1993
Rachel Anderson	1979	Terry Flood	1994
Howard Steidtmann	1979	Fred Johnson	1994
Steven Thaw	1980	John Dodds	1994
Jeannie Raber	1981	Eric Siering	1995
Bob Klein	1981	Bob Sumner	1996
Harry Erl	1982		

NAS SUPER EMBLEM HOLDERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pete Yamagata	1977	Terry Flood	1994
Pete Yamagata	1981	Fred Johnson	1994
Jackie Stroud	1987	Eric Siering	1995
Boris Nahlovsky	1987	Alan Cooke	1995
Rex Smith	1990	Bob Sumner	1996
John Sarna	1990		

SGS EMBLEM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Gene Markley	1970	Dave Dubie	1973
Leo Krastins	1971	Gordon Nash	1973
John Schwind	1971	Susan Puccioni	1976
Janice Schaap	1971	Robert Chesney	1976
Carlton Lund	1972	Steven Markley	1976
Howard Allred	1972	Steve Rogers	1978
Bob Elder	1972	Howard Steidtmann	1979
Elinor Olsen	1972	Helen Wauters	1980

From Charles Manson to Orange County very late December 1995

No, this is not a discourse from prison about the financial tribulations of a certain government entity that has become reluctant to pay its debts. Nor is it a comparison of the values of two of our cultural icons. It's simply random encounters with certain landmarks during the course of one of our "typical" peak-bagging trips that bring on such implications.

This trip began the day after Christmas. I set out on a solo drive to Death Valley National Monument to meet up with Bill Hauser and our usual band of seasoned desert hikers. For the uninitiated, we have something singular in common, equating "bagging a few desert peaks" with "making the most of the holidays". I was expecting to bag Manly and Needle with them in the course of catching up on the latest gossip. Afterwards, I planned to leave the group and drive even further south to bag the county high points of Orange, San Diego, and Imperial.

Bill had set up our initial meeting place for the "town" of Ballarat, which is about an hour's drive east of California City. After camping nearby, I drove to the edge of town at the planned meeting time of 7 am to find absolutely **no** signs of life! Of course, I wouldn't have expected much from the town itself. The sign that once loudly professed Ballarat's population to be 300 had had that number crossed out and replaced with a hand-written "4".

The only unusual feature was a lone 4x4 Toyota parked a hundred yards off one of the dirt roads leading into town. Gear was stacked outside the vehicle in a familiar manner, bringing to mind thoughts of Howard and Toby. Hence, I acrimoniously walked up to it and yelled "anyone home". Eventually, a sleepy Howard peered out from under some blankets in the back, and, after a couple minutes of light conversation, Toby stuck her head out, too. By the time they were dressed and outside, we saw Bill's car, along with that of Debbie and Richard, parked in the uninhabited middle of town. Getting together wasn't as simple as it sounds, but by 7:40 a.m., we were all ready to go.

The plan was to climb Manly Peak that day, but, in addition to catching up with the lives of friends, we needed to drive a bit first. A hour later and further down Panamint Valley, the road became very rocky as it turned up into a narrow canyon. It being many miles up to Mengel Pass and then down to the trailhead in Butte Valley, we regrouped into the two 4x4s and drove on. That road was, by far, the worst I'd ever taken my truck on. After my Toyota Pickup hit bottom a couple times, I declared to Richard and Debbie that I'd drive it back this way once, and **not** back and forth twice as had originally been planned. The problem was that it would take two days to bag the peaks, and their camping gear was back in their vehicle. However, this issue became moot when, on reaching the pass, we saw that the road going down into Butte Valley was covered for a long way with snow and ice. Neither Howard nor I wanted to try going down a road which may be impossible to come back up, and I was even more concerned about slipping on the down-grade and crashing into the boulders on the side of the road. After some futile exercise trying to clear the ice from the road, we gave up trying to climb Manly that day.

