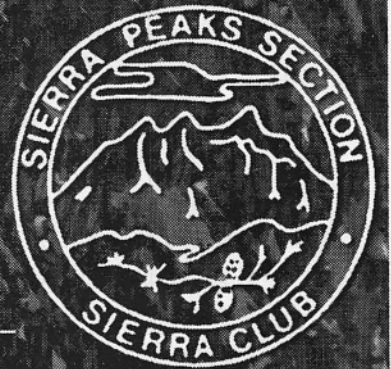
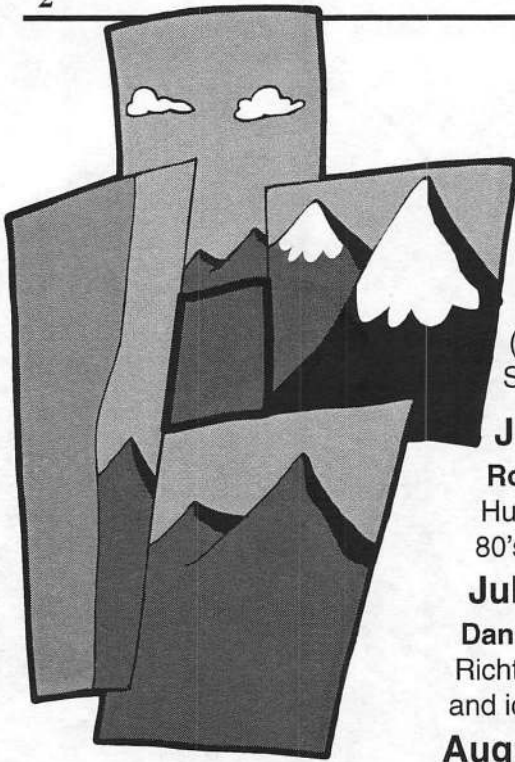


The
Sierra
ECHO

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3
MAY - JUNE 2000





SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Sierra Peaks Section meetings are held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Department of Water & Power, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles. Free parking (please inform parking attendants that you are attending a Sierra Club meeting).

June 14

Ron Hudson - Mt Blanc & the Matterhorn, SPS Member Ron Hudson will present a program about climbing in Europe in the 80's to the Matterhorn and Mt. Blanc.

July 12

Dan Richter - Leadership Training Committee, LTC Chair, Dan Richter and other LTC members will give a presentation on rock and ice climbing in summer Sierra conditions.

August 9

Kurt Wedberg - Mt. Elbrus, the Alps and the Sierra. Kurt, a member of the American Mountain Guides Association, will show slides of this year's trip to Mt. Elbrus, the Alps, plus some Sierra favorites.

September 13

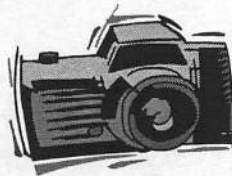
RJ Secor - La Malinche, Iztacc Huatl & El Pico de Orizaba. RJ will show slides of his recent trip to the Mexican volcanoes of La Malinche, Iztacc Huatl and El Pico de Orizaba

October 11

Jim Lowery, founder of Earth Skills., will give a presentation on the secrets, tracking and habits of bears, bighorn sheep and mountain lions.

Peak List

Mt. Powell
 Clyde Spires
 Birch Mtn.
 Lamont Peak
 Black Hawk Mtn.
 Trans Sierra - Ski Tour,
 Onion Valley/University
 Pass to Mineral King
 via Forester Pass,
 Milestone Pass, Triple
 Divide Pass, Lion Rock
 Pass, and Glacier
 Pass



Front Cover

MT. ABBOT

Photo by Tom Ross

The Border Of The Sky

The Sierra and Its Moods

See Story Page 20

"Just do it"

Read the conservation articles in this issue.

Write letters expressing your views.

Mail the letters to the Park Service, Forest Service and Congress.

Be an activist to protect the areas we climb in.

Summer Trips

2000



See past editions of *The Sierra Echo* for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed without detailed write-ups in subsequent publications. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills. For all trips remember to send a SASE, Sierra Club #, experience and conditioning resume (if you are not known to the leaders), H & W phone #s, e-mail address optional, and rideshare information.

JUNE

M: Jun 16 - 18 Fri - Sun Mt. Darwin (13,831') & Mt. Mendel (13,710') Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst: Nile Sorenson

M: Jun 17 - 18 Sat - Sun Mt Dade (13,635'), Mt. Mills (13,468') Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ildr Kim Gimenez

MR: June 17 - 18 Sat - Sun Mt Baxter (13,125') Ldr: Larry Tidball Co-Ildr. Barbee Tidball.

M/ER: Jun 17 - 18 Sat - Sun Snow Safety Skills & Safety Systems Course w/ John Fisher, Onion Valley. Ldr: Paul Graff Co-Ildr Virgil Talbot.

MR: JUN 22 - 25 Thu - Sun SPS Mt Williamson (14,375'), Mt Tyndall (14,019') Ldr: Asher Waxman. Co-Ildr: Matthew Richardson.

MR: JUN 24 - 25 Sat - Sun Mt Ritter (13,1432) Ldr: Mars Bonfire Co-Lrd: Doug Mantle.

JULY

I: July 1- 2 Sat - Sun SPS/HPS Sirretta Peak (9977'), Cannel Pt (8314'), Mt Jenkins (7921') Owens Peak (8453') Ldr: Mars Bonfire
Co-Ldrs: Virgil Popescu, Tom Hill

ER: Jul 1 - 4 Sat-Tues Palisade Crest (13,553'), Temple Crag (12,976') Ldr. Nile Sorenson, Asst: Bill Oliver

MR: Jul 7-8 Fri - Sat Mt. Leconte (13,960')
Ldr: Bob Bruley Asst. Larry Hoak.

MR: Jul 8-9 Sat - Sun Provisional Lead WTC/SPS Mt. Leconte (13,960') Ldr: Sheryl O'Rourke Asst. Mike Adams.

ER: JUL 15-16 Sat - Sun WTC/SPS, Mt Starr King (9092'), Cathedral Peak (10,911') Ldr: Bill Oliver Asst. Paul Graff.

ER: JUL 15-16 Sat - Sun SPS/LTC, Bear Creek Spire (9092'), Rock Check Off Aspiring "E" and "M" leader candidates . Ldr: Doug Mantle Asst. Greg Roach.

MR: Jul 21-24 Fri - Mon - Sun WTC/SPS Mt. Brewer, South Guard, North Guard. Ldr: Virgil Shields Asst. Paul Graff.

MR: JUL 22 Sat Independence (11,744') Ldr: Bob Bruley, Asst. John Cheslick.

I: JUL 22-23 Sat-Sun SPS Silver Peak (11,878')
Sat backpack 5 mi, 1400' gain to Devil's Bathtub Lake, drop packs and climb Silver Peak. 13 miles, 5000' gain total for the day. Sun have a leisurely day hike out to the cars. Good conditioning required. Send 2 SASE to Ldrs: Mirna & Greg Roach.

I: JUL 22-23 Sat-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Langley (14,042') Ldr.: Will McWhinney Co-Ildr Bill Oliver.

MR: JUL 28-30 Fri- Sun WTC/SPS, Mt Lyell (13,114') Maclure (12,960') Ldr: Ken Wagner Asst. Nile Sorenson. Provisional Lead.

ER: JUL 28-30 Fri - Mon, Mt Clarence King (12,861'), Mt Gardiner (12,907') Ldrs. Doug Mantle, Tina Bowman.

I: JUL 29-30 Sat - Sun SPS/GLS Mt Baldwin (12,614') Ldr. Will McKinney Co-Ildr. Asher Waxman.

MR: JUL 29 - 30 Sat - Sun Mt. Ritter (13,1431) & Banner Peak (12,936') Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst: Paul Graff. Provisional Lead.

AUGUST

MR: Aug 5-7 Sat - Mon Middle Palisade (14,140')
Ldr. Keith Martin Asst: Paul Graff

I: Aug 5-7 Sat - Mon Mt Stanford - North (12,838')
Ldr. Patty Kline Asst: Mars Bonfire, Joe Wankum

MR: Aug 12-13 Sat - Sun, Mt LeConte (13,930'), Mt McAdie (13,799') Ldr. Matthew Richardson Co-ldr. Bill Oliver

M: Aug 12-19 Sat-Sat, Goddard Canyon Week long trip Emerald (12,548), Mt Henry (12,196), Mt McGee (12,944), Mt Fiske (13,508), Mt Huxley (13,086), possible Mt Goddard (13,568) and Mt Reinstein (12,586) Join us for a classic Sierra vacation climbing some of the list's more remote peaks. Time planned for wildflowers and fishing. Send 2 - SASE with qualifications and info. to Ldrs: Barbee & Larry Tidball

I: Aug 19-21 Sat - Mon, Red Slate Mtn. (13,123')
Ldr. Patty Kline Asst: Mars Bonfire, Joe Wankum

M: Aug 21-22 Sat-Sun, Mt Winchell (13,775') Kick off at Glacier Lodge, Sat hike into camp at Sam Mack Mdw 6 mi 3500', possible afternoon adventure. Sun climb peak via class 3 East Arete, 1.5 mi 2400' gain. Return to camp, cars. Send SASE, H&W phones, detailed climbing resume w/ 3rd class rock, recent condition. to Ldr.: Tom McDonnell, Asst. Nile Sorenson.

MR: Aug 25-28 Fri - Mon, Mt Carl Heller (13,211'), The Cleaver (13,355'), Pk 4245 (13,920'), Mt Russell (14,086') Not for WTC students. Ldr: Ken Wagner, Asst. Tom Sexton. Provisional Lead

MR: Aug 26-27 Sat - Sun, Dragon Pk (12,999'), Mt Gould (13,005') Ldr. Asher Waxman Asst Matthew Richardson

MR: Aug 26-27 Sat - Sun, Mt Winchell (13,775')
Ldr. Tom McDonnell Asst Nile Sorenson. Provisional Lead.

MR: Aug 26-27 Sat - Sun, Mt Winchell (13,775') WTC/SPS Ldr. Larry Gibson Asst. Mike Bolde. Provisional Lead.

MR: Sept 1-4 Fri-Mon, Tower Peak (11,755), Erhnbeck Peak (11,240) Rock climbing and conservation. Travel thru the proposed western Hoover Wilderness from Leavitt Mdws along the West Walker River rather than the usual SPS Yosemite approach to the SPS Mtnr's peak - Tower. Also climb unlisted Erhnbeck. Both peaks class 3 climbs. Bring your fishing pole. Send info. and qualifications to Ldrs: Larry & Barbee Tidball.

I: Sept 2-4 Sat - Mon, Joe Devel Pk (13,327'), Mt Pickering (13,474') Ldr: Carlton McKinney, Co-ldr Beth Epstein.

I: Sept 9-10 Sat- Sun, Mt. Stanford (12,838') WTC/SPS Ldr. Christy Grimsley Asst. Sheryl O'Rourke. Provisional Lead.

I: Sept 9-10 Sat- Sun, Mt Langley (14,042'), Mt Cirque (12,900') Ldr. Mars Bonfire, Co-ldr Virgil Popescu

I/M Sept 9 - 17 Sat- Sun Northern Sierra Peak Camp Asst. Suzanne Mamedalin, Ron Jones.

I: Sept 16 - 17 Sat - Sun, Cardinal (13,396'), Goodale (12,772') & Striped (13,170') WTC/SPS Ldr: Dave Endres, Co-ldr. Vaughn Sherman.

E/MR: Sept 16 - 17 Sat - Sun Church Dome Rock Workshop/Potluck LTC/SPS. Ldr: Virgil Shields, Asst. Darrell Lee.

