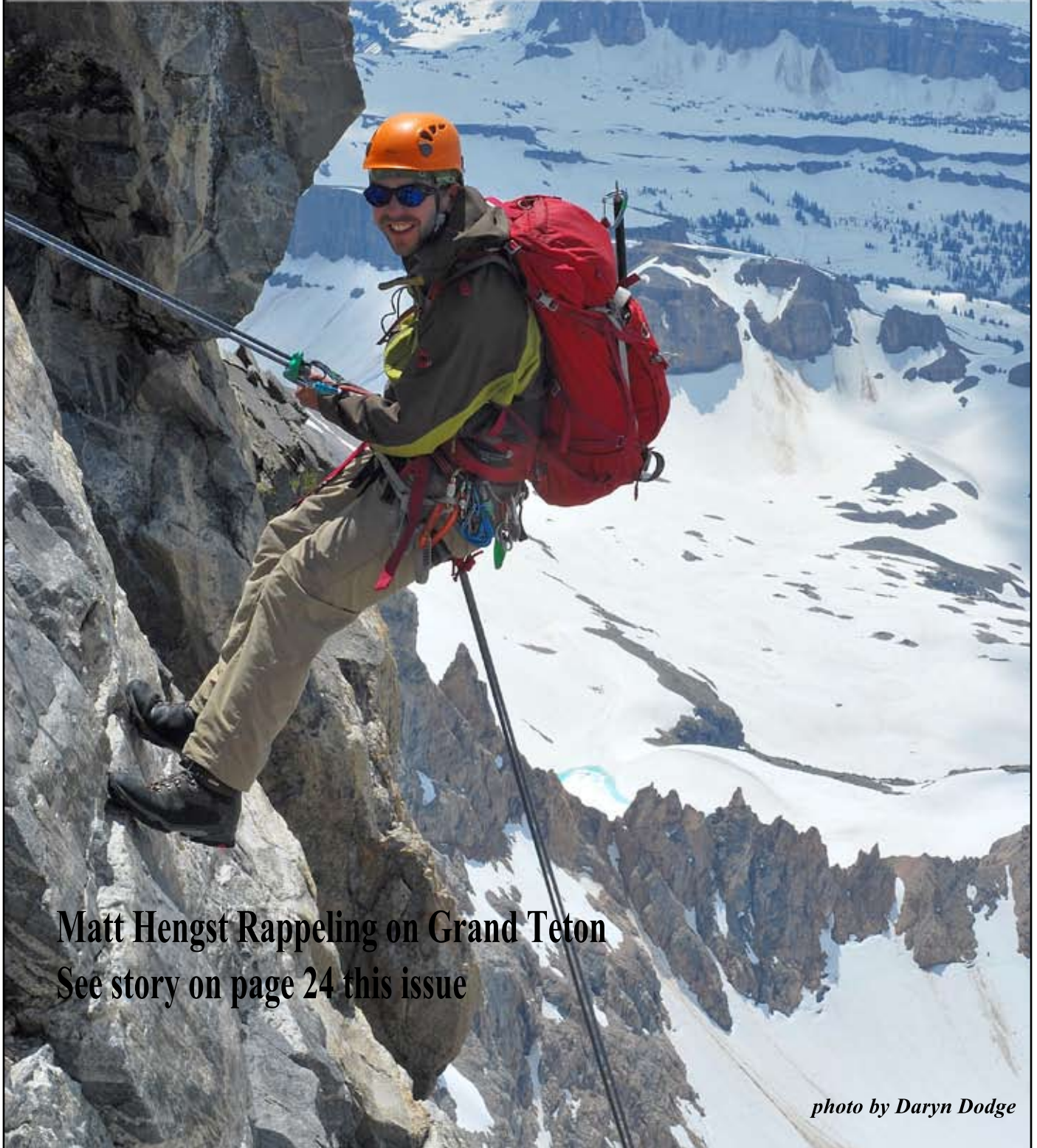




The Sierra EC70

VOLUME 56 | NUMBER II | APRIL - JUNE 2012



**Matt Hengst Rappelling on Grand Teton
See story on page 24 this issue**

photo by Daryn Dodge

ECHOS from the Chair



by Greg Mason

Hello SPS members,

Welcome to a new year for the SPS. I'd like to thank Kathy Rich for her excellent leadership the last 3 years on the SPS committee. I am happy to have her continue on as our vice chair. As the chair of our committee this year, I promise to work to build upon the previous SPS traditions while also introducing new ideas to help maintain our mission, climbing the Sierra peaks. I believe the primary goal of the SPS committee is to promote, encourage and sponsor our leaders to conduct outings.

The last few years has seen a reduction in SPS sponsored outings. Consensus has shown we require revitalization efforts to increase the number of sponsored trips. So a focus of our committee this year is to work on this task. Training new

leaders has been an emphasis of the LTC and I have worked with our AMP leaders, Dan Richter and Pat Mckusky, to bring more leaders into our fold. We have some energetic new leaders, like Matt Hengst (now our committee Outreach leader), who lead the most SPS trips this last year. We need more leaders like Matt. This is the key to our continuing mission.

I'm sure all SPS members wouldn't like to see the SPS succumb to becoming solely a list management organization with no sponsored trips. In the next few months I hope to gather information from our members using tools like surveys, member focus groups, leader meetings and networking to put together a plan to sustain our SPS group. Today, we have a smaller world due to the internet and we will be using information technology to bring us closer together. We will also look into developing tools which our leaders could use to easily find active SPS co-leaders/assists who want to lead and to readily manage and plan trips online. Once our plan is in place, I hope to bring it to the member leaders for implementation.

Our other committee members will assist in this effort. Alexander Smirnoff, as our treasurer, Eric Scheidemantle, as our Secretary along with Kathy and Matt will work our hardest to bring a new revitalization to the SPS. I also encourage our key SPS appointed position volunteers (outings, archives, safety, etc) and regional representatives to actively participate with our efforts.

I encourage all members to provide their ideas for increasing outings and membership for the SPS. We will be using this newsletter and email to gather information from our members, so please try to participate whenever asked. I look forward to seeing you in the mountains this year. I have created a new web presence for our committee using sierrapeaks.org site implemented with Google apps. Please direct all correspondence to me via email at the address chair@sierrapeaks.org.

THE NEW 2012 SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Kathy Rich - Vice-Chair



Alexander Smirnoff - Treasurer



Matthew Hengst - 5th member/outreach
outreach@sierrapeaks.org



Eric Scheidmantle - Secretary

Let's not forget our new reps. . .



Joe White - San Diego rep



Lisa Barboza - Central CA rep

*The 2012 Management Committee is pleased to announce the new
SPS Explorer Emblem.*

In the December ballot, the membership voted to approve this new Emblem by a 2:1 margin. It turns out that Emblems are part of the SPS Policies and Procedures, not the Bylaws, and hence can actually be decided by the Management Committee. However, it was gratifying to have the support of the membership for this new Emblem. After considerable input and discussion, the Management Committee has defined the parameters of the Explorer Emblem (see below) and this will be incorporated into the revised Policies and Procedures. We look forward to receiving applications for this new Emblem!

Explorer Emblem: A member of the Section who has climbed 50 peaks not on the Sierra Peaks List, who has been a Section member for at least one year, and who applies to the Secretary in writing, listing the peaks, their location, source of name, elevation and the dates climbed, shall be awarded Emblem Status. The peaks must be located in the Sierra Nevada and north of Hwy 178 and south of Hwy 36, and named on either on USGS 7.5 minute or 15 minute maps, or in the GNIS database, and be 7000' or more. HPS peaks are not allowed (to avoid overlap).

Sincerely,
2012 SPS Management Committee

SPS Members Will Be Honored At the 2012 Annual Awards Banquet



Phil Wheeler for the Chester Versteeg Outings Awards

The CHESTER VERSTEEG OUTINGS PLAQUE is the highest Outings leadership award conferred by the Angeles Chapter. It is awarded to a Sierra Club member who has provided long-term and outstanding leadership in furthering the enjoyment and safety of the outings program.

by Mary Morales

Phil Wheeler is singled out for his extensive service to the Chapter Safety Committee and the Leadership Training Committee as well as his decades of service to the entire Chapter outings program. Wheeler has overseen completion of a new Chapter Safety Policy and spearheaded implementation of quick turnaround outings approval and associated web site publishing. He was instrumental in the launch of the Chapter's new Outdoor Activity Registration System (OARS). He is an I-rated leader and has been chair of the Chapter's Safety Committee since 2008.

Outings Services Awards

- Jack Kieffer**
- Bob Draney**
- Matthew Hengst**

- New Active Member: James Porter**
- New Active Member: Alan Slocum**
- New Active Member: Celia Stewart**
- New Active Member: Angie Capece**

Notes of Interest

by Barbara Lilly

MOUNTAIN SICKNESS HELP

Larry Pemberthy, founder of Mountain Safety Research, known for the MSR stove and metal-shafted ice ax, did research on mountain sickness in the 1970's involving climbers, urine and litmus paper which suggested that excessive acidity was a contributing factor. He recommended that climbers consume Rollaids or similar anti-acid tablets while ascending, and the results were good. I saw this actually work with someone who usually felt ill at higher altitudes. It might be handy to bring some along in your first aid kit.

MT. ANDREA LAWRENCE

For those interested, this recently named summit in the Sierra Nevada is Pk. 12,440' on the Koip 7.5 map and is located 0.6 miles ENE of Donohue Pk. in Yosemite National Park. (It shows as Pk. 12,223 on the Mono Craters 15' map.) And it does indeed take an act of Congress to name a peak in a Wilderness Area.

Having an incentive to climb unlisted peaks in the Sierra is great. However, it is suggested that the amendment be "amended" to include any peak recognized by the Board of Geographic Names, as it can take considerable time for a new peak name to appear on a topographic map.

* * * * *

Don't forget to renew!

The 2012 SPS Renewal Form was sent to members with last issue or go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/SPS_Membership_Renewal_Form_2012.pdf

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>.

* * * * *

MEETING INFO

The SPS Management Committee will hold meetings every quarter at a location to be determined. Please contact SPS Chair Greg Mason at chair@sierrapeaks.org for meeting times, date and place.

Many thanks to our *TREASURED TREASURER* **Henry Arnebold**. Henry Served the SPS in many ways not only in providing balance to our books but also at times to the Management Committee. He also kept our roster updated and Mc'd many of our banquets. As editor of the Echo, I depended a lot on Henry as did the Management Committee with his excellent guidance. I'm sure I'll see you around Henry!



Sara Danta - Echo Editor

SPS TREASURER'S REPORT 4TH QUARTER 12/31/2011

Checking Account

Income

Echo-----	360.00
T-shirts-----	40.00
Pins-----	60.00
	\$460.00

Expenditures

Printing-----	454.44
Postage-----	354.52
Pins-----	669.10
	\$1,478.06

Balance on 9/30/2011-----	4136.66
Income-----	460.00
	4596.66
Expenditures-----	1478.06
	3118.60
Savings account closed and-----	5009.36
Deposited into checking acct.	\$8,127.96

Saving Account

Balance on 9/30/2011-----	5008.05
October interest-----	1.06
November interest-----	.76
	5009.87
Debits for 4 th Quarter-----	.51
	\$5,009.36

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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

FROM THE EDITOR

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

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

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



Tom Bowman

Announcing a new Meetup!

Welcome, Hiking and Wilderness Travel Enthusiasts!

Got to <http://www.meetup.com/Hiking-Wilderness-Travel-Adventures-Snowshoeing-Backpacking/#calendar> to learn more.

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL

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

M, L & XL in Sand & Ash

\$12 + \$3.50 shipping

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

Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive,

Topanga, Ca 90290 & make

check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40

Passages

In Memoriam Rich Gnagy by Barbee Tidball

2011 ended with a note of sadness. Rich Gnagy was missed at the DPS Christmas pot-luck and the HPS banquet. A call was made by one of his climbing friends to his home and the sad news of his passing was learned. Rich climbed Mt. Diablo in December 2011. Shortly after the climbing trip he came down with pneumonia. After a couple weeks in the hospital Rich, passed away from complications from the pneumonia on December 23, 2011 at the age of 86.

I have many memories of trips with Rich. He was always one of my favorite participants to sign-up when Scot Jamison or Larry and I were leading trips in the desert or Sierra. As Scot wrote “I treasure the trips I took with Rich, and will really miss not seeing him. Barbee and I first got to know him in the early ‘90s on trips like Potosi, Mummy, Charleston, Tin and Dry.”

The first trip to Mummy and Potosi in Jun 1993 was memorable. Rich was new to our group and when we decided to stop at a picnic area and BBQ our chicken dinner before driving down to the Potosi trail head, he hesitated, but went along with us. While getting the coals ready and cooking the chicken. Scot or I pulled out a bottle of Scotch – after all, it was cocktail hour. We were rewarded with that classic Rich’s smile. He became a regular on many of our trips for the drink, food and climbs.

Rich was an enthusiast climber with strong goals to climb a peak or finish the list. He was also always ready to encourage and celebrate others climbing accomplishments. Campfires on DPS trips are always

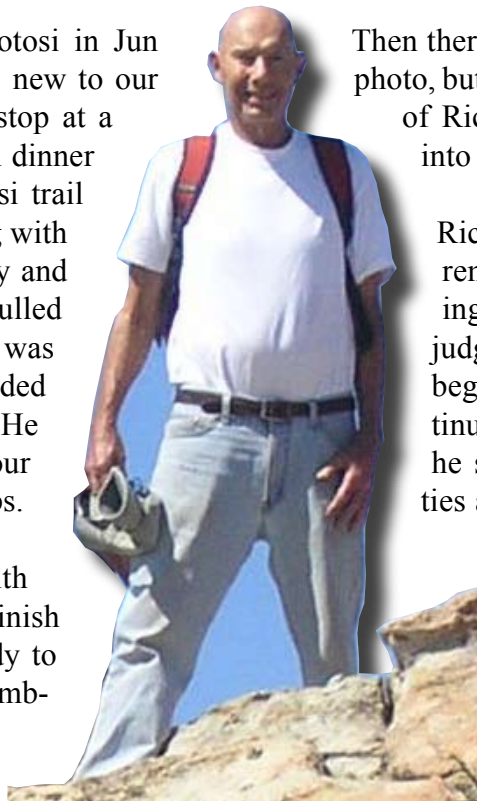
a special time. Anyone who cooks knew that Rich would be your best friend, even the bartender got second place.

Desert trips always have memories. On that first trip to Potosi Rich was driving a huge Lincoln, Chevrolet or some big town car – not the best desert roads car and sure enough it got stuck.

Then there was the cactus trip, I can’t find the photo, but I spent a long time pulling spines out of Rich’s back after he somehow backed into a cactus.

Rich’s skills as a rock climber and hiker remained strong throughout his climbing career. He always had excellent judgment on the trail. Later when he began to slow down that judgment continued to make him a perfect participant, he signed up for trips that fit his abilities and never expected others to cater to him...unless of course we were cooking dinner.

I will miss his smile and hugs at the trailhead. I know we will all miss his companionship on the trail.



Submitted by Jerry Keating



Barbee and Rich 2007 SPS Banquet

As part of the paperwork for the old-timers series, there are capsules about many of the vintage climbers. One reads as follows: “Rich Gnagy joined the club in early 1956 after starting his climbing career with the Rock Climbing Section. He did nine HPS peaks in early 1956 before getting his first SPS peak, Alta, on July 1, 1956, on a scheduled trip. By year’s end, he’d climbed 13 SPS listed peaks with 10 of them done on scheduled trips. By May of 1957, he appeared as John Robinson’s assistant leader on an SPS Olancha Peak trip. All of this occurred before he moved from the Los Angeles area to Sacramento.”



L-R, Frank Bressel, Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod, Mary Motheral, Rich Gnagy, Ret Moore & Jerry Keating on Dome Rock 09/13/08, with The Needles & the Kern Plateau as the backdrop. Olancha Pk appears on the extreme right skyline. Bressel & Lilley are founding members of the SPS. Lilley, MacLeod, Motheral, Gnagy, Moore & Keating are SPS list finishers. Photo by Ralph Wright.

