



# *The Sierra Echo*

Volume 64 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2020

Unnamed lake below Crown Point, near Bridgeport, on the Vagmarken list. Story on page 23 (Photo by Tina Bowman).

## **Also In This Issue**

Kern Point and Picket Guard in a Day, Mokelumne, Olancha, Passages, New Members, LCWF Funding, John Muir



# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, fellow Sierra climbing and exploring enthusiasts! I wish I could report that the restrictions on our meeting together have been lifted; however, the National office of the Sierra Club has extended

them through February 28, 2021, due to the continuing issues with the Covid-19 pandemic. So, it looks like this season we will have no outings scheduled—darn! I was hoping to get back to the Sierra to do some great climbs and work on my SPS Emblem (which I have been doing for over forty years). I hope we will get through this unscathed, and we can resume our normal activities in 2021. Our annual SPS Banquet, usually held on the last Sunday of January, is also going to have to be moved out, and we are checking to see if that can work in March. Or perhaps we can have the banquet at an outdoor venue somehow—do folks think that might be okay? Meanwhile, another possibility for meetings is to host them on Zoom. It would be a way for climbers to get together, share their adventures with others, and at least connect in some way. Of course, we are always open to ideas and suggestions from the membership. If you think of some way for us to get together without compromising our health and safety, I am open to hearing it!

In the meantime, be safe, wear a mask, follow social distancing, and we all will be ready to go when the time comes.

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

## Roster Announcement

For future rosters sent to members, the SPS management committee has decided to omit the street addresses for privacy issues. If you need to send something to a fellow SPSer via snail mail, you can always use the roster information to contact that member by phone or email to get the street address.

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## 2020 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>
Jason Seieroe	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:jbwankum@aol.com">jbwankum@aol.com</a>
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Lagenbacher <a href="mailto:register@summitregister.org">register@summitregister.org</a>

### Regional Representatives

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

# Save the date!

2021 Sierra Peaks Section Annual

# BANQUET



## Mt. Vinson: Climbing to the Top of the Bottom of the World

If the coronavirus allows, the 2021 annual SPS banquet will be held on Sunday, March 21st, at Almansor court, Alhambra. Member Paul Garry will give a presentation on his climb of Vincent Massif in Antarctica. Be there or be square!



# Welcome New Members!

## Phil Kohlmetz

Phil has been leading backpacking trips and exploring art, community, and nature for twenty years, known as PhilCo Challenges, which involve 1. LNT at all times; 2. Keep your team close; 3. No whining (i.e., you are responsible for your own good time); 4. Love an adventure. Since 2015, he's led local hikes for the Redwood Chapter, but moved to Lone Pine from Vallejo to be closer to the mountains and is humbled to be part of the impressive SPS community. He thru-hiked the JMT in 2009, did Tyndall and Williamson back-to-back, has been an REI workshop presenter teaching long-distance hiking skills, and likes to use his museum research background to learn about early Sierra history and read early Sierra writers, from the overblown but lovable Clarence King to poet Kenneth Rexroth. When he's not scrambling, he's raising money for non-profits and can often be found staring at high peaks.



## Mark Ratzlaff

Mark transplanted to California from the flatlands of Missouri in 2014 with little knowledge of the Sierra Nevada but quickly fell in love. He climbed Mount Whitney for his first summer in the Sierra and then went on to obsess over anything related to the Range of Light. He makes an effort to climb at least one SPS peak a year, if not more, but with a vast array of interests in the outdoors, it becomes hard to prioritize which adventure to tackle next. When not backpacking, snowboarding, or mountaineering, he's painting pictures, reading history, and trying to identify the Sierra's flora and fauna.



## Matthew Kraai

Matt took the Wilderness Travel Course in Orange County in 2014 and returned the next year as an instructor. He has hiked over 200 peaks on the Hundred Peaks list and is an I-rated leader. Having enjoyed backpacks and day hikes in the Sierra, he looks forward to more.

# Welcome New Members!

## Romain Wacziarg

Romain has been climbing in the Sierra for twenty-one years, a time during which his appreciation for the range has grown steadily. At first he was more of a rock climber, but little by little he turned into a peak bagger. So far he has climbed 132 of the SPS peaks. The list helps him pick areas of the Sierra where he's never been and that he is eager to discover and explore. Outside of climbing, he is an academic, teaching economics at UCLA. Married with three kids, he divides his time between LA and Mammoth Lakes.



## Catherine Rossbach

Catherine grew up in the East doing field botany hikes with her father. Since moving to California, she has completed the HPS and LPC lists, and she has section-hiked almost one thousand miles of the PCT. During the spring and summer of 2020, she has worked on completing pathfinders in the San Jacinto Range. She is eager to resume her pursuit of the DPS and SPS lists as soon as public lands are open again and Sierra Club groups are able to get back Out There.



## Dave Halligan

Dave climbed his first SPS peak, Mt. Whitney, as a winter ascent in 1994, concluding a three-week, 150-mile cross-country backpack that started in Death Valley – “At that time, I didn’t even know there was an SPS list!” Since then, Dave has climbed all fifteen California 14,000’ peaks, including Starlight, and thirty SPS Peaks, including eight emblem peaks, and around fifty other summits throughout California and the western United States. Dave is looking forward to meeting fellow climbers in SPS and spending as much time outdoors as possible!

***Congratulations!***



## **Corinne Livingston**

Corinne Livingston finished the list for the second time September 5<sup>th</sup> on Pt. Powell. We hope to hear more for the next issue!



## **Neal Robbins**

Neal earned his master emblem on West Vidette on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Congrats, Neal!



## **Will Whitney**

Will, seen above on Herlan Peak overlooking Sand Harbor State Park, earned his second Smatko Explorer Emblem on Gold Star Peak on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Congratulations!

## JD Morris

JD finished the SPS list on August 15<sup>th</sup> on University, having climbed each peak as a day hike. See his story of Kern Point and Picket Guard on page 13. It's not quite official because JD hasn't been a member for two years.



## Tina Bowman

Tina, seen above at the SPS dedication of Smatko Peak, earned her Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Mt. Versteeg on September 3 (See story page 23.)

### **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.

## !! Time to Renew !!

Don't forget that your subscription to the Echo expires December 31<sup>st</sup> unless you've renewed for more than one year. If you are unsure when your subscription (and thus SPS membership) expires, please contact either treasurer Alexander Smirnoff at [alsmir1701@gmail.com](mailto:alsmir1701@gmail.com) or Tina Bowman at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com). You can the download the renewal form from the SPS web site here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/membership>.

# Call for Award Nominations!

## SPS Leadership Award

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

## Lifetime Achievement Award

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.

## Your Turn! Can You Serve?

The SPS is looking for members to run for the SPS management committee and to serve on the nominating and election committees. Are you interested? Know someone who might be willing to serve? Please contact Jim Fleming, chair, to make suggestions. His email is [jimf333@att.net](mailto:jimf333@att.net).





## 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 2020 Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival will be virtual this year, running from October 31 to November 8, with tickets going on sale in September. For more information see <https://www.banffcentre.ca/banff-mountain-film-book-festival>.

Can one escape the coronavirus pandemic on the John Muir Trail? See <https://apple.news/A9cHzh2yoQoaAOWB759gARg>.

It looks like the China side of Mount Everest will have better 5G cell coverage than many parts of Los Angeles: <https://slate.com/technology/2020/07/mount-everest-5g-china-tibet-nepal-border.html>.

From Beth Epstein we have a story about Mammoth Lakes' Bear Whisperer, Steve Searles: [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/18/science/bear-whisperer-steve-searles.html?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20200719&instance\\_id=20443&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=69350034&segment\\_id=33788&te=1&user\\_id=a8ab7ca600bc022721fe5ab88e9f3139](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/18/science/bear-whisperer-steve-searles.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20200719&instance_id=20443&nl=the-morning&regi_id=69350034&segment_id=33788&te=1&user_id=a8ab7ca600bc022721fe5ab88e9f3139).

The film *Alpinists at Large: 1981 Attempt on Mount Siguniang in China* is available here: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2415064/mount-siguniang-china-1981-summit-attempt>.

Read about a descent on snow on Mount Morrison's Y couloir (<https://www.patagonia.com/stories/trying-adds-up/story-87417.html>). Or check out Andrea Mason's incredible self-powered journey from the southern coast of England to the top of Mount Blanc in five days, including swimming the English Channel (<https://rab.equipment/uk/basecamp/andrea-mason-sea-to-summit-challenge/>), or Jenny Tough's runs in mountain ranges around the world ([https://apple.news/AhEt\\_YOcXQh6Nfdy20vUCgQ](https://apple.news/AhEt_YOcXQh6Nfdy20vUCgQ)).

