



The Sierra Echo

Volume 65 ▲ Number 4 ▲ October-December 2021

En Route to Mt. Carl Heller

Climbing to Vacation Pass

Spot the Human! Story page 10
(Photo by Robert Zeithammer).



Echoes from the Chair By Tina Bowman

I hope you've been able to enjoy the Sierra and climb some of its peaks this summer—and avoid smoke. For your fall forays into the mountains, I hope you have the right breezes to keep the skies clear and your lungs happy.

Because of the uncertainty of what is happening with the pandemic

and with the safety of our members foremost, the management committee decided to make the January 23, 2022, annual banquet virtual again. Last year's banquet, held via Zoom as will be the 2022 event, worked well with the break-out rooms for socializing, our regular program, and then speaker and questions. If you haven't used Zoom yet, you'll find it simple, and we'll give clear instructions on how to use it. Please save the date! I look forward to seeing you.

If you wish to run for the management committee or nominate someone, please let me or nomination and election committee members Mary McMannes and Don Sparks know. Also, if you have suggestions for the SPS Leader and Lifelong Achievement Awards, please tell me.

The Sierra Club allowed us to begin leading outings again after the Fourth of July, but our SPS

leaders haven't jumped at the chance to lead for various reasons. Two obvious ones are the required Safety Management Plan and medical forms for participants and leaders for all "backcountry" outings, meaning more than an hour from help, which, of course, boils down to all SPS outings. Entities are fighting to have these requirements dropped, but we'll have to see what happens. If the Safety Management Plan continues to be required by the time we ramp up for the 2022 climbing season, we're considering having templates for the various areas in which we climb, so that leaders can use these and have the nearest hospital information and perhaps other information already completed on the form. Anything that can lighten the paperwork is good. The medical form asks much the same information as the medical form required for restricted mountaineering outings (our M and E trips where ropes, crampons, and/or ice axes might be used) with added questions about whether the person has been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and whether a person has tested positive or had symptoms of COVID in the past two-to fourteen days. If the medical forms and/or Safety Management Plan are still required next year, we hope that leaders will be willing to continue to lead and participants be willing to fill out the medical forms. (By the way, leaders are encouraged to return the medical forms to the participants at the end of the outing, and the forms can then be used for the next outing.)

Finally, you may have heard that the Sierra Club supports the renaming the John Muir Trail "Nuumu Poyo [sorry, I don't know how to put the umlauts over the *us*]," or another name that reflects the indigenous history in the area. Indigenous Women Hike is the organization proposing the name change. As an August 20th message from Local Outings states, the Club wants "to be clear that neither the recommendation or our decision [was] based on any judgment relating to John Muir or his historical legacy. Instead, this decision is based on a desire to center Indigenous perspectives and voices in the lands that they have inhabited for many generations." You can read more about the proposal here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YQA7rr_aruSLMLe_G4SB4J0lO2OewrKhjQRZRTLt1H0/edit.

Be safe and enjoy your Sierra climbs!

Happy trails,
Tina

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Save the Date!

The SPS banquet will be held virtually again via Zoom on Sunday, January 23, 2022. We'll have break-out rooms beginning at 6:00 so that you can roam from room to room and say hello to old friends and make new ones, talk about your season's Sierra climbs, and plan adventures for next year. At 7:00 we will have the program, followed by the evening's presentation (speaker and topic to be announced). We look forward to seeing you!

MComm Noms?

It's that time of year when we're looking for members to run for the SPS management committee. Are you interested? Know someone who might be willing to serve? Please contact Mary McMannes, chair of the nominating committee, to make suggestions. Her email is marymuir@earthlink.net.



As we were about to go to press with this issue, we have been deeply saddened to learn of Nile Sorenson's death on October 2nd. The next issue will include "Passages" articles and photos.

Nile Sorenson on Mt. Williamson (Photo by John Sheehe).

2021 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



Elected

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

Appointed

Archives	Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
Echo editors	Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com , Beth Epstein
Echo mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Jim Fleming, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Ron Bartell, Bob Pickering
IT Support	Greg Mason admin@sierrapeaks.org , Harry Lagenbacher admin2@sierrapeaks.org
Keeper of the List	Tina Bowman
Merchandise	Patty Kline patriciakline@aol.com
Mountain Records	Harry Langenbacher register@langenbacher.org
Outings	Phil Bates philipabates@gmail.com
Outreach	Jason Seieroe jasonseieroe@gmail.com
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com
Asst. Webmasters	Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org , Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com

Regional Representatives

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

Call for Awards Nominations

It's that time of year for members to nominate SPS leaders for the SPS Leadership Award. Established and first given in 1997, the award has been described thus: "Created by the SPS Membership to give recognition to those individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the SPS over the years and who have fostered new leaders."

Please send your nomination and list of qualifications to the chair, Tina Bowman, at tina@bowmanchange.com. 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

Continued on page 5

Welcome New Members!

Peter Winkler

Peter, seen at right at Mather Pass, is a British-born German living in Marin County. In 2020, he spent nearly thirty nights in his sleeping bag while also holding a full-time job. He recently finished the John Muir Trail, summiting Mt. Whitney a fourth time with his daughter. He often hikes the hills of Marin County, alone or with his hiking group. He has done a bit of rock-climbing, snow camping, and mountaineering, culminating with Pico de Orizaba in Mexico. A short list of his peaks includes Mt. Shasta, Dick's Peak, Mt. Conness, Mt. Dana, Mt. Ritter, and Mt. Humphreys. A volunteer firefighter, he has Wilderness First Responder and Swiftwater Rescue training. He has been a guest lecturer in a college geology course on a subject based on corporate farmers' eponymous signs along Interstate 5: "Is Growing Food Wasting Water?"



Jeff Temple

Jeff is
a new SPS member thinking about being outside right now.
a big fan of the possibilities that mountains afford.
thinking about food.
six foot four with a 1.05 ape index.
a native Californian.
looking for a good book, especially about the Sierra.
happy to see snow, sometimes.
fond of mosquitoes and long approaches; especially together.
developing a sense of humor.
planning for more days at elevation.



**Welcome Benjamin Mitchell, and
welcome back John Hooper!**

FREE First Year's Membership or Echo Subscription

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

Congratulations!



Bob Pickering earned his fourth Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Wotan's Throne, June 5, 2021, seen above.

Time to Renew!

Subscriptions to the Echo expire on December 31st. If you haven't renewed, please do so! You can download the renewal form from the SPS web site here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/membership>.



Call for Awards Nominations, continued from page 3

posthumously. By submitting a letter to the Management Committee indicating why the leader should be so honored, members may nominate possible recipients. Management Committee members may also nominate recipients and should draw up a list of qualifications to be mentioned in an *Echo* article published each year in a mid-year issue along with a solicitation for nominees. Factors that may contribute to the selection of recipients should include leadership on numerous trips over a period of at least ten years, fostering new members and leaders, achievement of at least an "M" leadership rating, and setting the example of well-planned and safe trips. The Management Committee shall vote whether each nominee is to receive the award. More than one person may receive the award each year, but it need not be given every year.

Past recipients are

Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell (posthumously), 1997
Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer, 1998
Dan Richter, 1999
Larry Tidball, 2000
Barbee Tidball, 2002
Tina Bowman (Stough), 2015
Neal Robbins, 2016
Kathy Rich, 2017

The SPS now has a Lifetime Achievement Award, first given in 2016 to Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod, then to Jerry Keating in 2017 and Doug Mantle in 2018. Please contact the chair if you would like to nominate someone. Here's the description of the award from the Policies and Procedures:

From time to time the Management Committee may choose to honor a member for outstanding service to the SPS over many years. Such service may include leading copious outings, serving in various elected or appointed positions on the Management Committee, contributing to the *Echo*, and inspiring others by their mountaineering accomplishments. Members may nominate a possible recipient by writing to the Management Committee and indicating why the person should be so honored. The Management Committee shall vote whether each nominee is to receive the award. More than one person may receive the award each year, but the award need not be given every year.



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.

From Ron Bartell, the first ascent of the Goliath Traverse in the Sierra: https://www.climbing.com/news/first-ascent-sierra-nevada-goliath-traverse/?fbclid=IwAR3QexGCjC5813h4ZmDmPthcZwNFAJb3zPQYaf37s5BpQ6dlxDS_2nRjAK0.

From Tina Bowman, smartphone directions may put hikers in trouble: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/18/technology/google-maps-hike-danger.html>.

From Beth Epstein, first all-female team to climb the nose in 1977: <https://americanalpineclub.org/the-molly-higgins-photo-collection>. Beth says to view the photos full screen.

From David Vandervoet, highline record in Yosemite: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/22/1009104849/stunning-photos-capture-2-brothers-walk-1-600-feet-above-yosemite> (article in *San Francisco Chronicle* requires subscription: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/culture/travel/article/Yosemite-highliners-claim-world-record-2-800-foot-16258778.php>).

Eastern California Museum receives slice of Roosevelt tree: <https://sierrawave.net/eastern-california-museum-receives-a-slice-of-history-of-the-100-year-old-historic-roosevelt-tree/>.

Sequoia losses to fire revised way upward: https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?guid=23e20e31-16cc-4753-a15b-2180bd8fe4f1&v=SDK.

Rescue on Mount Tom: <https://sierrawave.net/mount-tom-search-and-rescue-the-buddy-system-isnt-being-in-the-same-mountain-range/>.

Almost a tragedy on Boundary Peak: <https://kfor.com/news/local/i-began-writing-my-goodbye-notes-to-my-children-friends-and-family-university-of>

[oklahoma-recalls-time-missing-from-nevada-hiking-trail-and-how-he-survived-days-alone-in-the-wilder/](https://www.sierrawave.net/oklahoma-recalls-time-missing-from-nevada-hiking-trail-and-how-he-survived-days-alone-in-the-wilder/) and a story about a helicopter crash during the search: <https://sierrawave.net/navy-helicopter-from-nas-fallon-on-search-and-rescue-mission-crashed-near-mt-hogue-calif-late-friday-afternoon/>.

Endurance athlete dies near summit of Mt. Clark: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/22/us/fred-zalokar-yosemite-dead.html>.

Hiker missing in Sequoia National Park: <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article252951373.html>.

Climber and author David Roberts has died: <https://explorersweb.com/2021/08/23/adventure-writer-david-roberts-dead/> and <https://gripped.com/news/climber-and-author-david-roberts-dies-at-78/> (the second link has a fifty-two minute interview of Jimmy Chin by David Roberts at the Banff Centre). And here's a touching and sometimes humorous audio interview with David Roberts in 2017 at Banff, in which he talks about cancer, climbing, writing, and his life: <https://vimeo.com/338082113>.

