

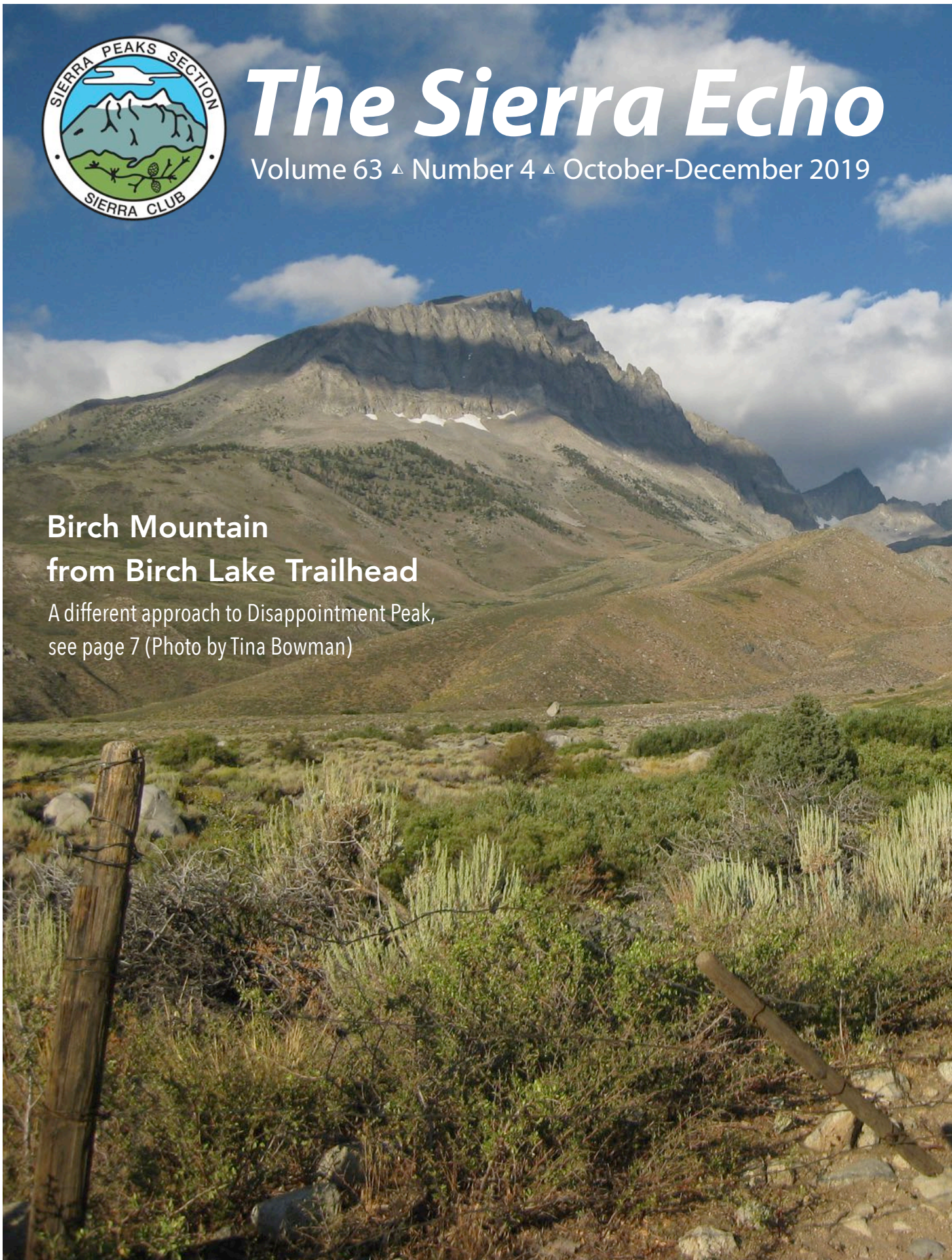


# *The Sierra Echo*

Volume 63 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2019

## **Birch Mountain from Birch Lake Trailhead**

A different approach to Disappointment Peak,  
see page 7 (Photo by Tina Bowman)







# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, fellow Sierra Nevada groupies! As we approach the end of summer, I hope that all of you have had an opportunity to do some great climbing and exploring!

We all need to be on board to see if we can help the Section by volunteering our time and energy to continue the work that we do. Please consider running for a position on the Management Committee. We are always open to fresh ideas and the energy that new folks bring to the section. I hope that many of you will want to help transition the things we do to improve our outreach and mission of getting a diverse group of

### Erratum

In the previous issue, in the title for Mary Motheral's fine obituary of Rayne Francis Motheral, the feminine version of the name (i.e., Frances), was inadvertently used. We do know better!—the editors.

### In this issue:

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people into the mountains, so that they can become real stewards for preserving the natural environment. Think about the future, and how you can personally contribute to make a better world for those that follow!

And, don't forget to VOTE in the next election—2020 will be a very, very important year to all of us in moving forward.

Happy Trails and Adventures!

Jim

[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)

## 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 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, 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:jwankum@aol.com">jwankum@aol.com</a>
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher <a href="mailto:register@summitregister.org">register@summitregister.org</a>

### Regional Representatives

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

2020 Sierra Peaks Section Annual

# BANQUET

## Denali: The Land of Ice and Snow

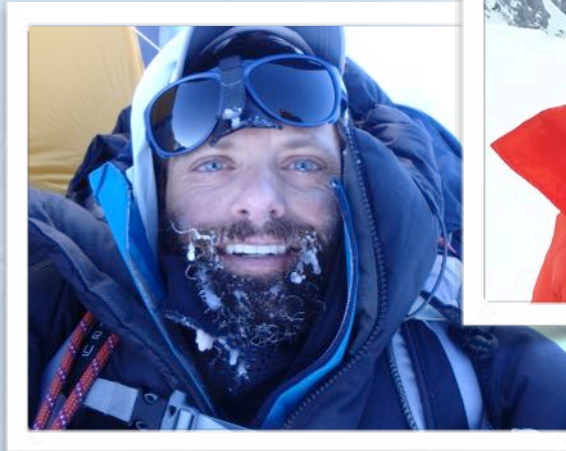
### A Climbers' Conversation

In the spring of 2018, with favorable weather, SPS members Michael Chamoun and Alexander Smirnoff scaled the third most isolated peak in the world via the West Buttress. Join us as they share their first-hand accounts of what they experienced through photos, videos, and a Q & A.



**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

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)

Salmon

Vegetarian

Prime Rib

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:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4411039>

(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 [jimf333@att.net](mailto:jimf333@att.net). 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, then 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.

## 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!



**Wear 'em! Give 'em!**  
**SPS TEES**

**Front: NORTH PAL**  
**Back: FULL SPS LIST**  
By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

M, L & XL in Ash & Sand; M in Yellow  
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Topanga, CA 90290  
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# Congratulations!

## Bob Pickering

Bob Pickering, seen at right, became list finisher 79 on Iron Mountain on September 22nd. Congratulations, Bob!



## Signe Swenson

Signe earned her second Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Echo Peak, July 24, 2019. She was the first person to apply for and earn a multiple Explorer Emblem.



## Jason Seieroe

Jason has earned his full M rating. Congrats and thanks for leading!



## Daryn Dodge

Daryn earned his List Finish Plus Master Emblem on Red Slate Mtn. on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He also earned his Geographic Emblem on Mt. Dana on August 30, 2015.

