

Heading to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro (with Mt Meru in the background), December, 2010.

by Kathy Rich

Best wishes to all for 2011! I am pleased to report that all but one of last year's Board members is back for another term, myself included. Alexander Smirnoff will continue as Vice Chair, Henry Arnebold as Treasurer, and Greg Mason as Outreach/5th member. We thank Mary Jo Dungfelder for her services as Secretary in 2010, and welcome Eric Scheidmantle as Secretary for 2011. We'd like to acknowledge Matt Hengst and Joe Speigl, who narrowly missed being elected, and hope that they might consider running again next year.

I'm also pleased to report that a vote by the membership regarding a change to the Bylaws Section 1.4 (requirements to become a SPS member) was approved in the December ballot, by a vote of 56:9. Newcomers will now be eligible to join SPS by climbing 2 of the required 6 SPS peaks on any Sierra Club-sponsored trip (such as SPS, WTC, PCS, Wilderness Adventures etc).

The annual SPS Banquet, held at Taix Restaurant on January 29th, was a great success. Scott Swaney and Aysel Gezik, accomplished local mountaineers, talked about their recent climbing trip to the Cordillera Blanca, Peru. Similar to last year, we had a young and enthusiastic audience (including a number of friends of the speakers) - drawn by the opportunity to hear about the adventures of a couple of our local climbers.

Spring and summer are on the way. Please check your calendars and plan to lead some trips. Once approved, trips can be posted to the website at any time. Some good news regarding George Creek – it is now open year-round, with no restrictions. Perhaps we will now gain a good use trail!

We will have our first SPS management meeting on **Monday, March 28th - all are welcome.** I would greatly appreciate any comments or suggestions you might have. Please email me at: KathrynARich@gmail.com.

NEW SPS BYLAWS CHANGE

The 2010 SPS Management Committee proposed a change to Bylaw 1.4 (Membership) and was presented on the 2011 ballot and voted on by our membership. In the past, in order to become a regular member, an applicant must climb 6 Sierra peaks, with 2 of those peaks being on SPS-led trips. This proposed change has passed and will now be implemented. The change now allows that 2 Sierra peaks be on a trip led by any Sierra Club entity (such as WTC, PCS, WA, Mule Pack Section, etc).

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.





The New 2011 Management Connittee



Kathy Rich Chair



Henry Arnebold Treasurer

New Members and Accomplishments!

New MemberRegge BulmanNew MemberMonica SuuaNew MemberTed LenzieEmblemJohn Fisanotti



Alexander Smirnoff Vice Chair



Greg Mason 5th member/outreach



Eric Scheidmantle Secretary

The Sierra Echo

WILDERNESS PERMIT INFO

INYO NATIONAL FOREST Website www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo

Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center Lone Pine, CA (760) 876-6200

White Mountain Ranger Station Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 873-2500

Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 (760) 924-5500

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center Lee Vining, CA 93541 (760) 647-3044

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST Website: www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia

Cannell Meadow Ranger District P.O. Box 6 Kernville, Ca 93238 Phone: 760/376-3781 Fax: 760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District River Ranger District 32588 Highway 190 Springville, CA 93265 Phone: (559) 539-2607

YOSEMITE NATIONAL FOREST Website www.nps.gov/yose

Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance online or by writing to:

Yosemite Association PO Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. By phone: reservations for summer trips are accepted by calling (209) 372-0740 (8:30 am to 4:30 am, M-F)

Obtain your free permit from the *Wilderness Permit Station nearest your departure trailhead.* Call (209) 372-0200 for permit station locations and hours

If entering park from Cherry Lake in the **Stanislaus National Forest** to Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite, you must get your permit from the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Station on Highway 120 in Groveland. Call (209) 962-7825

If entering the park from Chiquito Pass in **Sierra National Forest**, permits for the whole trip must be obtained from the Forest Service in North Fork. Call (559) 877-2218

KINGS CANYON Website: www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia

47050 Generals Highway Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700 Phone (559) 565-3708 for permit location pick-up Fax (559) 565-4239

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra

Ansel Adams Wilderness – North Bass Lake Ranger District 57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643 Phone: (559) 887-2218 Ansel Adams Wilderness – South John Muir, Kaiser and Kinkey Lakes Wildernessess Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651 (559) 855-5360

SPS Treasurer's Report 4th Quarter 12/31/2010

Checking Account

Income

Expenditures

Echo	100.00	Postage	220.66
T-Shirts	<u><u>40.00</u></u>	Printing Supplies	51.26
	\$140.00	Printing	229.95
		Banquet Deposit	<u>200.00</u>

\$701.87

Balance on 9/30/2010	3,763.62
Income	<u>140.00</u>
	3,903.62
Expenditures	<u>-701.87</u>
	\$3,201.75

Savings Account

Balance on 9/30/2010	4,996.65
October interest	1.27
November interest	1.23
December interest	<u>1.28</u>
	\$5,000.43

SPS 2011 Banquet Report

Income

64 members paid \$35.00-----\$2,240.00

Expenditures

Taix's Restaurant deposit	200.00
Taix's Restaurant bill	1704.73
Program Presentors	300.00
Raffle prizes	100.00
Program printing	12.29
	\$2317.02

2,317.02 -2,240.00 - 77.02 (loss)

The Sierra Echo

New Superintendent of Joshua N.P.

Mark Butler has been named the new Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park. I have known Mark for a number of years as a member of the Mariposa Rotary Club and have worked with him on planning issues in Yosemite. I think Mark is an excellent choice not only for Park planning but on climbing issues as well. Mark is an accomplished rock climber and backpacker, which speaks well for his leadership in working on the climbing issues at Josh. I encourage the SPS make contact with Supt. Butler and make him aware of our activities.



Go to http://ClimateEngage.org to read about SPS member Tom Bowman's latest efforts in fostering more public engagement in *climate issues*!

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.

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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

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 Email list service: http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/listserver.htm.

LTC

Dec. 19, 2010

Leadership Training Committee release Contact: Ron Campbell, LTC Vice Chair 714-962-8521 campbellr@verizon.net

Club will offer outdoor leadership training April 2

Interested in becoming an outings leader for the Club?

Angeles Chapter is home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet – thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions.

You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered by the chapter Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, April 2, at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena.

The class covers all the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders will tell you how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone – including you – has a great time. They'll also explain good conservation and safety practices. And they'll give you tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings.

The all-day class costs \$25. The application is online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-321-1296) or e-mail (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

Applications and checks are due March 19.

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com).



