



The Sierra Echo

Volume 62 ▲ Number 3 ▲ July-September 2018



In This Issue: Whitney Area Dayhikes,
Nifty Ninety, Passages: John Robinson

Looking west from the Whitney Trail to the Kaweahs, Mt
Hitchcock, and Hitchcock Lakes(Photo by Mumtaz Shamsee).



Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, my fellow Sierra Nevada enthusiasts! The high season for climbing is shortly going to be upon us, so leaders need to get their thinking caps on and put those trips together so we will have a

robust schedule for the summer. I would like to thank our Outings Chair, Gary Schenk, for his years of service to the Section—we wouldn't have a successful program if it weren't for folks like Gary doing the work to get trips scheduled. We have a new Outings Chair taking the place of Gary, Phillip Bates, and I am sure you will all welcome him into his new role. I appreciate that Phil has been willing to take over a very busy and important position to help the section. Thank you very much, Phil!

On a sad note, you may already have learned that one of our great members and leaders, John W. Robinson, recently passed away. He was a legendary writer of local guidebooks, and a very knowledgeable and inspirational figure. His early

books, like the iconic *Trails of the Angeles*, inspired many young hikers and gave wonderful guidance. I am very fortunate to have his first edition of *Trails of the Angeles*. Upon my request to have him sign it (years later), he quipped, "I hope you're not still using this!" He meant that particular edition, of course. But I often use it to remember what those early hiking days were like. We will miss John, a great mentor and friend.

Finally, we are going to need to have some members step up and serve on the nominating committee and elections committee. We need three members for these very important functions in order to conduct the annual election of officers. One can serve on both if desired. So, who will take on this responsibility? Kindly let a member of the current management committee know. If you would like to run for the next Mcomm, let us know also. See y'all in the Sierra!

Jim Fleming, chair@sierrapeaks.org

The Echo Needs YOU!

We need YOU to submit reports of SPS and private climbs, Trail Tech articles, Mystery Peak challenges, and anything else you think would be of interest to *Echo* readers! Please send submissions to co-editor Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com. Thanks!

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Save the date!

The 2019 annual banquet will be held on Sunday, January 27th, at Almansor court, Alhambra. The speaker will be Sophie Cairns, talking about her project to climb the Seven Volcanoes, the highest volcano on each continent. Be there or be square!

2018 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



Elected

Jim Fleming	Chair chair@sierrapeaks.org
Paul Garry	Vice-chair/banquet vicechair@sierrapeaks.org
Alexander Smirnoff	Treasurer treasurer@sierrapeaks.org
Laura Newman	Fifth officer/outreach outreach@sierrapeaks.org
Tina Bowman	Secretary tina@bowmanchange.com

Appointed

Archives	Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
<i>Echo</i> editors	Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com , Beth Epstein
<i>Echo</i> mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Tina Bowman, 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	Phil Bates philipabates@gmail.com
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org

Regional Representatives

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

Our New Outings Chair

Thanks to Gary Schenk for serving as our fine outings chair for a number of years. Welcome and thank you to new outings chair Phil Bates (yes, we now have two SPS members both named Philip Bates! This one is Philip A. Bates).



Welcome new members!

Larry Edmonds

Larry has been backpacking in the Sierra for the past thirty-five years. The trips began as fly-fishing trips to remote lakes but in more recent years have become trips to escape into his favorite mountain range. Always having enjoyed the challenge of a good peak climb and the resulting views, he has become much more peak focused in the past ten years. He has completed the San Diego County 100 peaks list, climbed 123 of the peaks on the HPS list, as well as a number of DPS and SPS peaks. He's looking forward to many more Sierra peaks and meeting other members of the SPS.

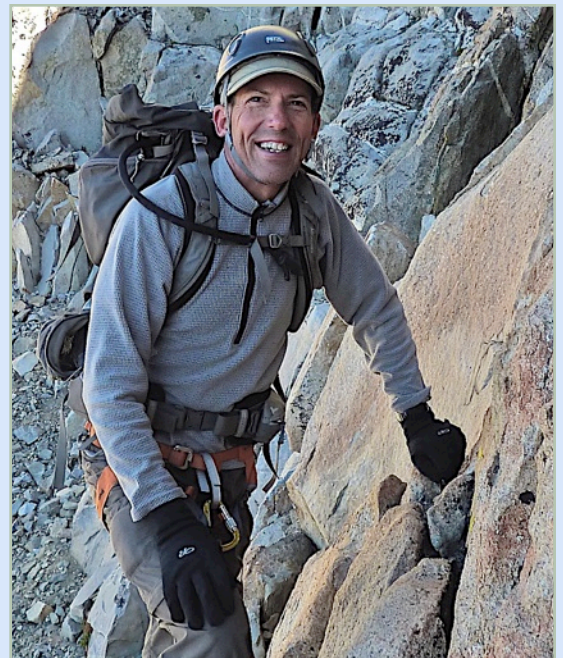


Emilia Sopranzi

Emilia grew up playing in the ocean on the Florida coast. She had never been camping or hiking until after college when she decided she was ready for a change and moved to the California foothills in 2016. She quickly fell in love with the challenge and reward of peak bagging. It only took one, and she was hooked. Her first summit in California was Matterhorn Peak, and it still stands as her favorite! Since then she has summited eight SPS peaks with plenty more planned. Working towards her SPS Emblem and Geographic Emblem, she is looking forward to connecting with individuals who share the same passion. She'll see you in the mountains!

