

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*January  
1953*



*NEAR PEAR LAKE, SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK*

*Francis Whitaker*

Ski Touring Schedule for 1953

The most extensive yet

SEE PAGES 6, 7

# Miscellany

Sacramento, January 14

EDITOR—Some material on this desk from a Midwest university trying to conserve a bit of primitive prairie awakens memories of how our American Bison Society a half century ago saved that mammal at least from extinction.

This awakens memories of the Sierra Club's unsuccessful campaign to save Hetch Hetchy. Responding to the appeal at that time, my sweetheart and I horsebacked along a trail from Hazel Green into Hetch Hetchy. The way lay through towering sugar pines hour after hour for several days. I understand most of these have fallen beneath the woodman's ax. What impresses a student of forest genetics is that in this destruction of primitive forests the best of trees were cut. The weaklings were left to father the subsequent generations.

Recently a friend has suggested that the destruction of that little Yosemite, Hetch Hetchy, was entirely unnecessary. He declares that the material benefits could have been obtained without flooding the valley, all of which stimulates the thought of whether the Sierra Club could use that tragedy, and perhaps reproduce old photographs, to awaken Americans to preventing further perpetual erasure of other scenic spots. So deeply do I feel this that I am enclosing a check for \$100, hoping that the Club can use it for such purposes and that perhaps other contributions may be attracted.

C. M. GOETHE

• On behalf of the Directors, our thanks for your generous contribution toward a program

to preclude other Hetch Hetchy disasters. We are depositing your contribution in our National Park Fund for the purpose you describe.

The Hetch Hetchy precedent is all too pertinent right now when you consider the attempts which are afoot to weaken the National Park System by flooding some of the most scenic areas in Kings Canyon National Park and in Dinosaur National Monument.

Some of the material you mention is already on hand; enclosed is a 1944 *Annual Sierra Club Bulletin* in which we reproduced four beautiful photographs by J. N. LeConte of Hetch Hetchy Valley as it was. Imagine what that beautiful valley could do today to alleviate the overcrowded condition in Yosemite Valley to the south! Although such material is on hand, there is much more that needs to be unearthed and published in some limited form to demonstrate how the disaster came about, why it was needless, and what steps we must take to prevent its recurrence.

We hope others will help as you have to bring this work to completion in time.



We wish to give belated public acknowledgment of a gift of \$50 to be added to the Sierra Club's Morley Fund fellowships, which help deserving persons who could not otherwise afford it to go on Sierra Club summer outings. The generous donor, again, is Mr. Goethe. Gifts such as this, whether to support conservation directly or indirectly, are always welcome.

*THE SIERRA CLUB*,\* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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\*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 38

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NUMBER 1

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

## For the January Record

### *Announcement from the President*

On December 15, following action taken by the Directors ten days previously, David R. Brower became Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

That such a position should be established has been contemplated by many members for at least the past fifteen years, but not until late this year did it become both necessary and practicable.

The new Executive Director will be responsible to the officers of the club and through them to the Board of Directors. He will prepare recommendations to the Board pertaining to establishing club policy and will exercise general supervision over the carrying out of Board directives. His primary responsibility will be to implement club policy by assuring that the Directors are kept fully informed of major problems confronting the club, by building an informed membership by means of club publications, by supervising administration, and by speaking for the club within the context of its policy. He will endeavor to make optimum use of talents volunteered by members, and will assist the principal committees in establishing and carrying out programs furthering the ultimate purposes of the club. He will expedite action by the club through maintaining liaison with organizations having similar purposes and with government services concerned with problems in which the club is interested.

None of the Executive Director's duties or responsibilities is exactly new. They have all been part of the club's operation in the past, but the constant growth and increased

influence of the club has made it imperative no longer to lean so heavily on the generous contributions of a few individuals, whose professional time has been drawn upon more freely than they could afford.

Dave Brower brings to this job a broad background in club affairs. Although his immediate reason for joining the club, in 1933, was to participate in rock climbing, his interest in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* preceded that in rock climbing by a few years, and in the end resulted in his being appointed editor—and editing not only the *Bulletin*, but three books as well: *Manual of Ski Mountaineering*, the *Sierra Club Handbook*, and *Going Light—With Backpack or Burro*. He was chairman of the San Francisco Bay Chapter for two years, and has served on club committees of widely varying function—Mountain Records and Place Names, Editorial Board, Outing, Visual Education, Winter Sports, Conservation, Mountaineering, and various special committees, in addition to being a principal contributor to the club's films, "Sky-Land Trails of the Kings" and "Skis to the Sky-Land," leading two club Knapsack Trips, and participating in High Trip leadership since 1939, as manager since 1947. He has been on the Board of Directors since 1941, with time out for World War II, the Mountain Troops, and combat in Italy. Now a major in the Army Reserve, he is Director, Infantry Branch, Oakland Reserve School.

