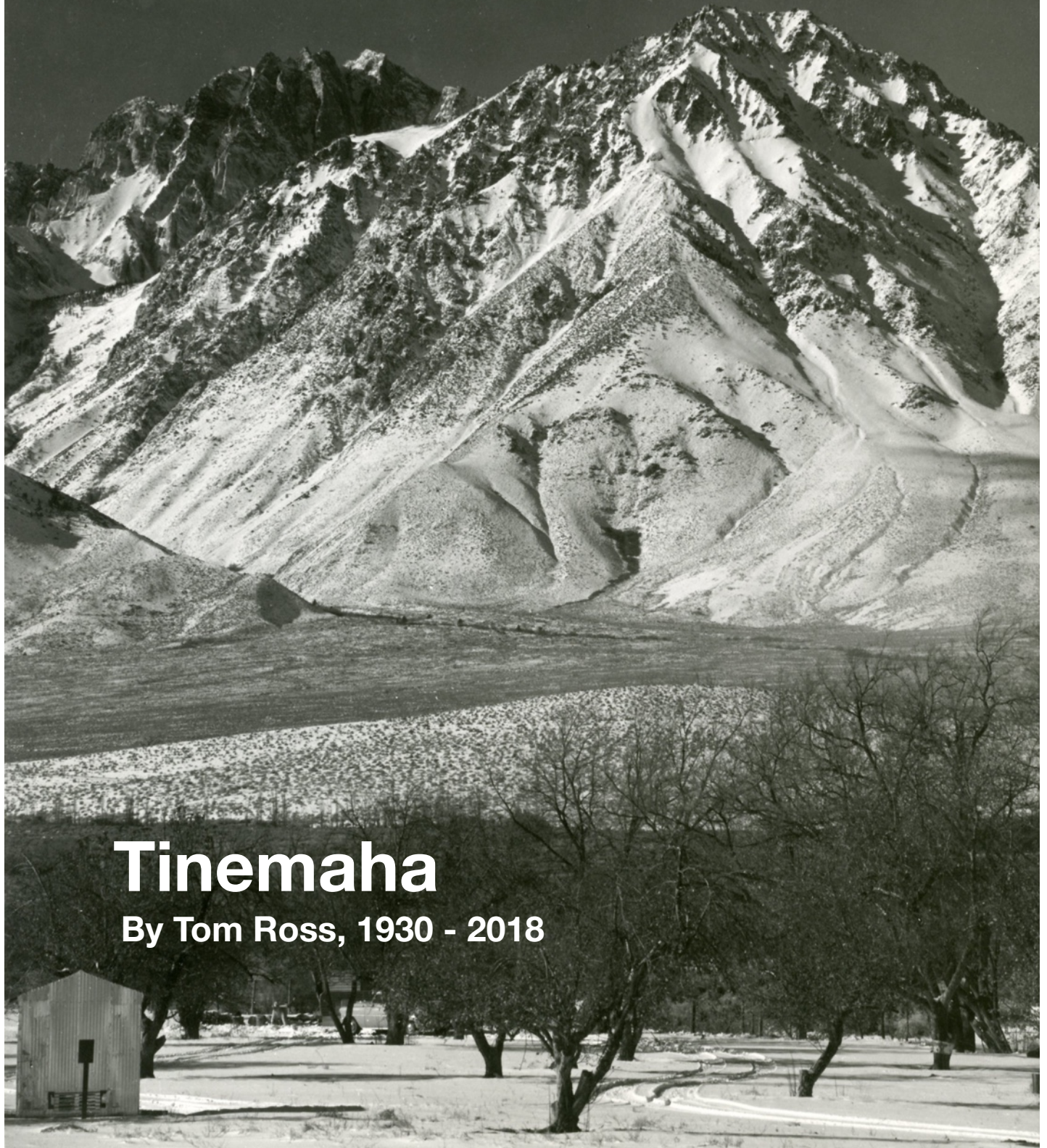




The Sierra Echo

Volume 63 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2019



Tinemaha

By Tom Ross, 1930 - 2018



Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, my fellow Sierra Peak Section enthusiasts! I will be returning this year as chair of the SPS, along with the same cast of characters as last year. It will be

my honor to continue to serve all of you, and I look forward to a great season of climbing in our wonderful Range of Light. With all of the precipitation this winter, it is going to be an interesting year for climbing.

I'd like to thank the returning members of the management committee for their hard work. They are the backbone of the SPS and—along with the fantastic outings leaders—keep us a viable entity.

We are always looking for new volunteers for leading outings and doing those tasks which are vital to our operation. If you have time and energy to do so, please consider helping the section in whatever

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capacity you are able. Continuing the energy that is contributed by everyone is the best way to achieve success! I look forward to seeing you all on the trail this summer!

Happy and safe climbing!

Jim Fleming, chair@sierrapeaks.org

Multiple Andy Smatko Emblems

The SPS management committee voted to allow a person to earn more than one Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem. Below is the text that has been added to the Policies and Procedures. For the details about all the information you need to include in your application for a first or subsequent award, see <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/other-emblems>.

A person who has earned the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem may earn it a second or subsequent time. Apply to the Emblem Committee with your original list of fifty peaks with all the required information and your list of fifty different peaks with all the qualifying information included (a spread sheet for each is helpful). Make sure no peak is repeated on your second or subsequent list and that all required information is given.

2018 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



Elected

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

Appointed

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Echo mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Tina Bowman, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Ron Bartell
IT Support	Greg Mason admin@sierrapeaks.org , Matt Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Keeper of the List	Tina Bowman
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Outings	Phil Bates philipabates@gmail.com
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org

Regional Representatives

San Diego	Joe White	Northern California	Lisa Barboza
Central California	Daryn Dodge		

Welcome new members!

Erica Oberbauer

Seen at right on Oat Mountain, new subscriber Erica Oberbauer was given a subscription by her uncle, member Michael Slater. She wrote, "... my uncle is amazing and we share a great love of the outdoors."



Welcome back returning members!



George and Carol Hubbard

Seen above on Mt. Wrightson, Arizona, on May 14, 2016, returning members George and Carol Hubbard wrote, "It's an honor and great to be back!"

We also welcome new member Alan Stringer.

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. Thanks!

FREE First Year's Membership or *Echo* Subscription

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.

Congratulations!

Bart O'Brien

Bart, seen below with his wife, Loretta, earned his Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Mt. Ansel Adams, September 26th, 2004.



Chris Guido

Chris, above, is seen celebrating his SPS Emblem on Mt. Lyell, September 26, 2016.

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.

Below is a link for a story and video about Aymaran Bolivian women summiting Aconcagua in their traditional dress. They did exchange their distinctive small bowler hats for helmets, though:
https://rockandice.com/climbing-news/indigenous-bolivian-women-summit-aconcagua/?fbclid=IwAR08ascraZZjulrsV8BStHZeYCh2bqM0_v_nZ6Z-bSsLX3_OV8vn1MpbriQ

Jim Donini is still doing new routes and unclimbed peaks in Patagonia at age 74:
<https://rockandice.com/climbing-news/jim-donini-first-ascent-cerro-chueco-patagonia/>

When we were at the Film and Book Festival in Banff in the fall of 2018, we attended a book presentation with several authors, and I found myself sitting next to Bob Shepton, whom I had never heard of before. Before he got up and gave a talk, we had a wonderful conversation. An incredibly accomplished sailor and climber, he was awarded the Piolet d'Or in 2011 and the Yachtsman of the Year Award in 2013 and twice won the Tilman Medal. He was giving a presentation on his book *Addicted to Adventure*. Here is an interview with him from ukclimbing:

https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/features/bob_shepton_-_addicted_to_adventure-9572

Attending the Film and Book Festival in Banff, rather than just attending the touring festival, allows you to go to the authors' presentations. In 2018 we heard presentations by authors Doug Scott and Bob Shepton and were able to chat with both of them and also heard a presentation by David Roberts, among others.

The 2019 Banquet

By Roving Girl Reporter,
Mary McMannes

Aren't we glad when January rolls around, and we have survived the hubbub of December holidays, regaining our wits and strength to meet once again in Alhambra at the exotic but familiar Almansor Court, for our annual Sierra Peaks Section banquet, 2019?