Leadership Training Committee 2011 Schedule of Activities

Leadership Training Program Seminar

Apr 2Spring LTC Seminar - Eaton Canyon Nature CenterSOctDate and Time TBD

Steve Botan

Wilderness First Aid http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Apr 15-17



Steve Schuster

Navigation	Practices	and C	Checkou	its

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 4	I/M/E Hart Bar Peak Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
June 5	I/M/E Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Aug 7	I/M/E Mt. Pinos Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

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Apr 3	E/MR Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff	Ron Hudson
Apr 20	Advanced Mountaineering Program 3 - Safety	Dan Richter
Apr 23	Advanced Mountaineering Program 3 - Belaying	Dan Richter
Apr 30	Advanced Mountaineering Program 3 - Rappelling	Dan Richter
May 7-8	Advanced Mountaineering Program 3- Anchors	Dan Richter
Sept 28	Advanced Mountaineering Program 4 - Safety	Dan Richter
Oct 1	Advanced Mountaineering Program 4 - Belaying	Dan Richter
Oct 8	Advanced Mountaineering Program 4 - Rappelling	Dan Richter
Oct 15-16	Advanced Mountaineering Program 4- 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

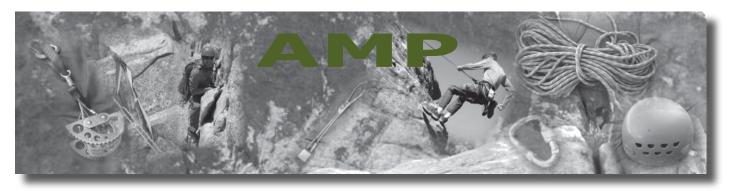
Apr 23-24	M/ER Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice	N. Sorenson
May 7	M/ER Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice	T. Bowman

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/

AMP Update





Advanced Mountaineering Program

Rock climbing skills

certificate course

Over the weekend of October 16th and 17th, 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.

Due to the generous participation of the WTC with a grant for equipement, the fee for the AMP courses will be reduced to \$50. Those of you who have already paid \$75 will receive a \$25 rebate. All checks should now be made out to: Sierra Club – LTC.

AMP Registrar

Kim Breul has become the new AMP registrar. Thank you Kim.

Training Note

With the help of National, Leaders Dan Richter, Ron Hudson, Pat McKusky, and Greg Mason will be taking the AMGA Single Pitch Instructors Course with the goal of AMGA certification. They will be doing all the training and certification with Bob Gaines of Vertical Adventures.

It just gets better,

Dan Richter

The Sierra Echo



THE NAVIGATION CORNER: THE PASSING OF A GREAT NAVIGATOR

by Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

On Tuesday evening, July 6, 2010, I learned that my friend Harry Freimanis had died. Peter Ireland discovered his body a few hours earlier in a cabin Harry was residing in at the Malibu Nature Trust. Harry's death from natural causes came as a complete shock to me. I had just visited with Harry the week before. Although he indicated he was experiencing Diabetes-related problems, Harry said it was under control. He was in good spirits and told me he was looking forward to our November Indian Cove Navigation Noodles, one of his favorites.



Allet Station, Antarica - Harry is in the second row, third from the left

Harry was an extraordinarily gifted wilderness navigator and greatly enjoyed the outdoors. Long before his involvement in the Sierra Club, Harry served as the station scientific leader at Hallet Station, Antarctica from 1962-63. The harsh Antarctic weather provided Harry with abundant winter mountaineering experience. I remember Harry's last WTC Snow



Camp in 2006 where he used a bivy sack rather than a tent during one of the coldest snow camps on record (-16 degrees). This was balmy weather for Harry. In recognition for his Antarctic service, the United States Board of Geographic Names officially named a glacier after him. Its website describes the feature as follows: "Tributary glacier that flows WNW for 25 mi and enters Tucker Glacier between Mount Greene and Novasio Ridge, in the Admiralty Mountains. Mapped by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from surveys and U.S. Navy air photos, 1960-62. Named by Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) for Harry Freimanis, aurora scientist, station scientific leader at Hallett Station, 1962-63."

Harry was an accomplished mountaineer who would often venture into the High Sierra by himself. In 2008, Harry gave me most of his mountaineering books. Included among them was his personally annotated copy of Roper's The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra. According to his notes, Mt. Muir was Harry's 19th (and possibly last) SPS peak and was climbed on August 2, 1987. Other notable peaks that Harry climbed included Mt. Whitney (14,494), Black Kaweah (13,765), Mt. Agassiz (13,891), Mt. Wallace (13,377), and Mt. Haeckel (13,435).

Navigation Leader

Harry will best be remembered for his service as Navigation Chair for the Leadership Training Committee from 1991 to 2008. In this capacity, he led over 100 navigation checkoffs. Although Harry could be cantankerous at times, he was a progressive voice in helping prospective leaders obtain their ratings. The sheer number of navigation checkoffs he organized is a testament to his commitment in developing new Sierra Club leaders.

When I joined the navigation team in 2005, Harry made me feel welcome, as I know he did for many others. He allowed me to do my first checkoff of a candidate in January 2006, the month after I passed the E-level checkoff and before I have even completed my I-provisionals.

Harry was open to new ideas and new people. He was always trying to improve the navigation program. His last major endeavor was to launch a GPS class which he offered on five occasions.

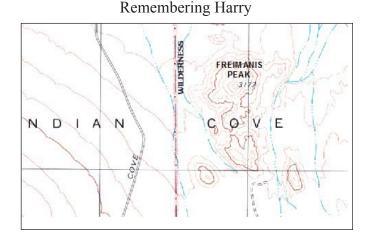
Harry's Sierra Club Service

In addition to his service as LTC Navigation Chair, Harry was instrumental in the beginning of of the Wilderness Travel Course when the Basic Mountaineering Course ended. Harry became the Orange County area's first Area Chair and participated in WTC's growth in many ways, including delivering the clothing/equipment lecture for many years, and helping WLA as an Assistant Group Leader for several groups.

Harry also served as a member of the Chapter ExCom in the mid-1990's, elected on a platform of keeping the Schedule of Activities a free publication mailed to Chapter members. Harry and Virgil Shields developed the "Places We've Saved" navigation noodle at Mojave National Preserve. At the 2009 Chapter Banquet, Harry was presented with the highest Chapter outings award, the Chester Versteeg Outings Plaque.



photo courtesy of Bob Sumner



None of us are likely to visit the Freimanis Glacier in Antarctica. However, every Indian Cove Navigation Noodle uses Peak 3177 for bearings. This prominent feature is also used by the Wilderness Travel Course for navigation instruction. We may not be able to get the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to officially name this peak after Harry. However, the Sierra Club can remember Harry by call this peak "Freimanis Peak" and referencing it in our navigation materials.

