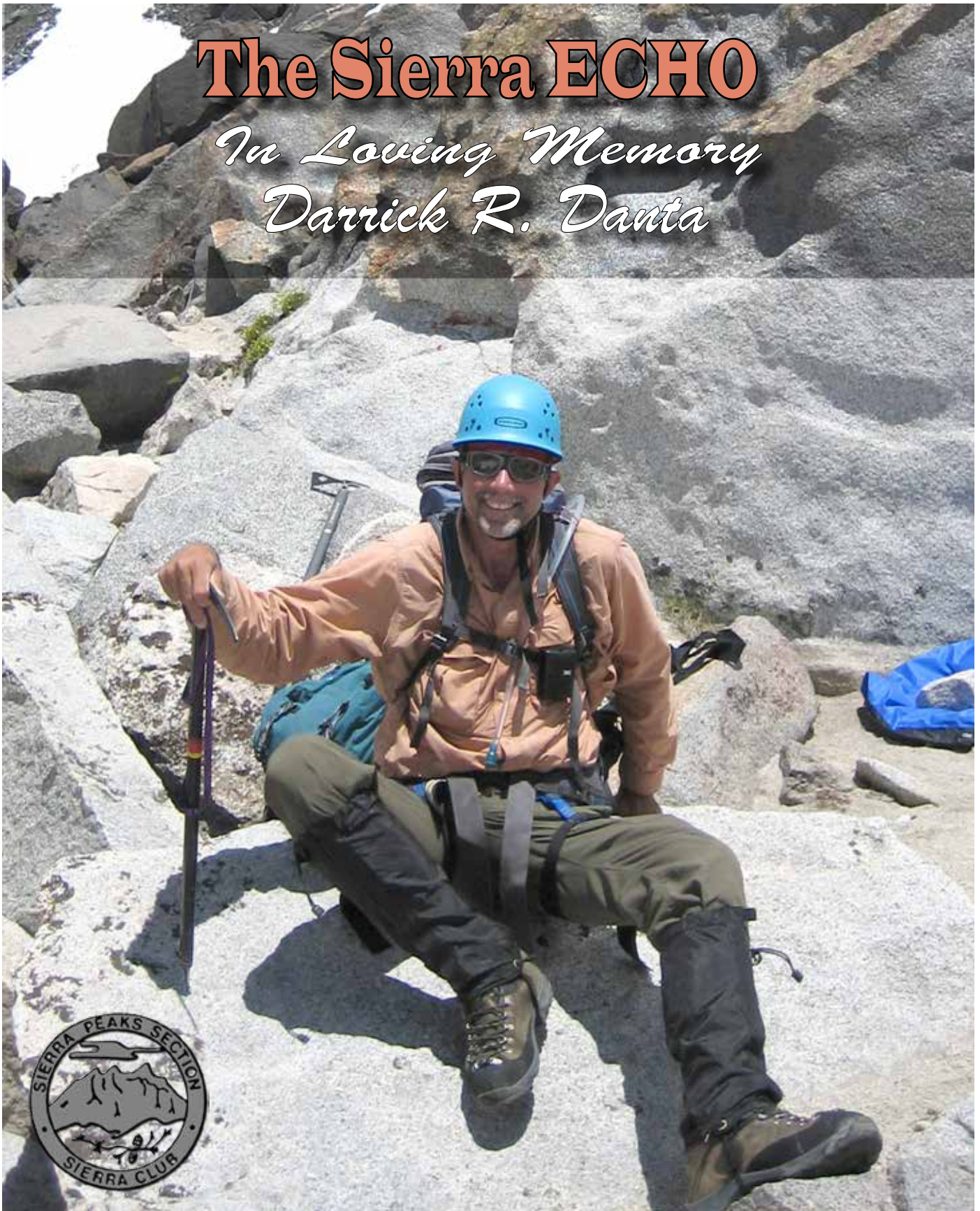


The Sierra ECHO

*In Loving Memory
Darrick R. Danta*



VOLUME 57 | NUMBER II | APRIL - JUNE 2013

ECHOS FROM THE CHAIR



Hello,

The SPS Management Committee is looking for some hardy peak baggers to help with our ground game. We want to make the 2014 banquet the best in a decade and we need your help. We need the names of speakers, suggestions for venues and some folks to pull it all together. In other words, yes, we want you to be on the Banquet Committee!

The Emblem Committee, which you will be reading about in an upcoming Echo, is made up of Daryn Dodge, Lisa Miyake, Kathy Rich and Matt Hengst. If your interested in helping vet those noble sectioners that want an Explorer's, Geographic, Senior or any other Emblem please let me know and I'll put you in touch. If you are one of those sectioners, please email your material to secretary@sierrapeaks.org.

The new Management Committee assignments are as follows:

- Eric Scheidemantle, Chair
- Greg Mason, Vice Chair
- Alex Smirnoff, Treasurer
- Lisa Miyake, Secretary
- Regge Bulman, Outreach
- Gary Schenk is now the Outings Dude.

Regge is very eager to expand our reach beyond regularly scheduled trips and the banquet so any out-of-the-box, social-media-aware, twenty-first-century ideas you have, please send an email to outreach@sierrapeaks.org.

The SPS can be so much more than just climbing the enumerated peaks. We have, after all, the entire Range of Light as our playground and the surrounding training grounds of Jousha Tree, the Buttermilks and the Alabama Hills where we can ply our trade. I've also heard various climbing and mountaineering clubs described as "drinking clubs with a climbing problem." We shall embrace the other half of mountaineering: eating and drinking in celebration of trips yet-to-be-had and epics that were survived.

As we transition more and more to an electronic-only version of the Echo, and as the current distributor of the hard-copies steps down, we need another volunteer to act as the publisher for the USPS version. Can I get a volunteer? There are about 80 folks receiving it the old-fashioned, John Muir way.

Eric "Lothar" Scheidemantle, Chair

chair@sierrapeaks.org

MEETING INFO

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

OTHER CHAIR NOTES

Hello high altitude peak baggers, I'm pleased to announce that Gary Schenk has taken the baton from Larry and Barbee. He is the contact for SPS outings. We, the MC, will be working to get the OARS program setup for submitting and finding trips.

Eric Scheidemantle - Chair

Kathy Rich & Ron Hudson, Webmasters



Gary Schenk, Outings

gary@hbfun.org

webmaster@sierrapeaks.org



Write On!