Thanks to Paul Garry, banquet chair, who hosted this occasion. I'm not sure what caused the extra sparkle this year, but it was definitely there. Chair Jim Fleming and General of Smooth Operations, Tina Bowman, manned the sign-in table, as new cool guy from Denali, Alexander Smirnoff stood nearby talking to our banquet speaker Sophie Cairns and husband Douglas reigning from Boulder, Colorado. Conversation flourished as drinks were poured and consumed, and



Above, Denali climbers of the SPS, back row, L to R: Alexander Smirnoff, Paul Garry, Mark Goebel, George Hubbard, Doug Mantle. Front row: Michael Chamoun, Barbara Lilley, Mary Motheral. Below, right: Sophie Cairns and Tina Bowman (Photos by Mary McMannes). Below left: Jim Fleming (Photo by Dave Sholle).

our January family reunion commenced. I caught Bart and Loretta O'Brien inside the door and asked him what he'd been doing lately. Humble and non-bragging, he said he was





Clockwise from left: Loretta and Bart O'Brien (Photo by Mary McMannes); Henry Arnebold (Photo by Dave Sholle); Joyce and Randy Bernard (Photo by Mary McMannes); Doug Mantle (Photo by Dave Sholle).



climbing a little bit of this and that. Later, I learned it was far more than this n' that. He was our newest Sierra Peaks List Finisher and well deserving of praise and the basket of goodies later given to him. Alvin and Ellen Walters had their usual warm smiles, and Alvin keeps plugging away at the list with around forty peaks left, but he says they are the hard ones. Randy and Joyce Bernard arrived, with Randy in his tuxedo ensemble and praying his red salmon dinner wouldn't swim away.

Let the show begin, and Jim Fleming rose to the occasion with announcements and the age-revered Standing Ceremony of emblem holders, List Finishers, including double and triple List Finishers, too. Doug Mantle kept standing, as we all envy him who has



finished SPS List #7 and closing in on #8. We don't take this guy for granted. His accomplishments and heroics are second to none. Jim acknowledged the SPS leaders who lead one, two, or multiple trips in keeping the section alive. In sadness, we said our formal farewells to those who have passed: Frank Sanborn, Fred Johnson, Royal Robbins, John Robinson, Bob Beach, and in early January gone was our Sierra photographer, Tom Ross.

Left to right: Greg Vernon, Mary McMannes, Christine Mitchell, Terry Turner, Yvonne Jamison (Photo by Dave Sholle).



True, this fine idea and surprise had been planned earlier over a pitcher of margaritas, and Doug stood up and called all those who had successfully reached the summit of Denali for a group photo. It was that perfect opportunity to celebrate our two 2018 climbers along with the others who gathered around legend Barbara Lilley and Mary Motheral. Congratulations to Barbara, Mary, Doug Mantle, Michael Chamoun, Alexander Smirnoff, Paul Garry, Mark Goebel, George Hubbard. It was a

privilege to grab this opportunity and see you gathered together united in a unique SPS photo op. Andy Fried, Vic and Sue, wish you were here.

Sophie Cairns was welcomed to the podium, and she began a fascinating slide show based on climbing the Seven

Volcanic Summits, a new twist to the ongoing pursuit of climbers bagging the seven high points of the world continents. Hers was a mission of mercy raising money for cancer research, and the ultimate goal was climbing these seven in 4.5 months.



Left to right: Ron Eckelmann, Doris Duvall, Mark Allen, Ed Lubin, Marlen Mertz (Photo by Mary McMannes).

Clockwise from top, left to right: Larry Tidball, Barbee Tidball, Elena Sherman, and Scott Sullivan (Photo by Mary McMannes). Bruno Geiger; Dan Richter and Barbara Sholle (Photos by Dave Sholle).

Dave Sholle took many other fine pictures, which can be viewed online here:

<https://sholle.smugmug.com/2019-SPS-banquet/2019-01-27-SPS-Banquet/n-NQ5XqK/>



The volcanoes were Pico de Orizaba, Ojos del Salado, Kilimanjaro, Damavand, Elbrus, Giluwe, and Sidley. We were proud that two of the climbs, Elbrus and Orizaba, were done with our own Tina Bowman. The end result was success on six volcanoes and very nearly a seventh, traveling across the world from Russia to Antarctica in her quest to achieve a personal best while raising \$10,000 for the fight against cancer. We can all relate in returning to peaks we almost got, and in Sophie's case her missing summit was Chile's Ojos del Salado. Sophie's show was both informative and delightful as her charm, sense of humor, and good stories added colorful comment to every slide. We'll look ahead in following Sophie's choices on her website, as she pursues further lists.

The wine bottles were empty, the exceptional salmon and beef dinners were consumed, and equally exceptional servers were clearing our tables as we made our way to the parking lot, bidding one another farewell. Many look forward to a new year in accomplishing our spoken and unspoken goals, whether near to home or high on the summits of faraway places. And always there's our desire to return again to our oldest friend of all, the Range of Light. Same place, next year, we'll be seeing you.

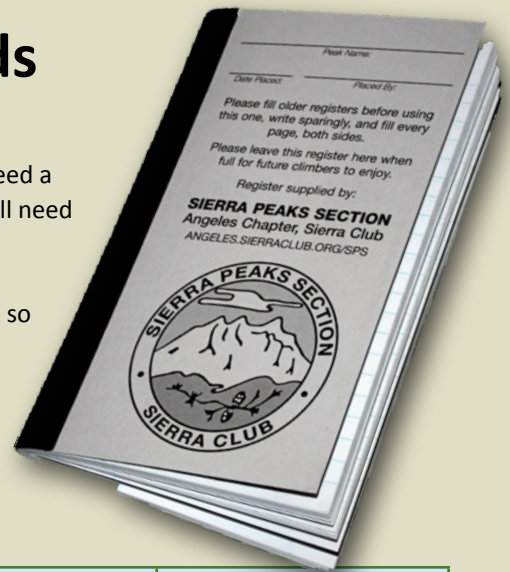


2019 SPS Summit Register Needs

By Harry Langenbacher, Mountain Records Chair

This year I show fifty-one SPS peaks, or 21%, with register needs. They need a book, a container, or both and one needs to be moved. Please assume they all need a pencil—it's only 2 grams. In any case you can send email to register@summitregister.org for details or to have registers sent to you (please give two weeks' notice). The list will be updated throughout the year, so check summitregister.org for changes, additions, deletions, and further details, especially on peaks marked with an asterisk. (See summitregister.org for asterisk details).

Thanks to everyone who has sent me reports, requested registers, asked questions, or made suggestions. I depend on you to keep this list as up to date as possible.



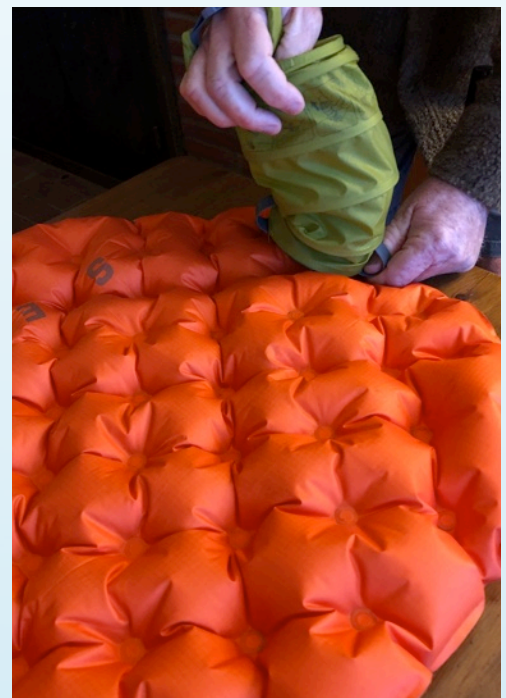
PEAK	NEEDS	PEAK	NEEDS
Agassiz Mt	container*	North Palisade	book
Alta Peak	book*	Olancha Peak	both
Black Hawk Mtn	both *	Pyramid Peak S	container*
Black Mtn	book	Recess Peak	both
Carillon Mt	container*	Red And White Mtn	container*
Cathedral Peak	both*	Rose Mt	both
Colosseum Mtn	move*	Round Top	book
Conness Mt	both	Royce Peak	both*
Dana Mt	book	Russell Mt	book*
Donohue Peak	both*	San Joaquin Mtn	both
Eagle Scout Peak	book	Sawtooth Peak N	both
Elwell Mt	book*	Silliman Mt	both
Emerson Mt	container*	Sirretta Peak	container
Excelsior Mtn	container*	Split Mtn	book*
Four Gables	both*	Stanford S Mt	both
Gibbs Mt	book*	Stanislaus Peak	both
Julius Caesar Mt	book*	Starr King Mt	container*
Kaweah Mt	container	Three Sisters	book*
Kern Peak	both	Tinemaha Mt	container*
Matterhorn Peak	book*	Tower Peak	book*
Merriam Peak	book	Twin Peaks N	both
Morgan S Mt	both	Vandever Mtn	both
Morrison Mt	both	Virginia Peak	both
Moses Mtn	both	Vogelsang Peak	book*
Muah Mtn	container*	Whorl Mtn	both*
Needham Mtn	both		

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

Sea to Summit Ultralight Insulated Pad

By Mary Jo Dungfelder

As we reach a certain age, comfort becomes more important in our choice of gear, particularly sleeping gear. After failures with various pads and much research, I began using the Sea to Summit Ultralight Insulated Pad. Having been used in varying terrain, from Big Picacho to desert portions of the PCT, it has proven to be one tough customer. It has provided me with the cushy comfort I now desire when lying on the ground. My “regular” mat weighs a mere 16.9 ounces and has an insulation rating or R rating of 3.3. The techie part is the Jet Stream Pump Sack (purchased separately). It is an efficient light-weight pump that inflates the pad quickly and doubles as my pad’s stuff sack. Each pump of the accordion pump delivers more than a lung-full of air without making me dizzy or adding moisture into the pad. I’m happy with the ease of inflation and the good night’s sleep I get when lying on my Sea to Summit Ultralight. It fits snugly inside my backpack, has been durable so far, and is priced mid-range compared to other pads on the market. (For sizes, weights, and prices see <https://seatosummitusa.com/collections/backpacking-sleeping-mats/products/ultralight-insulated-mat?variant=7896105484316>.)