Harry's legacy is more than a place name on a map. His lasting legacy is all of the Chapter leaders he helped certify and the talented group of navigation examiners he assembled. I know that all of us will try to pass on to the next generation the skills that he taught us.

The Sierra Echo

TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY: TWO BOOK REVIEWS

TWO SHADOWS (2010) Charlie Winger

COLORADO 14ER DISASTERS (2009) Mark Scott-Nash

Reviewed by Burton Falk

TWO SHADOWS (2010), Charlie Winger

How well do you really know your good friends? Wouldn't you think that if you had climbed with someone for over thirty years, bagged a couple of hundred peaks around the world together, played gin for long days in rain soaked tents, and relied on one another in many a dicey climbing situation, that you'd be pretty well acquainted?

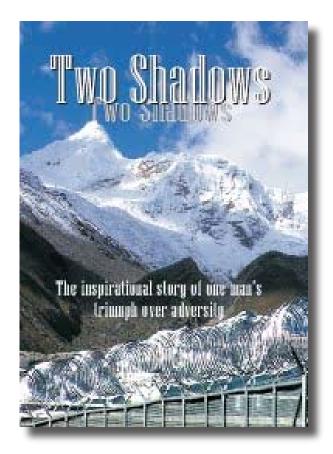
Well, you might be surprised.

I first met Charlie Winger in the Miami airport late one evening in early January 1981. My son, Steve, my old friend, Jim Scott, and I were on our way to Ecuador, where we were to spend 10 days climbing volcanoes on a trip organized by Mountain Travel. Charlie, from Colorado, was by himself. Striking up an immediate camaraderie, we continued to hang out together as we climbed Cotopaxi, Chimborazo and Tungurahua. Charlie was a terrific climber, had a keen sense of humor and we became fast friends.

In subsequent years, Charlie and I have climbed 50 or 60 Sierra peaks (including Devils Crag & North Pal), twenty or thirty DPS peaks (including Big Picacho & South Guardian Angel), several State highpoints (including Granite & Gannett), and an interesting selection of international peaks (including Aconcagua & the Matterhorn).

Prior to their retirement, Charlie and his wife, Diane—ace programmers both—established and ran a successful software business. They also co-authored three excellent books: Highpoint Adventures, Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve and The Trad Guide to Joshua Tree

Book Corner



Charlie is organized, responsible, energetic and okay—driven. He is always the first one out of the tent in the morning, and there is always boiling water ready when at last you stumble out. You can almost hear his motor running as he paces, waiting for his climbing partners to get ready for the day of climbing. I'm sure that if it weren't for his determination and enthusiasm, I'd never have made several tough summits.

In January 2010, Charlie, seventy-two at the time, took a bad fall while ice-climbing in Ouray, CO. Suffering a fractured sacroiliac, a fractured L5 vertebra, two broken ribs and a damaged ego, he knew he would be laid up for some time, and so, in order to make good use of his enforced leisure, he wrote and self-published his autobiography, Two Shadows: The Inspirational Story of One Man's Triumph Over Adversity, available from Amazon.com for \$18.95.

Well, I knew that Charlie had suffered a difficult Chicago childhood. His mother deserted the family; his father, who had served in WWII, returned to remarry and start a second family; and Charlie, unsupervised, got into better than average boyhood mischief. What I didn't know was how he managed to get into far more serious trouble as a teen-ager.

Alone and fending for themselves after their mother's desertion, eleven year old Charlie and his sister, age 6, were shipped off to Wichita, KS, to be raised by his father's aunt and uncle, a childless couple in their sixties. Charlie's aunt, unfortunately, felt martyred with the arrangement and took it out on Charlie at every opportunity.

Soon Charlie became involved with the wrong crowd and started to skip school. He and his friends stole cars, burglarized stores and were on their way to becoming career criminals. When he was 16, Charlie was arrested for transporting a stolen car across a state line and sentenced to federal correctional prison, where he served eighteen months. He was arrested again at eighteen for car theft and burglary, at which time he was sentenced to twelve years in a state prison.

Charlie served 5 years, and his description of prison life alone is worth the read—a look into what really goes on within those stark walls by a very bright observer.

But Charlie was not your typical inmate. He possessed a built-in GPS that directed him toward a productive--and law abiding--life. Fortunately, a fellow prisoner who had previously been the manager of a data processing department started a systems and programming class in which Charlie enrolled and excelled. He also took accounting classes where he also did well, even without the use of an adding machine. At age 23, five long years after entering prison, he was granted a commutation of his sentence.

Two Shadows describes Charlie's continuing postprison redemption, and goes on to present a fascinating history of his climbing adventures (many with moi) and his health issues (he's undergone both spinal and prostrate surgery).Turning the final page, you can't help but be heartened to realize that it is possible for a person to triumph over extreme adversity. Indeed, Charlie ends Two Shadows thusly: "I hope that (this) gives you the inspiration to overcome any obstacles which life might throw your way, or the motivation to find a better path so that you can go out and climb your own mountains, whatever they may be."

So, you may wonder, how do I feel about having a friend that I now know to be a convicted felon?"

Well, let me tell you, I'll take any opportunity I can to bag peaks with Charlie. He's simply the best climbing partner I've ever had! I will, however, check my pack for rocks or other heavy objects the first thing each morning. If there's one carry-over from Charlie's misbegotten youth, it's his delight in adding weight to someone else's pack.

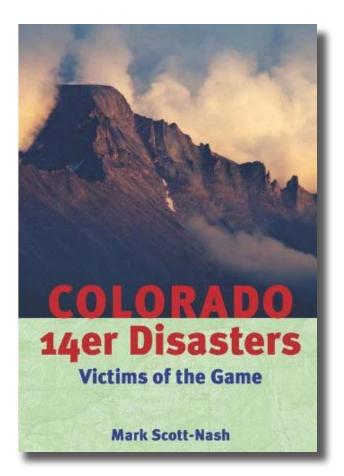
COLORADO 14ER DISASTERS: VICTIMS OF THE GAME (2009), Mark Scott-Nash

My wife, Jo, and I have lived in Sun City Palm Desert for 16 years now, during which time we've been active in our community hiking club. Our members explore low-desert canyons and oases in the winter, we search for the best wild flowers in the spring, and we climb the surrounding mountains in the summer and fall.

We also form excellent friendships—take Judy and Ray Cheeney, snowbirds from Golden, CO, for example. Finer folks, I contend, you'll never meet.

In September 2005, the Cheeney's daughter, Michelle, a thirty-five-year-old, mother of four, disappeared while on a climb of 14,005' Mount of the Holy Cross, in the Colorado Rockies. Sadly, her remains have never been found.