### FREE First Year's Membership or Echo Subscription

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



# Congratulations!



Congratulations are in order for legendary climber Gordon MacLeod, who turned ninety-five on July 26. Gathering to eat cake and talk about Gordon's rich history of climbing (nearly 6,000 peaks) are (left to right) Barbara Lilley, Mary McMannes, and Ellen and Erick Schumacher. We are anticipating Barbara's birthday on October 14 and will celebrate with another small gala.—*Mary McMannes*

## Around the Web *By Dave Sholle*

*Editors' note: Dave Sholle is our correspondent for this column, sharing web links that SPS members may find interesting. If you see something you think would interest other members, please send it to Dave at [dsholle@verizon.net](mailto:dsholle@verizon.net).*

The *New York Times* had a story about a mother who raised her five children on adventure. She developed Stage 4 Lung Cancer and attempted Aconcagua with her daughter (I'll leave it to the reader to read the article to learn the outcome): <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/sports/cancer-mother.html>.

Beth Epstein provided a link to an article about an art mural project along Highway 395 concerning Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep: <https://www.inkdwell.com/portfolio/migrating-mural-2/>.

If you look at this article about a gigapixel image of El Capitan, make sure to zoom into the image and especially examine the Nose route where climbers were captured in

separate images on the entire route: [http://www.xrez.com/blog/el-capitan-gigapixel-climbing-routes/?\\_ga=2.158876474.1685253918.1565126039-706276557.1565126039](http://www.xrez.com/blog/el-capitan-gigapixel-climbing-routes/?_ga=2.158876474.1685253918.1565126039-706276557.1565126039).

Here's an article about High Pointers taking it to another level: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2379686/high-pointers>.

Barbara and I recently took hiking trips to the Dolomites and the Bernese Oberland. We really enjoyed the Eiger Trail running from Eigerletscher station to Alpighen, right under the face of the Eiger, looking up at the famous landmarks on the face that many of us read about in *The White Spider*. Later, out of curiosity, I looked up what it takes to climb the classic 1938 route on the North Face of the Eiger, so here is an article by alpinist Steve House on doing just that: <https://www.uphillathlete.com/climb-eiger-north-face/>.



# Lucky and Not Disappointed: Disappointment Peak

By Tina Bowman

Last summer, Daryn Dodge, Paul Garry, and I were thwarted on an attempt on Disappointment from Finger Lake, first by a bergschrund at the top of the glacier (low snow year) and then by a headwall at the bottom of one of the South Fork Pass chutes and ice in the other. This year we planned to approach the peak from Birch Lake to avoid those obstacles altogether and set our trip for September 6-8. I desperately needed the peak! Phil Bates joined the group but had to return home while en route because of a family medical emergency. We were sorry to lose him.

On Thursday my neighbor in Independence warned me about the Taboose Fire, under four-hundred acres at that time, but I had no problem getting a permit for the Birch Lake trail. We saw no smoke or evidence of the fire as we made our way to the trailhead Friday morning.

Surprised to have seen three other vehicles at the trailhead, we saw two people at a distance off the trail, heading down, presumably hunters, and later a tent. Up we went the steep trail (4200' gain in six miles), and I immediately began lagging behind. Well-timed breaks helped, and we arrived at Birch Lake about 1:15, having started hiking about 7:45. Paul led a good route through

the band of willows and talus not far from the lake. (If you look at the Split Mtn 7.5' quad or Tom Harrison Palisades map, you'll note they show the trail ending about half a mile from the lake; that's because of the willows and talus.) We enjoyed a relaxing afternoon.

Off about first light at 6:00 on Saturday, we made our way around the south shore of the lake. Paul opted to head up to avoid the snow banks along part of the shore; Daryn and I donned crampons and got out ice axes to cross the snow to near the head of the lake, then climbed beside a small waterfall. We met Paul up above. Sometimes crossing rather flat and warming snow fields, Daryn led us on to the ramp that leads to the broad bowl below The Thumb and then up to "Birch Creek Pass," where we arrived at 9:00 and found a register. Down we went after looking at Balcony and Disappointment, far away, angling west toward our objective and not dropping all the way to any of the lakes. Eventually, we climbed up to the ridge between Balcony and South Fork Pass, aiming for the top of a reddish streak of scree and rock.

The large cairn I remembered at the start of the traverse across the face of Balcony was gone, but we saw a duck just a few feet down into the traverse. Here we took a break and put on harnesses and helmets. We took our

*Disappointment and Middle Palisade seen from "Birch Creek Pass" (Photo by Tina Bowman).*





axes and crampons as well as Paul's thirty-meter 8.4 mm rope. Turns out we didn't need the gear, though having helmets on was a good idea. Daryn, who was making his fifth ascent of the peak, led us across the four chutes before the main chute leading to the notch between Balcony and Disappointment. The first four chutes aren't



*Clockwise from top: Paul Garry, Tina Bowman and Daryn Dodge (Photos by Tina Bowman).*



large, and we quickly dispatched them. Unfortunately, the satellite images we'd been studying proved to be correct: we found snow in places in the main chute, including a ribbon where one can easily enter the chute. Because the chute is steep and the snow was likely hard, we opted to try to bypass it. I had visions of having to turn around, but

routes above and below both worked. Paul went down the ridge between chutes and crossed to the dry far side of the chute and went up from there. My pack was starting to push me out as Daryn and I followed Paul; we turned around and ascended the ridge till we were above the snow and had another good entrance to the chute. Daryn helped me down over a big boulder, and we started climbing up, sometimes on some very nice rock. Avoiding snow until we were a short distance from the notch, here we were able to squeeze between the snow and rock on our right to get to a chock stone to go over before exiting right up rock and to the final push for the summit.

The wind was a bit annoying as we climbed to the summit but not treacherous as we went along the final knife-edge ridge to the summit, arriving at 2:20. Because it was late and we had a long way to go back to camp, we enjoyed the register briefly, had a quick snack, and started down at 2:40. Hooray, I'd made it to 3x246—one peak to go to finish. We were glad to be out of the wind once we descended back into the chute. We opted to go below the snow as Paul had on the ascent; it was easier and less scary for me to climb up the ridge than it was to descend it. By 4:40 we were back atop the ridge of Balcony, and we started retracing our steps more or less to Birch Lake Pass with some breaks, mostly for me to catch up (I'm so much slower than I once was) and a longer one to get water at a small stream. Unfortunately, the wind was blowing harder and harder. We reached the pass before dark, but not far below it we turned on headlamps.

The guys did a great job with route finding along the moraine and eventually down to the lake. They would

periodically wait for me; I was creeping along, now concerned that after finally climbing the peak I'd break my neck or an ankle on the final trek to camp. We enjoyed quite a display of lightning in clouds high above the Owens Valley or the White Mountains. At one point, one of the four straps on my knee brace broke, and I ended up jamming it in my pack because it wouldn't stay in place. Great. But on we went mostly over rock with a blessed bit of dirt now and then. Reaching the shore on the camp side of the snow, we still had a long stretch of shore to follow to the outlet and our camp. We were greeted by quite a sight when we looked out a bit south along a ridge of Birch Mountain toward the Owens Valley: a glowing red cloud of smoke. The wind had reawakened the fire big time. Being blown about by the wind, Daryn and I wondered whether our tents had blown away (we were camped above Paul, whose tent was protected by much higher rock walls than ours were). When we arrived about 12:30 a.m., we discovered that Paul's tent was fine, mine was knocked down but ok, and Daryn's was destroyed with a shredded fly, bent poles, cut shock cord in the poles, and tears in the tent itself. The two of us fought with the tents as though wrestling wild, whirling animals. Daryn bundled the mess that had been his tent and made a bivy of it beside Paul's tent. I stuck my pack in mine, tried to secure the other end, and finally used myself as the other anchor. The wind was fierce all night and into the morning, and I spent what was left of the night with the tent wall in my face. (In retrospect, the camp at Birch Lake was too far away from the peak for me.)