Chopped bolts in Yosemite and death threats: <https://gripped.com/news/highline-bolts-chopped-in-yosemite-and-death-threats/>.

National Parks are overwhelmed: <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/09/1014208160/national-parks-crowds-litter>.

Long queues on Snowdon in Wales: <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-58284171>.

Risky, impatient climbers bring danger to Denali: <https://apnews.com/article/ak-state-wire-lifestyle-health-coronavirus-pandemic-environment-and-nature-3480cb4ec763cda66582bc44a78b3209>.

Trailer to a film about solo alpinist Marc-André Leclerc: <https://gripped.com/profiles/watch-trailer-to-the-alpinist-featuring-of-marc-andre-leclerc/>.

Climbing helmet round-up: <https://gearjunkie.com/climbing/best-climbing-helmets>.

Physiology of ultra-endurance events: <https://www.outsideonline.com/health/training-performance/ultrarunning-physiology-utmb-study/>.

Did Alpine Parrots move to the mountains to avoid people?: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/01/new-zealands-alpine-parrot-could-have-moved-to-the-mountains-to-avoid-people>.

Some people hike with their dogs. This guy brings his cat on his adventures: <https://www.boredpanda.com/cat-adventurer-mon-copain-ray/>.

The right to arm bears: <https://gearjunkie.com/camping/bear-steals-handgun-from-camper>.

History of competition climbing on EpicTV: <https://www.epictv.com/media/podcast/a-history-of-competition-climbing-608363>.

Indigenous versus colonial names for mountains: <https://gripped.com/profiles/these-banff-mountains-had-indigenous-names/>.

History explains lack of diversity in outdoor pursuits: <https://www.skimag.com/culture/the-nature-gap-is-why-there-are-fewer-bipoc-on-the-slopes-and-in-the-outdoors-in-general/>.

Could Thru-hiking be bad for your health?: <https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/could-thru-hiking-be-bad-for-your-health-a-new-study-makes-a-troubling-find/>.

Esther Dingley's body found in Pyrenees: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-58159591> along with links to earlier articles going back to November 2020. More on Esther Dingley (apparently her shoes were very worn and she slipped): <https://www.insider.com/story-behind-death-hiker-esther-dingley-who-vanished-months-ago-2021-8>.

Himalayas:

Mount Everest: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/29/asia/mount-everest-climbers-record-intl-hnk/index.html> and <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57299083> and <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/blind-china-climber-mount-everest-intl-hnk/index.html>.

K2 by Tamara Lunger: <https://www.sidetracked.com/the-end-is-my-beginning/>.

Covid-19 in Nepal: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/06/04/993878560/covid-is-crushing-nepal-from-remote-villages-to-kathmandu-to-mt-everest>.

Missing climber on Broad Peak: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57898987>.

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Introduction to the White-Tailed Ptarmigan

By Sharon Moore,
Conservation Chair



Hiking over a high elevation pass* or route-finding through a grassy cirque over 10,000 feet, you might be surprised to catch movement through low vegetation in your peripheral vision. Is it a small chicken? A closer guess would be a grouse, and the white-tailed ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*) is in fact the smallest member of that avian family. These permanent residents of the high-alpine habitats above the treeline are not native to the Sierra Nevada but were introduced there in 1972. They have successfully established themselves since then. In summer their upper feathers are mottled brown and gray. In winter their plumage is pure white. The males' legs and lower body plumage stays white year-round. They rely on camouflage for defense and will often wander surprisingly close to you if you are still. Although they are not endangered, a warming climate will shrink their available habitat and could extirpate isolated populations such as the one in the Sierra Nevada.

Species details: <http://www.grousepartners.org/ptarmigan>, <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/white-tailed-ptarmigan>, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-tailed_Ptarmigan/lifehistory

*The "Spot the Ptarmigan" photos on the opposite page were taken on Donohue Pass in 2019.



Above, summer plumage. Photo by John Hill — Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2877810>.
Left, winter plumage. Photo by Ron Knight from Seaford, East Sussex, United Kingdom — White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*), CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44816658>

Spot the Ptarmigans!

Answers to the puzzle in the previous issue.

1



2

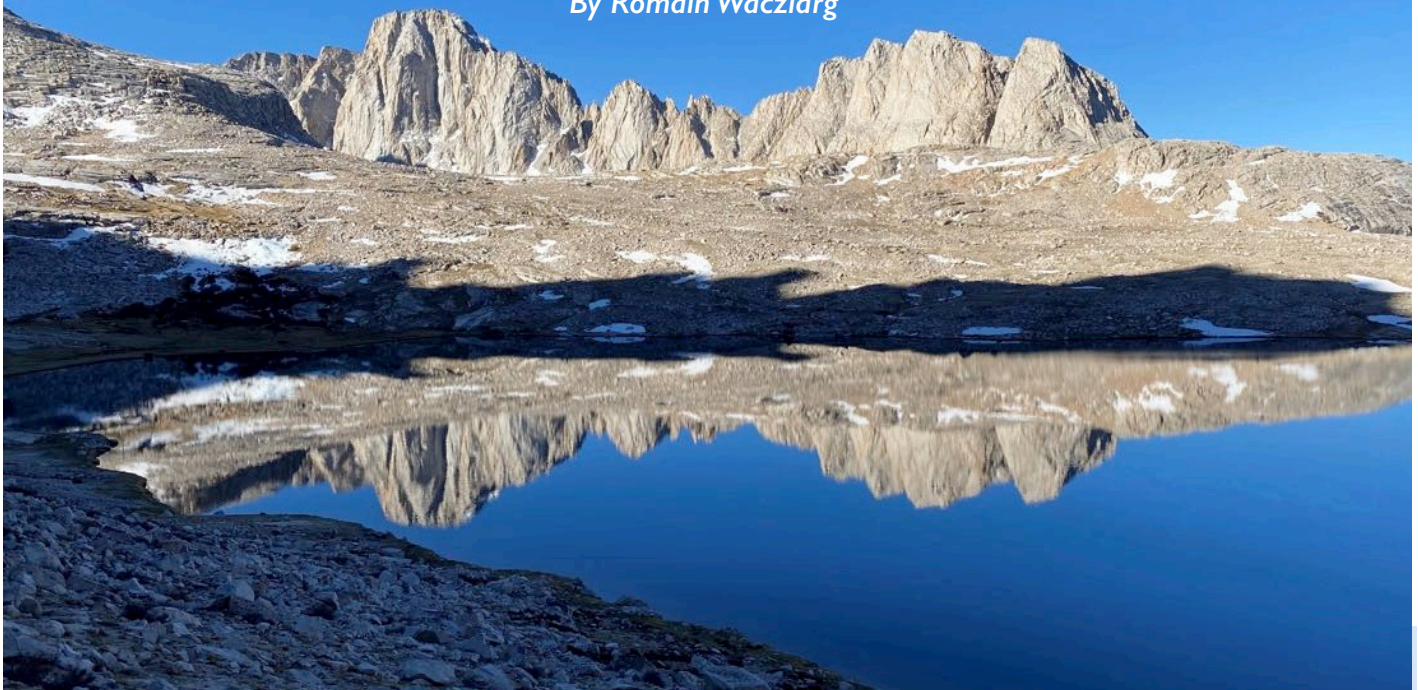
4

3



Mount Hale, Mount Young, Trojan Peak, Mount Barnard, Tunnabora Peak, The Cleaver, Mount Carl Heller, Mount Russell, Mount Carillon, May 31-June 5, 2021

By Romain Wacziarg

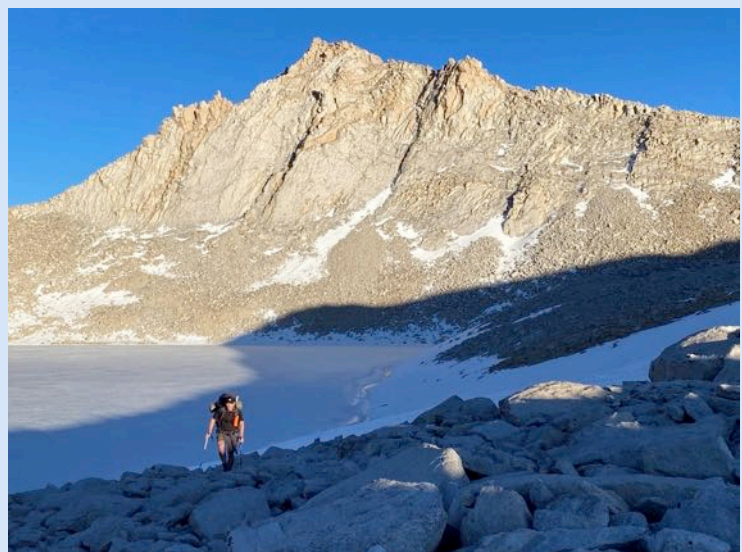


Ascents of Mount Hale (Northwest Chute, class 3), Mount Young (traverse from Mount Hale, class 1), Trojan Peak (West Face, class 2), Mount Barnard (traverse from Trojan Peak, class 2), Tunnabora Peak (South Slope, class 2), The Cleaver (Northwest Ridge, class 3), Mount Carl Heller (East Arête, class 4), Mount Russell (East Ridge, class 3), and Mount Carillon (from Russell-Carillon Pass, class 2) with Ronald Kleber and Robert Zeithammer.

Timeline:

May 31, 2021. Ronald, Robert, and I met at Whitney Portal at 11:00. We finished packing, ate a sandwich near the Whitney Portal Store, and set out on the shortcut to the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek approach at 12:07. With fifty-pound packs we took over six hours to reach the Russell-Carillon Pass (6:18). A helicopter was rescuing a party that had experienced a [tragic accident](#) on the East Ridge of Mount Russell. We descended into the Tulainyo Lake basin and on toward Wallace Lake. We had planned to camp in the basin just northwest of Mount Hale, but only

made it to Wales Lake before night fell. We had found a nice campsite by 8:30. This was to be our base for the next five nights. (An 8:23 hour day, 6.6 miles, 5,100 feet of elevation gain)



Top: Wallace Lake and Mt. Hale (Photo by Romain Wacziarg). Right: Ronald Kleber passing Tulainyo Lake en route to camp, Mt. Carillon behind (Photo by Robert Zeithammer).



June 1, 2021. The plan for the day was to climb Mount Hale and Mount Young. Secor does not describe a scrambling route up Mount Hale from the northern side of the mountain, but Robert had found a trip report that mentioned a chute leading to the summit of Hale from the basin just northwest of the peak. We set out from camp at 8:50 and headed for that basin. We had no trouble locating the northwest chute, which contained avoidable snow. We bypassed the snow by following steep class 3 rock up the left side of the chute and reached the summit of Mount Hale at 12:17. There we had a nice long lunch, took in the views, and then set out on the easy traverse to Mount Young, reaching its summit at 2:00. After about twenty minutes on the summit, we started the descent down the northwest slope of Mount Young toward the Wallace Creek drainage. This was mostly sand, with a portion of talus near the end. We then hiked up the Wallace Creek drainage, reaching camp at 5:50. (A 9:00 hour day, 8.8 miles, 3,300 feet of elevation gain).

Clockwise from top: Romain climbing the class 3 chute to Hale (Photo by Robert Zeithammer). Robert Zeithammer traversing to Mt. Young (Photo by Romain Wacziarg). Romain on the traverse to Barnard (Photo by Robert Zeithammer).



June 2, 2021. Our plan for the third day was to circumnavigate the Mount Barnard massif by hiking around toward the Wright Creek drainage, climbing the west face of Trojan Peak (a route first climbed by Norman Clyde), then traversing to the summit of Mount Barnard and descending in a straight shot back to camp along its southwest slope. We left camp at 6:37, contoured over into the beautiful Wright Lakes area, and were at the base of our ascent chute on the west face at 10:26. Robert chose a route on the right side of the chute while Ronald and I opted to stick to the left side. This was mostly solid and went at class 2. We quickly gained the southwest ridge of Trojan Peak, which we followed on its right side, reaching the summit at 11:58. Robert had been much faster and was waiting for us on top. We entered our obligatory comments on the superiority of UCLA over USC in the summit register and went on our way to Mount Barnard, trying to follow its north ridge as much as possible. We were on the summit at 2:00. The views from there are outstanding in all directions. The descent down the sandy slopes toward camp was fast, and we were back at the tents at 4:39. (A 10:02 hour day, 12 miles, 4,400 feet of elevation gain)

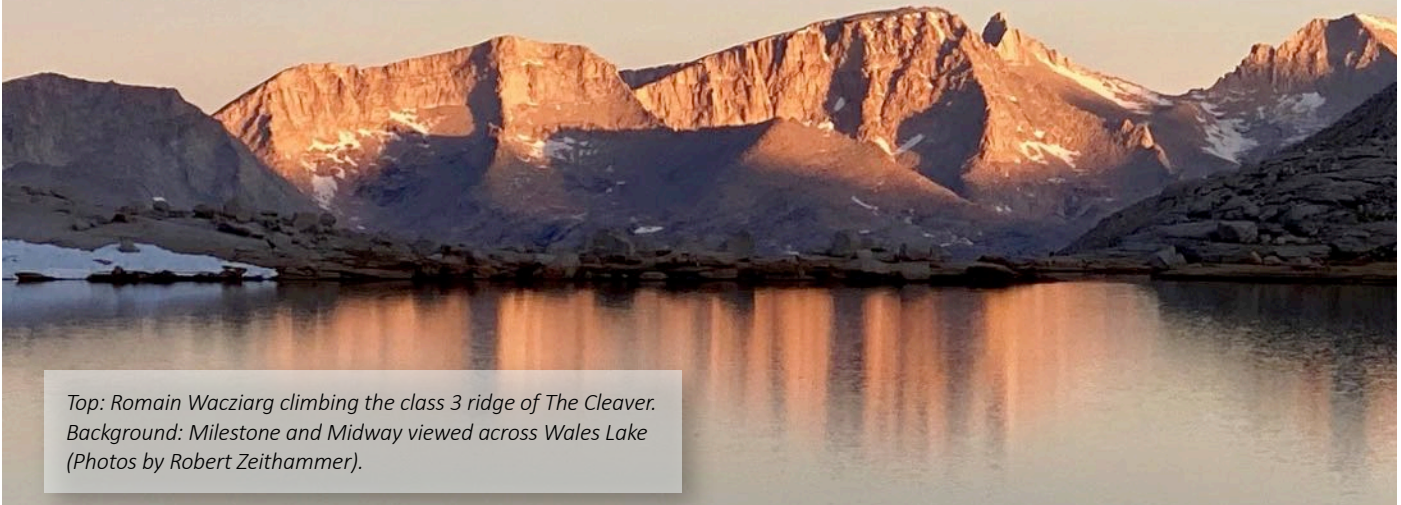




June 3, 2021. This was to be a rest day, but since Robert was among us it turned out to be anything but. We lounged a bit in camp in the morning, and at 8:17 set out to climb Tunnabora Peak. This is an easy talus hike from Tulainyo Lake, and we reached the top at 10:19. From there the lure of the ridge leading to The Cleaver was too much to resist, so off we went. The 3rd class route up The Cleaver, another Norman Clyde classic, was short but fun. We were on the summit at 11:29. On the descent we contoured the lake and started on the two mile hike back to camp. At the base of the North Slope of Mount Morgenson (Peak 4,245), Robert proposed to climb that peak. Ronald agreed, but I was weary of turning this rest day into another death march. I went back to camp, reaching it at 2:01. The cloud cover afforded shelter from the sun, and I was able to nap until Ronald and Robert showed up an hour and a half later. We spent a restful afternoon in camp. (A 5:44 hour day, 6.3 miles, 2,200 feet of elevation gain)

June 4, 2021. This day was to be devoted to climbing Mount Carl Heller, a bump on the Sierra crest that is nonetheless very aesthetic from both its eastern and western aspects and features one of the Sierra's classic ridge

climbs—the east arête. We left camp at 7:01 and headed toward Wallace Lake. We went over Vacation Pass, climbing class 2-3 ribs on its western side. Reaching the pass at 8:31, we descended the eastern side toward the toe of the east rête of Mount Carl Heller. The first portion involves a steep rise for which we roped up and which I led (class 4). From there the flat portion of the ridge begins, with a lot of fun class 3 scrambling on a narrow and exposed arête. Higher the ridge again steepens, and we roped up again for some portions of class 4 climbing. We reached a rhombus-shaped rock I had read about in a [trip report](#) and moved to the left (south) side of the arête, Robert and I alternating leads. We went perhaps too far before regaining the ridge on class 3 ledges, and soon found ourselves at the base of a steep, wide crack leading back to the crest of the ridge. Robert led us up this short portion, and we found ourselves at the base of a steep class 3 gully leading to the summit ridge. Here, we met two climbers, Sara and Ryan from Mammoth, who were dayhiking the route from George Creek. We scrambled up the final steps to the summit (class 3-4). There we met Sara and Ryan again, as they were descending from the summit, and Robert offered Sara a belay down a steep class 4 pillar, which she gladly



*Top: Romain Wacziarg climbing the class 3 ridge of The Cleaver.
Background: Milestone and Midway viewed across Wales Lake
(Photos by Robert Zeithammer).*

Top: At the base of the E. Arete of Mt. Carl Heller. Below: Romain Wacziarg and Ronald Kleber climbing the lower part of the E. Arete (Photos by Robert Zeithammer).



accepted. We reached the summit at 2:04. By then the weather had significantly worsened, and it started to hail. We quickly signed the register and started down the west face (one rappel just below the summit). As we descended the class 2-3 gully toward Wallace Lake, it started to rain and hail steadily. We took out our raingear, and hunkered down under an overhanging rock to have lunch. We reached camp at 3:40 and spent the rest of the afternoon lounging. (A 8:39 hour day, 5.2 miles, 2,500 feet of elevation gain)

June 5, 2021. In many ways our last day was to be the hardest, as we planned to hike back over the Russell-Carillon Pass with full packs, climb the East Ridge of Mount Russell as well as Mount Carillon, and return to the trailhead. We departed Wales Lake at 7:04 and were slow climbing the class 2-3 rock back to the Russell-Carillon pass, reaching it at 9:01. After a quick break to refuel we started up the East Ridge of Russell, one of several parties on the route that day (a Saturday). The climb was uneventful. We roped up briefly to protect a short step-around move on the upper portion of the ridge, just before the East summit. On the traverse between the two summits, we came across two abandoned packs containing seemingly brand-new gear—probably belonging to the party that had been rescued the previous Monday. We reached the summit at 11:18 and there met two nice ladies named Emily and Maryana. We chatted about climbing, enjoyed the views, and signed the register where I left a note in memory of [Alberto Alesina](#). Alberto and I had tried to climb this peak together in 2004, by the Fishhook Arête, [an attempt that had not gone well](#). Other climbers started to arrive on the summit, including one in trail running garb, named Joe. We started our descent, which went very smoothly, and were back at the packs at 1:16. We had lunch there and took off for the short scramble up Mount Carillon. We tagged the summit at 1:51 and stayed for about twenty minutes. Then it was time for the long descent down to Clyde Meadow and then down the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. We were back at the cars at 6:00. Robert



went for dinner at the Whitney Portal Store while Ronald and I drove to my place in Mammoth for some well-deserved rest after an intense trip. (A 10:56 hour day, 8.1 miles, 2,600 feet of elevation gain)

Trip totals: 52:44 hours, 47 miles, 20,100 feet of elevation gain.

Photos:

Please check [here](#).

East Vidette, South Guard, North Guard, Mt Brewer, Mt Genevra, Mt Ericsson, June 12-18, 2021 *By Romain Wacziarg*



Ascents of East Vidette (East Ridge, class 3), South Guard (South Slope, class 2), North Guard (South Face, class 4), Mount Brewer (Northwest Slope, class 2), Mount Genevra (East Slope from Milly's Foot Pass, class 2), Mount Ericsson (West Ridge, class 2) with René Renteria.

Timeline:

June 12, 2021. We were off to a late start, as we spent the morning packing for our six-night, seven-day planned trip. We found an empty campsite at the Onion Valley campground to eat our sandwiches, then set out on the Kearsarge Pass trail at 2:22. Considering our forty-pound packs, we made relatively quick progress to the pass, reaching it at 5:06. On the other side, I made a side trip to the largest of the Kearsarge Lakes to find Robert, who was there with a group of fathers and sons. He and René were finally able to meet. We continued on to Vidette Meadows and found a nice campsite at 7:37 (the very same campsite where I had spent the last night of [a hike along the southern portion of the JMT](#) with my daughter Claire, one year prior). (A 5:15 hour day, 10.10 miles, 2,850 feet of elevation gain)

Top: Approaching Longley Pass (on right) and lunch on the way to South Guard on June 14. Right: Crossing Bubbs Creek en route to Junction Meadow, June 13 (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).

June 13, 2021. Our plan for this day was to climb East Vidette and then move camp to East Lake. We left camp at 7:17 and hiked up the JMT toward the base of the east ridge of East Vidette. We had little trouble crossing Bubbs Creek and enjoyed a nice climb up the ridge, reaching the summit at 10:44. We did not find a register on any of the high points, so I left a notebook in a Ziploc near what seemed to be the highest block. We descended the southeast slope and headed back to camp, where we took a lunch break. We packed up and left at 3:05. We had a nice





hike to East Lake, with an uneventful crossing of Bubbs Creek at Junction Meadow. We reached a comfortable campsite at the southern end of East Lake at 6:34. Mosquitos were present but not too fierce compared to what we were to encounter later. This was to serve as our base for the next three days. (A 10:08 hour day, 10.7 miles, 4,250 feet of elevation gain)



June 14, 2021. We packed food and bivy gear for one night, left camp at 8:58 and headed up toward Lake



were no mosquitos! (A 9:42 hour day, 7.9 miles, 4,400 feet of elevation gain)

June 15, 2021. This was to be a long day, with ascents of North Guard and Mount Brewer and a descent along the latter's



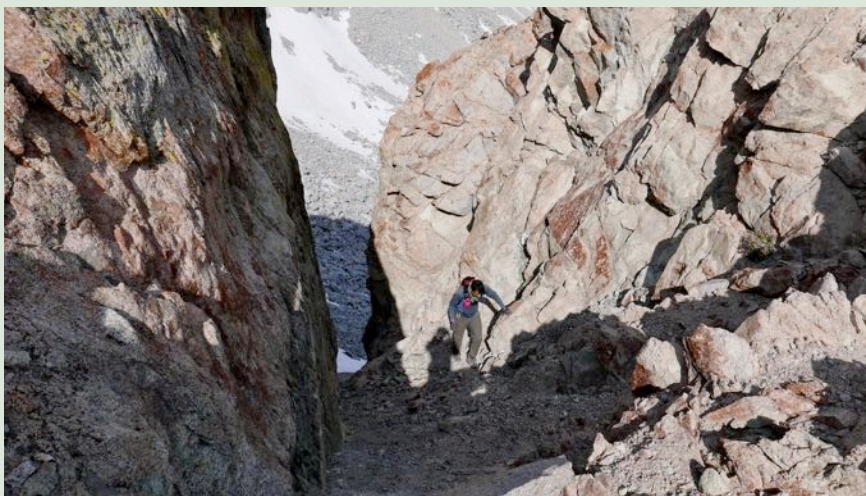
Counter-clockwise from top: Above Lake Reflection, heading to Longley Pass; bivy site at tarns west of Brewer (Photos by Rene Renteria). North Guard from Brewer; Rene Renteria atop North Guard's summit block (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).



east ridge back to camp at East Lake. We left our bivy site at 7:46 and hiked the 1.4 miles to the hanging valley between North Guard and Mount Brewer. We headed up talus slabs at the base of the South Face of North Guard, and soon encountered steeper terrain that seems like class 4. We roped up for two very short pitches of class 3-4 climbing that took us left into an easy class 2 gully. That led to the west ridge of North Guard, and fun class 3 climbing started there. We reached the summit area at 11:18 and roped up again to protect our climb of the class 4 summit block. We then reversed our steps pretty much exactly and stopped for lunch in the hanging valley before heading up the northwest slope of Mount Brewer. The center of the slope was filled with snow, which we avoided on the right side. This took us to the summit ridge of Mount Brewer, but some distance west of the summit. Some easy class 2+ scrambling got us to the base of the summit block at 4:19. This was my second time on Brewer, and the [first time](#), being alone, I had not climbed the exposed summit block. This time, we did. We signed the register and enjoyed the

amazing views in all directions (such a landscape!). I left a note in memory of [John McMillan](#), a wonderful economist who had been my mentor at Stanford and passed away in 2007. John had visited the Kearsarge Pass area and undoubtedly had set his eyes upon Mount Brewer on one of those trips. The return down the east ridge seemed interminable, and the last part had to be done with headlamps. We reached camp at 9:04, happy to have climbed North Guard and to have done a full traverse of Mount Brewer (up the northwest slope, down the east ridge) and looking forward to resting on the following day. (A 13:18 hour day, 7.5 miles, 3,150 feet of elevation gain)

June 16, 2021. This was our rest day. We lounged around camp in the



Top: Looking at Milly's Foot Pass and Geneva from camp at the tarns below. Left: Rene Renteria ascending Milly's Foot Pass (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).

morning, eating, hydrating, and playing cards. At 2:35 we left East Lake and headed up toward the Kings-Kern Divide with our full packs. Our plan was to set up a new camp just northwest of Milly's Foot Pass near some lakes. The few miles to that spot were teeming with mosquitos—this was my third time coming to this part of the Sierra and the third time finding some of the fiercest mosquito conditions I have ever encountered. Things were a little better at the high tarns below Milly's Foot Pass, which we reached at 5:21. We enjoyed a nice evening in this beautiful basin. A small pool with warmer water afforded the opportunity for a welcome bath this day and the next. (A 2:46 hour day, 2.5 miles, 1,700 feet of elevation gain)

June 17, 2021. Our plan for the day was to climb Mount Geneva and Mount Jordan after crossing the King-Kern Divide at Milly's Foot Pass. Alas, this was not to happen, due to weather. We left camp at 7:30 and were on the other side of the pass at 8:44. This pass involves solid class 3 climbing on very poor rock, so it is not to be underestimated (while we climbed it unroped on the way up, we did use a belay on the way down since we had the gear for the summit block of Mount Jordan). At the pass, we headed up the west ridge of Mount Geneva, and reached its summit at 10:08 under a gathering storm. The storm was particularly bad over Mount Jordan, under a thick set of black clouds. So we decided to forego this ascent. This was probably a wise decision since the black clouds would hang over this area for the remainder of the day. As we descended the southeast slopes of Geneva, it started to rain, and we found refuge under a large rock for a time. The rain subsided, and the sky over Mount Ericsson seemed to open up, so we headed in the direction of Lucy's Foot Pass. We stopped for a snack at the large lake that sits at the base of this pass, at around 12,000 feet, as I contemplated an ascent of Mount Ericsson. By then René had had enough climbing, so I set out alone at 12:26. The west ridge of Mount Ericsson, first climbed on August 1, 1896, by Lucy and Bolton Brown, was quite easy, and I was on the summit at 1:35. I took in the great views in all directions, enhanced by the dramatic



Looking back to Geneva and top of Milly's Foot Pass (Photo by Romain Wacziarg).

stormy weather, and headed back to rejoin René (2:32). We then headed back to Milly's Foot Pass under very iffy weather and were back at our tent at 5:00, taking the long way home to visit the tarns above camp. (A 9:30 hour day, 6 miles, 3,800 feet of elevation gain)

June 18, 2021. We had a long way to go on our last day—seventeen miles or so back to Onion Valley. It did not help that there was a powerful storm all night, with strong gusts of wind and steady rain. Morning came with more rain, raising concerns that our descent back to Lake Reflection would be both wet and slippery. We packed our gear inside the tent, hoping for a lull. This came around 7:45, and we quickly departed at 8:00, without having breakfast. The descent to Lake Reflection was quick, and we decided to push on toward Junction Meadow without stopping, concerned that the bad weather might return. After the Bubbs Creek crossing, we set up the tent, made coffee, finished off much of our remaining food, and took a quick nap. Then started the long march back to Kearsarge Pass (5:11) and the car (7:17). We went for barbecue at the Copper Top in Big Pine and on to Mammoth. (An 11:17 hour day, 17 miles, 3,800 feet of elevation gain)

Trip totals: 61:56 hours, 61.7 miles, 23,950 feet of elevation gain.

Photos:

Please check [here](#).

Alta Peak, May 22, 2021

By Jason Pair and John Sheehe



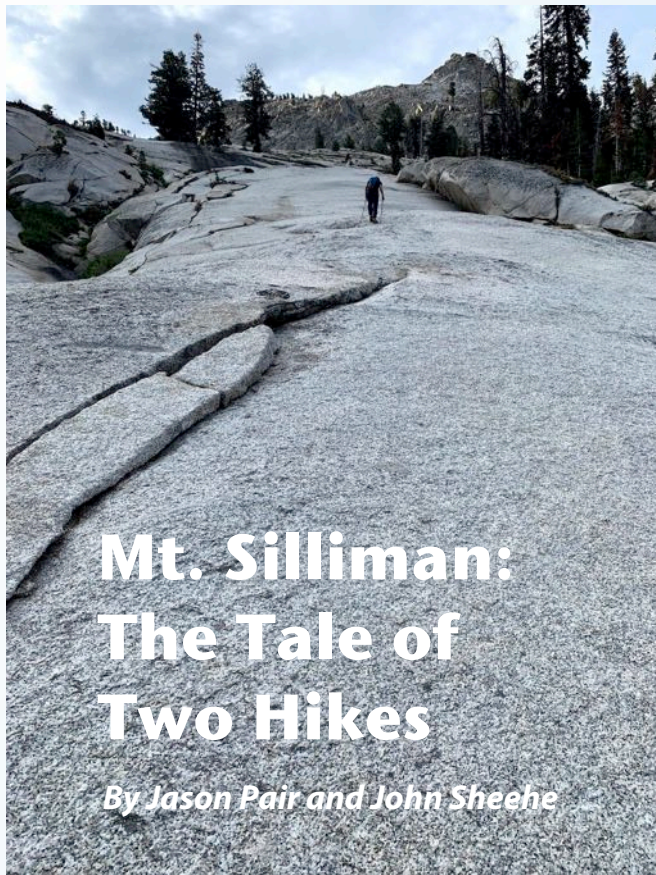
The end of May provided the last significant precipitation in the Sierra, which we were lucky enough to experience. The goal—Alta Peak—a relatively straightforward fourteen-mile round trip hike in normal conditions. But on this day (May 22nd), we would encounter significant snow during the ascent which slowed us but never dampened the excitement for the scenery, the solitude, and the serenity. Jason and I met at 2:45am in Castaic, caravanned to Sequoia National Park, and arrived at the trailhead around 6:45am. Snow had fallen the night prior, providing a preview for what was to come later in the day. We started fifteen minutes later from Wolverton and followed the Lakes Trail to Panther Gap where we were greeted by an amazing view of the Western Sierra courtesy of the previous night's storm. Thirty minutes after joining the Alta Trail at Panther Gap (when it was clear), a consistent snow began falling and continued for the next seven hours. The storm picked up

as we began the ascent from Mehrten Meadow, eventually reaching near white-out conditions. Without much of a trail to follow, downloaded GPS tracks helped with the navigation as we made our way to the peak. To summit, we scrambled carefully up the snow-covered granite until we located the register. We signed quickly, taking all of three minutes at the top. What we missed in views was more than balanced by the freshly fallen snow in the Sierra. On the way down, we enjoyed a well-deserved snack under a rock overhang that provided temporary shelter from the still falling snow and a perfect vista to enjoy the weather. Jason went on to Mt. Silliman the next day (see the Mt. Silliman trip report). Alta Peak is a worthy peak to ascend, and when skies are clear, we will return with Donovan to enjoy the views of the Great Western Divide, Kaweah Canyon, and Mineral King.

See a video of the hike here:
https://youtu.be/Vn95Exgl_Jk



Top: Clear views at Panther Gap (Photo by John Sheehe). Above: Jason Pair (left) and John Sheehe on Alta's summit. Left: Sheltering under the rock overhang on the descent (Photos by Jason Pair).



Mt. Silliman: The Tale of Two Hikes

By Jason Pair and John Sheehe

Mt Silliman in Sequoia National Park provided a recent opportunity for application of the high school English teacher assignment of “Compare and Contrast.” Jason Pair climbed the 11,188’ peak at the end of May,

the day after a late season snow storm, while John Sheehe and Donovan Pair bagged the peak two months later during a very dry summer. Both hikes afforded ample examples of how the same hike can offer completely different experiences.

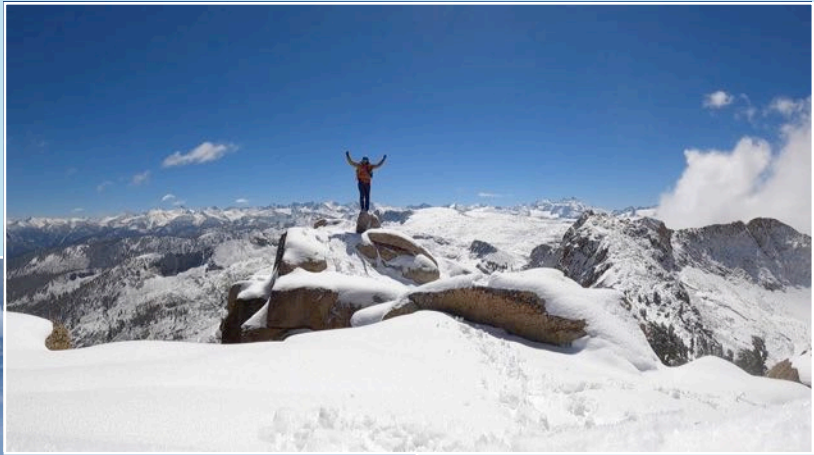
Jason’s Sunday solo hike, his second peak in as many days after bagging Alta Peak the day prior with John Sheehe in white-out conditions, was a winter wonderland (despite being at the end of May!). It snowed all day Friday with some sun and then more snow on Saturday. The overnight temps dropped, which made for interesting conditions on Sunday—much of the granite pathway was layered with fresh snow on top and thin layers of ice below. The lower level of slabs, which would normally be a fun walk up, were stressful with the ice. Though crampons were brought along, microspikes did the job well and were used starting at the slabs all the way to the summit. Jason started at 4:00 am from Lodgepole Campground and clocked in 13.5 miles and 4,000 feet of vertical. Zero humans were encountered, and the only sign of life was a pika.

The trailhead, mileage, and views were about all in common with John and Donovan’s July climb while weather, water, and wildlife were quite different. John and Donovan opted for a 5:00 am start, by which time it was in the upper 50s. Silliman Creek was running but was a trickle, necessitating an eventual water refill at Silliman Lake. Though some clouds were present, there was no threat of thunderstorms, and we enjoyed the hike up to Silliman Meadow with hungry mosquitoes at



Top: Donovan walking up the granite slabs (Photo by John Sheehe). At left: Snowy granite slabs below Mt. Silliman (Photo by Jason Pair).

our side. The slabs were clear and made for a fun "walk" up to Lake 10,440' and a gully which leads to the trail and final ascent. From the top, views were unobstructed (though there were some meddlesome flies). Mt Whitney and



Top: Jason Pair at the top of snowy Mt. Silliman May 23, 2021 (Photo by Jason Pair). Left: Donovan Pair at the top of snow-free Mt. Silliman July 2021. Below: Basking Sierra garter snakes (Photos by John Sheehe).

hundreds of other peaks could be seen in all directions. On our way down during our water refill, we spotted tadpoles and quite possibly the smallest frog ever seen. Leaving Silliman Lake, we spotted two Sierra garter snakes, basking in the shallow water. Combined with the bear we saw on the drive up and the large group of teenagers on Moro Rock the evening prior, wildlife was everywhere.

Check out Jason's video of the May hike at: <https://theearthbeneathyourfeet.com/Hikes/HikeDetails/7a354b6e4f5a7068706a4b5747795537436e306c6b413d3d>.



The Sierra Echo

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

Trip Report:

Kern Peak and Jordan Hot Springs, July 6-9, 2021

By Sharon Moore

When outings reopened on July 5, Jim Hagar and I were early out the gate with a four-day backpack into the Golden Trout Wilderness to bag Kern Peak and visit Jordan Hot Springs. Due to my late posting and lack of advance notice, we only had one participant, but that was enough to make it official!

Day 1 we hiked out of the Blackrock Trailhead to set up camp near Redrocks Meadow. This is the starting point for the usual route that uses an old trail to Templeton Meadows to access the east ridge. But we chose a different approach via the south ridge, based on a trip report from Bob Burd and some beta from Ron Campbell, who had attempted this route in 2018. We started out on Day 2 using the trail to Cold Meadow but soon got lost among the downed trees and confusing use trails. But once we got up to some steeper terrain we picked it up again where the original rock work is still solid. The trail got us up to the open forest on top of the south ridge, and we were able to follow it to where it intersected the more common route. We enjoyed this approach, with only more

downed trees and rock piles to work around until we attained the final ridge. From here the summit is clearly visible, and a few ducks indicated the best way to scramble to the old lookout foundation on the summit. While we had our lunch and enjoyed the amazing views of the Kern Plateau and the high peaks in the Whitney Zone to the north of us, we enjoyed a free air show courtesy of the US military. We returned to our camp for one more night, using the east ridge and old trail.

Day 3 we packed up and moved our camp to Jordan Hot Springs, using the trail that climbs over the shoulder of the rock formation called Indian Head. We lost it almost immediately in a small meadow but picked it up again on the other side. This trail is very infrequently traveled and badly in need

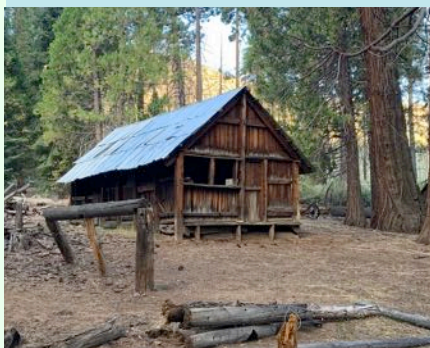


Top: Alina Mardesich climbing Kern's south ridge. Left: Jim Hagar and Alina Mardesich near Jordan Hot Springs (Photos by Sharon Moore).



of maintenance. The upper part is forested and had some lovely flower-filled sections along Redrock Creek, but the lower section burned over during the SQF Complex fire and has since become overgrown and very hard to follow. But we found our way and made camp in the large and only lightly singed camping area north of the Hot Springs. We had plenty of time to soak and explore.

So much fun, adventure, and beauty more than made up for multiple insect bites, downed trees, and overgrown trails. Our participant Alina Mardesich has renamed the nasty buckthorn we had to wade through “f! ckthorn,” and I never knew there were so many varieties of biting flies in the world. But we bagged Kern Peak on a grand loop route, and the hike to Jordan Hot Springs was beautiful, aggravating, ugly, exhausting, and challenging. But a nice soak in the hot springs and a rinse in Nine Mile Creek made it all worthwhile. We checked out the historic resort site on our way out. The trail from there is in excellent condition, and we made it out in time for lunchtime burgers at Kennedy Meadows.



Clockwise from top left: Jim Hagar near Jordan Hot Springs. Flowers along the way: Woody-Fruited Evening Primrose, Mariposa Lily, Storksbill Geranium, and Lupine. Cabins among the ruins at Jordan Hot Springs (Photos by Sharon Moore).

Baxter Pass Trail and Acrodetes Peak



By Tina Bowman

I hadn't been on the Baxter Pass Trail since April 3, 2007, before the fire there and the flood the following year. I wanted to climb Acrodetes Peak (13,182') so decided to take the Baxter Pass Trail for the approach and check it out on a trip August 18-19.



Some of the oaks are growing back; others are skeletons or heaps on the ground. Many huge pine logs are scattered on the slopes as one starts up the canyon, and higher, many trees seem to have been victims of avalanches, some broken off a number of feet above the ground, others knocked down. The trail is not as shady as it once was. Where the trail crossed back to the north side of the north fork of Oak Creek (beware of stinging nettles by this crossing!), it became hard to follow in spots because of brush and, a time or two, rocks. In fact, the only two people I saw were taking a break on the rocks off the trail because they'd lost the trail. In a couple of

Above: Acrodetes on left, Baxter at right. At left: Lower part of Baxter Pass Trail (Photos by Tina Bowman).

places people have made two trails for short distances, but it all works out just fine.

Though Summit Meadow has some fine campsites and I had planned to camp there, I just marched on and up to Baxter Pass and then down to the largest and uppermost Baxter Lake, where I found a good campsite in trees. I'd started at 6:00 a.m. to beat the heat on this low trailhead (c. 6,000') and just kept moving slowly but steadily along, climbing about 6300' to the pass and then dropping 1100+' to the lake, arriving at 1:15.

Many climbers climb both Baxter and Acroductes from Baxter Lake, going up the broad drainage to the saddle between the peaks and then doing one and the other. I didn't "need" Baxter and don't expect to need it again. The next morning I headed toward the saddle but veered off left towards Acroductes below the saddle, hiking up small talus that went pretty well. When I first saw the summit area of the peak, I was dismayed because it looked like more than the class 2 I



Above: Acroductes and upper Baxter Lake (Photo by Tina Bowman).

was expecting; however, I traversed over a couple of ribs and ended up behind the steep ramparts with class 2 to the summit.

On my hike in I'd had clear skies; the views from the summit were obscured by smoke in every direction. Still, it was a lovely day. I came down a more direct way to the tarn below the saddle and on to camp, packed up, and started out about 11:15. Again, I considered camping at Summit Meadow and took about an hour's break there—and saw seven bighorn sheep just above me going one direction and then a little later going the other. Well, I mostly saw their rumps, truth be told. I ended up hiking out, arriving at the car before 6:00, not rushing at all.

The sixteen-hour (two day) Wilderness First Aid Course will be offered October 30-31.

The fall WFAC will be an in-person class of lectures and practical exercises. The SPS has a link to a description of the fall 2021 course:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/Fall%202021%20WFAC.pdf>.

This is the draft schedule:

https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/WFAC%20Schedule%202021%20October%2030_0.pdf.

And here's the application:

https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/_Appl%20Two%20Day%20Fall%202021.pdf

On the SPS web site home page (<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks>) you'll also see a link to download the application in a MS Word version.

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.

A Bear Story from Long Ago

(as told by Gordon MacLeod)

By Barbara Lilley



(Photo Courtesy California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

While on a backpack in the Sierra (before Gordon discovered the SPS, he was a backpack fisherman), Gordon and a friend had hoped to eat dinner at the Bearpaw Meadows High Sierra Camp. But it had just been raided by a bear and was in shambles, the bear having also destroyed a nearby ranger's dwelling. So Gordon and friend cooked their own dinner at the campground.

This was the July 4th weekend, and during the night they heard a big BOOM. This was disappointing since after all this was in a national park. The next day they encountered the ranger and reported what they had heard. The ranger told them he was responsible for the noise—he had set a booby trap and blown up the bear!

When Gordon told this story on an SPS trip, some of the participants were shocked—but some just smiled.

Good News from California Department of Fish and Wildlife!

Last seen in San Luis Obispo County in April, OR-93, the two-year-old wolf that migrated from Oregon, may have been captured on camera on May 15 in southwest Kern County. Read about it here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/information-received-regarding-gray-wolf-in-kern-county>. Even more recently in September, he may have been sighted in northern Ventura County: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/gray-wolf-in-ventura-county-possibly-or-93>



(Screenshot Courtesy California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

A 1970s Introduction to Hiking and to the Sierra

By Joe Wankum

In early June 1969, while driving (the coastal route) from Los Angeles to Tacoma, Washington, on a work assignment, a radio announcement indicated that Sequoia National Park's Tunnel Tree had fallen due to heavy winter snow. Once I was in Tacoma, Olympic NP, Rainier NP, and even British Columbia were within easy driving distance, providing me an opportunity to get acquainted with these areas. In July, after spending a weekend in front of the TV watching the first moon landing, I needed exercise so drove to the closest (NW) corner of Rainier and hiked five or six miles up a trail, next to a glacier-fed stream. At that point, I was getting thirsty and the milky-white water in the stream was not very appealing. Lesson learned: once back in town, I located a store—long before I heard about REI or the Mountaineers—that sold outdoor equipment and bought a canteen. Later, near Olympic NP, I decided to hike the Enchanted Valley trail even though it was 10.5 miles each way. Another lesson learned: back in town, I bought a backpack and associated gear for overnight trips. My first backpack was along the coastline, where part of the trail was flooded during high tide. So I located a shop that sold tide tables in order to plan the hike during times of low tide.

Reassigned to LA in mid-November, I drove the Eastern California route back south and got my first close look at the Sierra from Hwy 395. Thanksgiving provided several days to visit and camp near the south



Joe Wankum on Mt. Morrison, September 1979 (Photo courtesy Joe Wankum).

(lower part of) Sequoia NP. By August 1970, it was time to visit Yosemite. A weekend was not enough, so I returned a week later. Back in LA, I heard a noise from the engine (connecting rod; engine replaced for \$487). Then back in Yosemite over Labor Day.

Between busy work weeks, the weekends were a good time to get acquainted with Southern California, and by the end of the decade—with co-workers or solo—I had started downhill and cross-country skiing, had backpacked a number of times in Southern California and the Sierra, and had been up over fifty HPS peaks. One companion hiker/skier in particular (Wayne Wong, d. 2019) always seemed to have a good idea of what to do and equipment needed. (I've always wondered if he had been through the Basic Mountaineering Training Course, but I never asked.)

In 1976, I joined the Sierra Club, then started going on Natural Science Section outings. They were interested in getting new leaders, so I went to the Fall 1978 Leadership Training Program Lectures (first day for O-rating). Presenters mentioned that there was soon to be a new I-Level for off trail hiking. And so much was said about the BMTC that I decided I needed that experience and signed up for the 1979 course.

After the BMTC Joshua Tree weekend, I decided I needed more experience with map and compass, so I signed up for an LTP practice. Bill T Russell sent directions to the location. (This was the first time a navigation checkout took place at Warren Point—and the first time for I-level checkouts.) Bill T asked us to separate into M and E groups. I asked about I-level, so the examiners got together and decided that I and M people should have the same checkout. At the end of the day, Dale van Dalsem handed me a certificate indicating I had passed the M-checkout. After that, I contacted Bob Hicks to see about attending the second day of LTP lectures to cover the M-rating—and to switch my application from O to M. Before the end of BMTC, I had agreed to return the next year to assist.

In May 1979 there was an environmental awareness weekend where I first saw Mary McMannes (and her leg cast) and in July CPR and a six-evening standard first aid class. By the end of August, I had climbed Lone Pine (April), Cirque and Langley (July), and Temple Crag and its airy traverse (August). I had attempted a day hike of

Whitney in July but turned back at the Trail Crest Pass when caught in a snowstorm with very limited visibility. For Labor Day, I had scheduled a trip to Matterhorn. Then a last-minute business trip back east the day after Labor Day changed my plans, and I cancelled the Matterhorn trip. With a three-day weekend coming up, I decided I could get to Lone Pine, climb Whitney, and get back to LA in time for the Tuesday morning flight.

The Whitney day hike worked out well, and I got back to the car just after dark. Driving down the road, I rounded a curve, saw a big block of rock in the road in front of me, and heard a big clunk as I passed over the rock.



Joe's Whitney dayhike, Labor Day, 1979, clockwise from above: Joe on summit with Langley behind; the iconic Whitney hut; Trail Crest (Photos by Joe Wankum).

Stopping, I found a hole in my oil pan. A bit of chewing gum slowed the leak. I then coasted down to Lone Pine, stopping at the roadside rest west of town. After a walk into town, a service station operator gave me a business card for a mechanic. I called the mechanic who told me to bring the car in at 10 am the next morning and he would work on it. He took the oil pan off, welded it, got a new gasket from a shop (\$20 required to get the owner to open on Sunday), and had me back on the road mid-afternoon, so I got back to LA with plenty of time to catch the airplane.



To join the SPS, I still needed two peaks on SPS-scheduled outings. So I joined Jay Titus/Ret Moore in September for a climb of Morrison (NW ridge) and Mary McMannes in November on Spanish Needle (carpooling with LeRoy Russ and hearing about the Rock Climbing Section). Afterwards, I sent in my application for SPS and HPS membership. During November, I joined Jackie van Dalsem's trip up Clark and New York, then Mary

McMannes' Thanksgiving outing up Kofa, Castle Dome, and Little Picacho, and finally Fran Smith's "frolic" up Big Rabbit on December 1 to qualify for DPS membership, a good ending for a good year of climbing.

With a rock checkout in November and snow checkout in February '80, I completed the LTP requirements, so I was all set to schedule provisional leads during 1980. Afterwards, I received the LTP completion certificate in November 1980, leading to M-level certification.

After a busy 1979, I decided to give my feet a rest and get ready to help with BMTTC in January.

SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 14, 2021
7:00 pm via Zoom

1. Call to order at 7:02. Present were Tina Bowman, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, fifth officer; Jason Seieroe, outreach; Jim Fleming, secretary; Phil Bates, outings; Sharon Moore, conservation; Laura Newman, treasurer.
2. Standard business and reports
 - a. Approval of minutes (April 2021)—approved via email.
 - b. Chair—no report (see outings report below).
 - c. Vice Chair—discussion of the next banquet. Proposed date of January 23, 2022. Jim will check with the HPS for any conflict. Tina will ask Paul to check venues. Two potential program speakers discussed—Bart O’Brien on his ten best Sierra rock climbs, also Michael Chamoun on his Hayduke Route adventure (which might work better as a DPS program).
 - d. Outings—Phil reports that the Sierra Club is moving towards a normal flow as the Covid situation improve—in July we may offer 50% of the outings we had in 2019, 75% in August, and 100% in September. We may ask for a waiver to increase our capacity. Phil and Jason Seieroe will put together an introductory outing in the meanwhile. Other outings also can now be planned.
 - e. Treasurer’s report—as of May 31st, our account balances are Pay Pal \$2,808.55, Savings \$369.89, Checking \$7,920.01. Laura is still in transition as the new treasurer with Alex and is resolving some minor issues with the bank. She is getting the e-mails via sierrapeaks.org.
 - f. Emblem Committee—Bob Pickering achieved his fourth Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem.
 - g. Outreach—Jason and Alexander are looking at the past events to see what the SPS can start doing in the next year. They will be soliciting ideas and posting on the Facebook page.
 - h. Archives—no report.
 - i. Echo
 - i. Deadline for next issue? August 25th.
 - ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website? No report.
 - j. Mountain Records—no report
 - k. IT—Alexander and Jason are not getting e-mails redirected to them that are addressed to outreach@sierrapeaks.org. Laura is getting e-mails redirected to her.
 - l. Website—When Jason is ready, Tom Bowman can send the banquet videos to him to post in the SPS’s You Tube account and then send the link to Joe Wankum for posting on the web (also links to the other Zoom presentations).
 - m. Conservation—Sharon expounded on the ptarmigan article. Also, water sources in the Sierra are scarce due to the dry year. Sheep grazing in the Sierra has been suspended (protection of the bighorn sheep).
 - n. Safety Chair—no report.
3. Old business
 - a. none presented
4. New Business
 - a. Next meeting date Monday August 16 at 7:00 pm via Google Meet or Zoom

Meeting adjourned by the chair at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim S. Fleming, Secretary

SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 16, 2021
7:00 pm via Zoom

1. Call to order at 7:06. Present were Tina Bowman, chair; Paul Garry, vice chair/banquet; Jason Seieroe, outreach; Jim Fleming, secretary; Phil Bates, outings; Joe Wankum, website.
2. Standard business and reports:
 - a. Approval of minutes (June 2021)—approved via e-mail.
 - b. Chair—various (see website and others below).
 - c. Vice Chair—discussion of the next banquet. Due to concerns about the Covid-19 delta variant, it was determined to hold a virtual banquet in January (on the 23rd). Depending on the situation with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we will propose to return to an in-person banquet in March of next year. A notice to save the date for the virtual banquet will be included in the next issue of the *Echo*. Tina will contact Bart O’Brian about being a program presenter for the virtual banquet when Paul tells her to go ahead. Discussion of other alternative programs, perhaps conservation oriented.
 - d. Outings
 - i. Phil reports that, due to the additional requirements imposed by National on outings leaders to comply with Covid restrictions, leaders are reluctant to propose scheduled trips. Many are still getting out to climb, however, on unofficial trips. Discussion of the requirement from National for medical forms for “backcountry” non-restricted outings, which impacts all SPS trips. Chapter ExComm may fight against it.
 - ii. Discussion of the creation of a Safety Management Plan template for various areas of the Sierras that leaders can use (Tina working on something).
 - iii. Discussion of how the SPS can re-grow its outings program. We need to see how National and Angeles Chapter deal with the impacts of the Covid pandemic.
 - e. Treasurer’s report—(see attached).
 - f. Emblem Committee report—Greg Gerlach has submitted his application for the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem. The committee is reviewing it, and it is tentatively approved.
 - g. Outreach—email from Jason (not included herein)— see I.i. below.
 - h. Echo
 - i. The deadline for the next issue is August 25.
 - ii. Scanning and website progress (see I.ii below). Thirty-five issues are uploaded, working to add them to the website.
 - iii. The roster, without street addresses, will continue to be sent separately from the Echo.
 - i. Mountain Records—no report.
 - j. IT—no report.
 - k. Website—
 - i. Jason is working with Tom Bowman to send the banquet videos for posting on the SPS You Tube account and to send the link to Joe Wankum for posting on the website, as well as links to other Zoom presentations.
 - ii. Scrubbing of old Echoes for the website of copyrighted material used without permission—discussion; Joe proposes to go back to about 1993 to 1995 (pre-internet era) to take out the addresses and anything that might violate copyright law. He will restore the links to the website later.
 - l. Conservation—no report.
 - m. Safety Chair—no report.
3. Old business—none to discuss.
4. New business
 - a. Elections—Tina will ask Mary McMannes to chair the nominating committee, with others. Tina will not be running this time. Paul Garry, Jim Fleming, and Jason Seieroe agreed to run again.
 - b. Awards—Chapter Awards nominations are due in November. SPS awards (Leadership, Lifetime Achievement) to be discussed further (no recommendations at this time).
 - c. Next meeting date—tentatively set for Monday, October 18, 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned by the chair at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim S. Fleming, Secretary

Please note: Outings are being led again! In the interest of the health and safety of outings participants, the Sierra Club is currently requiring a two-page medical form completed by all participants and leaders for each outing (the form can be returned so that people may use them more than once). Leaders must also submit a Safety Management Plan for each outing. These rules apply to “backcountry” outings, i.e., those outings more than an hour from outside help. A surge in the pandemic could cause the Club to close down outings again.



We've chosen the photo above 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 or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

Oct 30-31 | Sat-Sun

LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course in Fullerton: The course runs from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm both days. Proof of CPR within previous 5 yrs and proof of COVID vaccination required to enroll. Masks required. See wildernessfirstaidcourse.org for more information. Fee \$150. For sign-up, see instructions and application at https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/_Appl%20Two%20Day%20Fall%202021.pdf

May 13-15 | Fri-Sun

LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: Find course information and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org.

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>

From the Outings Chair

By Phil Bates

Hello SPSers!

I really hope that your peakbagging aspirations and goals are proceeding well, despite some fire, smoke, and heat concerns.

I've seen some terrific trip reports and accomplishments so far this season, so I hope the climbing can continue unimpacted. Naturally we're hoping for a good winter, but if the rains and snow come later, then you all will basically get an extension on summer. Note that permits are so much easier to get in the fall and some trailheads no longer have quotas starting in fall. We also have some SPS List finishes coming up, so keep watch for those events and postings.

As you may know, the National Club officially re-opened the outings programs in early July. There are some additional paperwork requirements and protocols associated with COVID, but all doable. Please let me know if you have any questions about these paperwork requirements. Additionally, *(continued p. 31)*

OUTINGS

Outings Chair, continued

please also let me know if you need support on leadership or ratings advancement as well as suggestions for fun climbs.

Again, 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.

You can visit the SPS website for an up-to-date listing at

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sps>

Wilderness Permit Info

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

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site:

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

Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

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

KERN PLATEAU

Web site: www.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

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. For wilderness permits go to www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Web site:

<http://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



George Wallerstein

1930-2021

By Jerry Keating

Eighteen persons were listed as founding members when the SPS received its approval from the Angeles Chapter in 1955, and George Wallerstein was among them. A native of New York, George earned his undergraduate degree from Brown University and while there was in Naval ROTC. During the Korean War, he served as a junior officer on a ship. In 1953, Caltech accepted him for graduate work. That brought George to California, first allowing him to earn an M.S. in physics (1954) and then his Ph.D. (1958).

In 1955, George was living in Pasadena and sharing his time with studies at Caltech and mountain climbing. He led two outings (Mt. Gilbert and Tunnabora Peak)

Above: George Wallerstein at the 60th anniversary SPS banquet, January 25, 2015 (Photo by Mary MacMannes).

during the first year the SPS ran trips (1956), but he also delved deeply on his own into the Range of Light to appreciate its attractions fully. Then on the Fourth of July weekend 1957, he and Andy Smatko led the first SPS trip to Mt. Goddard, the most inaccessible emblem peak, and twenty-five persons were on that trip. George also was active with the Ski Mountaineers Section and in that era was on the Central Committee and, for a time, served as treasurer. By the end of September 1960, he had earned his SPS emblem, completed his Ph.D., and held a faculty post with University of California Berkeley.

I remember being on an SPS trip in June 1958 that John Robinson and George were leading. In the early days, there wasn't a formal training program within the Angeles Chapter, so George was making up for it at base camp by describing the route to newcomers for the next day's climb of Matterhorn Peak. The group numbered thirty-seven, many of whom had limited experience on steep ice and snow. Ice axes were mandatory but crampons were optional. Nearly everyone reached the summit, although some lagged behind, and some of the early arrivals rushed off ahead for a descent to camp on a route other than what was used on the ascent. A number of minor injuries occurred on the glissade on the icy snow slope, and this led to more orderly protocols on future SPS outings.

While still living in California, George organized climbing expeditions to Canada and Alaska with many of the endeavors including SPSers. One of these was the first ascent of McArthur Peak in the Yukon's St. Elias Range. SPSers Barbara Lilley and Sy Osssofsky were with George on that successful 1961 ascent. And as his interests broadened, some climbs were made elsewhere in Canada, as well as in Alaska and Greenland. Among his favorite trips, as mentioned in an obit in the *New York Times*, were the McArthur ascent and a later stint as a "negatively paid Sherpa" in support of an expedition to K2 in Pakistan. That later experience included the advanced base camp at 17,000 feet.

While still in Pasadena, George was lured to a faculty position at UC Berkeley, where he achieved tenure in due course. He also was licensed to fly a small plane and often scouted peaks with it. He moved to Seattle in 1965 to complete his academic career with the University of Washington. He was founding chair of the UW's Astronomy Department and served in that capacity for fifteen years before being able to focus more on teaching

PASSAGES

and research. In 1998 he was awarded emeritus status with the department.

From Seattle, George squeezed in some challenging climbs in Europe and was able to keep his SPS contacts by attending SPS events such as the fiftieth and sixtieth anniversary banquets.

Let us be grateful for this exceptional man's involvement and especially his admiration of the Sierra Nevada and other high mountain ranges. His main focus at work was on matters light years away, but he fully

admired individuals whose rewards remain mainly atop mountains they can set their feet upon. At the University of Washington, he is remembered for his sense of humor and adventure, equally comfortable scaling mountains as he was in studying the skies above them.

George passed away May 13 at the age of 91. Survivors include his wife of twenty-three years, Julie Lutz, who also holds emeritus status from the UW Astronomy Department, and his ninety-seven-year-old sister, Dorothy Marx.

George Wallerstein *By Barbara Lilley*

Although I knew George for over sixty years, I didn't realize that George was such a prestigious individual until I read his obituary! My association with George was as a fellow mountaineer. I was privileged to join him on three Alaska/Yukon expeditions and two backpacking trips in British Columbia in the 1950's and 1960's. All were well organized and safe and resulted in successful first ascents of moderate peaks. SPS members Bud Bingham, Don Clarke, Rich Gnagy, Jon Shino, Sy Osssofsky, and Jess Logan

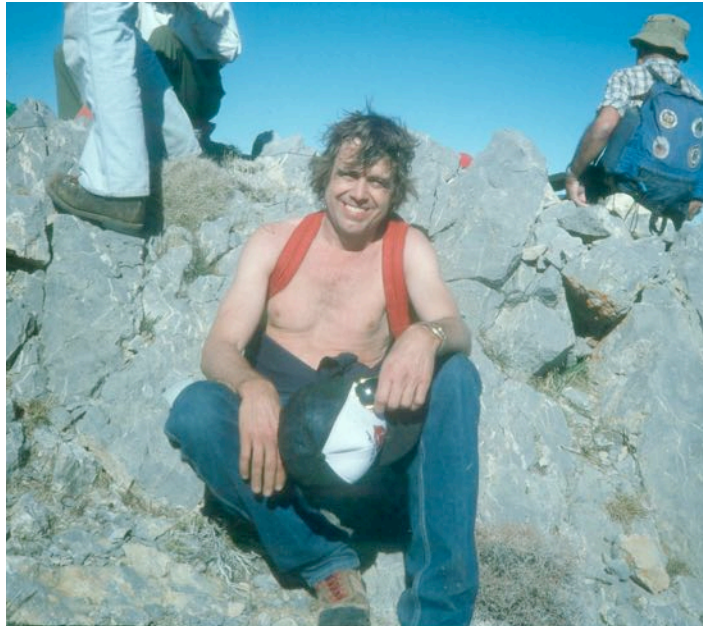
were participants on some of these trips. George was known for his sense of humor; he especially liked puns.

He was also a skier—downhill and backcountry—and was a member of the Ski Mountaineers Section. After moving to the Bay Area, he was able to join several of their trips to the Pear Lake Ski Hut in Sequoia National Park.

He always retained an interest in the outdoors. One of his last trips was to visit the polar bears at Churchill, Canada.



At Left: "On top of Dry Mountain, 11/27/54." Front, L to R: Bill Henderson, Barbara Lilley, Freda Walbrecht, Mike Loughman, George Wallerstein. Back, L to R: Louise Werner, Paul Estes, G. Brinton (Photo by Niles Werner, Louise & Niles Werner Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter, courtesy of Bob Cates).



John McCully

1940-2021

By Igor Mamedalin

John always had unlimited enthusiasm for outdoor adventures and people; he could probably even chat up an introverted mute. There was never a dull moment when we were climbing or traveling with John.

Just a list of a few of our adventures with John (not including numerous DPS and SPS outings) includes several forays into Mexico to climb the volcanoes and Picacho del Diablo, a truck camping trip to Alaska, an ascent of White Mountain from the west, a couple of Snow Creek ascents of San Jacinto, and a couple of Telescope ascents from Bad Water.

One trip with John that stands out in my mind I will detail at length. It best captures both his enthusiasm and carefree attitude.

One day John decided that he needed to climb White Mountain from the desert floor. He called me up, and I eagerly accepted the

Above: John McCully in the desert (Photo from John McCully Collection, courtesy Igor Mamedalin).

opportunity to participate in this adventure. We drove up from SoCal in his aging VW Rabbit. Northeast of Bishop we turned onto an old mining road toward the foot of the White mountains. The road was very rough, and the VW was banging around, scraping rocks all the way to the end. From the end of the road we spent all day scrambling up the slopes to the stone hut on the summit of White Mountain. Somehow the prospect of encountering a significant temperature difference between the desert floor and the 14,000' summit did not figure into our preparations. On the summit we were freezing our tushes off before we managed to find a way into the hut where some cots and old wool blankets helped us weather the night. The next day we descended the mountain to the VW Rabbit only to find that the oil level was rather low. Somehow the VW Rabbit managed to get us to Bishop empty of oil. In Bishop, John purchased a case of oil and we proceeded south back to SoCal. About every hour John would pull over to the side of the road and add another can of oil. Nonetheless, we made it back to SoCal and lived to tell the story. This is what adventures are made of, and John was the best catalyst.

Memories of John will always be with us as we cherish the time we were privileged to share with him.

John McCully was emblem holder #506, which he earned on May 1, 1990. Perhaps better known as a Desert Peaks Section member, he completed the DPS list on Chuckwalla Mountain on October 24, 1992. For *The Desert Sage* article on John, see https://desertpeaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/00_392-Sage_Final-RGB-1.pdf, pp. 19-20.



A Few McCully Stories

By Ron Bartell (with Christine Mitchell)

Christine and I did a lot of trips with John McCully, who died recently after several years of declining health. Only a few of the shared trips were in the Sierra but they were all memorable as anyone who has ever hiked with John knows.

I met John on a Guardian Angels trip in 1982. He was on a DPS trip that went in a day ahead of the Canyon Explorers trip that I was on. While our group was making camp just below the Subway (still legal then), the DPS group returned from their climb of South Guardian Angel. I heard someone describing the exciting parts of the climb in a unique, high-pitched voice—it was John, whose voice went up an octave when telling a good story and two octaves when cursing while rappelling or roped up on a steep pitch.

Soon after, he moved to Boston to maintain the PC word processing program (McWord) that he'd written on spec and sold to Data General (?).

Christine Mitchell and I met, dated, and married while John was in Boston. We found out he was back in LA when we summited Mt Baldy and heard that high-pitched voice. I introduced him to Christine, and he introduced us to his

Above, L to R: Ron Bartell, Christine Mitchell, John McCully, and Wendy Reuss on Blue Bottle (near Big Picacho), 1988 (Photo courtesy Ron Bartell).

girlfriend Wendy Reuss, whom he'd met in Boston and imported to California. John exclaimed, in the voice: "Your WIFE? Bartell! I didn't know you dated. I didn't know you even liked women!"

We hiked a lot of DPS peaks with John and Wendy, several of them by longer than normal routes, since John loved hard days. He would ease the long ascents by entertaining us with his endless supply of stories and political opinions. His lunches would often be a bacon and mayonnaise sandwich, or a Big Mac bought a day or two earlier. At breaks he would often lie on the rocky ground and instantly fall asleep.

One of the Sierra peaks we climbed with John and Wendy was Mt Winchell on a private trip in 1990 with John's dog Chessie, a very friendly Doberman, coming along. Chessie made it over the talus to the base of a gully leading up to the third-class summit climb, where John tied her leash to a boulder. She chewed through the leash in short order and caught up to us at the start of the third class, where Wendy kept her company so she wouldn't try to follow us up the third class. After John summited and took over dog duty Wendy climbed to the top.

We were fortunate (?) to be able to join John and Wendy for one of his favorite hiking challenges: climbing San Jacinto via Snow Creek which made for an almost 10,000' gain day hike. There was snow on the upper half of the climb which slowed us down and made it an extra-long day even by McCully standards.

The four of us also made a trip together to climb Mexican volcanoes. First on the list was Popocatepetl,

PASSAGES

from the nice new Tlamacas lodge. Christine and I got up at 4:00 for an alpine start on the Las Cruces “tourist” route. John had been up Popo before and wanted to try the Ventorillo route, which is steeper and more direct. There were good conditions that day, so Christine and I puffed up and summited uneventfully. We rested, admired the view, smelled the fumes, ate lunch, and finally gave up waiting for John and Wendy. Back at the lodge we waited awhile longer, wondering when we should start worrying. They finally showed up after dark and explained: when they got to the Ventorillo hut, John decided he needed one of his little hiking super-charger naps. So they napped. Without an alarm.

Right: John and dog enjoying a “hiking super charger nap” (Photo courtesy of Allisen Patel, John’s daughter).



John McCully

By Tina Bowman

I first met—or should I say “encountered”?—John McCully on a June 18-20, 1982, SPS trip out of Mineral King to climb Needham and Lippincott, an outing led by Doug Mantle and Bob Hicks. I noticed that John talked a lot, and I was reminded a bit of Gomer Pyle. At a break, John pulled out his sleeping bag to stay warm (and take a nap, I believe); to save weight, he hadn’t brought a down jacket.

At Sawtooth Pass, he left the group to climb Sawtooth while the rest of us descended to Columbine Lake. Doug, Bob, and I then headed up to climb Needham, meeting John, who joined us for the traverse until it got a bit airy-scary as we went around some rocks and dealt with steep snow. It also began to rain and then snow.

Dick Akawie and three others decided they’d had enough and bailed from the trip the next morning, while the leaders, John, and I continued to Little Five Lakes and Lippincott and then out over Glacier Pass the following day. Somewhere along the line John borrowed a pair of sunglasses from me, but I don’t remember what happened to his or why I had an extra pair. *(Continued on page 38)*



Above, left to right: Doug Mantle, John McCully, and Bob Hicks on the June 18, 1982 SPS trip to Needham (Photo by Tina Bowman, courtesy of Bob Cates).

PASSAGES



Owen Maloy

By Donna Specht

Owen Maloy was well known to many SPSers, though he climbed more with the Desert Peaks Section (emblem holder #389, on Montgomery Peak, September 22, 1980) and skied with the Ski Mountaineers Section and Orange County Sierra Singles.—The Editors

Owen Maloy was a huge part of the Orange County Sierra Singles Ski Committee.

He wrote our Safety Policy and was knowledgeable about all things bylaws. OCSS to this day follows his financial guidelines. He built our fundraising outings program.

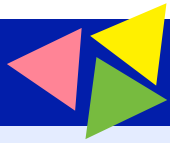
Owen also recommended me to Gary Embrey, who was setting up the Outings Management Committee. Heck—I have been there ever since.

Owen was my first backcountry ski instructor way back maybe 1988. He was also on one of our Brian Head Utah ski trips and took us beginning skiers on the downhill slopes on our skinning skis. EEEEEkkkkkk. But we were hooked. His backcountry Mammoth ski tours were always an adventure. And he always pushed us to become backcountry ski leaders and then on to management.

(Continued on page 38)

Above: Owen Maloy on the slopes of Basin Mountain, with Mt. Tom behind, May 15-16, 1993 SMS trip. Right: At Sonora Pass with a private group, July 3, 1995. L to R Lawrence Pallant, Al Christensen, Nancy Gordon, Mike Runow, Joe McCoy, Gerry Holleman, Pat Holleman, Walt Boge, Owen Maloy (Photos by Reiner Stenzel).





Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Romain Wacziarg replied correctly the day the *Echo* came out that Coby King's photo was taken from Muah and shows Cirque and Langley, as well as Trail Peak, which isn't on the SPS list.

Passages: John McCully (continued from page 36)

One of my most colorful memories of John McCully was of his ascending the notch on DPS Little Picacho and uttering an amazing and continuous stream of swear words. They seemed to help John get up that tricky bugger.

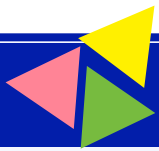
John stood out as one who attempted really big dayhikes, like Big Picacho in Baja (not quite successful on that one), Snow Creek on Mt. San Jacinto, and others. John was a really good, interesting, and sometimes "out there" guy. I'm sorry he's gone.

Passages: Owen Maloy (continued from page 37)

He would join us leaders and our bus trip participants for Happy Hour at Mammoth lodges and regale us with his stories. In later years, he would join us for some backcountry skiing. One time, we were going to ski from Mammoth Lodge down into town. His eyesight was getting really bad in later years. We were skiing parallel with the road and he saw his parked car and said his eyesight was giving him problems and he needed to go home. So with his bad eyesight, he couldn't ski, but he could drive himself home.

Owen was one of the kind.

Ruth von Rotz, a long-time friend, posted a very nice tribute to Owen on Facebook, including photos and a video of him skiing: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=4441332945877179&id=100000015532709.



Mystery Peak Challenge



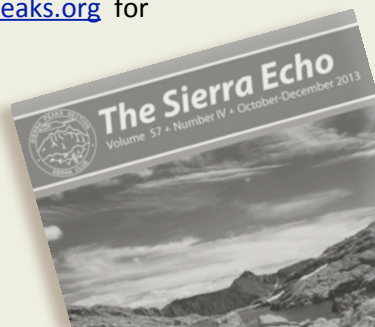
This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the image. If you have a fine mystery peak puzzle to challenge *Echo* readers, please send it to tina@bowmanchange.com. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture - imagery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

Sandy Lara submitted this photo. Can you name both peaks, one on the SPS list, the other not?

Send your answer to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.

REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE *ECHO*

Please contact this email address newsletter@sierrapeaks.org for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or email versions.



Treasurer's Statement Year to Date (1/1/2021 – 9/2/2021)		
Money In		\$2,660.12
Donations		975.00
Interest		0.12
Membership		1465.00
Merchandise Income		2200.00
Money Out		-\$625.56
Echo Expense		-385.34
Postage		-189.80
Printing		-195.54
Merchandise Expense		-228.95
PayPal Fees		-11.27
	Money In	\$2,660.12
	Money Out	-\$625.56
	Net Total:	\$2,034.56



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.**

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, 11755 Entrada Ave., Porter Ranch, CA 91326; 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). Then pay via PayPal for renewals using the email address 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.

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

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

Awards Send notification to Secretary Jim Fleming: email secretary@sierrapeaks.org. 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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED