



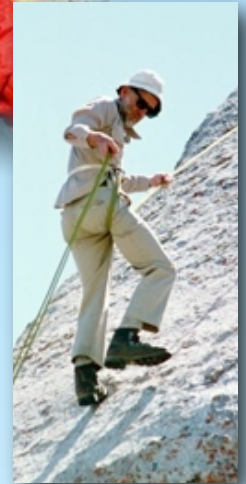
The Sierra Echo

Volume 59 ▲ Number I ▲ January-March 2015

In 2015 the Sierra Peaks Section celebrates its 60th Anniversary

*The SPS
enters its*

7th DECADE



*Doug Mantle
finishes the
SPS list
for the*

7th time





Echoes from the Chair

By Alexander Smirnoff

Hello all! This will probably be my last column from the chair as the year is almost over and we will have a new Management Committee next year. Although we didn't accomplish all the goals we set out to do at the beginning of the year, I hope we at least started thinking about how we can keep the club viable for the next sixty years and beyond.

I think the SPS is a great club and has a lot of potential for the future. It is the only club that I can think of that can take participants who don't have a lot of experience up the world class peaks in the Sierras on rock or in snow. These participants have the added comfort of knowing that the leaders in the SPS have safety skills and knowledge to manage the groups to attain maximum enjoyment. I hope the AMP graduates migrate into the SPS and take an active role in mentoring younger new participants so that they can gain the interest and the skills necessary to become future leaders in the SPS. Good luck to next year's management committee in coming up with new ideas to reach out to the climbing community and continue to grow.

Speaking of growth in the membership, I'm happy to report that 2014 was a nice year for adding new participants! We have added fourteen new members in 2014, more than in 2013 and 2012 combined! (We had eight and two new members in 2013 and 2012 respectively.) It's nice that the word about SPS is getting out! I'm also happy to report that SPS had eight more trips (sponsored and co-sponsored) in 2014 vs. 2013 (twenty-nine vs. twenty-one in 2014 vs. 2013 respectively). Many thanks, leaders for leading! And we had three trips led on the new day-hike program. It was not a lot, but perhaps we can improve on that next year!

And finally another cap to a great year, we have a number of accomplishments! We have three new emblem holders: Dave Chapman (emblem), Paul Garry (master emblem) and Neal Robbins (senior and geographic emblem). A special congrats to Bob Wyka for finishing the SPS list on September 13th on Muah and Nile Sorenson on October 11th on Clouds Rest! And we can never give Doug Mantle enough congrats for his almost routine SPS list finish pursuits now in its seventh iteration! Thanks for participating and achieving goals everyone!!

The banquet committee is hard at work setting up the banquet in January 2015. The legendary Doug Mantle will be the speaker for the sixtieth anniversary of the SPS. I hope to see many of you at the historical event that will take place on January 25th!

-Alexander Smirnoff (chair@sierrapeaks.org)

In this issue:

Chair's Column	Page 2
Banquet Announcement	Page 3
Member News	Page 4-5
Trail Tech	Page 6-8
Muir Centennial	Pages 8
60th Anniversary	
Bear Saga	Page 9
Meixner Journal	Pages 10-12
Trip Reports	
Gabb, Bear Creek Spire, Julius Caesar	Page 13-14
Kern Peak	Pages 15-16
Northern Sierra Peaks	Pages 17-18
Eastern Sierra Sojourn	Pages 19-20
Cirque Gourmet Backpack	Page 21
Marmolejo, Chile	Pages 22-24
Seven Volcanoes	Page 25
Outings	Pages 26-29
Leader Contacts	Page 26
Wilderness Permits	Page 28
SPS Minutes	Page 30
SPS Treasurer's Report	Page 30
Mystery Peak Challenge	Page 31

Cover photos, clockwise from bottom: Doug Mantle on Clouds Rest, October 11, 2014 (by Tina Bowman); Doug's pin (by Mary MacMannes); four founding SPS members on San Gorgonio May 20, 1956, from left: Miles Brubacher, John Robinson, Frank Sanborn, Bud Bingham (lower seated figure unidentified) (John Robinson collection); Barbara Reber, Bob Pohl, Cuno Ranschau, Ron Bartell on Mt. McGee, August 8, 1976; Roy Magnuson rappelling off Paiute Monument, April 22, 1978 (photos by Ron Bartell).



2015
Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, January 25th, 2015
Almanson Court
700 S. Almanson St.
Alhambra 91810
626-570-4600
5:30 Social Hour, 7:00 Dinner

Join us at the annual SPS banquet and celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the SPS. Enjoy a fine meal and an evening of meeting and greeting people who have been hearing the good tidings of



the Sierra Nevada that John Muir spoke of so many years ago and are still inspiring us today. Long-time SPS member and mountaineer extraordinaire **Doug Mantle** will host an evening of stories and images, ensuring a convivial and entertaining gathering. Do come to this special event!

Call for photos—digital, print, or slide—for a slide show at the banquet! Please send your submissions to Bob Cates at bob.cates@att.net or 140 Healy Tr, Chatsworth, CA 91311-7026; prints and slides will be scanned and returned (include a sase). Also, please include names, dates, and locations if possible. Your submissions will be great additions to the banquet.

Name _____ E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Number of tickets:

@ \$45 / each =

TOTAL DUE

Entree choice:

(Please indicate total number of each)

Fish

Vegetarian

Beef

Make checks payable to "Sierra Peaks Section"

To order tickets, mail this form and payment to:

Rudy Fleck, SPS Banquet
2013 Ernest Ave.
Redondo Beach, Ca.
90278-1810

— OR —

You may order tickets electronically.

Log on to:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1065422>

(A \$2.57 service fee applies)

Welcome New SPS Members!

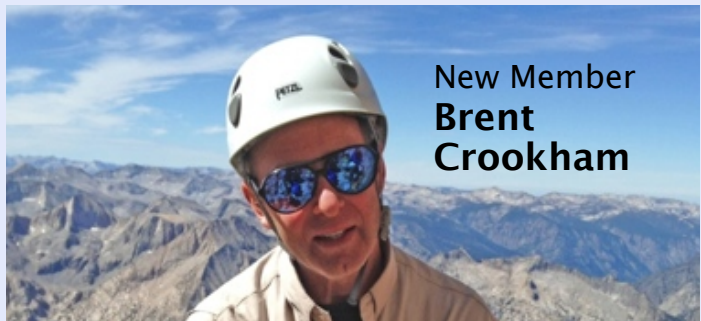
Dave Chapman

enjoys climbing/peakbagging anywhere he can but prefers the Sierra. Liking the 3rd and 4th class peaks and routes best, he is trying to get back into rock climbing and 5th class. He also enjoys snow climbs. He has been active in WTC since 2006 and assists in LBSB Group 3.



Heather Sabin and Joe Lindner

Transplants from Massachusetts and Wisconsin, film archivists Heather Sabin and Joe Lindner had enjoyed local dayhiking for about a decade when Joe decided he'd like to try backpacking. The two began doing some SPS peaks as experience trips in order to graduate WTC (West LA, Paul Garry's group) in 2013. Class 3 climbing is their favorite so far, with no plans as of yet to venture beyond that in difficulty. Heather is particularly interested in learning all the plants and birds, and Joe most enjoys any trip that involves lake-swimming back at camp.



New Member
**Brent
Crookham**

Welcome also to **Tobi Tyler and Howard Steidtmann**, who have climbed with the Mother Lode Chapter, and qualified for membership in October on Mt. Clark.

Welcome New SPS Leaders!

We're pleased to announce that **Jack Kieffer** has earned his E-Rock rating. The SPS is grateful for your mountaineering leadership.



Congratulations to Tohru Ohnuki and Jason Seieroe who have earned their I-ratings!



New Emblem Holders!

Neal Robbins

earned his Senior and Geographic Emblems on September 4th on Mt. Tallac.



Paul Garry

earned his Master Emblem on October 11th on South Guard.

Dave Chapman

(pictured top left) earned his emblem on August 8th on Mt. Goddard.

Congratulations List Finishers!



Doug Mantle
Finishes The List for
the 7th Time on
October 11th on
Clouds Rest

Nile Sorenson
Finishes The List on
October 11th on
Clouds Rest

Doug Mantle is the only person to have completed the SPS List more than twice. Impressive, mighty impressive. But astonishing, amazing, awesome, extraordinary, never to be repeated, seemingly impossible—these words come to mind when one learns that he racked up finish #7 on Clouds Rest this past October 11th. Above: Nile Sorenson and Doug Mantle celebrate their finishes atop Clouds Rest. (Photo by Mary MacMannes)

impossible—these words come to mind when one learns that he racked up finish #7 on Clouds Rest this past October 11th. Above: Nile Sorenson and Doug Mantle celebrate their finishes atop Clouds Rest. (Photo by Mary MacMannes)

Bob Wyka Finishes The List September 13 on Mt. Muah

MINERAL KING AND KERN RIVER			
2.1	Kash-Peak	10198	2
2.2	Angora-Mt	10892	2
2.3	Coyote-Peak	10234	1 5301
2.4	North-Maggie-Mtn	9320	3
2.5	Bossey-Mtn	9023	1 4412
2.6	Hemera-Mtn	11947	1
2.7	Vendover-Mtn	12432	2
2.8	Florence-Peak	12343	2
2.9	Sawtooth-Peak #2	12520	2
2.10	Needham-Mtn	12123	2
OLANCHA TO LANGLEY AND WEST			
3.1	OLANCHA-PEAK	10480	2x3 0122
3.2	Cerro-Cerro	12900	1
3.3	Mt Muah	14026	1
3.4	Glen-Cerro	12300	1
3.5	Mt-Langley	13327	2
3.6	Mt-Guyot	13474	2
3.7	Bob-Dave-Peak	13169	1
3.8	Pickering	13422	1
3.9	Chamberlain	13186	1
		13714	2
		13845	3
		13845	2



Bob Wyka celebrates atop Mt. Muah and crosses off his list. SPS list finishers below the summit (back row, L to R, Don Sparks, Barbara Sholle, Greg Gerlach, Ron Hudson; front row, L to R, Tina Bowman, Larry Tidball, Brian Smith, Bob Wyka, and Daryn Dodge). Photos by Tina Bowman and Barbee Tidball

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 Dave Sholle tells us about a piece of technical equipment that makes his life better in the mountains. How about you? Send your proposal or article to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

Hyperlite Mountain Gear 4400 Series Pack *By Dave Sholle*

I seem to have an affinity for white backpacks: the three main backpacks that I have used since the late 1990's have all been white.

