



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

BACKPACK SECTION, LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

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BAY AREA MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT: DECADES OF SERVICE

Monday, April 10, 2006 at 7:30 PM

BAMRU unit leader John Chang to speak about SAR and about safe wilderness travel

Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (BAMRU) is an independent, nonprofit, all-volunteer, wilderness search and rescue (SAR) unit that looks for and helps people lost or stranded anywhere outdoors in California. It's affiliated with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Emergency Services Bureau.

According to their Web site at <http://www.bamru.org/>, BAMRU has an attitude. It announces that "members enjoy search and rescue work. We relish being in the wilderness, and seek opportunities to exercise our skills."

Unit leader John Chang will give a presentation about BAMRU, what its members do, how you can participate or contribute, how to travel safely in the wilderness, and how to get emergency assistance from BAMRU.

Please join us!

[Meeting details and location on next page]

Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, Backpack Section (BPS)
c/o Katherine Greene
PO Box 390578
Mountain View, CA 94039

Backpack Section (BPS)

<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/bps/>

Founded January 13, 1956, the BPS is an official activities section of the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter, serving San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito counties in California. The Section sponsors backpacking trips to wilderness and scenic areas, ranging from easy beginner weekend outings to more rigorous expeditions of up to two weeks, no matter what the season. Most trips are within California and Nevada, mainly in local, state, or national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, and national monuments. All trip leaders are volunteers, and fees for trips are limited to actual costs incurred for expenses, such as group meals and permits.

Officers and Appointees

Chair

Steve Sergeant, 408-937-8116
backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair/Equipment Manager

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Sierra Club

85 Second St., Second Floor
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Telephone: (415) 977-5500
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Meeting Details and Location

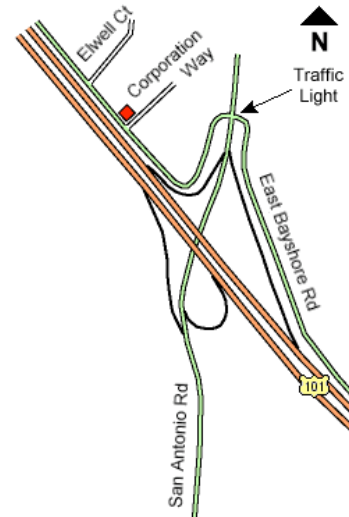
Members and nonmembers are invited to attend Section meetings. Meetings are held at Acterra in the Peninsula Conservation Center on the second Monday of every month except July and August. The evening's program is followed by a refreshment break, then Section business, conservation issues, trip reports, and discussions of upcoming trips.

Address

Acterra Building
Peregrine Room
3921 E Bayshore Rd
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Directions

From Highway 101, exit San Antonio Rd (north). At the first traffic light, turn left onto E. Bayshore Rd, and continue 0.2 miles. Acterra is located at the corner of E. Bayshore Rd and Corporation Way.



JOHN MUIR'S BIRTHDAY

April 21st is to be 'John Muir Day'

– California Government Code Section 6714

. . . All public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to observe . . . April 21 of each year as John Muir Day . . . and to conduct suitable commemorative exercises . . . stressing the importance that an ecologically sound natural environment plays in the quality of life for all of us, and emphasizing John Muir's significant contributions to the fostering of that awareness and the indelible mark he left on the State of California.

– California Education Code Section 37222 (a)(2) and (b)(2) 

BASIC BACKPACKING COURSE

Eight consecutive Tuesdays, beginning April 18th

Interested in learning how to backpack but don't know how to get started? Done some backpacking but want to learn the principles — what to buy, where to go, what to bring? The Backpack Section's Basic Back-packing Course is for you.

The course includes eight two-hour evening classes and three backpack trips. The classroom sessions will be held in the

[Continued on next page]

[Basic Backpacking Course, continued]

Mountain View/Palo Alto area, on eight consecutive Tuesdays, beginning April 18, 2006. Here is a partial list of the topics covered in the evening sessions:

- What to bring on your first backpack trip
- Choosing and fitting a backpack
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Food and cooking
- Map and compass navigation
- Survival and group dynamics
- Health hazards; introduction to backcountry first aid
- Minimum impact
- Wilderness permits and trip planning

The first backpack trip will be over the weekend of May 6 – 7, and will be to a local park or open space. The second trip will be May 20 – 21, and may require driving to the trailhead on Friday night before the trip. The third trip is scheduled for three days, June 2 – 4 (Fri-Sun), and will be to the Sierra if the snowpack allows. The third trip will require driving up the night before (Thursday). To go on the third

trip, you must have participated in one of the first two trips.