On our way out before 8:00 the next morning, Paul again led us through the willows and talus well. We took a break for water after about an hour at the one nice stream the trail crosses, high enough that the cattle don't come up that far. We watched the smoke rising above a

*At right: The Taboose fire (Photo by Tina Bowman).*

ridge on our right and saw planes and helicopters making many passes above the fire; fortunately, we had only one whiff of it. We could see more and more dark smoke as we descended. Just after we reached the Jeep and 4Runner at noon, a ranger arrived in an ATV to tell us the trail and road were closed and ask whether anyone else was up the trail. No.

Saying goodbye to Daryn, who was going to join Tom Sakowych that afternoon to head in for a climb of Basin Mountain (amazing but true!), Paul and I headed back to Independence, oggling the Taboose Fire. Embers had sparked many fires on the mountainsides above Tinemaha Creek, obvious as fingers of white smoke. Down lower the fire was burning dark and fierce. We later learned that hikers at Red Lake had to be rescued, that four cars burned at that trailhead, and that the fire had grown to over 9,200 acres, quite an increase.

We'd been very lucky. We were able to proceed as planned, we had a safe climb of Disappointment and weren't thwarted by the snow, and we made it out safely. I'd been nervous about climbing Disappointment again, despite having soloed it the first time, superstitiously worrying that something bad would happen just before finishing the list. Whew! Thanks to Daryn, who'd led this route several times, and Paul for a safe, albeit long and exhausting, climb and for tolerating my dragging along behind. Bring on the list finish!



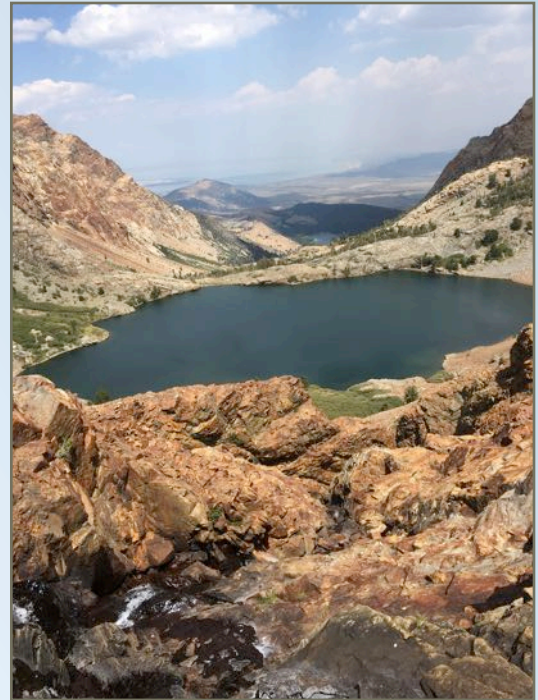


# Koip Peak, August 17-19, 2018

By Beth Epstein



The Taboose Fire mentioned in Tina Bowman’s Disappointment Peak report is one of the first fire incidents to impact SPS climbs in 2019. We’ve had a small summer reprieve after 2018, when Dave Scobie and I scheduled Koip from Bloody Canyon. We sweated over daily smoke map changes and finally in a “Never Mind” moment decided to proceed. Though the views from the summit were strange and obscured as the winds changed, we were lucky and not much affected, but ended up with only one participant, Brian Franz. We made it a three-day trip to avoid a late exit home, packing up the steep trail to Upper Sardine Lake on Friday, climbing Koip and exploring the high passes, plane wreckage and mining relics on Saturday, and hiking out on Sunday. It is usually an available permit and a historic and beautiful area.



*Clockwise from top: Brian and Dave heading over Parker pass ; Brian Franz at historic cabin ruins near Mono Pass; ; Lower Sardine Lake from Upper Sardine Lake; 1942 plane wreckage on the ridge to Kuna; Smoky view from the summit of Koip to the south (Photos by Beth Epstein).*



# Some Notes about SPS Peaks in a Day—Tioga Pass, Tuolumne Meadows, and Lake Tenaya Areas



*By Tina Bowman*

Nine SPS peaks can be climbed as day hikes from the Tioga Pass and Tuolumne Meadows area: Warren, Conness, North, Dana, Gibbs, Koip, Vogelsang, Cathedral, and Clouds Rest. Lyell and/or Maclure are possible but probably make for quite long days; the same is true for Half Dome, and you need a permit to climb it via the cables (see <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>).

## **How do I get there?**

From Highway 395 just south of Lee Vining, turn west on Highway 120, the Tioga Road. You'll enter Yosemite National Park at Tioga Pass and can continue west to Tuolumne Meadows. From the west enter Yosemite and turn left on the Big Oak Flat Road and then take the Tioga Road to Lake Tenaya, Tuolumne Meadows, and Tioga Pass.

For Warren, park on the shoulder or going west turn off Highway 120 to the left to an open area where the road makes a horseshoe turn, about 7+ miles from the turn from Highway 395. For Conness and North, turn onto the Saddlebag Lake Road 9.8 miles from Lee Vining. For Conness you can climb from Sawmill Campground or from near

Saddlebag Lake, where you have access to North as well. Dana can be climbed from Tioga Pass entrance station or from within Yosemite NP with a start on the Mono Pass Trail in Dana Meadows, 13.9 miles from Lee Vining. Gibbs and Koip can be reached from this trail as well. Continue on the Tioga Road to 19.1 miles from Lee Vining and turn onto the road for Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to reach hiker parking 0.4 miles from the Tioga Road. Start here on the John Muir Trail for Vogelsang, Lyell, and Maclure. Park at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead just west of Budd Creek in Tuolumne meadows if you wish to climb Cathedral. For Clouds Rest and Half Dome, continue west on the Tioga Road to the western shore of Lake Tenaya for the Forsyth Trail, which has a junction at 4.0 miles with the Clouds Rest Trail.

## **What about the Half Dome permit?**

This permit is required when the cables are up for day hikes and backpacks with a quota of seventy-five a day, fifty of them by reservation. The remaining twenty-five permits are available the day before a climb on a first-come, first

*Above: North Peak (Photo by Tina Bowman).*



served basis. The cost is \$10 per person. See <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm> for more information.

### Where can I camp before my hike?

Tuloumne Meadows has a large and very popular campground. On the Tioga Road outside of Yosemite are a number of campgrounds. Going from Lee Vining west, you'll come to these campgrounds: Lower Lee Vining (51 sites, \$14/night), Moraine (25 sites, \$14/night—overflow campground), Aspen Grove (45 sites, \$14/night, on Poole Power Plant Road), Big Bend (17 sites, \$22/night, on Poole Power Plant Road), Ellery Lake (12 sites, \$22/night), Junction (13 sites, \$17/night), and Tioga Lake (13 sites, \$22/night). Two campgrounds are off the Saddlebag Lake Road: Sawmill walk-in (12 sites, \$17/night) and Saddlebag Lake (20 sites, \$22/night).

### What about food storage?

The trailheads and campgrounds have food storage boxes.