Right: The Jet Stream Pump Sack (Screenshot from Sea to Summit website). Far right, top and bottom: Inflating the Ultralight Insulated Pad with the pump (Photos by Mary Jo Dungfelder).





Improving Ratings for Mountain Scramblers

By Philip S. Bates

Most guide books for mountain climbing in the United States reference the rock climbing classifications of the Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) to indicate the difficulty of a route up a peak. As is appropriate, the YDS and many other rating systems for mountaineers focus on technically demanding climbs of rock, snow, and ice. For such technical climbs, the available rating systems provide useful distinctions among routes based on the difficulty of a climb's hardest pitch. Climbing rating systems, however, offer only broad, vague classifications for non-technical hikes and scrambles up mountains, providing limited and sometimes misleading information on a route's challenges. The lack of rating precision for such non-technical categories is understandable. Most mountain endeavors of a non-technical nature are comparatively easy, requiring little or no climbing gear and only modest mountaineering knowledge. Nonetheless, the Sierra Peak Section (SPS) list of 247 peaks contains only four peaks (Clarence King, Starr King, Thunderbolt, and The Hermit) where the easiest route has a technical rating of Class 5. Accordingly, for most SPS peak-baggers and indeed the vast majority of folks ascending peaks in the Sierra Nevada, the existing rating systems offer limited

insight on the relative difficulty of the most frequently climbed routes. While many fine guidebooks offer useful commentary on the challenges of specific routes, such descriptions are at best a cumbersome way to determine the relative difficulty of routes. In an attempt to fill the gap in the existing rating systems, the framework outlined below suggests refining the non-technical rating categories of the YDS to distinguish better the relative challenges of hikes and scrambles up peaks. The rating system outlined below is offered as a starting point for a discussion that I hope will lead to an improved rating scheme for the non-technical routes used by mountain hikers and scramblers.

Background and Motivation

Like most people who have hiked, scrambled, and climbed up mountains, I have often found myself debating with companions perceived variances in the challenges we experienced during our ascent of a mountain versus our expectations based on the rating of the route. Though poor

In the ratings system proposed in this article, the Class S-2.1 northeast ridge of Pilot Knob (N) from French Lakes (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

New Army Pass on the Class S-1.1 trail up the southwest slope of Mt. Langley and on the S-1.2 route up the northwest ridge of Cirque Peak (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

route-finding and differences in climbing experience are undoubtedly frequent causes of such variances, many of the discrepancies observed by hikers and scramblers are simply a function of the broad nature of the YDS classifications of such non-technical routes. Hikers who enjoyed start-to-finish outings on well-defined trails hiking up Mount Whitney and Clouds Rest are likely to be surprised that routes with the same



Class 1 rating on Mount Kaweah and Homers Nose involve significant, rough cross-country travel, requiring much more time and effort per mile than trail hiking. Similar disparities are likely to confuse hikers who followed good trails to short, easy scrambles up Lamont and Vogelsang peaks, but then struggled for miles over rugged, unstable terrain up routes with the same Class 2 ratings on Giraud and Goddard mountains. The list of dramatic differences in route difficulties continues within the Class 3 and 4 categories. For example, the brief, moderate exposure Class 3 scrambles up Round Top and Castle Peak have little in common with the long and hazardous Class 3 scrambles up Middle Palisade and Mount Mills. Likewise, the couple of fairly easy Class 4 moves required to summit Cathedral Peak and Mount LeConte pose far less of a challenge than the long, difficult pitches of unstable, highly exposed, Class 4 rock on the Devils Crag, Black Kaweah, and Disappointment Peak. The objective of the refined rating framework outlined below is to create greater consistency between a peak-bagger's expectation at the outset of a climb and his or her actual experience, thus providing a better understanding of time and knowledge required when selecting a route.

Proposed Difficulty Ratings for Mountain Hikes and Scrambles

To distinguish the difficulty of non-technical climbs more clearly, the proposed framework suggests dividing each of the four, non-technical YDS categories into three parts and expanding the scope of the ratings. While the YDS ratings only address the difficulty of the hardest section of a route, the refined classifications also consider the length of the

most challenging segment and other factors distinguishing the severity of mountain hikes and scrambles.

As with the YDS system, the proposed ratings for scrambling are subjective, but they are based on a few objective variables that determine the severity of a route's most difficult segment. The key variables include steepness and stability of terrain, which together are the major determinants of exposure to hazards such as the risk posed by the climber falling off steep rocks or loose rocks collapsing on the scrambler. Additional factors for cross-country travel and lower-angle scrambling include the presence of other obstacles in the form of vegetation, waterways, and snow.

Reflecting the importance of terrain steepness, each scrambling rating category notes the maximum angle of slopes on a route, dividing the grade of terrain into five classifications: low angle (0-30 degree), moderate angle (30-45 degree), fairly steep angle (45-60 degree), steep (60-75 degree), and very steep (75 degrees and above). Steepness can refer to either the angle of ascent or adjacent slopes of routes following highly exposed ridges (i.e., aretes).

Likewise, each rating definition mentions the nature and stability of the route's more difficult terrain. Loose rock surfaces of scree, talus, boulders, and fractured, crumbly rock can greatly increase the difficulty and hazards posed by a mountain route, varying with the steepness of the landscape. Terrain is referred to as stable when foot and hand placements are solid and unstable when hiking and scrambling movements can induce slips, slides, and falls of rocks and when holds must be tested.

Bushwhacking and stream-crossings can increase the seriousness of mountain hikes and scrambles by creating



The Class S-1.0 trail up Clouds Rest from Tenya Lake (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

YDS CLASS 1—Hiking on trails and easy cross-country travel with little risk.

S-1.0 Hands-in-pockets walking on well-maintained trails from start to finish, with minimal risk aside from mountain weather and the effects of altitude. Examples would include the good trails up to the summits of Mount Whitney, Clouds Rest, Sierra Buttes, and Mount Rose.

S-1.1 Hikes predominately on a mix of maintained and use trails, requiring virtually no route-finding skill and covering terrain that consists of stable, easy footing, no

vegetation or water obstacles, and low to moderate grades. Any off-trail hiking is for short distances over easy terrain. There is little risk aside from weather and altitude. Examples include Mount Langley via New Army Pass, north slope of Freel Peak via the Tahoe Rim Trail, Sirretta Peak via the Cannell Meadows Trail from Big Meadow, and Mount Dana via the trail from Tioga Pass.

S-1.2 Intermediate to long distances of cross-country travel over terrain with stable footing and low to moderate grades, but the route may involve extensive vegetation and/or stream crossings that require backcountry route-finding skills for efficiency and safety. Risks are limited to navigation errors and hazards posed by stream-crossings, weather, and altitude. Examples include Homers Nose from the Cahoon Trail and Salt Creek Ridge, Spanish Mountain via various use trails from Crown Valley, Three Sisters via the Cliff Lake Trail, the southeast side of Bago via the Kearsarge Pass Trail, and Excelsior Peak via the north ridge and Virginia Lakes.

YDS CLASS 2—Simple scrambling and rough cross-country travel on scree, talus, and boulders, with minimal exposure and low to moderate risk.

S-2.0 Modest distances of rough cross-country travel on low angle scree and talus, with only short segments of easy scrambling on moderate angle, stable terrain. Route-finding is fairly straightforward, with no important vegetation or water obstacles, and minimal exposure to rock slides and falls. Only occasional use of hands is needed for balance. Risk

more difficult, and at times dangerous, footing and by creating route-finding challenges. The difficulty posed by vegetation and water obstacles may vary seasonally with the density of foliage and water levels. Dangerous spring or early summer stream crossings can seasonally raise the difficulty rating of a scramble.