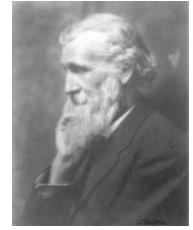
The class is limited to 40 people on a first-come basis. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Trips are limited to class members only.

The course fee of \$80 includes a text book and other class materials but does not include costs and fees incurred for transportation, parking, or permits for the trips. The class proceeds, after expenses, are donated to conservation and trail maintenance groups. Instructors are volunteers from the Backpack Section and receive no compensation.

To sign up for the course, send name, address, home and work telephone numbers, email address, and a check for \$80 made out to "Backpack Section." Confirmations, directions, and further information will be provided by email. Please send your information and check to: Basic Backpacking Course, 2960 Monte Cresta Dr, Belmont, CA 94002.

If you have any questions about the course, please contact Dan Cobb at dmcobb@sbcglobal.net or Steve Stearns at stearns@ieee.org. 🏠

JOHN MUIR QUOTE



Spring is fully committed in Yosemite Valley

"Now is the birth-time of leaves; the pines are retassled, and the oaks are sprayed with young purple. Spring is fully committed. Ferns are a foot high, willows are letting fly drifts of ripe seeds. Balm of Gilead poplars, after weeks of caution, have launched their buds full of red and leaves of tender glossy yellow. Cherries, honeysuckles, violets, bluets, buttercups, larkspurs, gillias, are full of bloom of leaf and flower. Plant-odor fills the valley in light floating clouds and mists; it covers the ground and trees, the chaparral and tabled rocks, coming in small flakes from the impartial stow."

"Yosemite in Spring," *New York Tribune*, May 7, 1872.

EDITOR'S COLUMN by Jean Higham-Sergeant, Editor

You don't have to be a John Muir to keep a nature journal

Let the backcountry inspire you to write and draw in your own nature journal! You can expand and deepen your connection with nature this way, even if you aren't a writer or an artist. You don't need to use flowery language like John Muir did in his writings. Keep it as simple as you like; stay within your comfort zone. Cryptic

notes or full, descriptive sentences and paragraphs, stick figures or accurately detailed sketches — it doesn't matter how you record what you see, hear, smell, or feel as you experience the wilderness. While documenting those moments you spend in places you love, your senses will be more alert, and you'll be more observant. You'll

notice and learn more about your surroundings, and about yourself. Don't worry if your nature journal is suitable for your eyes only. Take advantage of this rewarding way to enhance your intimacy with the outdoors, for your own pleasure! 🏠

MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH submitted by Jean Higham-Sergeant

Steve Sergeant presided over the Section meeting on March 13, 2006. There were 12 people in attendance.

Lowell Moulton talked about the Section's Trip Leadership Workshop that he attended in March. He also gave us a trip report on a recent snowy day hike he did in Woodside at Huddart Park.

Steve Stearns told us that the Basic Backpacking Course is so far about half full, and Steve Sergeant reported that the Lightweight Backpacking Class also about half full.

Marj Ottenberg, our conservation chair, reported on Congressman Richard Pombo's latest efforts at

doing away with the Endangered Species Act.

For the evening program, Steve Stearns gave an enlightening presentation on wilderness emergency communications. 🏠

BOOTS ON THE GROUND, BIRDS IN THE NEST *From the Sierra Club Insider, March 21, 2006*

Marine Corps — an excellent caretaker of endangered plants and animals?

When you think of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Marine Corps probably isn't the first group that comes to mind. But the Corps has proven to be an excellent caretaker for the native plants and animals on its bases. In Hawaii, it has helped raise the population of endangered Hawaiian stilts from 60 birds 22 years ago to 160 today. How'd that happen? Just before nesting season, the Corps conducts "mud ops" training exercises with amphibious assault vehicles on

the Nu'upia Ponds wetlands. By churning up the ground, they kill invasive pickleweed and provide better nesting sites and feeding opportunities. The Corps has also helped on the mainland with the desert tortoise in California and the red cockaded woodpecker in North Carolina.