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

Lee Vining has various places to eat, including the Whoa Nellie Deli at the Mobil Station at the start of the Tioga Road (Highway 120), according to the *New York Times*, "a shockingly gourmet oasis located at the Tioga Gas Mart." Reopening in 2019 is the Tioga Pass



Resort, which has a café as well as lodging between Tioga and Ellery Lakes. The Tuloumne Meadows Lodge offers breakfast and dinner (reservations required for dinner, call [209] 372-8413), and you can order a box lunch the day before.

### What else can I do in the area?

Besides all the wonders of Yosemite Valley and the Yosemite high country, consider visiting Mono Lake to the east of Lee Vining or traveling farther north to visit the ghost town of Bodie, a state park.

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

If your backpack starts outside the park, you can get a permit at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center north of Lee Vining or the other locations issuing Inyo National Forest wilderness permits: Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, and the Eastern Agency Visitor Center in Lone Pine.

Consider reserving your permit in advance to be sure you get it! For trips starting in Yosemite, reserved and first-come, first served permit information can be found here: <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm> There is a Wilderness Center just off the Tioga Road on the road to the Tuloumne Meadows Lodge where you can pick up your reserved permit or hope to secure a permit the day before your backpack after 11:00 or the morning of (you may need a lot of luck in that case!).



*Top: Vogelsang Peak. Left: Mt. Conness from North Peak (Photos by Tina Bowman).*



## Denali 1984: Reflecting Back and Forward to a Brave New World

*By Guy Dahms  
9/12/2019*

Our group traveled to Denali in May of 1984. In a nutshell, our trip played out remarkably similar to that of Michael Chamoun's trip description in the October-December issue of *The Sierra Echo*. We were sixteen days up, two days down, with supplies planned for twenty-four days max. Heavy packs, unwieldy sleds, steep slopes, and fixed lines. We were phenomenally lucky with the weather and had no delays flying into or out of the Kahiltna Glacier. Every storm day was filled with activity (crevasse rescue practice, shuttling loads, etc.). A fabulous summit day. I still marvel at our good fortune to this day.

In truth, I was an afterthought on the trip. Originally, Carl and his friend Dave were planning on doing the trip as a team. But they got to thinking "This is not safe: If one of us gets sick or hurt, there's only the one person available to help." So the decision was made to add a third person. And thus Doug, a high-end climber, was recruited. But, upon

further consideration, that was still viewed as insufficient. With three people, if one got sick/injured, one person would have to stay with that person, leaving just one other person to go (solo and alone) for help.

And so, bless their hearts, they thought of me, low man on the pole in terms of rock skills, but strong on snow skills and stamina.

And that's just about how it played out. Doug got sick. Dave took him out, leaving Carl and me to summit. I could write pages and pages here on the day-to-day details, but I will refrain (details available upon request!).

The day Carl and I summited, a storm was raging over the Alaskan landscape. But we were above it all, above the clouds, in clear skies and calm winds. We spent a considerable time marveling at Mount Foraker and other summits stabbing up through the cloud layer. We could see

*Above: "Classic Denali" Copyright National Park Service, Denali Photo Gallery.*



far out into the ocean. Because of the poor spring weather (cold and high winds), we were one of the first groups to summit that year.

The storm cleared as we descended the mountain. After nearly a week of being grounded, planes started flying, and we were able to fly out of “Kahiltna Glacier International Airport” soon after arriving. Forty-eight hours after Carl and I had returned to our ice cave high camp at 17,500’, we were eating dinner in a Talkeetna restaurant. Just surreal.

I write this now because in April 2019 Carl suffered a stroke during the night. He awoke with the right side of his body paralyzed and unintelligible speech. I visit him regularly, but not often enough. Recovery has been slow: I still cannot understand him when he speaks, and when I have him write it down on a pad of paper, I cannot decipher the drawings and writing. Visits are awkward.

It’s disconcerting that Carl did not engage in those “unhealthy lifestyle habits” that often precede later-in-life health issues (smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor diet). He had continued to be active in the outdoors and health-conscious. And so: “This could be me, tomorrow morning.” I push aside such thoughts with the good memories of our trips together.

After Denali, I realized that I did not have the right personality for high-altitude mountaineering. Spending days in a tent waiting out a storm would bring out my dark, impatient side that I would not want to inflict on anyone. I had “dodged a bullet” with the weather on that mountain. Though I did other high-altitude mountains (Mexican Volcanoes, Aconcagua, Bolivia, Ecuador, etc.), I never pursued the expedition-level trips. The equipment sits in the closet to this day. Life takes us in different directions, for better or worse. On this, I have no regrets.

## 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

# A Clyde Story

By Bob Hartunian

Norman Clyde was one of my heroes, and during the 1970-2000 period when I climbed in Sierra, I always liked and remembered anything about him.

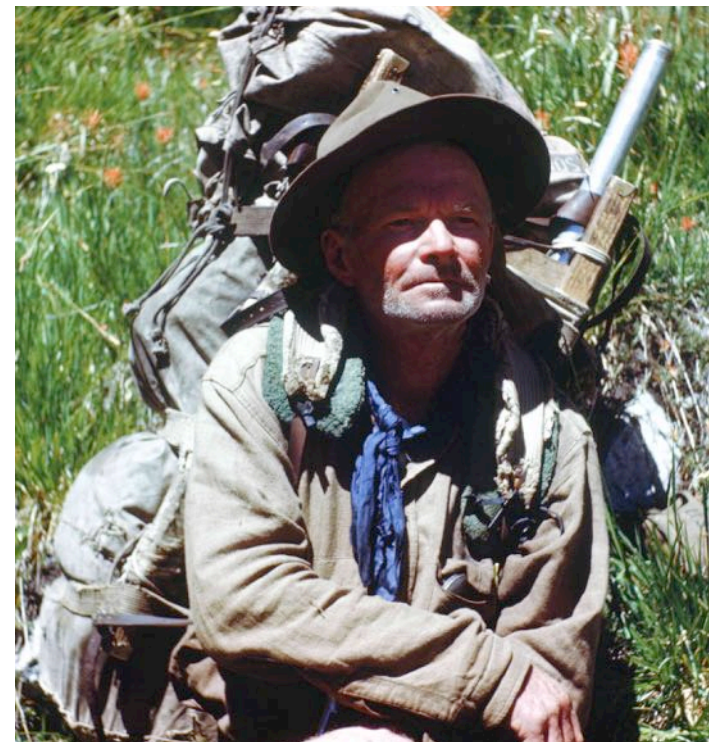
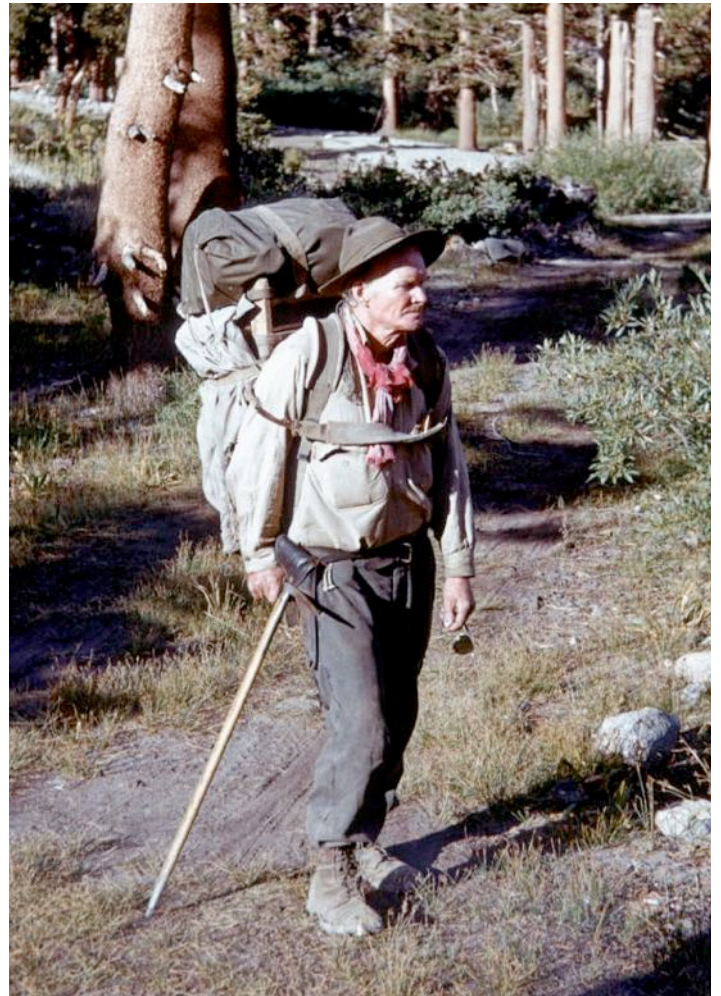
When my kids were young, we took them to Bishop for two weeks each summer and stayed in the Village Motel with kitchen and a swimming pool. It was a great family place about a block off the highway, and the owner, Jim Holland, was born in Bishop and lived there all his life. He knew I admired Clyde and he told me stories of Norman that I still remember.