Finally, winter hikes and scrambles up mountains pose many challenges outside the scope of the proposed rating system. However, many spring to autumn scrambles cross snow slopes. Accordingly, an addendum addresses the difficulties and risks presented by snowfields, and a simple framework is outlined for adjusting the ratings for such considerations.

In summary, each scrambling rating definition addresses the extent and challenges of any off-trail travel; the length and difficulty of any scrambling; the steepness, nature, and stability of the terrain; and the degree of exposure to hazards.

Definitions and Examples for Ratings of Scrambling Difficulty

Following the common definitions for the existing YDS technical difficulty ratings, the outline below describes the key characteristics of each refined rating category and provides examples of routes up SPS and other Sierra peaks that fall within the specific classification. As in the case of YDS ratings, there will undoubtedly be some debate about the appropriate placement of routes among the proposed scrambling rating categories. All these refined ratings are preceded by an “S” notation for “Scrambler” to distinguish them from the closely related but not identical YDS ratings.



Left: The west chutes of Mt. Sill are Class S-2.2, but sometimes a little S-3.0 is a safer option (Photo by Bill Van Woert).

S-2.2 Intermediate to longer distances of rough cross-country travel with lengthy stretches of easy to medium difficulty scrambling on moderate to fairly steep angle scree, talus, s and boulders that are sometimes unstable. The use of hands is frequently required for balance and to test the stability of talus and boulders. Good route-finding skills are necessary for efficient and safe travel across or around more difficult terrain, vegetation or stream-crossings, and rockfall hazards. The risk of serious injury from falls or hazards is medium to significant. Examples include Giraud’s southeast slope via the traverse of its east ridge from Dusy Basin, University’s northwest ridge from the Kearsarge Lakes, the ascent of the southwest ridge of Mount Goddard from Martha Lake, the southwest chutes of Mt. Sill via Knapsack Pass and the Bishop Pass Trail, Mount Dade via the “hourglass” route via Treasure Lakes and the Morgan Pass Trail, and Mount Florence via the west slope from Florence Creek.

YDS CLASS 3—Moderate scrambling on steep, rocky terrain that requires handholds for upward movement and safety. Beginners may want a belay due to increased exposure and risk of serious injury.

of serious injury from falls and hazards is small. Examples include Vogelsang Peak from Vogelsang Pass; the northeast ridge of Dicks Peak from the PCT, Lamont Peak via the trail from Canebrake Road, Owens Peak via the trail from Indian Wells Canyon, Mokelumne Peak via the Tanglefoot Trail, and Smith Mountain via the north slope and trails from the end of USFS Road 21S36.

S-2.1 Intermediate distances of rough cross-country travel on low angle scree, talus and boulders, with extensive, easy scrambling on moderate angle terrain that is predominately stable. Hands are often used for balance. Some route-finding skill is needed for efficient and safe travel across or around more difficult terrain, vegetation, stream-crossings, and rockfall hazards. The risk of serious injury from slips and rockfalls is small to medium. Examples include Arrow Peak’s southeast slope, Cardinal Mountain’s county line route, Pyramid Peak (N) via the south ridge and Rock Creek Trail, the southwest slope of Olancha Peak from the PCT, the southwest ridge of Disaster Peak via the Disaster Creek Trail, and Mount Morgan via the northeast ridge from the Tamarack Lakes Trail.

S-3.0 Brief, medium difficulty to hard scrambling on fairly steep to steep angle, stable rock with medium to high exposure. Hand and foot holds are large, secure, and easy to find, requiring little climbing experience. Route finding is easy, with little potential for straying onto more difficult and dangerous terrain. Medium to significant risk of serious injury from falls or other hazards. Examples include Roundtop via the west ridge and Woods Lake Trail, Virginia Peak from Twin Peaks Pass, Castle Peak via the west ridge from the PCT, north slope of Taylor Dome from Big Meadow, Mt. Gould via the south ridge from Kearsarge Pass, and the west face of Mt. Muir from the Whitney Trail.

S-3.1 Short to intermediate length, hard scrambling on fairly steep to steep angle and predominately stable rock with high exposure. Hand and foot holds are numerous, solid, and easy to find, requiring limited climbing experience. Given the length and steepness of the scrambling, beginners may wish to use a rope to manage the significant exposure and the challenges of down-climbing more safely. Modest route-finding skills are necessary to avoid more difficult and



Left: The south ridge offers an S-3.1 route up Mt. Cotter, though routes up the west and east sides of the ridge keep the difficulty to S-3.0 (Photo by Philip S. Bates). Below: The north rib of Mount Tyndall is S-3.1. This image was taken from the S-2.2 north ridge of Tyndall (Photo by Thomas Chad).

dangerous terrain. Significant risk of serious injury from falls or other hazards. Examples include the east ridge of Mt. Russell, the northwest couloir and chimney up Mt. Williamson, the mountaineering route on Mt. Whitney, the southeast chute of Whorl Mtn., Independence Peak from the Robinson Lake Trail, the northeast chute of Tower Peak, and Mount Maclure via the southeast ridge from the Lyell-Maclure Col and JMT.

S-3.2 Extensive, hard scrambling on fairly steep to steep angle and sometimes unstable rock with high to severe exposure. Hand and foot holds are numerous and easy to find, but holds often need to be tested. Though only modest climbing skills are needed, some climbers may desire a rope due to the sustained nature, steepness, and exposure of the hard scrambling segments, as well as the presence of unstable rocks and the challenges of down-climbing. Route-finding skill is needed to avoid more difficult terrain and minimize vulnerability to unstable rocks. A helmet may be advisable. Falls or hazards pose a high risk of serious injury or death. Examples include the northeast buttress of Arrow Peak, Tyndall's north rib, Mount Pinchot's south ridge, the east couloir on Mt. Mills, the west ridge of Black Kaweah, the northeast face of Middle Palisade, and the west ridge of Junction Peak from Forester Pass.

YDS CLASS 4—Difficult and exposed scrambling on very steep terrain where a rope is often advisable



for safety, given the substantial risk of serious injury or death in the event of a fall.

S-4.0 Brief, very hard scrambling on extremely steep, stable rock with high exposure. Very hard scrambling is limited to only a small number of climbing moves covering less than twenty feet of extremely steep rock with lots of exposure. While holds are readily available, they need to be tested and are often smaller and more difficult to identify than on Class **S-3** rock. Accordingly, some climbing skills are needed, a helmet is desirable, and a rope is useful for belays and descent. A fall poses a high risk of serious injury or death. Examples include the west face of Cathedral Peak via the crack on the south side of the summit block, the waterfall route on LeConte Peak, the north ridge of Tehipite Dome, the summit pinnacle of Mt. Darwin via the west ridge, the southeast arete of Mt Clark, the summit block of North Guard via the

south face, the summit boulder on Center Peak, and the summit block on Thunder Mountain.

S-4.1 Short to intermediate length, very hard scrambling on extremely steep and predominately stable rock with severe exposure.

Very hard scrambling is limited to several short to intermediate length segments of climbing covering a total of up to about one-hundred feet of extremely steep, exposed rock. Holds are numerous but must be tested and are frequently smaller and more difficult to find than on Class **S-3** rock. The greater length of the very hard scrambling requires more commitment, thus

making intermediate climbing and route-finding skills desirable.

Many climbers will desire a helmet and a rope for belay and rappel. A fall poses a high risk of serious injury or death. Examples include Ulrich's route on Bear Creek Spire, the route up the southeast side of Polemonium Peak, the northwest face of Mt.

Humphreys, the traverse of the summit block on Dragon Peak, the LeConte route or southwest chute on North Palisade, and the southeast arete of Mount Clark.

S-4.2 Extensive, very hard scrambling on extremely steep and sometimes unstable rock with severe exposure.

Very hard scrambling on multiple or sustained segments totaling more than one-hundred feet of very steep, highly exposed rock that at times is unstable. Each hold should be tested, and holds tend to be smaller and harder to identify than on **Class S-3** rock.

The number and length of pitches of very hard scrambling require significant commitment and make intermediate climbing and route-finding skills desirable. Route-finding errors often lead to technical rock. Most climbers will desire a helmet and a rope for belay and descent. A fall poses a high risk of serious injury or death. Examples include the east ridge of Black Kaweah, the rock route on the northeast face of Clyde Minaret, Michael's Chimney or the Diagonal Chute route on Devil's Crag #1, Doug's

Chute up the east face of Disappointment Peak, and the ridge traverse from the south to the north summit of Mount Gardiner.

Snow Slope Considerations for Scrambling Ratings

Some non-technical routes cross areas covered by snow for most or all of the year. Though sometimes a critical consideration, addressing the challenges posed by snow slopes is problematic owing to the variable nature of snow conditions, even within a given day. Accordingly, the



Left: A view down the S-4.0 crack on the south face of Cathedral Peak's summit block (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

Below: Descending the Class S-4.1 ledges on the east face of the North Palisade summit block (Photo by Bill Van Woert).





