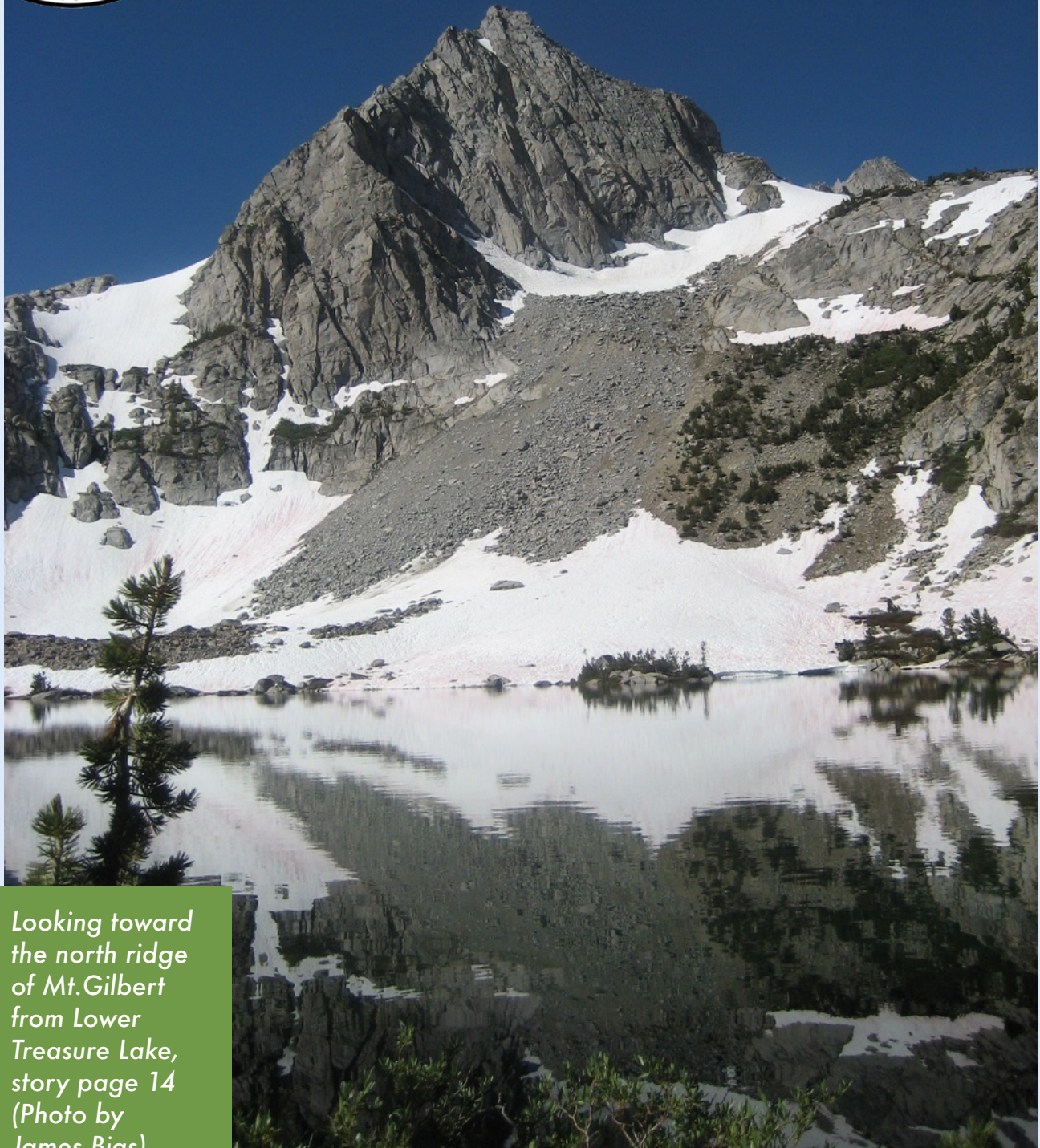




The Sierra Echo

Volume 61 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2017



*Looking toward
the north ridge
of Mt. Gilbert
from Lower
Treasure Lake,
story page 14
(Photo by
James Bias).*

Also in this issue: Colosseum & Baxter, Emerson, Starr King



Echoes from the Chair

By Tina Bowman

As we move into the quiet time of year—for most of us—for climbing Sierra peaks, I hope everyone had a good climbing season. It's now time to look forward to a new management committee and next year's climbing goals and plans.

We're always in need of volunteers to keep the SPS running smoothly. Are you ready to step up and run for the management committee? What about planning trips to lead next year? Or enrolling in the Leadership Training Program to earn your leader rating and get some fantastic training along the way?

In the last issue I reported that our two-year effort to name a peak in the Sierra officially for Dr. Andrew Smatko was shot down and then asked our members to weigh in whether we should unofficially name a peak for Andy and, if so, which peak. The choices were the peak we proposed, which was Andy's last Sierra peak and is in the southern Sierra near Sherman Pass, or the peak near Cottonwood Pass that has

been unofficially dubbed Smatko Peak by peak baggers. (This was the peak we first proposed but then learned of the policy not to give names to unnamed features in wilderness areas.) The response was underwhelming, but Terry Flood, who has climbed both peaks, wrote in, thinking the last peak Andy climb was a more appropriate choice. On the other hand, Matt Hengst was in favor of the Cottonwood Pass peak because "Those [unofficial] names tend to be sticky once they make it into a few trip reports" and suggested making a "nice guide for it with pictures that covers various routes and put that out on the website, summitpost, peakbagger, etc., listing it as created by Sierra Club SPS." I find both good arguments. I suppose there's no real reason there can't be two Smatko Peaks!

It's time to look forward to the annual banquet, which will be on Sunday, January 28th, at Almansor Court in Alhambra again with the happy hour beginning at 5:00 and dinner at 6:30. We're looking forward to a program by Patrick Armstrong, who has been a Sierra snow surveyor for many years. I've been told he gives a very entertaining and informative talk. I'm looking forward to the program and seeing you there.

Happy trails,
Tina

Tina Bowman, tina@bowmanchange.com

Twenty-Fifth Edition of the List

By Tina Bowman, Keeper of the List

Yes, we have another edition of the list with one change for the summit of Colosseum Mtn. The twenty-fifth edition of the list moves the summit for Colosseum Mtn. from the lower east summit to the higher west summit. The 1981 edition of the list used the west summit (12,473'), but editions since the fourteenth in 1986, using the 7.5' topo, moved it to the east (12,451'). The change has the approval of the Keeper of the List and SPS Management Committee. You can find it here at the SPS website: <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/sps-peaks-list>

In this issue:

Chair's Column	2
List Revision	2
Banquet	3
Member News	4-6
Awards	7
Trail Tech	8-9
Colosseum & Baxter	10-12
Mt. Emerson	13
Mt. Johnson	14-15
Starr King	16-17
Outings	18-22
Wilderness Permits	22
SPS Treasurer's Report	23
Mystery Peak Challenge	24-25
Distant Echoes	26-27
Management Committee	27

Call for Nominations!