MR: Sept 17-19 Sun-Tue, Mt. Russell (14,088') & Mt. Carillon (13,517') Restricted to SC mbrs w/ exposed 3rd class rock exper. Sun bkpk from Whitney Prtal to Upper Boy Scout Lk, 2.5 mi, 3000' gain. Mon climb Mt. Russell & Mt. Carillon, 5 mi rt, 3200' gain. Return to camp. Tue. pack out. Send 2 SASE or 1 plus e-mail, qualifications w/ recent exper. & cond., H&W phones, SC#, \$15 permit fee and ride share info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst. Mike Adams

M: Sept 22-24 Fri-Sun, Mt Julius Caesar (13,200'+), Mt Hilgard (13,361'), Mt Gabb (13,741') 3 class 2 peaks. Fri hike Pine Creek Trail and Lake Italy Trail (not Maintained) over Italy Pass and climb Julius Ceasar on way to camp at Lk Italy (11.5 mi, 5800' gain). Sat Hilgard and Gabb w/ a class 2-3 traverse, 7 mi, 3500' gain. **Sun out, 10.5 mi, 1200' gain. Send SASE to Ldr. Tina Bowman, Co-ldr. Barbara Sholle.**

I: Sept 23 -24 Sat - Sun, Four Gables (12,720') WTC/SPS. Ldr: Eddie Rivera, Asst. Sheryl O'Rourke

MR: Sept 23-24 Sat-Sun, Mt. Harrington (11,009') Moderately paced bkpk of 17 mi and 6400' rt to climb the steep class 3 North Ridge of this peak in Kings Canyon National Park. Must have passed M Rock Checkout or have equivalent skills. Send SASE w/ SC#, etc. to Ldr. Mars Bonfire, co-ldr. Virgil Shields.

I: Sept 23 -24 Sat - Sun, Mt Gilbert (13,106') PV-SB/WTC/SPS. Ldr: Dave Heenan, Asst Bob Beach. Provisional Lead

I: Sept 23 -24 Sat - Sun, Yosemite Volunteer Project Work under direction of Park rangers. Ldr: Keith Martin, Asst. Virgil Talbot

SEPTEMBER continued

MR: Sept 30 - Oct 1 Sat - Sun, Four Gables (12,720'), Basin Mtn (13,181'), WTC/SPS Ldr: Beth Epstein, Co-ldr. Ron Campbell

OCTOBER

E/MR: Oct 14-15 Sat - Sun, Owens Ridge Rock Workshop LTC/SPS. Ldr: Virgil Shields, Asst. Dan Richter.

I: Oct 14-15 Sat - Sun, Yosemite Backpack & Koip Peak (12,979') WTC/SPS. Ldr: Georgette Rieck, Co-Ldrs. Greg & Mirna Roach

MOUNTAIN RECORDS

Current register & container needs list.

If you are planning a trip to a peak on this list and could help out by carrying a book and/or container, please let me know. Also, please continue to send in your register reports, even for those peaks not in need of a book or container. Thanks again for the help in keeping our records up to date and in filling needs. If you are planning to climb an unlisted peak and wish to carry a small container/book, please let me know (562) 438-3809. For mailing me reports, please note my new address: 238 Argonne Ave., Long Beach CA 90803-1743.

Steve Eckert is also publishing this list on his website at <http://www.climber.org/eckert/SierraPeaks.cgi?BOX>. I will be sending him updates, so his sites are a very good source of current information.

Tina Bowman, Mountain Records

Peak

Agassiz
Banner
Barnard
Carillon
Conness
Corcoran
Hilgard
Jordon
Lone Pine
Maclure
Matterhorn
Muir
North
Pilot Knob (north)
Piute
Round Top
Russell
West Vidette
Williamson
Crag
Thompson

Need as Noted

Book
Wire to repair hinge
Book
Pencil
Book
Canister
Container, Book
Container
Ammo Box, Book
Book
Book
Book
Book
Rubber gasket to repair
Book
New Ammo Box? Book?
Book
Book
SC box needs repairs (super glue/cement)
Book
Book

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

May 26, 2000

On the last weekend of May, I had the pleasure of assisting Nile Sorenson, Pat McKusky, Bill Oliver and Ron Campbell with the Snow Camp portion of the Mountain Leadership Course. Eighteen participants showed up at the Onion Valley Campground on Saturday for the two day course. Of all the participants and instructors, I was the only one who did not have a WTC background.

Saturday was spent reviewing the self arrest positions and roped travel. The complexities of self arresting have significantly increased since I first learned how to self arrest back in 1991. The course is teaching the "European and rest of the world" self arrest technique introduced to us by John Fischer in the clinics held over the past three years. Some participants even mastered the front facing somersault. Emphasis is now being placed on the difference in self arresting in soft snow versus hard snow/ice. I understand that in future LTC snow check offs for M and E leaders, the applicants will need to show proficiency in both types of self arrest.

Saturday night I was introduced to the MLC version of a "Happy Hour". I realized afterwards that I did not need to bring anything for dinner. Students brought everything from chocolate dipped strawberries, to freshly cooked quesadillas with a healthy mix of American, Italian and Armenian treats. We were still eating some of Pat's Chocolate Chip Cookies for breakfast the next morning.

Sunday the course broke up into two groups. A large group of early risers broke up into four man climbing teams which then proceeded to climb the snowy slopes of Independence Peak. A smaller group of "sleep ins" returned to the practice area to review setting up snow anchors and Z pulleys. The course was finished by about 2pm on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday, while practicing on the east slope of University Peak, we were treated to a group of backcountry skiers displaying both Telemark and Alpine style skiing as they came down the chute next to where we were practicing. Hopefully a few of the MLC students will be inspired to branch into this other form of enjoying the mountains. I had to suppress my envy, consoling myself with the fact that I would be skiing San Joaquin Peak the next weekend on an SMS trip where I was assisting Mark Goebel and in three weeks when I would be assisting Paul Harris on day skis of the Blue Couloir and Mount Dana. By the time I had finished the trip to Mt. Dana, the Tioga Pass Road was opened for the summer season, winter quickly losing her grip on the lofty slopes, but not so quickly that I was not able to get in some good turns and tree skiing on creamy corn snow.

On another note, I have been impressed by the enthusiasm showed by former SPS Chair and current SPS Eastern Sierra Representative Rick Jali. Rick has sent out a letter to all SPS'rs in his area introducing himself to them and encouraging them to participate in a discussion of issues in ... "Our Favorite Playground" ... the "Range of Light". I look forward to future developments from our membership in the Eastern Sierra and more discussion of those issues for which Rick and the others have a closer ear than those of us back here in Los Angeles.

Keith Martin
SPS Chair 2000

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2000

Location: Department of Water and Power
downtown Los Angeles
Minutes Taken by Scott Sullivan

Management Committee

Attendance: Keith Martin, Paul Graff, Scott Sullivan, Matthew Richardson, Patty Kline
The meeting started at 7pm

Read and approved the March minutes.

Approved Rich Gnagy as Central CA representative for SPS.

Discussed membership renewal status. Keith and Paul will mail postcard reminders to the 79 people who still haven't renewed.

Voted to rename the SPS peak "Mount Powell" to "Point Powell". This was done since the location of the real Mt. Powell according to the

USGS is different that the SPS location for Mt. Powell.

Treasurer reports a checking balance of \$4316 and a savings balance of \$919 for a total of \$5235.

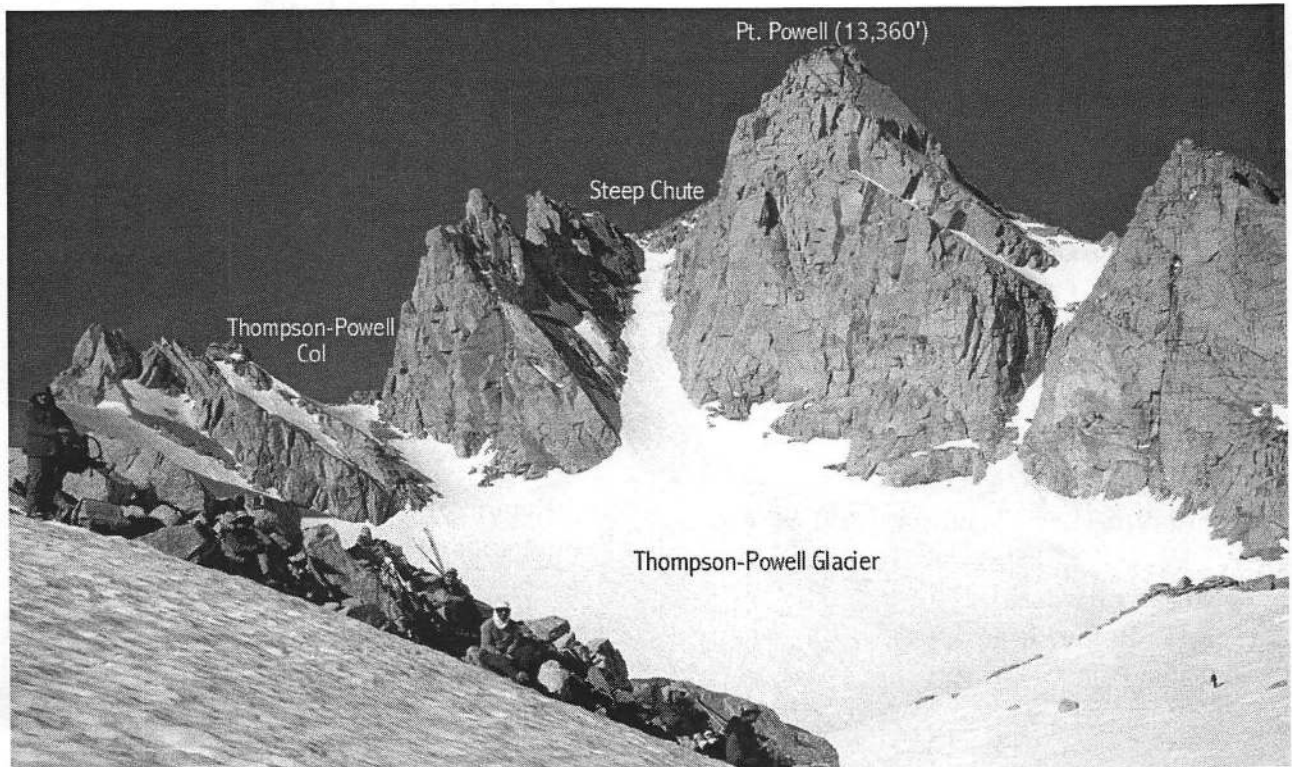
The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

General Meeting

Keith Martin chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm. New attendees were introduced. Keith gave the outings report. Paul Graff gave an update on membership status and encouraged anyone who had not renewed to do so.

Treasurer reports a checking balance of \$4316 and a savings balance of \$919 for a total of \$5235.

Greg Roach presented a slide show on the Great Western Divide.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MAY 2000

CONGRATULATIONS! ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emblem - Bob Suzuki

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Georgette Riek
428 Hill Street, Suite 2
Santa Monica, CA 90405-4240
h(310)396-63-97 w(310) 207-7737
TwoRieks@aol.com

John Robinson
724 ? N. Baker Street
Stockton, CA 95203
h(209) 464-5152

HAPPY READING NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Michael Weislik
P.O. Box 10010
Marina Del Rey, CA 90295-6010
w (310) 450-0814
ziji@att.net

Sheldon Slack
P.O. Box 6382
Anaheim, CA 92816
h(714) 666-0592 w(714) 804-0028

Patty Rambert
25861 Pecos Raod
Laguna Hills, CA 92653-6104
h(949) 831-0547 cell(949) 300-5487

Susan Ellsworth
2315 Bonnie Brae
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Peter Lara
5431 Los Toros Ave
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
w(213) 217-6303
plara@mwd.dst.ca.us

Steven Richard
4714 Obispo Ave
Lakewood, CA 90712-3320
h(562) 429-6002 w(562) 496-7635

Wayne Martin
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Chelan, WA 98816
(509) 682-3568
waynesue85@yahoo.com

Wayne Kent-Johnston
8932 Greenbriar Place
Buena Park, CA 90621
h(714) 521-6070 w(714) 522-0570

MOVERS & CHANGERS ADDRESS CHANGES

Joanne Andrew
7014 Hanbury St
Long Beach, CA 90808
h(562) 496-2990 w(909) 341-8353
joy2hike@aol.com

David & Elaine Baldwin
3760 Ruthbar Drive
Hawthorne, CA 90250
h(310) 675-4120

Steve Tuszynski
750 S. Bundy Drive, Apt 304
Los Angeles, CA 90049-4957

Return Moore
retmoore@yahoo.com

Note that minor address changes such as email address and phone numbers will appear only in the updated roster.

