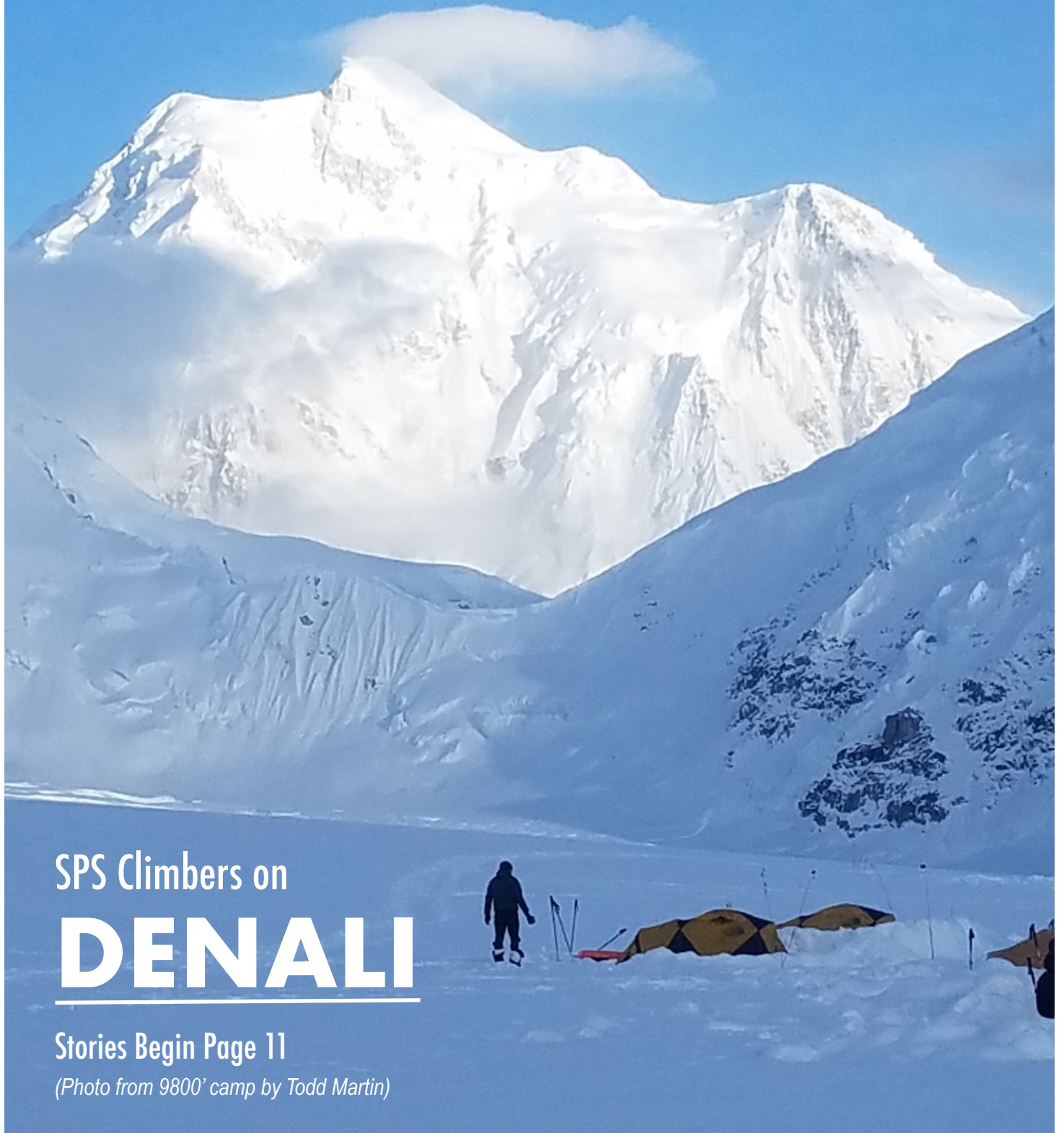




# *The Sierra Echo*

Volume 62 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2018



SPS Climbers on

## **DENALI**

Stories Begin Page 11

*(Photo from 9800' camp by Todd Martin)*



# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, my fellow Sierra Nevada enthusiasts! I hope that everyone has had a great summer of climbing in our favorite range. With all of the terrible wildfires in the state, perhaps some of the planned

outings have had to be postponed or cancelled. Fortunately, we still have some time left in this climbing season to do some great climbs! On that note, there will be a special outing on the weekend of October 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> to Smatko Peak in the southern part of the range, near Sherman Pass. This is going to be a dedication hike of the peak we have named for Andy Smatko—it was the last peak in the range that he climbed. It will be an easy climb, with only a little class three at the top. I look forward to co-leading the peak with Tina Bowman, Paul Garry, and Alex Smirnoff (who recently returned from a successful ascent of Mt. McKinley!). We may also do some other peaks in the area that aren't on the SPS list (named peaks that will count toward a climber's Andy

Smatko Explorer Emblem) and have a great weekend planned there—so join us for some fun!

I attended the memorial service for John W. Robinson on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and it was well attended by various groups that John was associated with during his life, including the Sierra Club. Several S.C. folks were there to give recognition to John's life, including Jerry Keating and Bob Cates, the Angeles Chapter historian. And what a life he led—teacher, accomplished author and historian, and mountaineer. The memorial was held at the Arboretum at Cal State Fullerton, a very interesting and beautiful setting. I was glad to have been there to honor him.

Well, I do hope to get in a new peak or two this year in the Sierras and hope to see you all on the weekend of October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for the Andy Smatko dedication hike!

Happy and safe climbing!

Jim Fleming, [chair@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org)

## 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](mailto:marymuir@earthlink.net)

## Heads Up!

Laura Newman, outreach officer, has been scanning old issues of the *Echo*, and Paul Garry, currently the banquet chair, scanned a bunch also. One day these will be uploaded to the SPS web site, so keep checking here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/newsletters>. You'll learn much about the SPS, laugh at cartoons, be engaged by trip reports, and enjoy the photos.

## We Need Your Stories!

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](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com). Thanks!

### In this issue:

Chair's Column	2
Banquet	3
Awards and Management Committee	4
Member News	6-9
Around the Web	10
Smatko Hike, Climbers Fest	10
Denali: Chamoun	11-14
Denali: Smirnoff	14-22
Denali: Mantle	23
Taboose Area	24-25
Columbine Peak	25-27
Mt. Fuji, Japan	27
Registers	28
Outings	29-35
Wilderness Permits	33
SPS Treasurer's Report	34
Minutes	35
Book Review: Weyman, <i>High Sierra</i>	36-38
Mystery Peak Challenge	38-39

**Correction:** Ron Bartell noted that the caption on page 7 of the previous issue erroneously said that the photo of LeConte and Langely was taken from Cirque instead of from Mallory.



2019 Sierra Peaks Section Annual

# BANQUET

## Climbing the Seven Volcanic Summits



In 2013-14, Sophie Cairns attempted to climb the highest volcano on each continent in four months. Crazy? Perhaps. Each volcano presented unique challenges, from the bitter cold of Antarctica to the jungles of Papua New Guinea. And of course, as in all the best adventures, not everything went according to plan.

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

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



-----  
Dinner ▲ Drinks ▲ Discussion ▲ Good Cheer

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets:

@ \$45 / each if  
postmarked by January 17.  
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:

Alexander Smirnoff  
1701 Paloma St.  
Pasadena, CA 91104

— OR —

You may order tickets electronically.

Log on to:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3625159>

(A \$2.57 service fee applies)

# 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, Jim Fleming, at [chair@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org). 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, to Jerry Keating in 2017 and Doug Mantle in 2018. 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.*

## 2018 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



### Elected

Jim Fleming	Chair <a href="mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org">chair@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Paul Garry	Vice-chair/banquet <a href="mailto:vicechair@sierrapeaks.org">vicechair@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Alexander Smirnoff	Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org">treasurer@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Laura Newman	Fifth officer/outreach <a href="mailto:outreach@sierrapeaks.org">outreach@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Tina Bowman	Secretary <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a>

### Appointed

Archives	<a href="mailto:dan@danrichter.com">Dan Richter</a> <a href="mailto:dan@danrichter.com">dan@danrichter.com</a>
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore <a href="mailto:justslm@earthlink.net">justslm@earthlink.net</a>
Echo editors	Tina Bowman <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a> , Beth Epstein
Echo mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Tina Bowman, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Shane Smith, Ron Bartell
IT Support	Greg Mason <a href="mailto:admin@sierrapeaks.org">admin@sierrapeaks.org</a> , Matt Hengst <a href="mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com">matthew.hengst@gmail.com</a>
Keeper of the List	Tina Bowman
Merchandise	Patty Kline <a href="mailto:patriciakline@aol.com">patriciakline@aol.com</a>
Mountain Records	Harry Langenbacher <a href="mailto:register@langenbacher.org">register@langenbacher.org</a>
Outings	Phil Bates <a href="mailto:philipabates@gmail.com">philipabates@gmail.com</a>
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum <a href="mailto:jbwankum@aol.com">jbwankum@aol.com</a>
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher <a href="mailto:register@summitregister.org">register@summitregister.org</a>

### Regional Representatives

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



# Welcome new members!

## Jay Underwood

Jay's first trip real into the Sierra Nevada Range was in 2013 to Mt. Whitney. He saw what all the fuss was about. Growing up in Virginia, where the mountains are short and blue, he was always trying to find adventures in nature. He got into rock climbing just enough to let him explore the hard to reach places. Once he moved out west, his passion grew, and he looked for any opportunity to cross over a pass into the Eastern Sierra. He hasn't accomplished much thus far in terms of list completion, but he has accomplished much in terms of building a great relationship with the mountains. He hopes that the SPS will guide an even richer experience, and he can't wait to meet some of you all up high.