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

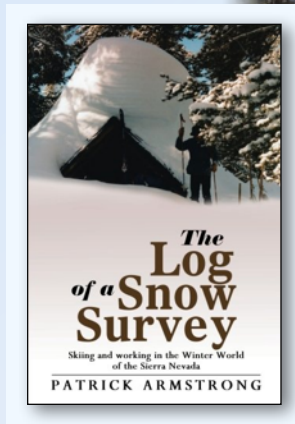
2018 Sierra
Peaks Section
Annual

BANQUET



Snow Surveying in The Sierra Nevada

Presented by Patrick
Armstrong, author of
*The Log of a Snow Survey:
Skiing and Working in
the Winter World of the
Sierra Nevada*



Sunday, January 28, 2018

**Almanson Court
700 S. Almanson St.
Alhambra 91801
626-570-4600
5:00 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner**

Dinner ▲ Drinks ▲ Discussion ▲ Good Cheer

Patrick Armstrong began doing snow surveys in the Sierra in 1972, when he was also on the US Biathlon team, and has done them every winter since. Having been a college instructor, Forest Service wilderness supervisor, trail building contractor, and a commercial fisherman in Alaska, he lives in Bishop and McCall, Idaho, where he has a ranch.

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Number of tickets:

@ \$45 / each if
postmarked by January 18.
Ticket price increases to
\$50 each thereafter.

TOTAL DUE =

Make checks payable to
"Sierra Peaks Section"

Entree choice:

(Please indicate total number of each)

Fish

Vegetarian

Beef

To order tickets by mail, send this form and payment to:

— OR — You may order tickets electronically.

Alexander Smirnoff
1701 Paloma St.
Pasadena, CA 91104

Log on to:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3091658>

(A \$2.57 service fee applies)

Welcome new members!

Coby King

Coby's love of the Sierra goes back to the early 1990s when his father-in-law invited him to join him on a couple of mule pack trips. These trips opened his eyes to the incredible beauty and grandeur of the Sierra, but the mountains seemed unclimbable. After a couple of Sierra Club trips, he caught the peakbagging bug. He is currently on the executive committee of the Lower Peaks Committee and in his second term as chair of the Hundred Peaks Section's Management



Coby King with University Peak behind.

Committee. Climbing peaks in the Sierra is of course another game entirely from climbing our Southern California mountains, and he's looking forward to many more years of exploration and peakbagging in the Range of Light.



Jason Park

James Bias

James's introduction to backpacking and peaks was as a teen with Outward Bound on a twenty-two-day course in the mid 90's. It was a life-changing experience because his instructors and fellow students were incredible. They did approximately eighty miles with 27,000' gain and summited Mt. Silliman, Whaleback, and Thunder Mountain



James Bias at Shadow Creek.

along the way. The love affair with the Sierra was on, but it wasn't for another decade or so before he started getting out in the wilderness with regularity. He discovered the SPS while researching a trip and thought—these are my people! Now he is happy to be counted as a member and looks forward to visiting these grand peaks with like-minded individuals.

Wayne Heusinkveld

Wayne began mountaineering as a teenager, and over several years went on countless trips with the San Francisco Bay Chapter and a few with the Angeles Chapter. Add to that numerous trips with every-day friends, taking delight in bringing them to the summits of Sierra peaks and showing them what a fine experience that is. Wayne thoroughly enjoys the East Side, taking lots of scenery photos, and Sierra peaks from Class 1 to Class 4 (maybe 5 on a good day).



Vish on Mt. Emerson.

Vishwanath Kottignahal

Vishwanath Kottignahal (Vish) likes being outdoors because it's a happy place for him. He started hiking local mountains five years ago and enjoyed them very much. After setting his goal to hike Mt. Whitney, he has done it few times. Now he wants to climb all the 14ers in California and explore more of the Sierra. A member of Sierra Club since 2013, he completed WTC this year and is working towards being an M-level leader and leading climbs for the SPS.



Jon Stinzel on Mt. Aggasiz.

Jon Stinzel

At age seven Jon first backpacked in Yosemite with his mother. The trip turned into a one-nighter after a bear and her cub took down all of the food from the tree. After many years Jon took WTC with then-pregnant-wife Eryn in 2006 with WTC SGV group 5 led by the esteemed Beth Epstein. When Jon, Eryn, and one-month-old daughter Bryce attended WTC graduation that October, Beth had a graduate patch for Bryce, who completed the course in utero. In 2013 Jon returned to backpacking and has since joined WTC SGV group 5 as an I-rated leader and had many backcountry adventures in the Sierra. He looks forward to more.

New members!

Tay Lee

A few years ago, Tay couldn't even imagine climbing to the summit of a mountain, but in 2013 he found the Sierra Nevada's scenery on the way to Alta Peak in Sequoia National Park breathtaking and beautiful. He was motivated to hike so that he could experience climbing mountains and see beautiful nature with his own eyes, not through photographs. He joined the Hundred Peaks Section in 2016, completing that list within a year. Now he has started the next challenge with the goal of SPS list completion.

Heidi Motzkus

In 2014, international travelers Heidi and her husband, SPS member Steven Fiorillo, graduated from WTC, which changed the way they traveled. They learned that they needn't fly thousands of miles to see stunningly beautiful terrain, having the Sierra Nevada so close at hand. Peakbagging is thrilling, but nearly as satisfying is preparing a cup of coffee at camp in the morning and watching the wildlife or just stopping for a moment on the trail to gaze at the glories of nature. They are happy that we have found a new thing they love to do together and hope to climb many more peaks and drink more camp coffee, together!



Heidi Motzkus and Steve Fiorillo on Mt. Whitney.



Tay Lee on Alta Peak.



Sunny Lee

We also welcome new member Michael Chamoun.

Call for Award Nominations!

It's that time of year for members to nominate SPS leaders for the SPS Leadership Award. Established and first given in 1997, the award has been described thus: "Created by the SPS Membership to give recognition to those individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the SPS over the years and who have fostered new leaders."

Please send your nomination and list of qualifications to the chair, Tina Bowman, at tina@bowmanchange.com
For more information, here's what the Policies and Procedures say about the award:

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

Past recipients are

Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell (posthumously), 1997
Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer, 1998
Dan Richter, 1999
Larry Tidball, 2000
Barbee Tidball, 2002
Tina Bowman (Stough), 2015
Neal Robbins, 2016
Kathy Rich, 2017

The SPS now has a Lifetime Achievement Award, first given in 2016 to Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod. Please contact the chair if you would like to nominate someone. Here's the description of the award from the 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 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.