Kelty White Phantom

First was the Kelty White Phantom of 1998, made out of Spectra cloth. In an XL size, its volume is well over 5500 cubic inches and it weighs 4 lbs 2.0 oz on my digital scale. The Spectra fabric is very tough and supposedly had to be cut with a hot knife instead of a sharp knife to construct the pack. The fabric was white, as it was claimed that it could not be dyed. I did find that it could be stained, so I always wondered about the dye remark. Someone ordered the pack through REI and then returned it, and I found it in the used bin for 1/2 price, but still quite expensive. I still have the pack, and despite much abuse and the fact that it has some stains, there are no signs of cuts or abrasions on the fabric. Other than the fact that the various sewn-on webbings and pockets would catch on something, it could probably be used as a haul bag. I used it for many Sierra



Above: Dave Sholle using his Hyperlite Porter on his John Muir Trail hike with Barbara, summer 2014. (Photo by Barbara Sholle) Page 7: Barbara Sholle with her matching pack on the John Muir Trail. (Photo by Dave Sholle)

backpacks, and it was a great pack for hauling large loads.

Kelty Cloud 6500

My next white pack was a Kelty Cloud 6500, which I probably purchased in 2001 or 2002, as I have photos of me wearing it on a Baffin Island backpack in 2002. It is white with red webbing and is also made of Spectra fabric. It is even larger than the White Phantom, at 6500 cubic inches, and it is modular, so that side pockets, the top cover pocket, the padded shoulder straps and the padded hip belt can all be removed, leaving a 1 lb 4 oz massive main bag that can be worn with a simple webbing belt and webbing straps for a lightweight summit push. On my digital scale the pack with all features attached weighs 4 lbs 3.7 oz. I remember buying the pack marked down at Outdoor Outlet (no longer there) in St. George, Utah. I used the pack for carrying large loads on two Alaska backpacks in 2010 and 2011 and for Sierra trips, and I still have it.

The two Kelty packs were probably the best choice in terms of light weight and durability for carrying heavy loads reasonably comfortably, if you can consider carrying a 60+ pound load even remotely comfortable. I decided after the 2011 Alaska backpack that I no longer wanted to carry really heavy loads. (Actually you can replace "wanted to" with "could.") I started searching for a slightly smaller backpack that would weigh even less and that could carry a moderate load in reasonable comfort. Many of you know that a revolution has taken place in backpacking gear and thought with the ultralight movement, but I feel that at the extreme lightweight end of the ultralight movement, the gear may not be rugged enough for my uses. In addition, some of the extremely lightweight backpacks are not very comfortable for hauling anything other than a very lightweight load. Therefore, I was looking for a backpack that was a compromise between the ultralight packs and earlier and heavier mountaineering load haulers.

Hyperlite Mountain Gear 4400 Series Packs

I feel that the best compromise backpack between those two extremes is the Hyperlite Mountain Gear (HMG) 4400 Series packs (4400 cubic inches or seventy liters): <http://www.hyperlitemountaingear.com/ultralight-packs/4400-series-ultralight-packs.html>

These packs are made of Cuben fabric, which is now widely used in lightweight backpacks, stuff sacks, and tarp tents, as well as tough, ocean-going sails for high tech sailboats. The fabric can be manufactured in various thicknesses, weights, strengths and colors. HMG uses white Cuben fabric; hence I now have another white backpack.



The specific model that I purchased was the 4400 Porter Pack: <http://www.hyperlitemountaingear.com/ultralight-packs/4400-series-ultralight-packs/4400-porter.html>

The Porter Pack has a simple roll-top closure (dry-bag style), with padded belt and shoulder straps and daisy chains to attach things. It has two small zippered pockets as part of the hip belt. In addition, I purchased a Porter Stuff Pocket: <http://www.hyperlitemountaingear.com/accessories/hmg-porter-stuff-pocket.html>

The stuff pocket is a large mesh grid pocket that attaches to the daisy chains on the back of the pack and is useful for storing a rain jacket and pants, a bottle, and some other things easily accessible on the back of the pack. HMG lists the Stuff Pocket at 4.2 oz, and my digital scale gives a combined weight of 2.0 lbs 6.1 oz for the Porter pack, stuff pocket, and a bottle carrier from Zpacks weighing 0.3 oz. This means that the Porter pack alone is 2 lb 1.6 oz., which I am confident is correct. I bought my pack in March of 2013, and I see that the new 2014 model at the HMG website is listed at 2 lbs 5.6 oz. My guess is that the increase in weight from the 2013 to 2014 model probably comes from using a slightly heavier Cuben fabric, and from additional seam sealing to make the

pack more waterproof. The Cuben fabric itself is waterproof as are the sealed seams, but with the stresses in a pack at various sewn stress points, there could be some leakage at those points. HMG shows the pack being used for pack rafting, without a pack cover. For use in the Sierra, you could probably get by without a pack cover on this pack and be fine, even in most downpours, but I decided to go with a



lightweight pack cover. The lightest I could find was the large Cuben Fiber model from Zpacks.com, at 1.4 oz.

I like having the Porter Stuff Pocket attached to the basic Porter pack, but it might make more sense to buy a 4400 Series model with a mesh or solid pocket on the back, such as the 4400 Windrider or 4400 Southwest Pack models. It would save some money on the purchase and also save some weight.

Barbara also bought the same model as mine, also with the Porter Stuff Pocket, and we used them on our John Muir Trail hike in 2014. During the hike, I was surprised by how many people asked us about our packs. I noticed that the people asking about the packs were generally one of two types. One type was carrying an old-school, very heavy backpack, and they were interested in a lighter pack. The other type asking about our packs were carrying ultralight packs, which were usually no more than a lightweight bag with minimal or no padding and no internal frame pieces. They were obviously interested in a pack that could carry weight more comfortably, without much added pack weight.

Barbara and I both carried our own sleeping bags, pads and other personal gear, as well as bear canisters heavily loaded with dense, calorie-rich food. I also carried the tent, ground cloth, stove, water purifier, and cookware. I think that the most I carried in the



Muir Centennial & Wilderness Anniversary

On December 24, 1914, John Muir died at the age of seventy-six in the Los Angeles area. As an early advocate for the preservation of wild places, Muir would have been very pleased by the passing of the Wilderness Act half a century after his death in 1964. In 2014 we celebrated the fifty-year anniversary of the Wilderness Act and also commemorated the centennial of Muir's death.

Here are several apt quotes for SPSers, taken from Muir's *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911), as a reminder of our wonderful connection to him:

June 23.—Oh, these calm, measureless mountain days, inciting at once to work and rest! Days in whose light everything seems equally divine. . . . Nevermore, however weary, should one faint by the way who gains the blessings of one mountain day; whatsoever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, he is rich forever. (p. 82)

July 26.—Ramble to the summit of Mount Hoffman, 11,000 feet high, and highest point in life's journey my feet have yet touched. And what glorious landscapes are about me, new plants, new animals, new crystals, and multitudes of new mountains far higher than Hoffman, towering in glorious array along the axis of the range, serene, majestic, snow-laden, sun-drenched, vast domes and ridges shining below them, and pure bluebell-flower sky brooding over them all,—a glory day of admissions into a new realm of wonders as if Nature has wooingly whispered, "Come higher." (pp.199–200)

From garden to garden, ridge to ridge, I drifted enchanted. . . . In the midst of such beauty, pierced with its rays, one's body is all one tingling palate. Who wouldn't be a mountaineer! Up here all the world's prizes seem nothing. (p. 206)

Thanks to Vicky Hoover for reminding us of the centenary and for providing the quotations. —TB



TrailTech, cont.

pack was probably just over forty pounds and the minimum around the mid to high twenties while we were hiking, depending on the food load and water carried. The pack didn't carry any differently or deform with forty pounds as opposed to twenty-five pounds. It was just heavier. HMG claims a maximum load of sixty pounds for the pack, and although I have not tried it, I have no reason to doubt it. On the JMT hike, we did not carry separate daypacks. Instead, when summiting Mt. Whitney and Caltech Peak, we unloaded sleeping bags, pads, tent, cook gear, and bear canisters from the backpacks and then used the backpack as a summit pack.

We are both very happy with the 4400 Porter Pack, as an excellent compromise between the older, heavier-load-hauling packs and the minimalist ultralight packs. The Cuben fiber in the 4400 Series is very strong, but it is not as abrasion resistant as my older Kelty Spectra packs. That is perhaps an unfair comparison, as the Spectra packs are so abrasion resistant, that they could probably be used as haul bags. I'm willing to give up some abrasion resistance in trade for almost two pounds in weight saving.

The Job of the SPS Secretary

By Jim Fleming

First of all, I don't make coffee (not a coffee drinker anyway!) or shave my legs (although some ladies don't, either).

I take notes of all the important goings-on at our (somewhat irregularly) scheduled management committee meetings, make up minutes, and have the other members review them. Sometimes, I even get them right without much further ado, so they can be officially recorded and shown all the SPS members in the *Echo*!

SPS members who achieve their hard-earned accomplishments (membership, emblems, list finish, etc.) send me their lists so that I can keep track of them and report them to the other members of the management committee and also get them recognition in the *Echo*. Thankfully, I can usually keep track of these with minimal assistance.

Before this year, the secretary was also in charge of the annual banquet, but we changed it this year, so that is no longer the case—whooo hoooo! I do help on the banquet committee a little, however.



SPS Secretary Jim Fleming on Mt. Clark.
(Photo by Beth Epstein)

60 Years in the Range of Light



Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary

The Sierra Peaks Section became an official entity of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1955. Therefore, as the SPS celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2015, the editors would like to run articles and photos that celebrate the section's history and members both past and present in each of the four 2015 issues. Many great stories and reminiscences about other climbers have never been told in the *Echo*, so this year would be a fine time to share them. Please send submissions to Tina: <mailto:tina@bowmandesigngroup.com> Please also don't forget to send photos soon to Bob Cates for the slide show during the banquet social hour.

Saga of the Hungry Bear

*A recollection by
Jerry Keating*

With the SPS' 60th anniversary at hand, are there members who've had a memorable bear experience and who are willing to submit an account to the *Echo*? If so, you might enjoy the following episode that took place before the placement of bear boxes in the backcountry.

It was the Fourth of July weekend in 1961. I was with Ted Maier, a founding member of the SPS and the 1963 chair. There were just two of us, and we had started our backpack at Onion Valley, gone over Kearsarge Pass, descended past Vidette Meadow, and later turned up East Creek to East Lake in Kings Canyon National Park.

