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BACKPACK SECTION, LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

Inside VOL. 52, No. 7, JULY 2007

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HAPPY TRAILS!

Next meeting is in September

During peak backpacking season when we're all busy trying to cram as many trips into our schedules as possible, we skip our monthly meetings in July and August. We'll meet again on September 10, 2007. In the meanwhile, I hope your backpacking itinerary is fabulously full!

Share your stories and photos

Backpackers like learning about other backpackers' trips. You don't need to be a Section member to have your story or photo published in *Living It Up!* See the end of this newsletter for instructions on how to submit your material.

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

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backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

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Meeting Details and Location

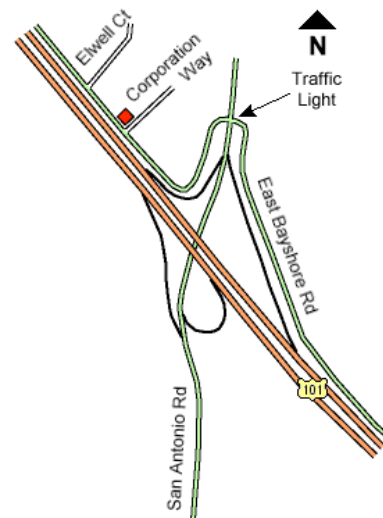
Members and nonmembers are invited to attend Section meetings. Meetings are held at 7:30 PM at Acterra in the Peninsula Conservation Center on the second Monday of every month except July and August. The evening's program is followed by a refreshment break, then Section business, conservation issues, 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.



PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

Submitted by Jean Higham-Sergeant, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

What ideas do you have?

In lieu of begging you to fill the Backpack Section's hard-core sounding volunteer position of programs coordinator, I'm asking instead for your ideas on what we might do for the evening programs at our monthly meetings. Can you or someone you know give a short presentation to a small group of people? Topics of interest are vastly numerous, including:

- Environmental issues
- Slide shows, near and distant trip destinations
- Equipment demonstrations/reviews
- How-to lectures
- Backcountry cooking demonstrations
- Poetry readings, book reviews
- Introductions to other Sierra Club sections and activities
- Photography
- Wildlife
- Wildflower/plant/mineral identification

Please pass along your ideas to any Section officer or appointee, or to Section Chair, Steve Sergeant, at backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or at (403) 937-8116. 🗣️

A Review of the Basic Backpacking Course 2007

by Kathryn Hedjasi

I thoroughly enjoyed this course and can honestly say that I would recommend it to others regardless of experience level. The broad format and topics covered ensure that both novices and more experienced backpackers receive new information or get helpful reminders of facts forgotten during the off season.

As a relatively experienced backpacker, I still found this course very helpful and it allowed me to trim my gear further down (17 lbs total base weight), master a few new skills, as well as brush up on some rustier ones.

Class topics to be highlighted that go far beyond the usual beginning backpacking seminars included extensive medical emergency care, taught by Dr. Ellis (including in-the-field medical demos) and an ultralight backpacking introduction by Steve Sergeant. Another entertaining and helpful class topic included proper "accessorizing" for your weary feet by Ann Gorby, which was taught with great humor. The complete number of topics covered are too numerous to list in this short review.

The class is a great bargain just for the amount of lecture materials alone! However, it also includes three outings (not including a modest camp

site monetary contribution of usually \$5 or less for each trip). The first two outings are more geared at the novice, but were still very educational. This year the trips included Castle Rock, Henry Coe (Poverty Flat), and the Sierras (Kaiser Peak, Potter Pass). The first two were overnight trips that helped shake down gear and provided a great opportunity to see the vast variety of backpacking gear and products on the market in action. Tent tours, stove, and water filtration system demos all helped participants see the many new innovations and some proven staples of the sport, as well as some inventive homemade ultralight options under field conditions. Something for every level! The trips also included skills training on orienteering, proper bear bagging, and identification on native vegetation.

Unlike the first two trips, the last trip is broken into smaller groups and is a three-day/two-night excursion. This allowed for greater depth of application of the skills learned. It also allowed for greater levels of in-depth socializing and the forming of some future hiking/backpacking buddies.