Vote!

Angeles Chapter Elections Are Around the Corner

Just a reminder that all Angeles Chapter members can vote in the chapter elections, starting October 8th and finishing November 17th. We'll be choosing five out of eight candidates for the Executive Committee as well members of regional group management committees. Voting is either by electronic ballot or by paper ballot, upon request. For more information, go to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/vote>

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



Big Agnes Fly Creek UL 1

By Anne Mullins

Over the years, I have made it a goal to make my thru-hikes much more comfortable by using lightweight gear. One of my first upgrades was the Big Agnes Fly Creek UL 1 tent (\$350 retail). Weighing in at only two pounds, this three-season shelter has not let me down. The tent and fly pack down quite small at the bottom of my backpack, and the one pole design folds up nicely so that I can easily fit it in the side of my pack. Tent stakes weigh practically nothing, and I pack them with the poles. The Fly Creek is very easy and quick to set up and break down. The fly provides nice coverage from rain, and there is room under the vestibule for my pack and shoes.

A few summers ago, my tent was put to the test on a three-week thru-hike of the JMT. There was quite a bit of rain the first week of hiking, and my Fly Creek kept me dry. Because setting up camp every afternoon was pretty simple, I would have my tent up in less than five minutes. I stayed dry throughout those rainy nights, and the fly would dry quickly the next morning in the sun.

Above: Anne's Fly Creek UL 1 on a ledge west of North Dome looking across Yosemite Valley. (Photo by Anne Mullins).

TrailTech, continued

I have no complaints about this tent and only a couple of caveats that I would mention. The tent is made of very

lightweight material so if you are hard on your gear, this may not be the ideal tent for you. Also, if you plan to spend a lot of time hanging out in your tent, you may find the space inside a bit limiting. My taller friends have opted for the two-person version, which only adds a few ounces more to your pack, because there is more room to sit up and space for your things.

I have used my Fly Creek on many multi-day trips, and it is still in great condition. When I had

some trouble with the doorway zipper not closing (due to wear and tear), I was able to send the tent back to Big Agnes for repairs at a very minimal price. Big Agnes was very helpful, and the turnaround for the repair did not take long.

Someday though, I will retire my tent and opt for the newer version of the Fly Creek, which has less mesh to shave off a few more ounces.

Until then, my Fly Creek is my "home away from home."



Top and bottom: taut pitching is important with the minimalist DAC poles and lightweight fabric of the Fly Creek UL 1. (Photos courtesy of Big Agnes, not to scale).

Middle: The vestibule and interior of Anne's tent (Photo by Anne Mullins).

Smoke and Suncups— Colosseum and Baxter

June 30 - July 3, 2017

By Tina Bowman



I had been nervous enough about the snow conditions and stream crossings to scout out this trip a week before it began—the stream crossings were no problem, and the first patches of snow on the trail began at about 9600'. So we were good to give it a go.

A group of six met at the Sawmill Pass trailhead early Friday, June 30th, with the goal to be signed in and on the trail at 5:00. The trail begins at about 4600' and climbs to over 11,300' at the pass, and we knew it would be hot in the Owens Valley. At 5:20 we were on our way with co-leader Gary Schenk sweeping and participants Linda Sun, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Jim Morehouse, and Kaz Iwasaki sandwiched between the leaders.

With two breaks after an hour of hiking each, we reached the ridge and crossed into the Sawmill Creek drainage before 7:50, looking down to the creek and its overflow streams. The trail then loses a couple of hundred feet of elevation before starting to climb back up below the Hogsback. At 8:25 we stopped for a break beside the stream, the first really easily accessible water, though we'd been paralleling the stream for a little ways. On we went, crossing this small stream three times before gaining the Hogsback and soon reaching the lower end of Sawmill Meadow about 9:50, resting there till 10:15.

Above: on the summit of Colosseum, left to right: Gary Schenk, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Jim Morehouse, Kaz Iwasaki and Linda Sun (Photo by Tina Bowman).

The next section of trail climbs in switchbacks and then straightens out a bit before reaching Mule Lake. Taking a half-hour break to regroup and rest, we started again just after noon, climbing the first snow patch we'd encountered, a steep one, to reach Mule Lake, and went on over another patch and one more short one to reach the outlet of Sawmill Lake, where we had lunch, gathering at about 12:40 and starting again about 1:30. Encountering more and more snow on the trail as we went, we eventually went up a snow slope rather than try to follow the trail, which we soon found again. From here it was fairly obvious where to go to gain the pass. My guess was that the trail zig-zagged up a short snow-covered cliff, so we went around it and ended a few feet higher than the pass. We walked down to check out the pass signs, old wood and new metal, and I looked around a snow-melt lake there in the hope of finding decent sandy spots for camping. No, too rocky. We went down the trail from the pass a bit towards Woods Lake and found some decent flat, sandy spots to camp with a snow-melt stream not far away. Jim camped at a good spot above three of the other tents; I went across the stream to another nice spot. It was just after 5:00 by the time I settled on my spot, rather like a dog circling before lying down. Stats for the day: about ten miles, 7200' gain. Whew!

Smelling smoke, Saturday we gathered at my tent before taking off at 6:15 for Colosseum, first on dirt, then on snow, headed for the farther of two chutes we'd been eyeing. Reaching the bottom of the chute at 7:50, we took a



break before climbing the rather loose chute, regrouping at its head and heading onto the broad plateau before 9:00, reaching the summit at 9:30. Or was it the summit? High and low we looked but found no register. We consulted maps—yes, we were on the named summit. Eventually we went over to the other prominent point on the plateau and found the register, placed in 1992 by Vi Grasso, who was Mountain Records Chair at the time. After all signed in, I took it back to the named summit. (According to our esteemed Mountain Records Chair, Harry Langenbacher, the western summit is higher, the 7.5' topo I used is wrong, and the register belongs on the west point. Please, if you climb Colosseum, move the register from the east to the west summit—it won't take long. The list should be revised to show the higher elevation because it has the lower east summit's elevation listed.) Not liking the chute we came up, we descended the west ridge of Colosseum to the saddle between it and Cedric Wright, a very pleasant route.

The trip announcement included Mt. Cedric Wright for a possible climb on the trip, but the snow looked steep and a beautiful unnamed lake a little below the saddle beckoned to us for lunch. So much for Cedric Wright! All but Gary and Jim enjoyed a snooze after lunch at the lake before we made our way back to camp for a restful afternoon. Some of us

gathered for dinner or at least a social time, and the others saw a fine buck wandering near camp earlier.