A St. Bernard was rescued on Scafell Pike: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-53543367>.

It was on a bicycle instead of on foot, but it's still a very impressive vertical gain in 24 hours: <https://www.velonews.com/culture/a-french-math-teacher-just-broke-the-world-record-for-vertical-gain-in-24-hours/>.

*Moonwalk* is a short film by Renan Ozturk and Taylor Rees filming slack lining in front of the moon at night. If you don't care about how it was done, go to around 5:30 for the beautiful part (but it is interesting to see the immense effort to capture a minute or so of video): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xKSOrHm8Zs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xKSOrHm8Zs&feature=emb_logo).

Being a good climbing partner sometimes means being a pest: <https://rockandice.com/opinion/the-choss-pile-being-a-good-climbing-partner-means-being-a-pest/?cn-reloaded=1>.

Read about Tommy Caldwell's and Alex Honnold's incredible linkup in the Rocky Mountains that left them hobbled (<http://www.alpinist.com/doc/web20c/newswire-honnold-caldwell-rmnp-ultimate-linkup>).

Should the name of the Alabama Hills, taken from the name of a Confederate warship, be changed (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/2020/07/california-eastern-sierras-reckon-with-racist-history-renaming-alabama-hills/>)?

Here's something to consider as you drive through Olancho on 395 drinking your bottle of Crystal Geyser water: <https://www.sierrawave.net/crystal-geyser-water-in->

## around-the-web / continued

[olancha-to-pay-5-m-for-hazardous-waste-violations/](#).

For rescue-related stories, see these: on the Third Pillar of Dana (<https://www.sierrawave.net/mono-county-sars-rescue-climber-on-mt-dana/>); after a six-foot boulder rolls onto a climber (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/10/us/hiker-injured-by-boulder-rescued-trnd/index.html>); finding of the remains of a hiker gone missing in early December 2019 on Mount Baldy (<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-29/remains-of-missing-hiker-found-on-mt-baldy>); death of Bishop climber Ray Warburton on Mount Humphreys (<https://rockandice.com/climbing-news/ray-warburton-59-dies-on-mount-humphreys-bishop/>); another death on Mount Humphreys (<https://www.sierrawave.net/a-member-of-a-nevada-search-and-rescue-team-fell-to-his-death-on-mt-humphreys/>); a climber critically injured in a fall while free-soloing at Stoney Point (<https://rockandice.com/climbing-accidents/longtime-socal-climber-critical-following-fall-and-air-rescue-at-stoney-point/>); and a fall due to failure of an old cordelette on the Evolution traverse (<https://rockandice.com/climbing-accidents/old-tat-breaks-on-evolution-traverse/>).

Geof Childs writes about the “four basic principles that mold the way we experience fate” in “Measure of Luck”: <https://rockandice.com/features/measure-of-luck-ascent/>.

Is one of the new super light ropes for you? Get good information about them here: <https://rockandice.com/climb-safe/climb-safe-the-skinny-on-super-light-ropes/>.

The abandoned bus from the book and film *Into the Wild* was finally removed in Alaska because some tourists were getting into danger trying to visit it: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53106441>.

The Sierra Club’s recent statement about John Muir and racism is available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune/2020/07/john-muir-early-history-sierra-club>.

The Sierra Club is trying to be more inclusive, so here is an article, although not specifically about mountaineering, concerning some issues about inclusion when running while black: <https://www.runnersworld.com/runners-stories/a32883923/ahmaud-arbery-death-running-and-racism/>. And here’s a related story about world class marathoner Meb Keflezighi running while black and some comments about running on trails near Mammoth Lakes when he trained there: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2414514/meb-keflezhigi-racism-running>.

In the last *Echo*, the link to a story about Anderl Heckmair, in the first party to climb the North Face of the Eiger in 1938, was accidentally left out: <https://rockandice.com/snowball/my-dinner-with-anderl-ascent-2017/>.

## Too Close for Comfort

Over the years you have probably heard stories from fellow climbers about near misses and might have a few of your own: lightning striking too close, rocks whizzing by climbers’ heads, raging streams with wet logs to cross on, ropes seemingly impossibly stuck, bears refusing to give up your food. Please share your true tales—old and new—about these close calls and out-of-the-ordinary stories, including a “lessons learned” observation when applicable. We’d like to make this a regular feature of the *Echo*.—The Editors

# Congress fully funds LWCF in the Great American Outdoors Act

By Vicky Hoover, Chair, Sierra Club LWCF Task Force

**W**hat is great about the Great American Outdoors Act beyond its name?

This bill lives up to the name celebrating the Great American Outdoors. Passed by the House of Representatives on July 22, 310 to 107, this bill is called "the conservation legislation of a generation." And that strong House vote came a month after the Senate passed it, 73 to 25, with 25 Republicans adding their YEAs to all Democrats.

The bill mandates full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This means that the full authorized annual amount of \$900 million will actually be used every year. Until now, Appropriations Committees have almost never allowed anywhere near the full authorized amount to be appropriated, and thus the LWCF, often called "America's most successful conservation program," has not lived up to its potential. But from now on the LWCF will get maximum funding.

The bill also establishes a new National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to provide federal land agencies with \$9.5 billion to begin to address the \$22 billion horrendous deferred maintenance backlog on public lands—principally on national parks.

Of the LWCF's two main programs, one, called "direct federal acquisition," allows federal agencies to purchase private land inholdings within national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges—thus simplifying and expediting management. The other program, "State and local assistance," grants states funds for local parks and other public outdoor recreation facilities, like community swimming pools, bike trails, tennis courts, marinas, campgrounds, etc. Both programs strongly support American conservation and outdoor recreation.

As House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote to her constituents, "Some of California's most cherished natural areas have benefitted from the protection provided by the LWCF, including Joshua Tree, Lake Tahoe, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. . . . The LWCF also addresses environmental injustice by creating green spaces near low-income communities and communities of color across the country. Permanently funding the LWCF will ensure that we

preserve our natural heritage in an equitable manner to ensure that all communities can benefit."

## The Great American Outdoors Act becomes law

On August 4, the President signed The Great American Outdoors Act into law—indoors, in a White House publicity event attended by various Republican lawmakers and other bureaucrats who applauded the forty minutes of outrageous claims for Republican conservation leadership before the ten seconds of signing.

The new National Parks Legacy Restoration Fund will hugely benefit the twenty-seven financially strapped NPS sites in California, the maintenance backlog of which totals \$1,808,670,496. Individual units have backlogs ranging from \$3,874 in the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial and \$201,104 for the César E Chávez National Monument to \$176,564,468 for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Yosemite's staggering total of \$582,670,827.

## Great American Outdoors Act Background

Sierra Club volunteers have steadily called for strong appropriations for the LWCF for decades, and in the last six years, when the LWCF was almost constantly threatened with expiration, Club members around the country leaned on their members of Congress to get it reauthorized—permanently. In the present Congress Sierra Club activists' calls and email to Congress helped achieve the overwhelming bipartisan co-sponsorship for the bill that finally passed this summer.

In early March of this year, Senators anxious to get the LWCF bill passed devised the Great American Outdoors Act by combining two popular bills—the "LWCF full and permanent funding" bill and the "Restore Our Parks" bill for funding parks' maintenance backlogs. In early June, when the Senate scheduled its vote and a strong majority for passing became evident, this combined form appeared also in the House.

Senate leaders for the bill emphasized that, while this funding measure for parks has always "been a good idea—it is now essential—with COVID-19 worries and current unrest over racism, as more and more people seek solace in Nature—and, at the same time, more and more people need the new jobs this infrastructure funding measure will bring."

# Changes Then and Now: Bending the Arc of Angeles Chapter History

By Tina Bowman

You may have seen the *Los Angeles Times* article on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, “Sierra Club calls out the racism of John Muir” (<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-22/sierra-club-calls-out-the-racism-of-john-muir>) or the July 22<sup>nd</sup> *Sierra Club Insider* article, “Pulling Down Our Monuments” by Michael Brune, the Sierra Club’s executive director, the first article of a series ([https://www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune/2020/07/john-muir-early-history-sierra-club?utm\\_source=insider&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](https://www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune/2020/07/john-muir-early-history-sierra-club?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)). Brune notes, “The Sierra Club maintained that basic orientation [“a mountaineering club for middle- and upper-class white people who worked to preserve the wilderness they hiked through”] until at least the 1960s because membership remained exclusive. Membership could only be granted through sponsorship from existing members, some of whom [screened out](#) any applicants of color.” I’m indebted, once again, to Jerry Keating in pointing out important chapter and club history.