Tina Bowman and Beth Epstein will be stepping up to the plate to be the new Echo editors. I have enjoyed immensely serving as editor for the last 6 years, especially the part where I got to read the enjoyable articles and work with our wonderful contributors. So keep those terrific articles coming! Sara Danta

Tina Bowman & Beth Epstein, Echo Editors

tina@bowmandesigngroup.com



THE NEW 2013 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ASSIGNMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Greg Mason, Vice-Chair

vicechair@sierrapeaks.org



Lisa Miyake, Secretary

secretary@sierrapeaks.org



Alex Smirnoff, Treasurer

treasurer@sierrapeaks.org



Regge Bulman, Outreach

outreach@sierrapeaks.org

SPS ECHO MAILER WANTED

As mentioned on previous page, our current mailer Beth Epstein will be stepping down and moving on to become co-editor of the Echo. Anyone interested in stepping up to volunteer for the important service of mailer or has any questions at all please contact Beth Epstein at b.epstein@verizon.net. The mailing is done four times a year and is an important part of keeping the Echo and the Sierra Peaks Section running, and a valuable task for this organization and its members. Plus, you'd get to work with the wonderful folks on the Management Committee and be a part of the production process. The two printer locations the person will need to visit would be either in the Mid-Wilshire or West LA areas. That is the biggest commitment of time. It takes maybe an hour to apply the mail labels and edge seals. The Treasurer provides the mailing information. *So give it some thought and be a valued part of the SPS team!* The SPS Management Committee

Check out the SPS website if you have not been there in awhile.

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/default.htm>

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.

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

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 **Tina Bowman, Editor, The Sierra Echo**, preferably via email at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com. Refer to the Schedule of Activities or SPS Roster for mailing address. 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 Echo - Explorer Emblem Update

by Kathy Rich

The newly formed SPS Emblem Committee (comprised of Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Lisa Miyake and Matt Hengst), is pleased to announce that a total of 11 SPS members have earned the newly established Explorer Emblem. The idea behind this emblem is that there are a number of worthy peaks in the Sierra that are not on the SPS list - including some very well known ones such as Matthes Crest, Fin Dome, Laurel Mtn, Picture Puzzle Peak and Polemonium Peak. We hope to create interest in climbing these peaks and for further exploring the Range of Light.



*Vic Henney, Ron Bartell
& Sue Henney*

The Explorer Emblem can be obtained by climbing 50 peaks not on the Sierra Peaks List and by being an SPS member. 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, or listed as a named peak in R. J. Secor's book "The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails", and be 7000' elevation or more. HPS peaks are not allowed (to avoid overlap).

After the Committee reviewed the lists to determine that the peaks qualified as Explorer Peaks, Explorer Emblems were awarded to:

Barbara Lilley, Ron Bartell, Terry Flood, Fred Johnson, Doug Mantle, Jerry Keating, Franklin Myers, Sue Henney, Vic Henney, Daryn Dodge, Gordon MacLeod.



Doug Mantle

Many of those who have earned the Explorer Emblem are well known long-time peak baggers - Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod, Terry Flood, Jerry Keating, Fred Johnson and Doug Mantle - who probably have 10,000+ life-time peak climbs between them (several were present at the recent SPS Banquet on January 28th, 2013). Other SPS members who are avid peak baggers may wish to check their records to see if they have 50 non-listed Sierra peaks that could be submitted for the emblem. The Emblem Committee is in the process of developing a list of qualified Explorer Emblem peaks to be posted on the SPS website.

All photos by Kathy Rich



*Eric Scheidmantle
(2013 SPS Chair),
holding Gordon
MacLeod's Explorer
Emblem list presented
to him at the banquet*



Daryn Dodge

MISC BUSINESS



SPS Treasurer's Report

Alex Smirnoff, Treasurer, treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

SPS Income Statement

INCOME	YTD 2012	YTD 2013	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2016	YTD 2017	YTD 2018
Echo Subscriptions	1,850	940	400	250	30	20	-
Banquet Income	2,800	2,940	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	325	360	75	30	-	-	-
Merchandise	39	15	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	5,014	4,255	475	280	30	20	-
EXPENSES							
Postage	609	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing	578	185	-	-	-	-	-
Pins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,216	3,905	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Fees	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable contributions	400	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	4,821	4,091	-	-	-	-	-
OVERALL TOTAL	183	164	475	280	30	20	-

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>.

In Memoriam Darrick Danta

February 14, 1955 - February 15, 2013

My husband Darrick was a man of many accomplishments. Darrick not only excelled in his professional career but in every area of his life. (yeeeah, did you know him?).

Darrick took over as the Chair of the Sierra Peaks Section in 2006. He also contributed to the Leadership Training Program where he taught wilderness navigation and rock climbing. "He was one of the most knowledgeable examiners on that committee" says the Bob Myers Chair of that committee. One navigation student of his writes "I so enjoyed the times I spent with Darrick. His enthusiasm for climbing and the outdoors and his competence and good humor were all infectious. When Darrick showed up there was always an injection of humor and fun. People just liked being around him." Another one of Darrick's WTC students Louis Kwan, approached me at the memorial holding back his tears and told me that because of Darrick's own passion, direction and infectious love of the outdoors, it changed his life. See photo of Darrick amply spotting Louis on a third class route on a WTC outing below.



It was 2006 that our section needed an editor for the Echo; and Darrick said to me...why don't you take over the task? I said what... I don't know anything about desk top publishing or graphic design or anything like that. He said....you'd be great...what do you mean you can't do that....of course you can, just jump in there. It has been very rewarding for me to have been working closely with the several SPS Management Committees over the last 6 years and I largely have Darrick to thank for that because of his original encouragement.



Darrick was a longtime faculty member for the Geography Department at Cal State Northridge where he later became the Associate Dean of the College of Behavioral Sciences. His colleagues remembered him as a respected and well-liked professor with a wicked sense of humor. He had a quick mind and was described as a good friend and chronic punster. He earned his Ph.D in geography from Ohio State. Darrick touched a lot of lives as is evident from the out pouring of emails and cards that I've received from his former students, fellow colleagues and the Dean's office. One comment from a colleague was that Darrick was an incredibly wonderful man to work with/for - generous with his time, supportive, and always ready to share a good joke (boy isn't that the truth) and nuggets of wisdom. He served as president and editor for the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers and remained involved with other academic organizations.

As we left the mortuary on the day of his memorial, a rainbow appeared. My niece pointed it out and took a photo of it. We stopped and looked on with amazement for the longest time. Below is a photo of that very rainbow and verse from Bob Marley, very apropos for the occasion. We miss you Darrick.

