

CONGRATULATIONS!
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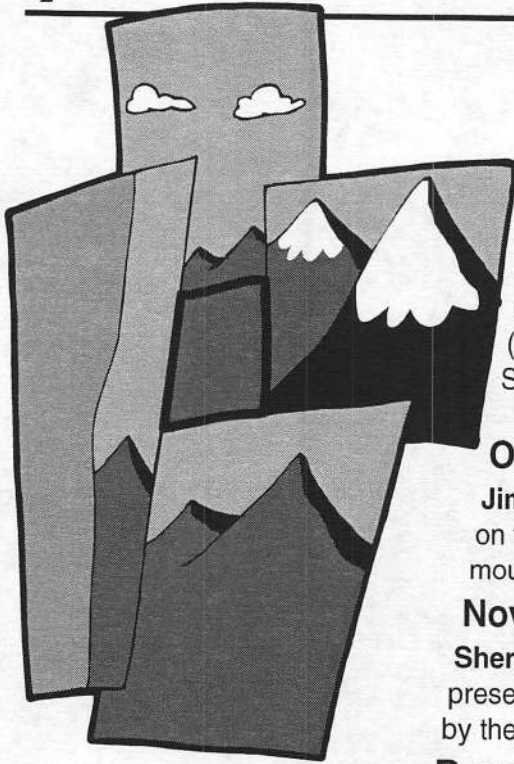


ECHO



VOLUME 44 NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2000

The Sierra



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).

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.

November 8

Sherry Ross, Natural Science representative to LTC, will give presentation on birds. Learn to recognize birds native to the Sierra by their appearance and calls while getting a peak.

December 13

Bill Oliver - Climbing the Palisades Fourteeners. Bill will give a slide show/presentation from a National trip to be led September 2000. Come and hear all about their gnarly adventures, camping with a cook and how to do the Sierra in style.

SPS Banquet - Wednesday, January 10, 2001. Peter Croft, speaker

February 8, Thursday - Joint HPS/DPS/SPS Meeting

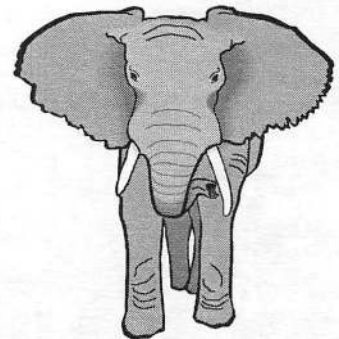
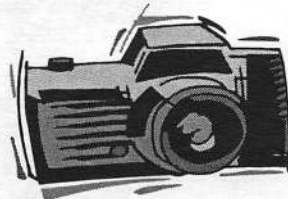
RJ Secor is the speaker for the 4th annual joint climbing sections social meeting. RJ will give a presentation on "The Lowdown on How to Get High in Pakistan, showing slides from his 1992 expedition to Broad Peak in the Karakoram. **Meeting location: Griffith Park, LA Zoo, Grande Room.** Park in main Zoo parking lot. Enter at security office next to main zoo entrance, tell guard you are attending HPS meeting. Time 7:30 PM.

February 14th SPS meeting cancelled - see February 8th.

Peak List

Observation	McDuffy
San Joaquin	Kilimanjaro
Pt. Lenana, Mt. Kenya	
Mt. Dade	Mt. Mills
Mt Baxter	Adamson Point
Black Mtn.	Diamond Pk.
Palisade Crest	Temple Crag
Jepson	Mt Baldwin

Front Cover



KILIMANJARO

SPS Members Tom & Tina Bowman, Barbara & Dave Sholle (holding SPS flag) and Jack Miller.

Photo by Mathias Minja - See Story Page 19

Fall & Winter Trips 2000 & 2001



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.

2001 - Practices & Check Offs

E/MR: Feb 3 Sat Local Snow Practice, LTC/SPS/DPS All aspects of snow climbing, rope travel, anchors covered. Lack of snow may cancel. For aspiring M & E candidates and those wishing to brush up on new techniques. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Dan Richter.

E/MR: Feb 17 Sat Local Snow Practice at Baldy, LTC/SPS/DPS All aspects of snow climbing, rope travel, anchors covered. Lack of snow may cancel. For aspiring M & E candidates and those wishing to brush up on new techniques. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Bill Oliver.

E/MR: Apr 28-29 Sat - Sun Sierra Snow Check-off For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice and instruction available to brush up on new techniques. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Dan Richter.

E/MR: May 19-20 Sat - Sun Sierra Snow Check-off For M & E candidates. See April 28-29th for details. Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Dan Richter.

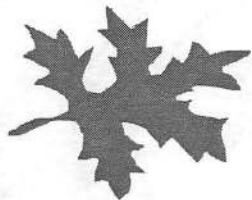
E/MR: June 2-3 Sat - Sun Sierra Snow Check-off For M & E candidates. See April 28-29th for details. Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Dan Richter.

OCTOBER

Oct 7 - First Aid Training, see Sept. 9th

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



News Report - September 6, 2000

Mary DeDecker passed away in Ridgecrest. "Mary De Decker made the eastern Sierra town of Independence, California her home since the 1930's. She has climbed throughout the Sierra with her husband (Paul) and two daughters, and has extensively explored Inyo and Mono Counties, by foot and jeep. A brilliant woman, who was trained as a fine artist at UCLA, she taught herself botany, and specialized in the study of California native plants. She discovered several new species and one entirely new genus, *Dedeckera eurekensis*, near Death Valley." Excerpt from the back cover of *Death Valley to Yosemite: Frontier Mining Camps & Ghost Towns*, by L. Burr Belden & Mary DeDecker, published by Spotted Dog Press.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

September 21, 2000

Summer is nearly at an end. A few more weeks of climbing in the Sierra are still being planned, but for many, now is the time to plan our fall and Winter schedules.

I hope you all had a good summer: good peak climbs, hikes and adventures. I know I had a good time, when I could get away from work.

I finished my summer attending the Fall Business Meeting of the Yosemite Association. It was held in Wawona, and the program and the weather were both good. The only fellow SPS'r I saw at the meeting was Hal Browder. At the Fall meeting, the YA has a series of nature walks, bird walks and historical walks on Saturday and Sunday mornings and the business meeting on Saturday afternoon. The featured speaker this year was David Brower, with additional presentations by the chief of planning for the park and the administrator of the bear control program. This was the first time I have ever seen David Brower speak. He was wheeled up to the podium in a wheel chair, having recently been operated on for Bladder Cancer and about to begin Chemotherapy. It was sad to see this once vibrant man being reduced by the ravages of age, but his eyes were still strong and piercing and his message a continuation of his long fight to preserve wilderness. After the program, I was fortunate to have him autograph a copy of the book "Encounters with the Archdruid" by John McPhee.

The management committee is making plans for the election and the banquet. There is a good slate of candidates for the next committee. We are fortunate to have so many members interested in helping with the tasks of running the section. RJ Secor presented the committee with a petition signed by 15 individuals concerning the question of adding Mt. Powell to the list. The Petitioners requested that the correct Mt Powell be added to the list. The status of the peak traditionally climbed as Mt. Powell would not be changed. The question as presented by the petitioners will appear on the ballot.

As we head into the Fall season, we all are harvesting and storing away our spring and summer memories. May the harvest be rich!

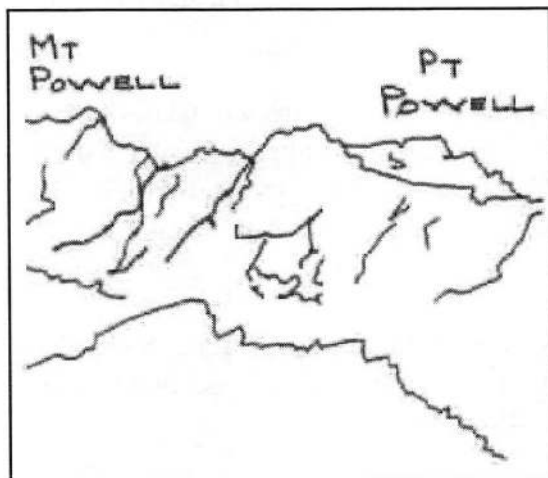
Keith Martin
SPS Chair 2000

MOUNT POWELL COMMENTS

A VOTE AGAINST ADDING MOUNT POWELL

Allow me to insert this concept into the discussion of Mt. Powell: objectivity. I climbed it in September 1998. With the snow gone, this "challenging alpinistic..." was cruddy and dangerous. I didn't think it merited comment, and duly reported so to Mark Adrian. I'll speak up now, though.

The SPS has been crossing Echo Col for 40 years. That's ¼ miles from Mt. Powell. No, there's never been mention of any looming giant. Likewise, in all our climbs of Pt. Powell, the records are silent about any notable sightings to the north. Hmmm....



One thing we can all agree about: The view from Mt. Powell is outstanding in one respect — its view of battleship - like Pt. Powell. An ironic rationale: "Add me, you can see how fine the other Powell is."

That beats the rationale we are offered: Non-SPSers will be confused if we don't add Mt. Powell to the List. Really? Oh, Non-SPSers are stupid? Rather are we stupid enough to think that amounts to an argument?

What is worse is the double standard in the concept of "a worthy peak". A short time ago civility

was victim to a smear to keep Caltech off the List. Now we are asked, with a straight face, to add Mt. Powell.

Caltech wasn't that great. But Mt. Powell, Folks, is no Caltech.

There are some peaks deserving of List-addition out there: Mt. Carl Heller, Black Crown, perhaps Clyde Spires, to name a few. But let's be consistent about our standards. The USGS may have goofed here; we should not.

Doug Mantle

REMINDER TO ALL TRIP LEADERS!!!!

SEND IN YOUR PEAK REGISTER REPORTS. PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON THE CONDITION OF THE REGISTER BOOK AND CONTAINER AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF USE. WE ARE MISSING INFORMATION ON MOST PEAKS LED IN 2000.

SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO: TINA BOWMAN, 283 ARGONNE AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90803-1743.

