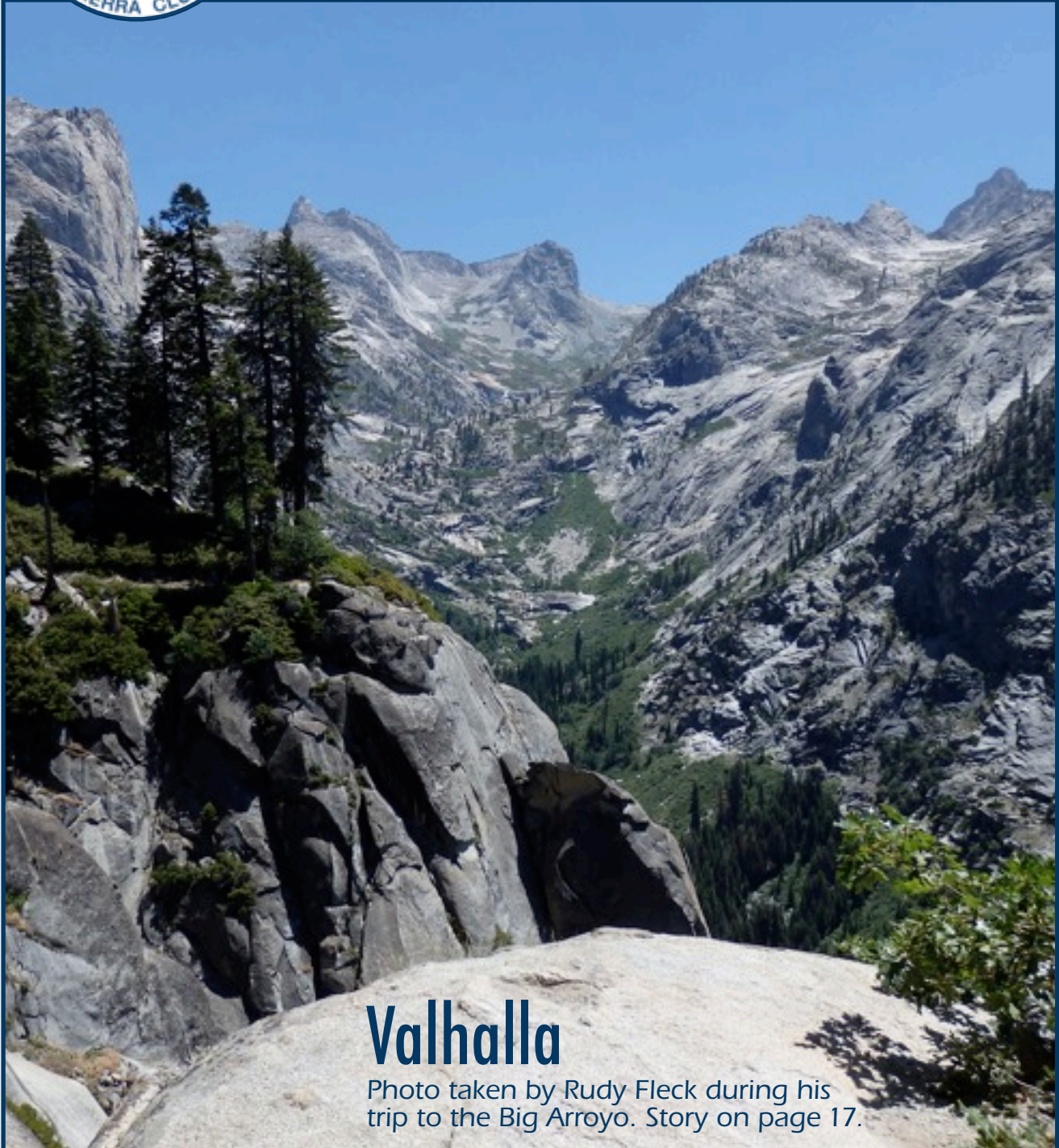




# ***The Sierra Echo***

Volume 60 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2016



## **Valhalla**

Photo taken by Rudy Fleck during his trip to the Big Arroyo. Story on page 17.



# Echoes from the Chair

By Tina Bowman

It was an honor serving last year as the chair of a fine committee.

You elected the same members to the management committee, and we will continue in our same positions. We accomplished much last year and will strive to continue to do so.

As a result of all three proposed changes in the bylaws being approved, the revised bylaws are now being reviewed by the chapter’s committee on bylaws and standing rules and will be then passed on to the Executive Committee for approval. Also, as a result in part of the election, the SPS list of peaks has been revised in the introductory material to reflect the change in requirements for becoming a member. The management committee also closed the loophole in the Master Emblem requirements that appeared on the list but not in the Policies and Procedures, thus explicitly requiring a member to earn the Senior Emblem prior to the Master Emblem. The twenty-third edition of the list will be available on the SPS website.

## In this issue:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Chair’s Column              | Page 2       |
| Smatko Emblem               | Page 3       |
| Management Committee 2016   | Page 3       |
| Member News                 | Page 4-5     |
| Banquet                     | Pages 6-9    |
| Awards                      | Pages 9-11   |
| Land & Water Fund           | Pages 12-13  |
| Trip Reports                |              |
| LeConte & Corcoran          | Page 14-16   |
| Big Arroyo Mulepack         | Pages 17-18  |
| High Places: Eastern Europe | Pages 19-22  |
| Outings                     | Pages 23--31 |
| Wilderness Permits          | Page 27      |
| SPS Minutes                 | Page 29-30   |
| SPS Treasurer’s Report      | Page 31      |
| Mystery Peak Challenge      | Pages 32-33  |

We will again be a sponsor of the Banff Mountain Film Festival held on the CalTech campus on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and likely a sponsor for the showings at A16 in West LA for their March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> events. There’s also a possibility we will be a sponsor for the screenings in Bishop on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Check the website for more details.

The management committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Besides what I’ve already reported, we’re working on revising the “Policies and Procedures” to include a section on the new Lifetime Achievement Award, given for the first time to Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod at the banquet on January 31<sup>st</sup>. There’ll also be a slight change in the paragraph on the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem (see Kathy Rich’s article on this) and some other changes to reflect current documents and practices. We’ll also be working on the “SPS Safety Regulations,” revising that document to create an up-to-date “SPS Safety Policy.”

For outreach, we’re considering a local hike to introduce and welcome people to the SPS. We may have another SPS potluck; last year’s was a success. Last year we had eleven new members, not quite as many as the fourteen in 2014, but still respectable.

We should have a fine early season of snow climbs this year, though stream crossings might be much more challenging than we’ve experienced the past few years. Be careful and enjoy our beautiful Sierra!

Happy trails,  
Tina

Tina Bowman, [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)

Don’t forget to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription! The annual \$10 subscription is due each year by January 1st 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.  
Pasadena, CA 91104

The SPS management committee is looking for a volunteer with the time and talent to revamp the SPS website, especially the home page. Interested? Please contact Tina Bowman: [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)



# Update on Requirements for Earning the Smatko Explorer Emblem

By Kathy Rich

In response to some member requests, the Emblem Committee has decided to revise slightly the criteria for peaks to qualify for the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem. Members may request a peak to be accepted that does not strictly fall within the requirements (for example, peaks designated only by spot elevation) if they can provide sufficient information to the Emblem Committee to show that the peak is worthy of inclusion. This change has been incorporated in the "Policies and Procedures" currently in revision and also posted on the website. Below are the requirements for the award with the addition underlined.

## Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem Requirements:

A member of the Section who has climbed fifty peaks *not* on the Sierra Peaks List, who has been a Section member

for at least one year, and who applies to the Secretary in writing, listing the peaks, their elevation, map source and quadrant, nearest Sierra Peaks List peak, and the dates climbed, shall be awarded Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem Status. The peaks must be located in the Sierra Nevada and north of Hwy 178 and south of Hwy 36; named on either an USGS 7.5 minute or 15 minute map, in the GNIS database, or as a named peak in R. J. Secor's book *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails*; and be 7000' elevation or more. HPS peaks are not allowed (to avoid overlap). Members may request a peak to be accepted that does not strictly fall within these requirements (for example, peaks designated only by spot elevation) if they can provide sufficient information to the Emblem Committee to show that the peak is worthy of inclusion.

## 2016 Management Committee

### Elected

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Tina Bowman        | Chair <a href="mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org">chair@sierrapeaks.org</a>                        |
| Jim Fleming        | Vice-chair/banquet <a href="mailto:vicechair@sierrapeaks.org">vicechair@sierrapeaks.org</a>   |
| Alexander Smirnoff | Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org">treasurer@sierrapeaks.org</a>            |
| Paul Garry         | Secretary <a href="mailto:secretary@sierrapeaks.org">secretary@sierrapeaks.org</a>            |
| Jeremy Netka       | Fifth officer/outreach <a href="mailto:outreach@sierrapeaks.org">outreach@sierrapeaks.org</a> |

### Appointed

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Archives           | <a href="mailto:dan@danrichter.com">Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com</a>  |
| Echo editors       | Tina Bowman <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a> , Beth Epstein   |
| Echo mailer        | Tina Bowman   |
| Emblem Committee   | Paul Garry, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Shane Smith, Ron Bartell   |
| IT Support         | Greg Mason <a href="mailto:admin@sierrapeaks.org">admin@sierrapeaks.org</a> ,<br>Matt Hengst <a href="mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com">matthew.hengst@gmail.com</a> |
| Keeper of the List | Tina Bowman   |
| Merchandise        | Patty Kline <a href="mailto:patriciakline@aol.com">patriciakline@aol.com</a>  |
| Mountain Records   | Harry Langenbacher <a href="mailto:register@langenbacher.org">register@langenbacher.org</a>   |
| Outings            | Gary Schenk <a href="mailto:gary@hbfun.org">gary@hbfun.org</a>  |
| Safety Chair       | Doug Mantle   |
| Webmaster          | <a href="mailto:kathy@sierrapeaks.org">Kathy Rich webmaster@sierrapeaks.org</a>   |

### Regional Representatives

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| San Diego           | Joe White    |
| Central California  | Daryn Dodge  |
| Northern California | Lisa Barboza |
| Eastern Sierra      | Shane Smith  |



# Welcome new members!

## Michelle Gomes

After her father, her first hiking partner, died two years ago, Michelle joined the Sierra Club and benefited from the encouragement of leaders to pursue climbing in the Sierra. She recently did a winter climb of Mt. Whitney by the Mountaineers Route. She is working toward her I-leader rating and looks forward to leading for the SPS. She enjoys the challenge of climbing peaks and the beauty of the natural world.



## Gary Larsen

Gary's real introduction to hiking and climbing in the Sierra was completing the Sierra Club Wilderness Travel course in 1990. That course gave him the skills and confidence to introduce his own young children to the wilderness so that backpacking with the kids in the Sierra became a passion and a tradition. Hiking the length of the John Muir Trail in 2010 and a section of the largely off-trail Sierra High Route in 2014, along with some other Sierra climbs, has rekindled a strong urge in Gary to explore the remote Sierra high country more deeply.

## Steve Donmeyer

Having seen his first mountain in Arizona when he was eleven, when he was eighteen, Steve began working in Sequoia for two summers. That's where he really started to explore. After a long hiatus he started climbing volcanoes, mostly with International Mountain Guides, reaching his highest peak with Orizaba in Mexico. Then about ten years ago he became involved with the Sierra club, trying to balance time off between climbing as many peaks as possible and spending time with his family. His seven-year-old-son, Clint, loves camping and exploring, and someday they will climb a bunch of peaks together.



*And welcome new member Walt Hill!*

# Congratulations!



## Alvin Walter

Alvin Walter, seen above while climbing Round Top and Echo, earned his senior emblem August 11, 2015, on Mt. Darwin.