He also became president of our Home Owners Association where we lived. One of his fellow board members on the HOA tells me that they would like to commemorate him by possibly putting his name on on a bench somewhere on the grounds. More evidence that he was valued by many not only in the SPS but also with people that worked with him in other capacities.

Darrick was one of the most interesting people I've ever met. We went on so many adventures together; climbing hiking in the desert and mountains. He was the best teacher I ever knew. He knew the geography, the geology, the names of land forms, desert cacti and every mountain bird. I will always think of him whenever I see a Clarks Nutcracker or Chestnut Backed Chic-a-dee.

I will forever cherish those adventures and many good memories including his booming, unrestrained and amazing LAUGH, stellar sence of humor and the

outdoor lifestyle we both shared and loved. Humor is good for all of us. How lucky I feel that I had a mate that brought that to my life.



On the day Darrick died, we hiked together that morning to a mine. It was there that he broke from the trail to say our goodbyes so he could continue on to climb New York Mtn. It was an absolutely gorgeous day in that high desert place. You could see the ridge and the pinnacles off into the distance and the strata clouds floating by.....(I know that term because I was married to a Geographer.)

There were snow patches on the ground...it was really something. The last time I laid eyes on Darrick he was hiking off up the slope towards the ridge in this beautiful scene. I don't mention this with sadness, it was actually a beautiful sight. I have to believe that at some point I too will climb up a proverbial hill and greet you again my Darrick.
see following page. . .

MEMORIAL FUND SET UP IN HONOR OF DARRICK AT CSUN

A memorial fund has been established at California State University, Northridge in honor of Darrick Danta, associate dean of CSUN's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who died of natural causes earlier this month after climbing a mountain peak near Needles, Calif. He was 58 years old.

The Darrick Danta Fund for Field Research is being established in CSUN's Department of Geography to support students doing fieldwork for course projects and graduate theses. The funds may also be used to assist students in attending regional geography conferences. Those interested in contributing to the fund may send a check, payable to CSUN Foundation, to Anne Robison, CSUN/College of Social and Behavior Sciences, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8256.

CSUN University Memorial Service Planned for Darrick



A memorial is planned for our friend, colleague and mentor, Darrick Danta who passed away 02/15/13. As a CSUN student, faculty, department chair, and associate dean, Darrick was an integral member of the campus community. Please join his colleagues, friends and family for a reflection, remembrance, and celebration of his life on the CSUN campus.

Date: Tuesday, May 14th
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Grand Salon, University Student Union

RSVP by May 7th to csbsinfo@csun.edu or the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean's office at (818) 677-3317.

PARKING INFORMATION: Guests for the Darrick Danta Memorial Service should stop at Information Booth 3 (located at Zelzah Avenue and Prairie Street) to obtain a complimentary guest parking permit.

Stella Theodoulou, Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

* * * * *



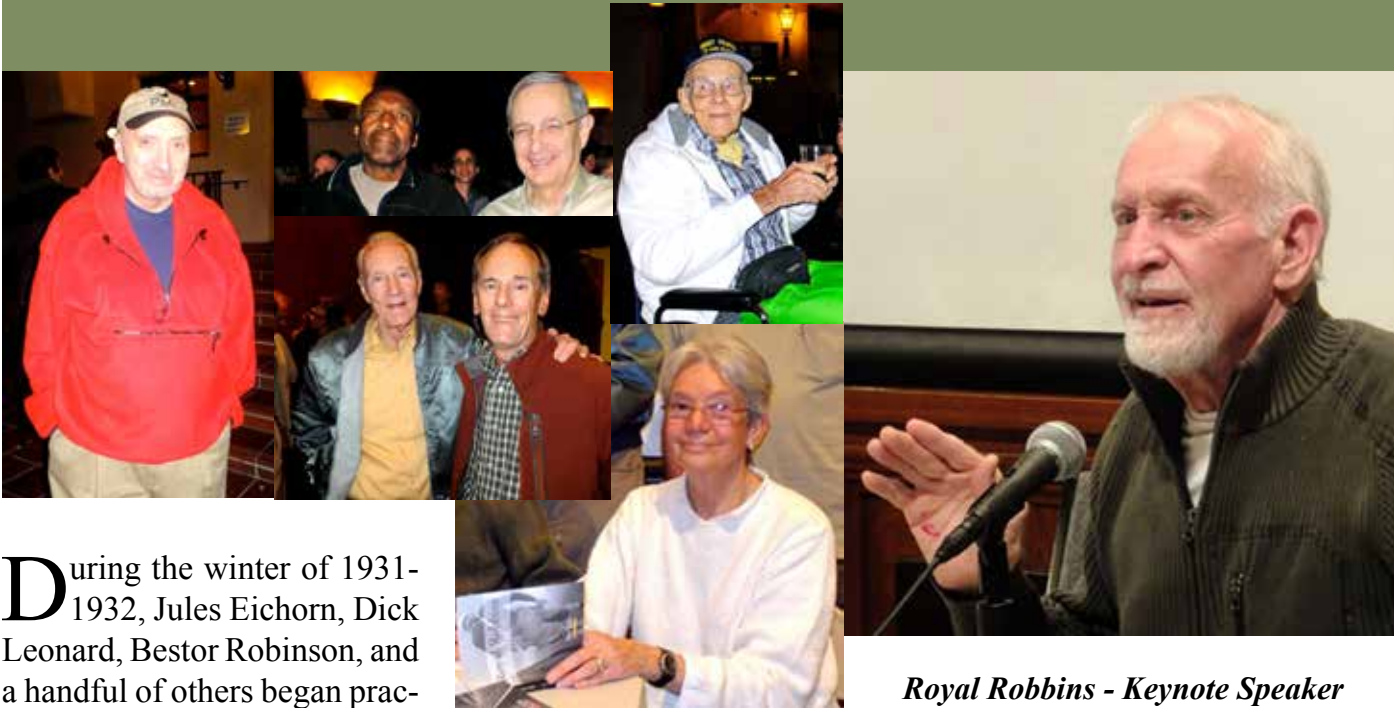
Photo by Darrick Danta

An evening of rock climbing illuminaries at Cal Tech to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club and its continuance in the form of the Southern California Mountaineering Association. A great evening of nostalgic memories and friendship renewals.

