

# *The Sierra ECHO*

VOLUME 55 | NUMBER III | JULY - SEPT 2011

The summit of Kilimanjaro taken at Barranco camp (12,850') in the morning as we were leaving for Barafu (high) camp the day before our summit attempt.

See next Echo edition for article!



*Photo by Andreas Montes*

# ECHOS

*from the Chair*



*With my son Andreas on the summit of Kilimanjaro*

by **Kathy Rich**

Summer, and prime-time in the Sierra, is fast approaching. At present we have ~31 trips scheduled from May through September. However, due to the heavy snow this year, many spring trips have been cancelled or re-scheduled. Apparently even the ski resorts have been impacted. This rather amusing headline was seen in a local paper: “Ski resorts woe: Too much snow!”

The annual Angeles Chapter banquet was held at Brookside on Sunday May 1st. Our Echo editor, Sara

Danta, received a Special Service award. Several SPS members also received awards, with Nile Sorenson receiving the prestigious Chester Versteeg award. The evening had a historical theme, with an entertaining slide show presented by Bob Cates and his wife of various styles of hiking attire over the past century (who would have known that colorful bandanas were all the rage many years ago?).

An abundance of late-season snow meant that participants at the scheduled Sierra snow check-offs/practice sessions held at Onion Valley hardly had to venture very far from the parking lot. This year it has been gratifying to see not just M-candidates passing their rock and snow check-offs, but several E-candidates as well. Some of the credit for this should go to Dan Richter and Pat McKusky and their Advanced Mountaineering Program. This program has been a rousing success and classes are filled with a waiting list many months ahead. The 4th AMP rock course will be held from October 1-October 16, and plans are afoot to try and schedule a snow AMP course next year.

Don't forget the Centennial Picnic to be held on Saturday July 16th from 9-4pm at the Malibu Nature Preserve. It promises to be a great day of visiting with friends and fellow Sierrans. Along with book sales and signings, Glen Dawson, Royal Robbins and John Robinson will be in attendance. Tickets are \$20 (includes a BBQ lunch) and are available from Liz Pomeroy.

Happy trails to you all - climb safe!

## 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.

# New Members and Accomplishments!

New Subscriber: **Regge Bulman**  
New Subscriber: **Cory Verner**



**Eric Scheidmantle**  
Secretary

## MEETING INFORMATION

The SPS Management Committee will hold meetings every quarter at a location to be determined. Please contact SPS Chair Kathy Rich at [kathrynrich@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynrich@gmail.com) for meeting times, date and place.

The new T-Shirts are here. Caltech Peak, a recent addition, has been added to the back.

Patty Kline  
Merchandiser

# SPS TEES



Front: **NORTH PAL**

Back: **FULL SPS LIST** by geographic area with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak highlighted

**M, L & XL in Sand & Ash**

**\$12 + \$3.50 shipping**

**(\$4 shipping when ordering 2 or more shirts). Send your order to**

**Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive,**

**Topanga, Ca 90290 & make**

**check payable to SPS**

**CST 2087766-40**

## Eco News

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

# SPS Treasurer's Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 3/31/2011

## Checking Account

### Income

Echo-----	1665.00
Banquet-----	2240.00
Patches & Pins-----	50.00
Donation-----	<u>5.00</u>
	\$3,960.00

Balance on 12/31/2010----	3201.75
Income-----	<u>3960.00</u>
	7161.75
Expenditures-----	<u>-2272.99</u>
	\$4,888.76

### Expenditures

Postage-----	155.97
Banquet Taix's-----	1704.73
Banquet Presentors-----	300.00
Banquet Raffle-----	100.00
Banquet Printing-----	<u>12.29</u>
	\$2,272.99

### Savings Account

Balance on 12/31/2010-	-5000.43
January Interest-----	1.27
February Interest-----	1.15
March Interest-----	<u>1.28</u>
	\$5004.43
Debits 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter-----	<u>-1.04</u>
	\$5000.09
Debit for 2010-----	<u>-.36</u>
	\$5,002.73

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## REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this email address ([newsletter@sierrapeaks.org](mailto: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 E-mail list service: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/listserver.htm>.

# Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting Minutes

## Monday, March 28th, 2011, at the home of Alexander Smirnoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm. Members present were Dan Richter, Kathy Rich, Henry Arnebold, Greg Mason and Alexander Smirnoff.

### 1. Chair's Report - Kathy reported that:

- The Chapter Banquet is at Brookside on Sunday, May 1st. Sara Danta, Nile Sorenson and several WTC folks will be recognized.

- Several emails were received from the listserv regarding requests about how to join SPS and go on SPS trips.

- Regge Bulman, Monica Suua and Ted Lenzie are new members. John Fisanotti completed his SPS Emblem on Olancha Pk on June 5th, 2010.

- Changes to the Bylaws section 1.4 regarding what is required to join the section were approved in the December ballot. At least one of the leaders on a scheduled SPS trip must be a member.

- Two separate membership forms will soon be posted on the website: one for new members and one for renewals. An online application form should be considered in the future.

- Getting a centennial theme onto trips in honor of the chapter's anniversary was discussed. A centennial picnic will be held at Malibu Nature preserve on July 16th.

- Various ideas of ways to boost membership and involvement were discussed. Dan suggested the section get a bunch of permits and ask for leaders to do trips to these areas, similar to SCMA open weekends at campgrounds which can act as base camps.

- Eric mentioned using some social engineering to get leaders to leave spots open for new members and not fill trips just with friends. Dan brought up historical SPS meetings that had speakers and a great deal of meeting and greeting. Greg suggested leveraging the sps.org domain.

- There was a debate about whether SPS should publish private trips by member leaders. Some had specific concerns about the qualifications and responsibility of the leaders. All felt this topic deserved more discussion.

### 2. Treasurer's Report - Henry Arnebold submitted the 4th quarter, 2010 report.

- There is \$5,000 in the savings account and \$3,200 in the checking account. There are 57 members who had not paid dues yet.

- Henry announced that this year will be his last. Eric pointed out that one of our new members is an accountant.

- It was agreed that in the future, new members will not receive hard copies of the Echo. They will only get digital copies and cannot opt for hard copies. Current members can be grandfathered in.

### 3. Banquet Report - The 2010 banquet was close to breaking even with 64 paid attendees. Henry has made the SPS banquet reservation at Taix for 01/28/12.

### 4. Sierra Echo Report - The next due date for trips is 05/23/11.

### 5. Outings Report - none

### 6. Mountain Records Report - none

### 7. Archivist Report - Dan discussed the ongoing register effort of scanning, cataloging, UCLA, and Bill Oliver's contributions.

### 8. New Business

- Potential Geographic Emblem pin designs were discussed. Kathy showed printouts of a map from climber.org that represent different geographical areas of the Sierra Nevada and suggested a simple graphic representing the area around Yosemite and SEKI.

- Potential other locations for meetings were discussed that might increase attendance by general members and a sense of community.

- Dan suggested bringing back the potluck SPS meetings that include a presentation. He mentioned that there was a time when the SPS, DPS and HPS would have one communal gathering.

- The possibility of Laura Molnar giving a presentation was discussed. In 2010, she was the 1st woman to complete the Sierra Challenge. Ideas for presenters for the 2012 banquet were also discussed.

July 30, 1951

## In Memory of **CHARLIE KNAPKE**

May 8, 2011

by *Devra Wasserman*

The Sierra Club lost a giant - I lost my best friend. I met Charlie in 1989 hiking the Hundred Peaks Section in the Sierra Club. I immediately felt safe and protected under his leadership. We climbed 400+ peaks together. He absolutely loved the mountains and felt that his family was the Sierra Club. Charlie could either build a home or a computer from scratch. He truly was brilliant. His achievements and honors are too numerous to list but he had an iconic status within the club. We traveled to Hawaii to climb the high point, the Channel Islands, Mexico, Catalina, Italy and the list goes on. Our adventures together were truly incredible. We once came within 25 feet of a mountain lion and I knew at that moment there was no one in the world I would rather have been with - Charlie took immediate control of the situation! His sense of humor was fantastic right to the end of his life. He attacked his cancer as he did a peak - thoroughly and with determination. Charlie was a very private man yet loved from a distance by so many! Toward the end of his life, our talks took a rather deep emotional tone. I asked him if he knew how much he contributed to the Sierra Club and how beloved he was and he responded yes. Charlie was not a man of demonstrative emotion and that "yes" meant so much to me. He was an absolute cherished friend and I will miss him deeply!



*Charlie in 2009 at the DPS holiday party which honored him. Photo by Mary Mac*

Charlie Knapke died way too young; however, I know his spirit will always be with so many of us. Per his request, there will be a "CELEBRATION" of his life in the Mojave Desert (his most favorite place in the world) on the weekend of November 5th and 6th. See write-up this issue.

### *A word from Mary McMannes on Charlie*

It is hard to say goodbye to a cherished and long time friend and even harder when one is so young and gave unceasingly to a club whose membership numbers several thousands. We all benefited from knowing Charlie Knapke, and his presence will be with us for generations to come. The Sierra Club bids the fondest

and most grateful goodbye to Charlie who left us in early May on Sunday, Mother's Day. His final days were in St. Henry, Ohio, where his mother and five siblings were there at his side.