The Department of Defense sponsors range tours of its installations, promoting interaction between the environmental

community and the armed services to protect native habitats and species while balancing the military's demands for on-site training. The tours began in 2000, and Maribeth Oakes, the Sierra Club's Lands Program Director, believes that the program is becoming increasingly productive. Read Maribeth's journal (http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlife/species/range_tour/) of her experience on last week's range tour to three facilities in Hawaii. 🇺🇸

TRIP REPORT

Sheep Hole Valley

Wilderness *by Steve Sergeant*

Friday, March 17, 2006

We went into a wilderness area of open desert to the north of Joshua Tree National Park, called the Sheep Hole Valley Wilderness. Our trailhead was just north of Sheep Hole Pass. To the north and East we could see a vast valley. It gradually sloped down from us. It was dotted with small bushes, but it looked smooth and nearly flat. Many miles across the valley was a rocky mountain range. It looked dry and from this distance, lifeless.

At the trailhead, everyone finished packing their gear and drinking as much water as they could comfortably hold. With packs full of the usual backpacking gear, plus an average of almost three gallons of water, our packs would be plenty heavy starting out. People were applying sunblock on all exposed skin, making sure that they hadn't missed a spot.

Dave Halligan, our trip leader from the Berkeley, California-based group, The Desert Survivors, gave the trailhead talk to prepare us for our hike to our camp site. We set out from our cars, and walked along a truck trail. Our route was an arc around the abrupt north end of the Sheep Hole Mountain range. We started on the west side of this range, near its northern end. Its ridge line goes from southeast to northwest. We were out on a flat plain, and yet we could see

mountain ranges across the valley as far as 40 miles away.

Even though the land looked flat, our route dipped several times into wash gullies that were between 3 and 6 feet deep. The walls of these gullies were steep, but not so steep that we couldn't walk up and down them.

After about an hour and a half, we found a wash gully deep enough to make a sheltered campsite. It had a flat, sandy bottom, and good wind shelter. We set up our camp, and then took a lunch break. After lunch, we day-hiked down the wash.

Along the way, we saw a variety of plants, including desert lupin, smoke tree, cats claw acacia, and many others. We saw small caves in the wall of the gully. They had signs of kangaroo rat habitation. Some of them had signs of coyote predation.

Our leader's wife, Simone, investigated one of these caves. She said, "We found the home of a rat. Can you see all of the droppings over here? And that's a coyote dropping." She laughed, "I'm not going to stick my hand in there."

After about an hour, the wash opened out onto the plain of the Sheep Hole Valley. From our vantage point, the only sign of human impact we could see was a railroad track through the valley, over 10 miles away, and a jet contrail in the sky. After a snack and water break there in the shade of a large creosote bush, we retraced our steps back to camp.

Happy hour began as soon as we could unpack our provisions. Wine and tequila made the rounds of the kitchen area. A relaxed cooking and dining session followed, lasting until after dark. Some of us brought conventional dehydrated backpacking food. But others brought fresh food, and food items that still had a lot of water. After all, since we had to carry all of our water anyway, what difference did it make that some of it was in the food we brought?

The temperature dropped abruptly as the sun set. Everyone was in down jackets by 5:30. The conversation was winding down, and we retired to the relative warmth of our bedding.

The night was intensely quiet. Most of the night I heard the blood rushing through my ears. That was interrupted occasionally by wind gusts that caused the tent fly to flap, the screech of an occasional owl, and at one point, the low throbbing of a train on the tracks, 10 miles away.

Saturday, March 18, 2006

Our gully was still shaded when the sun rose in the morning. After an expedient breakfast, we gathered our gear for the ambitious day hike, to climb Sheep Hole Peak. The route was steep. We had to climb over a saddle near our camp site to the opposite side of the mountain range. The hillside was loose rock and sand.

[Continued on next page]

[Sheep Hole Valley Wilderness]

Over the saddle, we walked down one shallow wash and up another. The remainder of the climb was a hands and feet scramble. It was an awesome view from the top. You could see 100

miles in each direction, including snow-capped peaks and the Colorado River.

The descent was the same sort of scramble. But we got back to camp in plenty of time to enjoy another happy hour.

Sunday, March 19, 2006

In the morning, we had a relaxed breakfast before we tore down our camp and packed up for the hike out.



SNOWMELT FORECAST

As of March 28, 2006

For the eight major rivers of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River regions, this is a forecast of snowmelt runoff expected during the period from April through July, 2006.

