

To: Executive Committtee, Mother Lode Chapter

From: Yamagata Appeal Committee  
Kent Gill, Sharon Hansen, Jim Moose

Re: Appeal of Outings Guidelines Committee Decision

Background:

In a letter dated March 13, 1987, Pete Yamagata appealed the decision of the Outings Guidelines Committee to eliminate the Climbing-Knapsack section, of which he had been chair for a number of years. At the May excomm meeting, the formation of an ad hoc committee to hear the appeal was ordered. Chair Lamare appointed the group listed on this memo to hear the matter, which hearing was held on the evening of May 26 at the chapter office. Both the appellant and Terry Wenner and Debbie Bulger, representing the OGC, were heard.

Jurisdictional Statement:

The appeals committee assumes that the OGC has been delegated the organization and administration of the chapter's outings program, being asked to provide a variety of outings activities to accommodate the outings interests of the membership. We further assumed that the OGC was expected to organize these activities in an efficient manner that would guarantee the safety and welfare of the participants and respond to the environmental interests of the Sierra Club.

Findings:

Wenner, reporting for the OGC, described a February meeting, the agenda of which was to review the various outings sections as to mission, leadership, and level of activity. Yamagata was not present due to illness. After the review of all sections, Wenner recommended and the committee approved by a vote of 8 to 1 a motion to eliminate the climbing-knapsack section. Their decision was based on the lack of a clearly-defined mission in an area of special activity that was not covered by other existing sections (peaks and gorge, winter sports, rockclimbing, and knapsack sections) and on the fact that the section appeared to be largely a single-leader section with no clear program of developing further leadership.

Wenner and Bulger emphasized the importance of section leaders exercising quality control over outings through reviewing trip write-ups and selecting those to be scheduled, supervision of trip leader conduct, and evaluation of performance. Criteria for this administrative oversight include safety, enjoyment, sensitivity to trip participants' needs and wishes, and judgment.