



The Sierra Echo

Volume 58 ▲ Number 3 ▲ July-September 2014



Dragon Peak

Photograph by Rudy Fleck

One of the SPS peaks which can be hiked in a day from Onion Valley. The SPS Management Committee is sponsoring a contest to encourage leaders to lead day hikes—no permit hassles, less advance planning, and great prizes! **See Story on Page 25.**



Echoes from the Chair

By Alexander Smirnoff

It's been three months since our last *Echo*, and a lot is taking place! With summer just around the corner, already lots of trips are posted on the SPS web site. Better start making plans!

Your management committee has been hard at work making things happen to improve the quality of the club experience. I truly believe we have some good things planned. One of the goals we set in the first quarter was to increase the activities in the club. We have published a list of peaks that can "reasonably" be done as day hikes by mere mortals. Please help to make this new program a success and sign up to lead or go on the trips!

The outreach position is one of the most important on the management committee. Tohru Ohnuki, our outreach chair, has done a marvelous job addressing many of the issues facing the club today. Because we want the SPS to be attractive to the next generation of members, we have come up with some attainable goals to get the footsteps moving in the right direction. I encourage you all to read the minutes from the outreach meeting [near the regular meeting minutes in this issue] and send the management committee your comments and ideas. Your involvement will only help us improve the club, and we want to hear from you! Our first goal is to improve the web site, and that task is already underway.

We have put together an all-star cast for the banquet committee! I hope you folks are as excited as I am in what is coming up. Stay tuned!

And last, the management committee approved naming the Explorer Emblem after Andy Smatko. The first SPS list finisher, Andy always loved to climb peaks, named or unnamed, having done 240 first ascents and hiked a total of 10,304 miles! Many of these peaks were done just because they were "nearby" something else he was climbing. The Emblem is appropriately named after this amazing fellow!

-Alexander Smirnoff (chair@sierrapeaks.org)

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Don't forget to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription if you haven't done so already. The annual \$10 subscription is due each year by April 30th.

For more information, see the back cover of this issue. Please make out checks to the Sierra Peaks Section and mail to the treasurer:

Michael Gosnell, SPS Treasurer
2505 Dapplegray Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Cover photo by Rudy Fleck—see page 24

Welcome New SPS Members!



Alvin Walter

A member of the Sierra Club for more than thirty-five years, Alvin is currently the chair of the Ski Mountaineers Section and has led ski mountaineering, hiking, and climbing trips for twenty-five years or more. He has climbed the list of one hundred San Diego County peaks and has climbed many, many others and visited such exotic places as Antarctica and the North Pole.



John Tevelein

John Tevelein has been a Sierra Club member since 2003 and completed the Orange County WTC course in 2007. In 2008 he completed the SCMA Basic Rock Climbing Safety Skills course and took the SMI snow travel and crevasse rescue course in 2013. He is currently enrolled in the AMP9 course and looking forward to future climbs with SPS.

Phil Bates

Phil has been hiking in the Sierra since childhood and has done a few international hiking and mountaineering adventures in recent years. He is an M-rated WTC instructor for LBSB and is web master for the chapter's OMC. He continues to train for rock climbing and winter mountaineering and looks forward to more trips in the Sierra, Cascades and the Alps.



Wasim Khan

In 2006 on his first-ever hike—to Mt. Wilson—Wasim learned about the Sierra Club and joined that week. Soon he was hiking with the HPS, then the DPS. Next came WTC and now the SPS. Wasim looks forward to joining SPS outings as a member of the section.

Welcome Jim Hagar, new *Echo* subscriber!



SPS List Finish Scheduled on North Peak, Saturday June 28th



Please join us for Lisa Barboza's planned SPS list finish. For those of you who don't know Lisa, she is a prodigious climber, and completed the list in only 9 years. She is a leader for the Peak Climbing Section of the Loma Prieta Chapter and is also on the National Mountaineering Oversight Committee. See Outings for further details.

Roy Magnuson, who finished the SPS list together with his wife Barbara in 1978, passed away recently. They were the tenth and eleventh members to complete the list. We're sorry for Barbara's loss and will publish an obituary for him in the next issue.
—The Editors

Triple and Quadruple List Finishers

By Kathy Rich

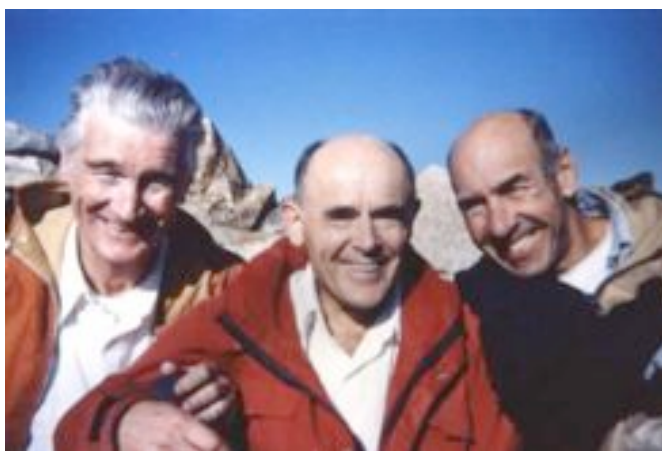
A total of twenty-eight climbers to date have achieved the status of Triple List Finishers, having completed the Sierra Peaks Section, Desert Peaks Section, and Hundred Peaks Section lists. The first was the indomitable Andy Smatko in 1967, followed in the 1970s by seven climbers, six in the 1980s, nine in the 1990s and only five since the year 2000. Many of these

are our most well-known climbers, some of whom are still actively climbing today, including Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley, Jerry Keating, Doug Mantle, Vic and Sue Henney, Barbara Sholle, Ron Bartell, Tina Bowman, and most recently Greg Gerlach. Amazingly, Doug Mantle has achieved this feat 6x or 7x, and Tina Bowman 2x, and so are both Multiple Triple List Finishers! Unfortunately, Arkel Erb, one of the strongest climbers in the Angeles Chapter in the 60s and 70s died in an accident on Dunagiri in the Himalayas soon after becoming a triple list finisher.

The SPS list with 247 peaks is arguably the most difficult to complete, the DPS list would come second (currently with 96 peaks on the list), and although the HPS list has more peaks (279), it is the easiest to complete as often several peaks can be climbed in a day. Cuno Ranschau, Bob Emerick, and Tina Bowman went a step further and managed to complete all three lists on the same day! (Cuno in 1979, Bob in 1989, and Tina on her second 3x list finish in 2006.) Also of note is the 3x list finish party held on 9/21/85 for Bill T.

Triple List Finishers

1	Smatko	Andy	2/13/67
2	Erb	Arkel	6/8/75
3	MacLeod	Gordon	12/6/75
4	Lilley	Barbara	10/17/77
5	Keating	Jerry	12/23/77
7	Magnuson	Barbara	8/27/78
6	Magnuson	Roy	8/27/78
8	Ranschau	Cuno	10/7/79
9	Mantle	Doug	6/21/80
10	Grams	Jack	7/26/81
11	Rohn	Norman F.	8/31/85
12	McRuer	Duane	9/20/85
13	Russell	Bill T.	9/21/85
14	Emerick	Bob	9/16/89
15	Bartell	Ron	9/2/90
16	Hubbard	George	9/29/90
17	Van Dalsem	Dale	9/25/93
18	Bowman	Tina	6/25/94
19	Wyman	Sue	9/17/94
20	Henney	Vic	9/17/94
21	Hicks	Bob	11/23/95
22	Motheral	Mary	9/5/96
23	Sholle	Barbara	9/19/98
24	Siering	Eric	9/8/01
25	Gnagy	Richard	7/27/02
26	Jones	Ron	9/25/04
27	Mauk	Gene	4/19/08
28	Gerlach	Greg	6/7/14



Russell, Duane McRuer, and Norm Rohn at a campground near Bishop following Bill's completion of the SPS list earlier that day. Duane had completed the SPS list the previous day, while Norm completed his a month earlier.

Four climbers have completed the Lower Peaks Committee (LPC) list (now at

Top, Left to Right: Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell, Bob Hicks.

Below: Arkel Erb during a

backpack to climb peaks in the Santa Barbara backcountry, March 29, 1975. Page 7 bottom: Six triple list finishers on Schwaub Peak. L to R: Roy Magnuson, Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley, Barbara Magnuson, Andy Smatko, and Jerry Keating. (Photos from Jerry Keating Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Page 7 top: Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman on Caltech Peak, 2007.



Finishers between 2000–2014 (and only one since 2008), this coming year several climbers are poised to join the ranks of Triple List Finishers: Bob Wyka has scheduled his SPS list finish for September 13th on Muah, and Greg and Mirna Roach are close to completing the HPS list, having already completed both SPS and DPS lists. Shane Smith has only three SPS peaks remaining and could potentially complete the SPS list this year. Since he has already completed the DPS, HPS, and LPC lists, he would then join the elite group of Quadruple List Finishers.

(Thanks to Ron Bartell and Dan Richter for assistance on compiling the list).

83 peaks) as well, thus earning them Quadruple List Finisher status: Tina Bowman, Sue Wyman–Henney, Vic Henney, and Eric Siering. After the founding of the LPC in 1986, Jack Grams contributed to the addition of peaks to the list and reputedly climbed all the peaks on the list; however, he is not officially recognized as the first LPC list finisher (that honor goes to Eric Siering in 1996) nor, as a result, as the first quadruple list finisher.

Although it is clear that the 70s, 80s and 90s were the “golden years” for completing these lists since only four climbers became Triple List



Dare to Lead!

Fall Leadership Training Seminar Set for Oct. 25, 2014



Becoming a Sierra Club outings leader starts with curiosity and a love of the outdoors. What better way to step up and lead than by taking advantage of the training opportunities that the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Committee provides each year?

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered on Saturday, October 25, at the Costa Mesa Community Center, 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa CA 92627.

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

The all-day class costs \$25. The application is on-line at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. At this same site, you can pore over more of LTC's upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page.

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

Applications and checks are due October 11, 2014. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson <AMLeadership@gmail.com>

The SPS Archives Receives Andy Smatko's First Ascent List

By Dan Richter, SPS Archivist

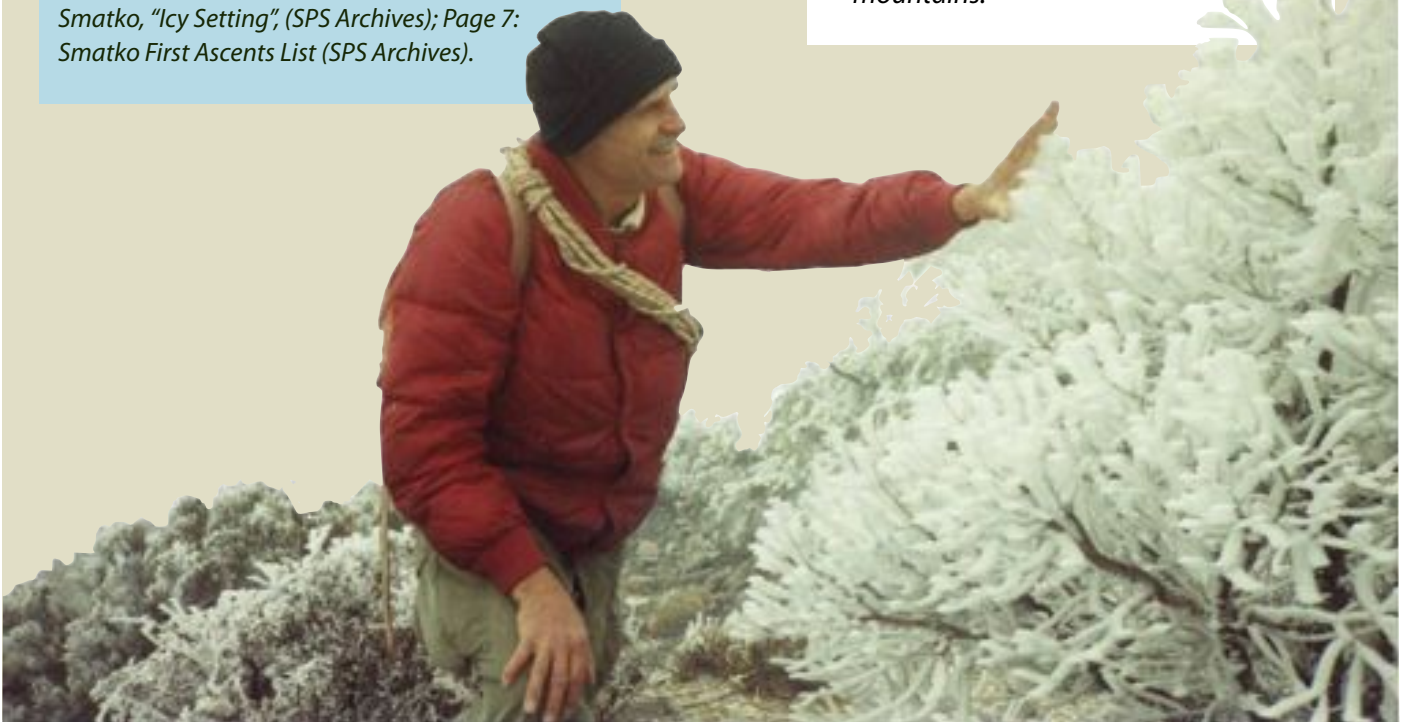
Shortly before he died, I contacted Dr. Andy Smatko, who told me that he had a hand-written list of all his first ascents in the Sierra and that he would like us to have it for our archives. Andy died before we could make the arrangements, and sometime later I discussed the list with his sister-in-law, Doris Robertson. Doris and I lost contact, but eventually we arranged for her to send me his hand-written list. I knew Andy had climbed an awful lot of SPS peaks—he was the first SPS list finisher and the first triple list finisher—but I was blown away when I read that he climbed in the Sierra a total of 1,803 ascents, 1,665 different peaks, 240 first ascents, and 158 first-recorded ascents; drove 235,180 miles; gained 3,676,350 feet (69 miles); and hiked a total of 10,304 miles! And that was just the Sierra! He logged similar prodigious amounts for the DPS and HPS.