The day was not an entire loss, however, as some locals directed us up a side canyon leading to the Charles Manson cabin. Now considered a historic monument, this was where Charles allegedly stimulated his followers with privation and exercise until they unreluctantly did exactly as they were told. There were rumors of three who didn't listen and may have been buried somewhere nearby in the desert. Rather than continue that search, we were soon on our way with other peak-climbs in mind.

Unfortunately, conflicting objectives forced our paths to diverge. The others were thinking "new DPS peaks", which were far to the east, while I was thinking "new county high points", which were far to the south. As for meeting their mission in life, I later heard that Howard, Toby, Richard and Debbie had all bagged Nopah and Moapa, while Bill instead spent some quality time in a hot spring trying to recover from a bout with some bug.

On my own again, I spent the evening driving to and through the LA Metropolis. My objective was to climb Santiago, Orange County's highest point. Bill had told me he was able to drive up to the

summit some years ago, and I would have been able to do the same if I'd called the Cleveland National Forest to get proper directions. However, I **really** wanted to stop driving and start hiking, and it's always my preference is to leave my vehicle at a trailhead and walk rather than drive far off the main roads.

Using the driving instructions in Gary Suttle's California County Summits, I easily found my way to the Holy Jim Trailhead by 11 pm and was soon asleep in the back of my truck. The Trailhead is posted "no camping", but technically, I wasn't camping, just sleeping. In any case, by dawn, several other vehicles were already parked nearby. Not long after, I packed up and began hiking up the Holy Jim Trail. As told in Gary's book, this trail was once called the Cussin' Jim Trail, It's name was changed to "Holy Jim", which I must assume is to prevent sensitive ears from hearing the "cussin" word. Anyway, it's a nice trail through otherwise impassible chaparral.

After getting to the top of Santiago, with it's large array of microwave towers, I went on to bag Modjeska Peak, turning this trek into a 20 mile 5,000 feet gain hike. A couple of those miles were due to my mistakenly following the dirt road between the peaks instead of the use-trail that provides a direct route. Both peaks are worthy climbs, though, and together they form a conspicuous feature called, I think, The Saddle by the millions of people who live in that part of the LA metropolis.

Gary's book describes a good route up Santiago, but he neglects to mention a short-cut that provides better views, a nicer walk, and cuts off a half mile from walking along the winding road:

While the book directs one to take the dirt road up from where the Holy Jim Trail meets it at Bear Spring, one may continue on the trail by crossing the road and walking behind the cement water tank that is on the right. The next stretch of the Holy Jim Trail continues up the slope to the right of the streambed feeding the water tank. It becomes an obvious trail once you're above the trees, ending near where the road makes a hairpin turn from east to west (near BM 4874). There are some rocks in the shape of an arrow pointing to a sign identifying this as the top of the Holy Jim trail for those who want to take this way down.

I too would have missed this continuation of the Holy Jim Trail, but for meeting up with a trio of hikers who showed it to me on the way down. They practically insisted on following it down when I questioned them about it, though the less-steep road would have served one of them better. He was having an increasingly difficult time getting downhill, having physically exhausted himself bagging Santiago. I let them get far ahead, slowing down to not stress my knees too much. But I eventually caught up to them again, to find his partners patching him up after he'd slipped and turned an ankle.

After they fixed him up with some tape and gave him a "cane", their progress was not much more than a crawl. Following along, it soon became apparent that they'd make it down well after dark. I asked if any of them had a flashlight, and that turned out to be the one item they'd "left on the kitchen table". I had mine, and rather than stay with them and get out very late, I simply gave them my flashlight, along with my business card, so they'd mail it to me.

After that, it was I who was rushing down the trail to make it out before dark. In the chaparral, it was easy to see in the minimal light of dusk. But I still needed to get down to Holy Jim Creek and navigate the last mile of trail that zig-zagged along the creek under tall trees. This I was able to do while there was just enough light to see, but nothing was left but starlight at its end, and it was by this light that I navigated the dirt road leading to my truck.