Philip S. Bates

From the Northeast, Phil began exploring the Range of Light with his wife and brothers after moving to San Francisco in the mid-1990s. From summer day hikes and scrambles in Yosemite, he soon progressed to backpacking, winter outings, and mountaineering, especially in the breathtaking Eastern Sierra. He summited over two hundred Sierra peaks during the past twenty years, including 120 on the SPS list and all of the 14ers, and has backpacked the length and breadth of the Sierra on the PCT, JMT, High Sierra Trail, and many cross-country routes. He has also climbed most of the Cascade volcanoes, the major Mexican volcanoes, several dozen high peaks in the Rockies, and most of the highest summits in the Northeast. With the recent splitting of their home life between Sonoma Valley and Scottsdale, Arizona, Phil and his wife are now exploring more of the lovely Southwest. Nonetheless, the Sierra Nevada remains their favorite summer playground, with many unclimbed peaks and backcountry routes on his ever-growing wish list. He views his new SPS membership as an ideal way to further his exploration of the high Sierra.



Congratulations!



Coming in the next issue, articles on and photos from climbs of Denali by SPS members this year.

At left, member Michael Chamoun unfurls the SPS logo on the summit. Congrats!

Bob Pickering earned senior emblem #150 on July 25, 2014, on Vandever Mountain.



New for 2018 – FREE First Year's Membership or Echo Subscription

Beginning in 2018 new subscribers and members can receive their first year's subscription for free! See the Membership Application Form available for downloading on the Membership page at <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr>. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.

RJ Secor Memorial Hike

April 15, 2018

By Tina Bowman,
Terry Flood, and
Asher Waxman

A group of twenty met to hike to Henniger Flats, a hike that RJ Secor did more than two thousand times. Organized by Asher Waxman, Dan Richter, and Henry Arnebold and informally sponsored by the SPS and CMC (California

Mountaineering Club, of which RJ was a founding member), this outing was a fine memorial to the long-time SPS member and two-time SPS list finisher. Attending and shown in the group photo below were, left to right, Scot Jamison, Gary Bowen, Scot Angus, Julie Rush and dog named Little Dog, Jan Brahms and David Reneric (and their dog Hedgehog Smith), Ron Hudson behind and between them, Karen Andersen, Mark and Joy Goebel, Ron Eckelmann, Jim Murphy, Don Croley, Tom Ritchie, Tracy Sulkin, and Asher Waxman. Not shown are Terry Flood, Elena Sherman, and Scott Sullivan.

At right, Elena Sherman and Scott Sullivan. (All photos courtesy of Terry Flood).



Some Notes about SPS Peaks in a Day

Mt. Whitney Area

By Tina Bowman



Back in the April-June 2014 (58.2) issue of the *Echo*, we published a list of SPS peaks that can be reasonably climbed in a day, a list compiled by Kathy Rich with a little help from others. Following that, we ran a couple of articles about peaks that can be hiked from certain areas, i.e., peaks out of Onion Valley in the July-September 2014 (58.3) issue and peaks out of Bishop from South Lake, Lake Sabrina, and North Lake in the April-June 2015 (59.2) issue. We're returning to this series with a look at peaks that can be dayhiked from the Mt. Whitney area. Note that some of these are long hikes and that excellent conditioning, comfort and speed on class 3, and adaptation to altitude may be needed to make climbing some of these peaks in one day feasible.

How do I get there?

From the traffic light in Lone Pine, turn west on Whitney Portal Road and head up to the Portal to either the Meysan Lakes trailhead, 11.3 miles from

Top: Doug Mantle and Marcelo Altamirano approaching Mt. Whitney from Upper Boy Scout Lake. Right: LeConte and Langley from Mallory (Photos by Tina Bowman).

town (note that the trail begins through the Whitney Portal Campground), or the Mt Whitney trailhead, 12.1 miles. You'll have access to these peaks from the Meysan Lakes Trail: Lone Pine, LeConte, Corcoran, Mallory, and Irvine. From the Mt. Whitney trailhead you can head to Whitney, Muir, McAdie, Irvine, Mallory, and Thor. Also starting on the Mt. Whitney trail, you can leave it after about a mile to head up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek on use trail, including the class 3 Ebersbacher Ledges to access Russell, Carillon, Tunnabora, and Thor.

Note that 3.2 miles from the traffic signal you'll come to the Horseshoe Meadows Road. If you turn south here, you will reach Horseshoe Meadows in about 24 miles from Lone Pine. Two clearly marked trailheads are here: Cottonwood Pass and Cottonwood Lakes. From the Cottonwood Pass trail you can climb Cirque. From the Cottonwood Lakes trail you can climb Langley and Cirque. Near the spur road to the Cottonwood Lakes trailhead is a parking lot that can be used for a hike to Muah via Mulkey Pass.

What peaks require a Mt. Whitney Zone permit and where do I get that?

All of the peaks that use the Mt. Whitney trail or the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek trail require travel in the Mt. Whitney Zone and thus a Whitney Zone permit (for both day hikes and overnight backpacks). You apply for the permit via the Mt. Whitney lottery, hope for an open date or cancellation, or try for a walk-in permit. Permits are picked up at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center at the south end of Lone Pine. See <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/passes-permits/recreation-Whitney> , <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5356869>, and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5150055> for more information.

What peaks don't require a Whitney Zone permit?

If you choose to climb a peak in a day from the Meysan Lakes Trail or from Horseshoe Meadows, those peaks do not require a Whitney Zone or any other permit.





Above: Langley from Cottonwood Lakes. Below: McAdie from Mallory
(Photos by Tina Bowman).

Where can I camp before my hike?

Lower down, you can camp at the Tuttle Creek (1.5 miles south of the Whitney Portal road on the Horseshoe Meadows Road, eighty-three sites, \$8/night) and Lone Pine campgrounds (six miles west of Lone Pine on the Whitney Portal Road, forty-three sites, \$22/night). Whitney Portal has a forty-three-site campground where the Meysan Lakes trail begins; the fee here is currently \$24/night. At the Portal by the Mt. Whitney trailhead is a walk-in campground for hikers with twenty-five sites available for \$15, one-night maximum. Horseshoe Meadows has two camping areas, one by the Cottonwood Lakes trailhead (thirteen walk-in sites), one by the Cottonwood Pass trailhead (eighteen walk-in sites)—all first-come/first-served with a one-night maximum stay. The fee is \$6 per night. Of course, Lone Pine has plenty of lodging as well.