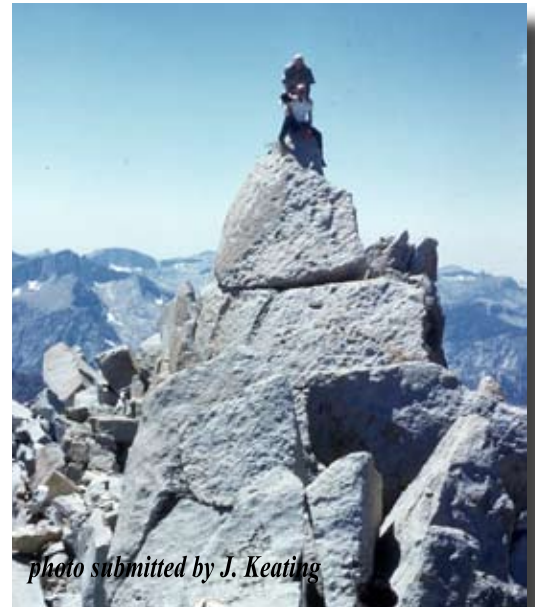


photo submitted by J. Keating

Rich (below) and Burl Parkinson (above) on the high point of Mt. Brewer on August 31, 1958, during an SPS climb. (Burl and a fellow SPSer were killed on Boundary Peak less than a year later.)



Head shot of Rich taken in early August 1970 at Finger Lake on the S. Fork of Big Pine Creek. Rich, Barbara Lilley and I (Jerry Keating) were on an independent trip, and Rich climbed Disappointment the next day.



photo - Asher Waxman

Rich (with me) on 9/10/2011, at Lupine Campground during the SPS old-timers trip. Rich had climbed Fresno Dome that day & went on to do the Goat Mtn. above Bass Lake the following day, the final part of the SPS trip. This may have been Rich’s final scheduled trip with the SPS.

The SPS 2012 Banquet Review

Bob Burd, known for organizing the extreme *Sierra Challenge* each year, was the honored speaker at our annual banquet held January 29th.

As stated in the last Echo edition, *The Sierra Challenge* is an annual series of ten consecutive dayhikes to some of the most challenging peaks in the Sierra Nevada, most often drawn from the SPS Peaks List.

Bob Burd's solitary and fast climbing style gives the SPS a unique approach to peak bagging in the Sierra. His accomplishments are quite impressive and I congratulate him. He is in the realm of a few and warrants the motto "*Professional Driver (climber). Do Not Attempt This At Home*". Greg Mason



photo by Ron Hudson

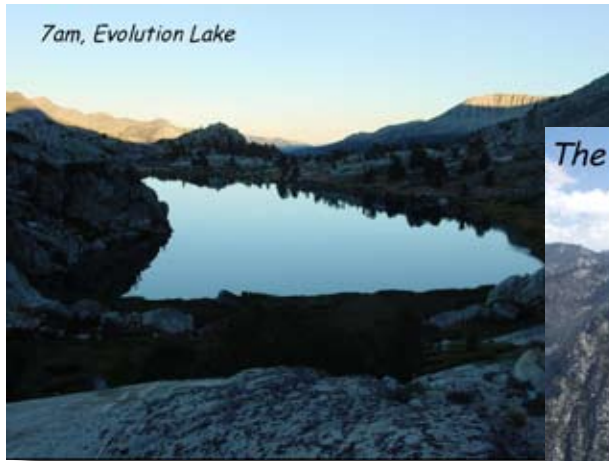




The enthralled on-lookers



L-R Alex Smirnoff, Don Crowley, Mary Joe Dungfelder, Gary Schenk, Larry Tidball



7am, Evolution Lake



The Sphinx



Northwest Ridge of North Peak



5pm, Darwin Canyon



South Lake TH, 2am

The Sierra Challenge - Not for the faint of heart!

The Vagmarken Club Sierra Crest List

by Daryn Dodge and Greg Vernon

In the interest of keeping alive some of the history behind climbing and mountaineering clubs that have left their mark in Sierra climbing lore, the Vagmarken Sierra Crest List is featured here. No recognition by the SPS is currently planned for those that complete the list, but is simply presented for the interest of peakbaggers everywhere.

The Vagmarken were the climbing club of Rockwell International. They were on the books as the Rockatomics Stamp club, as they didn't want Rockwell management to have a clue that they were doing something risky. Members worked for Rocketdyne or Atomics International in Canoga Park. The club was founded Feb. 4, 1964 originally as the Rocketdyne Mountaineering Club before changing their name to the Vagmarken.

At its height in the late-1960s and 1970s, the club numbered several dozen members. By 1975, the club had sponsored an estimated 700 trips, including many visits to major peaks on other continents. The Vagmarken undertook a program in 1965 to replace old register cans in the Sierras and elsewhere; by 1975 they had placed over 160 cans on mountain summits. Club members were also the primary movers in naming a peak in Yosemite National Park after Amelia Earhart in 1967. This 11,982-foot peak was named to honor the famous female flyer that disappeared over the Pacific on a 1937 around-the-world flight. The club also created their own Vagmarken handbook and published a newsletter called the "Yeti Yells".

The Vagmarken Sierra Crest Award was the work of Danny Levack, an aerospace engineer. The Award consists of the 100 named peaks on the crest of the Sierra Nevada stretching from Olancho Pass in the south to Sonora Pass to the north. Although many of the peaks on this list will be familiar to those who know the Sierra Peaks Section List, over one-fourth

(27 peaks) of the Vagmarken peaks are not on the SPS list. Other lists created by club members include the 100 Rock Route List, the Winter ascent list, plus several others. However, the Vagmarken Sierra Crest List is unique in that it lists the named peaks in the region of the Sierras many consider to be the High Sierra.

The name Vagmarken is a Swedish term for trail markers or cairns. The inspiration for the club's name came from the title of an autobiography, "Markings" (Vagmarken) by Dag Hammarskjold. The book was published in 1963, two years after Dag Hammarskjold's death in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia. John F. Kennedy called Dag the greatest statesman of the 20th century.

Every Vagmarken had a "yeticlature", a name with yeti in it. Long-time SPS member Gerg Vernon was known as the Lone Yeti because of his solo adventures. The most notable member was Herb Laeger (Big Daddy Yeti). Herb had a Ph.D. from Rutgers and was a rather accomplished East Coast climber when he came to work for Rockwell. He established several routes at Joshua Tree (Solid Gold, Tumbling Rainbow, plus several other classics), Needles, Sequoia Park, Courtright, Shuteye Ridge, and more. He never got the credit he deserved for his contribution to California rockclimbing. Other notables included "Puffin" Bud Ford Yeti, who held an annual spaghetti dinner, and John Otter (Silent Yeti) who along with Greg Vernon published the newsletter for 3 years and put together an annual banquet.

After about 1980, the Vagmarken sort of evaporated. Boeing took over Rocketdyne, and several members found employment in diverse locations. However, the Vagmarken Club still lives on in some of the remaining old Sierra peak registers where entries by club members can be found.

Many thanks to Greg Vernon for his assistance in relating the history of the Vagmarken.