My group, led by Ann Gorby and Steve Sergeant, met on Thursday night for camping at College Camp. Some group participants met for dinner and light drinks at the local pub. Heartfelt chatter and enthusiasm filled the evening. The camp site was well

managed, and other than during a coyote feeding party in the distance before sunrise, we all slept soundly through the mild night. My group of eight caravanned to the trailhead after a hearty breakfast on Friday at the local lodge.

The day was sunny and the views were spectacular. After a brisk but comfortable hike, we had lunch at Potter Pass. The thing to note, besides the wonderful sights, was that the group took great care of each other and shared generously, not just stories of previous backpacking trips, but also snacks and rations.

Previously inexperienced backpackers (some first-timers) had learned how to look for signs of exhaustion, dehydration, and any other signs indicative of the well-being of their cohort. The leaders were patient, and the group members learned to weather the unexpected with nearly as much grace, including learning how to navigate cross-country over snow fields and granite cliffs.

The trip's highlight, without a doubt, was a day trip to Kaiser Peak on Saturday. The day was so clear that we could see parts of Yosemite, as well as all the local lakes, some still covered with some ice patches. It truly was a photographer's dream!

[Continued on next page]

MEETING MINUTES *submitted by Jean Higham-Sergeant, Secretary*

June 2007

Steve Sergeant presided at the June meeting, and there were 15 people in attendance. The meeting opened with introductions, followed by trip reports. Steve reported on the Henry Coe/Orestimba Wilderness trip he led, and Anne Gorby reported on the Beginning Backpack Course trips. Trip announcements followed. Anne's Desolation Wilderness trip had to be canceled, but she is scheduling an Emigrant Wilderness trip in its place.

Katherine Greene was in attendance. Katherine has handled Section membership for several years,

and announced that she is ready to relinquish the job. Renee Rivera volunteered, and is now the Section membership coordinator.

Also, John Anderson volunteered to mail our monthly newsletter to members who still receive hard copies. Matt Hahne, and Mary Van Perre had both previously volunteered, but their generous offers were complicated by logistical problems.

According to Steve Sergeant, there has been no further information from National about the new Sierra Club policy for compliance with the State

of California Seller of Travel laws. He is expecting an announcement on July 1, 2007.

The evening program was a DVD slide show about the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) that Karen Keller brought. Karen is hiking the PCT this season, and attended our meeting during a planned break. In addition to showing the DVD, she talked to us about her PCT experience so far, hiking between Mexico and I-10, north of San Jacinto.



[BBC review, continued]

Our group took a "scenic" route back to camp, which proved to be yet another highlight, filled with snow field crossings, navigating through rocky cliffs, and having to learn how to effectively backtrack. The lessons learned on this side trip proved very valuable to many of us because it taught us to be prepared — that our surroundings may look very different, depending on the time of day, to pack extra layers, even for day trips, to use snow for effective hydration, and to include extra rations. It also was a helpful reminder on how weather can turn rapidly in the Sierra, and that

navigation, even for very experienced backpackers, can be tricky at times.

The group made it back safely to camp in time for dinner, with a few folks doing another quick excursion and hunt for a lost camera. These side excursions had not been planned, but added greatly to the lessons taught in the lectures.

Saturday night included a campfire and endless retelling of our earlier adventures of the day. The group was in good spirits, and the mood held through the entirety of the trip.

Sunday we packed out, and in true Sierra Club fashion, we made sure to do so with no impact, as well as

cleaning up after some less conscientious earlier visitors.

For me the lessons learned from our third trip were many: humbleness and respect for nature's awesome powers, camaraderie, generosity, and team building. Other unexpected lessons included the recipe to homemade ultralight toothpaste, ways to enhance my trail diet with heartier pulverized oatmeal, as well as never trusting a marmot!

I hope you, too, will get a chance to make new friends and brush up on your backpacking skills by enrolling next year in this course. I'll see you there! 🏔️

TRIP REPORTS

Kaiser Wilderness: Navigating the slope to Kaiser Peak by Jo Ann Cobb

From a follow-up discuss among trip leaders about the Beginning Backpack Course graduation trip in June.