We had dinner at our campsite, and I leaned my Kelty pack upright against a rounded boulder about four feet high. I spread my ground sheet and foam pad on the ground and prepared to sleep with my head inches away from the bottom of the Kelty. Hours later, I awoke from a sound sleep after

hearing a noise. I looked skyward and thought I saw a large, dark

face looking down at me from above my Kelty. I momentarily

After Brewer & the Bear

One of the first SPS trips, to Trail Peak in Cottonwood Basin on June 9-10, 1956, was led by Ted Maier and Frank Sanborn. Jerry has written elsewhere: "A founding member of SPS and former chair, Ted was a more relaxed leader than most of his counterparts but still got his groups to the summit. He possessed a highly theatrical voice and used it to add humor to his trips. He was a family man and pioneered the family backpack and mascot undertakings of the SPS. Mascots had to have climbed six SPS peaks and be the children of regular SPSers." After this trip, Ted went on to become emblem holder number 63.

Jerry writes: "Neither I nor Ted Maier carried a

camera on that
1961

trip. I've checked my files for that era and found a shot [left] of Ted taken at Hot Creek during a joint DPS/SPS trip to the Eastern Sierra area in late May 1964. . . . I have very few photos of myself, having spent more effort on getting mug shots of vintage climbers. . . . Sadly, Ted died of natural causes in 1976 at age 50."



Fourteen years after the bear saga he describes, this photo of Jerry opening a can of tuna was taken near Buckeye pass. We don't have a 1961-vintage image of him. Do you?





Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary

Bear Saga, cont:

blinked, and then there was no sign of a face. But I sensed something was wrong. Well, it was. The top flap of the Kelty was off to the side, and a large package of fig newtons was missing.

Next, I heard a commotion from a campsite fifty yards away. Suddenly, I realized what was happening. A bear had climbed the boulder above my head, brushed aside the flap on my Kelty, and then made off with my fig newtons. That put the bear's head less than three feet from mine, but fortunately the animal was more interested in the food than me.

In fact, the bear was so interested in food that it raided the adjacent camp and made off with a ten-pound tin of ham that had been



brought in by a packer. I could hear the bear tearing the container apart to get the ham. I confirmed that's

what it was in the morning by talking to the folks camped there.

That day, Ted and I headed westward up a glacial-polished canyon toward Mt. Brewer, which we climbed without incident. I had climbed the peak in 1958 from a different direction, but Ted hadn't been on the peak, and he needed it in order to complete his emblem requirements before the end of 1961.

From "Across the High Sierra"

By Pat Meixner

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Jerry Keating for typing this portion of a sixteen-page carbon copy and for writing the introduction to provide excellent background information and set the stage for the excerpt.

Introduction: Here follows an excerpt from "Across the High Sierra," a trip journal authored by Pat Meixner. It is a detailed account of an eight-day backpack starting July 10, 1954, at Crescent Meadow on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and ending July 17, 1954, at Whitney Portal on the east side of the range. The full document was presented to the Sierra Peaks Section Archives by Frank and Joanna (Lohr) Bressel, who were among the participants on the trip. Frank Bressel also contributed a DVD that includes motion pictures of this same trip. The DVD already is preserved in the SPS Archives at UCLA Special Collections. The motion pictures were taken with Joanna's compact 8mm camera. Both she and Frank took the pictures.

Besides Meixner, Frank Bressel and Joanna Lohr, the participants on



Pat Meixner, Ted Maier, & Early SPS Outings

The SPS offered its first trips in 1956, and the Trail Peak outing led by Frank Sanborn and Ted Maier was the fourth trip of the year. Pat Meixner wrote the trip report at right. Jerry Keating has written elsewhere: "Pat Meixner Gentry was a key force in getting the SPS in operation and reporting its activities. She

was a superior climber, fine trip leader and an accomplished reporter for *Southern Sierran*. When Nancy and I joined the SPS in 1957, she was the SPS treasurer. . . . In 1960, a time for inclusiveness, she became cochair of the Angeles Chapter Membership Committee. Arvel was chair, and nearly all members of the committee were SPSers."

SPS NEWS

—Patricia Meixner

TRAIL PEAK—June 9–10: Frank Sanborn, Leader; Ted Maier, Asst. Leader.

On Sat., June 9, (1956) from the end of the Carroll Creek road out of Lone Pine, 19 persons knapsacked 9 miles to camp at Horseshoe Meadow in the Cottonwood Basin. The trail was good and the weather beautiful. The afternoon was spent loafing, swimming and sunbathing.

Sun. morning 17 people made the easy walking ascent of 11,622 ft. Trail Peak, from which they had a magnificent view of the Kern Canyon area, Whitney and Kaweah peaks, Cottonwood Basin, Olancho Peak area and the Great Western Divide. There was some snow glissading on the way back down to camp. Before hiking out there was another long session of sunbathing.



the trip detailed in the journal are Ralph Brown, Jim Greenwood, Jim McGoldrick, Bob Sheller, and a man whose first name appears in the journal as Jack. The author (who later married Arvel Gentry), Frank Bressel, and Bob Sheller are among the eighteen founding members of the SPS, which came into being in October 1955. Pat Meixner served as founding secretary of the SPS, Bob Sheller as founding vice chairman, and Frank Bressel as founding alternate officer. —Jerry Keating

Saturday, July 17

[1954]: I was the first one to awake that morning. I glanced at the string of fish and got a surprising sight. Half of them were gone. I quickly awoke Jack and Ralph, and soon everyone was up. It was decided that a marmot must have climbed the tree and eaten them. Ralph and Jack were determined to take out 40



Page 10, top: Pat Meixner in a publicity photo for Kelty packs (photo Niles Werner). Bottom: Pat at Summit Creek on Olancho

Pk. climb, June 5, 1954 (Sanborn collection). Page 11 clockwise from top: Pat Meixner and fellow founding member Miles Brubacher on Mt. Whitney, July 1956 (Meixner collection). Pat on a rope for SPS climb of "Pinnacle Peak" and Rockhouse Peak, Nov. 1-2, 1958 (Sanborn collection). Below: founding members on independent trip to Angora Mtn., April 22, 1956. From left: Owen Blackburn, Pat Meixner, John Robinson, Chuck Miller, Frank Sanborn (Sanborn collection, by Bud Bingham).





trout and made plans to stay behind to catch their limit of fish. We had breakfast. While we were eating, it began to rain. Joanna, Frank, and Jim started off first. Next, Jack and Ralph left. Bob and I soon followed. We climbed above Timberline Lake passing the Sierra Club group who were eating breakfast. In spite of the rain and the gray day, the scenery was fascinatingly lovely. The wide expanse of land around the Hitchcock Lakes was very flat and strewn with boulders and rocks. No trees grew here. There were only grass and clumps of purple flowers. The colors seemed deeper in the rain. As we hiked upward the Hitchcock Lakes lay below in cold splendor. Ralph and Jack could barely be seen as they fished the lakes.

The rain stopped for a while. Bob and I started up the switchbacks, which would take us to the ridge where we would begin our climb to the top of Whitney. The view that lay in all directions was unbelievable. Jagged uneven peaks still retaining patches of snow rose everywhere. Even in this rugged area the delicate flowers bloomed in defiance of the elements. The lakes below us grew smaller and smaller. We reached the ridge and left my pack, which Bob had so gallantly carried all the way up. Inasmuch as he wasn't going out with us he had left his pack behind at our last camp. We started along the rocky ridge toward Mt. Whitney. The views were fantastic. To the left lay the grandeur of the High Sierra. To our

right was Owens Valley. We were on top of the world. But then the clouds closed in. As Bob and I neared the peak, we met Joanna, Frank and Jim, coming back. We stopped to talk and then said goodbye until later.

As we reached the top it began to hail and snow. Bob and I took refuge in the hut on Mt. Whitney. We had reached the summit of the highest mountain in the United States [at that time]. While we waited we signed the register. The hut was damp and dark. The Sierra Club group from Frisco joined us. A half hour went by but as it showed no signs of clearing, we decided to take a walk around outside anyhow. Disappointed, we soon had to start back. I didn't want to miss Ralph and Jack. They had already climbed Mt. Whitney, so I was to meet them on the ridge near Trail Crest. Bob and I hadn't gone far when we met Ralph and Jack.

After catching more trout to fill their limit they had changed their minds and decided to climb Whitney after all. I went back again with them in the hopes the sky would clear. We told Bob we would see him before he started down to Timberline Lake.

The three of us arrived at the top and immediately took shelter in the hut, which was already filled with people. We waited for a while. Finally, the clouds broke. All of our effort was worth what now could be seen. We drank our fill of jagged mountains, lakes and valleys, taking pictures galore. Much later on we started back enjoying and marveling in nature's varied world. The sharp broken rocks and peaks were a never-ending source of comment. At some points where the trail fell sharply on both sides you had a panorama of east and west. We reached our packs. Bob had gone. Ralph, Jack and I hiked on to Trail Crest. Before we started down we took one last look at what had been eight days of wonderful adventure. We then turned our backs on our beloved Sierra and began the switchbacks to Whitney Portal—the end of the trail.