Referring to the *LA Times* article, Jerry wrote that the article “sadly doesn’t mention the uproar in the Angeles Chapter that started in the late 1950s and led the Club to abolish membership screening and also not to require members to sign a loyalty oath.” Two members of the SPS, John Robinson and Tom Amneus, “were prominent in the move for inclusiveness . . . . Tom not only was an SPSer but served as Angeles Chapter chairman. John’s view was expressed in a *Southern Sierran* ‘In reply’ to the July 1961 Chairman’s Corner position of Orville Miller contending a ‘non-selective membership policy leads to undesirables.’” [See the sidebar for the scanned “Chairman’s Corner” and John’s “In Reply.”]

Jerry also wrote that Bob Cates, Chapter Historian, spoke at John Robinson’s memorial service of John, Tom Amneus, and Nate Clark “as champions of open membership. Tom’s position was clearly stated in a letter he, as Chapter chairman, wrote to

the Club’s Board of Directors on February 19, 1959.” You can read that letter and Brower’s reply in the appendix to the transcript of an interview of Tom Amneus as part of the Sierra Club Oral history project (pp. 32-33 of the Amneus interview): [https://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/roho/ucb/text/southern\\_sierrans2.pdf](https://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/roho/ucb/text/southern_sierrans2.pdf). The interview is quite interesting and includes history of the membership policies among a number of other topics. “A Brief History: 1911-1986,” about the first seventy-five years of the Angeles Chapter, by James Harris, can be read here: [https://angeles.sierraclub.org/about/chapter\\_history/brief\\_history\\_1911\\_1986](https://angeles.sierraclub.org/about/chapter_history/brief_history_1911_1986). Among the subjects Harris addressed is the screening of candidates for membership and the “discriminatory membership policy.”



*John Muir circa 1893 (Photo courtesy National Park Service).*

POLITICAL "DEBATE"  
SOUTHERN SIERRAN

JULY 1961

SEPT. 1961



**Chairman's  
Corner**

--Orville H. Miller

We can expect another unusual Angeles Chapter election this fall. Those chapter members not familiar with present chapter politics should be informed of the major philosophies advocated by the two groups seeking control of the chapter.

One group, based largely on the Sierra Peaks Section, advocates several major changes in the nature of the club:

1. A non-discriminatory and non-selective membership policy which will exclude no one and reduces membership qualifications to the payment of required fees. This is intended to make the Sierra Club much larger and more powerful politically.

2. Conversion of the club to an active political organization by giving up our present tax-exempt status. A majority of the club directors appear to favor these policies, including our President, Nathan Clark. The Sierra Club Foundation was formed with this in mind.

The second group is opposed to these changes and advocates the retention of the past character of the club for the following reasons:

1. The club has grown steadily without such changes.

2. A non-selective membership policy leads to undesirables on club outings and social affairs (the first group counters with the argument that we should reduce or eliminate social affairs and concentrate on politics in the interest of conservation).

3. Conversion to a political club would lead to attempts by left-wingers and ardent advocates of various causes to use the club for fighting for social reforms and other conservation battles. Several such factions are known to be seeking control of any and all organizations that can exert political influence. Voluntary organizations, such as the Sierra Club, are known to be particularly vulnerable in this respect.

Each group will be backing a slate of five candidates for the Executive Committee. You will be able to identify each group's candidates by such mailings soliciting your vote.

Major changes in Sierra Club policy should result only by a majority vote of an honestly and fully informed membership. Unfortunately, this has not been characteristic of recent club elections. Let's hope that the contenders in the forthcoming election will state their position clearly and openly, and may the best man win.

**In Reply**

--John Robinson

Several misconceptions generated in the Chairman's Corner of the July-August Southern Sierran warrant a reply. The Chairman is obviously not well-informed as to the feelings of the members of the Sierra Peaks Section and many others who differ from his position.

No one (least of all the SPS) is suggesting we eliminate or radically reduce club outings and social affairs. These activities represent the backbone of companionship that makes the club a cohesive unit and fortifies our determination to preserve the little wilderness we have left. What is acutely important, while we are enjoying our social relationships, is to realize that the struggle for conservation is becoming more difficult and, if we are to preserve any of our primeval wilderness, we are going to have to exert more pressure, political and otherwise.

This brings up another error in our chairman's line of thinking. It is doubtful if any member of the group mentioned by him would want to see the club lose its tax-exempt status or become a political organization. The Sierra Club Foundation is a completely independent organization and is not, as suggested by the chairman, designed to replace the club.

The membership issue is the one that seems to generate the most controversy. This should not even be an issue; the club membership recently voted overwhelmingly to liberalize membership requirements by requiring but one sponsor. Some insist this non-discriminatory policy will lead to undesirables on club outings and the possibility of a "left wing take-over." Just who are the "undesirables?" Is the use of this category based on antisocial actions and poor conservation practices, or on race, color, or creed? There is plenty of evidence to suggest the latter. Race prejudice has no place in the Sierra Club, where the feeling of companionship on wilderness outings is an experience never forgotten. Non-essentials disappear when people have the opportunity to really know each other. The concern is for the individual, not the color of his skin.

As the Board of Directors has pointed out, there is small likelihood of real undesirables ruining club activities, as few people will constantly seek companionship in the club who are not truly interested in its purposes and activities. Furthermore, there have never been restrictions on most club activities and the few problems that have arisen have been quickly ironed out.

The "left wing" fear seems exaggerated and out of place. It is club policy not to admit any individual who would have a disruptive and negative influence. The group fostering this issue submitted a loyalty oath petition last year that was overwhelmingly rejected by the club membership as unnecessary.

There is no need for two groups in the chapter fighting at cross purposes. Basically, I am sure all Sierra Clubbers are vitally interested in conserving our beautiful wilderness. The Angeles Chapter is the only one in the club where this controversy rages. Every other chapter has overwhelmingly accepted the membership policies of the club. I sincerely hope this issue can soon be eliminated, so that we can present a united conservation front while fully enjoying each other's company on club outings.



**1961 MT. WHITNEY MARATHON**

--Walt Wheelock

Now that the four-minute mile has become commonplace, we have a four-hour Mt. Whitney trip. Calvin Hansen, of Colorado Springs, in repeating his win at the second Mt. Whitney Marathon, trimmed 15 minutes off his 1960 record to win in 3 hours and 55 minutes. Mike Dragila of San Diego came in less than 4 minutes later, while Dick Lyon of Glendale finished third. Tex (Merita) Smith of Arlington made the best woman's time of 7 hours and 16 minutes, smashing Jerri Lee's record of 1959.

It hardly seems possible that anybody could make a round trip to the top of Mt. Whitney in less than 4 hours, but this marathon was carefully supervised and the contestants were required to stay on the trail for the entire distance, with no short-cuts permitted.

*Jerry Keating submitted this scan of the Angeles Chapter debate on inclusiveness published in the September, 1961, Southern Sierran.*

## Kelty Pack Available

By Barbara Lilley

*[Editor's note: In correspondence with Barbara about this pack and her story about Kelty packs, I thought others would find the story interesting and amusing—Tina.]*

I would like to pass on Gordon MacLeod's traditional (external frame) Kelty pack to someone who might be able to use it. It is large size with an unpartitioned pack bag jokingly referred to as "the bottomless pit" and purchased in 1982 to replace one that was stolen. It's still in good shape.

My experience with Kelty packs is somewhat different. I purchased a medium-size custom-made pack from Mr. Kelty in the mid 1950's and used it until the bag wore out. I replaced it with a Kelty-type pack, which was stolen (along with Gordon's) during a car break-in at a trailhead on the east side of the Sierra. My next Kelty-type pack lasted until 1984, when Gordon ran over it with his old Suburban. At this point, I drilled a couple holes in my original Kelty frame, which I still had, attached the surviving pack bag, and I have used it ever since.

One big advantage of the Kelty-style pack is that with longer straps and a large stuff bag, one can accommodate not only the sleeping bag and pad, but also other items as well on the bottom portion of the frame. This is especially useful if you need to use the medium size.