Bob Cates

All photos by Bob Cates - L - R, R.J. Secor, Leroy Russ, John Ripley, Frank Hoover, Royal Robbins, John Wedberg, Mark Goebel, Liz Robbins

RCS/SCMA 80th Anniversary Celebration at Caltech



During the winter of 1931-1932, Jules Eichorn, Dick Leonard, Bestor Robinson, and a handful of others began practicing the new roped-climbing techniques that Professor James Underhill had brought West in August of 1931 at the request of Sierra Club Bulletin Editor Francis Farquhar. They formed the Craigmount Climbing Club in Berkeley on March 13, 1932. The club merged with the Sierra Club in November of 1932 as the Rock Climbing Section, the RCS. Members of the RCS pioneered rock climbing in the United States putting up historic first ascents and developing techniques and standards such as the Yosemite Decimal System for rating climbs.

When the Sierra Club lost their insurance for technical climbing, the RCS reformed independently as the Southern California Mountaineers Association, the SCMA. The SCMA has continued the great tradition of the RCS and last November,

bursting with pride at the profound role we have played in the history and evolution of rock climbing, we celebrated our 80th anniversary at Caltech with a wonderful evening highlighted by a talk from climbing legend and RCS/SCMA member Royal Robbins. The occasion was also an opportunity for an unique gathering of old timers that, besides Royal and Liz Robbins, included Frank Hoover, Barbara Lilley, Jerry Gallwas, John Wedberg, John Ripley, Mike Sherrick, RJ Secor, and many others.

Dan Richter
President SCMA
Past Chair SPS





*Banquet photos and article courtesy of:
Mary Mac*

SPS 2013 BANQUET

“How I Developed and Now Cope with OCPB
(*Obsessive compulsive peakbagging disorder)”*

Tina Bowman speaker

The January SPS banquet was one of the best I’ve attended since Dick Bass’ Seven Summits show, and a big thanks goes out to all who pulled it off, especially Alexander Smirnoff and Kathy Rich. My salmon was superb and didn’t swim away as did Randy Bernard’s at a previous banquet, and the free wine is always welcomed. Everyone looked better and younger than usual. Maybe it was because I had been a resident in Cincinnati for nearly nine months and was elated to get home for Rock Star Tina’s, Show of Shows.

Jeff Koepke says Tina is our own Bruce Springsteen. Not only did we get to peer into the early life of Tina, obsessive compulsive peakbagger and her multiple lists pursuits, but much to our surprise and delight, she shifted the story from Tina Solamente to Tina and Friends. We learned about her legally blind father who gave her Walter Starr’s Guide to the Sierras and joined her in trekking the John Muir Trail. Then there were those girlfriends who backpacked with Tina leaving her alone to continue another 208 miles by herself. After the early Tina years, her show began featuring the rest of us tagalongs who have had the joy of hiking and climbing with her. There were some in the audience who had had some real challenges this year whether it was health-wise or simply being displaced



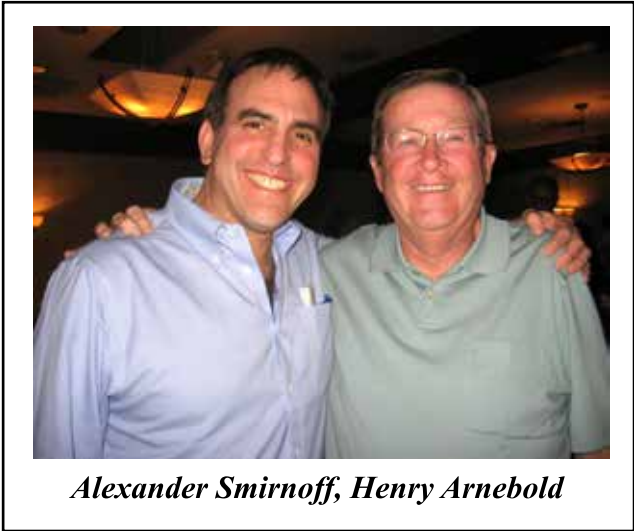
Mary Mac, Tina Bowman



*Scott Sullivan Elena Sherman, and
visiting nieces from the Czech Republic*

persons; and you can imagine the lifting of our spirits in seeing our happy, got-the-summit, faces in Tina's slide show. Tina, the ultimate List Finisher (well, second to Doug Mantle) shone the spotlight on others who have reached legendary status such as Barbara Lilley and additional driven women who are triple list finishers. How great to see friends past, present, alive, and departed, who will be forever with us in flesh or in spirit as we hopefully continue the great avocation of Peak Bagging.

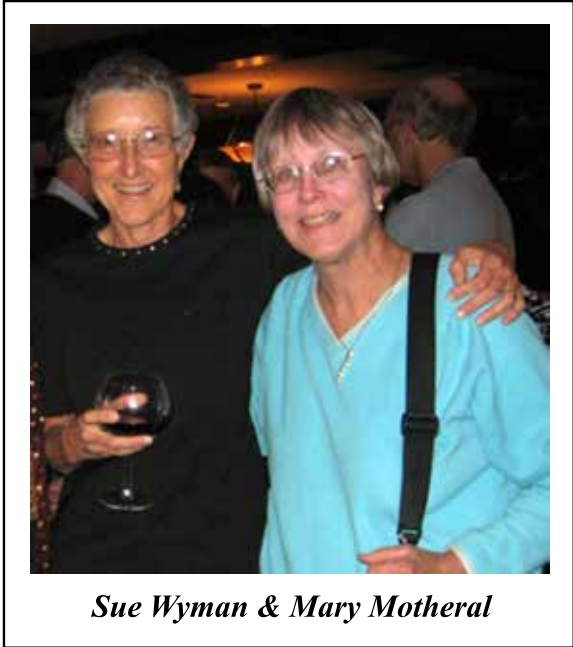
The show that began about Tina turned out to be about everyone else who are life long friends with her. There's an old quote, "In life, people may not always remember precisely what you did or what you said, but they will remember how you made them feel." I don't recall an audience being as rapt and attentive as our SPSers on Jan. 28. Tina, you are bold, courageous, gifted and talented, but most of you are kind beyond comparison and sharing your spotlight with the rest of us surely made a night to remember for all. I emailed Tom the next day and asked him what do the most superb and successful banquet speakers do the day after the banquet. He answered, "They bask in the glow of unbridled adulation as lizards bask in the warmth of the sun." Tina, the loud applause and whistles are for you, and now Alexander and Kathy, how you gonna top this one? Thanks for a magical memorable evening.



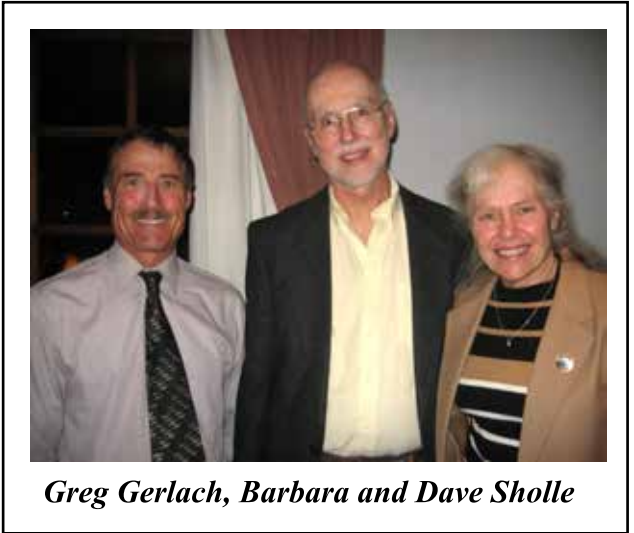
Alexander Smirnoff, Henry Arnebold



Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky, Asher Waxman



Sue Wyman & Mary Motheral



Greg Gerlach, Barbara and Dave Sholle



Jim Fleming



Sue Wyman-Henney and Vic Henney



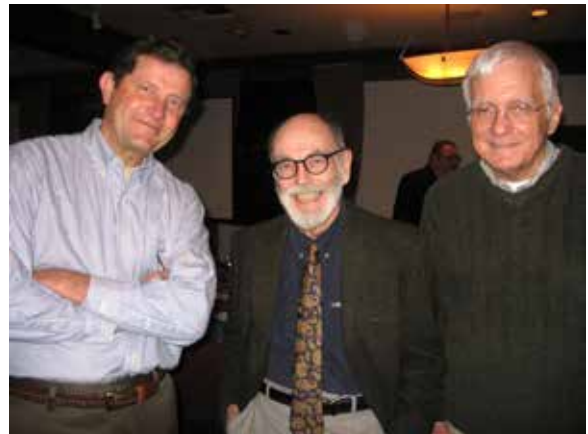
*Mark Goebel, Pat & Gerry Holleman
and Joy Goebel*



Ron Bartell, Mirna and Greg Roach



*Randy Bernard, Ed Lubin,
Doris Gilbert, Ron Eckelmann*



Rudy Fleck, Don Croley, Jeff Koepke



Leadership Training Committee

2013 Schedule of Activities

The LTC web site also has a calendar of events and some information about training not offered by the Sierra Club: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/> Please check this site for more information about the listed events and for added events.

Leadership Training Program Seminar

Oct 5, 2013 LTC Seminar



Steve Botan

Wilderness First Aid <http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>
Apr 26-28, 2013 Wilderness First Aid Course

Steve Schuster

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Apr 20-21, 2013	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Clinic	Bob Myers
May 4, 2013	I Beginning Navigation Clinic	Diane Dunbar
June 1, 2013	I/M/E Heart Bar/Practice	Bob Myers
June 2, 2013	I/M/E Grinnel Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Bob Myers
Aug 4, 2013	I/M/E Mt. Pinos Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Bob Myers
Sept 22, 2013	I/M/E Grinnel Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Bob Myers
Nov 16, 2013	M/R Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain	Bob Myers
Nov 16-17, 2013	I/M Indian Cove Navigation Clinic	Bob Myers
Dec 8, 2013	I/M Warren Point Navigation Checkoff/Practice	Bob Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

Apr 24, 2013	Advanced Mountaineering Program - Safety	Dan Richter
Apr 27, 2013	Advanced Mountaineering Program - Belaying	Dan Richter
May 4, 2013	Advanced Mountaineering Program - Rappelling	Dan Richter
May 11, 2013	Advanced Mountaineering Program - 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

May 4-5, 2013	M/E/R Sierra Snow Practice and Checkout	Nile Sorenson
May 18-19, 2013	M/E/R Sierra Snow Practice and Checkout	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

Look at the Natural Science Section's web site (<http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/nss/outings.htm>) for the Nature Knowledge Workshop and other outings that satisfy the environmental awareness prerequisite. Other ways to fulfill this requirement are possible; check with the LTC Chair.

Outings

Check out the SPS website for an even more updated listing of upcoming trips
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/default.htm>

Apr 20-21 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I/M: Navigation: Warren Point Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

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

Apr 24 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program): Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of four hours reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send email or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Leader: DAN RICHTER. Assistant: PATRICK McKUSKY

Apr 27 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program): Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club 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 email or sase, phones, resume to Leader: DAN RICHTER. Assistant: PATRICK McKUSKY

May 4-5 | Sat-Sun LTC, DPS, SPS
M/E R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: NILE SORENSON Co-ldr: DOUG MANTLE.

May 4 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Beginning 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, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Leader: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

May 4 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program): Rappelling: 3rd of 4th climbing workshops open to SC members w/prior roped climbing experience. Today, at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus on rappelling. As space is limited priority to be given to participants who commit to all 4 workshops. Send email or sase, phones, SC number, resume to Leader: DAN RICHTER. Assistant: PATRICK McKUSKY

May 11-12 | Sat-Sun **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program): Rock climbing techniques and anchors: Fourth of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club 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 email or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Leader: DAN RICHTER. Assistant: PATRICK McKUSKY

May 18-19 | Sat-Sun **LTC, DPS, SPS**
M/E R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W&Cell phones to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Co-ldr: TOM MCDONNELL

May 25-27 | Sat-Mon **WTC, SPS**
MR: Mt Dade (13,600’): 13mi, 3700’ on snow. Sat afternoon backpack 4.5mi, 1200’ on snow from Rock Creek Lake to Treasure Lakes. Sun snow climb Mt Dade via hourglass couloir, 4mi rt, 2500’ from camp. Mon backpack out. Sat and Sun happy hours. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Must be comfortable on snow. Helmet, ice axe, crampons, climbing harness, and medical form required. Snow and weather conditions will be monitored and trip postponed if warranted. Email Sierra Club number, climbing resume, snow experience, experience with class 3 or higher rock, current conditioning, altitude tolerance, and contact information to Ldr: SANDY LARA ssperling1@verizon.NET. CO-LDR: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON

Jun 1 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M: Navigation: Heart Bar Peak (8332’): Practice navigation for Sunday’s checkoff on this 7 mile round trip, 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 Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Leaders: JANE SIMPSON, ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS

Jun 2 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M/E: Navigation: Grinnell Ridge Noodle: 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 Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

June 8 | Sat **SPS, HPS**
MR: Lone Pine Pk (12,944’): A strenuous day hike & snow climb of the NW slope from Meysan Lakes, 6 mi rt, 5000’ gain. Previous snow climbing experience or training required. Email or SASE with Sierra Club number, climbing resume, conditioning, Sierra Club medical form, and carpool info to Ldr: GARY SCHENK, Co-Ldr: TINA BOWMAN

June 21-23 | Fri-Sun **SPS**
O: Southern Sierra Sojourn: Leisurely hikes to three peaks on the Kern Plateau. Part of an “old-timers” series, the trip is open to vintage climbers and newer ones. Long happy hours guaranteed Fri and Sat nights at USFS’s Troy Mdw CG (7800’). On Sat, climb Sherman Pk (9909’), 5 mi rt with 1170’ gain on trail. Then, climb Bald Mtn. (9382’), 0.6 mi rt with 155’ gain on trail or gated forest road. Spectacular panoramas on both peaks. On Sun, drive on paved roads to Blackrock Gap and climb Blackrock Mtn. (9635’), 1.5-mi rt with 700’ gain on forested slope bordering Golden Trout Wilderness. Other Explorer Emblem peaks nearby for independent consideration. Co-leaders: LARRY, BARBEE TIDBALL. Send sase with H&W phones and e-mail address (sase not needed for those supplying e-mail addresses) to Reservationist/Assistant: JERRY KEATING.

Jul 12-14 | Fri-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR: Matterhorn Pk (12,279’), Whorl Mtn (12,033’), Twin Pks (12,323’): Friday backpack 5.5

miles, 3700' gain to camp near Horse Creek Pass. Friday afternoon climb Matterhorn Pk, 2 mile & 1600'. Saturday climb 3rd class Whorl Mtn via southeast chute, 4.5 miles & 3100' gain. Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning climb Twin Pk, 2 mile, 1400' gain. Sunday pack out and head to Whoa Nellie Deli to celebrate. Totals for the outing are 19 miles & 6700' gain. Helmets required. As is comfort and experience on 3rd class alpine rock and loose talus. Send e-mail with climbing resume, Medical Forms and recent experience to Ldr: David Chapman. Climber-dave11@gmail.com Co-Ldr: Neal Robbins

Jul 20-21 | Sat-Sun **SPS**
I: Spanish Mtn (10,051'), Three Sisters (10,612'): Join us for two fine day hikes in the western Sierra. On Saturday we'll hike up Spanish Mtn via 4WD road or trail and x-c (16 mi, 3500' gain), then car camp and have a fiesta. Sunday it's Three Sisters via trail and x-c from Courtwright Reservoir (12 mi, 2500' gain). Send sase or esase (preferred) to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN. Co-ldr: JIM FLEMING

Jul 26-28 | Fri-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR: Split Mtn (14,042'), Mt Prater (13,471'), Mt Bolton Brown (13,491'), Mt Tinemaha (12,520'): Come join us in climbing a classic Emblem peak and one of California's 14'ers. Friday backpack to Red Lake, 5 miles & 4100' gain. Saturday climb a semi-loop of Split Mtn, Mt Prater and Mt Bolton Brown, 7.5 miles & 5700'. Sunday climb Tinemaha, 2.5 miles & 1900' and then pack out 5 miles. Totals for the outing are 20 miles & 11.7K'. Participants must be in excellent condition and be comfortable on 3rd class alpine rock and loose talus. High-clearance vehicle and possibly 4x4 needed to access trailhead. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co Ldr: MATT HENGST

Aug 4 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M/E: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Noodle: 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 or sase, navigation experience/training, ride-share info, contact info, any WTC, leader rating to Leader: ROBERT MYERS, Asst: PHIL WHEELER.

Aug 08-11 | Thurs - Sun **SPS, WTC**
ER: Mt. Clarence King (12,907'), Mt Gardiner (12,907') and Mt Cotter (12,713'): Restricted mountaineering outing over Kearsarge Pass and into Sixty Lakes Basin to climb a classic Emblem Peak (CK) and a mountaineers peak (Gardiner). Thursday backpack from Onion Valley over Kearsarge & Glenn Passes to camp in Sixty Lakes Basin, 12 miles & 5000' gain. The next three days we'll climb Clarence King (5.4 cl), Gardiner (4th cl), Cotter (2nd cl) and potentially Fin Dome (3rd cl) before packing out. Totals for the outing are 37 miles & 15K gain. Participants must have 4th class roped alpine climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: JACK KEIFER, Co-Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS

Aug 16-18 | Fri-Sun **WTC, SPS**
I: Mt. Rixford (12,887), Mt. Gould (13,005') Spectacular Eastern Sierra views plus picturesque lakeside camping on this no-rush rendezvous with destiny. Friday we'll pack in over Kearsarge Pass to camp and happy hour at Kearsarge Lakes (5 mi, 2600'). Saturday we go 4.5 mi., 2500' gain cross country in a loop to our peaks and back to camp. Sunday pack out. \$6 permit fee. Send experience – including WTC affiliation if you're a student –, conditioning, phones, email and rideshare info via email to Ldr: EDD RUSKOWITZ. Asst: JOHN CYRAN.

Aug 21-25 | Wed-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR: Mt Kaweah (13,802'), Black Kaweah (13,680'), Red Kaweah (12,713'), Grey Kaweah (13,680'): Restricted mountaineering outing into the remote Great Western Divide to climb Mt Kaweah, an emblem peak, Black Kaweah a mountaineer's peak, and also Red & Grey Kaweahs. On Wednesday we'll backpack from Mineral King over 3rd class Glacier and Hands & Knees passes, descend to the Big Arroyo and then climb to a basecamp

lake at 11K', 13 miles & 6600'/3500' gain & Loss. Over the next 3 days we'll climb Mt Kaweah, Black Kaweah, Red Kaweah & Grey Kaweah and possibly other area peaks as time allows before packing out on Sunday. Totals for the outing are 38 miles & 18,600' gain. Participants must be in excellent condition and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class alpine rock and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co-Ldr: PAUL GARRY

Aug 23-26 | Fri-Mon **SPS**
I: Mt Pinchot (13,494'), Mt Prater (13,471'): Friday cross Taboose Pass 9mi, 6300' gain to camp. Saturday climb Pinchot, 6 mi rt, 2600' gain. Sunday climb Prater 14 mi rt, 3400' gain. Sunday pack out. Send email or sase with resume, conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: GARY SCHENK. Co-Ldr: JOHN CHESLICK

Sept 21 | Sat **LTC**
Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for October 5 seminar to be held in Costa Mesa. See LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>) for registration information. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2014. Contact STEVEN BOTAN.