With experience in correlating these numbers with actual conditions, this forecast can help you anticipate what the streams and snow cover will be like when you travel to the Sierra Nevada.

Forecast of April – July Unimpaired Snowmelt Runoff

<i>River Basin</i>	<i>% of Normal*</i>
Tuolumne	136%
Merced	133%
San Joaquin	125%
Kings	120%
Kaweah	104%
Kern	96%
Owens	123% (March 1)
Mono	124% (March 1)

**100% runoff forecast in percent of normal, based on averages during the years of 1951–2000.*

Source: *Bulletin 120*, a monthly publication about water conditions in California, published by the California Department of Water Resources.

For more detailed and up-to-date information, go to <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/> and select “Statewide Water Conditions” from the CDEC Resource Directory.

ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

General information**Trip registration**

Participants need not be Section members, however, trip leader approval is required. Contact the trip leader to preregister. For by-mail trip registration, send the trip leader two large, self-addressed, stamped envelopes (SASEs) with your name, address, work and home phone numbers, e-mail address, a summary of your back-packing experience, and if specified in the trip description, send a check made out to the trip leader.

Trip ratings

Max Daily Mileage		Max Daily Elev Gain		Additional Criteria	
<i>Distance in Miles</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Elevation in Feet</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Code</i>
0 – 5	1	0 – 1,000	A	Cross-country*	-xc
5 – 7.5	2	1,000 – 2,000	B	(Off-trail travel with backpack)	
7.5 – 10	3	2,000 - 3,000	C	Fast and light	-f&l
10 - 15	4	3,000 +	D	(Fitness/base pack-weight requirements)	
15+	5				

* Any trip may include optional cross-country hikes from camp
NR = not rated (Contact trip leader for information)

[Continued on next page]

Schedule

Apr 15-16 (Sat-Sun) Lake Del Valle to Stanford Ave, Ohlone Trail, 5C-f&l

Get in shape, and shake-down your gear for your fast and light trips this summer!

Hike the entire 30 mile Ohlone Trail as an overnight from Lake Del Valle near Livermore to Stanford Avenue in Fremont. This trip includes a total of 6,000 ft accumulated climbing, and spectacular views from Rose Peak (3,817 ft) and Mission Peak (2,517 ft). In between we'll spend the night at Maggie's Half Acre in the shadow of Rose Peak. Saturday will be a short day of 11 miles plus some short scenic detours, Sunday will be a more ambitious 19 miles.

Some day hiking groups regularly traverse this trail in a day, so an ultralight backpacker should be able to cover it in two!

Individual commissary. Limit: 7. Through-hike requiring car shuttle. Ultralight trip with special gear and fitness requirements.

To register, please contact the leader for the address to send \$7 for camp site registration, your proposed itemized gear list with weights, and a filled-out copy of the Sierra Club Medical form to trip leader: Steve Sergeant, 408/937-8116, stevesgt@effable.com. Note: Registration is final on Friday, April 7. No refunds or sign-ups after that date.

Apr 19-23 (Wed-Sun) Ventana Wilderness, Los Padres NF, 3B

Loop out at Los Padres Dam to Pat Springs and return. Layover day to hike up Ventana Double Cone (optimal). 3B rating does not include layover day. Leader: Matt Hahne, (408) 749-9968.

May 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Orestimba Wilderness, Henry Coe State Park, 5C-f&l

The edge of the Orestimba Wilderness of Henry Coe State Park is 11 mi from the nearest trailhead by the most direct route. Most backpackers who choose to visit this wilderness take two days just to get to the wilderness. They spend a couple more days exploring it, making it as much as a week's trip all together. With

lightweight backpacking techniques, we can visit it as an overnight, even going a few miles inside this pristine area.

We'll travel in through-hiker style, hiking 15-18 mi per day, cooking on the trail, making camp at sunset, and continuing the hike at sunrise. This is a fast and light trip with special fitness requirements and gear-weight restrictions. Individual commissary. Limit: 5.

To register, please contact the leader for the address to send \$5 for camp site registration, your proposed itemized gear list with weights, and a filled-out copy of the Sierra Club Medical form. Leader: Steve Sergeant, (408) 937-8116, stevesgt@effable.com.

May 25-29 (Thu-Mon) Domeland Wilderness, Sequoia NF, 3B

Hike in moderate southern Sierra terrain near the Kern Plateau and South Fork of the Kern River (original home of golden trout). Leader: Matt Hahne, (408) 749-9968.

