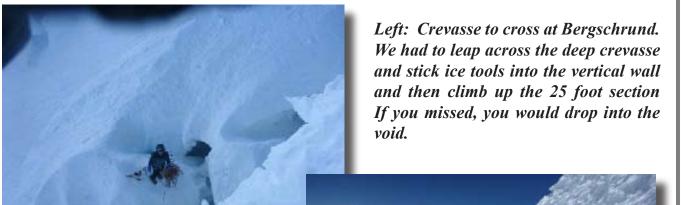
## The Sierra ECHO

The SPS Management Committee is delighted to announce that Scott Swaney and Aysel Gezik, two local climbers and friends of several SPS members, have agreed to give a presentation for our *2011 SPS Banquet* of their trip to the *Cordillera Blanca, Peru*, this past summer. They climbed a number of challenging peaks, including Alpamayo (19,511'), Chopicalqui (20,846') and Tocllaraju (19,790'). See below teaser and enclosed banquet flyer.





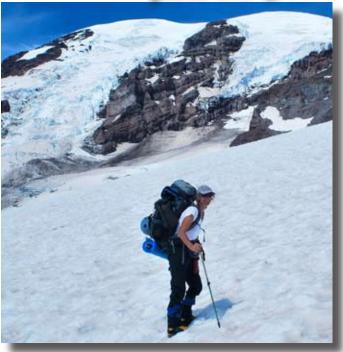
Above: The French Direct that we did on Alpamayo, from Summitpost.bmp

Above: Scott in upper chute of French Direct route at the 19,000 level with 20,000 foot Santa Cruz Peak in background



## VOLUME 55 | NUMBER 1 | JANUARY - MARCH 2011

ECHOS from the Chair



Heading up to Mt. Rainier

#### by Kathy Rich

Fall is upon us and the recent storm brought snow to the local mountains and to the Sierra. Some of us will venture out to play in the white stuff and to practice our snow skills, while others will wait until Springtime again reaches the Sierra. Please submit your trip ideas for Spring and Summer to the Outings Leaders, Barbee and Larry Tidball by mid-February in order for them to be published in the next Echo. Once trips have been given the appropriate approvals, they can also be posted directly onto the SPS website at any time. This includes provisional lead trips.

Several members earned SPS emblems over the summer: Corinne Livingston completed the SPS list on Starr King on October 2<sup>nd</sup> (a flash thunderstorm not withstanding), Paul Garry earned both his Senior Emblem and Geographical Emblem, and Shane Smith and Kathy Rich completed their Emblems. Nile Sorenson was awarded Senior Emblem status (completed Sept, 2008). In addition, although he is not an SPS member, Bob Burd completed dayhiking the SPS list on Table Mountain (a mere 40-mile jaunt). Congratulations all! SPS members close to finishing the list include Greg

Gerlach, John Hooper and Louise Wholey – hopefully we can look forward to some list finish celebrations in 2011

The Angeles Chapter will celebrate its Centennial in 2011. We encourage you to name an outing or two in honor of this historic event. Angeles Chapter can boast of being the oldest and largest Sierra Club chapter; with several thousand activities scheduled annually, it is the world's largest outings organization. It was the first to build its own lodge (Muir Lodge-1913) and to have specialized activity groups. With the limited transportation at the time, in 1911 Southern California was considered to be a hiker's paradise.

On a more modern note, the SPS Management Committee recently discussed the idea of SPS establishing an online presence (such as on Facebook). Greg Mason volunteered to be the contact person for ideas/suggestions. Please send your ideas to Greg (outreach@sierrapeaks.org).

A vote to the membership regarding a change to the Bylaws Section 1.4 (requirements to become a SPS member - climbing 2 SPS peaks on an SPS trip versus any other Sierra Club outing such as WTC, PCS, Wild Adv trip etc) will be on the December ballot. This mailing will also include the candidates for next year's SPS Management Committee. Please try to vote!

The first major event for 2010 will be the SPS Banquet, which will take place on Saturday, January 29th at Taix Restaurant. Scott Swaney and Aysel Gezik, accomplished local mountaineers, will be the featured speakers. They will tell us about their recent trip to the Cordillera Blanca, Peru, where they climbed a number of challenging peaks, including Alpamayo (19,511'), Chopicalqui (20,846') and Tocllaraju (19,790'), and attempted several others.

Many thanks to our hardworking Management Committee for 2010: Henry Arnebold, Greg Mason, Alexander Smirnoff and Mary Jo Dungfelder. In addition I'd like to give a special acknowledgement and thanks to a number of others who donate their time to complete essential tasks for the Section: Sara Danta (Echo editor), Barbee and Larry Tidball (Outings), Ron Hudson (Webmaster), Dan Richter (Archives), Patty Kline (Programs), and Beth Epstein (Mailer).

Best wishes for the holidays, Kathy

## New Members and Accomplishments!

**List Finisher!** Corrine Livingston

**Emblem** Shane Smith

New Member Fred Schwarzenbach

New Member John Hooper



Mary Jo Dungfelder Secretary Sierra Peaks Section

#### **MEETING INFORMATION**

The SPS Management Committee will hold meetings every quarter at a location to be determined. Please contact SPS Chair Kathy Rich at kathrynarich@gmail.com for meeting times, date and place.

### SPS List Serve

You can find the information you need as a subscriber by checking out our listserv support site. Go to this address to enroll for the SPS E-mail list service: http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/listserver.htm.

#### REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this email address (newsletter@sierrapeaks.org) for any issues with hardcopy or email version distribution.

#### FROM THE EDITOR

The Sierra Echo is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to **Sara Danta**, **Editor**, **The Sierra Echo**, preferably via email at **s\_wyrens@yahoo.com**. Mailing address is 9741 Reseda Blvd., Unit 46, Northridge, CA 91324. The Echo will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link to all SPS members opting for this method.

#### SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

#### **Management Committee Meeting Minutes**

#### Monday, November 15th, 2010, at the home of Kathy Rich

Call to order: 7:20pm. Members present - Kathy Rich, Alexander Smirnoff, Greg Mason, Mary Jo Dungfelder. Guests – Ron Hudson (webmaster). August minutes were previously approved via email & posted in Vol 54 Issue #4 of the Echo.

- 1. Chair's report Kathy reported that:
- Kathy received two emails from SPS members regarding the location of the banquet and potential speakers. Henry Arnebold will be contacted to investigate other venues before submitting our deposit for this year. It was suggested we look at the Proud Bird as a possible location.
- SPS Vice Chair Alexander Smirnoff attended the Chapter Outings day at Eaton Canyon on November 6th. He reported the need to recruit more young people to the Sierra Club and to our Section as well.
- There was a discussion regarding giving recognition as list finishers to non-SPS members. No action was taken at this time
- 2. Treasurer's Report Henry Arnebold submitted the 3rd Quarter, 2010 report. Checking account balance: \$4,071.63; savings account balance: \$4,996.65.
- 3. Sierra Echo Report the next Echo deadline is November 23rd.
- 4. Outings Report -3 trips for next Spring have been submitted for the next schedule, waiting for MOC approval.
- 5. Mountain Records Report none
- 6. Archivist Report none

**Checking Account** 

7. New Business

- Nominations are being accepted for next year's SPS Management Committee. Patty Kline is spearheading the effort to seek interested parties into running for office. Ballot will go out in the December mailing along with membership renewal forms and a banquet flyer.
- Speakers at the January SPS Banquet will be Aysel Gezik and Scott Swaney. They are local climbers and will be sharing their experiences from their recent trip to the Cordillera Blanca, Peru.
- Discussion regarding SPS establishing an online presence (such as on Facebook) Greg Mason volunteered to be the contact person for ideas/suggestions.
- Dan Richter and Pat McKuskey will run the 3rd and 4th AMP courses in the Spring and Fall, 2011. Announcements will be posted in the Echo.
- 8. Old Business
- A vote to the membership regarding a change to the Bylaws Section 1.4, requirements to become a SPS member - climbing 2 SPS peaks on an SPS trip versus any other Sierra Club outing such as WTC, PCS, Wild Adv trip etc. will be on the December ballot.
- Greg Mason will talk to an Orange County Group on January 11, 2011 about the SPS. He plans to prepare a video and/or slide presentation. Any interested volunteers in helping Greg put this together should contact him at outreach@sierrapeaks.org and offer their services.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

## SPS Treasurer's Report 3rd Quarter September 30, 2010

Income	<u>Expenditures</u>
Echo25.00	Postage136.87
	Printing <u>171.14</u>
	\$ 308.01
Balance on 6/30/104,046.63	
Income25.00	Savings Account
4,071.63	_ Balance on 6/30/10 4,990.72
Expenditures 308.01	July interest2.12
\$ 3,763.62	August interest2.02
	September interest <u>1.79</u>
	\$ 4,996.65

### Passages

Taken in part from L.A. Times, October 24, 2010

## **N. Paul Kenworthy Jr.** Perhaps SPS's most famous member, dies at age 85

He co-invented the Snorkel Camera System and produced captivating wildlife footage that was featured in Disney's Oscar-winning True-Life Adventure films 'The Living Desert' & 'The Vanishing Prairie.'