Everyone in town knew old Norman, and during the 1950-60's he would walk the street and carry his leather briefcase around, bulging with books and a few guns. The books were of several languages, including Greek, as Norman was fluent in such readings. Jim knew he didn't have much money for anything but necessities, so he would invite Norman over for dinner. And Norman was always prompt with a big appetite. He didn't socialize much and was not a conversationalist, so everyone accepted that. But what did tend to separate folks was Norman's lack of basic hygiene, especially bathing.

In the mountains by yourself, perhaps a bath once a week is acceptable, but in the summer warmth of Bishop, the heat causes issues that only soap and water can cure. As Norman didn't abide by these practices, when he came to visit, he was placed at the head of the table and everyone else sat as far as they could from him.

He liked home-cooked meals and would never leave anything on his plate or on the table. If asked whether he wanted more, Norman's answer was always Yes! Jim's wife said Norman ate more than anyone she ever knew. And he weighed only 140 pounds soaking wet. The man probably didn't cook much at home in the cabin, so he stocked up reserves when invited over.

I used to take off from Bishop early in the morning a few days a week and go hiking long distances to climb a peak, like Cloudripper and Temple Crag solo. One day after I



*Above: Norman Clyde at camp during Desert Peaks Section climb of Mt. Tom, September 19-20, 1953 (Photo Frank Bressel, Bressel Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Right: Norman Clyde at Le Conte Canyon, August 1, 1945 (Photo by Frank E. Moore, Wikimedia Commons, Universal Public Domain).*



got back near dark, my wife told me several climbers had showed up at the motel and spent the afternoon talking about Sierra and Himalayan adventures. Among those present were Smoke Blanchard, Dennis Hennek, and Jim Ridgeway, fresh from K2. I would have died to meet these legendary climbers but missed them all that day.

Even better, I would have given anything to talk and listen to Norman, even if he smelled like a bear.

*Right: Norman Clyde and fellow camper Mrs. Phil Bettler in the Tetons at Jenny Lake Campground, August 27, 1956 (Photo by Fred Johnson).*



## SPS Income Statement 09-22-2019

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	YTD
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>INCOME</b>												
Echo Subscriptions	1,400	710	380	190	130	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,540	1,380	1,400
Banquet Income	2,930	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,905	4,645	4,110	3,760	2,705	2,650
Donations	811	240	60	30	30	340	440	560	666	878	605	673
Merchandise Sales	77	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	350	157	67	142
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>6,686</b>	<b>6,335</b>	<b>4,757</b>	<b>4,865</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>												
Postage	165	-	-	-	-	609	(4)	14	938	522	314	292
Printing	187	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433	418	315
Merchandise	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130	-	17
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,502	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553	3,715
Bank Fees	10	-	-	-	-	18	2	10	6	11	5	(101)
Website	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	36	-	-	-
Charitable contributions	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	200	200	200	200
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	899	254	82	-
Membership meetings/activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,257	174	-	101
Register Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,885</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>6,493</b>	<b>4,572</b>	<b>4,539</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(371)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(2,362)</b>	<b>(158)</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>326</b>
<b>Cash In Bank</b>	<b>10,606</b>											



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

Oct 5 | Sat

LTC

Leadership Training LTP Seminar: Get more information here: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z000001aH6MQAU&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=LEADERSHIP%20TRAINING%20LTP%20Seminar@34.014117,-118.377285>.

**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>

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.



# OUTINGS

## Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Richard Boardman 310-374-4371

Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 [dianedunbar@charter.net](mailto:dianedunbar@charter.net)

Matthew Hengst [matthew.hengst@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com)

Mat Kelliher 818-667-2490 [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com)

Dennis Loya [dennisloya@gmail.com](mailto:dennisloya@gmail.com)

Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 [pamckusky@att.net](mailto:pamckusky@att.net)

Robert Myers 310-829-3177 [rmmyers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmmyers@ix.netcom.com)

Jimmy Quan 626-688-6283 [h2otigerjim@gmail.com](mailto:h2otigerjim@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)

Donna Specht 714-963-6345 [donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com)

**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. 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](http://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 9-10 | Sat-Sun**

**LTC**

**M/E-R: Indian Cove Rock Checkoff and Practice:** M- and E-level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also

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.

# OUTINGS

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.

**Nov 16-17 | 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 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.

**Jan 26 | Sun**

**SPS**

**Annual Banquet:** Join old friends and make new ones at our banquet held at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Social time begins at 5:00, dinner at 6:30. See the ad in this issue of the *Echo* for information about registering, location, and program.

## SPS Outings

*By Phil Bates, SPS Outings Chair*

It's hard to believe that we've finished the summer climbing season and are into fall. I know that many climbers got a late start this season, which has had some impact on those attempting to finish the SPS list this year or next year.

Apparently the heavy mosquito crop has subsided, and the Sierra is a much more pleasant area to get R&R when around water. Because the lakes and streams are still flowing nicely at all elevations, access to water is easier, but stream crossings are more of a challenge too. Some sizeable snow fields are still lingering on north facing slopes, and the sun cups are getting deep

enough to swallow a small child. Many peaks can be approached more efficiently on snow versus scrambling on scree and talus.

On another topic, remember that Inyo wilderness permits can generally be reserved six months in advance, and it would be a good idea to start planning and scoping out permits in January (yep, just three months from now). We would very much like to have more SPS members lead posted trips next season. So please contact me if you need guidance or support in setting up trips. Remember to give the outings chair(s) and the MOC time to review and approve any M, MR, or ER trips.





## John Wedberg

September 21, 1928 - August 14, 2019

*We are grateful to John's son Kurt for providing the following obituary—Eds.*

On Wednesday August 14, 2019, John Fred Wedberg, loving husband and father of three children, entered eternal life after ninety adventurous years on earth.

John was born on September 21, 1928, in Redlands, California, to Fred and Vivian Wedberg. He was a Master Sergeant in the Army, serving during the Korean War, then passed his brokerage exam in 1953. He worked as a stockbroker until his retirement in 1993. On December 7, 1965, he married Patricia Ann Wedberg. They raised two sons and one daughter.

