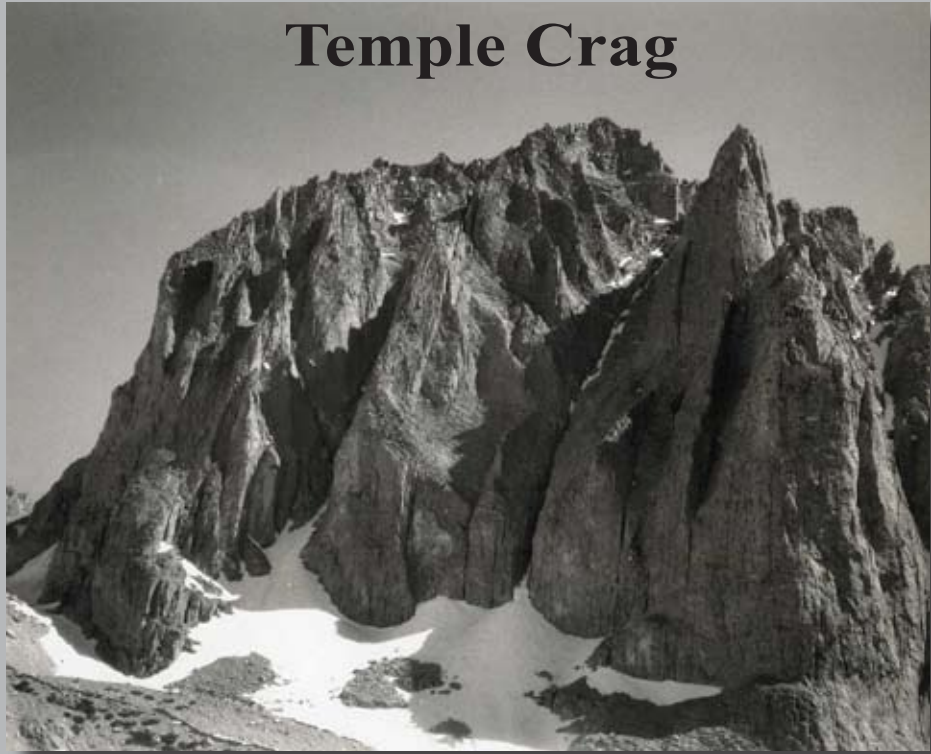


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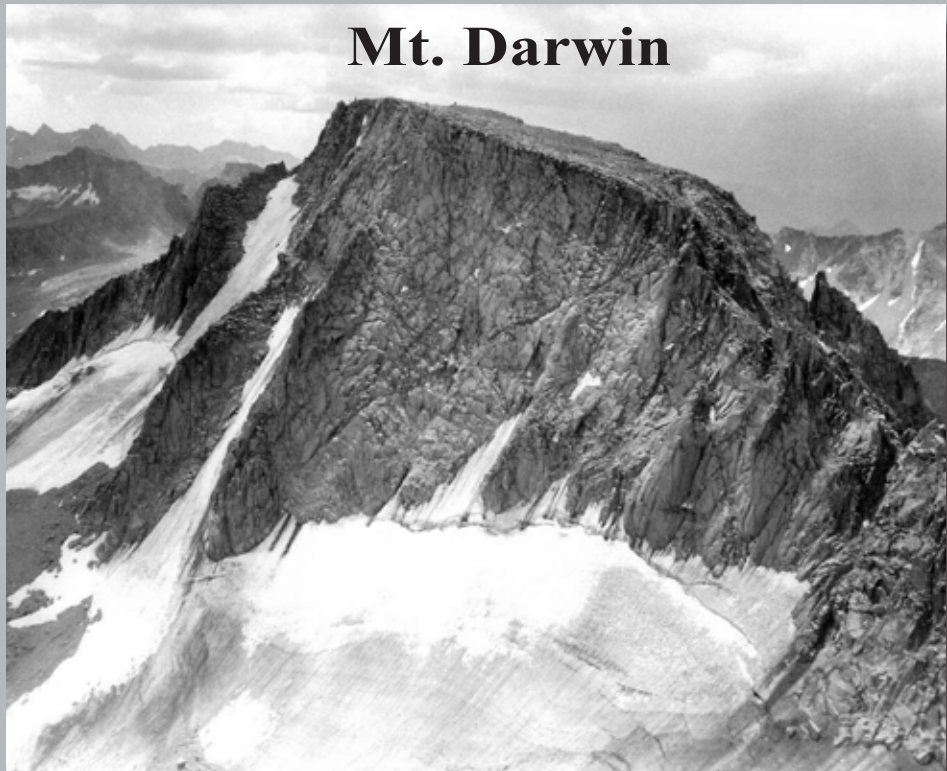
photos by R.J. Secor

The Sierra 30740

Temple Crag



Mt. Darwin



ECHOS

from the Chair

by Kathy Rich



Grand Teton Summit

Although we got off to a snowy start, it's been a great summer with mostly blue skies. The biggest surprise is that it looks as if we will have no less than four SPS List Finishers this year! From looking at past SPS records, only once each decade do we have this many climbers finishing the list in the same year. Louise Wholey and Chris Libby have just completed the SPS list – Louise on her 70th birthday no less. In addition, John Hooper and Greg Gerlach will both complete the list on Mt Gardiner in the next week or two. A quadruple SPS List Finish celebration is planned for October 1st on San Joaquin Mtn with a party afterwards in Mammoth. Contact the trip leaders, Daryn Dodge, Bob Wyka, or myself, if you would like to attend.

For those of you driving back and forth to Bishop while climbing peaks - take an hour to stop and visit the Gordon Wiltsie Exhibit at the Mountain Light Gallery. Gordon has been leading and photographing expeditions to earth's wildest corners for many years and has achieved international acclaim for his visual artistry. The gallery is open from 10-6pm daily and the exhibit runs through September 30th.

Speaking of peaks, the Management Committee voted to suspend Pilot Knob (Sth) until further notice. Loss of legal access has complicated the normal route to the peak, and the Committee felt in light of HPS already having suspended the peak from their list, that we should follow suit. There is apparently an alternate route from the north, but it involves a significant bushwhack.

Hold the date! The 2012 SPS Banquet will be held on Sunday, January 29th. In a break from previous tradition, we have decided to move the banquet to Sunday evening. This should allow fewer conflicts with people's weekend plans. Furthermore, in response to requests for a change of venue, we will hold the banquet at the Proud Bird Restaurant. The restaurant is centrally located near LAX, close to major freeways, and offers free parking. We are in the process of lining up an exciting speaker for the event.

The next MC meeting will most likely be held in November. All are welcome! Please contact me with any comments or suggestions you might have at: KathrynARich@gmail.com.

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 Member: Gary Hughes
Renewal Subscriber: Chris Libby

(Chris has renewed for 2011 after an absence of 8 years. He joined the SPS in 1973 and is a list finisher.)



Eric Scheidmantle
Secretary

MEETING INFO

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 for meeting times, date and place.

ECHO SUBSCRIPTIONS

Submitted by Barbara Lilly

According to the current SPS by-laws, a subscription to the Echo is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. All subscribers, new or old, are entitled to receive the Echo, whether they have access to the Internet or not. Those who do not require or choose to receive a paper copy could perhaps have their subscription fee reduced. The subscription fee is intended to be used **ONLY** to cover the cost of publication; it is **NOT** a membership fee or “dues”.

Banquet News

As stated in Kathy's "Echos"

The 2012 SPS Banquet will be held on ***Sunday, January 29th***. In a break from previous tradition, we have decided to move the banquet to Sunday evening. This should allow fewer conflicts with people's weekend plans. Furthermore, in response to requests for a change of venue, we will hold the banquet at the ***Proud Bird Restaurant***.