Walt Disney's brother, Roy, once recalled that Kenworthy "practically lived down in the desert, like a desert rat, many months, in his little hut with cameras all set up, photographing tarantulas and lizards and desert flowers blooming. And we got the most wonderful bunch of material."







Sawtooth Mtns



**Grand Tetons** 

#### September 18, 1921

#### George Edward Toby

August 2, 2010

by Mary Motheral, Sept. 2010

The Angeles Chapter lost an enthu-**I** siastic mountaineer with George Toby's passing on August 2, 2010. George was born in Detroit, Michigan, on September 18, 1921. George, his wife Evie, and young son, Tom, eventually moved to Southern California. Early on, Tom, George's son, convinced George to join the Sierra Club and take up hiking. Tom was George's sponsor in getting him into easy hiking and ultimately serious climbing. An accomplished climber and E rated leader, George received an Outings Award in 1981. He led for the SPS and DPS, finishing the peaks list for both sections. George's SPS List Finish on Alta Peak in 1992 was made memorable when his good friend, Wayne Wurzburger, presented him with a vanity license frame reading, "71 (George's age) + 247 (# of peaks on the list) = amazing feet (feat)."

Besides climbing, George was passionate about airplanes. He graduated top of his class from Cass Tech High School in 1940, specializing in high school aeronautics. A year later,

he and his brothers bought their first airplane, and George got his pilot's license. After a stint in the Navy, George worked in aerospace at North American Aviation and then Litton until his retirement. He designed smaller models that were exact replicas of the large airplanes. When visiting the Smithsonian Institute, George exclaimed, "There's one of the model planes I designed and built." Sure enough, it was not a copy, but the actual airplane model.

Travel, another passion, followed retirement. Friends remember George's annual Christmas parties where he presented slide shows of the year's destinations.

A devoutly religious man, George was a lector at St. Mel's Catholic Church, a volunteer position of which he was very proud.

George is survived by his son, Tom, and relatives in both Michigan and California. The family is grateful to his caretaker, Deli, who enriched George's life during the past three



Taken on Smith Mtn.-Bald Mtn.-Sirretta Peak SPS scheduled trip Sept 10-12, 1999 by J. Keating

years as he returned to his Reseda condo enjoying dinner parties with old friends.

Friends remember George "Toby," for his optimism and profound appreciation of life. He left no stones unturned in a great climbing career, traveling to the four corners of the world, and touching the lives of many friends and acquaintances.

## News

## FRANCIS FARQUHAR AWARD TO GREG VERNON

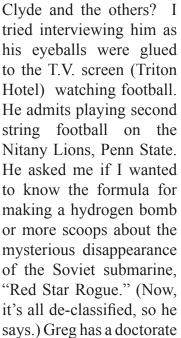
Tt was with great excitement and anticipation that Loug Mantle, Tina and Tom Bowman, and I, Mary Mac, flew, drove, and landed in San Francisco's Chinatown to honor long-time friend, Greg

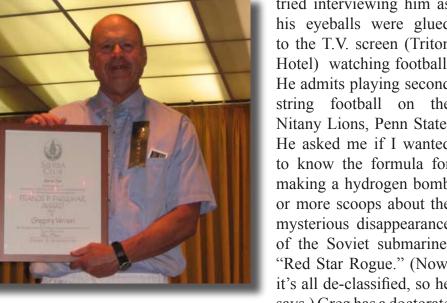
Vernon, as he received the coveted Francis Farguhar Award for excellence in mountaineering. It was September exactly 25 and there we were hobknobbing with national Sierra Club members and staff (ironically, their headquarters is located on Bush Avenue in San Francisco). waiting Greg's moment in the spotlight. Greg (known Gregie Boy) sporting a full leg brace, as he recuperated from the

disintegration of knee cap ligaments on Mt. Ritter, earlier in the summer

After eating fine Chinese food (hey, we WERE in Chinatown), we waited eagerly for Greg to be called to the podium. Doug Mantle, the star-maker, was instrumental in submitting Greg's name for the award including Greg's impressive resume. Now, if one looks at past recipients of the Francis Farquhar Award beginning in 1970 with Norman Clyde and Allen Steck, one will behold some mighty names. Greg is in good company with Norman, Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, Galen Rowell, John and Ruth Mendenhall, Sam Fink, Arlene Blum, Steve Roper, Doug Mantle and Randy Danta. The last few years, we saw Andy Smatko, Barbara Lilley, and Gerry Roach as the latest awardees. Quite the climbing club, I'd say.

So, how does Gregie fit in with the likes of Norman





in Physical Chemistry which ultimately led him to China Lake and High Explosives, but I steered him back into his mountaineering career. Sure, he's finished the DPS List 2x and ten peaks away from 3x. He's a two time Sierra Peaks' List Finisher and closing in on number three. And he once held the record for climbing 82 Sierra peaks in one season. He may also be a record holder for getting all his Sierra peaks within four climbing seasons.

Truly impressive, but there has to be more. Oh yes, he has over 250 first ascents on Sierra rock climbing routes (he calls these plums ) and he's published three rock climbing books on Sequoia/ King's Canyon, the Needles, and Domelands. These sought after books carry forwards by climbing legends Fred Beckey and Allen Steck, and feature rock climbing in the Southern and Western Sierras, an area of 300 miles long and 40 miles wide. I'm sure the Sierra Club was looking for Sierra Club service: Greg taught BMTC with Cuno Ranschau, rock climbing classes for RCS when RCS was the primo rock climbing organization, five years with China Lake Search and Rescue, and had time to lead several outings for DPS and SPS over the past three decades. I think this list more than qualifies the old boy.

I've had the privilege of being a good friend with Gregie since 1979, and I won't forget his first SPS List Finisher on the Hermit, appropriate for the Lone Yeti. He and Don Sparks stuffed me into the crack on the Hermit urging me on to remove the stuck register box. I stood on Greg's broad shoulders for the summit block not knowing what an illustrious career was ahead of our friend. He carried 80 pound backpacks as did Norman Clyde with lots of goodies such as cocky leeky soup and other exotic fare. Greg has done most of his peaks solo, and fortunately when the ligaments blew on Ritter leaving him knee-capless, there were friends with a cell phone who got him down the interminable snowcups. One who disappears

solo into the far reaches of remote Nevada peaks, Gregie had timing working for him. We would have hated attending a banquet for a posthumous award, for sure.

Besides rock climbing and peak bagging, Gregie plays bridge and is a Gold Life Master which means he's in the top 3% of bridge players in the world.

Thanks to Doug Mantle who did all the paperwork and pursued the bureaucracy in giving recognition to Greg. Like E.F. Hutton, when Dougie speaks, everyone listens. After a great gala (and a long banquet with many awards), we returned to the Triton Hotel where two mini bottles of champagne were chilling for our new Francis Farquhar Awardee. Greg rested on his laurels and continued to watch football well into the wee hours. Now this newest recipient sits in the throne room of Valhalla with the very best and most heroic of Sierra Club mountaineers. Congratulations to one well deserving friend. Gregie Boy, you've made us proud!

Mary McMannes, Roving Reporter September 2010



Doug Mantle & Greg



Mary Mac and Greg

## **Eco News**

## Proposition 23 defeated by voters!

**Proposition 23**, which would have suspended AB 32, the "Global Warming Act of 2006", was on the November 2, 2010 ballot in California as an initiated state statute. AB 32, the "Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006", was passed by the California State Legislature and signed by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Proposition 23, if enacted by voters, would have frozen the provisions of AB 32 until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or below for four consecutive quarters. California's unemployment rate, which currently hovers around 12%, has been at 5.5% or below for four consecutive quarters just three times since 1980.



SPS member Tom Bowman on Fox news advocating for a defeat on Prop 23.

