



The Sierra Echo

Volume 59 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2015

The Sierra Peaks Section Celebrates 60 Years in The Range of Light



*Yvonne Lau on Mt. Tyndall,
story on page 20. (Photo by
Mary Jo Dungfelder)*

2015 Our 60th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Mt. Tyndall ■ Mt. Harrington ■ Kennedy Mtn.
Tunnabora Pk. ■ Smatko Pk. ■ University Pk.
Sam Fink ■ Outings ■ Member News ■ Mystery
Peaks ■ Passages



Echoes from the Chair

By Tina Bowman

On October 16, 1955, the SPS was approved as an activities section of the Angeles Chapter. Happy sixtieth birthday, SPS! As the Sierra climbing season winds down for most of us, it might be a good time to reflect on what the SPS means to you. If you have ideas about improvement and attracting new and younger members, please let me know.

We're looking for people to run for next year's management committee. Do you have some time you could give to help lead the SPS into its next sixty years? Whether you are a new member or a long-time one, we hope you'll consider running. Also, if you have someone you'd like to nominate for the SPS Leadership Award, please send

that person's name to me with a short explanation of why that person deserves the award. See elsewhere in this issue for the description of the qualifications for this award.

As a reminder, *Echo* subscriptions are due January 1st, delinquent after March 31st.

We're looking forward to joint programs with the Caltech Alpine Club, including a presentation by SPS member Phil Bates about his climbs in Europe this summer, on Wednesday, October 7, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Beckman Auditorium on the Caltech campus. Ayzel Gezik, our banquet speaker a few years ago, will be giving a program on Monday, November 2. Aside from Phil's Wednesday program, the slideshow series will be on Mondays from September 21 through November 2. There will be food and drinks, and the slideshows are free. This promises to be a nice collaboration and may lead to some future, young members of the SPS.

The banquet is set for Sunday, January 31st, at Almansor Court, the same location as our fine sixtieth anniversary banquet. Doug Robinson, "the modern John Muir" and "the father of clean climbing," will be our speaker. Save the date! It should be a fine evening of socializing and listening to a world-famous climber closely associated with our beloved High Sierra.

-Tina Bowman (chair@sierrapeaks.org)

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SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, January 31, 2016

The 2016 SPS Banquet will be held at Almansor Court, Alhambra

The speaker will be

Doug Robinson

Doug Robinson is a professional mountaineer known internationally for his climbing, guiding, and backcountry skiing, as well as his poetic writings about the mountains and why we climb them. Doug has been called "the modern John Muir."



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July 16

Dear Beth and Tina,

I want to congratulate you and the others in doing a great job with the "Sierra Echo." It reads like a top professional journal with no typos. Thanks for sending me the latest issue.

With my "Niles and Louise" article I bow out of writing. At eighty-six, I've retired to Colorado and will write no more. I value my many years with the Sierra Club starting in 1953.

Again, thanks for sending me the superbly done Echo.

Sierraly,

John R[obinson]



From the editors:

Dear John,

Thanks so much for the praise. If you ever feel inclined to write something for the *Echo* that doesn't require extensive research, we'd love to print it. You must have so many Sierra and SPS stories to tell that haven't been published; we hope you'll consider sharing some reminiscences or reflections for us.

Happy trails,

Beth and Tina

A postcard from John Robinson



Great Leaders of The Past:
Niles and Louise Werner

By John W. Robinson

Niles and Louise Werner, veteran Sierra Peaks Section in the spring of 1939. Anyone looking back at the record climbs of the 1930s into the 1960s would notice, in later outings, particularly steady paces and Louise Werner. This husband and wife team, setting a steady pace and knowing exactly where he was going up the rear, offering words of encouragement. How well I remember my first Sierra Peaks weekend of 1953. I was madly in love for one beginning a Sierra Club member of a restless spirit and eager to climb. Niles migrated to the U.S. in 1912, home of many Swedes, and found

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Center: John Robinson at the 2015 SPS banquet (Photo by Bob Cates).
Right: John Robinson on Mt Brewer, June, 1957.

Welcome new members!



Bob Pickering is originally from Los Angeles but has lived in Reno since 1979. He got started peakbagging/mountaineering in 1987 with Cathedral Peak. He climbed constantly, mostly on the

Bob Pickering

higher peaks on the “east side,” throughout the 90’s. At 66, he’s not as fast, brave, or dedicated as he once was, but he still gets out often enough to stay in shape. Several years ago, he realized he was in a rut repeating the same favorite climbs, so he started working on the SPS list. He doesn’t expect to finish the list, but he gets a little closer every year.



David Sklansky

David Sklansky has been a member of the Sierra Club since 2005, a member of the Peak Climbing Section of the Loma Prieta Chapter since last year, and an avid backpacker for decades. He’s excited about joining the SPS and looks forward to meeting and learning from other members.

Call for Nominations!

It’s that time of year when we’re looking for members to run for the SPS management committee. Are you interested? Know someone who might be willing to serve? Please contact Mary McMannes, chair of the nominating committee, to make suggestions. Her email is marymuir@earthlink.net

Congratulations!



Brent Crookham and Michael Gosnell both earned their emblem on North Palisade on July 14, 2014.

Brent at left on Mt. Cotter (Photo by Rudy Fleck). Michael at right on North Pal (Photo by Mary Jo Dungfelder).



Paul Garry earned his Andy Smatko emblem on White Mountain, August 29, 2015.

Paul at left approaching Five Fingers (Photo by Beth Epstein)

We’re pleased to announce that Kristen Lindbergh has earned her I leadership rating. Thanks for your leadership, Kristen!



Kristen at Hilton Lakes (Photo by Matt Hengst)

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

Satellite Messenger

By Aaron Schuman

My friends and I once spent a pleasant winter weekend at the Peninsula Conservation Center, refreshing our Sierra Club leadership credentials by taking a sixteen-hour Wilderness First Aid class. We laughed as we painted each other with gruesome injury makeup. I built my first aid partner an improvised leg splint out of camping gear. We mugged for the camera. Little did I imagine that five months later I would be building another improvised leg splint on the side of Black Kaweah, trying to summon a rescue, and making an alternate evacuation plan if our cry for help was not heard.

We were moving up a class-3 chute, my partner out in front. A rock the size of a microwave oven came loose from above and knocked my friend from her place. Horrified, I saw the boulder come down the chute, then my friend fell, and then I was showered by smaller pieces of debris. I hurried back down the chute to find her with a damaged helmet, frightened and injured, but conscious and sitting up. We followed our training and performed an injury assessment and basic first aid.

We pulled out a satellite messenger and activated the emergency signal. When the beacon is switched on, it receives its location information from the constellation of GPS satellites and sends out a message via a communication satellite. Press the green button, and "I'm okay" is relayed to pre-chosen family members and friends. I remember to send an "okay" message at the



trailhead, at my campsite, at crossings of rivers or passes, and at summits. If I go missing, Search and Rescue knows at least where I have been and in what direction I am moving. Uncover the buckle from the red button and press it, and "help" is relayed to Emergency Dispatch.

I carry a satellite messenger made by SPOT. I use the SPOT-2 model, which weighs four ounces and fits in the palm of my hand. It's stingy with electricity, so its batteries last and last. It's easy to use and hard to break. Some customers complain about the usability of the website findmespot.com, but I was able to figure out the interface. The satellite interface requires an open view of the sky. I paid about \$100 for my SPOT device, and I pay an annual service fee of \$100. Even if I never use my SPOT for a real emergency, I have purchased some peace of mind, like an insurance policy.

There are similar Satellite Emergency Notification Devices (SENDs) on the market. There is a newer model of SPOT, the SPOT Gen3, with an updated case and electronics. Delorme makes a competing product, the Inreach. SPOT uses the Globalstar satellite network, and Delorme uses the Iridium satellite network, so there may be some differences in coverage. Some people are passionate about one network over the



Left: Aaron holds his Spot-2 (Photo by Aaron Schuman). Above: Delorme Inreach and ACR ResQLink.

TrailTech continued

other, the same way some people become enthusiasts for one cell phone provider over its competitors. The Delorme device is larger, heavier, and two to three times the price of the SPOT, but it does offer a helpful two-way messaging feature.

A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is a different type of emergency signaling device. It reports its GPS coordinates like a SEND, but it also has a powerful homing beacon on a different transmission frequency. Compared to a SEND, a PLB offers a greater likelihood of being found by searchers. A popular PLB product is the ACR ResQLink.

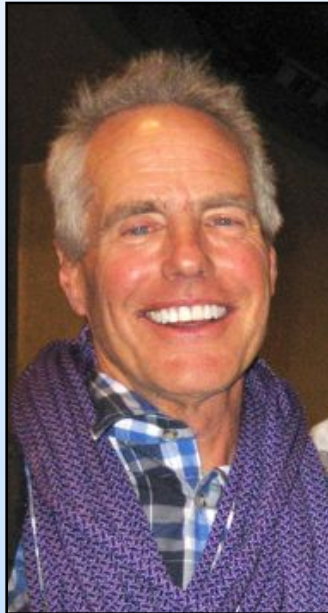
Had we been without a SPOT on Black Kaweah, we would have needed to split our small party, leaving one person with the injured member and sending one person to march down the mountain, to cross the Kern Kaweah River, to run up the trail to the backcountry ranger's yurt at Little Five Lakes, to identify the approximate location of the incident on a quadrangle map, and to escort the rescue team to the scene. It might take days before help arrived. But because we used a SPOT, there was a helicopter on-site two hours after we decided that we needed rescue assistance.

Before committing to carrying a SEND or a PLB, it is important to understand the downside of emergency signaling. Backcountry users sometimes think they need help urgently, but they are in situations that they could resolve by themselves. Search and Rescue organizations receive many false alarms each year, putting the rescue party in harm's way and diverting critical resources from genuine emergencies. The ability to signal for help from the wilderness is tremendously empowering, but it comes with a great responsibility to exercise careful judgment.

The story has a happy ending: my friend endured surgery and physical therapy, but she recovered 100%, and we are once again rambling together across the Sierra Nevada. And the SPOT device—I would never be without it.



Sierra Peaks Section 60th Anniversary



Sixtieth Anniversary Banquet Speech

Part 3: 1980s through the Finale

By Doug Mantle

1980s

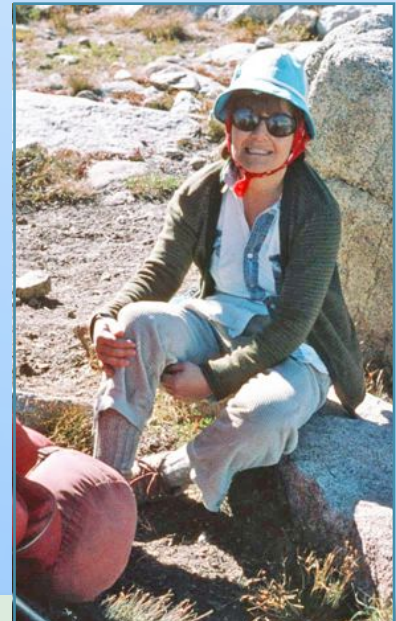
By the 1980s the SPS was Godzilla—membership topped 360, we led a record 87 trips in 1987.

When, on the same day we saw the first SPSer finish the List a second time [Doug Mantle] and the collapse of the dam at North Lake, chair Pat Holleman concluded this was not a coincidence!

What could stop us? At this juncture we contemplated taking over Central America! The lawyers stopped us. Lawsuits made the cost of trip insurance skyrocket, so to save half a million dollars, the Club directors voted to curtail it. We lost the insurance in 1986, briefly got it back, and lost it again, maybe forever, in 1987. This meant no more trips to our tough peaks, no ropes, no ice axes, no training.

Years later, the great David Brower, who as a board member voted to cancel us, said, "I was gloriously wrong to cut our climbers loose." Too late now, Dave; just for that, fat chance we'll rename North Palisade for you! (There was an effort to do just that a few years ago.) (We opposed it.)

We regrouped. Some members decided to form a different organization, but most of us hung in, and we began to facilitate private trips to the hard peaks. Vi Grasso, chair 1990 and our only



Top: Doug Mantle at the banquet (Photo by Mary McMannes). Above: Vi Grasso between Blackhawk Mtn and Tower Peak, September 1, 1971 (Photo by Ron Bartell).

internationally renowned belly dancer, championed that effort. John Callister, you knew her!

We enacted another "Higher Emblem," again at the behest of Bill T. Russell—this is the master emblem, requiring 175 peaks, intended to keep



For more than a dozen years, 1985 chair Dave Dykeman was an SPS giant. He loved leading people up the peaks. He led Barbara Sholle up forty-eight of them, no easy task, and I should know! Not really! He'd urge on any willing follower and stuck with them, so often well into the night that for our fortieth anniversary banquet, he wore a headlamp to the podium. Uniquely, Dave led every single peak on the List.

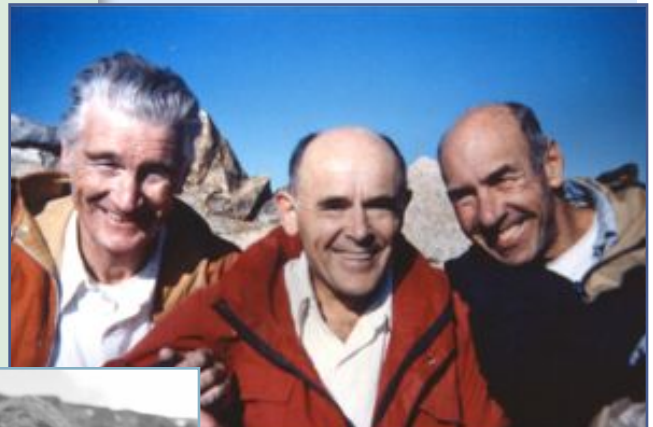
During the 1980s an anonymous *Echo* article coined the category of "Ancients": those who had permeated all facets of the SPS and whose opinion is accepted as direction by most members.

Duane McRuer was called an ancient (I told him, "Mac, that just means you're an old guy"). So was Bill T. Russell and long-time Angeles Safety Chair Bob Hicks.