Charlie loved the desert wilderness more than anything, and it was fitting the Desert Peaks Section (along with HPS and SPS members) gathered to-

gether at the annual holiday party in 2009 to honor this great friend. Charlie looked fit and healthy and laughed when he saw the big cake with letters, “Charlie, You’re the Man!” But the prognosis was bad, and his case was terminal. We took lots of photos, and people had time to sit and reminisce about our various jaunts to the wilderness of which there had been many. Thanks to his best friend, Devra Wasserman, that we planned such a party for him.

In later months, Charlie and I emailed and talked. There were original copies of CDs and other materials he wanted to pass onto the DPS. He emailed me a resume of his Sierra Club activities which numbered three pages, single-spaced, and included 91 various hats that Charlie had worn. He was the webmaster to all the climbing sections, ushered the Sierra Club into the latest age of computer technology while leading hikes and finishing his own climbing lists. He spent hundreds of hours in locating stories, collecting old photos, and writing histories that were permanently placed on CDs for the Sierra Club Archives. Not always seated at his computer, Charlie got out and finished the HPS List 3x, DPS List, Lower Peaks List, and logged in 42 state high points. One year, he climbed 332 peaks and could be seen traveling to the High Sierra working on the SPS List, too. The Sierra Club honored him often with many awards: John Backus Leadership Award, R.S. Fink Outings Award, DPS Service Award, Angeles Chapter Outings Award, and the prestigious Chester Versteeg Outings and Leadership Award. How many more laurel wreaths can we give to one who gave unceasingly of his time and talents? The Sierra Club thrives and flourishes, thanks to Charlie.

In a last phone call prior to Charlie as he left for Ohio, the conversation was far from serious or dreary. There was lots of laughter as Charlie told his favorite “Hoda stories” and further accounts of The Ridiculous and The Absurd which go along with bagging

peaks and being serious mountaineers. There are always the characters who pepper the horizon and make us squeal but provide good fodder for stories later on. Charlie had the goods on all of them. It was the best way to say goodbye and reminded me that someone once wrote, “We grew old, but when we laughed we were young once again.” The mountain days and campfire stories are eternal.

Charlie’s final award came exactly one week after his passing. The DPS gave him his Leadership Emblem for leading 50+ peaks on the Desert Peaks List. He was the fourth person to do this and proud of it. Our banquet was dedicated to his memory, and many in the room had their own private thoughts of days with Charlie as he led us through cacti, cat’s claw, and unforgiving cholla to the higher reaches of mountain summits. Breezes were cool up there, the landscape was vast, and we all lingered and were reluctant to leave, because summit days with best friends are the great days of one’s life.

Charlie knew we’d be writing and talking about him. He left me with one of his favorite quotes borrowed from W.C. Fields. “You can say anything about me as long as it’s not true.” Well, Charlie, it’s all true, and we could fill pages with your life accomplishments and try and find words that capture your humble, unassuming, funny, wise personality of the guy we called, “Charlie.” Thanks for making a difference, and your legacy lives on.

Friends will return Charlie to his beloved Mojave Desert in early November, and all are invited to celebrate his wonderful life. Details are pending. Prayers will be offered for Charlie’s life at the St. Bede’s Catholic Church, La Canada, Thursday, July 14, 5:30 p.m. (Contact Diane Dunbar for more info.)

*Mary McMannes,  
the DPS, and all who hiked with Charlie.*



# Conservation Two-Liners

Submitted by Barbee Tidball

Taken from:



<http://www.eenews.net/cw/>

## CALIFORNIA: Sierra Nevada, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta listed as top areas under duress (01/07/2011)

Colin Sullivan, E&E reporter

California's Sierra Nevada mountain range and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in the Bay Area have been identified as two of the most threatened ecosystems in the United States, especially as climate change threatens to undermine the state's water supply and cause more wildfires.

The interconnected regions were listed on a "top 10" list this week on areas where wildlife, fish and plants are potentially nearing extinction. The list was compiled by the Endangered Species Coalition, which is a network of environmental groups based in Washington.

The coalition, in a report titled "It's Getting Hot out There: Top 10 Places to Save for Endangered Species in a Warming World," said both the Sierra Nevada and the delta, which is the largest estuary in the West, will be increasingly pressed by global warming.

"Climate change is no longer a distant threat on the horizon," said Leda Huta, executive director of the Endangered Species Coalition. "It has arrived and is threatening ecosystems that we all depend upon, and our endangered species are particularly vulnerable."

The report argues that the delta is in particular jeopardy, as the region has suffered from increased water extraction, toxic inflows and invasive species. The report describes the delta as nearing "a critical state of collapse," citing endangered salmon, delta smelt & other species.

The Sierra Nevada's snowmelt, which feeds into the delta, is similarly threatened, as climate change could lead to less and less snow over the coming century and undermine the state's natural storage system. This warning dovetails with a report released last year by researchers at the University of California, Davis, that found the Lake Tahoe region could lose 60 percent of its snowpack within 100 years (ClimateWire, Nov. 17, 2010).

Rest of the top 10

The Endangered Species Coalition says it employed top scientists to develop the list. Other areas on the list are as follows, with threatened or endangered species also noted by the group:

- Arctic sea ice, home to the polar bear, Pacific walrus and at least six species of seal.
- Shallow-water coral reefs, home to the endangered elkhorn and staghorn coral.
- The Hawaiian Islands, home to more than a dozen imperiled birds and 319 threatened and endangered plants.
- Southwestern deserts, home to numerous imperiled plants, fish, and mammals.
- The Snake River Basin, home to four imperiled runs of salmon and steelhead.
- Greater Yellowstone, home to the whitebark pine.
- The Gulf Coast's flatlands and wetlands, home to the piping and snowy plovers, Mississippi sandhill crane and numerous species of sea turtles.
- The Everglades, home to 67 threatened and endangered species, including the manatee and the red-cockaded woodpecker.



## SINGING ABOUT OUR UNSUNG HEROES

Tucked away in those verdant Pasadena hills is the Brookside Country Club, and the place to be on the first weekend in May. Sierra Club members of all entities join in the family gathering to honor the best and most worthy of leaders at the annual Angeles Chapter Awards banquet. It is not only great to arrive knowing there's an award with your name on it, but if not, one enjoys the camaraderie of seeing all the old and new friends gathered and imbibing on the patio. There was lots of whooping it up prior to the formal ceremonies. Bob and Maureen Cates plus Peter Ireland walked around in their 1920s hiking garb, and many of us popped into the vintage High Sierra Camp tent which Peter had set up.

Happy Hour and complimentary wine time was over, and folks scurried inside hoping to sit next to their favorite hiking friends. The Memorial Slide Show (shown at the end of the banquet) was introduced by Doug Mantle and yours truly as we sang a few bars from "I'll Be Seeing You." You do know that Doug sang with the Young Americans prior to his mountaineering career? The Sierra Club bid a fond farewell to fifteen fallen and most noble leaders. Past members of the HPS, DPS, and SPS were: George Toby, Lou Brecheen, Paul Kenworthy, Harry Freimanis, Lloyd Balsam, Chuck Kopeneck, and Bill Gray.

Following our keynote speakers, the main program moved into great fun and even hilarity as the awardees stepped into the spotlight. Ron Silverman, forever our charming emcee, was sporting new hair and Silvia Darie added glamour in a gorgeous red formal. The pace was moved to fast and faster so banquet goers could leave at a reasonable hour. Thanks, Ron and Mary Morales!

HPS, DPS, and SPS peak-baggers were well represented in getting their just desserts and well deserved accolades. Navigation Man and Outstanding in the Field (literally and figuratively) was Robert (Bob) Myers joined by multi-faceted trip leader Edd Ruskowitz, both happy with their outings



*Nile Sorenson (dressed to the nines!) receives his Chester Versteeg Award.*

awards. Our favorite friend and Echo editor Sara Danta looked lovely and had a big smile as she accepted her Special Service Award. Darrick Danta, an accomplished mountaineer and leader in his own right, looked on with pride and approval. Nile Sorenson rose to the podium to receive the coveted Chester Versteeg Award for his mountaineering expertise and prowess. Nile was in good company with other Chester awardees: Ron Hudson, Tina Bowman, Doug Mantle, and Dan Richter. Dressed to the nines, Nile gave an impressive and moving acceptance speech about the joys of training new young leaders. Other friends worthy of mention and receiving recognition were HPSer Southern Courtney and Craig Deutsch (editor of the Desert Report.)

The banquet was rolling along with great gusto when emcee Ron paused briefly to announce the successful killing of Osama bin Laden. The word Celebration took on a new meaning, and it became a banquet of historical significance.