Jun 8-10 (Thu-Sat) Lost Coast Trail, King Range National Conservation Area, 3B-f&l

Tentative. This 26 mi long walk is primarily on coastal beaches. Detail about the location is here: www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange/. Final details and registration will be available after May 1. Leader: Steve Sergeant.

Jul 1-4 (Sat-Tue) PCT Section L, Donner Lake North to Hwy 49, 4B (Day Hikes)

When I retired in 1998, I told everyone that one of my goals was to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). I'll never be strong enough to hike all 2,727 miles in one summer, so I'm going to hike it in 150-200 mi chunks (subdivided into day hiking and backpacking trips, depending upon the trails, the trailheads, and the available camp sites) until my body refuses to hike anymore, and I'm inviting all of you to join me.

Since there's no time like the present, we're going to start the PCT in 2006 by hiking section L from Donner Lake north to Highway 49. 38.4 mi of day hiking in 3-4 days,

depending upon the snowmelt. The first 7 people to sign up can share renting a cabin in Tahoe City, or you're welcome to car camp to save money, and join us at the trailhead each morning.

For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or at duke1967 at pacbell dot net (e-mail preferred).

Jul 1-4 (Sat-Tue) Saddlebag Lake to Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite NP, 3B-xc

This is a great trip to see all types of country Yosemite has to offer.

From Saddlebag Lake we'll hike past many lakes in great alpine scenery to cross McCabe Pass (class 2, cross-country) at 11,600 ft, and camp at Lower McCabe Lake. The next day we'll travel about 10 mi down Cold Canyon to about 1 mi below Glen Aulin on the Tuolumne River. Then we'll take a layover day to enjoy the many fabulous waterfalls below our campsite. On our last day we'll hike about 7 mi out to Tuolumne Meadows, where we'll do a shuttle to Saddlebag Lake for our cars. Total trip mileage is about 23 mi. Be prepared for mosquitoes.

Leader: Dave Barry; assistant leader: Elizabeth Barry. Hot water commissary (I supply the water and you supply the food).

To reserve, send a \$12.00 check (one per trip) made out to Dave and Elizabeth Barry, 1743 Shady Creek Ct., San Jose, CA, 95148. Home: (408) 238-1336; cell: (408) 726-3801. You will need a bear canister for this trip. Cancel deadline for a refund is two weeks prior. Limit: 8.

Jul 2-9 (Sun-Sun) PCT, Section G, Walker Pass to Whitney Portal, 5E-f&l

Tentative. 133 mi in 7-1/2 days, and over 23,000 ft accumulated elevation gain. This is probably the second-most difficult and isolated section of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in California (after the John Muir Trail). We'll travel in through-hiker style, hiking 16-22 mi per day, cooking on the trail, making camp at sunset, and continuing the hike at sunrise.

[Continued on next page]

[Schedule, continued]

This is a fast and light trip with special fitness requirements and gear-weight restrictions. Individual commissary. Limit: 5. Final details and registration will be available after June 1. Leader: Steve Sergeant.

Jul 14-16 (Fri-Sun) Lake Edison into Devil's Bathtub, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra NF, 2B-xc

Hike into Devil's Bathtub from Lake Edison. Layover day with optional cross-country exploration, and return. Leader: Matt Hahne, (408) 749-9968.

Jul 15-16 (Sat-Sun) Carson Pass Loop, Mokelumne Wilderness, 3C

The wildflowers should be in bloom for this mid-July trip at Carson Pass, so bring your cameras and wildflower guides for this low-end 3C trip.

We'll pass by Winnemucca and Round Top Lakes, drop down to Fourth of July Lake, and spend the night near Summit City Creek. Next morning we'll follow the Summit City Creek to Forestdale Divide and pick up the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). We'll head over Elephants Back and return to our cars. There is an option for early dinner in South Lake Tahoe on Sunday night.

Hot water commissary: leaders will provide hot water for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. Participants provide their own dinner and breakfast, lunches, snacks, and drinks. Please be prepared for mosquitoes.

Leader: Anne Gorby (H: 415-482-9055, C: 805-748-7311, or email: annegorby@sbcglobal.net). Co-leader: Karen Keller. Limit: 8. To reserve, please send a \$7 check (one per person/trip) made out to Anne Gorby, 51 Ross Ave, San Anselmo, CA 94960. Cancel deadline for refund is two weeks prior to the trip.