Dear fellow leaders,

I really liked the day hike to Kaiser Peak and found the view of the High Sierran peaks to the east quite impressive — similar to the view from Mount Hoffman in the center of Yosemite. I've never made it to the top before because our son Adam was too young to make the climb. I can't wait to take him to the top next time we are there! Before Adam was born, Dan

and I climbed a number of peaks and Kaiser Peak reawakened my desire to do more!

I know that some people were unnerved by the last part of our ascent right before reaching the saddle. Since I was sweep behind the first 13 hikers, I didn't see exactly what happened, but I think that people missed the broad, well-worn use trail at the top of the chute and instead climbed directly up the steep, slippery, rocky slope. For future reference (because I hope we continue to include this day hike in our trips to Kaiser Wilderness), once a hiker gets up the first part of the steep trail, he/she should bear to the right side, where they will find the broad, well-worn use trail that makes a big

sweeping backward "C," to navigate the last bit of elevation gain with ease around the steep, slippery, rocky slope.

When we hiked back down, after hiking the broad trail to the top of the chute, I stayed at the top of the chute, while Steve Stearns and Chris Munro positioned themselves at intervals along the steep descent and helped coach hikers back down. I hope that our successful descent helped instill confidence in the hikers and overcome previous fears.

Cheers,
Jo Ann
🏔️

Henry Coe Park: The Orestimba Wilderness

by Jack Coughlin

The trip began Friday morning with a drive up to the park through a marine layer of fog. As I approached the park I climbed up above the layer into a beautiful sun drenched day. Being a fast and light trip, pack weights were checked before hitting trail and ranged from 18 to 25 lbs with food for two days plus three quarts of water. Water was anticipated to be the biggest challenge due to the unusually dry winter and early spring.

Day 1

At approximately 9:30 am we began our roller coaster ride up and over the many ridges of Henry Coe State Park to go deep into the Orestimba Wilderness. Day one started with a traverse thru grassy hillsides, followed by a steep descent to Poverty Flats where running water was found, then up and over the next ridge to Los Cruzeros where we broke for lunch along Coyote Creek. After lunch I faced my biggest challenge of the trip — dodging the poison oak on the climb up overgrown Willow Ridge Trail. This was followed by rolling Willow Ridge Road to beautiful

Mississippi Lake, where we took a second extended break. After break we climbed a short way up to the Hartman Trail where we started our long descent into the Orestimba Wilderness. At the bottom of the trail we found the dry bed of Orestimba Creek. From here we followed the road that paralleled the creek northward until we broke for dinner at the side trail leading to Mustang Pond. After dinner we took the side trail to Mustang Pond and back to resupply with water, then traveled another hour to where we set up camp. It should be noted that there were a number of

[Continued on next page]

[Orestimba Wilderness, continued]

usable pools of water in the creek bed along the way, had the need arouse.

Day 2

Day 2 started early with us on trail by 6:30 am, and breaking for breakfast in the sun when we reached the wide open meadows of Paradise Flats. After breakfast we took a side trip to lush Paradise Lake, where we were serenaded by red-winged blackbirds. From here we headed up Red Creek until we hit our turnaround at 10:00 am. Just short of that we found flowing water in the creek and startled a wild turkey with her chicks. After turning around, we began a long backtrack to Mississippi Lake with numerous breaks along the way. Because the group was making such good time and there were many hours of daylight left, it was agreed to alter course from here, and rather than continue backtracking, we went around the lake and head up the little-used Bear Spring Trail. We broke for dinner above the moss-covered Bear Spring water trough, then continued

on the rolling trail to Bear Mountain Road. From here we followed the road with its sweeping views of the park on a long descent to the flowing east fork of Coyote Creek, where we set up camp for the night on rise above the creek.