Left: The southeast slope of Dunderberg Peak offered an S-2.2 route during this Spring outing (Photo by Bill Van Woert). Below: The East Couloir of Matterhorn Peak presented S-3.2 challenges during our Spring climb (Photo by Phillip S. Bates).

proposed scrambling ratings do not seek formally to incorporate the difficulty of snow slopes, but instead a simple framework is offered for adjusting the ratings for the presence of snowfields. Without knowledge of a route's current snow conditions, the adjustments should be viewed as only estimates of the scrambling difficulty rating.

The proposed scrambling ratings adjustments for snow slopes assume that the snow-covered portions of non-technical routes consist of the consolidated, firm snow of the type that usually characterize mountain environments in late spring to early autumn. Such snow conditions provide reasonably consistent footing and entail minimal avalanche risk. In the event of large, unseasonal snowstorms, slopes above 25 degrees with significant new, unconsolidated snowfall should be considered at best technical and probably should be avoided. Routes crossing glaciers with crevasses are considered technical and, therefore, excluded from the snow slope adjustments for scrambling ratings.

Similar to the various types of rocky terrain described above, snow-covered slopes vary in difficulty depending on steepness, length of the snow slope, stability and firmness of the snow, and presence of icy conditions or any rock hazards on or adjacent to the snow slopes. The difficulty of stable, consolidated snow slopes can be generally classified as follows: low angle of 0-20 degrees is considered rough cross-country travel (**S-1.2**), moderate angle of 20-30 degrees is easy to medium difficulty scrambling (**S-2.0 to S-2.2**), fairly steep angle of 30-40 degrees represents hard scrambling (**S-3.0 to S-3.2**), and steep angle of 40-50 degrees is very hard

scrambling (**S-4.0 to S-4.2**). Where a particular snow-covered route falls within the above ranges of scrambling rating categories depends on the other factors cited above, such as the snow slope's length and firmness and the presence of ice and/or rock hazards. For example, the presence of icy conditions during early morning climbs would likely boost the

scrambling difficulty rating for fairly steep angle snowfields (i.e., 30-40 degrees) to S-3.2 or higher, while such conditions would be likely to raise the difficulty rating to S-4.2 or



technical on a steep angle snowfield (i.e., 40 to 50 degrees). Likewise, the presence of loose rocks would boost the difficulty rating of a fairly steep snowfield to S-3.2 or higher and increase the rating of a steep angle snow slope to S-4.2 or technical. Snow slopes above 50 degrees are predominately ice and should be considered technical and, in turn, outside the scope of scrambling ratings.

Given that the angle of repose of snow is 34 degrees, all snow slopes of 35 degrees or more have some amount of ice to bind snow at higher angles. Accordingly, an ice axe, crampons, helmet, and rope would be prudent for all snow slopes of 30 degrees or above (i.e., S-3.0 or higher), along with the requisite mountaineering skills for such steeper and potentially icy terrain. In addition, even lower angle snow slopes may sometimes become icy due to large, daily temperature swings, posing added risks and requiring technical gear and relevant mountaineering skills for safe movement on such snowfields.

In some cases, the presence of snow can make cross-country travel and scrambling easier and safer by covering unstable scree, talus and boulders with smooth, stable snowfields, potentially lowering the difficulty rating. Snow, however, can obscure subsurface hollows and streams, creating dangerous, unseen hazards that do not exist for hikers and scramblers when the snow has melted later in the

season. As a result, the crossing of snowfields requires some route-finding skills and experience to minimize exposure to hazards.

To illustrate adjustments to scrambling ratings in the case of early spring outings over extensive snow slopes, Mt. Langley via New Army Pass from Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead would likely be rated S-2.2 (compared with S-1.1 when snow-free) and via Old Army Pass would be rated S-3.1 (versus S-2.1 when snow-free), while Cirque Peak's northeast slope from the same trailhead would likely be rated S-2.1 (versus S-2.0 without snow). Under similar early spring snow conditions, the Mount Whitney Trail would likely be rated S-2.2 (compared with S-1.0 snow-free) and the Mountaineers Route up Mt. Whitney would likely be rated S-3.2 (versus S-3.1 without snow). In some cases, stable spring snow makes routes less difficult. For example, the scrambling rating for the southeast slope of The Thumb under stable spring snow conditions likely drops to S-2.2 from S-3.0, while in a similar fashion the rating of the north slope of Split Mountain from the east via Red Lake Pass likely falls to S-2.2 when covered by stable Spring snow versus S-3.0 when snow-free. Likewise, the presence of substantial, consolidated snow is likely to ease and stabilize conditions on the east couloir route of Mt. Mills, lowering the rating to perhaps S-3.1 from S-3.2 or higher when snow-free.

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SPS TEES



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Outings

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

We've chosen the photo above showing climbers ascending Mt. Emerson on an SPS trip to represent the outings section. Do you have a photo you would like to see here? If so, please send your submission as an email attachment to tina@bowmanchange.com or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

Apr 6-7 | Sat-Sun

LTC

M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. We welcome others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-ldrs: Neal Robbins, Phil Bates, Jack Kieffer.

Apr 13 | Sat

LTC

C: Leadership Training Seminar: Deadline to register is March 30, but space may be available after the deadline. Get the

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>

application and more information here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/leadership-training-seminar>

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.

OUTINGS

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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 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 3-5 | Fri-Sun **LTC**
C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:15 am Friday to 5:00 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$305 (full refund until 3/29). For sign-up, see instructions and application at <http://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org/>.

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

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

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

OUTINGS

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 18 | 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 (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead to Leader: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Jun 15-16 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: 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.

Jun 22-23 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Johnson Pk (11,371'): Join us for a two-day meadow filled extravaganza in the Southern Sierra! We'll start out at a 10k trailhead so arrive early the day before for bonus altitude/altitude adjustment potential! Sat we'll cross the 11k Cottonwood Pass and drop down into a series of massive meadows with views of the Whitney area to the north (11 mi, 2,000' gain). Camp will be in a meadow near the peak. Sun we'll be up early and do a x-c route to Johnson (4 mi, 1,500' RT) before returning to camp, packing up, and hiking out (11 mi, 2,000'). Priority given to WTC students who need an experience trip to graduate. Please email ldr with recent hiking experience to apply. Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Asst: Jennifer Blackie.

Jun 22-23 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: N Maggie (10,234'): Even if Maggie Lk and Maggie Mtn were not the inspiration for Rod Stewarts classic hit, this may be the trip for you! Join us on this early season trip from a southern Sierra trailhead to climb SPS peak N. Maggie Mtn (10,234'). We'll have a longish but beautiful approach on Sat (10 mi/3000' gain) to camp by a lake. Sun we'll head out early for N. Maggie Mtn (2.4 mi rt/1200' gain) before returning to camp to pack our things and hike out. This trip offers great west side hiking and the chance to get conditioning with

Call for Outings

If you aren't a leader, please consider becoming one! Elsewhere in this issue is a "Dare to Lead" box with information about signing up for the Leadership Training Program. The first step, the seminar, is coming up on April 13th with a somewhat flexible deadline of March 30 to register. The seminar happens only twice a year, so don't miss this chance.

This year is anticipated to be a banner year for snow in the Sierra. As such, some of the approaches and normal routes may be impacted later into the summer than in recent past drought years. Consider stream crossing in your early summer route planning. But don't despair, just plan ahead! Inyo Permits can generally be

reserved six months in advance, are going fast, and appear to have been reduced from prior years for some trailheads. Currently, it seems that most Inyo Permits are being released shortly after midnight PST, although I've been told that it could revert back to 7am PST at any time. That means you will need to plan to log-in about 12 midnight and start reserving permits. We expect the Sierra to be stunning this spring and summer, so we would love to see SPS members out bagging peaks and posting awesome pics on social media.

Leaders, please remember to give the outings chair(s) and the MOC time to review and approve any M, MR, or ER trips.

Phil A. Bates
Outings Chair, SPS

OUTINGS

decent elevation before the snowy Sierra opens up in all its glory. For consideration, send your recent hiking experience and contact information to Ldr: Jennifer Jones. Asst: Kristen Lindbergh.

Jul 4-7 | Thu-Sun

SPS

MR: Bear Claw Spire, Peppermint Pk: Join us for an adventure to climb two rarely climbed peaks in the Pine Crk drainage. Thu, backpack from Pine Crk trailhead to camp at Upper Pine Lk (5 mi, 3,000' gain). Fri, climb Bear Claw Spire (aka, Treasure Pk) via the third-class Southwest Ridge (2.5 mi, 2400' gain). Sat morning, we'll attempt Peppermint Pk via Spire Col and the West Ridge (3 mi, 2400' gain). Total stats for trip: 21 mi and 7800' gain. Must be comfortable on exposed 3rd class rock and have previous experience at altitude. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness

required. Permit limits group size. Send email with experience and conditioning to Ldr: Regge Bulman. Co-Ldr: Monica Suua.