Pilot Knob (S) Suspended

More News

At the last SPS management meeting it was agreed to suspend Pilot Knob (Sth). The revised list can be accessed by following this link from the SPS website <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/spslist.pdf> or can be obtained by sending \$1 and a SASE to the section Treasurer Henry Arnebold.

SPS Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 06/30/2011

Checking Account

Income

Echo-----605.00
 Donation----- 25.00
 \$630.00

Expenditures

Printing-----163.20

Savings Account

Balance on 6/30/2011-----4888.76
 Income-----630.00
 \$5518.76
 Expenditures----- -163.20
 \$5355.56

Balance on 3/31/2011-----5002.73
 April Interest-----1.23
 May Interest-----1.27
 June Interest-----1.24
 \$5006.47

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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

SPS List Serve

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

Tough Summit?



Overcome it!

Darrick Danta on Thunderbolt

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

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 Datty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive,

Topanga, Ca 90290 & make

check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40

Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 28th, 2011, at the home of Alexander Smirnoff

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 pm. Members present were Dan Richter, Kathy Rich, Greg Mason and Alexander Smirnoff.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on March 28th, 2011, were approved via email.

1. Chair's Report - Kathy reported that:

- As a result of a conversation with Pamela Rowe (HPS) regarding banquet ideas, the idea came up to move the SPS banquet to Sunday, January 29th (instead of Saturday) and holding it at The Proud Bird Restaurant (near LAX). Henry is looking into this venue further. There was concern about a possible conflict with the Superbowl but upon checking the calendar, there was no conflict so a motion was passed to move the banquet to January 29th, 2012. There was much discussion about the speaker – names suggested were Conrad Anker, Don Bowie and Ed Viesturs. Kathy and Dan will follow up. Dan suggested inviting SCMA members to the banquet and posting the event on FaceBook.

- Two separate membership forms have been posted on the website: one for new members and one for renewals. An online application form should be considered in the future. Different options for dues collection were discussed to make it easier on the Board and on the members. Some ideas were to use Paypal, Bill Pay (via electronic cheque) and to allow members the option of paying for 5 years at a time (membership form should be adapted to allow this). Finally, dues could be collected at the banquet each year.

2. Treasurer's Report - Henry Arnebold submitted the 1st quarter, 2011 report.

- There is \$5,002.73 in the savings account and \$4,888.76 in the checking account.

3. Sierra Echo Report - The electronic version was sent out on 6/20/2011. The Echo breakdown is 105 electronic, 96 hard copies

and 22 were dropped when they did not pay their 2011 dues. The next date for Echo submissions is 08/23/11.

4. Outings Report – 31 trips were scheduled for the May – September, 2011 dates.

5. Mountain Records Report - Kathy had requested a packet of SPS books for summit registers from Harry Langenbacher. Dan suggested we remind leaders to always carry a small register book and pencils to replace registers as needed.

6. Archivist Report - Dan reported that he went to the Tidballs to get an 'old filing cabinet' and report the archiving is moving along. Bill Oliver suggests we put photocopies of archived registers on the respective summits. This is a great idea, and could be done by contacting the leaders of scheduled SPS trips and have them take a copy of each register to the summit. The main difficulty is manpower and coordinating the whole operation.

7. New Business

- Doug Mantle's proposal to suspend Pilot Knob (Sth) was discussed. Loss of legal access has complicated the normal route to the peak. There is apparently an alternate route from the north, but it involves a significant bushwhack. The Committee felt in light of HPS already having suspended the peak from their list, that we should follow suit. A motion was raised, seconded and passed. Kathy will ask Tina Bowman to update the SPS List. In addition, she will attempt to get the original, non-PDF version of the List from Tina so that Greg could convert it to HTML for posting on the website.

- Dan announced that he has planned several new AMP classes for 2012, including an advanced snow travel workshop on Feb 4th, a leader rock workshop on Feb 18th and a rescue systems workshop on March 3rd.

LTC

July 4, 2011

Leadership Training Committee release

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

Club will offer outdoor leadership training Oct. 1

Interested in becoming an outings leader for the Club?

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

You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered by the chapter Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena.

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

The all-day class costs \$25. The application is online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc.

Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-321-1296) or e-mail (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

Applications and checks are due Sept. 17.

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



Leadership Training Committee

2011/2012 Schedule of Activities

Leadership Training Program Seminar

April 14, 2012 LTC Seminar - Costa Mesa Community Center Steve Botan

Wilderness First Aid <http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>
May 18-20, 2012



Steve Schuster

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Sept 25, 2011	I/M/E Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Oct 1, 2011	I Beginning Navigation Clinic - not a Checkoff	Diane Dunbar
Oct 16, 2011	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Nov 19, 2011	M/E Indian Cove - Nav on 3rd Class Workshop	Robert Myers
Nov 19-20, 2011	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Dec 11, 2011	I/M/E Warren Pt. Navigaiton Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Jan 7-8, 2012	I/M Indian Cove Navigaiton Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Apr 21-22, 2012	I/M/E Warren Pt. Navigaiton 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
Dec 3, 2011	M/E Stoney Point Rock Workshop and Checkoff	Ron Hudson
Feb 18, 2012	M/E AMP - Rock Leaders Workshop	Dan Richter
Mar 3, 2012	M/E AMP - Rock Rescue System Workshop	Dan Richter
Apr 18, 2012	Advanced Mountaineering Program 5 - Safety	Dan Richter
Apr 21, 2012	Advanced Mountaineering Program 5 - Belaying	Dan Richter
Apr 28, 2012	Advanced Mountaineering Program 5 - Rappelling	Dan Richter
May 5-6, 2012	Advanced Mountaineering Program 5- Anchors	Dan Richter

Various Dates - M/E P Vertical Adventures (This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for rock checkoffs.) <http://www.verticaladventures.com/>

Snow Practices and Checkouts

Jan 28, 2012	M/E Mt. Baldy Snow Practice	Nile. Sorenson
Feb 4, 2012	M/E AMP - Advanced Snow Travel Workshop	Dan Richter
Feb 11, 2012	M/E Mt. Baldy Snow Practice	Nile Sorenson

Snow travel, avalanche, & related training - Kurt Wedberg's Sierra Mountaineering Int'l (Not a SC activity, but can prepare candidates for snow checkoffs.) <http://sierramountaineering.com>

