



# *The Sierra Echo*

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*In 2015 the Sierra Peaks Section celebrates its 60th Anniversary*

*IN THIS ISSUE: The SPS  
Banquet • New MCOMM •  
Chester Versteeg • Bishop  
Dayhikes • Kennedy &  
Harrington • Leader  
Contest • NEW OUTINGS*



# Echoes from the Chair

By Tina Bowman

What a fantastic, well-attended Sixtieth Anniversary banquet we had! Bob Cates' splendid slide show is available for viewing on the SPS website, and a DVD of the banquet—with shots of attendees as well as the speeches—is almost ready for purchase now. See details for ordering it in this issue of the *Echo* and on the website. For those who missed it and those who wish to savor it anew, Doug Mantle's banquet speech will also be reprinted in the *Echo* in case you wish to read rather than (or in addition to!) listen to and see it on the DVD.

Thank you to the 2014 Management Committee for their service to the SPS: Alexander Smirnoff, chair and treasurer; Rudy Fleck, vice-chair and banquet chair; Jim Fleming, secretary; Michael Gosnell, treasurer; and Tohru Ohnuki, fifth officer and outreach. I'm extremely pleased to be working with a strong team this year. Jim will be the vice-chair and banquet chair, Alexander will continue as treasurer, Paul Garry will serve as secretary, and Jeremy Netka brings his consulting and marketing skills to the fifth officer in charge of outreach. We met on February 1<sup>st</sup> and are off to a very good start.

With fourteen new members in 2014, a high for recent years, we hope to continue that trend of building and maintaining membership. Another perennial goal is to offer more and quite diverse outings; 2014 had an upswing in number of outings as well. We will offer the leader contest again. Another item the committee is pursuing is naming a Sierra peak officially for Andy Smatko. If we're successful—and why wouldn't we be?—we'll lead an official outing to dedicate the peak to him.

Although I said only "Thank you" at the banquet, I am truly honored to have been given the SPS Leadership Award. The SPS has been a major part of my life, a driving passion filled with exceptional friends, for nearly thirty-five years, so this award is a capstone for me. I look forward to serving this beloved section again as chair.

Happy sixtieth anniversary, SPS!

-Tina Bowman ([chair@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org))

## In this issue:

Chair's Column	Page 2
Section News & Contacts	Page 3
Member News	Page 4
Clouds Rest List Finish	Pages 5-6
SPS Banquet	Pages 6-9
Leadership Award	Page 9
60th Anniversary	
Mantle Banquet Speech part I	Pages 9-13
Meixner Trip report	Pages 13-14
Chester Versteeg	Page 14-17
Register Report	Page 18
Kennedy & Harrington	Page 19
Dayhikes from Bishop	Page 20-21
Leader Contest	Page 21
In High Places: Mexico	Pages 22-25
Outings	Pages 26-32
Leader Contacts	Page 27
Wilderness Permits	Page 30
SPS Treasurer's Report	Page 33
SPS Minutes	Pages 33-34
Mystery Peak Challenge	Pages 34-35

Cover photo: Descending the southwest ridge of Kennedy Mountain, August 15, 2014. Foreground right, Anne Mullins. Center left to right: Keith Christensen, Alexander Smirnoff, Paul Garry. (Photo by Beth Epstein)

# Our New SPS Management Committee



Our new management committee is pictured here, from left to right: Jeremy Netka, fifth officer in charge of outreach; Tina Bowman, chair, Alexander Smirnoff, past chair and current treasurer; secretary Paul Garry (top;) and vice-chair and banquet chair Jim Fleming.

## SPS Contacts

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## Proposals for Two Changes to the SPS Bylaws

The SPS management committee is proposing two bylaws changes for the next regular ballot. One of these changes is to drop the requirement that members be active in order to vote in section elections. Tracking active status is somewhat problematic. In addition, we don't think it serves much purpose now; why not include every member in elections? The other change would allow electronic voting for members who have email. Paper ballots would continue to be mailed to members without email.

More specifically, changes would be made to section 1.4.1, deleting the current text and replacing it with **1.4.1. Membership.**

Members retain their membership by

- (a) Maintaining their membership in the Sierra Club.
  - (b) Subscribing to the Section newsletter.
- Subscription fees are due on January 1 of each year and are delinquent on March 31 of each year.

Regarding electronic voting, section 2.4 would be amended thus (underlined portions added, strike-throughs eliminated):

**2.4. Election of Management Committee.** An election to choose members of the management committee shall be held annually in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, with a closing date for receipt of ballots specified by the Management Committee. The annual election, as well as all special elections, shall be conducted by electronic or written ballot mailed sent to all active [if the change to 1.4.1 is passed] members at least three weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to insure facility of voting and secrecy of ballot.

Bylaws changes require a vote of the membership; to view the bylaws, see <http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/mancomprocedures.html> If you have a pro or con argument to present, please send it to me at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com) or home address (new email address, by the way) for the next issue of the *Echo*. In the final issue of the newsletter, we can print rebuttals, if any, before the election.

# Welcome New SPS Members!

## Karen Andersen

Karen's dream to explore the Sierra Nevada was born after reading a *National Geographic* article about the Pacific Crest Trail. She began exploring the Sierra with skiing at Mammoth and summer car camps, eventually backpacking solo, mostly to Lake Ediza. Long-time member Ron Hudson introduced Karen to the SPS, cross-country travel, and rock climbing. She looks forward to adding peaks to her list and hiking and climbing with the amazing and accomplished members of the Sierra Peaks Section.



## Ron Webber

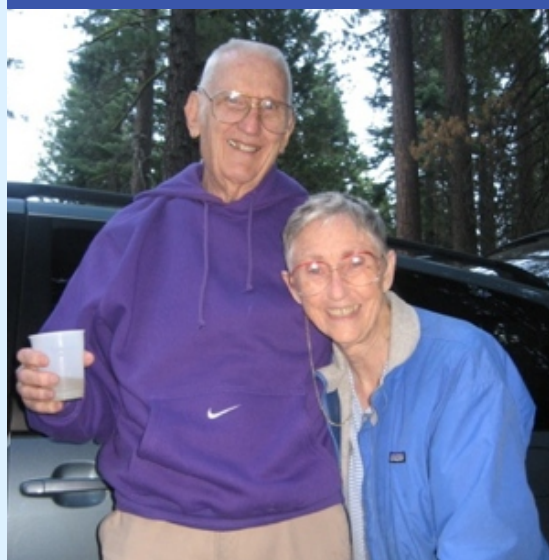
Ron is a returning member who started in the 1970's, climbing with Ron Jones, Dave Dykeman, Dale Van Dalsem, and others. Interested in the emblems, his climbing interests include the list via the more desirable routes, including snow climbs.



## Howard Steidtmann and Tobi Tyler

Tobi and Howard met on a Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club, peak climbing trip to central Nevada during the fall of 1986, and they have been climbing together ever since. Memorable ascents include the summit of Mount Shasta, where they were married in 1996. Experience climbing peaks in other domestic as well as international mountain ranges has only made their love for the Range of Light grow more intense. In 2005 they relocated from the Bay Area to the Northern Sierra where they enjoy the view of Lake Tahoe, Pyramid Peak, and Mount Tallac.

## PASSAGES



## Patricia Fletcher

Patricia Fletcher, emblem holder number 172 in October 1968, died on March 1st after an extended illness. Married to Elton Fletcher, SPS list finisher number nine, Pat last participated on an SPS trip in September 2011. Their daughter, Mary Fletcher, SPS emblem holder #174, earned her emblem at the same time as other members of her family.

*Elton and Pat Fletcher, during the 2010 Old Timer's trip.  
(Photo by Mary McMannes)*

Some years ago, Doug Mantle and I began taking an “Indian Summer” vacation. In other words, we would plan yearly Sierra trips the week after the Labor Day weekend. The crowds and the mosquitoes (often similar in nature) were gone from the Sierra. The days were still wonderfully good. The nights began to have just enough nip in the air—a reminder that we were in the mountains at their mercy. There was the chance of an early storm, which never seemed to happen. On a few trips, Tina Bowman or Randall Danta joined us.

To make it a real vacation, we decided to employ a couple of mules to haul the heavy weight. This of course included a nice chair and really good food instead of the just-add-water stuff. With only light daypacks, this format enabled us to hike long distances without killing our middle aged bodies. We could reach some of those “way in” peaks and stay in there for a week without hauling the mother lode of packs.

After several of these trips where we netted eight and ten peaks in a week, I realized I didn’t have that far to go to make a big dent in the ominous SPS list. Around the campfire or sometimes only by the stove, but always in the comfort of the lawn chair with a hot meal, I quizzed Doug about routes on peaks, number of climbing days, and peaks that would go



## *Seven and One on Clouds Rest: A List Finish to Remember*

*By Nile Sorenson*

well together. It was like having all the SPS *Echoes* right at my disposal. For the first time, I actually made a

count of how many peaks I had completed and which ones were left. Selfishly, I began to suggest planning these mule trips around the peaks that I needed. In quizzing Doug on how many more he “needed,” he seemed to have a number in mind, but I was never really sure if it was for list finish number six, seven, or eight! After several years of this, I noticed that he was saving the same peaks that I needed so we might do them together on these trips—pretty neat. Somewhere around one of the campfires it was decided that we would finish together on Clouds Rest in Yosemite. He had finished on that peak several times before, and it was a splendid hike.

Saturday, October 11, 2014, was to be the day. We decided rather than make a big fanfare, to keep a rather small close group. In the cool of the morning, Tom and Tina Bowman,

Tom McDonnell, Shane Smith, Barbara Sholle, Mary McMannes, and of course Doug and I assembled at Tenaya Lake trailhead for the seven-mile climb. The day was beautiful and

the karma of Yosemite was at its best. All smiles were bright and

cheery with good conversation and company. As Doug and I together reached the summit, a rather melancholy feeling of happiness and sadness came over me. Probably only those that have finished the list will understand. The dozen or so hikers on the summit seemed to fade away. I had climbed 101 of the 248 peaks all alone—solo. For a moment on October 11, it was just me and the rock. It



*Above: Nile Sorenson and Doug Mantle finish the list on Clouds Rest. Below: At the trailhead, left to right: Shane Smith, Tom McDonnell, Tom Bowman, Barbara Sholle, Tina Bowman, Doug Mantle, Nile Sorenson*

# The Show of Shows

By Mary McMannes

It was the show of shows, one enchanted evening, a banquet extraordinaire, where Sierra Peaks members and friends gathered to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our prestigious climbing section. Kudos and applause from us to chairperson Alexander Smirnoff, the SPS management, and the banquet committee who worked all year to make this the perfect celebration. We loved the Alhambra location, the huge ballroom of ample space, great food, complimentary table wine (Rudy, pink wine?), and lots of time to talk and reminisce about the good ole days, from long ago or last month. There were a few folks we had to look closely at their nametags and exclaim, "Oh, yes, it's you!" when we were sure we'd never met them. But, Doug, your niece's husband? The salads were served, and people hastened to their tables. No success in trying to steal Alan Ladd (I mean Shane Smith) from Kathy Rich and Lisa Barboza, but we tried. Alexander and



was finished.

Then I realized these list finishes are not really about just one person. I had climbed seventy-eight of the 248 peaks with Doug, thirty-three of them with Tina Bowman, and eighteen of them with Tom McDonnell. This list finish business is not about one person. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child; so it is with the SPS list.

We took all the obligatory summit photos with every possible grouping one could imagine.

As I stood on the summit of Clouds Rest, the grandeur of Yosemite distance were Sierra Nevada everywhere in identified each of their over at Mt. recalled that so prior I had remember of the fifth and Tina



lay before me. In the the peaks of the poking up the clear sky. As we them, I remembered summits. I looked Starr King and just two months or climbed that peak. I standing at the base class route with Tom Bowman and Doug.

That day, as we put on our harnesses and flaked the ropes, someone asked, who is going to lead Starr King? Both Doug and I responded at once, "I am." As I began to make my case why I should lead, Doug bolted up the face trailing a rope, not even on belay. I guess that settled it; he would lead that one. I whined a little but enjoyed the climb.