I eventually did find out what happened to the trio. Bruce Billedeaux of Southland Industries in Long Beach mailed my flashlight to me with a new set of batteries and a nice thank-you note, writing that they came down in total darkness, and the flashlight "was more than helpful, it was a life saver."

Perhaps I should end this story on that note, though it's probably a (slight) exaggeration, but that's not what peak-baggers think about. To me, the trip was a success because, over the next consecutive days, I also climbed Little Cahuilla Peak, Hot Springs Peak, and Blue Angel Peak, before returning home to Sacramento on New Year's day. That's living!

John Sarna

The Best Kept Secret Sierra Ski Tour

Four miles south of Truckee on Highway 89 is a trailhead for one of the best ski tours in the Sierras. Across from Goose Meadows Campground and just above Deep Creek is an almost invisible plowed out area for five autos. (There is additional parking 30 yards past the trailhead on the east side of Highway 89). Seven of us started this exploratory trip by skiing a road that climbs southward from the parking area. A hundred yards later the road turning northward before turning westward paralleling and above Deep Creek.

For a mile or so the road gently climbs, the creek on north and a steep hillside on the south. The drainage opens as the road passes through areas thinned of trees although many leafless aspen groves abound. On the north side of the creek is the steep, treeless slopes of a west running ridge. The road disappears in a large open area at the two and half mile point. We stayed on the south side of the main drainage (canyon) traversing and climbing westward until we crossed the south fork of Deep Creek. After crossing the creek we climbed to the top of a minor ridge overlooking the south fork of Deep Creek.

From the ridge we could catch views of the high corniced peaks and ridges of the Sierra Crest located just southeast of Tinkers Knob, our destination. We followed the ridge in a northwesterly direction through groves of trees before coming to an open expanse that we traversed. We were skiing toward the upper reaches of the west to east running main drainage. To the north were the steep south facing slopes and ridge that enclose the north side of Deep Creek. We crossed the upper portions of the drainage before skiing the south facing slopes of the ridge. We skied toward a saddle to the northwest of a minor high point (8284) on the ridge with its many weathered volcanic plugs.

From the saddle and less than a half mile was Tinkers Knob and the corniced ridge running northward to Mt. Anderson. To the northeast was Schellenberger Ridge and the gouge made by Highway 80 as it drops away from Donner Summit. Barney and Mark skied up the ridge to Tinkers Knob. The rest of us stopped for lunch. While eating lunch I put my skins on and twenty minutes later I was skiing along the Pacific Crest Trail and enjoying the view: to the east and north one could see every peak from Snow Mountain to Mt. Lola and on the far horizon Mt. Lassen, to the south the Sierra Crest running from Granite Chief to the peaks of the Desolation Wilderness, and to the east, Silver Peak and the peaks enclosing the Tahoe Basin.

It had taken us less than four hours, with an elevation gain of approximately 3000 feet, to ski to Tinkers Knob. We followed our ski tracks back except that the slopes now offered us the opportunity to practice our turns. The only regret was that the lower we got the snow became softer, heavier and mushier. By three-thirty we were back to the cars.

Overall, this trip offers much: an easy access to the Sierra Crest, many open slopes for telemarking, and an elevation gain not considered too excessive. A Caution. We skied the upper slopes when the snow conditions were "stable." If we had skied this trip after a heavy snow fall we would have had to be more cautious given the avalanche danger.

The Way Not to Ski Mt. Lola

Eight of us left the Snowmobile Parking Area at Little Truckee Meadows Summit at nine o'clock. This trailhead is located approximately 18 miles north of Truckee on Highway 89. The first mile and a half are downhill on the groomed Weber Lake Road. We took the first left turn for a bridge crossing of the Little Truckee River. After crossing the bridge we took a right turn on to the Henness Pass Road. Like the Weber Lake Road all the roads we were to ski were snowmobile tracked. This made the skiing, up or down, effortless.