His wife, Anne, and he have four children, the older two of which (just under 8 and 6 years) enjoyed part of the 1952 High Trip.

The Sierra Club has three-score years behind it, sixty years of good work and good play, years of progress made possible by men and women whose devotion to the Club's mission has been as constant as it has been inspired. That something new has now been added does not mean that devotion like theirs can now be dispensed with. Rather, we now have the means to make fuller use of still more people's devotion to the fine cause we share. We have a real opportunity to carry on a still greater program of concurrent enjoyment and protection of our national resource of the places that are beautiful and inspiring, whether in the Sierra Nevada or farther afield. What we yesterday learned to know and enjoy, we today strive to protect. And today we've taken a step to insure our readiness to meet tomorrow's inevitably greater need.

I am confident that you will hail this step, and that whenever the opportunity presents itself you will join with our new Executive Director, with your officers and the Board, with your committee chairman and members, and with your friends who are not yet numbered among us, in building a stronger, wiser, and more enjoyable Sierra Club as we start the next three-score years.

HAROLD E. CROWE, *President*

## Seventeen: Going Up?

It is hard to believe, but the average duration of membership in the club is seventeen years per person. According to 1952 figures, the average member (whoever he may be) will eventually have remained in the club the following number of years (by chapter):

San Diego .....	50.0
Los Padres .....	31.6
Southern California .....	23.5
Mother Lode .....	21.5
Loma Prieta .....	17.4
Atlantic .....	14.0
San Francisco Bay .....	13.8
Riverside .....	12.5

Therefore, if you have a friend who is about to leave his thirties and wants to make sure life begins at forty, have him join the San Diego Chapter! The statistics for the new Kern-Kaweah Chapter are not quite mature enough to have meaning. Figuring from the same basis, however, we find that members

of this chapter will be in the club forever. We wouldn't want to suggest that members in one part of the state are likely to last longer than members in another—but look at the figures!

## To Makalu in 1954

The California Himalaya Committee has just announced receipt of permission by the Nepalese government for an expedition to Makalu in 1954. Permission had previously been denied for an expedition to Dhaulagiri in 1953, following formal request through the State Department and the Embassy in New Delhi.

Makalu is the fourth highest peak in the world (Dhaulagiri is fifth), rising to an elevation of 27,790 feet. It is the only 8,000 meter peak which has not previously been attempted.

The California Himalaya Committee is undertaking with greater confidence the task of financing an expedition now that permission has been granted and additional time is available. At present the fund held in trust by the Sierra Club amounts to about \$3,500 with additional funds assured from one of several newspaper syndicates.

The film from the Peruvian Expedition conducted to the Cordillera Blanca last year will, when completed, also be used for supporting the Himalayan expedition. It is still too early to assess support that can be anticipated from other sources, but the committee has every reason to feel optimistic of success.

In any event, additional funds are still needed and the committee would greatly appreciate such further help as members of the club may care to give.

WILLIAM SIRI, *Chairman*  
*California Himalaya Committee*

## Wilderness Conference

The Third Biennial Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club, will be held at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, on May 15 and 16, it has been announced by the Conference Planning Committee Chairman Byron Beattie. The program will be announced soon.

## Federation Notes

The Labor Day week-end of 1952 brought representatives from most of the member clubs in the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to its twenty-first annual convention, held at the Mountaineers' Snoqualmie Pass Lodge, hosts being the Tacoma Mountaineers and the Washington Alpine Club.

A proposed addition to the By-Laws defining "outdoor clubs" to be admitted to membership was accepted by the convention and will be submitted to the membership. This definition would include only those clubs primarily organized for hiking, climbing, or camping.

Seven resolutions important to conservation were adopted. The first was a reiteration of support of three 1951 resolutions on which action is still to be taken. This covers (a) Prohibition of any project for storage or delivery of water within or which may adversely affect National Parks and Monuments; (b) Opposition to the proposed dams in the Dinosaur National Monument; and (c) A stand against the proposed tramway in San Jacinto State Park.