Environmental Awareness

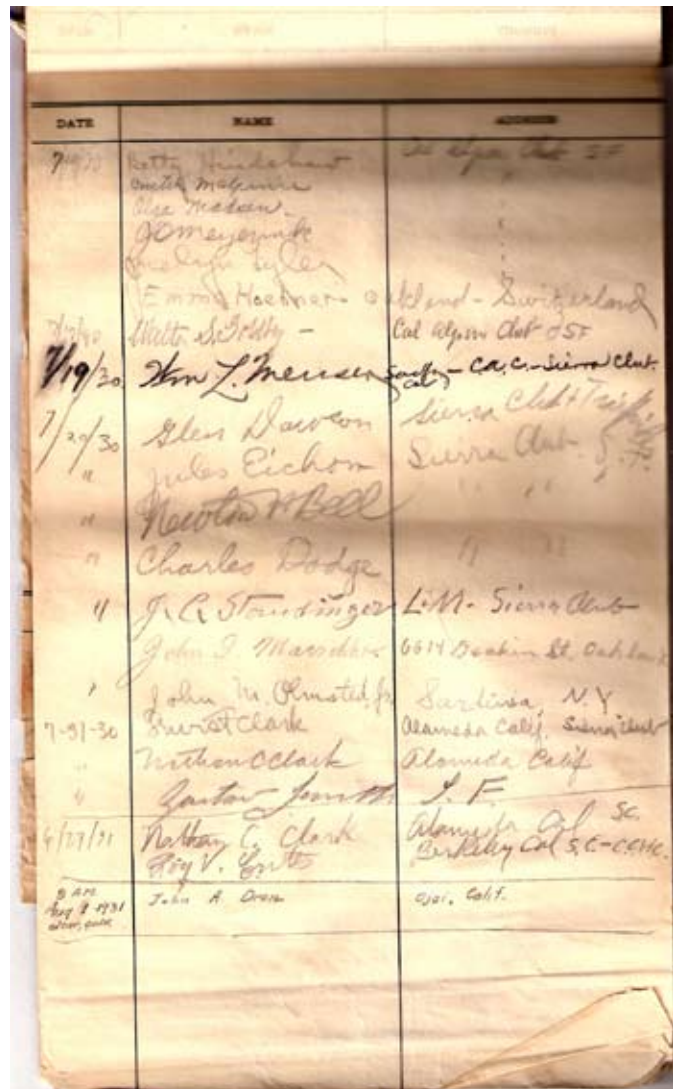
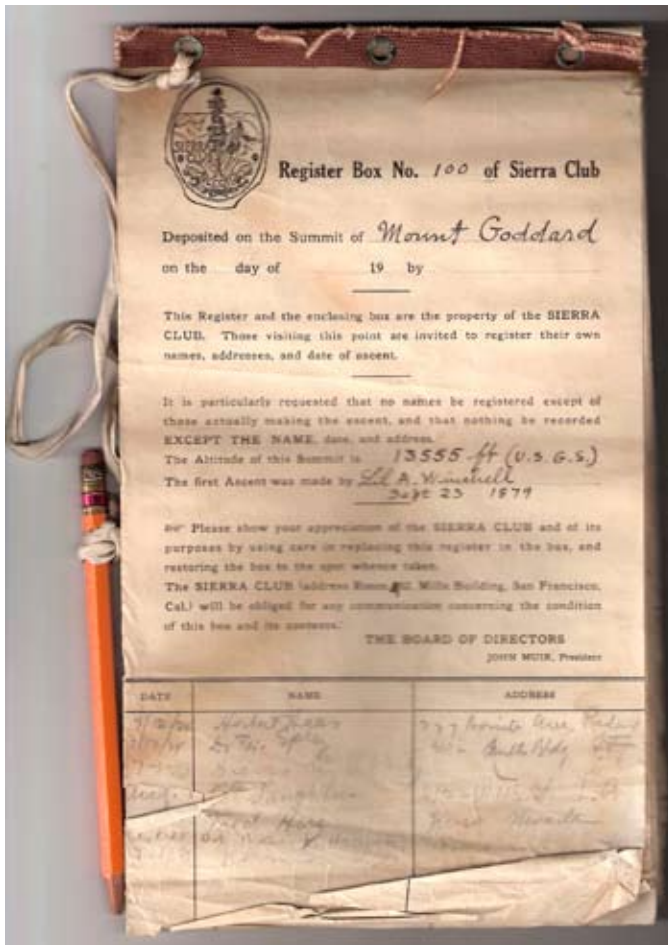
Check out the LTC website which has a calendar of events sponsored by the Natural Science section & info about training not offered by the Sierra Club: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>

Historic Sierra Peak Registers

Courtesy of Dan Richter

These are photos of very old registers found at San Jose State which will be sent up to the Bancroft Library Sierra Register Collection in Berkeley. Enjoy.

This edition - Mt. Goddard 1924 - 1932



Eco News

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

ClimateWire

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

ROYAL ROBBINS TO BE PRESENTED WITH THE 2011 FARQUHAR MOUNTAINEERING AWARD

Submitted by Bill Oliver

I am so pleased to announce that **Royal Robbins** has been notified by the Sierra Club that its ***Farquhar Award*** will be presented to him at an event in San Francisco on Friday evening, Sept 23rd. Royal plans to attend, accompanied by his wife, Liz. [Instead of an Annual Banquet this year, the Club will be making some awards at this reception on Friday and the rest at another reception in Oakland on that Sat. I believe attendance should be free, but with limited space.]

Nomination of Royal Robbins for the 2011 Farquhar Mountaineering Award

Submitted by Bill Oliver and Barbara Lilley

Royal Robbins ranks as a giant among pioneers in American rock climbing. Fifty-four years ago, in 1957, he and two others made the first ascent of the iconic NW face of Half Dome - and he would add four more new routes on this face. He also made the first solo climb of El Capitan. These climbs and many others were regularly featured in the Sierra Club Bulletin, and then later in the Club's new mountaineering journal, Ascent.

According to Royal, "I joined the Sierra Club in 1950 so I could be a member of the Los Angeles Rock Climbing Section." RCS records indicate that he was voted into the Section in 1952 at age 17. Many climbing stories written by him and others appear in the Section's Mugelnoos. Royal was an early and strong proponent of a new ethic: boltless, pitonless clean climbing. As noted in Wikipedia, he was instrumental in changing the climbing culture of the late 1960s and early '70s by encouraging the use and preservation of the natural features of the rock.

Although best known for his intrepid Yosemite Valley exploits, Royal Robbins was also an exceptionally talented mountaineer. He made technically challenging first ascents or new routes in many mountain ranges, including in the French Alps; the Logan Mtns of the NW Territory, Canada; the Wind River Range, Wyoming; the Canadian Rockies; and the Kichatna Mtns, Alaska. [Details in Wikipedia listing for Robbins.]

Royal is the author of two enduring classics that emphasized free-climbing skills: "Basic Rockcraft," 1971, and "Advanced Rockcraft," 1973. His story is told in "Royal Robbins: Spirit of the Age," 1992, by Pat Ament. Royal is currently working on a projected seven volume series: "My Life." "Volume One - To Be Brave," appeared in 2009, and "Volume Two - Fail Falling" came out last year.

Among a lifetime of honors and awards, one of the earlier, 1976, was Honorary Membership in the RCS - a distinction shared by four other Farquhar awardees: Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson, and John & Ruth Mendenhall. In April of this year Royal was inducted into the American Mountaineering Museum's Hall of Mountaineering Excellence, in Golden, CO, and he was the featured speaker at this event.

[Co-nominator Barbara Lilley, the 2003 Farquhar honoree, was active in the RCS during Royal's early years, and she followed him on a few Yosemite climbs.]



Royal Robbins signs his latest autobiography at the recent SC centennial picnic

continued next page

and...

GLEN DAWSON IS HONORED THIS YEAR WITH THE CLUB'S WALTER STARR AWARD

Bonus: the other featured **Famed Mountaineer, Glen Dawson**, is honored this year with the Club's **Walter Starr Award** - honoring the continuing active work and support of the Club by a former director. At 99, Glen cannot easily travel to San Francisco to receive the award in Sept. Accordingly, it has been arranged for the Starr Award to be presented to him at the Malibu picnic. The Starr nomination was made by Judy Anderson and Allison Chin, both members of the Awards Committee.

Nominee for the Walter Starr Award - Glen Dawson

Glen Dawson was a board member from the mid '30's to 1951, with a break for a stint in the 10th Mountaineering Division of the US Army in Italy during WWII (Bronze Star).

His mountaineering exploits are briefly recounted in one of the Club's Oral History Volumes.

He was the first member of the Angeles Chapter to collect the papers, outings schedules, photos and documents related to the (then) Southern California Section of the Sierra Club when he was only a teen. His interest in the Club and Chapter history have continued over the intervening years and he has been an active member of the Chapter's history committee since before the Chapter celebrated its 75th anniversary.