## Bob Pickering

Bob Pickering, seen at left on Jordan, earned his master emblem there on September 26, 2015, and his geographic emblem on Vandever, July 25, 2014.

## Milestones

SPS founder Frank Sanborn turned ninety on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to him on this milestone birthday! Frank is sitting in the middle in the photo at right taken on San Bernardino Ridge in 1953, when he was twenty-seven. Founding member John Robinson is far left, and early SPSer Lyle Pyeatt is at right. (*Angeles Chapter Archives, Robinson Collection*)



We are very sad to report that Glen Dawson, long-time honorary member of the SPS and legendary climber, has died at the age of 103. We will have a tribute to him in the "Passages" section of the next issue of the *Echo*—the Editors



It was the clan gathering again of the SPS young bloods, middle bloods, and noble older bloods who gathered at the Taj Mahal (Almansor Court) in Alhambra, the city of seven veils, on January 31, 2016, to toast the sixty-first gathering of the Sierra Peaks Section.

Despite a rainy, windy el Nino Sunday, we all made it, and the place was hopping and pretty crowded. People were wondering if this banquet could top the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet of last year. No one was disappointed. Tom



# SPS Banquet 2016

By Roving  
Reporter,  
Mary  
McMannes

Bowman and Jim Fleming manned the sign-in table (thank you, guys), and Chair Tina Bowman was running around taking care of last minute business, election ballots, and more. I had gone into semi-retirement as the official banquet photographer, but everyone looked so superb and attractive, I couldn't help but get the dinosaur camera out again. See photos.

Dinner commenced after many exciting conversations and exchanges—Gary Schenk had his usual gin and tonic, but this year



it wasn't so gin-y, so he was behaving. Mario, the gracious bar tender, had hoped to have his picture taken with Doug M. or Doug R. A mysterious marauder approached Doug Mantle and asked for his signature on an ice ax. Doug balked, but then he saw signatures of very famous climbers, so he happily granted the fellow's request and signed it, too. Dinner commenced, and salads and entrees appeared while waiters began uncorking the complimentary wines—a cabernet and WHAT!! Pink wine again. There was no Rudy Fleck (Boy Detective) to blame, and much to our chagrin, it was the country club's choice. They probably had ordered plenty of the pink for the pending Valentine's Day.

During the ample dessert, Tina leapt to her feet



Photos page 6, top, (all left to right): Tom Bowman, speaker Doug Robinson, Tina Bowman. Center: Jim Fleming, Alexander Smirnoff, Nora Fabiola. Bottom: Barbara Sholle, Sue Wyman-Henney, Mary Gygax Motheral, Christine Mitchell, Vic Henney. Page 7, top: Rayne Motheral, Jerry Keating. Center: Ron Eckelmann, Doris Gilbert, Bob Wyka, Scott Sullivan. Bottom: Dave Sholle, Ron "Bartelli", Gene Mauk, Vic Henney. (All photos by Mary McMannes.)

to conduct her duties as emcee, and the fun began. There were REI gift cards in a drawing for those who had led SPS trips and were present, but those rewarded were Jim Fleming, Paul Garry, Neal Robbins, Jack Kieffer, Mat Kelliher, Alexander Smirnoff, Tina, and Anne Mullins. I sang out from my front seat that I wouldn't mind having a gift card too, but Tina admonished me, "You have to lead some trips." Always a catch.

The new management members were announced, and all are pleased to see the returning Board. Extra banquet kudos are given to Jeremy Netka for our glossy







presentation with our own Doug Mantle presenting the awards to our deserving friends. Further accolades went to Jerry Keating and Neal Robbins for the SPS Leadership Award, following in the steps of many of those aforementioned early climbers who have been the lifeblood of our section in leading trips. Thanks, Neal, for leading the next

professional take-home program, and to Jim Fleming, you are the banquet Host in Great Demand (fabulous success in all banquets you've organized). And Chair Tina, Paul Garry, Alexander Smirnoff, it's been another banner year in SPS. We are grateful!

A favorite part of the program is the Standing Ceremony otherwise known as Member Emblem Recognition. All guests stand, and members remain standing, next are emblem holders (as others sit down), senior emblem holders, and the coveted big reason to remain standing, SPS List Finishers. After List finishers are recognized, two were standing; they finished the SPS List twice (Tina, Doug, absent were R.J. Secor and Greg Vernon.) Finally, he, standing alone, had finished the SPS List, thrice, four, five, six, and ultimately seven times. Since Doug Mantle was present (two years in a row!) all gazed at the god dwelling among mortals with his seven List Finishers and possibly very close to the eighth. When shall such a man ever pass through here again?

Every member was pleased with his (her) few seconds in the spotlight, and then it was time to honor the most noble members who had put the Sierra Peaks Section on the map and in our hearts since the first-led Sierra peaks trip, sixty one years ago. Lifetime achievement plaques (in large print) were awarded to founder and very early list finishers, Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod. It was a spectacular



generations. Thanks, Jerry, for leading in the early years and



*Top, left to right: Beth Epstein, Dave Scobie, Eva Eilenberg, Anne Mullins, Tim Martin. Center: Henry Lagenbacher and Patty Kline. Bottom, left to right: Homer Tom, Debbie Chavez, Brad Jensen, Melissa Pamer, Kim Gimenez. (Photos by Mary McMannes).*



continuing to do so over decades. Wow!

It was a short break, and then we welcomed our guest speaker, Doug Robinson, who came to the podium wearing a jaunty golf hat as he began his wonderful slides of "Mountaineering in the Palisades and the Whitney Massif." This was a return visit by Doug R., because of his popularity at a previous banquet. He speaks in a melodious, easy-to-listen-to voice and not only elaborates on the hardest routes in the Sierra, but spins best stories of past Sierra heroes. We saw the shrinking glacier of the U-Notch where North Pal now can only be ascended in June plus great photos of climbs on both Whitney and the Palisades. Throughout his program, Doug wove stories of Norman Clyde who mentored and protected the young boys of summer in their many Sierra ascents, Glen and Muir Dawson, Jules Eichhorn, and other notables from that era of the 1930s and on. These were the boys with that first ascent of T-Bolt—a day and night filled with lightning and thunder. The kids were great climbers at their young ages, but it was Clyde who got them safely off T-Bolt: "Not only due to Norman Clyde's mountaineering expertise, but because of his inner spirit and knowledge of the Sierras did he get those young climbers off

that peak." Doug noted that on Dawson's one-hundredth birthday, he was presented the First Ascent of Thunderbolt, an iron commemorative plaque which will be placed near the summit of T-Bolt. As Robinson's program unwound and came to an end, he concluded with a full screen photo of Norman Clyde, a Clyde who was relaxed and smiling, unlike many we've seen of the stern stone-faced gaze of this mountaineer who surpassed all other climbers of the past century: "This is my toast to mountaineering in remembering another side to Norman Clyde. If you weren't an idiot, he'd gladly talk to you. All the time he spent alone at Glacier Lodge, he had a strong mind to weather that much solitude and still be a well-rounded human being." Norman Clyde, honorary member of the SPS, our hero, a fitting and meaningful way to conclude an outstanding and entertaining evening.

Thanks to SPS Management and speaker Doug Robinson for another memorable banquet and a grand January family reunion, everyone's favorite way to begin a new year. You are family members whom we chose and who make us proud. Safe and happy climbing in 2016, and we'll see you next year, same place and same time.

## SPS Lifetime Achievement Award

[Editors' note: the 2015 management committee decided to institute a new award to honor members who have contributed to the section in various ways over many years. Here's the draft of the description of the award to be included in our "Policies and Procedures":

From time to time the Management Committee may choose to honor a member for outstanding service to the SPS over many years. Such service may include leading copious outings, serving in various elected or appointed positions on the Management Committee, contributing to the *Echo*, and inspiring others by their mountaineering accomplishments. Members may nominate a possible recipient by writing to the Management Committee and indicating  
*(continued on page 10)*



Above, left to right: Jerry Keating, Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod, Doug Mantle. (Photo by Mary McMannes)

why the person should be so honored. The Management Committee shall vote whether each nominee is to receive the award. More than one person may receive the award each year, but the award need not be given every year.

Below we print the words of **Doug Mantle**, who gave out the first two of these awards at the annual banquet on January 31, 2016.]

So, for twenty-five years the SPS has honored its mountain gods and goddesses.

Reflecting after the sixtieth anniversary, and doubtless moved by the stupendous address delivered at the commemorative banquet (or maybe not), the CFOs, CEOs, and assorted chieftains of our beloved section came to a prescient realization:

Before the gods  
There were Titans.

So tonight we honor Gordon MacLeod and Barbara Lilley with the first Lifetime Achievement Awards.

### **Gordon**

Maybe it takes a rocket scientist to merit this award? No problem. Gordon is a rocket scientist.

With friends like Arky Erb, Gordon stormed through the SPS List in record time, List Finisher number five, in 1973; but for a wayward skier and resultant broken leg, he would have done it sooner.

His wry sense of humor enlivened and enlightened the pages of the *Echo* and even now the Internet—check out the “Highpoint of Alameda County” article for example.

Then there are all those other county high points throughout the western states and lots of other high points where the only signs of visitation are small register vessels left by . . . Gordon and Barbara. Over five thousand sign ins and counting.

Gordon, we salute you.

### **Barbara**

It all began innocently enough with a hike up the Alta Peak trail almost seventy years ago. As most of us know, Barbara Lilley’s exploits thereafter mark her as a preeminent mountaineer, of all time.

They include four major expeditions to the great white North where she ascended Mts. McKinley, Logan, and St. Elias, becoming the first to surmount North America’s five highest peaks—by light years. And these weren’t commercial trips; they were from scratch, planned, outfitted, and executed by Barbara Lilley and friends long before Goretex and daily Alaska Airlines flights to Yakutat.

There were, too, the rock climbs, the Lists, the many first ascents, numberless ski ascents, and yes, more than six thousand summits. But tonight we recognize Barbara more for fifty years of leading and promoting SPS outings, always as a proud Sierra Club member, always the first to encourage newcomers.

Look up “boundless enthusiasm”—you’ll find her picture, even now.

Barbara Lilley, we salute you.

# SPS Leadership Award

[Editors’ note: Doug Mantle, who gave the sixtieth anniversary banquet speech, agreed to give out the awards for 2016. Below is what he had to say at the annual banquet on January 31, 2016.]

## **Tonight**

*by Doug Mantle*

Actually, I wasn’t finished last year. So continuing some SPS history:

In the early 1990s we lost our climbing insurance. Distressingly, we also lost some of our most notable leaders—Vi Grasso, Dave Dykeman, and Bill T. Russell; some members went off to form another climbing club.

Even a few of the extant dinosaurs felt sorry for us.

But we persevered, and then we thrived. Perhaps as a symbol of our optimism in these bad times, and in honor of our fallen leaders, we created an award, a reward for bounding ahead.

So for twenty-five years, from the inception of this Leadership Award, we have heaped adulation (along with a swell-looking plaque) on our most exceptional leaders.

These are the superheroes, the fabulous, the glitterati. We’re talking Barbee and Larry and Tina, to name a few. Eat your heart out, Mary McMannes!

I get to present two leadership awards tonight.





*Jerry Keating, left, Doug Mantle, right. (Photo by Mary McMannes)*

### **Jerry Keating**

I just got back from a trip with my Chilean friend, Marcelo Altamirano—an SPSer, some of you know him. It's hard to believe he's reached middle age, born in 1972.

My friends, by 1972 Jerry Keating had already been an SPSer for fifteen years (nearly a founder), been chairman, had been *Echo* editor, led dozens and dozens of our trips—a high percentage of which were exploratories—finished the list (#4), and voted in eleven presidential elections.