MOUNT POWELL COMMENTS

MAKE SURE YOUR COMMENTS ARE HEARD AND DOCUMENTED. SEND YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MT. POWELL LOCATION DEBATE TO THE SIERRA ECHO BEFORE OUR OCTOBER ELECTION WHEN THIS WILL BE A BALLOT ISSUE.

MT Powell Comments - April 25, 2000

from Richard Carey

Dear SPS Members:

In the March-April 2000 Echo there is a letter by Frank J. Meyers regarding Mt. Powell in which he states that the SPS list is made up of named summits. Just to set the record straight the SPS list like the DPS and HPS lists includes a number of unnamed summits.

The following peaks are not named on the current 7.5 minute topo maps and the names are unofficially designated by the SPS:

1. Spanish Needle
2. Rockhouse Peak
3. Taylor Dome
4. North Maggie Mountain
5. Cartago Peak

There is another situation similar to Mt. Powell where the SPS choses to climb the nearby unnamed summit. This is Mt. Emerson where the named summit is clearly shown as 13,118 ft., but the peak on the list is the slightly higher peak at 13,204 ft. over 500 meters to the southeast. This is quite some distance away suggesting to me that it is not still Mt. Emerson.

Regarding Mt. Powell, I would suggest that if the present peak at 13,360+ ft. is retained then it should not be called Mt. Powell since it is not the recognized named summit.

Mt Powell & Point Powell

Recommendations

from R.J. Secor - May 31, 2000

I recommend that Mt. Powell (UTM 550113) be added to the Sierra Peaks Section's List of Qualifying Peaks. The primary reason for this proposed addition is that the current placement of the name "Mt. Powell" on an unlisted peak on the Mt. Darwin 7.5-minute map will lead to confusion to non-members of the SPS. The SPS is no longer a provin-

cial climbing club, but instead it is now one of the more prominent and respected organizations that is climbing and exploring the Sierra Nevada. Many non-SPSers climb peaks that are on The List and by adding Mt. Powell to The List we will eliminate the ambiguity that currently exists.

But "clarification" is not a criterion for adding a peak to The List. Mt. Powell's altitude is 13,364 feet, slightly higher than the currently listed Point Powell (UTM 557115). It is prominent from Sabrina Basin on the north and from upper LeConte Canyon on the south. It is a challenging climb from an alpinistic perspective. At present, it only has one reported route: the north face is a moderate (35°) snow/ice face, followed by a short stretch of class 3 along the west ridge to the summit. It is atop the Sierra crest and offers views of the Evolution Region and the peaks of the Black Divide. And it can be combined with climbs of listed Mt. Haeckel and Mt. Wallace on a weekend trip. It is worthy of The List and I urge the membership to add it to the SPS List of Qualifying Peaks.

Scott Sullivan - Clarification and Questions for Consideration

June 2, 2000

I think there is some confusion. I did NOT think anyone was proposing to MOVE what the SPS calls Mt. Powell. A few meetings ago, we (management committee) approved changing the name of the current SPS Mt. Powell to Point Powell.

I thought the current proposal was to add the Mt. Powell as recognized by the USGS to the list. This will require a vote of the membership during the fall election. If the proposal passes, the SPS will have BOTH "Point Powell" and Mt. Powell on the list.

We need to reach a consensus on the exact proposal so that it may be publicized in the Echo before the election.

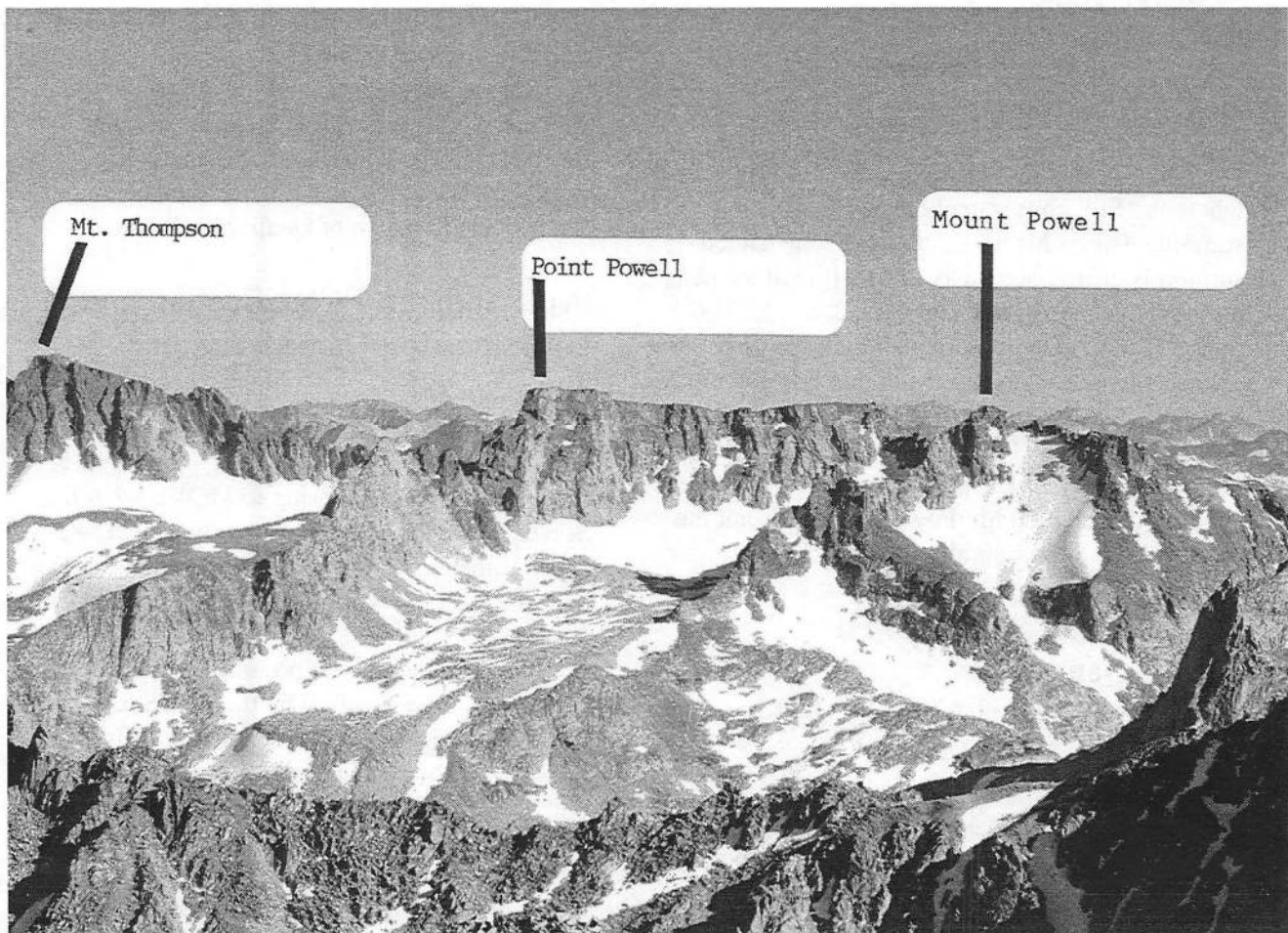
Mount Powell, Clyde Spires, Picture Peak Exploratory

May 27-29, 2000 Leaders: R.J. Secor/Joe Stephens

The Board of Geographic Names of the USGS named a peak in the High Sierra after John Wesley Powell in 1911. Unfortunately, the name was misplaced on the 1912 30-minute Mt. Goddard map and this error continued onto the 15-minute Mt. Goddard and the 7.5-minute Mt. Darwin maps. This error was discovered and corrected a few years ago with the latest edition of the Mt. Darwin 7.5-minute map putting the name "Mt. Powell" on the mountain originally intended by the BGN: Peak 13,364 a half mile to the west of the currently listed "Point Powell," recently re-named by the Keeper of the List to minimize confusion. Point Powell should remain on The List. It meets all of the criteria for List status: it is high, prominent, and it is a good climb from all directions. But what about the "new" Mount Powell? Should it be added to The List?

And that was the main purpose of this exploratory, as well as to explore two other nearby non-Listed peaks.

We hiked through gusty winds to an exposed campsite on the north shore of Echo Lake. Joe Stephens, Steve Eckert and I weren't going to sit around camp in the gusts and soon set out for Mount Powell. We crossed Echo Lake reciting the Lake Ice rhyme: "One inch: Stay Off. Two inches: One May. Three inches: Small Groups. Four inches: Okay!" The ice held and we climbed a steep (40°) chute off of the lake and into the cirque on the north side of Mount Powell. Steve turned around at this point (hiking 8 miles through the snow and then climbing a 13,000-foot peak is a bit much) while Joe and I post-holed our way up the 35° north face of Mount Powell. We turned left at the col on top of the face



Thompson & Powell from the North

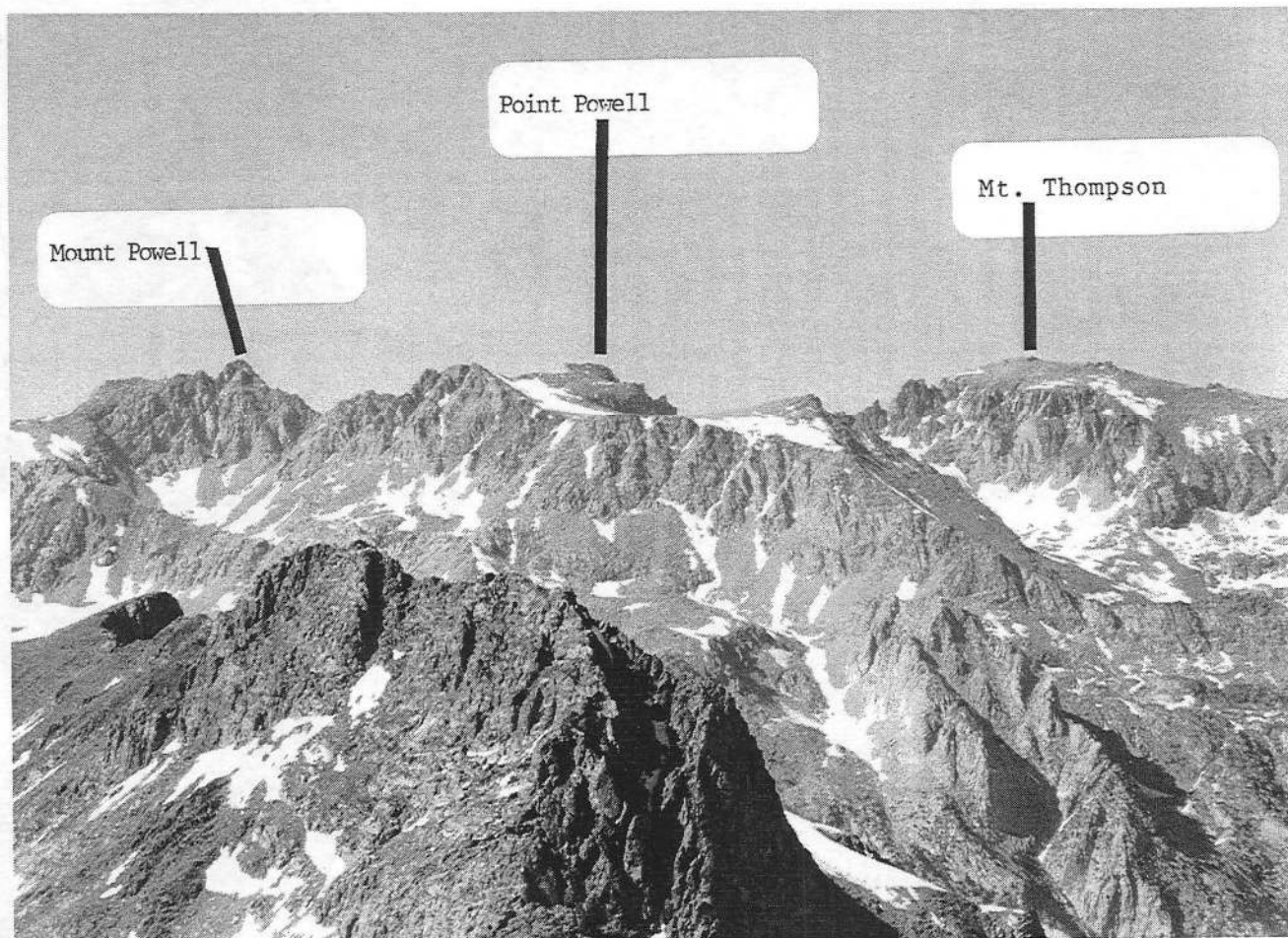
photo by R.J. Secor

and traversed east across easy class 3 to the summit. We were impressed. The climb was slightly more difficult than the northeast chute of Point Powell. There was an impressive close-up view of the west side of Point Powell, we could look down into LeConte Canyon and across Sabrina Basin. Joe and I agreed that Mount Powell was worthy of being on The List. We found an empty Band-Aid can on the summit and we replaced this with a pair of nesting tin cans and a brand-new SPS register. And we then glissaded back down to Echo Lake to spend a windy night at our campsite.