Time to Plan Ahead - Spring Trips for the March to July 4, 2001 Angeles Chapter Schedule are due November 7, 2000.



Hello SPS and LTC Leaders:

This is a reminder that any SPS trips for publication in the Angeles Chapter Schedule #286 (Mar. 1, 2001 - July 4, 2001) are due to me by November 7. The earlier the better. E-mail is preferable; hard copy is okay. I want to have them for the SPS meeting on Nov. 8. I'll need LTC trips by Nov. 9. Format for the submission basically is the same as before; if you don't know it submit anyway and don't worry because I usually have to reformat most of the sheets, and don't mind it too much.

2001 will mark the anniversary of the Sierra Club outings program! Some trips will be designated a "Special Centennial Trip". They will get extra publicity. We encourage you to create such a trip - the ideas are yours! An example would be something in Yosemite, since the first high trip, in 1901, was in Yosemite. Any questions about the Centennial trips can be directed to Ann Kramer, Angeles Chapter Outings Coordinator: akramer71@hotmail.com

Remember that if you submit a restricted trip, you will also need to fill out the National Sierra Club Forms. They may be submitted to me after (by a couple weeks or so) the schedule deadline. They are available on the Angeles Chapter web site, in .pdf and MS Word.

A reminder again to get the waivers and sign-in sheet (completely filled out for each trip participant and leader) to me after an R-trip, or directly to Matt Garrity at the National Office with a note to me that they are sent, so the 30 day deadline for being at SC Hqs in San Francisco is satisfied, and I can keep track of them.

My deadline for submission to the Schedule editor, Dave Eisenberg is Nov. 13. Maybe I could forward by e-mail something last minute but I may be out of town Nov 10-13. I can make minor changes to the items I have submitted for publication when I receive the edit copy from Dave in December.

I'll be sending few if any notices by hard copy regular mail this time, so please pass this on to any SPS-interested leaders who don't have e-mail. Ah, the electronic era!

A reminder about joint (such as WTC/SPS) trips - At least one of the leaders needs to be an SPS member.

Ron Hudson
 SPS and LTC Outings Chair
 1590 Avenida del Manzano
 Camarillo, CA 93010-1804
 (805) 388-2809
rfhudson@att.net

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2000

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown

Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Management Committee

Attendance: Keith Martin, Paul Graff, Scott Sullivan, Matthew Richardson, Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Ann Kramer

The meeting started at 6:30pm

Read and approved the June minutes.

Appointed Patty Kline, Dan Richter, and Keith Martin as the nominating committee for the upcoming elections. Appointed Barbara Sholle, Ann Kramer, and Dan Richter as the election committee. Approved a proposal to move the banquet from December 2000 to January 2001.

Treasurer reports a checking balance of \$3624 and a savings balance of \$2398 for a total of \$6022. Membership report - Patty has contacted all non-renewals by mail.

Discussed upcoming programs. Approved \$50 travel reimbursement to Kurt Wedberg for each of the August 2000 and March 2001 programs.

FRIENDS OF THE ANGELES CHAPTER FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation invites proposals for funding from the following small restricted fund. Proposals may seek support for environmentally related charitable, scientific, literary or educational projects, which meet the restrictions on the fund.

The Danny Warner Fund was donated in memory of a young man who loved to hike and climb. It is specifically intended to support trail-building work on the Mt. Whitney 'Trail and in *the* Mt. Whitney Ranger District. This is a memorial fund, so projects should include an appropriate memorial to Danny Warner. The amount of the Danny Warner Fund is approximately \$6,000; multiple proposals seeking lesser amounts will be considered.

Grant application forms may be requested by calling (213) 387-4289. Proposals for these funds must be received by November 15, 2000, and should be submitted to Treasurer, Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation, 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 320, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

Approved addition of Mars Bonfire, Penelope May and Richard Whitcomb to the Mountaineer's List.

Approved funds for purchase of 25 additional SPS T-Shirts at approximately \$7 each. Ann Kramer will sell SPS T-Shirts at the Sierra Club national meeting in New Mexico.

Decided to add a proposal to the upcoming election ballot as follows:

"Shall Mt. Powell (UTM 550113) be added to the SPS List of Qualifying Peaks?"

There will NOT be a ballot item for removing Point Powell.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

General Meeting

Keith Martin chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm.

Approved minutes from June meeting.

New attendees were introduced.

Keith gave the outings report.

R.J. Secor announced that Julie Rush's dog Rusky died on June 24.

Dan Richter and Bill Oliver presented a slide show and discussion about the Mountaineering Leadership Training Course sponsored by the LTC.

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2000

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown
Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Management Committee

Attendance: Keith Martin, Paul Graff, Scott Sullivan,
Matthew Richardson, Ron

Hudson, Patty Kline, Ann Kramer, Barbara and Dave
Sholle

The meeting started at 6:30pm

Read and approved the July minutes. Discussed potential candidates for upcoming election. Treasurer reports a checking balance of \$2914 and a savings balance of \$2402 for a total of \$5316. Approved credit of one year membership for John Patterson who had a payment dispute that was difficult to resolve.

Discussed upcoming programs. Patty needs to reserve DWP meeting location for December 2000 and March-November 2001. January 2001 is the banquet and February 2001 is the joint SPS,DPS,HPS meeting

at the HPS location.

At the recommendation of the Safety Committee, we approved lifting all restrictions imposed on David Underwood in 1997 regarding leading of restricted trips. The SPS will allow David to lead any restricted or non-restricted trips that he is qualified to lead according to the Leadership Training Committee. (Contact Scott Sullivan to review memo from Safety Committee)

Discussed candidates for the 2000 SPS leadership award. (Contact Scott Sullivan to review recommendation letter.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

General Meeting

Keith Martin chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm.

Approved minutes from July meeting.

New attendees were introduced.

Barbee Tidball updated us on the status of the revised DEIS plan.

Ron gave the outings report. Brian Smith is planning to finish the list on September 9.

Kurt Wedburg presented his slides of Mt. Elbrus.

Sierra Club/Angelos Chapter Library Mountaineering Books

Erik Siering has provided us with a list of new books in the Chapter library. The Chapter library is a resource open to all Sierra Club members. The books are purchased with the Friends of the Angeles Chapter funds and can be checked out. In addition the library has acquired the California TOPO and DeLorme USA cd-rom topographic sets. There will be a computer at the Chapter office for use in viewing the map files.

In addition to receiving funds from the Friends the library is supported by donations from members of used and new books. In particular the library is interested in obtaining copies of books authored by members of the section.

Following is a list of mountaineering related books purchased with Friends funds this year:

Burns, Bob

Wilderness navigation : Finding your way using map, compass, altimeter, and GPS.

Graydon, Don

Mountaineering : The freedom of the hills

Huffman, Margaret

Wild heart of Los Angeles : The Santa Monica Mountains.

Porcella, Stephen F.

Climbing California's fourteeners : The route guide to the fifteen highest peaks

Richins, Paul

50 Classic backcountry ski and snowboard summits in California : Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney

Steele, Peter

Backcountry medical guide

Twight, Mark

Extreme alpinism : climbing light, fast, and high
Warren, Scott S.

Exploring Arizona's wild areas : A guide for hikers,

backpackers, climbers, X-C skiers, and paddlers

Whittaker, Jim

Life on the edge : Memoirs of Everest and beyond



2000 SPS Banquet Featuring Peter Croft

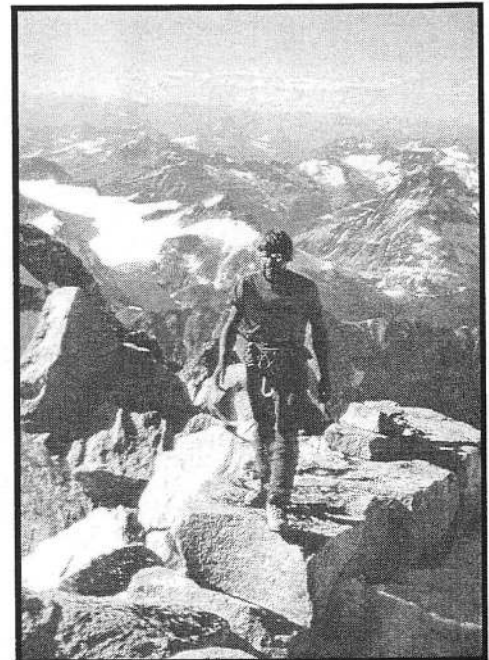
The 2000 SPS Banquet will be held January 10, 2001 at the Castaway, Burbank. The Castaway has been the host to a recent DPS banquet with rave reviews about the facility and food. Dinner will include chicken, salmon or vegetarian entrees. Happy Hour before the banquet, no host bar and wine will be available for purchase at your tables.

Our speaker is a native of Canada, who resides in Bishop, California. Described as "the most phenomenally accomplished, yet down-to-earth climbers of our time", (from Mammoth Mtn. web site) Peter has been climbing since 1977 in Canada, the U.S., Australia, Nepal, Norway, France, Greece and Mexico. A professional mountain guide for 12 years, the Sierra is Peter's stage. Peter is known for his ability to pack light and and move very quickly over rock and mountains. Soloing, speed climbing, rock climbing and mountaineering have been influenced by his light style.

In 1985 Peter set the first of what have been many firsts in the Sierra when he climbed Rostrum in Yosemite solo. This led to solo climbs of Half Dome and El Capitan in 1986. But soloing wasn't all of the challenge, by 1989 Peter was setting records for speed with one day ascents of Yosemite's Big Walls. The Nose was climbed in 1994 in 4 hours and 22 minutes.

Challenged not only by the beautiful rock faces of the Sierra, Peter has climbed the peaks with a special eye on traversing the ridges. The Minarets, Dark Star to Mt. Sill and the traverse of the Sawtooth ridge have been areas for exploration and record setting solo, one day traverses by Peter. In 1996 he traversed the North Cirque of the Palisades, climbing 9 peaks solo. Then last year Peter made the first traverse of the Evolution Chain of Peaks, 8 miles of up to 5.9 climbing.