Day 3

Day 3 greeted us with frost on my tent and condensation inside. Such are the risks of camping near running water along the bottom of a canyon. One of us had a fairly sleepless night due to the cold and dampness, which also slowed the rest of us from getting up and going. We hit trail around 7:15 am and hiked until we came to a sunny spot where we could warm up, eat breakfast and restock with water from the flowing creek. From here we continued down canyon for a while until we climbed back up to Poverty Flat Road, where we again followed our original path back to our starting point at Park HQ, with several breaks along the way. We got back to our cars around 1:00 pm, giving folks in the group plenty of time to travel

home and spend time with moms on Mother's Day.

Overall the weather was great with cool mornings and warm, but not too hot, afternoons. Wildlife was plentiful, having seen rabbits, numerous deer, a wild turkey with chicks and six snakes, including a rattler. Everyone had a chance to pull a few ticks off themselves. If I had to list any disappointment at all with the trip, it was that I did not have the good fortune of seeing any elk or wild pigs. I was amazed at how few people we encountered along the way, having seen only one other person within the wilderness, and only three others more than three miles from the trailhead. Our trip leader, Steve, was great sharing with us some of the history of the Park, as well as being flexible with our itinerary to meet the desires of the participants. For those interested in going lightweight and spending the majority of the daylight hours seeing what there is to see, I would recommend joining a trip with Steve.



JOHN MUIR QUOTE

A Strange Experience

It seems strange that visitors to Yosemite should be so little influenced by its novel grandeur, as if their eyes were bandaged and their ears stopped. Most of those I saw yesterday were looking down as if wholly unconscious of anything going on about them, while the sublime rocks were trembling with the tones of the mighty chanting congregation of waters gathered from all the

mountains round about, making music that might draw angels out of heaven. Yet respectable-looking, even wise-looking people were fixing bits of worms on bent pieces of wire to catch trout. Sport they called it. Should church-goers try to pass the time fishing in baptismal fonts while dull sermons were being preached, the so-called sport might not be so bad; but to play in the Yosemite temple,

seeking pleasure in the pain of fishes struggling for their lives, while God himself is preaching his sublimest water and stone sermons!



From My First Summer in the Sierra, chapter 7. 🏃

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.

Up-to-date trip information

All trip information is subject to change. The Section Web site at <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/bps/> may reflect changes that occur after *LUI!* publication. Contact

the trip leader for up-to-date information.

Liability waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. You may review the liability waiver in advance at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or

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[Activities and Trips, continued]

contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

The Sierra Club assumes no

responsibility of liability for transportation by private vehicle.

Equipment loans

Two bear canisters and some trail

maintenance tools are available for loan (deposit required) to Section leaders and members. For details, contact Matt Hahne, Equipment Manager, (408) 749-9968.

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	Lightweight	-lw
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)

Schedule

Jul 14–15 (Sat–Sun), Tahoe National Forest, Donner Summit to Devils Oven, 2B-xc

This moderately strenuous trip traverses of a multifaceted glaciated basin that is a mix of granite and volcanic rock. Hopefully, the wild flowers on the east side of Castle Peak will be in full bloom. There is a short bit of cross country between Devils Oven Lake/Warren Lake and Paradise Lakes. Bring your mosquito nets and juice. Individual commissary. Limited to 6 trip participants. There is no fee for this trip. Leader: Anne Gorby; co-leader: Walter Melville. To sign up please contact the leader, Anne Gorby, at 415-482-9055 (5:00–8:00 pm) or email anne_gorby@sbcglobal.net.

July 15–20 (Sun–Fri), PCT Section J, Sonora Pass Hwy 108 to Ebbetts Pass Hwy 4 Mostly 2A (2B/3A)

First of a series of 3 trips along PCT Section J. This section is characterized by volcanic rocks instead of the granite that is predominant in Sections H and I. 35 miles of backpacking in 5 hiking days, plus a layover day at Boulder Lake for relaxing and/or bagging Boulder Peak. Hot-water commissary for breakfast; full central commissary for dinner. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Limit 12. For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or by sending email to

[duchess at casaraquel dot com](mailto:duchess@casaraquel.com) (email preferred).