Sep 21-22 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC**
M: Moses Mtn (9,331'), N Maggie Mtn (10,234'): Join us for an M rated trip into the west side of the Golden Trout Wilderness, Southern Sierra. Perfect M-level WTC experience trip for students wanting to get back out on the rocks. Sat we'll hike in (3 miles, 1000') to set up camp & head for North Maggie Mountain (5 miles, 3000'). Sun we'll do a 3rd class scramble up Moses Mtn (5 mi, 2000') before returning to camp to pack up. Helmets and comfort on 3rd class rock required. Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact & carpool info to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co-Ldr: STEPHANIE SMITH

Sept 22 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M/E: Navigation: Grinnell Ridge Noodle: 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 Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

Oct 5 | Sat **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at the Costa Mesa Community Center. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Deadline for receipt of application is September 21. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2014. Contact STEVEN BOTAN.

Nov 16 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
M-R: Navigation: Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Leader: JACK KIEFFER.

Nov 16-17 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M: Navigation: Indian Cove Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

Dec 8 | Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I/M: Navigation: Warren Point Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

How We Climbed the Summit Block of Thunderbolt Peak

TRIP REPORTS

July 27-30, 2012

photos by Sandra Hao



Group on North Palisade. L to R, Brian, Keith, Corrine, Daryn, Shane and Bob.

by Daryn Dodge

Participants were Bob Wyka, Shane Smith, Brian Roach, Keith Christensen, Sandra Hao, Corrine Livingston, and Daryn Dodge.

A trip to North Palisade and Thunderbolt Peak was put together because these two peaks were on several climbers' wish list. Sandra had the original idea of going there. In particular, both Shane and Bob are nearing the end of the SPS list with these two peaks still unclimbed. With less than 20 peaks now left to go, both can finish in 2013. Corrine and I were making our second trip to these peaks with the idea that we may want to complete the list a second time, although we often have trouble wrapping our minds

around the thought of so many peaks left to climb a second time!

Our approach on Day 1 was over Thunderbolt Pass to a camp below the pass. After climbing N. Pal on Day 2, we ascended T-bolt via the southwest chute on Day 3. The chute itself has sections of very loose rock and a high class 3 ledge to negotiate early in the chute that reminded me of the catwalk on North Palisade that we had just climbed the day before. I thought the N. Pal catwalk was a little easier than the T-bolt catwalk. After climbing to the Sierra crest just 100 feet or so below the summit of Thunderbolt Peak, there's a class 4 pitch that everyone got by rather easily on belay. But the real challenge of this climb was the last 15 feet.

The east side of the Thunderbolt summit block, and that last 15 feet of climbing, is rated 5.9 in Secor's Guidebook. Since none of us were willing or able to climb something that difficult free, we had to come up with a way to set up protection for the first person up. A number of past reports have climbers trying to lasso the summit block to set up protection, not always with success. We tried something different, an idea that Keith came up with after we spent 30 minutes mulling over various ways to get protection up over the top.

First both Keith and I wound up several loops of rope in our hands, then together we each threw our section of rope over the opposite side of the summit block.



Keith and Daryn throwing the rope over the summit block.

It worked the first time we tried it!



The rope around the summit block

The rope on the left side of the summit block was tied to a massive anchor boulder below the summit block. The rope on the right side of the summit block had an etrier (i.e., a webbing ladder) that Bob had brought up tied onto it about halfway up the rope. Keith and I added several hand loops above the etrier using figure eight-on-a-bight and butterfly knots. The end of the rope on the right side of the summit block was put through my belay device on my harness.

Once the protection was set up, a call for a volunteer was made to be the first up. Shane magnanimously volunteered. We had him put two loops of webbing on his harness with carabiners. Both carabiners were then clipped to the etrier as high as he could reach. As he began the climb up the rope ladder, he would unclip one biner at a time and move it to a higher loop of rope. This way, he was always attached to the ladder by at least one biner.



Shane ascending an etrier tied to the rope, with Keith spotting on the right and Daryn anchoring the end of rope at far left.

The first ten feet of the climb is the toughest, where the rock is smooth and vertical. But once over this first hard section, the climbing became easier.

continued next page



Shane reaching handloops tied into the rope above the etrier.

Shane was then quickly on the summit to many shouts of joy.



Shane on the summit.

On the very top of the block are two solid bolts with biners attached via webbing. As a back-up, there was a loop of cordelette wrapped around the summit horn. Shane passed our rope through this protection, so others could now climb up on a top rope with the belayer standing below the summit block. The rest of us then took turns climbing the summit block the standard way, all with success.



Keith starting the climb on belay from the usual start point. It's a big first step!

Brian was the only one to climb the summit block in hiking boots (the rest of us had rock shoes), but had no difficulty with the climb. It happened to be Bob Wyka's birthday, so we sang "Happy Birthday" to him when he reached the top. Bob had to listen to us sing on the summit because he had nowhere to hide. We all managed to descend the southwest chute safely and had a wonderful Happy Hour back at camp that evening to celebrate our climbs. On Day 4, we hiked out over Thunderbolt Pass and Bishop Pass.

Mt. Rainier

by Hal Browder

In the year of 1887, John Muir received a proposal from the J. Dewing Publishing Company, of San Francisco, to edit and contribute to a work called Picturesque California. Muir then forty-nine years old was a married man and settled with his family on his California ranch; he missed his mountain days and his writing had mostly ceased. This new project instilled him with a new enthusiasm, which eventually brought to him thoughts of Mount Rainier. For his trip to Mount Rainier, Muir chose as guide one P. B. Van Trump who had made the first ascent of the mountain. Also in the party of eleven was William Keith a noted artist from California and James Longmire who furnished the pack and saddle animals.

At Camp of the Clouds, the highest elevation at which horse feed and wood could be found, blankets were spread and the weary party rested and admired the beauty of the place. Muir wrote: "Out of the forest at last stood the mountain, wholly unveiled, awful in bulk and majesty, filling the view like a separate, newborn world, yet withal so fine and so beautiful it might well fire the dullest observer to desperate enthusiasm." Alas, Muir was back home!