Incidentally, a Kelty pack was carried to the summit of Mt. Everest by a member of the first American expedition.

Anyone interested can contact me at P.O. Box 128, Simi Valley, CA 93062. Phone: 805-527-7703.



*Clockwise from top: Gordon MacLeod in the Uinta Mtns., 2005 (Photo by Barbara Lilley). Barbara Lilley on Mount Logan expedition, Yukon Territory, Canada, 1959 (Photo from Barbara Lilley Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Gordon and Barbara on a climb of Tower Peak, September, 1994 (Photo courtesy Barbara Lilley).*

# Kern Point and Picket Guard as a Dayhike

By JD Morris



All afternoon I'd been looking forward to the climb on the smooth and hard packed trail up from the Kern River to the JMT that forms a stretch of the High Sierra Trail. Running downhill on it in the early morning had given me an unexpected runner's high and a lot of stoke I wasn't expecting when I mapped out my adventurous route and pondered how on Earth I'd finish a loop with over 17,000' of elevation gain and tons of off-trail climbing in under twenty-four hours. As I trudged up the horseshoe-churned trail to the junction and discovered the beautiful, packed trail was turned to powder under countless hooves, the reality of how little time I had left to make it back to the trailhead hit me like a blast of cold water.

When I first joined Bob Burd's Sierra Challenge in 2010, I'd never even heard of the SPS list and didn't even know that Bob was about to be the second to dayhike it. However, as I climbed aesthetic peaks and tagged popular summits, I regularly found that I was signing into SPS registers. While most of my Sierra trips then were dayhikes out of convenience, at some point with more than half of the SPS list complete I decided to take on the challenge to climb the

whole list without exceeding twenty-four hours in any one outing. After years of long days and late nights, I'd covered all but the last handful of peaks and had left a crux of the list among the last—Kern Point, which I hoped to combine with Picket Guard, starting solo out of Whitney Portal.

I've enjoyed crossing Cleaver Col several times in the past and don't mind the loose and sandy chute, so it was a logical route for escaping the Whitney Zone in the early morning. I'd gotten a good evening's rest and was satisfied to arrive at the shore of Tulainyo Lake in about 3 hours. After wandering a bit lost between Tulainyo and Wales Lakes I unexpectedly stumbled upon the trail from Wallace Lakes just as the sun illuminated the tarns there as well as the summits of the Kaweah range. After taking far too long trying to photograph the glory of being in such a beautiful place at the right time, I took the trail, losing and regaining it a handful of times, until wandering into the JMT and then down the Junction Meadow trail a bit before six hours into the morning.

*Above: Sunrise on the Kaweahs (Photo by JD Morris).*



*Left: The view of the route up Kern Point right of center with Picket Guard lurking to the left, seen from the High Sierra Trail.*

*Below: The north (right) and east (left) ridges of Picket Guard, low center, as seen from Kern Point, with Black Kaweah towering directly above (Photos by JD Morris).*

The 4000' climb of Kern Point was going to be what made or broke the whole day, and I was able to study the huge face during the last few miles of excellent downhill running to the Kern River. By the time I was crossing the Kern—made easy by many tiny braids in the canyon in this low-snow year—I was feeling good about my choices. After some mild brush down low I entered a chute surrounded by steep rock and started the steep climb with fairly decent footing and nice scenery. After several hours of uphill progress, I felt as though I'd become one with the mountain—initially wandering up some of the steep rock dividing the chutes, then crossing a small wooded plain high on the peak's flanks, and eventually emerging into the brushy and then sandy uppermost slopes where the angle relaxed and the views stretched out for miles. As I walked

up onto the broad summit I was almost thirty minutes ahead of my ten-hour target time, confirming my plan to continue to Picket Guard.

The meadows, waterfalls, and well worn trail I soon found in the Kern-Kaweah River valley below to the west and south were a great break after many hours of sand and rock.



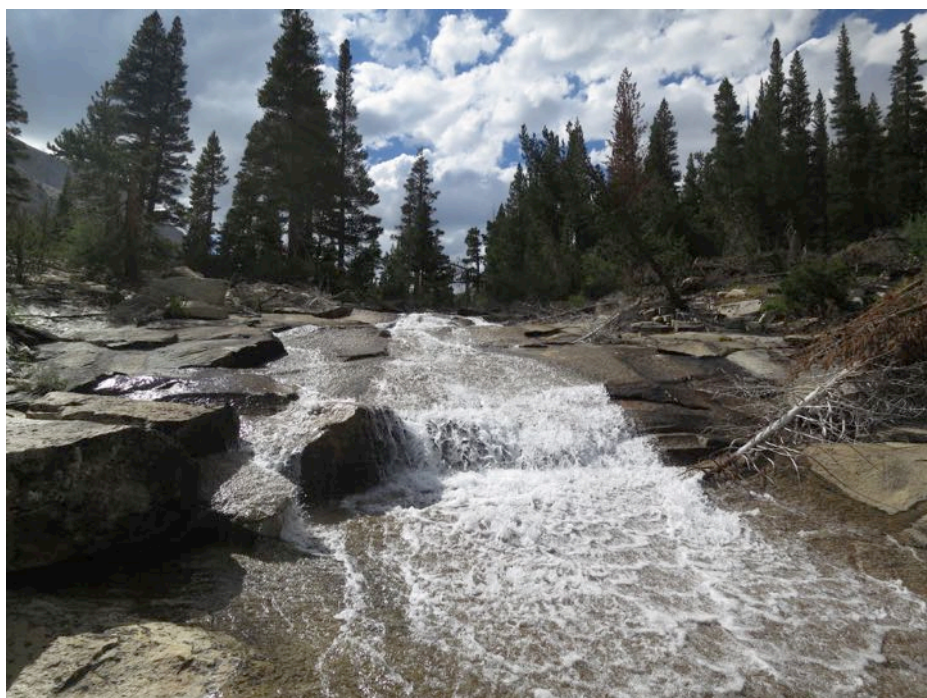


However, the north ridge of Picket Guard that had looked so aesthetic from high above on Kern Point now looked more like steep jumbles of rock above forest and marsh from my new perspective. I eventually escaped the valley and found my way onto the fairly wide but distinct ridge that led up towards the summit, occasionally scrambling easy third class and admiring seas of columbines. The summit itself was a short but fun scramble west from where my ridge topped out, and when I checked my watch, I saw that I was now up over an hour from my estimate. Thirteen hours down and, I hoped, fewer than eleven to go.

The descent down the east ridge to a beautiful lake at 10,600' was fast and easy and I had a great break below water rushing down slabs on the Kern-Kaweah before jumping onto the Colby Pass trail. That break would be the last bliss for the trip— ahead lay miles of overgrown trail and then five miles following the horse-trodden High Sierra Trail, wearing worn-out shoes with bald soles up to the grazing meadows near the JMT. After the Wallace Lakes trail disappeared almost simultaneously with the sun, my ascent back up through the cliff band and onto the high plateau of Tulainyo Lake went slowly. While scrambling over Russell-Carillon Pass in the dark of night went smoothly, I was nonetheless almost twenty-two hours into the hike. The



descent of the popular sand slopes and finding my way across the slabs and brush of Lone Pine Creek took far longer than it had on many previous trips with the benefit of daylight, and time was running out. I was able to maintain my typical, slow jog down the trail and most of the E-ledges, but when I finally reached the pavement and hit “stop” on my watch, I had practically no time to spare. Trailhead to trailhead 23:58—by far my closest call with my arbitrary deadline but a success nonetheless. With this trip complete, finishing the remaining six peaks during the week of the 2020 Sierra Challenge—Table, Charybdis, Black Giant, McGee, Norman Clyde, and a finish on University—seemed well within reach.



*Top: Looking back up at Kern Point from Lake 10,600' on the east ridge of Picket Guard. Right: Break Time at the Kern-Kaweah River before starting down the Colby Pass Trail (Photos by JD Morris).*



## Mokelumne Peak (9,334'), August 2020

*By Larry and Barbee Tidball*

Larry had completely healed from back surgery early this year, and in mid-July he got clearance from his doctor to resume backpacking. So we planned to do some easy backpacks to test things out. Barbee looked at her SPS list, and most of the peaks she needed would require strenuous multi-day backpacks. Then she spotted she needed Mokelumne and looked on the SPS web site for trip reports. Nothing was recent. Larry recalled that he had day hiked this peak from the north twenty-eight years ago, and in looking at the topo map, we decided we could make an easy backpack and peak bag out of this. Given the lack of recent information on this peak (and it's north of the area covered by the typical peak guides), we thought we would write up our experience so others could benefit.

Given the COVID restrictions, we could not call the ranger stations to verify the road status but assumed that high clearance 4WD would be required now as it was years ago. Permits for the Mokelumne wilderness are self-issue on the Eldorado National Forest web site. If you arrive a day early, there are many good dispersed camping sites along the road into the trailhead.

Driving Directions: along Highway 88 west of Silver Lake is the Tragedy Springs road (well signed on the north side of the highway). On the south side of the highway directly opposite is an unsigned paved road that leads past a few summer homes; this road quickly turns into a dirt road (17E24) heading towards Mud Lake. One mile from the pavement is an unsigned fork; take this to the left (17E32) (the road to the right continues to Mud Lake). One section of this left fork required high clearance 4WD. At 2.6 miles from the pavement is a signed junction (a road comes in from the right from Mud Lake); turn left here towards Allen Ranch (2.0 miles) on 17E79 and 17E24. Approaching Allen ranch, the road has some improved sections with crushed rock applied to what are probably problem areas when the road is wet. At Allen Ranch are a large fenced meadow, collapsed wooden structure, and a newer house. Past the ranch the road remains in good shape for about

*Above: Long Lake near the campsite (Photo courtesy Barbee and Larry Tidball).*

another mile. At this point there was a steep step in the road up over boulders and roots that looked possible with the 4 Runner, but problematic if we came off the rocks and got stuck in a hole. There was a convenient place to park just below this obstacle, so we did.

From this point we backpacked up the remaining 0.3 miles of the road to a junction at the ridge crest with a well-used ATV track (Mokelumne Peak visible to the south). We turned right here, downhill 0.2 miles to the Plasse Trading Post Site (historical marker), and 0.1 miles farther on the ATV track to the trailhead at the wilderness boundary. The Munson Meadow Trail sign here shows Long Lake at 3.5 miles, Munson Meadow 5 miles. For someone day hiking the peak from here, it is about 14 miles RT to the summit. This trail does not appear to get a lot of use, but is well marked with branches or rocks lining the trail-side were the tread might otherwise get lost. Newish signposts were located at all the trail junctions, and fallen trees had been cut to clear the trail. Some of the trails shown on both the 15' and 7 1/2' topo maps no longer exist, so we will describe what works.

We followed the Munson Meadow trail gently downhill, passing trail junctions for Black Rock Lake and then Cole Creek Lakes. The trail is forested with occasional open meadows. At about 3.25 miles from the trail head, we turned east onto the spur trail for Long Lake. This was a reliable source for water as there were no flowing streams in this area in August. We took our choice of very nice camp sites. The lake was dammed in 1964 but retains most of its wild



character, that is, if you ignore the occasional cows that might come by the north end of the lake; the cows were easy to scare away. We saw ducks, deer prints, squirrels, and a variety of small birds. Barbee walked around the lake while Larry looked for the trail shown on the 15' topo map that headed south from the lake towards the peak. The old trail was not located either at Long Lake or later at the Munson Meadow end.

The next day we returned to the Munson Meadow trail and followed this south. (Note that the former trail shown on the topo maps heading west and south towards Shiner Lake is no longer there.) Fortunately, the Munson Meadow trail still gives good access to our peak. Following this trail south from the Long Lake junction, we gradually climbed a small hill to about 8250' and then descended towards Munson Meadow to the east. This hike is in an old-growth forest of mostly large fir trees. Just past the crest of this hill, Mokelumne Peak is visible as the trees thin out. We left the trail at this point and headed north through open forest and slabs downhill directly towards the peak. Eventually we picked up an old trail



*Top: A view of the Mokelumne Wilderness. Below: Barbee and Larry Tidball with Mokelumne Peak behind (Photos courtesy Barbee and Larry Tidball).*

heading our way and followed this to a point where the trail turns sharply west; we dropped off the trail here and worked our way down about 100' to the saddle north of the peak. An old trail (no longer on the maps) crosses this saddle, and the trail we had been descending would have met this trail some distance below the saddle. Forging straight up the north ridge of

Mokelumne was easy going with only a few talus boulders near the summit (1350' of gain from the saddle). Though we did not find a register on the summit, the top affords nice views in 360 degrees.

Returning to camp we descended to the saddle and climbed up 100' to regain the old trail. To see where this went, we followed it to the junction with the Munson Meadow trail about 100 yards beyond where we had left the Munson Meadow Trail on our way to the peak. (This old trail is shown on the 7 1/2' topo map. The trail on the 15' minute map that used to connect this junction to Long Lake is no longer evident on the ground). Back at camp we saw our first person in two days, a bow hunter, who had stopped by to fill his water bottles. Making a leisurely trip out of this, we stayed a second night at Long Lake before packing out our third day. On the way out, it was now Saturday, and we saw one family of four heading to Cole Creek Lakes and one solo hiker.

Returning to the trailhead at the wilderness boundary, we did not see any vehicles. Past the Plasse Trading Post site and walking down the dirt road towards our car, we did see one truck that had made it past the difficult part where we had stopped only for the truck to not to make it up a steep, loose section of road. Back at our car we saw three other trucks/SUVs parked near our car. So it was an easy backpack but a good test for the surgically repaired back and a nice peak hike with lots of solitude. Showers (four quarters) at the resort at Silver Lake made our day.

Stats: about 14 miles RT and 2,800' total elevation gain from the trailhead. You only feel the 1350' of gain from the saddle to the peak since the rest of the gain is on the trail (coming and going) and is so gentle it's hardly noticed. Parking where we did, added about 600' of gain and 1.2 miles to the RT totals.

# Olancha as a Day Hike

By Coby King

Many trip reports have indicated that doing Olancha Peak as a day hike is hard. These trip reports are correct. I also want to note that it's important not to follow Google Maps to get to the trailhead. First of all, Google Maps has the trailhead about two miles short of its actual location. Second, if you use Walker Creek Road, you will not reach the trailhead. It is very simple to get to the trailhead. From northbound US-395, make a left on Sage Flat Road, and drive to the trailhead at the end of the road. The last couple of miles is excellent dirt road, passable by virtually any passenger vehicle. Plenty of parking for camping, but no toilet, no water, or any facilities whatsoever. Also, remember that the trailhead is at 5800', which means in the summer it's pretty warm. I slept in my car before my ascent of Olancha on July 19th, which was a bit of a mistake, as it was too warm with the windows rolled up. I wished I had my tent.

As to the hike, it's straightforward. You can follow any of the many tracks that are on Peakbagger. Hike past the saddle at 8400 feet and continue on up to Olancha Pass, continue past beautiful Summit Meadow to the PCT connector, and then continue up to a saddle at 10,500'. It took me about seven hours to reach this point.

From here, you leave the trail to climb the last six-tenths of a mile, 1600 feet up. Just as I was getting ready to start the climb, a young couple walked up from the north. They had just summited after camping nearby the night before. They guy told me that one of the reasons he wanted to visit was to see a species of buckwheat that apparently exists only on the peak. *Eriogonum wrightii* var. *olanchense* forms little dome-like mats with little pink flowers sticking out when in bloom. As the guy said, it's everywhere on the way up.

Once they departed, I finally started up, and I found that it was fairly easy to work my way up the first part of the very steep slope, which is forested, avoiding rocks and brush and staying on duff to about 700 feet below the peak. From there it was a matter of working my way in and around the large boulders, mostly second class, with occasional low 3rd class when I couldn't avoid it. I was able to get pretty close to the notch just to the south of the peak, but, finding the ridge a little too much for my taste, I worked back around to the north and eventually reached the summit. There is a solar-powered radio station sitting at the top. (You can see the tops of the antennae for a



*From top: Sage Flat trailhead, the view back to it, and Eriogonum (Photos by Coby King).*

tantalizingly long time before you get to the top.) Under a nearby boulder is a fairly new SPS register box and 2020 register book [placed by Michael Chamoun]. It took me about two and a half hours from the turnoff to reach the summit. Olancha is a P3K [3000-foot prominence], and the views did not disappoint. Spectacular.

After the requisite photos, signing the register, and a snack, it was back down. It took me about an hour and a half to get back to the trail. From there, it was a long walk back to the car.