Newlyweds Wynne Benti (Spotted Dog Press) and husband Scot sat at a far table with Bobcat Thompson, Marlen Mertz, Wayne Vollaire, awardee Edd, and other HPSers. Thanks, Wynne for generously donating the book, Ruth Mendenhall's "Woman on the Rocks," to each banquet attendee. Notables and those receiving their own past awards were here and there: Kathy Rich, Melody Anderson, Joe Young, Frank Dobos, Tom Bowman, Alex Smirnoff, Virgil and Ann Shields, Al Sattler, Paul Cooley, and David Eisenberg.

Finally, the star-studded evening came to an end, and everyone admitted to having attended another great

banquet thanks to all those behind the production. And most of all, thanks to Ron Silverman who gave us many laughs with his sped up program and still posed for dozens of photo ops while displaying the same genuine smile for each awardee.

Do yourself a favor and show up at next year's banquet, because the hikers and climbers are the soul of the Sierra Club (as first said by founder John Muir). And I hope many of you will come and win awards, too. It's a good feeling to finally sing about our unsung heroes. And better yet, when the song is about you!

**Roving reporter and frequent banquet attendee, Mary McMannes, June 2011**

*Susana Reyes, Eric Garcetti (President of L.A. Council), & Mary Mac*



*Sara Danta beams with Special Service certificate*



*Hard Working Mr. Nav Guy, Bob Myers takes an offering after receiving his Outings Award. (He's holding a bowl--very funny stuff!)*

*Alex Smirnoff & Nile Sorenson*



*Former SPS Chair Virgil Popescu on his DPS List Finish as he gets a big kiss from Dave and Ann Perkins. May 7, 2011, Pleasant Point. (Dave and Ann look like those little Dutch dolls that are salt and pepper shakers.)*

## Other Awards and Accomplishments



*Bob Sumner came down from Hawthorne, Nv. to give Mary Mac a potluck award*

# The Mysterious Registers from San Jose State



*Dan Richter and Glen Dawson June 18, 2010. Photo Bob Cates*

What a treat to spend an evening with Glen Dawson. Last June I met with Glen at his apartment in Pasadena with Bob and Maureen Cates to show him some summit registers that he and Ted Waller had placed on Mt Agassiz and Mt Williamson in August of 1933, during the Sierra Club's Annual High Trip. Glen at 98 was still spry and sharp and we laughed and talked as he looked at the registers and recounted stories about the names we read in them. The dry, fading and yellowed pages of registers were covered with famous names: Glen, Norman Clyde, Hervey Voge, Francis Farquhar, Jules Eichorn, David Brower, Walter Starr, Jr., Ansel Adams and many more. Glen's family had been very involved with the Sierra Club and Glen had grown up in the mountains. As a teenager he had made the first ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney on August 16, 1931 with Robert Underhill, Norman Clyde, and Jules Eichorn.

A year before, at a birthday dinner for me at Mijares Restaurant in Pasadena, Erik Siering handed me a box of old Sierra Registers that had been sent to him from someone at San Jose State. They apparently had been found in a storage cabinet and sent to Erik to give to me because I was the SPS Archivist. No one seems to know how the registers ended up at San Jose State. Opening the box I was stunned to see 13 historic registers and envelopes filled with loose papers, business cards, and cigar bands with names and comments dating from as far back as 1902. I read with excitement pages that documented first ascents and climbs that echoed from the past.

I did a preliminary index and working with Bill Oliver, the SPS Historian I arranged to send the registers to the Sierra Club Mountain Registers and Records Collection at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley where they would fill obvious holes in the collection. Before I sent the registers Bill wanted me to show them to Glen. Bob Cates the Angeles Chapter Historian and Archivist arranged for Glen and me to meet.

I have completed scanning the oldest ones and the registers have been sent to their permanent home at the Bancroft.

Dan Richter SPS Archivist March 15, 2011

**Note from Bill Oliver:** The SPS is hoping, over time, to return copies of the earliest pages of the historic registers to the summits. The original register had been turned over to the SPS, which has sent it to join the extensive Sierra Club Mountain Registers & Records Collection in the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.



# Leadership Training Committee 2011 Schedule of Activities

## Leadership Training Program Seminar

Oct 1 LTC Seminar - Eaton Canyon Nature Center Steve Botan

## Wilderness First Aid <http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>

Oct-28th - 30th



Steve Schuster

## Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Aug 7	I/M/E Mt. Pinos Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Sept 25	I/M/E Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Oct 1	I Beginning Navigation Clinic - not a Checkoff	Diane Dunbar
Oct 16	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Nov 19-20	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers

## Rock Practices and Checkouts

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

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 training not offered by the Sierra Club: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>

# Dan Richter



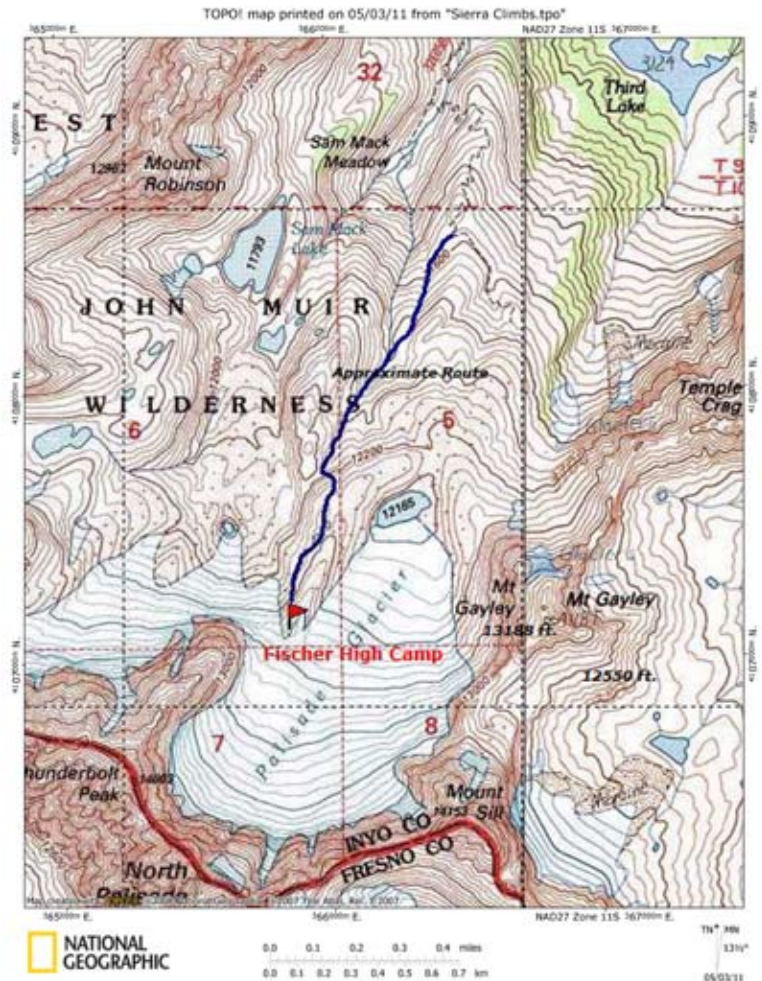
## Fischer High Camp

In memory of my friend John Fischer, the mountain guide who died last year, the PSOM (Palisades School of Mountaineering) High Camp on the Palisades Glacier, has been renamed Fischer High Camp. John's camp is high on the rocks just before the tip of the moraine that separated the two lobes of the Palisades Glacier. There is an old litter up there and some lovely flat sandy spots to camp on among the rocks. I am attaching a map with the location indicated. The route is approximate. Basically one climbs up the trail from Sam Mack Meadow and then when almost to the Glacier traverses over to the camp. This way is easier than climbing up directly from Sam Mack.

For those of you climbing in the Palisades, check it out. It puts you as close to the peaks from Sill to Thunderbolt as you can get and the view is stunning.

Climb on!

Dan



# AMP

*Advanced Mountaineering Program*

**Rock climbing skills**

**certificate course**

*Contact Dan Richter for details*

*Cell: (818) 970-0759 • Home: (626) 325-3210 • Email: dan@danrichter.com*

# WILDERNESS PERMIT INFO

## INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Website [www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Wildernesses  
Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District  
P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651  
(559) 855-5360

I would like to get reports on the condition of summit registers and overfilled or missing summit registers/containers/pencils for any SPS listed summit, or other major summits in the Sierras. I have lots of various register books, and ammo boxes, and a couple of tin cans. Let me know if you need any of these supplies to help take care of the peaks on this list. The following need pencils: Black Giant, Mt Gayley, Temple Crag. There are a number of changes to this list this year, but I want to emphasize just one peak - Middle Palisade. I still have the classic style Sierra Club aluminum box, embossed with the peak name. It was recovered from camp near Finger Lake three years ago. Since then I have received also two full summit register books from Middle Pal, and I have received a report that the SPS aluminum cylinder up there has been lost. The cylinder had fallen into a crack, and was later dropped off the east face during an attempted recovery. I would like to give this box to someone or some party that is not only willing to bear the 5 pound weight all the way up there, but can also BOLT IT DOWN, so it won't suffer the same fate as the cylinder, nor disappear again. Before you climb a Sierra Peak go to website <http://summitregister.org/> for additional summit needs. After you climb a Sierra Peak, please send in a report <http://climber.org/contact/SummitRegisters> on the condition of the summit register. I will keep track of them. I like "all OK" reports, too!