## Kendra Heinicke

Kendra took up hiking just over a year ago and was introduced to hiking with the Sierra Club. She began working on the HPS list last July and is about half way through that list. After hiking for three months and meeting many of the typical Whitney prerequisites, Kendra day hiked Whitney. This was one of the most beautiful hikes she has done and instilled a desire to do more hikes in the Sierra. Kendra has spent this summer hiking with Sierra Peak Section members and working on the Sierra Peaks list. Although she feels she still has a lot to learn, she is always up for a long hike and a good adventure. Kendra plans to continue to focus on the SPS list during the summer months, particularly after she finishes the HPS list, and hopes to get a spot in AMP soon and hone her mountaineering skills to allow for more difficult SPS ascents.



## Ryan Lynch

Ryan grew up in San Pedro and got his start in pre-school, scrambling up rocky bluffs and rock-hopping around tide pools. In 2015, he took WTC, hiked the JMT, and dove into hiking and climbing with the Sierra Club. This year he finally earned his "I" rating and has been leading trips with the Hundred Peaks Section. He loves steep climbs, big rocks, and standing at the tops of tall things. He's currently planning a Sierra High Route attempt for 2019, including as many SPS peaks as possible along the way.

# Welcome new members!

## Melissa Wetkowski

Melissa grew up in Los Angeles, camping with her family for most vacations in the Sierra and local mountains. She fell in love with the beauty of wild nature from an early age, but always wanted to venture further. Although she enjoyed hiking, she had never gone backpacking. Her parents took the Sierra Club's Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMTC) in 1978, and her dad encouraged her to take the course, now Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), to learn the basics of navigation and safety before venturing into the wilderness. Yearning for the occasion, she dragged her then-fiancé, now husband, Tommy Porter to take the course with her in 2016. Since then, they have enjoyed exploring the vastness and beauty of the Sierra Nevada and have many more peaks and places yet to discover.



## Scott Barnes

As with everyone else in the section, Scott simply enjoys spending time in the mountains. Whether glaciated or sandblasted, if it involves mountains, you'll generally find Scott is quite keen to visit. And if the objective or route is either historic or a piece of Sierra Obscura, devoid of beta with difficulty unknown aside from questionable contour lines, then all the better. After all, who doesn't want to walk (or scramble) through time, or become an explorer, if only briefly?



## Tommy Porter

Tommy was actively involved in hiking and outdoor leadership throughout his youth in the Boy Scouts, attaining Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow honors, but drifted away during his higher education years. As a native of the East Coast, Tommy was first introduced to the Sierra when he visited our great national parks of the Sierra (Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon). He was brought back to nature by his then-fiancé, now wife, Melissa Wetkowski, who suggested taking the Sierra Club's Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) in 2016. They never looked back and continue to explore the Sierra Nevada and beautiful places around the world. He now continues to volunteer with WTC and is working on his leadership rating.





# Welcome new members!

## Justin Barham

As Justin grew up in San Diego, his experience with the outdoors was limited to stomping around local canyons and occasionally camping in the backyard. His eventual passion for the mountains was born from the purely pragmatic need to get fit. Much to his surprise, local conditioning hikes quickly escalated into a zeal for peak bagging and a general love of being outside. Gaining confidence from taking the Wilderness Travel Course furthered this enthusiasm and inspired him to pursue more significant experiences. This summer he was blessed to be able to hike the John Muir Trail, both confirming and igniting a preference for the Range of Light and the grandeur of its iconic peaks and crests. Current ambitions include climbing all the emblem peaks, bettering his technical skills in both rock and snow, and encouraging others to find adventure confidently in the Sierra or anywhere wild.



## Iris Ma

Hiking has meant a lot of different things to Iris over the last few years when she first discovered it on a whim. From hiking, to scrambling, to climbing, to unplanned bivouacking on cold and remote summits, Iris enjoys an adventure in the outdoors. Helping a friend finish the last few peaks on The List? Sounds good! A quick day hike of Mount Baldy? Sure! A technical climb on some forgotten route of an unofficially named peak? Adventure ahoy! Iris is a lover of food, music, and friends, whom you may find doing yoga on a summit, singing down the trail, or lounging back at the trailhead after a long outing. Iris dreams of adventures in other scenic and wild ranges of California, the Americas, and the world. She has a keen admiration for connecting with history and delving into the experiences of past explorers. More than anything, hiking and climbing have added depth, character, and more adventures that she can remember.

**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.



# Welcome new members!



## Linda Robb

Linda has been hiking and backpacking in the Sierra for about ten years. It all started back in 2009 when she was a WTC student and went on her first experience trip and realized how much she loved these outdoor adventures! She has been a WTC instructor since 2010 and has enjoyed the experience helping others has taught her. Linda is also a biologist and loves to learn about the interesting and varied plants and animals she encounters in the Sierra foothills, montane areas, and alpine regions. She has been fortunate to enjoy exploring Sierra peaks during all seasons; however, fall is her very favorite, especially in the eastern Sierra when the aspens are changing color. Linda looks forward to climbing new Sierra peaks as well as old favorites and always learns something new from every outing in the outdoors. As a member of the WTC Ritter Group in Orange County, of course Mount Ritter is on her bucket list!

## 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



## Jason Seieroe

The next issue of the *Echo* will feature a story from Phil Bates about climbing Switzerland's Matterhorn with a team that included new member Jason Seieroe.

We also welcome Rod Keifer

# Congratulations!

## Daryn Dodge

Daryn earned his List Finish plus Senior Emblem on Mt. Brewer on July 2.



## Christine Mitchell

Christine earned her Master Emblem here on Three Sisters on August 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Ron Bartell

Seen above with Christine Mitchell on Granite Chief, Ron earned his List Finish plus Master Emblem on July 27<sup>th</sup> on Tinker Knob.



## Sandra Hao

Seen above at Teton Camp, Sandra earned her Emblem on Mt Brewer on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Kathy Rich

Kathy earned her Master Emblem on Sierra Buttes on August 25<sup>th</sup>.





## Around the Web

By Dave Sholle

*Editors' note: We're pleased to have a new feature in the Echo, suggested by Dave Sholle, who will be our correspondent for the column. It'll be a list of links to the Web that SPS members may find interesting with a brief description for each item. If you see something you think would interest other members, please send it to Dave Sholle at [dsholle@verizon.net](mailto:dsholle@verizon.net).*

Hiking Mt. Whitney with the Facebook/Instagram generation, and the dangers that can involve: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2330916/mount-whitney-climbing-accidents>

Up-and-coming pro cyclist badly injured in a climbing accident on Mt. Conness: <https://www.bicycling.com/news/a22685737/adrien-costa-climbing-accident/>

An interview with Alex Honnold about fear and risk while free-soloing. His ideas about his potential influence concerning free-soloing on young climbers are very well thought out: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2334851/alex-honnold-talks-tim-ferriss-about-fear-and-risk>



### Smatko Peak Dedication Hike October 20th

An official SPS dedication hike and climb of peak 8916', which we unofficially call Smatko peak, will take place on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, with options that day and Sunday for hiking up other named but unlisted peaks in the area that will qualify towards the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem. See the listing in the outings section and on the web site in Campfire.

## Oakdale Climbers Festival 2018

The 2018 Oakdale Climbers Festival will be held at the Gene Bianchi Center located at 110 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in Oakdale, CA 95361, and is divided into two distinct programs. On Friday, October 12, from 5 to 9 pm, we will be remembering the life and legacy of Royal Robbins and Tom Frost—Spirits of the Golden Age. Designated speakers such as Jim McCarthy, Glen Denny, Joe Fitschen, Doug Robinson, Dick Duane, and many more will comment on these two iconic climbers before we pass the mike for thoughts and thanks from the general audience. There is no admission fee for this Friday program.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14, 10 am – 7 pm, the theme is Reflections on the Golden Age of Big Wall Climbing in Yosemite. We will be hearing from climbers involved in big wall ascents of record during the 1950s and 60s with image accompaniment as possible. Speakers will include George Whitmore, Mike Sherrick, Glen Denny, Joe Fitschen, Ed Cooper, Dick Long, Don Lauria, Russ Mclean, Eric Beck, Ken Boche, and Doug Robinson among others. They will be available to answer questions and sign books in between presentations, so this is a unique opportunity to get to know the men that pioneered many of the classic Yosemite wall routes widely enjoyed today. Tickets are required for admission to the weekend program and may be purchased for \$25 plus service charges from [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). Indicate Oakdale, CA, as the event location and then do a search for Oakdale Climbers Festival.

The Oakdale Climbers Festival is sponsored by Patagonia, the Yosemite Conservancy, Kahtoola, Rock and Ice, the Oakdale Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Camp USA, Adidas, Five Ten, The American Alpine Club, Yosemite Climbing Association, Supertopo, and Flatlander Films.





# SPS Climbers on Denali

## Denali Adventure

*By Michael Chamoun*

Last night I finished a well put-together and riveting book called *To the Top of Denali* by Bill Sherwonit, and he goes over the history of climbing Denali until present day. One thing I took away from it and that reaffirmed my original assessment is just how darn lucky we got with the weather. I don't mean simply while on the mountain, but the fact we got to fly into Kahiltna International Airport a day early and fly out within two hours of returning to Base Camp to Talkeetna, the launching point of most, if not all, Denali excursions. Sure, it snowed on the expedition, even when we were within 1000' (300m) of the summit, but we didn't have to contend with major spring storms and high winds when it mattered most. The climbers who gave it a go in late April and early-mid May were hammered, and by the time we arrived at the Talkeetna Ranger Station for the mandatory on-hour-plus orientation, the statistics board showed only two people had summited Denali.