See Vagmarken Club Sierra Crest List next page

The Vagmarken Sierra Crest List

1. Leavitt Pk (11570)	34. Mammoth Mtn (11053)*	67. Mt Prater (13329)
2. Grizzly Pk (10320+)*	35. Red Slate Mtn (13163)	68. Split Mtn (14058)
3. Forsyth Pk (11180)*	36. Red & White Mtn (12850)	69. Cardinal Mtn (13397)
4. Tower Pk (11755)	37. Mt Crocker (12457)*	70. Striped Mtn (13189)
5. EhrnbeckPk (11240)*	38. Mt Stanford (12851)	71. Mt Perkins (12591)
6. HawksbeakPk (11120+)*	39. Mt Huntington (12405)*	72. ColosseumMtn (12473)
7. Center Mtn (11273)*	40. Mt Starr (12870)*	73. Mt Baxter (13125)
8. Cirque Mtn (10714)*	41. Mt Mills (13468)	74. Diamond Pk (13126)
9. Crown Point (11346)*	42. Mt Abbott (13715)	75. Black Mtn (13289)
10. Slide Mtn (11120+)*	43. Mt Dade (13600)	76. Dragon Pk (12995)
11. Kettle Pk (11010)*	44. Bear Creek Spire (13713)	77. Mt Gould (13005)
12. Matterhorn Pk (12264)	45. Mt Julius Caesar (13196)	78. University Pk (13632)
13. Twin Peaks (12314)	46. Four Gables (12920)	79. Mt Bradley (13289)
14. CamiacaPk (11739)*	47. Mt Humphreys (13986)	80. Mt Keith (13977)
15. Excelsior Mtn (12446)	48. Mt Lamarck (13417)	81. Junction Pk (13888)
16. Shepard Crest (12015)*	49. Mt Darwin (13830)	82. Mt Tyndall (14018)
17. North Pk (12242)	50. Mt Haekel (13435)	83. Mt Versteeg (13470)*
18. Mt Conness (12590)	51. Mt Wallace (13377)	84. Trojan Pk (13950)
19. White Mtn (12000+)*	52. Mt Powell (13400+)* ^a	85. Mt Barnard (13990)
20. GaylorPk (11004)*	53. Mt. Thompson (13480)	86. TunnaboraPk (13565)
21. Mt Dana (13053)	54. Mt Gilbert (13103)	87. Mt Carillon (13552)
22. Mt Gibbs (12764)	55. Mt Johnson (12868)	88. Mt Russell (14086)
23. Mt Lewis (12296)*	56. Mt Goode (13092)	89. Mt Whitney (14495)
24. Kuna Pk (12880+)*	57. Mt Agassiz (13891)	90. Mt Muir (14015)
25. KoipPk (12979)	58. Mt Winchell (13768)	91. Discovery Pinnacle (13680+)*
26. Blacktop Pk (12710)*	59. Thunderbolt Pk (14040)	92. Mt McAdie (13720)
27. Donohue Pk (12023)*	60. North Palisade (14242)	93. Mt Irvine (13770)
28. Mt Lyell (13114)	61. Mt Sill (14162)	94. Mt Mallory(13850)
29. Rodgers Pk (12978)	62. Palisade Crest (13550)	95. Mt LeConte (13960)
30. Mt Davis (12311)	63. Middle Palisade (14040)	96. Mt Corcoran (13760)
31. Carson Pk (10909)*	64. Disappointment Pk (13917)	97. Mt Langley (14042)
32. San Joaquin Mtn (11600)	65. The Thumb (13388)	98. Cirque Pk (12900)
33. Two Teats (11387)*	66. Mt Bolton-Brown (13538)	99. Trail Pk (11623)*
		100. OlanchaPk (12123)

Peak elevations in the table are the known elevations in the mid-1970s

*** Not on the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) List**

^aIn keeping with the intent of the Sierra Crest List, the named Mt. Powell is located just east of Echo Col, and is not the peak named Point Powell currently on the SPS List.



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

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

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

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/>

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

Outings

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 pinyon 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 7-8 | 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 | 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 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

April 21-22 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC, SPS**
MR : Lone Pine Peak (12,943'). Sat backpack 3.5 miles with 3500' of gain up the Meysan Lake trail, to Grass lake to camp. Sunday we will climb the Southwest chute ,1.7 mi and 2150' gain, to the summit , return to camp and pack out. Ice axe, crampons and helmets required. Send e-mail or SASE with current resume and recent experience. Trip is restricted to Club members and that medical forms are required. Ldr: DAVE CHAPMAN, Co-Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS.

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 **WTC, SPS**
MR: Mount Abbot (13,704'): Snow mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Sat backpack from Mosquito Flat trailhead to camp by Mills Lake, 3.5 mi, 1,800'. Sun cross country snow climb Mount Abbot from Mills Lake, third-class via the Abbot glacier, 2 mi rt, 2000', then pack out. Helmets, ice ax, crampons, medical form and recent snow and 3rd class rock mountaineering experience required. Send an e-mail with resume of recent mountaineering experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: STEPHANIE SMITH. Assistant: MIKE ADAMS.

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.

Continued next Page

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

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 9-10 | Sat -Sun **WTC, SPS**

MR: University Peak (13,589): Snow mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Sat backpack from Onion Valley trailhead to camp by Bench Lake, 3 mi, 1,667'. Sun cross country snow climb University Peak from Bench Lake, third-class via the north face, 5 mi rt, 2746', then pack out. Helmets, ice ax, crampons, medical form and recent snow and 3rd class rock mountaineering experience required. Send an e-mail with resume of recent mountaineering experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: STEPHANIE SMITH. Assistant Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS.

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

I: Merced Peak (11,726'), Red Peak (11,699'): Two peaks in southern Yosemite National Park. Fri 7:30am start from trailhead near Quartz Mtn that is 27mi from Oakhurst along a windy road. Strenuous 13mi, 2900' gain from trailhead to camp at or near Lower Ottoway Lake (9656'). Sat climb Merced Peak and Red Peak, 6mi, 3300' steep xc with talus and scree. Sun pack out. Trip designed for strong WTC students and others with comfort on loose terrain at elevation. Happy Hour both nights. Email recent high altitude tolerance, distance conditioning to Ldr: SANDY LARA, Co-ldrs: KC REID, PETER LARA

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. Communal happy hour. Sun climb Angora & Coyote, 13 mi, 3800' gain, some xc travel. Mon pack out, 1700' gain. Send resume of conditioning & experience, h&w phones in email to Ldr: BETH EPSTEIN. CO-Ldr: TINA BOWMAN

June 23-24 | Sat-Sun **SPS**

MR: Mt Dade (13,600'), Mt Mills (13,451'), Mt Abbot (13,704'): Sat dayhike from Mosquito Flat to Treasure Lakes; climb Dade via The Hourglass (12mi, 3400gain). Sun climb Mills via class 3 east couloir (10mi, 3,100gain). If time, climb Abbot via SE Buttress, then hike out (addl. 1.5 mi, 1,400 gain). Trip restricted to SC members having experience w/3rd class rock, ice axe/crampons. Send email w/ SC #, medical form & resume detailing experience, conditioning & rideshare info to: Ldr: MATT HENGST. Co-Ldr: DARYN DODGE.

July 14-15 | Sat-Sun **SPS**

M: Mt Izaak Walton (12,077'): Join us for this Western Sierra approach peak, Sierra wild flowers and 3rd class rock climbing. Ferry across Thomas Edison Lk and backpack to camp at Mott Lk. 7.5 mi and 2800' gain Saturday. Sun climb peak 1800' gain 4 mi rt and head home. Send email with resume detailing experience, including on 3rd class,

rideshare info, phone Ldr.: LARRY TIDBALL Co-Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL

July 28-29 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Basin Mountain (13,240'): Moderate WTC experience trip to climb to the top of Basin Mountain out of Bishop for wonderful views of the Owens Valley. Sat. backpack on trail 4 mi., 2200' gain to camp at Horton Lake. Sun. class 2 climb to Basin 2.25 mi., 3,200' gain all cross-country, then pack out to cars. Send email (preferred) or SASE with conditioning/experience to Ldr: PAUL GARRY. Asst: JOSEPH BELL.

Aug 3-5 | Fri-Sun

SPS, WTC

I: Seven Gables (13,080') Join us for three days of fun deep in the Sierra and climb the spectacular SPS Mountaineers Peak Seven Gables. Friday we'll hike in from Lake Thomas Edison then join up with the PCT to Upper Bear Creek Meadows (12 mi, 3800') Saturday we'll summit (4 mi, 3000') and Sunday we'll hike out (12 mi, 1000') Send email with conditioning & experience to Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST Asst: BILL PAYNE

Aug. 4-5 | Sat-Sun

SPS, WTC

I: Three Sisters (10,572'): Gourmet Backpack! Join Us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend X! Sat backpack 5 mi, 1200 ft gain from Courtright Reservoir to Cliff Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 1.5-mi, 1200' gain to Three Sisters. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Assts: GEORGETTE RIECK, ED COTTONE LISA BUCKLEY.