*Ron Silverman gives Glen Dawson
his Walter Starr Award*

For that event, he worked with his brother, Muir Dawson, to assemble the program on the history of the Chapter - a film that featured still photos and old films of the early days of Ski Mountaineering and other activities of the Chapter. He was again called on for help in a current film project for the celebration of the Chapter's 100th anniversary. He still gives, hosts, and sponsors presentations, although the groups now come to him in his retirement home in Pasadena, most recently for a presentation with Bill Oliver (July 2009) in connection with an Inyo County History Museum exhibition featuring Norman Clyde. He has spoken at many Chapter meetings, and for other mountaineering and climbing organizations.

For decades, Dawson's Book Store was a meeting place for Sierra Club Ski Mountaineers and he was always helpful to those compiling the history of the development of climbing gear and ropes. The Club membership form was fixture at the cash register.

Glen is probably the last remaining member of the Club who was an active climber with the Club during Walter Starr's era of exploring the Sierra Nevada - hiking and climbing with the likes of Frances Farquhar, Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn and Ansel Adams. He just celebrated his 99th Birthday in the company of his many devoted admirers in the Angeles Chapter. He is especially loved by those in the History Committee and the Ski Mountaineers Section.

All past Sierra Club Awardees can be found here, just updated for 2011: http://www.sierraclub.org/awards/downloads/Award_sr.pdf. Starr Awardees on pg 5; Farquhar Awardees on pg 16.

ANGELES CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
 (100 Years, Plus 4 Days)



Saturday, November 5, 2011
 9 am-4 pm (lunch at Noon)

at

HISTORIC HARWOOD LODGE

Come Celebrate a Century of
 the Sierra Club in Southern CA

- BBQ Lunch with Beverage
 and Birthday Cake
- Centennial Keepsake
- Chapter History Presentations
 in Mini-Theater
- Historical Photos & Memorabilia
 Exhibits
- Displays of Vintage Outdoors
 Hiking/Climbing/Hiking Gear
- Fun for the whole family!

Advance reservations required. Send email
 or call, \$20 adults/\$10 children under 12
 (Payable to Sierra Club), to Reservationist:

Juan Anderson
 4134 Ocean View Blvd
 Montrose, CA 91020-1550

Note: Sat night stayovers may be arranged
 separately with Lodge Overseer the day of
 the event, at appropriate lodge fees.



*The climbing legends, Royal Robbins
 and Glen Dawson, Mary Mac too.*

“Let them eat cake.”

Happy Birthday Angeles Chapter, 100 Years Old.



The Angeles Chapter Centennial Picnic was Sat. July 16, 2011

by Mary McMannes

It's pretty wonderful to blow out 100 candles when you are the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club or our very own climbing legend, Glen Dawson. Despite the predicted horrors of Carmageddon, our brave and living-green local Sierra Clubbers jumped into their vehicles and drove traffic-empty roads to this stupendous gathering (perhaps it was Armageddon and all the good people went to Heaven!) The rest of us appeared at the Malibu Nature Center for the Centennial Party honoring John Muir, ourselves, and Glen Dawson (age 99 running towards 100) and Royal Robbins. Even Doug Mantle was heard to say, "Mary, you never reminded me." Rich Gnagy gnashed his teeth, because he missed seeing an old friend, Royal Robbins, and would have loved a photo with him. Lo siento!

What a lavish estate is this Malibu Nature Center, generously donated from the accompanying land holdings of Barbara Streisand. The thrill of the day, other than eating an incredible lip-smacking barbecue dinner, was hanging out with John Robinson, Glen, Royal, and a couple of other authors, Dan Arnold and Andy Selters. Even R.J. Secor showed up, thanks to chauffeur and friend Dan Richter. It was a pleasure seeing SPS founder, Roger Gaefcke, wearing a Sierra sky blue shirt matching his eyes and looking great. Keith Dawson made sure Glen got there, and his famous father walked sprightly to the podium to accept his Walter Starr Mountaineering Award for his exceptional life. I still get goose bumps when I see the black & white photo of this slip of a lad leaping from one pin-



*(above/left)
Like father, like son --
Glen Dawson and son
Keith*



*(above/right)
Dan Richter and R.J.
Secor hang out with
Roger Gaefcke, an
original founder of
SPS*



*Royal and Glen share stories! "And then Jules, Muir, and I
found that interesting route on Cathedral Peak...."*

nacle to the other. What a voice and what a speech. Surely this man doesn't look a day over 65. I was happy to meet Muir Dawson's widow along with Rosie Balsam, Lloyd Balsam's wife. Wish I had time to interview those two and hear the stories they'd tell of their own adventures with both Muir and Lloyd. You had to be there seeing Royal Robbins and Glen thrilled to meet each other. Visit SPS archives to read all about Glen. Of course, you know about Royal and all his first ascents on Half Dome and El Capitan and him being the first person to solo El Cap. I think it was around 1957 that Royal hooked up with our local L.A. rock climbers, and the rest is history. You might want to pick up his little autobiography which he was signing. Some of us

dragged in our original books for him to sign, too. What a gracious and friendly man he is. Royal will be honored in September by the national Sierra Club as he is overdue in receiving the Francis Farquhar Award and will be in the good company of past recipients Barbara Lilley, Gregie Boy, Dougie, and many others. Congratulations to both Royal Robbins and Glen Dawson.

Later on, I emailed my photos to Royal and Glen, and they actually wrote me back - can you believe lowly and roving girl reporter hears from Royal Robbins and Glen Dawson all on the same day? Gnarly Bill Oliver who helped me with email addresses exclaimed, "Well, Mary, I'm sure R.R. was equally excited to hear from Mary

McMannes." Oh hyperbole, I doth love you. And DYK Glen Dawson has a Facebook account, too?

Thanks to Bob Cates swaggering around in vintage clothing and carrying an impressive climbing rack. DYK Bob, that we girls in our youthful climbing days swooned at the guys who carried the heaviest climbing rack went clanking down the trail? Bob and Maureen Cates plus Peter Ireland plus Liz Pomeroy put all of this together, and a joyous time was had by all. Joy Goebel, a special thanks to you for making sure our honored guests got their dinners without standing in long lines AND giving your own dinner to honoree Glen.

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

Outings

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

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

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. Helmet'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 25 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS

I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Nav Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or (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 1 | Sat **SPS**
I: San Joaquin Mtn Quadruple List Finish (11,598'): Louise Wholey, Chris Libby, John Hooper and Greg Gerlach completed the SPS list this summer. There will be a celebratory list finish dayhike climb for all 4 list finishers on San Joaquin Mtn (about 2700' gain and 9-12 miles r/t from Minaret Summit area, or 1600' gain and 5 miles r/t from Deadman Pass via 4WD road) on Sat Oct 1. Immediately following the climb will be a potluck party at John's place in Paradise (near Mammoth). Send e-mail or SASE with conditioning and experience to Leader: DARYN DODGE, Co-leader: KATHY RICH.

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

Oct 16 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Indian Cove Navigation: Nav noodle at Joshua Tree NP to satisfy (I/M) level nav requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, nav experience/training, or WTC, ldr rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Oct-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

Nov 19 | Sat **LTC, WTC**
MR: Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldr: JACK KIEFFER

Nov 9-20 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Dec 3 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
E/M: Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies-include SC# on form), address and phone to: Ldr: RON HUDSON. Co-ldrs: GREG MASON, PAT MCKUSKY

Dec 11 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Warren Pt Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 7-8 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 28 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS**
M/E R: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Ldr: NILE SORENSON co-ldr: TINA BOWMAN.

Feb 4 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – Advanced Snow Travel Workshop: This is an advanced snow travel course which will take place at or around Manker Flats on Mt. Baldy. The workshop is for applicants who are already proficient in the basics of snow travel. It will cover both unprotected & protected rope travel in couloirs and chutes, as well as glacier travel including the use of the Z-pulley. Send sase or e-mail to DAN RICHTER with SC#, resume, and phones. Ldrs: NILE SORENSON AND DAN RICHTER.