Sunday found us starting for Baxter via the north ridge, following the drainage on the west side of the ridge until we took a chute up to the ridge. Mary Jo elected to stay in camp and enjoy the day reading. Leaving camp just after 6:00, we put on crampons when we reached the snow a few minutes later and kept them on most of the way to the chute we ascended. We started up that about 9:00, taking care not to climb one another as much as possible because of the loose rock. We regrouped above the chute, taking a break of about twenty minutes for those of us in front. On we went before 10:00 up and onto and then south along the ridge. The front group of Linda, Kaz, and me reached the summit just before 11:00, going on the east side of the ridge for the last section. We found the register placed by Darrick Danta in 2006, signed in, and looked around. Unfortunately, smoke from a wildfire made the view quite hazy, worse than it had been (maybe from the Diaz fire on Diaz Creek out of Lone Pine). I could see Jim and Gary coming along the ridge and waved. After twenty minutes, we three started down, meeting the other two where the climb steepens. With the care needed in the loose chute and the sun cups, I was concerned that it might take quite awhile to return to camp and estimated it would take Gary



Top: Mary Jo Dungfelder and Gary Schenk climbing the Colosseum chute (Photo by Tina Bowman). Right: Tina Bowman and Jim Morehouse near Sawmill Pass (Photo by Mary Jo Dungfelder).



Clockwise from top: Kaz Iwasaki in the crawlspace; Kaz and Mary Jo Dungfelder between Sawmill Pass and Sawmill Lake; bear prints east of Sawmill Pass (Photos by Tina Bowman).

and Jim at the very minimum forty-five minutes to reach the summit, sign-in, and come right back down. The leaders decided to have the group begin the descent, not a popular decision with Jim, understandably.

Without GPS waypoints, we reached the head of the chute, which isn't visible from the ridge. We moved as a group zigging one way, grouping, zagging the other, regrouping till we could angle along out of the bottom of the chute. A ways beyond the chute we took a break for lunch at 1:45, then continued on talus and snow back to camp. Just after 3:00 I heard the noise of small rockfall and looked toward the ridge to see five bighorn rams; luckily, they didn't move off until we all had seen them. What a treat! We also had fun after a break where the rocks were piled so as to form a window above and a crawlspace below. With Linda setting an example, we crawled through. Silly, but different. It was just a short walk around to avoid having to crawl on hands and



knees, so Jim took the more dignified route. Linda's boot sole was coming unglued, so duct tape to the rescue! I was surprised that we were back to camp about 4:15—the snow went better than I had expected.

Linda, a very strong and experienced climber, packed up and signed out to get a head start on getting home to San Jose. She was on her way about 4:30. The rest of us debated whether to move over the pass and down to Sawmill Lake or farther but decided to stay where we were. About 6:30 Kaz was the first to spot a bear heading to the pass and being harassed by a couple of ravens. The bear paid no attention to us, but we certainly enjoyed watching him run over the snow.

Monday, July 3rd, about 6:15 we five began to make our way over sun cups to the pass and down, often following the bear's prints and Linda's. Far below, the Owens Valley was under a pall of smoke. We took a break at the outlet of Sawmill Lake, starting again at 8:45, soon passing the last snow, the steep bank just below Mule Lake. With Gary in the lead, we motored down the switchbacks, past Sawmill Meadow, and down along the base of the Hogsback, taking a break at the second stream crossing and very briefly at the last water. We crossed the ridge about 11:20 and stopped a little before noon for a break, most of us reaching the cars before 12:45. Kaz, a very strong newcomer to climbing, was soon on his way home, as were the rest of us. Linda's car was gone, so we know the bear hadn't carried her away. Though the Sawmill Pass Trail is a tough one, this fine group handled it well.



At the civilized hour of noon on Saturday, August 26, eight congenial hikers met at the North Lake campground, and Mat Kelliher led us on the short backpack to Loch Leven. At camp, folks lounged and explored, and the more intrepid submerged themselves in the waterfalls above the inlet. The hungry late summer mosquitos didn't deter us from a relaxed happy hour. In the morning Mat led us up the SE Face, surprisingly enjoyable and relatively solid class 2 and 3 along



Mt. Emerson

August 26-27, 2017

By Beth Epstein



Top: Looking down the SE gully across the North Fork of Bishop Creek and the Evolution peaks. Bottom: Anne Marie Richardson, Saveria Tilden and Beth Epstein on the summit ridge, Mt. Humphreys behind (Photos by Vish Nath).

Above: Vish Nath, Ainesh Sewak, Saveria Tilden, Mat Kelliher, Anne Marie Richardson, Gracia Delavida, Kim Gimenez, and Beth Epstein on the summit (Photo by Mat Kelliher).

the wall and atop the ridge rising from the low buttress bisecting Loch Leven. The descent required some care, but we were eating at the Burger Barn in Bishop by 4:30. This climb is often done as a dayhike but it was fun to get to know a bunch of great folks and strong climbers and spend a leisurely weekend in a beautiful spot.