Jul 12-14 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

MR: Twin Pks (12,323'), Virginia Pk (12,001'): Join us for a moderately strenuous early summer loop-trip out into northeastern Yosemite NP for a fun and rocky ridge traverse to these two gorgeous peaks in the Sierra Nevada near Bridgeport, CA. Fri morning we'll start out from Virginia Lks (9852') and pack in on trail into the Yosemite Wilderness and set up camp alongside a gorgeous alpine lake at 10,250' (8.2 mi, 2600' gain). Sat morning we'll rise at first light to ascend a steep and sometimes loose class 2 gully to the sometimes class 3 ridge that connects Twin Pks and Virginia Pk; once atop that ridge we'll make our way to the north to the summit of Twin Pks, then retrace our steps for a bit to travel south along the ridge on our way to the summit of Virginia



Dare to Lead! Spring Leadership Training Seminar Set for April 13, 2019

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

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered April 13, at the Stoneview Nature Center in Culver City. Deadline to register will be two weeks before the seminar.

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

The all-day class costs \$30. The application is on-line at <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/leadership-training-committee-and-outings-management-/LTC-app-041319-AMR-fill2.pdf>, you can more about the Leadership Training Program and view the LTC's upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page.

Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Pamela Sivula, LTC Registrar, 7304 Beverly Blvd., #333., Los Angeles, CA 90036. You also can reach Pamela by email ltpseminarregistrar@gmail.com or by phone (213-290-2407).

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

OUTINGS

Pk, before making our way back to camp (4.5 mi, 3000'). Sun morning we'll pack up and head out over Virginia Pass (10,550') and then down Glines Cyn and Green Crk to the Green Lks trailhead (8120') (5.5 mi and 1100' gain/3200' loss). Festive Happy Hour Fri and Sat evenings under waxing gibbous moon-lit skies! This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing; participants must be current Sierra Club members and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join us. Absolute comfort on talus and exposed class 3 terrain required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use is required. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-

altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Jeremy Netka.

Jul 13-14 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Kern Pk (11,510'): Join us for a visit to the meadows and forests of the Kern Plateau. We'll climb one of the two tallest peaks on the plateau and enjoy views stretching north to Whitney and south to the Mojave. Of course, we'll have a potluck too. We'll enter via the Blackrock Trailhead off the Sherman Pass Rd. Trip stats: Sat 8.5 mi, 1800' gain, 2000' loss. Sun summit climb 3.5 miles, 2900' gain; return trip 12 mi, 2000' gain, 4500' loss. Send recent experience and

SPS Income Statement 02-21-2019

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
INCOME												
Echo Subscriptions	1,473	1,430	650	360	200	110	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630	1,580
Banquet Income	2,650	3,165	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,905	4,645	4,110	3,760	2,795
Donations	798	776	256	60	30	15	340	440	560	666	888	655
Merchandise Sales	157	63	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	395	262	112
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	5,078	5,434	906	420	230	125	5,014	4,732	7,041	6,731	6,540	5,142
EXPENSES												
Postage	180	98	-	-	-	-	609	(4)	14	938	522	314
Printing	191	84	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433	418
Merchandise	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130	-
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,715	4,252	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553
Bank Fees	(87)	1	-	-	-	-	18	2	10	6	18	12
Website	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	36	84	96
Charitable contributions	200	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	200	200	200
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	899	254	82
Membership meetings/activities	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,257	174	-
Register Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	4,336	4,435	-	-	-	-	4,821	5,103	7,019	9,048	6,583	4,674
OVERALL TOTAL	741	999	906	420	230	125	193	(371)	22	(2,317)	(43)	467

OUTINGS

conditioning. Preference given to recent WTC students. Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: William Payne.

Jul 27-29 | Sat-Mon

SPS

I: Mt Davis (12,303'): Join us for this strenuous but amazingly scenic trip up into the Thousand Island Lks region of the Ansel Adams Wilderness to climb this often-overlooked peak in the Ritter Range. Sat we'll pack in 9.0 miles (4,350' gain) via the Rush Creek trailhead out of June Lk and set up camp. That night we'll enjoy a festive Happy Hour under nearly moonless night skies. Sun we'll set out at first light for the summit of Mt Davis over steep, sometimes loose, always rugged x-c terrain. We'll enjoy phenomenal views up top and then return to camp the way we came up for a day's total of about 5 mi (2,700' gain). Another festive Happy Hour that night, and then Mon morning we'll pack up and head back out the same way we came in. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Stephen McDonnell.

Aug 10-11 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Sawtooth Pk (N) (12,343): Join us for a mid-summer weekend in the Sequoia NP out of Mineral King to ascend this amazingly scenic peak with outstanding views in all directions. Sat morning we'll pack in on trail at a relaxed pace and set up camp at Lower Monarch Lk for a day's total of 3.4 mi with 2,800' gain. Sat night we will celebrate with a Festive Happy Hour under waxing gibbous moon-lit night skies. Sun plan to set out at first light on trail and later cross-country to the summit of Sawtooth Pk for a total of 2.2 mi and 2,400' gain. After savoring the views up top, we will return to camp, pack up, and head out. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Sridhar Gullapalli.

Aug 17-18 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Mt Lewis (12,296') via Bloody Cyn: Join us for a quasi-relaxed stroll up a seldom visited peak that straddles the border of Yosemite! Sat we'll pack in 4 mi and 2,200' gain and spend the afternoon relaxing by a lake and enjoying a traditional Sierra Club happy hour while we watch the sunset. Sun we'll be up early and stroll up to the pass where we'll explore some old mining ruins and climb Mt Lewis before

returning to camp (6 mi, 2,600') and packing out (4 mi, 600'). Email leaders your recent conditioning to apply. Priority given to Wilderness Travel Course students who need the trip to graduate. Ldrs: Matthew Hengst, William Payne.

Aug 17-18 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Mt. Conness (12,590'): Join us for two days climbing a spectacular peak above Tuolumne Mdw in Yosemite NP. Sat we'll hike in to Young Lks (5.8 mi, 1000' gain), where we will set up camp and spend a relaxing afternoon swimming and enjoying the area. That night we will have our epic Sierra Club happy hour, so please bring something for everyone to share. Sun, we'll wake up early and climb the peak (3 mi, 2,600'), where we'll have lunch before returning to camp and hiking out (9 mi). The total stats for the weekend are 18 mi and 3,600' of elevation gain. Email leader with recent conditioning to apply. Preference given to WTC students who need the trip to graduate. Ldrs: Dennis Loya, Richard Gillock.

Aug 23-25 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Pilot Knob (12,245'): Join us for this moderate three-day trip up into the gorgeous Humphreys Basin west of North Lk in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Fri morning we'll meet near North Lk (9,345') and pack in at a relaxed, but determined pace west along creekside trail and up past a series of gorgeous alpine lakes up to and then over Piute Pass (11,423') before dropping down into the spectacular Humphreys Basin and making our way northwest to our camp for the weekend near the shore of Lower Desolation Lk (11,100'). Expect a day's total of about 7.5 mi with 2,600' gain. After setting up camp, relaxing a bit, and perhaps catching a fish or two, we'll settle in for a festive Happy Hour under the last quarter moon-lit, summer night skies. Sat we'll head off cross-country to the west and summit the wildly scenic Pilot Knob. After thoroughly enjoying the spectacular views surrounding us up there, we'll head back to our camp and enjoy an afternoon of swimming, fishing, lounging, and/or snoozing. Expect a day's total of about 3.0 mi and 1,750' gain. That evening we'll celebrate with an even more Festive Happy Hour than the night prior. Sun we'll pack up and then head out the same route we came in on. Amateur anglers need a valid CA fishing license. Permit dramatically limits group size, and permit costs will be split among the group (about \$10 each). Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, WTC (if any) Area & Group, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to Mat for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher, Co-Ldrs: Dave Scobie, Tiffani Bruno.

OUTINGS

Aug 24-25 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Duck Lk Pk (12,077') & Pika: Join us for two glorious days out near Mammoth! Day 1 we'll drop cars off at Lk George then hike in from Lk Mary crossing Duck Pass and camping at Pika Lake (5.3 mi, 2,000'). Sun we'll be up early and climb nearby Duck Lk Pk before hiking out over Mammoth Crest where we'll have incredible views in pretty much every direction (11 mi and 3k gain for the day). Priority given to WTC students who need the trip to graduate and those with a really awesome happy hour item! Ldr: Kim Crane. Asst: Matthew Hengst

Sep 14-15 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

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

Sep 29 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: 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 *Leaders Reference Book* for more information.