Above: Andy Smatko during a Sierra Peaks Section outing to Mt. Corcoran, Sierra Nevada, Sept. 29, 1974. (Photo by Jerry Keating, Jerry Keating Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives); Below: Andy Smatko, "Icy Setting", (SPS Archives); Page 7: Smatko First Ascents List (SPS Archives).



SPS Explorer Emblem Renamed for Andy Smatko

In the most recent meeting the SPS management committee voted to rename our Explorer Emblem the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem in honor of the first SPS list finisher, Sierra climbing guide author, and man who climbed about 5000 mountains.



FIRST RECORDED ASCENTS IN SIERRA NEVADA OF Andrew J. Smalley

TOPO,
15

			Party
Morced Pk	10,960+	8-8-60	0.5 NNE of Mt Clark Frank, Jackson, Tom
Mt Whitney	13,540 ft W Tyndall	8-15-66	0.8 SW of Mt Tyndall Bill, Ellen, Tom
" "	13,285 Cricket Pk	8-17-66	1.3 NE of Great Kaweah " Bob
Morrison	11,772 Mt Ellen	9-3-66	1.0 NE of Duck Pass " Herlihy
" "	11,728 Herlihy	" "	0.8 N of Peak 11,772 " " "
" "	11,550 n Abbe	" "	0.5 SE of " 11,772 " " "
" Goddard	13,200+ Sportswear Pk	8-12-67	0.25 SE of Topsy Pass " Tom, Ellen
" "	13,278 Picture Peak	8-13-67	0.55 NW of " " " " " "
" "	13,241 Gendane	" "	0.5 NE of " " " " " "
Only x "	5,090 Kelso Pk	4-7-68	" " " Bill Schuler
Cross mtn	Nichols Pk 6073	" " "	" " " " " "
Mt Tom	13,280+ —	5-28-68	1.25 SE of Mt Morgan (Cand) Frank Tom "
" Pinchot	13,259 ^{Snowdrift} Pk	6-9-68	0.7 N of Mt. Anchof. " " Bill
" Goddard	13,080+ ^{Hungry} Pk	7-5-68	0.3 E of Mt Haackel Bill & Tom
" "	13,280+ ^{Crumbly} Pk	" "	0.5 SSE of " Wallace " " "
Big Pine	12,640+ ^{Crumbly} Pk	8-4-68	0.4 E of Gracie Pass Bill
" "	12,480+ N. Horn Pk	8-6-68	0.6 SW of Upper Palisade Lake "
" "	12,560+ "	" "	0.45 S of SE Summit of 12,480+ "
" "	13,200+ ^{Southfork} Pk	8-5-68	0.35 W of Southfork Pass "
" "	13,040+ Mather Pk	8-7-68	0.6 NE of Mather Pass " Alexson
" "	12,640+ "	8-8-68	0.3 SW of " " " " "
" "	12,640+ —	" "	1.6 WSW of " " Bill & Gail
" "	12,880+ "	" "	2.4 SW of " " " & Gail
Mt Goddard	13,323	8-24-68	0.5 NNE of Mt Thompson " & Tom
" "	13,000+ "	" "	1.0 NNE " " " "
" "	13,000+ ^{Mt Joseph} Pk	9-11-68	0.6 SE of Pk 12,900 " & "
" "	12,440+ ^{Paine} Pk	9-12-68	0.6 SE of Paine Lake " & "
" "	12,107 ^{Greata} "	9-15-68	1.5 WSW of Lake Sabrina " & "
" "	12,600+ ^{Moogwell} Pk	7-20-69	0.5 ESE of Mt Gilbert. " & "
Minimal King	12,080+ ^{Gave} Pk	8-31-69	0.5 W of Blackrock Pass Bill
Mt Goddard	12,880+	9-15-69	0.6 S SW Black Giant Tom
" "	13,081 Mt Liad	9-16-69	1.0 E of Mt Goddard Bill & Tom
Lowline Pk	13,360+ "	8-7-70	0.5 SE Mt Langley " & (K)



Why Wilderness? A Personal Perspective for a Grand Anniversary

By Vicky Hoover

On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, with a few quick strokes of his pen bringing into being America's National

Wilderness Preservation System. In September 1964 I was a young mother of a five-year-old and an eighteen-month old baby, and I had never heard of wilderness—nor had I even heard of the Sierra Club.

Our family had moved into California exactly two years before that from “back east” and were inspired enough simply by being in a mountainous western state to think about climbing some of these mountains. In September 1963 we took a two-week car camping trip to visit all four (then) national parks in California—half a week each in Lassen, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia. It was while we were in Sequoia that an evening ranger program at Lodgepole amazed and awed us: it was a film depicting a family with two children not much older than ours traveling the whole John Muir trail with two burros to carry their gear. This

was our first inkling that such an alpine paradise of lakes, meadows, and mountains existed here in California. At once our goal became to experience that Muir trail some day.

In the summer of 1965, on a car camp trip to Florence Lake, which we selected from the state highway map because it looked like the place where a road went deepest into the mountains, we were enjoying a short day hike and saw a sign leading to Blayney Meadows that said, “Muir trail—three miles.” My husband and I were thrilled—if even now we could come so close to the fabled trail, maybe soon we could really walk on it!

Before that year ended, while we were in Death Valley around Christmas, a fellow camper in the Furnace Creek campground proudly showed off his new Vibram-soled boots and described how useful they were for his peak climbing trips with “an organization that led good trips to the mountains,” the Sierra Club. Ah ha, we thought, this sounds like a way to get the guidance we need for reaching California's mountains. So, no sooner home from the holidays than my husband found two colleagues in



Bill, Frances and Nathan Hoover backpacking in 1966 in the Hoover Wilderness, one of California's original 1964 wilderness areas. Two years after designation, the forest service had not yet replaced the “Wild Area” sign. (Photo by Vicky Hoover).

the Lawrence Livermore Lab where he worked who were members and could sign our membership applications. Yes, in 1966 we still needed to be sponsored by members to join the Club (this requirement ended shortly thereafter as the Sierra Club deliberately altered its traditional clubbiness to seek a much larger public membership).

As new members, we received and pored over the January 1966 "Outings" issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin and applied for a wilderness threshold trip, suitable for families with young children. Of a dozen trips, which to select? We knew none of the destinations, so we went by names; the obvious choice was a trip going to the Hoover Lakes (in the Hoover Wilderness.) This may have been our first encounter with the word wilderness, although we still lacked any awareness of what the concept meant.

We were late in signing up, so the trip was full, and we were put on the waiting list. We never did make it onto that trip, but in the meantime we had equipped ourselves with a backpacking tent and down bags from the REI catalog (that was before REI had any stores outside of Seattle) and some gear from the Ski Hut in Berkeley (now long since gone)—a set of pots and Optimus backpacking stove. Our new gear seemed to demand some use, so we decided to try backpacking on our own. On

a fifteen-minute topo map, my husband found Goat Mountain in Kings Canyon, which looked to him (I never figured out why) close enough to a trail and within our reach. So we set out on our first backpack trip.

The first three harrowing days of that trip almost cured me of any interest in backpacking and peaks. Anyone who has hiked from Roads End in Kings Canyon up the Copper Creek trail will understand what I mean. It is a trail that you would not recommend to your worst enemy (if you have any) as a

beginner's trip. Especially with a seven-year-old and a three-and-a-half-year-old. And especially for a family that started out from the Bay Area bright and early one August morning, got to Roads End shortly after noon, and started up the trail (on a south facing slope, of course) early afternoon. Enough said. Except that on day three, our daughter was nauseous and weak from altitude and had to be carried a good part of the time. While I carried her, of course I could not carry my pack as well, so my husband had to leap frog with his pack and mine. (Not a recommended method for getting someone else to carry your pack.) When we

got up to the high point benchmark around 10,000' late afternoon that third day and he sent me off to get a distant view of Goat Mountain and I could not find it and got blamed for that, well, virtually in tears, I grumbled that this backpacking stuff is not all it's made out to be.

Then followed the magic day. After dropping down a short distance into Granite Basin and finding a campsite by a little stream just at dusk, we then had the whole next day there. We wandered in this idyllic sub-alpine Eden among ponds, mini-meadows, flower beds, streams, granite slabs, totally alone, no one else except the beautiful mountains all around. Frogs to play with and little cascades to dip into—well, this miraculous day changed our lives and turned us into Sierraphiles and wilderness addicts. It was truly



Copper Creek Trail, the end of the first family backpack, 1966 (Hoover Family Collection).

an exquisite wilderness experience, even though, strictly speaking, the backcountry in Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks did not receive official wilderness designation until the California Wilderness Act of 1984—30 years now! (Ten years after that first trip, we went back up the Copper Creek trail and did ascend Goat Mountain. This time with strong teenagers it took us about eight hours to hike up what had taken two and a half days in 1966.)

Late summer 1966 saw our second backpack—to see for ourselves these elusive Hoover Lakes. And we

entered for the first time a genuine wilderness: the Hoover was one of California's original thirteen wilderness areas. Of course we did not realize that at the time, nor did the Forest Service inform us. The large sign as we went in from Virginia Lakes still said, "Hoover Wild Area," the old administrative designation (the 1964 Act turned all the Forest Service's administratively designated Wild, Primitive, and Wilderness Areas into true federal designated wilderness). After two years the agency had not got around to redoing their old sign. This was a much easier trip than Copper Creek and not only did we have a lovely camp right between Lower Hoover and Upper Hoover Lakes, but my husband and I actually climbed our first Sierra peak: modest little Epidote Peak, right above and to the west of the Hoover Lakes and north of Summit Lake. An initial attempt to climb it directly from the Hoover Lakes failed, so next day we went up the more gradual slope from Summit Lake. Success! The two children hiked almost all the way to the top, but when we neared the rocky summit area, they lost interest, and we left them to rest and play while Bill and I tackled the summit.

The following summer we did go on our first national Sierra Club outing, a family burro trip led by the Jim Watters family. It was to Humphreys Basin, and what an inexpressibly beautiful place this is—the epitome of the high Sierra, mosquitos and all. The story of that trip, with the lost burros and the extra day leading to the after midnight encounter with Ferdinand (red pajamas), has been told elsewhere, so here I'll just point out that by the end of that summer Jim Watters invited us to become trip leaders ourselves! Not something we had considered—but—why not? We gave the nod, received a weekend's training trip early next summer, and a multi-year saga (not yet entirely over) of leading Sierra Club trips began. From family burro trips eventually we led family knapsack trips, then regular backpack trips, then I led on my own, but throughout all of these, following our personal inclination there was a common theme: climb the mountains on our layover days. We always designed

the itinerary of trips we led with peak climbing opportunities in mind.

The very first national Sierra Club trip we led took us into the John Muir Wilderness in 1968 from Florence Lake up over Selden Pass. Our first visit to the other large central Sierra Wilderness—the Minarets (later Ansel Adams)—came in fall of 1969, when we joined an SPS trip to climb Mt Ritter. That's the Hoover, John Muir, and Minarets /Ansel Adams, but what about the other ten "original" wildernesses in California?