The year-to-year seasons on Denali vary in terms of summit percentage, but the average is around 52%, with one half of climbers guided and the other independent. This year there are 1150 registered climbers, with 381 completed climbs and 179 summits. That's a 47% success rate (as of 6/8/18).

*Above: A team of 3 descending Denali's summit ridge  
(Photo by Michael Chamoun).*

*When we learned that some SPS members flew to Alaska this past summer to climb Denali, we thought you might be interested in their stories. Here are the accounts of the separate and successful climbs of Michael Chamoun and Alexander Smirnoff and, for some perspective, Doug Mantle's tale of a 1975 climb made by a number of SPSers. Enjoy!—the Editors.*

Ever since early March when I started planning this expedition, I took the trip seriously, more so than usual. Although I had been higher in altitude previously, the environment, skills required, and self-sufficiency needed would demand more of me than any other trip. This is a place where death and injuries including frostbite are not uncommon. After my climbing partner on this trip signed on, I focused the next two months on reviewing and going over roped travel and crevasse rescue, creating a detailed gear list, putting together our intended itineraries (standard and aggressive), schlepping forty-five to fifty-five pound loads up and down 10,066' Mount Baldy (in addition to my usual trail running), arranging logistics, learning


## Denali Adventure *Michael Chamoun*

about the West Buttress route, and dialing in every other small detail that a trip only like this can demand.

That preparation coupled with the fortunate weather made for a successful trip. We reached the summit of the 20,310' (6190m) mountain in twelve days, and the entire expedition lasted fourteen days, about seven less than what we had planned for. This doesn't mean it wasn't challenging or difficult, or that I didn't have a low point or two, but two weeks total with all limbs and appendages intact with a summit to boot is fortunate. These are humbling mountains, and they have my utmost respect.

Some of the things the route demands are rigging and pulling a heavy sled in addition to carrying a heavy pack to accommodate 127 pounds, consistently digging five-to-six foot deep caches, ascending and descending fixed lines on a snow and ice slope of up to fifty-to-sixty degrees, and leading steep snow slopes with snow pickets as running belays. On top of that, we were constantly assessing the weather and determining whether and when we should move. Besides the direct sun occasionally warming up the closed tent, the living temperatures were usually between -25F and +10-20F (depending on altitude and not including wind chill). We stayed four nights at 14,200' and two nights at 17,200' on the way up and one night at each on the way down. Two nights were downright miserable for me, with sleep and warmth hard to come by.

Now to the Alaskan Range. Well, what can I say? Just the



*Climbers on the West Buttress coming to Camp IV at 17,200' (Photo by Michael Chamoun).*



## Denali Adventure *Michael Chamoun*



flights to and from the glacier are spectacular in their own right. The range is a desolate, mystical place, and I felt like a speck among giants. It's a place that makes you feel vulnerable, starting with the hidden crevasses under your feet to the random serac falls and avalanches that come booming off the mountain slopes. It's an environment that's constantly in flux with the heavy, unrelenting hand of

*Above: The knife-edge of the West Buttress. Below: Climbers on the West Buttress coming to Camp IV at 17,200' (Photos by Michael Chamoun).*

pressure and time shaping it. From the first to the last day, I had to stop several times simply to stare and wonder. It's an experience that gave my life enough of a nudge to point me in a slightly different direction than the course I was on. Sometimes that happens, sometimes it doesn't, but those are the types of experiences I cherish most. I'll end with an excerpt from my journal on our final day:





## Denali Adventure

*Michael Chamoun*

It was quiet, and I felt like I was the only one on the mountain with the dawn light. Although the packs were absolutely crushing, the morning views of the Kahiltna and surrounding peaks were why I come to the mountains. The silence sang so loudly I had to stop several times and gaze in wonder. The descent to Camp II was a killer and with every step came a grunt. After digging out our cache that included sleds we made our way down to Kahiltna Pass with occasional sled mishaps. After turning south towards "Ski Hill," I was richly rewarded with stunning vistas. With the crisp cool air and gradual descent, it was about as perfect and satisfying a time as I can have. A smile with elation naturally came upon my face. The unspoiled snow glistened with the shower of morning light, the snow underfoot was the perfect firmness, and the body and mind were completely relaxed as I walked through this glaciated Eden. These mountains were showing off, though I know in the back of [my] mind they can be equally as treacherous. However, for the moment it was bliss. This will not be my last time in the Alaskan Range.



*Michael Chamoun on the "Roof of North America: 20,310 feet."*

# My Journey to Denali

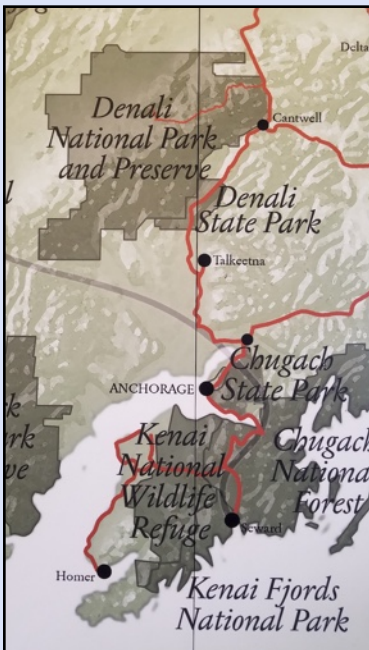


*By Alexander Smirnoff*

My journey started seventeen years ago in the Wilderness Travel Course. Before that I was backpacking in cotton clothing, eating food out of cans (freeze dried food didn't exist twenty-five years ago, right?), and thinking I was badass. After my class, I had met new people, tried more things in the outdoors than I ever thought possible, and found that I really enjoyed the snow climbs to high peaks. And best of all, I learned that altitude had little effect on me. I worked on bigger and bigger mountains and had my sights on Denali. Then I injured myself on a rock climbing fall in Yosemite and used the time off as an excuse to remodel my house, a project that took far longer than it should have. Way, way out of shape, I thought I'd never be fit again.

*Above: Looking down across the glacier and 11,000' camp (Photo by Todd Martin).*

Right: Left to right, Alexander Smirnoff, Todd Martin, and Thom Wolfson at LAX (Photo courtesy Todd Martin). Below right: Landing at “Kahiltna Glacier International Airport” (Photo by Josh Bean).



About two years ago, Thom Wolfson, a rock-climbing-club friend of mine mentioned that he was thinking of going to Denali. I said I'd like to go too, probably with the same sincerity one tells a former acquaintance at a high school reunion "I'll give you a call." But we kept talking about it, and soon enough the dream took on the shape of reality. Because we didn't want to go guided, we started working on finding more people to join our team. Just in case, I kicked my workout up several notches and started getting back in shape. Obviously, I needed more motivation than just realizing my old pants didn't fit anymore. I asked another member of our rock club, Todd Martin, who I had recently found out loved mountaineering more than rock climbing, to join us.

He was a hell of a rock climber, but I had no idea he was an even better mountaineer. And as luck would have it, I met this young and really strong guy, Josh Bean, at the Mt. Baldy hut by accident: he managed to kick snow all over my backpack, but I forgave him. He joined us for a day of snow climbing and went to Baldy a couple more times with us, and we invited him to train and join us on our trip to Denali. Though he had to move to Washington, DC, Josh continued training. Not being around the big mountains we have in California certainly didn't hinder his strength on the mountain.

Over the next year and a half, I devoted a tremendous amount of time to training—both skills training needed for Denali and my physical strength. I was a spectacle going up Henninger flats, carrying a sixty-pound pack and dragging an SUV tire behind me. In the last four months until the very last weekend before we left for Denali, I regularly carried the sixty-to-seventy pound (and more) pack up to the top of Mt. Baldy or San Geronio. On top of all that, I had also been going strong on Crossfit for the previous four years (yeah, that cult) and “wodding” (WOD is a term we





bags. Amazingly, I forgot nothing, although I frequently forget things on my Sierra trips.

We arrived in Anchorage on May 18 in good moods. We met up with our teammate coming in from Washington, DC, and checked into the hotel and walked around town to gather last minute provisions. On Sunday, May 20th, we were picked up early in the morning and headed to Talkeetna to meet up with the Talkeetna Air Taxi service to plan our departure. We found out that

Crossfitters use to describe the “workout of the day”) four-to-five times a week. I straightened out my diet and cut out sugar (I haven’t eaten a single cookie/cake/candy/soda in three or four years). So after one-



and-a-half years of planning, training, getting almost forty pounds lighter, and getting significantly stronger physically than I had ever been in my life, I was ready to depart!

Much of the fun in Denali is the planning process at home. We spent countless hours talking to each other about trip planning and dates, debating the plusses and minuses of particular clothing, looking for good deals, planning meals, etc. Most important was the final checklist, which I ran through three times as I loaded stuff into the travel

the weather had been horrible for six days and that the day we arrived was the first day they started flying again. We were told that some people were stuck on the glacier for days and couldn’t get off.

Glad that didn’t happen to us!