In his book, Colorado 14er Disasters, available from Amazon.com for \$11.53, author Mark Scott-Nash recounts this disaster, along with several others, in what should be cautionary tales for all SPSers.



The victims described by Scott-Nash, in fact, resemble most climbers of Colorado's 50-plus fourteen thousand-foot peaks, and although the conditions found in the Rockies vary somewhat from those of the Sierra Nevada, the lessons learned from the unfortunate events described in Disasters can be applied to our own SPS adventures.

The cause of Michelle's death in September, 2005 can be attributed primarily to thirty-six-year-old Eric, with whom she was attempting to climb her first 14,000' summit. At a dinner party two weeks prior to the incident, Eric, a fit climber who had previously bagged 37 Colorado 14ers, and a casual friend of Michelle and her husband, suggested that Michelle join him on a climb. Michelle, who exercised every day and was a marathon runner, was intrigued and decided to do so. During the next few days, following Eric's advice, she purchased new hiking clothing and equipment. "She trusted (him) to make nearly every decision about the climb, from their climbing style...to the mountain and route they would take. She placed a critical trust in him and he implicitly took the responsibility to make the best decisions he could for them."

Arriving at the trailhead parking lot near Vail very early on the morning of September 24th, Eric proceeded to make three mistakes, two of little importance, i.e., leaving his water filter in the car and forgetting to take his lunch. But the third—starting off on the wrong trail—proved deadly.

Indeed, Eric missed the Half Moon Trail, which 90% of those attempting Holy Cross follow, but instead started up the Fall Creek Trail, "considerably longer and more strenuous than the normal route." By 11:30 a.m., the two climbers still had to navigate a 3-mile traverse along a 13,000'+ roller-coaster ridge, including more than 1,000' of gain, before reaching the top. "Having never climbed a 14er in her life, neither Michelle nor Eric knew what the effects of altitude would be on her. She was dragging behind, and Eric was constantly waiting."

At 1:25 p.m., having hiked a total of 7.7 miles with 4,900' of gain, but still 500' below the summit, Michelle told Eric that she was "too tired to continue, you go on without me.' And he did."

Before leaving, however, Eric instructed Michelle to contour around the west side of the summit, and to meet him on the more popular trail on the opposite, north side of the summit.

"I pointed to where she should go, and that I would meet her on the way down,' he told investigators. 'I thought it was about two hundred yards, an eighth of a mile."

"He later admitted to investigators that he vastly underestimated the distance. It was closer to a mile a mile of confusing terrain without a guidepost...Eric hiked on toward the summit while Michelle rested... It was the last time anyone saw Michelle."

So what lessons can we learn from this tragic event?

Scott-Nash implies that Eric's desire to finish the list may have been the cause of Michelle's death.

Anxious to bag yet another 14er, he opted not to turn back either when he discovered he was on the wrong trail or later when it became apparent Michelle was tiring. An experienced leader, Scott-Nash contends, must be responsible for the novice climber.

Five years have now passed since the incident, and the yearly summer searches for Michelle have been permanently called off. The Cheeney's son-in-law and grandchildren have done a good job in adapting to the loss of their wife and mother. The question remains, however, what possessed Eric to give so little thought to the tiring Michelle during the deadly day's events?

Another climbing tragedy considered at length concerns David Worthington, a 14er list finisher well known for his speedy climbing techniques. Worthington was also highly extroverted and famous for his attentiongrabbing costumes. Consider, for instance, his 'pimp' outfit a knee-length purple jacket and matching widebrimmed hat, accented with a hand-sized gold '\$' pendant hanging around his neck. "He turned more than a few heads as he sauntered up 14er trails, and meticulously posed for summit photos."

Worthington's death occurred in early May 2007, after summiting on the ice and snow covered 14,064' Humboldt Peak in the Sangre de Cristo range of south-central Colorado.

After spending a cold, miserable night on the summit, Worthington and his climbing partner, Caroline Moore, decided to down-climb via a steep couloir, rather than use the route they had used for their ascent. Overly concerned with weight, neither climber carried an ice axe.

Soon after they started off, Worthington sat down and began a glissade down the hard-packed snow, using only a ski pole for control. "He accelerated to a frightening speed as he increased the pressure on the ski pole. He suddenly lost control and tumbled head over heels. He slid and rolled faster and faster down the snow toward a rock band. With a bonesnapping impact, his body was launched into bounding cartwheels." Heel plunging, Caroline descended to get to David as fast as she could. "She found his right arm in too much pain for her to manipulate. He could not initiate any movement from his right hip. He felt something was sticking out of his lower left leg."

"Because they had climbed the peak in off-season, no other climbers were on the mountain that might have come to their aid. Though Caroline had carried a cell phone, its frozen battery was dead so she could not call for help and wait with David."

By the time Caroline worked her way down the balance of the slope, post-holed to their car, alerted the local mountain-rescue team, which in turn assembled its members, got their gear together and drove in as far as they could, it was 1 a.m. Monday morning.

The first of the rescuers reached David, still coherent, at 10:30 a.m. Unfortunately, the overnight exposure and the subsequent evacuation process proved to be too much. Although a helicopter was able to get him to a hospital in Pueblo that same evening, he went into cardiac arrest during the flight and died while CPR was being applied.

Two obvious errors were made during this misadventure. The first concerns the minimum number of climbers necessary for safety on a difficult climb. Should an accident occur, it is important for one person to stay with and comfort the victim, while a third goes for help. And there is the matter of relying on a ski pole for self-arrest, an almost impossible task on a fall on a steep, icy slope.

Indeed, the day I summited on Denali, two Germans were killed when they fell and attempted to selfarrest using ski poles on the traverse leading to Denali Pass.

Six other deadly incidents are described in Colorado 14er Disasters, none to the extent of these first two described here, but all making for worthwhile reading.

Historic Sierra Peak Registers

Courtesy of Dan Richter

For the next several Echo editions we will be presenting the "Historic Sierra Peak Registers" page. These are photos of very old registers found at San Jose State which will be sent up to the Bancroft Library Sierra Register Collection in Berkeley. Enjoy.

This edition - Matterhorn Peak

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Among the 12 historic Matterhorn peak registers of this batch, I picked these two as the most interesting. Next edition, Mt. Azassiz.

SPS 2011 Banquet photos and comments courtesy of: BANQUE

Scott Swaney and Aysel Gezik our featured spekers, gave a terrific program on their climbs of several challenginging peaks in Cordillera Blanca, Peru, namely, Alpamayo (19,511'), Chopicalqui (20,846') and Tocllaraju (19,790'). The banquet has generated lots of chatter and comment. People thought the program presenters were either awesome, bold beyond description, foolhardy, and more.