But we honor him tonight not for any of that, but for his leadership in the last twenty-five years. Most uniquely, during that time he led or masterminded ten old timers' trips through April 2014. He had some previous experience with that; he led the section's first old timers' trip in 1958.

Jerry Keating, we salute you.

### **Neal Robbins**

For about a decade we grumbled about a talented WTC leader who took his students up the toughest Sierra climbs, won chapter awards, and seemed oblivious to his obvious home—the SPS.

Whether it was due to a trip to Damascus or an enlightened bribe from

treasurer Alexander is not known, but Neal Robbins has come around to the SPS in a big way.

He has been leading our hardest climbs, like Devils Crag (first time led in over a decade), Dana Couloir, North Palisade, you name it, and he puts in the hours (I'm not kidding) of paperwork the Club now demands for such trips.

He's also entered the nearly thankless world of training trips; he'll be assisting Nile Sorenson on the snow checkoff this spring.

Counterintuitively, all this hard climbing seems to make his old footballer knees better.

There is an element here akin to Barack Obama's 2009 Nobel Peace Prize; nonetheless, thank you, Neal, for reminding us what

a confident and enthusiastic SPS leader can do!  
Neal Robbins, we salute you.



*Neal Robbins (Photo by Mary McMannes)*

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# Let's Reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund—Permanently



By Vicky Hoover

At the end of September, Congress let the venerable (fifty-year-plus), popular, and highly successful Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expire. This travesty occurred in spite of strong bipartisan support in Congress and in every state simply because the leadership in both Houses would not listen to pleas from constituents and colleagues. More than half the Senate (fifty-three senators) signed a letter to leadership shortly before the end, and thirty Republican House members (none from California) signed a strong letter to House leadership urging reauthorization.

As Congress prepared to adjourn at year's end, a meager three-year extension for LWCF was included in the omnibus budget bill. A relief, a resuscitation from the dead, sort of, but, to be sure, only a stop-gap measure—not a real solution.

Before we go on—WHAT is the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

It's a federal fund established in 1964 that for more than fifty years has allowed a small percentage of royalties paid to the federal government from offshore oil and gas drilling to be used for acquiring private inholdings in federal conservation units, like national parks and national forests, and has also sponsored a "stateside program" allowing states to obtain matching funds for county, city, and local community parks and other outdoor recreation facilities.

Some say this Fund has *had a greater effect on more Americans' ability to recreate in nature than did the Wilderness Act*. It is billed as "America's most successful conservation program." All states and almost all counties have made use of the LWCF, and California has received more moneys from LWCF than any other state. The Fund is authorized for up to \$900 million a year, although most years it has not been fully appropriated to that amount.

Unlike the Wilderness Act, LWCF came with an expiration date, and we are now battling against the clock to get past the short-term extension (ending September 30, 2018) and fight for permanent reauthorization.

## The LWCF campaign in 2016

With 2001 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and forty-four in the Senate, our champions in both Houses seek to take advantage of that momentum and push their bills to reauthorize the program permanently. They count on US, the citizens and constituents, to thank and beef up all the cosponsors in both Houses and keep them actively engaged. Otherwise, they might think that a three-year extension absolves them of further activity now.

California has all the Democratic members of its delegation signed on to reauthorization bills, all but one that is: Democratic Leader Pelosi does not cosponsor bills, but she has worked vigorously for reauthorization.

## Here's how you can help:

**PLEASE THANK** your Democratic California Representative (listed below) for cosponsoring H .R. 1814; point out that this cosponsorship continues to be as important as ever and that the move to restore and reauthorize LWCF is forging ahead—and that we count on their help. Please also urge each cosponsoring member to **keep on pressing leadership for prompt action to restore LWCF.**

\*\*The easiest way to send your thank you message is to make a quick phone call to the representative's DC office and simply give the message to the receptionist who answers the phone. (They're usually there till about 5:30 eastern time.)

\*\* Slightly more time consuming but likely more effective is to ask for the relevant staffer when you place that call to DC and deliver your message either to the staffer when you reach him/her or to his/her voice mail if you are sent there.



California cosponsors to thank for cosponsoring H.R. 12814, the House bill to **bring back** this vital stream of money for acquiring lands that our families can use to go for a walk or just enjoy nature.

1. [Rep Aguilar, Pete](#) [CA-31] – 202-225-3201; Evan Dorner [evan.dorner@mail.house.gov](mailto:evan.dorner@mail.house.gov)
2. [Rep Bass, Karen](#) [CA-37] - 202-225-7084; Chris Randle [chris.randle@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.randle@mail.house.gov)
3. [Rep Becerra, Xavier](#) [CA-34] – 202-225-6235 Kwabena Nsieh [kwabena.nsieh@mail.house.gov](mailto:kwabena.nsieh@mail.house.gov)
4. [Rep Bera, Ami](#) [CA-7] - 202-225-5716; Kelvin Lum [kelvin.lum@mail.house.gov](mailto:kelvin.lum@mail.house.gov)
5. [Rep Brownley, Julia](#) [CA-26] – 202-225-5811; Jean Fundakowski [jean.fundakowski@mail.house.gov](mailto:jean.fundakowski@mail.house.gov)
6. [Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-24] – 202-225-3601; Aaron Shapiro [aaron.shapiro@mail.house.gov](mailto:aaron.shapiro@mail.house.gov)
7. [Rep Cárdenas, Tony](#) [CA-29] – 202-225-6131; Miguel Franco [miguel.franco@mail.house.gov](mailto:miguel.franco@mail.house.gov)
8. [Rep Chu, Judy](#) [CA-27] - 202-225-5464; Sonali Desai?? (or Jacob?)
9. [Rep Costa, Jim](#) [CA-16] – 202-225-3341; Scott Petersen [scott.petersen@mail.house.gov](mailto:scott.petersen@mail.house.gov)
10. [Rep Davis, Susan A.](#) [CA-53] – 202-225-2040; Matt Weiner [matt.weiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.weiner@mail.house.gov)
11. [Rep DeSaulnier, Mark](#) [CA-11] - 202-225-2054; Emlyn Struthers [emlyn.struthers@mail.house.gov](mailto:emlyn.struthers@mail.house.gov)
12. [Rep Eshoo, Anna G.](#) [CA-18] – 202-225-8104; Paul Beck [paul.bexk@mail.house.gov](mailto:paul.bexk@mail.house.gov)
13. [Rep Farr, Sam](#) [CA-20] – 202-225-2861; Troy Phillips [troy.phillips@mail.house.gov](mailto:troy.phillips@mail.house.gov)
14. [Rep Garamendi, John](#) [CA-3] – 202-225-1880; Emily Burns [Emily.burns@mail.house.gov](mailto:Emily.burns@mail.house.gov)
15. [Rep Hahn, Janice](#) [CA-44] – 202-225-8220; Justin Vogt OR Amanda Truong—[Amanda.truong@mail.house.gov](mailto:Amanda.truong@mail.house.gov)
16. [Rep Huffman, Jared](#) [CA-2] 202-225-5161; Katie Westfall [Katie.westfall@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katie.westfall@mail.house.gov)
17. [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [CA-13] - 202-225-2661; Monica Pham [monica.pham@mail.house.gov](mailto:monica.pham@mail.house.gov)
18. [Rep Lieu, Ted](#) [CA-33] – 202-225-3976; freshman, new, staff?
19. [Rep Lofgren, Zoe](#) [CA-19] – 202-225-3072; Angela Ebner [angela.ebner@mail.house.gov](mailto:angela.ebner@mail.house.gov)
20. [Rep Lowenthal, Alan S.](#) [CA-47] - 202-225-7924; Devin Helfrich [devin.helfrich@mail.house.gov](mailto:devin.helfrich@mail.house.gov)
21. [Rep Matsui, Doris O.](#) [CA-6] – 202-225-7163; Jonathan Gilbert [jonathan.gilbert@mail.house.gov](mailto:jonathan.gilbert@mail.house.gov)
22. [Rep McNerney, Jerry](#) [CA-9] – 202-225-1947; Teresa Friso [Teresa.frison@mail.house.gov](mailto:Teresa.frison@mail.house.gov)
23. [Rep Napolitano, Grace F.](#) [CA-32] – 202-225-5256; Joseph Ciccon [joseph.ciccone@mail.house.gov](mailto:joseph.ciccone@mail.house.gov)
24. [Rep Peters, Scott H.](#) [CA-52] - 202-225-0508; K.C jaski [kc.jaski@mail.house.gov](mailto:kc.jaski@mail.house.gov)
25. [Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille](#) [CA-40] - 202-225-1766; Adam Sachs [adam.sachs@mail.house.gov](mailto:adam.sachs@mail.house.gov)
26. [Rep. Ruiz, Raul](#) [CA-36] – 202-225-5330; Brian Payne [brian.payne@mail.house.gov](mailto:brian.payne@mail.house.gov)
27. [Rep Sanchez, Linda T.](#) [CA-38] – 202-225-6676; Andrew Noh [Andrew.noh@mail.house.gov](mailto:Andrew.noh@mail.house.gov)
28. [Rep Sanchez, Loretta](#) [CA-46] – 202-225-2965; Eduardo Lerma OR Lorenzo Rubalcalva [eduardo.lerma@mail.house.gov](mailto:eduardo.lerma@mail.house.gov)  
OR [Lorenzo.rubalcalva@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lorenzo.rubalcalva@mail.house.gov)
29. [Rep Schiff, Adam B.](#) [CA-28] – 202-225-4176; Courtney Fogwell [Courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov)
30. [Rep Sherman, Brad](#) [CA-30] – 202-225-5911; Lauren Wolman [lauren.woman@mail.house.gov](mailto:lauren.woman@mail.house.gov)
31. [Rep Speier, Jackie](#) [CA-14] - -202-225-3531; Miriam Goldstein [Miriam.goldstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Miriam.goldstein@mail.house.gov)
32. [Rep Swalwell, Eric](#) [CA-15] – 202-225-5065; Samantha Warren [Samantha.warren@mail.house.gov](mailto:Samantha.warren@mail.house.gov)
33. [Rep Takano, Mark](#) [CA-41] 202-225-2305; Claire Viall [Claire.viall@mail.house.gov](mailto:Claire.viall@mail.house.gov)
34. [Rep Thompson, Mike](#) [CA-5] – 202-225-3311; Casey Badmington [casey.badmington@mail.house.gov](mailto:casey.badmington@mail.house.gov)
35. [Rep Torres, Norma J.](#) [CA-35] - new 202-225-6161; Grant Kerr [grant.kerr@mail.house.gov](mailto:grant.kerr@mail.house.gov)
36. [Rep Vargas, Juan](#) [CA-51] - 202-225-8045; Aaron Allen [aaron.allen@mail.house.gov](mailto:aaron.allen@mail.house.gov)
37. [Rep Waters, Maxine](#) [CA-43] – 202-225-2201

\*\*Slightly more time consuming than that is to send an email direct to the staffer, giving your message, and then in a few days follow up with a phone call. All these methods are good.

*Extra Credit:* If you are in the Santa Clarita area in the district of freshman Rep. Steve Knight (CA-25, (202-225-1956—Brandon Eden) please ask him to become a cosponsor of H.R. 1814; if you wish, I can send you a list of a few sample LWCF projects that have benefitted that area. SAME goes for Rep Paul Cook and his large desert district – 202-225-5861; Tim McIntyre. He has stated that “LWCF is big in my district.”

For more information on action you can take, or to sign up to help: contact a member of Sierra Club’s LWCF Task Force: Vicky Hoover, chair, 415-977-5527 [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org); Alan Carlton (CA) 510-769-3404, [carltonal@yahoo.com](mailto:carltonal@yahoo.com).