An accomplished speaker (40 shows including the American Alpine Club) as well as climber, Peter Croft will be an exciting speaker at our upcoming banquet.



See insert for your ticket order form. SPS Banquet Jan. 10, 2001

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2000

CONGRATULATIONS - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emblem #558 Beth Epstein 5-28-00
Matterhorn Pk
Emblem #559 Bob Sumner 7-15-00 Mt. Lyell

List Completion #54
Don Sparks 8-7-00 Mt. McDuffie

And Un-official Congratulations
List Finish Completion (Pending notification from list
finisher to SPS Secretary)

Brian Smith 9-9-00 Smith Mtn.
Ron Hudson 9-30-00 San Joaquin Mtn

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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ADDRESS CHANGES

Not included since complete roster printed in
this Echo



The People, the Peaks 25 Years of Doing the List

Don Sparks List Finisher!!!

Story by Don Sparks

Not unlike others I have known, Mt. Whitney was my first Sierra Peak back in June of 1975 on a private trip with a fellow graduate student from CSUN. Then I knew nothing of THE LIST, the SPS or even what an ice axe was (or that I should have had one as sections of the trail were steeply covered in old snow/ice). I learned what marmots were and how they like to eat ensolite! I learned what altitude sickness was when I reached 13000 feet at Trail Crest.

My first experience with the Sierra Club, however, was back in the fall of my freshman year at (then) Humboldt State College (later to become Humboldt St. Univ.) in 1969. At a campus Sierra Club club meeting I was invited to come on a cleanup trip in the Trinity Alps, east of Humboldt County, in northern California. Being the epitome of naivete, I thought all food, shelter, etc., was provided (and no one bothered to enlighten me otherwise). I only had a old heavy flannel sleeping bag and borrowed backpack. The area had had a recent blanket of snow which precluded any cleaning up of the trash. I nearly froze and starved to death! After that initiation, I learned of and joined REI, then only in Seattle and its gear only available by catalog. (Boy was I mad years later when REI opened a shop in Berkeley, and later down here which required payment of CA sales tax on purchases!)

I came to So. Calif. for graduate school in 1973 and somehow ended up at a meeting of the San Fernando Valley Group of the Sierra Club,

then chaired by Dick Ramirez. My first trip to the Sierras was to a cleanup trip of the area around Shadow Lake and on up to Lake Ediza, sponsored by the Valley Group and led by Dick. I was dazzled by all those awesome looking peaks like Ritter/Banner and the Minarets. Dick drew me into the management of the Valley Group for a number of years, including stints as its conservation committee head as well as chairman in the mid and late 70's. I also took BMTC and came to know and assist Cuno Ranschau with his Valley BMTC groups for several years. Through BMTC I also got to know, hike/climb with and admire Gene Mauk, Gene Olsen, Ted and Anna Lou Pinson, Chuck and Mike Stein, Debbie Komisar (later married Mike Stein), Greg Vernon and Mary McMannes, among others. My first official SPS led trip though was a weekend "death march" led by Dick Rameriz to Brewer in June of 1976. (Jack Grams and I also got North Guard, quite an exhilaration for a novice like me.) My feet literally bled coming out the long hike back to Zumwalt Meadows. I had driven up to Kings Canyon myself but Dick took pity on me and drove back home with me in the wee hours of the night. Incidentally, it was on this trip that I first met Mary Sue Miller and Ron Jones. Many of my SPS climbs for the period of the later 70's to early/mid 80's were with Cuno Ranschau, Greg Vernon, Ron Bartell, and Pat and Gerry Holliman, among others. I had my most prolific climbing period during these years, when I was young, reasonably strong, and somewhat foolish. Then I married a non-climber, Connie, in 1984, and my climbing slowed nearly to a halt for many years, picking off just a few SPS and DPS peaks each year.

The outrageous, indefatigable, and lovable Cuno, kin of puns, took me on many trips to areas so that we could "clean out the area" as well as try to out do one another in pun contests. (He always won.) We cleaned out the Taboose Pass area in Aug. 77, (myself getting 12 peaks, including soloing Split, Prater and Bolton Brown in a day-I don't recommend doing that ridge between Prater and Bolton Brown-but I was crazed then). We both also

managed to get Coliseum, Perkins, Wynne, and Pinchot in a day on that trip. Our clean out trip in July of 1982 bagged 13 of the northern peaks and included my seeing the fattest rattle snake in my life on the hike up to Castle Peak. I met Doug Mantle on a heavily attended LeConte, Mallory, Irvine (and failed Corcoran) trip in June of '77. (I think I also met Jackie and Dale Van Dalsem on this one too.) This began a friendship with Doug (who in the last 10-12 years managed to get me up some of the remaining few

peaks I needed to finish the list, after I got older and increasingly chicken—t!)

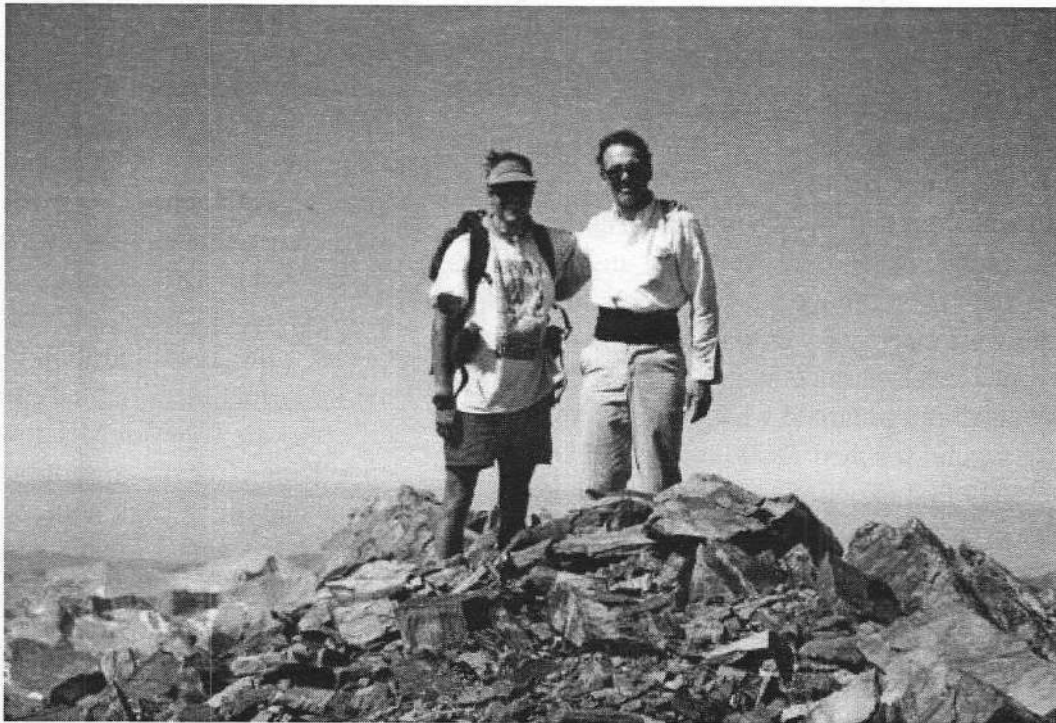
A major highlight of my earlier years was Cuno's list finisher—an as yet unmatched feat of completing the SPS, DPS, and HPS lists all on the

same day on Oct. 7, 1979!!! Pat Russell had given Cuno the idea. Cuno, Doug and

I waited just below the summit of Corcoran, on the 6'th; at midnight we signed in; then hiked out down Tuttle Creek by the light of the moon. This was my third (and finally successful) attempt at Corcoran. Doug and Cuno climbed New York Butte (I remained in the car to grade papers; I was beat and those two always ran me into the ground; Doug still does!) and we all finished on Red Mountain. All were delighted on Doug's second time list finish on Cloud's Rest, amid a soaking rain, when Mike Manchester pulled out an ice cream cake

packed in dry ice that he had carried up for the occasion. We all had a great time at Doug's (then) condo in Mammoth. Mike was on the wagon but Randy (oops-Randall) Danta wasn't!

Some of my earlier SPS climbs were leads almost by default due to illness or injury by Cuno or Gene Mauk. Cuno had gotten sick or hurt his knees or something and had to stay home, leaving me to lead a trip to Thompson and Powell in early June of '77. I recall being intimidated by the presence of two former and



Two Friends On Top - Each known for their peak climbing accomplishments. Don list finisher #54.

one
current
SPS
Chairmen

. These included Duane McRuer and Bob Hicks I think. I was eager to look like I knew what I was doing and kicked steps up the entire chute practically by myself only to throw up on Powell after cutting over to it from Thompson! Strangely enough, after that trip though, I almost never suffered from the affects of altitude again, and I learned to drink ample amounts of water on such strenuous days. Both Duane and Bob turned out to be superb climbing friends with whom I have had many a mountain adventure in the Sierra, the desert,

and the Cascades. I was privileged to be included in the SPS led Cascades trip in '79, including ascending Mt. St. Helens before she blew. More important were the many crevasse rescue and snow training trips conducted by Mac, Bob, and Bill T. Russell, among others, prior to our trip. An added bonus to this trip of Shasta, Hood, Adams, and St. Helens was the opportunity to stay on and get Mt. Rainier with Bill T. Russell, Cuno, and Rusty Russell. I still recall the horrendous wind that nearly blew away my little JanSport wedge tent off the mountain while we were up on the peak (a ranger ran after it and saved it for me). Or watching Cuno's eyes bug out as he ogled bikini clad young things on our way down. Or how it later whited out on our way down and Cuno Compass and Bill T. Navigation had a "disagreement" as to how to proceed. A trip in to Martha Lake from Florence Lake with Duane in July '77 to work on the Goddard area is memorable in several respects. A bearded (Australian?) fellow participant wore these leather shorts (with no under garments). Every time he sat to rest, one had to trouble not to look his way as everything all hung out! Another participant, Darryl Miller and I managed to climb Goddard, Reinstein, and Scylla in the same day (and narrowly avoid being clobbered in the head by a large boulder dislodged on the way up Reinstein.)