So too was Ron Jones. Indeed! Ron climbed Half Dome in 1950, joined SPS in 1964, was chair in 1987. For decades



Left: Ron Hudson on The Thumb, October 9, 2011 (Photo by Matt Hengst). Above: Greg Vernon on a DPS climb of Castle Dome, January 22, 1978 (Photo by Ron Bartell). Right: "The Ancients"



from left to right, Duane McRuer, Bill Russell, and Bob Hicks in the Sierras, 1980s (Photo by Jerry Keating). Below: Ron Jones on Mt. Dubois, April 25, 1985 (Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Archives).

members motivated. And if that wasn't enough, 1984 chair Nancy Gordon made sure List finishers had their own nifty enamel pin.

Earlier, Dale Van Dalsem led the first SPS ice climb, aka the last SPS ice climb. Dale forgot his crampons, regrouped, fell leading the first pitch, bending the ice screw . . . most of the group then drifted off.

One who did not calmly led the hardest route, as Ron Hudson so often has. How about this: Ron's parents climbed Mt. Starr King before they were married, and their summit entry was still there when Ron led that peak (a tough friction climb). Ron finished the List in 2000, and along with the Lone Yeti, Greg Vernon (known as Greggy Boy to a few of you), is perhaps our best rock climber. And Ron really did stash freeze-dried food at Taboose Pass in 1983 and retrieved it for dinner in 1995!



he compiled the peak climb indexes and excerpts from our history for the *Echo* and he led, and led, and led trips. If there was ever a stronger climber, I've yet to meet them.

But he was fated not to be our oldest List Finisher. Elton Fletcher, that wonderful man, was fifty-one on finishing in 1977. Right then, Ron decided to bide his time and usurp that honor. He even announced his goal in the *Echo*. The task got much harder when George Toby finished at age seventy-one. But Ron persevered. He beat two stomach cancers. Two hip replacements didn't stop him. No, Ron overcame all that and was set to meet his objective in

2004. He beat cancers and prosthetic hips—but he couldn't beat Ret Moore.

Out of the blue, seventy-nine-years old (Caltech class of '43, of course), Ret finished the List in September 2003 on Lamont Peak with fifty-three friends looking on. Brent, you were there—who else?

Hey, Rudy Fleck, maybe you felt lucky last summer having some old guy help you get up North Palisade? Imagine a young Ret Moore by chance meeting Norman Clyde hisself and getting guided up in 1941!

Well, back to Ron, he waited another year and at seventy-one plus became our second oldest List Finisher in 2004. Vic and Sue, you were there! Ron, if only you had waited until last September!

1990s

As the 1990s arrived, we had almost no prospects of ever leading the hard peaks again. Chair Bill Oliver gloomily reported, "The chances of reinstatement are gnarly, no, I mean, are remote." So much for insight; a few months later, wahoo! We got the insurance back, and like a pawing horse let go, we bounded ahead. The only limitation was that we couldn't train rank beginners.

My mid-decade we were back to 280 members and sixty trips per year.

Barbara Sholle, 1994 chair, and Larry Tidball started an outreach program to the new Wilderness Travel Course, plumbing for new members—we still do this, now under Tohru Onuki. Again, under Duane McRuer we reconstituted our training program, and we ran sixteen technical trips the first year back—Larry Tidball led the very first, to University Peak, with crampons!

We entered the computer age with webmaster Charlie Knapke and later Larry Hoak, and, lately, Kathy Rich.

And we suffered through more waivers and paperwork; for a time we even had to pay an insurance surcharge per outing.

Speaking of outreach, 1999 chair and SPS merchandiser Patty Kline picked up where Dick Jali left off, leading lots of introductory trips; 2006 chair Gary Schenk with Mary Jo Dungfelder will carry on the effort.

They told us all the water in the Sierra was polluted, and in the *Echo* we were shown twenty-four types of water purifiers, costing up to \$250. Bob Rockwell decided to check the supporting data and concluded this was a crock of baloney.

Quiz: what weighs fifteen pounds, is too big on the outside to fit in your pack, is too small on the inside to hold more than a tuna fish sandwich, costs a fortune, and for the last dozen years has been required gear for backpackers? No, it's not a safe. Hint: think Garcia machine. Yes, bear canisters! With bears gone wild, or, more accurately, gone not wild, the government decreed we had to put our backpack food into these contraptions from now on.



At left: R.J. Secor Carrying "Sawtooth Pass" sign up to pass, September 4, 1981 (Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Archives). Below: Patty Kline on Milestone Mtn, July 17, 1991.



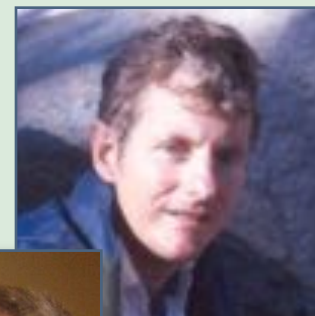
SPSer Wally Henry was a stupendous mountaineer, the only one I know of who summited the monster, Mt. Waddington. Glen Dawson couldn't do it; he tried twice. In the early 1970s, Wally led a week-long SPS climbing camp to the Devils Crag.

One sixteen-year-old came along. In time, he led Devils Crag #1 multiple times. His name is RJ Secor, chair 1998, and in the 1990s, he became the second person to finish the list twice. He and later Fred Camphausen shepherded a trail maintenance program, working with the Forest Service on the Shepherd Pass Trail.

Randall Danta, who completed the list in 2007, broke Mary Motheral's SPS altitude record for good in May 1992 when he topped Mt. Everest, along with our 1974 outings chair [Doug Mantle]. Randall carries a twenty-five pound first aid kit, along with enough fancy grub that his pack looks like a food truck. His mentor was Erick Schumacher, list finisher and rope gun of the SPS stars in the 60s and 70s.

Other SPS heroes of the 1990s?

"When I do a death march, I don't want anyone around to share in the gore"—very considerate, but recall that as Angeles Chapter Safety Chair since 1996, Larry Tidball (Larry, a wave?) reads enough accident reports without having to deal with ones from his own trips! Nevertheless, Larry, 1993 chair, has led almost 200 peaks with participants. And the Los Angeles Restaurant Writers Association routinely honors him for



Clockwise from left: Larry and Barbee Tidball, Patagonia, 2015; Pat and Gerry Holleman celebrating their SPS list finish, Taylor Dome, October 27, 2001; Jerry Keating on an SPS trip to Buckeye Pass, August, 1975(photo by Jerry Keating); Nancy and Jerry Keating at the 2015 SPS banquet (Photo by Mary MacMannes); Nancy Keating on the Matterhorn, July 31, 1959 (Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Archives)

"best backcountry quesadillas," five stars!

In August of 1993, our Northern California rep Steve Thaw "sauntered" twenty-seven miles and gained over 12,000 feet in a day, the SPS record. "Glorious!" which is how his summit register entries always begin.

Another hero of the 90s has a lot in common with Larry Tidball, beginning with the last name. Barbee and her ever-ready-battery Larry married in 1993, she was already leading lots of trips, and together they climbed Larry's last ninety to his List Finish in 1998 on Mt. Gould. (Rayne Motheral? RJ? You were there.) Barbee remains one of our most prolific leaders, a senior emblem holder, 1996 chair, co-editor for ten years of the *Echo* with Barbara Sholle (a record), conservation chair for years, and our number one wildflower botanist.

Of course, the Tidballs are not our only notable couple. Nancy and Jerry Keating have both been leading trips since 1958; their first child was one of the SPS "mascots." Nancy lugged a bottle of wine twenty-three miles on her emblem trip to Matterhorn Peak—but broke it, earning her perhaps the ultimate dubious achievement award.

Hagrid and Brumhilda—Roy and Barbara Magnuson—were together for forty years and finished the List together, numbers ten and eleven, in 1978. Dave Perkins did not carry a bottle of champagne up Roundtop for the event—he hauled up a watermelon!



Wyman triple List finished in 1994, and for good measure are now three X on the Desert List and completed the Great Basin List and the Colorado Fourteeners and still counting!

The Hoovers, by golly, husband, wife Vicky, and the two children all finished the List; daughter Frances was, and remains, the youngest to do so at age twenty-two.

Vic Henry and Sue

The Hollemans! Pat was chair, treasurer, *Echo* editor; Gerry, like Ron Bartell before him, labored long and hard on the membership list; they completed the SPS List on Taylor Dome in 2001. More amazingly, they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary a while back—everybody who was anybody was invited to the big bash—well, I might say, with one notable exception, an occasional emcee, right, Pat?

And in 2002 their majesties Greg and Mirna Roach finished on Kearsarge Peak and were crowned by Linda McDermott at the top.

2000s

Soothsayers predicted Y2K would spell the end of civilization. Civilization remained intact, but the 2000s have been hard on the SPS.

The crush of SoCal traffic doomed general membership meetings, and in 2008 we stopped them.



Left: George Toby and Ron Young, (*Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Archives*). Below: Asher Waxman and Dan Richter (*Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Archives*)



Wanna drive thirty miles cross-town in rush hour? Sacre bleu!

Exceeded in length only by the U.S. Tax Code and the Affordable Care Act, here are the rules and regulations now heaped on our leaders. For instance: Leaders solicit a detailed medical questionnaire from participants, scrutinize it, then become conversant in treating the ebola virus or mad cow disease or whatever else ails them. Then we still have to browse a government website, think “Obama Care,” to snatch the ever-diminishing quota slots, stand in line, recite Lincoln’s Cooper Union speech, and sign in ten places “under oath” to get our permits. At which point, perpetual Conservation Chair Barbee Tidball reminds us that driving to the Sierra is destroying the planet! But like George Washington at the battle of Princeton, we shrug off reverses and move forward. We still run thirty trips a year; membership is close to two hundred.

In 2005 we had a record turnout for the fiftieth anniversary banquet, treated to Dave Sholle’s wonderful video presentation and the emcee’s rehearsal of jokes for the sixtieth.

George Toby’s gourmet backpacks of the past got a fire truck upgrade: culinary wizard Ron Campbell began his decadent wilderness weekends—now for ten years! Anyone for sautéed strawberries or dueling bruschettes?

Henry Arnebold became treasurer for life, only to be usurped by our current chair, Alex Smirnoff, chair and treasurer.

Darrick Danta, 2006 chair, crafted a list of our more accessible peaks—the Sierra Sampler—a “fun” list, and he insisted we not turn it into another award, uniquely.

By contrast, there’s Kathy Rich, chair in 2010 and 2011, senior emblem holder; Kathy has become another guardian of the legacy. She launched first the Geographic Emblem, peaks from all the areas, this in 2009. And now, the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem wherein you submit a list of fifty unlisted peaks you have summited. It’s another idea to keep members

motivated. Kathy will later tell you I just said it’s a stupendous, exciting idea to keep members motivated. Probably so!

What could be more emblematic of the second millennium than Stanley Kubrick’s film *2001, a Space Odyssey*? And what could be more emblematic of the movie than the man-ape in the opening frames? That man-ape, to be precise, the mime that portrayed him, is in this very room with us tonight! Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome—well, it’s Dan Richter! In the 90s we gave Dan a lifetime achievement award. He was chair, our most active leader in 1997 and 1998, senior emblem holder, SPS historian—and Dan had lung cancer. Gee whiz, after five years away, he has returned in the 2000s con gusto and is teaching our future rock leaders “the ropes” in his Advanced Mountaineering Program. It’s wildly popular and entering it’s ninth season. Dan, not only can you keep



Tina Bowman (Stough), triple list finish, Humphreys Peak, AZ, June 25, 1994

the earlier award, but we may have to give you another one!

Then there is Tina Bowman. Chair 1997, she went beyond history by finishing the SPS, DPS, and HPS Lists—for the second time (only done once before)—and finished them on a single day in 2006. She stood at a makeshift podium,

can't leave the 2000s without praising Patty Rambert. Chair 2004 and 2005, the sparkplug hostess of the fiftieth anniversary banquet, Patty was a one-woman cheering section for the SPS—and we miss her!

Barbara Lilley

I saved the best for last—would everyone stand except for, and in tribute to, Barbara Lilley?

The three highest, hardest snowy peaks in North America are Mt. McKinley, Mt. Logan, and Mt. St. Elias. Barbara is the first, by light years, to have summited all three, and the first woman on each of them, accomplished in an age of sexism. This began in the 1950s, before fancy gear; we're talking massive packs, twenty-three-hour summit days, "the usual blizzards," as she has written.

Her first ascent list is long and includes the highest then-unclimbed peak in North America, 14,252' Mt. MacArthur in the Yukon.

This lady rock climbs! The first woman to climb Yosemite's fabled Lost Arrow, with Royal Robbins; other Valley classics like the Cathedral Spires; first ascents at Tahquitz, such as Fools Rush, The Error, and Switchback, 5.7R, dating back to 1952. And there was a scramble, for her, anyway, up the East Face of Mt. Whitney in 1959, where she popped up at the top and met Gordon MacLeod.

Since she retired from her day job at Hughes in 1986, she and Gordon have "gone climbin'," summiting way over five thousand peaks each.

nearly asleep in place from exhaustion, and husband

Tom quipped, "Let's all just admire her!" And well we should! How about when the group slept in, she hoisted her pack, plunged into a snowstorm, and twenty-four hours later returned, having summited Aconcagua? She is our most active leader, co-edits the *Echo* with the great Beth Epstein, and volunteers obsessively for the section, as for the committee that arranged this banquet. And she is on track to finish the List a record third time.

Unimaginable, inconceivable! We



Standing ovation for Barbara Lilley at 2015 Banquet. Standing in front, left to right: George Wallerstein, Gene Mauk, Mary Gygax Motheral, John Robinson. Gordon Macleod and Barbara Lilley seated. (Photo by Bob Cates)

Barbara Lilley beyond The Sierra *By Kathy Rich*

Barbara Lilley, a founding member of the SPS, emerged as a climber in the early 1950s. Equally skilled on snow or rock, she also was hailed as a climber who was mindful of safety but who never would give up—even when her feet were sore from twenty-mile backpacks. After years of successful leads in the SPS and DPS and completion of the SPS, DPS, and HPS lists, Barbara turned her attention to other high points in the Southwest, and her name (often along with that of her long-time climbing partner, Gordon MacLeod) is seen in peak registers everywhere. Although Barbara is known now as a pre-eminent peakbagger, many of us are not aware, however, of her many first ascents outside of the southwestern United States and her many pioneering ascents far afield, including big climbs in Alaska such as Mt Logan, Mt St Elias, and Denali. Barbara climbed North America's five highest peaks by 1972 and was probably the first woman to do so.

