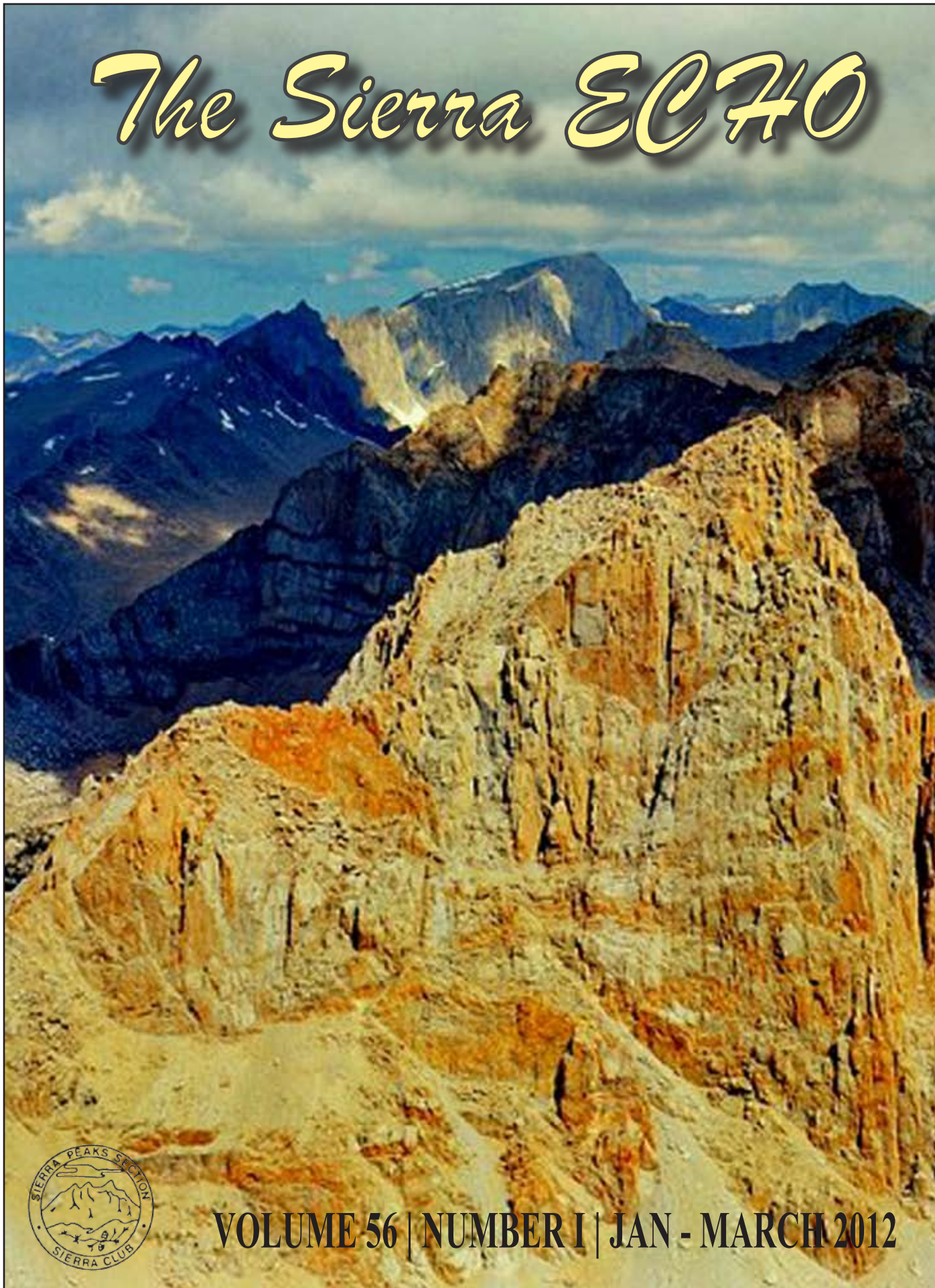


The Sierra EC70



VOLUME 56 | NUMBER I | JAN - MARCH 2012



*Corrine Livingston on summit of
Black Kaweah, Sept, 2011*

We had no less than four SPS List Finishers this year. A quadruple SPS List Finish celebration for took place on October 1st on the summit of San Joaquin Mtn with a party afterwards at John Hooper's place in Mammoth (see article by Daryn Dodge in this issue). Congratulations to all of you!

One very sad trend over the past couple of years has been the disappearance of some of our most treasured peak registers, such as those on the summits of Black Kaweah, Norman Clyde and Thunderbolt. This even caught the notice of the Inyo Register, and the SPS was contacted for their input. Several SPS members contributed to the story, which can be accessed here: <http://www.inyoregister.com/node/1655>

A week-long peak-bagging trip to the Big Arroyo this past September afforded the opportunity for a group of us to place a new canister and book on the summit of Black Kaweah. Corrine Livingston, who now spends part of the year in Azerbaijan, helped with this effort and also placed a photo on the summit of her beloved dog, Kaweah, who recently passed way (see photo above).

Peakclimbingstoriesnaturallydominateconversations on Sierra trips, and this summer an idea for a new SPS emblem was born that we would like to propose to the membership. The **Sierra Peaks Explorers Emblem** would require the climbing of 50 named Sierra peaks that are not on the SPS list. This idea has been received with enthusiasm by the SPS Committee and by long-time climbers such as Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman, who agree that there a numerous fine

ECHOS

from the Chair

by Kathy Rich

peaks in the Sierra that are not on the list.

Adding this new Sierra Peaks Explorers Emblem will require a change to the Bylaws and will be on the ballot mailed out in December along with the candidates for next year's SPS Management Committee. Please try to vote! Other new ideas that the Committee is exploring are to produce SPS bandanas with different designs and colors as well as designing a plaque or paper-weight for SPS list finishers.

Hold the date! The 2012 SPS Banquet will be held on **Sunday, January 29th** at the Proud Bird Restaurant. The restaurant is centrally located near LAX, close to major freeways, and offers free parking. We are delighted to announce that our speaker will be **Bob Burd**, organizer of the annual *Sierra Challenge*, and who last year completed dayhiking the SPS list on Table Mountain (a mere 40-mile jaunt).

Fall is upon us and the recent cold snap brought snow to the local mountains and to the Sierra. Some of us are already drawing up our 'wish lists' of peaks to climb next year. Please submit your trip ideas for Spring and Summer to the Outings Leaders, Barbee and Larry Tidball by mid-February in order for them to be published in the next Echo. Once trips have been given the appropriate approvals, they can also be posted directly onto the SPS website at any time. This includes provisional lead trips.