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

Lone Pine has many restaurants, and the Whitney Portal Store next to the Mt. Whitney trailhead offers pancakes and burgers. Check their website for hours: <http://www.mountwhitneyportal.com/en-us>



What else can I do in the area?

The Alabama Hills offer rock climbing, scenic views, and a self-guided auto tour of movie locations (see https://www.lonepinechamber.org/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/movie_road_tour_brochure.pdf for a map and information). Besides the InterAgency Visitor Center, which has information displays and sometimes small art shows, at the south end of Lone Pine, Lone Pine also has the Lone Pine Film History Museum at 701 South Main Street. Annually in October there's the Lone Pine Film Festival. The Southern Inyo Museum at 127 Bush Street has local history and a large collection of zoological and botanical specimens.

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

You can get wilderness permits for overnight travel at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center. Note that the Whitney Zone permit may be quite hard to obtain for entry from Whitney Portal.

San Francisco Bay Area's Nifty Ninety By Will Whitney

Looking for a new place to train for your High Sierra hikes in the off-season or just traveling to the San Francisco Bay Area and want to check out a local summit? Why not hike to one or more of the high points on the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter's "Nifty Ninety."

This unique list of summits is as diverse as the Bay Area itself. You can choose to stroll among coastal redwoods, view the California Delta, observe ocean and bay vistas, walk above local wineries, experience an island hike, or visit a volcanic preserve, experiencing urban and remote hikes which feature the many micro-climates of the Bay area.

Unlike other lists based on prominence, county high points, or a certain mountain range, this list is based solely on public access summits in ten Northern California counties making up the Greater Bay Area.

Recently, I completed this list and wanted to recommend the variety of hiking experiences that it offers, from enjoying the view of the Golden Gate Bridge from Hawk Hill to experiencing the flavor of urban neighborhoods in San Francisco and San Jose, from ocean beaches to summit hikes like Mt. Montara, lake views from Berryessa Peak, or historical walks like Rose Hill in Black Diamond Regional Park. If you hike many of the areas in spring, you'll be treated to lush rolling green hills with abundant wildflowers, while the autumn can provide spectacular fall colors in Napa and Sonoma Counties. Want to get out of the summer heat? Why not try Pine Mountain near Santa Cruz in Big Basin Redwood State Park, California's first state park.

As a Sierra Club member, why not visit John Muir's ranch house in Martinez. This national park site offers a hike up a hill named

after Muir's daughter, Wanda. Many of these public access summits were fought for by the Sierra Club, so taking a hike on Muir's property to Wanda Hill is a way to pay homage to John Muir's legacy of the preservation of open spaces.

These hikes range from under a mile to a fifteen-to-twenty-mile adventure, whatever you have time for while visiting Northern California. You'll visit national park sites, state and regional parks, and locally-designated open spaces on the Nifty Ninety. Most trails are class 1 hikes while some, such as Goat Rock in Castle Rock State Park, are a class 3 hike. Rock climbers can add scaling the face of Goat Rock if they wish to do a class 4 climb.

Mt. St. Helena is the highest peak on the list. It offers a literary hike on the Robert Louis Stevenson's Memorial Trail in the area above Napa Valley where Stevenson honeymooned and wrote *The Silverado Squatters*. Mt. Diablo is the most prominent peak on the list, and it has the distinction of being the world's second-best lookout for total viewing area after Mt. Kilimanjaro. The most remote hike is Mt. Sizer in Henry Coe State Park, where I saw two bobcats, deer, and rabbits but no other hikers until I returned to the visitor's center. The most popular on the Nifty might be Mission Peak near the San Jose Mission.

The Nifty Ninety has four county high points in San Francisco, Solano, Contra Costa, and Marin Counties. The world's first permanent mountaintop observatory on Mt. Hamilton, Lick Observatory, and Black Mountain offer views of the heart of Silicon Valley.

With the Sierra Club's backing and publication of the list, it is my hope that SPS members and others will find the experience of hiking these Bay area summits as enjoyable as I have.



Mt. Diablo (Photo by Will Whitney).

DOWN-CLIMBING NORTH PALISADE, August 30, 1985

By Burton A. Falk

Upon reaching the summit of North Palisade, Charlie Winger and I pause to enjoy the view spread out below. The jagged crest upon which we're perched stretches from Mt. Agassiz in the northwest to magnificent Mt. Sill at the southeast. To the west, splayed out across the rocky Dusy Basin, a myriad of lakes sparkle in the late afternoon sun. To the east, Sierra slopes are beginning to fill with purple shadows. Further east still, across the Owens Valley, beyond the Inyos, the late August sky is already turning gray,

Three hours later, at 8 p.m., after the last light of day has faded away, I'm down-climbing a steep, icy section of couloir, belayed from above by Charlie. I run out the rope, anchor, call "Off belay," and start to rope in Charlie. Suddenly, the rope jerks to a stop. After a few moments and no further movement, I assume that Charlie is having a problem, so I shout up at him. Soon we are both shouting, but neither of us can make sense out of what the other is saying as the wind is strong, an outcropping lies between us, and the echo off the steep rock walls impairs the acoustics.

"Are you alright?"

"Mmupssh og daww."

"I can't hear you."

"Nawp be goouch."

After ten minutes or so, I climb half-way back up toward Charlie, where I find that our rope has become wedged between loose rocks and the sheer rock wall. Charlie wasn't willing to descend as he thought I wasn't

belaying him; I wasn't able to belay him due to the wedged rope. Another hour wasted.

Later, when we finally reach the upper edge of the Palisade Glacier's yawning bergschrund, we decide that I, using ice screws, will anchor into its icy upper lip, then slowly lower Charlie into the crevasse to test whether the fragile ice lattice at its bottom will support his weight

Thank God, it holds. Charlie crosses the ice, then front points up the opposite wall of the huge crack. Once on the other side, he anchors himself with our remaining screws, then prepares to belay me over the same delicate bridge.