Feb 11 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS**
M/E R: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, & snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs with prior ice axe experience. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Ldr: NILE SORENSON co-ldr: DOUG MANTLE

Feb 18 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – Rock Leaders Workshop: The workshop is for SC Ldrs with M & E Rock ratings. Will be given at Stoney Point in Chatsworth. We will review current rock techniques including: anchors; belaying; rappelling; fixed lines & fallen climber tie-offs. Techniques to be demonstrated are based on current AMGA standards. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, and phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER. Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Mar 3 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – Rescue Systems Workshop: This is a workshop given at Stoney Point in Chatsworth. We will review rescue systems including: fallen climber tie-offs; lowering systems; pulleys; and evacuation techniques. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, and phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER. Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Mar 31 | Sat **LTC**
Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 14 seminar to be held in Costa Mesa. See LTC web site (www.angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/) for registration information or ad in the March-July 4th Schedule of Activities. Next seminar: Fall 2012.

Apr 14 | Sat **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar in Costa Mesa. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2012.

Apr 21-22 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Warren Point Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER



Foerster Peak in the Ansel Adams Wilderness

TRIP REPORT

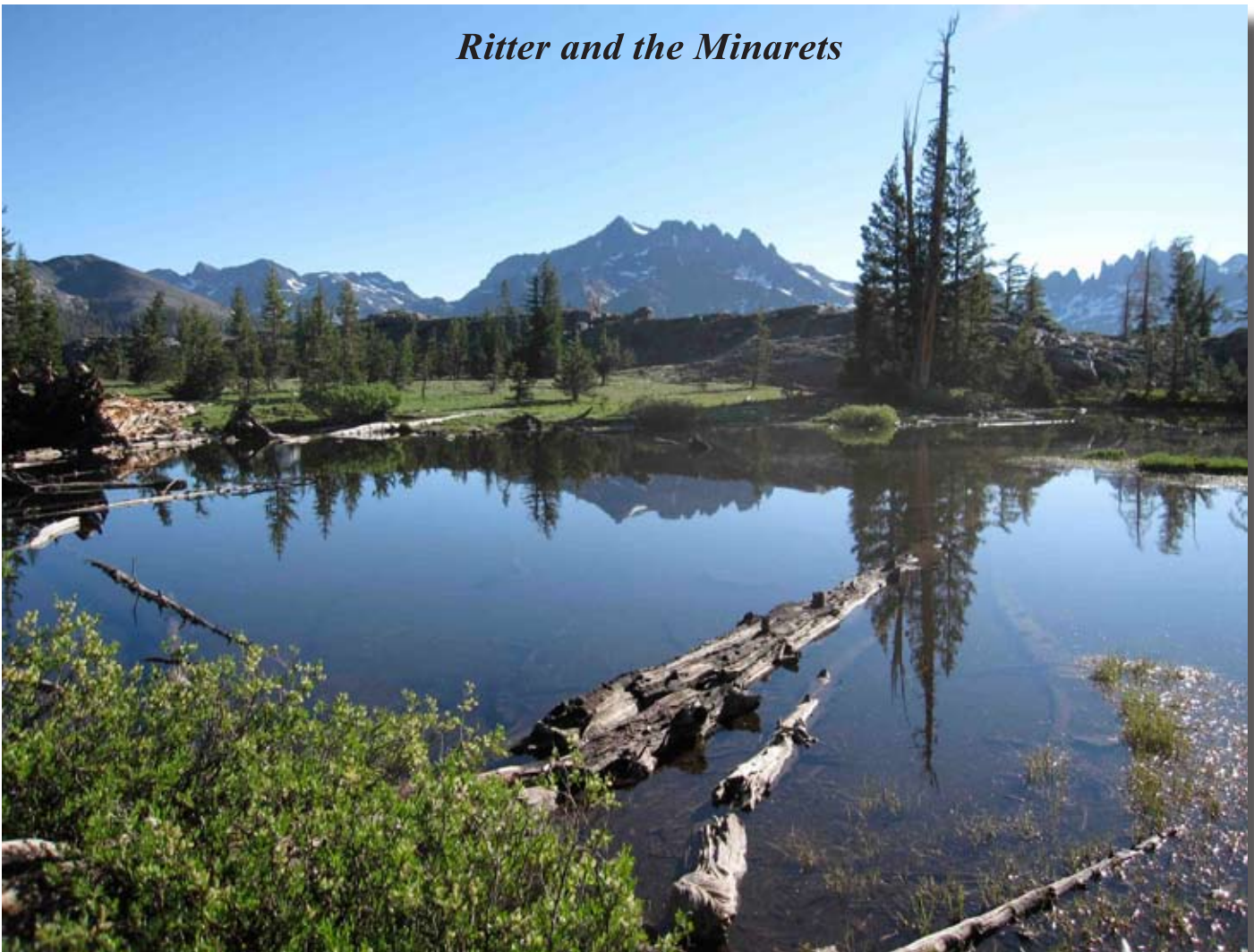
by Rudy Fleck

August 4-6, 2011

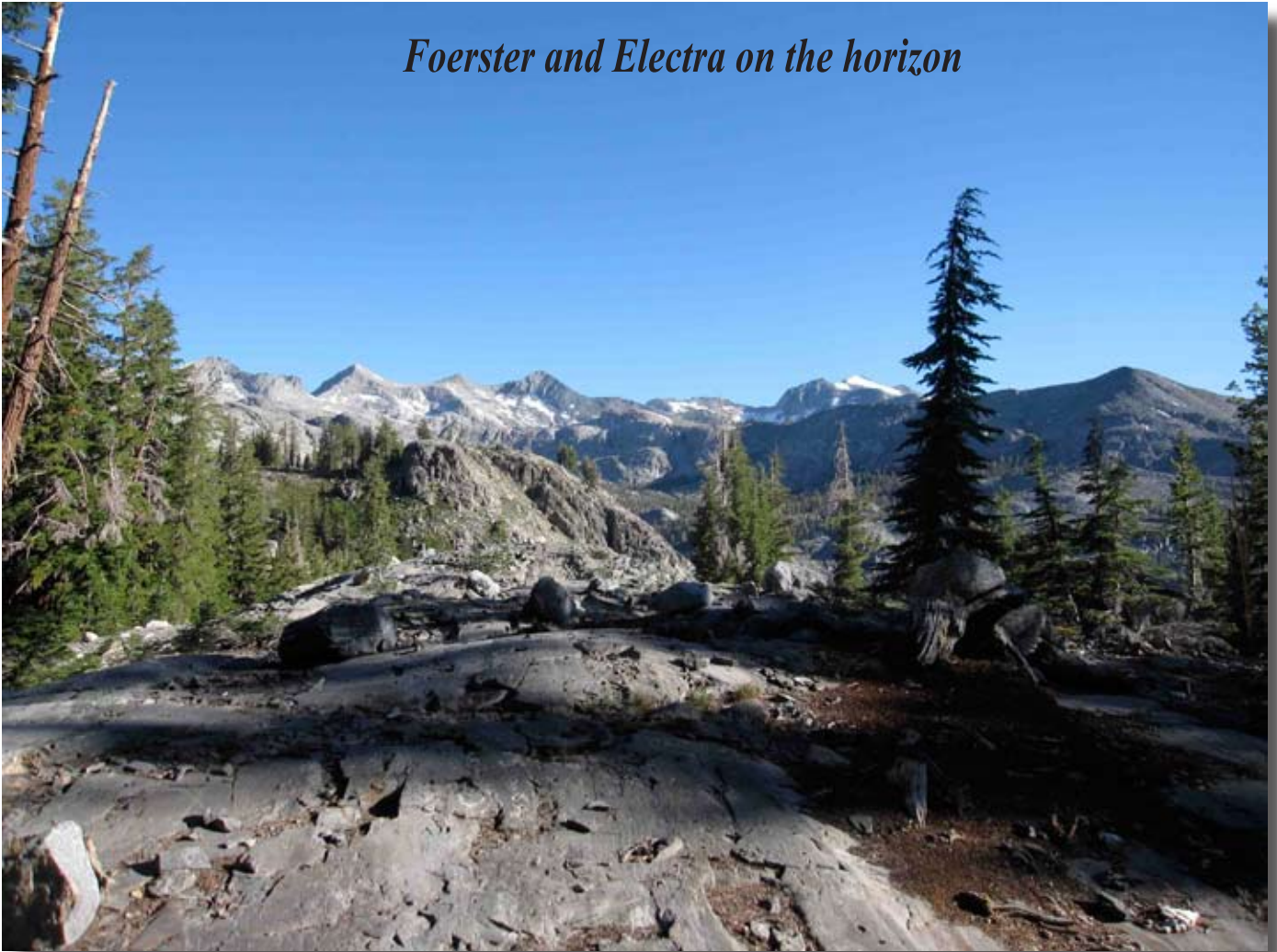
A year ago I was faced with the prospect of having to choose a backpack destination for my I provisional. I'd been across the Foerster saddle with Reiner Stenzel and Mark Goebel in 2004 as part of an SMS summer hike to Ansel Adams. Electra looming off on the horizon remained a tantalizing goal and so Foerster and Electra occurred to me as a logical trip, seldom led, and an unusual approach up the north fork of the San Joaquin River. There was that 2000-foot loss to get across the river and into the base camp area of Bench Canyon, but that's what neophytes are for. Gary Schenk generously agreed to assist and evaluate.