We followed the Henness Pass Road for approximately two miles. The road is flat for the first mile and then gradually gains elevation. At the two-mile point (four miles from our trailhead) we turned left on to a road that goes to Cold Stream Canyon and Meadow. The road climbs gently north facing slopes before dropping into Cold Stream Canyon.

At the seven-mile point in our trip we stopped for lunch before skiing to Cold Stream meadow. After lunch we skied to Cold Stream Meadow. Dave broke trail, as we went up the drainage toward the east-west ridge that would provide us with access to Mt. Lola. Only David reached the ridge. Five of us turned back just before two o'clock. We were at least two miles and at least 1000 feet away from the peak. To ski Mt. Lola in one day would have required us to leave the trailhead by 7:00 a.m.

Two and a half hours after turning back we skied into the parking lot. We had skied 16 miles and climbed less than 1500 feet. I'll try Mt. Lola again but next time I'll start from Donner Summit.

AL GUTOWSKY

TWO PEAKS FROM TAHOE'S WEST SHORE--SKI ASCENTS
Submitted by Barney Jones

SILVER PEAK, FEBRUARY 3.

This is one that a lot of us had never been to, so we were looking forward to it, and we weren't disappointed. Fortunately, Andy Sawyer, who led the trip, had done it before, so we were well guided.

The trailhead, just over 6000 ft. elevation, is right across highway 89 from what used to be Big Chief, but now has a sign saying "Olson Construction". The route follows a road going west and for several miles it is a gradual elevation gain. At first it follows the Pole Creek drainage, but soon veers off to the south towards the peak. When you reach the base of the peak, the serious climbing begins, quite steep, relatively suddenly. On this particular day the snow was deep, soft and sticky going up, and we had to maxi-glide to prevent our skis from becoming 4 x 4's.

At the top, (8424 ft.) the view was great. Squaw Valley Ski Area was immediately to the south, very visible. To the east, the whole Tahoe Basin was unfolded before us.

For our descent, the snow was better than we thought it was going to be; a tolerable powder some places, occasional crust, but mostly spring-like almost (not quite) corn. We even did a couple of extra "Yo-Yo" circuits to get a little more down hill.

All in all, it was a nice excursion.

TINKER KNOB, MARCH 9.

This was a different approach for all of us; not from Old Donner Summit, not from Squaw Valley, but from highway 89, from the east. The trailhead is 1 and 1/2 miles north of Big Chief, at a stream called "Deep Creek". The parking is a small notch plowed out to allow very few cars to park, and it's easy to miss.

As with Silver Peak, the route ascends gradually up some kind of road, and follows the drainage until it starts getting steep. This was an exploratory trip led by Al Gutowsky, and his instincts and experience served us well, as he chose to angle left instead of following the gully up high. We couldn't see Tinker Knob until we were almost on it, but then we realized we had chosen the best route. On top it was cold and windy, so we had a quick lunch. (Some of the smarter ones stayed down lower to lunch.) Those who went to the top had to climb almost 3000 vertical feet, total.

Again, we lucked out on the descent, as the steeper slopes higher up were nice corn snow, so we had some good skiing. Only down lower when it started to level out did we run into some "mashed potatoes". But we'd had another great day.

Spring Hikes --John Besbekos

On March 17, Alan Cooke led a hike to Samuel P. Taylor State Park. This park in Marin County is just east of Point Reyes National Seashore in steep, rolling hills. Except for a few sporadic cross country ski trips, I had been fairly inactive the past winter. I was looking forward to getting out for a real hike at last! I through my stuff together and drove to Davis to meet Alan. It was there I discovered I forgot my hiking boots. I would have to do my first hike of the season in old worn out running shoes.

About a dozen people showed up and we began the hike along redwood shaded trails. Soon we were out in open grasslands and following a dirt road UP. The sun was quite warm as we gained 1200' of elevation. That was quite a wake up call for muscles that had been dormant the past few months! We ate lunch and admired the views from Barnabe Peak. We then began the circuitous downhill stroll back to the cars. The last 2 miles were in the shade and we all finished up this early season hike in good spirits.