Mt. Johnson: SPS Intro Trip, July 22-23, 2017

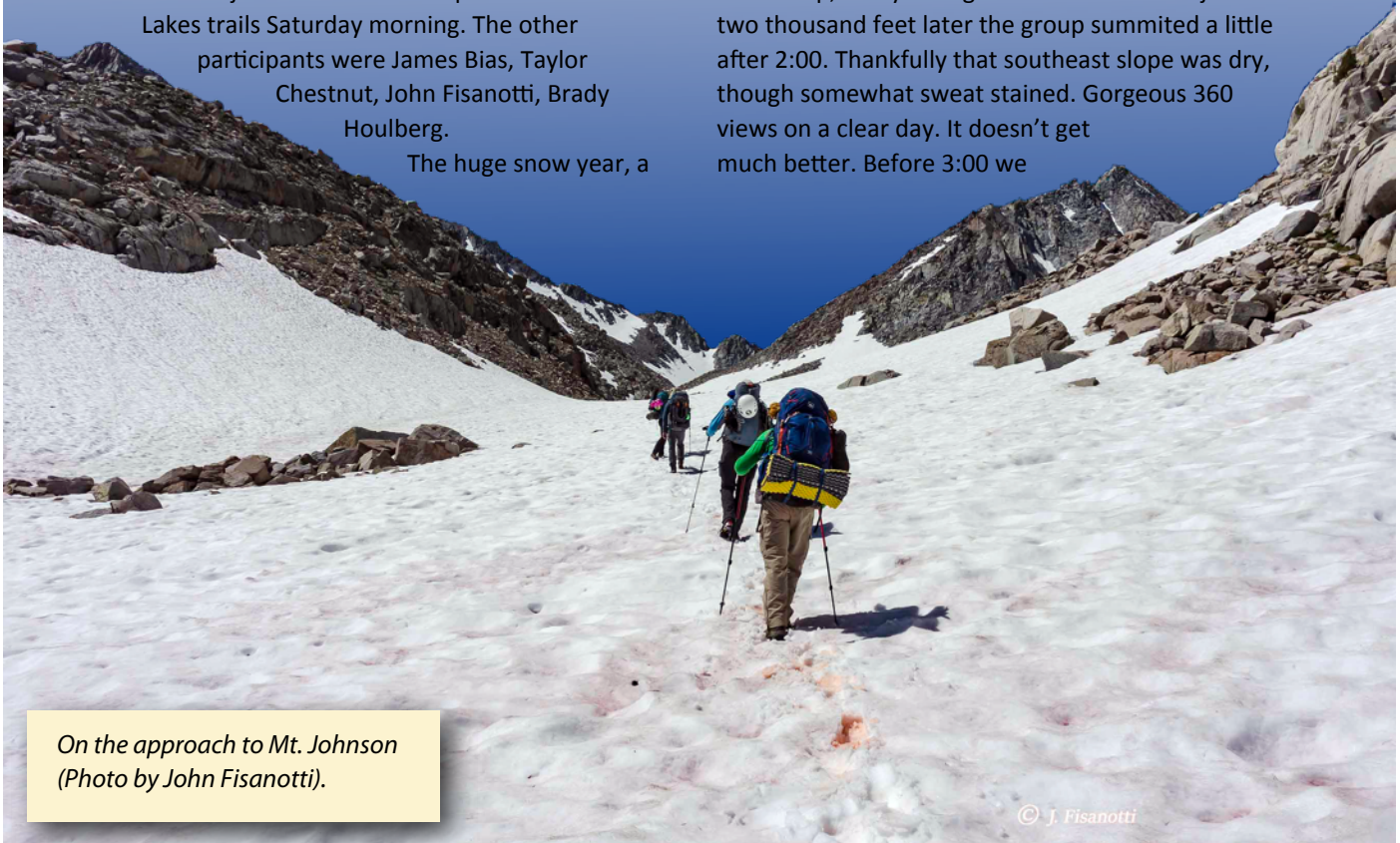
By Rudy Fleck

Months ago Tina Bowman put out a request to a few leaders, asking if anyone would be interested in co-leading an introductory hike for aspiring SPSers, especially that reservoir of eager Wilderness Travel Course students looking for experience trips in order to graduate. Since I enjoy hiking with Tina, whose gravity tends to balance out my levity, I agreed to try to put something together. And, in light of her many years of having done this kind of thing, which, let's face it, can be tedious, if not daunting, and in light of my having done very little of it, I volunteered to do the organizing. After a number of improbable suggestions on my part, we agreed on Mt. Johnson. Having secured the six reservable permits for the Treasure Lakes trail, I was struck by buyer's remorse; seemed like a big effort for a small number of people. Sanguine Tina allayed my fears after we came up with a plan to try for some additional walk-in permits.

As I suppose is typical, we had a fluctuating wait list and, after much email correspondence, were all set until the week prior to our hike, when the walk-in permit plan fell through. It was a good thought. How did people ever do this before texting and email? Jon Stinzel came in on his own permit the day before our trip and climbed Agassiz, then met us at the junction of the Bishop Pass and Treasure Lakes trails Saturday morning. The other participants were James Bias, Taylor Chestnut, John Fisanotti, Brady Houlberg.

The huge snow year, a

week's worth of high water warnings, and an increasing chance of rain on our projected summit day were of some concern as we set off on a beautiful Saturday morning from South Lake. When last seen in 2016, the lake looked like a dry bathtub with a small surviving puddle. On this morning it was full to the brim, fed by gushing creeks, six of which we crossed with bridges or something very like one. The trail eventually crossed a narrow outlet between two good-sized lakes. Clever of everyone to have brought wading shoes and get to experience the onset of frozen legs. Not long after, the intermittent snow banks became a sunny wonderland of snow and rock. The questions of access to the dry (we hoped) southeast slope of Johnson and of possible campsites prompted the leaders to start up the drainage of the next day's planned climb as it was still before noon and a bit of exploring is never a bad idea. Looking down from a saddle onto the second to the last lake in line to the southeast slope, Tina brilliantly suggested we summit after a quick lunch. The snow was perfect, we were looking at some possibly steep slopes, and there was that projected rain probability as well as the certainty of hard morning snow. An AHAAA moment if there ever was one. Having lulled our participants with our solid leadership, everyone agreed to the idea and just short of two thousand feet later the group summited a little after 2:00. Thankfully that southeast slope was dry, though somewhat sweat stained. Gorgeous 360 views on a clear day. It doesn't get much better. Before 3:00 we



On the approach to Mt. Johnson
(Photo by John Fisanotti).

© J. Fisanotti



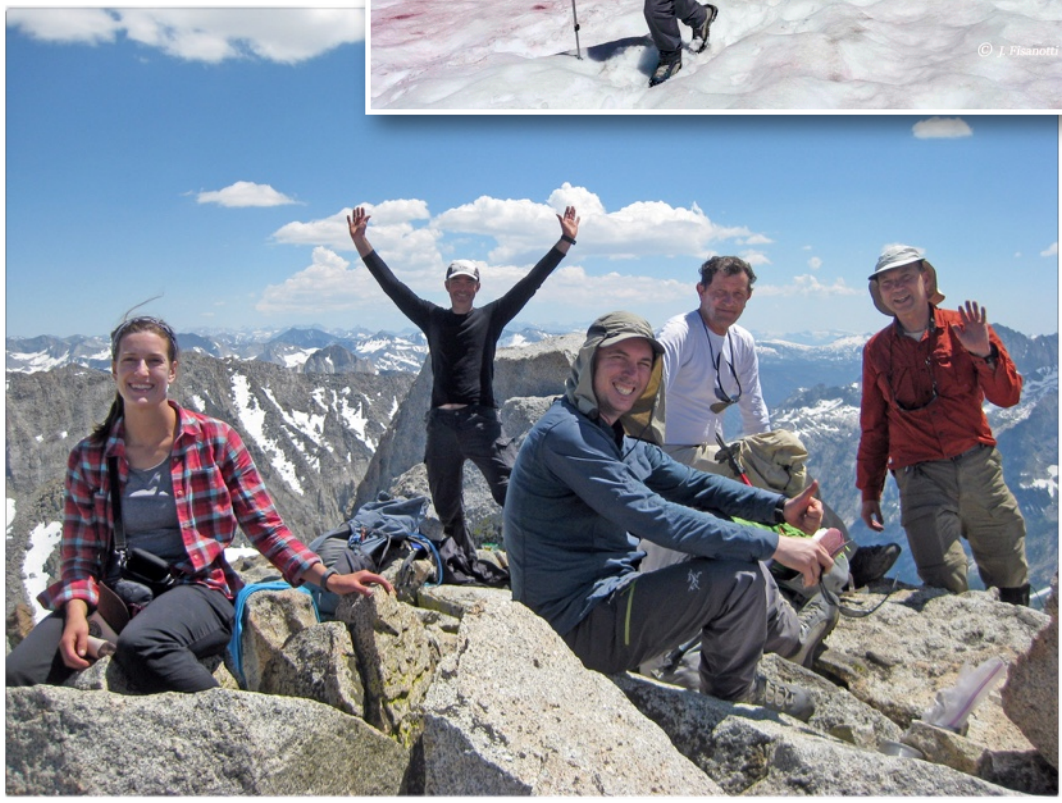
At left: checking out the route to Mt. Johnson. Middle: James Bias, Taylor Chestnut, and Jon Stinzel on the ascent (Photos by John Fisanotti). Bottom, L to R: Taylor Chestnut, Jon Stinzel, James Bias, Rudy Fleck, John Fisanotti on the summit of Mt. Johnson (Photo by Tina Bowman).