The problem is that I weigh thirty pounds more than Charlie, and because he can't lower me from his position across the crevasse, I will have to drop some eight feet onto the delicate bridge. Already dead tired from the long day's effort, I just hope that I won't punch through the ice and have a major problem on my hands.

The ice holds for me as well. Thank God, once more! Gingerly, I traverse the lattice and climb the other side, being more hauled up by Charlie than by using my own strength. We're both working with a lot of nervous energy.

Standing on the down-side of the bergschrund, we're tired, hungry, and shivering—but pleased with ourselves. North Pal had been a goal for years.

It's now 1:30 a.m., and the bright moonlight illuminates the couloir above and the Palisade Glacier below. What a sight. We coil our frozen rope and start down the steep incline. The comforts of our tent and down sleeping bags lie another half mile away.



Charlie Winger (at left) and Burton Falk
(Photo courtesy Burton Falk).



Outings

We've chosen the photo at left 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.

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

Jul 28-29 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

MR: University Pk (13,589'): Sat morning we will depart on trail from Onion Valley and make camp above Bench Lk. Sun we will leave camp at dawn to make our way up the mostly third class North Face to the summit for a total of 1.4 mi and 2000' of gain. After summiting we will head back down to camp via the same route we came up, pack up and head out. This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing, so participants must be current Sierra Club members and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join the trip. Note that permit severely limits group size. Email the Ldr with contact & carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, to be considered for this trip. Ldr: Justin Bruno. Asst: Mat Kelliher.

Aug 3-5 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Iron Mtn (11,149') Adventure: Calling all Iron Men and Iron Women! Starting at the Beck Lks trailhead and crossing the Soda Springs bridge over the San Joaquin River, hike a mile on the historic John Muir Trail on our way to Noname Lake (1,870' gain, 6.4 mi). Set up camp, hike to Beck Lks, swim or fish, and finish off the day with happy houring and star gazing. Rise to the sounds of Eastern Sierra wildlife as we hike to Fern Lk after breakfast and set up camp. The rest of the day will be spent conquering Iron Mtn (11,149') with a peek at Iron Lk and its granite surrounds. Back at camp, relax and enjoy another happy hour with stories of past alpine adventures. Our 6 mi loop hike back to civilization on Sun will

bring a close to this "Ironized" Adventure. Total miles 25.7, 3,539' gain. Please send recent hiking resume and carpool info Ldr: Kim Crane. Asst: James Montross.

Aug 18-20 | Sat-Mon

WTC, SPS

MR: Mt Huntington and Mt Stanford (N): Join us for a ridge traverse of a section of the Sierra Crest above Hilton Lakes. Saturday, we'll backpack from Hilton Lakes Trailhead to camp at Lake 10,353' (≈4.5 miles, +1000'). Sunday, we'll start very early to climb Mt. Huntington via the class 2/3 Northeast Ridge (1.5 miles, +2000'). From Huntington, we'll attempt a 1.9 mile class 3 traverse of the Northwest Ridge to Mt. Stanford (N) (≈+1200'). We'll return to camp from Stanford via the class 2 East Slope route (≈2.3 miles). Monday morning, we'll hike back to the trailhead. Total stats for trip: 15 miles, +4500'. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock and have previous experience at altitude. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Permit limits group size. Send email with experience and conditioning to leaders Regge Bulman and Monica Suua.

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

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

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

OUTINGS

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Philip Bates 949-786-8475 philipabates@gmail.com
Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com
Richard Boardman 310-374-4371
Justin Bruno 909-783-7697 justinbruno@hotmail.com
Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us
Kim Crane cranesnest@me.com
Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 dianedunbar@charter.net
Beth Epstein 562-310-1680 b.epstein@verizon.net
Paul Garry 310-399-2334 pwgarry@earthlink.net
Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Mat Kelliher 818-667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com
Daniel Kinzek 818-891-9108 dkinzek@yahoo.com
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 pamckusky@att.net
Kate Miller 310-592-7965 miller.k8@gmail.com
Mark Mitchell 818-753-9328 markamitchell@att.net
James Montross cjamesmontross@yahoo.com
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Jeremy Netka 818-703-8607 jnetka@gmail.com
Jimmy Quan 626-688-6283 h2otigerjim@gmail.com
Sarah Quist sarahschuh@gmail.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
Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com

camp with us at the trailhead Fri night. For consideration please send hiking resume and current conditioning to Ldr: Megan Birdsill. Co-Ildr: Sarah Quist.

Aug 18-19 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Vogelsang Pk (11,493'): Join us for a couple of pleasant days in wildly scenic Yosemite NP on this overnight trip to climb a classic Sierra Peak in the Cathedral Range. Sat we pack in out of Tuolumne Meadows at a relaxed, but purposeful pace on trail alongside Rafferty Creek up and over Tuolumne Pass and beyond. Once we reach Vogelsang Lk, we will travel x-c around its eastern shore and set up camp near its headwaters to the south. Distance for the day will be about 8.0 mi with 1,900' gain. At camp that night we will celebrate the gorgeous country we find ourselves in with a Festive Happy Hour under starry, summer-night skies. Sun we continue our southern course x-c up to and then along the eastern ridge of Vogelsang Pk to its summit, where we will savor the expansive views all around us before heading back down to our camp for a total of 2.0 RT mi with 1,200' gain. Back at camp we will pack up and head out the same way we came in. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Jimmy Quan.

Aug 18-19 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Florence Pk (12,438'): Join us for an idyllic weekend in one of the most beautiful parts of Sequoia NP! Total two-day stats: 20mi, 4600' gain. Sat morn we will stay on-trail for 7mi, 2600' to make camp at Franklin Lakes. Sun morn we will rise early to summit Florence Pk (12,438) and take in the views of the Great Western Divide before signing the register and returning the way we came to break camp and hike back to the trailhead (13mi, 2000'). Participants are encouraged to

Aug 24-26 | Fri-Sun

Wilderness Adventures, SPS

I: Arrow Pk (12,939'): Grind of a climb over a pass to reach a beautiful spot, about which R.J. Secor writes: "one of the finest [views] in the Sierra". And the view from the summit isn't bad either. Fri, start at 5,430' in the desert for very strenuous 6,000' climb to 11,360' Taboose Pass, then drop to Bench Lk for total of 12 mi. Sat, moderately strenuous 6 mi, 2,400' gain/loss off-trail ascent of SPS-listed Arrow Peak. Sun, return to cars. Although pace will be moderate, must be in very strong physical condition and comfortable with steep,

We're hoping that a number of Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) outings will be co-listed with the SPS as usually happens, so we suggest two things: keep checking the Campfire listings at the SPS website on the home page or at <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/outings-schedule> and check the listings of the WTC outings at <https://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings/>. Please be aware that WTC outings give preference to WTC students to help them gain experience, but spaces may be available. As you look through the WTC trips, be aware that not all are to Sierra peaks. WTC outings by their nature are often different from SPS outings to the same peak: more time may be given to practice navigation, more "teaching moments" may occur, and the approach to getting going may be more laid back than on many SPS outings.

OUTINGS

off-trail hiking. Snow cancels trip. Send \$10 permit fee, 2 SASE or email, H/W/cell phones, recent conditioning, experience, rideshare to Ldr: Mark Mitchell, Co-Ldrs: Beth Epstein, Daniel Kinzek.

Aug 25-26 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Sawtooth Pk (12,343'): Join us for a weekend in the gorgeous Mineral King area of Sequoia NP. We'll climb Sawtooth Pk, an SPS peak with stunning 360 degree views. On Sat morning, we'll meet in Mineral King and backpack at a moderate pace up to Lower Monarch Lk (4.5 mi, 2700' gain). We'll camp at the lake, where we can swim, fish, relax, and enjoy goodies at happy hour. Sun morning, we'll hike first on trail up to Sawtooth Pass, then go cross-country to Sawtooth Pk via its northwest ridge (2.2 mi, 2300' gain). After a break on the peak to soak up the scenery, we'll head back to camp, pack up, and return to the cars. Permit limits group size. Priority given to WTC students. Please send email with contact info, hiking resume, conditioning, and altitude experience to the Ldrs: Kate Miller, Jeremy Netka.

Sep 8-9 | Sat-Sun

SPS

ER: Thunderbolt Pk (14,003'): Climb one of the most spectacular and technical Mountaineers Peaks. Early Sat 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

The SPS will be leading a hike to make a dedication of the unofficially named Smatko Peak on Saturday, October 20th! The peak at 8916' should be a nice, short hike this time of year in the southern Sierra with some class three on the summit block. Get information at the listing in Campfire (the outings list).

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 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.

Sep 22 | Sat

LTC

Deadline to register for the Oct 6th Leadership Training Program seminar. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>).

Sep 23 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or

From the Outings Chair

The summer climbing season is about to begin. As I write, eight SPS trips are scheduled this summer season, but I know that there are a few more trips in the planning phase. Because these outings fill up fast, try to contact leaders ASAP if you want to get on them. We could certainly have more trips scheduled. Leaders, please consider adding something to this nice mix. And thank you to the leaders who are planning and conducting these trips.

On 19-20 May, the LTC Rock Chair (Patrick McKusky) had ten Club members and leaders successfully complete their Rock Check-off (three passed the E-level)! We hope they will plan their provisional trips soon to SPS Emblem or Mountaineers Peaks—so look for them on the schedule. Adding new leaders at the M and E level will definitely help in our quest to increase the number of SPS

trips led, especially at the E level. We have not seen many E-level outings in the past few years. Many thanks to assistant leader Matt Hengst and all of the examiners and assistants who did a masterful job in managing this large group. Special thanks to examiner Greg Mason, who conducted the E practice/checkout with the able assistance of Bob Gallandt.

I will be following up with Club members who recently completed the April LTC Class and expressed interest in leading for the SPS. The goal is to support these new leaders in achieving leader ratings and leading for SPS.

Fun and Safe Climbing,
Phil Bates
Outings Chair, SPS

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.

practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. 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.

Oct 6 | 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 2019.

Oct 10 | Wed

LTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2018):

Knots and Basic Safety Systems: 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 13 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2018):

Belay Skills: 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.

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

OUTINGS



The cover of the last issue was a photograph taken by Coby King during a climb of University Peak in August 2017. We didn't have room for two accompanying shots: above, a panorama looking at University from Kearsarge Lake and, at right, a summit shot of Coby in the foreground and his climbing buddies Joe Krovoza and Brett Moffat.

Send us your stories and pictures!



Oct 20 | 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 20 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2018):

Rappelling: 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 27-28 | Sat-Sun

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2018):

Anchors and Real-World Applications: 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.

Nov 10-11 | Sat-Sun

LTC

M/E-R: Rock: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff & Practice: M & E level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or

OUTINGS

practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Sat and optionally checkoff Sun. 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 17-18 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. 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.

Dec 9 | 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,



Dare to Lead!

Fall Leadership Training Seminar Set for October 6, 2018

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 6th, location to be determined. Deadline to register is September 22nd.

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 \$30. 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 (ltpseminarregistrar@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

OUTINGS

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 27 | Sun

SPS

Sierra Peaks Section Banquet: Join us at the annual SPS banquet at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Social hour starts at 5:00, dinner at 6:30. This year Sophie Cairns will be telling us about her Seven Volcanoes project to climb the highest volcano on each continent in record time. See the SPS website and *Echo* for the registration form, or contact banquet chair Paul Garry for more information.

Apr 17 | Wed

LTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019): Knots and Basic Safety Systems: 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.

Apr 20 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019): Belay Skills: Second of four climbing workshops aimed at

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

OUTINGS

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.