## SPS Summit Register Needs, 2011

Peak Name	Needs	Peak Name	Needs
Agassiz Mt	need container and book	Morrison Mt	need book and container
Black Mtn	need book	North Peak	need book
Carillon Mt	need book	Olancha Peak	needs Book returned - contact Harry to get the book
Cathedral Peak	need container and book (climbed too often?)	Recess Peak	need Container and Book
Dana Mt	need book	Red And White Mtn	need Container and Book
Darwin Mt	needs to be moved to summit - register is on plateau high point	Rose Mt	need book and container
Four Gables	need needs container and book (move cylinder from 'the bump between Four Gables and 12801' to Four Gables)	Round Top	need large book (for Ammo Box)
Gabb Mt	need book	Russell Mt	need book and container
Gibbs Mt	need container and book	San Joaquin Mtn	need container and book
Goethe Mt	need container and book	Sierra Buttes	need register and container
Granite Chief	need book, old book is FULL	Sill Mt	need register box is damaged - please send pictures to see if it can be repaired
Hooper Mt	needs a container, book is in temporary plastic box under the summit rock	Silver Peak	need book and container
Julius Caesar Mt	need container and pencil, better book	Smith Mtn	need container, book, pencil
Koip Peak	need book	Stanislaus Peak	need container, book, pencil
Langley Mt	needs book (for Ammo Box)	Starr King Mt	need better container or plastic bags to stop water damage
Laurel Mtn	needs book	Tehipite Dome	need book and a good drying out
Leavitt Peak	need book and container	Thunder Mtn	has 2 register cylinders on 2 summits - need consolidation. Contact Harry for details.
Lion Rock	need book	Thunderbolt Peak	need book and container - book in baggie is full, aluminum box was stolen!
Middle Palisade	need container and better book - contact Harry for details	Trojan Peak	need Container
Milestone Mtn	need original book taken by SAR	University Peak	need 30 cal Ammo box lid, or new container, has book
Mokelumne Peak	need register is completely missing	Vandever Mtn	needs book
Morgan N Mt	need ziplock bag, pencil, dry out book	Young Mt	need permanent container (has temporary one, with book)

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

# Outings

**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.

**June 18-19 | 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 e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Asst-Ldr: DOUG MANTLE

**June 24-26 | Fri-Sun**                    **WTC, SPS**  
**I: Angora Mtn (10,202), Coyote Peak (10,892):** Long backpack to remote pks in Golden Trout Wilderness. Fri hike Jerkey Meadows across Little Kern to camp, approx 12.5 mi, 3700' gain. Share communal happy hour. Sat climb Angora & Coyote, 13 mi, 3800' gain, some xc. Sun pack out, 1700' gain on return. Send resume of conditioning & experience, h&w phones in email to Ldr: BETH EPSTEIN. Co-ldr: TINA BOWMAN

**June 25-26 | Sat-Sun**                    **SPS, WTC**  
**M: Moses Mtn (9,331'), N Maggie Mtn (10,234')**: An intro M rated trip to Golden Trout Wilderness. Perfect WTC experience trip for students wanting to get back out on the rocks. Sat we'll hike in (3 miles, 1000') to set up camp & head for North Maggie Mountain (5 miles, 3000'). Sun we'll do a 3rd class scramble up Moses Mtn (5 mi, 2000') before returning to camp to pack up. Comfort on 3rd class rock required. Send recent experience, conditioning, & carpool info to Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST . Co-ldr: RON CAMPBELL

**July 1-3 Fri-Sun**                    **SPS , WTC**  
**I: Coyote Pk (10,892') and Angora Mtn (10,198')**: Postponed from May. Join us for 2 peaks at the southern tip of the Kern Divide. Friday hike from Lewis Creek TH (11 mi, 2500') to camp at Deep Creek. On Sat climb Coyote & Angora (14 mi, 4500' r/t). Hike out Sun. Good conditioning required; expect xc travel, class 2 scrambling, and minor bush-whacking on pk day. Happy hour Fri and Sat evenings. Send



email/sase, conditioning and contact info to Ldr: DARYN DODGE. Co-Ldr: KATHY RICH.

**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 for 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. Co-ldr: JOE SPEIGL.

**Jul 22-24 | Fri-Sun** **SPS, WTC**

**MR: Mt Stanford (13,963'), Mt Ericsson (13,608'), Deerhorn Mtn (13,281')** Climb these significant 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 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 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 North San 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** **WTC, SPS**  
**I: Hengst Peak (11,196'), White Chief Peak (11,159')** Join us for two unlisted peaks and help one of the leaders bag his namesake peak in this slow paced three day jaunt out of Mineral King. Saturday we'll hike in (4.5 mi, 2200' of gain) and camp at Mosquito Lakes so we can bag the two nearby peaks (3 mi, 1000') and (5 mi, 1500') before hiking out Monday. Send recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST Co-ldr: ADRIENNE BENEDICT

**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 12-14 | Fri-Sun** **SPS,WTC**  
**I: Mt. Conness (12,590')** Friday hike from

Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park (5 miles 1200' gain) to Young Lakes. Saturday climb Conness via southern approach (7 miles rt and 3,000' gain). Sunday return to trailhead. \$10 permit fee plus \$20 national park vehicle entry fee. Email, phone, recent conditioning, experience, rideshare to Ldr: STEVE CURRY Asst: JOE SPEIGL.

**Aug 12-14 | Fri-Sun** **SPS,WTC**  
**ER: Palisade Crest (13,553')** Climb a 4th class peak in the spectacular Palisades Region of the Sierra. Friday backpack from Glacier Lodge to camp at Elinore Lake, 5 miles and 3200' gain. Saturday climb Palisade Crest (13,553') and return to camp, 4 miles RT and 2500' gain. Option to climb Mt Jepson (13,390') on the return route. Sunday pack out. Participants must have 4th class roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Asst-Ldr: TINA BOWMAN

**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.

**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 13-14 | Sat-Sun** **PCS**  
**Louise's 70th Birthday and List Finish: Iron Mountain (11,149')** Not an SPS trip, but this trip is listed here as a courtesy to the Peak Climbing Section (PCS) of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, which is the trip's sponsor. Backpack from the ranger's station at Soda Springs (7400') to Anona Lake (9100') via Fern Lake, about 8 miles. Bring a treat to share for our pre-dinner party. Next day, climb the east chute (class 2-3) to the south ridge and walk the final ridge to the summit. Everyone is welcome. If we have too many people we may make it a day trip and party at camp near Mammoth. Contact: LOUISE-WHOLEY@YAHOO.COM

**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 20-21 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, SPS**  
**I: Muah Mtn (11,016')** 14 mi rt, 3,500' gain. Sat AM backpack from Horseshoe Meadow camp (10,000') over Trail Pass to PCT, then to Diaz Creek area (9,600') to setup camp. Cross-country climb to Muah Mtn. Return to camp for happy hour. Sun break camp, pack out for an early return to LA. Email leader (ssperling1@verizon.net) phones, recent backpacking, conditioning, altitude tolerance. Leaders: PETER LARA, SANDY LARA

**Aug. 26-28 | Fri-Sun** **Wilderness Adventures, SPS, PV South Bay**

**I: Mount Huntington:** Enjoy the Sierra wilderness at its best on this high elevation backpack/peak climb in the beautiful John Muir Wilderness. Drive up on your own Thu. Aug 26 and camp on your own near Rock Creek. Meet early Fri. a.m. at the Rock Creek Trailhead and backpack 8 miles, 3000' gain to camp in Pioneer Basin. Sat. climb Mt. Huntington, 2 miles, 1800' gain. Sun. backpack out to trailhead and drive home. Limited to 6 participants. Send \$35 reservation fee (Wilderness Adventures: refundable at the trailhead) and separate check with \$10 permit fee (non-refundable) with address, phone, conditioning info, recent hiking experience, email and one SASE (2 SASEs if no email) to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN, cldr: MARK MITCHELL.