It was with Darryl that I had my only real true bivouac in May of 78 —we had taken too long on Olancho and snowfall erased our tracks as darkness commenced.. We could not find our packs; so we headed down the side of the mountain to below snow level and huddled around a fire until morning.

The only real lasting injury I sustained doing the list was as a result of slipping as Doug Mantle and I started down Glacier Pass Out of Mineral King. I was unable to arrest with my ice axe and slid about a third of the way down the steep snow slope. I stopped by jamming into rocks on the side with my legs and left hand. A cut up knee later healed but to this day my left palm aches at times (especially when doing tumbling at the gym). We aborted our planned trip and went over Sawtooth Peak where I waited

as Doug ran over to get Needham. My trip to Tower (and Blackhawk and Leavitt) with Gene Mauk and the Hollimans ended poorly when we found our vehicles (Gene's old yellow Luv truck and the Hollimans' car) had been broken into at Sonora Pass in Aug. '84. We all later retrieved some of our marked equipment when the thieves were caught somewhere around Grass Valley with a whole barn load of stolen goods.

In Sep.. '77 Ron Bartell, Cuno, Greg Vernon, our young BMTC student friend Wendall, and I made a spectacularly exciting traverse along and just below, on the west, the ridge between Middle Palisade and Disappointment and further on down the ridge to pick up Balcony Peak (on the Vagmarken list). I could never do that now! Bartelli, as Cuno called him was, in those years always found to be hiking in one boot and one tennis shoe due to some foot problem.

That same month I got North Palisade by the standard route on a trip led by Gene Olsen and which included Anna Lou Pinson. Norman Clyde stands out as my most exciting (i.e. scary) climb. Gerry Holliman and Greg Vernon superbly led Pat, Wendall(I think) and me up and down that one in July of '78.

The trip I got Devil's Crag (Aug. 83) was accompanied by the usual electrical storm that that peak so frequently has. Arm hairs stood on end as ice axes buzzed on the descent.

At the end of a whirlwind (or should I say whorlwind) trip to Matterhorn, Twin, Whorl, Excelsior, and Dunderberg led by Cuno and Gene Mauk, Greg Vernon and I decided to stop on the way home and run up Independence. A huge rain storm came in during our climb in that Sep. of 1978. We got soaked and separated and we ended up climbing it separately. (I think Greg ditched me!) On my way down, during the downpour, I paused to rest on a large boulder (about 6 feet in diameter) which gave away with me riding it. I went down about 5 feet, rolled off, and sustained a nasty leg wound. After that I swore never to hike "alone" again (a vow broken on many subsequent occasions). I should have been

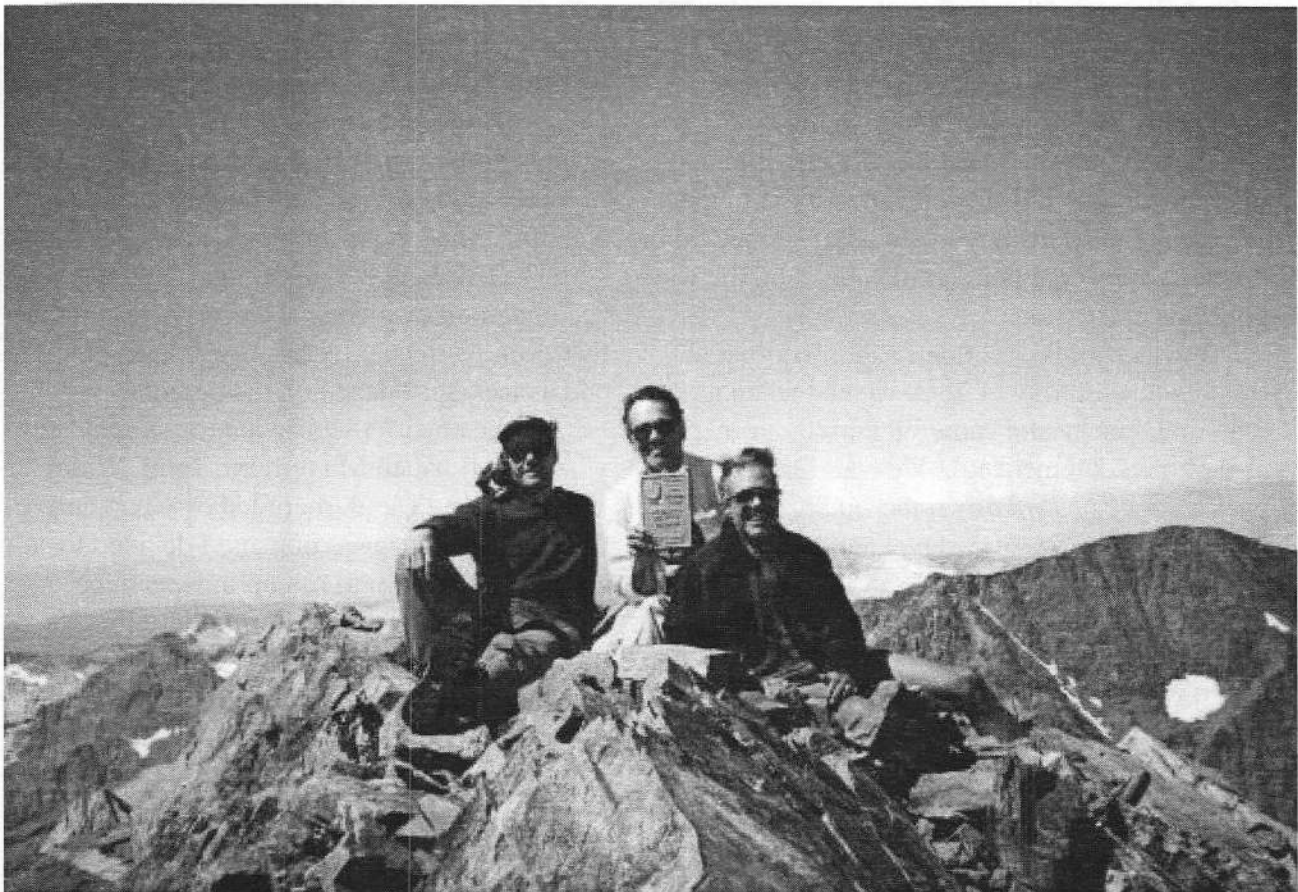
scared at the knife edge crossing atop Gardner with Cuno, Ted Pinson and Roy Ward in Sep. of '77 but in those days I just reeled in delight. Now I cringe at such exposure. I am so glad I got most of the tough ones when I was younger!

Mary "the timing wasn't right" Mc Mannes was a catch I didn't manage to reel in back then but we are still good friends today. We two had a great trip in July '81 to get Black Kaweah (and Big Kaweah for Mary). I left my ditty bag atop Black Kaweah (containing most of my ten essentials). What a surprise to receive it in the mail some weeks later from some climber from the Bay area. Mary and I met a National Sierra Club pack trip back in there and Mary dazzled them with our stories. That ditty bag found its way out of my pack and hid atop Mt. Harrington two months later (and was not recovered). On that trip Doug led the group to celebrate my 30th birthday. I'll never forget the

tricks Mary, and I played with George Husband and others using a pine cone that had been chewed by a squirrel is such a way as to make the remains appear as a fried chicken leg.

Another trip through Evolution Creek to get the Hermit and others in July of '80 with Mary and Greg found us nearly stripped, wading chest (or neck in Mary case) deep with mosquitoes so thick that exposed flesh became totally blackened by them.

A trip led by Vi Grasso to Dana, Gibbs and Cathedral in July 77 had many of the section's luminaries including Mary and Ed Omberg, Sam Roberts, Mark Gobel, Doug and many others. Cuno, who could never be a follower, nipped at Vi's heels until some of Vi's Latin fireworks eventually exploded. The evening camps were awash in wine and merriment and full of tales of past trips including the recounting of a certain person's propensity for



Doug, Don & Doug on the Summit



THE SUMMIT !!!

falling into fires when inebriated. Vi was a trip herself. When she and I carpoled to get Guyot, Pickering, Newcomb, Joe Devel and Chamberlain in Sep. '86, she came to the side gate of my house and shouted over it to my wife: "Can Donnie come out and play". During a 30/50 birthday party for Doug and Cuno which I hosted, Vi provided some of the entertainment with her famous belly dancing. Of course Vi's list finish and party in Sept '91 stands out as one of the great friends trips.

Mary (then back to Gygax), Doug and I did a trip into Yosemite's back country to get Piute, Volunteer (and Pettit for those two) in Sep. '81. We merrily sang old TV sitcom tunes from the 60's. "Green Acres is the place to be...." Mary somehow wonderfully, managed to pack in oodles of those Club margaritas, daiquiris, etc., in the little frozen cans. Um um.

Some adventures with Bill T. Russell bear recalling: when he and I went up for Mt.

Russell we had to go on some steep ledges full of small ball bearing-like stones. He used a tree branch to sweep it clean. On Russell he pulled out his site/level on both summits to ascertain which was truly higher. We did Russell, Carillon, and Tunnabora that day followed by backpacking over Barnard, Hale and Young the next. Coming down Trail Crest, Bill toppled head over heels (with full pack) on a switchback but bounced right back up, dusted himself, and proceeded on as if nothing happened!

Bill T's. trip to Milestone, Midway, Table and Thunder in Aug. of 78 was enlivened by his unique low fifth class route up Table. I recall the usually affable Bob Hicks becoming a tiny bit perturbed to discover some participants didn't know how to tie into the climbing rope with even a Bowline on a coil. And did we do Cal Tech on the way out?