Doug Kasian, of Tucson, Arizona, has recently published a two-part article with many wonderful photographs about Barbara's life and climbing history on his website. These fine articles may be found here on his website:

<http://www.desertmountaineer.com/2015/07/17/barbara-lilley-a-climbing-life/>

<http://www.desertmountaineer.com/2015/07/24/barbara-lilley-a-climbing-life-part-2/>

Throughout, with dignity, she has informed, approved, or, when apt, admonished us—from announcing the advent of freeze-dried food and Velcro, to challenging the wisdom of mass producing mountaineers, to inserting common sense ideas such as how to fix your boots or when to hold the banquet—she remains an integral part of the section.

Founder, leader, mentor, the outspoken voice for individualism, achievement, and exploration, Barbara Lilley, you are the SPS.

Finale

Yes, it's late, but let's do one more quiz: what do Edward Everett, Fidel Castro, Pericles, Bill Clinton, and Doug Mantle have in common?

Nostalgia
By Barbara Lilley

As the SPS celebrates its 60th anniversary, the following are some reflections about the "good old (and not so old) days" (some of which were mentioned at the SPS banquet).

When there were no entry permits required for wilderness areas (only a yearly campfire permit).

When there were no quotas or party size limits in wilderness areas (real killers for SPS trips).

When campfires were permitted almost everywhere in the Sierra to enjoy, keep warm, dry stuff (and cook on too!).

When water in the Sierra was considered safe to drink.

When "traditional" leather hiking boots (Norwegian welt, Vibram soles) and non-weatherproof shell parkas (like the "60-40") were still available

When gas was \$1.00 a gallon.

Before the BMTIC infiltrated the SPS.

Before bear cannisters were mandatory, which can limit the length of trips.

Before Adventure Passes were required in National Forests.

Before mountain bikes became a hazard on non-wilderness trails.

Before the USGS changed to a new type of 7.5 topo map.

When it was still feasible to have monthly SPS meetings.

When the registers could still be found on Sierra peaks.

When ALL members of the SPS could receive printed copies of The Sierra Echo.

When it was still possible to go on ALL Angeles Chapter trips (and avoid extra charges for banquet tickets) without e-mail.

When the Angeles Chapter still published a schedule. This was the final nail in the coffin of the "good old days" - - and, in retrospect, they really were!

Yes, long, long speeches!

But it would take even longer speeches to properly acknowledge all the folks who have made the SPS work: the leaders; mailers; mountain records (thanks, Harry Langenbacher); conservation; other chairs like Greg Mason or that really fine climber with acerbic wit, Jim

Murphy (who shined his high beams on my trying to sleep, the rat); the Marco Polo of modernity, Burton Falk . . . A Mary Mac quote: "I ask your kind indulgence for the many worthy names not mentioned tonight!"

John Muir said, "If there was a Holy Land, it must be the High Sierra." For sixty years the SPS has maintained a unique connection to this Holy Land, a "love affair." What our friend Duane McRuer wrote in 1980 is still true: "The Love Affair is lasting."

Banquet DVD Available!

A very exciting video taken at the 60th 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 are music and 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!



Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary

A Trip with Patty Rambert

September 17-19,
2005

By Augie Medina

Mt. Gayley and Temple Crag were the objectives on Virgil Popescu's M provisional outing with Patty Rambert as evaluator/assistant leader. The group consisted of Corrine and Bill Livingston and their dog Kaweah, Don Croley, Stephanie Gylden, and yours truly. We embarked from the South Fork of Big Pine trailhead to Willow Lake (9,600') and then headed cross-country to a campsite on the east side of Big Pine Creek and south of Contact Pass. We set up close to a beautiful little lake that Virgil dubbed "Patty Lake." The next day, Corrine stayed back with Kaweah and the rest of us climbed Mt. Gayley (13,510').

On the third day, Don stayed back with Kaweah, and the rest of us headed toward Temple Crag (12,982'), about a three-hour jaunt from camp. As it turned out, Virgil had selected a route with a somewhat spicy crux move to reach the summit. That crux was to get across a six-foot gap in the rock located about eighty to one hundred yards below the summit. It would require a jump from a downward sloping slab across the gap onto an approximately four-foot landing area below. And there was nothing but air below the gap. Possibly even more daunting than jumping across six feet of air would be the return because that would require getting back across the gap in an upward direction; specifically, letting your body fall across the gap so you could grab the edge of the slab on the other side and pull yourself up to safety. We searched for alternate routes but couldn't find any from where we were.

With some trepidation, I agreed to make the first leap. Patty and Corrine set up a belay, and I put on one of the two harnesses the group had carried and tied in. I braced myself, let my feet slide down the slab and jumped when I reached the end of the slab. I got across the gap and landed with a thud below. I then ascended to the summit, placing one piece of protection along the way. After signing the register, I returned across the gap to the belay station and the next person tied in. I returned to the summit with each member of the group, assisting, where needed, getting everyone across the gap and back. It took somewhere between one and a half and two hours to get everyone who summited back and forth from the belay station. One person decided not to attempt the jump.

As did we all, Patty had quite a bit of trepidation when it was her turn to go across. But I could see in her eyes a fierce determination since she was, if memory serves me correctly, close to her goal of two hundred Sierra Peaks and needed Temple Crag as one of them.



It was a great trip with a good group enhanced by Patty's presence. She certainly was one of a kind, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to know her and get out in the mountains with her.



Top: On Mt. Gayley, left to right, in back: Bill Livingston and Virgil Popescu. In front: Don Croley, Patty Rambert, and Stephanie Gylden. Above: Temple Crag crux move. (Photos by Augie Medina).



Some Statistics

By Tina Bowman

The 30th anniversary issue of the *Echo* in 1986 had a list of statistics compiled by Duane McRuer, which I've used as the basis for this piece. If you have corrections—for oldest or youngest, for example—or other cool items to report, please let me know.

Emblem Holders

Total number of Emblem holders: 591

Total number of Senior Emblem holders: 147

Total number of Master Emblem holders: 83

Total number of Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem holders: 13

Oldest: Ron Eckelmann, August 2013, age 78

Youngest: Frances Hoover, October 1974, age 11

Largest families of Emblem holders: Riseleys (5); Akawies, Fletchers, and Hoovers (4 each)

List Finishers

Total number: 76

Shortest time period: Doug Mantle (1970–74) **

Oldest: Ret Moore, September 27, 2003, age 79

Youngest: Frances Hoover, October 2, 1983, age 22 years, 10 months

Most list finishes: Doug Mantle, 7

Soloing the list: Doug Mantle

Triple list finishers (SPS members who have finished the SPS, DPS, and HPS lists):

Andy Smatko, 2–13–67

Arkel Erb, 6–8–75

Gordon MacLeod, 12–6–75

Barbara Lilley, 10–17–77

Jerry Keating, 12–23–77

Roy Magnuson, 8–27–78

Barbara Magnuson, 8–27–78

Cuno Ranschau, 10–7–79

Doug Mantle, 6–21–80

Jack Grams, 7–26–81

Norm Rohn, 8–31–85

Duane McRuer, 9–20–85

Bill T. Russell, 9–21–85

Bob Emerick, 9–16–89

Ron Bartell, 9–2–90

George Hubbard, 9–29–90

Dale Van Dalsem, 9–25–93

Tina Stough (Bowman), 6–25–94

Sue Wyman, 9–17–94

Vic Henney, 9–17–94

Bob Hicks, 11–23–95

Mary Motheral, 9–5–96

Barbara (Cohen) Sholle, 9–19–98

Eric Siering, 9–8–01

Rich Gnagy, 7–27–02

Ron Jones, 9–25–04

Gene Mauk, 4–19–08

Greg Gerlach, 6–7–14

Bob Wyka, 9–13–14

Mirna Roach, 11–29–14

Greg Roach, 11–29–14

Quadruple list finishers (SPS members who have completed the SPS, DPS, HPS, and LPC lists):

Tina Bowman, 2–28–98

Eric Siering, 9–8–01

Sue Wyman, 4–4–09

Vic Henney, 4–4–09

Three lists in one day: Cuno Ranschau, October 7, 1979; Bob Emerick, September 16, 1989; Tina Bowman, October 6, 2006.

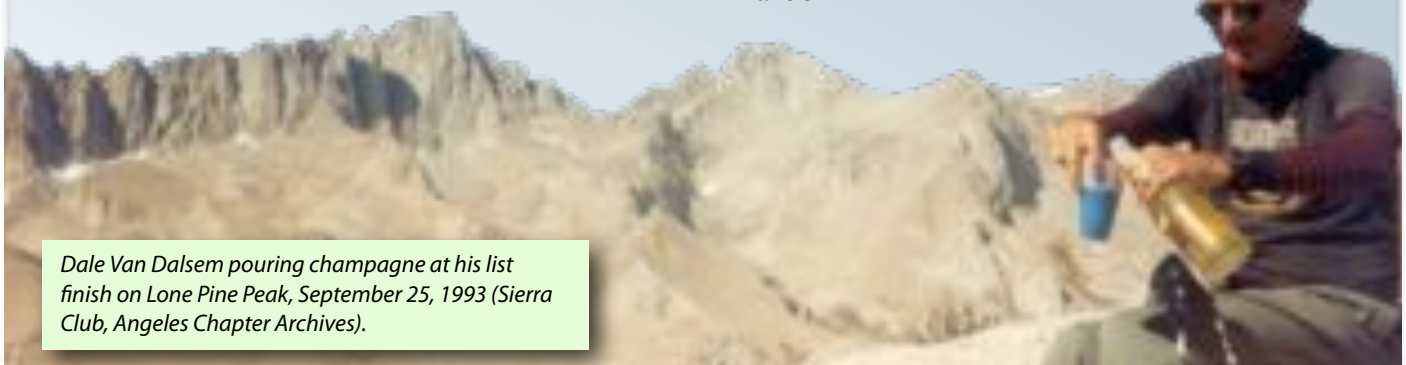
Double triple list finishers: Doug Mantle, Tina Bowman

Triple triple, etc.: Doug Mantle is the only one to finish all three lists more than twice; he's done it six times!

Sierra Climbs

Most peaks in a day: six, Arkel Erb and Doug Mantle [seven for Doug Mantle if you count going over Mt. Pickering twice in the one day]

Most peaks in a season: 100, Doug Mantle



Dale Van Dalsem pouring champagne at his list finish on Lone Pine Peak, September 25, 1993 (Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Archives).



Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary

Sierra Peaks Section Officers 1956 to 2015

YEAR	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR	SECRETARY	TREASURER	ALTERNATE
1956	Frank Sanborn	Bob Sheller	Pat Meixner (Gentry)	Leo Scotti	Frank Bressel
1957	Bud Bingham	John Robinson	Barbara Lilley	Pat Meixner (Gentry)	Frank Sanborn
1958	Chuck Miller	Bill Sanders	Charlotte Parsons	Barbara Lilley	John Robinson
1959	Bill Sanders	Tom Amneus	Mary Ann Eide (Miller)	Charlotte Parsons	Chuck Miller
1960	Jerry Keating	Frank Sanborn	Bill Sanders	George Shinno	Lothar Kolbig
1961	George Shinno	Lothar Kolbig	Jerry Keating	Tom Amneus	Bud Bingham
1962	Miles Brubacher	Graham Stephenson	George Shinno	Lothar Kolbig	John Robinson
1963	Ted Maier	Barbara Lilley	Dave Evans	Bud Bingham	Tom Amneus
1964	John Robinson	Frank Sanborn	Barbara Lilley	Miles Brubacher	George Shinno
1965	Arkel Erb	Gordon MacLeod	Andy Smatko	Ellen Siegal	Sy Ossofsky
1966	Rick Jali	Don Scruggs	Ken McNutt	Graham Stephenson	George Shinno
1967	Sid Davis	Rick Jali	Bill Hunt	Ted Maier	Lothar Kolbig
1968	John Thornton	John Robinson	Dick Sykes	Bud Bingham	Jerry Keating
1969	Bill Hunt	Dick Sykes	Ron Jones	Rick Jali	Dick Beach
1970	Dick Sykes	Ron Jones	Fred Hoepfner	Bob Mason	Eric Schumacher
1971	Bob Mason	Fred Hoepfner	Horace Ory	Dick Beach	Izzy Lieberman
1972	Horace Ory	Al Fowler	Barbara Magnuson	Paul Lipsohn	Roy Magnuson
1973	Paul Lipsohn	Art de Goede	Diana Dee	Ron Jones	Al Fowler
1974	Diana Dee	Doug Mantle	Bill T. Russell	George Toby	Ron Jones
1975	Doug Mantle	George Toby	Tom Cardina/Cuno Ranschau	Duane McRuer	Bill T. Russell
1976	Duane McRuer	Cuno Ranschau	R.J. Secor/Ted Pinson	Beverly Shultz	Mary Gygax (Motheral)
1977	Bill T. Russell	Maynard Brandsma	Ted Pinson	Cuno Ranschau	Beverly Shultz/ Meridee Muell
1978	George Toby	Ron Jones	Gene Mauk	Mary Gygax (Motheral)	Bob Hicks
1979	Bob Hicks	Gene Mauk	John Hellman	Ted Pinson	Bill Bradley
1980	Gene Mauk	Bill Bradley	Harold McFadden	Pat Holleman	Dale Van Dalsem
1981	Bill Bradley	Pat Holleman	Jim Murphy	Bob Emerick	Mary McMannes
1982	Pat Holleman	Jim Murphy	Nancy Gordon	Ron Bartell	Bob Emerick
1983	Jim Murphy	Nancy Gordon	Kevin Sullivan	Maris Valkass	Dave Dykeman
1984	Nancy Gordon	Dave Dykeman	Mary Sue Miller	Randall Danta	Maris Valkass
1985	Dave Dykeman	Maris Valkass	Ron Hudson	Vieve Weldon	Mary Sue Miller
1986	Mary Sue Miller	Ron Hudson	Vieve Weldon	Harold McFadden	Larry Machleder
1987	Ron Jones	Rob Roy McDonald	Maris Valkass	Vi Grasso	Al Conrad
1988	Maris Valkass	Bill Oliver	Ruth Armentrout	Al Conrad	Vi Grasso
1989	Bill Oliver	Tina Stough (Bowman)	Vi Grasso	Ruth Armentrout	Mario Gonzales
1990	Vi Grasso	Bill Oliver	Karen Leonard	Mario Gonzales	Graham Breakwell
1991	Bill Oliver	Karen Leonard	Bob Wyka	Larry Tidball	Mario Gonzales
1992	Dave Petzold	Bob Sumner	Bob Wyka	Larry Tidball	Mario Gonzales
1993	Larry Tidball	Dave Petzold	Barbara Cohen (Sholle)	Patty Kline	Barbara Hoffman (Tidball)
1994	Barbara Cohen (Sholle)	Larry Tidball	Dan Richter	Patty Kline	Barbara Hoffman (Tidball)
1995	Dan Richter	Wayne Norman	Mirna Roach	Patty Kline	Barbara Hoffman (Tidball)
1996	Barbara Hoffman (Tidball)	Dan Richter	Wayne Norman	Harry Freimanis	Patty Kline
1997	Tina Stough (Bowman)	Barbara Hoffman (Tidball)	Dan Richter	Matthias Selke	Patty Kline
1998	R. J. Secor	Patty Kline	Scott Sullivan	Tina Stough (Bowman)	Keith Martin
1999	Patty Kline	Tim Keenan	Matt Richardson	Scott Sullivan	Keith Martin
2000	Keith Martin	Ron Hudson	Scott Sullivan	Paul Graff	Matt Richardson
2001	Erik Siering	Ron Hudson	Matt Richardson	Maria Roa	Matthias Selke
2002	Erik Siering	Asher Waxman	Matt Richardson /Joe Wankum	Maria Roa	Joe Wankum/Gary Schenk
2003	Joe Wankum	Beth Epstein	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	Patty Rambert
2004	Patty Rambert	Reiner Stenzel	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	Michael Dillenback
2005	Patty Rambert	Reiner Stenzel	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	George Wysup
2006	Gary Schenk	Reiner Stenzel	Mary Jo Dungfelder	Henry Arnebold	Darrick Danta
2007	Darrick Danta	Stephanie Gylden	Alex Amies	Henry Arnebold	Bob Beach
2008	Virgil Popescu	Kathy Rich	Darrick Danta	Henry Arnebold	Dave Endres
2009	Kathy Rich	Alexander Smirnoff	Doug Owens	Henry Arnebold	Greg Mason
2010	Kathy Rich	Alexander Smirnoff	Mary Jo Dungfelder	Henry Arnebold	Greg Mason
2011	Kathy Rich	Alexander Smirnoff	Eric Scheidemantle	Henry Arnebold	Greg Mason
2012	Greg Mason	Kathy Rich	Eric Scheidemantle	Alexander Smirnoff	Matthew Hengst
2013	Eric Scheidemantle	Greg Mason	Lisa Miyaki	Alexander Smirnoff	Regge Bulman
2014	Alexander Smirnoff	Rudy Fleck	Jim Fleming	Michael Gosnell	Tohru Ohnuki
2015	Tina Stough (Bowman)	Jim Fleming	Paul Garry	Alexander Smirnoff	Jeremy Netka (Outreach)