Now today, we stood together on Clouds Rest. Doug was finishing the list for the seventh time. As I considered the magnitude of that feat, I felt a bit small at having engaged in a discussion with him about who would lead Starr King. After all, of the seventy-eight summits that he and I have climbed together, he graciously let me lead each one, especially the hard ones like the Crag. It was appropriate that a few months earlier, I followed my friend and mentor up Starr King. But now, on this day, he invited me to join him to step foot together on the summit of our last one, Clouds Rest.

Above: List finishers atop Clouds Rest, left to right Tina Bowman, Doug Mantle, Barbara Sholle, Nyle Sorenson. Middle: Half Dome from Clouds Rest (Photos by Mary McMannes)



Alexander Smirnoff, outgoing SPS Chair, at left; Doug Mantle, right (Photo by Mary McMannes)

Doug (the boys with the million dollar smiles) were going over their notes, as the formal program commenced, Tina sat there calmly. not realizing we had a fine award engraved with her name, hidden in a brown paper bag.



Historian and local bon vivant, gifted photographer of the S.F. Valley, Bob Cates had put together a marvelous slide show of past and present climbers. It was the best, especially if we were in it. We owe Jerry

founder Chuck Miller. Last but not least is our own local climbing star and esteemed founder, Barbara Lilley, with our favorite, Gordon MacLeod, List Finishers #3 and #5. Sending best wishes were founders Frank Sanborn, Roger Gaefcke (first *Echo* editor), Izzy Lieberman, Frank and Joanna Bressel, John Wedberg, Miles Brubacher, Pat Meixner Gentry, and Bud Bingham's widow. Erick and Ellen Schumacher joined this admirable bunch, Erick having done some early SPS expeditions, himself—and certainly no slouch among the founding fathers and mothers.

Let the show begin, even though all were enjoying their own dinner banter, and Alexander rose to welcome us,



Clockwise from top: Mary Ann Eide Miller, first SPS secretary, and Bob Cates. Shane Smith with former chairs Kathy Rich and Dan Richter. Marlen Mertz, Ron Hudson, and new member Karen Andersen; founder George Wallerstein and Jerry Keating. (Photos by Mary McMannes).



Keating (List Finisher #4) a ton of thanks as well for providing the resource material on the early eighteen, our noble founders. He was determined to get out as many as he could to this banquet, and he did well. A big surprise was George Wallerstein (early lead, Gilbert, 1956) and Julie walking in, having flown from Seattle. We last saw him at the 50<sup>th</sup>, and he hasn't changed much in ten years. A club patriarch, second SPS emblem holder, author John Robinson (early lead, Deer Mtn., 1956) arrived with the Keatings along with Mary Ann Eide Miller, first SPS secretary and wife of





and this year we boasted of four new SPS List Finishers who had been lauded and honored at summer climbs and parties: Lisa Barboza #74, Bob Wyka #75, Nile Sorenson #76, and Doug Mantle, who completed the List the first time in 1974 and now has finished it for the seventh in October 2014. For the Standing Ceremony, Doug was

introduced new officers, and presented the sought-after (and not freely given) Leadership Award to the most deserving Tina Bowman. After a brief introduction for the Man of the Hour (who needs no introduction), Doug Mantle approached the podium with his inimitable yellow legal pad and began the traditional Standing Ceremony where old timers and new timers had polished their List Completion pins waiting to be the last ones standing.

There were emblem holders, senior emblem holder (147), master emblems (83),



*Clockwise from left above: Ellen Schumacher and Juggler on Peaks, Lance Dixon; Gene Mauk and Don Sparks; Gordon MacLeod, Mary McMannes, and Barbara Lilley; Bob Wyka, Elena Sherman, and Scott Sullivan. (Photos by Mary McMannes)*



assisted by Doug on a Stick (DOAS), waving in the air seven times and well deserving of the pomp and glory. And we shall not forget those who completed the List twice, phew and wow, Tina Bowman, Greg Vernon, and R.J. Secor.

Looking us over, giving a big grin, ready to follow in the tradition of our country's best and finest orators, Doug began, "In the beginning John Muir created the Sierra Club. And it was without chapters and sections." The Genesis was 1955, when a small group of climbers conceived and later formally announced the birth of our SPS. Doug spoke



in a calm and perfectly smooth, melodic voice for nearly an hour, and if you had a chance to look around the room, people were mesmerized as if under a spell. They were either waiting with eagerness or dread to be mentioned by him, our Homeric poet, who knew all and could spin the tale of truth and folly. Nearly every member in the room (and outside the room and even in the great beyond) was incorporated into this sixty-year-old story. Whether admired, appreciated, or gently teased, we are all a part of this magnificent history. Doug saved the best for last with his tribute (and our standing ovation) to Barbara Lilley, and in Doug's words, "Founder, leader, mentor, the outspoken voice for individualism, achievement, and exploration, Barbara Lilley, you are the SPS."

And then it was over, and there was another standing ovation and wild applause for Doug. Give a wave, Doug, for sending us forth into the starry night with an epic tale that will keep spinning. Fitting words from your friend, D.H. Lawrence, "If you have something to say, say it with passion, say it Hot!" And boy oh boy, you were hot, after your many months of gleaning *Echoes*, the Archives, and your own perfect memory. Our many ascents and descents, years of purposeful wandering in the Range of Light, we chose the right paths, didn't we? And some lucky chaps are just beginning. It's our shared love affair with the High Sierra, a world without end, amen.

Submitted by the Roving Girl Reporter, Mary McMannes, 2015

## SPS Leadership Award

By Mary McMannes

Congratulations and a big Whoooo Whoooo to our own Tina Bowman, newest recipient of the coveted Sierra Peaks Section Leadership Award. Not only do we like Tina as best friend of our section, but what else has she done to qualify for such an award?

Where do we begin? She's had a long-time climbing career, which has resulted in a double SPS List Finisher (and DPS and HPS—same day!), tons of solo climbs on all lists, yes, she's that good! M-rated leader in 1988 and E-rated leader since 1997 and the inspiration for many new climbers through her continuous leadership of climbs, both easy peases and most difficult—we're not sure how many she's led in DPS (well over fifty) and SPS (still counting) plus over eleven years spent in LTC (chair), LTC rock and snow examiner for eighteen years, keeper of SPS mountain records for ten years, National Mountaineering Oversight Committee since 1999, SPS and DPS management positions (currently chair of SPS), co-editor with Beth on the *Echo*, and finally, Chester Versteeg and Francis Farquhar Awards. After looking over this lengthy list of accomplishments, I bet you (dear readers) want to take a nap. She drags old leaders out of retirement and makes them lead or co-lead trips and constantly inspires newbies to get their leadership ratings.

Nobody does it better, and Tina still fits in bowling, tap dancing, gardening, and competitive running and hurdles—plus being attentive wife of Tom and mother to all those cats. She's just a great friend and kind and loyal to all of us with never a disparaging word, even when we deserve it. And we could never live without her signature Waldorf salad. Tina, you are more than deserving!

Love and thanks from all your climbing cronies and many friends in the Sierra Club.

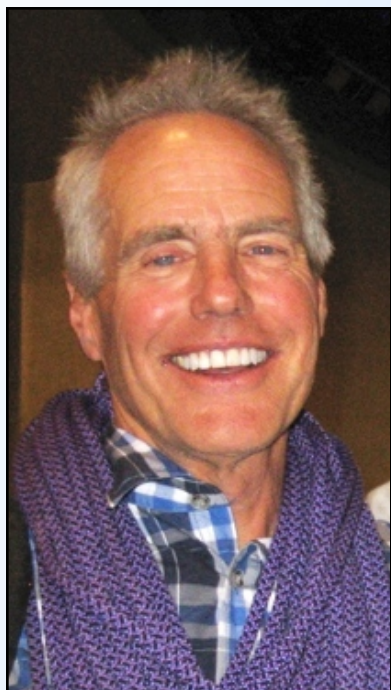


Tina and Tom Bowman. (Photo by Mary McMannes)



Sierra  
Peaks  
Section

# 60th Anniversary



## Sixtieth Anniversary Banquet Speech

Part 1: Introduction, Genesis, the 1950s, the List

By Doug Mantle

### Introduction

We begin with a tradition—musical chairs, SPS-style. I conducted this once—forty-one years ago! For this sixtieth anniversary, we'll add a couple of wrinkles.

Will the SPS founding members present please stand?

You hooked your meat (which means "you did it")!

Glen Dawson, as much as anyone, created the sport of rock climbing. He is our honorary member. We presume he went out jogging and forgot about the banquet. He is thirty-nine. Plus thirty-nine. Plus thirty-three. He's 102!

There have been three honorary members: the Old Gaffer (that's Norman Clyde, Alex), Jules Eichorn, and Glen.

Almost six hundred members have earned the SPS emblem. The first one awarded to an SPSer belongs to John Robinson—John, will you stand again?

Will all the other emblem holders join him? Some of the most recent emblems go to Michael Gosnell and Brent Crookham—Brent's here.

Will all but the senior emblem holders be seated? (One-hundred forty-seven have earned the senior emblem, Bill T.!)

Will the master emblem holders stay up, and the rest may be seated. There are eighty-three master emblems, now including Paul Garry.

Now will only the list finishers stay up?

In 2014 we added #74 Lisa Barboza, #75 Bob Wyka (BUB took a very long time, over forty years), and #76 Nile Sorenson. Nile credits the Holy Spirit to some extent, but before these assembled, I say he owes it all to me!

Shane Smith—how many to go?

All down now, except for those who have finished the List at least twice.

Tina [RJ and Greg weren't present], sit down, while Mary McMannes waves Doug-on-a-stick a few times. . . .

Ok, let's get started!

### Genesis

In a beginning, John Muir created the Sierra Club. And it was without chapters and sections.

So the Club separated the members living below the Kern County line from those living above, and the former were called the Southern California Chapter.

And, in the fifth decade, Chester Versteeg and others formed therefrom an Angeles Chapter and a Desert Peaks Section, which begat weekend trips into the High Sierra . . . but such excursions were rare.

And the young people were unhappy and clamored for more outings. They staged "outlaw" trips, some with Joanna Bressel and her dog. But this was not sufficient.

Then, holy mole guacamole, look what happened!

A Founder and SPS Poet Laureate, Pat Gentry recalls a certain campfire where "All at once, it hit us: There's a Desert Peaks Section, a local peak section, we're the Sierra Club, we need a Sierra Peaks Section. We knew what we had to do!"

What they had to do was unleash the Force: Frank Sanborn, the Prime Mover, the Dean. In July 1955, he and Pat, along with Chuck Miller, appeared before the Angeles Executive Committee to seek formal approval for the SPS. It was like knocking at the gate to the Emerald City in the Wizard of Oz, but they were prepared!

"You really mean to conduct weekend climbing trips up in the High Sierra? Impracticable! Go away!" Nonsense! With the advent of modern highways, fast cars, gasoline at fifteen cents a gallon—this is a no-brainer!

Oh, but first you must prepare bylaws, and appoint officers, and—"Shoot, we already did all that! And here's our preliminary List of one hundred peaks, and our statement of purpose: 'To acquaint as many Sierra Club members as possible with the Range of Light.'"

It still took three months, but on October 15, 1955, permission was granted; the SPS was hatched!

### 1950s

There were eighteen founding members. Fifteen of them led or assisted trips in the months around the

Above: Doug Mantle at the Banquet (Photo by Mary McMannes)

inception, but our leaders weren't just leading other leaders for long.

The SPS took off like the Pleistocene explosion. Within a year it was "by far" the most active section, to quote *The Southern Sierran*. By 1960 we had 176 members and led twenty-five trips every summer.

The early trips went not just to the Sierra but to Mt. Inyo, which we named, to other desert peaks, and SoCal highpoints. Our charter called for exploration and backpacking, so we did that as well, especially in the Southern Sierra.

In this earliest era, one fella stood out as Mr. SPS—he may be tired of standing—John Robinson, will you give us a wave? With Frank Sanborn, he led the first official trip, to Deer Mountain, May 5–6, 1956. That fall, he conceived our monthly magazine, which Roger Gaefcke dubbed *The Echo*, and he became its first editor.