Resolution No. 2 deals with the mining claim abuses. It supports the separation of surface and subsurface rights as well as the separation of metallic and nonmetallic minerals. It also calls upon the American Mining Congress to work with conservationists in bringing about a solution to this problem.

The third resolution recognizes the inadequate monies allotted to the U.S. Forest Service and urges the Congressional appropriations committees to give more consideration for increasing fund allotments to the Forest Service for public use and sanitation.

In Resolution No. 4 the Federation suggests to the Forest Service that it withdraw its present proposal for boundary adjustments to the Gila Wilderness Area and that further study be given to any readjustment of boundaries.

The western boundary of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area has not been satisfactorily resolved during the past year. The convention finally agreed upon and in Resolution 5 suggested to the Forest Service that the western boundary should be the high ridge west of Horse Creek known as the

Horsepasture Mountain—Ollalie Mountain Ridge, and that the Forest Service establish as rapidly as possible the Three Sisters Wilderness Area and the Diamond Peak, Waldo Lake and Mount Washington Wild Areas.

Resolution No. 6 states in part that "Highways which have contiguous areas admittedly recognized for their inestimable scenic and recreational values should be preserved. Such a highway exists in the Columbia River Gorge. Within the past year logging operations which tend to depreciate these values have been carried on in this area." A committee to work out a program for preservation of the scenic and recreational values of the Columbia Gorge has been appointed by the Governor of Oregon, and the Federation calls upon the Governor of Washington to appoint a similar committee in that state.

The last resolution of importance has its roots in the Sierra Club. Members of the Federation are urged to encourage Clean-camp campaigns in their own localities.

New officers for the 1952-1953 year are: Sam Deal (California Alpine Club, president); Harold Mace (Trails Club of Oregon), vice-president for Oregon; Al Gustus (Sierra Club), vice-president for California; Edgar Wayburn (Sierra Club), deputy vice-president for California; J. J. Dolan (Mount Baker Club), vice-president for Washington; Harry Goodro (Wasatch Mountain Club), vice-president for Utah; Glen A. DeGroff (Trails Club of Oregon), treasurer; Frances Blake (Sierra Club), secretary; Betty Morse (Washington Alpine Club); editor of the *Western Outdoor Quarterly*.

POLLY DYER

Lovers of quietness and of unspoiled nature cannot ask for too much in this age of rapid travel. They would not even wish to preserve all wild life and all wild scenery from everyone except those who could approach on foot or by canoe. The flying public has its rights as well as the canoeing public and the walking public. But a little lonesome space where nature has her own way, where it is quiet enough at night for one to hear the patter of small paws on leaves and the murmuring of birds, can still be afforded in these troubled days. The gift of tranquility, wherever found, is beyond price.

—*New York Times*

## Peter Grubb Hut Ready

Peter Grubb Hut, perennial favorite of ski tourers, offers greater comfort than ever this season. Thanks to the efforts of many work parties organized last summer, as well as to the generosity of Mr. Hanson Grubb, the hut bears a new roof, replacing the one which caved in under last winter's unprecedented snowpack.

The new snugness doesn't end there. Two new lamps (which work beautifully if directions are followed) add much beauty and appreciable light, and the wood-cutting crew labored nobly to gather the great stacks of sun-dried wood in the hut which promise considerable heat.

The route to the hut, however, is the same as ever, and a pleasant one to ski over. It crosses two easily accessible ridges and follows a beautifully wooded valley at the foot of Castle Peak, highest point in the Donner Summit area. The distance is not great and the terrain is easy enough for nearly anyone who has skied a few times and who isn't a complete softie. A climb up and an exhilarating run down Castle and Great Basin peaks are available for the more stalwart tourers.

Stalwart or no, skiers should try Peter Grubb Hut sooner or later. We promise that when the time finally comes for you to sit by the fireplace at home and think back to your skiing days, the thoughts which will kindle a warmth within you won't be of the hours you bucked the lift lines, but of the days and nights you breathed a little deeper around and in such a snug hut as this, far back in the snow country.

## Tour and Test Dept.

A new shoulder patch has been designed for all Sierra Club skiers. It is circular, 3½ inches in diameter, and has blue sky, a white slope, and snow-covered tree as background for a silhouetted skier and the name of the club; the border is a narrow red band. Patches may be obtained from club offices for \$1. Arcs designating class of skier will be supplied for each patch, and should be worn ¼ inch under it. Another arc, reading "judge," is available for those who are one,

and is worn just above the patch—all to help judges and test candidates get together.