Sierra
Peaks
Section

60th Anniversary

The Evolution of *The Sierra Echo*

By Jerry Keating

The Sierra Peaks Section became an official entity of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club in October 1955 and offered its first scheduled trips in 1956. Until February 1957, the Section depended upon the Angeles Chapter publication *Southern Sierran* to carry trip reports. Most of the early trip reports appear there, although they usually are relatively short.

The *Sierra Echo* came on the scene in February 1957 with John Robinson serving as the first editor.

This allowed the section to publish longer trip reports and to provide detailed route information. Early issues were produced via the Ditto spirit duplicator process. Stencils were prepared by a typist using a manual typewriter, and maps and cartoons were hand drawn. This was a laborious effort, and realistically it could make use of only one side of each published page. No more than 75 properly inked copies resulted—a problem for the section's growing membership.

Starting in January–February 1962, a Mimeograph machine donated by Sid Davis replaced the cumbersome Ditto process, and eventually electric typewriters were used in the preparation of stencils. Some of the typewriters had built-in memory features, making it much easier to make corrections as the copy was prepared.

The first offset issue of the publication appeared in July 1967, and it then was possible to paste text, photos and other graphics into place. Eventually, even this new-found flexibility gave way to computer-generated pages with text and graphics easily integrated.

Effective with the July–September 2008 issue, subscribers had a choice of receiving the publication in “hardcopy” form or electronically via email.

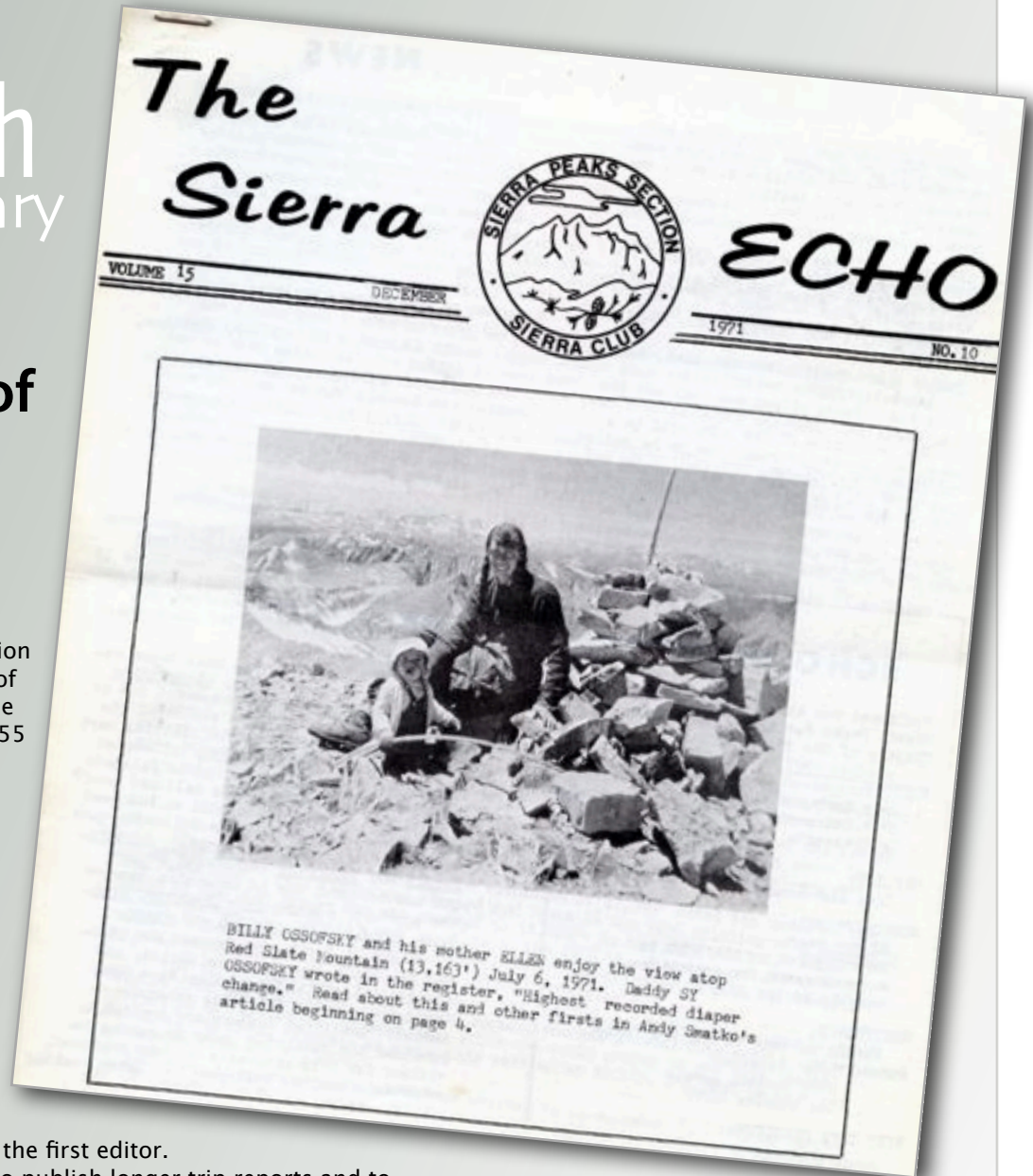
Below are the various editors the *Echo* has had over the years.

John Robinson: February 1957 through December 1958

Jerry Keating: March–April 1959 through December 1959

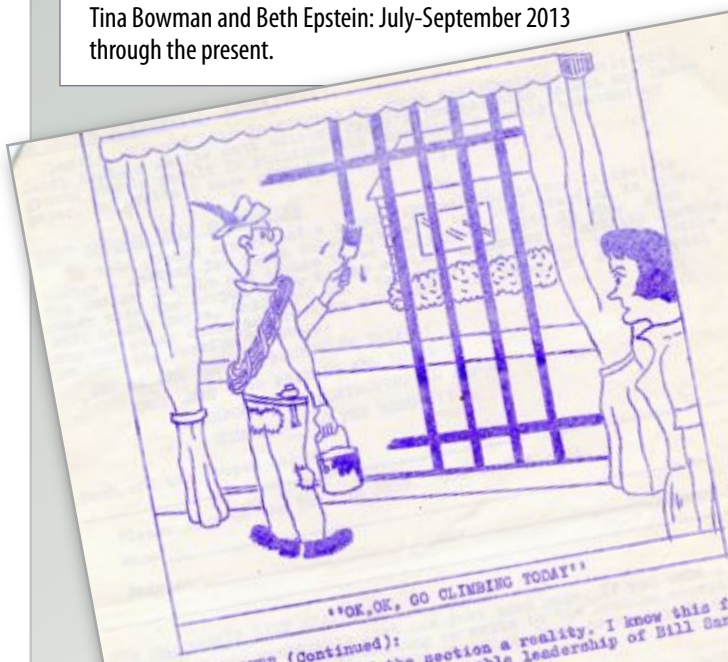
Andy Smatko: January 1960 through November–December 1960

Walt Wheelock: January–February 1961 through November–December 1961



Echo Editors, continued:

Bud Bingham: January-February 1962 through November-December 1962
Ed Ostrenga: January-February 1963 through November-December 1963
Ellen Siegal: January-February 1964 through January-April 1965, Issue No. 1 of that year.
Editor for the Summer 1965 (issue 2) through the end of 1965 is unknown or unclear.
John Thornton: possibly November-December 1965 (Issue No. 6 of 1965) and most likely January-February 1966 through October-November 1966.
Ellen Siegal: March-April 1967 (issue No. 1 of that year) through November-December 1967
Susan Thornton/Susan Forrister: February 1968 through November 1969
Judy Hoepfner: January-February 1970 through December 1971
Betty Dessert: January-February 1972 through November 1973
Paul Lipsohn: December 1973 through September-October 1975
Mary Omberg: November-December 1975 through September-October 1977
Cuno Ranschau: November-December 1977 through September-October 1984
Pat Holleman: November-December 1984 through September-October or November-December 1987
Igor Mamedalin: Either November-December 1987 or January-February 1988 through November-December 1990
Bob Sumner: January-February 1991 through November-December 1992
Wayne Norman: January-February 1993 through September-October 1996
Barbee Tidball and Barbara (Cohen) Sholle: November-December 1996 through January-March 2006
Edd Ruskowitz: Summer 2006
Sara Danta: Winter 2006 through April-June 2013
Tina Bowman and Beth Epstein: July-September 2013 through the present.



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (Continued):

that will make the goals of the section a reality. I know this feeling will continue next year under the capable leadership of Bill Sanders.

AN EDITOR'S FAREWELL

As my term as editor of the Echo comes to a close I would like to briefly reflect on a few things that come to mind. First, I want to thank the SPS members who have so generously supplied the Echo with news items. Our peak issue last August came to 14 pages, a fitting tribute to the cooperation of the membership. Bud Bingham deserved a special vote of thanks for the numerous cartoons and maps he has supplied the Echo in the past two years. Next I would like to reflect on what I consider the Echo's function or should be. To me the Echo is more than a mere news sheet; it is a web that keeps the SPS an integral and unified section. With our membership rapidly increasing both in gross numbers and in area of residence, this function becomes correspondingly more significant. Rather than becoming a loose meaningless confederation, through an efficient media of inter-communication we can continue to exhibit a singleness in spirit and purpose. Those not-so-active members, made aware of contemporary issues and activities, can feel a sense of belonging that otherwise would fade with a passage of time. The Echo can be to the SPS what the blood supply is to the body. (Continued next page)

AN EDITOR'S FAREWELL (Continued)
Lastly, I would like to express my great satisfaction in welcoming Jerry Keating as the next editor. Jerry's journalistic talent and background should result in building the Echo into a really outstanding paper. We couldn't have picked a better editor.

WHO BECOMES SELF SUPPORTING
By vote of the members at a recent SPS meeting it was decided to charge a nominal fee for a subscription to the Echo starting in 1959. With the coupon below to be published in 1959 is 50¢. Send to Golden Drive, Hollywood 28. The money will be used to meet mail and other costs incurred in publishing the Echo. Any surplus will go to the section treasury.

INSIDE INFO ON SCHEDULED TRIPS!
HOW WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOING!
BE INFORMED ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES!
SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECHO!!!

coupon below:
Name the Echo in 1959. 50¢ is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE
Membership list has just been made. If you want a copy of the SPS meeting or write to the section secretary, W. Broadway, Whittier. Send no money! This is free.

xx
Valley in the Sierra finally. He just could not find a new address in Box 142, Independence, California. Both have new Ford station wagons. Remember one peak-bagger in the SPS. Numerous dinners to stray climbers on Friday or not, TOM is a good cook. PARKINSON's truck after hikes are not invigorating "refreshments".
Continuation after a year of climbing in Texas

Harrington, Kennedy: Fabulously Brutal



By Gary Schenk Leaving on Saturday, July 11 at 5:59 am—one minute ahead of schedule—from the Lewis Creek Trailhead, eight climbers started the long trek towards Kennedy Mountain in Kings Canyon National Park. They consisted of leader Tina Bowman, assistant Gary Schenk, and participants Craig Barlow, Steve Donmeyer, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Corrine Livingston, Bob Pickering, and David Sklansky.

They were concerned about the availability of water after four years of drought at their intended base camp for the weekend: Frypan Meadow. Lack of water would force them higher to Grizzly Lakes. That would make the ascent of Kennedy out of the question. Perhaps!