Many thanks to our hardworking Management Committee for 2011: Henry Arnebold, Greg Mason, Alexander Smirnoff and Eric Scheidemantle. In addition I'd like to give a special acknowledgement and thanks to a number of others who donate their time to complete essential tasks for the Section: Sara Danta (Echo editor), Barbee and Larry Tidball (Outings), Ron Hudson (Webmaster), Dan Richter (Archives), Patty Kline (Programs), and Beth Epstein (Mailer).

Best wishes for the holidays, Kathy

Cover photo is of Mt. Langley and curtesy of Hal Browder. Hal did this climb 3 yrs. ago. He recently went on two backpacks in the Yosemite area this year. One of which was for his Big 80 birthday!



Banquet News

“The approach is everything.”

A quote from our guest speaker for the 2012 SPS banquet, Bob Burd

Bob Burd, known for organizing the extreme Sierra Challenge each year, and for finishing the Sierra Peaks list by summiting every peak as a day hike from the trailhead.

He has also been known to work on other lists, including DPS, HPS, and California county high points. He is a moderator for summitpost.com and has his own web site, www.snwburd.com

He will present an entertaining mix of peak experiences, anecdotes and extreme adventures, with photos of the many trips, including many friends with whom he has shared these unequalled hikes and ascents.

See enclosed/attached banquet flyer for details, or <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/Banquet%202012b.pdf>

Don't Miss This Exciting Event! Sunday, January 29th, 2012

Don't forget to renew!

Your 2012 SPS Renewal Form is attached/enclosed for your convenience

New Members and Accomplishments!

- List Finisher: Louise Wholey
- List Finisher: Chris Libby
- List Finisher: Greg Gerlach
- List Finisher: John Hooper
- New Active Member: Mat Kelliher
- New Active Member: Jack Kieffer



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.

SPS TREASURER'S REPORT 3RD QUARTER 9/30/2011

Checking Account

Income

Echo-----75.00
 Echo-----30.00
 \$105.00

Expenditures

Printing-----255.40
 Postage-----352.40
 Banquet deposit-----500.00
 \$ 1,107.80

Balance on 6/30/2011-----5355.56
 Income-----105.00
 5460.56
 Expenditures----- -1107.80
 \$4,352.76

Savings Account

Balance on 6/30/2011-----5006.47
 July Interest-----1.27
 August Interest-----1.28
 September Interest-----1.11
 5,010.13
 Debits for 2nd quarter----- -1.05
 5,009.00
 Debits for 3rd quarter----- -1.03
 \$5,008.05

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.

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 Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at the home of Alexander Smirnoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Members present were Kathy Rich, Eric Scheidemantle, Henry Arnebold and Alexander Smirnoff.

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

1. Chair's Report - Kathy reported that:

- The Proud Bird has been reserved for Sunday, January 29th for the 2012 banquet. The Proud Bird will be more expensive than the previous venue so the DPS has been contacted about how they make the economics work. There was discussion about raising the fee for the banquet but we decided against it. Alternative potential speakers were discussed since Don Bowie has not responded. It was decided to ask Bob Burd (who subsequently accepted the invitation). A discussion ensued about the possibility of making Bob Burd an honorary SPS member in the future; however, this would require a Bylaws change.
- The Committee made suggestions about fund-raisers for the banquet such as: REI donating items for auction, regular members donating an item to sell, Eric selling some Sierra artwork, making a book of historic registers and possibly selling Karen Leonard's book about the history of Angeles Chapter hiking.

2. Treasurer's Report - Henry Arnebold presented the 3rd quarter report.

Henry also completed the report requested by Angeles Chapter on entity reserves. The savings account has \$5009.05 and the checking account \$4352.76. The Echo brought in \$105. We spent \$1107.80 on printing, postage and \$500 for the banquet deposit. Henry mentioned that he plans to step down as Treasurer and suggested that the new treasurer set up a new bank account with a bank that doesn't charge fees (such as Wells Fargo).

3. Sierra Echo Report - The electronic version was sent out on 9/25/2011. The next deadline is 11/23/11.

4. Outings Report – Only a handful of trips have been submitted for the main schedule. This is one of the lowest number submitted in recent history; however, with quick turn-around now possible, there is less incentive to get published in the main schedule.

5. Mountain Records Report – A new canister and book was placed on Black Kaweah in September and a new book on Big Kaweah to replace the missing registers.

6. Archivist Report - Dan has updated the list finisher list. We have four new list finishers from August to September, 2011: Louise Wholey, Chris Libby, Greg Gerlach and John Hooper(#70-73). Dan reported that he is on the organizing committee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RCS (which began in Fall, 1932).

7. New Business

- The Committee was enthusiastic about the idea of an Explorer's Emblem which is to climb 50 named Sierra peaks that are not on the SPS list. A motion to put this to a vote by the membership for a Bylaws change on the December ballot was approved.
- Ideas for an award for SPS List Finishers (besides the pin) were discussed. One idea was a plaque; another was a paper-weight like item such as a crystal mountain on a base with an engraving.
- The Committee was enthusiastic about the idea of SPS bandanas with different designs and colors such as the SPS list or a map of the regions (oversize ones too).
- Kathy passed on Chris Libby's suggestion that we try to work with the land owners around Pilot Knob (S) to gain permission to climb it via the normal route and therefore could be put back on the list.
- The Committee approved moving forward with a link on the SPS website to prior trip listings so that leaders can see what has been led, when it's been led and make it easier for leaders to lead the same trip.
- The Committee decided to request nominees for the 2012 Management Committee to provide a short paragraph describing themselves on the ballot form (much like what other sections do).
- We have 2 new members: Gary Hughes and Matt Kelliher.

8. Old Business

- We are waiting on the SPS list in Excel format to be posted to the website.



***Don't forget to vote for the 2012 SPS Management Committee!
See attached/enclosed ballot.***

Please consider a proposal for a new Sierra Peaks Explorers Emblem which can be obtained by climbing fifty (50) Sierra peaks named on a USGS 7.5min map that are not on the SPS list, and be an SPS member . Proposal included on the ballot.

Please note: Henry Arnebold will be stepping down as Treasurer, and Kathy Rich will be stepping down as Chair (although she will continue on the Committee if elected), so we need to vote in some new members onto the Committee!