Aug 5 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either check-out 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

Aug 9-12 | Thur-Sun

SPS

MR: Ruskin Peak (12,920'), Arrow Peak (12,958'), Cardinal Mountain (13,397'): Join us for 2 rocky peaks & a walkup up over the dreaded Taboos Pass. Thursday we'll pack into Kings Canyon (9 mi, 6000') & set up camp. Over the next 2 days we'll do 3rd class climbs of Ruskin & Arrow w/possibility of additional peaks. Sun we'll finish up w/spectacular views on Cardinal before descending. Experience on exposed 3rd class rock required. Restricted to SC members, Send SC #, medical form,& resume to Ldr: MATTHEW HENGST Co-ldr: NEAL ROBBINS

Aug 11-12 | Sat-Sun

SPS

I: Mt. Rixford (12,887), Mt Bago (11,870) or option Mt. Gould (13,005): Saturday backback over Kearsarge Pass 2400' gain and over to Charlotte Lk to camp 7 mi. total trip. Afternoon climb Bago, 1500' gain. Sunday climb Mt. Rixford, 2500' gain 4-5 mi rt and then back 7 mi to cars. Send email with resume detailing experience, rideshare info, phone Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL Co-Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL

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 13-16 | Mon – Thur **SPS, WTC**
I: Mount Davis (12,303), Rodgers Peak (12,978), Electra Peak (12,442), FoersterPeak (12,057): Backpack to the beautiful Ansel Adams Wilderness from Agnew Meadows via the PCT and then x-c over North Glacier Pass. Four days of mountaineering will cover 41 mls. and 14,100' gain. Contact leader with resume and current conditioning. Ldr. RUDY FLECK, rudy.fleck@gmail.com; Co-Ldr. TINA BOWMAN.

Aug 18-20 | Sat-Mon **SPS, WTC**
I: Red Slate Mtn (13,123'): SPS Intro Trip geared to WTC Students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, casual and enjoyable with slow to moderate pace. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to Big McGee Lake at 10,472' in 7 mi, 2300' gain. Sun climb class 2 Mountaineers Peak, 6 mi rt, 2700' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun eve. Send SASE with \$5.00 permit fee, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H,W and Cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. MAT KELLIHER.

Aug 24-26 | Fri-Sun **SPS**
I: FOUR GABLES (12,720'); PILOT KNOB (12,245'): Climb 2 peaks near Humphreys Basin in the eastern Sierra. Friday, backpack from North Lake, over Piute Pass, to camp near Lower Desolation Lake (8 miles, 2100'). Saturday, hike cross country to climb Four Gables by the class 1 southern slopes (8 miles rt, 1500'). Sunday, climb nearby Pilot Knob, then pack out. Happy hour both nights. Send email (preferred) or SASE with conditioning and rideshare info (resume preferred) to Ldr: Joe Speigl; Co-ldr: Anne Marie Richardson.

Sept 14-16 | Fri-Sun-Sun **SPS, WTC**
I: Mt. Julius Caesar (13,200'): SPS introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Fri backpack from Pine Creek

to Honeymoon Lake (10,600'), 7 mi and 3200' gain. Sat climb Mt Julius Caesar via Italy Pass, 9 mi rt., 2600' gain. Sun pack out. Legendary community happy hours both evenings. Send e-mail or SASE with recent experience. Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co-Ldr: KC REID

Sept 14-16 | Fri-Sun **SPS**
O: Western Sierra Redux: Leisurely hikes to three unlisted peaks in Kings Canyon/Sequoia Nat'l Parks with car camping in Giant Sequoia Nat'l Mon. Part of an "old-timers" series, the trip is open to vintage climbers and newcomers. Long happy hours guaranteed Fri and Sat nights at USFS's Stony Creek CG (6400'). On Sat, climb Big Baldy (8209'), 4.4 miles rt/600' gain, then ample free time to ascend spectacular Buck Rock LO (8502') via its 172 airy steps. On Sun, a quick climb of Buena Vista Pk (7602'), 2 mi rt/430' gain, then plan to climb Little Baldy (8044'), 3.4 mi rt/700' gain. Or Sun, independently join a 2.5-mi trail hike in Converse Basin to view the Boole Tree, one of the world's largest trees. Ldr: MARY MCMANNES. Send sase with H&W phones and e-mail address (sase not needed for those supplying e-mail addresses) to Reservationist/Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING.

Sept 19-23 | Wed-Sun **SPS, WTC**
I: Mt Pickering (13,474'), Joe Devel Peak (13,327'), Mt Newcomb (13,422'), Mt Chamberlin (13,169') Mt Guyot (12,300'): Strenuous backpack, including significant xc travel in the High Sierra. From Horseshoe Mdw, hike 12-miles on trail to Soldier Lakes (10,400'). We'll make camp and from here climb nearby peaks Thursday through Saturday. Thursday Pickering and Joe Devel (9 mi. rt. 3800' gain). Friday Guyot (16 mi, 4,200' gain), Saturday (Chamberlin and Newcomb (5 mi, rt. 2,700' gain). Sunday pack out. E-mail experience, recent conditioning, phone to Ldr: KC REID. Asst JACK KIEFFER



Banner by Sara Danta

TRIP REPORT IN HIGH PLACES: ECUADOR

by Burt Falk



Cotopaxi

My son, Steve, recently informed me that he was taking his son, my grandson, Nathan, surfing in Nicaragua during the winter break of Nathan's sophomore year at Claremont-McKenna College.

"Wow, nice," I said. "Maybe you could climb the country's highpoint while you're there" (my highpoint switch is always in the 'on' position). Steve replied that he had actually considered the prospect, but that according to the material he had read it would be too dangerous due to landmines. Furthermore, he noted that he and Nathan were really more interested in surfing (proving that premium genetics and/or environment may not ensure good taste). He also reminded me that I had taken him on a trip—to Ecuador—during winter break of his sophomore year at Reed College, back in 1982.

Well, that set me to reminiscing, and pretty soon I was reading the journal I had kept during our 1982 Ecuadorian adventures.

It was such a great trip that I decided to write it up.

Jim Scott—my friend ever since our kindergarten days together at Fern Avenue School in Torrance, CA—Steve, and I departed Los Angeles for Miami, via Pan Am, on the afternoon of January 7, 1982. While waiting for our 1 a.m. Braniff flight to Quito at the Miami Airport, we met the rest of our group, including our Rainer Mountaineering guide, Mike Targett; D.C. Flynn, a restaurateur from Lake Charles, LA; and, best of all, Charlie Winger, a self-employed programmer from Denver, who, even now, thirty years later, remains a great friend and climbing partner extraordinaire.

Arriving in 9,200' Quito, Ecuador's capital city, the next

morning, we became immediately aware that we were deep in the heart of Andes. To the west, towering over the city was 15,710' Rucu Pichincha. Thirty air-miles to the south lay the perfect cone of 19,347' Cotopaxi.

Our Ecuadorian adventures had begun.

Ecuador lies at the intersection of the equator (for which the country was named) and the mighty Andes, the seismically unstable western perimeter of the Pacific Rim of Fire.

The country has four distinct geographic areas: the western coastal region, the central Andes, the eastern jungle, and the Galapagos Islands. The Ecuadorian Andes consist of two parallel chains running north/south, joined at intervals by transverse foothills. Chimborazo (20,565'), the highest peak in the country, lies on the western chain, the Cordillera Occidental, while Cotopaxi (19,347'), Ecuador's second-highest, lies on the eastern range, the Cordillera Oriente. In 1802, the German explorer, Alexander von Humboldt, christened the route between the two ranges, now the site of the Pan-American Highway, "The Avenue of the Volcanoes."

From the airport, we squeezed into a van and drove into the heart of Quito to reassemble at the home of Jorge Anhalzer, our 22 year-old Ecuadorian guide. Jorge's father, incidentally, owned the franchise for the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets in Ecuador. (In a perfect example of vertical integration, Jorge's dad also owned grain fields and a poultry farm). From there we drove some 45 miles north, crossing the equator on our way, to Otavalo, a town famous for its Saturday market.

Suffering from near-terminal jet lag, we spent the rest of the day napping at a local hotel.

Next morning, a Saturday, we visited the market, which in my journal I described as, “(B)reathtaking. Hundreds, if not thousands, are crowded into the plaza selling their wares. The average Ecuadorian Indian is on the small side—very few more than 5’5”; many below 5’. The men wear white pants and the women, with gold beads around their necks, wear long, dark dresses. Many women are barefoot, while most men wear their hair in a braid. All wear felt hats.”

“Nearly all the goods sold at the market are made of wool—hats, gloves, sweaters, rugs, yarn, handbags, and decorative pieces. Foodstuffs (including a huge variety of potatoes) are sold in streets along the plaza’s periphery, and there is a great carnival atmosphere about the entire activity. The Indians seem friendly, soft-spoken and polite.”