The weather cooperated, as it was a cool and overcast day. Taking two short breaks at a couple of very refreshing stream crossings, they reached Frypan Meadow, six miles, 3300' of gain, in three and a half hours.

They were pleased to discover ample water and a bear box there. They dropped their gear, switched quickly to summit packs, and were soon on their way to Kennedy, nine miles roundtrip with an additional 3600' of gain.

The trail out of

Frypan is faint but was not too difficult to follow. The assistant was leading the group and upon going astray was quickly informed as to the true path. The assistant kept to the advertised moderate but “relentless” pace. Only one short break was taken prior to reaching Kennedy Pass.

By the pass, the assistant’s legs had transformed to limbs of lead. The sky was quite forbidding, so the leader took command of the group in a bid to beat the rain to the summit.

The plucky crew found wonderful views of the Palisades from the top. However, time was of the essence. They hurried back to camp at Frypan. After a

fifteen mile, 7000+’ of gain day, dinner was relished by all. A 5 am wake up call was declared, and it was early to bed. The climb of 3rd-class Harrington would be another nine miles roundtrip with 3300’ of gain.

The next morning proved bright and clear as the adventurers set out at 6 am. The leader took charge this day and skillfully took the group along a trail that was fainter than the day before, skirting Grizzly Lakes, and efficiently approaching the saddle



Top: Descending to Kennedy Pass. Bottom: Mt Harrington's north ridge (Photos by Tina Bowman).

north of Harrington's summit. Going a bit farther north avoided any unnecessary 3rd class. Small streams along the way afforded opportunities to refill water bottles.

A bit of tricky class 2 route finding found them on the ridge and headed for the impressive summit. At first, it seemed incredible that there could be a route other than 5th class to this peak, but closer examination revealed otherwise.

The leader had no difficulty leading her band of hearties along the proper route to the top. The rock was good and solid. Chickenheads made for good handholds. While the exposure was wild, the climbers felt confident making their moves, and the summit was reached in good order.

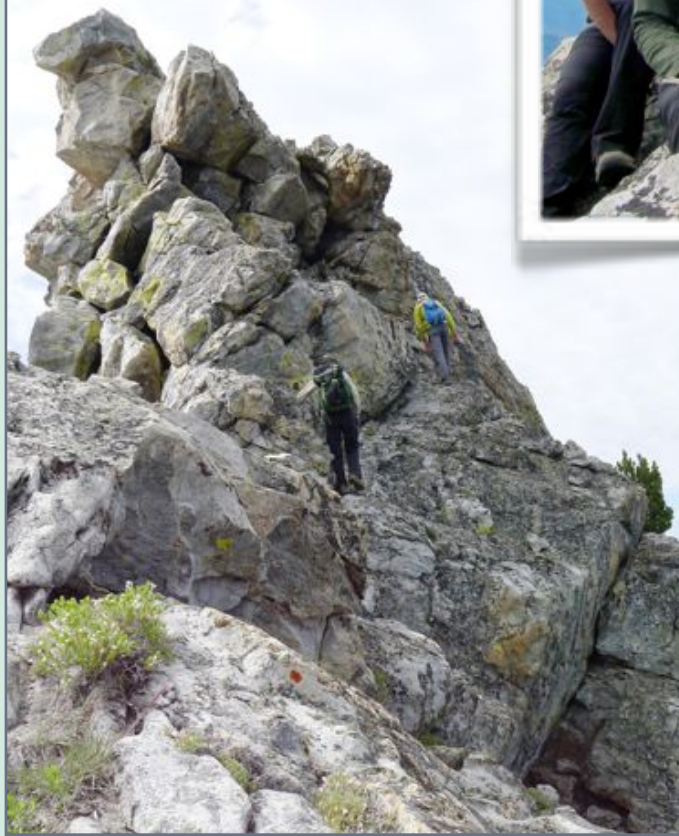
The views were more spectacular than the day before. The Gorge of Despair lay at their feet. The Palisades seemed close enough to touch.

At the leader's request, the assistant led the way down, which was uneventful. The decision was made to follow the ridge

that a trail so faint was no different than cross country travel and that it was more important to find the best line to camp.

This difference in philosophy resulted in an insurrection of mutineers on the ridge just east of Grizzly Lakes. The assistant started down a slope that would intersect the mapped position of the trail near a small stream. The revolutionists doggedly attempted to follow the faint trail.

This gave the assistant a much-needed rest stop



Above: Atop Harrington, left to right: Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk, Corrine Livingston, Craig Barlow, Bob Pickering, David Sklansky, Tina Bowman (Photo by David Sklansky). At left: Climbing Harrington's rocky summit (Photo by Craig Barlow). Many more of Craig's wonderful images are posted at <https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/112879518379511802005/albums/6171002759593629713>

even farther north to a low saddle between Hogback Peak and Harrington and use this to begin the descent to Frypan. And after carrying lunch along since leaving Lewis Creek, the group decided that this day luncheon would be served!

The assistant followed the drainage towards Grizzly Lakes. In the front much debate ensued concerning differences over following the trail versus navigating to camp. The majority opinion was that following the trail was more efficient, the other school of thought being

while he waited for the group to catch up. It also offered time for him to marvel at the impressive amount of bear scat in the area. Bear scat had been plentiful throughout the course of the trip, but it was particularly abundant in this spot. Grizzly Lakes must have been named for a reason!

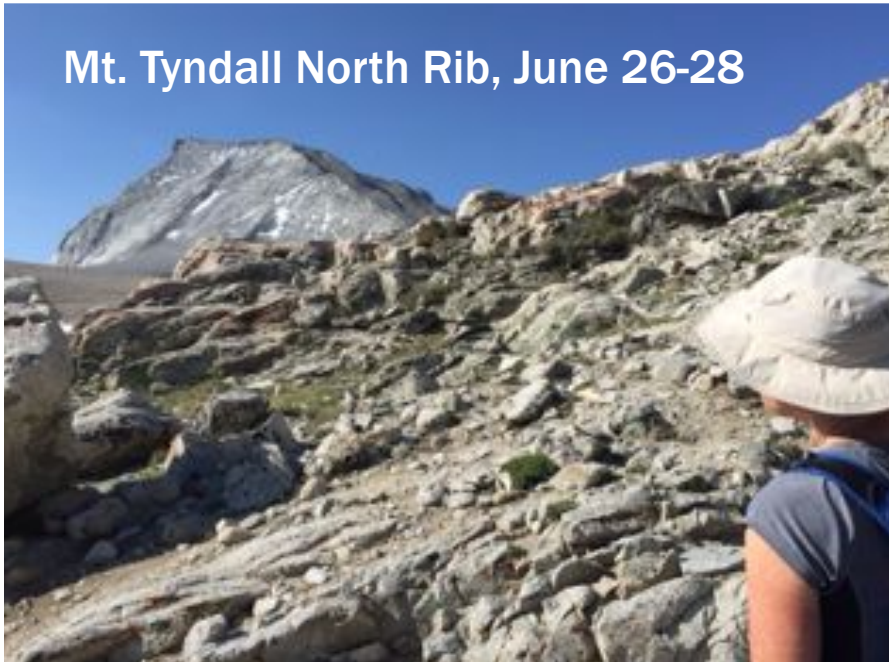
Reunited, they were soon back at camp at Frypan. Out came the sign-in sheet, and all participants save one signed out. It was every man for himself now. People had places to go and people to see and were in a hurry to return.

The hike out was long and hot. At the trailhead the assistant was seen depositing boots and socks in the trash can.

The leader, assistant, and the one loyal participant held a trip debriefing at Cedar Grove over veggie burgers and beers.

The participants were a strong and competent group. Two of them—Bob Pickering and David Sklansky—qualified to become SPS members. The final stats: two days, two peaks, thirty miles, 11,000+' of gain. The SPS Death March lives on!

Mt. Tyndall North Rib, June 26-28



obstacle on the trail was the big washout just below Anvil. We went high; others reported going low and doing well there. It wasn't pleasant in any case. Trusting life and limb to rocks poking out of dirt is not my idea of fun.

We made camp at Anvil, and Yvonne demonstrated her new gravity filter. It's light and works great. Richard soon showed up. He's a true rookie but had no problems getting up the trail. He was feeling the altitude though, having slept in LA. It was warm that night, probably in the low 50s.

A 6 am start the next morning had us at Shepherd Pass fairly early. There was only a small patch of snow at the pass, and it

By Gary Schenk

Trips often undergo many changes during their development. This particular one began life as a provisional-M trip and morphed into a conditioning trip for Tina Bowman's Harrington and Kennedy Sufferfest.

Three of us piled into Yvonne Lau's 4WD Sportsmobile van. Some people think it's a big truck for a little lady, but Yvonne wields it with power and grace under any conditions.

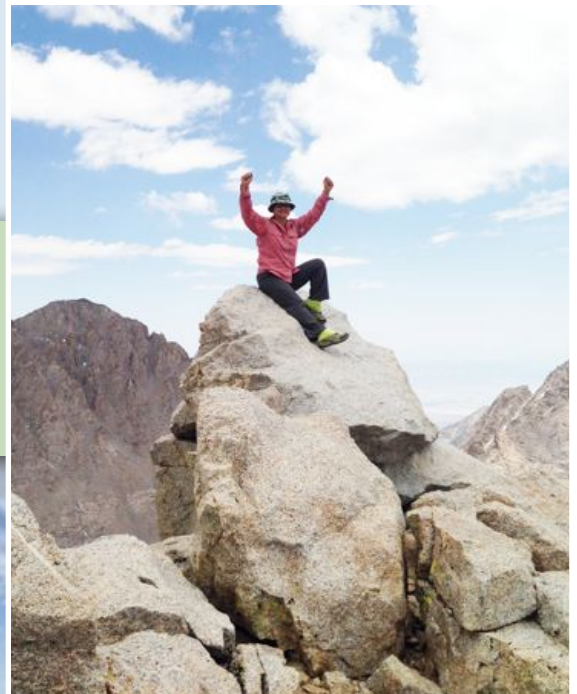
We made good time to Lone Pine for the permit, then proceeded to the best restaurant in America: Copper Top in Big Pine. We grabbed sandwiches for dinner later that night. After a quick jaunt to Wilson's for last minute shopping, we arrived at Shepherd Pass trailhead and enjoyed barbecue and beer.

We left at 6 am the next morning to beat the heat. We decided to leave the axes and short rope at the van. Our destination was Anvil Camp. Somewhere on the road behind us was Richard Hsieh on the way from LA to meet us at camp. Richard is a recent WTC student and was a holdover from the provisional-M version of the trip.

In this fourth year of drought, Symmes Creek was very low. The crossings were just easy hops. The only true

Trips often undergo many changes during their development.

Above and Below: Mary Jo Dungfelder approaching Mt. Tyndall. (Photos by Yvonne Lau). Right: Yvonne Lau on the summit of Mt. Tyndall (Photo by Mary Jo Dungfelder).



was soft with big steps.

At the base of the North Rib, Richard turned back. He was getting a real lesson in acclimation and was smart enough to know better than to try the rib feeling as he did.

The rib had a bit of snow to the right side but was mostly dry. We scrambled up, the ladies leading the way. I wasn't feeling much better than Richard and was really slow. We zigged and zagged across the rib, avoiding loose rock and snow, and eventually hit the ridge. This was very fun scrambling on solid rock. Somehow I was feeling better at 14,000'. Go figure.

We enjoyed the views of the Sierra, marveling at how dry it was. It looked like September, not June.

We wanted to try descending the northwest ridge, and set off in that direction. Ten years ago on another trip, Ron Zappen had tried ascending that route. He made the main ridge and reported that he would've had to descend several hundred feet into ugly terrain to continue; being solo he had turned back. We understood why when we reached the spot where the

ridges converged. It did look ugly. Perhaps we could have found a way to bypass, but we did not feel like taking the time. We needed to get back. We backtracked and descended the rib, which went well.

We reached camp and had a pleasant dinner, discussing the day's events with Richard. The next morning was an uneventful trip out. Almost. At the trailhead we discovered a flat tire on the van. Turned out to be a bad valve stem. A lug nut was stripped, so we couldn't change the tire. To make a long story short, Miller's in Lone Pine rescued us. We missed making Copper Top before it closed, though! Frosty Chalet, however, was not a bad alternative.

Thanks to Richard Hsieh, Mary Jo Dungfelder, and Yvonne Lau for making the trip work so well.

Correction

The map at the former lookout on Kern Peak is still there, contrary to what was reported on page 22 of the last issue.



Dare to Lead!

Fall Leadership Training Seminar

Set for October 15, 2015

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

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered on **Saturday, October 15th, in the Pasadena area.**

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

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

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

Applications and checks are due October 10, 2015.

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson AMLeadership@gmail.com



realized. The trail was hard to follow in spots but generally well ducked or obvious all the way to Wallace Lake. At one point it crosses Wallace Creek, and I had to wade because the crossing rocks were under water. It wasn't difficult or deep (mid-calf) but a bit of a nuisance. (On the return, I skirted the head of the meadow, easily crossing several branches of the stream, and went down the north side, soon rejoining the trail. Piece of cake.)

From Wallace Lake I headed toward the inlet stream at the south end of the lake, angling up and to the right of the waterfall—easy going. From that bench I followed the stream up talus on the west side of a rock and talus slope. The stream ran under the talus here. Soon I was back to easy walking again up a higher drainage, toward the low

(relatively speaking) saddle between the north ridge of Mt. Russell and Tunnabora, not much higher than Lake Tulainyo. Sand slopes and a bit of talus led to the summit of Tunnabora, the usual route for this part.

I estimated it was about twenty-three miles round trip from my campsite, and the Avocet showed 4660' gain. Going from the junction of the JMT and HST would make for an easier day, but as it was, I did it in just over thirteen hours, camp to camp, not at a fast but a steady pace. It was lovely country, and if you are in the area, I'd recommend climbing Tunnabora this way.

A Different Approach to Tunnabora

By Tina Bowman Tunnabora was an orphan for me, I needed some peaks along the Kings–Kern Divide, and I was interested in a different approach to Tunnabora, avoiding the Whitney Zone permit hassles. The 1956 15-minute topo shows a trail to Wallace Lake from the junction of the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Trail, but newer maps don't. I was curious about that trail and looking forward to seeing an area I hadn't visited before.