After Palisade Crest was added to the List,

Doug Mantle got me up it (with considerable reticence on my part on just the third class portions!) in Aug. '94. Finally got Sill on that one too. We two went in over Shepard's Pass in June of 95, a heavy snow year, to get Jordan and Genevra. I had to back off Jordan as I felt a snow chute up the final 200 or 300 feet was too steep, with no run out, except death. I had visions of leaving my then 7 year old son fatherless. Doug did it of course, like water off a duck's back. Just watching his descent down that snow was chilling to me. The hike back down Shepard's Pass was harrowing in itself. We did it in the morning with crampons when it was totally iced. Very steep! (I later had to solo Jordan in July of 99, from East Lake while Doug Mantle and Doug Bear were off doing Brewer and Mary McMannes "entertained" packer Doug at camp. In 1998 I had 7 to go. Then I read Barbara Sholle's write up of her finish on Clouddripper. CLOUDRIPPER?? Had the Section gone and added another peak? I didn't remember voting on that. Finally I figured from the trip report that Clouddripper is a newer name for Inconsolable (as it appears on my old list, revised in 1976). I had climbed it and Morgan #1 on the same day back in Aug. '78.

This summer, 2000, I had 3 to go. I took my (now) 12 year old son with me on a hike up Muah (his first Sierra peak) in June, leaving Observation and McDuffy for the finish. I had originally planned to do Muah as the finisher but was not sure when I would be able to schedule it so that friends could come in the fall (as I would be in Colorado for the rest of the summer).

Doug Mantle, and Gene Mauk accompanied me From South Lake to Grouse Meadow on Friday, Aug. 4 and both dragged me up Observation the next morning. I was ailing from a sore back all that week and on various pain killers. I nearly gave up when we took an "alternative" route up the next canyon west of Cataract Creek. (I actually did give up a bit of the contents of my stomach.) But all is well that ends well.

Next we met up with Doug Bear who was

already in the area climbing since earlier that week; but he had been severely drenched by a fierce rainstorm that had passed through Thursday, the 3rd. Gene had to be back in town earlier than us so he went out the next morning while the Dougs and I hauled our backpacks through the Kings Middle Fork up 2000 feet through brush, forests, and a steep talus chute (a dried up outlet of Ladder Lake) up to Ladder Lake. That afternoon Doug Bear flew up The Citidal while Doug M. and I rested and tried to watch Bear's progress.

Next morning Doug Bear led us up to the small lake 8/10 of a mile west-southwest of Ladder Lake (where I again I managed to lighten the load in my stomach). From there we climbed to the ridge and for the most part stayed on it for about 3/4 to one mile northwest to the summit of Mt. Malcom McDuffy. Both Smatko, Voge and Roper's guides call this route class 2. Give me a break! We had, in my opinion, sustained class 3 moves the whole way along the ridge. Not too much exposure though, which made it fun. The descent with backpacks back to Grouse Meadow was a killer on my feet. After a night of very spirited political campfire "discussions" amongst the three of us, we made the long hike out through Duzy Basin, over Bishop Pass, and back to South Lake. (I actually left two hours earlier so as not to possibly hold the killer Doug-duo up.) I later realized that although I had been on a number of trips with Doug Bear before we had never actually climbed a Sierra Peak with together until now, my finisher! (He has been busy soloing the list.)

These then have been a few recollections of great folks, great climbs and events (and a few not so great events) in my Sierra Club climbing career. I feel privileged to have benefited from the help and experience and camaraderie of many fine friends in the Club, including many not specifically mentioned above. I hope to hike/climb with them (that are still alive!) all again.

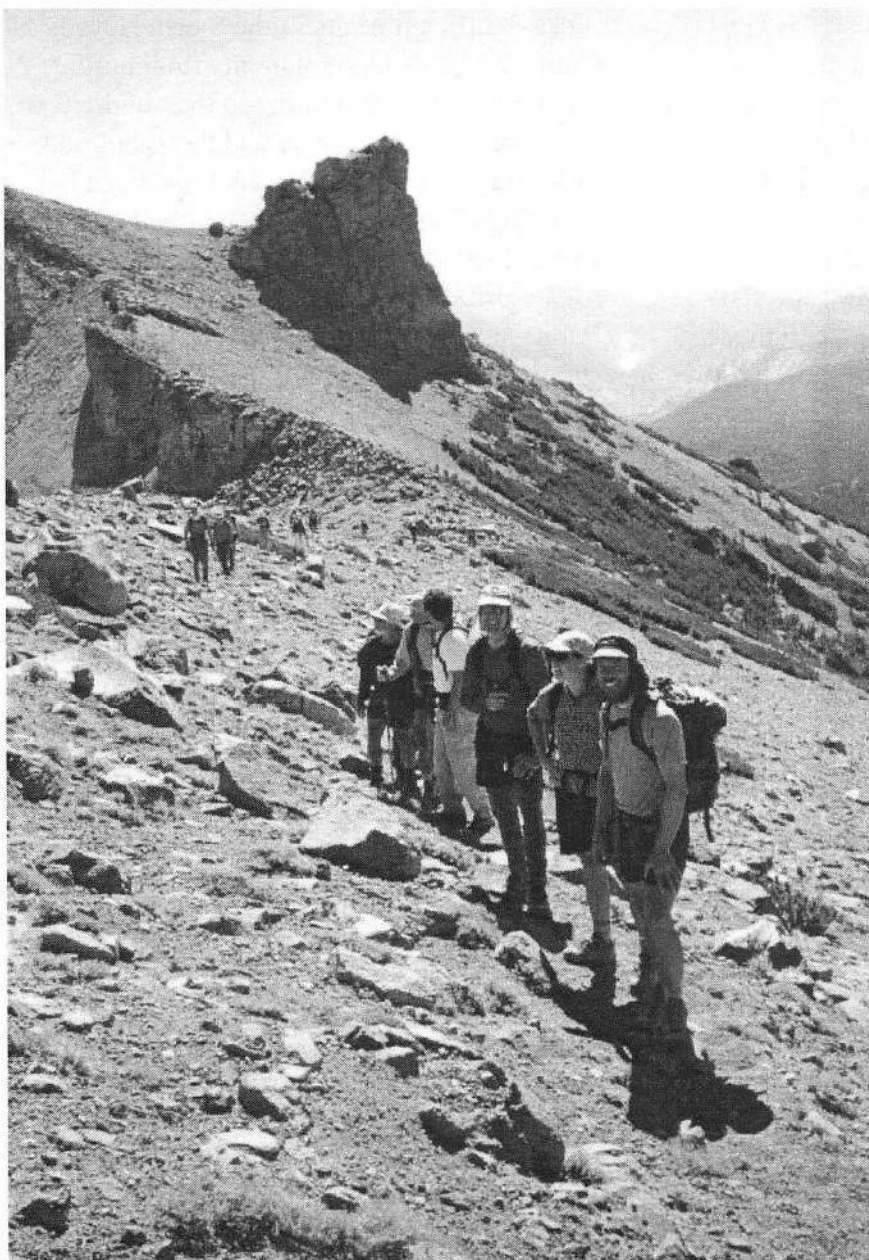
DON SPARKS, LIST FINISHER

MY LIST FINISH

ON

SAN JOAQUIN MOUNTAIN

(11,601')



On the way to the summit.

RON HUDSON LIST FINISHER!!!

September 30, 2000

By Ron Hudson

San Joaquin Mountain is good for a list finish because it is easy (class one), has area suitable nearby for a large party and camping, and has superb scenery from its summit. On Sept. 30, 2000, 24 climbing friends met at Minaret Summit near Mammoth Ski area. The weather was clear and warm. At 9:00 a.m. we then proceeded to walk the six miles along the ridge from the parking area. This ridge area, along the Pacific Crest Trail well below, is one of the best in the Sierra for wildflowers — along the many streams and wet areas down there that drain out of the rock and meadows.

As we hiked along, fellow peak climbers reminisced and related long past and recent experiences as well as talked travel and

current happenings. The aspens were displaying their fall colors: yellows through reds in the views below. We also basked in the spectacular vistas of the Minarets, Ritter and Banner and many lakes including Shadow, 1000 Island, Garnet, and Ediza. Lively discussions ensued among us, as we had much in common. Some of the people were there whom I climbed with more than 20 years ago, for example, I met Mary McMannes on a 20s and 30s Singles trip I led to Yosemite in the late 70s. And Don Sparks and I led a trip to Iron Mountain in July 1976.

I had been high up on top of the ridge twice before, when I took advantage of its skiability in the wintertime (starting from the Mammoth Ski Lodge), but both times a snowstorm defeated my attempts. I had considered other routes for the list finish, particularly from Deadman Creek to the east, but the ridge would be the simplest for a potentially large group. I apologize to those who may have missed the trip, because I did not announce the trip far in advance and to everybody as widely as I should have; it was not even an official SPS activity. But I had other conflicts in a busy summer for me.

As we stopped for each rest it was not easy

to start again in distraction from the congenial conversations and world-class natural splendor and peace. As we got to Two Teats, less than a mile from the summit, we picked up one additional person who had somehow missed us. The group was now 25 people, and one dog, (belonging to Igor and Suzanne). We then spread out somewhat on the final steep summit slope, but we all waited close to the top for the final action.

At that spot I contemplated the significance of the moment, the realization of a multi-decade goal, completing the ever-sacred list of the 247 most significant peaks in the Sierra Nevada of California. I tried to relate my final hurdle of the mere 50 feet remaining to the hundreds of thousands of vertical feet and thousand-odd miles traveled in the 40 years I had been climbing Sierra peaks. I approached slowly, and as I finally stood at the summit I yelled out to the visual feast all around in celebration. In tradition, we hugged, kissed, photographed, shook hands, drank champagne, and ate goodies.

Adventurous and lively discussion continued to be shared by all as we sat there in the balmy shorts-and-sleeves weather. Bruce Trotter, a botanist, gave me a copy of the book he had prepared. In addition to this newest completor, there were four other list finishers including Barbara Sholle, Don Sparks, Steve Eckert, and Rich Gnagy. And others present very close to the finish with only a few peaks remaining — Greg and Mirna Roach and Pat and Gerry Holleman. As we proceeded back many stopped at Two Teats and walked up the east Teat and/or climbed the short third class section



for the west (lower) summit.