A week later I went on Marilyn Jouini's hike. Her hike started at the Bootjack parking area at Mt. Tamalpais. We hiked over the Matt Davis trail down toward Stinson Beach. This day was one of those classic days when there was no haze in the air. We enjoyed crystal clear views up and down the coast and out to the Farallon Islands. After we completed our descent down the trail, we rambled through the neighborhoods and out to the beach. Everyone had a pleasant time of eating and lounging on the sand.

Eventually it was time to make the climb back up. This time we walked to the edge of town to find the Steep Ravine Trail. It is well named. The steepness is tempered by the shade afforded by the lush foliage canopy that surrounds you as you follow a cascading stream up over your 1500' elevation change. Our group reformed at the top of the climb at the Pan Toll Ranger Station for the last leg of the journey back to the cars. That evening we stopped for Chinese food in Fairfield. As we were waiting at our tables we were surprised as another group of old friends came in. Pat Purcell's hiking group had completed his annual San Geronimo Ridge hike.

The next week's hike was held at Point Reyes. It was a farewell hike for Alan's wife Pam who is moving out to Pennsylvania for her new job a couple months ahead of Alan. We noticed the sign at the park entrance said the fire danger today was extreme. The day started out as sunny but there were a lot of clouds drifting in. The ground seemed fairly damp. If the fire danger today was considered "extreme" what would it be in August, "inevitable"?

We began our hike at the Bear Valley visitor center. Soon we took the trail intersection that climbs straight up to park high point of Mt. Vision. Although it was quite warm on the climb up, it was quite windy on the top. We had lunch on the top where we enjoyed the expansive views of the ocean. On our way down towards the coast we could see where some of last year's fires had swept through. Although a lot of trees were charred I was pleasantly surprised to see how fast all the other plant life was rebounding.

Eventually after meandering along 9 miles of trail, we were at the main Bear Valley trail for the final 4 flat miles back to the trailhead. It was at this time that those strong winds had finally blown rain clouds overhead. We had to bring out our ponchos about 3 separate times as we were entertained to short rain showers. A dinner stop at our favorite Fairfield Chinese restaurant completed the day.

On April 13, I led a hike to Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, north of Sonoma and East of Santa Rosa. 16 people showed at the trail head and we got right down to business by heading up almost 2000' right away. The trails we were taking would form a ridge top loop surrounding the perimeter of the basin that makes up the park.

The first leg of our journey brought us to a narrow paved road that went to the summit of Red Mtn. This had a microwave station at the top but better things awaited less than a mile away. We soon reached Bald Mtn. which at 2700' was the highpoint of the park. We enjoyed a 360° view from the summit. Mt. St. Helena, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tam, Sonoma Pk. and even the San Francisco Skyline were visible. Everyone was enjoying this stop so much, we decided to go ahead and make this the lunch stop.

We continued on to our last peak by following a trail along the ridge spine which gave us nice views of the Napa Valley. When we got to the summit of Brushy Peak we were treated to a ridiculously steep, tall slope that served as a trail. There was lots of slipping and sliding but no one fell! At last we came upon a newly constructed trail with gentle switchbacks. This last couple miles was all in the shade as we made our way down off the hillside toward the campground. This was a pleasant change after being exposed to the sun all day.

We returned to the parking lot without incident. This had been the first steep hiking of the season for several people on the trip. This got everyone enthused about getting into the Sierras and discussing the upcoming backpacking season. ---JB

A Peak Too Far: Mt. Siegel

April 13, 1996

Mt. Siegel (9,450), the high point of the Pine Nut Mountains, has long fascinated me. Having climbed Siegel previously from the west via what I thought to be a death march, I have long harbored a desire to climb it via an easier route. Red Canyon, on the southern side of Mt. Siegel, appeared to be a reasonable alternative approach.

According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff in Carson City, the locals fish in Red Canyon. There are BLM signs all around stating that this is a Wilderness Study area and restricting vehicles to the existing roads and trails.