were on our way back down.

From above, we noted a possible dry area around the largest of the three lakes in a row at 11,000'. After a short drop into that drainage, we were rewarded at about 4:40 with the perfect Sierra camping area: numerous flat rocks and sandy benches and a view worthy of eating up all remaining camera memory.

A well-earned casual Sunday morning still allowed our getting back to the cars before noon. We all gathered at the Pizza Factory for lunch to celebrate a fine, successful outing. A video of highlights can be seen at YouTube rfleck3 videos.



Mount Starr King

February 29 - March 4, 2016

By Alvin Walter

During the winter when most climbers are not pursuing peaks, I like to break out my skis and go exploring new possibilities. In the winter of 2015/2016, I decided to look at a nice little cluster of SPS peaks in Yosemite National Park that I deemed most reachable from Badger Pass. When planning such a mini-week-long solo expedition, I try to keep the weight down, but once I start piling on the crampons, ice axe, cold weather gear, skis, and boots, my pack can get heavy, which meant I wasn't going to be setting any speed or distance records.

My initial goal was to ski down to and across Illilouette Creek to set up a base camp for exploring. Well this was not a very big snow year, so the snow bridges weren't as sturdy as I would have liked and after breaking through and sinking up to one knee on my left leg and one boot on my right, I decided to make camp without crossing to try to dry my boots and pants out. By morning the pants were frozen stiff, so I didn't exactly bolt right up at 6:30 a.m. as it wasn't even light yet. But I finally got moving upstream, looking for a better snow bridge around mid-morning and was able to make it across and set up an excellent base camp for Starr King.

The next day I got off to what I considered an early start with just a daypack to check out the snow that I expected to see on the north side of the 5th class rated Mt. Starr King. The snowpack was nicely consolidated, so I was able to make good time and saw that the snow went up as far as I could see. The terrain steepened quickly and before long I was taking off my skis and putting on my crampons and breaking out my ice axe. The view looking up showed steep but probably do-able climbing if the snow remained as snow and not ice. The angle of the snow surface was consistently 45 degrees and greater. The exposure was intimidating to me as I knew that if a crampon didn't hold I would be destined to be a pin ball headed straight to a forest that wasn't going to let me get through without some serious collisions. Keeping my focus on my immediate vicinity with occasional



Above: Mt. Starr King with the continuous snowfield on its north slope.
Below: the register (Photos by Alvin Walter).

stops to hyperventilate, I stepped into some soft pockets near the top where there was a hint of a cornice in that it was the final and steepest section before I would feel at ease.

The summit is a large, nearly flat dome with an easy walk to a conspicuous high point. Seeing the bolted down custom aluminum register wasn't what I expected but was pleased to see. The weather was clear, and the views were as spectacular as they can get. Yosemite Falls was gushing at maximum water volume. Half Dome, which was my first Sierra peak in 1967 and on which I spent the night to watch the firefall be pushed off Glacier Point, dominated the view of the Valley. Mount Clark, Gray Peak, and Red Peak stood higher to the east with snow all around.

I was on the summit for about forty-five minutes, taking in much of the grandeur all around, then decided to begin my downclimb facing into the mountain for about 90% of the way down. At the bottom, I switched from crampons to skis and enjoyed such an exceptional ski down that I overshot my camp and wound up having to do the climb back up well past sunset.

After a good night's rest, it was time to move camp higher, which was an all-day effort. The following day was spent exploring the North Arete of Mount Clark. I



got within 100 to 200 vertical feet of the summit and was stopped by clear water ice that I wasn't prepared to deal with. The views from my high point were again spectacular. The ski back to camp was on virtual ego snow and led straight to camp this time.

For the next day, I set my site on Gray Peak and was making decent progress on the West Ridge as the wind picked up, clouds came in, and snow began to fall. I looked at my overall situation and decided I would have to try Gray again at some other time. The weather looked like it was going to show me its wintery side, and my best option was to head back to camp.

During the night, I got about a foot of new snow and was at my turn around time for the trip; so, I headed back over the next couple of days, wrapping up time well spent exploring Yosemite's backcountry during winter.

Epilogue on that cluster of mountains that I went to explore: The following summer, I went back into the same area solo and added Gray, Merced, Red, and Clark mountains to my list of completed SPS Peaks.

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



**Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST**
By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted
M, L & XL in Sand & Ash
\$12 plus \$3.50 shipping
(\$4 shipping when ordering 2 or more shirts). Send your order to:
Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive
Topanga, CA 90290
Make check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40



Dare to Lead! Fall Leadership Training Seminar Set for October 7, 2017

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

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered October 7th at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena. Deadline to register is September 23rd.

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

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

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

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



Ascending Mt. Emerson on August 27, 2017 (Photo by Mat Kelliher).

We've chosen the photo above showing climbers ascending Mt. Emerson on an SPS trip 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 or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

Sep 29-Oct 1 | Fri-Sun

SPS

M: Matterhorn Pk (12,279'), Whorl Mtn (12,033'), Twin Pks (12,323'): Fri backpack 5.5 mi, 3700' gain to camp near Horse Creek Pass. Fri afternoon climb Matterhorn Pk (Emblem), 2 mi, 1600' gain. Sat climb 3rd class Whorl Mtn (Mountaineers Pk) via southeast chute, 4.5 mi and 3100' gain. Sat afternoon or Sun morning climb Twin Pk, 2 mi, 1400' gain. Sun pack out and head to the infamous Whoa Nellie Deli to celebrate. Totals for the outing are 19 mi and 6700' gain. Climbing

helmets and recent experience on 3rd class alpine rock and loose talus are mandatory. Email climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Philip Bates, Co-Ldr: Rod Kieffer.