John had a passion for music with a deep knowledge of and appreciation for jazz from the 30s and 40s era. He shared that love gracing the airwaves of the Eastern Sierra with a radio show on the Sierra Wave for fourteen years. He began playing jazz piano in elementary

*Above: John Wedberg on Mt. Hooper July 4, 1954. John was the leader of the trip (Photo by Jerry Keating).*

school and continued playing his entire life. For many years local residents planned their Sundays once each month around seeing his band For the Love of Swing play at Whiskey Creek. He also regularly shared his music with residents at the Bishop Care Center and Sterling Heights, the Soup Kitchen, and the Methodist Church.

John had a love for vintage cars. The first car he owned after high school was a Model A Ford. Over the course of his life, he always had a Model A Ford in his garage. After moving to Bishop in 1993, he helped found the Eastern Sierra chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America.

Another passion he shared was a deep love for the outdoors. His mountaineering resume includes numerous peak ascents throughout the Sierra, twenty-eight climbs in the Alps, and one volcano in Mexico. He learned how to ski in the late 50s and continued backcountry skiing for the next forty-five years, going on countless ski tours in the Sierra. He was involved in several sections of the Sierra Club. He was a founding member of the Sierra Peaks Section, and was active with the Rock Climbing Section, Ski Mountaineers Section, Alpine Ski Touring Committee, New Member's Committee, and the Baldy Hut Committee. Anybody who shared an adventure with John quickly learned of his infectious nature, and he always enjoyed sharing that love of the outdoors with eager folks wishing to learn.

John was also active in the Methodist Church. He served as chairman of the Finance Committee in Santa Monica. After moving to Bishop, he played piano and hand bells during services in addition to spearheading the building fund, which led to the completion of the Methodist Church's Social Hall in Bishop, which is now a blessing to many events, including the Soup Kitchen that continues to be a great outreach ministry to the Bishop community.

# PASSAGES

Other interests included a love of flying and a passion for fly fishing, and he could be seen tying his own flies in the evenings.

John was preceded in death by his father Fred, mother Vivian, and sister Hilda May. He is survived by his wife Patricia, his three children Kurt, Christina, and Troy, his brother Hale Lee, two grandchildren, several nephews, and one niece. A service was held on Saturday, August 31, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church in Bishop. Donations may be sent in memory of John Wedberg, 369 E Pine St, Bishop, CA 93514.

## A Tribute to John Wedberg

*By Jerry Keating*

As a newcomer to the SPS in May 1957, I first knew John Wedberg as one of the highly respected founding members of the section, but I moved to Sacramento in September 1961 and from there developed an even greater respect for him when he became chair of the Angeles Chapter Membership Committee after serving on the committee for several years. Then, in 1964, he became

a member of the chapter's foremost body, the Executive Committee, and ably served there. Those were the days when SPS members were playing a major role in moving the chapter into harmony with the Sierra Club as a whole in switching from an exclusive organization to an inclusive one, and John tactfully advanced that process.

One of my early face-to-face experiences with John occurred when I still was living in Sacramento. That experience was the SPS's Fourth of July backpack to the Sallie Keyes area of the western Sierra. John was the leader, and the trip drew seventy-one persons. He made the trip open not only to peak baggers but to backpackers, campers, and fishermen. "Plenty of golden trout, beautiful scenery, great weather and a couple of easy peaks tossed in for good measure" read his trip report for the SPS's first scheduled climbs of Mts. Hooper and Senger.

In recent years when John was living in Bishop and I was back in Southern California, my contacts with him were by phone, and I recall asking in one conversation how he was doing. He expressed pleasure for living in Bishop so close to the Sierra Nevada and expressed satisfaction with his climbing experiences both domestically and abroad. But he regretted having to give up fishing, and that reminded me of the 1964 trip when fishermen were as welcome as climbers.

Having researched John Wedberg, Jerry Keating notes that John received his SPS emblem in September 1960 (from the SPS emblem roster) and served on the Angeles Chapter Membership Committee and chaired it starting in 1961; he also served on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee starting in 1964 (from issues of *The Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities*). Below is the information Jerry found at the "Great Leaders" page of the chapter web site (written in 2001) ([https://angeles.sierraclub.org/about/chapter\\_history/great\\_leaders/leaders\\_s\\_z](https://angeles.sierraclub.org/about/chapter_history/great_leaders/leaders_s_z)):

**Activity: 1954-present [2001] (47+ years\*)** RCS; SPS; Ski Mountaineers, Alpine Ski Mountaineering Committee Angeles Chapter Phil Bernays Service Award (1970)

John Wedberg began leading in early 1950s for SMS, RCS, SPS, and later the Alpine Ski Mountaineering Committee. He donated years of work, love, and leadership towards the continuing use and maintenance of the San Antonio Ski Hut. He chaired the RCS in 1969 and 1970, and the Ski Mountaineers in 1969 and 1971—the only person to chair these two sections at the same time.

**Longevity:** At this stage in the leadership survey (2001), twenty-four of the Great Leaders on this Honor Roll are confirmed to have provided service to our chapter in excess of forty years. For some of these individuals, this period of service extends well beyond the period of when they were active outings leaders to include their other contributions to the chapter—serving on committees, hosting social events, presenting programs, acting as advisors. There are more individuals yet to be discovered, and with the arrival of the Chapter Centennial in 2011, many more are bound to emerge.



## Remembering John Wedberg

By Barbara Lilley

I first met John on a DPS trip in 1953 (before the SPS was formed) to climb Mt. Tom. Norman Clyde was on the trip, and he had some car problem, which John was able to fix. Thereafter, John was informally known as Norman Clyde's mechanic. In addition to Mt. Tom, John and I climbed Pk. 13,224 (one mile SW of Basin Mtn.). When I climbed the same peak decades later, the register we left was still there. Over the years, occasionally we were both participants on the same SPS trip; unfortunately, details do not come to mind. John came to at least one SPS banquet when his son Kurt was giving the program. (Kurt is the founder of Sierra Mountaineering International, a world class guide service based in Bishop.) John also attended the SPS fiftieth anniversary reunion at the Tuttle Creek campground (near Lone Pine) in 2005.

John was also an active member of the Rock Climbing Section until its demise; I sometimes climbed with them as well. On one trip in the Whitney area, a climber was killed in a fall (unroped in Class 3 terrain). John was instrumental in handling the situation. Although he had planned to be on the trip for only one day, he did not hesitate to hike out to the trailhead, contact the appropriate authorities, and return to camp after dark with necessary information. He spent the night there in a borrowed

sleeping bag and the next day helped the victim's husband carry out her equipment and stayed by his side in Lone Pine until it was time for everyone to head home. (The victim's body was retrieved by the China Lake Search and Rescue that day.)

My most memorable trips with John were on backcountry ski trips, first with the Ski Mountaineers Section and later with the Alpine Ski Mountaineers Committee, of which John was the Chairman. We had great fun in our favorite Sierra areas—Onion Valley, San Joaquin Pk., Rock Creek, Bishop Pass, etc.—and especially on Mt. San Antonio from the Ski Hut there. One beautiful, sunny weekend, John, Kurt and I had the Hut to ourselves, and ours were the only tracks on the mountain.

And, of course there, was the time I broke my arm skiing at Mammoth, and John came to my rescue. He picked me up at the Mammoth hospital and put me up at his house in Bishop until someone could drive up from the south and take me home.