He produced it on a ditto machine. That was a labor-intensive reproduction system, one step up from amanuenses as employed by the Apostle Paul. For the first edition only, John hand-colored the emblems on the covers—with what, John, crayons?

It was the second chair, after Sanborn, Bud Bingham, who designed our splendid emblem depicting



Mt. Williamson, the second highest Sierra Peak. You could buy the gold-filled pin, if you earned it, for four bucks.

Robinson wrote what seems like most of the early trip reports; he led more than thirty trips in the first two years with up to sixty participants. The section teetered near hysteria in October 1958 when it was reported that John had moved to Balboa Island, taken up sailing, and "now no longer climbs for points."

False alarm. He kept on leading into the 1980s, by which time—with *Trails of the Angeles*, eight editions, and *San Bernardino Mountain Trails*, to mention just two of his books—he had added "Famous Guidebook Author" to his resume. (John, did you have your mother's permission to drive her Cadillac to the Mexican volcanoes?)

One of the first questions we confronted was, "Are we a climbing section or a hiking section?" John Robinson wrote, "Do we lead tremendous climbs like North Palisade and Mt. Humphreys, or do we just continue with the mediocre?" We voted. Sixty-one to five, we do hard climbs too. Bud Bingham posed a tougher question in 1957, one we still wrestle with: "Are we primarily



Top: On Mt. Brewer, June, 1957, L to R, John Robinson, Chuck Miller, Andy Smatko. Center: John Robinson at the SPS banquet. (Photo by Bob Cates) At left: SPS charter members on Angora Mtn, April 1956. L to R: Owen Blackburn, Pat Meixner, John Robinson, Chuck Miller, Frank Sanborn (Sanborn collection, by Bud Bingham)

elitist, death marching peakbaggers?” Bud pleaded for a kinder, gentler SPS: “Help out the newcomers; don’t see how far you can leave them behind.” That August, on a trip to Mt. Goddard, the co-leader, Andy Smatko, arrived in camp—two hours ahead of the group.

Closing out the decade, George Wallerstein and Barbara Lilley launched the tradition of SPSers conducting expeditions with a trip to St. Elias.

And we formulated a new policy—henceforth we would carry our garbage out of the backcountry in place

It has been called “sacred,” “beloved.” Why, I’m told that some people devote their whole lives to climbing it! But it wasn’t always so.

To fashion it, we had no nice topographic maps—Sanborn worked for the Auto Club and used their maps with lots of names and elevations to make up a preliminary list of one hundred. He turned this over to the new mountaineering committee, headed by Miles Brubacher. They figured this was too narrow, so they broadened it to the original, official two hundred.

Nobody had even seen most of them!

Sacred List? From the start there was chicanery. Sanborn had included a crummy peak, Needham, as one of the emblem peaks—there were twelve emblem peaks; on climbing ten of them you were awarded your emblem. Guess what, Frank and Pat Gentry had already climbed Needham. Miles said, “Crafty outlaws hoped to achieve a premature emblem,” and amidst “howls and screams,” he threw Needham out, in favor of Mt. Kaweah. Not, however, before a presumed innocent, John Robinson, by counting Needham, attained the first emblem by an SPSer.

Thereafter, for years, the management committee added or delisted peaks freely as we checked them out. But by the mid 1970s, rigor mortis set in: more and more members decided to pursue climbing the entire list, which was not foreseen at the start. These people get grouchy about “moving the goal posts.” When Mt. Shinn was proposed, Tim Treacy called it “Sacrilege—you’re messing around with our sacred list,” and the SPS voters agreed. From



of burying it. Ron Hudson mapped the earlier potential food caches and ransacked them, every one of them!

And in 1958 Jerry Keating (Jerry, a wave?) led the very first “old timer” trip, to Rockhouse. Jerry, 1960 chair, second Echo editor, List Finisher #4, has for almost sixty years been the guardian of the legacy, leading peaks, sure, but also backpacks and exploratories as per our charter, and especially since the fiftieth anniversary, he has kept on leading “old timer” trips. The latest sojourn was last September.

Please, Jerry, do not give it a rest!

## List

Maybe better known than the Sierra Peaks Section is the Sierra Peaks List. Here it is, 248 peaks covering the range, south to north.



At the SPS Banquet, Top: Mary Gyax Motheral and Jerry Keating (Photo by Bob Cates). Above, L to R: Edna Erspamer, Doug Mantle, Mary McMannes.

## Banquet DVD Available!

A very exciting video taken at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet is available on a DVD. Relive or experience for the first time this milestone occasion! It includes many captured moments of you and your favorite people both during the social hour and following the main program. You'll hear again the outstanding speeches by emcee Alexander Smirnoff and our favorite keynote speaker, Doug Mantle. There's music, tons of photos both by photographer Rouben and roving reporter Mary Mac. Order early, and don't be left out. Send your check for \$12 made out to the SPS to the treasurer, Alexander Smirnoff, at 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104. Order your copy now!

that point on almost nobody dared to “mess around” with the status quo.

It took an obstinate ex-Air Force Colonel, Bill T. Russell, to make the next alteration. In the late 1980s, he obsessed over adding Palisade Crest. When it was voted down, he just inserted the issue onto the very next ballot, sabotaged all opposition, and clucked in satisfaction as we added it to the List in 1989.

Ironically, Bill T. was a key figure, albeit a celestial one, in the next conflagration: the Caltech Wars. Caltech is the dandy little college for geniuses here in Pasadena. Brilliant people naturally gravitate to the SPS,

but goodness gracious, Caltech alumni in the Sierra Peak Section exceed the student body!

Our saga began when alumnus and SPS chair Dick Jali improbably cajoled the USGS to officially bestow the school’s name on a peak near the Kings–Kern Divide. Then, in the 1970s, two of the “Ancients” (we’ll explain that in due time) led a trip to climb it. Both were alumni. They then commenced what I called a “sophomoric” campaign to add it to the List. It bombed!

Twenty years later, one of them, Bill T., graduated to that Beckman Auditorium in the sky, igniting a sentimental resurgence of the

proposal. It was Bush vs Gore with charges of illegal ballot maneuvering, an appeal for outside intervention, the chair threatening to resign—and Caltech lost again.

Come 2007, the other ancient, Duane McRuer, succumbs, so, lo and behold, like General Santa Ana’s amputated leg, this thing jumps back up—and this time wins.

I’ll quiz a couple random members about it—Lance Dixon—adding Caltech—good idea? Betty McRuer—good idea?

Since then the List remains unamended. Propose alteration at your peril!



## Seven Days in the Sierra *By Patricia Meixner [Gentry]*

On August 20 [1955], the following people took off from Parchers Camp near South Lake for a 9 day trip in the Sierra from there to Sawmill Pass--Frank Sanborn, Dick and Lucy Woodward, *(continued on p. 14)*

**From Jerry Keating:** Four SPS founding members-to-be appear in this photo taken along what in August 1955 was the John Muir Trail (now PCT). From left, Frank Sanborn, Ted Maier, Roger Gaefcke and Chuck Miller. Next to Chuck is Dick Woodward; then, tentatively, Jim McGoldrick. According to a report (reprinted here) by Pat Meixner, (now Pat Gentry) in Southern Sierran, others on the trip were Lucy Woodward, Meixner and Bob Smeltzer. This photo appeared on p. 10 of the 50th anniversary edition of the Sierra Echo (October 2005), but only Sanborn, Gaefcke, and Dick Woodward were identified. Dick was credited with being the photographer, but more likely Lucy Woodward took the photo. This photo was taken just two months before the SPS received its approval from the chapter. (Source of photo: Lucy Woodward Collection, Angeles Chapter Digital Archives)

# History 101: The Life and Adventures of Chester Versteeg

by John W. Robinson

Chester Versteeg's vibrant personality and boundless enthusiasm were well known to Southern California Sierra Clubbers for some forty years. Except in summer, when he was off tramping through the High Sierra, he seldom missed the Club's Friday night dinners at Boos Brothers Cafeteria in downtown Los Angeles, warmly greeting newcomers and old-timers alike.

Chester's enthusiasm was infectious and many a time, by force of personality alone, he was the driving force behind Chapter projects and outings. Members looked forward to his after-dinner lectures on the Sierra Nevada and other western ranges, illustrated with lantern slides often colored by Chester himself. He persuaded Club members to reinstate the annual Southern California Chapter banquet and served as banquet chairperson and toastmaster three times. He



founded the Desert Peaks Section, overcoming the indifference of Club members by his sheer persuasive enthusiasm. Although never Chapter chairperson (he turned down pleas to run for office several times), Chester was as responsible as anyone for the Southern California Chapter's early success.

Chester was born in Ashton, South Dakota, on October 1, 1887, son of Arthur and Melvina Versteeg. As a boy, he worked at his father's flour mill. He might have remained in the flour mill business all his life had his parents not separated and his mother moved to Pasadena, California. Chester first visited California in 1901, but returned to South Dakota to work a few more years with his father. But he was unable to resist the lure of the West. In 1906 he

moved to Los Angeles permanently and attended Los

*(Continued from p. 13)* Jim McGoldrick, Ted Maier, Roger Gaefcke, Bob Smeltzer, Chuck Miller, and Pat Meixner. We hiked along a string of lovely lakes in a basin surrounded by towering peaks and walls, up over Bishop Pass and down into the Dusy Lakes Basin, where we made camp at the lower Dusy Lake in a light rain. However, by evening we had lovely weather again.

Sunday we followed a duck route up over Knapsack Pass, down across Palisade Basin, over a low dividing ridge into Glacier Basin. We camped that night above timberline on beautiful Glacier Lake, surrounded by impressive peaks and ridges.

Monday we awoke to a frosty morning and leaving our packs took off cross-country to climb Mt. Sill, 14,200 ft. The view of the Palisades peaks, glaciers and other high rugged mountains was spectacular. We soon descended, for when we reached camp we again put on our packs and followed a duck route up over a pass to make a tremendous drop down into Middle Palisade Basin. We camped at the upper Palisade Lake about dark. A strange odor filled the camp that night, but it wasn't until daylight that we discovered that a dead horse had been blown up a few days before for faster decaying and we were camping right in the middle of the mess!

Tuesday we hiked the John Muir Trail up over Mather Pass, 12,050 ft., where we had a superb view northward to the Palisades and southeastward to the upper basin of the South Fork of the Kings River. We dropped down into the basin and camped that night by a lovely stream.

Wednesday we hiked up to Bench Lake arriving there at noon. From our camp on the pine-dotted shore, we could look across to beautiful pyramid-shaped Arrow Peak with snow at its base. We spent the afternoon loafing and fishing.

We were to have a layover day on Thursday and hike on again on Friday, but one of our group, Roger Gaefcke, became seriously ill Wednesday night. He passed into unconsciousness Thursday morning, so Frank Sanborn and Dick Woodward hiked out over Taboose Pass for help and got back 3:30 am Friday morning with a doctor, sheriff, and horses. The doctor told us that it was part heart trouble and pneumonia and that Roger was lucky to be alive. As soon as possible after daybreak, Roger was put on a stretcher on a mule and the whole group started out over Taboose Pass. We reached the valley floor about 4 pm, the end of a very eventful trip.

Angeles High School, graduating with the class of 1909.

In 1909, fresh out of high school, the course of Chester's life took a dramatic turn. He discovered the Sierra Nevada. He and a friend embarked on a planned several hundred-mile burro trip through the Sierra. After only two weeks his friend became ill and left. Chester sold the burro in Lone Pine and continued the trip solo, hiking all the way north to Yosemite, following the route pioneered by Theodore Solomons in 1896. (There was no John Muir Trail then.) He became thoroughly enamored with the High Sierra and spent his next forty summer vacations rambling through the Range of Light.

Chester entered law school at the University of Southern California in 1910. While there, he became well acquainted with one of his law professors named Clair Tappaan. Both had an interest in mountain hiking and camping. When Tappaan informed his young student of the newly-formed Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club (formally established on

November 1, 1911), Chester eagerly joined the organization. When the new chapter decided to build their mountain home in Big Santa Anita Canyon, Chester volunteered to help. Whereas most members hiked into the canyon on weekends to work on the stone structure, Chester packed in a tent and bedroll and set up camp at the site, gathering boulders, cementing them in place, and doing carpentry work. When Muir Lodge was dedicated on October 4, 1913, Chester was in proud attendance.