By February a strong group of hikers who also appeared to find the undertaking of interest had signed up. The 200% snowpack and cool spring didn't alarm me, as I'd made the wise decision to cover all bases and schedule the trip for August. After waiting close to a year, and determined to ensure that the key to the whole enterprise was realistic, I scheduled a scout trip to cross the north fork at Bench Canyon. The scout date in early July was postponed twice on the advice of the Forest Service. Finally, I and my son Pat, hit the road and hiked the Stevenson Trail from the Isberg Trailhead the weekend before the scheduled trip. After 12 miles we were staring at a

Ritter and the Minarets



Foerster and Electra on the horizon



confluence of three raging creeks and the San Joaquin at the mouth of Bench Canyon. The original plan was obviously not going to work this year.

When I got home I emailed Gary Schenk and he agreed to Plan B, which was to shorten the trip by a day, only attempt Foerster, and use the Long Creek drainage as a base camp. By the time the dust settled on the changed trip, only one of the original participants and three at the bottom of the wait list were able to make the hike.

We set off on Thursday at 7:15 after the usual pre-hike pleasantries from the Isberg Trailhead. The first real challenge was going to be the crossing of Granite Creek. Since Pat and I had worked out four alternatives the previous weekend, I was hopeful it wouldn't be too difficult. A strategically fallen log and cooperative boulders made for a smooth

crossing. After that, miles of flowers, beautiful forests and meadows, millions of mosquitoes and an intermittently disappearing Long Creek Trail took us in to the Long Creek drainage.

A banged knee after a trip coming off of a snow bank and an hour spent negotiating the crossing of Long Creek saw us into a lovely camp at 9400 ft. Happy hour and dinner worked their magic. Highlights included various fresh berries, port wine, and Nutella on crackers. Bed by 8.

Gary's wake-up song saw us in to the new day at 5:30 and we hit the trail at 7. The sore knee got the day off. Our arrival at Rockbound Lake caused some concern with the amount of remaining snow. A bit of navigating curiosity resulted in what we christened our scenic detour. Within a short time we were back on track and on the saddle south of Blue Lake. Looking back,

I realize that the detour was meant to happen to give George Wysup a chuckle. Crossing dry rock bands, we climbed the prominent green southeast gully below the Foerster saddle and were able to summit at 12 PM to see spectacular views of the Lyell Fork and Merced drainage of southern Yosemite and the imposing profiles of numerous peaks, with Ritter and the Minarets predominating. We were the third party to sign the register in 2011.

Thanks again to Gary Schenk, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Chuck Ernst, Fred Schwarzenbach and Gary “Gazza” Hughes for a lovely trip into the woods.

Reiner Stenzel wrote up an excellent description, with pictures, of the 2004 Ansel Adams trip on the SMS website. I’ve posted a video documenting our trip on Youtube at “rfleck3 channel”.

*Mary Jo, Gazza, Chuck, Gary
with Minarets on the Horizon*



Looking to cross Long Creek



Mt. Meru, Tanzania (14,980 ft): 2nd Highest Peak in Tanzania, 10th Highest Peak in Africa

TRIP REPORT

December 2010

by Daryn Dodge

Mt. Meru is located approximately 50 miles SW of Mt. Kilimanjaro and is one of the most visible peaks jutting above the clouds as seen from Mt. Kilimanjaro. Like Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru is a volcano sitting on the edge of the Great Rift Valley. Mt. Meru's notoriety as a peak climb arises from the fact that some climbers use it as a warm-up before climbing Kilimanjaro.

Another attraction is that part of the first and last day of climbing goes through the lowland forest area of Arusha National Park where a considerable amount of wildlife can be seen. It's like a mini-safari. We saw zebras, buffalo, giraffes, bush bucs, baboons and beautiful Colobus monkeys. Elephants are also known to roam the forest, which is the main reason we had a ranger with a rifle as one of our guides. In



Mt. Meru appearing just above a glacier on the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro

fact, if you want to climb Mt. Meru it is required to at least have a ranger guide with you. Finally, an attraction for California climbers is that it is higher than Mt. Whitney, although not quite a fiftener.

Climbing Mt. Meru was the brainchild of Kathy Rich, who thought it would be a good Kilimanjaro warm-up for us and her 20-year-old son, Andreas, who also planned to climb Kili. We also preferred bagging another peak while in Tanzania, rather than do a lengthy safari. Also joining us for the trip was Sandra Hao and her 13-year old daughter Sarah, members of the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section in the S.F. Bay Area.

Mt. Meru is usually climbed as a 3- or 4-day trip. We chose the 3-day option, which meant a long last day of descending from the summit to the trailhead. Our guide service was through Good Earth Tours, which is a Tanzanian-run company with an office in Florida. We chose them because of good reviews and competitive prices. If you chose a U.S.-based guide service, expect to pay considerably more. This goes for Mt. Kilimanjaro too. For Mt. Meru, the cost was about \$400 per climber and includes the bus shuttle ride to and from Nairobi, and a night's stay before and after the trip at the Jacaranda Hotel in Arusha. The city of Arusha is the fourth largest city in Tanzania and is located at the base of Mt. Meru. (For future reference, Good Earth is apparently building their own hotel in Arusha and will soon be running their tour service out of this hotel).

On the morning of our first day, we met our guides at the hotel, and then boarded a shuttle bus that took us to the start of the climb at Momella Gate. One of the first things that struck me viewing this massive volcano is that it had an uncanny resemblance to Mt. Saint Helens in Washington. Like Mt. Saint Helens, Mt. Meru's side blew out, although this happened several thousand years ago, and a small cone built up over time in its interior. The high point is on the volcano's rim, the portion that had not blown away when Meru exploded.