The new candidates and their bios are as follows:

Matt Hengst - I live in Orange County CA, work in Boise ID, and spend a whole lot of time rushing back and forth in order to climb mountains every weekend. In addition to being an M leader with a very active trip schedule I'm the group leader for Kaweah Group in Orange County WTC, help out with Advanced Mountaineering Program, and I'm active with the SCMA Rock Climbing Safety Course.

Lisa Miyake - I graduated from UCLA in 2006, and spent the following year in Japan on a Fulbright Fellowship. Being a researcher allowed for a flexible schedule; this gave me an opportunity to hike Mt. Fuji while I was there. I had never really hiked before, but felt compelled to summit the tallest peak in the country before I left. This was pretty rough for someone 40 pounds overweight with no experience, but somehow I made it through. The hiking bug didn't hit me right away, though. It took a few years and several lost pounds, but in 2010 I was a student in the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) and the rest – as they say – is history. I started hiking every weekend. I took a variety of courses to develop my skills, because I'm all about safely enjoying the outdoors. I learned more about rock climbing, snow travel, avalanches, and became an Associate Member of the Southern California Mountaineering Association (SCMA). I came back as a WTC Long Beach/South Bay instructor in 2011, and look forward to continuing to volunteer in that capacity in future years. I am currently an O2 leader, have passed all the M checkoffs, and will be going for the rating soon so I can better assist my group. This past spring and summer, I was out in the Sierra almost every weekend attempting or summiting peaks on the SPS list. I may be relatively new to hiking and mountaineering, but I'm out there – enjoying all that the outdoors has to offer. I love the Sierra Club because of its outings, and I hope to have an opportunity to share that passion as part of the SPS Committee. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Regge Bulman - I am an M-rated leader in the Sierra Club and a member of the SPS Section. I have been an instructor in the Sierra Club's Wilderness Travel Course for four years and am currently the West LA area representative on the WTC management committee. I am a member and supporter of the AAC and Access Fund. I am also an associate member of the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA) and am in the process of getting my Single Pitch Instructor certification. I look forward to getting more involved the SPS section and would be happy to serve as its treasurer. On top of everything, my wife Monica (also an SPS member) is a CPA and will make sure I don't screw anything up.



Tom Bowman

SPS's own Tom Bowman Wins 2011 Green Good Design Award

Learn more about the Bowman Design Group at www.bowmandesigngroup.com

Taken from "Exhibitor Online"

7/27/2011 - Tom Bowman, president of ***Bowman Design Group*** and ***Bowman Global Change***, has been awarded a 2011 Green Good Design™ Award, the sole winner in the individual category which recognizes people "that have forwarded exceptional thinking and inspired greater progress toward a more sustainable universe."

The international award, conferred jointly by the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, was launched in 2008 as an offshoot of the 60-year old Good Design™ Awards program, the largest and oldest design awards in the world.

Bowman's work as an acclaimed environmental exhibition designer, an award-winning expert in green business planning, and a visionary green pioneer in the tradeshow industry led to the award. A professional jury of international sustainability experts singled out Bowman as the individual who best met the criteria as a "leader, pioneer and innovator in green design." Judges selected an additional 122 winners in the sustainability award categories: city, corporation, product, urban planning, architecture, and research/technology.

Among his notable achievements, Bowman slashed his firm's carbon emissions by 65% in just two years to win a 2009 CoolCalifornia Small Business of the Year Award and a 2009 Tradeshow Week Green Innovation Award; won Event Design Awards in 2007, 2008, and 2010 for his leadership on the Birch Aquarium Feeling the Heat exhibition, the Aquarium of the Pacific Ocean on the Edge exhibition, and the Southern California Edison Smart Energy Experience™ exhibition, respectively; and is the eponym behind the Trade Show Exhibitors Association's Tom Bowman Green Award created "in honor of his contributions to saving the planet and significantly impacting and leading the industry in ways that positively affect the environment."

Go to <http://ClimateEngage.org> to read more the latest efforts in fostering more public engagement in *climate issues*!

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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

Special Award

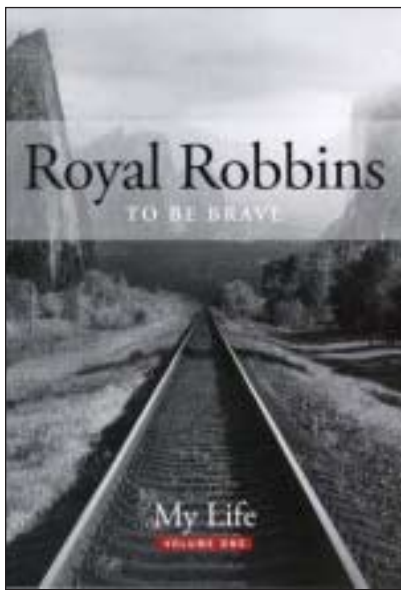
Royal Robbins presented with the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award

by Bill Oliver

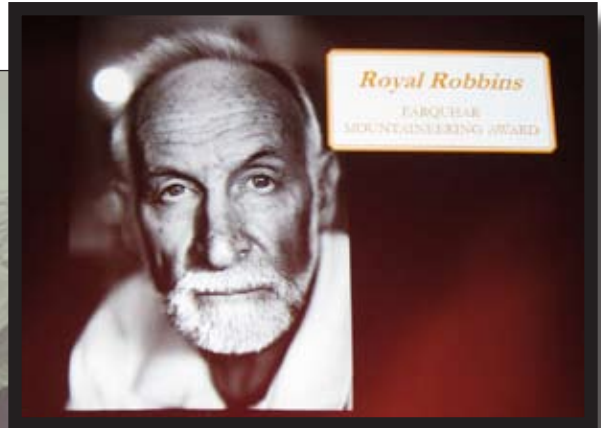


Royal and Liz atop El Capitan, following his climb - the first solo ascent of El Cap, 1968.

Don't miss. . .



Autobiography of legendary American climber, Royal Robbins. "To Be Brave" is the first book in Royal Robbins' autobiographical series



Representing the Club's Mountaineering Committee, I'm delighted and honored to present the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award to Royal Robbins. Farquhar, a former Club president and long-time board member, was instrumental in making the Sierra Club

Bulletin a leading mountaineering journal through the mid-20th century.

Starting in the latter '50s, the Bulletin hosted numerous articles on Royal Robbins' climbing exploits - especially in Yosemite Valley. Royal had joined the Sierra Club in 1950, as a 15-year-old youth, so that he could climb with the Club's LA Rock Climbing Section.