Chester earned his law degree in 1916 and went into practice with the prominent law firm of Slosson and Mitchell. He successfully practiced law until 1920, when he started his own very successful insurance brokerage business.

Chester's first love always remained the Sierra Nevada. Over some four decades he spent the better part of each summer exploring and climbing in the Range of Light. It is said that, over the years, he walked every established trail from Sequoia to Yosemite and is credited with more Sierra first ascents (40) than anyone

### *Significant Climbs of the Past:*

## **Dedication of Mt. Chester Versteeg, September 5, 1965**

*By John W. Robinson*

Over the Labor Day weekend, September 1965, Tom Amneus and I led a backpack trip over Shepherd Pass to dedicate newly named Mt. Chester Versteeg. At the urging of Chester's many friends, and the approval of the National Park Service, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names accepted the name "Mt. Versteeg" for a 13,470-foot summit immediately south of Mt. Tyndall. The climb was sponsored jointly by the SPS and the DPS. We unfurled the Stars and Stripes and the Versteeg family flag and placed a register on the summit containing a synopsis of Chester's life and accomplishments.

Pictured are leader John Robinson on the left and assistant Tom Amneus behind the U.S. flag. Also making the summit were George Shinno, Graham Stephenson, Paul Nelson, Ed Storke, Webb Brush, Wayne Inman, and newcomer Marvin Liskie. Lillian Versteeg, Chester's widow, camped the three days at the Symmes Creek trailhead and loaned us the Versteeg family flag. We fulfilled her request to unfurl the family banner on the summit.

Sierra Peakers should be familiar with the Angeles Chapter's Chester Versteeg Outings Award, given annually "For long-term and outstanding leadership in furthering the enjoyment and safety of the outings program." The award was established in 1976 as the Chapter's premier award for outdoor activities and given the Versteeg name in 1987. Of the 39 awardees, 28 have been members of the Sierra Peaks Section, a proud record!



*Sept. 5, 1965: SPS/DPS dedication climb of Mt. Chester Versteeg. Leader John Robinson holding U.S. flag top summit. The other flag is the Chester Versteeg family flag. Behind the U.S. flag is Tom Amneus, who served as assistant leader in place of Frank Sanborn. According to John, George Shinno (?) is partly shown to the right of the Versteeg flag. Not making the summit were Monroe Levy and Ralph Merten. (Photo from the Robinson collection.)*

other than Norman Clyde. During his many mountain treks he noticed numerous prominent landmarks that were unnamed. He organized the Sierra Club's first Committee on Geographic Names and was directly responsible for the naming of some 250 peaks, passes, lakes, creeks, and meadows in the Sierra Nevada. In the 1930s he worked with the Club to urge the establishment of Kings Canyon National Park. An article by Chester promoting Kings Canyon was printed in the Congressional Record and helped persuade Congress to establish the Park in 1940.

Chester was married in 1920. He and his bride, Lillian, spent their honeymoon on a month-long burro pack trip through the heart of the Sierra. A decade or so later Chester and Lillian's two daughters, Janice and Betty, joined on the annual Versteeg family burro outings.

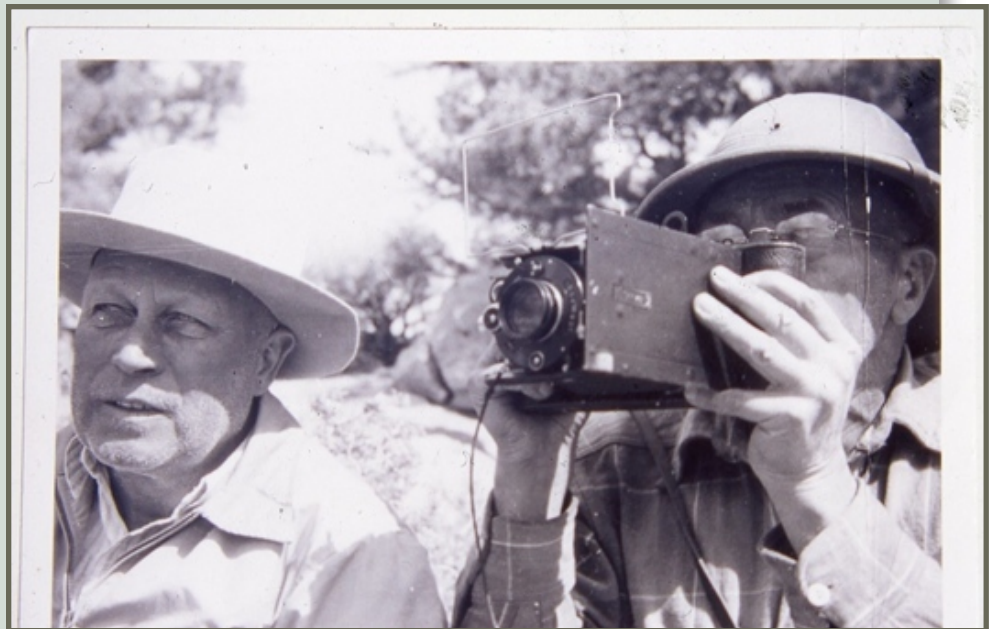
Over the years, Chester wrote some forty newspaper articles on the Sierra Nevada, most of which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*. He not only wrote about his favorite mountains, he talked about them, too. His popular lectures, given in dramatic Versteegian prose, were well received by appreciative audiences.

While climbing peaks on the Sierra Crest, he often gazed eastward at range after range of tawny desert mountains fading to the distant horizon. His curiosity was activated. What were these desert ranges like? Were they as devoid of life as they appeared? Was water available? Chester decided to find out.

According to Louise Werner it was on New York Butte, climbed with Virgil Sisson and Larry Jeffries on June 1, 1941, that Chester conceived of a Sierra Club group specializing in climbing desert summits. The mountain was not barren at all. Its upper slopes were clad with juniper and pinyon pine. There was a spring of icy-cold water just



*Chester Versteeg and Niles Werner led a DPS climb of Waucoba Peak over the weekend of June 6-7, 1942. Relaxing on the summit are, left to right, Parker Severson, Fred Johnson, Martin Britt, Harry Paley, Rhoda Goertz, Freda Walbrecht, Chester Versteeg (in white pants), Jim Tow, and Morris Vehon. Photographer was Niles Werner. This is the earliest known photograph of a DPS outing and was drawn from the Niles Werner Collection in the Angeles Chapter Archives.*



*1945: Niles Werner holds his large camera with Chester Versteeg beside him.*

below the crest. The view across Owens Valley to the snow-clad Sierra Crest was stunning!



The Friday after his New York Butte climb, Chester was at Boos Brothers, talking up his new idea. But his proposal took a while to reach fruition. Louise Werner, who was there at the time, described the birth pangs of the Section: "If there was any one quality that especially characterized Chester, it was enthusiasm. Out of his infectious enthusiasm was born the Desert Peaks Section. It did not, however, spring full-fledged, like Minerva from the head of Zeus. Chester's flame all but died under the soggy indifference he encountered every time he brought up the subject. It took a good deal of fanning and blowing before it caught a few individuals who went along, at first, mainly because Chester was such a persistent salesman. We can see him yet, before a crowd of Friday-nighters at Boos Brothers, trying to warm us to the idea."

Chester was delighted when the Chapter Executive Committee gave its approval in the fall of 1941, and he wasted no time in scheduling activities for the new section. On the weekend of November 15-16, 1941, occurred the first scheduled outing of the Desert Peaks group: a climb of New York Butte led by Chester and Niles Werner. But as fate would have it, momentous outside events put a damper on the

fledging section. With the Pearl Harbor attack plunging the United States into World War II along with gasoline rationing, desert climbing activities were reduced to occasional forays by a handful of enthusiasts.

With war's end, all the pent-up energies of Chester and his small band of desert enthusiasts burst out in renewed activity. In late 1945 the DPS was reorganized as a formal section of the Southern California Chapter, with dues, officers, and business meetings instituted. Chester was offered but declined the chairmanship. His attention turned back to the Sierra Nevada.

As an alumnus of the University of Southern California, Chester noticed that there were Sierra peaks honoring Stanford University (two) and the University of California (University Peak), but nothing to honor his institution. To remedy this, Chester organized and led an ascent of a then-unnamed 13,968-foot summit about five miles north of Mt. Whitney and proposed the name "Trojan Peak." The U. S. Board on Geographic Names, at the request of Chester and university president Dr. Fred Fagg, accepted the name "Trojan Peak" and the pool of water below it as "Lake Helen of Troy." In 1951, shortly after the names were accepted by

the USBGN, Chester founded the Trojan Peak Club and designed its triangular red and gold emblem. In 1952 he led a climb up George Creek to place a register on the summit. At 65, this was Chester's last major Sierra climb.

In his later years, Chester worked on a history of the Sierra Nevada, interviewing over 300 pioneers and other persons with knowledge of the Range of Light. But he was beaten to the punch by Francis Farquhar's superb history of the range published by the University of California Press in 1964.

Chester Versteeg, 76 years old, passed away on November 2, 1963. Perhaps his greatest legacies were the 250-odd Sierra peaks, passes, lakes, creeks, and meadows he named and being the founding father of our Desert Peaks Section.

SOURCES: Interview with Mrs. Lillian Versteeg of Laguna Niguel, Chester's widow; selected Chester Versteeg papers and correspondence donated by Mrs. Versteeg; interviews with Louise Werner of Alhambra and later at the Artesia Christian Home. Correspondence with Parker Severson, Freda Walbrecht, Fred Johnson, Bill T. Russell, Charles Knapke, Dennis Kryska, and Robert Cates, the later Chair of the Angeles



## Dare to Lead!

### Spring Leadership Training Seminar Set for April 11, 2015

Want to become a Sierra Club outings leader? The next leader training seminar is Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Pasadena area. Hurry, the deadline to register is March 28<sup>th</sup>! The all-day class costs \$25. The application is on-line at [angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc). Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Steve by email ([ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org](mailto:ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org)) or by phone (714-321-1296).

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.

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson [AMLeadership@gmail.com](mailto:AMLeadership@gmail.com)

# 2015 SPS Summit Register Needs

by Harry Langenbacher, SPS Mountain Records Chair

\* “A surprise on Moses Mountain” was an article on the Angeles Chapter website in 2013 featuring the old 1963 register there. It should come as no surprise that it was missing in 2014. Please remember that when you publish, they perish.

Six more peaks than last year. PLEASE see my web site at <http://summitregister.org> for more specific descriptions of the needs for each peak. Shoot me a message in advance, and I will be glad to provide supplies and additional information from my archives if available. Keep checking [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) for updates.

Thanks to everyone who has sent me reports, pictures, and suggestions, and especially to everyone who has replaced missing books and containers.



Abbot Mt	All	Gibbs Mt	Book	Sill Mt	Container
Agassiz Mt	All	Goethe Mt	All	Silliman Mt	All
Alta Peak	Book	Julius Caesar Mt	Repair	Split Mtn	Book
Bear Creek Spire	All	Langley Mt	Book	Stanford S Mt	All
Black Hawk Mtn	All	Matterhorn Peak	Book	Stanislaus Peak	All
Black Mtn	Book	Mokelumne Peak	All	Starr King Mt	Container
Carillon Mt	Book	Morrison Mt	All	Striped Mtn	All
Cathedral Peak	All	Moses Mtn *	All	Temple Crag	All
Center Peak	All	North Palisade	Book	Three Sisters	Book
Cotter Mt	Book	Olancha Peak	All	Thunder Mtn	Retrieval
Crag Peak	Container	Pilot Knob N	All	Tinemaha Mt	Container
Dana Mt	Book	Recess Peak	All	Tower Peak	Book
Elwell Mt	All	Red & White Mtn	All	Twin Peaks N	All
Emerson Mt	Container	Rose Mt	All	Tyndall Mt	All
English Mtn	Book	Round Top	Book	Virginia Peak	All
Ericsson Mt	All	Royce Peak	All	Vogelsang Pk	Book
Excelsior Mtn	Container	Russell Mt	All	Warren Mt	Container
Foerster Peak	Book	San Joaquin Mtn	All	West Vidette	Book
Four Gables	Book				

## Regulating Summit Registers in SEKI

by Harry Langenbacher

Late last year I was contacted by the Wilderness Coordinator at SEKI for feedback on their development of a summit register policy in their Wilderness Stewardship Plan. His intentions included, among others, to “continue to allow SRs in those areas where they have a documented history. We are determining this history by analyzing the Bancroft Library curatorial records.”