### *Olancha as a Day Hike, continued*

I was very thankful to get a couple of liters of cool water from the little creeklet that crosses the PCT at about 9700'. It was a long but pleasant walk from there to Olancha Pass and then down to the saddle in the fading light. At about 9:00 p.m. I ran out of light and switched on my head lamp. However, while the trail is pretty straight forward in the light, its steepness caused me to really slow down and it took me an hour and a half of careful walking to get back to the trailhead. The last little part just before the trailhead can be very confusing, and I strongly suggest that you download and use one of the many tracks that makes it clear.

A great day in a part of the Sierra that I had never visited. By the way, the entire day, I saw exactly six people. Very COVID-19-friendly.

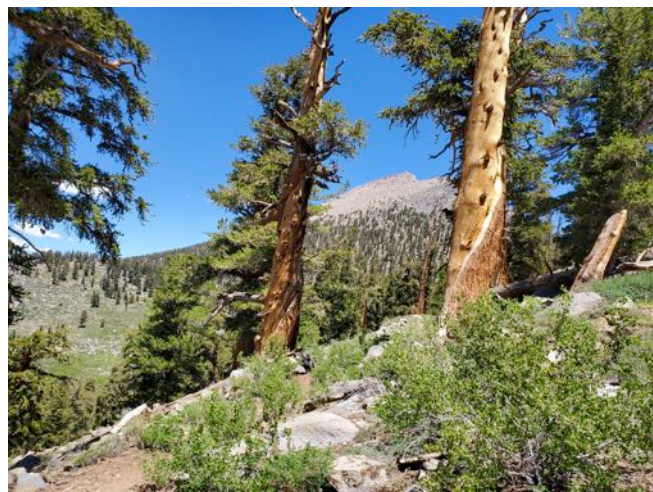


Total elevation gain: 6332'/1929m

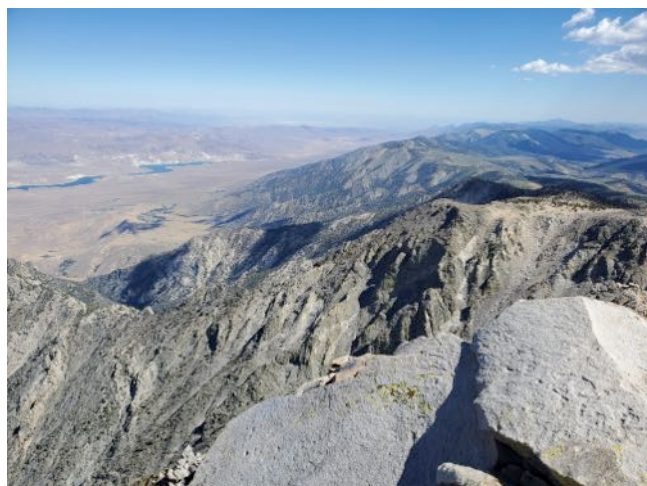
Distance: 24.3 mi/39.1 km

Trailhead elevation: 5791'/1765m

*From top: Summit Meadow; peak comes into view, view from the summit into the Owens Valley, the author on the summit with radio station behind (Photos by Coby King).*



*This article previously appeared in [peakbagger.com](http://peakbagger.com), edited here for Echo formatting. Though we normally don't run previously published articles, we know many members use [peakbagger.com](http://peakbagger.com), [summitpost.com](http://summitpost.com), [climber.org](http://climber.org), and other sites as resources for routes, to log ascents, and to publish reports and routes. If you have a trip report published elsewhere that you may wish to elaborate on and share with Echo readers, please submit it for Echo consideration.—The Editors.*



# My Dinner with Norman

*By Ron Bartell*

I wanted to spend the summer after my freshman year in college in the mountains, but my parents wanted me to get a job. I came up with a compromise: get some kind of job in the mountains. I'd seen ads in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* by a couple of companies that ran guided pack trips in the Sierra, so I wrote to them to see if they'd give me a job. One of them responded: Joe Wampler, owner of Wampler Tours, offered me a job on his camp crew for one of his six-week Sierra trips.

Wampler ran trips along the Muir Trail in the style of the Sierra Club High Trips—mules carried all the gear, meals were provided, and the guests hiked from camp to camp with day packs. The pay wasn't much, just meals and tips, but I got to be in the mountains. He ran trips on the

northern half of the Muir Trail in even-numbered years and the southern half in odd years. The six-week trips were broken up into one- to two-week segments, going out to east side trailheads to resupply and swap guests. This was 1970, so it was a four-segment trip on the northern half of the Muir: Tuolumne Meadows to Reds Meadow, Reds Meadow to Mono Pass, Mono Pass to Piute Pass, and Piute Pass to Bishop Pass.

Joe Wampler contracted with the Cottonwood Pack Station to provide the animals and packers. Joe's crew consisted of a cook and assistant (sous-chef?) and two or three college-age kids on the camp crew. We washed dishes, gathered firewood, dug the latrine, and helped load and unload the mules. Another chore, once a week, was to take a bucket to the nearest snow field (often a few miles away) to get snow for mint juleps, which Joe made using pennyroyal leaves he gathered in the area. When the happy hour was ready, he called the guests with a "Wample": his version of a yodel.

For the resupply/guest swap over Mono Pass, the trip left the Muir Trail and went up Mono Creek, camping near Hopkins Creek to be within a day's hike of the trailhead in Little Lakes Valley. Joe and the packers went out to the trailhead with the departing guests, picked up supplies, and brought the new guests back to camp. A national Sierra Club base camp trip was camped at the mouth of Third or Fourth Recess, on the way to the trailhead, so Joe paid them a visit. It turned out that Norman Clyde was at the camp doing the (probably ceremonial) job of wood gathering supervisor. Joe knew Norman from Sierra Club High Trips going back to the 1930s and invited Norman to come down to our camp a couple of miles down Mono Creek for an evening.

The next afternoon, Norman walked to our camp, where he would spend the night. He was wearing a classic lumberjack plaid shirt and generic work pants that had seen many days (years?) in the mountains. Suspenders and the gnarliest pair of old leather work boots that went up to his knees completed the ensemble. I didn't see his pack, but someone said it was about fifty pounds. They didn't say if there was an anvil or cast-iron skillet in there. Not bad for an eighty-five-year-old! I had only climbed two Sierra peaks at this point but had read enough to understand that Norman Clyde was the greatest Sierra climber of all time, so I knew I was privileged to meet him. He relaxed in our camp, shared dinner with us, and gave an excellent campfire talk on several of his climbs on North Palisade. The next morning he returned to the Sierra Club camp. Apparently, this was his last trip into the Sierra as he died two years later.

*Norman Clyde at Hopkins Creek campsite, August 16, 1970 (Photo by Ron Bartell).*





*View from Pioneer Basin toward Mt. Huntington, just left of center. The ridge to the left connects it to SPS peak Mt. Stanford(N) (Photo by Tina Bowman).*

## Life after the List

*By Tina Bowman*

What, there are Sierra peaks other than those on the list? Well, yes, I had noticed, though I hadn't paid much attention to them. So, what to do now?

Admittedly, I am list driven. Years and years ago someone (Doug Mantle? Duane McRuer?) gave me a copy of the Vagmarken Sierra Crest 100 list, which I looked over, noting that the majority of the peaks on that list are also on the SPS list, and filed away. Someday, I thought. Well, someday arrived! Most of the Vagmarken peaks that aren't on the SPS list are at the northern end of the range but south of Sonora Pass, so I've been putting some miles on the Prius. Of course, there's also the do-it-yourself SPS list: the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem. This emblem was created with list finishers in mind, though it's become popular with those who have no plans to complete the list. It's fun, and one can make it easy or hard as long as the peaks are legit, meeting the various qualifications. Hey, two birds with one stone, Vagmarken and Smatko! And

Barbara Lilley sends me lots of suggestions for peaks to climb and has told me about Lists of John, all sorts of lists of peaks, like state and county high points, national park summits, national park high points, national forest high points. Yikes! I don't think I'll look at that too closely.

Before I became a peak bagger, I loved backpacking trips, first along the John Muir Trail and then branching out all over the place. Do you have one of those *A Guide to the John Muir Wilderness and Sequoia-King Canyon Wilderness* maps, two huge sheets? I have two, one pristine, the other all marked up with different colors and symbols on the lines to indicate where I've hiked and what year (yeah, ok, obsessive-compulsive). Now I'm looking at the marked-up copy to consider new trails to take and new areas to explore. This summer I finally went to Pioneer Basin, never having been beyond Mono Pass from Mosquito Flat—it's beautiful. New area, new trail, and I climbed four peaks on the Vagmarken that qualify for the Smatko. Win-win-win!