Cucamonga is in the San Gabriels; Domeland in the southern Sierra, where we went in 1976 for several listed peaks. That same year we ventured to the Mokelumne Wilderness to climb Mokelumne Peak. Then there are Caribou (adjoining Lassen Park), Yolla Bolly—Middle Eel, Marble Mountains, Thousand Lakes, and South Warner all well to the north, and finally San Gorgonio and San Jacinto are in the San Bernardino National Forest. I've barely been in the edges of those. We had car camped in the Yolla Bollies in summer of 1964, not long before wilderness was designated there. On our first Sierra Club trip, with the Watters family, Bill noticed a certain pin on the leader's hat and he asked Jim what it was about. It was the emblem of the Sierra Peaks Section and you got it for

climbing a number of specific peaks. We expressed interest, Jim Watters sent us a copy of the list with info on how to join, and we joined,

after climbing the mandated six peaks. (That was before the requirement that some must be climbed on an official SPS trip.) Later, after our children each in different years at different ages, had been coaxed up their first peak and by the magic of signing the register, had themselves become confirmed peak baggers, they joined as mascot members. As they got older, we could climb more peaks on longer trips, and by the time he was seventeen, our son Nathan was a good enough technical rock climber so he was belaying us up the tough ones, such as Devils Crags.

We took the kids along on many an SPS trip, and others on these trips expressed at first doubt, then sometimes, "If I had known kids were allowed, I would have brought mine." Could there be a need for more family-friendly peak climbing trips? Kids just naturally



Vicky Hoover on the first Sierra Club trip they led from Florence Lake over Selden Pass in the John Muir Wilderness, 1968 (Hoover Family Collection).

have good balance and love to scramble on rocks, so I suspect the SPS could offer a valuable service by having more peak trips for families.

But I digress. It is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. OK, after leading these wonderful trips into our Sierra Wildernesses for many years, and enjoying even more Sierra trips on our own or as SPS trip participants, I finally, on my own and living in San Francisco, had time to join the local Chapter's wilderness committee. I began to learn--after all this time--that those wonderful natural, unspoiled, wild places I had reveled in for my personal enjoyment did not just happen by accident. People had worked hard to keep development away, to get the laws passed that assured such places would be preserved forever. Hmm, I thought, maybe now I can do a bit to help assure that there will be more such special places available for people in the future.

Brand new at that very time was the California Desert Protection campaign, and I leaped in or maybe got dragged in and became an activist for it; more campaigns followed and keep on following. They will never be over in my lifetime, and there is never an end to enjoying, exploring, and protecting the wonderful wilderness and potential wilderness our country has.

No longer a brand new activist but someone who now seems to have been at it for longer than many, I have spent the past four years on my current "campaign" to get Sierra Club folks (and others) organized to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Why make a big deal of the fiftieth? We've had other anniversaries after all. I remember doing a hike jointly with Forest Service for the fortieth and going to a big national conference for the fortieth. But the fiftieth, a GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, gives a unique chance to get the attention of a part of a public who never normally pays attention to wilderness. It's a once-in-a-lifetime public education and outreach opportunity, especially a good chance to get kids interested in the outdoors. We need that next generation of wilderness advocates. If you do nothing else this year for wilderness, take a kid into wilderness.



Vicky Hoover and her daughter Franny in the Yosemite Wilderness, 1969 (Hoover Family collection).

Maybe I was not digressing when I spoke of family SPS trips.

We Californians are leaders over other states in preserving wilderness. In the original Act in 1964, California got more wilderness areas than any other state, thirteen. Today, we also have more wilderness areas than any other state (149), but of course, not more wilderness: Alaska has fewer areas, but they do tend to be a tiny bit larger. California has a higher percentage of our state's areas set aside as designated wilderness than any other in the Lower 48 (fifteen) and almost as much as Alaska (sixteen) - no other state comes close. With twelve areas, we are one of only a few states that have their own state wilderness systems. And we are not done yet.

Today, as the specter of climate change looms, we know--much more than we knew in the 1960s, 70s and 80s--that there is a lot more reason to set aside lands as wilderness than just our personal human enjoyment. Wilderness offers the best habitat for wildlife and ought to become the core areas of larger protected habitat corridors where wildlife can move freely as conditions change. Wilderness provides a scientific data base for comparing natural lands with altered land due to development or other impacts. As our population becomes more urbanized, the need becomes more acute to balance those highly concentrated developed areas with places where nature dominates. And even for folks (maybe especially

for them) who will never themselves step into wilderness, the concept offers spiritual solace and an assurance that there will remain places substantially little impacted by human-made changes. It is comforting to many "just to know it's there." As Lyndon Johnson said, on September 3, 1964, "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

Please join me in celebrating wilderness all year long. Raise a glass to wilderness on your next trip. Or why wait that long? Do it now and then again.

[Vicky, Bill, and Nathan all finished the SPS list on August 29, 1981, on Mt. Tinemaha. Frances finished on Mt. Powell on October 2, 1983.—TB]

This continues what we hope will be a series of brief articles contributed by SPS members who would like to share information about their favorite pieces of trail technology. For this issue Beth Epstein tells us about a piece of technical equipment that makes her life better in the mountains. How about you? Send your proposal or article to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

Magnetic Hydration Bite Valves

By Beth Epstein

My hydration gear has changed incrementally over the years, and one garage cabinet contains an odd assortment of hard and soft plastic bottles, many probably leaching some awful unpronounceable plastic polymer into the air. The bottles themselves were never really much of a problem, hence their persistence in the cabinet. Carrying systems have been another story, and over time I fiddled with various failed arrangements of pockets, slings, and carabiners. I've been a slow convert to hydration bladders when hiking, mainly because of my anxiety about the invisible disappearing water, but my miles as a trail runner have put me more at ease with those systems so that now when backpacking I carry a wide-mouth one liter bottle for ease of collecting and treating water when necessary and a hydration bladder.

One gizmo I have loved since I discovered it is the magnetic hydration bite valve I drink through at the end of the hose. First produced by Nalgene, Osprey seems recently to have taken over production (the old ones can be seen on ebay with Chinese icons in the photo). Not only does it rotate from inline to perpendicular with the hose to open and close the valve and prevent leaks when not in use, it has a magnet built in which connects to a separate magnet on a slider, which you can attach to the sternum strap of your pack. This is incredibly useful, even when you run as slowly as I do, allowing you to drink on the fly and without ever looking away from the trail when you reach for the hose and replace it after taking a drink. You just slap it back on the pack in the vicinity in which you found it, and it magically sticks.

The Magnetic Valve can be purchased with or without the sliding sternum attachments, which can also be obtained separately. You can also buy the valve sheaths separately,

a good thing since before you know it one day you'll look down and find some dark gunk growing no matter how often or carefully you clean the valve or whether you use only water or add some growing medium to the petri dish.

One odd proviso: it is a magnet, which may or may not explain why my compass bearings are sometimes off. Also, you learn pretty quickly how much ore is in the local soil when you set the pack down carelessly.

The new Osprey version is available at REI and the usual on-line sites, but it requires a different hose diameter (1/4") than my old Nalgene (the different bladder brands vary) so I'll be snipping pieces of hoses to adapt various systems. What would any good piece of outdoor gear be without fiddling around to make it your own!

http://www.ospreypacks.com/en/product/performance_1/magnetic_bite_valve



Photos: Upper right: bite valve in open position as packaged with magnetic slider. Center, Beth in trail race, magnetic slider attached to pack strap and hose magnetically attached to slider. Bottom: Osprey pack with magnets visible. Above: valve sheaths as sold separately.

Stream and River Crossings

By Dave Sholle



Bubbs Creek

On July 6th, 2002, I came very close to drowning in Bubbs Creek. I think this is the closest that I have come to dying in the Sierra.

Two days earlier we had come in with a group of SPS climbers over Kearsage Pass and crossed Bubbs creek, either by wading farther upstream at a wider part of the creek or walking on top of a large, dry log across the creek. All crossed without incident. On the 5th, the big group broke into smaller groups to climb various peaks; Barbara, Patty Rambert and I climbed Mt. Brewer. The next morning (the 6th), there was no big rush to break camp, as we were going to camp again on the hike out. Barbara and I woke up early, so instead of waiting around, we ended up packing up and leaving camp together before the others to get across Bubbs creek in the morning. We would then wait farther along the trail for the others to catch up. I guess that I had in mind that early in the morning the flow in the creek would be less. When we got to the log for the crossing, the log was not dry, as it had been two days earlier. For some reason, the water level was higher, and the water was hitting the bottom of the log, splashing all over the log,

including the top. See the drawing for the arrangement of the log. The water beneath the log was about thirty inches deep and fast flowing, and the log was maybe thirty inches in diameter. It was old and had been completely stripped of any bark and was very smooth with essentially nothing to grab onto. The creek was about twenty feet wide, and the log was approximately thirty feet long and diagonal across the creek. When I saw that the top of the log was wet and slippery, I should have changed my plans, and we could have easily waded across a wider section of the creek with less than one hundred yards of bushwhacking upstream. Somehow I still had fixed in my mind that the log was the way to get across the creek, despite the evidence that it was now wet and slippery.

I detached the sternum strap on my pack, but left the hip belt tightened so it wouldn't sway and knock me off balance. The Kelty Phantom pack I wore had a belt buckle that was very easy to open with one hand, sight unseen, so I wasn't concerned about leaving the buckle tightened. On stream crossings when I wade, I usually open the belt buckle, but in this instance I wanted the better balance that the closed buckle would provide. I had my trekking poles with me, and I climbed up onto the log at (1), stood up, and started walking across. At about 2/3 of the way across at (2), my left foot was planted firmly, but no matter how I tried to move my

Brian Elliot, Sue Holloway, and Ron Bartell crossing a stream on Baffin Island (Photo by Dave Sholle).

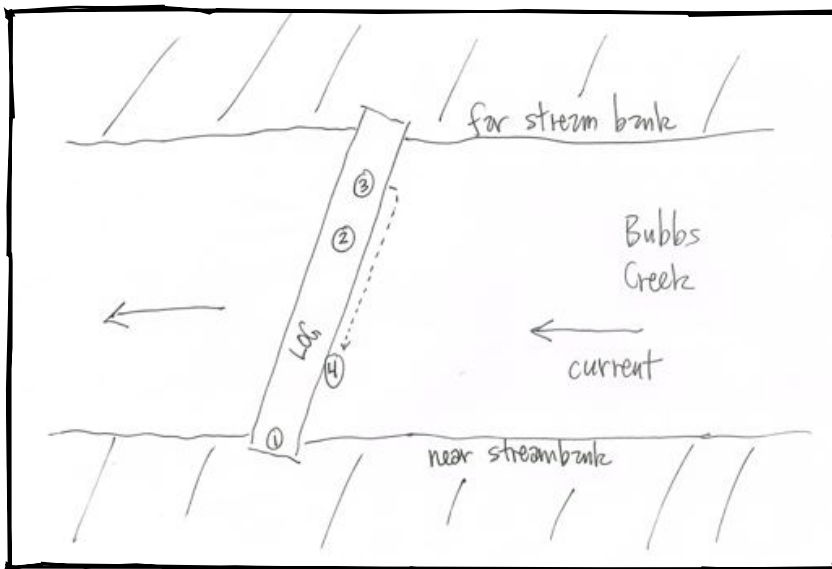


Diagram of Bubbs Creek Crossing (by Dave Sholle).

right foot forward and set it down, it was clear that my right foot was going to slip if I weighted it. I kept trying with my right foot and eventually decided that since I was near the far shore, I would just sit down and straddle the log like being on the back of a horse and shimmy my way forward. That worked for a short distance until I reached (3), at which point the current on my right foot dangling in the creek caught me and quickly pulled me off the log into the water on the upstream side of the log. I didn't panic and felt that although I was drenched and embarrassed, I was near the far shore and could somehow scramble to shore and salvage the situation. The problem was that thirty inches of fast flowing current is very powerful, and it knocked me off my feet and sent my legs underneath the log with a huge amount of force. At this point I was essentially sitting on the bottom of the creek with my legs horizontally downstream under the log and my face plastered on the upstream lower part of the log. I am 6'4" and have a long torso, but even so, I needed to tilt my head backwards to keep my mouth and nostrils just above the surface of the creek. (Try an experiment—sit on the floor with your legs in front of you and measure the distance from the floor to your nostrils—this is how I know that the water was at least thirty inches deep and that most people with a more regular length torso would have had their mouth and nostrils under water.) My arms were now above me, trying to grab on to the wet log to pull myself out of the situation. There just wasn't anything to grab onto on the smooth, wet log, and the force of flow was making it impossible to shimmy out backwards.