Apr 27 | Sat **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019):
Rappelling: 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

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May 4-5 | Sat-Sun **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019):
Anchors and Real-World Applications: 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

SPS Income Statement 6-18-2018

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
INCOME													
Echo Subscriptions	1,660	820	410	220	110	50	20	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630	1,580
Banquet Income	2,605	-	45	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,940	4,610	4,110	3,760	2,795
Donations	793	355	135	60	30	-	-	340	440	575	651	873	670
Merchandise Sales	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	395	262	112
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	5,144	1,175	590	280	140	50	20	5,014	4,732	7,041	6,731	6,525	5,157
EXPENSES													
Postage	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	609	-4	14	938	522	321
Printing	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433	430
Merchandise	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130	-
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,715	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553
Bank Fees	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	10	6	18	12
Website	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	36	84	96
Charitable contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	200	200	200
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	899	254	82
Membership meetings/activities	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,257	174	-
Register Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	4,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,821	5,103	7,019	9,048	6,583	4,694
OVERALL TOTAL	1,107	1,175	590	280	140	50	20	193	(371)	12	(2,317)	(58)	482

OUTINGS

commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Oct 9 | Wed

LTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2019):

Knots and Basic Safety Systems: 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 12 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2019):

Belay Skills: 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 19 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2019):

Rappelling: 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>

SPS Management Committee Meeting

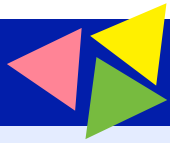
Monday, April 9, 2018, 7:00p.m.

Alexander Smirnoff's Home

1701 Paloma Street, Pasadena, CA 91104

(626) 435-1251

- 1) Call to order at 7:25. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Laura Newman, outreach; and Tina Bowman, secretary.
 - 2) Standard business and reports
 - a) Approval of December and February minutes done by email
 - b) Chair—report under new business (outings chair)
 - c) Vice-chair
 - i) Paul will reserve a room at Almanson Court for Sunday, January 27, and will ask whether a buffet is available.
 - ii) Tina will contact Sophie Cairns about speaking on her Seven Volcanoes project at the banquet.
 - d) Outings—need a new outings chair (see new business)
 - e) Treasurer's report—\$9,874 current bank balance
 - f) Emblem Committee report—Ron Webber is now emblem holder #594, which he earned in 1980; Will Whitney is now Smatko Emblem holder #18.
 - g) Outreach—Laura reported there was no response from Cal Tech Alpine Club re the Banff Film Festival
 - h) Archives—no report
 - i) *Echo*
 - i) Next deadline May 25
 - ii) Paul and Alexander gave copies of the *Echo* to Laura to scan
 - iii) No discussion of moving to html format
 - 3) Old business
 - a) Unofficially name a peak for Andy Smatko? Jim will contact Mark Allen about the progress on the sign for the peak.
 - b) Reminder that the memorial hike for RJ Secor is this Sunday, April 15.
 - 4) New business
 - a) The next meeting will be Monday June 18, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander's house.
 - b) Need a new outings chair; Gary Schenk resigned as of March 31st after years of service.
 - i) Sandy Lara is willing to be the outings chair in 2019, not now.
 - ii) Jim will ask Neal Robbins and Mat Kelliher.
 - iii) If they say no, Jim will ask for someone in his "Echoes from the Chair" column
 - iv) Jim will ask Gary to send an email to leaders to ask for a replacement.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bowman, Secretary



Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

Red and White Mountain is reflected in Big McGee Lake in this photo by Hal Browder. No one wrote in with the answer.



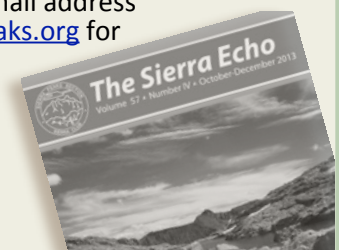
www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

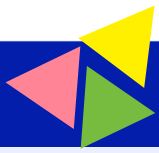
www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Oct 26-27 | Sat-Sun **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2019):
anchors and Real-World Applications: 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://>

REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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





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!



Daryn Dodge sent us this photo of a summit block (he's on top). The photo was taken by Elena Sherman from a nearby summit in August 2013. What peak is this? Any guesses what peak Elena was on (it's also on the list)?

Send your answer to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.

Time 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

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.

PASSAGES



John W. Robinson

July 8, 1929 - April 24, 2018

By Jerry Keating

When one makes first contact with an organization, especially if it's outdoors oriented, a wise move is quickly to size up the qualities of the leadership. That my wife, Nancy, and I did in our first contact with the Sierra Peaks Section. The date, a half century ago, was May 4, 1957; the leader was John Robinson; and the trip was a backpack to climb Olancho Peak.

Sixty-one persons were at the trailhead when John called for introductions and clearly spelled out the plans for the entire outing. The main party consisted of fifty-three people, and trail was followed

Above: John dressed for leisurely hiking on September 8, 2007, en route to The Needles on an SPS old-timers trip in Giant Sequoia National Monument (Photo by Jerry Keating).

to Olancho Pass on the Sierra crest. In that early year, only cross-country terrain led to our campsite, the ground of which was mostly snow covered. On the second day, forty-two climbers made the summit by 7:30 a.m. on an icy snow-covered slope, and all of the participants got back to our cars without any problems. John kept the group in order, gave encouragement along the way, and made the trip doubly successful by sharing his information about this part of the Southern Sierra. These qualities quickly expanded and became even more apparent, and our respect for him grew into admiration as we watched his successes as an author.

Now, with his passing on April 24 in retirement at Loveland, Colorado, it's time to reflect on what made this man so worthy. Most recently, it was John who authored the detailed "Passages" article remembering SPS's founding chairman, Frank Sanborn. That account appeared in the April-June 2018 issue of *The Sierra Echo* and also yielded some background on John. For one thing, John was new to the Sierra Club in 1953 when he met Frank for the first time and was persuaded to get involved with trips to the High Sierra. John was overseas on military duty in the summer of 1955 but completed that service in time to be part of the official birth of the section in October 1955. And Frank and John co-led Deer Mtn. on May 5-6, 1956, the first official SPS trip. John earned his SPS emblem that year.