54 years ago, in 1957, with two others he made the first ascent of the iconic sheer face of Half Dome - and he subsequently pioneered four more routes. He has also climbed it with his lovely wife, Liz - with us here tonight. Royal also made the first solo ascent of El Capitan. He is the author of two seminal books in the early '70s: Basic Rockcraft and Advanced Rockcraft, which emphasized free-climbing skills and a clean-climbing ethic - avoiding the damaging use of pitons.

Royal - thank you so much for your climbing achievements which have brought renown to the Sierra Club, and for your key contributions to our craft.



Bill Oliver, Liz & Royal Robbins



“It is my hope that the Institute for Mountains and Rivers will serve as the institutional basis for integrating economic vitality and ecological integrity within the Eastern Sierra.”-Andrea Mead Lawrence

NEWS FROM BARBARA BOXER, UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA - October 25, 2011

The U.S. Senate has unanimously passed the Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act of 2011, my bill to name a mountain peak in Mono County “Mt. Andrea Lawrence” in honor and memory of this conservationist, three-time Olympian, and former member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors who passed away in 2009.

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives, where Congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (R-Santa Clarita) has introduced an identical bill.

Andrea Mead Lawrence was a three-time Olympian who remains the only American double Olympic gold medalist in alpine skiing. She was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958 at the age of 25, and in 2002, sports writer and documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan called her “the greatest Winter Olympian of all time.”

Lawrence was also a committed conservationist who worked to protect and restore Mammoth Lakes, Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park and other important

natural and cultural resources of the Eastern Sierra. She served for 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors as well as on the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and in 2003 founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers to promote environmental protection and economic vitality in the region.

Peak 12,240, currently identified only by its elevation, is located in Mono County near the Tuolumne County border. It is on the border of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, just east of Yosemite National Park. The John Muir trail passes close to the peak.

Andrea Lawrence was an Olympic champion who dedicated her life to protecting the treasures of the Eastern Sierra. Her passion and achievements were larger than life, which is why I cannot think of a more fitting tribute than to name this majestic peak in her honor.

Hal Browder was kind enough to share this news with us. Hal worked on a number of Yosemite Issues with Ms. Lawrence. This article was taken from Senator Barbara Boxer's website

Historic Sierra Peak Registers

Courtesy of Dan Richter
Archivist

REGISTER BOX
OF
SIERRA CLUB.

No. 43

DEPOSITED ON THE SUMMIT OF Red and White Peak
THE 18th DAY OF July 1902, BY Lincoln Hutchinson,
Charles A. Noble and J. S. Hutchinson.

This Register and the enclosing box are the property of the SIERRA CLUB. Those visiting this point are invited to register their own names and date of ascent.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT NOTHING BUT THE NAME AND ADDRESS AND THE DATE OF ASCENT BE REGISTERED, AND THAT NO NAMES BE REGISTERED EXCEPT OF THOSE ACTUALLY MAKING THE ASCENT.

The Altitude of this Summit is about 13,000 feet.
The Panorama is (12,840)

Aug 10
1932

West Ridge
Walter A. Starr Jr
Sierra Club
6 1/2 hours hike from camp
about 2 mi below summit
moor pass.

Red and White Mtn.
Register booklet
placed July 1902!

Notice Walter Starr
Jr's signature 1932

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.

LTC

Nov. 13, 2011

Leadership Training Committee release

Contact: Ron Campbell
714-962-8521
campbellr@verizon.net

Club will offer outdoor leadership training April 14.

Interested in becoming an outings leader for the Club?

You can take the first step on Saturday, April 14, by attending a class sponsored by the chapter's Leadership Training Committee.

The class will cover all the basics of leading, from planning a trip to proper safety and conservation practices. The class is required for everyone seeking a leadership rating from the chapter.

The all-day class at Costa Mesa Community Center in Orange County 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 (lcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

Applications and checks are due March 31.

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 SDS

CST 2087766-40



Leadership Training Committee 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>

Apr 27-29, 2012



Steve Schuster

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

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
Mar 31-Apr1, 2012	I Places We've Saved Navigation - Workshop	Robert Myers
Apr 21-22, 2012	I/M/E Warren Pt. Navigaiton Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
May 26, 2012	I Local Mtns Beginning Navigaiton Clinic	Diane Dunbar
Jun 2, 2012	I/M/E Heart Bar/Grinnel Ridge Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Aug 5, 2012	I/M/E Mt. Pinos Navigaiton Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers
Sept 23, 2012	I/M/E Grinnel Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Robert Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