We got back to the cars at Minaret Summit around 4:30. David Underwood helped by driving the rough 4WD road back up the ridge for two miles to pick up one of our group who had a painful heel. Next we made a short drive to a nice spot I had selected, in the open "dispersed camping" area about three miles NW of Mammoth Town. It was a great spot for our group, with ample flat area, protected by trees yet still open to the sky, and with existing fire ring and plenty of wood. Those who needed to could make a ten minute detour to town for purchases. The tables we brought were set out and then loaded with the potluck delights for a feast. The scrumptious dishes included quesadillas, sushi, hummus/pita, Caesar and bean salads, couscous, wok chicken and veggies, BBQ chicken, and great cakes and cookies for dessert.

Around the feast and campfire many more mountain moments and meetings were mentioned and reminisced upon. I had the (dirt) floor while I related some items I had compiled from my Sierra Peaks (spreadsheet) list and notes. They include:

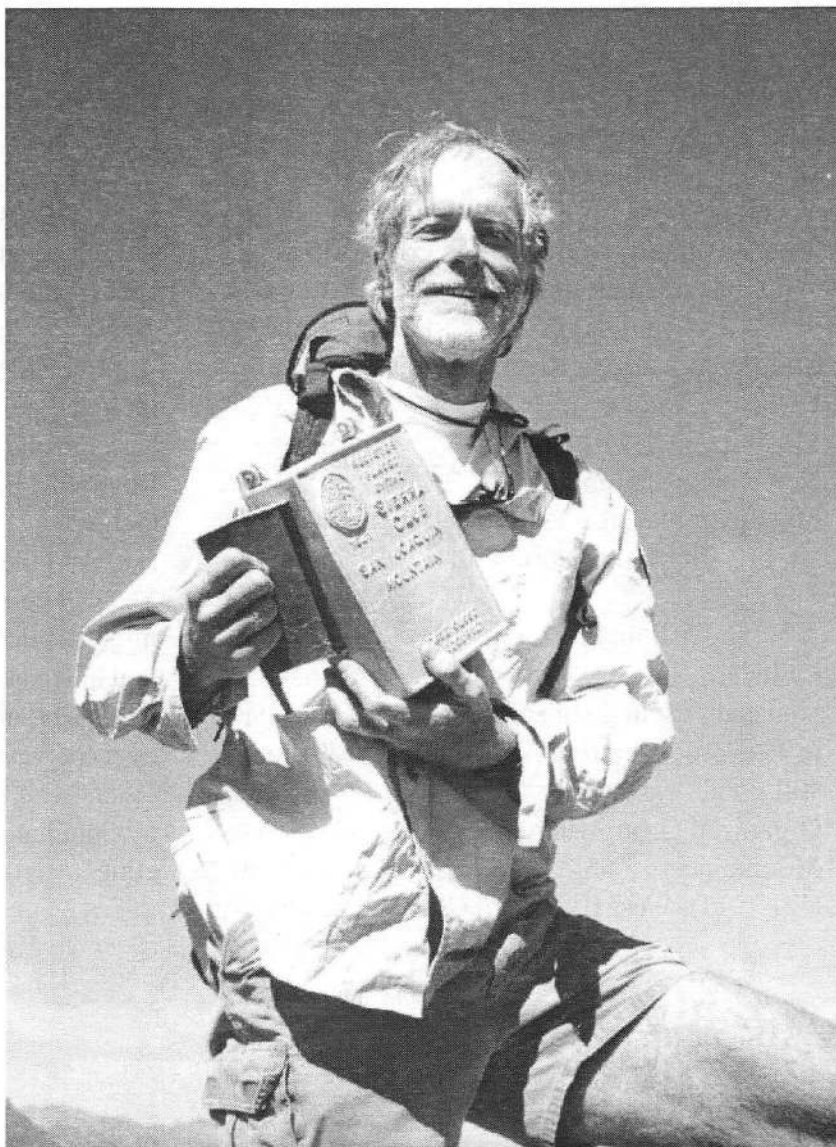
First peak: Half Dome 1960 - trip with my uncle

Most unsuccessful: State - 3 tries to get San Joaquin - 3 tries to get

Longest Day: Norman Clyde (unsuccessful) 23 hours

Bivouacs: Henry, Sill, Norman Clyde

Worst bivvy: Sill - no sleep, couldn't get out of the wind and wet



The wonderful feeling of accomplishment!

Longest trip: John Muir Trail in 9 days with Whitney at end

Prettiest: Lake Ediza, View from Mt Goddard

Best Flowers: High trail from Agnew Meadows, Cliff Creek Mineral King

Coldest: Morgan South in winter - below zero at night

Wettest: Hilgard, Dunderberg, Emerald - I was completely soaked

Memorable: seeing the northern lights from Norman Clyde, electricity buzzing and later lightning on McAdie

Most dangerous (loose rock): Devils Crag, Temple Crag (Moon Goddess Arete)

Most frequent: Whitney 10 times
 Second most - Williamson 5 times
 Number soloed: 54
 Number led or co-led: 104
 Done more than once: 114
 Most in one year: 40 new + 7 repeats - 1984
 Most adventurous: Enchanted Gorge (1967),
 Williamson Creek to Williamson
 Division Creek to Colosseum,
 Middle Fork Kings River Canyon
 Easiest: Lamont
 Most in one day: 4 - Joe Devel , Pickering,
 Newcomb, Chamberlin 1988
 Most extreme trip: Palisades traverse - 5-14ers
 - T'bolt, Starlight, North Palisade, Polemonium,
 Sill
 - light weight in 4 days/3 nights from
 trailhead
 Unusual: cached some food near Taboose pass
 in 1983, recovered it in 1995 and it was mostly
 still good.
 Organized Groups I did peaks with: UCLA
 Mountaineers ('65 - '68), Westwood Ski Club
 ('71 - '73), West LA Sierra Club, SF Valley

Group, RCS, BMTC, SPS, PCS, SCMA, CMC
 Animals: Cougar on way to Mt. Kennedy.
 Big horn sheep on Muir Trail - Rae Lakes

After my tales, the group listened intently while Dave German and Judy Rittenhouse told of their recent survival adventure where they spent 4 nights in snow caves with bad weather on Mr Ranier. Participants (all made it to the summit and party) not already mentioned include Paul Graff, Keith Martin, Barry Holchin and Karen, Murray Zichlinski, Cathy Reynolds, Bob Suzuki, Dave Sholle, and Bruno Geiger.

And the inevitable question - what next? Yes, I'll continue in the Sierras. Maybe not so intently but I want to still do technical climbs, and new and exploratory routes. Thanks to all those who accompanied me on the various trips over the years. And to John Muir and the others who kindled and keep alive the mountain and climbing spirit and wilderness ethic.



COVER STORY

KILIMANJARO AND POINT LENANA

by Tina Bowman

On June 11, five of us—Barbara and Dave Sholle, Jack Miller, my husband Tom, and I—flew to Detroit, Amsterdam, and then Nairobi, arriving the evening of the twelfth and being met by a driver from Discover Kenya/Discover Tanzania, our excellent travel agency in Nairobi recommended by Rayne Motheral. After a night in the Nairobi Hilton, we were on our way to Tanzania to Moshi at the foot of Kilimanjaro, where we met with Thomas and Castro from Trans-Kibo, our guiding company for the climb of Kilimanjaro. Because Kilimanjaro is in a Tanzanian national park, the regulations require all climbers to have a guide.

The next morning, June 14, we were driven to the start of the Machame route with our guide Mathias. Some porters were driven in a separate Land Cruiser; others were hired at the park gate. We had ten porters, including the cook, and an assistant guide as well as Mathias. After signing the park register and having a box lunch (Mathias had asked whether we vegetarians ate chicken!) at the park entrance, we were finally on our way, hiking in the rain up to the Machame hut at 9850', about 4,000' of gain in five hours. At first we were on road and then trail, muddier and muddier. The porters passed us at one of our rest stops, most of them carrying our duffels on their heads. The Machame hut is at the transition from rain forest to a drier zone, and we were out of the rain before we reached our camp there. We were served a snack and then dinner—a lot of food and good. Some of the trip descriptions we had read from others' climbs of Kilimanjaro complained of not having enough to eat. That certainly wasn't our problem.

During the night we had our first glimpse of the summit in the moonlight, the peak having been obscured previously by the cloud layer we were under. The next day we hiked up to the Shira Plateau, passing many giant groundsels, and camped

for two nights at the Shira Cave area at about 12,500' for acclimatization. Fortunately, the camps have outhouses; unfortunately, some of them don't have doors. We lollygagged, ate, read, and visited with hikers from Chicago and Colombia by way of Louisiana. On our layover day we hiked away from the summit past the Shira Hut and out toward the Shira summit, the lowest of the three widely separated summits of Kilimanjaro. We hiked up Cathedral Ridge for an excellent view of the Kibo summit cone of Kili and its high point, Uhuru summit. Then back to camp for more dawdling.

The nice thing about our "Whiskey Route"—the Machame-Mweka route—is that we had varying views of the mountain; from the "Coca-Cola Route," the Marangu route, the view is always the same with the same trail in and out. The Machame trail is an up-only route; the Mweka a down trail. We used a variation on this route, going up to the Arrow Glacier camp at about 15,750' for a night before our climb to the summit via the Western Breach. On June 17 we moved to the Arrow Glacier camp, stopping for lunch at the Lava Tower. Some snow fell in the afternoon but then gave way to great views of the Western Breach and Breach Wall.

On summit day we got up at 1 a.m. and were hiking by the light of the full moon at 2:45 after coffee or hot water and biscuits. We climbed with Mathias and Alpha, the assistant guide, while the porters carried gear around to the Millenium Camp. Eventually we got to some snow as we went up the scree slope. Mathias was using one of my hiking poles, and I gave the other one to Alpha when I got out my ice axe; neither one of them had an axe. Mathias had instep crampons, one of which fell off and I retrieved to give back to him. No wonder the guides didn't want to go up the snow! Following the maxim of Trans-Kibo, "pole-pole" (slowly), up we went the use trail with a bit of scrambling through the breach and into the crater at about 18,700'. It was good to get in the sun once we reached the crater rim. My toes had been a bit cold—from stopping frequently to get the group back together—but they soon warmed up. We strolled to the base of the final climb up to Uhuru Peak and took off more layers. Astounding glaciers are in and around the crater, astounding because there is dirt and then a wall of ice, like enormous wedding cakes dropped there. We had some steep plodding to do to get up to the rim and the walk over to Uhuru, which we reached at about 10:45. The top of Africa at 19,340' was sunny, mild,

windless in strong contrast to all we had heard and read about. Of course, not trying to get there at dawn helped a lot. Jack pulled out his SPS flag for us to display in various photos. Later Barbara and Dave went a short ways down from the summit to where Jennifer Lambelet Mencken died on New Year's day and remembered her with a small memorial.