In 1957, John became the founding editor of *The Sierra Echo*, then published on a Ditto machine, and ably handled that chore through 1958. In February 1961, he took over similar duties with the *DPS Newsletter*, as it was then known, and he held that post until early 1964. He became SPS chair in 1964 after serving twice as SPS vice chair (1957 and 1958) and twice as alternate officer (1958 and 1962). In addition, he served as DPS vice chair (1961), chair (1962), and member at large officer (1964-65).

Despite a passion for peak climbing and leading trips, he also was forming an interest

PASSAGES

in editing, writing, and publishing. Still, he climbed dozens of the major peaks in the Sierra and the U.S. Northwest, including Mts. Hood and Rainier. He also twice hiked the Chilkoot Trail in Alaska and the Yukon. Golden Hinde, the imposing high point of Vancouver Island in British Columbia, was among his other ascents.

But the duties that accompanied his elected offices apparently weren't compelling enough to diminish his interest in becoming an author, so John moved up the publishing ladder by scouting the terrain and writing a series of soft-cover hiking guides. Published in 1967 by La Siesta Press, the first was *Camping and Climbing in Baja California*.

Next, starting in May 1971, emerged his larger and more complicated guidebook, *Trails of the Angeles: 100 Hikes in the San Gabriels*, followed a year later by *San Bernardino Mountain Trails: 100 Hikes in Southern California*. Both were published by Wilderness Press and required regular scouting trips for subsequent editions.

Then, after John's extensive scouting in the Sierra, there appeared in 1973 and 1974 the first editions of three booklets in the Wilderness Press *High Sierra Hiking Guide* series. One of these covered the Mt. Goddard area, while another dealt with Mt. Pinchot and vicinity. The third, written with SPSer Jim Jenkins, focused on Kern and Olancho Peaks.

In August 1989 there emerged the first fruits of John's extensive research at UCLA and the Huntington Library, namely the first edition of the hard-cover history titled *The San Bernardinos: The Mountain Country from Cajon Pass to Oak Glen; Two Centuries of Changing Use*. This book was followed in August 1991 by *The San Gabriels: The Mountain Country from Soledad Canyon to Lytle Creek*. In 1993, with Bruce D. Risher as co-author, there appeared another hard-cover history, *The San Jacintos: The Mountain Country from Banning to Borrego Valley*. All three books were published by the Big Santa Anita Historical Society and are viewed as definitive works.

Various journal articles and several soft-cover publications also were part of his history-focused effort. These include three booklets on mountain mines and a 2001 booklet titled *Sierra Madre's Old Mount Wilson Trail*.



John Robinson toward the end of a DPS exploratory backpack to the Sierra San Pedro Martir in Baja California April 6-10, 1968. The trip was from the east via Canyon El Cajon. Tres Palomas (Three Doves, 9200') was climbed during the trip. (Photo by Jerry Keating).

His work on foot and at his typewriter has been recognized over the years. From the Angeles Chapter, he received the Media Award (1976), the Outings Service Award (1990), and the Elna Bakker Nature Interpretation Award (2001). His honors from external bodies include the Donald H. Pflueger Award for local history, presented in 1992 by the Historical Society of Southern California (HSSC), and several Coke Wood Awards from the Westerners International. In October 2005, fellow status was bestowed upon him by the HSSC. That was the same year *Gateways to Southern California* was issued by the Big Santa Anita Historical Society. The dust jacket of this nearly 500-page book stressed that it resulted from twelve years of research and writing, making it the "crowning achievement" of the author's career as a historian.

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Much of this product occurred while John was teaching full time in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District of Orange County. But he retired in 1988, moved to Fullerton, and more recently had been enjoying daily views of the Rocky Mountains from senior living centers in Fort Collins and Loveland. It was in Colorado, where daughter Cathy Robinson resides, that his illustrious life came to a peaceful end. Other survivors include daughters Robyn Franz and Jeanne Robinson.

Be at rest, John, and thanks for inspiring us on climbs as well as when learning more about history from reading your fine books.



The photo above appeared in the last issue of The Echo to accompany the obituary John Robinson wrote for Frank Sanborn. John (left) presented Frank his SPS emblem pin during an independent climb of Mt. Abbot on September 2, 1963, after Frank was forced to miss the scheduled climb the previous year (Photo by John Robinson using a delayed-timer).

Because John Robinson's Trails of the Angeles and San Bernardino Mountain Trails have been such important guides for many of us and because many people know of John Robinson because of these books, we reached out to Doug Christiansen and David Money Harris, the new revisers, for their thoughts about John and his work.

On John Robinson

By David Money Harris

I moved back to Southern California in 1999 and soon discovered John Robinson's guidebooks and began eagerly exploring our wonderful mountains. In 2005, John retired from guidebook writing, and through a series of fortuitous events, his editor Roslyn Bullas at Wilderness Press invited me to update the sixth edition of *San Bernardino Mountain Trails*. I've been continually grateful that John entrusted his book to me as a young writer and hiker and that I've had the chance literally to follow his footsteps.

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The first edition of *San Bernardino Mountain Trails*, published in 1971, opens with an eloquent charter for guidebook authors:

To know the mountains is to understand all of the various components, which, when blended together, make mountains what they are—their geology, their flora and fauna, their climatic pattern, their history of human use, their place in today's environment, as well as their topography. The sum total of these components gives a mountain range its own unique character. Therefore, writing a meaningful guidebook requires much more than merely logging mileages and directions. It requires selectively gathering knowledge and fitting this knowledge together into a meaningful whole.

Having devoted nearly seven decades to explore, research, and share his knowledge of the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges, John Robinson was unsurpassed in his understanding of all of the components of Southern California's mountains.

