

TRACK



Newsletter of the Ski Touring Section

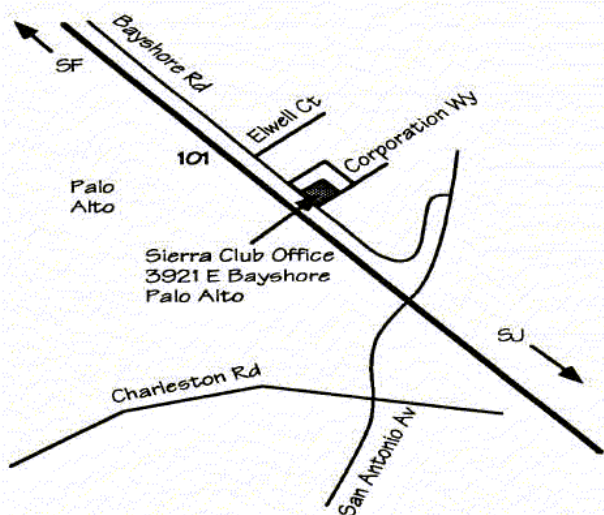
Loma Prieta Chapter

Sierra Club



www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/sts

Next Meeting:
Annual STS Business Meeting
Monday, April 2nd at 7:30 pm
Peninsula Conservation Center
3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto



All STS members are very welcome to come join the Ski Touring Section for our annual Ski Touring Section general business meeting on Monday, April 2, 2007, at 7:30 PM, at the Peninsula Conservation Center.

We will select officers for the 2007/2008 ski season and discuss the ways to reduce the work of running the Ski Touring Section while keeping the important business of the STS fully functional. If you care about the STS and value the services it provides then you are encouraged to attend this very important business meeting.

Also, please mark your calendars for the May STS meetings. Our annual Ski Touring Section pot luck dinner and slide show will be held on Monday, May 7, 2007 at a location to be announced.

Deadline for May TRACK submissions is April 20th

The STS Track Newsletter would like to obtain photos of STS skiers on relatively recent STS trips from STS members to use in future issues of Track. Please include any helpful information with the picture such as the location, a description of the picture, names of any skiers in the picture and a note that it is OK for Track to publish your photo.

2006-2007 STS Calendar

- 4/2** – STS Monthly Meeting
Peninsula Conservation Center (7:30 pm)
- 4/4-6** – Peter Grubb Hut trip
Leaders: Lowell Mouton; **Skill Level:** Int / Adv Int
- 4/13-15** – Pinecrest cabin snowshoe trip
Leader: Joe Schmidt
- 4/14-21** – Trans-Sierra ski tour
Leader: Andy Hudson; **Skill Level:** TBA
- 5/7** – STS Annual Potluck (location and time TBA)

Trip Basics

Trips are cooperative ventures organized and lead by volunteers. Trips range from leisurely single-day tours to strenuous multi-day expeditions. Each trip has a classification, which indicates the level of skiing ability and experience that the leader feels is the minimum required. The trip leader has the final say in whom may join a trip and may refuse anyone at any time that they feel has not demonstrated the required level of ability.

Trip Classifications

Beginner: Includes first time cross-country skiers. Leaders frequently provide some type of beginner instruction. 1-2 miles on gentle terrain.

Advanced Beginner: Skiers in good condition who have learned the basics of the diagonal stride on the flats and on easy hills. 2-5 miles over rolling terrain.

Intermediate: Uphill and downhill skiing on slopes that can be traversed if too steep. An intermediate has developed skill and confidence to snowplow, step turn, and control downhill speeds. Overnight hut trips with a moderate pack load. 3-10 miles average.

Advanced Intermediate: Same as Intermediate plus poor snow and weather skills, winter navigation, greater endurance, and snow camping. 10-15 miles.

Advanced: These tours are for the hardy skiers who can ski 10 to 30 miles in one day, are able to climb high mountains using skins, and descend with Telemark turns. The advanced skier must be in good shape, acclimatized to high altitudes, and have a working knowledge of map reading, compass, avalanche hazards, and winter survival.

Trip/Event Descriptions

Peter Grubb Hut Ski Tour

April 4-6 (Weds-Fri)

Intermediate / Advanced Intermediate

Join us for a fun two night mid-week stay at Peter Grubb Hut. We'll drive up to Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) in the Norden area on Tuesday 4/3. On Wednesday 4/4 we'll ski 2 miles and climb 800 ft from I-80 at Donner Summit to Castle Pass, then go

another mile and down into Round Valley and Peter Grubb Hut. Peter Grubb Hut lies in a bowl, bounded on the north by Basin Peak and on the east by Castle Peak. The hut is 60+ years old, but was recently equipped with solar electric lighting. On Thursday 4/5 we'll have a full day to enjoy good snow on the north side of Castle Peak or tours to nearby Basin Peak and Sand Ridge Lakes.

We'll ski out and drive home on Friday 4/5.