#### News of Rick Jali from Patty Kline

Twas sorry to hear that Rick Jali is in an assisted Iliving apartment in Bishop. Rick was Chair of the SPS in 1966 and an active E leader of the SPS for many years. When he retired years ago, he moved to Mammoth, where he could ski all winter and be close to the Sierra. His friends, Barbara and Fred Richter helped him move from Mammoth to Bishop in May of 2010. I have led at least one leisure SPS trip with him from 2001 through 2006. He has also been a welcome participant of many of my trips in the past decade. Rick was always a great addition to our happy hours. I'll never forget the year he won first prize in our joke contest. It was the dead pan delivery that made his jokes so funny. Nowadays you will find him going on small group day trips sponsored by his apartment.

JoeWankum and I visited him in Sterling Heights, his apartment in Bishop, last August after Joe and I led an SPS outing. Rick loved seeing us. He has Alzheimer's disease now. For any of you who are in the Bishop area, he would enjoy seeing you. His long term memory is fine, but you might have to remind him who you are. Also, if you can't see him in person, he would love a letter.

## **Other News**



Photo of Rick taken by Barbara Richter 5-2-10 at the Yodeler Restaurant after skiing. at Mammoth Mountain.

Rick's address:

Rick Jali,

Care of: Sterling Heights 369 East Pine St, Apt 210

Bishop, CA 93514 Phone: 760-258-1100



## Wilderness Travel Course (WTC)

For over 20 years, this very popular Sierra Club course has been teaching basic wilderness travel skills including mountain, desert and snow hiking/camping. The Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) includes navigation instruction using topographical maps and compass, 3rd class rock scrambling techniques, how to choose equipment, backpacking food and nutrition, snow travel, wilderness safety and lots more. The course includes ten evening classes, two full day and two weekend outings. Following the ten sessions and four outings, WTC instructor offer course participants a choice of dozens of backpack experience trips in the Sierra Nevada and local mountains.

Enroll early to assure a place as each year the course has a waiting list. See the Wilderness Travel Course website for more information. Classes are located in West Los Angeles, South Bay, San Gabriel Valley, and Orange County http://wildernesstravelcourse.org

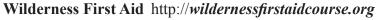


## Leadership Training Committee 2011 Schedule of Activities

#### **Leadership Training Program Seminar**

Apr 2 Spring LTC Seminar - Costa Mesa

Steve Botan



Apr 15-17 Steve Schuster

#### **Navigation Practices and Checkouts**

Dec 11	I Beginning Navigation Clinic - not a Checkoff	Diane Dunbar
Dec 12	I/M/E Warren Pt. Navigaiton Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Jan 8-9	I/M/E Warren Pt. Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Feb 12	I/M Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on snow shoes	Adrienne Benedict
Apr 2-3	I/M Mojave National Preserve Practice	Virgil Shields
Apr 16	MR Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain	Robert Myers
Apr 16-17	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Checkoff Practice	Robert Myers
May 14	I Beginning Navigation Clinic - not a Checkoff	Diane Dunbar
June 5	I/M Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Aug 7	I/M Mt. Pinos Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers

### Rock Practices and Checkouts

Apr 3	E/MR Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff	Ron Hudson
Apr 20	Workshop Advanced Mountaineering Program - Safety	Dan Richter
Apr 23	Workshop Advanced Mountaineering Program - Belaying	Dan Richter
Apr 30	Workshop Advanced Mountaineering Program - Rappelling	Dan Richter
May 7-8	Workshop Advanced Mountaineering Program - Anchors	Dan Richter

Various Dates M/E P Vertical Adventures

(This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for rock checkoffs.) http://www.verticaladventures.com/

#### **Snow Practices and Checkouts**

Jan 22	M/E Local Snow Practice	N. Sorenson
Feb 12	M/E Local Snow Practice	N. Sorenson
Apr 23-24	M/ER Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice	N. Sorenson
May 7	M/ER Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice	T. Bowman

Snow travel, avalanche, and related training - Kurt Wedberg's Sierra Mountaineering International (This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for snow checkoffs.) http://sierramountaineering.com

#### **Environmental Awareness**

Look at the Chapter's Schedule of Activities for outings sponsored by the Natural Science and check out the LTC website which has a calendar of events & info about train ing not offered by the Sierra Club: http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/









#### Advanced Mountaineering Program

### **Rock climbing skills**

### certificate course

Over the weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, at Indian Cove in Joshua Tree, Pat McKusky and I completed AMP2, our second rock-climbing skills course. We had an overflow group of twenty-five participants and up to fifteen leaders and helpers at each of the five classes. Even with the large group we had to turn away a lot of applicants. For both courses we have had an enthusiastic group of students, leaders, and helpers.

Because of the popularity of the course we have added a spring session so we will be doing two courses a year from now on.

Safety is at the core of the AMP courses. After years of leading restricted outings, and as a past LTC Rock Chair and LTC Chair, I felt that we needed to provide our leaders and participants an overview course of current rock climbing techniques and standards. To climb safely there is a lot to know, and with more and more people climbing, we need to keep our people current. There also have been a lot of the people who go through the WTC classes each year that want to be able to go on to more advanced rock climbing skills. The classes are open to any member of the Sierra Club who has had some previous rock climbing experience using ropes.

The course starts with a four hour orientation class which is given indoors in the evening where we discuss the basic safety systems of rock climbing. This is followed by two eight hour classes on consecutive Saturdays at Stoney Point in Chatsworth. The first class at Stoney is on belaying and the second on rapelling. The fourth and fifth classes take place the following weekend at Indian cove. On the Saturday we cover anchors and on the Sunday students build their own anchors and practice climbing techniques. From the first class at Stoney Point ropes are put up and the students climb all through the course.

While we teach what is expected of potential leaders in the M and E checkoffs, that is not our empasis. We want to produce safer climbers and to that end we expose the students to a broad spectrum of modern techniques and skills. From the enthiusiastic reponses we have been getting I think we are accomplishing that. Students get a broad enough exposure that they can confidently go on to learn more if they choose to. Five of last years students successfully completed the SCMA Basic Rock Climbing Safety Skills Course and are doing multi-pitch climbing.

If you need to hone your rock-climbing skills or you are an experienced leader who wants to help, come on out and join us.

Dan Richter



## The Sierra Sampler List

Listed below, by region, are the 100 peaks that comprise the Sierra Sampler. While no mountain in the Sierra can be climbed without time, effort, and risk, these peaks represent a sub-set of the full SPS List that are relatively easy to get to, pose less danger than others on the List, are fun to climb and/or hold other qualities, and are drawn from the main areas of the range. The Sampler, which has been approved by the SPS Management Committee, thus provides a good introduction to the Sierra for climbers of varying degrees of experience and ability. Enjoy! Darrick Danta

## 1. SOUTHERN SIERRA-5

Owens Peak Lamont Peak Sawtooth Peak (S) Rockhouse Peak Sirretta Peak

## 5. WHITNEY TO WILLIAMSON-4

Mount Young Mount Hale Mount Carillon \*\*MT WILLIAMSON

## 9. KEARSARGE PASS VICINITY-6

\*University Peak Independence Peak Mount Gould Mount Rixford Mount Bago Mount Cotter

## 13. MT GODDARD VICINITY-2

Giraud Peak
\*\*MOUNT GODDARD

## 17. BEAR CREEK SPIRE AREA-3

Royce Peak Mount Julius Caesar Recess Peak

## 21. MT LYELL AND NORTH-4

Vogelsang Peak
\*\*MOUNT LYELL
Koip Peak
Mount Dana

#### 2. MINERAL KING AND KERN RIVER-4

Kern Peak Vandever Mountain Florence Peak Sawtooth Peak (N)

### 6. KAWEAHS AND WEST-5

Alta Peak Mount Silliman Eagle Scout Peak Mount Stewart \*\*MOUNT KAWEAH

#### 10. BAXTER PASS TO TABOOSE PASS-3

Colosseum Mountain Striped Mountain Cardinal Mountain

## 14. NORTH PALIADES-3

Mount Agassiz Mount Goode Cloudripper

#### 18. MONO CREEK TO MAMMOTH-5

Silver Peak \*Red Slate Mountain Mount Stanford (N) Mount Baldwin \*Mount Morrison

## **22. TIOGA PASS TO BOND PASS-6**

Mount Conness North Peak Excelsior Mountain Dunderberg Peak \*\*MATTERHORN PK \*Tower Peak