When we left, we continued east on the ridge and then started down the trail to the Barafu huts, a scree slope that Mathias, Tom, and I ran down, dropping 3,000' very quickly. We were at Barafu camp about 1:15 where we again met the father and son from Chicago. They were following the normal Machame-Mweka trail and would try for the summit the next day. On we went to Millenium camp, 6,000' below the summit. Many people descend 9,000' from the summit, but we wanted something less punishing. After all, we were used to having porters, a cook, warm water to wash our face and hands, etc. Just after dinner it began to rain, and rain it did. Tom and I soon discovered that my ancient Early Winters Starship tent, made of Gore-tex when I bought it in 1978, *now* seemed to be made out of Leak-tex. We spent hours bailing out the tent with our little sponges and camp towels. Fortunately, it didn't rain all night. Barbara and Dave had some leaking, but Jack was quite snug in his new Bibler Ahwahnee tent.

We had showers off and on our last morning on Kilimanjaro. As a result, the five of us crowded for breakfast into one of the tents used by the porters, sitting on camp stools, nearly doubled over under the roof of the tent. It wasn't the most comfortable arrangement and would have made a funny picture. We finally left camp at 11:00 and hiked through a long forest of protea plants to the Mweka hut where we had originally planned to spend another night. Not wanting to have to deal with the leaking tents, we decided to go on down to the Mweka park gate, arriving there about 4:30, 7,000 feet lower than we were in the morning. From the Mweka hut to the gate we were back in the rain forest, which means mud and more mud. It's a land of ferns, tree ferns, spider plants, papyrus, and things we think of as houseplants—and mud. We camped at the gate, pitching the two leaky tents in a covered picnic area. About 11 p.m. a solid rain began; thank goodness we were under a thatched roof.

We tipped our porters \$35 each, gave the cook an extra \$10, gave Alpha \$70 and Mathias \$80. I gave Mathias my old tent, warning him to make a

fly for it. He was most appreciative. We walked down the road to the small town where we waited for our ride back to Moshi. Several men wanted us to buy souvenirs or trade for them, but the things we'd brought for trading were in storage at the Trans-Kibo offices. We passed on trading Gore-tex jackets or Oakley sunglasses for thumb pianos or Maasai spears. This was to be a recurring theme—when people wanted to trade, we didn't have our trading stuff.

We had a night at the Keys Hotel in Moshi where we took advantage of the sunny front patio to dry out gear and of the laundry service to wash some things. The next morning Martin, our driver from Discover Tanzania, met us and took us in the Land Cruiser to Ngorongoro Crater, where we stayed two nights at the Serena Lodge on the rim and went on animal drives in the crater. We saw baobab trees near Lake Manyara, amazing trees I've always wanted to see since I read The Little Prince when I was young. From Ngorongoro we went to the Serengeti, stopping at Oldupai (Olduvai) Gorge to see where the Leakys made their discoveries. Eventually we went back to Nairobi and then to the Aberdare Country Club and the Ark, situated by a water hole and natural salt lick which is supplemented. We saw so many animals at these places: thousands of wildebeeste and zebras, Thompson's and Grant's gazelles, impalas, dik-diks, elands, topis, cape buffalo, hartebeests, bushbucks, waterbucks, wart hogs, giraffes, elephants, hippos, rhinos, lions, cheetahs, leopards, a genet cat, hyenas, jackals, flamingos, kori bustards, black kites, tawny eagles, Nubian vultures, white-backed vultures, superb starlings, and all sorts of other birds. Jack was attacked by a black kite that swooped down to snatch a bite of lunch from his hand in Ngorongoro crater. We saw cheetah cubs at play and rest, hyenas defending their food, lions mating, lions feeding, elephants hoping to breed.

After the Ark we started our hike up Pt. Lenana, the third highest summit of Mt. Kenya. The two high points, Batian and Nelion, are multi-pitch rock climbs; Pt. Lenana is a lowly trekking peak about seven hundred feet lower at 16,355'. On June 27, we met our guide Sammy at the Mountain Rock Hotel and were driven in a huge Mercedes truck/bus with the porters to Sirimon Gate on Mt. Kenya, stopping at a town along the way for a few things and being mobbed by beggars and fellows selling carvings and trinkets. We stopped at the equator for the obligatory photos and ignored the fellow

demonstrating water spinning one way on one side of the equator and the other direction on the other, a little slight of hand trick. Going through bamboo forest and to the edge of the giant heather plant zone, we hiked up the road to the Old Moses camp, our porters and gear getting a ride in smaller trucks. No more tents—we stayed in nice bunk houses the whole time we were on Mt. Kenya, several with flush toilets. We met a couple doing Peace Corps work in Tanzania and several young Israeli women.

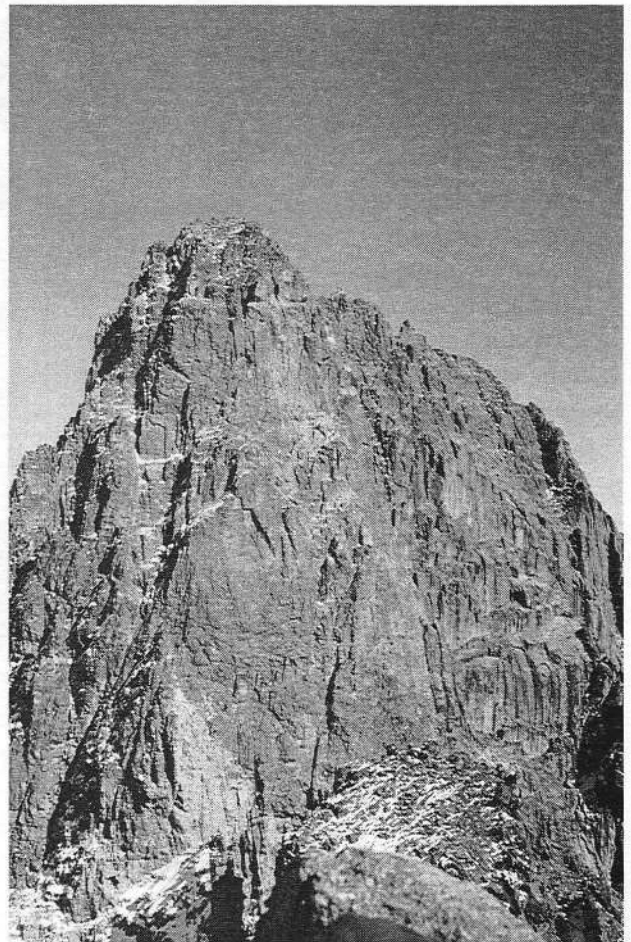
The next day we went up to Shipton's Camp at about 13,700', moving up through the giant heather zone and into the alpine zone. We passed more giant lobelias and giant groundsels. Just before reaching Shipton's camp and for a bit afterwards, we had some snow. The others in the bunk house got up around 2:00 to go to Pt. Lenana; we got up at 4:20 and were hiking at 5:17, turning off our headlamps in half an hour. We went up the moraine to the ridge by Harris tarn and from there up to Pt. Lenana. As we neared the top, we met the Israelis coming down. One was very timid on the steep slope with its use trail and some ball bearings; she was scrunching down on her butt, scared and slow. I gave her one of my hiking poles, the one that wouldn't extend in the bottom section, so that she could stand up, and her guide gave her a shoulder to lean on also.

It looked as though they were making much better progress as we headed on up. Dave was nauseated with flu symptoms; Sammy had us regroup often and take breaks so that we reached the summit together at 8:37. After the photo frenzy we left the summit, which we had approached from the north, and went south down to the Austrian hut, negotiating some snow along the ridge. After a snack at the Austrian hut we went to our last camp at Mackinder's, where we lazed away the afternoon. I fed almonds to the rock hyraxes, the closest living relatives of elephants. They turned out to be snarling, quarreling animals, clambering over one another to get at the food.

Our final day we hiked down through the Vertical Bog and a muddy trail and road to the Met Station hut. Just below that the truck picked us up for the drive out to the Naro Morn Gate and back to the Mountain Rock Hotel. Here we had showers and lunch before our ride back to Nairobi.

From Nairobi we went on one last safari to

Masai Mara for the wildebeeste and zebra migration. We stayed in the north at Kichwa Tembo camp, a resort with tent cabins rather like Camp Curry taken to the five star level. Here we were able to talk to Maasai warriors and see a traditional dance as well as spend our money on souvenirs. It is a very interesting time in the Maasai culture as some take up western wear and ways and others remain more traditional, herding their cattle and goats, eating milk, blood, and some meat. Our last night on safari was spent in the southern part of Masai Mara at Keekorok Lodge. The last morning we took a hot air balloon ride as a delightful way to end our safari. Fittingly, about the last animal we saw were vultures and a hyena feeding on the carcass of a giraffe. We flew back to Nairobi for one last night and dinner at the Carnivore Restaurant, which does serve vegetarian meals also. Zebra, crocodile, and eland were served this evening, along with roast beef and chicken. We had one last frenzy of shopping before we said goodbye to Africa with our long flights home. What a wonderful trip! What great company!