## *Life after the List, continued*

Once we can lead Sierra Club outings again after the pandemic, I look forward to leading an SPS peak or two, maybe lead some “intro” trips. But in the meantime and even once we return to “normal,” I’m looking forward to climbing peaks not on the list and checking out new trails and areas of the Sierra I haven’t explored. Hell-for-Sure Pass I come!



*Another view of Mt. Huntington from Pioneer Basin (Photo by Tina Bowman).*



## **Dare to Lead!**

### **Fall Leadership Training Seminar Set for October 2020**

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 in October via Zoom (four to five hours max).

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

The all-day class costs \$25. The application is on-line with other information at <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/leadership-training-seminar>. Check here also for updates for the date of the seminar. At this site, <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/angeles-chapter-leadership-training-program>, you can learn more about the Leadership Training Program and view the LTC's upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson [AMLeadership@gmail.com](mailto:AMLeadership@gmail.com)



**PLEASE NOTE** The Sierra Club has cancelled all outings and in-person club gatherings through February 28, 2021. Depending on the coronavirus pandemic, this cancellation period may be extended again, possibly affecting SPS outings and probably affecting the SPS banquet date and Leadership Training Program training sessions.

## We'll be back!!



*We've chosen the photo at left taken by Mat Kelliher 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@bowmanchangethe.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchangethe.com) or via USPS to Tina Bowman.*

Although in person gatherings are postponed until at least February 28th, when published again, 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>

When upcoming trips are scheduled again, you can visit the SPS website for an up-to-date listing at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sps>

# Are you getting out there? You can join the select ranks

of those who have placed registers on behalf of the SPS! Check at [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) to find out if you are needed to carry a register book, pencil, or container (personally crafted or not!) before you go on a climb. Michael Chamoun is seen here with his handiwork before hauling it up to Kern Peak's summit.



## From the Outings Chair

*By Phil Bates*

I believe that we can all agree that we live in a challenging time—at nearly every level we face. Anyone who belongs to SPS or is reading this column is most likely a lover of the great outdoors and therefore knows the many benefits of getting out and hiking or climbing. For the safety of its members and to set a good example, the Sierra Club's approach to dealing with COVID-19 has been to cancel all outings, meetings, and other in-person gatherings. Despite the lack of official SPS outings, we will most certainly have at least one list finisher this season and likely one to two more next season! Nonetheless, I know of many of you who have done and still are doing some fun and fantastic hiking and climbing this season. Woo hoo! Close friends and I have all been getting out on a

private basis in small groups and taking great care not to impact the mountain communities we visit or travel through. I believe that even if we are not on a Sierra Club-sponsored outing, it is our responsibility to protect and preserve areas we visit, including the mountain communities. I hope that the Club will be able to sponsor outings by next spring or summer, so I ask you all to start thinking about spring and early summer climbs you may want to have supported. Last, it would be great if many of you can post your experiences on our SPS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/>) so we can be more informed or enjoy your adventures.

# SPS Income Statement 08-24-2020

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	YTD	YTD
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>INCOME</b>												
Echo Subscriptions	1,560	850	500	210	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630	1,580	1,710	1,710
1st yr free subscriptions	-10											
Banquet Income	3,025				2,800	2,905	4,645	4,110	3,760	2,795	2,650	3,165
Donations	736	295	135	60	340	440	560	666	888	655	798	911
Merchandise Sales	306				39	27	276	395	262	112	157	112
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,617</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>5,315</b>	<b>5,898</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>												
Postage	64				609	-4	14	938	522	314	292	364
Printing	74				578	898	640	706	433	418	315	364
Merchandise	285						196	234	130		17	687
Raffle							250					
Banquet Expenses	3,834				3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553	3,715	4,252
Bank Fees	-80				18	2	10	6	18	12	-87	31
Website							268	36	84	96	20	
Charitable contributions					400			200	200	200	200	200
Outreach								899	254	82		
Membership meetings/activities								1,257	174		101	
Register Related									57			
Other												
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,177</b>				<b>4,821</b>	<b>5,102</b>	<b>7,018</b>	<b>9,048</b>	<b>6,582</b>	<b>4,675</b>	<b>4,573</b>	<b>5,898</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>-370</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-2,317</b>	<b>-42</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>742</b>	
<b>Cash In Bank</b>	<b>10,014</b>											

## 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).

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  
\$20 includes shipping  
Send your order to:

Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive  
Topanga, CA 90290  
Make check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40



**SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 15, 2020  
7:00 pm via Zoom**

1. Call to order at 7:12. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Tina Bowman, secretary.
2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (April 2020). Done via e-mail.
  - b. Chair—no report.
  - c. Vice Chair/Banquet —Paul will contact Almansor Court re reserving a room for January 31, 2021.
  - d. Outings—no report (no outings to be held at least through August 31<sup>st</sup> because of COVID-19). This may be extended.
  - e. Treasurer’s report—Current balance is \$9,588. Brown paper Tickets still owes the SPS \$990 from the banquet tickets. Alexander receives auto-replies that they’re working on refunds when he emails them.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—no news.
  - g. Outreach—no report.
  - h. Archives—no report.
  - i. *Echo*
    - i. Deadline for next issue—August 25 for October-December issue.
    - ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website? Laura is the one who knows what else she needs for scanning. Joe fixed links on the list of older issues on the web site under “Newsletters.”
    - iii. Move to HTML version (update)—no report
  - j. Mountain Records—Harry is down to his last four register books. He’s looking for someone to print some because the previous vendor raised his price substantially.
  - k. IT—no report.
  - l. Website—no report.
  - m. Conservation—no report.
  - n. Safety Chair—no report.
3. Old business
  - a. Scrambling Ratings—the revised ratings documents and lists with ratings have been posted on the SPS web site, and an article about the revisions appeared in the July-September *Echo*.
  - b. Revisions to Peaks List—completed in April 2020 with three changes in rating for Red Kaweah from class 2 to class 2s3, Bolton Brown from class 2 to class 2s3, and Half Dome from class 2 to 3.
4. New business
  - a. Next meeting date was set for Monday, August 17, 7:00 pm via Zoom.
  - b. Any other?

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bowman  
Secretary

**SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 17, 2020  
7:00 pm via Zoom**

1. Call to order at 7:11. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jason Seieroe, outreach; Tina Bowman, secretary; Joe Wankum, web master.
2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (June 2020). Done via e-mail.
  - b. Chair—no report.
  - c. Vice Chair/Banquet —banquet venue, flyer, date change: Paul has a contract, unsigned, for Almansor Court for January 31<sup>st</sup>; he will contact Almansor to switch to March 21. We’re hoping the club doesn’t extend the ban on in-person meetings, outings, etc. beyond February 28<sup>th</sup>. Paul will also inquire about the cancellation policy and refund of the deposit (last year it was \$750). We also discussed the possibility of an outdoor event in case the pandemic is still an issue.
  - d. Outings—cancelled through February 2021.
  - e. Treasurer’s report—\$9,715 current balance. Brownpapertickets still owes us \$1000 from this year’s banquet ticket sales.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—Neal Robbins earned his master emblem on West Vidette on August 8<sup>th</sup>. JD Morris hopes to finish the list on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, having climbed each peak as a day hike (Paul reported that he finished last weekend on University Peak during Bob Burd’s annual Sierra Challenge). Will Whitney submitted his list for a second Smatko Explorer Emblem, but it’s possible not enough of the peaks he climbed are listed as summits in the GNIS database.
  - g. Outreach—Jason is going to check with Neal Robbins and some others about having Zoom meetings (or the like) for people to talk about their trips and other topics as a way of connecting with members.
  - h. Archives—no report.
  - i. *Echo*
    - i. Deadline for next issue—August 25 for October-December issue
    - ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website? Laura is the one who knows what else she needs for scanning.
    - iii. Move to HTML version (update)—no report.
  - j. Mountain Records—no report.
  - k. IT—no report.
  - l. Website—The web site has been pretty stable lately.
  - m. Conservation—no report.
  - n. Safety Chair—no report. **(Cont. on page 30)**

# PASSAGES



## Paul E. Harris

July 18, 1936 - June 11, 2020

*Editors' note: Though we don't believe Paul was a member of the SPS, at least not an SPS Emblem holder, a number of SPSers knew him.*

Paul E. Harris, a retired teacher who worked at Truckee High School and North Tahoe High School, died June 11 at age eighty-three in Los Angeles after several months of declining health. He lived in Truckee for many years, also spending time often in Southern California.