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/>

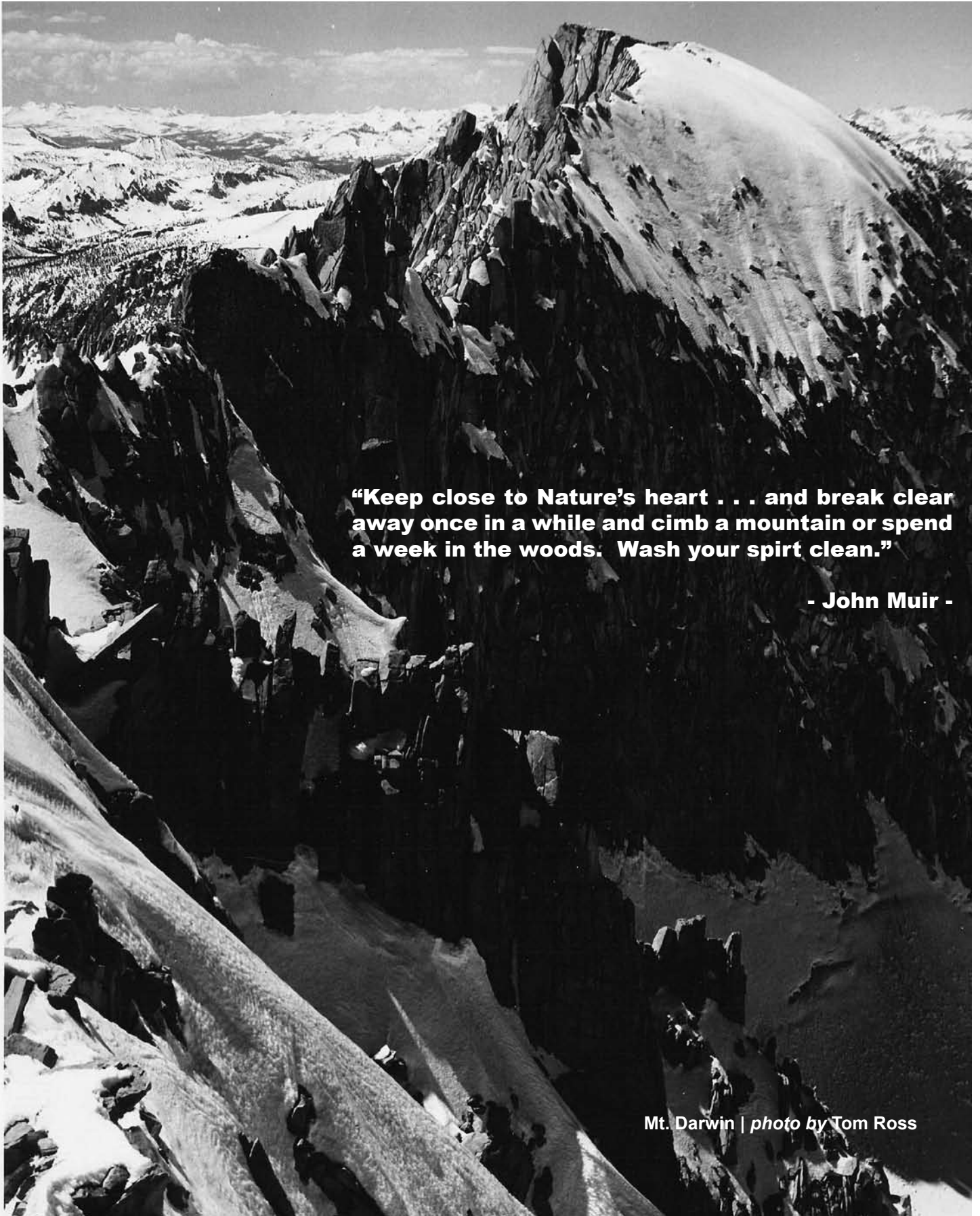
Snow Practices and Checkouts

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
Apr 14-15, 2012	M/E Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice	Nile Sorenson
Apr 28, 2012	M/E Snow Practice and Check Off	Tina Bowman

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/>



“Keep close to Nature’s heart . . . and break clear away once in a while and cimb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirt clean.”

- John Muir -

Mt. Darwin | photo by Tom Ross

Pacific West Maps

A new, local, family owned topographic map store. They sell 100% authentic USGS topo maps and have in stock authentic USGS 7.5 series topo maps for every state in the United States as well as other scales offered by the USGS. In addition, they stock BLM, Forest Service, raised relief, and Tom Harrison map and have approximately 100,000 topo maps in stock.

Pacific West Maps is located at, 994 N Main St, Orange, CA 92867. 714-633-0800

Hours are open Wednesday - Saturday 10 am – 6 pm. Feel free to drop by anytime during business hours.

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

Outings

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 can-

cel. 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 - brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E ldr candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs w/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.

Mar 31-Apr 1 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, DPS, Desert Committee**
I: Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our 10th annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the Calif Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of SC activists & others. A basic/intermediate xc nav day-hike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pin-yon and juniper forests at 5500' elevation. Potluck & social on Sat, & for those arriving early Fri. Limited to 14 participants. Send email/sase to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldrs: VIRGIL SHIELDS, ANN SHIELDS, ADRIENNE BENEDICT

Apr 14 | Sat **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar in Costa Mesa. No registration after March 31st or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2012.

Apr 14-15 | Sat-Sun **SPS**
M: Spanish Needle (7841'), Sawtooth Pk (8000'); Day hikes and Car Camping in the Southern Sierra. Seldom led Spanish Needle requires bushwhack and 3rd class rock, 5mi 2000' gain. Sawtooth easy hikes on trail and cross-country travel 5 mi, 2000' gain, (maybe add Lamont Peak too) Send e-SASE and 3rd rock class experience to Leaders: LARRY & BARBEE TIDBALL.

Apr 14-15 | Sat –Sun **LTC, SPS, DPS**
M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: NILE SORENSON Co-ldr: DOUG MANTLE.

Apr 18 | Wed **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/ER: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP5) – 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

Apr 21 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP5) – Belaying: 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited priority will be given

to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Apr 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

Apr 27- 29 | Fri – Sun LTC, Harwood Lodge
C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 7:30 am Fri to 5:00 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$210 (full refund through March 23). For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

Apr 28 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP5) – 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

Apr 28-29 | Sat -Sun LTC, SPS, DPS
M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Co-ldr: TOM BOWMAN

May 5-6 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP5) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors: 4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

May 11-13 | Fri-Sun SPS
MR: Birch Mtn (13,602’), The Thumb (13,356’): Join us for a mid spring snow climb of two peaks near Big Pine. Fri backpack to Birch Lake, 5 mi, 4500’ gain. Sat climb the NW slope of Birch, and the SE slope of The Thumb, 5.5 mi, 4500’ of gain. Sun backpack to cars. Comfort and experience climbing snow with ice axe and crampons required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email or sase with resume, conditioning, carpool info, Sierra Club number and medical form to Ldr: GARY SCHENK. Asst: TINA BOWMAN

May 19-20 | Sat-Sun SPS
MR: Lone Pine Peak (12,943’). Backpack to camp near Meysan Lake. 3.5 mi, 3400’ gain) If snow conditions permit, igloo building lesson in afternoon. Sun: climb peak w/ ice ax, crampons 1800’ gain, return to camp, pack out. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-SASE and ice ax experience, SC number, medical form to Leaders: LARRY & BARBEE TIDBALL.

May 26 | 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

June 2 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Heart Bar Peak (8332'): Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mile rt, 1400' gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldrs: JANE SIMPSON, ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS

June 3 | 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 navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER

June | 22-24 Fri-Sun **SPS, WTC**
I: Angora Mtn (10,202), Coyote Peak (10,892): Long backpack to remote peaks in Golden Trout Wilderness. Sat hike from Jerkey Meadows across Little Kern to camp, approximately 12.5 mi, 3700' gain. Share communal happy hour. Sun climb Angora & Coyote, 13 mi, 3800' gain, some cross-country travel. Mon pack out, 1700' gain on return. Send resume of conditioning & experience, h&w phones in email to Leader: BETH EPSTEIN. CO-Leader: TINA BOWMAN

Aug 12 – 18 | Sun – Sat Mule Pack, SPS, WTC
O/I: Thousand Island Lake Mule Pack: Mt Davis (12,303'), Rodgers Peak (12,978'), Electra Peak (12,442'): Trip designed for strong hikers who desire cross-country routes and peak bagging. Start Sun AM from Agnew Meadows (8300') in Mammoth area, hike 9 miles, 2500', to camp at Thousand Island Lake (9850'). These peaks, many lakes, the John Muir Trail, and other trails are accessible from base camp. Mon-Fri climb peaks, hike, photo, fish, or relax in camp. Enjoy nightly organized dinners (you'll know exactly what to bring and won't have to guess) with wine provided. Sat hike out. \$325. Mules will carry 50 lbs gear per person. Participants selected will be asked to complete the Participant Medical Form found at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/forms/html>. Note reservation/cancellation policy. It can be found at: http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mps/Reservation_Policy.htm. To apply, email or phone high altitude and distance conditioning to Co-ldr: SANDY LARA. Co-ldr: PETER LARA.