"It's so fun to have something that gets peoples' attentions. For most of the program, I did nonstop gasping."

"The banquet was a wowser!"

"The program was astound-

"Yes, the banquet rocked."

ing and had us on the edge of our seats."

RAFFLE WINNERS: Jake Fallerline, Adrienne Benedict, Wendy Conlon & Jeff Koepke



Wendy Conlon

The Sierra Echo



Jeff Koepke & Henry Arnebold







Mary Mac

Scott Swaney



Mary Mac and Two Hank Arnebold



Barbara Sholle, Christine Mitchell, Pat Holleman, Dave Sholle, Mary Motheral



Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman, Jeff Koepke, Tina Bowman, Mary Mac (in front)



Scott Sullivan, Kathy Rich, Elena Sherman, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk



Mary Jo Dungfelder, Paul Garry, Virgil Popescu, Tina Bowman



Ashley Grayden, Adrienne Benedict, Matt Hengst (back) Christina Grayden (front) Stacy Sanchez



Henry Arnebold, Ret Moore, Rich Gnagy, Bruno Geiger





Erick Schumacher, Gordon MacLeod, Mary Mac, Barbara Lilley (front) Gene Mauk, Ret Moore, Rich Gnagy (back)



Pat Holleman, Gerry Holleman, Jake Faller, Steve Miles



Ron Hudson & Tina Bowman



Doris Gilbert, Mary Mac, Marlen Mertz



Bernd Hasse, Susanne Barwari, and Lugman Bar

COMMENTS ON 2011 SPS BANQUET

The efforts of the hard-working banquet chairman are much appreciated; the food and service at Taix were excellent. However, the noise level and poor acoustics due to the small size of the banquet room made it hard even for those with normal hearing to carry on a conversation and hear the speakers. For those of us old timers who have hearing problems, it was nearly impossible, and after all, one of the main reasons for attending the banquet is talking with old friends! If Taix won't give the SPS a bigger room in the future, then please consider going someplace else. (The DPS had the same problem in 2009 and has been going elsewhere since.) Other attendees who agree are urged to contact the SPS Management Committee. Thank you.

Barbara Lilley

The Sierra Echo

We have new patches now, and they have gone up in price from \$2.00 or \$5.00 Inflation you know, the previous ones were probably ordered in the 70's or 80's. Also, we will be getting new T-Shirts soon. <u>Cal Tech Peak</u> will be on the list too!

Patty Kline Merchandiser





DPS Banquet Coming Up

<u>Desert Peaks</u> Banquet Chair Jim Fleming and loyal assistant Maui sit on top of the magnificent Kelso Sand Dunes contemplating the approaching DPS banquet, May 15. For \$35 (prior to May 5), you can have the time of your life and meet some great folks and old friends. Email Jim and Maui: jimf333@att.net

The program is by legendary climber, hiker, writer, route-finder John Robinson. It's called: "Muscle Cars, Desert Rats, and Mega-crowds on Big Picacho: DPS, the Early Days."

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

LTC



Apr 2 | Sat

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.

Apr2-3 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, DPS, Desert Com

I: Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our 9th annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the Cal Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of SC activists & others. A basic to intermediate xc navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pinyon & juniper forests at 5500' ele. 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

Apr 15-17 | Fri – Sun Harwood Lodge, WTC

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 & is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel exp required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets & medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, 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: <u>ROBERT MYERS</u>, 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 early spring snow climb of 2 peaks near Big Pine. Fri backpack to Birch Lake, 5 mi, 4500' gain. Sat climb NW slope of Birch, & SE slope of The Thumb, 5.5 mi, 4500' gain. Sun backpack out. Comfort & experience climbing snow w/ice axe & crampons required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email or sase w/resume, conditioning, carpool info, SC # & med 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 Co-ldr: 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 Co-ldr: TOM MCDONNELL

THE SIERRA ECHO

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 13-15 | Fri-Sun

SPS WTC

I: Coyote Pk (10,892') and Angora Mtn (10,198'): Join us for 2 peaks at the southern tip of the Kern Divide. Friday hike in from Lewis Creek TH (11 mi, 2500') to camp at Deep Creek. On Sat climb Coyote and Angora (14 mi, 4500' r/t). Hike out Sun. Good conditioning required; expect x-c travel, class 2 scrambling, and minor bush-whacking on peak day. Happy hour Fri and Sat evenings. Send email/sase, conditioning and contact info to Ldr: DARYN DODGE. Co-Ldr: KATHY RICH.

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 M-level 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 14-15 | Sat-Sun

M: Taylor Dome (8,802'), Rockhouse Peak (8,360'), Sirretta Peak (9,977') Join us for two long days in Dome Land. Saturday we'll leave early and do an extended loop picking up both Taylor and Rockhouse (15 mi, 4000') and return to our vehicles to camp. Sunday we'll mosey on over to Sirretta (6 mi, 2000') before returning to our vehicles and driving out. Expect a steady pace and bring your headlamp. Send recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST Co-ldr: GREG MASON

May 15 | Sun

O: DPS Annual Banquet: Save the date for the banquet! We'll return to the Proud Bird. For program info see page 20 this edition. For more details, check the Desert Sage or DPS website or contact DPS Banquet Chair: JIM FLEMING (jimf333@att.net).

May 21-22 | Sat-SunSPS, WTCMR: Excelsior Mtn (12,446'), DunderbergPeak (12,374'). Two moderate snow- (we hope)

SPS

DPS

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 4-5 | Sat-Sun SPS WTC ER: Mt Dana (13,057') Climb the 2nd tallest mountain in Yosemite by a classic snow route. Sat morning easy backpack to Dana Lake, afternoon snow climbing practice. Sunday ascent Mt Dana by way of the Dana Glacier, return to camp and pack out. Participants must be experienced with ice ax, crampons and roped travel. Send email or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Asst-Ldr: DOUG MANTLE

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 : <u>ROBERT</u> <u>MYERS</u>, 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 <u>medical questionnaire</u>. Send 2 esase or 2 sase, resume, recent experience & conditioning, phone to Ldr: ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE. Asst: REGGE BULMAN.

July 2-5 | Sat – Tues

SPS

MR: Mount Clark (11,522') Merced Peak (11,726') Red Peak (11,699'), Gray Peak (11,573') Join us a backcountry trip into Yosemite. We'll pack in Saturday from the Mono trail head in Yosemite and camp to the west of Grey (9 mi, 2000 ft gain.) Sunday we'll climb Clark via a 3rd class route followed by the western ridge of Grey. Monday we'll climb Red and Merced and then pack out Tuesday. Expect long days and lots of scrambling. Helmets and experience with 3rd class rock, ice axe, and crampons required. Medical Form required. Send climbing resume, Sierra Club number, and contact information to Ldr: Matthew Hengst Co-ldr: Greg Mason

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. Coldr: JOE SPEIGL.