It was indeed a privilege to have known John all those years, and he will be missed.



*At the start of Desert Peaks Section Climb of Mt. Tom, Sept. 19-20, 1953. L to R: Millie Stewart, Virgil Sisson (wearing red shirt), John Michelsen, Marjorie Jarabin, Barbara Lilley, John Wedberg (Photo by Frank Bressel, Frank Bressel Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).*

# PASSAGES



## Edna Erspamer

January 30, 1931-June 10, 2019

Edna May Erspamer, aka "Mountain Momma," embarked June 10 on her latest adventure. "I'm taking another trip," she said before departing. She had taken thousands of trips.

She was born January 30, 1931, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, to Harry and Edna Senior. The family lived above the bar and grill they owned and operated, running bootleg whiskey on the side. Edna was sent to a Catholic boarding school for a few years. Then the family relocated to Tyler, Texas, and in 1946 to Santa Monica. There Edna attended Santa Monica High School. Her parents bought the Dawn Dee Motel on Harvard Street and Santa Monica Boulevard and went into business.

Edna went on to receive a bachelor's degree from UCLA, where she was a proud member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority. In Westwood she met Franco Erspamer, a Lambda Chi in on the NROTC program. They married in '52 and went on to have six children. Franco's work with Mobil Oil Company took them to Seattle, Eugene, Fountain

Valley, and Rochester, New York. In '67 they returned to Santa Monica, where they bought a house on Franklin Hill and Franco joined his father-in-law in the motel business.

Edna loved to cook for her family. They would gather weekly for a family dinner for the better part of fifty years. Among her many dozens of home-cooked delicacies, Moroccan Chicken was favored by most.

While Edna did some work as a substitute teacher, more of her time would be directed to artistic pursuits. She produced scores of oil paintings, stained glass works, and watercolors but became better known for a series of landscape serigraphs. Her artwork was intertwined with a deep love and appreciation for wilderness.

Summers found the family on the road, exploring the West and the national parks. The Grand Canyon and Glacier. The Rockies, the Tetons, the Olympic Peninsula. Crater Lake, Mt. Rainier, Zion, and Yosemite. But no place captivated them as much as Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Edna and her kids camped some twenty-five summers at the Grant Grove. She climbed Moro Rock every season up to her eighty-seventh year.

After divorcing in 1976, Edna hit the hiking trail. She joined the Sierra Club and went on to climb thousands of mountains and peaks. She completed the Club's "Hundred Peaks List" (comprised of around 291 peaks) two times. She finished the Desert Peaks list (95 peaks) and the lion's share of the Sierra Peaks list (247 peaks) (she became emblem holder #458 on August 1, 1984). She branched out from her Southern California base to reach forty-six of the fifty U.S. state high points.

As her joints began to wear, she began to employ automated modes of travel. But her obsession with lists continued. As a member

*Above: Edna Erspamer (Photo courtesy of Mary McMannes).*



# PASSAGES

of the Traveler's Century Club, she found her way to some 277 countries, territories, and principalities on seven continents. She trekked in the Annapurna Sanctuary and in Patagonia. She hiked across Tasmania and made it to Everest Base Camp. She climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia. No one really knows where she's off to now.

## *A Name from the Past:* Remembering Edna

*By Mary McMannes*

A name from the past is a climber and fellow hiker, Wilson Harvey, who in my younger days, called me the prom queen of the SPS; and if I were the prom queen, then Edna Erspamer was the It Girl of all three climbing sections, and she will surely be missed by all of us.

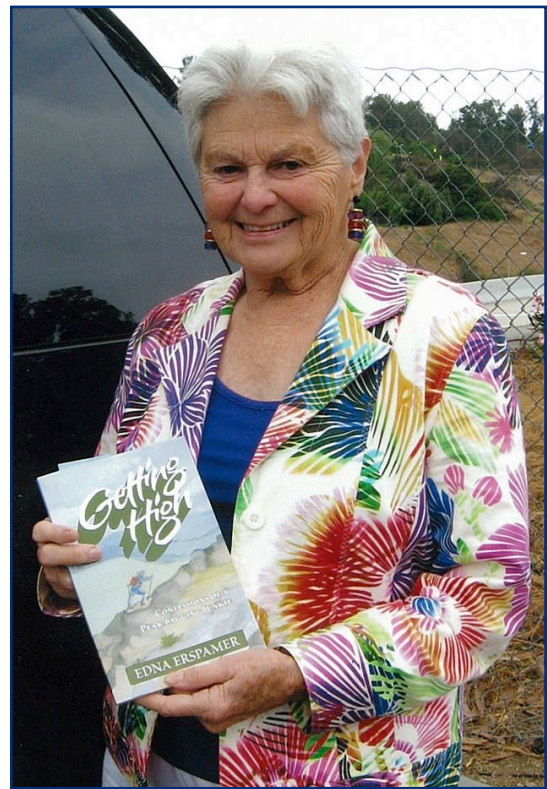
Originally the mother of six and married to Carlos, she decided to take the road less traveled and ended up out of the marriage and into a life of non-stop collecting of places, people, big adventures. Gosh what an incredible friend who climbed tons of peaks in the HPS, DPS, and SPS and managed to travel the world, collecting countries as often as we bagged peaks. Often she'd jump on an airplane and go by herself—she "needed" that country for her list. Any country whose spelling ended in "stan" was her forte, and in every country that presented some danger, there would be Edna collecting it for her country count down. A smart woman, she took her Santa Monica house and converted it to mini apartments to finance her trips.

Ednita was an amazing cook and never showed up for a potluck without some dish that was full of comfort, a spaghetti casserole or some delectable stew or soup. If the theme was foreign fare, Edna's dishes met Doug Mantle's test of being the most delicious, exciting, and exotic. I still have her gravy recipe and will remember all those patio barbecues where the wine and conversations flowed extravagantly.

She was a risk taker through and through. One favorite incident was when she and Ed Herrmann (Mister Man-Man) drove out to the desert for camping and often

She is survived by her children Elaine, Carla, Thomas, and Steven and by her grandchildren Tiffany, Taylor, Alessandro, Mason, and Spencer, along with her sisters Catherine Bartlett and Helen Ocon. She was predeceased by her daughter Sharon and son Robert.

(Adapted from the obituary published in the *Los Angeles Times* from June 13 to June 16, 2019)



*Edna Erspamer poses with her book (Photo by Mary McMannes).*

chose the most remote places, miles from any highway. Not even her family knew exactly where they went. One particular time, they were deep into the desert wilderness, and Ed's truck broke down. They knew they couldn't get out—and there was barely a chance anyone would come back in there. Edna's cell phone was dead, and after a few days and nights of dwindling food and water, it was getting to be iffy about their survival. She

# PASSAGES

turned on the cell phone one last time, gave it a shake, and miraculously there was a tiny bit of juice to call one friend (who actually answered the phone.) They were rescued, and I gave Edna was of those little battery boosters if there was ever a next time. Living life on the edge constantly, she always remained both calm and nonplussed.

Book writer—autobiographical author—artist of renown (license plate read MTN ART). She did serigraphs by the hundreds, and don't we all have some framed and hanging in our homes? She donated several to our banquet raffles as welcomed prizes.

Edna was lovable, funny, a straight shooter all the way, and a true romantic. At one Christmas party she

remarked to Mike Manchester, "I hate to say it, but I've dated every man in this room." That was followed by her Edna inimitable laugh. She was our original It Girl who managed to burn the candle at both ends in living every day and every dream that included canyons and peaks, major and minor-obscure countries, campfires, potlucks, loyal and eternal friendships.