*Top: Rigging the sleds and repacking gear in Talkeetna.*  
*Center and left: Day 2, towing sleds to Camp 1 at 7800’ (Photos by Todd Martin).*





*Day 4 Top: Moving to 11,000' camp. Bottom: Camp at 11,000' (Photos by Todd Martin).*

It took us the entire afternoon to put our bags together, just “repackaging” and putting things into our sleds and backpacks. My stuff weighed 116 pounds, about forty-five pounds of it food (4000 calories per day). I came back with about thirteen pounds of food, which meant I consumed roughly 3500 calories per day. Because I lost ten to fifteen pounds during my time on the mountain, 3500 calories per day might not have been enough. I learned later on the trip that I was sick of the food I had and should have packed more salty foods and higher fat foods (like potato chips—I only took three big containers of Pringles, which were consumed very early in the trip). I just wasn’t feeling like eating the sweet stuff anymore. My freeze-dried meals I had for dinners were “homemade.” I found a company that sold various large packages of freeze-dried foods and bought packages of chicken (which tasted like the real thing once rehydrated with water), broccoli, corn, couscous, butter (I sure liked adding the freeze-dried butter to my dinners), etc. and measured everything into ziplock bags. This was great as it only took five minutes to cook on the mountain.

For those of you planning a Denali adventure, book your date with the Ranger first before booking the flight. We hit the first snag of the trip by booking flights and then trying to get a date with the ranger. The first available date was not until one day later



than we wanted, thus initially costing us a precious weather day. The meeting with Ranger Jake on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> was informative and pleasant. He explained the rules, quizzed us on our gear and number of stoves (three), went over some trip details, and handed us our five poop cans. Yuck! With our required meeting complete, we were off to the air taxi service for final loading of our bags.

Stoves are vital equipment on the expedition, so we wanted to have two stoves and a backup. I took my stove apart and cleaned everything. True to form, I waited till the last possible minute to put my stove together. My stress level rose while the taxi service and teammates were loading bags and I was trying to make sense of the instructions spread on the ground along with a bunch of microscopic pieces. On top of that, the old shaker needle fell to the dirt/grass and was forever lost, totally incapacitating my stove.

Our flight was exciting: we had beautiful, clear weather and could see for miles. Denali showed itself in all its splendor! We landed on the glacier in the late afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, and the adventure was about to begin, except that two stoves, mine being one of them, did not cooperate. At least the other malfunctioning stove was able to



*Clockwise from left: The kitchen tent at the 11k camp.*

*Cooking outside the tent at 14k camp (Photos by Alexander Smirnoff).*

*Cooking bacon inside the kitchen tent, May 26, 11K camp (Photo by Todd Martin).*



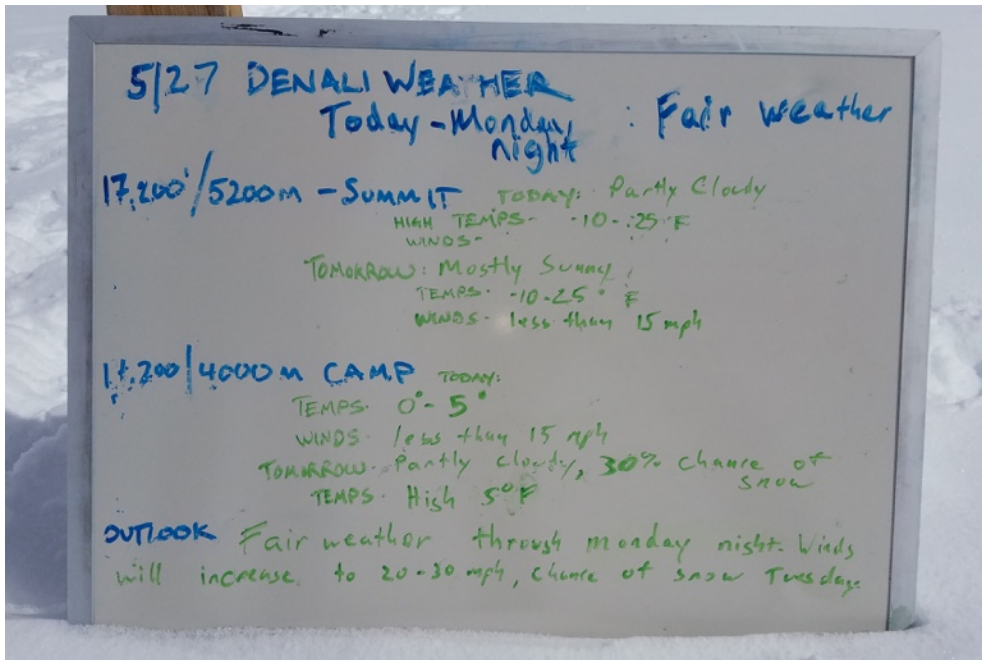
be repaired. Why I didn't spend the \$100 to buy a brand new Whisperlite is beyond me. Lucky for us, the two stoves were all we needed throughout the trip, and we never had a problem with them.

The next morning, we packed and moved to camp 1 at 7800'. It was the first time for three of us pulling a sled on an expedition. I had about forty-five pounds on my back and about seventy in the sled. Compared to the tire I was dragging at home, the sled was a breeze and easy to pull. The second day we cached supplies at about 10,000', and on the third day we were already pinned down for a weather day at 7800'. It seemed that we were going to use up weather days early, but even though weather always threatened, we only had to use one more weather day the whole trip. We moved to camp 3 at 11,000' on day four and decided not to back carry, a process where a team moves to the next camp to set up, passing the cache, and then returns the next day to the cache site below to pick up the rest of the supplies. We had a strong group, yet a lazy one; none of us had any desire to back carry. Thus, we always picked up our supplies at all three cache sites (approx. 10K, 13K and 16K) on the way to the next camps. The

plus was that we picked up the weather days we used/lost early in the trip and by the time we got to the 17K camp, we had a full set of five weather days we originally planned on. The minus was that we always had heavy loads "the last mile" to the next campsites.

Our moves to 11K and 14K camps were fairly routine. We stayed about three nights at 11K and four nights at 14K, which helped us to get acclimatized. Fortunately, none of us had any major issues with the altitude throughout the trip. Two or three nights I had trouble sleeping at 14K and 17K; throughout those nights I would stop breathing and wake up many times. At 11K





16K and picked up our cache. We stuffed everything into and around our already overstuffed backpacks. Each of us felt our packs weighed between seventy and eighty pounds, and we had to walk on the ridge of the west buttress with the very heavy packs. This was a scary proposition for me! Needless to say, I had all my attention on my footing and made sure each plant of my ice axe was solid. The trip from 16K to 17K with all that weight walking on a precarious ridge was probably the hardest part of the expedition for me. There were probably twenty-five other climbers at camp, significantly fewer than we saw at 14K. And it was cold! The temperatures ranged from -10 to -30, but fortunately, we didn't have any wind. We set up camp and the next day, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, definitely called for a rest day.

Our plan was to push for the summit on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, our thirteenth day on the mountain.

and 14k we set up our kitchen tent and enjoyed bacon and macaroni and cheese. The kitchen tent and bacon ended up being worth their weight in gold to us. At 14K we experienced our first sub-zero temperatures ranging from 5 to -5 degrees.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, day 10, we started to push upward again and moved about twenty-five or thirty pounds of supplies (mostly fuel, food, and any extra clothes) to last five days to 16K for caching within striking distance of the beautiful knife-edge ridge of the West Buttress. It was our first approach of the headwall above 14K and the fixed lines. Getting over the bergschrund at this time was relatively easy, and it took me a few moves to get the hang of moving on the fixed lines. The following day we broke camp and packed the rest of our stuff to move to 17K. Again, we didn't want to back carry, so we stopped at



Above: Weather forecast sign updated daily by the rangers at 14k camp.

Right: Crossing the bergschrund, en route to 16,200' cache (Photos by Todd Martin).



*Day 11, moving to 17,000' camp, left to right: Todd Martin, Thom Wolfson, Josh Bean, and Alexander Smirnoff (Photo by Todd Martin).*

We woke in the morning, however, and saw clouds in the direction of the summit indicating high winds. The decision was a no go for us, and several teams bailed down the mountain because the weather forecast called for worsening conditions over the next several days. We got up around 5 am on June 4<sup>th</sup> and were greeted by a clear beautiful morning! We were all teeming with anticipation and by about 8:30 am were on our way. The second group out of the gate that morning, we quickly passed the first group going up before hitting the fixed lines. We moved well until we got up over Denali Pass and to the Football Field. On the Football Field several groups passed us; so much for our egos. It was the first time on the expedition that we didn't feel the strongest nor did we move considerably faster than most other climbers on the mountain. Inching over to Pig Hill, we saw the summit in front of us a mere 1000 feet up. We were all exhausted but moved as fast as we could because clouds were beginning to form. We had a beautiful, clear, sunny day up to within an hour of reaching the summit. As we reached the top, the clouds enveloped the mountain. It certainly was a bummer not to have a view at all, but the elation of reaching the top was thrilling for me. Finally! By now it was about 6:00pm.

We caught our breath, snapped a few photos, and quickly headed down as the weather deteriorated. The snow was coming down while we were still on the summit plateau. The wind was picking up as well. Amazed that there were still so many parties coming up, I was certainly happy to be heading down. By the time we got down to Denali Pass, the wind and snow had picked up considerably. We were spread out on the rope, and I was standing in place for about a half hour waiting for the scared party ahead of us to move on the fixed lines. I was starting to get cold and couldn't see what was going on because we were curving around rocks, but it felt like we were never

going to move. Finally, we got onto the fixed lines and even that was slow going because the weather was beating down on us while we were trying to get purchase on the hard, sloping ice. We made it back to camp about 1:00am.