That afternoon we returned to Quito, where we had a dinner consisting of a gigantic 2 lb., \$4.50 T-bone steak.

After spending the next day, Sunday, touring Quito—population approximately 1.7 million—we departed Monday morning, January 10, for the spacious, two-story José Ribas hut, situated at 15,700’ on the northern slopes of Cotopaxi. In my journal I wrote, “Unfortunately, our van, carrying seven passengers and all our luggage, doesn’t have enough power to make it all the way up the steep road to the hut. We off-load the passengers, after which, with a little pushing to help, Jorge manages to drive the luggage-filled van to the hut. We climbers follow on foot.”

Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world. Since 1738, the volcano has erupted more than 50 times, the resulting mudflows usually creating havoc below. Similar to Italy’s Mt. Etna and Washington’s Mt. Rainier, any future eruption could pose a huge risk to the local population.

In 1802, Alexander von Humboldt became the first European to attempt to climb Cotopaxi. The first successful ascent, however, didn’t occur until Wilhelm Reiss, a German geologist, and his local guide, Ángel Escobar, accomplished the feat in November 1872.

Tuesday, January 12, we arose at 1:30 a.m., downed a quick breakfast, and left the hut at 3:30 a.m. “The first leg of the climb is a steep 350’ section for which we rope up (we’re also equipped with crampons, ice axes and headlamps). We then wend our way a bit to the east through the heavily crevassed glacier. Later, as morning light begins to glow in the east, we drop our packs and traverse to the west under a large rock cliff. The final section is a steep climb in deep, wind-driven snow that gives way with each step. So that following climbers won’t have to create new footprints, we shorten the roped distance between each climber to 4 feet. As we near the rim we begin to smell the sulphurous fumes wafting up from the crater. We arrive at the summit at 10:30 a.m., a seven hour ascent which Jorge tells us is about average.”

The views from the top were impressive. Steve, Jim, Charlie and I were four happy climbers as the 19,000’+ summit was our highest to date.

On our descent we encountered a brief whiteout, and on the steep section just above the hut, we set up a stationary rope for a belay. That night at the hut I was so tired that I didn’t sleep well.

Next day, January 13, after a late start, we drove south to La Ciénega, a magnificent 350 year-old estate—now a hostería—complete with dairy farm, stables, patios with Moorish fountains, and a chapel.

We entered the grounds along a half-mile road lined with the largest, most beautiful eucalyptus trees I’d ever seen. That evening we relished grilled shrimp, vino blanco, and bananas in cream. Delicious.

Because two of our climbers were under the weather the next morning, we decided to take the day off. To spend our time fruitfully, most of us drove into the small town of Saquisilí, where we spent the morning prowling through the local market. That afternoon we drove through small hillside farms to the rim overlooking Ecuador’s answer to Crater Lake, Laguna de Quilotoa. That evening we were the only guests at La Ciénega.

Jan. 15, dawned clear and beautiful. “I spend so much time taking photos of Cotopaxi and nearby Illiniza Sur (17,218’), that I almost miss breakfast.”

Leaving La Ciénega and driving south once more, we head, via Latacunga, for Ambato, a city of 200,000.



Illiniza Sur from La Cienega

Continuing toward Chimborazo, we detour to view an Inca Tambo—a way station of sorts—where we eat lunch. Later, as we start up the volcano, the weather deteriorates. “It starts to hail as we proceed along the rich, dark brown mountain slopes. Steve says it reminds him of powdered sugar on brownies.”

We couldn’t drive all the way to the 16,000’+ Whymper Hut, so, leaving our van in a parking lot, we lugged our packs to the lodging. Because we needed to arise before midnight, we bolted down an early dinner and, thanks to dalmane, were asleep by 6 p.m.

Chimborazo is the highest peak in the Americas north of Peru. Even more impressive is the fact that Chimborazo’s summit is the farthest fixed point from Earth’s center. Oh sure, the summit of Mount Everest reaches a higher elevation above sea level, but the summit of Chimborazo—because the Earth, not a perfect sphere, bulges out around the equator—is even loftier if you use this method of high-point measurement.



Burt, Jim & Steve, Summit Tungurahua, Chimborazo in background

In fact, for many years Chimborazo, an inactive volcano, was believed to be the highest mountain in the world, a belief sustained until the discovery of Dhaulagiri (26,794 ft.) in 1808.

Although the energetic Humboldt attempted to climb Chimborazo in 1802 (and was apparently defeated by altitude sickness), it remained for the Englishman, Edward Whymper, of Matterhorn fame, along with the brothers Louis and Jean-Antoine Carrel to make the first ascent in 1880.

“We arise at 11 p.m. and are on the trail by 12:30 a.m. The night sky is clear as we move up the mountain on the Whymper route. About 2 hours into the climb, just before we rope up for a steep ice section, (one of our group) has to give it up. Couldn’t breathe properly, he said.”

“We move carefully up an icy couloir, then head to the left below some large, overhanging ice. Glancing up from concentrating on my foot placement, I see the first light in the east. Moving rapidly under the ice, we round a corner and come to the north face of the mountain, steep and snow-filled. We split our teams here, Jorge’s heading directly toward the false Veintimilla summit, while Mike’s team (mine), switchbacks up the mountain, first easterly, then southerly, also heading for the false summit.”

“After consolodating our two rope teams at the Veintimilla summit, Jim Scott and I alone start east across an 800 meter saddle to the 150’ higher true summit. The traverse through deep snow is enervating, however. It takes a half an hour to reach the true summit, but it’s worth the effort—Jim’s and my first 20,000’+ peak!”

Chimborazo is the highest peak in the Americas north of Peru.

“Starting down about 10 a.m., our descent goes well until we approach the overhanging ice. Mike, concerned with possible avalanches, opts to plow a new trail below our ascent route in the now sun-softened snow. With Mike leading my rope team, me in the middle and Charlie at the end, snow balls up in my crampons and, losing my footing, I slide 30 or 40 ft. down the mountain before being arrested by my companions. Front pointing back up the slope is woefully exhausting. My summit exultation turns to chagrin.”

Two other interesting aspects of our descent: 1) We encountered a greenhouse effect after entering a layer of clouds at the 17,000' level. It felt like a sun lamp beating down on my Gortex jacket; 2) Still in the cloud at the end of a long glissade, we lost sight of the hut. Voices coming from the lodge helped us locate the building.

That afternoon, although everyone was thoroughly bushed, we hiked down to the van and drove, via Ambato, to Baños, a town famous for its thermal springs, situated near the base of Tungurahua in the Cordillera Oriente.

Tungurahua (16,480'), the third and last on our list of peaks to be climbed, is one of the most active volcanoes in Ecuador. In fact, volcanic action has been ongoing ever since 1999, including major eruptions in August 2006, February 2008, May 2010, December 2010 and April 2011. The volcano's eruptions are classified as strombolian in nature, i.e., accompanied by strong explosions, pyroclastic flows, and sometimes lava flows.

The German explorers Alphons Stübel and Wilhelm Reiss, in February 1873, were the first to climb Tungurahua.

The next day, January 17, thankfully, was a rest day. We drove through lush jungle, down alongside the Rio Pastaza, a headwater of the Amazon, where we walked over a suspension foot bridge crossing the muddy, raging river.

On January 18, 1982—coincidentally my 46th birthday—we left much of our gear at our hotel, the Sangay, drove to Tungurahua's nearby trailhead, and began a long slog to a hut located at the 12,000' level. Passing

several small farms early in our climb, in mid morning we stopped at country store where my climbing mates presented me with a granola bar with a lit candle on the top. Nice. Thanks guys.

Shortly thereafter, we came to a shanty where we found a man willing to rent us donkeys to carry our loads to the hut above. Steve and I gladly accepted the offer.

“In the early afternoon, as my energy flags, we leave the last of the farms behind and enter a zone of heather, ferns and blue bonnet-like flowers which are in full bloom. The trees become moss-covered. About 4 p.m., shades of glory, we reach the 12,000' hut. Six-thousand feet of gain—Rabbit Peak all over again.”

Next morning, Tuesday, January 19, we got off to a 4 a.m. start. Wearing my new plastic boots climbing the steep, rocky terrain was difficult. I was delighted when we finally arrived at the snow line and I was able to strap on my crampons.

“We arrive at the 16,480' summit about 9 a.m. and are greeted with a grand panorama of volcanoes. (From north to south: Pichincha, Cotopaxi, Illiniza, Chimborazo, El Altar, Sangay). To the east the Amazonian Basin is covered with fluffy cumulus clouds. Spectacular is the word.”

On our descent, we stopped at the same country store that we'd patronized on the way up, where we—believe it or not—along with some locals, played three games of volleyball. “We play with vigor because the losing team is meant to buy *jugo de cano* (sugar cane juice) for the winning team in Baños.”

Alas, the cane juice was our downfall. The juicing machine was covered with flies and the juice itself was served in ice-filled glasses. Employing unusually good judgment, I declined to try it, but Steve did, and for our remaining three days in Ecuador he was reluctant to be out of sight of a bathroom.

Except for the juice incident, however, Steve and I had a great time in Ecuador. Here's hoping that his trip in Nicaragua with Nathan will hold as many fond memories for him as my trip in Ecuador with him still holds for me.

TRIP REPORT

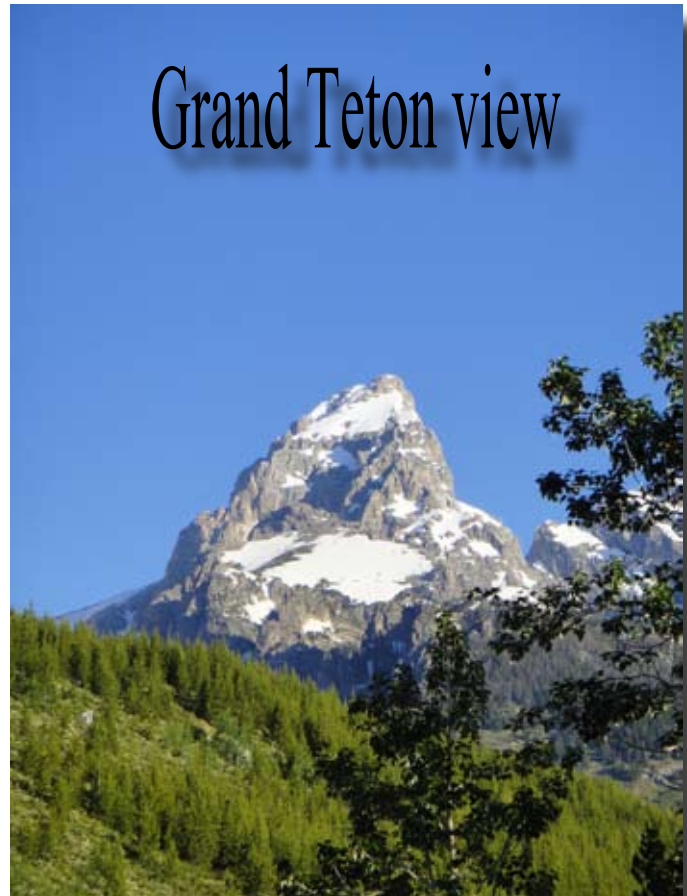
GRAND TETON, WYOMING (13,770')

by Kathy Rich

We started planning our Grand Teton trip in early 2011 and secured a backcountry permit reservation for 2 nights, July 10-11th - normally prime climbing season— but this was before it became clear that 2011 would be a huge year for snow not just in California, but in Wyoming as well and that the summer climbing season would be later than usual. By the time July came around, our initial group of 6 had dwindled to just three (Matt Hengst, Daryn Dodge and myself, with Matt as our lead climber) to climb this majestic and famous peak. Steve Eckert was particularly bummed not to join us as he had injured his back just the week before the trip.

There is an abundance of information and trip reports on the web - one very useful webpage is by Alan Ellis on Summitpost: <http://www.summitpost.org/grand-teton/150312>. Quoting from the site: “The Grand Teton! Even the name inspires one to explore and climb its classic routes. Grand Teton is a classic alpine peak in itself to the point that an entire national park was named after it. Climbers have been drawn to “The Grand” for over 100 years and continue to make pilgrimages from all over the world. With over 35 routes and 50 variations to those routes, there is something for everyone from 5.4 to 5.12. Even the easiest route, the Owen-Spalding, is a technical endeavor and should not be taken lightly. At Grade II, 5.4, the Owen-Spalding is the standard route and requires technical rock climbing skills and equipment”.

In addition, the Jennie Lake Rangers were extremely knowledgeable and helpful. After reading up on the various routes, we were cautiously optimistic of climbing the Upper Exum Ridge Route (named after Grand Teton pioneer, Glenn Exum). Rated at 5.5, this route is a little more technical than the standard Owen-Spalding route, but is reported to provide more enjoyable climbing, plus it's mostly in the sunshine!



Grand Teton view



Overview of the main routes: Owen-Spalding, yellow; Upper Exum, red; Lower Exum, green; Petzoldt Ridge, magenta (Alan Ellis, SummitPost)

However, we felt it wise to wait until we got there and were able to assess the current conditions (snow, weather) before making our final decision. In any case, we were told to be sure to bring crampons, ice

axe, one or two 60 meter ropes and a light alpine rack. A bear canister is also recommended to protect food from marmots while camping.

At 7.7 miles and 7000' gain from the Lupine Meadows TH, the Grand can be done as a dayhike – the speed record is an amazing 3hr and 6min - but a high camp allows for some flexibility with the weather. Storms can blow in at any time. Although the guide huts are located at the Lower Saddle, the rangers advised us that it can be horribly windy there and suggested the Upper Moraine instead (~11,000'). This meant that we had a little farther to go in the morning, but it was well worth it. We paid a \$20 reservation fee to secure our permit ahead of time. An alternative is to pick up a permit at the ranger station on arrival which allows one to gauge the weather, although you run the risk them being all sold out. Other useful websites are: <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/grand-teton/105803123>, and <http://wyomingwhiskey.net/>



American Alpine Club Climbers Ranch, with the Tetons in the background (Grand Teton is in the middle of the photo) – photo by MH

We had heard good things about the American Alpine Club Climber's Ranch, situated just outside Jackson Hole, and a couple of miles from the Lupine Meadows TH. Hedging our bets and thinking we would most be in need of a hot shower after the climb, we made reservations online for the night of Tuesday July 12th. However, on arrival Friday night, we stopped by to check it out and see if by chance

they had any vacancies. To our delight, the answer was yes (maybe only because of it being a heavy snow year) and we were shown to a rustic log cabin with bunk beds for 4. The AAC Climber's Ranch really is a gem, with hot showers, an outside kitchen area and a library full of climbing books along with a computer with internet access. At \$14 a night for AAC members, and \$21 a night for non-members, it's also very reasonably priced. Oh, and don't forget the magnificent view of the Teton Range as well.

On Saturday afternoon, we stopped by the Jennie Lake Rangers Station to pick up our permit and get some beta about the routes. Being more in the shade, apparently the Owen-Spalding route still had significant snow/ice, so we were encouraged to go for the Upper Exum route. This meant beginning the climb on the O-S route, but moving over to the Upper Exum route via 'Wall Street'. (The Lower Exum route is even more technical, rated 5.7). It seems that the rangers climb these routes themselves all the time, so they knew them inside out and even showed us photos they'd taken of the route several days before. Thankfully the weather was clear, so we felt fully amped and ready for our adventure!



Daryn and Matt on their way up Garnet Canyon, not far from Lupine Meadows TH – photo by KR

On Sunday morning, we set off from the Lupine Meadows TH (6700') and followed the trail up through Garnet Canyon. Fully equipped with snow and rock gear, our packs were pretty heavy. The



Upper Moraine camping zone, with the snow-covered headwall leading to the Lower Saddle in the distance – photo by MH

first part was very scenic with lots of flowers and views of the valley. From the Meadows it was solid snow all the way to the Upper Moraine (~11,000'), where we fortunately found dry areas to set up our tents. Several guided groups trudged on up past us in the late afternoon. We watched as they zig-zagged up the still snow-covered rocky headwall just below the Lower Saddle that we would face ourselves in the wee hours before dawn. Thanks to Matt, we got up at 3am Monday morning and set off by 4. The



Kathy at our rocky camping spot in the Upper Moraine area – photo by DD

headwall was steep snow, but not too bad (a fixed rope is normally used to ascend, class 3/4).