The Ski Touring Committee is working closely with the test judges. The touring schedule this season is the most extensive yet, and test judges will be on the tours.

*Some new and interesting tours* have been scheduled this season. Some are easy and some aren't, so it will be well to check with the leader (club offices will forward your inquiry) in advance. Everyone is invited to participate in the tours listed, provided, of course, he or she has the qualifications for the particular tour. Participants must judge their skiing ability fairly, and their condition, too. If in doubt, check with one of the judges, all of whom are eager to assist skiers in the qualifying tests. Short one-day or half-day tours are regularly scheduled from the club's main huts and lodges and these are recommended for touring indoctrination. The committee hopes that ski touring will provide incentive for many successful completions of the Ski-Mountaineering Test—the *sine qua non* among skiers who know—in the course of the season. The *Manual of Ski Mountaineering* tells about the test, the techniques, and something of the pleasures. The *SCB* has demonstrated in previous years the marvelous economy of ski mountaineering—two or three wonderful week ends for the price of one on the lifts!

Since Weldon Heald, in his *Sierra Snows—Past and Future* (*SCB*, 1949) didn't get down to cases and say which future week ends would be fair enough for touring, there may be some last-minute changes; but if you let the leader know you want to go, he'll let you know if you'll be all alone if you do go.

*The season's tour schedule* is listed below. Tours in italics originate in southern California; those in roman in northern.

January 10-11

Peter Grubb Hut. Leader, Charlotte England.

January 18

Mount Lincoln. Glenn Weber.

January 24-25

Benson Hut. Neil Anderson.

February 1

Norden to Donner Lake. Chuck Wharton.

February 14-15  
Ostrander Lake, Yosemite. Al Steck.

February 21-23  
Pear Lake, Sequoia. Lewis Clark.

February 28-March 1  
*Mount Hawkins.*  
Castle Peak Basin, ski camping. Chuck Wharton.  
Mother Lode Chapter tour. Wilbur Vaughan.

March 7-8  
Peter Grubb Hut. Emile LaCrampe.

March 14-15  
*Telegraph Peak*  
Desolation Valley, ski camping. Einar Nilsson.

March 21-22  
Glacier Point. Phil Faulconer.

March 28-29  
*Mount Baldy*  
Benson Hut. Chuck Wharton.  
Peter Grubb Hut, Mother Lode Chapter tour.  
Homer Banks.

April 4-5  
Squaw Valley to Norden. Paul Spring.

April 10-12  
*Kearsarge Pass*  
Mammoth Mountain, snow camping. Chuck Wharton.

April 18-19  
Benson Hut. Glenn Gaumer.

April 25-26  
Rolf Pundt Hut site. Harry Abraham.

May 1-3  
*Mineral King*

*This year's crop of judges* (those italicized will usually be judging south of Tehachapi.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Lewis F. Clark	Einar Nilsson
Phil Faulconer	S. M. FIRST AID
Alex Hildebrand	Doris Leonard
Richard M. Leonard	Jim Hammond
John Linford	Caroline Coleman

SECOND CLASS

Lewis F. Clark	Joel Hildebrand
<i>Paul Flinchbaugh</i>	John Linford
Alex Hildebrand	Paul Spring

THIRD CLASS

Harry Abraham	<i>Tom Kendig</i>
<i>Lloyd Balsam</i>	Doug Lummis
Art Bellman	Keith Lummis
Edgar Cerf	Jim Mulholland
<i>Muir Dawson</i>	Einar Nilsson
<i>Fred Eaton</i>	Don Rehbein
<i>Hensel Fremstad</i>	John Thune
Paul Fulton	Glenn Weber
Keith Gerlack	Chuck Wharton
<i>George Harr</i>	<i>Charles Wilts</i>

Norman Wooldrige

FOURTH CLASS

Neil Anderson	Diana Lummis
Henry Cam	Don McCluskey
<i>Robert Coup</i>	<i>Wayne Mann</i>
Dave Cuddeback	<i>Dick Merritt</i>
<i>Bill Davies</i>	<i>Harvey Mylander</i>
Bill Doub	Warren Robinson
Charlotte England	Richard Sommer
Howard Froelich	Al Steck
Glenn Gaumer	<i>Paul Steinhauser</i>
<i>Charles Gerckens</i>	Jim Talley
<i>Howard Koster</i>	Wilson Talley
Emile LaCrampe	Rudy Talso
	<i>Ruby Wacker</i>

*Tests are being passed* in quantity again, by the way. Among those who have performed to the judges' satisfaction recently are:

*Fourth Class:* Lillian Abraham, Barbara Cross, Bob Frenkel, June Gugliemetti, Michael J. Gugliemetti, John Norris, Harvey Rogers, Tom Sachs, David H. Stewart, Frank Tarver.