So on July 20th, in over Shepherd Pass I went, camping at Tyndall Creek at the junction of the JMT and Shepherd Pass trail. Knowing it would be a long day from

there, I hoped that the old trail wouldn't be too hard to follow and that the miles of cross-country would not be all talus. As it turned out, my hopes were



Above: Wallace Lake with Mt. Barnard behind on the left (Photo by Tina Bowman).

Smatko Peak in the Southern Sierra Nevada, August 14, 2015

by Terry Flood



Meadows and visited the old abandoned Forest Service Ranger Station cabin, where we met some volunteers led by a gentleman named Loren, who was a retired Forest Service employee and who had taken on the task of restoring this small cabin originally built back in 1920. They had cut down a properly sized tree that day and hand-hewn it down to what they needed to replace one of the bottom logs that had rotted out and had five twelve-ton jacks to lift and level the one-room building on the original four cornerstones. Loren told me that he figured it would take three to five years to finish the job, and he

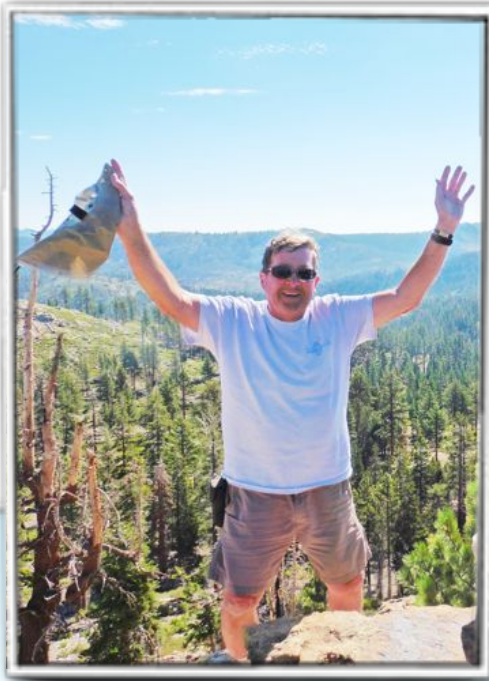
Noting Tina Bowman's comments in a recent *Echo* regarding the potential official naming of spot elevation 8916' off of Sherman Pass Rd. as "Smatko Peak," I convinced Henry Arnebold and Jim Murphy that that would be a very worthy goal for us as Dr. Andy Smatko was one of the leading figures in our Sierra Peak Section and in the mountaineering community in general. Apparently this was the final Sierra peak that he ascended back on September 21, 1997, and so we headed up Nine Mile Canyon Road to check it out. There had been at least one fire in that area, and even though there was a lot of down wood and charcoal remains, it appeared that we would have a rather short but relatively easy traverse through open country from the east side the next morning.

We camped at Bonita

and his son pointed out some of the interesting dates carved into the logs and framing, over the years dating back long into the last century. Loren knew a lot of the history of this building, which had been abandoned by the Forest Service way back in the 70s but had been also used as a cow camp up into recent years for grazing cattle in the meadow. I talked to him at length



Above: Smatko Peak from Sherman Pass. Right: Henry Arnebold approaching the summit (Photos by Terry Flood).



as he seemed to know everything going on up on the Kern Plateau these days. Henry, Jim, and I had visited the nearby Bald Mtn. fire lookout tower earlier in the day, but the tower was locked up and no one was on duty. Apparently, the full-time employee only works five days a week, and we had showed up on one of his days off.

So after a good night's sleep in cool temperatures at 8,400', we set off in search of



Top: Henry Arnebold at the summit. Below, left to right, Jim Murphy and Terry Flood at the summit (Photos by Terry Flood).

Smatko Peak. We parked at the junction with Sherman Pass Rd./Bonita Meadows dirt road and headed northwest up an easy ridgeline to a little rise about 1/4 mile northeast of what we saw as the summit crags and started traversing towards what looked like a challenging summit attempt. It was a little difficult to determine the exact highpoint at first, but the topo shows the spot elevation towards the southern end of these crags, so after we abandoned one effort to climb up from one of the middle notches, we traversed around the southern end of these crags and spotted a possibility from the southwest on the other side. Some short class 3 moves and brush later, we found twin summits, one of which Henry climbed, and then Jim and I spotted a cairn on the other, which we quickly topped out on. Jim noted a circular drill hole, but no register was to be found. Fortunately, I had brought an old little nested red can, and we left it with the name Smatko Peak which hopefully will be official soon. I took pictures of nearby Bald Mountain and faraway Olancho Peak, we quickly descended directly to the south back to the car, and then we drove up to nearby Sherman Pass (9,200') and had a panoramic view of Smatko Peak. Although it is not the highest peak around, those crags do stand out significantly and certainly seem worthy of their namesake, Andy Smatko.

University Peak

July 10-12, 2015

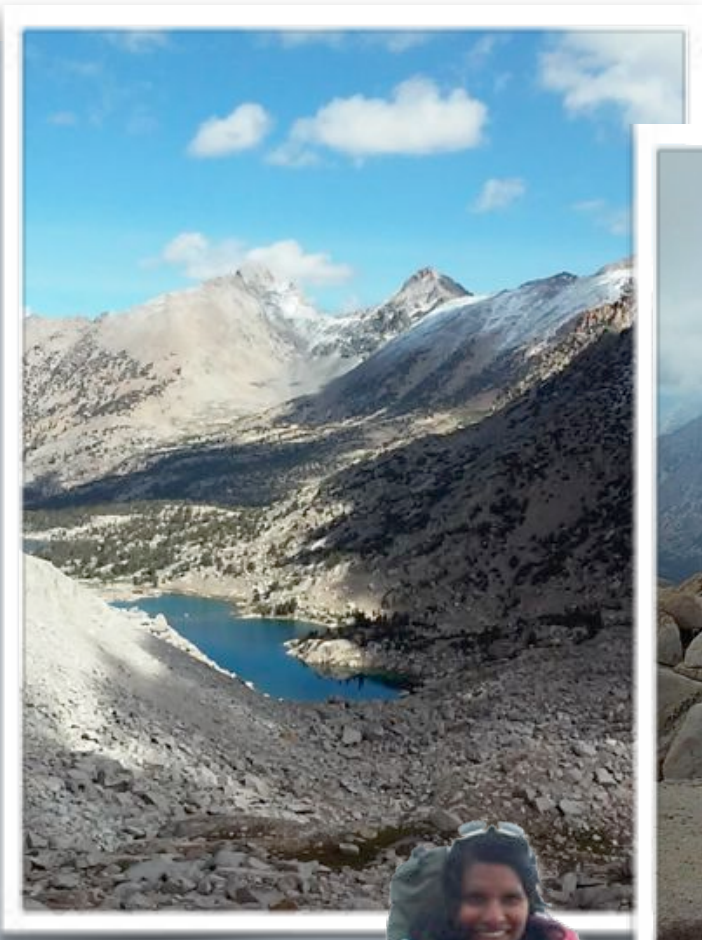
By Jennifer Blackie

Jim Fleming and I first attempted University last September. That weekend, a forecast of "possible snow showers" turned into a light but persistent snow all afternoon and all night. When we woke up the next morning and saw no sign that it was going to let up, we decided to pack up camp and hike out. This year we tried again, on a weekend in July with a better forecast. However, we had some feelings of déjà vu the first afternoon after setting up camp when rain and hail quickly turned into a steady snowstorm.

Fortunately, things cleared up overnight, and we were happy to wake up to blue skies. One person chose to dry out his gear and then hike out, while the other four of us (Jim, Michelle Gomes, Jane Mrotek, and I) started up the Kearsarge Lakes drainage toward University's northwest side.

The Kearsarge Lakes drainage surprised us all with how pretty its green riverbanks and many small cascades were. A use trail, probably created by fishermen, runs along the north side. Some nice campsites are also at the uppermost Kearsarge Lake, which are much more secluded than the busy campsites we stayed at on the lower lake near the trail.

We passed the Kearsarge pinnacles and went up a notch to get onto University shoulder. Travel up to the notch was a pain due to how loose the scree was, but once we were on the shoulder, travel got easier. The key to the northwest side route is staying low on the slope to bypass the cliff bands that jut down from the top. We missed this at first since it is so tempting to go up higher and had to backtrack down the slope to get around the cliffs. Ducks on the



At left: left to right, Jennifer Blackie, Michelle Gomes and Jane Mrotek (Photo by Jim Fleming).
 Top left: Kearsarge Lakes.
 Top right: Michelle Gomes near the summit of University, with Kearsarge Lakes below (Photos by Jennifer Blackie).

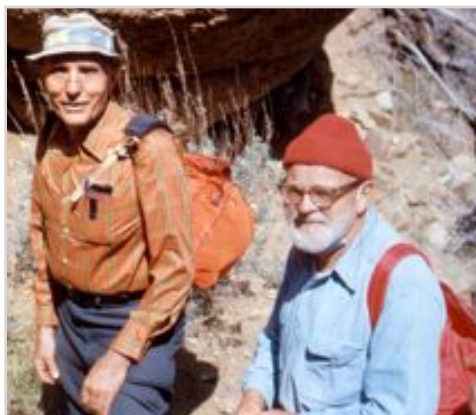
route will lead you under the cliff bands, but if you are up too high to begin with, you won't even see them.
 Route finding through the boulders was tricky near the top due to the snow on the route, but we all made it to the summit, and everyone felt that the stellar summit views were well earned!
 The northwest side route is an enjoyable second-class alternative to the more popular third class routes from Matlock Lake and Robinson Lake. The cross-country travel on scree and boulders from upper Kearsarge Lake to the summit makes for a full and tiring day, but I thought the opportunity to hike and camp in the beautiful Kearsarge Lakes drainage was worth it. We were happy to make it back to camp after an eleven-hour day and hiked out over Kearsarge pass the following morning.

Sam Fink and The Fourteeners

Did you know that Sam Fink was the first Californian to climb all of the Pacific Coast and Colorado 14,000' peaks in the lower forty-eight states (this was before Hawaii and Alaska were admitted to the Union), which he did in 1954? Read all about Sam and much, much more at: <http://14ers.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?style=10&f=7&t=46548> -TB



Above: Sam Fink in the Sierra Nevada, 1930s.
Below: Sam Fink (on left) and Fred Bode, Heald Pk. dedication climb, April 27, 1974 (Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Archives)



Outings



Mt. Humphreys (photo by Jack Keiffer).

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.

Originally Scheduled Sep 25-27

POSTPONED DUE TO FIRE

Sep 23-25 2016 | Fri-Sun SPS

MR/I: Tehipite Dome (7708') and Sugarpine Hill (7021'): Sierra Peaks & Smatko Explorer Emblem List Finish: Join Shane Smith as he completes both the Sierra Peaks List and Smatko Explorer Emblem (along with Laura Newman) east of Fresno. Fri meet at Wishon Village RV Park (www.wishonvillage.com), hike to base of Tehipite Dome (11 mi, 2000'). Sat climb Tehipite Dome (short exposed move on summit) and hike out (13 mi, 1000') by Sunday morning with optional side-trip to

OUTINGS

Caltech Alpine Club and SPS Speaker Series

We're delighted to announce that the SPS is co-sponsoring with the Caltech Alpine Club (CAC) a series of mountaineering slideshows this fall on the Caltech campus at the Beckman Auditorium. The presentations are on Mondays except for the talk by SPS member Phil Bates, whose program is on a Wednesday. Please keep an eye on the SPS website (<http://www.sierrapeaks.org>) for more information about the subject of the talks. These free events are scheduled for 6:30–7:30 p.m. and will have free food and drinks also. Come early to chat with SPSers and meet members of the CAC!

September 21	Matt Coggon	Whitewater in California in time of Drought
September 28	Matt Shaner	Surfing in the Maldives, Climbing Down Under, The Needles
October 7	Phil Bates	Climbing in The Alps
October 12	Vito Rubino	Cycling to Hell and Back, Race Across America
October 19	Cody Finke	Sierra Ski Mountaineering in the Driest Winter in History
October 26	Jeremy Brouillet	Adventures in Iceland
November 2	Aysel Gezik	Climbing Over 7000m in the Pamir and Tian Shen Mountains

climb Spanish Mtn (10,051'). Limited permit space for Tehipite Dome with climbing resumes, Sierra Club membership, and medical form required. If Tehipite Dome is a bit lengthy for your idea of a celebration, opt to join in the double celebration on Sun with an easy hike to Sugarpine Hill (1 mile r/t, 350'). Meet up with Shane and the leaders after they return from Tehipite Dome at 11am on Sunday at Wishon Village RV Park. Many easy qualifying Explorer Emblem peaks (Hall, Hoffman, Patterson, Lost) surround the area for those who would like to make a full weekend of climbing and skip lengthy Tehipite Dome. For Tehipite Dome, please reserve by emailing sssmith4@yahoo.com. For Sugarpine Hill, no reservation is required & there is no space limit—all are welcome! Trip Ldr: Daryn Dodge. Co-Ldrs: Kathy Rich, Steve Smith, Paul Garry.

Sep 30 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12): 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.

Oct 3 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12): Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today, at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus

We've chosen the photo on page 26 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 email attachment to tina@bowmanchange.com or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

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.

Visit the new address of the SPS website for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at www.sierrapeaks.org

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

Oct 10 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12): 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, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

Oct 10 | Sat LTC
I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers are welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Leader: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Oct 15 | Sat LTC
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar in Pasadena area. For information,

OUTINGS

see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Deadline for receipt of application is Oct 10. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2016

Oct 17–18 | Sat–Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E–R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12): 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.

Oct 30–Nov 1 | Fri–Sun LTC
C: Wilderness First Aid Course runs from 7:15 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes instruction, lodging, and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$245 (full refund until 9/25/15). App available at wildernessfirstaidcourse.org. For more information send email to Ldr: Steve Schuster.