The party continued on up toward the mountain and in several days they were making a steady climb up the Cowlitz Glacier to the foot of the Cowlitz Cleaver where Muir spotted a sheltered spot for camp, which is now known as Camp Muir. Here they spent the night in anticipation of the climb to the summit the next morning. Muir's words: "In the morning we were astir by 4 o'clock, not boisterous after a sleepless night, but with cheery hearts. And the view of the mountain top, so grandly heaving itself into the sky, cheered us on and supplied strength."

Up they went, at times "desperately steep" with frequent rock falls from the ridge above. At times they resorted to climbing on all fours due to the steep angle of the rock and ice. Muir in face of the danger felt "warm and ambitious." He states, "this is a good mountain to prove one's mettle."

On reaching the top, Muir spent several hours absorbing the entire view. This vantage point embraced most of the Cascade Range. Finally, a view of an approaching storm

TRIP REPORTS

MY MOUNTAIN YEARS

Following John Muir



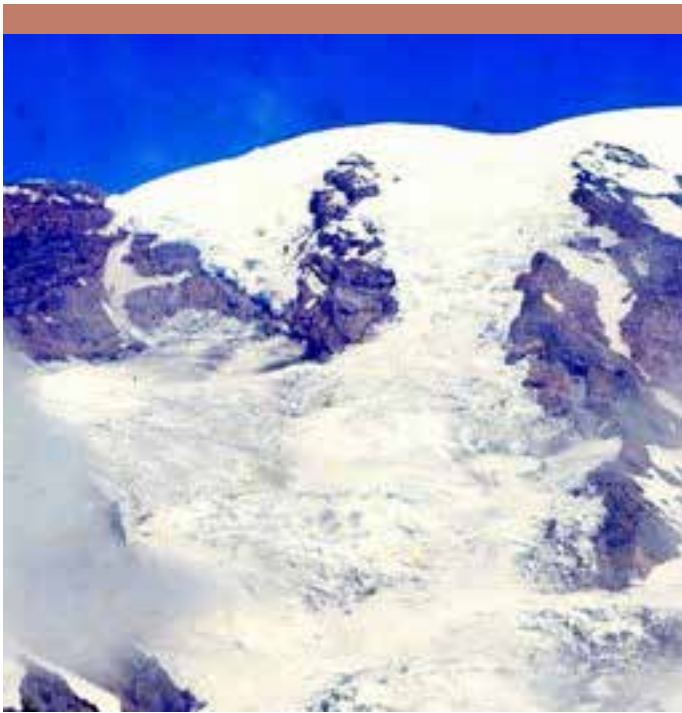
Rainier from summit Mt. Hood

hastened a retreat from the summit. Thus ended the sixth ascent of this magnificent fire mountain in northern Washington State.

In July of 1966, good friend and climbing buddy, Bob Ford and I signed up for a five-day Climbing Seminar on Mt. Rainier. The course included snow, ice and rock climbing techniques, crevasse rescue practice and concluded with a climb of Mount Rainier. Bob and I both had aspirations, at that time, of eventually climbing Mt. McKinley so glacial travel and crevasse rescue were important skills to be honed.

Our seminar leader was Jim Whittaker who was the first American to scale Mt. Everest. Our main everyday instructor was Gary Ullin, an outstanding young climber who aspired to be in the space program. Gary, tragically, was killed a few years later in the Russian Pamir Range when an earthquake precipitated a huge avalanche burying his party just below the summit of Pic Lenin. We had great technical instruction and camped in the stone hut for a number of days above 10,000 ft. at Camp Muir.

After a few days of working hard at altitude, we became very fit. One afternoon, Gary called us together and suggested that we were a very strong party and asked if we wanted to climb the peak that night and be on top to greet the sunrise. We all jumped at the suggestion and so at eight that evening off we went to climb the peak. We chose the Ingram Route, which takes you across the



Mt. Rainier

Cowlitz Glacier to the middle notch in Cathedral Rocks where rock falls are a frequent danger. This is probably where Muir's party experienced rock falls on their ascent. At this point we departed from the route Muir used since the rock ledge they ascended is no longer in use.

We dropped down onto the Ingram Glacier and its many crevasses. Stepping over black spaces in the snow at night, one is not really aware what these represent. Up we climbed, sometimes over narrow snow bridges and we were always roped together in teams of three. Crossing these snow bridges, which were precarious fingers of snow-ice, always was done one at a time with rope mates belaying you in case of a slip or a collapse of the bridge.

Soon the climb began to ascend a huge snow dome, which leads to the final summit crater. We descended into the summit crater and crossed over to the far rim where the highpoint was reached. Once we stopped, it was obvious we were in for a pretty cold wait for sunrise.

Our party laid down some tarps and ensolite pads on which to sit and we huddled together for warmth. It wasn't long before my toes began to throb and I took off my metal crampons, which seemed to be conduits for



Rainier summit crater

the encroaching cold to my feet. Not far away I noticed some steam vents issuing out of the rocks. I resorted to plan B. I got up and went over and stuck my boots into the vents and soon felt the warmth creeping into my toes. I was joined by a number of our party.

Eventually the sky to the east began to lighten and soon we were greeted to a most glorious sunrise. We could see a shadow of our mountain radiating far out to the west and the surrounding mountains shown like blazing beacons above the landscape. John Muir would have basked in the glory of such a sight. Once again I felt that I had glimpsed into the cathedral in which John Muir worshiped.

Care was taken on the descent especially around and thru those crevasses, which appeared in the darkness as mere shadows and not the gaping bottomless pits they were. I am still in awe of this great mountain adventure to this day and of being able to share just a little of those feelings that John Muir must have experienced. Another glorious mountain experience!



Summit sunrise from Rainier looking to Mt. Adams

Note: Scientists have declared the glacier on Mt. Lyell in Yosemite has been downgraded to a snow field vs a glacier since there has been no ice movement in the last 2 years. This was the 2nd largest glacier in the Sierra with the Palisade Glacier being the largest. Best, Hal.

The Sierra Echo

VOLUME 57 | NUMBER I | JANUARY - MARCH 2013

The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter; this issue edited by Sara Danta. Future issues will be edited by Tina Bowman

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 Tina Bowman or emailed to tina@bowmandesign-group.com**

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

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Address Changes Send to the Alexander Smirnoff; email treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

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