#### 3. OLANCHA TO LANGLEY & WEST-4

\*\* OLANCHA PEAK Muah Mountain Cirque Peak Mount Langley

## 7. GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE-2

South Guard
\*\* MOUNT BREWER

#### 11. WESTERN MID-SIERRA-5

\*Mount Ruskin Kennedy Mountain Mount Harrington \*Tehipite Dome Three Sisters

## 15. EVOLUTION AREA-3

Mount Thompson Point Powell Mount Lamarck

#### 19. RITTER RANGE AND VICINITY-3

\*\*MOUNT RITTER Banner Peak San Joaquin Mountain

### 23. BOND PASS TO LAKE TAHOE-7

Leavitt Peak Stanislaus Peak Highland Peak Round Top Freel Peak Pyramid Peak (N) Mount Tallac

## 4. CORCORAN TO WHITNEY-5

Mount Mallory
Mount Irvine
\*\*MOUNT WHITNEY
Thor Peak
Lone Pine Peak

## 8. KINGS KERN DIVIDE-2

\*Mount Ericsson Center Peak

## 12. SOUTH PALI SADES-4

\*\*SPLIT MOUNTAIN Birch Mountain The Thumb \*Middle Palisade

#### 16. HUMPHREYS BASIN AND WEST-4

Four Gables Mount Tom \*Seven Gables Mount Senger

#### 20. CLARK RANGE AND VICINITY-4

Merced Peak Red Peak Half Dome Clouds Rest

## 24. NORTHERN SIERRA-7

Granite Chief Tinker Knob Castle Peak Mount Rose Mount Lola Sierra Buttes Mount Elwell

## The Sierra Peaks Section maintains a website at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps.

LTC, WTC, HPS **Dec 11 | Sat** 

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day oneon-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many Irated leaders started here. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD **BOARDMAN** 

Dec 12 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Warren Pt Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 8 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Warren Pt (5103'): Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 6 mile rt, 1300' gain hike in the pinyon pine & juniper region of western Joshua Tree NP. We will take a x-country route to Warren Pt & practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldrs: ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS, JANE SIMPSON

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS Jan 9 | Sun

I: Warren Pt Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree NP for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROB-ERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 22 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS

M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send sase or email with SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone to Ldr: NILE SORENSON. Co-ldr: TOM **MCDONNELL** 

Feb 12 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS

M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, & snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send sase or email with SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone to Ldr: NILE SORENSON. Co-ldr: DOUG MANTLE

WTC, LTC, HPS Feb 21 | Mon

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes: Ever wonder it what is was like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a crosscountry route to Mt. Pinos (8831'). 4 mi rt, 700' gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: : ROBERT MYERS, Assistant: ADRIENNE BENEDICT

Mar 19 | Sat LTC

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 2 seminar to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. Next seminar: Fall 2011.

Contact: STEVE BOTAN

LTC

Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. For info, see LTC schedule. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 19. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2011. Contact: STEVE BOTAN

#### Apr 2-3 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

MR: Mt. Morgan (S) (13,748') Climb Mt. Morgan via Francis Lake, 17 mile rt, 4,800' gain. Sat: backpack from Rock Creek Sno-Park to Francis Lake. Sun: climb snow and rock to summit and back to camp, then out to cars. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Ice axe, crampons, helmet, harness and possibly snowshoes required. Send SC#, climbing resume and conditioning via email to: Ldr: REGGE BULMAN, Asst: GERARD LEWIS.

#### Apr 2-3 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, DPS, Desert Com

I: Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our ninth annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. A basic to intermediate xc navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pinyon and juniper forests at 5500' elevation. Potluck and social on Sat, and for those arriving early on Fri. Limited to 14 participants. Send email/sase to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS, Co-Ldrs: VIRGIL SHIELDS, ANN SHIELDS, ADRIENNE BENEDICT.

#### Apr 3 | Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

E/MR: Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies-include SC# on form), address and phone to: Ldr: RON HUDSON Co-ldrs: GREG MASON, DAN RICHTER, PAT MCKUSKY

C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$210 (full refund through March 11). For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

#### Apr 16 | Sat LTC, WTC

MR: Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS, Co-Ldr: JACK KIEFFER

Apr 16-17 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ld: ROBERT MYERS, Asst: PHIL WHEELER

#### Apr 20 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Basic Safety System: First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

#### Apr 22-24 | Fri-Sun SPS

MR: Birch Mtn (13,602'), The Thumb (13,356'): Join us for an early spring snow climb of two peaks near Big Pine. Fri backpack to Birch Lake, 5 mi, 4500' gain. Sat climb the NW slope of Birch, and the SE slope

of The Thumb, 5.5 mi, 4500' of gain. Sun backpack to cars. Comfort and experience climbing snow with ice axe and crampons required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email or sase w/resume, conditioning, carpool info, Sierra Club number and medical form to Ldr: GARY SCHENK. Asst: TINA BOWMAN

#### Apr 23 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Belaying: 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

#### Apr 23-24 | Sat -Sun LTC, SPS, DPS

M/ER: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: NILE SORENSON Coldr: DOUG MANTLE.

#### Apr 30 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rappelling: 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

# May 7 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS M/ER: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Coldr: TOM MCDONNELL

May 7-8 | Sat - Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors: 4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

#### May 14 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

May 14-15 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS, PVSB M: Smith Mountain (9533'), Crag Peak (9420') and Jackass Peak (9277'): Get some introductory Mlevel climbing in the Kennedy Meadows area of the Southern Sierra. Sat backpack from Hooker Meadows Trailhead to Albanita Meadows, 5 mi, 1300'. We'll pitch tents; then continue 4 mi rt, 1500' gain to Smith Mtn and Jackass Peak. Happy hour/potluck follows at camp. Sun climb 7 mi rt and 1800' gain to Crag Peak, then pack gear and hike the 5 mi back to cars. Comfort on easy 3rd class required, WTC students welcome. Send esase (preferable – bholchin@cox.net) or 2 sase, recent experience and conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: BARRY HOLCHIN. Co Ldr: ERIC **SCHEIDEMANTLE** 

May 21-22 | Sat-Sun SPS, WTC MR: Excelsior Mtn (12,446'), Dunderberg Peak (12,374'). Two moderate snow- (we hope) climbs, 3-6 mi rt, approx 3000' gain each. Ice axe, crampon experience required. Carcamp and Happy Hour, probably at Trumbull Lake. Send resume w/experience, training, to Leader: ASHER WAXMAN. Co-leader: DAN RICHTER.

June 4 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS I: Heart Bar Peak (8332'): Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mile rt, 1400' gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ld: ROBERT MYERS, Co-Ldrs: JANE SIMPSON, ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS

June 5 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS, Asst: PHIL WHEELER

#### Jun 10-12 | Fri-Sun

SPS

MR: Mt. Darwin(13831'), Mt. Mendel(13710'), Mt. Lamarck(13417'): Fri backpack 6 mi, mostly xc, 3600' gain to camp at Lamarck Col. Quick side trip to bag Lamarck. Sat travel 4 mi xc, 3700' gain to Darwin & Mendel then back to camp. Sun pack out. These are snow and rock climbs requiring Sierra Club membership, experience with ice axe and crampons, waiver and medical questionnaire. Send 2 esase or 2 sase, resume, recent experience & conditioning, phone to Ldr: ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE. Asst: REGGE BULMAN.

July 16-17 | Sat-Sun WTC,SPS

I/Mt Agassiz (13,893') From South Lake trailhead, backpack to Bishop Lake (4 mi 1600' gain) and set up camp followed by an afternoon happy hour. Sunday we'll climb Mt. Agassiz via class 2 route (4 mi RT 2650 gain) then pack out. Please send ESASE/SASE with recent experience and conditioning info to Ldr: BOB DRANEY. Co-ldr: JOE SPEIGL.

July 22-24 | Fri-Sun SPS, WTC M: Mt. Sill (14,153') Fri rugged cross-country backpack 5 mi, 3500' gain from Glacier Lodge to camp near Elinore Lake. Sat climb Sill via SW slope, 3 mi, 3200' gain. Sun out. Happy hour both nights. Recent 3rd class rock experience, helmet, medical form required; restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and climbing resume, rideshare info and \$5 check for permit fee to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Co-Ldr: JACK KIEFFER.