The day after the summit we got some much-needed rest. We decided we would get up on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> and start heading down, but when we woke up at 6 am, the winds were very strong at 17K. Strong winds at 17K are a problem because they indicate strong winds on the Buttress below, and a person caught in the winds could be thrown off balance and potentially fall off the ridge. Having heard that a guided group was going to move around 1:00 pm, we decided to get ready in case we could go down. When the winds died down about 2:30 pm, we were packed and ready to go. The hike down from 17K was just as hard as the hike up from 16K to 17K. Though we had very heavy packs on both legs of the trip, for me going down on the ridge was more dicey because I was trying to be even more careful on the thin ridge. We finally reached the headwall above 14k and got on the fixed lines. At the bottom of the headwall, the bergschrund really opened up. There were a couple of good foot placements, but then there was no place to put my right foot, and I had to "jump" a bit to get across—I admit that my heart skipped a beat.

We finally arrived at the 14K camp at 11 pm to terrible weather as it was now snowing very hard. We located our kitchen tent and somehow had to muster up the strength to clean it out and





straighten it up so that we could get out of the weather, cook something, and sit. It took a couple of hours to do that and no one was interested in setting up our tents in that weather, knowing we wanted to leave the next day. We didn't want to waste four hours to set up camp and then another four to break it down (no matter how hard we tried to be efficient, we couldn't beat those times). So we sat in the kitchen tent all night long. I managed to sleep here and there by resting my forehead and hands on the shovel

handle while sitting upright on our snow benches in the tent. My teammates were impressed.

It continued to snow heavily in the morning — at least two-to-three feet had fallen—so it looked like we were going to have to spend the night at 14K. Because weather was coming in the days ahead and we didn't want to get stuck, we were concerned. Fortunately, we heard that a guide service and their clients were going to head down in the afternoon. We decided we would wait for them to go

*Above and at right: Day 11. Moving up the West Buttress to Camp 5 at 17,000' with heavy packs (Photos by Todd Martin).*





*Left: The summit of Denali, June 4, 2018. Left to right: Todd Martin, Thom Wolfsen, Josh Bean, and Alexander Smirnoff.*

*Below: Alexander Smirnoff relaxing at 11k camp (Photos by Todd Martin).*

first (and the rangers at 14K also recommended it) because the guides knew the route, which wasn't easy to see in the very cloudy conditions. Plus, we did not want to break trail. We started the last part of our journey down at 2:30pm from 14K. Those guides were amazing people to be able to break trail for 7000 feet, and we gladly followed the trail they broke. We had to make stops at 11K and 7800' to dig up caches, but we arrived at the airport shortly after 5:00 am on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>. We had not slept for 48 hours. The last 600 feet to the airport were uphill and felt like they took forever. I was utterly exhausted but bursting with smiles.

The scheduling for getting a flight off the glacier begins promptly at 8:00 am, and we were warned that knocking on the door of the ranger earlier than 8:00 am would draw his/her ire to the point that we might run the risk of not getting a flight off the glacier until the end of the season. We heeded the warning as we wanted off very badly. Two of my teammates opted to take a well-deserved couple hour nap. Another teammate and I were too excited for a nap and opted instead to repack our gear as required to load the plane when it came shortly after 9:00 am.

Was it worth it? Yes, it was the climb of my life, and I'm grateful to have accomplished it. I do have further ambitions to climb more mountains around the world, but I'm not sure I'll return to the Denali range, though I probably won't say no if the opportunity arises. Denali is considered a training ground for peaks like Everest, but I never really had any desire to climb Everest, and after this trip, I'm pretty sure I don't want to do so now. Denali was a lot of work (i.e., more time concentrated on digging holes, building ice blocks, digging kitchen tent seating/cooking area, etc., and a bit less on climbing). We got the weather window, and we never really got hit with the bad weather Denali could have unleashed on us. Other people were not as lucky. Some poor folks were trapped at the airport for six days waiting for a flight out. Another person I knew who went right after us was stuck in his tent for six days at 11K and then bailed before the next five-day storm was about to hit. It was a tough year for the 1200 or so climbers as the season ended with about 40% summit success rate (a bit lower than the 50% average). But it was definitely an experience for me, and I learned a lot!





# DENALI

## Fifty Years Hence (Almost)

By Doug Mantle



I note with admiration Michael Chamoun's fast, alpine-style ascent of Denali as that from a few years earlier, on skis, by Greg Colley and Brad Jensen. Our climb, 1975, by comparison was more akin to Kitchener's assault on Khartoum.

We were nine, most decidedly SPSers, three teams resting in two REI stand-up tents (think Ted Williams and Sears), and a NINE-man (no pronoun confusion then, although Barbara Magnuson was a last-minute "no go") Stevenson tent (think "vapor-barriers," naked-women catalog, true!), lined with a particular type of ensolite. Carl Stude machined titanium pickets and tent stakes. We used clumsy, monstrous Primus kerosene stoves; hiked in bunny boots (we considered K boots, Korean War relics); and instead of Barbara Lilley's lipstick, which in apocrypha had saved her otherwise male team's lips in the 1960s, we had Labiosan, which I can smell today.

Our planning had lasted a year, monthly meetings, simulated crevasse rescues at San Gorgonio, four of us acclimatized by skiing down Mt. Ritter, an SMS trip, a few weeks before.

Number ten cans of Mountain House, yes, and the famous "pemmican," plus liquid butter helped sustain us (I GAINED ten pounds), and Pilot biscuits.

ALONE (apologies to Admiral Byrd), the NPS got into the rescue business a year later.

Legendary bush pilot Don Sheldon still flew here, but we contracted with his rival, Crazy Clif Hudson. Anyone in that capacity no doubt was a bit crazy.

Our teammate John McKinley (did he later change HIS name?) was a VISTA employee, stationed in Anchorage, and he eased our fuel purchase, "moose gooser" train ride, along with other arrangements. We flew to the

Kahiltna June 21<sup>st</sup>, despairing the lack of daylight, and notwithstanding a several-days' storm (ending on July 4 . . . Carl the gear guy actually blared "Ode to Joy" that a.m., well, one can't "blare" it), and up the West Buttress (yes, even then there were fixed lines) we went, atop the pass with eight-days' of preparedness just in case.

Our summit, all nine, was sublime, though I bristled at having to carry a radio. Our descent was swift and uneventful, broken only by a pause wherein devilish-appearing Roy Magnuson poured and lit fuel and burned foodstuffs into a (now a big no-no) resentful crevasse as we chanted, "Burn it, burn it! . . ."

It was the hardest and best thing I ever did.

*Above, front: John McKinley, Roy Magnuson, Maynard Brandsma, Boris Savick, Mark Goebel. Back: George Hubbard, Carl Stude, Doug Mantle, Tom Cardena (Photo courtesy of Doug Mantle).*





*Above: Cardinal Pk and Taboose Plateau from Striped Mtn. Below: Southwest from Taboose Pass towards Arrow Peak (Photos by Phil S. Bates).*

## A Hot, Stormy Peak-Bagging Quest around Taboose Pass

*By Phil S. Bates*

A mid-July heat wave and a dose of the monsoon season resulted in a damp backpack up and around Taboose Pass, with alternating scorching heat and thunderstorms that led to frequent changes in campsites and climbing plans. An evening start, trailside bivouack and pre-dawn resumption allowed Bill Van Woert and me to reach the treeless, expansive pass before mid-day. Subsequently, we began a routine of sweating profusely when the sun was shining, rising before dawn each day to avoid the onset of early storms, beating a hasty retreat from summits when storm clouds gathered, and waiting out hail, rain, and lightning







*At left: The northeast face of Striped Mountain with Mt. Pinchot in view to the south (Photo by Phil S. Bates).*

inside our tents. Though the weather often tormented us, we felt fortunate to summit four SPS peaks (Cardinal, Arrow, Wynne, and Striped), enjoying snow-free routes up enjoyable mixes of Class 2 and 3 rock. However, two other planned climbs (Pinchot and Goodale) had to be abandoned in mid-scramble due to deteriorating weather. We were especially disappointed when a mid-morning storm required us to abort our Wynne-Pinchot traverse

among the pinnacles that adorn the ridge connecting these two peaks. As consolation, we were often rewarded by fabulous cloud formations and stunning sunsets. Whenever we started to become pleased with our peak bagging successes, we were immediately humbled by the summit register entries of Doug Mantle, who greeted us with a note about his recent 8th ascent of each peak we climbed!

## Columbine Peak

August 25, 2018

*By Dave Titus*

Columbine Peak is an impressive dome in the Sierra Nevada that rules Dusy Basin with its formidable neighbor, Isosceles Peak. Together the two monoliths create a divide like a giant fence that seemingly blocks access to the fourteeners, save for Knapsack Pass, a small window on the south side of Columbine Peak that gets you into Palisade Basin. The approach to Knapsack Pass from any of the Dusy lakes is a



*Above: Columbine Peak at sunset (Photo by Dave Titus).*



# Columbine Peak, continued



forgiving walk skyward across tiers of granite that curl around the west face of Columbine.

I joined my friends Mark and Al on a three-night climbing trip to Columbine using the Bishop Pass trailhead at the end of highway 168. From South Lake it was a quick trek into Kings Canyon at the 12,000' pass, where the incredible west face of Columbine came into view. It was the first thing we saw towering above the glacier-polished granite that sinks slowly into LeConte Canyon.

The three of us traversed from Bishop Pass across sandy benches below Mount Agassiz and then kicked across boulders and found a trail to the lakes. At the east side of the basin, the travel was adventurous, and the camps were secluded. We nestled into a nook and feasted on beans and rice under the stars.