Trailhead: This trailhead is in Red Canyon, near Wellington, Nevada.

Getting There: The first step is driving from wherever you start to the intersection of NV Highway 88 and U.S. Highway 395 at the north end of Minden, Nevada.

Drive south on U.S. Highway 395 for 21 miles. Turn left onto NV Highway 208, heading east. Follow Highway 208 for 9.8 miles. Turn left onto the signed, paved road named Upper Colony Road. Follow it for 5.4 miles. At the north edge of the airfield, turn left onto Dry Lane. Follow this excellent dirt road for 0.5 miles. Turn right onto Red Canyon Road. Immediately, the road deteriorates to a good dirt road. Ignore the left turn at 0.2 miles and turn left at 0.25 miles at the junction with the sign saying Red Canyon 2 miles. (Actually, both left hand turns go to Red Canyon -- the second is signed.) After 0.1 miles, turn right to follow the arrow pointing to Red Canyon. Drive as far as your vehicles clearance will allow.

I lost my nerve in my Honda Accord in just under one mile. As always seems to be the case, with high clearance, I could have driven at least three more miles. With high clearance and four wheel drive (and maybe a little chutzpa) you can drive almost to the summit.

The hike: From my car, I started walking up Red Canyon road. In fifteen minutes, I passed the BLM sign announcing Red Canyon. The sign stands next to a noisy stream that spills out of the mouth of a narrow looking canyon. The road enters the canyon.

Following the road, I only noted two opportunities to go wrong. The first occurs about two miles into the canyon, when a road branches off sharply to the left (southwest) to head up a canyon at the base of Eagle Mountain. The second occurs about 1/2 mile farther up the road where the road forks. The BLM *Smith Valley, Nevada-California* Surface Management Status (1:100,000-scale metric) topographic map for this area showed the two branches rejoining near the crest of the Pine Nut Mountains. I took the right fork since the map showed it to be shorter and with less elevation gain. However, the left fork had obviously been graded far more recently than the right fork.

With high clearance it should easily be possible to drive this far.

Roughly one mile up the road the forks rejoined one another. At least on this day, on foot, I picked the correct fork. My road had a couple of snow drifts but was otherwise snow free. The other fork goes up and over a nearby peaklet. I could see it as it went through two switchbacks off the peaklet, and it was snow covered for at least a quarter of a mile.

From the point where the roads rejoined, the road ascends the crest of the range, and hits a saddle near Oreana Peak. At that point, you can finally see Mt. Siegel, and neighboring Galena Peak. Oreana Peak is immediately to the right of the saddle and can easily be bagged by following an old set of tire tracks that lead to the Class 1 1/2 summit block.

You have numerous options for bagging Mt. Siegel. You can inflate your peak count by bagging Galena and walking the ridge to Mt. Siegel, then bagging Oreana Peak on the way back. If time is short or if you don't care about bagging peaks, per se, the jeep trail continues to the north in between the ridge with Mt. Siegel and the ridge with Oreana Peak. From the saddle you can see the road dropping down into the valley between the ridges, and you can see that there is a road branching off the jeep trail and heading up the east side of Mt. Siegel. This road lead directly -- if steeply! -- to the top of Mt. Siegel. A large cairn marks the summit.

Trip statistics: I figure my trip statistics totalled 15 miles and 4,100 feet of elevation gain, including a side trip over the top of Oreana Peak. This is about the same as my earlier route. Mt. Siegel and Oreana Peak are both Class 1 peaks.

Judging from the entries in the register on Oreana Peak, four wheelers drive at least as far as the crest of the mountain range. The road was good below the two junctions. The road above the third junction -- above the point where the two forks rejoin -- is iffy. The only unknown is the left fork, and the lower part of it looked good. It should be possible to cut the statistics to eight miles and 2,500 feet of elevation gain by driving to the lower junction where the road forks. It may be possible to cut the statistics further if the left fork is a good jeep road.