Jul 21-24 (Fri-Mon) Walker Lake to Rush Creek Trailhead, Ansel Adams Wilderness, 2C

Shuttle trip. We'll ascend from Walker Lake (7940 ft) to Sardine Lake (9880 ft) and eventually to Mono Pass (10,840 ft). We'll follow the ridgeline to Koip Peak Pass (12,263 ft) After this climb we'll hike down to Algiers Lakes to Gem Pass (10,410 ft) and follow along Gem and Agnew Lakes

to the Silver Lake trailhead. The total distance is 23.7 mi, and we should get a layover day at either Alger or Gem Lake.

This is a great trip for expansive views in the desolate high country between Mono Pass and Alger Lakes. Leader: Dave Barry; assistant leader: Elizabeth Barry. Hot water commissary (I supply the water and you supply the food).

To reserve, send a \$12.00 check (one per trip) made out to Dave and Elizabeth Barry, 1743 Shady Creek Ct., San Jose, CA, 95148. Home: (408) 238-1336 ; cell: (408) 726-3801. Cancel deadline for refund is two weeks prior. Limit: 8.

Jul 29-Aug 1 (Sat-Tue) PCT Section K, Barker Pass North to Donner Lake, 4C (Day Hikes)

This is part of a series of day hiking and backpacking trips on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) led by Dorie Stoessel.

32 mi of hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in four days, plus at least 5 mi extra each day connecting to the PCT from Alpine Meadows or Squaw Valley. We'll be hiking approximately 10-12 hrs every day except Tue, when we'll do just the last 3 mi.

You don't have to do all 4 days — sign up just for the weekend hikes if that's more convenient. The first 7 people to sign up can share renting a cabin in Tahoe City, or you're welcome to car camp and join us at the trailhead every morning. For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or duke1967 at pacbell dot net (e-mail preferred).

Aug 2-7 (Wed-Mon) PCT Section K, Barker Pass South to Echo Lake Resort, Desolation Wilderness, (Backpack) 3B

This is part of a series of day hiking and backpacking trips on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) led by Dorie Stoessel.

3B rating is only 1 day — the other days are 2B. 32 mi of backpacking in 5 days plus a layover day to climb Mt. Tallac (with fantastic views of Lake Tahoe) or just relax and recuperate.

For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-

2502 or 530-583-0382, or at duke1967 at pacbell dot net (e-mail preferred).

Aug 10-16 (Wed-Thu) Sierra High Route Loop via Pine Creek Pass and Italy Pass, John Muir Wilderness, 3C-xc

This high-elevation and moderately strenuous trip closely follows the Sierra Nevada main crest. We'll mostly camp at approx 11,200 ft, and use the Pine Creek Pass Trail to form a loop with the Sierra High Route. We'll follow the Pine Creek Pass Trail to Upper Pine Lake. The next day we'll cross Pine Creek Pass and drop into French Canyon, hiking to the Puppet Lake area, where we'll have a layover day for exploring the Humphreys Basin or fishing. According to my assistant leader, there are foot-long golden trout in the lake. We'll return to the trail in French Canyon on the 4th day, and hike down about a mile, then leave the trail and do relatively easy cross-country past Merriam Lake to Feather Pass (class 2) and work our way down to Vee Lake. At Vee Lake we'll have another layover day to explore the Seven Gables Lakes Basin or climb Seven Gables peak. Finally, we'll pass through Bear Lakes Basin, and at White Bear Lake head straight for Italy Pass. We'll return down toward Pine Creek Trail and camp our last night at Honeymoon Lake.

Central commissary: Leaders will provide breakfasts and dinners. Participants provide their own lunches, snacks, and drinks. Leader: Anne Gorby (H: 415-482-9055, C: 805-748-7311, or email: annegorby@sbcglobal.net). Co-leader: Dave Barry (408-238-1336). Limit: 8. At this time bear canisters are not required.

To reserve, please send a \$65 check (one per person/trip) made out to Anne Gorby, 51 Ross Ave, San Anselmo, CA 94960. Cancel deadline for refund is two weeks prior.

Aug 13-20 (Sun-Sun) Grinnell and Hopkins Lakes, John Muir Wilderness, 3C

3B rating is only 1 day — the other days are 2B I've always wanted to

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