Jul 21–22 (Sat–Sun), Emigrant Wilderness, Gem Lake, 3B

Moderately strenuous overnight journey through rounded granite domes and rock canyons to one of many of the Emigrant Wilderness beautiful Lakes.

Bring your mosquito nets and juice. Hot water commissary for breakfast and dinner. Limited to 7 trip participants. Trip fee is \$5 per participant. Cancellation two weeks prior for full refund.

To sign up please contact the leader, Anne Gorby, at 415-482-9055 (5:00-8:00 pm) or email anne_gorby@sbcglobal.net

Jul 21–26 (Sat–Thu), PCT Section J, Ebbetts Pass Hwy 4 to Carson Pass Hwy 88, mostly 2B (2A/3B)

Second of a series of 3 trips along PCT Section J. This section is described as having “an impressive, even sometimes surrealistic landscape” because of its volcanic flows. 33 miles of backpacking in five hiking days, plus a layover day to climb Round Top and/or Elephant’s Back, or just to relax and recuperate. Hot-water commissary for breakfast; full central commissary for dinner. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Limit 12. For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or by

sending email to [duchess at casaraquel dot com](mailto:duchess@casaraquel.com) (email preferred).

Jul 27–29 (Fri–Sun), PCT Section J, Carson Pass Hwy 88 to Echo Summit, Hwy 50, 1A/3A

Third of a series of 3 trips along PCT Section J. This section crosses the beginnings of the Truckee River and offers occasional views of Lake Tahoe. 13 miles of backpacking in 2 hiking days, plus a layover day at Showers Lake to climb Little Round Top or just relax and recuperate. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Hot-water commissary for breakfast; full central commissary for dinner. Limit 12. For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or by sending email to [duchess at casaraquel dot com](mailto:duchess@casaraquel.com) (email preferred).

Aug 2–5 (Thu–Sun), S.E. Yosemite via Fernandez Pass, 4C-lw

Ever wanted to see the remote, southeast wilderness in Yosemite? Some people fear my lightweight trips are too ambitious for them. Well, here's one to prove them wrong. On this out-and-back trip, there's no pressure — we'll see how far we get in two days, then come back out by the same route. We'll start out at the Clover Meadow ranger station (7,100 ft) on the southern end of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, hike toward

[Continued on next page]

[Schedule, continued]

Rutherford Lake, over Fernandez Pass (10,200 ft) and down into Yosemite National Park through Moraine Meadows, over Merced Pass (9,200 ft), and if we're doing well, into the Illilouette Creek drainage. Who knows how far we'll get? — it's only 29 miles one-way to Mono Meadows and only a couple more miles to Glacier Point!

We'll travel in through-hiker style, hiking at a pace that accommodates everyone, cooking on the trail, making camp at sunset, and continuing the hike at sunrise. This is a lightweight trip with special fitness requirements and gear-weight restrictions. Individual commissary. Limit of 7 participants.

To register, contact the leader: Steve Sergeant, steve.sergeant@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or (408) 937-8116.

Aug 8–16 (Wed–Thu), Cottonwood Pass to New Army Pass via Guitar Lake, with a day hike up Mt. Whitney, 3C

A convoluted (but somewhat easier) way to reach the top of Mt. Whitney! 59 miles of backpacking in 8 days and an optional 11 mile roundtrip day hike from Guitar Lake to the top of Mt. Whitney. A bear canister sufficient to carry 9 days food is required. You must either backpack at or above 10,000 ft in the preceding 2 weeks, OR stay Mon night at the Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead campground (10,060 ft) and day hike above 10,000 ft on Tue. Hot-water commissary for breakfast; full central commissary for dinner. Limit 8. For reservations and instructions, contact Dorie Stoessel at 650-941-2502 or 530-583-0382, or by sending email to duchess@casaraquel dot com (email preferred).