Jul 22-24 | Fri-SunSPS, WTCMR:Mt Stanford (13,963'), Mt Ericsson(13,608'), Deerhorn Mtn (13,281')Climb thesesignificant backcountry peaks.Fri backpack from

Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass and on to camp near Vidette Lakes; 11 mi, 4500' gain. Sat climb Stanford, 6 mi, 5500' and Ericsson, 2 mi, 1800'. Sun pack out, 11 mi, 2500'. Climb Deerhorn also if time allows. All peaks class 3. Helmets, experience with exposed 3rd class rock, excellent conditioning, medical form required. Send climbing resume with SC#, contact info to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-ldrs: MATTHEW HENGST and KATHY RICH

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 cross-country 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

Aug 4-7 | Thurs.-Sun.SPS WTC

I: Electra Peak (12,442), Foerster Peak (12,057): Unusual route to these distant peaks in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Thursday start from the Clover Meadow area and hike to Bench Canyon along the NorthSan Joaquin River, 11 miles and 3300 ft. gain with a 2000 ft. loss. Next two days climb peaks, 7 miles and 3,400 ft. gain each. Sunday pack out. Contact leader with hiking resume and recent conditioning. Leader: RUDY FLECK, rudy.fleck@gmail.com.; Co-Ldr: GARY SCHENK.

Aug 6-8 | Sat-Mon

SPS

I: Red Slate Mtn. (13,123'): SPS Intro Trip geared to WTC Students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, casual and enjoyable with slow to moderate pace. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to Big McGee Lake at 10,472' in 7 mi, 2300' gain. Sun climb class 2 Mountaineers Peak, 6 mi rt, 2700' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun eve. Send SASE with \$5.00 permit fee, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H,W and Cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. JOE WANKUM.

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

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres NF 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

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 Coldr: JOE SPEIGL.

Aug 13-14 | Sat-Sun

SPS, WTC

I/M: North Peak (12,242'): Gourmet Backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend IX. Sat backpack 3 mi, 500 ft gain from Saddlebag Lake to Conness Lakes for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 1-mi, 1700' gain to North Peak. Depending on group's strength and experience we will take either the 2nd class southwest slope or the 3rd class southeast face. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning, recent experience on 3rd class rock and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Assts: GEORGETTE RIECK, ED COTTONE, LISA BUCKLEY. Aug 19-21 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Caltech Peak (13,832'): Strenuous three day trip to climb a recent addition to the SPS peaks list. Fri pack in 6 mi / 4,000' gain to Anvil Camp. Sat hike 3 mi / 2,000' gain to Shepherd Pass (12,025') then 5 mi xc / 2,000-3,000' gain to Caltech Peak. Summit via class 2 SE ridge. Sun pack out on trail. Total for the weekend is approx. 28 mi round trip, 9,000'+ gain. Send contact info and recent conditioning and experience. Ldr: JOSEPH BELL, Asst Ldr: PAUL GARRY

Aug. 27-29 | Sat-Mon SPS, WTC MR: Temple Crag (12,999'), Mt Gayley Sat rugged cross-country backpack (13,510'): 6 mi, 4100' gain from Glacier Lodge to camp below Contact Pass. Sun climb Temple Crag via SE face, 1 mi, 1200' gain. Either Sat pm or Sun am climb Gayley 2.5 mi, 2100' gain via "Yellow Brick Road." Out Sun. 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 and rideshare info to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Co-Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST



August 8, 2010

Mt. Hood (11,239 ft)

by Daryn Dodge

Being the high points of Oregon and Washington, I had a long-time interest in visiting Mt. Hood and Mt. Rainier. In particular, Mt. Rainier seems to be a "practice peak" for anyone with serious intentions of climbing snowy alpine summits much higher than what is found in the continental United States. Kathy Rich expressed interest in climbing these very same peaks on a DPS trip in March, so we soon began plotting our strategy to climb these peaks.

Since I live in the Sacramento area, I decided to simply drive up I-5 to get to these peaks. Kathy Rich flew into Portland, where I picked her up. The Portland airport has a convenient cell phone parking lot from which to wait for incoming flights. From Portland, we drove roughly 50 miles to Timberline Lodge at the base of Mt. Hood to check out the trailhead. This is a popular tourist destination and has a couple of large parking lots. I was surprised to find downhill skiing goes on through the summer on the Palmer glacier just above the Timberline Lodge.

After a brief visit to figure out where we start the climb, we

drove to the Alpine campground about a mile back down the road. The campground had only recently opened for the summer after the snow had cleared. This firstcome, first-serve campground was full, so we drove back down the hill to a rough road turn off just 0.1 mile from State Route 26. We had read in trip reports that climbers camp in the forest here. After some searching, we found a decent camp spot. Later that evening before dark, some rangers came around checking on campers. This I did not expect since we were not in designated camp-They were friendly, grounds. but seemed incredulous that we would succeed in climbing Mt. Hood this late in the season. Apparently, the snow turns to mush, or so he told us, by late morning and climbers can get bogged down in it this late in the summer. The rangers also didn't like our alpine start time of 2 am, stating this was not early enough to avoid lousy snow conditions later in the day. In addition, they told us the standard Hogsback/Pearly Gates route going over the bergschrund had been unclimable for the past 2 years because the bergschrund had opened up so much.

Well, that was just great! I had familiarized myself with the Hogsback/Pearly Gates route

and did not look up the alternative Old Crater route, which may be our only option. The hang-up with the Old Crater route is that it is a steeper snow climb than the Pearly Gates route. So, on these encouraging notes we got a few hours sleep before getting up at 1 am for the 15-minute drive to the trailhead.

We woke up to overcast skies and slight drizzle. Not reassuring conditions. We arrived at the deserted parking lot near the trailhead and were ready to hike at a little after 2 am. We were hoping to see other climbers preparing for the climb, but saw no one. It was cold, dark and a bit windy. These conditions along with the earlier "pep" talk from the rangers left us a little apprehensive about our chances of successfully climbing Mt. Hood. However, the drive up to the trailhead got us above the coastal fog layer and drizzle we had back in camp and we could see there were only partly cloudy skies above us

fter Kathy dropped off the Awilderness permit at the climber station in the nearest building (There seems to be no climber quota for dayhiking Hood. It's really just a note letting rangers know who's on the mountain and when to expect them back), we started up the trail. The trail begins on pavement for a short distance, then becomes dirt, and soon after that, just sort of disappears into various possible use trails. This late in the season, we were able to follow dirt tracks for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then walked on mostly snow. We generally followed the ski lift and passed just to the left of the ski slope on Palmer Glacier. The only person up at this ridiculous hour was a guy in a snow grooming vehicle getting the ski run ready for skiers. However, after nearly an hour of hiking we were able to detect at least one headlamp up ahead of us. This person or persons must have started about 1 am. Soon after that, we could see two headlamps bobbing around in the darkness below us. So we were not alone after all!