After a little back and forth by e-mail and phone, he did agree with some of my points on the subject, including the fact that the Bancroft records are not the most appropriate source to use. As I now understand it, a general summit register policy will be published in the “final” Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) about April, this year. The plan will be on the PEPC (Planning, Environment & Public Comment) website, which can be reached through <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>. There is currently a draft WSP there, but I cannot find anything about registers in it.

I was told that the “final” April plan will

1. Acknowledge the existence of summit registers;
2. Acknowledge involvement of the SPS (that’s us!) in maintaining them;
3. Call for reduction of the number of these registers in a manner to be determined through discussion with interested parties.

I will publish my comments on my [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) website once I see the plan, and I will make my case clear to them as best I can. Feedback to SEKI from all of you is more important than mine alone.

Please keep an eye out for the release of this plan and prepare to show your interest—I think the website will provide various ways you can submit comments on the plan, and they will listen. It seems to me that they are interested in hearing specific justification, historical documentation, and your best arguments as to why registers should be maintained on the SEKI summits—it’s tradition, it’s historic, it helps with SAR, we like them, they’re not bad, etc.

Let’s make an effort to do this!



## **Mt. Harrington & Kennedy Mtn**

*(August 15-17, 2014)*

Alexander Smirnoff led and I assisted this three-day climb of these two Kings Canyon peaks and were joined by Keith Christensen, Paul Garry, and Anne Mullins. Although we were expecting a miserably hot death march to camp, with an 6:30 start on the Lewis Creek Trail it was actually a pleasant walk in an interesting area to camp at Frypan Meadow, where there was still water in the stream in a dry year, and a bearbox. Alexander made the early start possible by obtaining the permit on Friday before the ranger station closed. After lunch we climbed Kennedy, which was also interesting, but a hot class 1 trudge compounded by bugs and willows. After a 7,000' day, we were happy to reach the summit and enjoy the view. Taking the long southwest ridge back to Lewis Creek, we reached the trail intersection as the light was fading. I was grateful when Keith spied the

trailbuilders' cut logs in the dusk. On Saturday we had a more leisurely day in the alpine terrain on Harrington, which has a wonderful, short, and solid class 3 ridge. A relatively early start back on Sunday got us to the trailhead with time for a swim in the river and lunch at Grants Grove. Fun weekend, and clean and cool at the end! —*Beth Epstein*



*Clockwise from top: On summit of Harrington, Alexander Smirnoff and Beth Epstein in front, Paul Garry behind (Photo by Keith Christensen); Kennedy summit: Paul Garry and Anne Mullins. Frypan Meadow; Keith Christensen on Kennedy; Mt Harrington (Photos by Beth Epstein)*



# Some Notes about SPS Peaks in a Day— Bishop Area

*By Tina Bowman*

From Bishop on the east side of the Sierra, a number of peaks can be climbed in a day from the trailheads at South Lake, Lake Sabrina, and North Lake.

## ***How do I get there?***

For all of these lakes, head west from Bishop on West Line Street, the first traffic signal if you come into town from the south on highway 395. West Line Street becomes highway 168. In about fifteen miles, you'll turn left and go close to six miles to reach the Bishop Pass Trail parking lot at South Lake. For Lake Sabrina, go straight from the turn for South Lake. Although the overnight hiker parking lot is back down the road at the turnoff for North Lake, there is limited day-use parking by the Sabrina Basin Trails trailhead and more on up the road at the lake. For North Lake, turn right nearly eighteen miles from Bishop and follow the paved and dirt road to the lake. You'll turn right toward the pack station to reach the hiker parking lots and will have to walk a short distance to the end of the road at a campground to get to the North Lake trails.

## ***What trails and peaks are accessed from South Lake?***

Cloudripper can be reached from the Green Lake Trail, which starts at

Parcher's Camp, where there is a pack station. You'll pass Parcher's on your way to South Lake, about a mile and a half short of the lake. This is also the area where the overnight overflow backpacker parking is. For the trail to Green Lake, you can also park at the Bishop Pass Trail parking lot and hike on the hore trail back toward Parcher's to the junction with the Green Lake Trail, which takes off between Parcher's and South Lake. You can also get to Cloudripper from the Chocolate Lakes by taking the Bishop Pass Trail to the Bull Lake and Chocolate Lake trail, though the climb is more difficult. Mt. Goode and Mt. Agassiz can both be climbed via the Bishop Pass Trail. For Mt. Gilbert and Mt. Johnson, go a mile on the Bishop Pass Trail, then take the Treasure Lakes Trail.

## ***How about trails and peaks from Lake Sabrina?***

Pt. Powell and Mt. Thompson can both be climbed from the trail to Baboon Lakes, which splits off from the main trail from Lake Sabrina at Blue Lake. The other branch of the trail goes to a fork beyond Dingleberry Lake, where you take the left-hand side to Hungry Packer Lake and on to Echo Lake for



*Mt. Agassiz from Mt. Goode.  
(Photo by Tina Bowman).*



Mt. Haeckel and Mt. Wallace. All of these peaks are longer day hikes than those out of South Lake.

***And from North Lake?***

Mt. Emerson is the closest peak from North Lake, climbed from the Piute Pass Trail. Longer options from this trail include Mt. Goethe (quite a bit of cross-country), Mt. Humphreys (add in lots of time for the fourth class), Four Gables, and Pilot Knob (N), which is pretty far in with a lot of easy cross-country. From the Lamarck Lakes Trail, which starts at the far end of the small campground, you can continue on very good use trail and climb Mt. Lamarck.

***Where can I camp before my hike?***

A number of campgrounds line the road to South Lake, and people do sleep at the trailhead. Campgrounds near the turn off for North Lake, at the end of the road at North Lake, and back down 168 a short distance near the hamlet of Aspendell are all options.

***Where can I eat if I don't want to cook?***

Many restaurants line the streets of Bishop. Closer to the lakes, you can eat at Parcher's Camp (South Lake Road) and Aspendell.

***What else can I do in the area?***

Besides fishing in the lakes and streams, one can explore Bishop's shops and the Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center at 2300 West Line Street, which you'll pass as you head into the mountains. Farther afield, you can explore petroglyph sites. Check at the ranger station for driving directions. If you happen to be in town over Memorial Day weekend, check out Mule Days at the fairgrounds; if you're there Labor Day weekend, you can stroll the Tri-County Fair. Many other activities are held at the fairgrounds, such as a rodeo and junior (as in 4H) livestock show and auction. Bouldering is great in the Buttermilks (reached from highway 168), and many rock-climbing routes line the walls of the Owens River Gorge. Climbing guides are available at Wilson's Eastside Sports and The Gear Exchange on Main Street and probably the ranger station.

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

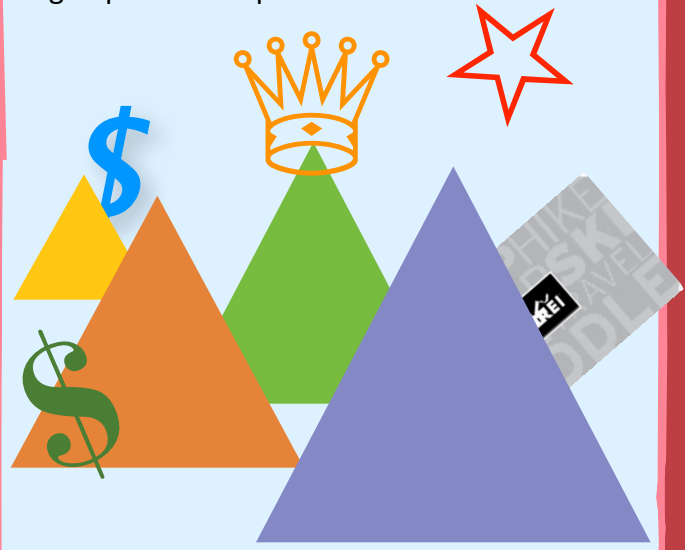
The White Mountain Ranger Station is located on the east side of highway 395 at the far end of downtown at 798 North Main Street (that's highway 395). Phone is (760) 873-2500.

# Leader Contest!

## Attention all leaders, how does this sound?

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

The management committee has approved a contest to encourage leaders to lead day hikes (and SPS trips in general). Gift certificates for climbing stores (i.e., REI, Adventure 16, etc.) will be awarded to the top three leaders who lead the most trips to SPS peaks by October 31, 2015. First-, second-, and third-place awards are \$100, \$50, and \$25 respectively. A qualifying trip must be an official SPS-sponsored or co-sponsored outing with participants. If a bona fide attempt was made, summiting is not required to have your trip included for the contest. Once again, you can't win and gain recognition if you don't sign up to lead trips! Good luck!



# In High Places: Mexico, 1979

by Burton "Live Mas" Falk



I first met Jim Scott in Mrs. Marsh's kindergarten class at Fern Avenue Elementary School in Torrance, CA, in 1941. Although we attended different high schools and universities, embarked on widely varying careers, and now live on opposite sides of the United States, we've remained best friends ever since. While we were in our early thirties and Jim was still living in Southern California, we discovered we had a mutual interest, i.e., climbing HPS, DPS, and SPS peaks. By the time we reached our early forties, we were ready to expand our climbing horizons, and so, in the fall of 1979, we signed on for a trip to the Mexican volcanoes sponsored by Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI). This is the story of our first international adventure.

Jim and I boarded Western Airlines flight #621, LAX to Mexico City, at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 16, 1980. The good news was that the round trip airfare was a mere \$222. The bad news is that trip was 34+ years ago and that I'm now 78. I once had a car license frame reading "So many mountains, so little time." Then, I thought the saying was clever. Now I know it's a stark reality.

Arriving in Mexico City, elevation 7,500', about 5 p.m., we

opted for (or perhaps were conned into) hiring an independent taxi to take us to our downtown hotel, the Metropol. That was a mistake. About halfway into the sprawling city—the largest in the western hemisphere—the car's radiator blew up, and we had to hail another taxi to take us the rest of the way to our hotel.

At the Metropol we met Phil Ershler of Rainier Mountaineering Inc., our guide for the ten-day expedition, who told us there would be a group meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Having some time to kill, Jim and I walked east on Avenue Juarez, past Alameda Park, Belles Artes Palace and on to Zocalo, location of the Metropolitan Cathedral, a massive structure, the largest cathedral in the Americas. The Spanish, with two primary New World goals in mind—finding gold and converting the heathens to Christianity—in 1573 began building the church on top of and using material from a sacred Aztec site they had previously razed. It was the beginning of an end for a once proud civilization.

Later, at the group meeting, we met the remaining ten members, all male, of our climbing expedition.

We also got to know more about Phil Ershler, who was about thirty years of age, spoke Spanish, and had a

rich climbing history, including a then relatively rare ascent of Mt. Everest. Also, unbelievably, he smoked. Phil informed us that he planned to change the original schedule, i.e., that we would climb 17,887' Popocatepetl (Popo) first, not 17,343' Iztaccihuatl (Ixty), as originally scheduled. He also informed us that on a recent attempt at Orizaba, the third and last peak on our schedule, the climb had to be scrubbed due to a snowstorm. The good news, he said, was that the fresh snow should improve our attempt.

Sunday, February 17: Getting off to a leisurely 1:30 p.m. start, using a rental VW bus and a Jeep, we drove southeast some fifty miles to the city of Amecameca, where we stopped to shop in the vibrant Sunday market there. We then continued another seventeen miles or so, through the saddle between Popo and Ixty—Paso de Cortes—to the Vincente Guerrero Lodge, located at an elevation of 12,950' on the northern slopes of Popo. Built just two years earlier in 1978, the modern lodge featured comfortable bunks, hot showers, and flush toilets in red-tiled bathrooms, a cafeteria, a cafe, a bar, and two lounges with fireplaces. Very nice, indeed.