Aug 10–12 (Fri–Sun), Hoover Wilderness, Twin Lakes to Crown Lake, 3C

This moderately strenuous trip leads to Crown Lake, sitting on the Sierra Crest, where along the way we will see some of the finest east-side scenery. At Crown Lake there are excellent views of Kettle Peak and Crown Point. On the layover day we can fish for brook and rainbow, explore the surrounding area, or bag a

peak. Hot water commissary for breakfast and dinner. Limited to 6 trip participants. Trip fee is \$10 per participant. Cancellation two weeks prior for full refund. Leader: Anne Gorby; co-leader: Renee Rivera. To sign up please contact the leader, Anne Gorby, at 415-482-9055 (5:00-8:00 pm) or email anne_gorby@sbcglobal.net.

Aug 31–Sep 3 (Fri–Mon), Thousand Lakes Basecamp, Lassen National Forest, 1A

The Thousand Lakes Wilderness is part of the Lassen National Forest, just north of Lassen Volcanic National Park. By the looks of the place, it might as well be part of the park. Most of the wilderness consists of two smaller volcanic peaks, and a large saddle connecting the two. We'll stay at Hufford Lake, which is picturesque in it's own little bowl. The lake has no maintained trail leading to it, but there's a use trail easy enough that we're not calling this a cross-country hike.

We'll hike in from the Tamarack Swale trailhead, which lies at the end of a rough logging road out of the Hat Creek Valley. Low-clearance vehicles will have to drive carefully on this road. For day hikes on Saturday and Sunday, we can climb Magee Peak (8,549 ft), or explore any of the other small lakes in the wilderness. Lake Eiler is popular with fishermen and horsemen.

This is a relatively easy trip suitable for less-experienced backpackers. "Homemade" vegetarian central commissary dinner and breakfast, individual lunches. A \$10 deposit will be charged plus additional expenses for food and cooking fuel will be collected at the trailhead. Limit 7 participants. Deposit is non-refundable after August 25th.

To register: Call Steve Sergeant at (408) 937-8116 or email to SteveSgt@effable.com for an address to send a \$10 deposit, along with two SASEs, and a filled-out copy of the Sierra Club Medical form.

September 14–16 (Fri–Sun), PCT Section L, Donner Pass to Highway 49, 5B-lw *Tentative*

This 40-mile section of the Pacific Crest Trail is sometimes hiked by

strong day-hikers in a single, long day, but we'll plan for two days plus a few hours on Friday evening. The route descends, primarily, with a few gentle climbs here and there. We'll pass through Castle Valley, and go by the Sierra Club's first backcountry ski hut. As the trail descends from it's starting elevation of 7,190 ft to our final elevation of 4,570 ft, we'll pass through zones of different types of vegetation and geology.

We'll travel in through-hiker style, hiking 17–20 miles per day, cooking on the trail, making camp at sunset, and continuing the hike at sunrise. This is a lightweight trip with special fitness requirements and gear-weight restrictions. Individual commissary. Through-hike requiring car shuttle. Limit of 5 participants. Trip leader: Steve Sergeant.

Registration begins after trip plans are confirmed in August.

Sep 15–16 (Sat–Sun), Ansel Adams Wilderness, Granite Creek to Fernandez Lakes, 3C

This trip will take us to a lake-filled area just east of Gale and Sing Peaks, and we will be just outside the southern boundary of Yosemite. Our route will take us beyond the popular Lillian Lake loop. Hot water commissary for breakfast and dinner. Limited to 6 trip participants. Trip fee is \$10 per participant. Cancellation two weeks prior for full refund. Leader: Anne Gorby; co-leader: Sanjeev Kumar. To sign up please contact the leader, Anne Gorby, at 415-482-9055 (5:00–8:00 pm) or email anne_gorby@sbcglobal.net.

October 27–28 (Sat–Sun), Pre-Halloween Overnight, 5B-lw

The Skyline to the Sea trail travels through two large California state parks, Castle Rock and Big Basin. The trail descends 2,300 ft over 34.4 miles. We'll start out at the Castle Rock parking lot and hike a full day to Big Basin Park HQ, where we'll stay at Jay Camp. The next day will be a comparatively easy day through the most scenic parts of Big Basin State Park.

Some day-hiking groups regularly traverse this trail in a day, so an

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