Amazingly, I still wasn't panicking. When I fell in, a bottle of lemonade that I was carrying in a pouch on my pack strap fell out and washed away, and I remember being annoyed about that; I was looking forward to cold lemonade later that day. Also, one of my trekking poles got ripped out of my hand and was swept away. I remember thinking that pole had been like a friend to me, having been up numerous peaks, including Kilimanjaro two years earlier. After those two initial silly

reactions, the gravity of my situation hit home and a wave of panic really struck me. It didn't help that when I looked over to the shore where I had started across, Barbara was standing there with a horrified look on her face. At that point, I realized that I might very well die right in front of her. I was less worried about my dying than I was about dying in front of her and her having to deal with the consequences of that. I got the panic back under some control and kept clawing at the log trying to pull myself out or keep from going under deeper. I realized that the bottom of my pack, along with my butt, was on the bottom of the creek, and the fact that I had my pack hip belt still on was keeping me from going further under the log. I thought about reaching down and

detaching the hip belt and getting swept under the log, but I was afraid to try it, as I knew that downstream of the log there were obstacles, and if I went under the log and didn't cleanly pop out on the other side, the force of the current was too great to reverse that movement. So I simply continued with the current jamming me against the log with my hands above fighting for a hold. What I didn't realize at first was that because the log was diagonal across the creek, the current was not only pushing me against and under the log, it was also pushing me slowly back in the direction of my starting point, as shown by the dashed line in the picture. When I reached (4), Barbara was able to wade in safely and help me out. After absorbing what had just happened, we bushwhacked less than one hundred yards upstream and found a safe, wider place in the stream to wade across, which was convenient for me, as I was already drenched. We continued up the trail to a sunny spot, then waited for the rest of the group, who showed up maybe an hour later. I told them my story, and they said that when they crossed the log it was already dry. That night, as I slept in my sleeping bag, I had nightmares about the crossing. The nightmare wasn't about drowning: it was about taking that first step up on to a wet slippery log and how stupid it was that I did that. To this day I have a lot of anxiety about log crossings on streams and rivers and situations in which the current can trap you in or under an obstacle.

Baffin Island

Less than a month after the near drowning, we were on a Canyon Explorers Club trip to Baffin Island led by Brian Elliot and Ron Bartell. We started from North Pangnirtung Fjord in Auyuittuq National Park, hiking along the Owl River up to Akshayuk Pass, past Glacier Lake and Summit Lake, and then along the Weasel River to South Pangnirtung Fjord. Wading across the Owl or Weasel rivers was completely out of the question, but we had to cross numerous serious side rivers fed by glacial runoff that ran into the two main rivers. (Near the end of the trip, we did have to cross the Weasel river, but it was on a suspension footbridge above a

constricted narrow section of the river.) Although I felt that these numerous side crossings were serious, with deep, fast, cold and opaque glacial water, I didn't fear them, as they did not have logs in them that I could fall off of or become trapped under. I always felt that I was in control when crossing and that I could probe ahead with my pole and back off before getting in over my head (so to speak) and try a different crossing location. Perhaps that was delusional; if I had fallen in, I could easily be trapped in rocks, knocked unconscious by rocks, or quickly swept downstream into the far more serious main rivers. A year later another hiker drowned while crossing one of the rivers in Auyuittuq National Park along the route that we had taken, and there have been numerous drownings in large Arctic rivers over the years. Some of you have seen the video I presented at the DPS banquet of the Baffin Island trip, including the exciting river crossings. Christine Bartell, who was on the trip, said that if she had seen the video of the river crossings before the trip, she would not have gone.



Dave Sholle crossing the Mulchatna River (photo by Joel Guenther).

Wrangell St. Elias National Park

In 2010, Barbara and I went on a Sierra Club national trip to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska (highly recommended). We were let off on a short backcountry landing strip and explored for miles in various directions for a week. Ultimately we could not reach some of the destinations that we had originally planned on because of the risk of some of the river crossings, but there was no shortage of other places to explore.

Lake Clark National Park

In 2011, Barbara and I went on another Sierra Club national trip to Lake Clark National Park, about one hundred miles west of Anchorage. We landed on Telaquana Lake and were left off on the south shore. We then backpacked south to Turquoise Lake (about a five mile long glacier fed lake) and had to cross the Mulchatna River which began at the outlet of the lake. The outlet had some boulders strewn across it and looked to be the best place to cross the river, and the crossing was about one hundred yards wide. Since we were the tallest, Joel and I were chosen to attempt the crossing first. One of the photos is a shot Joel took of me out in the middle of the crossing, and at the top you can see small figures on the distant shore to get an idea of how wide the crossing was. Another photo is of the leaders in a section that was deep during the crossing. We had been rained on for several days in a row and had much colder than expected weather, and I was

hoping for some sunlight to warm things up during the crossing, but it was not to be. There were grizzly bear prints in the area, so we didn't dawdle, but instead stripped off our pants and socks, put our boots back on without our socks, made sure that at least one of us had bear spray, then headed across. There was a huge amount of water flowing out of Turquoise lake, but spread over 100 yards, with some depth, the actual force of the water was nowhere as serious as many Sierra streams in the spring. However, wading for a hundred yards over a boulder-strewn bottom is still serious business.

Over several days we continued south to Twin Lakes (glacier fed and about ten miles long together) to cross the Chilkadrotna River as it exited Twin Lakes. It was clear that crossing at the lake outlet itself was not going to be an option, and it looked from the map that crossing several miles downstream might be an option. There is a photo by Joel of Barbara, the co-leader Marybeth, and me with our arms linked through trekking poles, attempting to cross the Chilkadrotna. We didn't make it much farther than shown in the photo. The water was already thigh deep and flowing quite strongly near the shore. It was difficult to pick up a foot and move it forward to place it down as the current was strongly pushing the lower leg sideways. In addition, it was clear that the water was deeper and faster farther out from the shore, so we retreated to shore and re-grouped and had lunch. We were going to be flown out from Twin Lakes, and we really wanted to cross the river to get to the south shore of the lake, which was more interesting, easier to travel along, and had some historical cabins. After lunch, we continued to walk on a hillside above the river, with Marybeth and I out in front, and as we came over a rise, we saw a blue raft in the river. This was quite a surprise, as we had not seen anyone for six days. We yelled to them, and they graciously ferried our entire group across the river.



At left: Dave Sholle, Barbara Sholle and Marybeth Dingley attempting to cross the Chilkadrotna River. Above: unnamed raftsmen who ferried them across the Chilkadrotna. Below: lifted Toyota 4WD with balloon tires crossing a river in Iceland with a bunch of hikers hanging on (photo by Dave Sholle).

Lessons learned?

Iceland and Greenland

In 2013 Barbara, Ron, Christine and I went to Iceland and Greenland, and we had numerous river crossings during our multi-day hut-to-hut Laugavegur hike in Iceland. Most of the crossings we took our boots off and used light-weight rubber-soled shoes to do the crossings, but our favorite crossing was on the back and sides of a lifted 4WD Toyota pickup with huge balloon tires that they use for driving across rivers, glaciers, and snowfields.

Tina had asked me if I would write a story about stream crossings, as she knew about my near drowning in Bubbs Creek and had seen the Baffin video. I guess at this point, I'm supposed to provide some words of wisdom, but I'm certainly not an expert on the subject—just someone who survived a near drowning and pays much more attention to river crossings now. In terms of what to say, I am reminded of an acquaintance, Nils, who is an extremely talented and strong telemark skier. Maybe five years ago, I skied some runs with him at Mammoth in deep fresh snow, and he really pushed me. Jokingly, his general advice to those asking questions



about telemark technique was, "Suck less." I feel that is about the level of advice that I can give here. Going back to the Bubbs Creek near drowning, I realize that my first mistake was stepping up on the wet, slippery log in the first place. I should have bushwhacked upstream and crossed where I could have easily waded through, with only the time taken to take off

my boots and socks and put on some sandals.

Even if the log wasn't wet, I should have been more cognizant of my surroundings and the potential dangers and rescue points downstream of the log. When I got to the point of having to sit and straddle the log, I should have been extremely careful not to be swept into the water, and if I was falling, to have fallen on the downstream side of the log, not the upstream side, immediately leading to a dangerous trap situation. Of course I wasn't contemplating falling in, so I wasn't thinking about on which side to fall. In addition, it would have been better to stay with the larger group to have additional helpers in an emergency.

Some of you may remember that I had kept my hip belt tightened, instead of open, when crossing on the log. In general, open the sternum strap and the hip belt before a river crossing, so a pack can easily be removed if you get swept away in the current. In my case, the fact that my hip belt was tightened kept me from getting swept farther under the log, as the bottom of the pack bag provided an obstruction. If the hip belt was off, I would have been swept farther under the log, perhaps getting stuck and drowning under the log or perhaps popping free on the other side. I'm not planning on repeating the experiment to find the outcome.

In general, I think there are several things to keep in mind about serious stream crossings in the Sierra. If a footbridge crossing is available, use it, even if it is somewhat out of your way. If you have to wade across, look for a wider, less steep section of the stream with lower flow velocity, even if the depth is greater. Pay close attention to dangers and traps downstream, such as logs and branches, which could trap you under the surface, or waterfalls. If you are in a bigger group, consider posting some people on the shore downstream from the crossing point. They might be able to intervene if someone falls in. I do not have great balance, and combined with what happened in 2002, I am now very wary of log crossings. I'll usually resort to finding a place to wade across safely, unless the log is very wide on top for safe walking or has some branches that extend above the log surface for using to balance.

Actual back-country rivers in the Sierra, especially in the springtime, are usually way too dangerous even to attempt to cross, and trips must be planned with that in mind. Rivers in other areas, such as the arctic, can sometimes be crossable and other times not crossable without a raft. In Baffin, the side rivers flowing into the Owl and Weasel rivers were typically steep and fast, but were often heavily braided. By exploring up and downstream, it was always possible to find a reasonable crossing. We sometimes used a technique in which several people walked side by side across a river with arms interlinked holding on to horizontally-extended hiking poles. It was somewhat awkward, but provided an effective means of dealing with the strong push of the flowing water.

In Alaska, what was intimidating was the scale of the rivers. The safest crossings might be many miles up or downstream in difficult trail-less terrain and would involve a hundred yards to more than a half-mile of

crossing width. For any future backcountry trips in Alaska, I would probably choose a rafting trip. If I were younger and on foot in Alaska, I would consider a pack raft, such as an Alpaca raft, which can be carried on a backpack, in order to cross big rivers and lakes.

Use of ropes

If there is a strong rope or cable stretched tautly across a river somewhat above the surface, it can be useful to use it as a hand line to stay upright while crossing. However, if the rope is not high or taut enough, a dangerous situation can develop in which the person crossing falls in, hangs on to the rope, and pulls the rope under the surface. The combination of the current and hanging on to the rope will hold the person underwater if they don't let go of the rope. The same danger can exist if one ties into a rope and is "belayed" from shore during a crossing. It might be possible to set up a safe rope on a river crossing on a major expedition, but under most conditions ropes probably shouldn't be used for river and stream crossings without careful thought.

Do not underestimate the incredible amount of force that water flowing downhill fast can generate. Combine that with the numbing effect of cold water and poor footing on the bottom, and what seems like a simple wade across a stream can become very serious.

Let me end this with a more light-hearted story. In June of 1996, Barbara, Mary Motheral, and I hiked into Finger Lake in order to meet Doug Mantle, who was going to lead us up Disappointment. On the way in, we had to cross the south fork of Big Pine Creek. We found a wide spot where the creek was still very deep, but flowing very slowly. I took off my boots, tied them together, and put on Tevas to wade across. Instead of draping my boots around my neck, I decided to toss them to the other side before crossing. I did a good toss, but the other side of the creek had a slight slope, and the boots, after landing on the shore, started slowly rolling and tumbling toward the creek. I abandoned my carefully chosen crossing plan and dashed across the creek to grab my boots before they fell into the creek and were washed away. I got the boots, and we got the peak the next day.



The Hannibal method. Dave Sholle in Chitwan NP, Nepal.