Aug 5 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Mt. Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: KIM HOMAN

Be Safe, Have Fun!



San Joaquin Mtn

4x List Finish Celebration

October 1, 2011

by Daryn Dodge

For the first time in many years, four SPS members finished the list in the same year: Chris Libby, Louise Wholey, Greg Gerlach and John Hooper. None of the participants finished on a scheduled SPS trip, so an official SPS dayhike up San Joaquin Mtn was quickly put together by Kathy Rich and me on October 1st to celebrate the accomplishment of all four finishers. We were delighted to have all four present on this trip. We were also honored to have Doug Mantle, a 7-time list finisher and a good friend of Chris Libby's, join us for the climb. Due to less than ideal weather conditions, Kathy and I elected to drive everyone out from Minaret summit to the end of the 4WD road near Deadman Pass. This shortened the hike to just under 6 miles round trip. The hike out was really windy at times and decidedly chilly. But the clouds stayed away and a nice use trail made for easy hiking. Participants included: Kathy Rich (leader), Daryn Dodge (leader), Chris Libby, Louise Wholey, John Hooper, Greg Gerlach, Doug Mantle, Ron Hudson, Bob Suzuki, Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman, Steve Eckert and Stella with kids Gabe and Vivian, Bob Wyka, Peter Christian, Ted Lenzie, Tom Kearns, Jim Wholey, Stephanie Glyden, Eddie Sudol, Sandra Hao, Andrew Wirkus, Daryl Hooper, Jenna Hooper, Nolan Bobroff, and Tammy Hooper with Ancho the dog.



The four 2011 list finishers on San Joaquin Mtn with Doug Mantle (far left). Sitting from right to left, Greg Gerlach, Chris Libby, Louise Wholey and John Hooper.

Following the climb, John and Tammy Hooper hosted a wonderful potluck party at their home in Paradise (between Mammoth Lakes and Bishop). Tammy served up delicious barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs and no one went home hungry.

Chris Libby was the first of the four to finish this year, climbing his last SPS peak solo (Pilot Knob (S) on July 15th. This was before Pilot Knob (S) was officially suspended from the list due to issues of denial of access to the trailhead over private property.

Chris actually had 14 peaks left to climb at the beginning of the year to finish the list. Luckily, all had relatively short and easy approaches. That did not mean it was easy! Because of record snow levels, nearly all required slogging through snow or significant river crossings. Chris climbed his penultimate peak, English Mtn, in early July leaving Pilot Knob (S) to finish the list.

After scouting various routes up Pilot Knob, Chris decided to start at the public bridge over the river near Onyx. This route leads through tribal land. There were no specific signs, locked gates, or people in attendance, but he did not feel comfortable leaving a car there unattended, so he

parked at a Game Refuge parking lot 3/4 mile east on Highway 158. There was someone staying in a camper at the bridge with a generator going, and on the way back, there were a few people milling about. But they either did not see him or did not seem to care he was there. He followed the standard route on the cow trail and up the gully to the ridge, then right to the peak. The trail was largely ducked with some weaving involved to avoid brush and downed trees.

Chris feels the peak is definitely worthy of the list and encourages SPS to try and work out an access agreement with the tribe because such issues have been worked out before for state highpointers.

Louise was the next to finish on a 2-day trip to Iron Mtn. This trip was scheduled as a Sierra Club trip with the Peak Climbing Section (PCS) of the Loma Prieta Chapter in the San Francisco Bay Area. Louise also had quite a dramatic ending leading up to her last peak. With 2 weeks left before her already-scheduled PCS list finish trip on Iron Mtn on August 13, she still needed three peaks. None of them were easy, including Table Mtn, Pickett Guard Pk, and Deerhorn Mtn. Corrine Livingston and I joined Louise for a late July-early August trip for Table and Picket Guard. A horrendous storm drove us off Table just as we found the class 3 ramp that leads to the summit plateau. So we then tried for Pickett Guard, which fought us the whole way with more stormy weather, dense fog, nearly impossible river crossings, hordes of mosquitos, and a trail up Kern-Kaweah canyon that had been turned into a massive swamp due to all the snow melt. But climb Pickett Guard we did! With no time left and continuing bad weather we had to forego another attempt on Table Mtn on our way out. Now with less than a week before her scheduled Iron Mtn finish, she joined some climbing friends for the climb up Deerhorn, which went smoothly. She then hiked south over to Forester Pass to meet a guide she managed to hire on short notice only a few days before. Together they made quick work getting up Table Mtn, managing to work around most of the

steep snow that blocked much of the class 3 route on the south face. Thus, she was able to finish on Iron Mtn a few days later on her 70th birthday as planned, and in the process became List Finisher #70. Chris graciously offered to give Louise list finish number 70 and take #71 instead, although he finished earlier in the year.



Louise on Pickett Guard Peak. Only three peaks left to go!

John Hooper has been climbing Sierra peaks since the 1960s. But it wasn't until almost 10 years ago that a climbing friend showed him a peak list called the Sierra Peaks List. John was driven from that moment on to finish the list! I was lucky enough to join John on several of the more challenging peaks over the last few years, including Palisade Crest, Devil's Crag #1, and Disappointment Peak. He is an excellent climber. In fact, Disappointment Peak was his penultimate peak which we climbed about a month before he finished on Mt. Gardiner. Even though I had done the route on Disappointment only 3 years earlier, it was John that figured out the correct route after I had pretty much given up finding it! This showed me how good a climber John really is (or maybe it shows how bad a route finder I am). For his last peak, Mt. Gardiner, John had planned to climb it with his son sometime by the end of September.

Continued next page . . .