# LeConte (13,930') and Corcoran (13,714'), September 25-27, 2015

By Kathy Rich



Late last summer, Daryn Dodge and I led an SPS trip to climb Mt LeConte with a traverse to Mt Corcoran, both prominent points on the rugged Comb Ridge southeast of Mt Whitney. We had originally planned this trip for Memorial Day weekend since 2015 was looking like a low snow year, but a big storm hit just before the trip, causing us to postpone it. After the Rough Fire closed the TH leading to Tehipite Dome, Shane Smith was forced to postpone his SPS List Finish, freeing up a three-day weekend at the end of September. This turned out to be an optimal time of year to attempt this climb since even in a low snow year and hot weather the week beforehand, we encountered snow and ice in the shaded approach to LeConte.

Early Friday morning, the leaders met the group (Phil Bates, Keith Christensen, Sandra Hao, and Corrine Livingston) at the trailhead off the Whitney Portal Rd for the short hike in to Meysan Lakes. Several had in mind the idea to run up Lone Pine Peak on the way in, while the rest of us lazed around in the sun before heading to set up camp at the south

end of Meysan Lake. After dinner, we all turned in early in preparation for the big climb next day. Our plan was to climb the class 3 east arete of Mt LeConte and then traverse to Mt Corcoran via the west-facing north notch class 3 route. Phil had attempted to climb Mt LeConte by the same route back in 2014 but had to turn around before the start of the arête due to ice and snow on the route, so he was happy to have another chance at it. After climbing Mt Corcoran, we would reverse the route back to the ledge in the NW chute below Mt LeConte and rappel down the waterfall pitch, returning to camp via the Mallory-LeConte plateau.

From camp, we climbed a gully on the left side at the south end of Meysan Lake up to the Mallory-LeConte plateau. From there it was an easy stroll to the base of the north face of Mt LeConte, which is marked by a plaque. From a distance, the north face looked intimidatingly steep, but we could make out a horizontal stripe of dark brown rock lower on the face (other reports called it "a pencil line") that apparently indicated the location of a narrow exposed ledge that we would use to traverse across to the NE face. We found the ledge easily enough, but the traverse was made a little trickier due to residual snow and ice along the route. It was quite a surprise to see this much snow so late in the

*Above: on the summit of Mt Corcoran, left to right: Phil Bates, Keith Christensen, Kathy Rich, Sandra Hao, Corrine Livingston, Daryn Dodge. (Photo by Kathy Rich)*



summer. After traversing left several hundred feet, we reached an area of vertical cracks and small ledges on the NE face. From there we climbed up and left across a rib to a chute, leaving the chute for a ledge that led to the east arete and finally finishing the climb via the east arete. Although this route is rated as class 3 in Secor's new book, we felt that the approximately hundred-foot segment climbing up the NE face to be the crux of the route, and we were glad not to be returning that way.

After enjoying a brief celebration on the summit of Mt LeConte, we descended the northwest chute to a class 2-3

ledge (about fifty feet above the level of the waterfall pitch) to begin the 0.3-mile traverse to Mt Corcoran. After traversing south fifty feet on this ledge above the waterfall pitch, we descended a class 3 section into the next gully. We then descended about three hundred feet in this gully to a notch on the next ridge, then traversed south across about six more ribs and gullies to the last rib, which is marked by a keyhole through which we could view the summit of Mt Corcoran. Just prior to reaching the keyhole we had passed through a narrow chute in the huge, seemingly insurmountable, rib separating the sixth and seventh

gullies. This is probably the trickiest section because this narrow chute cannot be seen until one is right up against the rib. For the traverse, we relied heavily on Jim Ramaker's 2007 report on Climber.org, which had an excellent route description. As Jim noted: "The traverse to Corcoran is a miracle of geology and routefinding with steep walls and towers all around you." At the last rib we climbed straight up over a short, but difficult, class 3 section to ledges that led to the loose chute leading to the north notch between LeConte and Corcoran, taking the right branch of the chute to the summit of Mt Corcoran. The traverse took a couple of hours and is primarily



*Top: Taking a break on the LeConte-Mallory plateau, with Mt Le Conte in the background. Above: Traversing the narrow icy ledge on the NE face of Mt LeConte. (Photos by Kathy Rich)*





*Left: Climbing the class 3 NE face of Mt LeConte and nearing the East Arete.  
Below: Approaching the sixth gully on the LeConte-Corcoran traverse. (Photos by Kathy Rich)*

pitch is now rated as class 4 in the latest edition of Secor. However, we only planned to rappel down the pitch and not climb up it. In our opinion, rappelling down the waterfall pitch and returning back to camp via the Mallory-LeConte plateau was the safest approach, since it avoided having to climb back over Mt LeConte when climbers are tired; avoided a difficult, very exposed class 3 down climb on the NE face with the extra potential for rock fall; and furthermore saved time and energy. Although an obviously well-used anchor was in



place at the top of the waterfall pitch, we decided to add some redundancy by adding a new piece of webbing around a separate rock horn to make a more solid anchor. One of the leaders rappelled down first and provided a fireman's belay to the participants. After all the group was down the pitch, we then continued the down climb in the chute to

class 2 with a few class 3 moves. Ducks marked much of the traverse.

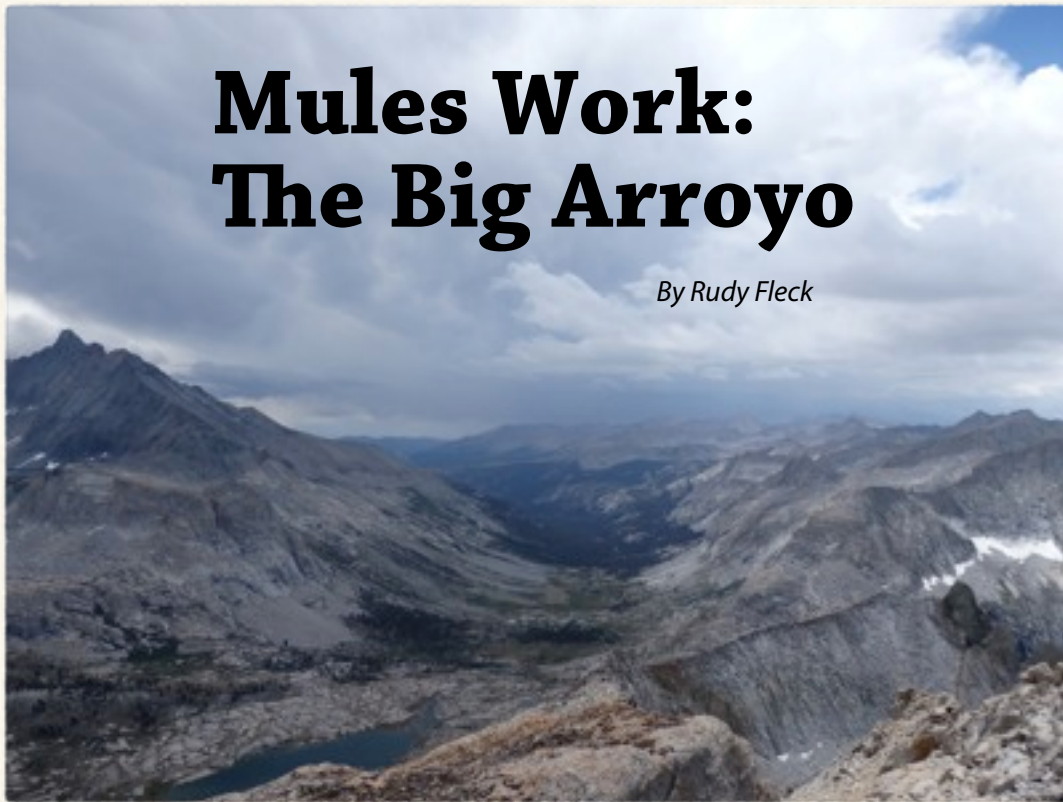
After another celebration on the summit of Mt Corcoran, we reversed the route back to the ledge in the NW chute below Mt LeConte, just above the fifteen-foot waterfall pitch. Although it was originally rated as class 3, the waterfall

the base of the cliffs of Mt LeConte before returning to camp at Meysan Lakes via the Mallory-LeConte plateau. Again, a few eager beavers (including Daryn, Sandra, and Keith) couldn't resist the temptation to run up Mt Mallory before heading back to camp. Next morning, we broke camp and headed back to the trailhead, tired but happy.



# Mules Work: The Big Arroyo

By Rudy Fleck



The Big Arroyo east of Sequoia presents a mother lode of peaks for people working on climbing the entire SPS Peaks list. This usually requires at least a day of foot travel to be in position to climb these fine mountains. On the one hand, one is faced with the prospect of visiting the area a number of times—adding up to a significant total of miles, time, and effort just getting there—or of undertaking an attempt to do as many as possible in one outing. But the longer the stay, the more weight in food that needs to be carried in, a conundrum for those of us not willing or able to imitate a pack animal. This leads to a closer examination of the phrase pack animal and the logic of actually employing one.

Doug Mantle and Michael Gosnell, having experienced the “Aha” moment at some point in their careers, designed a ten-day trip to the Arroyo for late July 2015. Doug has been assisting Michael and Brent Crookham in their list finish efforts, and I occasionally get to tag along as the Joe Btfsplk color commentator. We had discussed the planning on an earlier summer slog to Mt. Clarence King and environs,

*Top: Looking south into the Big Arroyo. Right: Michael, Doug and Brent at the pack station. (Photos by Rudy Fleck)*

and it was all French to me except the repeated topic of Parmesan cheese.

Day one saw us leaving Crescent Meadow in Sequoia at first light to hike seventeen miles with daypacks to Hamilton Lake where we would meet the pack mules in the afternoon. The previous day we’d met at Horse Corral Meadow Pack Station to drop off our food and full backpacks. A-later-than-expected schedule the day before resulted in mules/dinner arriving at Hamilton at 7 pm. Mule on the menu was a near miss. First light once again saw us over the Kaweah Gap and down to the Nine

Lakes basin, setting up camp, and waiting for the mules at mid-morning. After a welcome right-on-time delivery, we set off to climb nearby Mt. Stewart. On our way back we experienced what was to become the pattern of all but one of the following







3618' of gain (Michael's figures and counting one low mileage, elevation loss day). Probably less expensive than if these peaks had been done in multiple forays. Some valuable discoveries were our light-weight folding chairs, the hanging pocket shower, clothesline, pre-dinner whiskey sour mix, post-dinner chamomile tea, and, next time, a small tube of Goop glue to give to the desperate scout leader whose boots were delaminating.

This is all documented on YouTube at rflex3 channel, videos.

climbing days: an early start with a smattering of clouds becoming a thrashing rain by the time we were off the peaks and on the way back to camp. The second high point of day three, after having summited Lion Rock, was a hand reaching into my tent with a warm dinner on a paper plate during a seemingly endless thunder and lightning downpour. Let's hear it for the accumulated wisdom of old guys with a ton of experience. Thanks again, Doug. Rainy day four was a hike down canyon to set up camp near the old patrol cabin.

Day five: Big Kaweah; day six: Red Kaweah; day seven: Black Kaweah; day eight: Eisen and Lippincott (a day without rain, but I skipped Eisen and was charged with having the campfire going as a welcome home). Doug, Michael, and Brent traversed from Lippincott to Eisen and navigated challenging terrain to come back with fine tales of adventure. Doug claims this was the source of his Eisenitis, identified as a recurring uncontrolled prostration. On day nine we packed up and headed back up canyon to climb Eagle Scout and finished the day camping at Hamilton Lake. Day ten saw an early start and tired return to Crescent Meadow by mid-day.

The trip totals were 81.7 miles with 36,175' of altitude gain. Averages per day were 8.17 miles and



*Top: Doug, Brent and Michael on Lion Rock. Right: Brent, Doug and Michael on Eagle Scout. (Photos by Rudy Fleck)*



# IN HIGH PLACES: CZECH REPUBLIC, BULGARIA & SERBIA

By Burton "Czech it out" Falk

Sněžka, the 5,256' highpoint of the Czech Republic, is located on the Czech/Polish border about one hundred miles ENE of Prague. It can be climbed by trails from either country or by means of a gondola from the Czech mountain resort of Pec pod Sněžkou.

On the morning of October 29, 2014, the day after I bagged Kekes, the highpoint of Hungary (see *Sierra Echo*, April-June 2015), Jo and I boarded a train in Budapest, heading for Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. It was an overcast day with an October murk lingering across the lowlands of Central Europe. Many of the towns and cities we passed, especially in Slovakia, echoed the dreariness as if trapped in a Soviet time warp.



Above: Burt on top of 5,256' Sněžka, highpoint of the Czech Republic

Detraining that evening at the Prague station, we were at once set upon by a woman who told us she could arrange for a taxi to the Prague Hilton. When I asked the price, she quoted a substantially higher fare than I paid that morning in Budapest for a ride from our hotel to the train station. Pretty sure she was taking advantage of my naïveté, I suggested her price was too high. Taking affront, she said I couldn't do any better. Hoping I was right, I began awkwardly moving our four bags and Jo—who was using a walker—toward the exit.

About that time, another driver strode up, inquiring if we were looking for a cab. "Yes," I said. "We need to get to the Hilton." He quoted a price, about half that of what the woman had asked. I nodded, he grabbed two of the bags, and, with the woman looking daggers at our receding backs, we were off.

Later, at the hotel, I arranged with the concierge for a car and English-speaking driver to take me to the ski resort town of Pec pod Sněžkou the next morning. The preset price was to be 220 Euros.

Next morning, stepping out of the hotel at 8 a.m., I found my driver-to-be, Marion Sobo, a clean-cut, twenty-something young fellow, standing beside his vehicle, a Czech-built Škoda sedan which looked way too stylish for a car that I'd never heard of before. (Duh—in 2014, 1.04 million Škodas were built by the namesake company, a member of the Volkswagen group.)

Having done a bit of homework on what to expect, I was ready for an approximate one hundred mile, two hour and fifteen minute drive that morning. Oh, that I should have been so fortunate.

The problem was that Marion, using his cell phone's GPS for directions, must have missed a turn or two. I sensed something was wrong soon after we turned off the Highway D-11, leading east out of Prague. Why, if we were driving between the country's largest city and the nearest major ski resort, were we taking back roads? We crawled down an alley in one small town and drove through an intersection twice (at a ninety-degree angle, on the second attempt) in another. When I questioned him about his navigation, he glared at his cell phone and mumbled, "I'll kill myself if I go through that intersection one more time." Heh, heh. A suicidal driver.

Well, it took us at least three hours to get to the base of the gondola in Pec pod Sněžkou, and there, in an attempt to cheer Marion up, I offered to

purchase him a ticket for a gondola ride to the top of Sněžka (fifteen Euros). He seemed baffled, as if no one had ever included him in their adventures before. Assuring him I meant my offer, he accepted and locked the Škoda, and we were off for the fifteen minute, 2,490' ride to the top of the Czech Republic.

As we left the low-hanging clouds below during our ascent, the bright late autumn sunlight was spectacular. Below the gondola, a wide, well-used trail was visible. If a person had the time, hiking would be a great way to bag the mountain. One on-line description reported that a person in good condition could make the climb in about two hours.

Upon reaching the spacious summit, Marion and I ambled around, checked out a couple of summit structures, stepped back and forth over the Polish/Czech border, and, in general, enjoyed our half hour stay.

On the way back to Prague later that afternoon, Marion chose yet another serendipitous route. New hills and dales and quaint and not-so-quaint villages passed by. I, however, was no longer concerned. With another country highpoint under my belt, I was content and looking forward to dinner with Jo that evening.

Fast forward nine months now, to the evening of Monday, June 15, 2015, when Jo and I and nine family members landed at the Sofia, Bulgaria, airport. We had come to the former SSR to climb Musala, the country's 9,596' high point, and Midžor the 7,116', highpoint of adjacent Serbia.

Traveling in a three-generational, eleven-member family group, is no easy task—it requires exacting pre-planning. In this case, our four grandchildren and their five parents, all in their forties and fifties, all gainfully employed, had limited vacation time. And since we had already spent eleven of their available fifteen vacation days on a cruise between Athens and Venice, we arose the next morning ready for a jam-packed four-day schedule. Our plan was to explore Sofia that first day, then, on Wednesday, to drive to the base of Musala, climb the peak, and return to Sofia that same evening. Thursday morning would include additional

exploration of Sofia, after which we would drive into Serbia to a hotel at the base of Midžor. Friday would be spent climbing the peak, after which we would drive back to Sofia in time to catch evening flights to the States.

And everything went perfectly according to plan until 2 p.m. the first day. That's when Pavlina Docheva, Manager of Easy Bulgaria Travel, LTD, who had led us on a walking tour of Sofia that morning, emailed to inform us that the chair lift we intended to use to make a day-climb of Musala possible would be closed due to maintenance the following day. Since we had chiseled-in-stone plans for Thursday and Friday—transportation to and from, plus pre-paid hotel reservations at the base of Midžor—we reluctantly decided to scrub the Musala climb, and, rather, use the day to explore Rila National Park, located in the northwestern [Rila Mountains](#), some sixty miles south of Sofia.

So, Wednesday morning at 8:15 a.m., stepping out of the mid-town Grand Sofia Hotel, we met our driver, Volodia, who, in his twelve-passenger Mercedes van, was ready to drive us to Panichishte, a small mountain village below the Rila Lakes.

Compared to the Czech/Slovakian countryside, which I'd visited eight months earlier, the Bulgarian countryside seemed more alive, more vital. Maybe it was the promise of summer in the air, but my impression was that the Bulgarians were making a faster recovery than the Czechs in their transformation from a planned to a free-market economy. Not so positively, however, there is little doubt that a Bulgarian Mafia exists. Linked with Russian and Serbian Mafias and the Italian Cosa Nostra, organized crime may explain the many Mercedes, BMWs, and Porsches seen on the Bulgarian highways.

Two hours later, at 10:15 a.m. we arrived at the base of the Pionerska chair lift (nine Euros/person, round trip), elevation 5,223', and following a twenty-minute ride, we off loaded at the Rila Lakes Hut, elevation 6,900'.

Seven lakes are nestled in the Rila basin, all connected by a loop trail. We opted to do the circuit in a clockwise direction, heading first for Dolnoto Ezero, the lower lake, where on the veranda of a hut surrounded by wildflowers we stopped for a short picnic and to chat with a



Map courtesy of [goeasteurope.about.com](http://goeasteurope.about.com)



few fellow hikers. After the break, we hiked on to the other six lakes, all of which are named for their shapes, i.e., Fish, Trefoil, Twin, Kidney, Eye, and Tear, the latter of which, the highest of the seven, lies nestled in a glacial depression at 8,319'.

The six-mile loop took us four hours, including the lunch stop and a short beer and snack break at the Rila Lake Hut on our return. Although we were disappointed in being unable to climb Musala, the day spent hiking the Rila Lakes area couldn't have been more memorable. It's no wonder that Rila National



*Left: Grandson Nathan Falk, Rila Lakes National Park, Bulgaria. Above: On route to Midžor, highpoint of Serbia "The grass-covered slopes, wet with morning dew and bejeweled with patches of brilliant wild flowers, were stunning."*

Park earns a five-star TripAdvisor rating.

Returning to Sofia that evening, we dined at Hadjidraganovite kashti, a traditional Bulgarian restaurant, where the repast included a large variety of cheeses, piles of various roasted meats, shopska—a traditional chopped salad—and an endless flow of Bulgarian wine. The food and wine combined with lively folk music provided by a quartet of local musicians led us to have only good thoughts about Bulgaria and Bulgarians as we strolled back to our hotel that night.

On Thursday morning, with a few hours of free time prior to our afternoon drive to Babin Zub (Grandmother's Tooth) ski resort area, just below Midžor, and because two members of our family are Jewish, we decided to walk through Sofia's iconic yellow brick-paved streets in a light rain to visit the historic Sofia Synagogue which remarkably survived Nazi occupation during WWII. Even more significant is the fact that the Nazis' effort to "relocate" Bulgaria's Jewish population was brilliantly stalled long enough for the war to end, thus preventing hundreds of native Bulgarian Jews from becoming victims of the holocaust. Jews living in the Bulgarian controlled areas of Macedonia and Thrace were not so lucky.

Seven of our eleven-member family made the drive into Serbia that afternoon—son, Steve; daughter-in-laws, Nancy and Elisa; grandchildren, Hayley, Nathan, and Angela; and me. Jo, using a walker due to an earlier fall, chose to stay at the Grand, while daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Scott, opted out, thinking the climb of Midžor would be too much for their eight-year old daughter, Griffin.

Due to the lengthy wait caused by the officious Serbian customs and immigration control, crossing the border took much longer than we expected. When we finally reached Vila Babin Zub at 7 p.m., the afternoon's red tape, plus the taint of war crimes attributed to Serbia during the Kosovo conflict (1998-99), had worked me into a healthy dislike of Serbs in general.

Well, travel alters one's perceptions. Indeed, we found the family who ran the small hotel to be gracious, friendly, and accommodating. Our hostess, her mother, and her fourteen-year-old nephew, who could speak fluent English, joined us for a



On top of 7,116' Midžor, Serbia's highest point. Left to right: Nathan, Nancy, Hayley, Angela (all Falks), Elisa Mendel, Burt and Steve (more Falks).

tasty home-grown dinner that evening. Local beer was downed, friendships were made, and, best of all, politics were left undiscussed.

Next morning, following a hearty breakfast at the villa, Volodia drove us some six or seven miles into the surrounding Western Balkan Mountains to the Babin Zub Ski Area (5,268').

Although a bank of clouds hung over the higher mountains to the east, the weather was mostly sunny. Leaving Volodia and the van at a ski area parking lot at 9:30 a.m., we followed a little-used 4WD road that arced gently upward in a east-southeasterly direction toward Midžor's summit. The grass-covered slopes, wet with morning dew and bejeweled with patches of brilliant wild flowers, were stunning.

More delight was provided by two local pooches who, uninvited, decided to join our trek. Chasing one another, rolling in the grass, stopping for an occasional pat on the head, their joy was contagious.

We reached the 7,116' summit about noon, demolished our lunches, took a few photographs, and began down, reaching the van about 2 p.m. Approximate round trip miles, nine; total elevation gained, 2,000'.

Our trip back to Sofia that late afternoon was without incident. In fact, thanks to little delay getting through Bulgarian customs and immigration, we arrived back in Sofia at least an hour earlier than

expected.

Because of work and school commitments everyone but Jo and I flew out of Sofia that night. We two, however, were happy to relax and enjoy an excellent meal at the Grand's posh dining room.

Oh sure, I'll always cherish the memories of nights I've spent in a wind-blown tent below an icy summit, but

now that I'm almost eighty, I

admit that the comforts of a hot shower, a glass of wine, and a set of clean sheets are nothing to be sneezed at.

*This article uses material from the Wikipedia article [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rila\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rila_National_Park), which is released under the <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>.*

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

# SPS TEES



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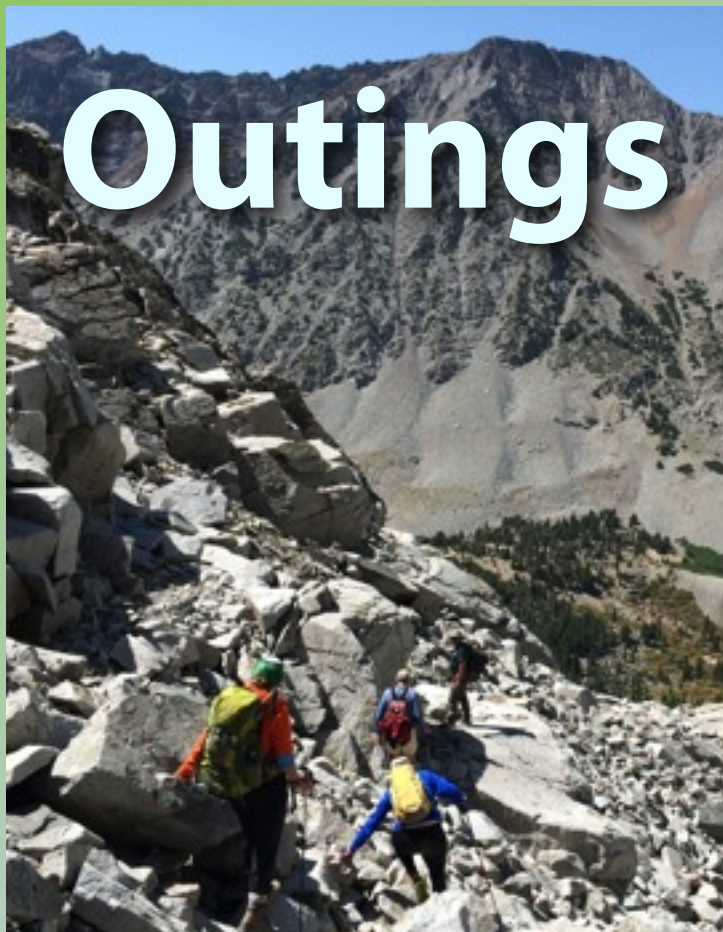
**Apr 16 | Sat** LTC  
**Leadership Training Seminar:** Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Next seminar: Fall 2016

**Apr 9-10 | Sat-Sun** LTC, SPS, DPS  
**M/E-R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/ Practice:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. We welcome others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldrs: Doug Mantle, Neal Robbins.

**Apr 13 | Wed** LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP13): 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 (AMP13): 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.



*Descending Warren on August 30, 2015 (Photo by Beth Epstein).*

*We've chosen the photo above showing Mat Kelliher leading a group down Mt. Warren to represent the outings section. Do you have a photo you would like to see here? If so, please send your submission as an email attachment to [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com) or via USPS to Tina Bowman.*

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

**Apr 23-24 | Sat-Sun** LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP13): 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.

**Apr 23-24 | Sat-Sun** LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS  
**I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M). 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: Ann Shields. 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.

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

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

# OUTINGS

## Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Misha Askren 323-935-1492 [misha.askren@gmail.com](mailto:misha.askren@gmail.com)  
Jeffrey Atijera 714-724-0515 [jeff.atj@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.atj@gmail.com)  
Lisa Barboza [lisa.barboza@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.barboza@gmail.com)  
Phil Bates 949-786-8475 [philipabates@gmail.com](mailto:philipabates@gmail.com)  
Richard Boardman - 310-374-4371  
Tina Bowman 562-438-3809 [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)  
Lisa Buckley 949-644-9886 [lgbuckley@gmail.com](mailto:lgbuckley@gmail.com)  
Ron Campbell 714-962-8521 [campbellr@verizon.net](mailto:campbellr@verizon.net)  
Ed Cottone 949-679-1636 [ecottone@yahoo.com](mailto:ecottone@yahoo.com)  
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Paul Garry 310-399-2334 [pwgarry@earthlink.net](mailto:pwgarry@earthlink.net)  
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Neal Robbins 310-540-5089 [neal.robbins@l-3com.com](mailto:neal.robbins@l-3com.com)  
Gary Schenk 714-596-6196 [gary@hbfun.org](mailto:gary@hbfun.org)  
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Nile Sorenson 714-203-1405 [nsorenso@pacbell.net](mailto:nsorenso@pacbell.net)  
Homer Tom [hikerhomie@gmail.com](mailto:hikerhomie@gmail.com)

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.

### Apr 30-May 1 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP13): Rock climbing techniques and anchors:** Fourth of four climbing workshops open to Sierra Club members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send email or sase, phones, Sierra Club number, resume to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

### May 7 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS

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

### May 14-15 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

**MR: Excelsior Mtn (12,446'), Dunderberg Peak (12,374'):** Two moderate snow climbs, 3-6 mi rt, approx 3000' gain each. Ice axe, crampon experience required. Carcamp and Happy Hour at Trumbull Lake. Restricted trip with ice axe, crampons, helmets, and snowshoes required. Send email with mountaineering resume/experience to Leader: Peter Lara, Asst: Neal Robbins

### Jun 11-12 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

**I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle:** Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Sat is for practice; Sun is for checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann Shields 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.

### Jun 24-26 | Fri-Sun SPS, WTC

**MR: Black Mtn (13,289'), Diamond Peak (13,126'), Mt Mary Austin (13,051'):** Fri we'll backpack to camp below Baxter Pass, 6 mi and 5000' gain. Sat we'll climb Mt Mary Austin, traverse the ridge to Black Mtn, descend into the bowl between Black and Diamond, and ascend Diamond Peak's south face before descending to complete a circle back to camp, 6 mi and 5000' gain. Sunday we'll attempt any peak missed on Saturday, if needed, and pack out, 6 mi. Ice axe,



# OUTINGS

crampon, helmet, and recent alpine snow experience required. Participants must be in very good condition, have alpine snow experience, and be comfortable on 2nd class rock and loose talus. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Co-Ldr: Paul Garry.

## Jul 29-31 | Fri-Sun SPS, WTC

**ER: Mt Clark (11,522'), Gray Pk (11,573')**: Join us on a strenuous adventure into southern Yosemite to climb these two classic peaks in the Clark Range. Fri hike to base of Mt Clark from Mono Mdws trailhead, 10 mi and 3300' gain. On Sat climb Mt Clark via its southeast arête, then traverse its south ridge to Gray Pk before looping back to camp, 6 mi and 3800' gain. Sun we'll reverse the backpack, 10 mi and 1300' gain. Participants must have very good conditioning, have roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst-Ldr: Phil Bates.

## Jul 2-Aug 2 | Fri-Tues SPS, WTC

**M: Mt Reinstein (12,586'), Tunemah Pk (11,894'), and Finger Pk (12,404')**: Join us for three remote peaks on the west side on the Sierra. Fri hike on the Woodchuck Tr from Wishon Reservoir over Crown Pass to Halfmoon Lk, camping probably when we reach the Blackcap Basin Tr (14 mi, c. 4,000' gain). Sat we'll continue to Portal Lk (3.5 mi, 1,200' gain), make camp, and head to cl. 2 Reinstein, then back to camp (another 7 mi, 2,300' gain). Sun we'll cross Kettle Ridge and trek to cl. 2 Tunemah and back to Portal Lk (c. 11.5 mi, 5400' gain). Mon, we'll recross Kettle Ridge and go for Finger Pk, either via the southwest couloir (cl. 3) or farther but easier cl. 2 southeast slope, then retrace our steps to camp (up to 9 mi and c. 3100' gain). We may move camp back to our first night's camp (another 3.5 mi). Tues, we'll hike back to the cars (14 or 17.5 mi, 1,300' gain). LDRS: Tina Bowman, Paul Garry.

## Jul 30-31 | Sat-Sun SPS, WTC

**I: Mt Starr (12,835')**: Gourmet Backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend XIII as we try to prove that there can't possibly be too much of a good thing! Bright and early Sat morning (well, 8 a.m.), we'll trek a harrowing 2 mi, 1,000 ft through the treacherous wilderness to Box Lake. After resting from our labors, we'll dig deep into our packs for appetizers, salads, entrees, desserts, fine wines and, of course, linens, brass candlesticks and pink flamingoes for dinner. After a lavish breakfast Sun morning, climb Mt Starr, pack out and try to get to Pie in the Sky before the freshly baked pies run out. Send your most outrageous culinary idea to Ldr to qualify. Split \$56 wilderness fee at trailhead. Ldr: Ron Campbell. Assts: Georgette Rieck, Ed Cottone, Lisa Buckley.

## Jul 30-31 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

**I: Alta Pk (11,204'), Panther Pk (9,046') – #Hiketthe100**: Join us on this weekend jaunt starting on Sat from the Wolverton Trailhead (7,283') in Sequoia National Park up to Panther Gap (8,520'), where we'll take off our packs for a short little stroll over to Panther Pk before continuing on our way to make camp at beautiful Alta Mdw (9,356') with its enthralling wildflowers and eye-popping scenery for a day's total of about 7.0 mi and 2,600' of gain. Enjoy our legendary shared, community Happy Hour and then tuck in under the stars. Sunday travel x-c for 2.5 mi round trip with 2,000' of gain to climb Alta Pk and enjoy some spectacular views of the Great Western Divide. From the summit we'll return to camp, break

## Call for Outings!

Leaders, it's not too late to plan a Sierra trip yet! This year even a snow climb might go. While the new OARS system has radically reduced the lead time for scheduling trips, please get your restricted M and E trips in as early as possible; they still need to go through the Mountaineering Oversight Committee review process and be approved by national.

This is a good time to check on your certifications as well. Provisional M and E leaders need to be current with Wilderness First Aid, and on non-provisional M and E trips, one of the leaders must be current in WFA. Basic first aid can be renewed on-line once every eight years. OLT also need to be current, and it is super easy. The outings chair can answer any questions you might have.

Outings are the heart and soul of the Sierra Club. Getting people out into the wilderness to experience the Range of Light helps preserve our beloved mountains. If you can, try to make room for a newcomer on a trip.

If at anytime you have questions about planning trips, please shoot an email to the outings chair at [gary@hbfun.org](mailto:gary@hbfun.org).

-Gary Schenk

# OUTINGS

it down, and pack out to our cars. This fun trip is especially designed for fit WTC students and will count as a WTC Experience Trip. Permit limits group size and permit fee (~\$5 - \$10 per person) will be split among the group. This is a Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, WTC (if any) Area & Group, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com) for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher, Co-Ldr: Sridhar Gullapalli.

## Aug 6-8 | Sat-Mon WTC, SPS

**I: Joe Devel Peak (13,327')**: Alpine fun in the shadow of Mt Whitney. Hike in 9 mi to one of the Soldier Lks (10,815') to set up camp and enjoy happy hour. We find our way to Joe Devel Pk by going x-c and up 2500' on day two. Return via the same route on day three, happy, tired and content. Priority given to WTC students. Send email with contact info and recent experience to Ldr: Homer Tom. Co-Ldr: Misha Askren.

## Aug 11-14 | Thurs-Sun SPS, WTC

**MR: Charybdis (13,096'), Mt McDuffie (13,282'), Black Giant (13,330'), Scylla (12,956')**: Spend four days in the very remote Ionian Basin and northern Black Divide to climb up to 4 SPS peaks including 2 Mountaineers peaks. Thurs pack from Lk Sabrina over Echo Col and Black Giant Pass to camp at Lk 11,828' in the Ionian Basin, 13 mi and 5800' gain including 5 miles and 2800' of x-c. The x-c ascent of Echo Col may require ice ax and crampons. Fri we'll ascend Charybdis and Mt McDuffie, both 3rd class SPS Mountaineers Peaks, and finally Black Giant before looping back to camp, 8 mi and 4800' gain all x-c. If entirely successful on Fri we'll climb Scylla on Sat, 8 mi and 3800' gain all x-c. Otherwise we'll climb the peak(s) we missed on Fri and begin the backpack out. Sun we'll reverse our backpack with 13 mi and 3000' gain including 4 mi and 2000' of x-c. 42 miles & >16K' gain for the outing with the majority being cross-country. Participants must be in excellent condition, comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus, and have ice ax and crampon snow climbing experience. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

## Aug 12-14 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS

**I: Pilot Knob (12,245')**: Join us for this moderate three day WTC Experience/SPS Introductory Trip into the gorgeous Humphreys Basin west of North Lk in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Fri we'll meet near North Lk (9,345') and pack in at a relaxed, but determined pace west along creekside trail up past a series of gorgeous alpine lakes to and then over Piute

Pass (11,423') before dropping down into the spectacular Humphreys Basin and making our way north to our camp for the weekend near the SW shore of Desolation Lk (11,400'). Expect a day's total of about 7.5 mi with 2,600' gain. After setting up camp, relaxing a bit, and perhaps catching a fish or two, we'll settle in for a festive Happy Hour under waxing gibbous moon, summer night skies. Saturday we'll head off x-c first to the north for a pleasant stroll up to the summit of nearby Four Gables, then back to the south and then west past a series of small lakes followed by a steep ascent to a saddle and then west to the summit of Pilot Knob. After thoroughly enjoying the spectacular views surrounding us up there, we'll head back to our camp for a day's total of about 11.5 m and 3,700' of gain. Back at camp we'll celebrate with an even more Festive Happy Hour than the night prior. Sun we'll pack up and then head out the same route we came in on. Awards for the tastiest Happy Hour contributions will be given each night! Amateur anglers need a valid CA fishing license. Priority given to current WTC students. Permit dramatically limits group size, and permit costs (\$46) will be split among the group. Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, WTC (if any) Area & Group, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com) for trip status and details Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-Ldr: Jeremy Netka.

## Aug 12-14 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS

**I: Mt Florence (12,561'), Vogelsang Pk (11,493')**: Enjoy the beautiful Yosemite high country on this strenuous climb to Mt .Florence and Vogelsang Peak. Fri backpack on trail 10.25 mi., 2,700' gain from Tuolumne Mdws on the Rafferty Creek trail passing the Vogelsang High Camp to Bernice Lake. Sat class 2 x-c climb to Mt Florence 7 mi RT, 2,500' gain. Sun pack out to cars 10.25 mi. with a 1 mi, 850' gain side trip to climb Vogelsang Peak. Send email (preferred) or SASE with conditioning/experience to Ldr: Paul Garry. Asst: Anne Mullins.

## Aug 20-25 | Sat-Thurs SPS

**I: Kern Pt (12,730'+), Picket Guard Pk (12,303')**: Join crazed leaders for two remote class 2 peaks in the Sierra. Backpack Sat over tough Shepherd Pass and camp near the pass or possibly farther in (11 mi, 6200' gain). Sun we'll join the John Muir Trail and then the High Sierra Trail to Junction Mdw (11.75 mi, mostly downhill). Mon we'll go up the Colby Pass Tr to make camp and climb Kern Pt (8 mi, 4700' gain). Tues, climb Picket Guard (2700' gain) and move back to Junction Meadow (8 mi for the day). We'll retrace our steps on the HST and JMT on Wed to the junction with the Shepherd Pass



# OUTINGS

Tr or beyond (8.75 mi, 3200' gain). Thurs we'll ascend and descend Shepherd Pass and celebrate (14 mi, 1800' gain).  
Ldrs: Tina Bowman, Gary Schenk.

**Aug 24-28 | Wed-Sun SPS**

**ER: Triple Divide Peak (12,634'), Glacier Ridge (12,360'), Whaleback (11,717')**: Spend five days in a very remote section of the Great Western Divide to climb 3 SPS peaks including Triple Divide Peak, an SPS Mountaineers peaks. Wed backpack entirely on trail from Marvin Pass TH to Shorty's Cabin, 20 mi and 4000' gain. Thur climb Triple Divide Peak's north face and west ridge via Glacier Lake, 9 mi and 4000' gain. Fri climb the east face of Glacier Ridge, 7 mi & 3400' gain. Sat climb Whaleback's 4th class north ridge, 5 mi and 2700' gain, then break camp and begin the pack out. Sun finish the pack out, 20 mi and 3200' total backpacking between the two days. Participants must be in excellent condition, have roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Restricted

to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

**Sep 9-11 | Fri-Sun SPS, WTC**

**MR: Seven Gables (13,060), Gemini (12,866)**: Join us for a deep penetrating probe into a remote and spectacular area of the Sierra National Forest where we'll spend 3 glorious days of unmolested lakeside camping. We'll set out on Fri from the Bear Ridge TH near Lk Thomas Edison for a fairly strenuous backpack to lakeside camping at Lou Beverly Lk, 12 mi & 4000' gain all on trail. On Sat it just gets better. We'll climb the Northwest Slope and West Ridge of 3rd class Seven Gables, an SPS Mountaineers Peak, descend its South Slope to Seven Gables Pass, climb 2nd class Gemini and then loop back to camp. Totals for the day; 9 mi and 4500' gain mainly all x-c. On Sun we'll break camp and reverse our backpack, 12 mi and 1500' gain all on trail. Participants must have very good conditioning and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class

## Wilderness Permit Info

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

### INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: [www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo)  
Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

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

### KERN PLATEAU

Web site: [www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia)

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

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

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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

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

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

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

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

### SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

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

### SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

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

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

# OUTINGS

and loose talus. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send e-mail with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Phil Bates.

**Sep 23-25 | 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 SPS List and Smatko Explorer Emblem (with Laura Newman) east of Fresno. Fri meet at Wishon Village RV Park ([www.wishonvillage.com](http://www.wishonvillage.com)), hike to base of Tehipite Dome (11 mi, 2000'). Sat limb Tehipite Dome (short exposed move on summit) and hike out (13 mi, 1000') by Sunday morning with optional side-trip to 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 mi r/t, 350'). Meet up with Shane and the leaders after they return from Tehipite Dome at 11am on Sun 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](mailto:sssmith4@yahoo.com). For Sugarpine Hill, no reservation is required & there is no space limit—all are welcome! Ldr: Daryn Dodge. Co-Ldrs; Kathy Rich, Paul Garry, Steve Smith.

**Sep 23-24 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS**

**M: Three Sisters (10,572'), Dogtooth (10,302'):** Join us for a leisurely romp and late season party outing with a bit of fun 3rd class mixed in for good measure. Fri backpack from Courtright Reservoir to Cliff Lk, 5 miles and 1200'. Saturday we'll climb 2nd class Three Sisters before wandering over to Dogtooth and its 3rd class summit block, 4 mi and 2000' gain. Sun we'll reverse the backpack out, 5 mi. World-class gourmet happy hour both nights. Participants should be comfortable on exposed lounging and loose good times. Experienced gourmet back-country food preparation required. Send email with hiking resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Jeff Atijera.

**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>

**Sep 18 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

**I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann Shields.

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.

**Oct 5 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP14): 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 8 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP14): 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.

**Oct 8 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS**

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



# OUTINGS

**Oct 15 | Sat** LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP14):**

**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 22-23 | Sat-Sun** LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP14): 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.

**Nov 19 | Sat** LTC, WTC

**M-R: Navigation: Workshop on 3rd class terrain:** This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club

**SPS Management Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Alexander Smirnoff's Home**

1. Call to order. Present: Tina Bowman, chair; Jim Fleming, vice-chair; Paul Garry, secretary; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jeremy Netka, outreach; Harry Langenbacher, mountain records.
2. Standard business and reports
  - a. Approval of minutes. Done previously by email.
  - b. Chair. Still working on naming a peak for Andy Smatko. Peak mileage list ready for posting on website.
  - c. Vice Chair—banquet planning
    - i. Discussed including a book sale or auction at banquet with decision to forego it.
    - ii. Decided to charge \$5 more per ticket for those who rsvp after January 21<sup>st</sup>. Will give discount to current and last class students of AMP and WTC. Alexander to receive reservations. Alexander to set up online ticket sales through brownpapertickets.com. Alexander made deposit to venue.
    - iii. SPS Leadership Award—recap and discussion of Lifetime Achievement awards. Wording to be sent to Jim for plaques.
    - iv. Discussed banquet flyer. Jeremy to work on it.
  - d. Outings. No report
  - e. Treasurer's report: current balance of about \$6,472. \$1,257 spent on joint Caltech lecture series. Will donate \$200 to the chapter again.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—Kathy will be asked to write an article or notice allowing members to petition to use numbered peaks for the Smatko Explorer emblem.
  - g. Outreach. Possibility of cosponsoring the Banff Mountain Film Festival at CalTech again in 2016.
  - h. Archivist
    - i. *Echo*
      - i. February 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline for next issue
      - ii. missing older issues on website. If we get a larger website, we can restore links to the missing issues. Still need to scan old issues for posting.
  - j. Mountain Records—Memorandum of Understanding with SEKI. Discussed issues with the MOU, including looking at additional criteria and expanding curatorial record, researching associations with historic persons. Tina to write George Watland, chapter director, about who should sign the MOU and inquire about legal counsel on this issue.
  - k. IT No report
  - l. Website. Discussion about finding someone to revamp website.
  - m. Conservation. We still need a conservation chair.
  - n. Safety Chair . No report
  - o. Nominating Committee. Some people have been asked to run but declined.
3. New business
  - a. Election. Tina will mail ballots along with *Echo* renewal forms and the banquet flyer.
  - b. Next meeting date (announce in *Echo* and on website): Monday, February 8, 2016

# OUTINGS

members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, cl 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

**Nov 19-20 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

**I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M). 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: Ann Shields. 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

## SPS Meeting, February 8, 2016 at The Home of Alexander Smirnoff

- 1) Call to order: present were Tina Bowman, chair; Jim Fleming, vice-chair/banquet; Paul Garry, secretary; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jeremy Netka, outreach; Harry Langenbacher, Mountain Records; Dan Richer, archivist.
- 2) Standard business and reports
  - a) Approval of minutes. No minutes to approve.
  - b) Chair. No report
  - c) Vice Chair—Banquet
    - i) Overall Review—eighty-six attendees. Bar wasn't open on time; we should bring directional signs to room next year. There was general praise of the event. Try to get Palm Court room next year which has better setup for slide show. Harry asked for Doug Mantle's email address.
    - ii) WTC/AMP Discount. One WTC discount ticket purchased.
    - iii) Sign-ups after January 21: fifteen late sign-ups.
    - iv) Future speakers: Dave Sholle has offered to give a program.
    - v) Budget: Banquet income was \$3760, expenses were \$4,710.
  - d) Outings. Trips are coming in (Neal Robbins, Mat Kelliher, Tina Bowman).
  - e) Treasurer's Report. Year-end balance is \$8,708, net loss of \$2,342. 2016 dues owed by forty-three members.
  - f) Emblem Committee Report. No report.
  - g) Outreach. Jeremy discussed sponsoring the showing of a film called *Yak* with Caltech Alpine Club. The committee discussed sponsorship at Banff Film festival at Caltech, Santa Monica, and Bishop.
  - h) Archivist. Bill T. Russell's altimeter donated to section. Dan wants to copy archive information onto back-up drives.
- i) *Echo*. February 22 deadline for next issue. Need minutes and treasurer's reports.
- j) Mountain Records. MOU with Seki. Harry reported there is a new park ranger to work with on register criteria. Harry working with Chapter office as well.
- k) IT. No report.
- l) Website. Kathy to restore dead links.
- m) Conservation. No report.
- n) Safety Chair. No report
- 3) New business
  - a) Election results. All five committee members re-elected and will serve another year in current positions.
    - i) Revised by-laws. All three proposed changes to the by-laws were approved by the membership. Change No. 1 (Qualifying peak requirement) passed 37 to 7, Change No. 2 (Active members) passed 45 to 10, and Change No. 3 (Electronic Voting) passed 49 to 4. Tina to send changes to ExCom and George Denny.
  - b) Master Emblem loophole. Tina to revise Peak list to eliminate inconsistency between by-laws and peak list.
  - c) Committee email forwarding. Tina to ask Greg Mason to set website to forward emails submitted through website to members via personal email address instead of sierrapeaks.org.
  - d) Lifetime Achievement Award. Tina to draft language for Policies and Procedures.
  - e) Meet-up Groups. Committee discussed cross-posting outings on meetup sites with no conclusion reached on merits. Perhaps organize publicity hike and cross-post that on meet-up groups.
  - f) Next meeting on April 11, 2016, at Alexander's house at 7:00 pm.



# OUTINGS

(including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

**Dec 11 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

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

## The Sierra Echo



is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to **Tina Bowman, Editor, The Sierra Echo**, preferably via email at [tina@bowmanchange.org](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.org). Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The *Echo* will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.

### SPS Income Statement 1-31-2016

|                          | YTD          | YTD        | YTD        | YTD        | YTD        | YTD       | YTD       | YTD       | YTD          | Final        | Final        | Final          | Final |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
|                          | 2016         | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      | 2012         | 2013         | 2014         | 2015           |       |
| <b>INCOME</b>            |              |            |            |            |            |           |           |           |              |              |              |                |       |
| Echo Subscriptions       | 1,210        | 640        | 310        | 170        | 70         | 30        | 30        | 10        | 1,835        | 1,360        | 1,560        | 1,550          |       |
| Banquet Income           | 3,760        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2,800        | 2,940        | 4,610        | 4,110          |       |
| Donations                | 548          | 305        | 105        | 90         | 40         | 15        | 15        | 0         | 340          | 440          | 575          | 651            |       |
| Merchandise Sales        | 130          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 39           | 27           | 276          | 395            |       |
|                          | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0              |       |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>5,648</b> | <b>945</b> | <b>415</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>110</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>5,014</b> | <b>4,767</b> | <b>7,021</b> | <b>6,706</b>   |       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>          |              |            |            |            |            |           |           |           |              |              |              |                |       |
| Postage                  | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 609          | (4)          | 14           | 938            |       |
| Printing                 | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 578          | 898          | 640          | 706            |       |
| Merchandise              | 130          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0            | 0            | 196          | 234            |       |
| Raffle                   | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0            | 0            | 250          | 0              |       |
| Banquet Expenses         | 4,710        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3,216        | 4,206        | 5,640        | 4,772          |       |
| Bank Fees                | 13           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 18           | 2            | 10           | 5              |       |
| Website                  | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         |              | 0            | 268          | 36             |       |
| Charitable contributions | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 400          | 0            | 0            | 200            |       |
| Outreach                 | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0            | 0            | 0            | 899            |       |
| Membership/Activities    | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0            | 0            | 0            | 1,257          |       |
|                          |              |            |            |            |            |           |           |           |              |              |              |                |       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>    | <b>4,853</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>4,821</b> | <b>5,103</b> | <b>7,019</b> | <b>9,048</b>   |       |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>     | <b>795</b>   | <b>945</b> | <b>415</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>110</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>193</b>   | <b>(336)</b> | <b>2</b>     | <b>(2,342)</b> |       |

Miles Brubacher, an SPS founding member and the 1961 SPS chair, passed away peacefully just three weeks after attaining age ninety. Until early 2015, he'd been residing at home in Shell Beach but moved to a nearby senior care facility as his health ebbed. Maureen, his wife of nearly fifty-six years, had died after needing to move to the same facility in 2014. Family members say her passing "took the wind from out of his sails."

Miles was born in Fonda, Iowa, and his father died unexpectedly less than two years later. The family respected the mother's wishes and soon moved from Fonda to Corvallis, Oregon. After finishing high school in Corvallis in 1943, Miles began engineering studies at Oregon State University. His studies were interrupted by service in the Navy during World War II, but he completed his mechanical engineering degree at OSU in 1949. While at the university, he developed an interest in mountaineering, rock climbing, and skiing. After graduation, his career took him to New York to work for Aramco and eventually to Saudi Arabia. But after his time with this huge oil and gas company and separately touring Europe on a Triumph motorcycle, Miles moved back to the West Coast and worked for Douglas Aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base, allowing him to expand his mountain experiences by joining Frank Sanborn's band of enthusiasts who were to form the SPS.

## Miles Brubacher

November 8, 1925–November 30, 2015

*By Jerry Keating*



*Miles on Mammoth Mtn. in 1958, on the ski touring trip where he met his wife, Maureen.*

Early on, Miles became one of Sanborn's select group of climbers who in 1955 persuaded the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee to approve the SPS's formation. Miles had the task of developing the list of qualifying and emblem peaks from a draft of one hundred to more than two hundred, a process he adeptly described in the twentieth anniversary issue of *The Sierra Echo* and on the DVD Dave Sholle produced for the fiftieth anniversary observance. Miles was hindered by a lack of up-to-date maps of the Sierra but benefited from Sanborn's access to the cartography holdings at the Automobile Club of Southern California. Mt. Abbot, for example, at first was overlooked as an emblem peak but then was included based on an ACSC map rather than on any personal experience on it. But soon the inclusion proved highly

worthy of emblem status.

Miles also was active as a trip leader, including 1956 climbs up Mt. Whitney via the Mountaineers Route, Maggie Mtn., Mt. Ritter, Mt. Morrison and, in November, Owens Peak. Of the twenty-seven persons on the Whitney climb, all made the summit.

Miles met Maureen while ski touring on Mammoth Mtn., in February 1958, and they were married on July 26, 1958, in Cobham, England, near her birthplace. The couple toured Europe in an MG sports car, sleeping in a pup tent for most of their honeymoon. Then they settled in the Los



**From Jerry Keating:** Provided in January 2016 by Frank Bressel, this small print shows the Brubachers at an early gathering at the Palos Verdes home of Frank Sanborn's parents. It was taken in or before January 1962, presumably by Frank Bressel. Besides Miles, founding members in the pictures are Roger Gaefcke, Ted Maier, Frank Sanborn and Pat Meixner. Miles (white shirt) appears in the lower left of the picture,



and Maureen (upper far left). Roger Gaefcke (white shirt foreground) is sitting next to Miles. Ted Maier (white shirt) is partly obscured and above Roger. Ted's wife, Mary Jane (red dress), is to the left above Ted. Frank Sanborn (dark shirt) is partly obscured, and his wife, Charlotte (blue blouse), is in the background. Pat Meixner is in the lower right corner of the picture. Partly obscured by Pat is Joanna Bressel (white blouse). Others in the picture have yet to be identified.

Angeles area where Miles first worked for an exotic car dealership. This experience led to a position with the California Air Resources Board, where he pioneered research in smog control. Eventually, he set up shop as an *(continued on page 34)*

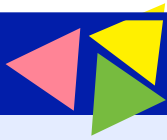


## Ted Pinson *By Don Sparks*

Old time SPSers may recall that Ted and Anna Lou Pinson were stalwart members of the section with a lot of activity in the seventies and eighties. Ted passed away late last November 2015, four days shy of age ninety, and is survived by Anna Lou, his wife of sixty-eight years, and two sons.

I knew Ted and Anna Lou and climbed some with them and fellow neighbor, climber, and BMTC leader Gene Olson over thirty years ago when they lived around the block from me in Northridge. I especially recall climbing North Palisade with all of them from Bishop Pass.

Ted's career was with Bank of America, but he loved the Sierra and the desert. Joining the Sierra Club in 1954 with Anna Lou after visiting the Parsons Memorial Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows, Ted climbed Lamarck, his first SPS peak, on August 5, 1958. He and Ana Lou went on base camp trips and the Sierra Club's last two High Trips in 1970 and 1971, and he became an E leader in BMTC for the San Fernando Valley. Though soft spoken, Ted was a strong, steady hiker and climber, who kept detailed records of peaks climbed, dates, skills required, and the names of the leaders. After retirement in the '80s, he and Anna Lou retired to Tehachapi. He especially loved views of Ritter, Banner, and the Minarets, as do many of us.



## Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Winners of the Mystery Peak Challenge in the previous issue are Bill Oliver (and the extra credit) and Ron Eckelmann.

The answer is Mt. Ritter and Banner Peak as painted by Richard Coons from Rosalie Lake. *Banner & Ritter from Rosalie Lake* is an oil painting, which you can see at the Coons Gallery, 2399 N. Sierra Highway, Bishop, CA 93514. Say hello to SPS member Wynne Benti, the owner of the gallery, when you stop in!

Unlike many artists who went into the backcountry by pack train, Richard Coons hiked in, carrying his own pack. For *Rosalie Lake*, he

hiked from the trailhead carrying the usual overnight items for four days and painting gear, which included a large piece of Belgian linen canvas inside a mailing tube, oil paint, brushes, thinning medium (Turpenoid), stapler, a collapsible easel with stretcher bar system that he designed, and an umbrella. The final painting was 30"x36", a large and atypical size for an outdoor painter. Most painters go into the backcountry by mule with guides and paint on very small boards, which can be easily carried in a mule's pannier, or they don't stray far from their vehicles and supplies. Everything Richard carried was portable and packable. The air is so dry in the Eastern Sierra that oil paint is dry to touch within an hour or two. When he finished painting, he packed everything up, rolled the painting into the mailing tube, strapped it to his pack, and carried it out.

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

[www.sierrapeaks.org](http://www.sierrapeaks.org)

### Passages: Miles Brubacher

*(continued from page 33)*

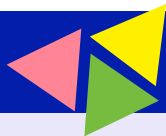
automotive consulting engineer with Toyota and Honda as his primary clients. He continued consulting for a Honda VP into his eighties.

With the SPS, Miles earned his emblem in 1959, and Maureen earned hers in 1969. They also were raising three children and often had them in tow in the mountains. In 1985, with the children having grown up, the Brubachers moved to Kailua on the Isle of Oahu, where they enjoyed both hiking and beach time. Before settling in Hawaii, they took another grand tour of Europe, this time in a VW camper van. After Hawaii, they returned to the mainland in

2000, and the draw of grandchildren prompted them to settle in Shell Beach in San Luis Obispo County. They also maintained a summer home for a time in Canmore, just south of Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada.

Their last attendance at an SPS event was the fiftieth anniversary banquet at Taix in Los Angeles in October 2005. They had driven back from Canmore in time to appear at an SPS old-timers trip near Lone Pine in September and were delighted to have more face-to-face contact with both founding members and newcomers at the banquet. Both remind us of emerging days in the SPS and how sorely they are missed.





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



Our new puzzle is another painting from Wynne Benti's collection at the Coons Gallery, this one painted by Robert Clunie. Name the four SPS peaks featured in this oil painting.

### REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE *ECHO*

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



### PALISADES TRIP-JULY 2016

I'm organizing a mountaineering trip to the east side of the Palisades area of the Sierras July 12-18, 2016. My permit is for a party of four. Objectives: North Pal via the U Notch and Mt Sill. Other peaks along Palisades Crest are also possibilities. Looking for team members willing and able to lead North Pal/U Notch and other class 4 and low class 5 routes on the Palisades.

If interested, contact Rick Abbott—  
[abbsfam@sonic.net](mailto:abbsfam@sonic.net)



# The Sierra Echo

Volume 60 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2016

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

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

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

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

Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or SPS are not tax deductible.

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

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

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

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

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

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