Nov 14 | Sat LTC, WTC
M–R: Navigation: Workshop on 3rd–Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Richard Boardman 310-374-4371
Steve Botan ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org
Daryn Dodge 530-601-1023 daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov
Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 dianedunbar@charter.net
Paul Garry 310-399-2334 pwgarry@earthlink.net
Jack Kieffer 714-522-1376 jockorock42@yahoo.com
Tom McDonnell 949-422-2661 t.mcdonnell@sbcglobal.net
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 pamckusky@att.net
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Kathy Rich 323-309-1850 kathrynarich@gmail.com
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
Steve Schuster 714-315-1886 steve.n.wfac2@gmail.com
Steve Smith 760-382-0764 sssmith4@yahoo.com
Phil Wheeler 310-214-1873 phil.wheeler@sierraclub.org

is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd-class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

Nov 14–15 | Sat–Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, SPS, DPS
I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to

Call for Award Nominations!

It's that time of year for members to nominate SPS leaders for the SPS Leadership Award. Established and first given in 1997, the award has been described thus: "Created by the SPS Membership to give recognition to those individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the SPS over the years and who have fostered new leaders." Please send your nomination and list of qualifications to the chair, Tina Bowman, at mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com

For more information, here's what the Policies and Procedures say about the award:

From time to time the Management Committee may choose to honor a leader for extraordinary service to the SPS. The award shall be given at the annual banquet with an article in the banquet issue of *The Sierra Echo*, to honor the leader. The award may be given posthumously. By submitting a letter to the Management Committee indicating why the leader should be so honored, members may nominate possible recipients. Management Committee members

may also nominate recipients and should draw up a list of qualifications to be mentioned in an *Echo* article published each year in a mid-year issue along with a solicitation for nominees. Factors that may contribute to the selection of recipients should include leadership on numerous trips over a period of at least ten years, fostering new members and leaders, achievement of at least an "M" leadership rating, and setting the example of well-planned and safe trips. The Management Committee shall vote whether each nominee is to receive the award. More than one person may receive the award each year, but it need not be given every year.

Past recipients are

Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell (posthumously), 1997
Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer, 1998
Dan Richter, 1999
Larry Tidball, 2000
Barbee Tidball, 2002
Tina Bowman (Stough), 2015.

OUTINGS

satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler. 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.

Nov 14-15 | Sat-Sun LTC
M/E-R: Rock: Indian Cove Checkout, Joshua Tree National Park: M- and E-level rock practice and checkout for LTC leadership candidates. Practice Sat, checkout Sun. Restricted to Sierra Club members with technical rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets

Call for Outings!

SPS Leaders, it's not too late to submit an outing for 2015 or too early 2016. Dayhikes in particular are nice in the fall. And don't forget to write up a report on your trip; it always helps future trip leaders in their planning.

Email your write-ups to gary@hbfun.org. That's also the go-to address for any outings or OARS questions you may have.

"They say you can't do it, but sometimes it doesn't always work." —Casey Stengel

and harnesses required. Email climbing resume to Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Dan Richter.

Dec 6 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, SPS, DPS
I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either

Wilderness Permit Info

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

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

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

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

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

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

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

KERN PLATEAU

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

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

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

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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

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

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

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

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

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

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

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

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

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

OUTINGS

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>

checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, 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.

Jan 31 | Sun **SPS**

Annual banquet: Save the date! Our banquet will be held again at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Social hour at 5:00, dinner at 6:30. Doug Robinson will be the speaker.

Apr 13 | Wed **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12):
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 16 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12):
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 23 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12):
Rappelling: Third of four climbing workshops open to

SPS Income Statement 8-11-2015

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014
INCOME												
Echo Subscriptions	1,540	700	360	160	60	20	20	20	10	1,835	1,370	1,550
Banquet Income	4,110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,800	2,940	4,610
Donations	643	250	160	45	45	0	0	0	0	340	440	575
Merchandise Sales	299	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	27	276
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	6,592	950	520	205	105	20	20	20	10	5,014	4,777	7,011
EXPENSES												
Postage	551	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	609	(4)	14
Printing	502	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	578	898	640
Merchandise	213	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	4,772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,216	4,206	5,640
Bank Fees	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	10
Website	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	268
Charitable contributions	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	0
Outreach	163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	6,441	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,821	5,103	7,019
OVERALL TOTAL	151	950	520	205	105	20	20	20	10	193	(326)	(8)

OUTINGS

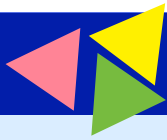
Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. Today, at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send email or sase, phones, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

Apr 30– May 1 | Sat–Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E–R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP12):
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.

Minutes of SPS Management Committee Meeting, August 11, 2015 at Alexander Smirnoff's home

- 1) Call to order: present were Tina Bowman, chair; Jim Fleming, vice–chair/banquet; Paul Garry, secretary; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Kathy Rich, Emblem Committee
- 2) Standard business and reports
 - a) Approval of minutes. None ready for approval. May and August minutes needed by 8/25/15 for inclusion in *Echo*.
 - b) Chair
 - i) Smatko Peak. Review pending by USGS for peak near Sherman Pass.
 - c) Vice Chair—banquet planning
 - i) Program ideas. Doug Robinson has been invited but not confirmed yet. Jim to follow up with an email to Mr. Robinson. Banquet date and venue set (1/31/16). Happy hour start time to move up to 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 - ii) SPS Leadership Award. The committee continued the discussion of several candidates. The committee needs to decide on awarding a plaque or a certificate to any awardee.
 - d) Outings. No report.
 - e) Treasurer's Report. Club balance is \$10,825. Banquet DVD sales going well with \$276 received for orders.
 - f) Emblem Committee Report. For Smatko Explorer Emblem, the intent was not to have a list of specific peaks. Kathy Rich is working on a spreadsheet of commonly hiked explorer peaks to give members ideas of other peaks to climb.
 - g) Outreach
 - i) Outreach items—The committee provided comments on Jeremy's new banner design and agreed to the purchase of 3" diameter stickers (1,000 stickers for \$440.00) for promotional use.
 - ii) Facebook page—The discussion for guidelines on removing posts or page members was postponed.
 - iii) Black Diamond Pro Deal—No decision made on pursuing this as incentive for Management Committee membership.
 - h) Archivist. No new report.
 - i) *Echo*—August 25 is deadline for next issue. Kathy Rich to provide a link to article about Barbara Lilley that appeared elsewhere on the Internet.
 - j) Mountain Records—No report.
 - k) IT. No report.
 - l) Website. Smatko Emblem criteria to be updated, if necessary, once issue of numbered peaks is resolved.
 - m) Conservation. No report.
- 3) New business
 - a) Policies and Procedures—Tina to revise PNP to add treasurer as maintainer of roster and as member of Membership Committee.
 - b) Management Committee
 - i) Mary McMannes has agreed to serve as Chair of Nominating Committee for next year's Management Committee elections. Kathy Rich has agreed to serve on the committee as well.
 - ii) We need two more candidates than number of positions to be filled for the ballot.
 - c) Caltech/SPS Event—Phil Bates will be providing a slideshow on climbing in Europe. Date to be determined. We may need help staffing a table at the event.
 - d) Appreciation Award. The committee had a discussion about creating an Appreciation Award to recognize experienced leaders who led primarily before the Leadership Award was created. No decision was reached.
 - e) Next meeting on October 7 at Alexander's house.



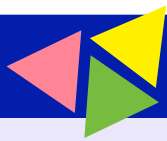
Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



No one correctly identified the Mystery Peak submitted by Aaron Schuman in the last issue, but the answer is Mt. Lyell, seen in the woodcut at left, *Great Nature, Storm on Mt. Lyell from Johnson Peak* by Chiura Obata (1930). In the summer of 1927, the Japanese-born California artist Obata made his first visit to the High Sierra. During the 1930s he taught outdoor sketching in Yosemite as a member of the UC Berkeley faculty. The landscape of Yosemite provided inspiration and solace throughout his life, especially during his internment in the camp in Topaz, Utah, during World War II. You can see this print and many others in *Obata's Yosemite: The Art and letters of Chiura Obata from His Trip to the High Sierra in 1927*, with essays by Janice T. Driesbach and Susan Landauer (Yosemite Association, 1993).

Minutes of SPS Management Committee Meeting, May 31, 2015 at Tina Bowman's home

- 1) Call to order: present were Tina Bowman, chair; Paul Garry, secretary; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jeremy Netka, outreach; Harry Langenbacher, Mountain Records; Gary Schenk, outings.
- 2) Standard business and reports
 - a) Approval of minutes. Minutes of April 19, 2015, approved.
 - b) Chair
 - i) Smatko Peak. Request submitted to USGS for peak near Sherman Pass.
 - c) Vice Chair—banquet planning
 - i) Program ideas. Banquet date set for January 31, 2016. It was agreed to invite Doug Robinson to be guest speaker. Happy hour start time to move up to 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 - ii) SPS Leadership Award. The committee discussed several names for possible consideration.
 - d) Outings. Approximately thirty trips in the schedule so far for 2015.
 - e) Treasurer's Report. Alexander to send out current balance by email to the committee. DVD Sales: fifteen have been ordered.
 - f) Emblem Committee Report. Kathy Rich is working on a spreadsheet of commonly hiked explorer peaks.
 - g) Outings
 - i) The administration of the SPS Facebook page was discussed. Jeremy to contact Lisa Miyake about transferring management of the page to Jeremy and others.
 - h) Archivist. No new report.
 - i) *Echo*—There are eighteen non-renewals from last year. March 31 is the deadline for payment before being dropped from the membership. This is about a 10% attrition.
 - j) Mountain Records—Harry will update dead links in his register webpage. Harry to start dialogue with SEKI about maintenance of registers in SEKI per adopted Wilderness Management Plan.
 - k) IT. There have been some issues with members not receiving the *Echo*. Greg Mason maintains master mailing list. It was agreed to ask Matt Hengst to be supporting IT person instead of backup to webmaster.
 - l) Website. No additional information to report.
 - m) Conservation. No report.
- 3) New business
 - a) Postpone action on Policies and procedures.
 - b) We need a Nominating Committee to find people to run for Management Committee.
 - c) We need to find volunteers to sit on Elections Committee.
 - d) Caltech Alpine Club (CAC) coordination—We want to co-sponsor events with CAC.
 - e) Climb Smart—The committee discussed how to get involved with this event as a promotional opportunity for SPS.
 - f) Kathy Rich will work on adding past Leadership Award recipients names on the website.
 - g) The creation of a New Leader Award was discussed with no conclusion.
 - h) Next meeting on July 28 at Alexander's house.



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.com. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print.



This Mystery Peak was submitted by our Eastern Sierra rep Shane Smith. Can you identify where Bob Burd took this photo?

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

Check out the SPS website if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there!
www.sierrapeaks.org

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST

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Return F. Moore

By Mary McMannes with Jerry Keating

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Return “Ret” Moore—our wonderful friend, extraordinary Sierra Peaks mountaineer, and E-rated leader—on June 13, in Irvine, California, at the age of ninety-one. Many of us have best memories of the many peaks we were able to climb, thanks to Ret and his co-leader Jay Titus, in the past decades and an era we like to call the Golden Age of Mountaineering. Ret and Jay led me up Bear Creek Spire and Mt. Dade, my first SPS trip. Unforgettable.

Born in Los Angeles, September 30, 1923, Ret

once explained his name “Return” came from southern origins and had to do with General Lafayette’s promise to return and help the Continental Armies win against the British. Graduating with honors from high school (Valedictorian) Class of 1941, he went on to receive an AA in chemical engineering from Long Beach City College and continued on at Caltech. There he majored in civil engineering along with a V-12

Navy College Training Program as World War II was beckoning to him and his entire generation. Prior to being called up for active duty, Ret and buddy Ward Vickers astonished fellow students by boating the Colorado River upstream after getting the idea from a legendary boatman. Mission accomplished, they hitchhiked back to Caltech. And more adventures that summer for high-risk boys, their next escapade was hoping to climb North Palisade via the U-Notch. These two had no mountaineering experience, but it seemed like a terrific adventure.

Ret Moore at left with Fred Johnson on the 2006 Old Timers Trip to Wonoga Peak. (Photo by Jerry Keating)

PASSAGES

Equipped with a hemp rope and wearing smooth-heeled leather boots, away they went to Big Pine. That's when they met the old guy in the adjoining camp who recognized green acres with two young fellows who didn't even own an ice axe. Norman Clyde asked if he could join them on the climb; Ret and Ward weren't too sure they wanted a fifty-year-old dragging along with them. The next morning, almost immediately, they realized that Clyde was in charge as he chopped steps in the ice, belayed them, and ultimately led them safely to the summit and down again. A great capper to the story is that Norman sponsored them to join the Sierra Club. Ret has the original penned note (*Echo*, October 2005.)

Ret recalled that Norman Clyde was not only a superb mountaineer, but a man of real compassion, who probably saved two young boys from a sure disaster. One can be sure this famous role model inspired Ret in later life as he led many of us up difficult peaks and never lost one of us.

During WW II, Ret was commissioned as an ensign and first sent to Peal Harbor (17th Naval Construction Battalion), where they constructed airstrips for fighter planes and long-range bombers and also roads for the infantry on the islands of Saipan, Okinawa (during the invasion), and finally Manus Island off of New Guinea. Discharged in June 1946, he returned to Caltech and received his BS in civil engineering and an MS in geology. His life's career was working for the State of California evaluating foundation conditions for bridges; he started his own geotechnical company, Moore and Taber. Cross a great bridge and think of Ret.

Margaret was the girl of his dreams, and he found her at the local bijou, three blocks from Caltech. They settled in Fullerton and raised two children, Catherine and William. The lure of the High Sierra called to him, and Ret joined the SPS and that renowned group of Caltech alumni who were some of our favorite and more accomplished leaders.

That early peak experience on North Pal had set the stage for years of serious peak bagging in the years to come. Finally, in September of 2003, Ret announced his SPS List Finisher: "After sixty-four years of climbing in the Sierra Nevada Range, I finally achieved my goal of climbing all 247 peaks. Wow!" Yes, Ret, WOW for sure—fifty-four of us climbed that last peak with you, Mt. Lamont, and then we watched you blow out eighty candles on your birthday cake. What a party it was at Chimney Creek Campground as Ret was (and still is) the oldest man to complete the sought-after and honored Sierra Peaks list. Maggie was there and thrilled to the gills along with their kids and grandchildren. They were so proud of their grandpa, and we were proud to know you, forever our friend, and now legendary in our climbing sections. Jay Titus was there, too, and seeing them together brought the sweetest of memories to all of us who had climbed with them. If Norm Rohn had been present, he would have talked about Ret's love of fishing, whenever he got a chance to drop a line in any Sierra lake.

After finishing the List, Ret continued to hike, bike, and raise his grandchildren. He actively climbed on Jerry Keating's Old Timers trips until 2012. Ret's funeral and celebration was held in

Fullerton, June 27, at his home church, Morningside Presbyterian. He is survived by Maggie, brother David, his children, and grandchildren.

It's been great, Ret, that you were part of the eternal show in the Range of Light and that we got to accompany you on some of the finest days. I bet you'd chime in with your early mentor, Norman Clyde, "It's been a bully life, and I lived it to the fullest."

*From SPS List Finisher
and Archivist
Jerry Keating:*

While not having the pleasure of climbing with Ret during his heydays in the High Sierra, my early contact with him and wife Maggie was in my PR capacity at Cal State Fullerton. The Moores lived in Fullerton and were major supporters of the university, she being an alumna of the school and Ret fully appreciating the benefit the campus had on the community. I soon learned that the Moores were also members of the Canyon Explorers Club, and I had my first outdoor experiences with them on CEC activities. Then I learned that Ret, besides being an alum of Caltech, not only was an avid hiker-climber, but an SPSer. It wasn't until after his list finish in 2003 that I had the chance to climb with him. That was in 2005 when he became a regular attending our SPS Old Timer series, always adding his humor and care for others to the atmosphere. He truly will be missed on climbs and at campfires where camaraderie often becomes more significant than just a conquest of another summit, which certainly brought us great pride in our younger peak-bagging days.

PASSAGES

Long-time Sierra Club member and Griffith Park hiking leader John J. Koshear (aka Jack) died June 28, 2015. An avid hiker for almost thirty years, he was a member of the Sierra Peaks Section, Desert Peaks Section, and the Hundred Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter and credited his enthusiasm for hiking as motivating him to stay fit.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1919, his family came to California in 1923, where his father sought work first in the oilfields of Long Beach and later in the studios and sound stages of Hollywood. Jack's love of mountains and the Sierra was born out of family outings to Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Yosemite as a boy. He remembered fondly the summer of 1936, when he worked at a roadside tourist camp in Fish Camp and explored the local trails, logging roads, and abandoned railroad grades in his time off. As a teenager, Jack followed his father into carpentry in the Hollywood studios to fund his college education, pursuing a B.S. in mechanical engineering, first at U.C.L.A. and graduating from U.C. Berkeley.

From an early age, he was fascinated with airplanes and all things related to flying, so it was natural that after enlisting in the U.S. Navy during WW II, he ended up working with aircraft. He oversaw aircraft maintenance at Carrier Aircraft Service Unit (CASU) 4 in Pu'unene, Maui, where he interacted with some of the most decorated pilots of the Pacific Theater. During the remainder of the war, he worked in the Field Service Branch of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, traveling to many worksites around the U.S.

In his civilian career as an aeronautical engineer, he was most proud of his role in the U.S. space program, his favorite being the Apollo program and its moon



Jack Koshear

By Jeannine Koshear

landings. His children remember being awakened in the early hours of dawn to watch (on our vintage black-and-white TV) various manned-rocket launches blasting into space or splashing down in one of the world's oceans.

It was a father-daughter Girl Scout backpack that rekindled his love of hiking, and at the age of fifty, he began his second "hiking life," backpacking and mountain climbing throughout the western United States, mostly with the Sierra Club. These adventures included climbing over forty Sierra peaks, an equal number of desert peaks, and over 120 local peaks. He hiked the Grand Canyon five times and enjoyed hiking in Zion NP as well. As he said of his hiking and climbing experiences, "I really treasure the memories of these trips, and I still have the gift of many fine friends from the Sierra Club days." Although sciatica eventually brought an end to hiking, he wrote, "I am still thankful for the twenty-eight years of enjoyment that I had."

He was predeceased by his

wife Babette and son Jon and is survived by daughters Kathleen and Jeannine and their families. A memorial service followed by a time to share lunch and stories, to which all are welcome, will be held Sunday October 4, 2015, at 1p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 7501 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90046. Memorial gifts can be made to the Sierra Club or to the Wounded Warrior Project: www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Jack Koshear: Starr King, Hoover Flags, Funny Valentines

By Mary MacMannes

Farewell to a great friend for nearly thirty-five years Jack Koshear. The trip when we really bonded was to Starr King and Clark in 1980, my senior emblem trip. Dave Perkins was the leader, and I'll never forget his fancy footwork on Starr King, where he was our SPS Rudolph Nureyev leading the pitch with such grace and aplomb. I'll always remember Starr King as a favorite climb, and the scary jump across on Clark where Jack offered me a strong hand. Lance Dixon was there juggling balls as was his wont on spiky little peaks.

We were elated in getting our peak, and did our usual bragging at the campfire about this and that and cutting up a lot. At one point, I pulled R.J. Secor's pocket lining out of his pant's pocket demonstrating the 1929 idea of a joke, an empty pant's pocket called a Hoover flag. R.J. leapt into the air and must have cavorted over the campfire twenty feet away. His reaction scared the rest of the dozers half to death, and we all died laughing and continued laughing for decades to come. Honest, I was not getting fresh with R.J.

PASSAGES

Jack Koshear, cont.:

Well, on the way home, we rode in R.J.'s big old rumbling van, and he blew out three tires on the way home. I am not kidding, three blow outs on one trip! I remember hanging out in the wee hours in places like Tulare getting those tires replaced with probably more *usado tirados*. Jack was berating R.J. for having such cheap tires on his car, but we were getting a ride and not wanting to look a gift horse in the mouth. We made it home in time for work (lucky me, I was off for the summer.) But Jack had to wash his face, brush his

teeth, and drag his weary Clark Range body off to work.

Through the years, Jack, his wife Babs, and I grew to be best friends. Jack presented me a framed summit photo of Starr King on which all the participants signed the back. He did this at an SPS meeting, making me feel ever so proud. When climbing was no more for Jack and Babs had passed away, he organized outings to the superb Downey Musical Theater, and we'd all go back to his house for an after-musical party. In attendance were climbers and hikers such as George Toby, the Harry Bruners, Joe and Betty McCosker, and

others. Eventually Jack moved from Downey to San Diego to be closer to his daughter Kathleen and her husband Robert (Robert, whom we lost in the desert on my DPS List Finisher, but that's another story for another time). We kept in contact with writing notes and letters until last Christmas, 2014. Our notes were always signed, "Love from your old climbing buddy." Jack was cheerful and loved a good joke; I won't forget his big-as-Texas laugh. He lived a long and full life and was as alert at ninety-five as he was at fifty-five.

He was my oldest valentine, and I will surely miss him.

Elton Fletcher, SPS list finisher number nine, died August 18 in Lodi Memorial Hospital after suffering a rib injury while in a seniors care center in that Northern California city. He had been in declining health for several years. His wife, Patricia (SPS emblem holder 172) passed away earlier this year after an extended illness. Survivors include the Fletchers' daughter, Mary Fletcher, who resides in Stockton and is emblem holder 174.

A Caltrans engineer, Elton joined the SPS in the 1960s while the section had an extremely active contingent in the Mother Lode Chapter. He adjusted quickly to long drives to the east side of the Sierra, became an E-rated climbing leader, and achieved his list finish in July 1977. After his list finish and retirement, he undertook another challenging task: drive all of the California state highways—not the easy way but in chronological order. Years later after that success, he settled for a more commonly chosen drive: Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica with



Elton Fletcher

1926–2015

By Jerry Keating

time on some sections of that historic highway that are in disrepair.

Elton's interest in the SPS continued into his later years. He and Pat attended the SPS's fiftieth-

anniversary banquet in Los Angeles and continued to appear fairly regularly for the old-timers camping and climbing trips, their last being the one in September 2011 based at Bass Lake in the western Sierra. It was on that trip that Elton displayed a vintage cup bearing the imprint Sierra Club of California rather than just Sierra Club. Such stainless steel cups originated before 1923, and Elton bought his at a thrift store and carried it on all of the peaks that were part of his list finish. That cup now has been transferred to Dan Richter for preservation in the SPS Archives.

Notes: Asher Waxman's photo of Elton, Pat, and the vintage cup appeared on page twenty-five of the January–March 2012 issue of *The Sierra Echo*. The color photo here was taken during an August 7–9, 1971, SPS backpack from Florence Lake to Edison Lake that included climbs of Seven Gables and Recess Peak. Elton was the leader of that forty-five-mile loop trip.

PASSAGES

Larry Hoak, a Sierra Club member since 1969 and a popular SPS and HPS leader, died unexpectedly August 13 from a stroke suffered on August 11.

Larry's first climb was Antimony Peak (HPS peak) in November, 1969, after arriving in Los Angeles several months earlier. He finished the HPS List on Palomar Mountain in August 1985. His first SPS climb was Sawtooth Peak in October 1970. Having climbed it six times while vacationing at Mammoth Lakes, his most frequently climbed Sierra Peak was Bloody Mountain. He climbed 230 Sierra peaks over his climbing years. Larry saved his last summit for the highest peak in the contiguous United States, Mt. Whitney, which he summited on July 12, 2002.

Larry was introduced to his wife, Vicki Jenkins, via a Sierra Club rock climbing practice at Joshua Tree in February 1973. Toni (Larry's future sister-in-law), Larry, and "Uncle Tom" were freezing in the cold and drove to town to find somewhere warm to eat. Toni decided her sister Vicki should meet Larry, and the rest is history. Vicki and Larry were married on April 10, 1976, because Larry did not have a climb scheduled for that weekend.

In addition to climbing peaks, Larry devoted a lot of volunteer hours to helping the Angeles Chapter climbing sections. Larry was an E-Rated leader and led over twenty-five trips for the HPS and over thirty trips for the SPS. He was a Basic Mountaineering Training Course (West L.A.) Group Leader for eight years, Ice Axe Coordinator for one year, and Area Chairperson for one year. He was Webmaster for SPS (2005-2009) and DPS (2007 - 2009) and maintained the Mountaineers List for SPS. In recognition for his many volunteer hours, Larry received



Larry Hoak

By Dave Vandervoet

- Hundred Peaks Section "A Special Award for Extraordinary Work on the Peak Guides," 2001
- Angeles Chapter "Outings Service Award" presented May 2, 2010.
- Desert Peaks Section "Service Award Given in Appreciation" on May 18, 2014

For those of us who climbed with Larry, he was the most efficient climber with whom we had climbed. In the morning, he would be ready to take off for the summit thirty minutes before the rest of us were ready. He never got dirty and never sweated. He returned from climbing Black Kaweah looking like he had strolled up Mt. Adams. He was well known for his preparation for the night on a snow camp. He would dress warmly in down clothes, get inside his down bag, kneel on the floor of his tent, and flop down face first on his ensolite pad, never moving all night.

As well as climbing SPS and HPS peaks, Larry and Vicki have traveled to every state and visited every site administered by the National Park Service in the

continental United States. He also started climbing the high points in every state and was working on that list as well. Larry was fascinated by all things trains and spent many hours studying the old steam locomotives. The snow shed covering the tracks at Donner Summit were a special interest.

On a personal note, Larry and the author went on a weekend in 1976 to do a snow climb of an unnamed peak in the basin north of the Onion Valley parking lot. After we got to camp Saturday afternoon, I was messing around climbing a twenty-five-foot rock cliff near camp. Near the top of the cliff, the two-inch rock ledge that I was standing on broke away, and I slipped, catching my right hand in a crack. The sudden stop tore my right shoulder out of the socket and my right arm was three inches below my shoulder socket. Larry got me down, and as the pain quickly got worse, I realized that I could not remain up there over night. We tied my right arm to my body with sling material, and I took a death grip on Larry's left shoulder. Larry very patiently led me down the snow to the car, arriving in the dark. When we got to Independence, Larry got permission from the CHP to "drive fast" to the hospital in Bishop so "Big Blue" went one-hundred mph to Bishop. Larry waited three hours in the hospital while the doctor got my arm back into the socket. We then checked into a hotel room at 3 a.m. and slept. The next day, Larry hiked alone up to our camp north of Onion Valley and carried down all of our camping equipment supplies. I am still very grateful every day for Larry's personal help and concern forty years ago.

Larry was a tireless leader who gave so much to the Sierra Club and his climbing friends, and he will be sorely missed.

PASSAGES

Not only did half of the Western World mourn the passing of Dick Bass on July 26, 2015, so did most of the SPSers who had the good fortune of hearing Dick at our annual banquet in 1990. Vi Grasso gets the Most Valuable Banquet Planner of the last century. We already knew how spunky and bold Vi could be, but this time she really took the cake in calling up Dick Bass (cold-turkey) and asking him how much he'd charge to be our banquet speaker. He was not only delighted to be invited, but said he'd come for free. Bass was one of the funniest, and most witty, warm, and wonderful speakers I've ever had the pleasure of hearing. There we were at the Proud Bird, hanging onto every word about his amazing life and his goal of climbing the Seven Summits of the seven continents. I am sure that's the night when Doug Mantle got the idea that he, too, could accomplish the same feat—as we all know Doug has and did (and more).



Dick Bass

Friend of the SPS

By Mary MacMannes, Roving Reporter

It was a tour de Grasso for Vi in attracting a million dollar speaker for the price of a banquet chicken dinner; and Dick Bass, with

a heart of generosity, who had enough time in his very busy and important life to spend an evening with us.

Editor's note: Dick Bass, the Texas oilman who was the first to climb the Seven Summits, died July 26th at the age of eighty-five. He was also the founder of Snowbird, the Utah ski resort. On December 12, 1990, Bass was our SPS banquet speaker, telling us about his quest for the Seven Summits, which he completed on April 30, 1985, on Mt. Everest when he was fifty-five (he was the oldest person to summit Everest at the time). The LA Times ran a fine obituary (<http://www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-0730-richard-bass-20150730-story.html%23page=1>); make

sure you read to the last two paragraphs.

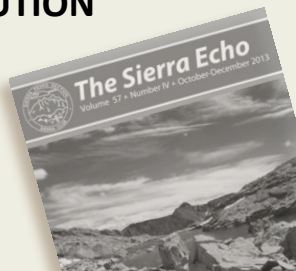
Don't forget to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription! The annual \$10 subscription is due each year by January 1a and delinquent after March 31st.

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.

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The Sierra Echo



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The Sierra Echo

Volume 59 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 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**

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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