Asher Waxman and Tracy Sulkin climbed Mount Powell the next day. They were equally impressed, so much so that Asher said that he was thinking of leading another exploratory climb later this season. Steve Eckert and Bruno Geiger climbed Mount Powell the same day after our exploratory of Clyde Spires. They also thought that it was worthy of being added to The List.

But the most interesting climb turned out to be

Clyde Spires. We recited our way across Echo Lake, crossed Echo Col, and traversed to the south ridge of the eastern Clyde Spire. The south ridge turned out to be mostly class 2 (as predicted), but we noticed a seemingly higher pinnacle about a hundred yards to the west of the slabby pyramid on top of the south ridge. We followed the class 2-3 ridge to this pinnacle (UTM 534115) and climbed it in a corkscrew fashion from right to left around its south and west sides to the base of an easy class 5 chimney on the north side. Ali Aminian was able to touch the top of this pinnacle from the top of this chimney and discovered a Sierra Register Committee PVC canister on top, proclaiming it the high point of Clyde Spires. We rappelled the south side of the pinnacle and traversed back to the slabby pinnacle. Most of us tried to climb it via slabs and cracks on its southeast side but Joe Stephens found a better route on its north side along flakes and ledges on the north side. We found an SPS canister and register book on the summit placed by Larry Tidball and Bill



Thompson & Powell from the South

photo by R.J. Secor

Mount Powell Exploratory
Continued from page 11

Oliver proclaiming it the eastern point of Clyde Spires (UTM 535115). Everyone found Clyde Spires to be an intriguing climb and I wouldn't be surprised if this peak will be proposed for addition to The List.

There was more wind on Sunday night. A quart and a half of water anchored my "watamaka" (water maker) pot but sometime during the night the lid blew away along with my spoon. Tracy also lost a pot lid. Secor's First Law of mountain weather: wind can take as much out of you as altitude. Despite this miserable night and morning we climbed Picture Peak via the central chute on its southwest side. This was a good climb up frozen snow with a short stretch of class 3 near its top. There was a splendid view of the east face of Mt. Darwin from the summit. While Picture Peak is

certainly beautiful when viewed from Hungry Packer Lake, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Haeckel, Clyde Spires, and Mount Powell overwhelm it. We down climbed the chute and managed to keep most of our belongings together as we packed up in the gale that raged through our camp. And we then hiked out.

This was a good trip doing what the SPS does best: exploring the Range of Light.

R.J. Secor



Mount Powell - North Face

photo by R.J. Secor

BIRCH MTN

SPS/SMS Ski Mountaineering Trip

March 25-26, 2000

By Reiner Stenzel

Birch Mtn (13,665') is a classic ski mountaineering peak in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. It is also a listed SPS peak. Thus, it was natural to have a joint SMS-SPS trip to this peak in the Spring. Five participants came together: R.J. Secor, Susan Livingston, - Richard Contreras, Alan Franz, and myself. Three of us were both SPS and SMS members, and all had back-country skiing and climbing experience. We made the summit, enjoyed the skiing, and had a good time without incidents. Here are the details:

On Sat, 7 am, we met at Baker Creek Cpgrd in Big Pine. In spite of a forecast of an impending weather front, it was sunny and clear, the Sierra Crest was beautifully white, and Birch Mtn was visible in the distance some 9,500' above us. The first challenge was to get to its base. We drove about 7 mi on a dirt road over washboards to McMurry Mdws, then switched into two 4WD cars to drive through Birch Creek, through deep muck, over vicious rocks and moguls to the Tinemaha Creek "trailhead" (6,800', no signs, end of road). At 9 am we started our hike, loaded with usually too heavy packs and skis poking into the sky. We took the faint use trail along the creek. Big mistake, it led into brush country and then disappeared. For a while we traversed on 30 degree slopes parallel to the creek, then lost patience and muscled up to a ridge high above the creek where we followed big-horn sheep trails through sagebrush country. At about 8,000' there is a sizable forest along Tinemaha Crk. and continuous snow started at its upper end. A trail was spotted near the creek and the group left the ridge. The subsequent struggle through the forest and willows in intermittent soft snow is not remembered fondly. After this ordeal we had lunch, skinned up and ascended the wide, open creek drainage to about 10,100' where we found a fine campsite on a small plateau. By 5 pm three Bibler tents were pitched. We relaxed and enjoyed our cocktails, appetizers, and dinners, overlooking Owens Valley some 6,000' below us to the East and admiring snow covered peaks some 4,000' above us to the West. Since a big day was ahead we were in bed by 7:30 pm.

Sunday's wake-up call was at 5 am (not universally appreciated) and we were on our way about an hour later. The snow was frozen solid and four

decided to climb on foot with ice axe and crampons. I used ski crampons and had no problems skiing all the way to the summit. High clouds covered the sun and dimmed our hopes for soft snow. R.J. and Susan were concerned how to ski down the steep frozen slopes and opted for an SPS-style peak ascent without skis. We followed the Tinemaha Creek drainage West to about 11,500', then turned North and ascended the Southeast slopes of Birch Mtn all the way to the summit (13,665'). It was a LONG climb and the group arrived between 11am and noon. Since it was Richard's first climb this year he decided to forgo the summit, enjoy the skiing and save some energy for the way down. We had two radios to stay in contact when out of sight. The spectacular summit view from Birch Mtn was worth all the effort. We had a 180 degree panorama of white Sierra peaks around us. The 14,000' peaks of the Palisades Range and Split Mtn were closeby. Surprisingly, the earlier clouds had vanished and we were blessed with sunshine, no winds, and the prospect of soft snow. After signing the peak register, taking many pictures, enjoying a high altitude lunch, and calling home with Susan's cell-phone, it was time for the descent. Alan and I telemarked down from the summit and later met up with Richard. Guidebooks (J. Moynier, P. Richins) describe the ski runs appropriately as advanced (black diamond, 30-35 deg). It starts on windslabs near the summit, followed by transitional snow and finally soft spring snow where carving tele-tums becomes a pure pleasure. Except for crossing some rockbands we had continuous snow for the 3,500' ski descent to basecamp. While we skied our hearts out others regretted to walk down or glissaded and got a wet cold rear end. By 2 pm we were all back at basecamp, snacked while packing, and left by 3 pm. Skiing down with a full pack in super soft spring snow is another acquired skill. In telemarking, the weighting of the rear ski makes all the difference between a faceplant or a nice turn. Somehow, everyone got down to the snowline, although walking (postholing) was not an easy option. Having paid our dues near the creek, we remained high on the ridge and walked through thousands of sage brushes down to the cars arrivino, by 5 pm. One could feel the 12 hr, +3,500', -7,000' day of ski mountaineering. On the drive out one car got nearly stuck in the

McMurry mud. We rejoined for a nice dinner at P.J.s in Lone Pine which was a bargain compared to what our cars swallowed at \$2/gallon. A late drive home concluded our adventurous weekend in the mountains. Thanks to everyone for the camaraderie and for R.J.'s assistance which made this restricted trip possible.

Photo below: Summit of Birch
Reiner Stenzel and Susan Livingston



Lamont Peak - April 8, 2000

By Jerry Keating

Running an early April trip in the Southern Sierra can be a somewhat chancy endeavor because of the likelihood of high winds in the passes and across the Mojave Desert, but April 8, 2000, proved to be an ideal day. Only light breezes developed, and skies remained cloudless as 19 persons gathered in shirt sleeves at the start of an intro climb of Lamont Peak (7429').

From the saddle immediately west of the peak, an often-steep but easy-to-follow use trail led the party eastward to the rocky summit well before noon. A few patches of snow were observed on the north side of the ridge, but none remained on the

climbing route. There still was snow, however, on the Kern Plateau and Olancha Peak.

Among those on the summit was John R. Robinson of Stockton, whose ascent completed his SPS membership requirements; and Li Ching Chuan of Fullerton, who was on her first SPS trip. Others included former SPS Chair Rick Jali; SPS list finishers Roy Magnuson and Mary Motheral; plus Shirley and Leon Galle, Eugenia Hathaway, Bruno Geiger, Frances Kwan, Carlton McKinney, Susan and Bill Livingston, Dick Miller, Rayne Motheral, Gary Schenk, Yvonne Tsai, and leaders Jerry and Nancy Keating.

BLACK HAWK MOUNTAIN

JULY 17-18, 1999

by Patty Kline

I led this trip with Mars Bonfire as my co-leader. All 8 of the participants got this peak on a picture perfect weather weekend. We had a relaxed pace, making it a 2 day backpack in the Stanislaus National Forest and Emigrant Wilderness.

The group got under way about 8:30 am at the Kennedy Meadows parking lot. This is the Kennedy Meadow west of Sonora Pass off of Highway 108, not the Kennedy Meadows off of 395 south of Little Lake. It is about a 10 hour drive from Los Angeles via 395. Here are the driving directions from the east. Take Highway 395 north of Bridgeport 17 miles and turn left on 108 where it joins 395. Go west over Sonora Pass, a narrow, winding road which is one lane in spots to the Kennedy Meadow Road. The Kennedy Meadow Road is located between mile marker 57 and 58 on Highway 108. The parking lot is .6 of a mile from Highway 108 on the Kennedy Meadow Road. There is one night camping at the trail head parking lot. There is also a large campground at the intersection of 108 and the Kennedy Meadow Road, which allows several nights of camping. The Kennedy Meadow Resort is there with a store, restaurant and telephone. The somewhat shorter drive from the west is as follows. Take 99 to Merced, 59 and J59 through Sonora, and 108 east through Mi-Wuk Village to the Kennedy Meadow Road between mile marker 57 and 58.

Permits are available up to one week in advance at Mi-Wuk Village Ranger Station or at Pinecrest (Summit Ranger Station). There is a 15 person limit.

We walked the .6 of a mile down the paved road to the Kennedy Meadow resort, through the resort and on to a dirt road which soon became the Kennedy Meadow Pack Trail at 6400'. This trail follows the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River. The trail then went above the Relief Reservoir for a while before getting into a thick forest. Some of us took a split break in the forest since there was no relief at the Relief Reservoir. This entire trail was thick in several inches of finely churned dust, horse and pack mule droppings. It wasn't exactly a delicate smell or an ideal wilderness experience. About 6 miles out we passed Saucer Meadow. We

were now on the 7.5 minute Emigrant Lake Quad and off of the 7.5 Sonora Pass Quad of the USGS Maps. At about 8 miles out we turned off the trail at UTM 355627 and dropped 100 feet to a stream. We found a very wide spot to cross on logs a few feet above the river and I walked through the water calf deep to cool off. We camped under the trees on the SW side of the stream along with the many mosquitos. There was an old fire ring where we centered our happy hour. Our camp was at 8400'. With the ups and downs of the trail, stats for the day were 8 miles and 2500' of gain.

Sunday morning we left about 7:30 for the peak going cross-country circling N of peak 9127 (located at UTM 342624) and reached the most easterly of the Lewis Lakes at UTM 338619. From there we went due east to a tarn at UTM 349625 where we curved south up the N ridge of peak 9523. Then we went down the S ridge of the same peak to scenic Black Hawk Lake. Air Touch cell phones based Los Angeles works in the area if you forgot to make that phone call at the resort. Then we went SE towards the peak avoiding the steep snow field to the east. We stayed at the tundra like summit at 10,348' about 45 minutes taking in the view. The scenery was majestic for our whole cross-country route in contrast to the wooded rolling terrain for the hike in on trail.