The snow was quite icy this morning and the slope was getting steeper. At the end of the ski lift at an elevation of 8,540 feet, we put on our crampons in a shed that held many bags of a rather unpleasant smelling salt compound. But the shed also had chairs to set in and it was out of the wind. By this point, we were often following the tracks of the climber ahead of us, who seemed to go where we thought was best route was.



View of summit area from the Hogsback. Old Crater route goes up to the flat snowy saddle in the middle of the photo. The bergschrund blocking the Hogsback/Pearly Gates route is on the far right.

Our initial goal was to hike to an obvious rock formation called Crater Rock, then walk around it to the right. This should lead us to a snow-covered ridge, or hogsback, just below the bergschrund. We couldn't really see this rock formation in the dark and were happy to finally have a little light soon after 4 am. We circled Crater Rock on the right, and tramped up steeper snow towards the top of the Hogsback. Here we met the climber who was ahead of us all morning, except he was now heading down. He told us the Hogsback route did not look good and the alternate route, the "Old Crater" variation, had large crevasses he decided were too much for him.



The sun is finally up! Kathy ascending Mt. Hood at elev. 9000 ft

When we got to the top of the Hogsback, we finally got our first look at the bergschrund itself. It indeed looked massive, although a very good snow climber should be able to skirt around the left edge. The other problem with this route is that the Pearly Gates chute just below the summit only had bare rock and ice. It looked more difficult and dangerous than if it was snow-filled. Perhaps earlier in the season it is snowfilled and there is less rockfall potential. Overall, the route was not appealing and above our climbing comfort level.

bout this time the two Climbers that had started up nearly an hour behind us caught up. Together we estimated where the Old Crater route goes. We guessed it was a steep-looking snow field about 150 feet to the left of the bergschrund. There were no crevasses apparent to us, and it looked climbable, although there were vertical trenches in the snow probably as a result of water run-off. To get there we dropped off the snow ridge onto a barren ash and rock dome in between Crater Rock and the summit It is a bit smelly here from nearby steaming vents. At the top of this dome, the two young guys started up first on the snow. Once they had a safe lead ahead of us, we began our final assault on the peak. The snow slope quickly steepened to about 35-40 degrees and was quite icy. Our arms soon got tired trying to slam our ice ax shafts into the frozen snow. We found the holes left in the icy snow from ice axes of previous climbers helpful. The last 100-200 feet was the crux where the slope reached about 45 degrees or more. Now I see why the peak is rated class 4. The snow was more frozen in this section, so we resorted to slamming our ax picks into the snow like an ice climber. This worked almost too well, as we had difficulty pulling the ax out of the frozen snow after a good placement.

Once on the plateau, we were only 5 minutes away from the summit. The other two climbers were just about ready to start down when we got to the top of



Kathy at the crux of the climb near the summit.

the chute. The views to the north included Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainer poking above the cloud layer. To the south, Mt. Jefferson was the most prominent point that appeared above the clouds. Farther south, the

Three Sisters could be seen. This amazing alpine experience was only slightly marred by the fact that we could look several thousand feet below us to the loads of skiers now on the groomed runs on Palmer glacier.



Daryn on the summit. Mt. Adams and Mt. Rainier can be seen on the horizon.

Before heading down, we checked the west ridge to see if we if there was a decent route there. Not liking what we saw, we returned to where we thought our chute was, but initially we could not find it. After some trial-anderror, we got out on a prominent rock point and could see where we had gone wrong. Turns out we had passed our ascent chute and were checking all the chutes just below the correct one.

Having checked out the several chutes just below the summit, we can safely say that the easiest route off the summit plateau is the Pearly Gates route (which



leads to the insurmountable bergschrund) and the one we came f up. If you choose one of the other chutes, be ready for some serious k class 4-5 snow and crumbly rock. s Probably the biggest advantage to take the route we did is that the rockfall potential looked to be the lowest of any of the other possible chutes.

After descending past Crater Rock, the snow had become quite a bit softer and we took our crampons off. We had a couple of great glissading runs as we descended towards the ski slope and arrived back at the car a little after 1 pm. Tourists were everywhere now and the parking lots were mostly full. Quite a change from our early morning start. Including Kathy and I, only four climbers summited Mt. Hood today. This was because the normal climbing season for the mountain is April through early July. Except for the icy snow near the top of the Old Crater route, the climb went pretty well for us this late in the year. The climb was 8 miles and about 11 hours round trip. Elevation gain was 5300 feet. Good information about climbing Mt. Hood that helped prepare us can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/recreation/climbing

TRIP REPORT

September 10-12, 2010

by Jerry Keating

Campground photos (all taken by Mary Mac) Saturday climb photos (all taken by Mary Mac): Terry Flood Saturday photos - final part of Chinese Peak Eugene Hathaway Sunday photo



Large group at start of Chinese Peak climb

With 39 persons on hand or nearby Friday evening, the 2010 version of the annual SPS "old-timers" series got off to a good start. The weather was perfect, and both Northern and Southern California were well represented. Camp was established at a USFS facility named Dorabelle on the shore of Shaver Lake in Sierra National Forest. Ret Moore--won the bottle of wine, becaue he has the longest club history of climbing with them. Heck, he climbed North Pal with Norman Clyde not knowing this was one of the great legends. I think Ret was 18, and Norman said,"Do you mind if I tail along with you guys?" (They thought--"What are we going to do with this old guy who will probably get in the way?")

Of those present, four were SPS founding members, and nine were SPS list finishers. The founders, whose connection with the section dates to 1955 or earlier, were Frank Bressel, Roger Gaefcke, Barbara Lilley and John Robinson. The list finishers included Elton Fletcher, who was among the participants from Northern California. Elton and wife Patricia were present Friday evening only since they were on a 1,100-mile mountain excursion by car.



Rich Gnagy, Mary McMannes, Terry Flood

The trip leader was Mary McMannes, who always has an ear open for stories of historic significance. She was not disappointed, especially with Sierra Club connections dating back to list finisher Ret Moore's gaining Norman Clyde as a member sponsor during a June 1943 climb of North Pal. With evidence of that early happening, Moore earned the prize, a bottle of wine, as the trip member with the longest club-related climbing history.