The Tuesday night Clair Tappaan Lodge fee is about \$55 per night and includes all meals. There is a hot tub, library and living room at the lodge. If you would like more information about Clair Tappaan Lodge then please visit the Sierra Club website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/>. About \$70 covers hut expenses, Wednesday and Thursday dinner, and Thursday and Friday breakfast; you bring lunches and snacks. If food and hut expenses come in below this then refunds for the difference will be paid back to trip participants. Send 2 long SASEs for trip sign-up application, medical form, waiver, and a deposit check for \$70 per person (made to Lowell Moulton) to: Lowell Moulton, xxx xxxxxxxx xx, ssssssssss, xx xxxxx. Part or all of deposit nonrefundable if you cancel after March 14th and we can't get a qualified replacement.

Trip Leader: Lowell Moulton, xxx-xxx-xxxx, xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Pinecrest Snowshoe Trip

April 13-15

You may have wanted to go to the back country and see nature's beautiful snow, streams but could not since you don't ski. Well, this is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and snow shoe! They say that if you can hike, you can snowshoe! We will start at 6,000 feet elevation and snowshoe to a wonderful area called the Punch Bowl. It is surrounded by volcanic cliffs with aspen trees in the vast meadow. We will have to hike to get to the snow since by the end of March the snow starts to melt. The gushing streams are really beautiful so bring your camera. Upon returning to the cabin, we can soak tired bones in the hot tub. On Sunday, we'll take Frasier Flat route down the north side of the ridge through the woods down to the bottom. Returning, we will follow the South Fork of the Stanislaus up to Strawberry. No snowshoeing equipment? It can be rented at any outdoor store like REI. If Dodge Ridge is still open, it can be rented there. See www.dodgeridge.com. \$90 covers two nights accommodations; two breakfasts and two lunch fix'ins and one dinner. Every

Trip/Event Descriptions (cont.)

Participant will get their own bed and rooms will be shared by same sex. The trip is limited to eight participants. Well behaved dogs may come on the trip with the advance permission of the Leader.

Please send your check made out to Sierra Singles to Joe Schmidt xxx xxxxxxxxxxx xx, xxxxxxxxxxx, xx xxxxx. Provide SIN but at a minimum provide address, phone and email address. This event may be co-listed with other groups such as the Ski Touring Section and Bay Chapter. Rain is welcome and doesn't cancel ... think snow! Event covers 10 miles, with 1,000 feet of elevation. Limited to twelve participants with an attempted NOAH. Meeting location: Lucille's Cabin in the Sonora Pass Area (for location, go to google and enter "Lucille's Cabin". For the area, go to www.thegreatunfenced.com or www.dodgeridge.com Leader: Joe Schmidt, xxx-xxx-xxxx, xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Trip Reports

10th Mountain Hut Trip, CO February 18-23, 2007

This February, five adventurous STS members decided to check out the huts and skiing in Colorado. The original plan was to ski to the Alfred Braunn and Friends Huts South of Aspen. Considerable avalanche danger changed those plans. Instead we skied to the McNamara and Margy Huts to the east of Aspen in gentler terrain. The trip had some great skiing and a few interesting twists which made it quite memorable. Our 1st hiccup occurred after getting off the plane in Denver, 1 backpack short. Ugh. We set off to the youth hostel in Glenwood Springs 3 hours west anyway, trusting the airline to find the missing backpack. At the youth hostel, the owner volunteered enough equipment to enable us to proceed even if the missing backpack did not appear. The backpack did not show up that day or night. Ugh. On the way to the trailhead the next morning, we drove by Aspen airport and stopped by to see if they had an update on the backpack. Miracle of miracles, the backpack had just left Aspen on a shuttle. They called the shuttle back and 10 minutes later, we had all 5 backpacks again. Yipee. We left the trailhead around 11:30 am for the 5.8 mile 1500' climb to McNamara Hut. McNamara and Margy were the 1st 2 huts in the 10th mtn system, but they are in great condition. The trip up the jeep road and trail to the hut was scenic as we could look across the valley to the Aspen downhill resort. The

mixture of Aspen and pine were much different than the Sierra, higher and more dense in many places. We had the hut to ourselves the 1st night. We dined well on Smoked Salmon pesto pasta. There were lots of birds at each hut. Overnight, there was 2-4" of fresh snow on top of week old crusty snow. The crust was 6-12" deep over another 3' of faceted snow, which was causing the high avalanche danger. On the 2nd day, we skied 8.6 miles -1,000' & +2,000' up to Margy hut at 10,300'. It was a long day, The canyons and streams were beautiful and the trails were well marked and maintained. On the 3rd day, the layover day, we head for Mt Yeckel and its wide open slopes. There were great view from the top and a fun run down. On a later run, the 2nd hiccup occurred as a ski released prematurely and vanished into the snow. 1 hour of digging later, it was found and we were able to ski back to the hut. On the last run of the day, just below the hut, the 3rd hiccup occurred as John pulled the binding off a ski. Luckily, Dave had a drill in his repair kit and we were able to remount the binding. Day 4, we reversed the route from Margy hut back to McNamara. The conditions were challenging for the 2'000 3 mile descent along the creek and it took all day to get back to McNamara Hut. The 5th morning the conditions were good for a quick tele-run on Bald Knob before heading back to the trailhead. Conditions got stormier as the day progressed. It was a 20F, windy, icy, 1500' decent back to the trailhead. The storm continued to get worse making the trip back to Denver take 6 hrs. We left Eric to visit with friends and spent the night in the Denver Int'l Hostel. The adventure continued as the storm progressed to almost a whiteout by the time we went to the airport early the next morning. The final hiccup. Flight cancelled. This split up everyone as we all ended up on different flights but everyone managed to get back to the bay area. Participants were Dave Erskine, Joe Schmidt, Eric Valentino, Diane Gleason, and John Cordes (leader & scribe). If you want to see the pictures go to http://www.kodakgallery.com/ShareLandingSignin.jsp?Uc=18mvqm59.94k6d8lx&Uy=-a9l2or&Upost_signin=Slideshow.jsp%3Fmode%3Dfromshare&Ux=1