*Third Class:* Babs Linstrom, John McIntosh.

*Second Class:* Dick Linstrom, Paul Spring.

*First Class:* Rainer ("Bumps") Baldauf.

The First Class award isn't given every day, and we mark this event by publishing the relevant correspondence.

San Francisco, November 29

DEAR BUMPS:

The Sierra Club, and the Winter Sports Committee in particular, have been watching your skiing achievements with pride and interest. As an individual skier, as captain of the University of California ski team, and as a representative of the U.S. Army skiing in international meets in Europe, your record has been excellent and your sportsmanship worthy of the fine tradition of your family.

For your distinguished performance in national and international skiing competition, the Sierra Club, through the Winter Sports Committee, has made you the First Class Skiing Award.

Your First Class badge is enclosed. We hope that you find as much pleasure in wearing it as we do in awarding it.

With best regards,

KEITH LUMMIS, *Chairman*  
*Ski Test Committee*

A.P.O. 757, New York  
15 December 1952

DEAR KEITH:

On December 8th I received your nice letter and the First Class Skiing Award. I wish to thank you for allowing me the honor to wear it and for the thoughtfulness you have shown in

sending it to me. I can truthfully say that this means more to me than just a skiing prize.

The First Class Skiing Award will be a remembrance to me of the beginning days of my skiing; the days and nights that I spent in the Sierra Club huts throughout the Sierra Nevada, as well as all the fine people that are connected with an organization that I am proud to say I am a member of.

I wish to thank you again for the wonderful expression of recognition.

Sincerely yours,

BUMPS BALDAUF

*Pfc. U.S. Army*

## Service Changes

Gerald E. Mernin, Yosemite ranger 1932-1947, is now Assistant Superintendent, Crater Lake National Park; Howard R. Stagner, former Chief Naturalist, Sequoia-Kings, is now Chief, Interpretive Branch, Natural History Division, Washington office; Robert H. Rose, once a temporary ranger in Yosemite, fills Stagner's vacancy; Lemual A. Garrison, once a Yosemite ranger, becomes Superintendent, Big Bend National Park; Frank R. Givens, Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Monument and a former permanent ranger in Yosemite National Park, has been promoted to Chief Ranger of Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. His successor at Joshua Tree National Monument has not yet been announced.

Jack J. McNutt, Supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest, is transferring to the Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, Colorado, to fill a staff position in Recreation and Lands, now held by Wilfred S. Davis. Eldon E. Ball, Forest Supervisor of the Inyo, will transfer to the Sequoia as Supervisor to fill the vacancy created by McNutt's transfer. Wil-

fred S. Davis leaves his position in the Rocky Mountain Region and will become the new Forest Supervisor of the Inyo National Forest, Bishop, California, succeeding Eldon E. Ball. The new assignments for the above forest officials will become effective in February.

Dr. V. Aubrey Neasham, formerly Historian, Region Four, National Park Service, has been appointed Historian in the California Division of Beaches and Parks.

## Everest

The Swiss Everest Expedition was reported on December 31 as having returned to Geneva. According to latest reports the highest point reached was about 26,600 feet on November 20 by Lambert, Reiss and Tensing. Limiting factors were the shortage of daylight, which permitted climbing only three hours a day; 70-mile-an-hour winds and temperatures down to 30 or 40 below zero; and the difficulty of striking a proper balance between acclimatization and oxygen intake.

The British have received permission from the Nepalese government to send an expedition to Everest the spring of 1953. Colonel H. J. C. Hunt will be leader of a party of twelve, with four in reserve, which plans to leave England in February.

—From *American Alpine Club News*

## Wirth to Address Club

President Harold E. Crowe has announced that Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, has accepted the invitation to be principal speaker at the Annual Banquet in May. Details will follow.