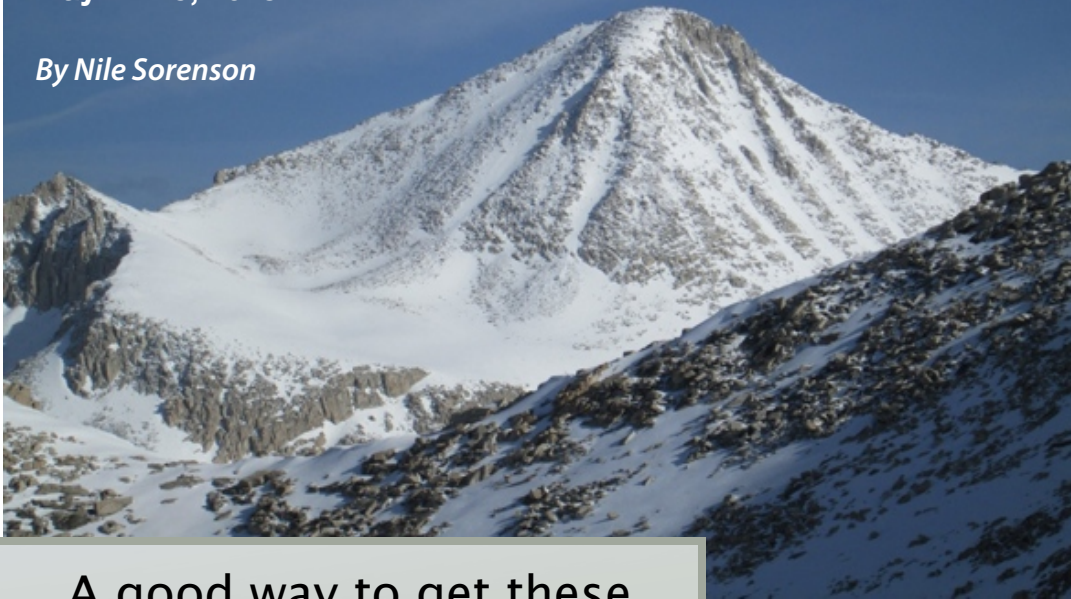


Above: Bob Sheller, Pat Meixner (both founding members), and Jim McGoldrick on Condor Peak in the San Gabriels, March 1956. Right: Palm View peak, San Jacinto Mountains, February 1956. Left to Right: John Robinson, Pat Meixner, Jac Lasner (uppermost), Barbara Lilley, Bud Bingham, Miles Brubacher and Izzy Lieberman. Except Lasner, all are founding members. (Both photos are from the Meixner collection)

A New Route for Julius Caesar, Mt. Gabb, and Bear Creek Spire

May 24-25, 2013

By Nile Sorenson



A good way to get these three big 13'ers is to go early and do snow climbs.

I had been holding off climbing Bear Creek Spire—saving it to do one of the splendid rock routes on the northeast face. But, alas, list finish fever took over, and I could wait no longer. I still “needed” not only this peak but also its neighbors, Mt. Julius Caesar and Mt. Gabb.

I started considering a long day hike to BC Spire, then a second trip up into Granite Park to get JC and over Italy pass to get Gabb. Doug Mantle suggested I cut the mileage way down, start at a much higher trailhead, and get all three of them in a two-day or easy two-and-one-half day backpack. His recommendation was to go over Cox Col.

I mapped it out on my topo program. Going over Cox Col would save several miles and nearly five thousand feet of gain. Here is how to do it.

Start at Mosquito Flat trailhead (over 10,200' compared to Pine Creek, which is below 7500'). Take the Little Lakes Valley trail toward Long Lake and Morgan Pass. This is a beautiful trail with many scenic lakes and streams. BC Spire looms at the head of the valley in a majestic prominence, giving you plenty of time to anticipate this beautiful peak. After reaching the south side of Long Lake, you need to make a choice. You can either go up to Treasure Lakes or stay on the trail toward Morgan Pass until you are just east of the Gem lakes complex, leaving the trail as it crosses the stream. Either way goes, depending on

the snow conditions. I decided to stay on the trail as long as possible and found the snow perfect going up to and beyond Gem Lakes.

The first goal is to reach Dade Lake. Go around its east side into the large drainage coming off the north side of BC Spire. From here you should have a nice snow climb all the way to Cox Col. This is the first notch south of the low point on the crest about a quarter mile just north of BC Spire. As you approach the col, it gets a bit steep and can be a little nasty depending on how the snow is melting out. I found the col very icy and rotten. Secor describes

it as class 2. The climbing in any of the notches I saw was class 3 or above. There is a snow route around the col: you can go over the crest a few hundred yards north of the col. This went moderately well, though it is a bit difficult in spots.

Just before noon, I was on the large flat area northwest of BC Spire. I dumped my pack and headed for the summit, climbing Ulrich's route. There is a very small rib that divides the large chute leading up to the peak. The right side of this rib is easier and dumps you right out at the headwall. Although the moves on the headwall are very straight forward and not hard, they are somewhat exposed, and you need to be careful, especially if you are alone.

Up farther near the summit, there are two chimneys. I took the left one—it was easier. The summit block boulder move is not hard, but it is exposed. There was no register. Seems like this is becoming the norm on many of our Sierra Peaks.

I went down back to my pack and headed for Gabb. A large drainage leads from Lake Italy and Toe Lake up to Gabbot Pass. My original intent was to camp somewhere in this drainage near the stream, but it was covered with deep snow, and it was cold. The flat area near BC Spire had some nice flats with no snow, so I opted to camp there.

It was early afternoon, and one could easily go over and get Mt. Gabb on the first day. That would leave JC on day two and come out. Because this trip was the first of the season and I was feeling the altitude, I elected to relax and camp at about 12,800'.

Photo above: Mt. Gabb from Lake Italy Pass (photo by Tina Bowman).

The next objective is to cross the drainage without losing too much altitude and climb the southwest ridge of Mt. Gabb. Next, head over and climb Julius Caesar and back to camp.

I dropped down to about 11,800' in crossing the drainage and gained a large ramp on the south side of Mt. Gabb. From here it is an easy hike to the southwest ridge and a straight-forward climb with good rock to the summit of Gabb. Register was a Campbell's soup can with two signatures—mine and one other from the previous year. The next objective was Julius Caesar.

The typical route for JC is to climb its south-facing slopes from Italy Pass. From where I was on the summit of Gabb, this meant going clear down near Lake Italy, around peaklet 12,600', and back up toward Italy Pass. I was not very excited about all this out and around stuff particularly since this lake and drainage are huge.

From the top of Gabb, I could see the entire north side of Julius Caesar. The west ridge of J.C. comes down to a small saddle, then goes back up to a small peaklet 12,600'+.

I decided to try a new route on the north side. A chute on the north side leads to the saddle between JC and peak 12,600'. It was filled with snow. If I could climb the chute, it would dump me right out onto the west ridge of JC, then I could climb directly to the summit. This would save two miles round trip and about 500 plus feet of elevation loss and gain. I headed for the chute.

I crossed the stream at the inlet of Toe Lake and started up the snow slope staying to the left side where it seemed less steep. At about 12,000 ft. the chute

divides. The one on the right is steeper but will probably hold snow later in the season than the one on the left. I chose the left hand side. It approached 40 degrees near the top then dumped me right out on the west ridge. A short scramble put me right on the summit—NICE! There was NO register.

Once back to the saddle, I had a good glissade nearly all the way to Toe Lake, before heading back up the drainage toward my camp.

I thought about going over the crest and camping on the east side, but I knew the east facing snow slope going down from Cox Col would have been in the shade for hours so no glissade would be possible. I opted for hot chocolate and the tent.

I slept in till about 8:00am, thinking that it would be good to let the snow soften on the eastern slopes and hoping for a nice glissade going down. Cox Col was worse than the previous day—very icy and lots of loose rock in between ice patches. I opted to go 200 yards to the north and cross the crest near the spot where I had come in. It was a bit tedious with some loose big rocks, but it went OK.

The snow was still too hard and bumpy to glissade down the east side. Too bad! I made the car in just over three hours to find the Memorial Day crowds fishing and enjoying the Little Lakes Valley.

Variation--if you wanted, you could also get Hilgard on this trip. Day one, start early and get BC Spire and Gabb. Day two, do the north chute on the west ridge of JC, go down the Italy Pass side and over to Hilgard, then back up the drainage to camp. Day three come out.



Dare to Lead!

Spring Leadership Training Seminar Set for April 11, 2015

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, April 11, in the Pasadena area.

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 e-mail (lcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org) or by phone (714-321-1296).

Applications and checks are due March 28, 2015. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson AMLeadership@gmail.com

Kern Peak from the North

By Tina Bowman



Out of curiosity I decided to try Kern Peak via the old trail from the north on a trip October 16–18, 2014. I wondered whether I'd be able to find the trail because it's marked "infrequently maintained" on the Tom Harrison map. I've noted that some other such-marked trails have obliterated junctions, no trace where the trail is or was that I could find. While getting my wilderness permit, I asked the ranger about the trail; he didn't know anything about it. Crossing my fingers, I drove up to Horseshoe Meadows.

Having met one fellow on the Cottonwood Pass Trail, who turned north on the PCT as I always have done in the past, I continued west from the pass to Big Whitney Meadow. I've looked down on this meadow a number of times but never been, so I was looking forward to exploring some new areas on my loop trip. Once beyond the pass, the going was very easy, dropping in switchbacks and then gentle trail west to the meadow. In a forested area, I saw a fine snow surveyor's cabin with shingles under a blue tarp, perhaps in the area of an old short-cut to the Siberian Pass Trail (one of those "infrequently maintained" trails—no sign of it).

Eventually, I came to the Siberian Pass Trail proper, where I turned south, following the infant Golden Trout Creek down to the Tunnel Meadow Guard Station, where various trails come together.

I went to the "chickenfoot" junction of the trail southeast to Ramshaw Meadow, south to Kern Peak, and southwest to the Kern River. Just beyond to the south was another sign for Kern Peak. Satisfied that there was at least a start of a trail, I camped in the flats near the junction, not far from the stream. Just to the east was the South Fork of the Kern River. I'd read in Jim Jenkins' *Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra* about the tunnel built in the 1800s to connect Golden Trout Creek with the South Fork to take more water to farmers. The tunnel collapsed and was replaced by a ditch, which also collapsed (sounds like a Monty Python sketch). The place where the tunnel once was is obvious, just south of the junction of the Tunnel Meadow and Siberian Pass Trails.