Between the five of us, we had 10 porters, 2 guides, a cook, and the ranger. We hiked the slightly longer

southern route to our first camp at Miriakamba Hut, about a 5 hour ascent covering 13.8 km and 3300 feet of gain. The porters took the shorter, but steeper, northern route to the huts. Our hike that day was mostly on a dirt road track through the forest. But this is also the day where we saw most of the wild animals. The camps, or huts, on Mt. Meru consist of bunkhouses and dining buildings, a relative luxury. No need for tents on this trip. By late morning the clouds build up and the summit of Mt. Meru disappears from view. So our first good look at the summit was at breakfast time the next morning.



Morning view of Mt. Meru from Miriakamba Hut

Day 2 we hiked up actual trail to Saddle Hut at an elevation of 11,680 ft. About 3600 feet of gain in 6.1 km. After a short break at Saddle Hut, our guides escorted Sandra and I for a short hike up to Little Meru Pk (elev. 12,533 ft), about 800 feet of gain and an hour's walk from Saddle Hut. Everyone else elected to relax that afternoon back at camp and not do the optional Little Meru climb. It was mid-afternoon by the time we reached the summit, so heavy clouds had already rolled in and obscured the view.

We had an alpine start of 1am on the morning of Day 3. Our guides served us a midnight snack of tea and cookies to get us going. Our ranger lead the way, but he left his rifle in camp...no marauding elephants up this high. Gain to the summit was 3300 ft in 5.5 km. We reached Rhino Point after about an hour of climbing, a bump on the ridge which normally has a

nice view if there was any daylight. True to its name, rhinoceros bones are found here. However, it has been many years since any rhinos inhabited this area. Soon after Rhino Point we came to a relatively easy class 3 section on the volcano's rim, sort of a side-hilling scramble over steep, but solid, rock (although some others had a bit of trouble here as they were not as used to scrambling as we were). Sunrise finally arrived at about 6 am as we were clambering over rocks about 100 feet below the summit. Ice covered many of the rocks from freezing fog blowing over the peak. At the top all of us felt pretty good for being at nearly 15,000 feet. My highest climb up to this point was Mt. Whitney, so I was excited to get a new personal best altitude record. We had incredible views once the sun came up. We could see Mt. Kilimanjaro jutting above the clouds some 50 miles away. And the massive shadow of Mt. Meru covering the lowlands was spectacular.

Heading back down, we got a rest break back down at Saddle Hut, then started down to Miriakamba Hut. One of the other climbers (not in our group) who had been living in Arusha for the past 6 months had been feeling ill thinking she was having a relapse of malaria. Another ranger had driven up to Miriakamba Hut take her back down. And while he was at it, he



Sarah descending the rim trail of Meru at about 13,000 feet

also took the five of us, two other climbers, one of our guides, and our ranger guide down too. Most of us squeezed into the open back of the jeep and we proceeded to have a wild, bumpy ride back down to the trailhead. It reminded me of the Indiana Jones jeep ride at Disneyland, only without the seat belts. With a few exceptions the guides and service from Good Earth Tours was excellent. I highly recommend their services if you plan to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro or Mt. Meru. They also provide guides for safari trips to several national parks near the cities of Arusha and Moshi, including the Serengeti. Check them out at: www.goodearthtours.com

CLIMB OF MT KILIMANJARO (MACHAME ROUTE)

by Kathy Rich

A couple of weeks before Christmas we flew from the US to Nairobi (via London) on Virgin Atlantic Airlines - good flight, no luggage fees. Our guide company, Good Earth Tours, had arranged for Riverside shuttle to transport us the 6-7hr ride from Nairobi to Arusha, Tanzania (they also covered the return trip as part of our trip fees). As we expected, this was an interesting experience and a vibrant introduction to Africa.

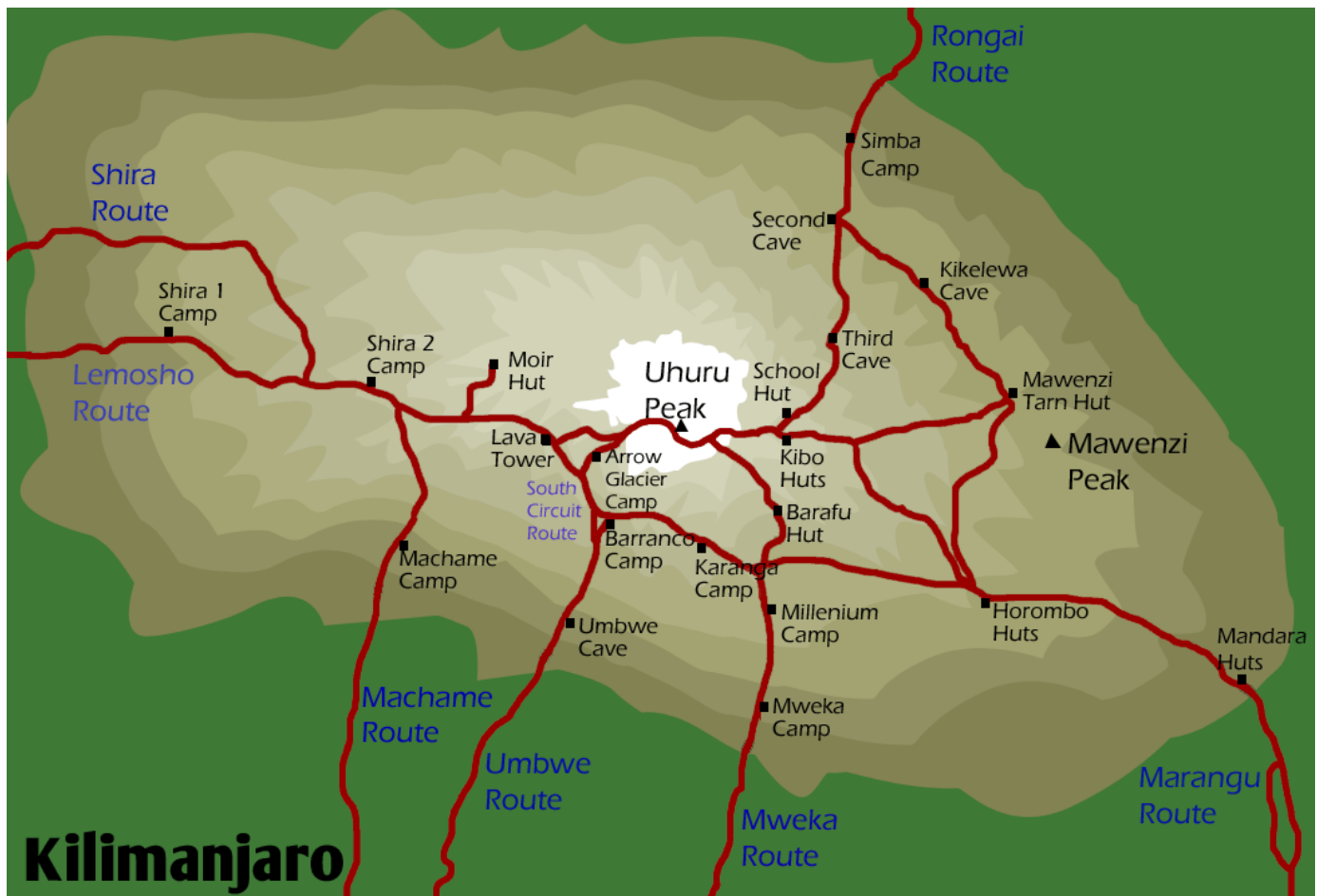
We had gotten our Kenyan visas back in the US, but planned to get the Tanzanian visas at the border. This worked out fine, and although we walked away \$100 poorer there was very little waiting. The shuttle on the outgoing trip was jammed full by the time they picked us up at the airport, with masses of luggage roped to the top, and our 'seats' were not terribly comfortable. However, the return trip back to Nairobi was much more relaxed

with plenty of room and we could enjoy the scenery.