Oct 9 | Wed

LTC

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

Knots and Basic Safety Systems: First of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This will be an indoor workshop held in the evening, reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets, basic climbing gear, and knots in preparation for later workshops. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> 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.

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.

OUTINGS

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 1-3 | Fri-Sun

LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:15 am Friday to 5:00 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$315 (full refund until 9/27). For sign-up, see instructions and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org.

Nov 2 | 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 (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead to Leader: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Nov 16-17 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation

Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to

Wilderness Permit Info

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

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site:

www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home

Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

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

KERN PLATEAU

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

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

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

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Web site: www.nps.gov/yose

Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance on-line or by writing to
Yosemite Association
PO Box 545
Yosemite, CA 95389

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

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

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

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

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA. 93271-9599
Phone (559) 565-3766 for permit & trail info. Fax (559) 565-4239

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Web site:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra>

Ansel Adams Wilderness—North Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
Phone: (559) 887-2218

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

OUTINGS

satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: 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.

Dec 8 | Sat

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), 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.

SPS Management Committee Meeting Monday, February 11, 2019 7:00 p.m. At Alexander Smirnoff's Home

1. Call to order at 7:05; present were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Paul Garry, vice chair/banquet; and Tina Bowman, secretary.
2. Standard business and reports.
 - a. Approval of minutes (December)—Done via e-mail.
 - b. Chair—Jim will check with outings chair Phil Bates about who led the most outings in 2018 so we can reward those who led the most with REI gift cards as has been done the past few years at the banquet.
 - c. Vice Chair—The banquet went well, and we've gotten a number of favorable comments about it and the program by Sophie Cairns. We decided to hold the next banquet on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Almansor Court again.
 - d. Outings—Phil reported by email that we have three trips planned or in the works so far, and he'll be soliciting outings from leaders.
 - e. Treasurer's report—report pending (see financial statement in the *Echo*)
 - f. Emblem Committee Report—Chris Guido earned his Emblem; Bart O'Brien earned his Smatko Explorer Emblem.
 - g. Outreach—no report.
 - h. Archives—Dan had nothing to report.
 - i. *Echo*
 - i. Deadline for next issue is February 22nd (April-June issue)
 - ii. Some of the earlier issues of the *Echo* still need to be scanned and the scans made available on the web site.
 - 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. Election Results—we had 54 members vote electronically and three by paper ballot. All five people on the ballot were elected.
 - b. Allowing for multiple Andy Smatko Explorer Emblems—Tina will write a short piece for the *Echo* so that the news spreads that a person may earn more than one ASEE.
4. New business
 - a. SPS Management committee—We will retain the same positions, at least for now.
 - b. Next meeting date is set for Monday, April 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m., either a conference call or at Alexander Smirnoff's home.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bowman
Secretary

Minutes approved by email on February 20, 2019.

**SPS Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
At Alexander Smirnoff's Home**

1. Call to order at 7:03; present were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Laura Newman, outreach; Paul Garry, vice chair/banquet; and Tina Bowman, secretary.
 2. Standard business and reports.
 - a. Approval of minutes (October)—Done via e-mail.
 - b. Chair—no specific report.
 - c. Vice Chair—banquet.
 - i. Alexander will prepare an honorarium check; Tina will check the Policies and Procedures and email everyone with the amount. Discussion about paying for or part of Sophie's travel expenses.
 - ii. Tom Bowman will make up the printed program.
 - iii. We'll have name tags, SPS decals, SPS banner, and SPS flyer available at the check-in table.
 - iv. Paul will call Almansor Court re next payment.
 - v. We'll ask Mary McMannes and Dave Sholle to be photographers.
 - vi. About December 15th will email the banquet flyer and *Echo* renewal form to members (mail to those without email). A banquet reminder will be sent in January about a week before the ticket price goes up.
 - vii. Reminder—no pink wine!
 - viii. We need to ask Phil Bates which leaders led the most SPS outings.
 - ix. Discussion of whether to give any awards.
 - d. Outings—no report.
 - e. Treasurer's report—Current balance of \$9233.95. Alexander will soon move the account from Wells Fargo to US Bank.
 - f. Emblem Committee Report—Kathy Rich completed her Smatko Explorer Emblem on September 12th on Mt. Price, and Anne Mullins completed hers on October 20th on Smatko Peak. Bart O'Brien is working on preparing his application for the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem, giving the information requested in the revised description of the emblem. The committee completed refining the requirements for the Smatko Emblem but decided not to allow for more than one Smatko Award per person (different fifty peaks) at this time. The management committee discussed and passed unanimously a motion to allow recognition of multiple Andy Smatko Explorer Emblems for members who provide a second or subsequent list together with the first or earlier lists with complete information for each peak; a peak climbed once will not count a second time.
 - g. Outreach—no report.
 - h. Archives—Tina brought a box of materials for Dan, files that once belonged to Duane McRuer.
 - i. *Echo*
 - i. Deadline for next issue is February 22nd (April-June issue)
 - ii. Laura has scanned all of Tina's *Echoes* and will get missing issues from Greg Gerlach or Barbara Lilley or will go to the archives at UCLA to scan them.
 - 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 was a great weekend! Tina has written an *Echo* article about it.
 - b. Change in Policies and Procedures (Smatko Emblem): the Policies and Procedures document has been updated for the revision in the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem description. The revised description and revised policies and procedures have been posted on the web site.
 4. New business
 - a. SPS Management committee elections: we five will run again but will look for more people willing to run. Do we want to have any survey questions on the ballot as we have the past several years? We'll use Survey Monkey again.
 - b. Next meeting date is set for Monday, February 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander Smirnoff's home.
 - c. Other items?—none.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

PASSAGES



Patricia Meixner Gentry

1933 - 2018
By Jerry Keating

Known then as Pat Meixner, this extremely able founding member of the Sierra Peaks Section warmly embraced the Sierra Nevada both on foot and on her typewriter. She moved from the East Coast to Los Angeles in August 1953 and quickly became hooked up with Frank Sanborn's band of hardy climbers who in October 1955 would officially form the SPS. One of the SPS's eighteen founding members, she served on the first SPS

*Above: Pat Meixner on a rope for SPS climb of "Pinnacle Peak" and Rockhouse Peak, Nov. 1-2, 1958 (Sanborn collection).
Right: Arvel and Pat Gentry just before Arvel's death in 2015 (Photo courtesy of Gentry family).*

Management Committee and was the section's first secretary. Those were the days before the birth of *The Sierra Echo*, and Pat's trip reports of SPS trips appeared frequently in the Angeles Chapter publication *Southern Sierran*. Soon, she wanted to expand her technical climbing skills and joined the Rock Climbing Section, and by 1960 she had wed RCSer Arvel Gentry. Together they chaired the Angeles Chapter Membership Committee in 1960 at a time when the Sierra Club needed to resolve its membership policies. Arvel was an aerodynamicist with Douglas Aircraft and then with Boeing, that work causing the couple to move to the Seattle area. They both attended the SPS's 50th anniversary banquet in Los Angeles, and Pat's writings continued to appear in *The Sierra Echo* as late as the 60th anniversary edition (January-March 2015). Arvel died June 1, 2015. Pat, at age eighty-five, died September 19, 2018.

SPS Founders

Jerry Keating has done a marvelous job of keeping track of the eighteen founding members of the SPS. Sadly, nine have died, all of natural causes: Bud Bingham, Miles Brubacher, Roger Gaefke, Pat Meixner Gentry, Ted Maier, Chuck Miller, John Robinson, and Frank Sanborn (Owen Blackburn is assumed to have died in 2010). The whereabouts of three members—Lee Owings,



PASSAGES

Right: SPS founding members on independent trip to Angora Mtn., April 22, 1956. From left: Owen Blackburn, Pat Meixner, John Robinson, Chuck Miller, Frank Sanborn (Sanborn collection, by Bud Bingham).



Leo Scotti, and Bob Sheller—are not known. Happily, the other six are still with us: Frank Bressel, Don Clarke, Izzy Lieberman, Barbara Lilley, George Wallerstein, and John Wedberg.

Katherine June (Kilbourne) Hakala

1938 - 2019

Though known as an early member of the Desert Peaks Section, doing her first DPS climb in 1952, Katharine June (Kilbourne) Hakala also climbed in the Sierra.

Most notably she was a member of the first ascent party of the northeast face of Mt. LeConte on September 7, 1952, climbing with Barbara Lilley, Steve Wilkie, Wes Cowan, and George Wallerstein. (Barbara Lilley and George Wallerstein, of course, became founding members of the SPS in 1955.) She was fourteen years old at the time, known to climbers as June.