**Aug 27-28 | Sat - Sun** **SPS/WTC**  
**ER: Mt Humphreys (13,986')** Climb the tallest peak visible from Bishop and the upper Owens Valley. Sat bkpk from North Lake over Piute Pass. Camp at upper Humphreys Lake, 7 m and 2600' gain. Sun alpine start up the NW face and 4th cl North Ridge route to summit Mt Humphreys, 3 m RT and 2100' gain. Return to camp, pack out. Participants must have 4th class roped climbing exper, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd cl and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE w/ climbing resume and recent exper to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Asst-Ldr: TOM MCDONNELL

**Aug 27-28 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, SPS**  
**MR: University Peak (13,589):** 13 miles, 4389' gain Saturday hike to Bench Lake, 4 miles, 1700' gain. Saturday night happy hour. Sunday climb University Peak from Bench Lake, third-class via the north face, 5 miles, 2700' gain. Break camp and backpack out. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock. Helmet, climbing harness, and medical form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email with Sierra Club #, climbing resume, experience with third-class rock, conditioning, and contact in-

formation to Ldr: ROD KIEFFER rodkiewer@yahoo.com ASSISTANT Ldr: MIKE ADAMS

conditioning /experience, and contact info to Ldr: JACK KIEFFER, Co-Ldr KC REID

**Sept 3-5 | Sat- Mon** **SPS, WTC**  
**MR: Temple Crag (12,999'), Mt Gayley (13,510')** Sat rugged cross-country backpack 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

**Sept 9-11 | Fri-Sun** **SPS,WTC**  
**I: Florence Pk (12,432'), Vandever Mtn (11,947'), Rainbow Mtn (12,043')** Join us for a gained filled weekend out in Mineral King suitable for fit WTC students with previous experience at altitude. We'll hike in Friday (6 mi, 3000') to camp at Franklin Lakes. Saturday we'll make the long haul out to Farwell Gap and grab Vandever (10 mi, 5600') before returning to camp. Sunday wake up early and grab Florence Peak (5 mi, 2500') and an optional climb of Rainbow before breaking camp and hiking out (6 mi, 300'.) Send recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to Leader: MATTHEW HENGST mhengst@hotmail.com Assistant: JAMES MONTROSS

**Sep 9-11 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**  
**O: Western Sierra Sojourn:** Leisure paced day hikes to 2 unlisted peaks in Sierra Nat Forest. Car camp at Bass Lake. "Old-timers" series, trip renewing acquaintances and welcoming newcomers. Extended happy hours Fri and Sat nights at USFS's Lupine CG. On Sat, drive on Sierra Vista Nat'l Scenic Byway to climb Fresno Dome (7540'). Gain 550' on trail/use trail, 2 mi rt. Then, time for 1+ mile hike on Shadows of the Giants Nat Rec Trail - Nelder Grove of giant sequoias. On Sun, short drive for climb of Goat Mtn. high point (4972'). Gain 1,050' with 6 mi rt on gated forest road. Free time for independent hikes up other area high points or for visit to geographic center of CA. Ldr: MARY MCMANNES. Send sase with H&W phones and e-mail address to Reservationist/Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING.

**Sept 10-11 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**MR: Mt Winchell (13,775')** Sat backpack to Sam Mack Meadow 6.5 miles and 3400' gain. Sunday get an early start and head towards the Thunderbolt Glacier to climb Mt Winchell via the east arête. 3.5 miles 2600' gain roundtrip then return to camp, and pack out to the cars. This trip is restricted to Sierra Club members, must have experience on 3rd class rock. Helent's will be required. Send e-mail or SASE with resume, medical form and recent conditioning to Ldr: DAVID CHAPMAN CalifDav@aol.com, Asst. ldr NEAL ROBBINS Neal.Robbins@L-3Com.com.

**Sept 17 -** Deadline for application and payment for next Leadership Training Seminar on Oct 1.

**Sept 9-11 | Fri-Sun** **SPS,WTC**  
**I: Mt Williamson (14,375')** The 2nd highest peak in the Sierra's, also SPS Emblem Peak, Friday drive to George Creek road to the end. Backpack to camp 4mi, 4500' gain. Saturday climb Williamson along the SE ridge, 5 mi rt, 4,400' gain. Happy hour both nights. Sunday pack up and hike out. Send email or SASE with \$5.00 and recent

**Sept 25 | Sun** **LTC, WTC, HPS**  
**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

**Sept 28 | Wed**                      **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/ER: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – Basic Safety System: 1st** of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members w/ prior roped climbing exp. The indoor evening workshop of 4 hrs reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, & basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. 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

**Oct 1 | 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 09/17.. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Spring 2012. Contact: STEVE BOTAN

**Oct 1 | Sat**                      **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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

**Oct 1 | 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

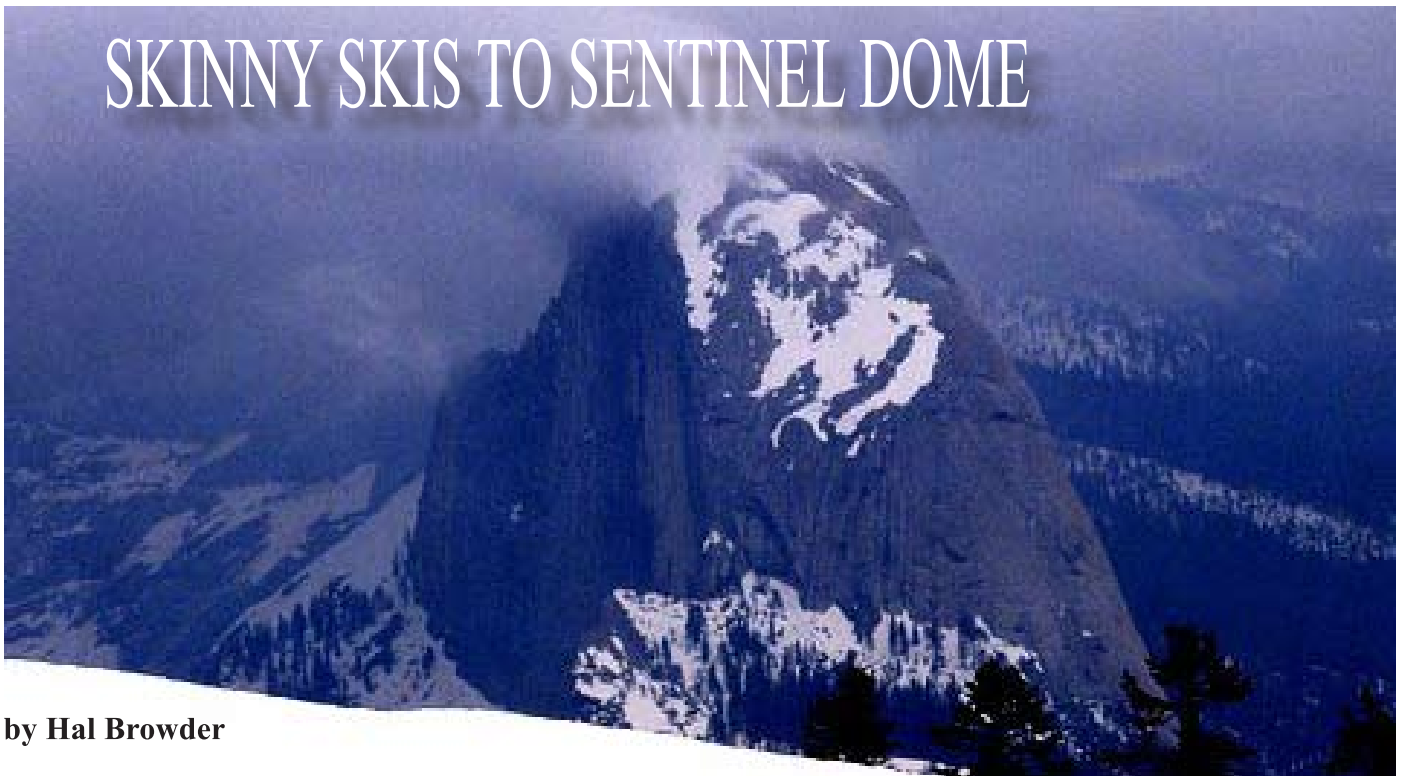
**Oct 8 | Sat**                      **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – Rappelling:** 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will 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

**Oct 15 | Sat**                      **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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

**10/28 | Fri - Sun**                      **LTC**  
**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. For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

**Nov 5-6 | Sat - Sun**                      **DPS, HPS, SPS**  
**O: A Celebration of Charlie Knapke's Life:** Join all of Charlie's climbing friends as we make one last journey with him to his beloved Mojave Desert. We will commemorate our friend who generously gave so much to DPS, HPS and SPS as well as the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. We'll remember Charlie with a celebration of his life at the Kelso Sand Dunes in an area accessible to all vehicles. The activities will include a huge potluck and car camp on Saturday night. E-mail leader SUE HOLLOWAY at sueholloway@yahoo.com to sign-up. Leaders: GARY CRAIG, SUE HOLLOWAY AND MARY MCMANNES

# SKINNY SKIS TO SENTINEL DOME



by Hal Browder

For a long time now I have been interested in gaining vantage points that offer a different perspective of Yosemite. Wintertime in Yosemite presents just such a unique experience. The crowds are mostly gone from many of the summertime crowded venues. With this in mind, I decided to take a ski trip from Badger Pass to Sentinel Dome, which would involve about a one way, eight-mile trek and hopefully eight miles back to my waiting car. I decided that I would get an early start from home and try to arrive at Badger Pass by eight am so I could be one of the first on the trail.

The night before my trip a small weather front passed through the area and I was greeted by a new coating of powdered snow, which had pretty much filled in the machine groomed track that had been cut into the Glacier Point Roadbed. The scene presented a beautiful winter wonderland and the parking lot at Badger was nearly empty of cars on this weekday start.

I put on my layered ski clothes and filled my day-pack with food and the usual essentials to provide for any situations that I might encounter. I clipped on my skis, secured my pack and off I went. The usual groomed track was barely discernible under the new

snowfall, so I had to virtually break a new track in the fresh snow. Stillness abounded and the only sound was the shushing of my skis as they cut through the previous nights snow.

The road out to the cutoff to Sentinel Dome is best described as gentle rolling and on the downhill sections I was able to make some great exhilarating runs but the uphill portions require a lot of work especially when breaking a new track. Soon I found it necessary to remove some of the outer layers of clothes as I heated up from the exertion. The solitude was wonderful and occasionally the clouds would part revealing the beautiful snow covered peaks and ridges in the distance framed by snow flocked trees. I was alone in the wilderness.

Time and distance seemed to fly by and soon I could see off to my left the snow crowned dome, which was my destination. The wind was picking up and little flurries of spindrift were blowing in my face. Just before the road starts its descent down the switchbacks to Glacier Point, a gated road goes off to the left toward the Dome.

I skied up this road, which leads to the base of the Dome. From here the terrain steeply angled upward and I had to traverse back and forth in order to gain altitude. This was slow going, so I finally decided to remove my skis and, on foot, I post-holed in the deep unconsolidated snow on up to the highpoint. What a view it was! There, in the distance, was Half Dome in all its winter splendor complete with a great snow banner streaming off the summit. Across the Valley, through the passing mist, the faint image of Yosemite Falls could be seen. The ghostlike Jeffery Pine was covered in a glazed coating of ice. As soon as I stopped and sat down on my fanny pad, I was aware of the chilling gusts of wind assaulting my clothing. I quickly replaced all my protective gear, which I had removed earlier. Pristine winter wildness abounded as I sat in awe of this wonderful scene. Yosemite at its very best!

After consuming some lunch and snapping a few photos, the cold dictated that I needed to get moving again. I plunged stepped downhill to retrieve my skis and began to ski back down to the main road. Soon, I could hear from the road below the sound of the machine, which was placing the groomed tracks back into the snow on the road. This was welcome news since this would help greatly in my trek back to Badger.

The trip back was uneventful and I met one other skier on the trail this day that was heading out to Glacier Point to spend the night at one of the shelters. This was, for me, a very special winter day, which I would like to repeat some day. I must say that being alone in the wilderness always seems to sharpen my awareness to the beauty that surrounds me. This was definitely one of those days. Berg Heil!



**Hal Browder is seeking any information or photos of The Upper Glacier Lodge in the Palisades area which was removed by the USFS probably in the 1960's. I have some info from the Eastern Sierra Museum and a previous worker at the site but would like to have SPS members stories or pics of the lodge. Send replys to Hal Browder, 43310 Ranger Circle Dr., Coarsegold CA 93614 or [browder@sti.net](mailto:browder@sti.net)**

## TRIP REPORT

May 14 -15, 2011

### *Rockhouse Peak From The East Via Long Creek Trailhead*

by Matthew Hengst

“You can’t cross the Kern this early” This was the helpful advice given most often when I would mention the fallback plan for my May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Domelands trip with Greg Mason.

Originally intended as a two day three peak car camp from Big Meadow the record amount of snow this year meant the access road from Sherman Pass was still at least several weeks away from being opened. Instead we switched to a backpack from the east via Long Creek trailhead with the hopes of getting Rockhouse and Taylor Dome.

Joining us were Jen Blackie, Amin Faraday, and Jack Kieffer.

Saturday morning we all met at the Long Creek Trailhead and packed in 6 miles to the shore of the South Fork of the Kern just north of Rockhouse Meadow.

As had been predicted several days ago by a rather excitable ranger at the Isabella office the Kern was flowing rather high and had obliterated all the crossings. We wasted several hours trudging north and south along the shore attempting to wade across where it looked promising much to the

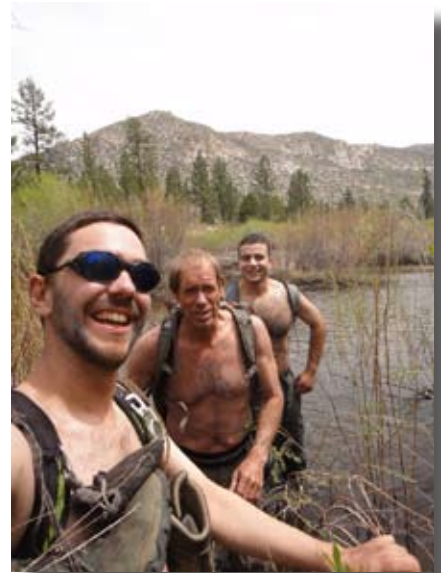
amusement of some fisherman. Each attempt ended with us sinking in past our shoulders and getting pulled into heavy current. Looks like we were up for a swim.

That did of course present an issue with getting the packs across.

A bit north of the Mahnter crossing we found a large log lodged in the weeds just across the deepest and swiftest part of the river. I stripped down and with only minor difficulty made it across below the log and grabbed on to some reeds in waist deep yet slow moving water. A bit of muddy slogging later I touched dry land on the far side.

I returned and made my way to the log I’d eyed from the other side. This did involve leaving the forest of reeds and crossing about 8 feet of swiftly flowing water before I could latch on to the log. Fortunately there were some underwater reeds I was able to employ as badly needed handholds.

Seeing me standing there my compatriots on the other side questioned how stable the log was. In the interest of science I proceeded to jump up and down



***Matthew, Jack, and Amin wading across the Kern***

and rock from side to side but failed to send the entire edifice plunging downstream.

I had brought along two 8 mm x 30m ropes and Greg proceeded to toss the first one over to me. Catching the end without plunging off the now wet and slightly unstable log proved to be a challenge.

We used the first rope to set a fixed line between a tree on the shore and one branch of the log. We then took the second rope, tied it off on each side, then clipped two small biners through bites and clipped them to the first rope. We now had a system to get the gear across.

We attached each pack at the top and bottom and used the second rope to pull it across to the log trying our best to keep everything from getting wet. Meanwhile my participants swam across with



admirable enthusiasm and we set up a rather interesting gear handoff across the fast moving section to a small relatively dry spot in the middle of the stream.

Greg neglected to get wet so with Jack Kieffer filling in as my sweep we set off for Rockhouse.

Instead of heading southwest to the standard route from Rockhouse saddle we climbed the north east ridge directly and followed it about a mile and a half to the summit. Here and there we did some light third class and soon found ourselves underneath the summit block.

We wasted no time in climbing up, signing in, and heading down as we were pushing it a bit to make it back to the crossing before dark.

We tried to join the Mahnter trail down to Rockhouse Meadow but except for one duck near the bottom there was no sign of a developed route.



*Jack and Jen relaying gear*

We notified Greg of our arrival back at the far side of the river with a boisterous rendition of happy birthday that echoed across the surrounding hills.

Crossing back was just a matter of reversing the process. Boots went over our shoulders, shirts and hats went into the packs, and we waded back to my friend the slightly unstable log.

Swimming back across wasn't

any more difficult than before and the effort required had a pleasant side effect of distracting you from just how cold the water was.

We'd done about 17 miles by that point including a bit of swimming against current. Greg had made a campfire which we gratefully huddled around to dry off.

That night we had a small amount of precipitation that sounded like it was more snow than rain.



*Jen and Jack wading across the Kern*

Unfortunately the following morning no one except for the always adventurous Jen Blackie was interested in jumping back in the river with me to try for Taylor Dome. The fresh round of snow showers rolling across us might have had something to do with it.

So instead we hiked out and made it home at a respectable hour (for once.)

More Images at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/matthewhengst/sets/72157626734977882/with/5725698160/>



*Matthew on the slightly unstable log*



*Topo Route*

# Mt. Rainier - Disappointment Cleaver Route

TRIP REPORT

Aug 9-10, 2010



*Photo by Kathy Rich*

by Daryn Dodge

## *First view of Mt. Rainier on the road to Paradise*

Following our dayhike of Mt. Hood, Kathy and I drove several hours to the small town of Ashford. We stopped in at the visitor's center, which shares the same building as Rainier Mountaineering School (RMI) and a mountaineering store. We inquired about places to stay in town and a weather report for Rainier. The person in the visitor center was quite helpful and we ended up staying in a reasonably priced motel with cabins up the street as we were very much in need of a shower. I also mentioned that we had just been on Mt. Hood earlier in the day. No one was impressed. I suppose everyone around here has been up the peak multiple times and it's no big deal for them.

The next morning we made the drive to Paradise and picked up our permit for climbing Rainier at the ranger station. Maybe because it was a Monday, there were very few other climbers around. The rangers handed us a detailed gear checklist and quizzed us about what gear we were bringing. They seemed unimpressed at our mentioning that we had done quite a number of snow climbs in the Sierra Nevada, but finally issued our permit and supplied us with the requisite blue bags (for human waste).