Following dinner, we checked our gear, packed our packs, and turned in early in preparation for an early start on a climb of Popocatepetl.

Monday, February 18: Awakened from a restless sleep at 1:30 a.m., I dressed, downed a hasty breakfast, strapped on my pack, and stepped out into the dark and cold night. By 3 a.m., our group, all wearing headlamps, were hiking east along a wide trail, gradually ascending two miles until reaching the 14,799' Las Cruces Hut at 5:30 a.m.

The hut, which appeared to have seen much better days, was already crowded with climbers. Squeezing in, we settled down to await sunrise. At 6:30 a.m., Phil roused us, and we started up a pumice slope, arriving at the 15,200' snowline at 7:30 a.m. There we strapped on crampons and roped up, both a first for me.

Above: Popocatepetl from Iztaccihuatl (Photo by Burt Falk)

Zigzagging slowly up the icy slopes beyond, we reached the 17,100' north rim at 11 a.m. Since the highest I had climbed prior to that morning was the summit of 14,496' Mt. Whitney, I was elated standing there on the rim. My contentment was soon shattered, however, when Erschler asked if anyone was interested in continuing counter-clockwise around the rim to the true summit. Jim and one or two other climbers took up the challenge. I, exhausted, declined. Better to leave well enough alone, I thought.



*Iztaccihuatl from Popocatepetl (Photo by Burt Falk)*

While waiting for the gung-hos to return from the summit, I gazed down into the depths of the crater and thought about the volcano's history.

The name Popocatepetl comes from the Nahuatl (Aztec) words *popōca* "it smokes" and *tepētl* "mountain," i.e., Smoking Mountain. Towering over the Valley of Mexico, Popocatepetl and its neighboring peak to the north, Iztaccihuatl, were worshipped as a deities by the fierce but highly civilized Aztecs. Festivals were held in their honor; images of Popocatepetl were constructed of amaranth and corn. And while there are conflicting opinions as to whether the Aztecs or earlier tribes summited on either peak, there is no reason to believe they didn't.

The first Spanish ascent of Popo was made in 1519, when the conquistador Hernan Cortés sent Diego de Ordaz, nine Spanish soldiers, and several Indians to climb the smoking cone. De Ordaz was later congratulated for his accomplishments, both in mountain climbing and military, by King Charles V of Spain himself.

In 1522, after the Spanish captured Tenochtitlán, the capital of the Aztec Empire, they realized they needed sulfur to make more gunpowder. Cortés dispatched a group of five men to collect the yellow material which collected on the walls of Popo's fuming crater. Unbelievably, Francisco Montaña, the leader of the party, was lowered

by a flimsy rope 400' or 500' into the noxious, sputtering crater seven times, eventually collecting 140 kilograms of the precious sulfur. Say what you may about the rapacious conquistadors, but faint-heartedness didn't seem to be an issue.

Tuesday, February 19: Today was a rest day at the Vicente Guerrero Lodge. In fact, Jim, who did make the summit the day before, continued to lie unmoving in his bunk during breakfast. By mid-morning I began to worry if he was okay. I thought seriously about putting a mirror under his nose to see if he was still breathing. When he finally did awake, after 15-1/2 hours of sleep, we spent the rest of the fine day chatting with fellow climbers, reading, and, better yet, downing the excellent hamburguesas and papas a la francesas served in the Lodge's cafeteria.

Our next target was Iztaccihuatl, which, although larger in mass than Popo, is 500' lower in elevation. The name Iztaccihuatl is Nahuatl for "White Woman," no doubt because from either the east or the west the outline of the snow-covered volcano can be compared to that of a supine woman, i.e., the Head (La Cabeza), to the north, with the Breast (El Pecho), the Belly (La Berrige), and the Knees (La Rodillas) following to the south. At 17,343' in elevation, Ixtly is the third highest peak in Mexico.

Unfortunately, because I didn't keep notes, I'm not positive of the details regarding the climb. My thanks to Jim Scott, who did keep a diary, for sharing most of the following information:

Wednesday, February 29 Arose at 8 a.m. to find the Guerrero Lodge cafeteria didn't start serving until 11 a.m. At midday we drove north across Paso de Cortes and up a dirt road to the 13,100' La Joya trailhead. Starting off a little after 1 p.m. and making reasonably good time, we arrived at the huts below the Knees (15,580') in time to feast on a dinner of Chicken Cup-O-Soup, Vienna sausage, and Swiss Miss. Knowing next day would be a long one, we were in our sleeping bags by 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 21: Shouting over a strong wind, Phil awakened us at 4 a.m. Jim and I dressed in everything we had, slogged over to Phil's hut, where hot water was available, and downed a breakfast consisting of instant cereal oats and, again, Swiss Miss. Exiting the crowded hut to strap on our crampons, we found the wind still blowing fiercely and the temperature 29 degrees. It was a beautiful night, however, and we could see the shimmering lights of Mexico City to the west and those of Puebla to the east.

We started climbing at 5 a.m., and a few minutes later Phil lost his breakfast--Montezuma's revenge most likely. At 8:15 a.m., after passing a shrine where eleven

climbers had perished in a sudden storm, we reached the top ridge where we could see where our climb would eventually lead. The wind had increased in strength and Phil, really hurting, had to stop. The rest of us set off again, made a wrong turn, corrected ourselves, crossed a couple of ridges, and then, ascending a relatively flat snowfield, reached the 17,342' high point at 11 a.m. Phil, tough as nails, was not far behind us.

Our return included down-climbing a section of 3<sup>rd</sup> class rock, picking up our community gear and sleeping bags at the Knees huts, and returning across the saddle to the Guerrero Lodge, where, thankfully, the cafeteria was still open for dinner.

Friday, February 22: We drove back to the Hotel Metropol, cleaned up a bit, and at 1:30 p.m. left for a guided tour of Teotihuacan, the famous archaeological site located thirty miles northeast of Mexico City. Known primarily for its massive Pyramid of the Sun (738 feet wide and 246 feet high), Pyramid of the Moon, the Avenue of the Dead, and several other well-



preserved buildings and murals, at its zenith (AD250–AD500), Teotihuacan was estimated to have a population of between 125,000 and 250,00. It was, in fact, the largest city in pre-Columbian America, and the sixth largest city in the world at the time.

My big surprise that day came when I opted to climb the squat Pyramid of the Sun. Even though it looked easy and I should have been well acclimated by that point, I found myself gasping hard by the time I reached the top.

Saturday, February 23: Employing a rental VW bus and VW station wagon, we drove to the small city of Tlachichuca, thirteen miles or so to the northwest of Pico Orizaba, where we rented a stake-bed truck from the locally famous Sr. Reyes. Covering our noses with neckerchiefs, we then bounced up a rough, dusty road to the Piedra Grande (Big Rock) Hut, located at 14,000' in elevation on the north slopes of Orizaba.

Pico Orizaba, at 18,491', is the highest peak in Mexico and the third highest in North America. It is also, after Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, the second most prominent volcanic peak in the world. Geologically, the volcano, although dormant, is not extinct, the last eruption having taken place during the 19th century.



Left: Piedra Grande hut at the base of Pico Orizaba. (Photo by Burt Falk). Above: Burt and Phil Ershler on the summit of Pico Orizaba

When the Spanish arrived in Mexico, the locals called the peak Citlaltépetl, which comes from the Náhuatl *citlalli* (star) and *tepētl* (mountain) and thus means "Star Mountain." The name is thought to be based on a legend from the city of Coscomatepec which tells of how the planet Venus settles into the crater of Citlaltépetl.

Similar to Popo, there were two huts at the base of Orizaba. The nicer, newer of the two, Octavio Alvarez, however, did not come equipped with a cafeteria, beds, or hot showers—indeed, there was no water at all. It was like camping out, only in a cold stone building.

We prepared dinner and, in anticipation of another predawn start, turned in early, maybe at 7 p.m.

Less than an hour later, just as I was drifting off, a large group of party-minded Mexican climbers arrived at the hut. And party they did—long and loud. In retrospect, I suggest that would-be Orizaba climbers avoid weekend attempts—unless they, too, are party-minded.

Sunday, February 24: Jostled awake at 3:30 a.m., we groggily downed breakfast, making, in revenge, a little more noise than usual. At 4:30 a.m., we began our 4,500' ascent of Orizaba via the Glaciar de Jamapa, the most commonly used route to the 18,491' summit. (The National



Geographic Society recently recorded Orizaba's elevation at 5747 meters, i.e., 18,855'.)

It was a long, hard climb involving ropes, ice axes, and crampons at the higher elevations. By midday, however, most of our group had reached the north rim. And, once again, just as I was congratulating myself on another altitude record, Phil asked if anyone wanted to accompany him around the rim to bag the true summit. Jim, I, and one other climber were the only ones to respond to Phil's challenge.

Here is a quote from Jim Scott's notes describing the final summit push: "As we started counterclockwise along the rim route to the summit, which is exposed to a very long icy fall, Phil reminded us of the need of rope team action to arrest a fall. A fall is signaled by anyone on the rope team calling 'falling,' whereupon everyone immediately drops to a self-arrest position on his ice axe. As we continued along the rim, suddenly Phil called out 'falling,' and we did as we were instructed without thinking, but as we fell on our axes

we felt a huge adrenaline rush because we didn't know if it was real. Quite a thrilling practice and no doubt essential had it been a real fall. Phil and I [Jim] celebrated our arrival at the summit by both lighting up a cigarette. Pretty addictive stuff, nicotine. Totally nuts at an elevation of 18,000'+."

Jim, who gave up smoking years ago, and I were elated at making the summit, another high altitude record for both of us.

Our descent was uneventful. We got back to the Piedre Grande Hut (where nothing could keep us awake that night), and the next day we returned to the Hotel Metropol in time for an evening farewell dinner.

It was the beginning of 30+ years of adventures seeking similar highs, a quest that continues. Not a bad way to spend a lifetime.

SOURCES Include Wikipedia, Wikipedia contributors, 'List of volcanoes in Mexico', *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*



Sierra  
Peaks  
Section

## 60th Anniversary



*Sierrans on way to climb Mt. Orizaba, Mexico, 1948. Bill Crookston standing at far left. Two rightmost horseback riders are Margaret Jones and Louise Werner. (Photo by Niles Werner, Louise & Niles Werner Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives).*

As this photo documents and Burt relates in the story above, the Mexican volcanoes have been worthy climbing objectives for many SPSers over the years. Thanks, as always, go to Bob Cates and John Robinson for supplying the photo and caption.

# Outings



*Mt. Humphreys (photo by Jack Keiffer).*

Visit the new address of the SPS website for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at [www.sierrapeaks.org](http://www.sierrapeaks.org)

Also, please check at [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.

**Apr 22 | 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 email 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 to all four workshops. Send

email or sase, phones, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

**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 11-12 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS**  
**M/E-R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings and/or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

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@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org) or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

**Apr 25-26 | Sat-Sun SPS**  
**MR: Excelsior Mtn (12,446'), Dunderberg Pk (12,347'):** Intermediate snow climb of SPS peaks Dunderberg Pk and Excelsior Mtn to beautiful views of Mono Lake. Sat depart Virginia Lk Rd to hike 2.6 mi on trail past Frog Lks to Pass 11,100', then climb off trail NE slope and ridge to Excelsior North, then along north ridge to Excelsior Mtn (4.5mi, 2800' gain). Sun climb from Virginia Lk Rd to Dunderberg Pk via SE slope (1.6 mi, 2600' gain). Return to car camp and depart. Req. gear: ice axe, crampons, climbing helmet, bear can. Sat happy hour. Send alpine climbing resume to [philipabates@gmail.com](mailto:philipabates@gmail.com) Ldr: Phil Bates. Asst. Ldr: Rod Kieffer.

**Apr 25-26 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**  
**I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact

# OUTINGS

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.