Born in 1936 and raised in Ontario, California, when citrus groves stretched across the landscape, Paul was a talented artist even in childhood. He could draw a sailing ship, complete in every detail, at age ten. He went through public schools during and after World War II, graduating from Chaffey High School and majoring in art at Pomona College.

There he met Kathleen McParland, whom he married soon after their graduation in 1958. Together they enrolled at Indiana University, where he studied painting to earn his Master of Fine Arts degree and she took a Master of Arts in Mathematics. They returned to Southern California to pursue their careers, Paul as a fine artist and his wife as a computer scientist at RAND.

Widowed suddenly when he was still in his thirties, Paul gradually refocused his life on education and the

outdoors. He obtained a teaching credential and taught math and other subjects in the San Fernando Valley and in the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District. At family Thanksgiving gatherings hosted by his sister, he spoke often about his students and how they inspired him with their intelligence, wit, and creativity.

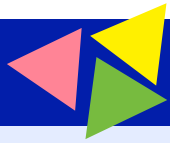
A skilled climber and Nordic skier, Paul was active in the rock climbing and ski mountaineering sections of the Sierra Club and took many trips into the backcountry with friends. He also took up cycling, repairing his own road and mountain bikes in between long rides. He studied Japanese and Spanish, collected classical music and opera recordings, and read widely in literature and popular science, often browsing in used bookstores until they closed. The second half of his life was spent weeding out his collections to make room for new books and CDs. In his seventies he was still racing in events sponsored by the Far West Nordic Ski Education Association.

He might wish all whose lives he touched to remember him in simple ways: by skiing, cycling, climbing, and hiking; by learning new things and laughing often; by reading poetry and eating more salad; and by treating one another with kindness and respect.

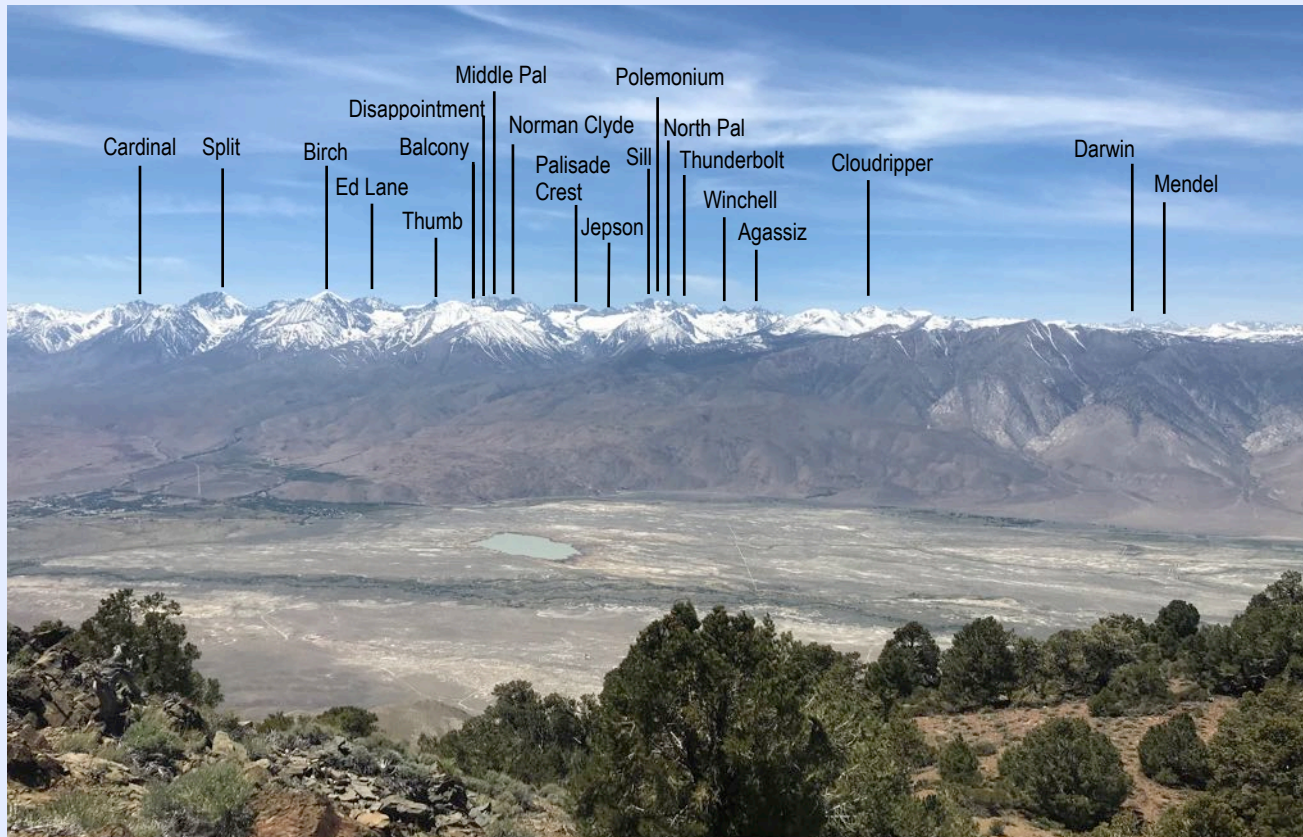
From the *Sierra Sun*, July 3, 2020



*Above: Paul Harris and Gerry and Pat Holleman at the Hollywood Bowl (Photo courtesy Pat and Gerry Holleman).*



# Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Ron Bartell sent this puzzle photo. Only Ralph Wright rose to the challenge, who thought the photo was taken from Pinion Picnic Area along the Bristlecone Pine Scenic Highway, but it was actually taken from Black Mountain which has access from a dirt road going west from the White Mountain road. He correctly identified Split, Birch, The Thumb, Middle Palisade, Sill, North Palisade, Thunderbolt, Winchell, Cloudripper, and Darwin. He missed Cardinal, Ed Lane (not on the list), Balcony (not on the list), Disappointment, Norman Clyde, Palisade Crest, Jepson (not on the list), Polemonium (not on the list), Agassiz, and Mendel. Ralph also noted Big Pine and Klondike Lake in the Owens Valley.

## August 17 Management Committee Minutes continued from page 28

### 3. Old Business

- a. Any other?

### 4. New business

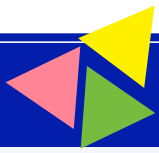
- a. Suggestion from Mat Kelliher to drop street addresses from the roster that goes to members, just list the city for the address (or let members opt out if they wish, possibly for other information as well). We decided to omit street addresses in future rosters for members.
- b. Will Whitney has a Tahoe Fab 50 list (16 of the peaks on the Ogle list [of 63] overlap with his list). Do we wish to put this on the SPS web site or mention it in the *Echo*? No because of the

Ogul list, which has a Sierra Club origin and history.

- c. New banquet date—see 2.c above.
- d. Should we offer a lifetime membership as the HPS does (\$500 for HPS)? Still under consideration, though \$500 seems too steep.
- e. Next meeting date was set for Monday, October 12, 7:00 pm via Zoom or similar platform.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bowman  
Secretary



# 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!

This image will be familiar to many of our members, either because of hiking from here and/or from owning a Mac. This was the Mac OSX High Sierra default desktop image. Where is this view?

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

## The Sierra Echo



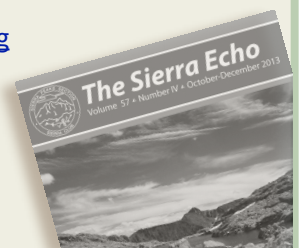
is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to Tina Bowman, Editor, *The Sierra Echo*, preferably via email at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com).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

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# 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, or through regular U.S. mail (electronic format is preferable). 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.

To subscribe or renew on-line, please email the form to the treasurer ([treasurer@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org)). Then pay via PayPal for renewals using the email address [treasurer@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org). Note that first-year memberships or subscriptions are free. New applications received after October 1 are credited to the following year. Only one *Echo* subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible.

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**Address Changes** Send to the treasurer via email [treasurer@sierrapeaks.org](mailto: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](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 (\$20) and SPS section patches (\$5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

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