Above tree line it's always cold in Dusy Basin, and this night was no different. My boots were frosted when I woke up in the morning, and Mark had to lube the pump cup on his stove. Al dropped a line in the lake as the sun rose over the highest ridges east of us. He caught plenty of fish, as usual, and gently returned them unharmed back to the water before we made our way over to Knapsack.

The climb to the summit of Columbine is an underrated Sierra Nevada gem. From Knapsack pass the stunning view of Palisade Basin took my breath away, and the initial class-three zigzags winding up Columbine's south ridge were memorable. We picked our way up and zigged at least three times before zagging naturally onto easier terrain. We hopped over jumbled boulders and stuck close to the ridge the rest of the way to the summit.

On top the heat of the sun was tempered by an innocent wind all around us. It was a spectacular place.

Photo sessions ensued, lunch was had, and we signed the register, then took a moment to appreciate where we were. It was the high country, as high as we could get on this massif. Descent routes to the east looked inviting and we decided to take advantage of the sandy scree chutes that swung onto a sweet traverse back to Knapsack pass.

It's difficult to admit, but we trampled the terrain on that descent and it continues to be trampled by us and everyone else. The better choice is a more durable descent route, or to go back the way we came across the talus. We degraded the terrain by scree skiing. Even so, the natural habitat can return to those slopes if we let them be. In retrospect, when it came to leave no trace, the choices we made on the trip to Columbine were not entirely sound.

Preparation is everything; allowing time for the adventure, researching routes, discussing

*Above: friends on Columbine—Mark, Al, and Dave Titus. Below: Dave Titus on the summit of Columbine (Photos by Mark Ferrell).*





**Columbine Peak, continued:** options. If we had prepared better, we may not have done as much damage. Exploring the Sierra Nevada trails, peaks, and passes is a privilege that deserves attention to detail.

Before heading back to the lake, the three of us paused at the pass and surveyed the surroundings. Mt. Sill was within reach, Mt Giraud intriguing. Mt. Agassiz, Mt. Goode,

and Mt. No Goode were just around the corner. Isosceles Peak towered above base camp and I wondered if I'd ever climb it. We huddled into the nook for one more night, fired up the stoves and sipped hot cocoa as the sun crept into the distance. I gazed thoughtfully at Columbine Peak. It basked in alpenglow and its chest stuck out with head held high. I knew right then it was my favorite climb of all time.

## Hiking Mt. Fuji (12,389'), Honshu Island, Japan

*By Wasim Khan*

In July 2018, I traveled to Japan to climb Mt. Fuji, discovering that Japan is one of the cleanest countries I have seen so far: absolutely no rubbish, cigarette butts, bottles, or metal cans anywhere. Japan Railway subway trains run on time. The only drawback was that most of the people outside Tokyo do not speak English, so I had to use sign language, which worked out just fine. I flew into Narita International airport, a suburb of Tokyo, and stayed a few days in Narita, visiting Tokyo and other places. Fortunately, the train to Tokyo has announcements in English and Japanese, also displayed on the train in both languages. Getting to the town of Fuji from Narita required taking the train from Narita to Tokyo and then to Fuji with a few transfers.

On July 11, 2018, I took a bus to the Fujinomiya trail, fifth station, a one-and-a-half-hour bus ride to the trailhead. Because the Yoshida trail also has a fifth station, one must be very careful in reaching the trail one wants. I started hiking on the very well-marked Fujinomiya trail around 11:15 AM. Along the way I passed different stations with snacks, water, drinks, and more for sale. After I passed station 9, it started to drizzle. By the time I reached the top, it started raining very hard. A temple and post office are at the top. There were only two other hikers besides me on the summit. I waited inside the temple for half hour and prayed for the rain to stop, but no such luck. Due to the rain and poor visibility, I was not able to take any photographs. I had a reservation to spend the night at Yoshida trail eighth station. I started to walk towards that station, but after about two hours of up and down, I could not find it. Finally, I did see a hut, which was not the one that I had reserved; however, they did have a space available for me to sleep and have dinner.

I was up early to hike back to the top, hoping to see the sunrise and take a few pictures. This time there was no rain, but at the top it was extremely cloudy with visibility about three-to-five feet. I waited for about thirty minutes, hoping it would clear,

but no such luck. I headed down the way I came up. Despite the lack of summit photos, it was still all in all a very good trip, and I was glad to experience a totally different culture.

Some places to visit are the Shinshoji and Taisekiji temples, the Shiraito and Otodome waterfalls, and Mt Fuji heritage center. Or take a few short hikes around Mt. Fuji, explore the weekend street market in Narita, or observe a prayer service in a temple. Although Japan is a relatively expensive place, the hotel rooms are very small. Beware: People with big tattoos are not allowed in Japanese hot baths!



*(Photos courtesy Wasim Khan).*

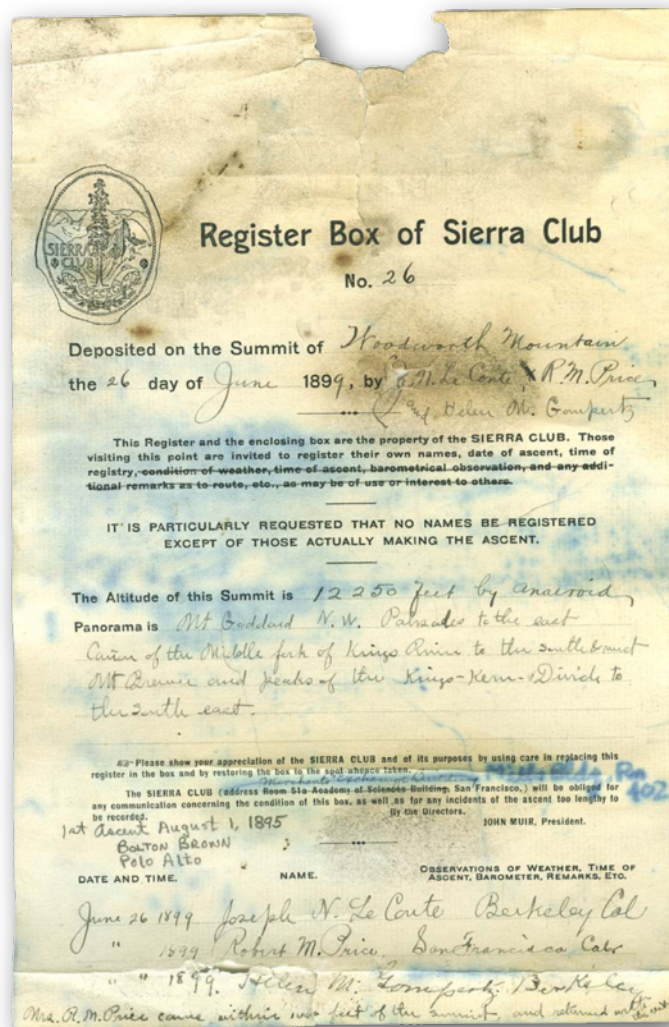
# A Little Bit on Summit Registers

By Tina Bowman

Recently Doug Mantle called my attention to an article by mountaineer and photographer Claude Fiddler about the removal of the Mt. Woodworth register some years ago. There's a link below to that article as well as a separate link to Robin Ingraham's article on the history of Sierra Nevada summit registers, an article also given in its entirety after Fiddler's piece.

Mountaineers generally delight in finding a summit register and enjoy reading in it the names who have climbed the peak before. A number of years ago, the SPS debated hot and heavily with Robin Ingraham of the Sierra Register Committee (SRC) about the removal of historic registers with the original being sent to the Sierra Club archives at Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley and a photocopy of the register being placed on the summit from which the original was removed. SPSers will probably find Ingraham's article "Ghosts in the Clouds: History of Mountaineering Registers in the Sierra Nevada" very interesting; it includes the story of the SPS and SRC discussion of what should be done with registers. Read it here: <http://www.robiningraham.com/Mountaineering/HistoryOfRegisters.pdf>

That debate goes back to 1989, when SPS chair Bill Oliver contacted Robin Ingraham about the actions of the SRC, and the early 1990s. Since then, climbers now unfortunately too often find no register on peaks or only quite new books, the old ones having vanished. In a few instances for SPS peaks, the local government agency, such as the Forest Service, doesn't want registers on peaks—this is true in the Desolation Wilderness. Although the SPS doesn't try to maintain registers there, many people still place registers on these peaks, but they seem to disappear quickly. On some very popular mountains registers fill quite quickly, and the full ones are removed to make room in the container for the needed new books, so a sense of the history of mountaineers on the peak is lost. Some older registers have been removed for preservation because they were in danger of loss, loss originally referring to a register's being damaged because of weather, lightning strikes, and leaking containers. Other older registers have disappeared, sometimes only the book, other times both the book and container. Whether someone simply stole the registers, hurled them off the summit, or removed them in the belief that they were trash and didn't belong on summits, we may never know.



I do know that when I have read of a very old register, I have feared for its loss. This happened some years ago when an article in *Sierra* magazine told of the fine register on Black Kaweah with entries by Norman Clyde and Walter Starr, Jr., Starr's signature in blood because he didn't have a pencil. I'd seen that register and felt ill that its existence was being revealed to anyone happening upon the article. Sure enough, it wasn't long until that wonderful register disappeared. Thankfully, however, Bill Oliver had photographed each page. Claude Fiddler writes here about his rescue of Mt. Woodworth's register after its existence was celebrated in an internet post: <http://www.claudefiddler.com/2017/08/17/ghosts-in-the-clouds/>

In my perfect world, registers would show some age but never become decrepit and weathered and would always remain on their peaks for others to enjoy. I can dream, can't I?