**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 email 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 email 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 5-7 Fri-Sun**                      **WTC, SPS**  
**MR: Tehipite Dome (7,708') & Spanish Mtn (10,061'):**  
Join us on a three day backpacking trip in the western

**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:

Jeff Atijera [jeff.atj@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.atj@gmail.com)  
Phil Bates [philipabates@gmail.com](mailto:philipabates@gmail.com)  
Joseph Bell [josephhikes@gmail.com](mailto:josephhikes@gmail.com)  
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Ron Campbell 714-962-8521 [campbellr@verizon.net](mailto:campbellr@verizon.net)  
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Nile Sorenson [nsorenso@pacbell.net](mailto:nsorenso@pacbell.net)  
Phil Wheeler 310-214-1873 [phil.wheeler@sierraclub.org](mailto:phil.wheeler@sierraclub.org)

Sierra. Fri backpack through Crown Valley and establish camp near Spanish Lk (5.5 mi, 2200'). Enjoy lakeside camping and Fri night potluck. Sat we will continue down Crown Valley for our approach on Tehipite Dome (14 mi rt, 2500') and will climb via the cl 3 north ridge (2 mi xc, 1000'). It will be a long, but rewarding day as we climb one of the SPS mountaineer's peaks. Sun we'll start early and do a xc climb of nearby Spanish Mtn from our lakeside camp (5 mi rt, 1600') before packing out. Participants must be comfortable on 3<sup>rd</sup> class terrain and have excellent conditioning. Helmet, harness, and medical form required. Send email with resume containing recent mountaineering experience, contact, and rideshare info to Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Asst. Ldr. Laurent Hoffmann.

**Jun 13 | Sat**                      **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**  
**I: Navigation: Heart Bar Peak (8332'):** Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mi round trip, 1400' gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Leader: Robert Myers. Co-Leaders: Jane Simpson, Adrienne Benedict, Ann Pedreschi Shields

**Jun 14 | Sun**                      **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 email/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

# OUTINGS

Don't forget to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription! The annual \$10 subscription is due each year by March 31st.

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

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.

**Jun 27–28 | Sat–Sun WTC, SPS**

**I: Three Sisters (10,612')**: Join us for a leisurely weekend in the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Area of the Sierra National Forest near Fresno, CA. Sat we'll pack in 4.7 mi and gain 1,200' at a comfortable pace on trail to our camp at Cliff Lake (9,438') and spend a relaxing afternoon fishing, swimming, snoozing, or heading off on an optional hike to nearby Dogtooth Peak (10,302'). Sat evening we'll enjoy a highly festive Happy Hour (award given to the tastiest contribution!) before turning

in for the night. Sun we'll cover about 1.5 miles over x-c terrain while gaining 1,150' to reach the summit of Three Sisters. After thoroughly enjoying the excellent views up top, we'll return to camp, pack up and head out for a day's total (including the peak) of 7.7 mi with 1,150' gain. Priority given to current WTC students. Permit limits group size and permit fee (\$75) will be split among the group. Email recent conditioning and experience, contact and vehicle/rideshare information, for trip status and details to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com). Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-Ldr: Sridhar Gullapalli.

**Jul 11–12 | Sat–Sun WTC, SPS**

**M: Mt Gould (13,005'), Mt Rixford (12,890')**: SPS intro climb; preference given to recent WTC students. Join us to get two of first six peaks you need for SPS membership. Sat backpack 3.5 mi, 2200' gain to Big Pothole Lake; fabled evening potluck. Sun climb 5 miles, 3100' over Kearsarge Pas and then up south slope to Rixford, contour to Gould via class 3 summit block and drop back to camp and pack out. Send recent conditioning, carpool info, \$5 for permit payable to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Tom McDonnell.

**Jul 11–12 | Sat–Sun WTC, SPS**

**MR: University Pk (13,589')**: Two day mountaineering outing on the Eastern Sierras. Sat backpack from Onion Valley to our campsite (3 mi, 1400'). We will have a leisurely afternoon camped next to a lake followed by a happy hour in the evening. Sun we will have an early start as we travel cross-country passing alpine lakes to the start of our climb. We will be climbing class 3 terrain on the north face of University Peak (4 mi r/t, 3000').

## Call for Outings

*By Gary Schenk, Outings Chair*

According to the latest state snow surveys, it may not look like it, but it is winter. That means it is high time to get started planning trips for this spring, summer, and fall.

In this age of ever-decreasing quotas, day hikes are a great way to avoid government paperwork and reservation expense and get a few more people into the Range of Light. There are peaks suitable for day hikes that fit every level of outing, from "O" to "E." Of course, safety on the mountain and LNT principles still dictate an acceptable number of participants.

Outings are the heart of the Sierra Club. Try to leave a spot or two on each trip for qualified newcomers. We all had to start somewhere, and it's one of the strengths of the SPS.

Here at SPS Outings World Headquarters, we often get feedback from trip participants. One common comment is the desire for more communication from trip leaders. So, let applicants know you've received their requests and don't leave them in the dark.

We are all adjusting to the new OARS system. Please note that we're no longer restricted to the rather terse style of the old Chapter *Schedule of Activities*. Feel free to expand the trip announcements to include more information on the approach, route, educational and training aspects of your trip. Do a search for a Mat Kelliher trip to get an idea of the new, wordier possibilities! Mat takes full advantage of the new system to good effect.

So, plan early, plan often. Any questions about outings should be directed to [gary@hbfun.org](mailto:gary@hbfun.org)

*"Nothing to mountaineering, just a little physical activity, a good deal of brains, lots of practice and plenty of warm clothing."*

—Annie Smith Peck

# OUTINGS

After our successful climb, we will pack out that same day. Participants must be comfortable on third class terrain and have excellent conditioning. Helmet, harness, Sierra Club membership, and medical form required. Please bring cash for permit fees @ the trailhead. Send email with resume containing recent mountaineering experience, contact, and rideshare info to Ldr: Jeff Atijera. Asst. Ldr: Matt Hengst.

**Jul 11-12 | Sat-Sun SPS**

**M: Kennedy Mtn (11,433'), Mt Harrington (11,009'):** Join us for two peaks in Kings Cyn NP. Sat backpack up the Lewis Creek Trail to Frypan Mdw (6 mi, 3300' gain), set up camp, and head to cl 1-2 Kennedy (4.5 mi, 3600'+ gain), then back to camp. Sun we'll try to follow the old trail to Grizzly Lks and go x-c from there to cl 3 Harrington (4.5 mi, 3200' gain), retrace our steps, and backpack out. Send email, class 3 experience, and current conditioning to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-ldr: Gary Schenk.

**Jul 17-19 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS**

**I: Mt Stanford N (12,838'), Mt Morgan N (13,005'):** Starting from Rock Creek on Fri, we'll pack in 4.2 mi (825' gain, 700' loss) on trail at a comfortable pace to our camp at Lake 9852' and then spend a leisurely afternoon acclimatizing and enjoying a low-key evening Happy Hour. Sat we'll head out from camp to the south and ascend a series of terraced lakes before turning northwest to travel cross country up the steep, sandy,

## Send Articles and Photos!

The SPS is 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 [tina@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org)

loose talus, eastern slope of Mt Stanford to its summit, and then return to camp for a day's total of about 7.8 mi and 3,000' gain. Sat evening we'll enjoy a festive Happy Hour under a moonless, starry night sky. Sun we'll head north from camp and ascend the steep, sandy, and loose SE Ridge of Mt Morgan to its summit and then return to camp for a total of about 4.4 mi and 3,200' gain. At camp we'll pack up and head out the 4.2 mi (700' gain, 825' loss) back to our cars. Priority given to current WTC students. Permit limits group size and permit fee (\$51) will be split among the group. Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com) for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher, Co-Ldr: Jim Hagar.

**Jul 18-19 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS**

**I: Mt Starr (12,835'), Pk 11,902':** Gourmet Backpack! Step up your game for Decadent Wilderness Weekend XII. We'll trek 2 mi, 1,000' through the howling wilderness to Box Lake. A hardy few will brave the northeast ridge of Peak 11,902' (Lookout Peak). Then the decadent many will break out appetizers, salads, entrees, desserts, and wines along with the traditional brass candlesticks, tablecloths, and pink flamingos for dinner. After breakfast Sun, climb Mt. Starr, pack out and look for something delicious to tide us over the long drive home. Send your most outrageous culinary idea and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Assts: Ed Cottone, Georgette Rieck, Lisa Buckley.

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

## SPS TEES

**Front: NORTH PAL  
Back: FULL SPS LIST**

By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

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CST 2087766-40



**Jul 31–Aug 2 Fri–Sun WTC, SPS**  
**I: Mt Bago (11,870'), Mt Rixford (12,887')**: Starting from Onion Valley on Fri, we'll pack in on trail about 4.5 m (2,775' gain, 1,000' loss) at a moderate pace alongside and up past a series of scenic alpine lakes to cross over Kearsarge Pass and make camp near one of the Kearsarge Lks. Sat we'll continue on trail to the west across spectacularly scenic forested terrain and then head off xc to ascend the cl 2 eastern slopes of Mt Bago to its summit and then return to camp for a day's total of about 7.0 mi rt with 1,800' of gain; back at camp we'll enjoy a festive Happy Hour under a night sky made bright by the full moon. Sun we'll put in about 3.5 mi rt xc with 2,200' of gain to ascend Mt Rixford via its cl 2 southern slopes and then return to camp. Back at camp we'll pack up and head out the way we came in. Priority given to current WTC students. Permit severely limits group size and permit fee (\$41) will be split among the group. Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com) for trip status

and details Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-Ildr: Alexander Smirnoff.

**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 navigation requirements. Send email 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.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

**Aug 14–16 | Fri–Sun SPS**

**M: Matterhorn Pk (12,279'), Whorl (12,033'), Twin Pks (12,323')**: Join us on this strenuous grand circle tour of Sawtooth Ridge. Fri backpack 12 mi, 3500' gain via Robinson Creek Trail to camp in Piute Canyon. Sat climb Matterhorn (Emblem Peak) 2 mi, 2600' gain by southwest slope, then descend 1 mi by southeast slope to camp in Spiller Creek basin. Optional climb of Twin Peaks 1 mi, 1700' gain. Sun climb Whorl 2 mi, 1400' gain via southeast chute and out 5 mi, 3600' loss via Horse Creek Trail. Recent 3rd class rock experience required. Send email or sase (email preferred) with H&W photos, recent conditioning, climbing resume, rideshare info and \$3 check for permit to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Phil Bates.

**Aug 14–16 | Fri–Sun WTC, SPS**

**I: Koip Pk (12,962'), Kuna Pk (13,002')**: Starting from our trailhead in Tuolumne Mdws, we'll pack in Fri about 5.5 mi and gain 1,600' at a moderate pace and make camp outside the park boundary near Parker Pass and enjoy a nice Happy Hour under the moonless night sky. Sat will be a strenuous day; we'll get up early and make our way SE over to and then up the steep and talus strewn switchbacks on the NW slope of Parker Peak to Koip Pk Pass. From here we'll set off cross country to the west to climb first the SPS-listed Koip Pk and then continue west from there on a Class 2 traverse over to Kuna Peak, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peak in the park. If time and group energy permit, after returning to the pass we'll head east to traverse along the Class 2 ridgeline to get a couple of non-listed peaks: first Parker Pk (12,850') and then Mt Wood (12,657'). After all that we'll head back to camp for a day's total of about 8.0 RT mi and 2,250' of gain (11.2 RT miles and 3,400' if we get the east ridge peaks) and enjoy another festive Happy Hour under the starry night sky. Sun we'll break camp and pack out the way we came in. Priority given to current WTC students. Permit limits group size and permit fee (\$50) will be split among the group. Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com) for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-lldr: Pat Arredondo.

**Aug 20–23 | Thu–Sun SPS**

**M: Mt Stewart (12,205'), Lion Rock (12,320+')**: Join us on the High Sierra Trail to Nine Lakes Basin to climb two peaks in Sequoia Natl Park. Thu leave Crescent Mdw on the HST to camp at the upper Hamilton Lk (16.75 mi, 3500' gain). Fri we backpack over Kaweah Gap to set up camp in Nine Lk Basin (4.5 mi, 2500' gain), then continue to cl 2 Mt. Stewart and back to camp (2+ mi, 1800' gain). Sat we head to the S ridge of Lion Rock and to the cl. 2–3 SSW slope to Lion Rock (4 mi, 3000' gain rt), retrace our route, pack up, and head back to Hamilton Lk (4.5 mi, 300' gain). Sun we'll hike back to Crescent Mdw on the HST (16.75 mi, 1000' gain). Send conditioning, 3<sup>rd</sup> cl rock experience, carpool and contact info to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-lldr: Paul Garry.