John Hooper on his penultimate peak, Disappointment Peak

In early September I joined Greg Gerlach and several others for his list finish on Mt. Gardiner, which John had also saved for last. Greg had climbed many of the listed Sierra peaks in the 1980s and 1990s, but has been climbing only a few per year since then. He did not feel the urge to finish right away as many

of us do. In 2010 he climbed his penultimate peak, Disappointment Peak, with plans to climb his last peak the following year. Our approach for Gardiner was from the Sixty Lakes Basin to the north. As we made our way up the rock and scree about 1000 feet below the summit ridge, we heard a yell from the above. It was John! Turns out he could not coordinate a trip to the peak with his son later in September, so he decided to surprise us by climbing up the south side of the peak the same day we were climbing it from the north. John got to the summit about 30 minutes before us, so we had a short celebration about halfway across the class 4 knife edge near the summit.

Look for more list finishers coming up in the next couple of years, including Shane Smith, Lisa Barboza and Bob Wyka. And maybe John Cheslick if he ever develops an interest in climbing Devil's Crag!



Greg Gerlach and friends on the summit of Mt. Gardiner, SPS peak # 248. From L to R, Shane Smith, Samantha Olson, Bob Wyka and Greg Gerlach.

Soldier Lakes Mule Pack

TRIP REPORT

Jul 31-Aug 6, 2011

**Joe Devel Peak (13,327'), Mt Pickering (13,474'),
Mt Chamberlin (13,169'), Mt Newcomb (13,422')**

by Sandy Lara



Soldier Lake from our camp area.

We had a strong group of 8 for our Soldier Lake (10,400') mule pack trip. Our primary sponsor was the Mule Pack Section, and we co-sponsored with the Sierra Peaks Section and Wilderness Travel Course. All entities were represented by 3 or more participants, many of us being members of two or all three of these groups.

Lower Soldier Lake is located southwest of Mt Langley, only about 2 miles northwest of New Army Pass. To get there, we left the Cottonwood Pack

Station at Horseshoe Meadow and hiked on good trail in the rain over Cottonwood Pass, joined the PCT for a time, then left on another trail heading north to the lake. It was our good fortune that the heavy rains over several days kept the dust down, cleared the air, and then stopped when we reached our camp. We had no more rain the rest of the week. Rock Creek was running high from the rain and we had to be extra cautious during crossings early in the week. Stats from trailhead to camp: 11mi, 1850' gain.

Continued next page . . .

During the week, we took advantage of our location to bag several peaks in the area. First, we climbed Joe Devel Peak (13,327'), going southwest from Soldier Lake, crossing Rock Creek, and then beginning our ascent at about



Mt Pickering looking north to Mt Newcomb and then Mt Whitney above on the close horizon (scroll right, middle of photo)

10,400' still heading southwest to avoid some cliffs and then making a right turn to head toward the summit ridge, then followed the ridge to the summit. On the way back, we started south, then turned east to cross over into a steep class 2 gully at about 11,400' and down to a meadow. After an exciting log crossing, we climbed the ridge over to Soldier Lake. Stats for the day: 7mi, 3550'.

All peaks were climbed via class 2 routes which sometimes required miles of extra hiking to approach from the direction that allowed for this. The longest day was to Mt Chamberlin, a 20 mile round trip with 5000' of gain. From camp we descended southwest and west along Rock Creek until joining the PCT and continuing to a low point of 9600'. The PCT turned north and we followed it to the saddle between Mt Guyot and Mt Chamberlin. We turned northeast and climbed to Mt Chamberlin, then retraced our steps. There was a fire burning in the Golden Trout Wilderness that created a lot of smoke in our area, especially in the afternoons. We elected not to add Mt Guyot to our day partly because the smoke was so thick that the views were extremely hazy. We will return another time as the vistas are reported to be superb.

Mt Newcomb (13,422') was another long day. It began with a descent from Soldier Lake down the Rock Creek trail (again!) to a point just below the Rock Creek Ranger Station. Here, we left the trail, headed north, and climbed up the Perrin Creek drainage. We mostly followed the creek, doing

some time-consuming bushwhacking and boulder-hopping along the way. Once above timberline, the going was much easier and also quite beautiful, as the creek meanders through lovely alpine meadows. Eventually, we reached the high lakes which form the headwaters of Perrin Creek. From there, we ascended steep, loose talus to the summit mesa,

and then enjoyed easy hiking on the mesa up to the summit. Stats 16mi, 5000'.

Mt Pickering (13,474') was a shorter climb at "only" 8.5mi and 3500'. We climbed over the ridge from Soldier Lake down to the Rock Creek marsh, then up some slabs to Erin Lake (11,647'), a beautiful destination in itself. We climbed northeast up to the plateau and followed it northwest to the summit. The views were spectacular of the "backside" of Mt Whitney and Mt Langley, of Newcomb, Chamberlin, and Joe Devel, places we had just been to but from different directions. There are really no good words to describe the glory of it all!

The Major General (12,400') stands guard 2000' over Soldier Lake. After looking at it all week, some felt the desire to climb it for the opposite view. We followed a faint use trail toward Upper Soldier Lake crossing the outlet stream at about 11,200', then over to the northwest side of the southwest ridge and up ledges to the sandy ridge top. Although just a bump on the ridge, at 12,400' it offers fine views and is well worth the effort. Stats: 3mi, 2000'.

Everyone climbed something, no one climbed all. We also had rest days to Erin Lake, Sky Blue Lake, and Upper Soldier Lake, the latter two enticing some for a quick swim.

Soldier Lake is marshy and not a swimming lake,

All views of our camp on the peninsula which points north into Lower Soldier Lake



though beautiful, with the Major General looking down from above. Mosquitoes were present but bites were mostly prevented by covering up. We did not expect the foot traffic that occurred at our camp, mostly from fishermen and other backpackers. It was helpful that we usually had someone in camp to talk to folks passing through and to keep an eye on things. We happened to be at a very popular location on the peninsula that points north into the lake. This site accommodated our group of 8 well, but there were other nice sites around the lake, particularly on the east side.

We set up our Happy Hour area with a tarp overhead,



Our Happy Hour area. Note the table, chairs, large bear boxes, tarp for shade and rain, etc.

four bear boxes (in the shade of the tarp), a 2 ¼ x 4 ft table, two stoves, kitchenware, a lantern, and our chairs. Our dinner meals were planned in

advance by Tonyce Bates who assigned each of us to bring certain items and oversaw meal preparation. Everyone helped in preparation and clean-up. We consumed almost all of the food, but much of the wine was carted back to the trailhead. Unlike many other mule pack trips, with this one we often did not arrive back in camp after the day's adventures until dusk. Our Happy Hours were more condensed, although those taking a short day or rest day could be seen enjoying this time sooner. We enjoyed getting to know each other. Five participants were new to mule packing and all are expected to return on future trips!