Above: Original Woodward register placed by Joseph LeConte and now archived at Bancroft Library (Image courtesy of Robin Ingraham linked above).





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

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

## Oct 6-7 | Sat-Sun

SPS, WTC

**I: Sawtooth Pk (N) (12,343')**: Join us for an early autumn weekend in the Sequoia National Forest out of Mineral King to ascend this amazingly scenic peak with outstanding views in all directions. Saturday morning we will pack in on trail at a relaxed pace and set up camp at Lower Monarch Lake for a total for the day of 3.4 miles with 2,800 feet of gain. Sat night we will celebrate with a Festive Happy Hour under moonless, starry night skies. Sun plan to set out at first light on trail and later cross country to the summit of Sawtooth Peak for a total of 2.2 miles with 2,400 feet of gain. After savoring the views up top we will return to camp, pack up and head out. This SPS outing is co-sponsored by WTC. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. LDRS: Mat Kelliher, Anne Mullins

## 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

**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:

Richard Boardman 310-374-4371  
Tina Bowman 562-438-3809 [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)  
Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 [dianedunbar@charter.net](mailto:dianedunbar@charter.net)  
Jim Fleming [jimf333@att.net](mailto:jimf333@att.net)  
Paul Garry (310) 399-2334 [pwgarry@earthlink.net](mailto:pwgarry@earthlink.net)  
Matthew Hengst [matthew.hengst@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com)  
Alex Hunt [alexhunt@gmail.com](mailto:alexhunt@gmail.com)  
Mat Kelliher 818-667-2490 [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com)  
Jack Kieffer [jockorock42@yahoo.com](mailto:jockorock42@yahoo.com)  
Kristen Lindbergh [kmlindbergh@gmail.com](mailto:kmlindbergh@gmail.com)  
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 [pamckusky@att.net](mailto:pamckusky@att.net)  
Anne Mullins [hike2thepeak@gmail.com](mailto:hike2thepeak@gmail.com)  
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 [rmmyers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmmyers@ix.netcom.com)  
Emily Nelson [Emily.nelson1001@gmail.com](mailto:Emily.nelson1001@gmail.com)  
Jeremy Netka 818-703-8607 [jnetka@gmail.com](mailto:jnetka@gmail.com)  
Tommy Porter [tommywporter@gmail.com](mailto:tommywporter@gmail.com)  
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 [dan@danrichter.com](mailto:dan@danrichter.com)  
Ann Shields 818-637-2542 [apedreschi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apedreschi@sbcglobal.net)  
Alexander Smirnoff [alsmir1701@gmail.com](mailto:alsmir1701@gmail.com)  
Derek Tse [derek.l.tse@gmail.com](mailto:derek.l.tse@gmail.com)

see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr:  
Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

**Oct 20-21 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**M: Smatko Pk Dedication Hike:** Join us to honor Dr. Andy Smatko with the unofficial naming of Smatko Pk in the Southern Sierra northeast of Sherman Pass, c. 1 mi RT, 600' gain, with a little 3rd class on the summit block. We'll have the dedication below the summit block for those who do not wish to climb it. We can add other short day hikes to named peaks in the area both Sat and Sun and celebrate in camp Sat night. To sign up and give your experience on cl 3 if you wish to climb the summit block, email or send a sase to Ldr: Tina

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](http://summitregister.org) whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.

Bowman. Asst Idrs: Jim Fleming, Paul Garry, Alexander Smirnoff.

**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 2-4 | Fri-Sun** **LTC**  
**C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge:** For 35+ years, the Wilderness First Aid Course (WFAC) has been training students in first aid and medical emergency management when regular response services are unavailable. The three-day, 26-hour course runs from 7:30 am Fri to 5:00 pm Sun. Fee includes instruction, lodging, and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$295 (full refund until 9/28/18). For sign-up and more information, see



# OUTINGS

instructions and application  
at [www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org](http://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org)

**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 1-2 | Sat-Sun**                      **LTC**  
**M/E-R: Alabama Hills Rock Checkoff & Practice:** M & 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 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. Assts: Dan Richter, Matthew Hengst.

**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, 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 12 | Sat**                                      **LTC**  
**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#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

## A Call for Outings!

Hi Leaders! Obviously, the summer climbing season will soon converge with fall. The Sierra is beautiful in the fall, and permits are much easier to get. While it's true that you may not be able to get deep into the Sierra given the shorter days and potential for weather, it's still possible to back out some lower peaks in the cooler weather. It's never too early to begin planning outings for next spring, summer, and early fall. Also, fall is a great time to start making your climb list for next season, while things are fresh in your mind! Getting people into the outdoors is the most important thing we do. Truly, mountaineering is the heart of the Sierra Club.

A friendly reminder to leaders who are planning a restricted M or E trip to factor in additional lead time for me and the Mountaineering Oversight Committee approval process. Last, provisional leaders, please make sure that the Provisional Lead Committee has approved your trip before submitting your trip for publication. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at [philipabates@gmail.com](mailto:philipabates@gmail.com).

Phil Bates  
Outings Chair, SPS

# OUTINGS

**Jan 12-13 | Sat-Sun**

**LTC**

**I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann (Pedreschi) Shields.

**Jan 27 | Sun**

**SPS**

**Sierra Peaks Section Banquet:** Join us 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> Registration opens at 8 am the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing. 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 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

## ***Outings Leaders!***

### ***First Aid Requirements Are Changing!***

From the Leadership Training Committee's page on first aid ([https://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc\\_first\\_aid](https://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_first_aid)):

The Sierra Club is changing its requirements for [first aid certification for Outings Leaders](#). The date shown on your certification will become the basis for the official expiration date for your first aid certification. Your certification must be current for at least two years. For example, if your certification was issued by the American Red Cross in June 2016, and the Red Cross certifies for two years, your certification now expires in June 2018.

All Angeles Chapter outings leaders need to conform with the new requirement by January 1, 2019. If your current first aid expiration expires (according to the date on the card) prior to December 31, 2018, you must renew. If you do not do so, you will not be permitted to lead outings for the Chapter. The Chapter as well as several entities within the Chapter are working to set up certification classes at a reasonable cost. Stay tuned. Got questions? [Click here for everything you need to know for first aid certification and the new rules.](#)

From the editors: M-and E-rated leaders, keep in mind that to lead restricted mountaineering outings, one leader must be current in wilderness first aid; the other may be current in basic first aid, though it's always good if both leaders are current in WFA.



# OUTINGS

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.

**May 4-5 | Sat-Sun** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019):**  
**anchors and Systems:** 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.

**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

## 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](http://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](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia)

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

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

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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

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

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

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

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

### SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://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

commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Registration opens at 8 am the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing. 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> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

## SPS Income Statement 8-13-2018

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>INCOME</b>												
Echo Subscriptions	1,690	840	410	220	110	50	1,835	1,360	1,550	1,560	1,630	1,580
Banquet Income	2,605	-	45	-	-	-	2,800	2,905	4,645	4,110	3,760	2,795
Donations	798	385	135	60	30	-	340	440	560	666	873	670
Merchandise Sales	86	-	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	395	262	112
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,179</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>7,031</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>6,525</b>	<b>5,157</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>												
Postage	98	-	-	-	-	-	609	-4	14	938	522	314
Printing	99	-	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433	418
Merchandise	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130	-
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,715	-	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553
Bank Fees	6	-	-	-	-	-	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	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>7,019</b>	<b>9,048</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>4,674</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(371)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(2,317)</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>482</b>



# OUTINGS

Oct 26-27 | Sat-Sun

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

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

**Anchors and Systems:** 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.

**SPS Management Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m.  
Alexander Smirnoff's Home  
1701 Paloma Street, Pasadena, CA 91104  
(626) 435-1251**

1. Call to order at 7:01; present were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Laura Newman, outreach; Paul Garry, banquet; and Tina Bowman, secretary.
  2. Standard business and reports.
    - a. Approval of minutes (June)—Done via e-mail.
    - b. Chair—Jim has been receiving emails from Donna Specht inquiring how to increase chapter membership.
    - c. Vice Chair—Banquet status: we have speaker and venue lined up; we'll be making a flyer for the next issue of the *Echo*. Laura suggested making postcards for the banquet to send to new members and others such as WTC students to encourage them to attend.
    - d. Outings—Jim is awaiting a report from Phil Bates, outings chair. Many outings are co-listed with WTC.
    - e. Treasurer's report—Current balance of \$9935; Alexander sent a more-detailed report via email. The committee discussed possibly spending money on leader training (hiring a guide for a day of rock or snow training or possibly arranging a first aid training).
    - f. Emblem Committee Report—we have two new emblem holders: Ron Bartell (list finish plus master emblem) and Christine Mitchell (master emblem).
    - g. Outreach—Laura will follow up on the postcard idea for reaching out to new and prospective members.
    - h. Archives—no report.
    - i. *Echo*
      - i. Deadline for next issue is August 25<sup>th</sup> (Oct./Dec. issue)
      - ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website: Tina gave Laura the last of the issues she has to be scanned, and Laura returned a large batch she had scanned and sent to Harry Langenbacher via Drop Box for uploading to the web site. Laura can get missing issues from Barbara Lilley and Greg Gerlach.
    - iii. Move to HTML version (update)—no progress.
    - j. Mountain Records—no report.
    - k. IT—no report.
    - l. Website—no report.
    - m. Conservation—no report.
    - n. Safety Chair—no report.
  3. Old business
    - a. Smatko Peak dedication hike: it is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. Tina will send out an email blast to advertise it to members and post on the web site.
    - b. Memorial for John W. Robinson: Jim attended the memorial, held at the Cal State Fullerton arboretum. Jerry Keating spoke, and his wife, Nancy, was there also. It was a fine memorial about John and the many facets of his life.
  4. New business
    - a. Change to Policies and Procedures: the Emblem Committee is working on clarifying wording of the criteria for the Andy Smatko Explorer emblem. When the committee is satisfied with the revision, Tina will send it to the management committee for approval and thus revision to the description of the emblem in the Policies and Procedures. It will then be posted on the web site. There was a question of whether there should be a time requirement for the emblem, such as to have been an SPS member for a year or more to earn the emblem.
    - b. Next meeting date is set for Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander Smirnoff's home.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.
- Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bowman  
Secretary