That Spanish Needle

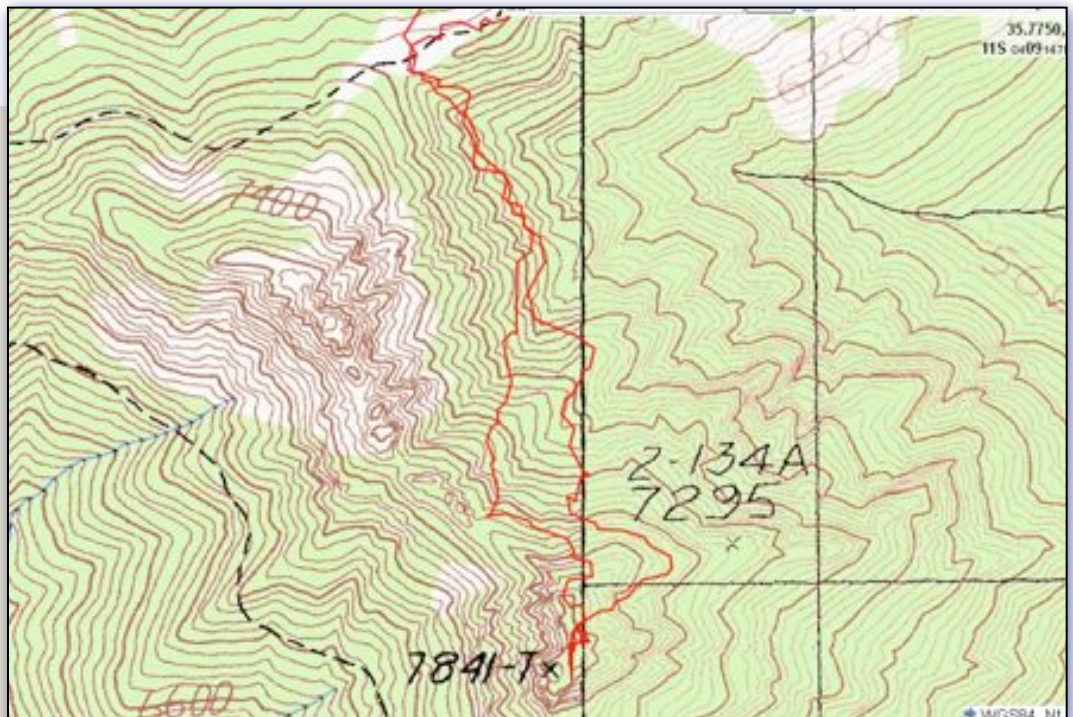
By Rudy Fleck



Some peaks have a mystique that perks the ears and Spanish needle is one that's been luring for a while, especially with associated phrases like "attempted", and "wrong ravine." After having to cancel our Olancho trip because of dry conditions, Daniel Kinzek was game to join me and give it a go. He willingly compensates for my lack of attention to maps. Last minute research led to Tina Bowman's and Matthias Selke's SPS trip reports and Michael Gosnell's five ravines from the saddle advice.

We started the hike at the junction of Canebrake Road (also known as Chimney Peak Back Country Byway) and the PCT, just south of the pleasant Chimney Creek campground. This added some mileage, but our aim was to get a sense of the whole area and to avoid the large inholding of Lamont Meadow with its no trespassing signs and a

Daniel Kinzek recorded this GPS track on the climb of Spanish Needle, leaving and returning to the Pacific Crest Trail from the saddle to the north. It shows a higher route going to the summit, lower for the return, traversing around the nose east of the ridge. Daniel also notes that the lower route was "more straightforward in that the terrain was less steep than our high traverse out. My guess is that it would be better to stay below 7,200 until on the north slope of Spanish Needle itself." Above: Daniel on the saddle north of Spanish Needle (photo by Rudy Fleck).



double-gated dirt road. After three hours we reached the obvious saddle north of the Spanish Needle ridge and dropped 150ft. down the eastern side to begin counting the ravines. So...count the first one we dropped in to? Large enough to count? A different count the higher or lower the traverse!

On our return we decided that for our purposes we would describe the approach as passing two large and obvious bowls and traversing a large broad ridge encountered after the second bowl at an angle toward the crest. At some point the summit with friction slabs beneath it comes into view and a final narrow sandy gully leads to the keyhole. The keyhole can be by-passed by climbing a short crack on the left. Crossing the slabs and some 3rd class up and down led us to a recessed area that, once climbed, turned out to be the slot below the jump-across. The register book has a few empty pages, so don't wait too long to get up there.

We had made the common mistake of reaching the crest too soon in the traverse, which ate up time and added to the rock scrambling, scree, and brush challenge. Ultimately, three hours from saddle to peak. The return took two. All in all, it was a nasty, challenging, and wonderful experience.

We dropped down into the large canyon due west of the saddle for a pleasant stroll that went from use-trail to dirt road and crossed the southern end of Lamont Meadow. Passing several un-gated fences and crossing Chimney Creek led us to Canebrake Road about a mile south of where we parked. The dirt road overlapped the flowing creek for about fifty feet and appeared soft-bottomed, so perhaps only tempting the adventurous four-wheel driver. We didn't see any recent car tracks.

A video of the hike can be seen on [Youtube rfleck3 channel](#).



ET TU, JULIUS CAESAR?

MAY 23-25, 2014

By Tina Bowman

Because it was early in the season but a low-snow year, we weren't sure what to expect for conditions. Then snow the previous few days made the leaders, Gary Schenk and me, wonder even more whether we might have a short but pleasant sojourn in the Sierra without bagging a peak. We were happy to give it a try, and so were the six participants: Karen Andersen, Sean Buddemeyer, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Ron Hudson, Corrine Livingston, and Lisa Miyake. We set off before 7:15 on Friday, May 23rd, from the Pine Creek trailhead (dirt lot, no outhouse, elevation about 7400'), through the pack station (not open yet), and onto the trail proper, which eventually joins the old road to the Brownstone Mine on the cliffs above. Beyond the mine we were back on trail. Along the way we had views of several long cascades of Pine Creek and the Pine Creek Tungsten Mine, where many of the buildings had been removed since I last was in the area.

Crossing Pine Creek below Pine Lake was a little tricky because of snow on the first few feet of the log bridge, but with care we all made it across safely. After a slightly early lunch at Upper Pine Lake, we continued to the campsites above Honeymoon Lake, the trail often disappearing under snow once we crossed the inlet of Upper Pine Creek Lake on the many steppingstones. Mostly on snow we dropped near the lake and then climbed to the bench above, finding more open trail as we rose. At about 10,800' we stopped on a bench, where we eventually camped. Ron found some very nice spots for tents a little above the trail while Gary and I continued up the trail to the lower end of Granite Park, scouting for a higher place to camp. From here on the going was mostly on snow, and dry campsites were few and far between. We gathered for an impromptu happy hour and planned an early start for Saturday to see whether climbing a peak would be in the cards.

With calm conditions and some clouds we set off Saturday morning just after 5:30. Not far into Granite Park we put on crampons and made our way up to Italy Pass, sometimes following footprints. We had seen a couple the day before at the lower end of Granite Park and assumed we were following their prints. As it turns out, we saw them again as we all hiked out on Sunday, and they said that some other fellow had made the tracks to the pass and up Julius Caesar. The front of the group reached the pass at 8:10, where we took a long break. It was clear that it would be a very long, very hard day if we climbed



Gabb with snow virtually the whole way until we were almost back to camp. Having to regain Italy Pass on the way back in snow that would probably be soft just sounded too unpleasant. We knew it was rather unlikely to climb Gabb once we saw all the snow on Friday, and Hilgard had always been a long shot for this trip. Ah, but then Julius Caesar beckoned to us from the pass. We were in no rush because we knew we had plenty of daylight left with sunset at 8:00.

What normally is a straightforward class two climb up the west ridge from the pass was somewhat trickier because of the mix of snow and rock, but we made our way carefully up, kicking new steps when we were on snow because the old ones were icy and steep. [Gary, who claims he won't lead another trip with me unless I add this, wrote, " Gary wants to thank Tina for the terrific step kicking she did on the snow slope

below the summit. It was a true artist at work!" I'll note that, yes, I kicked steps, but followers all did a good job of making them even better.] At the summit, Mary Jo and the leaders searched in vain for the register, probably buried under snow. We lounged on top, enjoying the excellent view of peaks such as Bear Creek Spire, Dade, Abbot, Gabb, Hilgard, Seven Gables, Gemini, Darwin, Humphreys, and Tom. Sean, for whom this counted as a WTC experience trip, claimed his first Sierra peak, and Karen climbed her third.

Down we went with equal care, taking a break at the pass again, where I reloaded into my pack the ammo box and hardbound register book I had hauled up for Gabb. Though I hoped to return to Gabb and place the box and book this season, I didn't want to stash it at the pass, just in case plans didn't work out. The snow was great for plunge stepping down into Granite Park, but now and then we postholed the farther we went. At one point the snow collapsed under Gary, who led ninety percent of

Above left: On the way to Italy Pass with Julius Caesar on the right. Below: At Italy pass, L to R, Tina Bowman, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk behind, Corinne Livingston, Ron Hudson, Karen Andersen, Sean Buddemeyer, and Lisa Miyake. Below: Break time at lower end of Granite Park. Preceding page, view in Granite Park (photos by Tina Bowman).



the way, into a small pool of water, but he rolled uphill and out, staying mostly on the snow and not getting soaked. Not long after that we took a long break by a small stream of water with nice slabs for a relaxing time. We went down a rocky bit to the last bench of Granite Park and on to camp, arriving before 4:00.

Sunday we were on the trail about 7:10 and back to the cars in four hours with several nice breaks. I enjoyed meeting Karen and Sean, both of whom, I suspect, will soon be SPS members. Well done, everyone! As always, it was a pleasure assisting Gary, who did all the work! And you, Julius Caesar, thanks for affording us a good climb.

Mt. Ararat

By Paul Garry



I had wanted to get back on a big mountain for a little while after climbing Denali in 2011. When my girlfriend, Anne, asked me to come to Turkey with her to visit her sister, my mind immediately turned to thoughts of combining a climb of Mt. Ararat with sightseeing and visiting Anne's family. So I hit the internet to research the logistics required for Mt. Ararat. At 16,800', Mt. Ararat is not generally considered a very difficult peak, but it does have snow year round. It is also thought to be the resting place of Noah's Ark. Most people climb Ararat in July or August when there is less snow, while people typically do a ski tour of the mountain in April and May when there is more snow. I would be attempting the climb in May, but knowing my backcountry ski skills were not suitable for such a big mountain and not wanting to lug skis around Turkey for two weeks, I decided I would use snowshoes instead.

It turns out that one is required to hire a guide to climb the mountain. I contacted Mount Ararat Guides (www.araratclimb.com) and came to an agreement on the price and itinerary. In order to try to keep the price down, I decided to forego the usual services of a horse to carry my gear to the two camps on the mountain and guide-supplied food. I would treat the climb as a three-day backpack trip with a guide. The plan would be to sightsee with Anne in Turkey for a week, and then when she returned home (as a teacher she only had a week off work for spring break and not enough time to climb the mountain), I would fly to eastern Turkey to do the climb.

After visiting Istanbul, Cappadocia, Izmir, and Ephesus together, Anne flew home, and I flew two hours east to the small town of Agri. A ninety-minute shuttle bus ride brought me to the town of Dogubeyezit at the base of Mt. Ararat. This rough-looking town, not far from Iran, is a typical border town with dusty streets, construction galore, and utilitarian accommodations. I

met my guide Sefer Tokdemir at the Hotel Isfahan to work out the final logistics for the trip. I had contracted for a sparse private trip, but Sefer cooked up a plan to have me and one of his guides join another larger guided group heading up the hill the next day instead of him guiding me personally. It turns out all the guides kind of work together to match clients and guides in the most efficient way—no doubt, for their best financial benefit. On the bright side, Sefer arranged to have horses carry my gear and to provide food on the mountain at no extra cost. I concluded this was a fair deal if everything went according to plan, IF being the operable word. Anne's sister had told me that the Turks are very trustworthy and when they say they will do something you can count on it. I was relying on this to be the case with these last-minute changes to my climb. The first test of my faith would be turning over my backpack to Sefer to deliver to the horseman in the morning to carry up the hill.

On Tuesday, April 29, Sefer drove me to the trailhead with one of his guides Mehmet. Mehmet and I started hiking at 2200 meters (7216') up a road to the first camp at 9:00 am. In two short hours we arrived at camp (2900 meters [9512']), where a dining tent and cook tent were already set up. I relaxed and had some tea, waiting for the other group and my pack to arrive. I was relieved to see my pack and a group of seven French skiers with their female guide, Ismet, arrive about ninety minutes later at our camp. We were treated to lunch snacks and more tea as tents were pitched and we settled in for the afternoon.

Mehmet, now acting as cook for our combined group, served us soup, a meat stew, and rice for dinner.

Mt. Ararat's shadow (photo by Paul Garry).



Day two started with an egg breakfast, bread and cheese, and another gallon of tea. We packed up, and the horses arrived from their home at the bottom of the mountain to carry our gear up to the high camp at 3,400 meters (11,152'). In summer, the horses stay overnight at each camp on the way up, but in winter, the horses go back down the mountain each day. While I, one of the French clients who was not a skier, and another guide Jemah hiked ninety minutes to camp two, the other French skiers went in search of snow and skinned up to high camp. Whereas camp 1 was below snow line, at camp 2 we would be camping on snow. Using skills honed in the Wilderness Travel Course, I put on my snowshoes and stamped out a tent platform for the tent provided to me by

We had fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese, and lots of tea. Sitting in this dining tent on plastic stools with an assortment of snacks and condiments on a communal table and hydrating on cup after cup of tea brought back good memories of other previous expeditions. I was becoming more thankful of Sefer's plan because the food was much better than I had been planning on feeding myself.

Sefer. I had brought all of my own camping gear except a tent. Another lunch followed by Facebooking (yes, there was internet coverage on the mountain) and packing for summit day killed some time before an early dinner. Due to some weather in the forecast, Ismet decided on a 2:00 a.m. departure time for our summit bid the following morning. I would climb with Jemah and the French snowshoer, and Ismet would accompany the other six skiers up the mountain.



After our wake-up call at 12:50 a.m. and a quick breakfast we started our climb at 2:15 a.m. I decided to start with snowshoes since the slope did not feel that steep and the snow was pretty solid. After about an hour or so, my climbing partner started feeling unwell, so he decided to turn around and go down. Jemah said he would go down as well and that I should just continue up slowly and let the other group catch me. We had been going at a good, steady pace, so there were only two people ahead of us on the hill and Ismet and the skiers were several hundred feet below us. I felt confident I could follow the other group in the dark, and it would get light at 4:30 a.m., being at the far eastern end of the time zone. While the climbing was steeper than I expected, I still felt very comfortable on snow shoes for the first three plus hours of the climb. Sometime after sunrise, I finally got to a steeper section and decided to ditch the snowshoes in favor of an ice axe and crampons. It was cold enough that I wanted to limit my time without gloves on so I didn't look at my watch much or take many pictures. I was also keeping my eye on lenticular clouds that were in a holding pattern over some other peaks in the distance. With this in mind, I made a concerted effort to keep moving to beat any of the forecasted weather.

Climbing Ararat in spring results in a much bigger summit day than doing so in summer. In summer, with much less snow, the high camp is almost 2,000' higher. My summit day would require about 5,500' of gain. As I

kept rest stepping my way up the hill, I wondered if the top would ever come into view. I kept looking back and the French skiers and others on mountain were not catching me, but since there was a well-beaten boot and ski track up the slope, I was not too concerned about finding the top. I could also periodically see the two climbers who had been ahead of me the whole time, and this helped reassure me that I was on the right track.

When the summit came into view, I finally had a look at my watch and the time. It was 8:30 a.m. This and what I thought was my altitude (16,100') gave me hope that I could make the summit before those lenticular clouds dropped on top of the mountain. I guessed it would take me an hour to reach the summit.

As I approached the summit plateau about a half hour later, the wind started picking up, and clouds started to roll in. They were not the lenticular clouds that I had been worrying about all morning. Looking over my shoulder downhill, I was surprised to see these clouds coming up from the bottom like they were being drawn up a col and over the summit plateau. I pushed on. Within a few more minutes I reached the edge of the summit plateau. The wind now was coming at me hard, and visibility was dropping precipitously. I had seen one of the two guys in front of me on the summit a little earlier but now he and the top were completely obscured by the incoming storm.

I knew I only had 200 meters to climb from the plateau to the summit but I had to find the right route in the deteriorating conditions. I could see crampon marks in the snow and ice so I started to follow these marks in a direct line toward the top. It was obvious now that constant wind had scoured the summit dome to almost pure ice, but it wasn't super steep, so I went a little farther.

After I climbed a little more, the wind was now howling at me, rime ice was sticking on my clothes, and visibility was maybe thirty feet. I stopped to consider my situation. I was reminded of the admonishment given to me by Ismet the previous evening. She said that finding your way off the plateau can be difficult in bad weather and that two Italians had died a few years earlier, when they got disoriented in bad weather near the top.

Even though my points were sticking in the ice and thin snow, I was not so sure how well a self-arrest would go if I were knocked down in the wind on this hard ice. I would also end up on the wrong side of the mountain. This coupled with the fact that I was all alone and had to get myself down in a near whiteout led me to decide pretty quickly that it was time to turn around. I was about one hundred meters below the summit.



With just enough visibility that I could follow crampon marks back down the way I had come up, I made it off the icy plateau to better snow. The wind was still strong but improving slightly as I started my descent. I passed a few other climbers lower down who were still heading up and advised them of the conditions. I managed to follow the boot tracks down in the flat light until I reached Jemah, who had come back up the mountain to help guide the French skiers and to look for me. Once or twice in the first hour of the descent, the clouds would part, and I was tempted to go back up and give it another try, but the thought of re-climbing all that lost ground and the likelihood that it was still stormy higher up brought me to my senses.

The rest of the descent was rather enjoyable once I got below the weather. I made my way back to where I left my snowshoes and decided I would try to glissade the last few thousand feet to camp from there. This made for a fun and speedy descent, and I was back at camp at about 11:40 a.m. The skiers had turned around somewhere below me and enjoyed some high altitude turns before beating me back to camp. I joined them in the dining tent for a quick lunch before the horses arrived to carry all our gear back to the trailhead. After an uneventful hike out, Sefer met me at the trailhead and drove me back to town.

Mt. Ararat had never been high on my priority list before this opportunity came up, so while I was disappointed that I didn't summit, it was an easier pill to swallow than not summiting a few other peaks had been. I felt good about my climbing, how well I handled the altitude, and my decision making near the top. And since I did get to see the whole mountain I can't complain too much about not climbing that last one hundred meters. In the end, Mt. Ararat turned out to be a challenging and rewarding experience.

Some Notes about SPS Peaks in a Day— Onion Valley Trailheads Peaks

By Tina Bowman

Three trails that start in Onion Valley lead toward a number of SPS peaks that can be reasonably hiked in a day. Here's a little background information via an FAQ format.

Where is Onion Valley?

It's on the east side of the Sierra at an elevation of nearly 9200', a nice, high starting point.

How do I get to Onion Valley?

From Highway 395, turn west on Market Street in Independence, a small town about fifteen miles north of Lone Pine. Market Street is just north of the Chevron Station. Onion Valley is just over fourteen miles from Highway 395.

What trails and peaks are accessed from Onion Valley?

The Robinson Lake trail leads south from Onion Valley and gives access to University and Independence Peaks.

The Kearsarge Pass Trail, which heads west, also gives access to University Peak as well as Mt. Gould, Mt. Rixford, and Mt. Bago.

The Golden Trout Lake Trail, heading north, leads one toward Kearsarge Peak and Dragon Peak. Kearsarge may also be climbed in a day by a route that starts a little ways down the Onion Valley Road via old mining trails.

Where can I camp before my hike?

Many people simply sleep beside their cars in the hiker parking lot. A small campground also is in Onion Valley. Also on the Onion Valley road you'll find the Independence Creek Campground, just west of Independence at about 4,000' on the creek, and the Grays Meadows upper and lower campgrounds, also on the creek, at about 6,000' and six miles from Independence.

University and Gould peaks from Dragon Peak (photo by Rudy Fleck).



Leader Contest!

Attention all leaders, how does this sound?

SPS trips with less advance planning, no permit hassles, and a chance to win a PRIZE!

Included in the last issue of the *Echo* is a list of the SPS peaks that can be reasonably done as day hikes. The management committee has approved a contest to encourage leaders to lead day hikes (and SPS trips in general). Gift certificates for climbing stores (i.e., REI, Adventure 16, etc.) will be awarded to the top three leaders who lead the most trips to SPS peaks by October 31, 2014. First-, second-, and third-place awards are \$100, \$50, and \$25 respectively. A qualifying trip must be an official SPS-sponsored or co-sponsored outing with participants. If a bona fide attempt was made, summiting is not required to have your trip included for the contest. Once again, you can't win and gain recognition if you don't sign up to lead trips! Good luck!



Onion Valley Trailheads cont.

If I don't want to cook before the hike or in celebration afterwards, where can I eat?

In Independence you'll find Jenny's Café, a Subway, and the Still Life Café (French cuisine—allow lots of time if you go here—and it's more expensive than the others). In Lone Pine you have lots more options, including the Pizza Factory as well as a number of restaurants.

What else can I do in the area?

In Independence you'll find the Eastern California Museum and some historic houses. Dehy Park at the north end of town has some nice shade and an old locomotive, currently being restored. There's also a small park on the south end of town. South of town is Manzanar, a national historic site which was a Japanese internment camp during WWII.

If I want to backpack, where do I get a permit?

Wilderness permits for overnight trips are available at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center at the south end of Lone Pine. You can reserve a permit here: <http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo>

**Jun 20–22 | Fri–Sun
WTC, SPS**

**I: Coyote Pks (10,892'),
Angora Mtn (10,198'):**

Join us for a backpack deep into Golden Trout Wilderness along the Black Divide. Fri we will start at the trailhead near Junction Meadow, crossing the Kern River and following Deep Creek north, camping a few miles from Angora Mountain (10 mi and 3600' gain). Sat we'll climb Angora and then hike along a spectacular ridge both on and off trail to Coyote Peaks. After enjoying the view, we will take the trail back to camp (12.5 mi and 7000' gain). Sun we will hike out (10 mi and 2000' gain). If you are interested, please send climbing resume and conditioning to Ldr: Kristen Lindbergh. Asst: Ron Campbell.

Jun 28 | Sat SPS

**I: SPS List Finish on
North Pk (12,242'):**

Please join us for Lisa Barboza's planned list finish of the SPS List of 248 peaks. This x-c dayhike (9.5 mi R/T, 2400') is open to all, from beginning to intermediate climbers. Meet at the Saddlebag Lake TH at the foot of the dam. From Hwy 120, near Tioga Pass Resort, turn left on Saddlebag Lake road and drive to the end. Park in the lot. Bring lunch, raingear, and treats to share. Champagne will be served on the summit. Potluck party afterwards at a nearby campground; we will be providing chili, veggies, and firewood. Contact Lisa at Lisa.Barboza@gd-ais.com. Ldr: Daryn Dodge: Co-Ildr: Kathy Rich.

Jun 28–29 | Sat–Sun WTC, SPS

I: Sawtooth Pk (12,343'): Gain a commanding view of Mineral King and the Great Western Divide on this outing to climb Sawtooth Peak. Meet Sat in Mineral King and backpack to lower Monarch Lake, 4 mi and 2600' gain.

Check out the SPS web site for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps>

Also, please check at summitregister.org whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.

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Photo by Hal Browder

Epic and legendary happy hour potluck will ensue. Sun we'll climb Sawtooth Peak x-c by ascending its south ridge and descending its NW ridge to Sawtooth Pass and the trail back to our camp, 4 mi and 2000' gain. Break camp and descend 4 mi back to the trailhead. Send e-mail with resume containing recent experience, contact, and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Co-Ldr: Jeff Atijera.

**Jun 29–Jul 5 | Sun–
Sat SPS**

**I/ M: Day hike peaks
south of Lake Tahoe**

with wild flowers and car camping. Leavitt, Highland, Disaster, Freel, Round Top, Mokelumne, Tallac. Moderate pace with 1 peak per day. Hikes are on trails and cross-country (some brush). 3rd class summit on Round Top, otherwise class 1 or 2 summits. Hikes vary in length 5 to 14 mi round trip. Maximum daily

altitude gain is about 3,500'. Group size is limited by campground availability over this holiday period and by number of 4WD vehicles for access to some trailheads. For reservations contact Ldrs: Larry and Barbee Tidball.

Jul 11–13 | Fri–Sun WTC, SPS

I: Pilot Knob (12,245'): Come join us for a fun outing in the Humphreys Basin west of North Lake in the eastern Sierra. The trip will begin on Fri at the Bishop Pack Station near North Lk (9345') with a backpack over Piute Pass to the Lower Desolation Lake area (approx. 8 mi, 1855' gain). Sat we will travel cross-country east through the Humphreys Basin to Pilot Knob and return to camp for a fun happy hour (approx. 8 mi round trip, 1,050' gain/loss). Pack out on Sun. Send e-mail and hiking/backpacking resume to Co-Ildr: Wayne Vollaire, Linda Robb.

Jul 11–13 | Sat–Sun WTC, SPS

I: Giraud Pk (12,608'), Mt. Goode (13,085'): Join us for a trip over Bishop Pass to camp in beautiful Dusy Basin and climb a remote and seldom climbed peak (Giraud) along with an old staple (Goode). Fri backpack from South Lk over Bishop Pass and into the Dusy Basin, 7.5 mi, 2600' gain. Sat climb Giraud, 6 mi rt, 2500' gain. Sun, break camp and pack back over Bishop Pass and

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down to the trailhead, 7.5 mi, 800' gain. If time allows, we will climb Mt Goode while in-route, 4 mi r/t, 2000' gain. Please send e-mail with resume containing recent experience, phone, e-mail, and rideshare info to Ldr: Kristen Lindbergh and Asst: Neal Robbins.

Jul 25-27 | Fri-Sun SPS

M-R: Mt Russell (14,088'), Mt Tunnabora (13,563'), Mt Carillon (13,573'): Restricted mountaineering trip for Sierra Club members. Fri backpack from Whitney Portal to camp at Upper Boy Scout Lk (2.5 mi, 3000'). Sat we'll climb the south slopes up to the Russell-Carillon plateau and climb Russell by the 3rd class and exposed east ridge. We'll then descend the east ridge and head to Tunnabora and Carillon before descending back to camp (6 mi, 4000'). Helmets, medical form and recent 3rd class or higher rock experience required. Send e-mail with resume of recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Joe Speigl. Co-Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson.

Jul 26-27 | Sat-Sun SPS

E-R: Mt Humphreys (13,986'): Climb an emblem peak and the highest peak visible from the Bishop area. Sat backpack from North Lk trailhead over Piute Pass to the uppermost Humphreys Lk, 7 mi and 2600' gain. Sun we will get an alpine start up the SW slope and NW face to Mt Humphreys, 3 mi rt and 2100' gain. Return to camp and pack out. Participants must have 4th class roped climbing experience and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Jack Kieffer. Asst: Tina Bowman.

Aug 3 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation 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 e-mail or sase, navigation experience/training, rideshare info, contact info, any WTC, leader rating to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler.

Aug 7-10 | Fri-Sun SPS

E-R: Mt Goddard (13,568'), The Hermit (12,328'): Strenuous outing into the Evolution area of the central Sierra to climb a pair of the most remote emblem and mountaineers peaks in the range, Mt Goddard and The Hermit. On Thur we'll pack from North Lk over Lamarck Col and through the upper Evolution basin to reach Wanda Lk, 12 mi, 4600' gain with much x-c. On Fri we'll climb Mt Goddard following the 3rd class Starr's Route, 6 mi and 2800' gain. On Sat we'll climb The Hermit, which is mainly 2nd class but with a 4-5th class summit block, 7 mi, 1800' gain. Sun we'll reverse the backpack, 12 mi, 2800' gain. Participants must be

in excellent condition, have alpine roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or sase with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Matt Hengst.

Aug 8-10 | Fri-Sun SPS

M-R: Fin Dome (11,693'), Painted Lady (12,126'), Mt Rixford (12,887'): 27 mi rt, 10,000' gain. "Enjoy" a weekend of strenuous hiking and class 3 scrambling in the High Sierra backcountry. Fri: start early at Onion Valley and hike over both Kearsarge and Glenn passes to Rae Lks area (10 mi, 4000'). Sat: climb Fin Dome and Painted Lady (7 miles, 3600'). Sun: drop packs at Glenn

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Pass and take the West Ridge to Rixford, then back to the pass and out to the trailhead (10 mi, 2500'). Participants must be comfortable on third class terrain and have good conditioning. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Send e-mail with experience and conditioning to Ldrs: Regge Bulman and Monica Suua.

Aug 15–17 | Fri–Sun WTC, SPS

I: Clouddripper (13,525'): Join us on this adventurous backpack in the John Muir Wilderness with views of the Palisades Glacier, stunning alpine lakes, and a fun climb of Clouddripper—the highest peak in the Inconceivable Range of the Palisades with a superb payoff—views of several peaks including Mt. Sill, North Pal, Mt. Agassiz, Goode, Humphreys, and many more. Fri begin backpacking from the North Fk of Big Pine Crk (at Glacier Lodge) to camp at 5th Lake (6 mi 3200' gain on trail). Sat hike 2.8 mi, 2800' gain all x–c to climb Clouddripper and then return to camp for our legendary Happy Hour. Sun pack out, and return home. This exciting trip is especially designed for fit WTC students and will count as an experience trip. The gain and elevation make this trip a challenge, good conditioning is a must, but we are

taking our time over three days to enjoy the stunning vistas all along the way. Pace will be WTC moderate. Permit limits group size. This is a WTC outing co-sponsored by SPS. Send e-mail with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info along with WTC Group (if any) & leaders' names to Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-Ldr: Sridhar Gullapalli. \$7 permit fee.

Aug 15–17 | Fri–Sun WTC, SPS

M–R: Mt LeConte (13,960'), Mt Corcoran (13,760'): Climb the East Arête of iconic namesake Mt LeConte and Mt Corcoran, both prominent points on the awesome Comb Ridge. We'll have spectacular views of Mt Whitney. too. Fri hike to Meysan Lk from Whitney Portal (5.5mi, 4100'). Sat pre-sunrise departure to climb Mt LeConte via Mallory–LeConte plateau to Class 3 East Arete (~1mi, 2600ft). From Mt LeConte optional Class 3 traverse of SW facing side of Comb Ridge to Mt Corcoran (<1mi) via SW facing traverse route. Return to camp via Mt LeConte, Mallory–LeConte plateau, and main chute to Meysan Lk. Sun leisurely departure and hike to cars via Meysan Lk trail. Required gear: climbing helmet, harness, ATC, Prusik. Fri/Sat Happy Hours. Send alpine climbing resume to philipabates@gmail.com Ldr: Phil Bates. Asst Ldrs: Peter Lara, Sandy Lara.

Call for Outings

In another article in this issue, the question is asked: What does the Outings Chair do?

Unfortunately, lately the answer is, "Not much." We have a really light schedule so far this year. It's not too late to get trips together and published. With the digital schedule, the long lead times of days past are no longer needed. Many of our peaks can be dayhiked, so permits for those are not an issue.

If you haven't led a trip for a while, please give it some consideration. There's a lot of satisfaction in introducing a newcomer to the Range of Light. If you are not a rated leader, get a rating. It's what we do.

Any questions about leading a trip should be addressed to gary@hbfun.org

Thanks for leading for SPS!

-Gary Schenk

Aug 15–17 | Fri–Sun SPS

M: Mt Harrington (11,009') and Kennedy Mtn (11,433'): Backpack to Frypan Meadows in Kings Cyn via Lewis Cr and set up camp. Then, depending on the interests of the group, climb Kennedy Mountain (total 7000' of gain and 14.5 mi). Sat climb Mt Harrington via 3rd cl North Ridge route (3100' gain and 6.2 mi rt). Sun morning hike out. Send e-mail and resume detailing experience, conditioning, and rideshare info to: Ldr: Alexander Smirnoff. Co-Ldr: Beth Epstein.

Aug 16–17 | Sat–Sun SPS, WTC

I: Cirque Pk (12,900'): Gourmet Backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend XI. Sat backpack 4 mi, 1300' via Cottonwood Pass to Chicken Springs Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 2.5 mi, 1700' gain to Cirque. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning, and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Assts: Ed Cottone, Georgette Rieck, Lisa Buckley.

Aug 20–24 | Wed–Sun SPS

E–R: Mt Brewer (13,570'), North Guard (13,327'), South Guard (13,232'), Mt Jordan (13,320'), Mt Geneva (13,054'): Strenuous outing into the remote Great Western Divide to climb Mt Brewer, an emblem peak along with other interesting peaks as time and stamina allow. Wed backpack from Roads End to Reflection Lk, 13.5 mi, 5500' gain. Thu climb South Guard, Brewer, and North Guard, 9.5 mi, 6300' all x–c. Fri climb Geneva and Jordan, 5.5 mi, 3700' all x–c. Sat

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pick up what we missed or Mt Francis Farquhar. Sun pack out 13.5 miles. Totals for the outing are 42 mi, 15,500' gain. Participants must be in excellent condition, have alpine 4th class roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or sase with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Jack Keiffer.

Aug 21–24 | Thu–Sun SPS

I: Mt Brewer (13570'), South Guard (13,232'): Moderately strenuous backpack to climb a great emblem peak (Mt. Brewer) and its lofty neighbor to the south. Thu pack in from Roads End to Sphinx Creek Lake at 10,520' (10 mi, 5,500' gain). Fri climb Brewer and South Guard (if time allows both) (9.5 mi, 4,000' gain). Sat explore other class 2 peaks (or South Guard). Sun pack out. Total for trip is 30 mi, 9,500' gain. Participants must be in excellent condition and be comfortable on class 2 terrain. Send e-mail or SASE with recent experience to Ldr: Jim S. Fleming. Co-Ldr: Tina Bowman.

Aug 22–25 | Fri–Mon WTC, SPS

MR: Arrow Peak (12,959'), Mt. Ruskin (12,920'): Join us on this very strenuous 4-day backpack into Kings Canyon National Park in quest of a couple of classic SPS Mountaineer's Peaks. Fri we'll pack in over the dreaded Taboose Pass (6.3 mi, 6,000' gain) and descend (2.8 mi, 780' loss) to our camp at 10,850'. Sat we'll travel west, passing lovely Bench Lake, and follow the NE Spur route to the summit of Arrow Peak, which involves cl 3 climbing along an airy and exposed ridge with breathtaking drop-offs and includes narrow knife edges near its top. We'll return to camp via the same route for a festive Happy Hour (8.2 mi and 3,400' gain, including 700' on return). Sun we'll go north along the John Muir Trail and then head off to the west to gain the E ridge of Mt Ruskin via its southeast flank. Expect more solid cl 3 climbing with lots of exposure and outstanding scenery. From the summit we'll retrace our steps for another festive Happy Hour via the same (8.4 mi and 3,500' gain, including 800' on return). Mon we'll pack out the way we came in; if interest and the group's energy permit, we'll consider an optional side trip (2.9 mi RT, 1,900' gain) at Taboose Pass to climb Cardinal Mtn (13,397') via its cl 2 County Line route. Must be a current Sierra Club member in excellent condition and be comfortable at high elevation on exposed 3rd class rock. Sierra Club "Medical Form" required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use required. Permit severely restricts group size and permit fee (\$36) will be split among the group. E-mail Sierra Club number, contact info, climbing resume, recent experience and conditioning, and carpool info to Mat Kelliher for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-Ldr: Beth Epstein.

SPS Management Committee Contacts

Chair: Alexander Smirnoff chair@sierrapeaks.org

Vice Chair: Rudy Fleck vicechair@sierrapeaks.org

Secretary: Jim Fleming secretary@sierrapeaks.org

Treasurer: Michael Gosnell treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

Outreach: Tohru Ohnuki outreach@sierrapeaks.org

Outings: Gary Schenk gary@hbfun.org

Archives: Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com

Webmasters: Kathy Rich webmaster@sierrapeaks.org

Matt Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Sep 4–6 | Thu–Sat WTC, SPS

I: Dicks Pk (9974'), Mt Tallac (9735'), Freel Pk (10,881'): Ever wonder what it's like north of Yosemite? Here's an opportunity to explore peaks in the Desolation Wilderness SW of Lake Tahoe. Thu we'll pack into Gilmore Lk via the Glen Alpine Trail (5 mi, 1800' gain), make camp, and climb Dick's Pk (5 mi, 1600'). Fri we'll climb Mt. Tallac (4 mi, 1400') then pack out (5 mi). Fri night we'll car camp at the Armstrong Pass Trailhead before day hiking Freel Pk on Sat (11 mi, 2800'). Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact and carpool info to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Asst: Sandy Lara.

Sep 5–7 | Fri–Sun SPS

I: Eastern Sierra Sojourn: Leisurely hikes to three peaks near Mammoth Lakes. 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 Sherwin Creek Campground (7600'). On Sat, two peaks on opposite sides of the Mammoth Scenic Loop: Earthquake Dome (9350'), 4 mi rt with 700' gain partly x-c; then Dry Creek Knoll (8842'), 3 mi rt, 500' gain partly x-c. Good panoramas on both peaks. On Sun, drive on paved and forest roads east of U.S. 395 to climb Gilbert Peak (8566'), 5 mi rt, 700' gain about half x-c. Other Explorer Emblem peaks nearby for independent consideration. Co-Ldrs: Larry and Barbee Tidball. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones and e-mail address to Reservationist: Jerry Keating.

Sep 21 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation 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 Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler.

Nov 1 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many

OUTINGS

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 Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Nov 15 | Sat LTC, WTC

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 e-mail/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

Nov 15-16 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle:

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 e-mail/sase, contact info, navigation

experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the [Leaders Reference Book](#) for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Nov 15-16 | Sat-Sun LTC

M/E-R: Rock: Indian Cove Checkout, Joshua Tree

National Park: M- and E-level rock practice and checkout for LTC leadership candidates. Practice Sat, checkout Sun. Restricted to Sierra Club members with technical rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. E-mail climbing resume to Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Dan Richter.

Dec 7 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

The Job of an Outings Chair

By Gary Schenk

One might ask, "What is the job of a section outings chair?" The answer is simple: to crush the hopes and dreams of Angeles Chapter leaders while wielding an Iron Fist of Doom.

OK, not really.

The outings chair has the job of enforcing both Angeles Chapter and National rules pertaining to the outings program. With the SPS this puts particular emphasis on mountaineering trips. The return of mountaineering outings a few years ago brought new conditions and restrictions on the nature of our outings.

No doubt about it, mountaineering is the heart of the Sierra Club. The list of early club presidents reads like a who's who of mountaineering: John Muir, Joseph LeConte, William Colby, Duncan McDuffie, Francis Farhquar, Bestor Robinson, Lewis Clark, and Richard Leonard, to name a few.

We are all beneficiaries of this past, and it is up to us to maintain this tradition as best we can in order to pass it on to those who follow. The outings chair helps here, acting as the liaison between trip leaders and the chapter and national oversight committees.

When a trip is submitted for publication, the chair first checks that the leaders are up to date on all certifications. Is the trip properly rated? Are the leaders properly rated for the trip? Are there any

potential issues with the route or timing of the trip? If a restricted trip, is the application ready for submission to the Mountaineering Oversight Committee?

Once trips are approved, the next responsibility of the chair is publication of the trip. The demise of the old Angeles Chapter *Schedule of Activities* is unfortunate, but here OARS has made the outings chair's job immensely easier. No more week-long editing of trip write-ups; instead, trips are posted as they are approved. This also eliminates the long lead time once required and gives leaders more flexibility in planning trips.

After the trip, the outings chair is responsible for archiving sign-in sheets, or in the case of restricted trips, sending the original of the waivers to the national office.

The most important facet of the job, though, is helping leaders, in whatever way possible, put together trips to the Range of Light. A good outings chair will work to solicit new outings and new leaders. The chair will suggest possible provisional trips, help connect leaders with assistant leaders, and answer any questions about planning and conducting trips. Sometimes the Sierra Club red tape can be daunting, and the outings chair can assist here as well.

Any leader who has a question about outings or any section member who has questions about becoming a leader is encouraged to contact me at gary@hbfun.org.

We all have the same goal: forever climbing the Range of Light.

OUTINGS

I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle:

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send e-mail/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the [Leaders Reference Book](#) for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this e-mail address (newsletter@sierrapeaks.org) for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or e-mail versions.



Wilderness Permit Info

In addition to the permit information described below, most reservations for the Inyo National Forest and the Desolation Wilderness up to 48 hours in advance of entry can be handled at <http://recreation.gov>

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo
Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, Lone Pine, CA
(760) 876-6200

White Mountain Ranger Station, Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2500

Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 924-5500

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining, CA 93541
(760) 647-304

KERN PLATEAU

Web site: www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia

Cannell Meadow Ranger District
105 Whitney Road
P.O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
Phone: 760/376-3781 fax:
760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265
Phone: (559) 539-2607

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Web site: www.nps.gov/yose
Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance on-line or by writing to
Yosemite Association
PO Box 545
Yosemite, CA 95389

By phone: reservations for summer trips are accepted by calling (209) 372-0740.

Obtain your free permit from the Wilderness Permit Station nearest your departure trailhead. Call (209) 372-0200 for permit station locations.

If entering park from Cherry Lake in the Stanislaus National Forest to

Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite, you must get your permit from the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Station on Highway 120 in Groveland. Call (209) 962-7825. If entering the park from Chiquito Pass in Sierra National Forest, permits for the whole trip must be obtained from the forest Service in North Fork. Call (559) 877-2218

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: www.nps.gov/seki
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA. 93271-9599
Phone (559) 565-3766 for permit & trail info. Fax (559) 565-4239

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra
Ansel Adams Wilderness—North Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
Phone: (559) 887-2218

Ansel Adams Wilderness—South John Muir, Kaiser and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses
Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District
29688 Auberry Road
Prather, CA 93651
Phone: (559) 855-5355



Mystery Peak Challenge!



**Photo 4
North**

This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the photo. If you have a fine mystery peak puzzle to challenge *Echo* readers, please send it to tina@bowmandesigngroup.com. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print.

This puzzle is supplied by Shane Smith, our SPS Eastern Sierra Rep.



**Photo 5
Northeast**



**Photo 3
Northwest**

This Mystery Peak Challenge:

You are standing on a Mountaineers peak. Visible in the 5 photos are North Pal, University, Brewer, Whitney, Split and Black Kaweah.



**Photo 2
Southwest**



**Photo 1
Southeast**

Check out the SPS web site if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there!

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

Photos courtesy of Bob Burd. www.snburd.com

SPS Income Statement

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012
INCOME											
Echo Subscriptions	1,330	1,250	670	290	90	20	20	20	10	10	1,850
Banquet Income	2,940	4,610	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,800
Donations	410	495	150	80	15	0	0	0	0	0	325
Merchandise Sales	27	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	4,707	6,477	820	370	105	20	20	20	10	10	5,014
EXPENSES											
Postage	(4)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	609
Printing	898	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	578
Merchandise	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raffle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banquet Expenses	4,206	5,640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,216
Bank Fees	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Website	0	268	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	5,103	6,703	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,821
OVERALL TOTAL	(396)	(226)	820	370	105	20	20	20	10	10	193

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST
 By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

M, L & XL in Sand & Ash
 \$12 plus \$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

Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting, 5/19/14

Meeting was held on Skype. Hosted by Dan Richter. Attendance: Alexander Smirnoff (Chair), Rudy Fleck (Vice Chair/Banquet), Jim S. Fleming (Secretary), Michael Gosnell (Treasurer), Tohru Ohnuki (Outreach/Membership), Greg Mason (IT Coordinator), Tina Bowman (*Echo* Editor), and Dan Richter (Archivist). Kathy Rich (Web Master) sent report by e-mail prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chair Alex S.

1. Committee Reports

- a. Approval of Minutes--the minutes of February 27th, 2014, were approved earlier via e-mail.
- b. Chair--Alex gave an update on the unpaid members. Sixty people have yet to pay for 2013/2014. Of these, about twenty have responded (according to Michael Gosnell).
- c. Vice Chair--Rudy
 - i. The leader potluck/Skype trip-planning meeting is still in work (concept e-mail sent to the Chair).
 - ii. Banquet Committee update—it was decided that the committee will need to have a face-to-face meeting. Alex and Rudy to discuss this and how to set up the committee.
 - iii. Banquet speaker—many ideas were discussed, among them to look at the history of the section through the years by era, having someone from each period give

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 e-mail at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com. Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The *Echo* will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS web site and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.



a short speech. Invite Bob Cates and others (Jerry Keating, Barbara Lilley, Gordon Macleod) to participate. Other ideas in work as well (having a keynote speaker, for example).

d. Outings—Gary Schenk (not at the meeting). The list of SPS peaks that can be done as day hikes has been posted on the website and also the latest issue of the *Echo*. Next step is to encourage leaders to submit trips for day hikes. Tohru is to draft an e-mail to go to Greg, which will be sent to all SPS leaders. This will announce the plan of a contest for the leaders who participate to win prizes for leading the day hike trips.

e. Treasurer—Michael—we have a bank balance of \$9,111.83

f. Emblem Committee—Kathy

- i. Shane Smith has joined this committee.
- ii. A motion to name the new Explorer Emblem for Andy Smatko was unanimously approved by the management committee. It will be called the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem.

g. Outreach—Tohru

- i. New member report (no report).
- ii. Comments on outreach meeting—all reviewed the minutes produced by Tohru and Alex on their meeting of 03/13/14. Many great ideas were discussed at that meeting to help the section reach out to new members and allow it to be a viable entity for many years to come. It was agreed that Tohru should talk to Matt Hengst about upgrading our website and possibly set up a wiki account. Alex will talk to Neal Robbins and ask him to lead more trips and perhaps the day hike trips. Tohru wanted to explore new ways to get AMP graduates and WTC students more involved in the section and leaders to lead more trips and will consult with Dan Richter.

h. Archivist—Dan is planning to go to the UCLA facility in the next week with Bob Cates to drop off some items, including a box of the *Sierra Echo* newsletters and items from Andy Smatko.

i. *Sierra Echo*

- i. Tina reminded all that the deadline for the next issue is May 25th (Sunday).

- ii. Digitizing the *Echo* archives--Beth Epstein would like to do this. The question arose as to how many issues are to be done. Tina checked and found that the list includes the current issue back to 2004, with some gaps. Tina will investigate this further and report to Alex. Dan Richter will discuss with Bob Cates to see what help he can give to digitize the *Echoes*. Alex will talk to Beth about how to proceed.

j. Mountain Records—Harry Langenbacher not present (no report).

k. IT Improvements—Greg (No report).

l. Web site Updates—Kathy (not present) sent an e-mail report to the committee.

2. New Business (nothing discussed).

3. Old Business (none to report)

- a. Policy and Procedure changes--Remove inactive status and make all voting members (except those who only are *Echo* subscribers)--discussion of whether we

need approval of the membership to enact this. No action taken.

b. Membership related—Add leadership rating to membership roster—no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Alexander Smirnoff at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim S. Fleming
SPS Secretary 2014

Management Committee Outreach Meeting Minutes

Tohru Ohnuki and Alexander Smirnoff met on 3/13/14 from 7:30 to 9:00 at Philippe's to discuss the outreach program for SPS. We also discussed how to keep the section viable for the next sixty years. This year we hope to lay some groundwork that future management committees can further advance to grow the club. As the average age in the club increases and fewer new members join the club, outreach becomes critical to keeping the club viable. This is a working document.

We found the following realities:

- Diversity—We discussed the lack of diversity (both age and race) in the Sierra Club generally but couldn't identify anything specific that could be done. One thing to do is mark it as a problem and encourage members to work towards solutions.
- Competition—SPS has competition from various resources that did not exist even ten years ago (i.e., Meetup). Getting people's attention is harder and harder to do.
- Getting permits for trips is a lot harder to do today.

The main questions we have to answer before we can market the club are as follows:

- What makes SPS better?
- What is the product of SPS?

When people pay the subscription fees for the section, they are supporting the *Echo* newsletters. But is there something else that they are getting? Is it enough to attract members in today's environment?

- Guaranteed access to rated leaders and (there are many horror stories on other sites like Meetup)
- Access to expert instruction without the outlay of large sums of money
- Depth of history in SPS (somehow we need to market this)

- Offer higher altitude/snow trips—experience that will get participants ready for bigger peaks.

Goals for the year:

- Write and agree upon a mission statement for SPS; without it the rest can't follow. Something like "The SPS encourages and provides resources for the exploration of the High Sierra to further the Sierra Club's goal of creating a public value for preserving the natural environment."
- Web site development. We believe the web site is outdated and not easily navigable. We have ten seconds to keep a potential member's attention before we lose him/her. The **mission statement** needs to be on the website. Very quickly we need to tell the viewer what we do and what we are about and explain how we differentiate ourselves from other clubs.
- We believe that we don't do enough to recognize list finishers. Two ideas Tohru had were presenting a piece of granite engraved with the list finisher's name at the banquet and making a plaque listing all the finishers and hanging it at a place like Harwood lodge.
- Work with Dan Richter to recruit graduates from AMP to SPS. AMP-trained people seem like a natural fit for SPS.
- One thing that seems to discourage Sierra trips by leaders is the difficulty of procuring permits. Maybe try a system whereby permits are secured by SPS volunteers in advance for 2—3 SPS trips and then leaders may get a chance to lead the trips. This would be one attraction to joining SPS—you can have a better shot at permits. This will be a pilot program to see if getting permits for the leaders will encourage them to lead the trips.
- Discuss/work with Tina to get standardized trip packets that leaders can submit. The paperwork for the Sierra Club trips is a hassle, and perhaps leaders need to be helped to book trips. Maybe this can be part of the "service" of SPS.
- Need to have a standard set of trip "route beta" to SPS peaks a la the DPS, HPS. There are old trip reports, but few that are descriptive enough to lead a trip from.



The Sierra Echo

Volume 58 ▲ Number 3 ▲ July-September 2014

The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter.

Publication dates are Mar 15, Jun 15, Sept 15, and Dec 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word (preferred), WordPerfect, e-mail (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 e-mailed to tina@bowmandesigngroup.com**

Deadline for all submissions is three (3) weeks prior to the publication date, i.e., Feb 22, May 25, Aug 25, and Nov 24.

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Subscriptions \$10 per year, due by April 30. Subscribing to the *Echo* is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section is \$25.00, which includes the \$10.00 subscription and a \$15.00 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the section treasurer, Michael Gosnell, 2505 Dapplegray Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; include your Sierra Club number. New applications received after Oct 1 are credited

to the following year. Only one *Echo* subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or SPS are not tax deductible.

Advertising Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates: \$1 for the first four lines and \$1 each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements are \$1 per line or \$25 for half-page space. Send copy and check to the *Echo* Editor, payable to SPS.

Address Changes Send to the treasurer Michael Gosnell: e-mail treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be obtained by sending \$1 and a SASE to the section treasurer, Michael Gosnell.

Missing Issues Inquires regarding missing issues should be directed to the section mailer at: newsletter@sierrapeaks.org.

Awards Send notification to Secretary Jim Fleming: e-mail secretary@sierrapeaks.org Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline at 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga, CA 90290 and include emblem pins (\$15) and SPS section patches (\$5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

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Sierra Peaks Section
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