Parting Notes: Pete Yamagata left a register on Mt. Siegel last year. On his cover page he lists the DPS, SPS, and HPS, but not the Peak and Gorge Section. This was an obvious oversight on Pete's part. In 1992 there was a Peak and Gorge register in place. I wonder if Pete removed it.

Maps: The U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute *Mount Siegel, Nev.* depicts the peak but almost none of the approach. The *Oreana Peak, Nev.* quadrangle shows most of the approach while the *Pine Nut Valley, Nev.* quadrangle shows part of the valley between Oreana Peak and Mt. Siegel. The *Smith Valley, Nev.-Calif.* quadrangle in the BLM's Surface Management Status series (1:100,000 scale-metric) covers the entire trip.

Permits: None. The BLM office in Carson City (702/885-6000) can provide information on road conditions.

Book Review -- *Track Of The Coyote*

High Country News, an environmental newspaper out of Colorado, recently ran an entertaining picture of a coyote playing with its dinner -- flipping its head up and back to toss a mouse into the air. The picture came from a book entitled *Track Of The Coyote*. The book was written by Todd Wilkinson.

Every other page of *Track Of The Coyote* is a photo taken by Michael H. Francis. The photos are outstanding. My favorites are: the photo of the coyote playing with his dinner mentioned earlier; the photo showing a prairie dog village in the foreground, with prairie dogs sitting at attention, and a coyote strutting off with a prairie dog in its mouth; the photo of a human hand holding two two-week old coyote pups with their eyes barely open; the photo of the badger excavating prairie dogs and the coyote waiting by the prairie dogs' back door to catch animals that attempt to flee the badger; and the photo of the coyote scoring a free meal -- dog food -- on someone's back porch. Several other pictures show coyotes with "silly dog looks" that highlight the close relation of coyotes to domestic dogs.

Coyotes are said to be excellent mousers. Like dogs, they will eat just about anything, including carrion, mice and other small animals, berries, and larger animals. In fact, coyotes have assumed the ecological niche once occupied by wolves, hunting and bringing down deer and elk in the winter when mice and other small animals are unavailable as food sources.

The book talks at some length about the attempts by ranchers and the Federal Animal Damage Control Unit (ADC) to control coyote populations. Evidence indicates that reducing the adult coyote population in an area can increase the incidence of livestock losses to coyotes. Decreasing the adult population leads to higher food availability for the remaining coyotes, leading to larger litter sizes. The adults are then forced to hunt more to support the larger numbers of pups. If the ADC's efforts include poison and traps targeting rodent populations, adult coyotes turn to other food sources for themselves and their pups -- namely sheep and cattle. ADC efforts also interrupt the pack structure. In areas like Yellowstone where coyotes are not persecuted, generally, only the Alpha female of a pack will have pups and very few year-old females have pups. In areas like New Mexico where coyotes are persecuted, pack structures are destroyed and 50 to 60 percent of year-old females might have pups. Finally, in areas with tight pack structures, like Yellowstone, the alpha male and female teach the younger animals to hunt. If you kill the alpha pair the others learn to hunt on their own -- and lambs are quite simply easier to hunt than wild animals. Hence, our animal control efforts backfire - if reduced predation is the goal.

The book also talks about alternatives to traps and poisons. Guard dogs appear to cut sheep losses dramatically. Coyotes can learn to deal with fixed impediments like fences and traps. Guard dogs (llamas and donkeys) introduce an element of unpredictability. Coyotes are smart enough to learn to decoy guard dogs, but dogs are much more effective than other traditional, and fixed format methods to control coyotes.

Ironically -- given our recent propaganda in favor of Proposition 97 -- mountain lions kill off between five and ten percent of the coyotes in Yellowstone each year. The irony is that the sheep industry supported the proposal to hunt mountain lions. They, in effect, opposed one of the better population control mechanisms for coyotes!

Anyway, this book is a good, fast, easy, informative, and beautiful book. I recommend it.

Alan Cooke

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