**Aug 28–31 Fri–Mon WTC, SPS**

**MR: Arrow Pk (12,959'), Mt. Ruskin (12,920')**: Join us on this very strenuous 4–day backpack into Kings Cyn Natl Park in quest of a couple of classic SPS Mountaineer's Peaks. Fri we'll pack in over the dreaded Taboose Pass (6.3 mi, 6,000' gain) and descend (2.8 miles, 780' loss) to our camp at 10,850' for a day's total of 9.2 mi with 6,300' of gain and 780' loss. Sat we'll travel west, passing along the north shore of the lovely Bench Lk, and follow the NE spur route to the summit of Arrow Pk. Arrow's NE spur involves solid cl 3 climbing along an airy and exposed ridge with breathtaking drop-offs and includes narrow knife edges near its top. We'll return to camp for a festive Happy Hour via the same route we came in, for a day's total of 8.2 mi and 3,400' gain (includes 700' on return). Sun we'll travel north along the John Muir Trail for a couple of miles and then head off to the west to gain the E ridge of Mt Ruskin via its southeast flank. Expect more solid cl 3 climbing with lots of exposure and outstanding scenery; be prepared for absolutely exquisite views once we reach the summit! From the summit we'll return to camp for another festive Happy Hour via the same route we came in. The day's total will be 8.4 mi and 3,500' gain (includes 800' on return). Mon we'll pack out the way we came in. This is a restricted mountaineering outing requiring current Sierra Club membership and submittal of the Sierra Club Medical Form. Participants must be in excellent condition and be comfortable at high elevation on exposed 3rd class rock. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use required. Permit severely restricts group size and permit fee (\$36) will be split among the group. Email Sierra Club number, contact info, climbing resume, recent experience and conditioning, and carpool info to Mat Kelliher for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Beth Epstein.

The Leadership Training Committee and Outings Management Committee have released a new website, which replaces the old LTC, OMC, and Safety websites. It has a great new look and is easy to navigate; this new site is where you should go to download sign-in sheets and incident reporting forms, find out about updating your leadership rating, review the LRB, learn how to enter outings on OARS, all kinds of great stuff too numerous to list here. Basically, it's got everything you need to know to lead outings for the Angeles Chapter, and you can check it out here for yourself: [https://angeles2.sierraclub.org/leadership\\_and\\_outings](https://angeles2.sierraclub.org/leadership_and_outings)

Note that some of the pages still need a little work and some of the links need updating, but overall it's good to go. If you have any comments or suggestions, send them to Jane Simpson, the Angeles Chapter OMC Chair, at [outdoorJSimpson@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorJSimpson@gmail.com).

# 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@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org).

Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The *Echo* will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.

## REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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



Sep 4-7 | Fri-Mon SPS

**ER: Palisade Crest (13,553'), Mt Gayley (13,510), Temple Crag (12,976')**: Enjoy the Labor Day weekend on some peaks in the Palisades. Fri we'll backpack up the South Fork of Big Pine Creek trail to near Willow Lake, going cross-country from there to Elinore Lk (6 mi, 3600' gain). Sat it's Palisade Crest, cl 4, (4 mi, 3000' gain). Sun we'll move camp south of Temple Crag and climb Gayley (3.5 mi, 3000' gain). Mon we'll climb Temple Crag probably from Contact Pass (30' of cl 4, also rated 5.2) and out via the North Fork trail (8+ mi, 2250 gain). Helmet and harness required. Participants must be Sierra Club members with roped climbing experience on 4th cl rock. Send SC#, email, H and W/cell phone, climbing resume and Sierra Club participant medical form to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ildr: Nile Sorenson.

Sep 12-13 | Sat-Sun SPS

**I: Florence Pk (12,432'), Vandever Mtn (11,947')**: Enjoy an intro trip in beautiful Mineral King. Sat backpack on the Farewell Gap and Franklin Pass Trails to Franklin Lks, where we'll make camp (4.25 mi, 1500' gain). Then we'll continue on trail to Franklin Pass, leave the trail, climb cl 2 Florence (2.5 mi, 2000' gain), and return to camp (2.5 mi). Sun after packing up, we'll retrace our steps to the Farewell Gap Trail, leave backpacks, and continue with daypacks to Farewell Gap and on up cl 1 Vandever (5+ mi, 2500' gain), then return to the cars. Send email, recent experience and conditioning to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ildr: Gary Schenk.

Sep 20 | Sun 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 email/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.

## Bulletin Board

Those of you who know Rick Jali, now in a care facility and afflicted with Azheimers, are encouraged to write him a note or send a card, which his caregivers will read to him. Please send them to Rick Jali, c/o Solheim Lutheran Home, 2236 Merton Ave., Halverson #314, Los Angeles, CA 90041

Of possible interest for mentioning in your newsletter; Over 70 mountaineering books listed for sale on WLA Craigs list under 'books, mountaineering books'. - JJK, Angeles Chapter member 1970 - 2012.



# SPS Income Statement 2-1-2015

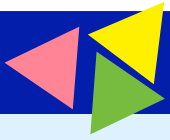
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014
<b>INCOME</b>												
Echo Subscriptions	1,290	610	290	130	60	20	20	20	10	1,835	1,360	1,550
Banquet Income	4,065	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,800	2,940	4,610
Donations	540	175	145	45	45	0	0	0	0	340	440	575
Merchandise Sales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	27	276
	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	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>7,011</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>												
Postage	201	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	609	(4)	14
Printing	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	578	898	640
Merchandise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	196
Raffle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Banquet Expenses	4,272	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,216	4,206	5,640
Bank Fees	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	10
Website	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	268
Charitable contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,668</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>7,019</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>												
	1,227	785	435	175	105	20	20	20	10	193	(336)	(8)

## Minutes of SPS Management Committee Meeting, February 1, 2015

### Jeremy Netka's office

1. Call to order: present were Tina Bowman, chair; Jim Fleming, vice-chair/banquet; Paul Garry, secretary; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jeremy Netka, fifth officer/outreach. Attending via Skype were Dan Richter, archives, and Greg Mason, IT.
2. Standard business and reports
  - a. Approval of minutes
  - b. Chair
  - c. Vice Chair—banquet review and planning
    - i. Successful 60<sup>th</sup> anniv. Banquet—thank yous sent to Doug Mantle, Bob Cates, Jerry Keating. Nintety-three attended. Will continue WTC/AMP outreach; seven took advantage.
    - ii. DVD of proceedings with Bob Cates' slide show—advertise in Echo when available and on website.
    - iii. Banquet location—we will use Almansor again, very favorable reviews.
    - iii. Next year's program—discussion of several possibilities.
    - iv. For flyer included deadline, higher price close to deadline (one week before).
    - v. For printed program, list past chairs on the back.
    - vi. SPS Leadership Award—started discussing nominees and an honorary leadership award
  - d. Outings
    - i. We will run a contest for most outings led again.
    - ii. We'll push better leader communication with would-be participants (courtesy).
  - e. Treasurer's report—Lost about \$8 for the year. See financial report.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—Secretary to notify committee of member emblems.
  - g. Outreach—discussion of profiling new members, surveying why they joined, what they hope to get from the SPS. Website needs to appeal to millennials.
  - h. Archivist—Put photo collections (Sanborn, Bressel, etc.) on website (may not be used without permission of SPS); plan to digitize archives (grant ? grad students to index/digitize?)

(Continued on page 34)



# Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Congratulations to the winners of our last Mystery Peak Challenge, Mark Goebel, Shane Smith, and Bart O'Brien, who correctly identified Bear Creek Spire as the subject of Bep Bingham's watercolor seen at left.

Extra credit to Shane, who sent us the photo reproduced at right as proof. The photo "Bear Creek Spire, John Muir Wilderness, Inyo Co., CA, Looking South, from Box Lake" is one of many wonderful mountain images by Steve Dunleavy found here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevedunleavy/sets/72157625433132955>



© 2010 Steve Dunleavy,

## Minutes of SPS Management Committee Meeting, February 1, 2015, continued from page 33

### i. Echo

- i. Digitizing archives—volumes 1–23 and 34–47 need digitizing and can be done at UCLA (Greg or Jeremy with Dan?).
- ii. Electronic voting—look into electronic ballot for all but a few members
- iii. No desire to pursue a bylaws change to drop the active status for voting in SPS elections.

j. Mountain Records—SEKI register plan. Tina will draft a letter re maintaining registers on peaks within SEKI, will show to management committee and Harry Langenbacher, Mountain Records chair, for approval before sending.

k. IT--problems with Echo distribution list: treasurer has master roster. New members, email changes need to be sent to Greg or others authorized to update the distribution list.

l. Website--Matt Hengst has some ideas for the website. We need to move it since the current platform will be dropped by the Angeles Chapter.

m. Conservation—Tina will ask Wynne Benti to be the conservation chair.

### 3. New business

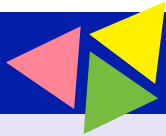
a. Where are we, what do we want to accomplish this year, and what are our challenges—always looking for new members and more outings. We'll push the dayhikes and the educational/training aspect of our outings (i.e., improving one's knowledge of the natural world and skills in climbing).

b. We'll pursue naming a Sierra peak for Andy Smatko.

c. Start thinking about people to ask to run for the management committee.

d. We'll reach out to co-sponsor programs with the Cal Tech climbing club.

e. Management Committee meetings—next meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>. We're looking into having a general membership potluck at the Stronghold climbing gym, maybe with Bob Cates' slideshow featured. Or a potluck at a member's house in May (no conflict with DPS potlucks then).



## 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@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org). We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print.

This puzzle is supplied by Mark Goebel.



### **This Mystery Peak Challenge:**

This issue's mystery peak is the subject of a painting owned by Mark and Joy Goebel. Mark shared the following information: "I joined the SPS in 1970 and immediately met Doug Mantle and Tom Cardina (SPS Emblem holder #204), and quickly we were doing many Sierra trips to climb and ski Mammoth. I first saw this painting hanging in Tom's apartment in South Pasadena and learned that Sid Mountain, who was the backpacking and climbing manager in the original Sport Chalet in La Canada, was the artist. I had first met Sid at the store in the mid-1960s when I started acquiring gear as a member of the outings club at Pasadena City College. It certainly caught my eye since I had climbed [the peak] with the SPS as a steep snow climb in 1971. Sadly, Tom passed away in 1989, and it was from Tom's mother that we acquired the painting."

**Please send your answers to Tina at**  
[tina@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org).

*Check out the SPS web site if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there! [www.sierrapeaks.org](http://www.sierrapeaks.org)*



# The Sierra Echo

Volume 59 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2015

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

Publication dates are Mar 15, Jun 15, Sept 15, and Dec 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word (preferred), WordPerfect, email (electronic format is preferable), or through regular U.S. mail. Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop in a resolution high enough for print media) or submitted as prints or slides. If submissions are to be returned to you, please include a return envelope with sufficient postage. **All submissions should be sent to Tina Bowman or emailed to [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)**

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

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**Subscriptions** \$10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. Subscribing to the *Echo* is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section is \$25.00, which includes the \$10.00 subscription and a \$15.00 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the SPS Treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104; include your Sierra Club number.

New applications received after Oct 1 are credited to the following year. Only one *Echo* subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or SPS are not tax deductible.

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

**Address Changes** Send to the treasurer via e-mail [treasurer@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org)

**Peaks List** Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be obtained by sending \$1 and a SASE to the SPS treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**Missing Issues** Inquires regarding missing issues should be directed to the section mailer at: [newsletter@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:newsletter@sierrapeaks.org).

**Awards** Send notification to Secretary Paul Garry: email [secretary@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:secretary@sierrapeaks.org) Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline at 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga, CA 90290 and include emblem pins (\$15) and SPS section patches (\$5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

**Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter  
Sierra Peaks Section  
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 660  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**