## ***High Sierra: The Range of Light***

by Fred Weyman

256 pages

Copyright 2017

ISBN: 978-0-7643-5344-4

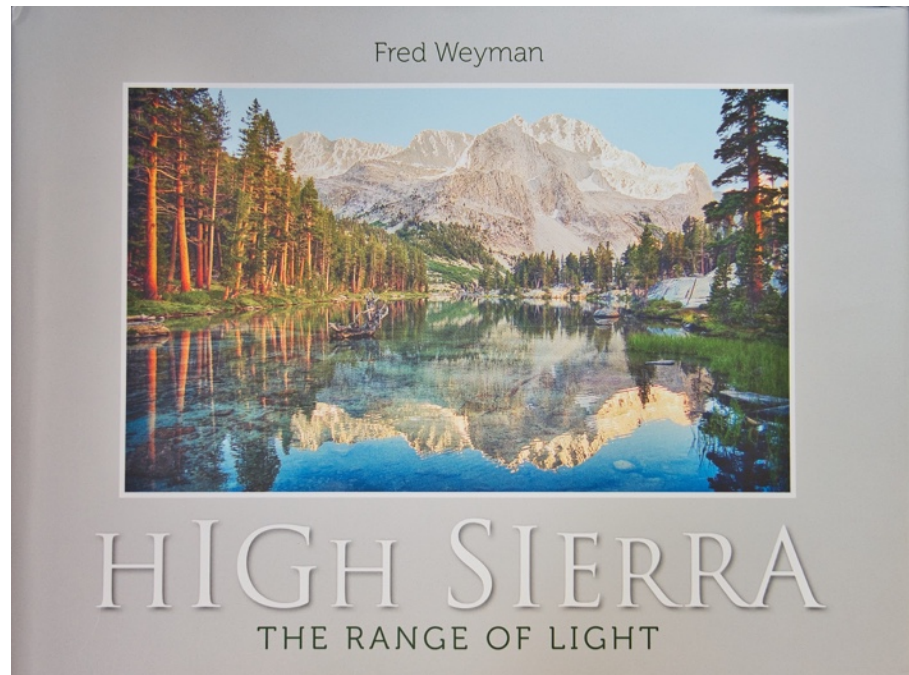
Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.

[www.schifferbooks.com](http://www.schifferbooks.com)

*Reviewed by Dave Sholle*

This book is not specifically a mountaineering book, but it should be of significant interest to SPS members. A book of photographs of the High Sierra covering the area from Lake Tahoe to Mount Whitney, it is divided into chapters by geographical area: Lake Tahoe Area, Yosemite National Park, Ansel Adams Wilderness, Convict Creek Basin, John Muir Wilderness, Kings Canyon National Park, and Sequoia National Park. Each chapter starts with a portion of a USGS topographic map covering part of the region, and the inner front and back covers of the book also have topo maps, which add to the appearance of the book.

The general layout is a photo on an odd page (right side), and an accompanying caption on the facing even page (left side). Occasionally there are photos and captions on both odd and even pages. The captions include a descriptive title of the photo, usually followed by several sentences written by Fred, describing the features in the scene. In some cases he describes his thinking and planning in capturing the photo. One example would be an explanation of why he shot a photo from a certain vantage point as



opposed to another easier-to-access vantage point. Fred also explains what he is trying to achieve in his landscapes, and you can just enjoy the photo, or also learn from what he wrote, which might come in useful the next time you take a landscape photo. For example, in the caption for the photo titled Granite Lake, Cascade Lake, Emerald Bay, and Lake Tahoe on page 17, Fred writes: "A 'continuum of depth' is how a friend described the eye-leading feature that I often seek when composing landscapes; far more eloquent than my previous description: multiple levels of depth without large breaks in between." Page 33 contains a photo of Cherry Creek Canyon, which also beautifully illustrates the continuum of depth from foreground to background. In addition, Fred writes about the journey to capture the photo. The accompanying caption ends with: "My three days in this remote corner of Yosemite is the only Sierra backpacking trip where I never encountered any people."

Many of the photos in the book were taken at the "Magic hour" or "Golden hour" around sunrise and sunset, as opposed to the harsh lighting of a cloudless middle of the day. (One of the reasons I enjoy the high arctic regions is that the period of beautiful lighting is so prolonged because of the sun's low trajectory across the sky.) Taking photos at the best hours of lighting requires planning ahead and setting up early, as opposed to simply snapping a photograph at mid-day as you pass through an area.

The captions often have appropriate quotes from others, of which quotes from John Muir are the most common. For example, a photo of Garnet Lake with Mt. Ritter and Banner Peak bathed in Alpenglow has the Muir quote: "No mountains I know of are so alluring. None so hospitable, kindly, tenderly inspiring. It seems strange that everybody does not come at their call." This was especially meaningful for Barbara and me, as we were leaving Garnet Lake early one



## BOOKS

morning while doing the JMT in 2014, and Mt. Ritter and Banner Peak were bathed in intense Alpenglow for several minutes.

Occasionally the captions are more amusing and observational, such as the caption associated with a photo of Mud Lake on page 119, attributed to a German backpacker: "If this were the Alps there would be a hotel over here, a gas station over there . . ." The captions often have interesting geological or botanical information in them. In addition, the Introduction of the book is primarily about geology, and although I have read extensively about the geology of the Sierra (many years ago), I still learned some things in the four page introduction. I realized that "The Range of Light" doesn't just refer to the play of sunlight on the mountains throughout the day, but it could easily also refer to the light colored rock of a good portion of the Sierra.

The book is in landscape format and about 12" wide by 9" high. The landscape format is appropriate, as almost all of the photographs are in landscape (horizontal) format as opposed to portrait (vertical) format. Fred writes in the caption of one vertically-oriented photo of Lake Reflection: "I dislike vertically oriented landscapes because, like a

horse wearing blinders, they give an unnatural constrained view of a scene. I occasionally make exceptions when it is the only way to combine features."

The vast majority of photos in the book are taken from remote locations that require a backpacking trip to scout and take photos. SPS members will appreciate the views from many of these locations that they passed through on their way to a peak. A small number of the photos are taken from a short distance either from a trailhead or off the roadside. Although these are often scenes that have been photographed thousands of times professionally or millions of times in snapshots, in those cases Fred is able to capture a different take on the scene, such as the photo of El Capitan on page 65.

Some of my favorite photos in the book are Cherry Creek Canyon (p. 33), Mt. Conness Tarn (p. 47), Matthes Crest and Matthes Lake (p. 57, the caption ending with "Erosion resistant phenocrysts (climbers call them chicken heads) on the foreground rocks are characteristic of the Cathedral Range"), Yosemite Falls and Half Dome (p. 59), Lake Dorothy (p. 101), Bishop Creek (p. 145), Palisades (p. 161), Bullfrog Lake (p. 197), Lake Reflection (p. 201), Precipice Lake (p. 223), Bighorn Plateau (p. 243), and Mt.

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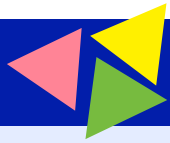
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# Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



We had a good response to the puzzle this time. Daryn Dodge is on the summit of Mt. Jordan with Jim Ramaker on belay below. Elena Sherman took the photo from nearby Mt. Geneva. Greg Gerlach figured it out first, then Ron Bartell, followed by Greg Roach—congratulations, Greg, Ron, and Greg!

Rudy Fleck answered Clarence King taken from Gardiner, a good guess. At first, Ron Bartell thought it was also Clarence King but taken from Cotter. Ron, however, gets bonus points for noting the caption error on page 7 of the July-September issue. Ken Jones thought it Darwin from Mendel and noted that he hadn't been in the area since 1975.

## High Sierra Review, continued

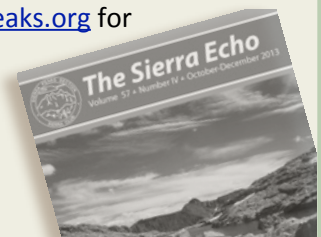
Muir and Mt. Whitney (p. 205). This last photo is a different take on the Whitney Crest that has been photographed so many times.

I contacted Fred via email for some additional background. Introduced to the Sierra by friends when he was a grad student at UC Davis, he took over thirty backpacking trips from 1990 to 2004 to capture the photos in the book while living in Sacramento and working as an environmental toxicologist. His photography backpack trips typically ranged from one to four days, and he carried a camera body, wide angle and normal lens, and a tripod. Fred currently lives in Pennsylvania.

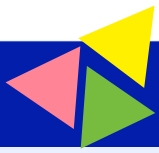
I highly recommend this book.

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# Mystery Peak Challenge

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



Hal Browder sent us another striking photo of a peak on the SPS list. Do you know which one?

Send your answer to Tina Bowman at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com).

## The Sierra Echo

is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to Tina Bowman, Editor, *The Sierra Echo*, preferably via email at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto: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.





# The Sierra Echo

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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 Peaks Section  
3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1106  
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