Jul 31-Aug 6 | Sun-Sat Mule Pack, SPS, WTC O/I: Soldier Lakes Mule Pack, Joe Devel Peak (13,327'), Mt Pickering (13,474'), Mt Newcomb (13,422'), Mt Chamberlin (13,169'): This trip is designed for strong hikers who want to do mainly crosscountry routes and bag peaks. Start from Cottonwood Pack Station at Horseshoe Meadow (9,900') and hike 10 miles over Cottonwood Pass at 11,128' and finish at Soldier Lakes at 10,400'. The lakes are located NW of New Army Pass from which Mt Langley and Cirque Peak are accessible. Joe Devel Peak, Mt Pickering, Mt Newcomb, and Mt Chamberlin are accessible from the campsite. Then there are the lakes to explore: Erin Lake is a nice cross-country hike and Sky Blue Lake and Iridescent Lake sound irresistible. Many streams, lakes, a few trails, and many cross country options in area. Mon-Fri hike, climb peaks, photo, fish, or relax in camp. Enjoy nightly organized potlucks with wine provided. Sat hike out. \$300. The weight limit is 50 lbs per person plus your daypack. Leaders: PETER AND SANDY LARA. Contact Sandy for reservation info. Participants selected will be asked to complete the Participant Medical Form found at http://angeles. sierraclub.org/ltc/forms.html

#### Aug 7 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

**I:** Mt. Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level.s. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: **ROBERT MYERS,** Asst: KIM HOMAN.

#### Aug 13-14 | Sat-Sun WTC/SPS

M/Mt Gayley (13,510'): Climb an SPS peak that provides a great climb to one of the best views of the Palisades. From the South Fork of Big Pine Creek travel 5.8 miles, 3900+ ft gain via trail and cross country to camp and afternoon happy hour. Sunday we'll climb Mt. Gayley via a class 3 route dubbed, The Yellow Brick Road, to gain our peak (3 mi RT 2350 gain/loss) then pack out. Send ESASE/SASE with recent experience and conditioning info to: Ldr: BOB DRANEY Co-ldr: JOE SPEIGL.

## Be Safe!

## 200th Sierra Peak SPS Emblem

## and Corrine Livingston's SPS List Finish

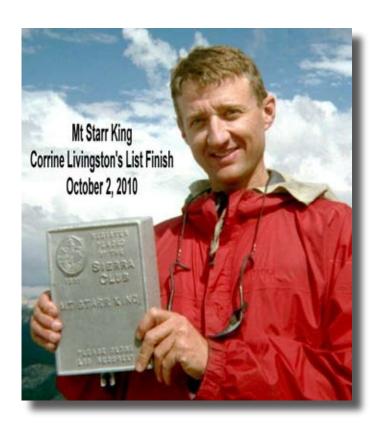
by Shane Smith

Pursuing the 248 peaks on the list is not only demanding physically and mentally but it also obviously involves a major time commitment. Any little chance I get to celebrate during the pursuit, I'm all for it!! The 2010 Sierra climbing season was exciting in that I was able to summit my 200th peak, earn my SPS Emblem (Finally!!) and celebrate the list finish of good friend and excellent climber Corrine Livingston.

#### August 23rd 2010 200th Sierra Peak - Mt Pinchot

I had been intrigued with the thought of driving up Armstrong canyon northwest of Independence for a few years. I'm all for making these already tough climbs as easy as possible and this road provided the perfect opportunity to cut out a large amount of elevation gain. The drive goes very well, albeit slow. From Scotty's Spring to the end of the road in Armstrong Canyon I had only to move a few rocks out of the way to clear passage for the drive. I was surprised to find the road in such good condition. Just be prepared to drive slow! I camped at a lovely area at the road's end near an abandoned campsite.

#### TRIP REPORT



Early the next morning I headed out and made my way to Mt Pinchot. Once on the summit, I was surprised to find a climber approaching from the south face. The climber was obviously making the traverse from nearby southern neighbor Mt Wynne. To my surprise it was our very own accomplished SPS climber Tina Bowman; working on her 3rd list finish no less!! A nice way for me to celebrate my 200th peak - with company; as which Tina was kind enough to take my photo on the summit. After a few moments of conversation, we parted ways. Tina planned to stay a few more days bagging peaks in the Taboose pass area while I was set to start my return back to Armstrong Canyon. Along the way I was able to make the traverse over to Mt Wynne, then climb Mt Perkins, and finally make it back to my vehicle just before sundown. It ended up being a long but fulfilling trip, having bagged three SPS peaks in a single day.

## September 28th SPS Emblem

I was excited to finally arrange an overnight trip to climb Mt Humphreys with SPS'er Corrine Livingston. Corrine's list finish was to be the following weekend and frequently, during the trip, we both marveled at knowing her amazing accomplishment was only days away. I was glad to set up this climb of Humphreys with her as she had previously climbed it and I wanted to take a rope to insure I could reach the summit. It turned out to be a wonderful climb and Corrine and I both enjoyed our camp at the highest of the Humphrey's Lakes. I liked the class 4 section and had fun setting the rope up with Corrine. A great peak to finally earn my SPS emblem on with my 10th emblem peak!!

#### October 2nd Corrine Livingston's SPS List Finish

I was intrigued to finally get a chance to climb Mt Starr King. I remember looking forward to climbing this peak five years earlier when I first saw it on a SPS Ron Hudson trip to the Clark range. A big group showed up at Mono Meadows trailhead to accompany Corrine on her list finish. The day was beautiful and all went well until the descent. Upon rappelling down the dome, it started to rain. The entire group got a chance to practice rappelling in the rain on a slippery dome. It was quite thrilling to say the least!! Happily back at camp, the weather cleared and we all enjoyed a very nice celebration. Congratulations Corrine!! Thank you for all the great climbs!! Do I hear a 2x list finish calling your name? ...and a special thank you to all the wonderful people I got to climb with this 2010 summer season. Hope to see you next summer!!

September 22 - 23, 2010

# Dicks and Tallac

by Tina Bowman

By the time this fall outing actually started, we'd had various changes. Mary McMannes had to drop out as assistant because of plantar fasciitis. Fortunately, Pat Arredondo, who was signed up for the trip, cheerfully agreed to assist. We went from a group of six to a group of three, Mei Kwan being the participant dutifully staying between the two leaders. Mary and I had planned a day hike of Freel after the two-day backpack, but I canceled this—I needed to get home and I didn't "need" Freel.

#### TRIP REPORT



L - R Mei Kwan and Pat Arrendondo on Dicks

On Wednesday, September 22nd, the three of us left the Glen Alpine trailhead near Fallen Leaf Lake a little after 7:00, hiking on road past cabins and the old Glen Alpine springs resort, then on the trail, joining the Pacific Crest Trail (which is also the Tahoe Rim Trail in this area), then leaving it for the final short jaunt to Gilmore Lake, where we set up

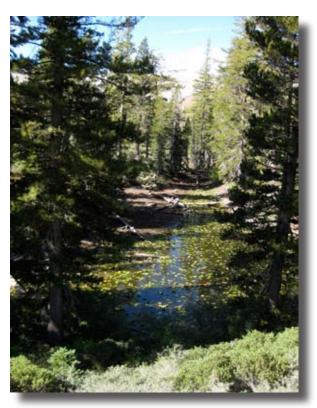
camp about 9:30. Camped nearby were members of a volunteer trail crew working on the PCT.

ff we went at 10:30, backtracking slightly and heading north on the PCT, passing the work crew, and stopping for lunch at Dicks Pass, enjoying the bold golden mantled ground squirrels, who were begging for-but not getting-handouts. Along the way we also saw explorer's gentian blooming, a larger plant with bigger flowers than the other types of gentian we typically see. We followed the obvious use trail toward the summit of Dicks, taking the ridge to the summit. Luck-

ily, the wind was fairly calm on the summit, so we could very comfortably enjoy the views of Lake Tahoe and a number of peaks on the SPS list. It was a glorious first day of autumn! On our way down, we took a use trail from a small saddle on the east ridge which took us down on the north side and eventually back to the main use trail—some fairly fast scree on this one, good for descent. We had reached the summit at 1:07, stayed twenty minutes, and were back in camp before 3:30. My Avocet showed 3785' gain for the day, and I estimate we hiked about ten miles total.



Sierra perennial called "Explorer's Gentian"



A pond full of lily pads on the Glen Alpine trail

We had a quiet afternoon and evening in camp. The trail crew had had some of their tents shredded by a bear they had seen earlier that morning. We had no trouble and kept our bear canisters a fair distance from the tents.

Mei had climbed Mt. Tallac on a previous trip, so she decided to hike back to the cars Thursday morning and hike up Mt. Rose while Pat and I hiked up the trail to Tallac (about 1.9 miles from camp to summit according to the Trails Illustrated map). We left camp just after 6:30 and were on top in an hour and fifteen minutes, staying about

twenty minutes. We could see a hot air balloon down on—literally on--Lake Tahoe. Finally the balloon got off the lake, but we didn't see the basket lift off.

We were back in camp by 9:20 and hiking back to Glen Alpine before 10:00. We enjoyed one snack break and reached the cars before noon. We hiked about eight miles for the day with 1425' gain—not bad for a morning's hike at a leisurely pace! The weather had been very fine for us, and we enjoyed the peaks. Pat and I headed off for the long drive home. Thanks, again, to Pat for assisting.



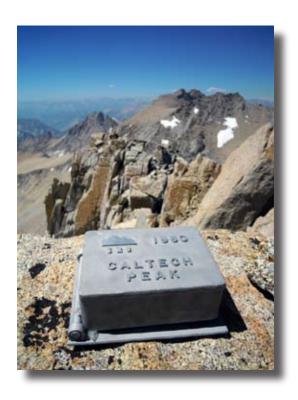
Lake Tahoe from just below the summit of Tallac with Mt. Rose in the background

#### TRIP REPORT

## Caltech Peak (13,832')

July 30-August 1, 2010

by Greg Gerlach photos by John Fisanotti



John Fisanotti and I started hiking up the Kearsarge Pass trail at 9:10 a.m. We topped out at the pass at 12:30, had lunch, then dropped down to the John Muir trail, where we made a left turn. John and I continued up to the junction of the Center Lakes Basin trail and the Muir trail, arriving around 5:00 p.m. We camped right next to the bear box and could have saved about 3 pounds in weight by leaving our personal bear box at home if we had done a better job of planning the trip.



Caltech route

The next day, Saturday, John and I started hiking at 7:35 a.m. for Caltech Peak. We headed south on the Muir Trail, arriving at 13,200' high Forester Pass at 11:00. After a short break, we descended to the base of the pass on the trail, then made our way over to the lake at (3,800 meters). John and I passed this lake and the next lake (3,820 meters) on their north sides, then followed the inlet stream of the second lake to a bench just below the upper or third lake. From the bench, we made our way up to the east ridge of the peak. John and I climbed up the east ridge and, at about 4100 meters in elevation, dropped down onto the south side of the ridge. We then made our way to the top, staying about 100" below the ridge, and reached the summit at 2:10. Even though Secor's book says that the route is class 3, we did not encounter anything harder than class 2. Also, the register was placed in 2007 by the National Park Service, is about ½ full and 7 other parties had reached the top this year. After signing the register, we descended the peak via our accent route back to the Muir Trail. John and I continued up the trail over Forester Pass and down the other side, then to our campsite, arriving at 8:00 p.m. just ahead of the descending darkness.

On Sunday, John and I started hiking out at 8:30 a.m. and were at the car at 2:30 p.m.

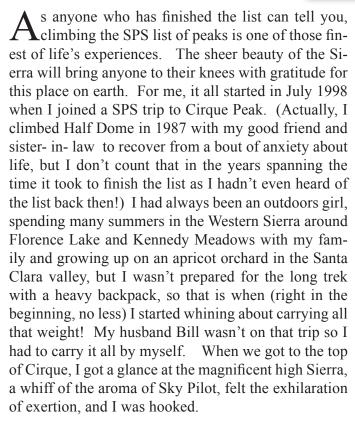
Trip statistics: 35 miles and about 10,000 feet of elevation gain.

#### List Finish Trip Report

October 2, 2010

## (Some) Fond Recollections of Climbing the List

by Corrine Livingston



My sixth SPS trip was with Tina Bowman and Doug Mantle to Mt. Henry in September 1998. I had never met them and certainly didn't know what to expect. Well, now I know, when Doug says "we're leaving at 7 am from the trailhead" he means 7 am sharp, not a minute later! I was still stuffing my pack at 7 am, but now I was the only one at the trailhead as the rest had left following Doug. Thankfully, Tina came back after a few minutes and helped me be on my way. After



many miles, I think at least ten, we found our camp. I was ready for a nice relaxing nap, believing we were going for the peak the next morning, when I heard Doug say "We're leaving in 5 minutes for the peak!" I knew he meant it and I was ready this time. We got to the top of Mt. Henry and Doug and Tina told me "Congratulations. You can join the SPS—you have climbed six SPS peaks." That was the exact moment when I knew I was going to do the whole list. We got back to camp way after dark, had a great campfire with stories and left right at 7am the next morning finishing up a 26 mile weekend jaunt. So, this was how it was going to be—death marches and suffering. I was in heaven.

We all do stupid things (don't we?) when we first get the peak bug. That first year was when I felt invincible and decided that I could do these peaks by myself if I couldn't find anyone else to go along. So, late in the season of 1998 I decided I needed one more peak and headed up for a dayhike of Olancha on October 25. I jokingly told my husband Bill, "If I'm not back by 7 pm, call the Sherriff." I didn't think anything about how long a dayhike it was (24 miles?), or listen to a weather report or even bring a topo map since it was right there off the 395 and mostly on trail-- who could miss it? Hmmm.... Well, I got there all right, but just as I was touching the summit block, I looked around and I was in a total white-out snow storm. A little alarmed I headed down (at least I knew that much), but jammed on past the PCT and got all turned around. As it was now getting dark (gee, it gets darks early in late October, doesn't it?), I did the only thing I thought was

sensible, I headed down the East Gully where I knew it would get me to the desert floor. I didn't get far before it was pitch black, but at least I got down to where it was raining and not snowing. Of course I didn't have any overnight gear since this was just a dayhike, but I had extra food (always!) and a jacket. That night was the most I was ever afraid for my life. Not only was it bone chilling cold (I had to keep digging a hole with a rock all night just to keep warm), but there were lots of scary animal sounds close by the whole night. Finally after the world's longest night, the sun lit the sky and I started down the creek bed, tumbling head over heels many times in the steep wet terrain. After one of those tumbles, I looked up and across the creek bed—there was a mountain lion on a large flat boulder starring at me licking his lips. OMG! My adrenalin kicked in and I waved my arms trying to look really big he slowly slinked away and I was saved by the grace of God. After several hours, I got down to the edge of the desert floor and tried my cell phone again—it hadn't worked earlier. Bill immediately answered, not a happy camper—but, he had called the Sherriff when I hadn't arrived home by 2 am. To make a long story short, the Kittyhawk helicopter came for me, lowered the cable with a hook for me to sit on and pulled me into the helicopter. I got a big hug from the Search and Rescue crew, who said that they were soooo glad to see me— most of the time they pick up bodies, not living souls. That was a humbling and educational experience. I claim Olancha as being my most "stupid" peak. I've learned many lessons climbing the list in the Sierra.

y first real climbing partner was Reiner Stenzel. Reiner was doing the list long before I ever knew there was a list. Reiner introduced me to backcountry skiing in the early 90's, both in the local Southern California mountains and in the Sierra. On one of those winter ski treks in the Sierra he said "Let's go climb Red & White". Sure—nothing to it, I thought. Of course, Reiner was and still is infinitely a better skier than I am and was way ahead of me skinning up the mountain. It got pretty steep at the top and I said "Enough". So, we put on our crampons, pulled out our ice ax and proceeded up. It got steeper still and I was quickly losing my courage when suddenly within 15 feet of the summit, I slipped. I had just looked down a second ago so I knew it was a good thousand feet down the steep slope to a pile of sharp rocks. Without delay, I jammed my ice ax into the snow and performed a next to perfect self arrest, even if I do say so myself. I could hardly breathe as my heart was in my throat, but I managed to climb back up and touch the elusive summit. I heard the sigh of relief from Reiner and the others on that trip that I was safe. More lessons learned-- get good training, practice self arrest (a lot) and go with strong climbers!

In April 2002, Reiner, RJ Secor, Jonathan Meager, Richard Geist, Duncan Livingston (no relation) and I skied the trans sierra on the Cirque Crest route starting at the Taboose Pass trailhead and finishing in Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon. This trip I remember as being my most emotional trip. We intended to climb Marion, State and Goat Peaks on the trip. Well, we missed Marion due to a snow storm, but we got State and Goat. BTW, the picture of RJ and me in the back of his third Edition of High Sierra Peaks is on State After climbing Goat Peak, I remember turning around on the pass, looking back over the snow covered Sierra we had just traveled and I broke down crying uncontrollably at its incredible beauty. I knew I had gone over the top when RJ and Reiner looked at each other and said "Uh- Oh, What do we do now?" The only thing I could do was to give both of them a big hug and thank them for taking me along on this unforgettable ski across the Sierra. Reiner, RJ and I went on to ski and climb many more peaks together and I cherish both of their friendships and willingness to have me tag along. I still say Clyde Minaret was my most difficult peak—maybe that was because Reiner was scrambling up so fast and I was trying to keep up with him on those icy snow- covered ledges.

Besides introducing me to back country skiing and climbing Sierra peaks in the winter, Reiner also introduced me to the famous Patty Rambert. He told me "You should get to know her; she is climbing the list and is just as enthusiastic about it as you are." So, he invited Patty, Bill and me over to his house for a small Christmas party in 2002. Patty and I clicked immediately and the very next year we started climbing peaks together and it wasn't long before we were competing (secretly sometimes!) to see who could get highest on the list by the end of each season. Everyone was quite fearful of having the both of us along on their trips as it was incessant talking and laughter as well as "enthusiasm" for getting the peak. I remember the trip to

Palisade Crest with Larry Tidball and Tom Bowman in August 2002. Larry told Patty and me that the only way "they" would take "us" is if we both promise we will not whine one bit on the trip. Naturally, we agreed to these criteria as we didn't think we whined anyway. So, Patty and I were on our best behavior, doing everything just right. Once we got the peak and were back in camp, though, the whining and laughter ramped up exponentially to make up for lost time. We had the peak now, so it didn't matter any longer. Thank you, Larry and Tom, for that great climb and for taking us along on many more after that.

Early on it dawned on my husband Bill that he better start climbing peaks or he may not see much of me for the next ten years. So I introduced him to his first Sierra peak in July 1999 on a day hike up the Meysan Lake trail to Lone Pine peak. All was well until we got to the steep, loose gully and that is when Bill became glued to the rock, so to speak, and no amount of encouragement (read: yelling) from me would get him up that peak. So, I planted him on a safe rock, scrambled up to the peak and came down to find him still plastered to that same rock. After much "discussion" and tears (mine, not his), we finally got ourselves back down to the trail and Bill swore then that he would never go again. But, we found ourselves on Mt. Goode on our honeymoon in September 1999 and I think he caught the bug too. At least for awhile.

Although Patty didn't introduce me to Ron Hudson as I had climbed Electra and Forester with him in 1999, she orchestrated many trips with Ron, Bill, me and others. One of my favorite trips with them was to the Big Arroyo. This was the trip that Patty got her Masters Emblem after climbing Mt. Kaweah. Mt. Kaweah was uneventful, but the next day we traversed over to Red Kaweah and the weather wasn't looking so good. We were within 30 feet of the summit and the thunder and lightning came. We knew it was close as we felt the hair on our heads and arms stand at attention. Somewhat foolishly, we tagged the peak and made it back down safely. Another lesson learned—don't take chances with Mother Nature or the weather, you may not be so lucky. The weather held up the next day in time for us to climb Lion Rock, but then the rain came heavy as we were hiking back to our tents. Within a few minutes, Randall Danta yelled out, "Who wants to go for Eagle Scout?" Bill and I jumped out of our tents eager to climb it in the window of good weather, but alas, Patty stayed back believing that the rain would preclude our summiting. Miraculously it didn't and the three of us got Eagle Scout and were quite pleased with ourselves. I don't think Patty ever forgave us for that! But, I believe Patty went back and got Eagle Scout the next year. Rest in peace, Patty—I'm still climbing peaks with you and recall our good times when I see your name in summit registers.

s I remember it, Patty introduced me to Daryn A Dodge in September 2004 when climbing Silver Peak with Tina Bowman. Daryn remembers it differently that he met me and John Cheslick on Tehipite Dome in October 2003. And now that I look at my list, Daryn was right—but you know, he just wasn't memorable at the time [in his defense, Daryn says there were a lot of people on that trip and I wasn't that approachable anyway]. On Silver Peak, Daryn and I both had 165 peaks, so we were neck to neck then. Patty had blasted on by me at that point, so there was no use in trying to catch her—I had another target: Daryn. And I didn't tell him for several years either that I was trying to keep ahead of him. Darvn and I went on to climb many peaks together, me carrying most of the weight on shared gear. Daryn would tell you otherwise. Daryn managed to finish the list one year ahead of me, sneaking in peaks when he knew I couldn't go with him, and securing his place in history of being number 68 to finish the list. And, you know where that left me: number 69. I guess I forgave him for that as we had a blast on his list finish in 2009 on Cirque Peak and a party afterward in Independence. Then, Daryn seriously began helping me finish the list, without whom I don't think I would have finished, or maybe not as quickly nor having as much fun. Hats off to Daryn!

Back to John Cheslick. I met John in June 1999 when he led a trip to Homers Nose. We left the Kaweah Bridge on the Mineral King road and it wasn't long before the co-leader (can't remember his name) decided to turn back as we may have been crossing some private property. Since we didn't have a co-leader, John also decided to turn back. In my invincibleness, I told the rest of the group, that I would lead the trip since I now had a GPS (my co-workers at ARCO had given me a GPS after hearing about my escapade on Olancha). No one seemed to care that I didn't yet know how to

use the GPS and they innocently followed along. It wasn't too much longer when I looked around and said to the group, "I wonder where we are." I didn't know the way at all to Homers Nose. Fortunately, John had a change of heart and came back to be our leader. The day and night were long and tortuous through a lot of off- trail hiking, but we did get the peak thanks to John. Why in the world did I ever think I knew the way? Another lesson to learn: Know how to use a map, compass and the GPS before you start out. I'm still very not good at it and tend to find my way around by the "feel" of things or following others.

John was also an advocate of hiring mules for those long backpacks. Some of the most fun trips we had were with John and "his mules". John, Bill and I had a fabulous time in August 2006 when the mules carried our gear to Crabtree Meadows campsite and we went on to climb all those beautiful high peaks in back of Whitney—8 total for the week. John's mules also took us up the High Sierra trail to Bearpaw Meadows enroute to Triple Divide peak. Unfortunately, I didn't realize that the mules weren't going to take us the remainder 4 miles to camp. I had packed hamburgers, hot dogs, cans of beans, cantaloupes and soup for the long weekend to Triple Divide peak. The mules dropped the load a bit too early and then Bill had to take up the slack. Bill was a good sport about it and went on to climb 130 peaks, but I guess I burned him out a couple of years ago when we went to Milestone Basin to clean out that area. He once again swore "Never again" and I think he means it this time.

John led a trip to Tower Peak in September 2005 and that is when I met Stephanie Gylden. She was all dressed up in a cowboy hat and boots and I knew right away that we would be the best of friends. She thought it was pretty hilarious keeping me up all night making bear sounds when I was too lazy to put up my tent after the climb and decided to sleep outside under the stars. Yes, she has a good sense of humor that gal does. Kaweah paid her back big time on the Temple Crag trip when Kaweah sauntered out from swimming in the lake below the peak, went directly over to Stephanie and covered her with freezing cold water when she was least expecting it. Stephanie later forgave Kaweah and she and I continue to hike and swim with both our doggies in the Sierra.

uring the almost twelve years of climbing the list, Bill and I got our baby Kaweah in December 2001. Kaweah, a Bernese Mountain Dog, had a quick introduction to the mountains when she was just six months old and I drug her up to the Mt. Baldy ski hut in Southern California. She played in the snow for the first time in her life and decided she didn't want to go back down. I mean—ever. Fortunately, I met up with RJ at the hut and talked him into carrying "little" Kaweah (only 40 pounds back then) down the trail. Bill and I took Kaweah on many Sierra hikes and climbs. She actually climbed 25 Sierra peaks, her most difficult one being the 26 mile weekend backpack to Black Hawk Mountain. She also has fond memories of her Sierra climbing days and I know she is dreaming about those mountains when she lets out little yelps in her My most beloved peak is Black Kaweah, which I climbed with Patty Rambert and Greg Vernon. I named Kaweah after those Kaweah peaks and left a picture of her on Black Kaweah in September 2005—is it still there? Guess I'll have to go back and find out.

I came away from climbing the list relatively unscathed, with just one broken bone and one horrible bout of giardia. Ron Hudson, Patty Rambert, Bill and I took a mid-May, 2005 trip to the Northern Sierra peaks hoping to finish off the area by climbing English Mountain, Sierra Buttes, Mt. Elwell, Adams and Mt. Rose. Weather projections were moderate, but completely wrong. It either rained or snowed for most of the trip and we could only reach Mt. Adams, which was apparently enough for me. As we were coming off the peak, with Kaweah a few steps ahead of me, I turned my ankle on a wet twig. I did hear something crack but didn't put two and two together until after getting an x-ray the next day when arriving home and finding out I had broken my fibula clear through! It was quite a painful two mile hike to the car after the bone cracking, but Ron helped me hobble along. We did have a nice dinner in Reno at the casino that night. As for the giardia, that came from drinking the water in Vogelsang Lake in September 2003. The lake was so clear and it was so hot and I had no water, so I succumbed to the temptation. Never again, though, as I was laid up for almost a week before Bill took me to the emergency ward upon which they immediately put me on intravenous fluids to prevent me from dying (or so they said). More lessons learned—carry enough water or bring a filter or iodine.