Daryn Dodge, myself and my 20-yr-old son Andreas arrived at the Jacaranda Hotel later that night and met up with the rest of our group, Sandra Hao and her 13-year-old daughter Sarah, who had arrived a few days earlier and gone on a safari. We met with Mange (pronounced "Mangay") from Good Earth who briefed us on

TRIP REPORT

December 23-28, 2010



Different routes for climbing Mt Kilimanjaro

the plans and logistics. The next morning we set off on our warm-up climb of 14,980ft Mt Meru (see accompanying report by Daryn) We would have 2 days free between the Mt Meru and Kili climbs, and discussed doing a 2-day safari to Lake Manyara in the Great Rift Valley which Good Earth could have arranged for us. However, we realized we really needed some ‘down time’ and decided instead on a 1-day safari to Tarangire NP, only a couple of hours drive from Arusha. This turned out to be a wonderful day and we saw abundant wildlife throughout the park; only the elephants were hiding that day. Our Good Earth guide, Richard, was excellent and very knowledgeable.



Sandra, Sara and Daryn making their way through the lush rain-forest not far from the Machame Gate (day 1)

Next day was a rest day, shopping, writing postcards and packing our duffles and daypacks for our Kili climb. After breakfast next morning, we piled into the Good Earth van and headed for the

Machame gate (~1 hr drive from Arusha). As we expected, it took a while to get things organized there, registering for the climb, selecting the porters etc. For our group of five, we had one lead guide, 2 assistant guides, a cook and 15 porters. Finally we were off! We had chosen the Machame route because we liked the idea of doing a loop and thus seeing a variety of scenery on different sides of the mountain. At first we hiked along a dirt road through a lush, thick forest, which then became a trail. Wildflowers, such as the rare and special Impatiens kilimanjari, were in abundance. We marveled at how the porters, carrying all kinds of loads on their heads, zoomed past us. We arrived at Machame Camp

(9,900ft) at around 3pm and signed in at the ranger hut.

Our tents were already set up, with our duffle bags placed inside. Then our group of five congregated in the dining tent where we were treated to what became a very enjoyable daily routine – first popcorn, cookies and tea/coffee, followed a while later with a delicious 3-course meal of soup, main course and fruit for dessert. Luckily, Sarah had brought a deck of cards, so we whiled away the time playing ‘Hearts’. At first it felt a bit odd to finish hiking each day by mid-afternoon, but it certainly made us eager to get started again next morning! Breakfast was also quite a spread, with hot porridge, eggs, toast and fruit, along with tea/coffee/hot chocolate etc. Dinner and breakfast more than made up for the sack lunches, which got rather boring after a day or so.

Arising early next morning (day 2) we were excited to have our first view of Kili in the distance, snow-capped and shimmering in the morning sun. We ascended through the forest up a steep ridge passing through heather and open moorlands up to the Shira Plateau, finally crossing a large gorge to Shira Camp at 12,600ft. It was December 24th, Christmas Eve, so a few folks from different groups came up with the idea of singing carols that night after dinner. About 30 people assembled in a circle and my son, Andreas (who’s a member of a choral group at college) led the group in singing half a dozen carols. This was followed by several other groups singing traditional carols



Giant Senecio trees beneath Barranco Wall on arrival at Barranco Camp (day 3)

from other countries including Germany, Sweden, Guatemala and Tanzania. It turned out to be quite a special evening.

Day 3 was our ‘climb high, sleep low’ day, as we ascended from Shira Camp to the Lava Tower at

15,180ft where we had lunch. This was the highest altitude gained for most of the group, but because of the relatively slow pace, everyone felt pretty good. We then descended to reach Barranco Camp at 12,850ft for the night. It had started to rain about 30 mins before we got



View of Kili as we left Barranco Camp (12,850’), early morning (day 4)



Arriving at Barafu Camp (14,910') in the late afternoon fog (day 4)

there, so we really appreciated having a dry tent to crawl into on arrival. The next day (day 4), we climbed the cliffs above Barranco camp and crossed the dry Karanga Valley, reaching Barafu (high) camp at 14,910ft by mid-afternoon. This camp was pretty rocky and somewhat exposed, so the tents had to be pitched wherever there was a flat spot. The weather was also still a bit unsettled, windy with wisps of clouds intermittently covering Kili's 2nd highest point, Mawenzi Peak. When the clouds cleared, it was quite an impressive looking volcano which apparently once presented one of the few technical climbs on the mountain (it's no longer allowed to be climbed). From our vantage point in camp, we couldn't see much of Kili's true summit (Uhuru Peak), as it was covered in clouds.

We had an early dinner then retired

to our tents by 6pm for a bit of rest before our 11pm wake-up call. We had hopefully packed enough clothing, water and snacks for our summit climb. Before leaving for the summit, we were served a light

'breakfast' of hot porridge, tea and cookies, but we had learned from the Mt Meru climb that it was best to bring along our own snacks as well. We started ascending at ~12.15 am. Even with this early start for the summit, we were the second to the last group to leave Barafu camp. As expected with alpine starts, it was cold, dark and a bit windy. Lines of headlamps in groups of about 2 to 15 ascended the slope above us. We reached the rim of Kibo, Stella Point (18,640ft), an hour before dawn at 5am, where we took a brief rest. It was still cold and windy, so we didn't linger. From there headed around the crater perimeter to Uhuru Peak, reaching the summit just after sunrise at 6am. Dawn had finally come, and the views were spectacular. Although most of us were a little tired from the exertion and midnight start, no one was suffering from altitude sickness. The enforced 'pole-pole' pace by



Daryn, Kathy and Andreas on the summit of Uhuru (19,341') at dawn (day 5)



Remains of Kibo's glaciers near the crater rim and Mt Meru (14,980') in the distance

our guides and the 4-5-days spent ascending the peak worked well to avoid any symptoms of altitude.

We descended back to Barafu Camp by ~10am and took a short nap. After a quick meal, packed up the tents and gear and then headed down to Mweka Camp (10,010ft) for dinner and our final night on

the mountain. That night we settled up the tips for the guides and the porters - this worked out to be ~\$175 from each of the five of us, while the cost per person for our 6-day climb (excluding tips) was ~\$1600. After breakfast, the guides sang a song for us and we took pictures. Then we hiked down to Mweka Gate and then drove back



The group meets up at Stella Point (18,640'), not far from the summit



Our porters and guides singing a farewell song on our last morning at Mweka Camp (day 6)

to Arusha, tired, but happy. Next day we took the shuttle back to Nairobi and then to the Wildebeest Hotel, located just outside the city. This was a wonderful place to stay, very reasonably priced, set in a lush garden atmosphere - we'd highly recommend it.

The total stats for the Kili climb were 38 miles to summit (14,450' gain), and 24 miles down. However, except for the final push to the summit, the most gain for any one day was only 2600', with the mileage ranging from 6-11 miles per day. Apart from the unknown adjustment to high altitude, climbing Kilimanjaro is pretty doable for an active hiker. It's interesting to appreciate the sheer size of the mountain - it rises nearly 16,000' above the East African plains and measures 60 x 40 miles across. As Africa's highest mountain it is one of the seven summits, yet it is also the tallest mountain in the world that can be climbed without technical equipment. The pleasure of climbing Kili comes from the varied and magnificent scenery as one passes through multiple ecological zones, culminating in the spectacular glaciers near the summit - the roof of Africa.

The Sierra Echo

VOLUME 55 | NUMBER IV | OCT - DEC 2011

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

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Address Changes Send to the Henry Arnebold; email [harnebold@gmail](mailto:harnebold@gmail.com)

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be obtained by sending \$1 and a SASE to the section Treasurer Henry Arnebold.

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Awards Send notification to Secretary **Eric Scheidmantle**. Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline and include Emblem pins (\$15) and SPS section patches (\$5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

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