When she joined the DPS in 1953, the June newsletter offered, “The rolls of the section have swelled during recent months with the addition of two enthusiastic young people—Gary Bratt, a student at UCLA, and June Kilbourne, who is known to many of you through her articles in the Southern Sierran. We bid them welcome and good climbing!”

The obituary in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on February 22 noted, “It was during her childhood in Los Feliz area of LA and while attending John Marshall High School that she developed her love of the mountains, hiking and the outdoors. . . . One summer she skied across the Juneau Icefield from Alaska into Canada. There were few mountain wildflowers she couldn't identify.”

She met her future husband, Thomas Hakala, in a botany lab during her first year at Stanford in 1955. They married in 1957 and moved that year to Boston, where Kathie transferred to Radcliffe College Harvard and Tom entered medical school. Having graduated in 1959 with a degree in biology, she followed that with a master's from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1960 and taught college chemistry in Boston.

After Tom became a surgeon, the Hakalas lived in Lima, Peru; Sacramento; Potomac, Maryland; Minneapolis; and then Pittsburgh, where they lived for twenty-seven years and had four children.

In 1999 Kathie earned a Ph.D. in geology at the University of Pittsburgh, after which she did paleoclimatology research in the western United States, focusing on Quaternary Period climate change.

The Hakalas moved to Reno in 2003, building a house with views of the mountains she loved.

[Thanks to Jerry Keating for providing the information from the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and from the DPS newsletter.]



Tom Ross

1930 - 2018

By Jerry Keating

As one of the early SPSers, Tom Ross at first was widely known for comic behavior but quickly emerged as a skilled climber as well as expert photographer. On March 31, 1957, for example, he entertained fellow Owens Peak climbers on an off-season Chinese New Year with

Above: Tom Ross standing near Piute Pass, May 26, 1963, on a joint SPS/Mother Lode Section trip with Barbara Lilley and Tom Ross serving as leaders. On that trip, snowbanks blocked the upper section of the North Lake road on Saturday, and only three persons (Lilley, Arkel Erb and Sy Osssofsky) reached the stated objective, Mt. Goethe, on Sunday. About 10 others climbed Muriel (Caption info and photo courtesy of Jerry Keating; photo Sanborn Collection).

an assortment of fireworks, a sacrificial bonfire, and hilarious jokes. He then was living in the Los Angeles area and, in August of that year, earned his SPS emblem on Mt. Sill. Before long, he wisely decided not to bring any form of fireworks with him to the mountains.

Tom's passion for the Sierra Nevada prompted him to move to Inyo County by 1959, and those of us bound to the lowlands learned he was living for a while in the building serving the Onion Valley ski area and later at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery above Independence as part of his work there. He maintained close contact with Andy Smatko, frequently climbed with Andy, and fully embraced Andy's quest for first ascents in the Sierra. What was different, however, was Tom's willingness to ski or snowshoe into remote areas of the Sierra in winter and take spectacular photographs, many of which appeared in *The Sierra Echo*.

In 1960, Norman Clyde was named the first honorary member of the SPS, and the presentation took place on October 15 at the Angeles Chapter's annual banquet. The SPS Management Committee made the award decision, but it was Tom who convinced Clyde to come south for the ceremony and drove the admired but sometimes irascible Clyde to the presentation.

On October 25, 1964, Tom was part of a Frank Sanborn-led day climb of Muah Mtn. from a lower part of Cottonwood Creek. At the time, I was living in Sacramento and planning to do some desert peaks above the Owens Valley a full month later with a fellow SPSer. On the Muah climb, Tom offered to host us on the night of November 27, and we joined him that Saturday afternoon at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery after an easy ascent of Pleasant Pt. Sacking out on an upper floor of that fabled hatchery was a blessing with the temperature so cold outside. Waucoba Mtn. was our objective for Sunday, but the normal approach from the north was blocked by snow. Tom knew of an access road from the southwest that might be possible. We tried that road but

PASSAGES

At right: Tom Ross (left) and Andy Smatko atop Arrow Peak on August 31, 1958 (Photo John W. Robinson collection, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Archives, with thanks to Bob Cates).

couldn't reach its end, and that made the climb unwise with darkness arriving so early. But, to our delight, the road yielded a great place to photograph the snowy Sierra across the Owens Valley. And just that one view made it easy to appreciate Tom's reason for living at the foot of what we all favored as the Range of Light.

Tom continued to join Andy Smatko on many trips and no doubt was encouraged by Andy's accomplishments. Andy in October 1964 became the first SPSer to finish the section's peaks list, and Tom followed in August 1965 on none other than Norman Clyde Peak. Mixed with named peaks in Tom's total climbing record were many with no names but fine photo opportunities. And Tom ascended many of these unaccompanied.

Word of Tom's plan to wed Nancy Candace Slater in 1966 marked another phase of Tom's meaningful life, and the couple, then living in Bishop, appeared at the SPS's 50th anniversary banquet on October 16, 2005. Sadly, Candy passed away far too soon, leaving Tom with a loss that he would endure for the balance of his life.

Tom Ross

By Barbara Lilley

Tom Ross and I were occasionally participants on the same trip starting in the late 1950s, even before he moved to the Owens Valley. These included SPS and Ski Mountaineers Section trips as well as private trips led by Andy Smatko. As a photographer he was always wishing for clouds to be in his pictures and thus got blamed when the clouds turned into bad weather. We were also both participants on climbs of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Olympus led by Rich Gnagy.

He also made solo skiing and hiking trips in the Sierra; one notable descent was the SE face of Birch Mountain. He hiked and skied into his 80s.

Although he liked to "clown around," he was a competent hiker and responsible enough to be a full-time



employee of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, a job from which he eventually retired. (I suspect he kept his co-workers entertained.)

He also had a fondness for setting off firecrackers, not always in appropriate places. However, on one occasion, two trip participants coming back in the dark after signing out to do a peak were guided to the group's camp by the sound of firecrackers. (In the trip write-up, they were referred to as "emergency signaling devices.")

Jon Stinzel

We are sorry to announce the sudden death of Jon Stinzel. We will carry a fuller remembrance in the next edition of the *Echo*.



PHOTO BY: TOM ROSS



PHOTO BY: TOM ROSS

Tom Ross, Photographer

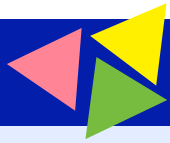
Tom Ross left many beautiful photos of the Sierra. In 2000 Tom and Candy published *The Border of the Sky*, a book of his photographs of the Sierra Nevada and her prose “to enrich their readers with love for the mountains and Inyo County” (*The Inyo Register*, obituary for Thomas Ross, January 8, 2019).



PHOTO BY: TOM ROSS

The Eastern California Museum has many of his images in their collection. Museum Assistant Heather Todd graciously scanned the ones which appear here and on our cover. Clockwise from top: Untitled; Kearsarge Lakes; Bullfrog Lake. On the cover: Mt. Tinemaha.

Center, above: Tom Ross, Andy Smatko, and John Robinson atop Mt. Washington in the Oregon Cascades, July 29, 1959, during a 2 1/2 week trip, which included 220 miles of hiking, 70,000' of gain, and 13 summits (John Robinson Collection, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Archives).



Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

Ron Bartell was the first to solve the Mystery Peaks puzzle submitted by Michael Chamoun. Ron didn't name Starlight or Mt. Alice in his answer but added Palisade Crest, Middle Pal, the Thumb, Bolton Brown (probably), Birch, and Aperture. He added that the photo was taken from Cloudripper. Next to answer was Ralph Wright with (left to right and upper to lower [right to left]) Kid, Birch, The Thumb, Disappointment (I think it's hidden), Middle Palisade, Norman Clyde, Sill, North Palisade, Thunderbolt, Winchell, Agassiz, Aperture, Robinson, Gayley, Temple Crag, and Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Lakes. He also thought it was taken from Cloudripper.

Michael's photo shows, left to right, these SPS peaks: Temple Crag, Norman Clyde, Gayley, Sill, North Pal, Thunderbolt, Winchell, and Agassiz. Also visible are Mt. Alice, Two Eagles, Robinson, Polemonium, Starlight, and Gendarme. The lakes are Third through Seventh Lakes.



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.

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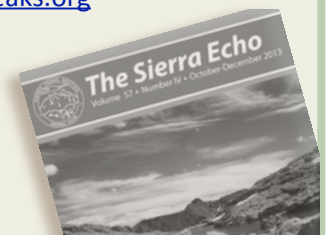
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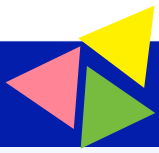
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Mystery Peak Challenge

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. 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.



The Sierra Echo

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





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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Address Changes Send to the treasurer via email treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

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

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

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

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