We started up the paved Skyline trail at about 8:30 am, which after a mile crosses some large patches of snow. Earlier in the season the entire trail could be

under snow. The trail ended a little above Panorama Point at Pebble Creek. Soon after crossing Pebble Creek we came to the start of the Muir snowfield. It now becomes nearly all snow from here on up. Although we had seen few people lower down, there were now many others around us also on their way to Muir Camp.



*Kathy on Muir snowfield with Rainier in the background.*

It took us 6 hours to make the trip from the Paradise parking lot to Camp Muir. Kathy had heard that whatever time it takes to reach Camp Muir, expect to take the same time from the Camp to the summit (this, in fact, proved true for us as well). We took a break here surrounded by a hubbub of human activity. Muir Camp is almost like a small village with the number of climbers both going to, and arriving from, the summit. It appeared most climbers there were being guided, as many wore the same red-colored boots rented out by RMI. Our plan was to camp at Ingraham Flat, which is an hour's climb and 900' above Muir Camp. Ingraham Flat is a relatively flat spot on the Ingraham Glacier, but is surrounded by crevasses above, and seracs below. So, aimless wandering outside of the marked camp zone is not a good idea. However, it was an excellent place to camp and much less crowded than Muir Camp.

Above Camp Muir we now had a trail that led across Cowlitz Glacier, then over a rocky ridge of the Cathedral Rocks. Soon after this, we could see tents pitched at Ingraham Flat. It took about an hour to reach Ingraham Flat from Camp Muir. We found a

cleared spot from a previous tent and pitched ours. Soon after, two other unguided climbers we had met in then Paradise parking lot, Dakota and Jeff, showed up took the last cleared spot next to our tent.



*Ingraham Flat camp and Disappointment Cleaver (on right) with the summit above.*

We awoke at 11:30 pm and were ready to start climbing at about 1:00 am. It was cold, dark and a tad windy...a typical alpine start. We roped together here for the first time on the trip. Roping together was really not necessary up to this point. We also pulled out our ice axes and put on our crampons for the first time. Dakota and Jeff started up the glacier about 15 minutes ahead of us. We were the second group out of camp, just ahead of a guided group preparing to start. We crossed our first crevasse (an easy one) only 10 minutes out of camp and soon arrived at Disappointment Cleaver. The Cleaver is a big fin of rock sticking out of the glacier. The object is to climb onto the ridge and follow it up to its end for a total gain of about 1200'. This late in the season, the Cleaver route is preferred. Earlier in the year climbers bypass the Cleaver by taking what's called the "Ingraham Direct" route on the glacier beside the Cleaver. This option was not recommended now, as big crevasses had opened up. When we reached the base of the Cleaver, we stopped to take a clothing break and remove our crampons since the next stretch was mainly on rock.

Looking down at camp, we could see bobbing headlamps of a couple more groups in the distance rounding the bend from Camp Muir. A group of eight

caught up to us just as we were ready to start up the rock. This group, three guides from AMG and five clients in three rope teams, was moving faster than us and did not hesitate in transitioning from snow to rock. They were “dry-poning”, as in not removing their crampons when they hit the rock. As they went by we fell in behind them barely keeping up (and we didn’t have crampons on!). The last guide in the group asked if we were having trouble, because he had noticed our headlamps bobbing around in the dark at the base of the Cleaver as they caught up to us. Just as he started to suggest we head back down (clearly thinking we were out of our league) I said we were merely taking our crampons off. It was the same attitude we got from the rangers before we started up Mt. Hood only two days earlier. Come on rangers and guides! The lack of faith in non-guided climbers on Hood and Rainier is getting old. Some of us actually have some experience in climbing snow and rock. Crimony!

However, it was useful that we were able to follow the guided group. The poorly defined trail on the Cleaver was hard to see in the dark. The guides knew right where to go. Dakota and Jeff, who were ahead of us, lost the trail and got hung up on the rocks about 100 feet above us. They knocked a few little rocks loose and the guides yelled at them. Near the top of the Cleaver we hit some snow sections and one of the climbers and his guide commented out-loud how dangerous it was for us to hike on snow without crampons on. (Again, come on! The snow conditions here were easy, especially when tromped on by multiple climbers wearing crampons. Really, this isn’t our first time on snow!) But finally, the peer pressure got to us and we stopped to put our stinkin’ crampons back on. The guided group quickly disappeared from view. We were probably better off for it. The constant scrutiny was annoying.

I’m being a bit hard on the guides, but they do a wonderful job establishing the best route up the mountain for their clients (and for non-guided climbers like us too). Taking the standard route was the way to go for us, since this was our first time on such massive glaciers. Because so many choose this route, there is a virtual trail in the snow with many wands

staking the route. Except for crossing Disappointment Cleaver, the trail is relatively easy to follow in the dark. The guides are constantly checking and improving the route as the snow conditions change throughout the climbing season. We passed several old routes on the way up that were blocked off with crossed wands. Crevasses had opened up too much on these routes, and were subsequently abandoned. If I ever climb this route again, I’ll be sure to thank the guides for the great job they do in establishing the route.



*Daryn heading down from the summit. Over the last 3000’, the route must bypass massive crevasses like this one.*



*The last 3000 feet up Rainier looks like this.*

*Continued next page*

Continuing up, the trail zig-zagged its way up around the edges of crevasses. We got far ahead of Dakota and Jeff after the Cleaver and saw no other groups until the summit. It was just Kathy and I in the snow and the dark for the next three hours as we trudged up the mountain. Finally, with about 1500' left to climb, we could see daylight was approaching. Soon after this, we crossed the second large crevasse of the morning. This one was about 2 feet wide with a snow bridge. Not too difficult. About 10 minutes later we reached the third, and last, crevasse to cross. This one was five feet wide and looked absolutely bottomless! The guides had set up a ladder here. The chewed up wooden slats lashed onto the ladder looked awfully thin to me. However, we walked across the ladder without incident.

Finally, about 5 hours into the climb, we saw the rocky rim of the crater just above us. The route enters the crater at its lower side. Inside the crater, we saw the guided group that passed us on the Cleaver just returning from the summit. Several in the group congratulated us as we headed by them to Columbia Point, the higher of two bumps on the other side of the rim. The crater itself was not that wide and we were on the summit about 15 minutes after first reaching the crater rim. We stayed only long enough to take some photos and have a look around, then dropped off the highpoint out of the very cold wind. The route took us by the register so we signed in and took a break. It wasn't so bitterly cold here. Several groups of climbers began appearing on the rim. All these groups, including Dakota and Jeff, headed for the slightly lower summit just to the south of us, so we didn't get to congratulate them.



*Kathy on the cold summit of Mt. Rainier.*



*Little Tahoma Peak from Ingraham Flat camp.*

Heading back to camp in daylight gave us an appreciation of just how steep some of the snow climbing was. Probably reaching 35 degrees or more. However, it wasn't as tough as the crux on Mt. Hood we had done 2 days earlier. Upon reaching Disappointment Cleaver, we felt safe enough to take our crampons off. My feet were very thankful. Back at camp we took a 2 hour break before heading down, taking our time eating and packing up. We took another long break down at Camp Muir. Again, there were many climbers hanging out here, some were up for the day just to visit the Camp, while others were spending the time here acclimating before beginning the final push for the summit at midnight.

The trudge down the Muir Snowfield was a bit tedious. It's every bit as described in other reports...mushy in the afternoon and not steep enough to get good glissades. Finally back at Paradise about 1 pm, the place was packed with tourists. My sister, who lives only a hour away, was there to greet us. We stayed at her family's house that evening and then drove to the Portland airport the next morning where I dropped Kathy off for her flight back to LA. I managed to make the drive back to Sacramento that evening with the help of several cups of coffee strategically located along Interstate 5.

The entire climb was 16 miles round trip with a total gain of 9100'. I estimated about 30-40 climbers reached the summit the same day we did, with over half being guided. The park website: [www.nps.gov/mora/](http://www.nps.gov/mora/) has complete information on what climbing equipment to bring, near up-to-date climbing conditions, and a wonderful contoured map of the standard climbing route.

## CARIBBEAN HIGHPOINTS, PART I

**Barbados Flag**



**Virgin Islands Flag**



The Antilles, Greater and Lesser, which extend from Cuba in the west, to Trinidad, just off the northeastern coast of Venezuela, make up the greater part of the West Indies. Consisting of 7,000 islands, islets, reefs and cays, there are 28 independent countries and possessions in the archipelago, including 21 possible additions for my collection. My flag collection, that is. *Oh, yeah, I’m an unabashed flag-bagger.*

### THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS: CROWN MOUNTAIN (1,555’)

The Virgin Islands lie in either the Greater Antilles or the Lesser Antilles. The U.S. Geological Survey places them in the former group (which includes Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico), while other sources situate them in the latter. All parties agree, however, that the Virgins belong in yet another grouping—the Leeward Islands.

The first European sighting of the Virgin Islands was by Christopher Columbus in 1493 on his second voyage to the Americas. Columbus dubbed them Santa Ursula y las Once Mil Vírgenes (Saint Ursula and her 11,000 Virgins), later shortened to Las Vírgenes (The Virgins). The name Antilles comes from Antilia, that presumed land found on many medieval maps, sometimes an archipelago, sometimes continuous land, its location fluctuating in mid-ocean between the Canary Islands and India.