Half of the group elected to return to the trailhead the way we came, and the other half detoured via New Army Pass and Cirque Peak (12,900') (an additional 2 miles and 2500') before joining back together at Cottonwood Pass for the final hike out. It was nice to have this as an option.

Our thanks go to participants Phil and Tonyce Bates, Linda Emerson, Tim McCoy, Annemarie Mikolaitis, and Don Raether. Everyone's personality had a mark on our trip. We had a great time at our final celebration telling our (funny) observations of each other and receiving our Mule Pack patches.

Photo by Eugenia Hathaway

Western Sierra Sojourn

Sept. 9-11, 2011



Climbers atop Fresno Dome on Sept. 10, 2011: Asher Waxman, Dick Drosendahl, Arlene Block (red t-shirt), Vicky Hoover (behind) Nancy Parker, Nancy Keating, Jerry Keating, Ret Moore (upper), Barbara Lilley (upper), Gordon MacLeod, Rich Gnagy (head only), Ralph Wright, Murray Aronson, Bruce Trotter, Joanna Bressel and Frank Bressel.

by Jerry Keating

With showers on each of the three days, this was a trip that could have become troublesome, but thankfully it wasn't. And all 27 participants seemed happy to spend some leisurely late-summer time in the Bass Lake area of Sierra National Forest. The USFS Lupine Campground, located on the west side of the lake, served as base for the outing, and early arrivals Friday afternoon encountered only a brief but light shower. A few sprinkles fell that evening during the promised happy hour, but the group did without a campfire in view of gusty winds and warm temperatures.

Asher Waxman substituted for the originally announced leader, Mary McMannes, who needed to be in Ohio to arrange care for elderly parents, one of whom was injured in a fall at home there a few days before the trip. The author served as the trip assistant and sweep, a task that's quite easy when a leisurely pace is guaranteed.

Clear skies prevailed Saturday morning, and 23 climbers set out for Fresno Dome (7457'), a drive of some 25 miles on scenic forest roads. Four San Diegans who needed extra time to climb a second peak departed early so they could do both peaks.



Elton Fletcher displays a vintage cup bearing the imprint Sierra Club of California. Such cups originated before 1923. Patricia Fletcher is in background. Photo by Asher Waxman



Roger Gaefcke, a founder of the SPS! Photo by Asher Waxman

During the drive, the main group stopped briefly at an overlook from which the dome's imposing south face predominates. Then, the drive continued on to the north side of the dome, from which a mile-long trail passed through a meadow and forest setting before climbing up the granite of the dome. Nineteen persons in the main party started, and all but one reached the top.

Lunch was enjoyed back at the cars. Then, the group drove back toward Bass Lake but turned off on a spur road for an afternoon hike through the giant sequoias in the Nelder Grove Historic Area. Everyone in the group hiked the mile-long Shadows of the Giants loop, situated in a gentle ravine with a brook running down the middle. Ten participants opted independently to explore another nearby trail that yielded the Bull Buck Tree, a very tall giant but one smaller in circumference than others in the grove.

Showers fell late Saturday afternoon at camp but ended before another extended happy hour, this time with a campfire and mild temperatures. A bottle of wine was the prize in a competition for the most ancient climb of an SPS-listed peak. Ret Moore

thought at first he was the winner with a 1940 climb of Half Dome, but Gordon MacLeod bested his fellow list finisher by recalling a 1937 ascent of that famed Yosemite landmark. None of the other list finisher present—including Barbara Lilley, Rich Gnagy, Elton Fletcher, Vicky Hoover and the author—came close. Nor did any of the three SPS founding members on hand: Lilley, Frank Bressel and Roger Gaefcke. Nor did others with vintage SPS connections: Patricia Fletcher, Nancy Keating, Mary Sue Miller and Ralph Wright plus Joanna Bressel, whose Sierra Club affiliation started before the SPS was founded in 1955.

Elton Fletcher caused the group to think even more into history by presenting a rare Sierra Club cup that he, Elton, had purchased in 1963 at a thrift store and carried with him on all of the peaks that were part of his list finish. The cup's bottom bears an imprint, Sierra Club of California, rather than just Sierra Club, indicating the cup was manufactured in the early 20th century. With the cup came correspondence from Will Colby, the first chairman of the Sierra Club's Outings Committee, indicating this type of cup originated before 1923.



Fresno Dome from the north. Photo by Jerry Keating

On Sunday, several members opted to spend more time in camp, while 18 stalwarts packed up and drove to the far side of Goat Mtn. to start the final phase of the scheduled trip: a four-mile round trip with 1,040 feet of gain to the high point of the mountain (4967'). The route starts on a gated forest road that leads to a lookout tower on the far end of the ridge. Once reaching the ridge, a spur turns in the opposite direction to the high point. Two persons stopped short of the saddle while conditions were dry, but two others turned back on the summit ridge when shower activity was on the increase. All the others kept moving and found reasonably dry conditions on the summit. Of those on top, three San Diegans—Richard Carey, Gail Hanna and Shelley Rogers—signed out and set off for the unstaffed lookout that, while offering a superior viewpoint, is lower in elevation.

Others on the trip were Mark Adrian (the fourth San Diegan), Murray Aronson, Arlene Block, Dick Drosendahl, Eugenia Hathaway, Bill Karasick, Nancy Parker, Joyce Sagan and Bruce Trotter, all but one of whom have been on previous trips in this series. The

series is promoted for “old-timers” and newcomers. It features involvement of the Canyon Explorers Club and tends to focus on areas of the Sierra that SPSers have overlooked in the quest for SPS-listed peaks. All on the trip took proper note that Sunday was the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and what might have been the nation’s Capitol had not doomed passengers helped send another plane into open ground in Pennsylvania.



Photo by Asher Waxman

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

VOLUME 56 | NUMBER I | JAN - MARCH 2012

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.**

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

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Subscriptions \$10 per year, due by April 30. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section: \$25.00 which includes \$10.00, plus a suggested \$15.00 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of SPS. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the Section Treasurer Henry Arnebold; include your Sierra Club number. New applications received after Oct 1 are credited to the following year.

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

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Missing Issues Inquires regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer Beth Epstein..

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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