I estimate we did about 4 miles round trip from camp to get the peak. The total stats for the weekend were 20 miles and 4500 feet of gain. There was plenty of water and no sign of bears. It is a very beautiful area and a peak that will stand out in my mind for a long time.

The participants were Jane Gibbons, Patrick Wood, Sara Wyrens, Gary Bowen and Barb and Howard Eyerly. Thanks to Mars Bonfire for scouting it ahead and doing the route finding to the peak and the great group of people on the trip.



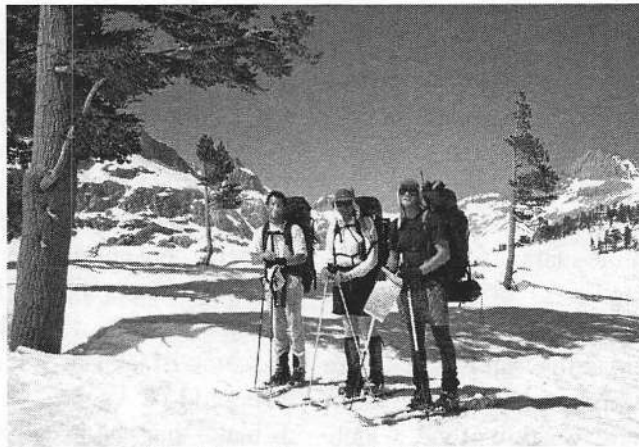
Trans-Sierra Ski Tour

April 29- May 6, 2000

by Reiner Stenzel

The crossing of the snow-covered Sierra Nevada is a true ski mountaineering adventure. It includes challenging backcountry skiing, climbing, orienteering, snowcamping, and self-reliance in the mountains for a week. For such an adventure it is good to have a small group of experienced friends. These were R.J. Secor, Duncan Livingston, Eric Watts, and myself. We skied from Onion Valley to Mineral King, crossing the Kings-Kern Divide and the Great Western Divide over 9 passes, covering some 42 mi and +17,000', -20,000' in elevation. As the detailed description shows, we had a wonderful experience blessed by best weather, excellent snow, good camaraderie, and no accidents/incidents. Here are the details:

On Fri, 4/28, I carpooled with Eric to Mineral King to meet Duncan who came down from Southern Oregon. We carcamped at the road closure which is about 8 mi away from the trailhead. We spent the night in clouds from a cutoff low over Southern CA.. On Sat, 4/29, we left my VW bus at Mineral King and drove with Duncan's car to Onion Valley (9,200'). This took about 6 hours via Hwys 65, 178 (Walker Pass), 14, and 395. At 1:30 pm we met R.J. at Onion Valley where his father had given him a ride. Our 40+lb packs were stuffed with supplies for 8 days. We sorted our common gear (2 tents, 2 stoves, repair kit, maps), made last-minute route decisions, and started our tour at 3 pm. We decided to go over University Pass (12,640') into the upper Bubbs Creek rather than via Kearsarge Pass and the low Vidette Mdw. Although steeper, this avoided hiking below the snowline (9,000') and an uncertain stream crossing. It was one of many good route suggestions by R.J. who was in his familiar terrain. By 6 pm we were well above Robinson Lake (10,530') and set up camp on a high ridge (12,140')



Eric, R.J., and Duncan in the Big Arroyo

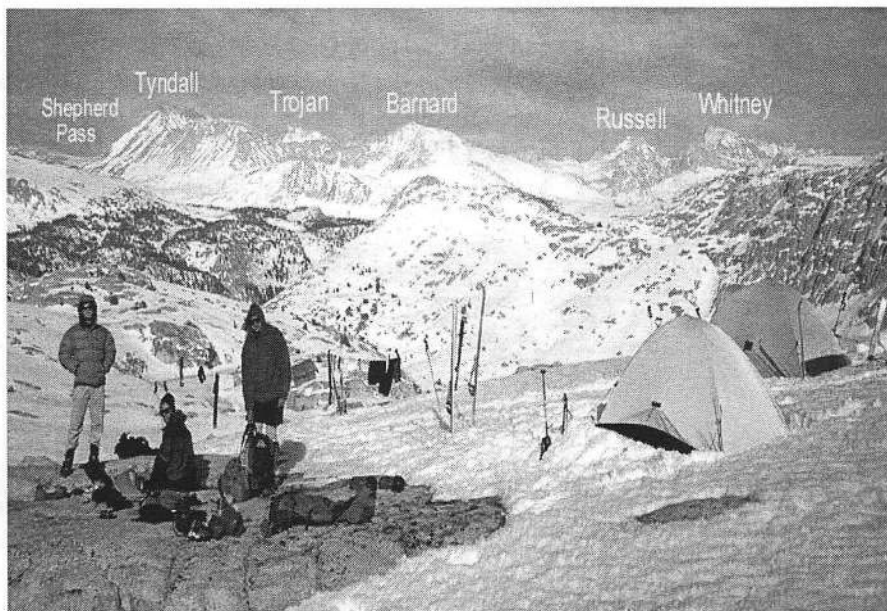
about 0.5 mi N of University Pass. We enjoyed the views down to Owens Valley and the sunset colors on the snow-covered Sierra peaks. When it got dark (8 pm) the birds and we went to bed.

Sun, 4/30. By sunrise (6 am) we got up, had breakfast, packed, and left by 8 am. It was another cloudless spring day. After a short scramble over rocks we used ice axe and crampons to ascend about 1,000' on hard snow to the summit of University Pass (10 am). From there we had a great view of the snow-covered backcountry: In the distance the rugged Kings-Kern Divide, nearby Center Peak which separates the Center Basin from the Bubbs

Creek drainage. Of the various options to cross the Kings-Kern Divide, we chose to go for Forrester Pass (13,200'), hoping that its steep South side would be passable. Thus, we descended University Pass, the first 500' on rocks, then skied down to North of Golden Bear Lke around Center

Peak and up Bubbs Crk toward Forrester Pass. We passed some bright green lakes of galcial snow melt. By 5 pm, we found a pretty campsite on a ridge (12,530') about 0.5 mi N of Forrester Pass. Another great view, but one had to be careful that the wind did not blow one's gear down the ridge onto Lke 12,237' below the pass. As the sunlight left the summit of nearby Junction Pk we retired to bed.

Mo, Mayday, we continued our tradition to get up by sunrise, move by 8 am, and climb a pass while the snow was still frozen hard. Since the North side of Forrester Pass is not too steep, three of us skied up with ski crampons. These fit under telemark bindings and give excellent lateral stability when traversing and turning on frozen slopes. We reached Forrester Pass by 9 am and were greeted by a group of 3 skiers who just came up from the South side. This relieved our concern about crossing this high pass. But the descent was not trivial. With heavy packs, skis poking up, we front-pointed down a 45 deg chute of hard snow into which the ice axe would barely penetrate. After this adrenaline rush



Eric, Duncan and R.J. at campsite near Milestone Crk.

we reached the safe terrain of the upper Tyndall Creek drainage. Around 10 am the snow corned up and it was easy cruising down the gentle open terrain between Diamond Mesa and the Caltech Pk ridge. Eric did a fine orienteering job and got us precisely down to the Kern River just above Milestone Crk (10,630'). The river was open but there were enough snowbridges for safe crossing. We enjoyed a long lunch break at the Kern and washed up in it's ice cold water on a warm spring day. Eric offered us fresh apples which were very delicious. The scent of pinetrees and the songs of birds were a pleasant change from the sterile high country of rocks and snow. In the afternoon, we ascended along the High Route toward Milestone Mtn. The route goes up a most beautiful valley rimmed by steep mountains and terminated by the characteristic "finger" of Milestone Mtn (13,641'). The creek flows partly below the snow, partly breaks through the snow, and sometimes gushes down an icy waterfall. Milestone Pass looks more intimidating than it actually is. To keep our tradition we camped below the pass to climb it in the morning. By 4:30 pm we spotted a small plateau for a perfect campsite. We cooked on a dry flat rock and overlooked the valley like marmots. High cirrus clouds moved in producing a ring around the sun, a typical sign that a front is moving in. In the evening huge lenticular clouds formed over the Eastern Sierra Nevada. A different concern was R.J.'s plan to solo Midway Mtn next day. He would have a hard time to catch up with us, had no tent, stove, and it was 3 days to

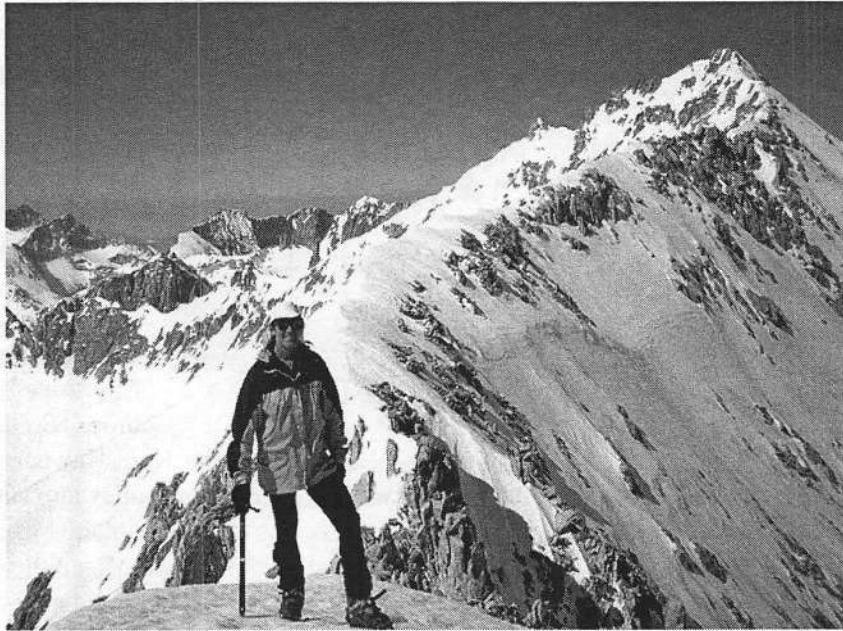
the nearest trailhead. Luckily, he overslept and we could proceed together.

On Tue, 5/2, 8 am, we ski-cramponed up to Milestone Pass (4,000m=13,123') reaching it by 10 am. The last few steps over the narrow ridge were quite exciting. Unfortunately, we had to take the skis off since the South side was still frozen hard and a fall down rock-studded Milestone Bowl was not advisable. After cramponing down to an acceptable angle we began to telemark in Milestone Bowl to where it drops 800' down into the

headwaters of the Kern-Kaweah River. Somehow we had to cross this valley and get on a 12,000' high ridge on the other side of the big cirque South of Colby Pass. We tried to keep the elevation by circumnavigating, but it did not pay off. We spent too much time traversing steep slopes in soft snow and reached the base of the unnamed pass by 2 pm when it became unsafe to climb the steep mush. Various options were discussed and the vote was to wait till after 4 pm when the sun was off the slope, the snow had hardened, and it would be safer to climb it. So it was time for loafing. We were dozing in the sun. Duncan got a book out and we read it loud, taking turns each chapter. Once in a while Eric would dig a small pit to look at the snow stability. The hours passed by and finally, after the sun had left the slope, we started our ascent. The snow was less mushy now but the angle on this 12,000' pass became so steep that kickturns were at the limit of lifting one's leg. R.J. elected to climb up on foot, occasionally sinking in to the hips, performing an exhausting, heroic ascent. This lesson reminded us to stay with our usual schedule to climb passes in the morning, and it also showed that it is essentially impossible to traverse the Sierra without skis at this time of the year. After we reached the unnamed 12,000' ridge, Triple Divide Pk (12,634') became visible to the West. We skied toward the upper lakes and stream which feed the Kern-Kaweah River and set up basecamp by 6:30 pm at 11,600', 1.5 mi NE of Triple Divide. The sun soon vanished behind a tall ridge in the West and we were in our bags by 8:30

pm. It became a cold clear night where waterbottles froze inside the tent.

On Wed, 5/3, we got up at 5:45 am to another cloudless day. After the usual morning business we began our ascent to Triple Divide Pass (12,210') by 8 am. Three of us skied with "harscheisen" and reached the pass by 9 am. While R.J. caught up, Eric and I made an attempt to climb Triple Divide. We ascended from the pass with ice axe and crampons along the NE ridge. However, precarious cornices covered the ridge near the



Reiner below Triple Divide Pk

summit, overhanging to the South and inclined by 45 deg to the North. Without ropes it became too dangerous to proceed. But we had a great view from the NE sub peak (12,400') which reached from the Palisades Range in the North to Olancha Pk in the South. By 10 am we cramponed down T.D. Pass, then skied down to Glacier Lke where we encountered another group of skiers enjoying the corn snow in Cloud Cyn. We then contoured around the rock West of Glacier Lake and ascended Lion Lake Pass (11,610'). Below the rock the slopes were steep and hard frozen, requiring boot or ski crampons to avoid a long fall into Cloud Cyn. From Lion Lake Pass we skied down SE staying above Lion Lke (11,005') and headed up Lion Rock Pass (11,800'), 0.4 mi E of Lion Rock. Climbing a third pass this day became tiring, especially by midday in a bowl of intense sunlight without a breeze. In spite of ample sunscreen, chapstick and zinc, Eric got sunburned on the tongue. On Lion Rock Pass we met other skiers, superb athletes with light packs, zipping along the Great Western Divide. From the pass we had a wonderful ski run down into the Nine Lakes Basin. We stayed clear of the lakes which began to melt at the shore. We soon passed

Kaweah Gap and could not stop our corn snow fun until we were in the Big Arroyo. By 4 pm we found a pretty campsite at 10,000' about 1 mi West of Eagle Scout Pk. It was next to open water of the Big Arroyo near trees and a dry flat rock for

cooking. Since the sun was still strong we had another full-body wash, finding out that the scalp is the most sensitive part to ice water while a short barefoot walk through corn snow is very refreshing. After 5 pm clouds drifted in from the West. Fog rolled into the Big Arroyo but vanished later at night.

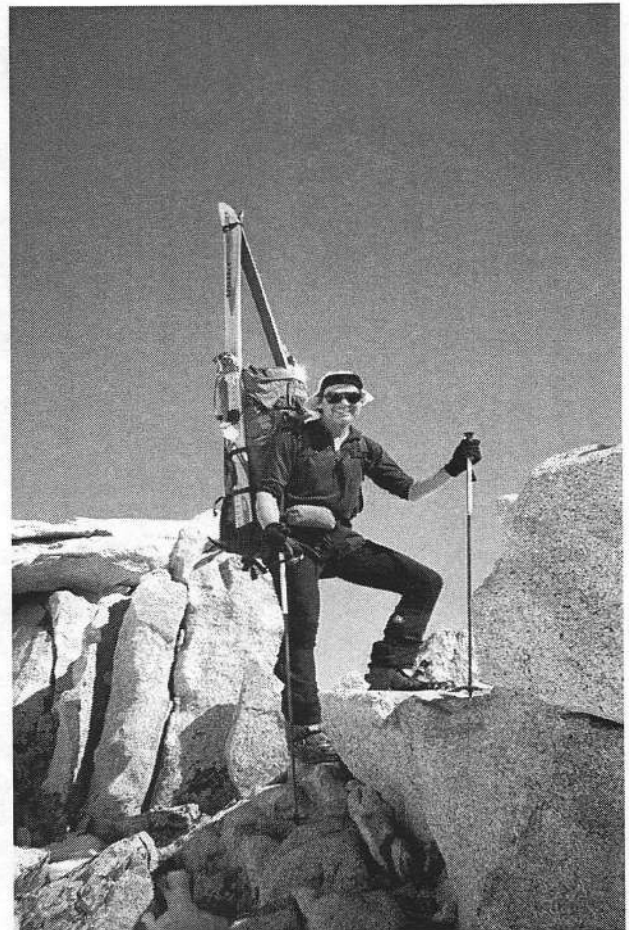
Thur, 5/4. Cold nights contrasted the blistering heat of midday. As we fetched water from the creek in the morning, a few minutes later it was coated with ice. We cooked, ate breakfast, packed, and left before the sun reached the valley floor. It was bumpy mogul skiing through the forest in the Big Arroyo. Instead of following down to the Patrol Cabin we stayed high, contoured East of Lippincott Mtn, and headed toward the Little Five Lks. After a few hours of up and down skiing past forests, streams and lakes, we were above Lke 10,476' 1.5 mi E of Mt Eisen where one ascends toward Black Rock Pass. We stopped for a lunch break and enjoyed the fabulous view of the nearby Kaweahs and the distant peaks of Whitney, Langley and Olancha. By early afternoon we skinned up to Black Rock Pass (11,600') which was luckily free of cornices. However, looking over to our next pass, Glacier Pass, we saw a row of menacing cornices and began to wonder how to get over/through them. After a farewell to the Kaweahs we skied down the Western side of Black Rock Pass on soft spring snow. Three of us wanted to keep the elevation of Spring Lke (10,600') and contoured along mixed slushy snow fields and wet grassy slopes. I decided

to ski a straight gully down to Cliff Crk and to skin back up to Spring Lke which turned out to be easier. We arrived by 4 pm, set up camp near a majestic pine tree at the upper Spring Lke, cut a hole into the lake for supply of fresh water, washed up, relaxed, and watched clouds forming over the Great Western Divide. At times, the clouds covered all peaks, at other times they all vanished. The San Joaquin Valley was entirely covered by clouds. While we ate dinner, another group of 4 skiers came down and camped near the lake. They had enviably light packs, but the price was an hour of setup time for their pyramid tent, after which they cooked and ate by darkness.

On Fri, 5/5, we had the first day without sun in the morning. It was humid and warm and clouds were rising from the West. The other group came over to discuss how to ascend the glaciated pass. We offered to try it first and they could follow us. Later we learned that they were all distinguished officials of the University of California. By 8 am we ski-cramponed up the slopes West of Spring Lke, continued on a plateau to the base of Glacier Pass (11,200'), switched to boot crampons and kicked a line of steps into the soft snow. Energetic Duncan led the last section which lead between two cornices to the ridge. By 9 am we were relieved to have summited our last pass. An hour later, 8 people stood on the Pass. We bid farewell to the other group and skied down direction Monarch Lke. It started out with superb corn snow skiing, but became softer and slushier further below. With one rocky exception we could ski down to the snowline at Groundhog Mdw where we picked up the trail and hiked down to Mineral King. It was a pleasure to see flowers, butterflies, deer and a 500 lb bear. At 1 pm we lunched on the steps of the deserted Ranger Stn, then began the tedious 7 mi hike out to my car at the road closure. Duncan and I were trotting down the road, kicking pinecones, when suddenly a truck came out of a service road. Duncan's smile at the Rangerette saved us the last few miles of walking, much to the envy of our trailing party who joined us later at 4 pm. After condensing all the gear in my car we drove the winding MK road down to Three Rivers where we stopped at Reimer's Candy shop to load up on extra large vanilla shakes. Then we continued to Bakersfield, where we really filled up at the Sizzler. The plan was to camp at Walker Pass, but since it was filled up we proceeded to Fossil Falls where, at 11

pm, I quit driving. We slept in the warm desert wind. Next morning, Eric discovered a new bedfellow, a 2 inch long scorpion.

On Sat, 5/6, 7 am, we stopped for a grand slam breakfast at the Ranch House in Olancho, then drove up to Onion Valley to get Duncan's car. He had a long drive home to Klamath Falls compared to ours to LA. We all had the same feelings: It was a wonderful trip with a fine group of people. Thanks to everyone, especially to R.J. for his help to make it an official SPS/SMS trip.



Reiner traversing Milestone Pass

Tom Ross - Photographer

A Book Review by Barbee Tidball

For many years *The Sierra Echo* covers have frequently featured the photos of Tom Ross. Tom's outstanding photos of Clyde Minaret, Clarence King, North Palisade, Darwin, and Brewer to name a few have been proudly appeared on our newsletter. Now Tom and Candy Ross have compiled a collection of the photos and published a photo book entitled **The Border Of The Sky, The Sierra and Its Moods.**

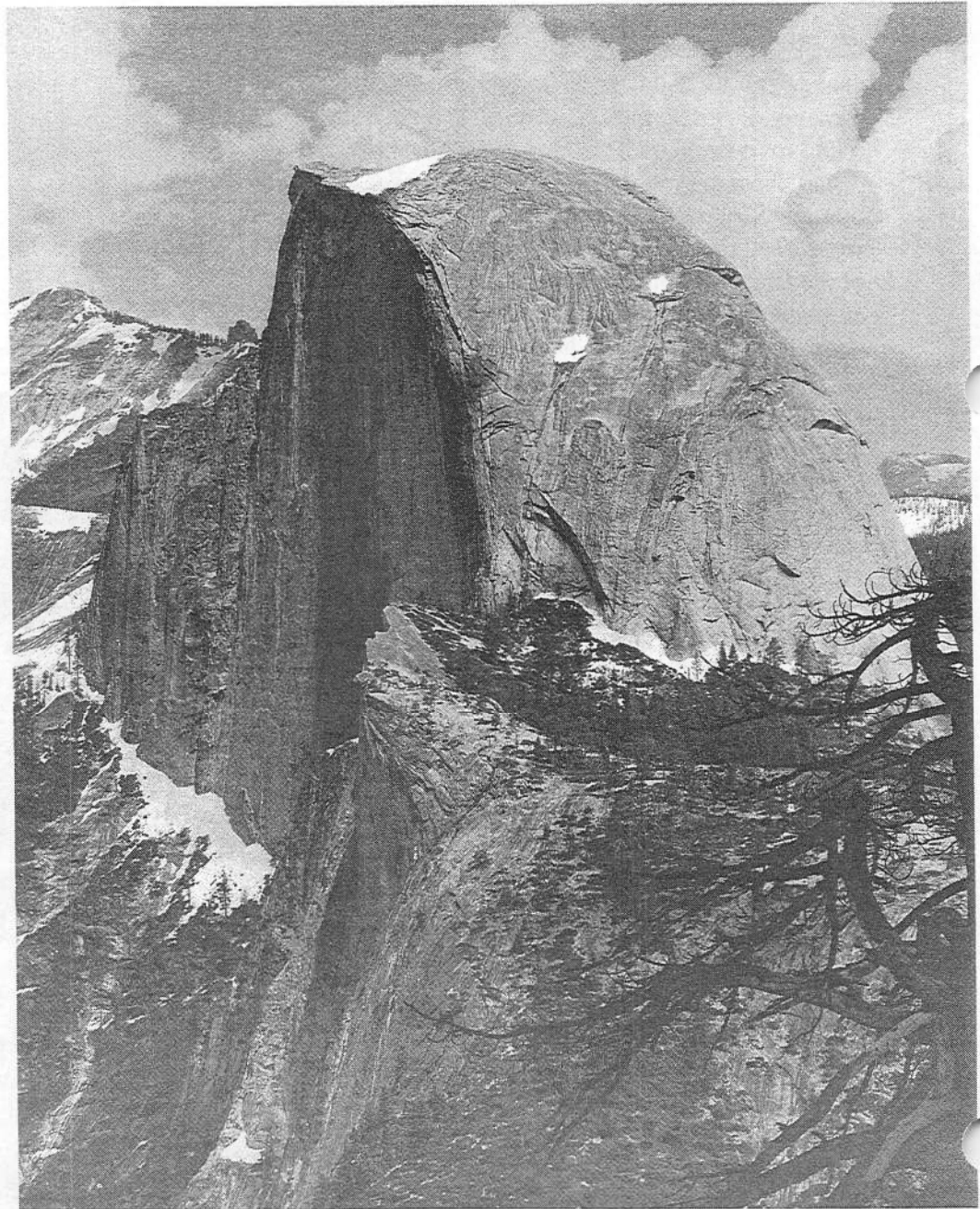
I was able to obtain a copy of the book directly from the Ross's. The book is small - too small, but I say this only because the photographs are beautiful and I could look at many more of Tom's images without tiring. The collection includes pictures of summits, ridges, lakes, trees and rock in clear beautifully composed black and white photographs.

SPSer Andy Smatko has written the preface to the collection and he states " (I) am in awe of the superb touch in his (Tom's) photography." Andy and others have compared the photos in this collection with the work of Ansel Adams.

Sierra Mountaineers will want to own a copy of the book for the beauty and memories that each picture contains.

Contact the Tom and Candy Ross at 2800 Highland Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. I obtained my book for \$24.75 including shipping.

Photo from page 84 - Half Dome 1969.



Half Dome, telephoto from Glacier Point, Yosemite, May, 1969.

YOSEMITE VALLEY – ACTION

The Draft Yosemite Valley Plan has been issued for comments by the public. It is important that climbers weigh in with their thoughts. Camp 4 has been saved, but there is much more to the proposed Valley plan. In particular this plan addresses development and transportation issues in the valley.

By Barbee Tidball

Local public hearings were held this past week in Southern California. Park Service employees presented an over view of the plan; held an open house to explain the plan, discuss issues and answer questions; and formally accepted public comments.

The Draft Yosemite Valley Plan addresses issues that affect wildlife, habitat and visitors to the Valley. The Plan as issued sets the state for detailed planning in the valley. For example the draft plan discusses transportation routes and parking areas, but the plan does not provide the specific details of the design of a parking area, or the hours shuttle buses will operate. These specific issues will be addressed in future planning efforts after the overall direction is adopted.

Park planners started preparation of the current plan with a review of the 1980 General Management Plan. They found that many issues from the 1980 plan still were valid, but that increased visitation, the flood, the Merced Wild & Scenic River Plan and other factors had changed since conception of the 1980 Plan. Five Alternative Plans are presented in the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan. Following is a very brief summary of the alternative plans:

- **Alternative 1** – No Action, no major changes to be made to the way the Valley is managed.
- **Alternative 2** – This is the “Preferred Alternative” and is supported by the Park Service, the Yosemite Restoration Trust and others as the best compromise. Support of this alternative is qualified. Most who accept this alternative will be sending the Park Service comments suggesting improvements to Alternate 2. Alternative 2 restores habitat along the Merced River from Clark’s bridge to Camp 6; Removes roads in Stoneman and Ahwahnee Meadows; Removes North Pines Campground; Removes Stoneman, Sugar Pine and Housekeeping bridges; Removes structures at Cascades; Removes east valley non-camping parking; Removes concessionaire horse stable operation; Establishes a visitor center and transit center; Constructs out-of-valley parking areas; Constructs new lodging at Yosemite Lodge. Overall the plan reduces the number of campsites in the Valley from 475 to 465, lodging from 1,260 units to 981 units, employee housing from 1,277 beds to 683 beds, and vehicles from 7,200 to about 3,080 daily.
- **Alternative 3** – This plan is distinguished by its proposal to construct a mid-valley Taft Toe parking facility for 1,622 vehicles. The alternative is strongly opposed by conservationists.
- **Alternative 4** – This plan also includes construction of a parking facility at Taft Toe, for 550 vehicles as well as a visitor center at Taft Toe. Overall the plan reduces the number of campsites in the Valley from 475 to 441, lodging from 1,260 units to 981 units, employee housing from 1,277 beds to 689 beds, and vehicles from 7,200 to about 2,520 daily.
- **Alternative 5** – According to the park service employee I talked to, this plan is the closest plan to the original 1980 General Management Plan. And it does have a number of attractive elements. Alternative 5 Restores meadow and riparian land at Lower Pines and south of Yosemite lodge; Removes Sugar Pine and Ahwahnee bridges; Removes concessionaire stable, superintendent’s house, house at Cascades, Ahwahnee Row houses; Removes parking in easy Valley; Constructs a transit facility at Yosemite Village; Constructs lodging at Yosemite lodge and Curry Village. Overall the plan increases the number of campsites in the Valley from 475 to 713, reduces lodging from 1,260 units to 1,145 units, reduces employee housing from 1,277 beds to 752 beds, and vehicles from 7,200 to about 4,155 daily.

For a complete copy of the Draft Valley Plan and to learn more check out the Yosemite National Park web site and the Yosemite Restoration Trust web site at www.nps.gov/yose. or www.yosemitetrust.org. At the site

you will find maps and charts showing current and proposed conditions in the Valley.

Carl Pope of the Sierra Club has come out strongly critical of the draft plan. The Yosemite Trust in trying to work with the NPS supports parts of the draft plan, but they too are critical of new development plans.

The NPS's draft plan for Yosemite Valley calls for reducing the number of cars that enter the Valley by 60 percent and letting visitors get around by shuttle bus, bicycle or on foot. It also calls for reducing development in the Valley by, for example, moving out Park Service and concessionaire offices and housing, and removing bridges and other unnecessary structures. And, it calls for restoring key meadows and other components of the Merced River ecosystem. But, the draft plan can-and-should be improved.

Please tell the Park Service you support Alternative 2 with qualifications:

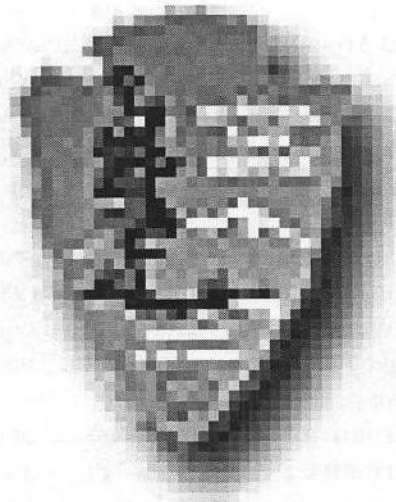
- Support maximum protection and restoration of Yosemite Valley's sensitive natural resources.
- Support reducing the number of day use cars entering the Valley and locating the parking lot for those cars that do enter at Camp 6. Stress that this lot is temporary and eventually removed once transit facilities can accommodate all day visitors.
- Support the proposed restoration projects, especially the Rivers Campgrounds and all meadows.
- Support reducing development, including moving out administrative offices and housing and the removal of bridges and roads as traffic is reduced.
- Oppose rebuilding any new Lodge units and retain at least 100 of the rustic units at Camp Curry
- Also, do not increase the Lodge footprint to infringe on the Camp 4 area or the climbing area at Swan's Slab.
- Absolutely must see a detailed blueprint for implementation of the plan as part of the final Record of Decision. Neither Yosemite nor the Park Service can afford a plan that sits on the shelf for decades again.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Comments are due

July 5, 2000.

**Make sure your comments
are recorded – help create the
Yosemite Valley of the future.**



continued from page 23

stock use from the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada, and all of our groups believe that recreational stock use is a legitimate use of our public lands. Our many members care deeply about these two spectacular wildernesses, and they simply desire that reasonable limits and controls be fairly applied to all users to adequately protect and preserve the qualities of Sierra wilderness.

Our suit simply asks that the USFS be required to follow the law. What valid argument could exist for allowing the USFS to disobey the laws and policies adopted to protect these priceless wilderness areas? Regardless of the outcome, we urge all concerned citizens to contact the USFS to support that agency in adopting a fair policy to protect the High Sierra for the enjoyment of all. MT

"Mind Over Mammoth" is a timely, issue-oriented guest opinion column. Length limit: 1,000 words. Original ideas receive priority over responses to previous columns. The views expressed are those of the author and do not represent policies and opinions of the staff or owners of the Times.

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Have you heard the news?????????

SPS member, ex-back-country ranger and concerned Sierra conservationist Gary Guenther after hours and hours of research has joined with others in a lawsuit against the Forest Service. The lawsuit, well its about permits and packers and hikers.....sounds interesting? Then read on. The following articles have appeared in the Mammoth Times this month.

Mind Over Mammoth

Thu, Jun 1, 2000

Follow the Law, By Gary Guenther

Wilderness Watch of the Eastern Sierra

Mammoth Lakes, CA and by Peter Browning

High Sierra Hikers Association

www.highsierrahikers.org and by Bob Dale

Forest Service Employees for Environmental

Ethics www.afsee.org

There have been many rumors, falsehoods, and much confusion surrounding the recent lawsuit filed by our groups against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and we'd like to set the record straight for your readers. On April 10, we filed a suit in federal court alleging that the USFS has not followed the law or its own plans and policies that require the John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses to be managed to preserve their wilderness qualities for the benefit of present and future generations.

The USFS has for many years failed to control over-use that has resulted in deterioration of wilderness resources and degradation of the experience of wilderness visitors. For example, USFS plans require the agency to limit the number of persons who may use these areas at one time, to limit group sizes in order to adequately protect natural resources, and to limit for-profit businesses and require that commercial operators follow the same process to obtain wilderness permits as non-outfitted visitors. But none of these things has been done. We filed a lawsuit because the USFS would not respond to our many requests that it substantively address such issues.

One of our primary concerns is that for-profit businesses (including horse/mule packing outfits, mountaineering guides, etc.) have been allowed to increase in size in recent decades, at the same time that trailhead quotas for non-outfitted users (including private backpackers and stock users) have steadily declined. Many commercial outfits are even allowed to write their own wilderness permits (to go wherever and whenever they please), while the rest of us stand in long lines and are often

turned away due to trailhead quotas. This not only violates the USFS's own plans and policies, but it is highly unfair.

Because our suit raises the issue of this favoritism to commercial enterprises, some commercial stock users have been spreading rumors that our organizations desire to eliminate recreational stock use from the Sierra Nevada. Such claims are without foundation and are deliberately false. None of our groups has ever advocated elimination of

Continued - previous page, Page 22 (stock)

USFS Lawsuit - Are Packers History?

Thu, Jun 1, 2000 - Lawsuit heightens tensions

By Stacy Corless

[This is part one of a series about a pending lawsuit against the Inyo National Forest and the local entities and issues involved in that suit.]

"They want to put us out of business. And this will." Heads nod as we ride, raised off the alkaline valley floor by the 1,000 pound beasts beneath us. From way out here in the sage, looking west, where tall Sierra peaks are hidden behind Glass Mountain even on horseback, the view is clear:

A lawsuit filed against the U.S. Forest Service in U.S. District Court in San Francisco over wilderness management in the Inyo and Sierra forests is like a burr in the saddle to these horse people. They say it aims ultimately to end the long tradition of pack stock use in the Sierra Nevada and beyond.

No one is concerned about how many mules and horses carry us across Adobe Valley today, on the eastern edge of the Inyo National Forest. It's the higher, rarer land that's in question: the nearly 800,000 acres of the Ansel Adams and John Muir wildernesses, breathtaking country that inspired the two famous men for whom the areas were named.

This lawsuit, says Bob Tanner, longtime Sierra packer and owner of Red's Meadow pack station, is the work of "elitist radical environmentalists," the few who want to take the backcountry out of the

hands of the many he serves.

Gary Guenther, a plaintiff in the legal battle, shakes his head. A few days after the Bodie ride, we're seated at a table in his Mammoth Lakes living room. He pets his cat as we talk. His wife checks on bread baking in the kitchen.

Gary Guenther is not a radical — just look around: "There's a motorcycle in my driveway. I own weapons. I eat meat." He takes pack trips, too — on occasion, he claims, in order to get around a trailhead quota system that's unfair to hikers.

He is not after an end to the packing business in the Sierra, Guenther explains. All he wants to do is reform the way they are allowed to operate.

Guenther, as part of Wilderness Watch of the Eastern Sierra, filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief. His is a branch of the Missoula, MT-based organization that was joined by the High Sierra Hiker's Association in Berkeley, and the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

"We're not attempting to eliminate all stock use," Guenther says. But he and the other plaintiffs don't think that commercial forest permittees have been playing by the rules, thanks to the agency that governs their use. "The [Forest Service] doesn't follow its own regulations."

Specifically, Guenther says that the Forest Service lets packers stay outside of the permit quota system.

In order to stay overnight within the boundaries of these two wilderness areas, visitors must obtain a wilderness permit. Forest trailheads have strict limits on the number of people allowed to leave from that point on any given summer day. At the most popular trailheads — many outside of Bishop and near Mount Whitney outside of Lone Pine — these quotas are often met. That means a wilderness permit will be denied and the hiker or horseback rider must plan for a different time or choose a less-impacted trailhead for access to the backcountry.

Guenther says that pack outfits are exempt from this quota system because they can write their own permits for their guests for whatever area they plan to travel. This lack of "temporal and spatial" regulation jeopardizes the well-being of the fragile alpine wilderness. And it's just not fair to private users, he says. "[Pack stations'] use has never been accounted for in the same context" as hikers and other private users.

In the complaint, plaintiffs make charges that

apply mostly to the Inyo National Forest, which covers the Sierra Crest and eastern slope. This is the local agency where Guenther worked in the 1990s and from which he has managed to build an impressive paper trail, loads of numbers and reports of policy violation that were not acted upon.

That paper trail is proof positive, he says, that the Inyo violated both the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1978 wilderness plans for the John Muir and Minaret (now Ansel Adams) areas. The Wilderness Act allows commercial stock use of the land it protects from industrial uses, such as mining and logging.

The John Muir and Ansel Adams areas became designated wilderness a few years after California governor Ronald Reagan proposed a trans-Sierra highway cutting through the heart of this region. The management plan for these areas offers specific guidelines on allowable percentages of commercial use, which include pack stations, mountaineering, climbing and fishing guide services, Sierra Club-organized backpacking trips, and educational programs such as Outward Bound.

In 1984, commercial recreational users in the Inyo were limited to group sizes of 15, with no more than 25 head of support stock. A draft environmental impact statement for the forest (DEIS) would impose further limits in the future.

This Land Is Your Land

Gathered around a long table inside a blessedly air-conditioned room at Mule Days last Saturday, a group of High Sierra packers hold their own. Easy enough to do at a five-day celebration that lauds their way of life, and their star player, the sturdy mule. This group has filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuit against the USFS, since the outcome directly effects their well-being.

"The rub," says Jennifer Roeser of McGee Creek pack station, "is the issue of allocation — how many people get to go where and when." Roeser and the other pack station operators maintain that their numbers do count in the overall permit quota system. Their percentage is "taken off the top" and well-documented.

The practice of on-the-spot permit writing is simply a business necessity. "The Forest Service made the determination to provide for commercial services. There have to be assurances," explains Marilyn Reese, a former Forest Service packing education specialist.

Temporal and spatial limits that govern trailhead quotas are built into special-use permits that pack

outfitters must obtain and maintain. "Special-use permits have 30-40 mandatory terms."

Roeser argues that the very nature of business dictates that a pack outfit's trip schedule be spread out — over a summer and over the backcountry. "It's regulated by our stock." A packer can't have 400 head of stock to accommodate the Fourth of July or Labor Day rush. Instead, they work with guests to plan backcountry trips throughout the season.

A Data Game

Mary Beth Hennessy, a wilderness specialist for the Inyo, calls the mass of confusion surrounding permits and quotas "a data game." The Forest Service will not release or discuss exact figures that reflect directly on commercial pack stock use of the wilderness areas (she says that all commercial use is around 10 percent). Hennessy does call the percentage of permits issued by pack stations "a very small percentage" of the 19,619 permits issued by the Forest Service for the Ansel Adams and John Muir.

This lawsuit comes at an inopportune time for the Inyo and for the USFS, a time of draft management plans, roadless initiatives, and frameworks all under discussion, full of regulations, controversial and confusing.

All parties ask the same question: who is best serving this land and the public who uses it? And how? *MT*

USFS Lawsuit - Evening Odds in the Wilderness.

Thu, Jun 8, 2000

Part two of a series about the pending lawsuit against the Inyo National Forest

By Stacy Corless

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

—1964 Wilderness Act

When Gary Guenther did backcountry duty as a wilderness ranger in the mid-'90s, he saw a lot of things that made him mad. Human waste and toilet paper left aside the trail, ancient tree branches broken off for firewood in no-fire camping zones, hunters' caches and backpackers' grills.

Untrammelled by man? Hardly — and don't get him started about stock. Guenther is a plaintiff in the recently-filed lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service for alleged mismanagement of the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas near Mammoth Lakes, and a former Inyo National Forest employee. While on duty in various spots throughout the John Muir Wilderness, Guenther documented many violations of Forest Service wilderness regulations, rules prescribed in the last words in wilderness use: the 1964 congressional Wilderness Act and the management plans for the wilderness areas in question.

Much of the suit focuses on numbers and quotas, claiming that commercial pack outfits, operating under special-use permits with a limited number of visitor days allowed each year, are made exempt from the trailhead quota system applied to hikers.

And while Guenther talks about fairness — following the same rules for all users, it's the environmental aspects, the damage to the land, that really gets him and others in the conservation community. Consequently, questions of environmental impact play a big role in the lawsuit.

Trammelled might be a way to describe a hanging meadow between Ram and Purple lakes, which Guenther photographed in September 1999. Photos show a muddy trench cut through a pristine meadow. The path, Guenther says, is an unmaintained, unofficial trail used by stock, a violation of forest policy which results in a significant negative impact on the land the agency is charged to protect.

Guenther says that the Ram Lake path illustrates the lack of control and regulation on the part of the Forest Service. In the lawsuit, Guenther, on behalf of Wilderness Watch of the Eastern Sierra, along with two other non-profit groups, High Sierra Hikers Association and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, charges that the U.S. Forest Service — in the Inyo National Forest — has also violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). "The Forest Service did not prepare an environmental impact analysis under NEPA to evaluate the impacts of the John Muir Wilderness plan."

"To me, it's a balance," Guenther explains. "You've got to mitigate impacts and limit people. You need both in an area that has this high of demand."

While commercial recreational use is written into the documents that govern the wilderness, the

plaintiffs say that the Forest Service never determined exactly how much the wilderness can take. "The Forest Service's primary mandate in managing use of backcountry wilderness areas is protection of wilderness resources," plaintiff parties state in a letter to the regional forester Bradley Powell (named as a defendant) a few months prior to the lawsuit. The letter continues to say that the lack of a determined carrying capacity "makes it effectively impossible for the agency to protect the natural ecological integrity of the backcountry from human disturbance. Without capacity limits, the Forest Service has no objective criteria for regulating overuse of the wilderness."

Overuse vs. Wise Use

Members of the High Sierra Packers Association who believe that further limits on the way they operate will eventually force them to close shop, respond with historical examples and basic business sense. Why, they ask, would they want to destroy the thing that keeps them occupied, that draws the visitors they pack into the backcountry every summer?

Herb London, owner of Rock Creek Pack Station since the late 1940s, was there in 1964 when the Wilderness Act was created — he and the other packers supported it.

"We're the ones who cleaned up the backcountry!" London argues. Packers helped remove manmade blights left in the forest: overflowing privies next to running streams, campsite furniture crafted from high-country pine.

"We didn't get a penny" in return for their service, London adds.

The packers say they do their part in conservation — through education, and showing users a real appreciation of and respect for wild lands.

"A lot of what [the packers] have done is indirect," says Marily Reese, former Forest Service pack education specialist and now packers' advocate. "It's subtle. It's not a separate thing they do — it's in everything they do."

"We don't have a written agenda that we follow," adds Cindy Topping of Minarets Pack Station in the Sierra National Forest on the western edge of the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

Eastern Sierra packers have long been part of what is known as the "wise use" community, groups that don't want to see further regulation of forest land but instead count on people to do the right thing.

"All use is not abuse," Reese says. "Meadows

can be grazed. The Wilderness Act says impacts are OK — [the wilderness areas] are no worse now than they were in 1964."

Both plaintiffs and packers say that visitor education is key in preserving the wilderness they all love.

Both have ideas about trailhead quota reform that could include more backcountry education as part of the wilderness permit acquisition. Packers view their business as a service to visitors, a way to promote wise use. Reese asks, "if you truly wanted visitors to be absolutely the most careful, wouldn't you require them to go with an outfitter or guide?"

But groups on both sides of the use issue rely on the Forest Service, a somewhat beleaguered agency now working its way through a number of large-scale proposals and drafts, including the Roadless Area Initiative and the Sierra Nevada Framework.

It's the Forest Service being sued, not the packers (who have filed a motion to intervene in the suit, which will be heard in federal court in June). And chances are that the Forest Service could get caught on a technicality. Chances are, the Inyo National Forest never had time to follow every regulation it set for itself. Whatever the chances, the agency can't comment on any issue involving the pending lawsuit, but officials there are sorting through conflicting data to come up with an accurate picture of use and management practices in the two wilderness areas.

The lawsuit may leave little room for error. Guenther and the other plaintiffs are taking the agency to task for what they see as blatant, determined mismanagement and favoritism toward packers.

He emphasizes that his goal is not the end of commercial stock use, although he would like to see more self-regulation on the part of the packers. He fears, though, that they are a group reluctant to change.

It all comes down to this, what Guenther calls "a fundamental difference in values. They will support regulation in concept. But they don't want the government to tell them what to do, and they have a lot of influence on how things are managed."

Whether influence came down to ignoring regulations is something that will have to come out in court. *MT*

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Mind Over Mammoth

Thu, Jun 1, 2000

High Sierra Users: Beware!

By Bob Tanner

High Sierra Packers' Association

A lawsuit has been filed in federal court by elitist radical environmentalists in an attempt to limit and eliminate public use of the High Sierra wilderness. The suit has been filed against the Forest Service by the High Sierra Hikers, Wilderness Watch, and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics for mismanagement of the wilderness in an attempt to prevent livestock from serving the public in the High Sierra. The purpose of the lawsuit is both to limit access and to eliminate commercial pack trips in the wilderness and set up the use for only a small elite group of people.

The pack outfitters in the Sierra operate to serve the public, and have served the people of the United States since the first explorations of our continent. The closures to physically-handicapped individuals, youngsters, older citizens, and many former hikers is hardly the America, nor the equitable administration, the public deserves.

The packers can be proud of their advancement of environmental concerns for wilderness. Packers were actively involved in and supported the original Wilderness Bill in 1964. Environmental education and practices have been led by packers' initiatives. The donation of livestock and packers supplying the Forest Service trail crews for maintenance and trail construction, as well as the trail work done by the pack stations, is well documented. The gift of livestock for handicapped and economically-deprived youngsters has been a common benevolent practice by packers.

Historically, trails have been in the mountains since mankind graced the continent. The Wilderness Act of 1964 created "the wilderness of today," and includes the expectation that there will be human visitation. The plaintiffs of the lawsuit intend to limit the use to a few elitist individuals, eliminate all others, especially the public who desires to use livestock.

The allegations of overuse and damage to the resource is a greatly exaggerated fear tactic. The wilderness is not in jeopardy of destruction by use. The trails and campsites consist of less than one-10th of one percent of the total wilderness. This is the only area of the wilderness used by people. The Wilderness Act assures that people are expected to be users of the wilderness as well as livestock.

Group size of wilderness parties presently are so restrictive that many family reunions, church groups, Boy Scouts, Brownies, and many other young and older people are prevented from a wilderness experience. The facts prove that packers are packing no more than they did in 1964 — the inception of the Wilderness Act. The packers at that time served 60 percent of the visitors; that number is now approximately 10 percent of the users, but in actual numbers of people it is the same or less than 36 years later. For 2000, the quantity of horses and mules on the East Side of the Sierra is 694. In 1934 there were 672. Hardly a cause for elimination of this public service.

Should this suit be successful, the losers will be the American public. This cannot be allowed to happen. The lawsuit is designed to ignore the public involvement in the Forest Service management plan, now ready for public review. The public has gone through extensive public meetings and involvement in the development of the plan. The groups desire to have a judge, with their input, write the regulations to their satisfaction, thereby eliminating the public and Forest Service from the decision-making process.

It is a very sad commentary on the Forest Service to have a group of their own employees paid by the taxpayers suing the Forest Service agency and causing numerous additional expenses to the taxpayers of the United States, and, in addition, failing to support their own agency.

If you wish to help in this lawsuit for the historic public use of livestock in the wilderness, please send your comments to: High Sierra Packers' Association, 690 North Main St., Bishop, CA 93514, or e-mail to: bernerspuck@yahoo.com. *MT*

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May - June VOL. 44 NO. 3

Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

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