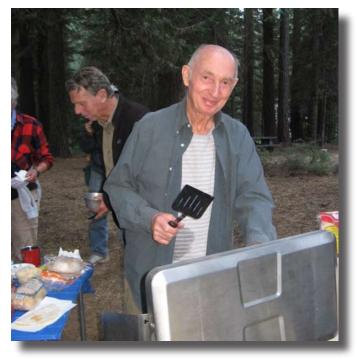
List finisher Ret Moore

Although not nearly as far back as Moore's meeting Clyde, list finisher Gordon MacLeod recalled that one of his member sponsors was his instructor in a June 1961 photography course in Yosemite Valley. The instructor was none other than the legendary Ansel Adams. When MacLeod, an avid fisherman, later was asked if he'd like to accompany a friend in climbing Mt. Whitney, he said, "Why?" The rest is history. And MacLeod met list finisher Barbara Lilley as he sat on the summit, and Lilley's head popped up over the edge after ascending the East Buttress.



SPS founding members Roger Gaefcke, John Robinson, Frank Bressel & Barbara Lilley

Vicky Hoover and family moved to California from the East in 1962, and she remembers not learning about the Sierra Club until 1965. Their club membership dates to early 1966, and they climbed their first Sierra summit on their own in summer 1966. In 1967, while on a national club outing, the family first heard about the SPS, a discovery



Bruno Geiger makes a mean quesadilla for hors d'oeuvres. (Bruce Trotter in background)

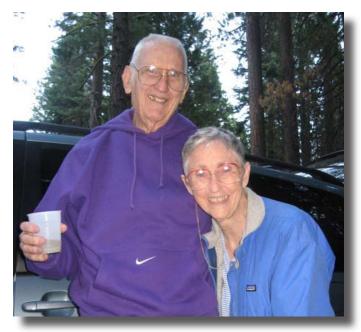
that led not only to their joining the SPS but all four Hoovers to become list finishers. San Francisco-based Vicky is one of the club's national leaders and award winners, including the John Muir and Oliver Kehrlein awards.

Campfire festivities and an array of delicious foods enlivened the campground experience with all participants introducing themselves and recalling famous or infamous moments as they climbed with the SPS or other organizations.



The San Diego contingency: Mark Adrian, Gail Hanna, Richard Carey

On Saturday, 34 participants caravanned up Cal 168 to what was the Sierra Summit winter sports area but in April was renamed China Peak by the new operator. From there, the group started the nearly1700-foot gain to Chinese Peak (8709') with Bruce Trotter of the Canyon Explorers Club setting the pace, McMannes bringing up the mid-paced climbers, and Lilley and MacLeod providing the encouragement for the others who reached the summit. Twenty persons – including list finishers Rich Gnagy, Hoover, Lilley, MacLeod, Gene Mauk, Moore and Mary Motheral – reached the rocky summit, while



Old Timers, Elton and Patricia Fletcher

eight other persons stopped on easier terrain below and six settled for various points about half-way up. The pristine summit area, which provided a fine view of the Huntington Lake area, rises above the ski runs. The summit is about 300 feet above a service road and involved some scrambling on volcanic rocks.

Other SPSers atop Chinese Peak were Mark Adrian, Richard Carey, Gail Hanna and Terry Flood – all from San Diego County – and Bruno Geiger, Delores Holladay, Nancy Keating and Ralph Wright.

On Sunday, 17 persons were ready for another climb. Mt. Ely was the planned objective for the day, but parking concerns prompted a change to Bear Butte (8598'). (Bear Butte originally was scheduled as a Saturday option and was climbed independently that afternoon by Adrian and Carey after Chinese Peak.)

From camp, the Sunday group drove back up Cal 168 and followed a side road to the parking area for the Rancheria Falls trail. From there, group members consolidated into high-clearance vehicles and traveled several miles farther along a forest road, which cut the hiking gain to Bear Butte, a volcanic knob. Some brushy terrain was followed by about 100 feet of gain on open talus. Five participants stopped below the talus field, while 12 others scrambled on to the summit for yet another good view of Huntington Lake and surrounding peaks.

A mong those enjoying the summit were Lilley and MacLeod, who resumed their SPS leader role, Gnagy, Holladay, Hoover and Trotter, the latter of whom was the prime leader for the Canyon Explorers contingent. Most of the CECers also belong to the Sierra Club and many additionally have SPS connections. All the participants were back to the vehicles by noon and free to pursue independent activities. Beyond those mentioned were Frank Lai of Irvine, a newcomer to the series who made the summits both days, and past SPS Chair Mary Sue Miller, who hiked both days but skipped the summits.



Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod just feet below summit

should Mention be made that Kaiser Peak (10,320') was climbed independently by two separate small parties, one on Friday and another on Sunday. Musick Mtn. (6807') also was climbed independently Sunday by two persons. Farther away, Northern Californians Louise Wholey and Alex Sapozhnikov departed the scheduled trip early Saturday to climb Tunemah Peak (11,894'), leaving Louise with only eight more peaks to do to finish the SPS list.



Rocky final part of Chinese Peak climb



Old Timers' organizer, Jerry & Nance Keating

A ppreciation is due founding member Frank Bressel, who years ago moved to Shaver Lake and helped develop this trip. Wife Joanna never formally joined the SPS but was active in the "outlaw" era that preceded the section's official creation in October 1955. Her account of that formative era appears in the October 2005 issue of *The Sierra Echo*. Both Bressels hiked part way up Chinese Peak on Saturday, but Joanna wisely limited the distance since Frank was in recovery from a medical problem and was due for surgery just days later. The Keatings and Robinson skipped Sunday's climb in order to visit the Bressels at their home in the forest slightly below Shaver Lake.

Started during the SPS's 50th anniversary celebration in 2005, this series focuses on locales that are largely off the beaten path commonly associated with listed peaks. The objective is to find named high points that can be led in a leisurely fashion and allow more senior members to participate. Extended campfire time is promised, so even those whose active days with the SPS occurred long ago can interact with newer members. With the crowded campground period over but the weather still expected to be mild, the post-Labor Day weekend is the normal time frame for the series.



Summit group atop Bear Butte: Arlene Block, Rich Gnagy (standing), Frank Lai, Vicky Hoover, Lynn Williams, Nancy Parker, Dick Drosendahl, Barbara Lilley, Delores Holladay (with stick), Gordon MacLeod and CEC leader Bruce Trotter.

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

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Deadline for all submissions is three (3) weeks prior to the publication date.

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