Mountains rise and fall in geological time, but trails change much faster. John's passing is an opportunity to reflect on how the trails have changed over a human lifetime. John completed the first edition of *San Bernardino Mountain Trails* in 1971, and I updated the seventh edition in 2016. Over that time, twenty-three of the one hundred hikes were replaced. The western San

Bernardino Mountains were especially hard-hit, with hikes on Cleghorn, Sugarpine, Monument, Marshall, and Arrowhead being removed because they were drive-ups, burnt out, or blocked by private property. Similarly, Barrel Spring, Aspen Grove, and Morton Peak trails have been impacted by fire. The Yucaipa Ridge has been plagued by private property issues, impacting five hikes, and the Morongo Indian Reservation has closed access to Raywood Flat and Kitching Peak. Saddest of all, the world's largest Champion Joshua Tree is gone because hooligans shot it to death. The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains have seen far less change, largely due to the wilderness protection and the smaller number of hikes in the fire-prone chaparral belt. The Cinco Poses Trail gets little use compared to the better-defined neighboring Black Mountain Trail. The Live Oak Canyon Trail is badly faded after the Palm Canyon Fire. The Cahuilla Reservation has closed the summit of Toro Peak, which is now an antenna installation.

In place of these trails, we have added many excellent new trails including Heart Rock, Deep Creek Hot Springs, the Exploration Trail, Grays Peak, Mountain Home Flats, and the Santa Ana River Trail in the San Bernardino Mountains. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway opened up easy access to trails on the east side of San Jacinto. The demanding Jo Pond Trail climbs from Palm Canyon, and an epic route ascends Rabbit Peak from the south by way of Villager. The Pacific Crest Trail was completed, easing access to the rugged Desert Divide. If space permitted, we could add more than a dozen great trails lacing the lower portions of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

A number of original trips have become substantially longer. The Poopout Hill trailhead on San Gorgonio was closed for wilderness protection, moving the trailhead to South Fork and adding four miles round trip to popular routes on the north side of San Gorgonio. Likewise, the Old Santa Rosa trailhead moved. The Lost Creek Trail on the south side of San Gorgonio was closed by private property owners despite a long history of public access, so hikers must make a long detour by way of Alger Creek.

Climate change, wildfire, and property development will continue to change our mountain trails. One day, our children will find trails only where previous generations had the foresight and dedication to protect the land and maintain the paths.

John Robinson

By Doug Christiansen

Growing up in the San Gabriel Valley in the 1970's, at some point in my early teens I heard the nearby mountains beckon. This meant a trip to Sport Chalet in La Canada for a pair of Vibram-sole boots, an external-frame backpack, and a copy of John Robinson's *Trails of the Angeles*. In those pre-gps, pre-internet days, John's trail guide was THE bible. You had to have it. It hit the shelves just as the environmental movement coincided with a renewed interest in hiking and backpacking. He wrote wonderfully, the words rolling off the pages, conversational yet informative, as if you had just run into him on the trail. He not only told you how to get there but a little about who had been there before and some of the amazing things they'd done. Decades later friends and I can still recite entire passages from that first edition, the one with Mt. Baldy on the cover.

I first met John in the late 90's, at group hikes organized by the Sierra Madre Historical Society. On the trail he set a stiff pace; we relative "youngsters" had to work hard to keep up. His knowledge of Southern California history was encyclopedic. And he knew the San Gabriels better than anyone I've ever known. But he didn't stop there—his guidebooks cover everything from Baja to the southern Sierra. And he wrote several larger, hardcover "coffee table" type books that are well-worth seeking out.

When John let it be known that he would like to "retire" from the legwork and revising that is the lot of a trail guide writer, I was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time and so had the honor of taking over "maintenance" duties of *Trails of the*



John Robinson at the SPS' 60th anniversary banquet January 25, 2015, in Alhambra. (Photo by Robert Cates, previously published in the April-June 2015 Echo).

Angeles. I quickly became aware of what an accomplishment it was, back in 1970, for John to research, walk, and report on these one hundred hikes and their human and natural histories. My wish would be that no changes would need be made to the original, but many factors—chiefly fire—have conspired to make the current ninth edition a significant departure from the first. Climate change and a combination of overuse and neglect present all of us who love the mountains with the challenge of preserving for future generations these trails that John described so well. Writing in that first edition nearly fifty years ago, John said it best:

The future of the San Gabriels—as well as other mountain ranges—rests with the population that lives nearby. In the words of mountain historian Charles Clark Vernon, "They are truly a gift to the people." What the people will finally do with this gift of nature remains to be seen.

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Neko Colevins

June 13, 1923 - February 23, 2015

By Barbara Lilley

It was only recently that I learned that Neko Colevins had passed away in February 2015 at the age of ninety-one. Neko hiked with the SPS and DPS from the 1960's to the early 1990's, often with Gordon MacLeod as well as Andy Smatko. He was a strong and congenial hiker, but although being a good cook, he was sometimes outspoken

Above: Neko Colevins, with DPS and SPS pins on his hat, during a private trip to the Clark range in Yosemite, June 26, 1965 (Photo by Jerry Keating).

at restaurants if he didn't like the food. He was on the trip to the Himalayas on which Arkel Erb was killed, though he had left the area earlier. He was a color photography technician, and some of his photos are in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

There is one story that needs to be told. Many years ago, at one of the SPS monthly meetings, there was some discussion about whether alcohol should be allowed on Sierra Club trips (this WAS a long time ago!). Neko took the floor and asked if people were referring to hard liquor, or FOOD—like wine and beer! Of course, that brought down the house and ended the discussion right then and there. There was only one Neko!



Bob Beach

March 16, 1924 - April 2, 2018

Bob Beach, a friend to many of us, leader in Palos Verdes/South Bay and group leader for Long Beach-South Bay Wilderness Travel Course for many years, died Sunday, April 2. He was active into his nineties. From 2000 to 2004 he led a number of SPS and HPS hikes with Mike Dillenback.



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

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