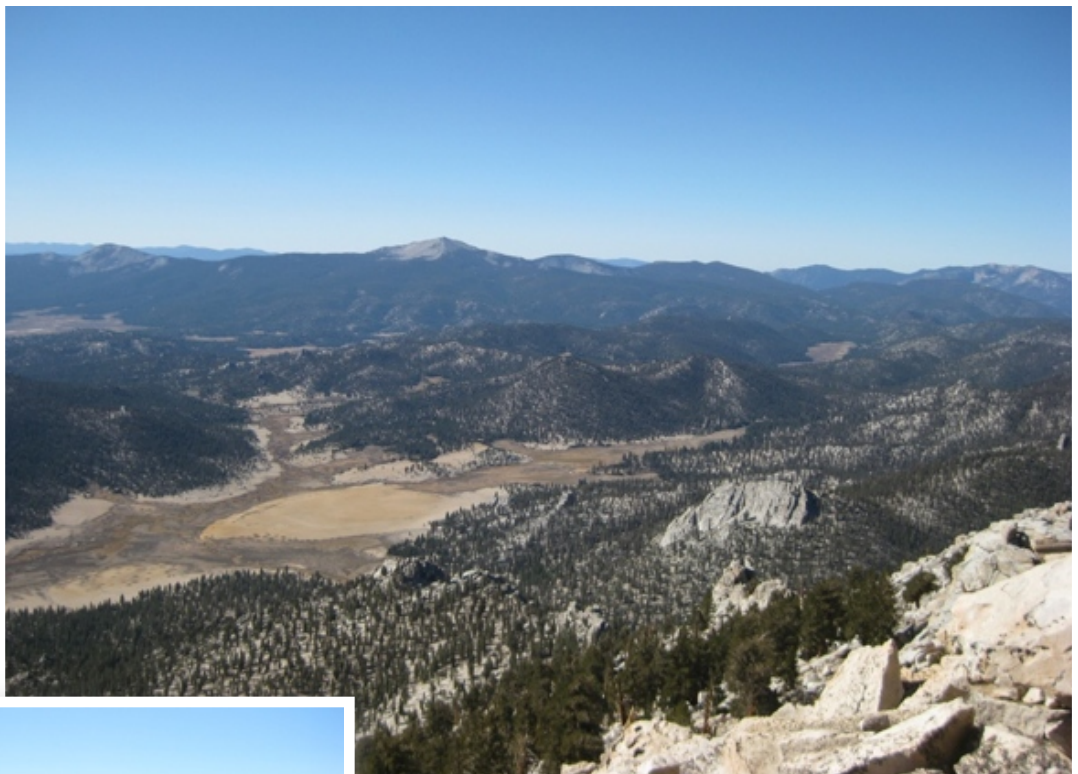
Friday I was on the trail just after 7:00. Jenkins wrote that the old trail had once disappeared in its first two miles (of 5.6) but was blazed and ducked in 1990. Well, a lot can happen in twenty-four years, but, fortunately,



Above: Kern Peak from Mulkey Meadows. Left: Snow surveyor's cabin near Big Whitney Meadow. Right: Tunnel Meadow Guard Station. (Photos by Tina Bowman.)



the trail has probably improved since then. For the most part, I was on a distinct trail, sometimes marked by blazes and yellow-painted tin can lids occasionally nailed to trees—more visible than the blazes. I was following mostly horse hoof prints and bear paw prints as I made my way to a low saddle south of Red Hill, a cinder cone. Here I continued straight, following those hoof prints, totally missing a wooden sign down in some rocks indicating that the trail angled a bit to the right just beyond the saddle. I crossed a puddle that was the stream from



Above: View of Mulkey Meadows and Kern Peak from Trail Peak. Left: Golden Trout Creek in Big Whitney Meadow, looking south to Kern Peak on the horizon. (Photos by Tina Bowman).

Bear Meadow and started searching upstream for the trail, finding it soon. From there on, the trail was easy to follow, traversing to the Kern Peak Stringer, which was flowing rather nicely despite three years of drought, going up the stream and then to a ridge and on up almost to the summit. The trail crosses west of the peak and disappears, replaced by many ducks to mark an easy path around boulders for the most part. Here the summit is only about two hundred feet above the end of the trail, with the remnants of the old lookout visible. Jenkins had described the route quite well.

Disappointed not to find a register, I still enjoyed the fine views and made my way back to camp. Since it was about 1:00 when I reached camp, I packed up, had lunch, and headed northeast on the trail to Tunnel Meadow and beyond along the infant South Fork of the Kern, camping again where the trail turns east after following the stream north. This was the last water.

Saturday I was on my way again about 7:00, going to a low saddle and then down into Mulkey Meadows. It's

amazing how huge these meadows are. Cattle had been in there recently. Once past the junction with a trail to Templeton Meadow, I started the climb to Trail Pass, where I stashed my pack and hiked up to the summit of Trail Peak, which also offered great views. Back at the pass, I continued on the Trail Pass Trail to its junction with the Cottonwood Pass trail several tenths of a mile from the hiker parking lot in Horseshoe Meadows. I was back to the car at 12:45, seeing several people there, the first since the fellow I saw in the first two hours of the trip.

Yes, Kern Peak from the south can be done in a day or two. Though I spent three days to hike the mountain this time, I was glad to have done so.

Don't forget to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription! 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:

SPS Treasurer
1701 Paloma St.
Pasadena, CA 91104

SPS Peak Bag and Car Camp, June 29-July 6, 2014

By Barbee Tidball

A relaxed trip was planned to kick-off the summer. No backpacks, just car camping to climb a number of the Northern Sierra Peaks. Donna Elliott, Neil Jenkins, and Eric Lesser joined us on Sunday and Mei Kwan for the full week. Pat Arredondo, Ann Rolls, and Burt and Jan Hoffmann from the leader's family joined us for the first half of the trip when we camped at Leavitt Meadows Campground. The second half of the week more family—Janet Hoffmann and Jim Gibson—joined the group at Lower Bear River Reservoir, where we stayed at the South Shore Campground. The week involved 30–60 minute “commutes” each morning to the planned trailhead, but that was offset by not needing to pack up our campsites and by being able to travel with a bit more gear for more comfortable camping. Leavitt was a good campground; South Shore wasn't bad—and because it was July 4th weekend, we were glad to get the sites for four nights. The reservations had to be made in January/February.

Peaks climbed included

Leavitt Peak (11,569') about 5 miles round trip with 2,000' of gain on 6/30/14;

Disaster Peak (10,047') from Iceberg Meadows trail and cross-country for 10 miles round trip with 3,600' of gain on 7/1/14;

Highland Peak (10,934') from Ebbets Pass on the Pacific Crest Trail for 10–11 miles round trip with 2,500' of gain on the way to the peak and 500' on the return to the cars on 7/3/14;

Round Top (10,380') from Carson Pass, on the PCT to Winnemucca Lake with an exposed 3rd class summit, 1,900' of gain and 7 miles round trip on 7/4/14;

Freel (10,881') from Horse Meadows, about 6 miles round trip on trail to Armstrong Pass and then cross-country to the peak with 2,200' of gain on 7/5/14.

Favorite peak: Round Top—the 3rd class climb was fun, and it was a perfect way to celebrate July 4th.

Best trailhead: Highland--Ebbets is an historic Miwok and Washoe Indians mountain pass that has been named after John Ebbett. Ebbett surveyed the pass for a transcontinental rail route through the area. Fortunately, that didn't happen, and today it is two-lane road over the pass with very little traffic. We heard more cow bells than cars.



Mule Ears and ancient Western Juniper



Poentilla (cinquefoil)

(Photos by Barbee Tidball)

Fabulous wildflowers: everywhere and varied by trail and micro environments.

Best wine: Eric's home-grown vintage.



Left: Burt Hoffman, Eric Lesser, Neil Jenkins, and Donna Elliot. Leavitt Peak behind.

Below: July 4th on Round Top. Left to right: Barbee Tidball, Larry Tidball, Mei Kwan, Janet Hoffman, Neil Jenkins, and Eric Lesser. (Photos by Barbee Tidball)

Favorite dessert: Donna's upside-down cake.

Best dinner: every night! That's the plus of car camping with good cooks.

The conservation topic for the trip was sandy scree slope travel. I researched this topic after the trip and I cannot find much research or advice. The issue is what, if any, are the negative impacts from hiking off trail up or down sandy scree. There are a number of articles on safety of travel on rock scree, but sand is just generally referred to for the fun of running the scree.

Generally negative impacts occur when the level of use is greater than an environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change. As noted in the Leave No Trace (LNT) literature, "Rock, sand and gravel: These surfaces are highly durable and can tolerate repeated trampling and scuffing." Sandy scree slopes typically do not have much vegetation because scree is a product of rock fall and weathering processes, particularly snow and ice in the Sierra. In rocky scree lichens can grow, and in sandy environments some plant life does catch hold--example eriogonum, pussy paws, or cut-leaf daisy catch on level areas near rocks. Again from LNT, "Careful decisions must be made when traveling across vegetation. Select areas of durable vegetation, or sparse vegetation that is easily avoided." Spreading out to avoid making trails is probably the best rule of travel, just as it is in meadows. Furthermore, efforts should be made to avoid travel that can cause erosion.



Send Articles and Photos!

The SPS will be celebrating its sixtieth anniversary in 2015. We'd love to have photos and reminiscences about peaks, outings, and people that stand out for you (past and present) for *The Sierra Echo*. Please send contributions to Tina at <mailto:tina@bowmandesigngroup.com>

Eastern Sierra Sojourn

By Jerry Keating

With the remnants of Hurricane Norbert advancing on California and Nevada, it wasn't certain this September 5–7, 2014, trip would operate without harm, but it did. While flash flooding, freeway washouts, and other disruptions occurred to the south and east, conditions were ideal in the Mammoth Lakes area for Eastern Sierra Sojourn.

This was a trip to celebrate two milestones, to renew long-time acquaintances, and to ascend three infrequently climbed summits east of the Sierra crest. The outing drew nineteen persons from locations as far south as San Diego and as far north as Madera County. Two participants—Frank Bressel and Barbara Lilley—are SPS founding members, and three other founders sent greetings from home. The leaders were Larry and Barbee Tidball, both active climbers and past SPS chairs.

Based at Sherwin Creek Campground (7600') not far from the community of Mammoth Lakes, the trip coincided with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act, a federal move to protect mountain, desert, and other habitats, including 149 in California and twenty-six in the Sierra. San Francisco-based Vicky Hoover, an SPSer who chairs the observance for the Sierra Club, sent materials for our group to consider during the climbs and two nights of extended campfire time.

The trip also marked the 10th annual offering of this "old-timers" series, which is designed to attract participants into areas of

the Sierra that are overlooked or rushed by during quests for listed peaks. The series started in 2005 as part of the SPS's 50th anniversary observance, and each year it has gone to different parts of the Sierra. Thanks to Barbara Lilley for proposing this year's location and doing the scouting (and for providing the hike leaders with excellent route information).

Participants began arriving Friday afternoon at the campground, a site that few had ever seen or used. Located in tall pines, it was due to close for the year after our long weekend. (Labor Day weekend was a week earlier.) Friday night the group enjoyed the first of two extended campfire periods but saved the best libations for Saturday night.

Peaks for this year's trip were Earthquake Dome (9350') and Dry Creek Knoll (8842'), on opposite sides of the Mammoth Scenic Loop above the Mammoth Lakes community, and Gilbert Peak (8566'), east of U.S. 395. Neither of the first two peaks is named on currently available topos, but both are listed on the U.S. Board of Geographic Names web site. Each climb started with hiking on a forest road, gained elevation cross-country in a well-timbered forest area, and finished with some scrambling. Skies were cloudless on each climb.

The starting point for Earthquake Dome Saturday morning was from the north shoulder of Minaret Road (Highway 203) more than a mile beyond where Mammoth Scenic Loop turns off. This starting point is immediately beyond a side road leading by a power substation that's



Earthquake Dome summit, left to right: Dick Drosendahl, Mei Kawn, Gail Hanna, Barbara Lilley, Asher Waxman. Larry Tidball, Ben Preyer (Photo by Barbee Tidball).

partly obscured by the forest. The twelve-member group followed the road northeastward toward the peak, first passing behind the substation and then gradually gaining elevation in the forest. To avoid brush, remain on the road until it begins passing the peak and reaches a high point. Then ascend the slope northeastward (passing an out-of-place quad chair from some ski lift suspended between two trees near the top of the slope), cross a relatively level area, and scramble up to the summit, which eight people did. (Future groups may wish to consider starting at a mountain bike trailhead just above the sign announcing the Earthquake Fault attraction. That bike trail heads up to the forest road on which our group headed for the peak.)

The start for Dry Creek Knoll Saturday afternoon was about 1.5 miles northward on the Mammoth Scenic Loop where the road turns sharply westward. The route



Above, left to right: Jerry Keating and Larry Tidball in camp. Left: Campfire tales, left to right: Dick Drosenthal, Gordon MacLeod, and Barbara Lilley (Photos by Barbee Tidball).



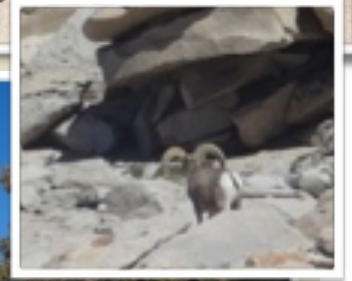
and the northern peaks of the White Mountains (Boundary and Montgomery). Gilbert Peak was worth visiting for the views in all directions of the peaks we enjoy climbing.

follows forest roads hugging the south and east slopes of the peak and then enters the peak's plateau from the north, leaving a short scramble to the top. Six people made this climb and got back to the campground in ample time for the greatly enhanced happy hour.

On Sunday, eight participants carpooled across U.S. 395 and up forest roads on the south side of Gilbert Peak (8,593'). Then seven hiked along rougher sections of forest roads before heading cross-country up the slope and then some steeper terrain to the summit. (4WD ORV's can drive close to the summit.) This summit is named (according to a plaque on the summit) for Charles Gilbert, a UC Berkeley Geologist who studied the volcanic history of the Long Valley area starting in the 1930's. We found the summit register placed some years before by Barbara and Gordon and signed in before enjoying the great views from this peak. To the west we enjoyed the Minarets, Ritter, and Banner Peaks. To the east were Glass Mountain (DPS)

and the vehicles returned to U.S. 395, the trip officially ended, allowing participants to pursue independent attractions. Two persons car camped Sunday night outside of Bishop, but opted to forgo a longer stay when rain began falling at daybreak Monday. Two others visited the bristlecone area of the White Mountains, where rain and hail enlivened their visit. Then they had a memorable 4WD experience down Silver Canyon along a gushing Silver Creek.

Besides the leaders and two founding members already mentioned, the participants were Gail Hanna and Ben Preyer, both of San Diego County; Hal Browder of Coarsegold in Madera County; Joanna Bressel; Gordon MacLeod; Asher Waxman; Dick Drosendahl; Mary Sue Miller; Mei Kwan; Bill Karasick; Dottie Juarez; Ralph and Beth Davis; and Jerry and Nancy Keating. Greetings were sent from three founding SPSers unable to attend: George Wallerstein of Seattle, John Robinson of Fullerton, and Roger Gaefcke of Playa del Rey.



Cirque Peak Gourmet Backpack

A small but hearty band of five dared the worst that nature and heavy packs could throw at them during the 11th More-Or-Less Annual Gourmet Backpack Aug. 16-17. Overcoming fearsome terrain—okay, a gentle four-mile trail to Chicken Spring Lake—our five heroes dined on shrimp tacos, crab cakes, creme



brulee and vintage wine. The next morning we braced ourselves for a daring mountaineering feat—well, none was nearby, so we did Cirque Peak instead—with mimosas and Hangtown Fry. The five happy but rather heavy participants were leaders Ron Campbell, Georgette Rieck and Lisa Buckley with Kim Russo and Mort Testerman. -Ron Campbell

Clockwise from upper left: Left to right, Georgette Rieck, Lisa Buckley and Ron Campbell pause while cooking dinner. The summit of Cirque Peak (L-to-R) Ron Campbell, Lisa Buckley and Mort Testerman. A bighorn sheep near the summit of Cirque Peak. Amazingly we had too much food. We invited several unidentified John Muir Trail hikers on their last night to join us. For some reason they thought our dishes were better than their freeze-dried rations. Five unidentified JMT hikers join Ron (left, in toque) at the Gourmet Backpack table, festooned with the traditional brass candlesticks and pink flamingos. (Photos by Mort Testerman)

The Last* 20K Peak

By Doug Mantle



local volcanoes (16,000–19,000') to acclimatize for trips to the highest Andes. This visit, though, we kept driving south a couple more hours, then camped at the local rock climbing Mecca, Socaire, at 11,500'. Daily we tramped higher up the roads for a few hours,

* Marmolejo is not only the "Last," or most recent, 20k peak Doug has climbed, it is also commonly referred to as the "Last" for its status as the most southern 20k Peak in the world.

Another of my obsessions has been climbing 20,000 footers. Forty years and two dozen such summits later, I find the challenge hasn't got old, but I have. Still, when my friend Marcelo Altamirano suggested climbing another 20K peak (he says 6,000 meter peak) for our 2011 year-end bash, I leaped at the chance.

Our goal was the most southerly such peak in the world, Marmolejo (20,108'). Lying at the head of the sixty-mile-long Canyon de Maipo, near Chile's capital, Santiago, it is named, FYI Barbara Sholle, for Chile's first historian, not for a fruity jam. Climbers jokingly refer to it as "muymuylejoslejos"—I'll explain later.

Marcelo lives in the South of Chile and was to fly to Santiago to meet my arrival flight on December 14. At the last minute, prevailing winds—which for a year had rained ash from Volcan Puyehue east over Bariloche, Argentina—made an

about-face, cancelling Marcelo's flight. Improbably, he was able to squeeze onto a commercial bus for the eleven-hour grind north, then hoisting his duffel in Santiago, sprinted on to the airport arrival area. He was precisely three minutes late to meet me, and I, ignorant of all this, irritably told him so.

We had just two weeks to acclimatize, climb, and return. Moreover, stupid "yo" had undergone ankle surgery a month earlier and was gimpy. "Well, if you can't climb, we can still laugh a lot and drink wine," Marcelo said.

We began with a quick touristy visit to lovely Vina del Mar, Chile's Miami Beach. Thus we could calibrate our total gain exactly and get started on the wine.

Next we flew north to Calama, picked up a rental car, and drove to San Pedro in the Atacama Desert. The area is like Death Valley, raised to 8,000'. I have visited a half-dozen times, day hiking the friendly



Photo, above: "Marmolejo summit cone on the edge of collapsed caldera" by Gerard Prins - Own work. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

Map at right courtesy of Moon Travel Guides: <http://moon.com/maps/south-america/chile/>

twice reaching 14,000' with views of the Altiplanic lakes. I tested Marcelo's reputation as the most happy fellow by gasping out Christmas carols endlessly. He didn't crack, but I noted the vizcachas (marmot-like furries) fled.

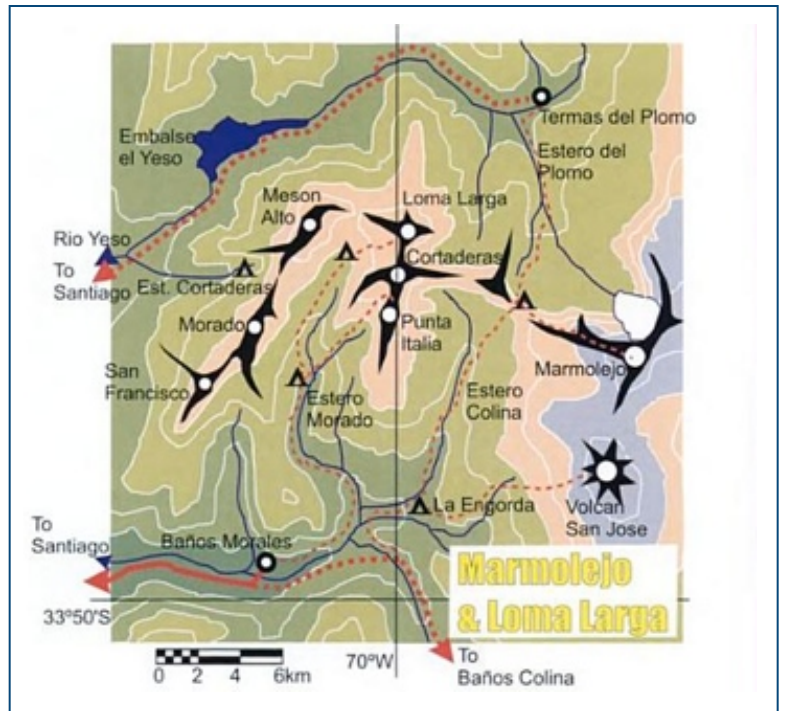
We returned to Santiago and the next challenge: driving straight through this megalopolis. There are no freeways; the car density is daunting. Two hours of the perpetual rush hour, and we were safely through. En route we supplied at one of the dozen modern malls dotting the city. Stores for butane, propane fuel? No problem. Vittles? There are several big-chain supermarkets (notably Lider, half-owned by Walmart!); we easily picked up first-rate provisions.

We finished our travel day by indulging; we stayed at the intimate three star Altiplanico Hotel, perched next to the raging Maipo River at 4,000'. We were twenty-five miles from road's end (near the German Alpine Club at Lo Valdez).

Wheeling through the internet, Marcelo found we could hire stock to take our gear to base camp. Base camp, like the peak, was "muymuylejoslejos" (very, very, far, far)—17 miles, 5,000' gain. Purists, brace yourselves. On hearing this I posited a question: Could they take . . . ME? Yes, \$300 each way for the two of us. Sold!

December 23 we met Moncho (owner) at the corral; he turned us over to Luis the arriero, aka beast master, for a promised six-hour journey to base camp. Sounds easy, no?

No. Besides the distance, we had to confront two stream crossings, each harrowing enough to drown RJ Secor several times over. While the first part of the ride



crossed old mine roads and sage slopes, the last part surged steeply up loose scree interspersed with talus and boulders. It appeared no horse could negotiate it.

Our small super caballos obeyed just two wills, their own and that of Don Luis. Mine didn't count. The horses would pause to gobble up the meager foliage oblivious to my kicks, yanks, and entreaties. Then up rode Don Luis whose mere proximity (bolstered by grunts, shouts, or cracks of the whip) was enough, and the horses bolted forward, like rocket ships. They staggered and quivered



up the worse inclines, often perched at the edge of a drop off. This was no ponyride, this was Disney's Matterhorn without rails. Base camp is 11,600' near the head of the valley bordered on the west by ice-and-granite towers and on the east by the ridge of Marmolejo. To the north is a steep spur connecting the two. We would crest

Photo above: Muleteer hauling packs across Estero Marmolejo, copyright Tijis Michels and among the excellent photos in his Summitpost report: <http://www.summitpost.org/marmolejo-february-march-2010/781504>

Map at top: From *The Andes: A Guide for Climbers (3rd ed.)*. Biggar, John (2005). Andes Publishing (Scotland).

that spur then follow Marmolejo's ridge over a glacier and several rock steps to the top.

Following the route description in the Andes Hand Book web site, we talus hopped up valley to the base of the spur which juts stiffly northeast 2,000' up to the west ridge. We slipped and staggered (just like the horses) up crummy scree, then hard snow, for three least-favorite hours, finally topping

It was T-shirt weather, and we had a 360 degree view of the Central Andes, including the massive south faces of Aconcagua and Tupungato. We finished up Christmas eve with carols, yet again.

The next A.M., Christmas—which, sick of the songs, we ignored—was another stunning day, clear and warm. I wondered about going for the summit, but it wasn't the plan: we were to check out the

submitted and, yes, that wind was horrendous. We hastened to put on our biggest jackets, activate the chemical hard warmers under our heavy mittens, and start down.

Ascending, we gave little thought to crevasses, and the Handbook gives them short shrift; so when Marcelo dropped two feet, his feet dangling freely, it came as a surprise. The midday sun had been at work melting the snow. Marcelo



Photo above: Looking back at polychromatic mountains to the south. Copyright Tijis Michels, from his Summitpost report: <http://www.summitpost.org/marmolejo-february-march-2010/781504>

Alonso de Gongora Marmalejo (1523-1575), a Spanish conquistador, chronicled the early Spanish conquest and settlement of Chile. An interesting equine note: Father Rodrigo Gonzalez Marmolejo is credited as Chile's first horse breeder, establishing the oldest registered American breed of Iberian origin in 1544, the "Chilean Horse."

clambered out and we proceeded; chastened and cautious. We hit Camp II and the whiskey at 2 p.m.

When I think of December 27th, I think

glacier, then just rest. We rehearsed for a few hours, donning crampons and working up past some penitentes

most about my poor knees. We pounded down the 5,000' to base camp. En route we met an energetic young Chilean who told us how his two-day trek to base camp exhausted him and that at one of the river crossings his poles were swept away and he nearly drowned.

By early afternoon we were back to base—beer, wine, avocados, Chile's superb canned seafood . . . life is good . . . ah, but would Don Luis return that next day as planned? Yes, 11 a.m. on the dot!

The first half of the ride down was to be quite steep. I was advised to stand upright in the stirrups and lean way back, head-on-tail. It was like descending the cable route of Half Dome on a pony. In his last speech Churchill said, "Never flinch, never weary, never despair"; I managed all three for three continuous hours.

En route, they tell me, we spied puma tracks and condors flew overhead. I couldn't look. At length the route flattened out, the horses began to trot (ouch) as they sprinted for home.

We were sore but finished and driving back to the Altiplanico Hotel by late afternoon, thence to Santiago and Puerto Varas and a very Happy New Year celebration with Marcelo and his family.

out. Another half hour of zig-zagging up a faint climber's trail brought us to a broad, rocky flat harboring several tent platforms and barely enough snow for melting to make our Camp I at 14,200'.

Next day, Christmas Eve day, we packed up our little Firstlight tent and our eleven and a half remaining ounces of Grant's Whiskey, along with all else, and trekked on up ridge. The guide says it's four more hours to Camp II at 16,300', just shy of the Western Glacier. Passing over two rocky, Class 2 steps and a small snowfield went really well, and in just two hours we were surprised to arrive at Camp II. We chose one of the 4-5 sites, one really well protected from the wind. Close by we found a little sump of melted glacier water: no need to melt snow! Our two fuel canisters were suddenly more than ample.

onto the steep, icy slope above . . . then it was back to camp. That afternoon a cloud cap formed over the peak, dropping some snowflakes. We ignored this and continued reading Pablo Neruda's autobiography aloud (in Spanish, of course).

Summit day: we set off at first light. We had 4,000' to gain; the top was still shrouded a thousand feet up. We read that the climb is 5-7 hours with likely horrendous winds on the summit. We put on crampons, crossed the icy slope for the first 2000', then kept them on despite alternating between snow and steep sand.

Marcelo as usual paced and steered expertly through the obscuring cloud, bringing us to the top in 5 hours. To quote Dick Akawie, "No palms, no view, no peak," but we had indeed



Left: Sophie Cairns and Tina Bowman on the summit of Mt. Elbrus.
Above: Sophie Cairns in Antarctica.

“Slow and steady steps,” Tina shouted through the strong winds. It made all the difference. Ojos del Salado (6,893m) was the

highest and toughest volcano to tackle. This time, our ascent was too rushed and altitude sickness hit, so we turned back

Seven Volcanoes Project

By Sophie Lee Cairns

Last September [2013], I quit my three part-time jobs to travel the world. The Seven Volcanoes Project had been my baby for three years, and by December 2013 it was finally a go. I now had the sponsorship and the time. I started mountain climbing in 2009, the year after my father succumbed to esophageal cancer, and since then I’ve climbed a mountain a year in his memory to raise funds for cancer research.

The project started at the bottom of the world, with Mount Sidley (4,285m) in Antarctica. Conditions in woolly Marie Byrd Land cleared up just enough for us to drag our sleds to high camp, sleep a fitful few hours and strike out for the summit. Mount Sidley’s summit is covered in huge rime ice “mushrooms,” which swell and shrink with the weather—which meant we had to check whether this year’s highest point was the same as last year’s.

Next, I flew out to Mexico to meet my friend Tina Bowman, whom I first met on Denali in 2012. We travelled to Tlachichuca, a village below Pico de Orizaba (5,671m). The next day we drove to Piedra Grande (4,200m), a stone building, which serves as base camp. We were spared by mountain sickness despite the 1,500-meter elevation gain, when we were a few hundred meters from the summit things got really tough. I was drained and my asthma was playing up.

List of volcanoes:

Mount Sidley (4,285m), Antarctica, December 28, 2013;
Pico de Orizaba (5,671m), Mexico, North America, January 17, 2014;
Attempt on Ojos del Salado, February 12, 2014;
Mount Giluwe (4,386m), Papua New Guinea, Australasia, March 1, 2014;
Ojos del Salado (6,893m), Andes, South America, March 21, 2014;
Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895m), Tanzania, April 2, 2014;
Mount Damavand (5,636m), Iran, Asia, April 15, 2014;
Mount Elbrus (5,642m), Russia, Europe, June 10, 2014.

at 5,200m. That season, only 10% of climbers reached the summit. Despite this, I refused to give up and returned in March. This time, the guide and I acclimatized properly, and we made it to the crater.

Mount Giluwe (4,386m) in Papua New Guinea was the easiest, but also the most terrifying. Never mind that the volcano is in the Highlands, where cannibalism and witch burning still happen. On the twenty-mile hike back, we got stuck in the rainforest after dark. And when darkness falls, the rainforest—and all its creatures—wake up, and you feel very, very vulnerable.

Finally, in April I attempted Kilimanjaro (5,895m), Mount Damavand (5,636m) in Iran, and Mount Elbrus, Russia (5,642m). The first two climbs went fine. It was my second Kilimanjaro climb, but still tough. Damavand engulfed me in sulphur clouds, but I still fell in love with it.

Elbrus was a different matter. It didn’t help that in April, the climbing season has barely started in the Caucasus. The past four months caught up with me and I felt exhausted. On summit night, temperatures

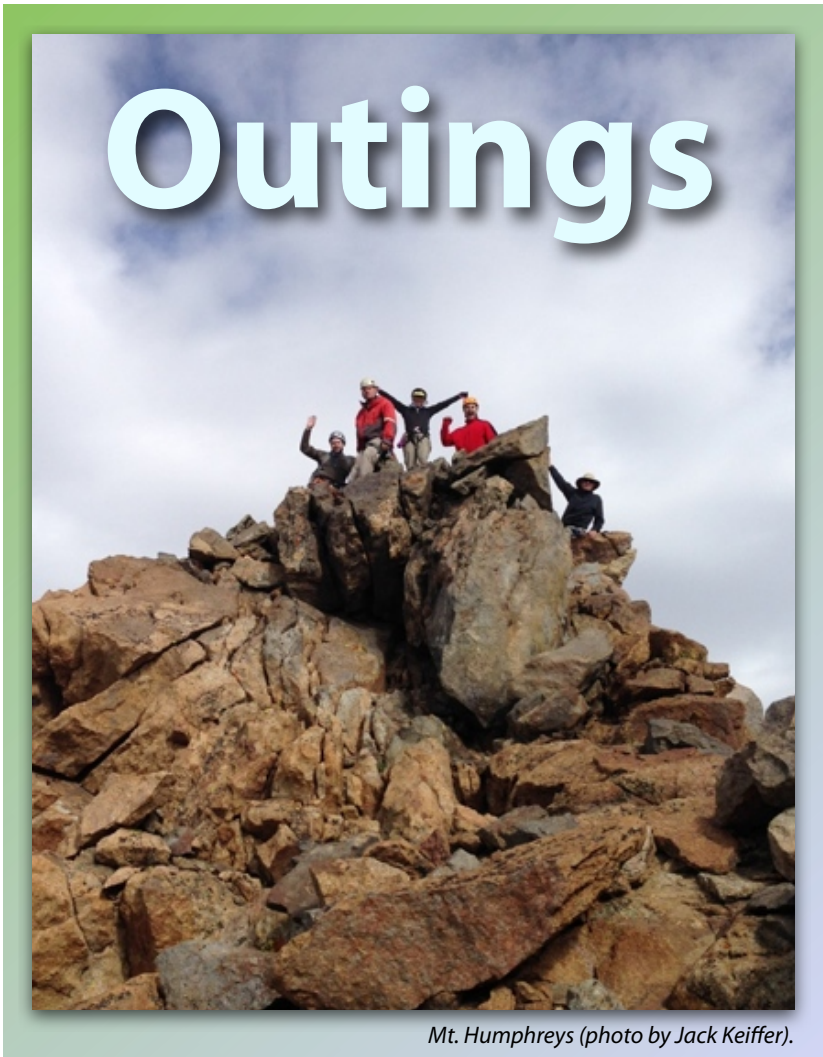
plummeted to -37 Celsius and wind speed was about 50 kph. I went home and forgot all about climbing. When I wrote Tina in May, she took about two seconds before agreeing to join me on another attempt on Elbrus in June. That’s the kind of friendship forged by three weeks together on Denali. When we reached the summit of Elbrus on June 10, I was in tears. It meant

so much to do something positive for cancer research. Thanks to people’s generosity the project has raised almost \$10,000! And hopefully, one day cancer will become merely a nuisance, nothing more.

Jan 10–11 | 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 [Leader's Reference Book](#) for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Mar 28 | Sat LTC
Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for April 11 seminar to be held in Pasadena area. See LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>) for registration information. No registration after this date or



Mt. Humphreys (photo by Jack Keiffer).

We've chosen the photo above taken by Jack Kieffer on his E provisional to Mt. Humphreys to represent the outings section. If you have a photo you would like to see here, please send your submission as an e-mail attachment to: tina@bowmandesigngroup.com or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

at the door. Next seminar: Fall 2015.
Apr 11 | Sat LTC
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar in Pasadena area. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Deadline for receipt of application is March 28. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Fall 2015.

Apr 12 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E–R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP11): Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of four hours reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

Apr 25 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E–R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP11): Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today, at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit

SPS outings can always be viewed online on the electronic Angeles Chapter Schedule of activities:
<http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/activities>
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/outingsAwesome.asp>

Leaders in this issue's schedule:
 Patrick Mckusky 626-794-7321 pamckusky@att.net
 Robert Myers 310-829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
 Daniel Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
 Phil Wheeler 310-214-1873 phil.wheeler@sierraclub.org

OUTINGS

Call for Outings

It's never a bad time to plan outings! What's on your SPS wish list? What peaks are your friends anxious to climb? Don't forget about day hikes; there are plenty of possibilities and no permit needed.

We need trips, and trips need leaders. Why not consider upgrading your leader rating or getting one? The next leader-training seminar will be held on April 11th with registration due two weeks before.

A particular need is for intro trips for newcomers. After all, getting newcomers into the Sierra is one of our main callings as a section. The easier snow and third class rock routes make for great introductory trips for rookies with the appropriate training.

"Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So . . . get on your way."—Dr. Suess

Gary Schenk, Outings Chair
gary@hbfun.org

to all four workshops. Send e-mail or sase, phones, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

May 2 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP11):
Rappelling: Third of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today, at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

May 9 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP11):
Rock climbing techniques and anchors: Fourth of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

May 9 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS**
I: Navigation: Beginning Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Jun 14 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Navigation: Grinnell Ridge Noodle: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send e-mail/sase,

contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil

Sixtieth Anniversary Outings

by Gary Schenk, SPS Outings Chair

The Sierra Peaks Section was formed in October 1955, sixty years ago. A big to-do is planned for the upcoming banquet. Another great way to celebrate would be to plan a 60th anniversary commemorative outing.

The first SPS Schedule was published in 1956, and twenty trips were offered. Leaders are encouraged to look over the following 1956 list and plan their own commemorative climbs.

May 5-6	Deer Mtn.
May 26-27	Maggie Mtn.
June 2-3	Mt. Gilbert
June 9-10	Trail Peak
June 23-24	Matterhorn Peak
June 30-July 1	Alta Peak
July 7-8	Mt. Whitney—Mountaineer's Route
July 14-15	Mt. Ritter
July 28-29	Goat Mtn.
August 11-12	University Peak
August 18-19	Mt. Lamarck, Mt. Darwin
August 25-26	Mt. Irvine
September 1-3	Mt. Williamson, Mt. Barnard, Trojan Peak
September 8-9	Mt. Silliman
September 15-16	Cardinal Mtn.
September 29-30	Tunnabora Peak
October 5-6	Mt. Rixford
November 11	Owens Peak

OUTINGS

SPS 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

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

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.

to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the [Leader's Reference Book](#) for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Aug 2 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: 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

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

OUTINGS

Outings Safety

by Gary Schenk, SPS Outings Chair

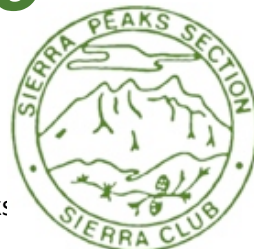
In order to “explore, enjoy, and protect,” we lead groups to wild places on outings we want to be safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible. A few years ago, a task force looked at safety on mountaineering outings and developed a document, “Safety Management on Restricted Mountaineering Outings,” which you may see at the Mountaineering Oversight Committee’s page of the Clubhouse extranet site at <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/mountaineering/index.asp>. If you don’t know the password, you can get it by going to the home page at <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/> and following the instructions (it’s easy and quick). Or another way is to click on <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/mountaineering/SafetyManagement.pdf>.

I strongly suggest that leaders of all of our outings review the full document. While the focus is on mountaineering outings, some parts apply to almost any outing. The main point to emphasize here is remaining aware of the changing environmental conditions and the physical and mental condition of the group.

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.

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 [Leader’s Reference Book](#) for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

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.

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

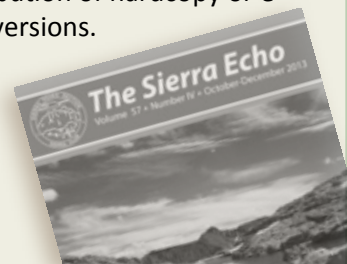


REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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(newsletter@sierrapeaks.org)

for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or e-mail versions.



SPS Income Statement 11-30-2014

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012	2013
INCOME											
Echo Subscriptions	1,490	780	340	90	40	20	20	10	10	1,835	1,360
Banquet Income	4,610	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,800	2,940
Donations	540	165	80	15	0	0	0	0	0	340	440
Merchandise Sales	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	27
	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	6,762	945	420	105	40	20	20	10	10	5,014	4,767
EXPENSES											
Postage	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	609	(4)
Printing	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	578	898
Merchandise	196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raffle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banquet Expenses	5,640	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,216	4,206
Bank Fees	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2
Website	268	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	6,772	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,821	5,103
OVERALL TOTAL	(10)	(55)	420	105	40	20	20	10	10	193	(336)

Minutes, SPS Meeting, December 3, 2014

- 1) Present for the conference call at 7:45 p.m. were Alexander Smirnoff, chair; Tohru Ohnuki, outreach; Rudy Fleck, banquet; and Tina Bowman, Echo co-editor and banquet committee.
- 2) Committee Reports
 - a) No minutes to approve
 - b) Chair—no report beyond other agenda items
 - c) Vice Chair and Tina Bowman—banquet
 - i) Banquet flyer to be mailed to all members, aim to have it ready by December 12th
 - ii) Outreach to 2014–15 WTC students and 2014 AMP students with a discounted banquet ticket price. E-mail to go to Bob Myers, WTC chair, to send to WTC leaders to share with their students. Similar message will go to Dan Richter to send to AMP students.
 - d) Outings—29 outings in 2014 as opposed to 21 in 2013
 - e) Treasurer's report—almost \$9,000 in bank.
 - f) Emblem Committee--no report
 - g) Outreach report—five more new members
 - h) Archives—no report

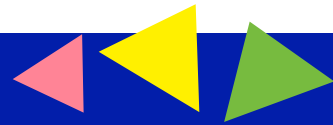
- i) Sierra Echo--digitizing archives--volumes 1–12 need to be scanned
- j) Mountain records--no report
- k) IT--no report
- l) Website updates--no report
- 3) New Business
 - a) Running for management committee--Alexander and Paul Garry have agreed. Need to check with Jim Fleming. Tohru and Rudy said no. Discussion of who else might be asked
 - b) Change of Policies and Procedures approved to amend 3.2 as follows

3.2 Emblem: A member of the section who has climbed ten emblem peaks and fifteen additional peaks on the Peaks List, who is a member in good standing, and who applies to the Secretary in writing, listing the peaks and the dates climbed shall be awarded Emblem Status and shall be entitled to wear the Section Emblem pin.

The underlined clause replaces “who has been a Section member for at least one year.”

The call ended at 8:30.
Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bowman

Trivia Contest . . . Hint!



Ron Bartell's trivia challenge in the last issue seems to have stumped us: "Name the Sierra peaks that are the highest SPS peak that far north, i.e., nothing farther north in the Sierra is higher than that peak." Because no one sent in an answer, here is the start of an answer to get you going. Remember, it's a set of peaks, and we're only considering SPS peaks. Nothing is higher than Adams Pk (8197') because it is the farthest north peak on the list. Moving south, the peak farthest north that is higher than Adams is Sierra Buttes (8591'); farther south, it's Mt. Lola (9148'), then Mt. Rose (10,776'). Next we skip down to Freel Pk (10,881'), then Highland Pk (10,935'). Next is Stanislaus Pk (11,233'), followed by Leavitt Pk (11,569'). This will get you started through sections 24 and 23. Note that sometimes there are big gaps, such as the one between Mt. Lyell (13,114') and the next peak to top it, Mt Ritter (13,143+'). -TB



Mystery Peak Challenge

This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the image. 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 Ron Bartell.



This Mystery Peak Challenge:

Ron Bartell wrote: "In Oct 2002, Greg & Mirna Roach's SPS List Finish on Kearsarge Pk was on the same weekend as the Lone Pine Film Festival. After the list finish and party on Saturday, we did a leisurely drive home, stopping at a craft fair (part of the film festival) in the Lone Pine city park. One of the booths was watercolors, with a sign saying they were by Bep Bingham. I recognized the name as an early SPSer (SPS Emblem #107, 1967) along with her husband Bud Bingham (SPS Emblem #6, 1956, designer of the SPS emblem). There was an older woman manning the booth and I asked if she was Bep, and she said she was. I ended up buying one of her watercolors (above). The question is, what peak is in the watercolor?"

Please send your answers to Tina at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

Check out the SPS web site if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there! <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/>



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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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