Oct 6-8 | Fri-Sun

SPS

ER: Thunderbolt Pk (14,003'): Climb one of the most spectacular and technical Mountaineers Peaks. Early Fri depart from South Lake Parking Lot Bishop Pass TH. Hike on trail to Bishop Pass, continue off trail to make camp on benches SE of Thunderbolt Pass (7 mi, 3000' gain). Alpine start Sun to climb Thunderbolt via Southwest Chute 1 (1 mi, 1800' gain). We will return to camp and TH via same route. Technical gear: climbing helmet, alpine harness, ATC, 2 standard and 1 double 6mm prusiks, 2 locking biners, 1 non-locking wire gate biner. Mandatory

SPS outings can always be viewed online on the electronic Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities:

<http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/activities>

<http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/outings-schedule>

OUTINGS

alpine climbing skills: rappelling, ascending rope with prusiks, and climbing on class 4 terrain. Email climbing resume and altitude training info to Ldr: Philip Bates. Asst. Ldr. Neal Robbins.

Oct 7 | Sat **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Next seminar: Spring 2018.

Oct 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.

Oct 11 | Wed **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This will be an indoor workshop held in the evening, reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets, basic climbing gear, and knots in preparation for later workshops. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Oct 14 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will focus on belaying and related principles, starting with standard sport climbing all the way up to advanced techniques to move large groups across dangerous terrain. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr:

Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Oct 21 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Anchors and Real World Application: Third of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will focus on rappelling using a variety of techniques with a heavy emphasis on redundancy, safety, and efficiency. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Oct 28-29 | Sat-Sun **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Anchors and Real World Application: Fourth of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on building anchors and applying previously learned skills in real world climbing situations with multiple participants. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Phil Bates 949-786-8475 philipabates@gmail.com
Richard Boardman 310-374-4371
Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 dianedunbar@charter.net
Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Jack Kieffer 714-522-1376 jockorock42@yahoo.com
Rod Kieffer 310-259-9938 rodkieffer@yahoo.com
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 pamckusky@att.net
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
Neal Robbins 310-540-5089 neal.robbins@l-3com.com
Ann Shields 818-637-2542 apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

OUTINGS

Visit the SPS website for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sps>

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

Nov 3-5 | Fri-Sun

LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:15 am Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$250 (full refund until 9/22). For sign-up, see instructions and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Nov 11-12

| Sat-Sun

LTC

M/E-R: Rock: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff and Practice: M- and E-level rock checkoff and

practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Saturday and optionally checkoff Sunday. Restricted to active Sierra Club members with previous rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. Email climbing resume to leader to apply. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Dan Richter.

Nov 18 | Sat

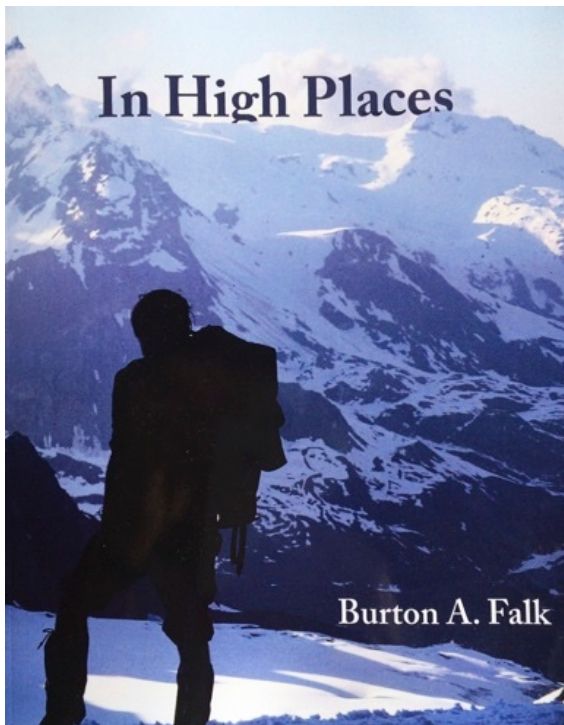
LTC, WTC

M-R: Navigation: Workshop on 3rd class terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, cl 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

Nov 18-19 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills



JUST PUBLISHED! IN HIGH PLACES

By Burton A. Falk

A collection of 57 essays, most of which originally appeared in The Sierra Echo, describing 40+ years of climbing world-wide high points, including Denali, Aconcagua, the sometimes wettest place on earth, a first ascent in Chile, the Soviet Pamirs, remote Atlantic and Pacific islands. and, most recently, with four grandchildren.

AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM

OUTINGS

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

Dec 10 | Sun 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.

Jan 6-7, 2018 | Sat-Sun LTC

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation

Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice,

Call for Outings!

By Gary Schenk, Outings Chair

The Leadership Training Committee has adopted new procedures to expedite requests for the Provisional Lead Committee (PLC) to grant M/E provisional status or to approve M/E provisional outings. The target is to turn around all requests within ten days and to keep the candidate fully informed during the review process.

The following email address has been established to facilitate communication with the PLC:

ltprovisionalleadcommittee@gmail.com.

The following requests should be sent to this new email address:

- Requests to be granted M- or E-level provisional status. The request shall be accompanied by a comprehensive climbing resume. The request shall specifically indicate whether the request is for M-Rock, M-Snow, Full-M, E-Rock, E-Snow, or Full-E.
- Requests for approval of a proposed M- or E-level provisional trip. The request shall be accompanied by a draft Application for Mountaineering Outing Approval. A copy of the application form can be found at

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/leadership_and_outings_resources_forms.

To all leaders submitting restricted trips whether provisional or not, it's best to submit your trip well in advance to allow ample opportunity for review by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee. Instant response cannot always be guaranteed as the committee members are often out and about in, you guessed it, the mountains!

Now's a good time to start planning next year's trips or even local conditioning hikes. The local mountains also give us opportunities to offer snow experience to newcomers to the section.

So there's plenty of food for thought. Questions about outings can always be addressed to gary@hbfun.org

OUTINGS

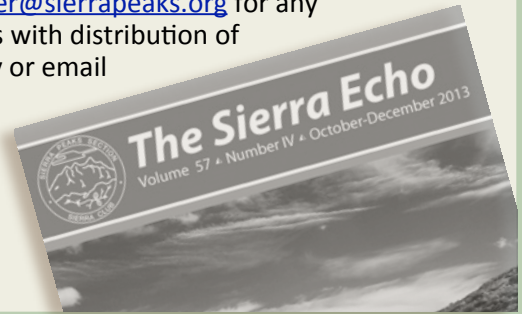
Jan 6-7, 2018 | Sat-Sun

LTC Navigation

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

REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE *ECHO*

Please contact this email address newsletter@sierrapeaks.org for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or email versions.



Wilderness Permit Info

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

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home
Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

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

KERN PLATEAU

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

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

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

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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

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

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

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

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

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia
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: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra>
Ansel Adams Wilderness—North Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
Phone: (559) 887-2218

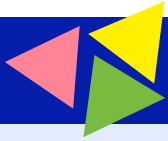
Ansel Adams Wilderness—South John Muir, Kaiser and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses
Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District
29688 Auberry Road
Prather, CA 93651
Phone: (559) 855-5355

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.com. 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 09-24-2017												
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	YTD
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
INCOME												
Echo Subscriptions	1,570	950	450	180	120	60	20	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630
Banquet Income	2,795	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,940	4,610	4,110	3,760
Donations	670	420	160	60	30	15	-	340	440	575	651	873
Merchandise Sales	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	395	262
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	5,060	1,370	610	240	150	75	20	5,014	4,767	7,021	6,716	6,525
EXPENSES												
Postage	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	609	(4)	14	938	522
Printing	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433
Merchandise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,553	3,500	-	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710
Bank Fees	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	10	6	18
Website	96	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	36	84
Charitable contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	200	200
Outreach	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	899	254
Membership meetings/activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,257	174
Register Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	3,899	3,520	-	-	-	-	-	4,821	5,103	7,019	9,048	6,583
OVERALL TOTAL	1,161	(2,150)	610	240	150	75	20	193	(336)	2	(2,332)	(58)



Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

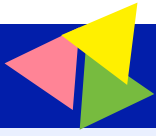


Last issue's sunrise photo by Hal Browder was taken from Meysan Lake and features Mts. Mallory and Irvine.

Wilderness First Aid Course

Learn wilderness first aid during an intensive three-day course that will teach you how to stay safe in the outdoors. The spring Wilderness First Aid Course will be offered May 4-6 for a cost of \$275, which includes food and lodging. For more information, see <http://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>.





Mystery Peak Challenge

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



The summit of this peak frames the view of another peak on the list—can you name them both? Send your answer to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.

**Don't
Forget
to Renew!**

Don't let your *Sierra Echo* subscription expire! 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

Distant Echoes / The Patriarchs

We thought now and then you might enjoy photos and stories from the early days of the SPS. In the early 1980s, this fun piece was published in the Echo, anonymously. Long-time member Dave Vandervoet has stepped forward as the author and submitted this for your present edification and amusement. Enjoy!—the Editors

Editor:

While climbing a route on Ragged Spur, we spent a night on a ledge overlooking the Enchanted Gorge and we contemplated the people in the SPS and remarked how the SPS resembles a "family" with people assuming various roles. We then categorized these roles and identified certain people in each role. Our results are provided for your comment and perhaps this may help you pass a long evening in discussion.

Category: The Ancients
Description: A person who has permeated all facets of the SPS and whose opinion is accepted as direction by most members
Example: Russell, McRuer, Jones

Category: The Patriarchs
Description: A person (male) who has completed The List
Example: Mantle, et al

Category: The Matriarchs
Description: A person (female) who has completed The List
Example: Lilley (see description in "Downward Bound" by Warren Harding), et al

Category: Dust
Description: A person who started climbing peaks back in the days when John Robinson led 60 people up Cartego from the Owens Valley and still climbs today. These people are generally in the background and attract little public attention
Example: Glassner, K. Davis

Category: Mist
Description: A person who was active in the SPS and is now climbing The Great Mountain in the Sky
Example: Kellow, Henry, Stephenson

Category: Old Soldiers
Description: A person who climbed actively with the SPS but now pursues other activities
Example: Petitjean, Hellman

Category: Braves
Description: A person of less than 10 years membership who fervently chases The List
Example: Most of the membership

Category: Pathfinder
Description: A person who climbs mountains, not necessarily ones on The List, for aesthetic reasons and uses non-standard routes
Example: D. Beach

Name Withheld by Request

Somewhat Distant Echoes / Cassini

In "Distant Echoes" on page 26, you'll find Dave Vandervoet's categories of SPS members with descriptions and examples. Here we have another article from him, describing his work in the 1990s for the spacecraft Cassini, which met its planned demise recently on Saturn. Dave is seen standing on the left in a photo taken during his years working on the spacecraft.



On September 15, SPS longtime member Dave Vandervoet's name was converted to ions in the planetary solar system when the Cassini spacecraft deorbited into the surface of Saturn. Back in the mid-1990s, a TRW group of engineers managed by Vandervoet developed the Cassini solid-state recorder and delivered it to the spacecraft, keeping the launch schedule intact. The solid-state recorder was used to store images of Saturn taken when Cassini was out of sight of Earth and could not transmit the images directly back to Earth. A previous contractor had been struggling with the design, and the launch schedule was in jeopardy when TRW took on the challenge. In recognition of the just-in-time hardware delivery, Vandervoet was offered the opportunity to add his signature to nine other signatures attached to a plaque on the spacecraft structure.

During its thirteen years at Saturn, Cassini spotted massive hurricanes on the planet's poles and observed the birth of mini-moonlets in the rings of Saturn. It also found six new confirmed moons and a number of faint rings. Among its most dazzling discoveries was the presence of hydrocarbon lakes and seas on Saturn's largest moon, Titan, the only other body besides Earth known to have standing liquid on its surface. Most amazingly, Cassini was the first to see great plumes of water ice particles gushing from fissures in the moon Enceladus—a find no one saw coming.

Fortunately, SPS climbers can still see Saturn on a clear night when camping in The Range of Light.

2017 SPS Management Committee

Elected

Tina Bowman	Chair chair@sierrapeaks.org
Jim Fleming	Vice-chair/banquet vicechair@sierrapeaks.org
Alexander Smirnoff	Treasurer treasurer@sierrapeaks.org
Paul Garry	Secretary secretary@sierrapeaks.org
Lisa Miyake	Fifth officer/outreach outreach@sierrapeaks.org

Appointed

Archives	Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
Echo editors	Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com , Beth Epstein
Echo mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Paul Garry, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Shane Smith, Ron Bartell
IT Support	Greg Mason admin@sierrapeaks.org , Matt Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Keeper of the List	Tina Bowman
Merchandise	Patty Kline patriciakline@aol.com
Mountain Records	Harry Langenbacher register@langenbacher.org
Outings	Gary Schenk gary@hbfun.org
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum webmaster@sierrapeaks.org
Assistant Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org



Regional Representatives

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



The Sierra Echo

Volume 61 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2017

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

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

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

The Sierra Echo is the property of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter. All rights reserved. The Sierra Peaks Section maintains a website at www.sierraclub.org/sps

Subscriptions \$10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. Subscribing to the *Echo* is a requirement for 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

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be downloaded from the website here: <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/sps-peaks-list>

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

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

**Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Sierra Peaks Section
3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED