



# *The Sierra Echo*

Volume 65 ▲ Number 1 ▲ January-March 2021



Corrine Livingston's 2x List Finish  
Donovan Pair and Dad Jason Traverse from Dragon to Gould  
Historic Register Found on Mount Powell



## **Also In This Issue**

Photographs from Barbara Lilley, New Members, Too Close for Comfort, Mystery Peak



# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, my fellow Sierra enthusiasts! I hope that all of you are safe and well during these difficult times. Thanksgiving is in two days' time from now, and as I think about the mountains, I give

thanks for them and all of the incredible opportunities that they provide me. So much of my life is enriched by the Sierra, the people that I climb with, and the members of the SPS! While we may not be able to go to wild places in large groups or schedule outings just yet, we can think about what we can do to preserve and protect them, as well as other areas of the Earth that we explore. That is, after all, what the Sierra Club is all about—to preserve, protect, and explore this wonderful planet. Once this pandemic is over and we can resume our normal activities, we can look back at the accomplishments and be proud of our efforts. We can all enjoy the gladness the mountains give us. I look forward to that time, when I can see y'all in person again, and share the greatness with you. Happy Climbing!

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

## Climbed the Vagmarken List?

The SPS would like to recognize its members who have climbed the one hundred peaks on the Vagmarken Club Sierra Crest List, those members to be listed on the web site and in the emblem archives. For the list and its history, see <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/vagmarken-list>. Apply to Kathy Rich, member of the Emblem Committee, with your list and climb dates (or at least the peak you finished the list on and approximate date) at [kathrynrich@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynrich@gmail.com).

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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</a> <a href="mailto:dan@danrichter.com">dan@danrichter.com</a>
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore <a href="mailto:justslm@earthlink.net">justslm@earthlink.net</a>
Echo editors	Tina Bowman <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a> , Beth Epstein
Echo mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Tina Bowman, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, 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

2021 Sierra Peaks Section Virtual Annual

# BANQUET

Sunday, March 21st



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

Because of the pandemic, the banquet will be held virtually this year on Zoom. It's free and very easy to use—simply click on the link below and follow the few, simple instructions. We'll begin with a social hour at 7:00 then begin the usual banquet program at 8:00, culminating in member Paul Garry's presentation on his climb of Vincent Massif in Antarctica.

Use this link—<https://zoom.us/j/8172626379?pwd=MmpWMcT0dCt3dUsoNjNWNFYxakZ0dz09>—in your internet browser to join the virtual banquet. The meeting ID number is 817 262 6379 and passcode is 668969. You'll see that Tom Bowman is the host. Be there or be square!



# Welcome New Members!

## Chuck Schillings

Chuck is a California native who attributes his love of the great outdoors to his family's annual Yosemite Valley camping trip when he was a child. He spent the summer after graduating high school backpacking through Alaska with a \$5 canvas army surplus backpack and a "tent" fashioned from Visqueen plastic. Since then, both he and his equipment have become a little more sophisticated as he completed the JMT and climbed Shasta, Rainier, Kilimanjaro, Matterhorn, and multiple Sierra peaks over the years.



Chuck and Chandra are particularly interested in climbing the SPS Emblem Peaks and California 14ers. They are both honored and excited about becoming part of the SPS community and look forward to meeting everyone and joining the outings.

## Chandra Campbell

Chandra is originally a Texas flatlander who saw her first mountains as a young child, the Colorado Rockies, from the windshield of her parents' car on cross-country vacations. She climbed her first peak, a day hike of Mt. Whitney, within a year of transplanting to California in the early 1990s. Her other Sierra peaks include Olancho, Langley, Matterhorn Peak, Half Dome, and Cloud's Rest. Internationally, she has hiked the Inca Trail and summited Kilimanjaro. Her favorite short backpacking trip is the Rae Lakes Loop.

## Attention Other Members!

### 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 download the renewal form from the SPS web site here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/membership>.



## 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 Roosevelt Tree in Big Pine at the corner of Highways 395 and 168 is gone; see the story and video here: <https://www.sierrawave.net/the-big-pine-roosevelt-giant-sequoia-tree-passes-into-history/>. It was sad to see the tree coming down in the video, and even more sad to see the stump when we drove by in November.

We have three articles about Mount Kilimanjaro: ice climber Will Gadd finds that ice decline has greatly affected ice routes (<https://www.redbull.com/int-en/trailer-videos/the-last-ascent-will-gadds-return-to-kilimanjaro-trailer>), an experienced guide writes about what one should know before climbing Kili (<https://www.travelawaits.com/2555546/climbing-mount-kilimanjaro-things-to-know>), and an article reports on efforts to fight a fire on Kilimanjaro (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/12/africa/kilimanjaro-tanzanians-fight-fire/index.html>).

Climate change is making climbing in the Alps more dangerous: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2417763/how-climate-change-making-alps-more-dangerous>.

Tommy Caldwell wrote an op-ed on Trump's ruining rock climbing: <https://rockandice.com/climbing-news/tommy-caldwell-trump-is-going-to-ruin-rock-climbing/>.

From Beth Epstein we have a California Department of Fish and Wildlife blog about bears in Tahoe: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/black-bear/blog>.

We have reports of three climbing accidents. A "kayak strap" harness climbing belt fails (<https://gripped.com/news/rock-climber-dies-after-kayak-strap-harness-breaks/>), rockfall cuts rope (<https://gripped.com/news/rock-climber-dies-after-rockfall-cuts-rope/>), carabiner breaks (<https://rockandice.com/videos/weekend-whippers/carabiner-breaks-climbing-fall/?cn-reloaded=1>).

These are links to stories about speed records. Tom Herbert (son of TM Herbert) set a new speed record on the Muir Wall: <https://rockandice.com/climbing-news/tom-herbert-sets->

[new-speed-record-on-the-muir-wall-first-climbed-by-his-father-in-1965/?cn-reloaded=1](https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/01/916869711/with-races-canceled-runners-take-to-the-trails-to-set-records). Races cancelled due to the pandemic have some athletes breaking fastest known times (FKTs): <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/01/916869711/with-races-canceled-runners-take-to-the-trails-to-set-records>. The Gaia GPS website has a podcast about FKts: <https://blog.gaiagps.com/the-out-and-back-podcast-buzz-burrell/>.

David Roberts wrote about climbing and exploration in Alaska: <https://rockandice.com/features/david-roberts-our-loss/>.

Sasha DiGuilian wants more diversity in climbing: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/28/sport/sasha-diguilian-us-climber-diversity-cmd-spt-intl/index.html>.

From Barbara Sholle we have a story about Emily Harrington's free climb of El Capitan in a day: <https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2020/11/06/first-woman-free-climbs-yosemite-el-capitan-in-a-day/> and <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/10/933454817/emily-harrington-is-first-woman-to-free-climb-el-capitan-route-in-one-day>.

Two health-related links are on preventing and healing skin injuries—<https://www.climbing.com/skills/how-to-heal-and-prevent-skin-injuries/>—and on the benefits of trekking poles—<https://www.outsideonline.com/2418032/trekking-poles-research>.

A mother who went missing while hiking on Mount Whitney was found alive and then died: <https://sierrawave.net/missing-mother-hiking-on-mt-whitney-found-by-inyo-sar-yesterday-alive-has-died/>.

A hiker on Mount Rainier is alive and well after "dying" for 45 minutes: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54959874>.

Finally, I hope this is not the future of climbing: <https://www.adventure-journal.com/2020/10/lawsuit-by-tech-ceo-over-failed-everest-bid-could-be-big-problem-for-guides/>.

*In the last issue, we congratulated Corrine on completing the SPS list for the second time. Here's her story about that second time around. -Eds*

# When All Is Said and Done

*By Corrine Livingston*

Well, maybe it's not all said and done, at least for climbing in the Sierra. I remember finishing the SPS List for the first time in 2010 on Starr King and being giddy (but sad at the same time) for completing the sometimes-grueling list and ever the big commitment. I didn't plan on doing it again. But pretty quickly I realized that I couldn't give up the grandeur of the Sierra or the exhilaration of climbing those gorgeous peaks. And I already had a few seconds from going with people who needed them for the first time. The other thing I couldn't imagine was that I may not frequently see my climbing friends, such as Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, John Cheslick, Keith Christensen, Paul Garry, Lisa Barboza to name a few and Shane Smith, whom we sadly lost this year.



*Corrine Livingston on the summit of Milestone Mountain, 2017 (All photos in the story courtesy of Corrine Livingston).*

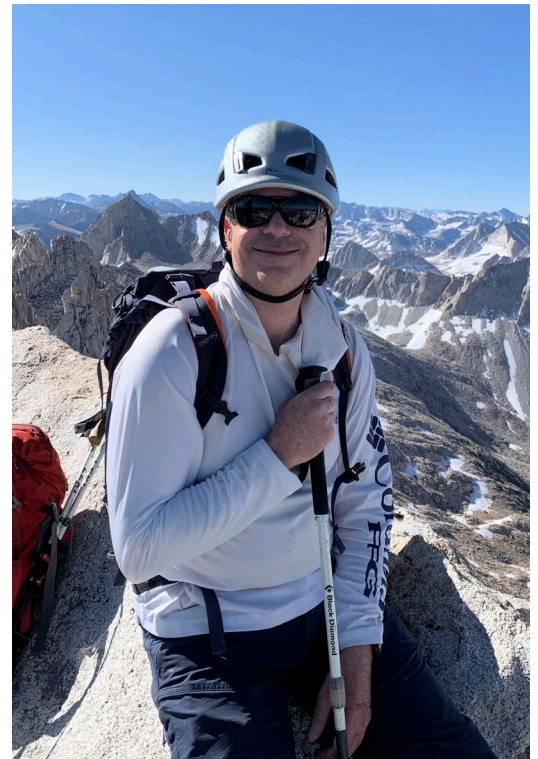


*Above left: the summit of Table Mountain, 2016, left to right: Paul Garry, Kathy Rich, Eddie Sudol, Lisa Barboza, Keith Christensen, Signe Swenson. Right: Daryn Dodge on Mt, Gabb, 2018.*



Yes, 2020 was a pretty horrific year. It didn't come without its ups and downs along the way. Nothing as significant as for those who were sick or who lost their livelihoods or even their lives or those of their loved ones. Positively, the year did lead to more people hiking to enjoy the freedom of the hills versus staying home with the continual lock downs.

I had eight peaks to climb this year to finish, several grudge peaks including Mt. Perkins and Pt. Powell. Thankfully Keith needed Perkins, and we had a nice early June climb of it. A very good thing about climbing the list twice is that one does meet up with new climbing friends such as Bill Carpenter, who snow climbed Mt. Dade with me this year. Then Sandra Hao came back from New York and climbed Silver Peak with us over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend—fun! Phil Bates was also another new climbing partner on my second time around and expertly led Paul Garry and me up Mt. Gardiner this year and also Keith and me up Mt. Starr King. We met Signe Swenson up around Lake South America and climbed Jordan with her. Luckily, Bob Pickering led a group of us up Thunder this August—there was a lot more exposure on this peak than I remember. The other special thing about climbing the list twice is that one gets to do new routes on many of the peaks, almost like climbing them for the first time. Plus, I didn't remember the routes or even some of the peaks from before, so there were actually lots of "first times" the second time. Good thing other folks



*Counter clockwise from top: Phil Bates on Mt. Abbot, 2019; Sandra Hao on Norman Clyde, 2018; Kathy Rich on Norman Clyde, 2018; Paul Garry on Whorl Mountain, 2018.*





*Clockwise from above: Mt. Abbot, 2018, left to right, Sandy Lara, Lisa Miyake, Corrine Livingston; Half Dome, 2018, left to right: Larry Grant, Kathy Rich and her son Andreas, Corinne Livingston; Corrine's four legged climbing partners, Rachienne and Granite Chief.*



know the routes—thank you!

My official Sierra Club list finish was to be on Cloudripper led by Tina on September 26. In late August, the Sierra Club cancelled this trip due to COVID. A small group of us had already scheduled to climb Pt. Powell and had permits for Labor Day weekend (wasn't the permit system a nightmare this year?). Given all that had transpired in 2020, my husband Bill, along with our ever-so-friendly dogs Ranchienne and Granite Chief, climbed Cloudripper on August 31, just in case something else happened. And happened it did! Pt. Powell (my biggest grudge peak) was to become my new list finish peak with just a few, but important climbing partners. The four of us—Paul, Kathy, Keith, and I—had a summit party with chocolate chip cookies. Kathy, Keith, and I also celebrated over dinner (with masks no less) in Bishop. Then all heck broke loose with the Creek fire, and the climbing season in the Sierra was essentially over due to smoke and forest closures. Pt. Powell was my last (unintended) peak thanks to the trials of 2020.

I have many more stories to tell for this second time around, but I will cut it somewhat short as I'm sure all of you have had similar experiences—long backpacks, amazing scenery, crummy food, weather, laughter abounding, route finding, some disappointments, epic memories. Fortunately, there are other lists, maybe not as endearing, to climb in the Sierra. While I wasn't interested in the Vagmarken, Tahoe Ogle, or 13500 lists on Peakbagger (and passed up some peaks on those lists—darn) before, those are my new focus as there can be no life without climbing in the Sierra. I am grateful to live close to the Sierra, and we all must protect

this beautiful place forever more. I hope to see you all in the Sierra and maybe in the California desert too where the Sierra can be seen from afar.

After all, it isn't all said and done—yet.



# Historic Register Found below the Summit of Mount Powell

By Kathy Rich



Most of you will be familiar with Point Powell, usually climbed along with Mount Thompson, since they are on the SPS list, but may not be aware that there is a Mount Powell nearby as well. At 13,364', Mount Powell is higher than Point Powell (13,360+) but is not as prominent. I was interested in climbing this peak because it is on the Vagmarken Sierra Crest List and is also an Emblem Peak on the Western States Climbers List.

Mount Powell sits on the Sierra Crest between Echo Col and Mount Thompson. There has been much confusion over the years because, depending on what map or guidebook you are looking at, the name Mount Powell can refer to any one of the three summits on this section of the crest. The western-most of the three summits is labeled "Mount Powell" on the most recent Mt. Darwin 7.5' topo map. The middle and lowest summit is the 13,356' peak that has no name on the most recent map but was incorrectly labeled "Mount Powell" on the 1983 Mt. Darwin quad (this version is on CalTopo even today). The third, easternmost summit is the SPS peak Point Powell (also unnamed on the map), just west of the Thompson-Powell Col. Over the years, these three summits have come to be referred to as Point John, Point Wesley, and Point Powell (from west to east). Mt. Powell was originally named by the USGS in 1911 in honor of John Wesley Powell, the noted western explorer and former director of the USGS.

*Looking up the east ridge of Mount Powell (Photo by Kathy Rich).*

While the approach to Pt. Powell is from Sunset Lake, Mount Powell is climbed from Echo Lake since it's next to Mt. Wallace. Lisa Barboza and I had hiked into Echo Lake in hopes of climbing Mt Powell in June 2019, but once we saw the steep snow on the approach, we decided not to attempt it (I climbed Mt Haeckel instead). I had been in contact earlier in the year with Teresa Gergen (from Lakewood, Colorado) since we had discussed potentially trying it together. She shared with me her proposed route up the north-northwest face, which is the usual route. I learned that she ended up using snow pickets on her climb in July 2019 with Ally and John Kirk, so I was glad we didn't attempt it last year!

This being a low snow year, I figured my chances were much better. I managed to secure a walk-in permit for the Sabrina Lake trailhead for July 21. Fortunately, Daryn Dodge suggested I check the weekly satellite images (a new feature now available on the Peakbagger app) to assess the snow levels on the route I would take. These weekly satellite images allow much higher resolution than the daily satellite ones, as one can zoom in for much detail. To

my surprise, considerable snow was still on the north-facing slopes below Mt. Powell, so taking an ice axe with me was clearly necessary. Ting Chin, who'd mentioned that she'd like to climb Mt. Haeckel when we met a couple of months earlier on a climb of Birch Mountain, had agreed to hike in together to Moonlight Lake and then climb our respective peaks from there. Next morning, I set off for Echo Lake and followed Teresa Gergen's track around the east side of the lake and into the bowl beneath Mt. Powell, which still had considerable snow as expected. At first it was easy to kick steps in the snow, but it then became a little icier, and I regretted not carrying my crampons as well. I managed to cut steps with my ice axe, however, making my way up to the exposed rock bands which formed part of the north ridge.

The normal route on Mt. Powell is to climb the prominent snow face up to the small col just to the west of the peak. From the ridge it is an easy 3rd class scramble to the summit. However, at 35-to-45 degrees, the snow face is rather steep, and I didn't have crampons with me. I was hoping that I might be able to hug the rocks on the left side of the snowfield but even from a distance it looked pretty icy, so I decided to continue up the rocks to a chute just east of the summit. At the base of the chute a bright red object

caught my eye—it was an old rusty tobacco can. Although I didn't examine it very closely as I was keen to reach the summit, it didn't appear to have anything inside, so I put it in my pack, then continued on up. Climbing the chute involved some class 3, but it was only about fifteen feet and fairly straight forward. I was feeling quite pleased at my rock scrambling route and being able to avoid the steep snow on the north-northwest face. On the summit I was disappointed at first not to find any sign of a register. After poking around, I finally found a few scraps of paper tucked into a torn plastic bag; the last sign in being Teresa Gergen's in 2019. There was no sign of the Eckert register from 2000 that Bob Burd's group found on their Pt. Powell to Mt. Powell traverse in 2006. After taking a few photos and noting that Mt. Haeckel looked pretty snow-free, I headed back to where I had ascended on the east ridge. Instead of down climbing the chute, I decided to go a little farther to the low point on the ridge. As Bob Burd noted, the climbing along this section of the ridge was solid granite and quite enjoyable. My descent back down to the rock band went quickly and was definitely easier than the chute I had come up.

Back at camp at around 2 pm (approximately seven hours roundtrip for the climb), I found Ting waiting for me after her successful climb of Mt. Haeckel. I pulled

*Route taken up north ridge to Mt. Powell (usual route is to col on west side, then NNW face) (Photo by Kathy*



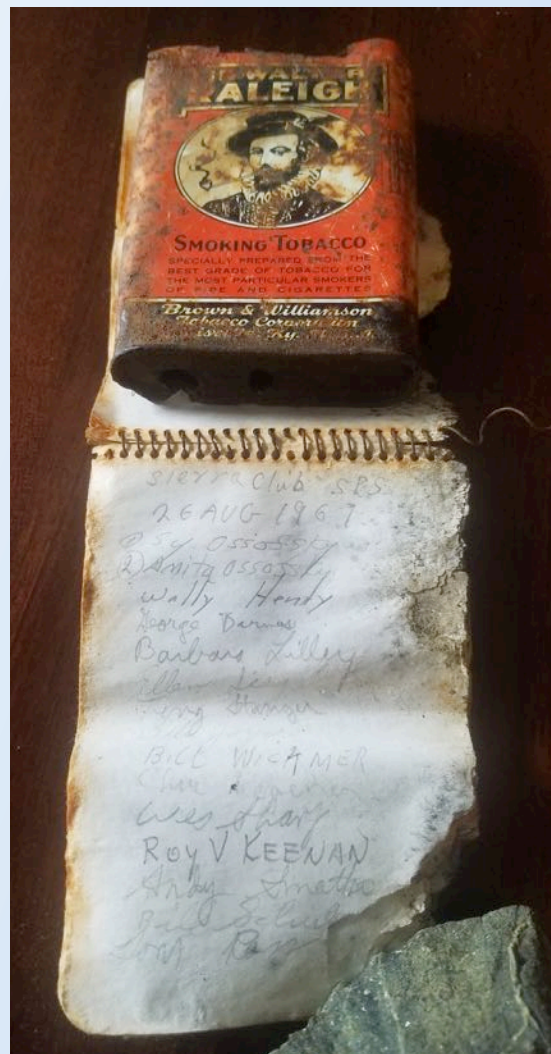
out the old tobacco can I had found in the chute below Mt Powell to show her. On the outside was written "Sir Walter Raleigh Smoking Tobacco" and "Brown and Williams Tobacco Corp, Ky." Turning it over, we realized that there was a small spiral notebook inside. Most of the notebook was damp but the first few pages were dry. It was labeled "Stuart Hall Pocket Note Book, 10c". The first entries (noted as added on August 1, 1950) were "24 June, 1937: Mt Hood climbers—H North, Bill Blanchard, Gary Leech." On page 2 someone had written "#2: Norman Clyde, Ben M, Endicott Hanson, Maxine Steinke, Alice Ann Dayton, Marion Steinke, and Tim Krantz [with a note that Norman Clyde's group had considered the peak to be Mt Lee, not Mt Powell]." Below this entry were other names, including that of Carl Heller. After letting the notebook dry a little in the sun, we carefully turned a few more pages. On page 6, dated August 26, 1967, were many signatures, including those of Andy Smatko and Barbara Lilley. The last entry in the book, dated August 14, 1985, was by Mark Nadell, who wrote "beautiful ridge top traverse from Echo Col".

It would thus appear that this register book may have been sitting at the base of the chute below Mt. Powell for up to thirty-five years—perhaps having been blown off the summit sometime after the last sign-in in August 1985. Interestingly, Secor states in his book *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, Trails* that the first ascent via the north-northwest face was on August 27, 1967, by Andy Smatko and seventeen others. Although the date is off by one day, this corresponds to the sign-in on page 6 of the notebook I found. Without additional research, it is not known whether this was in fact the first ascent by this route or whether earlier climbers dating back to 1937 had used the north-northwest face or some other route such as the north ridge. In any event, the register books on Mt.

Powell haven't been very lucky over the years—Steve Eckert commented that their group left a register in nesting tin cans after finding an old Band-Aid can with nothing inside on their ascent in 2000. It would appear that this register subsequently went missing as well. This peak deserves a decent register, so the next group of climbers should take one up there!

*Note: the little spiral notebook and the Walter Raleigh Smoking Tobacco can have been sent to Dan Richter, SPS Archivist, for safe keeping.*

*Top: First page of register with names entered for 24 June, 1937, in 1950. Below: View of Echo Lake from summit of Mt. Powell (Photos by Kathy Rich).*



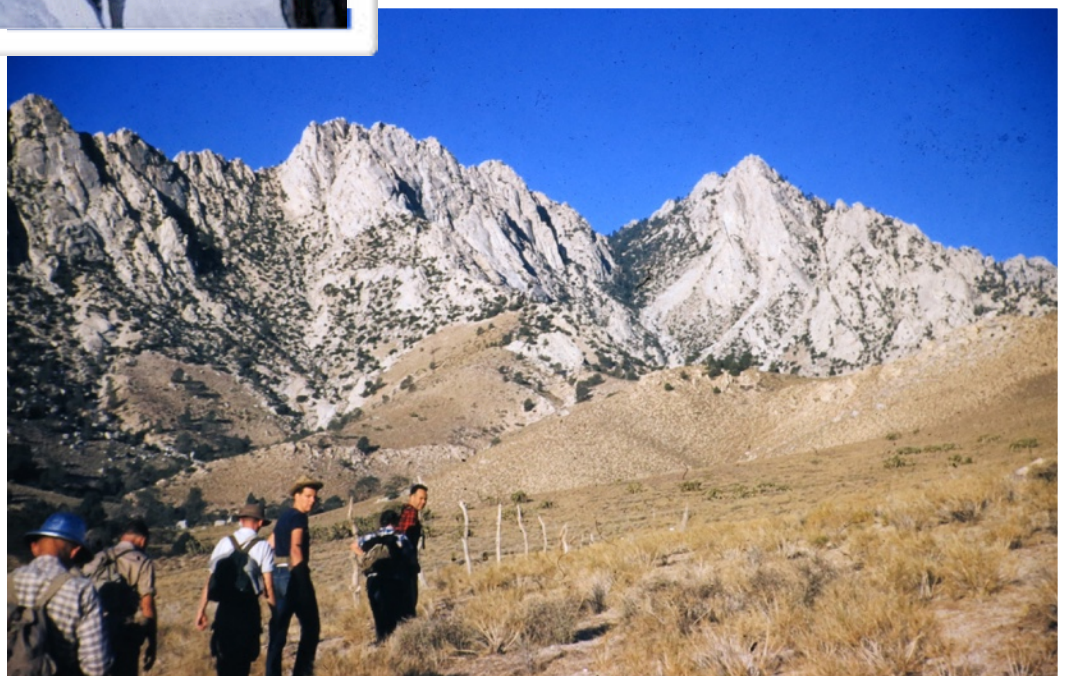
# A Photo Album from Barbara Lilley



We pestered founding member Barbara Lilley for photos from early SPS climbs featuring other members. Though she says that most of her photos are of scenery, she sent us these slides, some predating the formation of the SPS. Enjoy! And thank you, Barbara!

*Top: A trip to Lone Pine Peak predating the founding of the SPS. Left to right: Frank Sanborn, Pat Meixner, Ted Maier, Leo Scotti, Barbara Lilley. Middle: Crossing the river at Junction Meadow on avalanche debris during a 1969 SPS trip to Kern Point and Picket Guard led by Jerry Keating. Right: "Climbing Mt. Tom the Easy Way," photo taken during a September 19-20, 1953, DPS trip. Norman Clyde was present but refused the ride.*





*Above: Steep snow on an SPS climb of Iron Mountain led by John Robinson in 1963. Top right: Robinson also led a 1956 SPS trip to climb Mt. Abbot. Middle and bottom right: these pictures were taken during a 1954 trip to Owens Peak (pre-dating the SPS) led by Frank Sanborn. Frank Bressel is seen on the far right in the summit shot.*

# Too Close for Comfort

*In this column we'd like to share your stories of near misses with our readers. Please send your true tales, old or new, about raging streams, rockfall scares, nearby lightning strikes, encounters with bears or rattlesnakes, or anything that made you think "Whew! Boy, did I luck out!" Send your submissions with a "lessons learned" observation when applicable to co-editor Tina Bowman at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com).*

## **Overconfident in the Oregon Cascades**

*By Ken Jones*

I was young. And foolish. What more can I say?

Jim and I were freshmen at Oregon State University. It was late October, but the snows hadn't hit yet in the Cascades. And Middle Sister was an "easy" peak, well within our abilities.

We drove to the trailhead and set out with our backpacks on Saturday. The weather forecast suggested that a storm could come in Sunday, but we were confident we'd beat it out. It was a beautiful afternoon in fall, and we found a spot with a good water source to set up camp. It was a bit off the trail. (This was before the GPS system.)

In the morning we set off for the peak. Route finding was not challenging in the clear weather, and the going was good. About halfway up, we looked behind us and saw clouds rising from the Willamette Valley. We watched them for a while and concluded that we'd get to the top before they caught us. And we did.

Our miscalculation was for the return. On the way down we were soon in near whiteout conditions—remember, no GPS. We had difficulty navigating but eventually found our way back down to the trail. We could not find our camp. After looking for it for about half an hour with the snow still

falling, we decided to head for the car, abandoning our overnight gear. After all, if we waited too long the car might get snowed in for the winter. And the snow was getting deeper, obscuring the trail.

Anticlimactically, about ten minutes after this decision, I thought I recognized the area where we had left the trail. Sure enough, the camp was a few minutes into the woods. We packed up and hiked out. By the time we'd reached the car, we were in the rain, below the snow line. No harm done.

But we did learn to set up camps where we could more easily find them upon our return. And to pay more attention to what the vicinity of camp would look like when coming back.

I'm still bagging peaks forty-five years later. But I wasn't sure, as we came down in that storm, whether I'd make it back alive. I don't race storms to the top any more—it's more important to get out than up.



*Above: Middle and North Sisters on a fairer day (Photo by Ken Jones).*



## Dragon Peak to Mt. Gould Traverse

*By Jason Pair*

Don't know if it was a surge of pride or a surge of fear that I felt coursing through my body as I watched my fifteen-year-old son, Donovan, casually stroll across the airy traverse below the Dragon Peak summit. Either way, it was over in a matter of seconds, and there we stood together atop this wonderful peak. But our day was only half done as we were

bent on making the traverse to Mt. Gould and then complete a loop that would take us from Onion Valley trailhead, up Dragon Peak and Mt. Gould, and back to the trailhead via Kearsarge Pass.

It was just a few years ago that I introduced my son to the High Sierra peaks (he cannot recall a backpack trip in Mineral King at the age of five, when we aborted after he spent the first night throwing up from altitude sickness). In those few years we have done twenty SPS peaks together; and we have been trying to push ourselves to link multiple peaks on each excursion for the adventure (and efficiency!). This loop appealed to us after having gazed at both peaks from atop Peak 3817 (just north of Lilley Pass) the month before. We decided to do the loop counter-clockwise to avoid the sand slog up to Mt. Gould from Kearsarge Pass.

We departed from the trailhead at 6:00 am. The majority of the trail up Golden Trout Lake Trail is easy to follow, and where it is obscured, the route is fairly obvious. Once we reached the wet meadow the "trail" forked—we headed to



*Top: Watching Donovan on the summit traverse from above. Left: Approaching the summit gendarme of Dragon Peak (Photos by Jason Pair).*



the north side of the meadow, skirted around it, and headed up east toward Lilley Pass. We stopped for breakfast at Lake 3417. At this point I would be chasing my son the rest of the hike as he charged ahead, passing on the east side of Lake 3460 toward the broad talus gully heading northwest. It's certainly humbling to have your own son so quickly outpace you in the mountains.

Once at the top of the gully, we found an obvious, short, narrow talus chute heading northeast. There is a chockstone that needs to be negotiated before reaching

the south ridge of Dragon Peak. The class 2 ridge was enjoyable with views into the Rae Lakes drainage. On the way to the summit gendarme, you can keep it class 2 or spice it up with some fun class 3-4 climbing if you keep closer to the ridge proper. Secor describes the traverse on the summit gendarme as an "exposed class 3 ledge that lacks handholds." We found plenty of handholds, and ultimately it was not as intimidating as advertised. We enjoyed the extensive views from the summit, including looking back at our perch from the month before on Peak 3817.



*Top: Donovan surveying the view of Dragon and Gould from the summit of Peak 3187 on May 30, 2020. Left: Donovan heading toward Mt. Gould from Dragon (Photos by Jason Pair).*



After dropping back down the ridge to the low point, there were only a few class 2-3 moves to negotiate on the north side of the ridge before the going got easy. It wasn't long before we found ourselves approaching the summit blocks of Mt. Gould. This peak wouldn't be a challenge if not for the last three or four moves to get to the summit. That said, the views were rewarding and worth a nice resting perch to gaze deeper into the Sierra.

For the most part we chose to "boot ski" down Gould, joining the Kearsarge Pass trail just a few minutes north of the pass. After enjoying lunch at the busy pass (with all the parties socially distanced) we trucked down the Kearsarge Pass trail to the car. All told, the adventure was about ten miles in ten hours, including all the leisurely summit time.



*You'll probably remember Donovan as the cover boy three years ago in the January-March 2018 issue of the Echo (volume 62.1). That issue appears framed on the wall at right, where you can see Donovan on the summit of Smith Mountain, his first SPS peak, on September 23, 2017, aged 12. As you can see from the photo mounted above, he had a very early start climbing! (Photo by Jason Pair).*



## Dare to Lead!

### Virtual Leadership Training Seminar Set for Early 2021

Interested in starting on your path to become an Angeles Chapter outings leader? The first step is to take the Leadership Training Seminar offered virtually in early 2021, possibly January. The four-to-five hour class costs \$25. The application is on-line at <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/leadership-training-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. 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.

## 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@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.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>

## From the Outings Chair

*By Phil Bates*

Hello SPSers!

Well, as I write, we're quickly coming up on the close of another year, a year that probably is unlike any we have ever experienced in our lives thus far. Regardless of the level of natural and manmade disasters we've experienced thus far in 2020, there is one constant that I can point to. This singular truth is that the mountains, high or low, far and wide, continue to provide a source of mental and physical rejuvenation for countless people. It is this magic quality of the mountains that we lovers of the Sierra Nevada seek to protect and to promote. As we know, the Sierra continues to be under many stresses, some of which we may not yet fully comprehend. Given what we know and see at this time, I believe we can all give her a helping hand when we're enjoying the Sierra, which might be as simple as not stepping on that wildflower leaning into the trail!  
*(Continued on page 21)*

## From the Outings Chair, continued

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 to our SPS Facebook page ([https:// www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/) ) so we can be more informed and enjoy your adventures.

## 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).

# 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.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/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

Permits are required in Sequoia National Forest only for overnight stays in the Golden Trout Wilderness. For entry to the Golden Trout Wilderness via the Inyo NF or Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, see the links provided for those areas.

### 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

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

For general information go to [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki). For wilderness permits go to [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness\\_permits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm).

### 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

**SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 12, 2020**  
**7:00 pm via Zoom**

1. Call to order at 7:15. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jason Seieroe, outreach; Tina Bowman, secretary.
2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (August 2020). Done via e-mail.
  - b. Chair—no report.
  - c. Vice Chair/Banquet—Paul has the contract but needs to sign and return it. He'll call Almansor about whether the deposit (\$750, not yet paid) can be returned if we need to postpone or cancel because of the pandemic. One idea is that if we

hold it we could use Zoom for people not attending in person to participate in some way. Tina will contact Mel MacInnes at National to see whether she has a sense when we can have in-person events again. We also discussed using PayPal for those not wishing to pay by check since Brownpapertickets still has not sent us the \$1000 they owe us.

- d. Outings—cancelled through February 2021.
- e. Treasurer's report—\$9,774.43 current balance. Alexander will try emailing Brownpapertickets again (they have no phone number and emails in the past have been answered by a form email).
- f. Emblem Committee Report—Corrine Livingston finished the list for the second time on September 5<sup>th</sup> on Pt Powell but (*Continued on page 21*)

**SPS Income Statement 11-25-2020**

	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	1,080	590	260	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	445	195	105	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>1,525</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>365</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	990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</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>450</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(370)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>(2,317)</b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash In Bank</b>	<b>9,331.69</b>											

## Minutes Monday October 12, cont;

hasn't submitted her list. Will Whitney's second Smatko Explorer was approved. I (Tina) earned my Smatko Emblem on September 3<sup>rd</sup> on Mt. Versteeg.

- g. Outreach—Jason talked to a number of people about giving a trip report; only Garrett Maclean was interested, possibly for the first week in November. Jason is looking into a good platform for it for viewing live as well as archiving and having it available for others to view later.
- h. Archives—Dan is boxing materials he has at home to take to UCLA.
- i. *Echo*
  - i. Deadline for next issue—November 25 for January-March 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—no report.
- m. Conservation—no report.
- n. Safety Chair—no report.

### 3. Old business

- a. Lifetime membership or donor levels (as HPS has and DPS is considering)? We will return to this at the next meeting.

### 4. New business

- a. Elections—Who will run? Alexander, Jason, Jim, Paul, and Tina are all willing to run. We're hoping to get others willing to run as well.
- b. Nominating Committee—Mary McMannes and Don Sparks (Tina will confirm).
- c. Next meeting date was set for Monday, December 7, 7:00 pm via Zoom:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71359698143?pwd=WmgvTXVUR0RIRVF2Wnk1Rnh3YmZhQT09>

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bowman  
Secretary

## SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, December 7, 2020 7:00 pm via Google Meet

1. Call to order at 7:17. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jason Seireroe, fifth officer/ outreach; Tina Bowman, secretary.
2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (October 2020)—approved.
  - b. Chair—no report.
  - c. Vice Chair—banquet. See below under old business.
  - d. Outings—no report.
  - e. Treasurer's report—Current bank balance is \$9858.13. Alexander needs to pay Michael Chamoun his banquet honorarium and reimburse Tina for *Echo* expenses. He will also request a check for \$200 as a donation to the Angeles Chapter.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—no new emblem holders. Kathy Rich suggested that we maintain a list on the web site and in the archives of the SPS members who have completed the Vagmarken list of one hundred peaks along the Sierra Crest. We agreed to do this and will announce it in the *Echo* and on the web site.
  - g. Outreach—Jason has arranged for Garret McLean to give a Zoom or Google Meet talk on January 13<sup>th</sup> about a climb he did and has another person willing to speak at the next virtual event (not the banquet).
  - h. Archives—The Tom Ross photographic collection has been donated to the Eastern California Museum in Independence. They are hoping to have an exhibit of the photos in 2021 and have begun digitizing the collection.
  - i. *Echo*

- i. Deadline for next issue?—February 22nd
- ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website?—no report.
- iii. Move to HTML version (update)?—no report.
- j. Mountain Records—Tina has fourteen ammo boxes from the Tom Ross collection to give to Harry for registers.
- k. IT—no report.
- l. Website—no report.
- m. Conservation—no report.
- n. Safety Chair—no report.

### 3. Old business

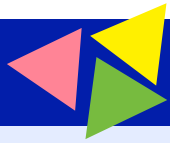
- a. Election—Laura Newman is willing to run, as well as Alexander, Jason, Jim, Paul, and Tina. Mary McMannes and Don Sparks are serving on the nominating and election committees. Tina will prepare the Survey Monkey and paper ballots with a deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup> for voting.
- b. Lifetime membership or donor levels (as HPS has and DPS is considering)?—not at this time.
- c. Banquet—We decided that it will be best to hold the banquet virtually this year on the date already announced, March 21, 2021, with Paul Garry speaking on his climb of Vincent Massif in Antarctica. We will revise the banquet flyer to announce this and make it clear that Zoom or Google Meet is very easy to use.

### 4. New business

- a. Next meeting date— Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:00 p.m., via Google Meet, which Jason will set up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bowman, Secretary



## Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Though this image is familiar to many of our members, either because of hiking from here and/or from owning a Mac with this Mac OSX High Sierra default desktop image, we received no answers to our question of “Where is this view?” The answer is looking east from the south shore of North Lake into the North Fork of the Bishop Creek Drainage.

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

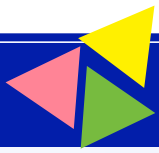
\$20 includes shipping

Send your order to:

Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive  
Topanga, CA 90290

Make check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40



# 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!

Can you name this popular Emblem peak? Where was the photo taken?

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

## The Sierra Echo



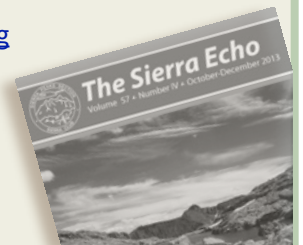
is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to Tina Bowman, Editor, *The Sierra Echo*, preferably via email at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com).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

## REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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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.

**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.

**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  
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Los Angeles, CA 90010**

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