The Sierra soothed my soul. I remember climbing Wynne and Pinchot in September 2001, the weekend after 911. We hiked the entire the way up Taboose Pass singing "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America" and I don't think any of us had a dry eye. We all gained some peace and serenity that weekend knowing that there was a God—how could there not be when there is such a place as the Sierra? The Sierra gives us faith in knowing that peace will be on earth. Soon after, Reiner and I climbed Moses Mountain and I remember speaking with Bill via cell phone on the summit and he told me that the US had just invaded Afghanistan. I'll never forget that moment either.

Daryn Dodge introduced me to my Bay Area climbing partners (there are actually others outside SoCal climbing the list, you know)—Steve Eckert, Lisa Barboza and Louise Wholey. Daryn was helping both Lisa and I finish the list, so we did many trips together. Those who know me know I love to swim in those frigid high Sierra lakes, the highest and coldest one being Lake Tulainyo at some 13,000 feet, nestled below Mt. Russell. My most memorable swimming trip was with Daryn and Lisa when we climbed Piute, Petit and Volunteer in northern Yosemite in September Besides all the exquisite Fall colors on that trip, we had those incredible crystal clear tarns and the Sierra Riviera (aka Benson Lake) to swim in-I was in paradise. We were blessed with beautiful weather (for once!) and clear skies and none of us will soon forget watching the moon come up over Summit Lake that last evening before heading back to the cars. So many stars and planets—and Lisa knows the name of every one of them!

My most terrifying climbing trip was with that group. In June 2008 we went to climb Disappointment and since Daryn "needed" Middle Palisade, he convinced the rest of us to do the Disappointment to Middle Palisade traverse. I should have known better when Lisa said "it's easy". Disappointment wasn't so bad, but then Daryn led us over a treacherous gravel covered smooth slab with a horrible 1000 foot run-out that dropped off a cliff to the glacier [in his defense, Daryn says we were on the right route and everyone has their comfort zone for steep loose rock. We had just gone beyond my comfort zone]. I got to the middle

of the traverse and suddenly seized up and couldn't go forward or couldn't go back. What I could do though was cry, so I did. No one else knew what to do, but Steve Eckert, who was about 20 feet below me yelled "What do you want me to do?" After yelling back at him "Help!" he realized he really couldn't help me so he followed Daryn past the slabs to safety. That must have been the help that I needed because I started moving and arrived at the safe spot too. After seeing I could do it, Louise moseyed over to safety. So much for a great and "easy" route, Daryn.

That crew was also on the trip to Black and Diamond in May 2010 when I was going along for the ride as I had already climbed both those peaks. Well, this ride was phenomenal! The fire a couple of years ago on the Baxter trail must have rejuvenated the soil as we were treated to God's beautiful wildflower garden as we headed up the trail. We counted over 85 different species of wildflowers (Lisa knows the names of all of them too) and we were in complete awe the entire trek up to camp. Several hillsides were covered with beautiful white lupine, mallow and purple potato flower. Baxter creek was edged with larkspur, yellow monkey flower and rose sage. The flowers were all peaking just for us! We took a very long time to get up to camp that day, as we spent much time gazing at the wildflowers and taking pictures. It was so incredible that I took Bill up there the very next weekend, but the flowers were past their peak already. Another lesson learned-- take time to smell the coffee, it may not be there tomorrow.

2009 was a difficult year for me—my Dad died (that's when I started using my first name, Corrine, instead of Susan, in honor of my Dad), Kaweah had several serious operations, Michael Jackson died (yes, I was a fanatic fan, especially after he died) and then I decided to retire from my career at BP at the end of the year. Many of you had to put up with my angst and tears last year. Lisa, Daryn, Shane Smith, Louise Wholey and Samantha Olson probably will not forget the candlelight memorial I lit for Michael Jackson on his birthday, August 29, at the base of our Norman Clyde climb. The candle glowed all night and each of us woke up and gazed at it during the night. Climbing in the Sierra once again gave me back my serenity and grounding to the earth allowing me to see the path forward.

My latest climbing partner became Shane Smith from Ridgecrest. I first met Shane when he joined Ron Hudson, Patty Rambert, Bill and I on the Big Arroyo trip in 2003. Shane turned around after the first day when it continued to rain and I think he only had a tarp as he was going light. I didn't see him until several years He still goes light (short combs and cut-off toothbrushes!) but now he splurges and even carries a stove. We did many climbs together and I claim my "most relaxing" peak was climbing Mt. Humphreys for the second time this year with Shane. We did an overnighter (as opposed to the death march dayhike of Humphreys with Tina), camping at Humphreys Lake and gazing at the stars the night before. Shane and I did our own rope work on the fourth class pitches on Humphreys and were quite proud of ourselves. Shane and I had several cool (yes, caught in the snow cool) trips over the past few years. And, we plan to do many more in the coming years.

I saved the best for last—Starr King. I decided that it was altogether fitting and proper to finish the list in Yosemite as my first peak was Half Dome (before I knew there was a list) also in Yosemite. And, what a list finish it was! As it was October, the weather was "iffy" but it held up more or less for us to reach the summit. The clouds parted and the sun was shining—it was gorgeous. We (Daryn Dodge, Steve Eckert, Kathy Rich, Ron Hudson, Shane Smith, Lisa Barboza, Scott Sullivan and Elena Sherman) all laughed and I cried while relishing in my moment of glory. Unfortunately, we relished a bit too long and as soon as we started rappelling down, all heck broke loose. Thunder, lightning and "rivers of hail" showered down on us. I had the most compassion (not usually one of my strengths) for Shane, who always insisted on a guarantee of five days of sunny weather before he'll go out climbing. But, by the grace of God and everyone's exceptional climbing skills, we got down off the dome and hiked out--- 6 long miles in pouring rain and dark. It stopped raining just in time for us to have a great BBQ and list finish party back at Wawona campground.

Not everyone could join us on Starr King so we had the "official list finish" on Mt. Gould this October 16. Tina Bowman was the leader and John Cheslick the co-leader. My long-time climbing friends Daryn Dodge, Stephanie Gylden, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk, Reiner Stenzel, Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman and others joined us for the last climb. And, Bill even decided to go one more time. I wore my now famous number 69 shirt in celebration of my number on the line up of list finishers-- a much "welcomed" gift from MJ and Gary. Once again the weather was iffy and for ole' times sake, we had snow flurries on the summit. "What's up with that?" as Lisa would say. Then, we all headed down and had a deep pit BBQ, courtesy of our neighbors, at our house in Independence. Since most folks who will read this article have seen many photos of the Sierra in all its seasons, I decided to accompany this article with just one photo of the group on the summit.

Even if I wrote 100 more pages, I couldn't come close to sharing all the memorable experiences while climbing the list. There are so many memories of climbing the Sierra peaks, I could go on endlessly as each trip has its special moments-- the grueling drives to Florence Lake, embarrassing moments like summiting Dana when you thought it was Gibbs, being astounded when Cal Tech Peak was added to the listwasn't 247 peaks already enough?, way past midnight returns from peaks like Mills, more lightning strikes on peaks like Fiske with Patty, dodging marmots and bears in Mineral King, whiteouts on Lamarck Col with John Cheslick, excruciating long backpacks to Finger, Tunnemah and Reinstein, four miserable attempts on Thompson and Bradley, the kodachrome of Fall colors while hiking up McKee Creek to Red Slate, staying up all night worrying about the next day's climb of Devil's Crag, fun day hikes with warm hotel beds and good meals after climbing the Tahoe area peaks, skiing peaks in early spring with Reiner and RJ and on and on. The Sierra was also the place that helped me renew my relationship with my sister after so many years of being apart. I look back on those wonderful times and realize that it wasn't just about the climbing or the mountains in all their splendor. It was also about the people and sharing the moments with them. I loved every minute of it (even though there was some whining involved) so much so, that I'm going to try it all again-- I already have 25 for the second time around. Maybe I can catch Daryn this time.

So you see, my life is undeniably and inextricably tied to these majestic mountains. I'll see you in the Sierra forever climbing (and smiling in) the Range of Light.

## The Sierra Echo

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