Sorry I wasn't there to say goodbye as she took her final journey, but we will all agree, our lives were richer, fun, and funnier in having such a friend. We knew her children well, and we extend our condolences to her family for loaning us their mother for so many years.

## **SPS Management Committee Meeting Monday, August 12, 2019 7:00 p.m. Via Conference Call**

1. Call to order at 7:03; present on the call were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Paul Garry, vice chair/banquet; Laura Newman, fifth officer/outreach; Tina Bowman, secretary.
2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (June)—Done via e-mail.
  - b. Chair—see new business.
  - c. Vice Chair—Paul has reserved Almansor Court for Sunday, January 26, 2020, the same room as last year. Alexander will send a \$750 deposit, due August 19<sup>th</sup>. We considered menu options and discussed possible recipients for the Lifetime and Leadership Awards.
  - d. Outings—no report.
  - e. Treasurer's report—The SPS has \$10,564.85 in the bank. Alexander has everything set according to what the Sierra Club wants; the name of the account is Sierra Club—Sierra Peaks Section.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—Signe Swensen has earned her second Smatko Emblem. Daryn Dodge earned his list finish plus 2x Master Emblem and Geographic Emblem.
  - g. Outreach—no report.
  - h. Archives—no report.
  - i. *Echo*

- i. Deadline for next issue is August 25 (October-December issue)
  - ii. Laura has issues to scan from Greg Gerlach and is hoping to get some issues from Bob Ayers.
  - iii. Move to HTML version (update)—no progress.
  - j. Mountain Records—no report.
  - k. IT—no report.
  - l. Website—Web master Joe Wankum has been working on indexing the *Echo* by categories to make it easier for people to find trip reports and much more.
  - m. Conservation—no report.
  - n. Safety Chair—no report.
3. Old business
  4. New business
    - a. October 19<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Chapter Outings Assembly. Outings Chair Phil Bates may go, as might Jim.
    - b. Next meeting will be, Monday, October 21, 8:00, probably by teleconference.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

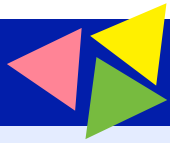
Respectfully submitted.

Tina Bowman

Secretary

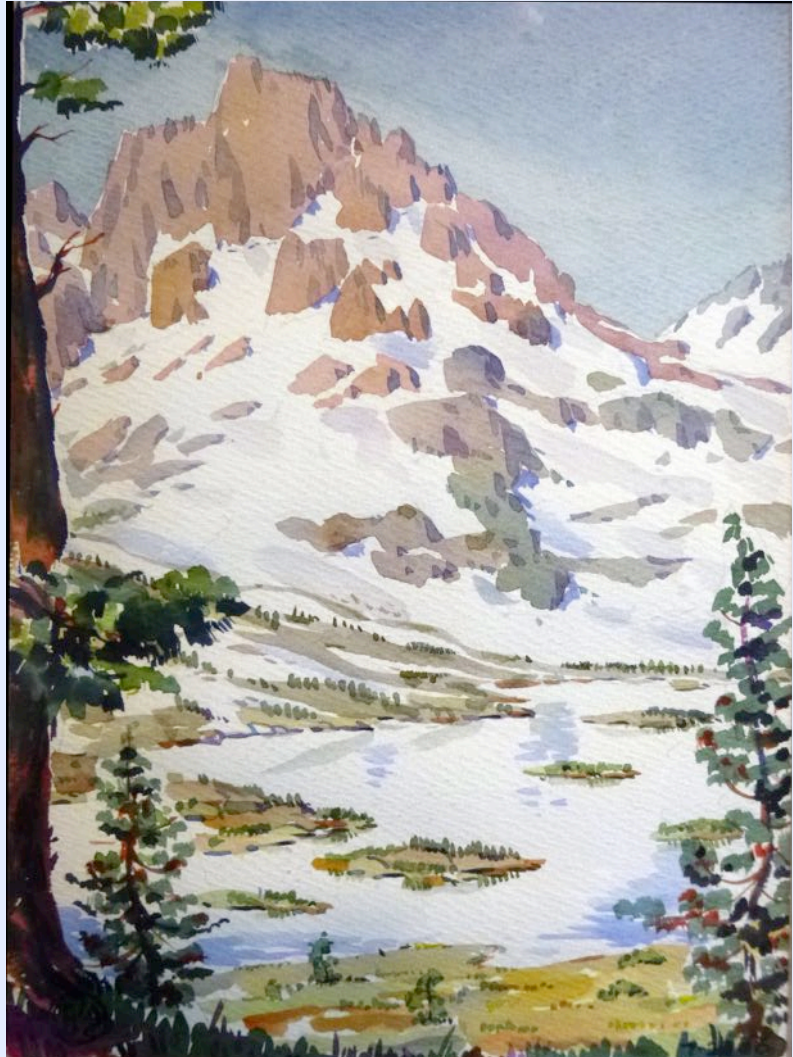
Minutes approved by email.





# Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

This puzzle was popular, not too hard and of a very memorable peak and place. The answer to last issue's puzzle is Banner Peak and Thousand Island Lake, painted by Ottmar Goebel, Mark Goebel's father, in July 1956 while attending the Sierra Club's Emerald Lake Base Camp Outing along with Mark's mother, sister, and Mark. What Mark mostly remembers from the trip is that it rained every afternoon for two weeks except for the first and last day. First to answer (in less than an hour and a half after the *Echo* link went out!) was Bill Oliver (in Colorado), then Ron Bartell, sending his answer from Rio de Janeiro! Wayne Heusinkveld, now living on the east coast because of work, also answered Banner Peak but suggested Garnet Lake, then changed to Thousand Island Lake. Then Paul Garry chimed in with the correct answer for both peak and lake.



## Time to Renew

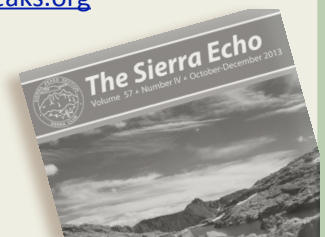
Don't let your *Sierra Echo* subscription expire! The annual \$10 subscription is due each year by January 1st and delinquent after March 31st.

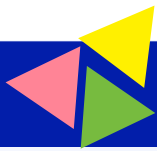
For more information, see the back cover of this issue. Please make out checks to the Sierra Peaks Section and mail to the treasurer:

SPS Treasurer  
1701 Paloma St.  
Pasadena, CA 91104

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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!

Unlike the previous puzzle, this one is much more challenging! Can you name some of the peaks in the background of this Delta billboard? Here are a couple of clues: you're looking east(ish) and a couple of peaks on the DPS and HPS lists are visible on the dark ridge at the bottom of the billboard. Thanks to Shane Smith for sending the puzzle.

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

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

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**Subscriptions** \$10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. Subscribing to the *Echo* is a requirement for membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section is \$25, which includes the \$10 subscription and a \$15 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. For new subscriptions and renewals or to apply for membership, fill out the subscription and renewal form or new member form that can be found on the SPS website under "Membership Requirements" at the bottom of the page: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr>. Mail the form and your check to the SPS Treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104; make sure to include your Sierra Club number if you are applying for membership.

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

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**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](mailto:newsletter@sierrapeaks.org).

**Awards** Send notification to Secretary Tina Bowman: email [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto: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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