Today, the Virgins are possessions of both the United States, which in 1917, for \$25 million, purchased the western-most islands from Denmark, and Great Britain, which wrested control of the eastern islands from Denmark way back in the late 1600s.

As of the 2010 census, the U.S. Virgins, which include St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, plus several minor islands, had a population of 109,750. The most highly populated of the islands is St. Thomas, which is also the home of Crown Mountain, the 1,555’ highpoint of the U.S. Territory.

My wife, Jo, and I had sailed into Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas’ busy cruise port, on two earlier occasions, but we spent one of those day-long visits engaged in unrepentant duty-free shopping and the other visiting Trunk Bay Beach on St. John. On our third trip, which was planned specifically to bag Crown Mountain, we flew in to spend two nights at a resort hotel on a point overlooking Frenchman Bay on St. Thomas’ south coast.

On the first morning our third trip, we hired a cab to take us first to the summit of Crown Mt.—a drive-up—and then to continue around the rest of St. Thomas.

Our driver told us that his name was Captain. He said he knew everybody on the island and everybody on the island knew him, after which he entertained us with local lore while making his way up the narrow, twisting road to the antenna-topped summit. And it was there that Captain's affability took a U-turn.

The antenna, erected on the true highpoint, was enclosed by a chain-link fence, and Captain seemed to feel that his job was done when he parked along the road a short distance away. I, a high point purist, decided to take a closer look to see if I could get closer.

Well, at first glance the double gates, festooned with No Trespassing signs, appeared to be securely chained and locked. There seemed to be no way to get in.

Or was there?

Inspecting the heavy chain carefully, I found that two of the links were merely wired together. Naturally, I unwired them and started to open the gates.

Captain took exception. "Hey, what are you doing?"

"I'm going in," I said.

"Are you trying to get me in trouble?" he replied.

"No, I'm trying to get to the top of the mountain."

To make a long story short, while I walked a few feet over to the true highpoint, Captain paced nervously around his taxi, grumbling to Jo. His cordiality and friendly patter dried up for the rest of the trip.

You'll be glad to know that even though Captain didn't appreciate the old 'because it's there' spirit, I gave him a good tip anyway.

For outdoorsy folks, the nearby island of St. John will be the most likely choice of U.S.V.I. destinations. Indeed, thanks to the generosity of Laurence Rockefeller, who donated most of the land, approximately two-thirds of the island is now comprised of the Virgin Islands National Park. Not only is the Park's Trunk Bay Beach considered one of the best and most beautiful on the planet, but it's also adjacent to a host of hiking trails winding through the area. St. John is easily reached by a short ride on a ferry or an excursion boat from St. Thomas.

The island of Tortola, home of 1,708' Mt. Sage, the highpoint of the British Virgin Islands, is also accessible by ferry from St. Thomas.

More about that highpoint later, however, after I return to successfully bag its flag.

#### ST. MARTIN: PIC DU PARADIS (1,390')

Slightly more than 100 miles to the east of St. Thomas, and definitely a part of the Lesser Antilles, lies an island with a split personality, St. Martin/St. Maarten.

The dually-named isle is, in fact, the smallest such area in the world to be divided between two nations—France holding its north side, approximately 60% of the island's area, and the Netherlands possessing the south side, the remaining 40%—a schism dating back to 1648.

Setting the island's headacheingly-complex history aside, however, let's discuss something of even greater interest—what sort of flags are involved?

Which explains why, upon docking in Phillipsburg, the capital of the south, Dutch side, on a recent April morning, the urgent question was: 'Do we climb the high point of the island, Pic du Paradis, which, lying on the French side, flies the French flag—a standard I'd already bagged, or do we climb the Dutch-side high point, Sentry Hill (1,119'), which would give me a new banner for my collection?'

*continued next page*



**M**y son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and I scurried off the 3,080 passenger ship to get to the Hertz office before it became totally swamped. The genial manager there told us that Sentry Hill, which we could see from his office, was not an option. He said, however, that a climb of Pic du Paradis, including a trip around the perimeter of the entire island, would make a great day's excursion.

We bought the idea, and we were happy that we did.

Starting off from Phillipsburg, we headed counter-clockwise around the island, first taking in the Dawn Beach-Oyster Pond area in the Dutch half and Baie Orientale in the French half, both on the island's eastside. After passing through Grand Case (home of the Aéroport de L'Espérance, which handles only smaller island-hopping planes—the big planes land near Phillipsburg, coming in breath-takingly low over a popular beach), we began curving south, soon coming to the small settlement of Ramband. There we turned left (east) off the main road, and began a steep climb of a road which dwindled in condition as it gained altitude.

Eventually narrowing to one lane, the road ended at a massive, chained-shut wrought iron gate—undoubtedly the entrance to an upscale mountain estate (see photo). We parked just outside the gate, then walked a couple of hundred feet along a use trail skirting the fenced enclosure of an antenna until we came to a viewpoint overlooking St. Martin's eastside. And it was there we could see a higher summit to the north.

Back in our Jeep, we drove perhaps 100 yards down the road, where we spotted an unmarked trail heading up, through thick vegetation, in the proper direction. We decided to chance it, and, after approximately quarter of a mile and 200' of gain, we came to the true summit of the island, a site with even more antennae.

The view from the true summit was not quite as rewarding as that from the first viewpoint, but it did offer a nice panorama of the northwest side of the island. Incongruously, the rock on the very highest point seemed to be limestone (see photo). How can that be if the islands are of volcanic origin?

Returning about half way down the Pic du Paradis road, we turned left into Loterie Farm. We decided to have lunch at the 150 acre private nature preserve as our guidebook claimed that the preserve's restaurant, Hidden Forest Café, was one of the best on the island, which itself was noted as a spot "where gastronomy flourishes."

Well, I ordered the *salade niçoise*, which came topped with fresh seared ahi—*tres bien*. My companions ordered chicken in apricot sauce and chicken in curry sauce, which were also excellent. The lunch was truly one of the highlight of our week-long cruise.

One last thought: Although the Hertz manager told us that a climb of Sentry Hill (the Dutch side highpoint) was not possible I would guess that it is. Because of the flag involved, and because I'd like to launch into another Loterie Farm *salade niçoise*, I would, in a heartbeat, return to St. Martin/St. Maarten.

#### BARBADOS: MOUNT HILLABY (1,115')

**H**eading southeast from St. Martin, passing through the Leeward Islands, continuing into the Windward Islands, and hanging a sharp left turn at St. Lucia, you'll arrive at the island nation of Barbados, the eastern-most of the Antilles.

Composed primarily of coral, Barbados is geologically unusual in that most of its neighbors are of volcanic origin. And, if you check your map of the Caribbean, you'll notice that the island is a bit stand-offish, positioned as it is outside the general curve of the other Windwards. In fact, Barbados, along with Tobago and Trinidad, while included in the Antilles, are not generally classified as Windward Islands.

Once a Spanish and Portuguese territorial possession known as *Los Barbados* or *Os Barbados*, the island became an English colony in 1625, and was granted independence in 1966.

One of the Caribbean's leading tourist attractions—in fact, prior to their retirement, the island was an SST destination—Barbados is also considered to be the most highly developed island in the region. The small nation has an estimated population of 285,000,

with about 80,000 living in or around Bridgetown, the country's largest city and the capital.

Jo and I disembarked in Bridgetown on a November morning in 1990, following a trans-Atlantic voyage. Clutching a map of the island in my hand, we hailed a taxi and requested to be taken to the top of Mt. Hillaby, the island's 1,115' highpoint.

Now many years later, I'm really not certain of the details of our drive to the site, but it couldn't have taken more than an hour—the island, after all, is only 21 miles in length and 14 miles in width. I do know that when we got to where my map showed we should be, no higher elevations were in sight. I took a few photos, and we started back to Bridgetown, where that evening we caught a plane for LAX.

Recently, I read a 2003 write up of Mt. Hillaby on Summitpost.org, in which the author, J. Soles, wrote, "Not a pointy topped mountain more of an extended ridge with a road that travels all the way to the top.

At the end of the road a small trail with some steps leads a few meters into the bush where you can find the actual summit post and its summit marker."

Okay, so I didn't find the steps. Sue me. I'm keeping the flag anyhow.



*Pic du Paradis, Burt, Nancy & Angela Falk*

## Climb High, Climb Well!



*Mt. Ritter & Banner Peak | photo by Austin Post*

# 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 Echo

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**The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter; this issue edited by Sara Danta**

Publication dates are Jun 15, Sept 15, Dec 15 and Mar 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word, WordPerfect, email (electronic format is preferable), or through regular U.S. mail. Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop in a resolution high enough for print media) or submitted as prints or slides. If submissions are to be returned to you please include a return envelope with sufficient postage. **All submissions should be sent to Sara Danta or emailed to [s\\_wyrens@yahoo.com](mailto:s_wyrens@yahoo.com).**

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

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