The Lower Saddle was ...windy. From there we started up the first 500' or so of the O-S route, with its quaintly named sections: the Black Dyke and the Needle, after which we traversed right to the infamous Wall Street, an initially wide sloping ledge that tapers to an extremely exposed 'step-around' to gain the Upper Exum route. Matt wasted no time in exiting Wall Street and setting up a belay for Daryn and myself, which we were glad to have. From here it's ~1200' to the summit up the southwest ridge, the major sections being - Golden Staircase, Wind Tunnel, Friction Pitch and V-Pitch. The trip reports we had read indicated there could be lots of traffic on the route, however, that particular day we saw no-one at all until we reached the summit. This meant for a bit of tricky route-finding at times, but fortunately I had brought along several print-outs and pictures of the route, which turned out to be very helpful.



Matt approaching the ledge leading to Wall Street (the step-around is at the upper right corner) – photo by KR

We roped up for the Golden Staircase, but once we located the Friction Pitch (the crux of the route), we realized that we had scrambled on through the Wind Tunnel section without feeling the need for a rope. After the Friction Pitch (5.5) which Matt led very comfortably, we found a nice snow slope to the right of the ridge and inadvertently bypassed the V-pitch. Apparently this is not uncommon as there are numerous possible variations of the 'standard'

route. Not realizing we had missed the V-pitch, we were temporarily stymied as to our location until we recognized Petzoldt's lieback pitch in front of us from one of the photos we had with us. It was an awkward move with a pack on, so we rigged up a rope to bring our packs up. After another short section of snow, we were on the summit! The view was magnificent.

It was around noon, but we didn't want to linger as clouds were gathering on the horizon, plus we were a little apprehensive about finding the rap stations for our descent via the O-S route. However, fortunately for us, just at that moment two climbers appeared on the summit from the O-S route who offered to show us the route down. There are two rap stations, one at Sargent's Chimney (~60') and the other just to the right of the Catwalk (~120'), which take you down to the Upper Saddle (13,200'), and the roping up point for the O-S route. We had brought 2 full-length ropes, but the rangers told us it was possible to get away with one by throwing the rope down in a particular direction. In addition, if others are on the route, it is possible to share ropes with another party, as we did ourselves.



*Matt on the summit of the Grand Teton (13,770')
– photo by KR*

After completing the 2nd rappel, we began our scramble back down to the Lower Saddle. The residual snow/ice on the rocky face necessitated careful movements and use of our ice axes. By 4pm we were back at our tents at the Upper Moraine. We briefly considered hiking out, but decided to camp there for the night instead. Around 9.30pm, a thunderstorm blew in and pelted our tents with hail. Next morning we hiked

out, eagerly looking forward to a hot shower and a celebratory meal back in town. In our haste, we made a wrong turn at a trail junction a mere 3 miles from the cars, causing us a rather painful back track. Finally we were back at the Climber's Ranch, where we took a well-earned hot shower. In the meantime, the weather had closed in and by the time we headed out for something to eat, it was pouring with rain (in fact it rained off and on for the next 24hr).

As Matt was due to fly out later that afternoon, we decided to find somewhere to eat close to the airport, rather than driving all the way into Jackson Hole. Dornan's restaurant (in Moose, WY) had excellent food and beer on tap. Following a tip from the rangers, Daryn and I took a drive looking for bison along the Antelope Flats Rd, east of the highway. Initially we saw nothing but were then rewarded with dozens of bison along both sides of the road. It was quite an amazing sight. Later on we also saw a huge moose nibbling on a tree quite near to the ranger station. No need to fight the tourists in Yellowstone to see some wildlife! It was a fitting end to a great trip.

For those interested in a bit of history, I'd recommend watching an interview of Glen Exum (Teton climbing pioneer and a founder of the Exum Mountain Guides) filmed in 1997, in which he talks about his first ascent (solo) of the Upper Exum Route on July 15, 1931. It makes for a fascinating story: <http://www.archive.org/details/GlennExumInterview>



Daryn on the second rappel (~120'), taking us to the Upper Saddle of the O-S route, photo KR

Kennedy Mountain Trip Report October 1973 by Bob Wyka

When I was going through some of my college papers from the 70's I came across my English 104 class assignments. One of my assignments was to write about the climb of Kennedy Mountain. Fran Smith was the leader and I refer to him by name. I also refer to a Mona and John but I don't know who they are.

Bob Wyka
10-9-73
Ass. #3
English 104

A Sierra Climb

A Sierra climb can be invigorating and worth every ounce of the effort needed to conquer a massive peak.

The cold, crisp Sierra air bites at our lungs as the three of us listen to Fran's early morning talk on the do's and don'ts for a good hike. Fran, who is wearing a heavy down jacket, which makes his chest and arms look twice their real size, is grasping in his right hand a quarter-filled quart container of whole milk. As he finishes the bottle with two huge gulps a small trickle of the white liquid flows down his chin. He wipes his grey beard and tells us that drinking great quantities of liquids before a strenuous hike helps to prevent dehydration.

Somewhat in disbelief of Fran's logic, Mona and John finish their one cup apiece of hot chocolate as Fran finishes his oratory, expressing a desire for a most successful six-thousand foot climb to Kennedy Mountain.

After having started only ten minutes prior we are already on a steep and winding trail - quickly escaping the canyon floor through dense groves of cedar and aspen. Mona decides to ask for a clothing break as she wipes her forehead with the back of her hand. Fran,

Kennedy Mountain Trip Report October 1973 by Bob Wyka

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agreeing with her before she even finishes her question, is the first to suggest a short break by a nearby stream.

Despite our fast approach toward the river, two fawn, heading also for the cool water, prance down from the surrounding hills of cedar and black oak. As we approach even nearer toward them, they begin to sense a possible danger and scurry in a semi-circular path around us, but continue on toward the stream. The ten minutes we allotted for our rest stop isn't enough time to regain our strength; hence we don't feel guilty about silently complaining to ourselves as we once again, saddle up our backs with the heavy aluminum pack frames.

On a cold morning in fall the contact between the metallic frame and your skin, wet from perspiration, can send an especially icy chill through your body. This morning is no exception.

As I stood bent over, struggling with my pack, John, a few feet distant, attempts to cross the turbulent waterway. He is quick to discover the embarrassment but mainly the discomfort of having his foot slip off a smooth, algae-covered rock. His face grimaces with the shock of cold water around his feet and a "splash, splash, splash," is heard when he gives up

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searching for stepping stones and runs for dry land, sending water in every direction.

Finally, after two more hours of diligent and dedicated hiking, the campsite, that seemed to take forever to get to, appears, and we feverishly rush to set up camp alongside a gentle, rock-filled and frothy stream before Fran decides to call us together for the final climb.

After the filling lunch of apples, oranges, beef jerky, gorp* and whatever else we didn't forget to leave at home, we feel certain that there will be no problem tackling the long steady grind that so far has been so apparent in the form of heavy breathing and overworked muscles. We slowly trudge our way up the dirt trail. Each step of a foot falling flat on the thick dirt raises an explosion of dry dirt that fills the air, causing throat gagging misery.

A slight wind, trickling through the trees, crosses the saddle that we are approaching. And a welcome log, paralleling the trail, entices us with its front row seat viewing the deep grandeur of the northern Sierras, which have been until now, hidden from our view.

Gathering up our energy we hit the final

* Gorp, a combination of raisins, peanuts, and candy

Kennedy Mountain Trip Report October 1973 by Bob Wyka

Bob Wyka
10-9-73
Ass. #3
English 104

ridge toward the peak, which at first stretches flat, then starts to climb, a little at first, then steeper as we near the summit block. We now need the use of our hands and arms for balance as we leap from boulder to boulder.

With the summit in view we race to outstep each other's stride. Here is the moment we worked for so hard. The 11,008-foot summit plateau of Kennedy Mountain.

From the summit the view is spectacular. Three hundred and sixty degrees of whites on blue and greens on browns. The hardship of the steep climb is over and has paid off. The summit is ours.



Shane's write-up of Kennedy and Harrington featured in Jan-Mar 2009 Echo where he referred to the summit register that contained his granddads sign in for which I am now submitting the write-up.

The Sierra Echo

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

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