Announcements

STS looking for volunteers to serve on nominating committee

STS Officers are elected for terms of one year that last from the first day of June to the last day of May. The Ski Touring Section is looking for three people to

serve as a nominating committee to select a slate of officers for the coming year beginning June 1, 2007.

Serving on the nominating committee is a short term job. The nominating committee contacts the current STS Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Editor and Treasurer to find out if any of those current officers are willing to serve another term. You will nominate current officers who are willing to run again the April annual STS business meeting.

If any of the STS elected offices need to be filled for the next year then the nominating committee will contact STS members to locate members who are willing to serve as an STS Officer and nominate new candidates at the April annual STS business meeting.

If you are willing to serving on the STS nominating committee then please contact Lowell Moulton at xxx-xxx-xxxx or xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

FOR SALE

Women's Kahru XC boots (lace up, high top style). Size 8, black with dark blue, 75mm 3 pin, vibram soles, heel grooves for cable bindings. Made in Hungary. I think these boots would be good for: casual backcountry use; learning to telemark; intermediate touring. About \$80 new, would sell for \$40 OBO. Contact Margaret Martin at xxx-xxx-xxxx (h) or xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.



One of the route maps John has posted with his 10th Mountain Hut trip report. See link above.

Section Information

Purpose: The Ski Touring Section leads cross-country ski trips to the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere.

Meetings: The Section holds open meetings monthly from November thru May. Date, time, and location of the next meeting are announced in TRACK. Newcomers of any experience level are welcome. A special program is featured at most meetings.

Membership: To be a member of the section requires membership in the Sierra Club and additional dues of \$5/yr paid to the section Treasurer. This entitles members to all the rights outlined in the bylaws and standing rules.

E-mail list: To join the STS e-mail list, send an e-mail to the list server at: <listserv@lists.sierraclub.org>.

Include the following one line in the body of the message (not Subject line): <SUBSCRIBE LOMAP-SkiTour yourfirstname yourlastname>. Be sure to send the email from the address at which you wish to receive postings and the newsletter, TRACK. You must be a member to be on the STS e-mail list.

Newsletter: TRACK is published monthly from October through May. To subscribe, send a check for \$15 (\$10 for paper newsletter and \$5 for annual section dues) payable to Ski Touring Section with your name, address, telephone number, and proof of Sierra Club membership to Treasurer John Langbein (xxx xxxxxxxxxx xx, xxxxxxxxxx, xx xxxxx). Proof of membership is one of the following: a mailing label from your Chapter newsletter (Loma Prieta) or Sierra magazine,

(continued on page 5)

Section Information (cont.)

a photocopy of your Sierra Club membership card, or your canceled check for membership dues.

To join the Sierra Club, enclose a separate check for \$35 payable to Sierra Club with your STS payment.

To submit meeting announcements, trip announcements, and trip reports for publication in TRACK, email them to TRACK editor Kevin Flynn at xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx, (plaint text or attached Microsoft Word documents preferred) or submit them as text files. Photos in jpeg format may accompany trip report submissions and will be included if space permits. Advertisements will be carried for members free of charge on a space-permitting basis. Ads will

run for one month unless resubmitted and will be limited to 6 lines or one inch. Notices from commercial enterprises will be carried at the editor's discretion on the same basis.

Trips: Trips are scheduled by VC/Scheduler Eric Valentino. Potential trip leaders should contact him (see address below) and new leaders should contact Janet Hoffmann, Chair of the Outings Committee. Potential trip participants should contact the trip leader listed for each trip. The trips are classified according to the minimum ability required of participants. The categories are listed inside under Ski Trips. The Sierra Club does not assume any liability for carpools to the "trailhead".

Chair	Lowell Mouton	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
VC/Scheduler	Eric Valentino	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Secretary/Editor	Kevin Flynn	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Treasurer	John Langbein	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Conservation	Dick Simpson	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Outings Committee Chair	Janet Hoffmann	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Webmaster	Brenda Giese	xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx	xxx-xxx-xxxx

SKI TOURING SECTION

Loma Prieta Chapter
 c/o John Langbein
 xxx xxxxxxxxxxx xx
 xxxxxxxxxxx, xx xxxxx

First Class Mail