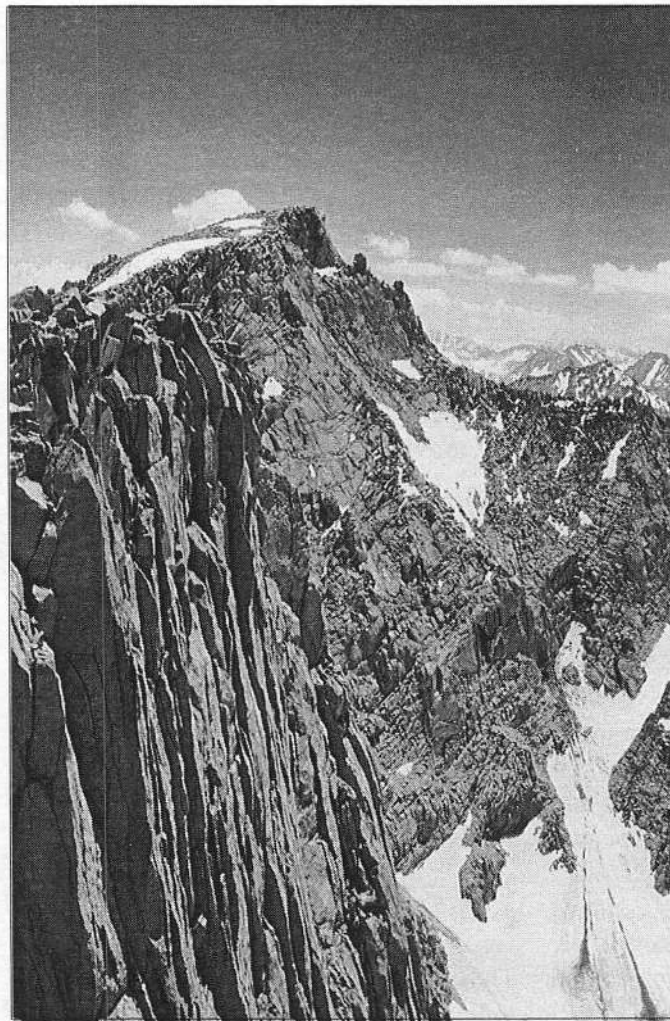
Mt. Dade & Mt. Mills

by Beth Epstein

June 17-18, 2000

Little did I know, in 1998, when I assisted Asher Waxman on an Abbot/Mills climb, that when we arrived at camp just below Mills Lake on Saturday afternoon and decided not to climb Mills, I would be left with a dilemma. It seemed the civilized thing to do, and it was the consensus of the group: let's just enjoy a beautiful afternoon at camp and be fresh for Abbot tomorrow, and leave the loose afternoon snow and rock on Mills for another day. Well, that other day arrived two years later, almost to the date.

Our decision left me and several of the original participants of that trip — Carol Snyder, Terry Flood and Kim Gimenez — with two peaks, Dade and Mills, in the same general vicinity. Last fall when I asked Carol what climb she would come on if I listed it, she suggested Dade, so I decided go for Mills, too. The logistics weren't perfect for a class 3 M-level climb of both. The sensible thing to do would have been to dayhike them separately, but I like being out there in the alpen-glow with the rock and trees and good company. Treasure Lakes seemed the best camp for a class 3 climb of both peaks (Mills Lake is best for a class 4 climb of Dade). This made for a somewhat indirect approach to Mills. But people actually agreed to come. Unfortunately for all of us, but especially Carol, she broke her wrist the week before the trip.



So nine of us — Tim Everett, Terry Flood, Katrin Hafner, Jason Lynch, Jan St. Amand, John Dodds, and John Robinson with Kim Gimenez and I leading — met at Mosquito Flats on Saturday morning, swatting, and headed for Treasure Lakes. Having heard that the talus was troublesome on the use trail to Treasure Lakes and that crossing over from Gem Lake was better, I bypassed the use trail turnout at

the end of Long Lake. Once I got a view of the drainage, covered with snow, I changed my mind and dragged everybody cross-country and back down to it. They were very kind about the error (it was still early!). We took the use trail on the return; even without the snow the talus seems minimal.

We set camp in snow-free (and mosquito-free!) patches in the benches northwest of the lower Treasure Lakes outlet, had lunch and headed for Dade. The snow was just soft enough to make coping with suncups easier and we never needed crampons that afternoon. We circled lower Treasure Lake on the west, crossed into the uppermost lake, around its east side and up the snow-covered inlet. The lake was full of beautiful turquoise ice formations into which we hoped to avoid sliding. From the base of the Hourglass, Kim kicked steps to the top, leaving us in the proverbial dust with more than one person proclaiming her "an animal" and with complaints from the tallest men that her steps were too far apart. Hmm. I know why John Robinson wasn't on her tail

— by the time we got back to camp both his plastic boots had flapping soles. We were on top within 3 1/2 hours — what a view! The snow was pretty good for plunge-stepping on the way down, though too soft to glissade or arrest. It was a quick descent anyway, delayed only by my own complete submersion of one leg in the snow-covered talus below the summit. Jan and Kim had to dig me out by hand. We were back in camp by 6 pm, but everyone was so tired from the day that it was hard to arouse much enthusiasm for happy hour, and for the first time in a long while I didn't have to carry home my dinner. It was also hard to inspire much enthusiasm for a predawn start, so we compromised on 5:30.

If this had been a PCS trip, this would be titled "A Long Dade's Journey into Mills". We left camp at 5:30 in plenty of light. Katrin didn't feel well, John R needed a cobbler and John D had Mills, so now we were 6. The snow was a little harder, but not much. We used our hardened steps from the day before to the basin at 11,500'. I opted not to ascend via Treasure Saddle because the snow was melting fast and the rocky slabs were very wet, instead climbing an extra 200' up a solid snow gully due east of Dade and traversing below its north face. Crampons were helpful here. It is a long way up, and once onto the rolling morainal ridges below Abbot, you see you have to drop a little which is disheartening. But we got a interesting view of the route on Mills and I don't know what I was thinking by not taking a picture. Secor's descriptions of the East Couloir are good, but the photo locates the routeline a little bit too far south.

Reviewing the published write-ups on Mills is like watching "Rashoman". Everyone talks about what must be the same thing in very different ways. I projected my own impressions just in reading them, and may have missed the Van Dalsem route as a result. From our vantage point on the moraine, it was clear that there were a pair of couloirs close to one another on the East face, with a rib between them, the southern one wider and more snow-filled, which was, of course, appealing. The chockstone in the more northerly one was clearly visible half a mile away, and it is very close to the base of the steep rock where the couloirs begin. From a distance - even from 10 yards away - it looked very straightforward, but when I got up to it my heart sank. The reason it looked easy was because the snow was high in front of it. In fact you had to descend 6 feet down the snow which had melted next to it in a sort of mini-schrund, so what was left

to climb was ten feet of smooth granite with flaring cracks on each side, few footholds, water pouring down from melting ice on top and soft snow at the base. Here I wish I had the conversation which occurred later with my assistant, who interpreted Secor as saying the alcove of the Van Dalsem route was an alternative to the chockstone. Rereading, it seems possible. I assumed it was above the chockstone, and turned to climb the southern gully.

Kim kicked steps to the end of the gully, where we confronted a headwall — exposed junk on two sides, and ahead a wide, ominously dark chimney which I was reluctant to explore because the rock looked so big and so loose. A sizeable block on which Kim was standing toppled. After viewing the area from above, I wish I had checked the chimney, but I had seen a potential crossing into the northern gully about 100' down and we descended to it. There were two low points on the rib within 20 feet of each other, and we took the upper one, a 15' series of class 3 blocks and cracks with a slightly awkward step-around and an exit into loose rock which led to the top of the rib and over into the northern couloir. Ascending 50 more feet of sandy ribs and eroding rock in the north gully, we got back on the steep, softening snow which led to the top of the ridge. We traversed south below a peaklet on the ridge, staying on snow until the final few feet before the summit plateau, which wasn't visible until our heads popped up onto it. To describe my feeling at the sight of the plateau as relief would be an understatement.

By this time it was almost noon and my pleasure at having found the summit was diminished somewhat by my concern about the descent. But we did the summit stuff — enjoyed the really spectacular views, read the registers (we were the first entry this year), took pictures. Heading down, we peered over the edge of the plateau and saw the standard traverse, mostly clear of snow, across good ledges and talus to the northern gully, and we took it all the way back to our notch in the rib, where we set up a belay back down into the south gully. We then downclimbed the snow to a point where we all could plunge step and began the long haul in soft snow back over the moraine to the Treasure Lakes drainage. Jason and Jan shared the step-kicking duties and we were back at camp at 6:00 and at the cars by 7:45. It was a longer day than I would have liked - a strenuous adventure whose stats don't tell the tale — but thanks to the care everyone took we encountered very minimal rockfall and we were all

safe.

Need Dade and Mills? Do it in the snow to avoid rockfall. Climb Dade's north face and camp near Mills Lake. Call somebody and ask about the Van Dalsem alcove. Bring Super Glue. But mostly make sure you've got a party of strong, determined and agreeable participants like ours.

-Beth Epstein



“Adamson Point” (13,200'+)

June 24, 2000
by Erik Siering

The Scheelite Couloir drops nearly 5000 feet from the Wheeler Ridge to Pine Creek Canyon, arguably the greatest consistent drop of any High Sierra chute. It presents an awesome ski descent. The upper half of the couloir is steep and tight at 45 degrees, before culminating at 35 degrees in the broader bottom. Adamson Point and Broken Finger Peak (13,280') frame the head of the Scheelite Couloir. Bob Sumner and I dayhiked trail and old mining road to the abandoned Adamson Mine, from which we scrambled to Adamson Point and attempted to access Broken Finger Peak by its southeast ridge.

We departed early in the morning from the Mosquito Flat trailhead at Rock Creek, cognizant of the prevailing thunderstorm pattern. After five miles, wending through Little Lakes Valley and crossing Morgan Pass (10400'), the trail passes a nice shorty cabin by Lower Morgan Lake. The rocky trail, an old road bed, melds with the creek at the lake outlet and continues another five miles

downhill south to the tungsten ore processing plant at Pine Creek [note: As of 7/16, there was an sign on Hwy 395 indicating a liquidation auction at the mine plant]. We turned uphill on a faint track that leads to the Adamson Mine in the canyon formed by Mt Morgan (South) and the west end of the Wheeler Ridge.

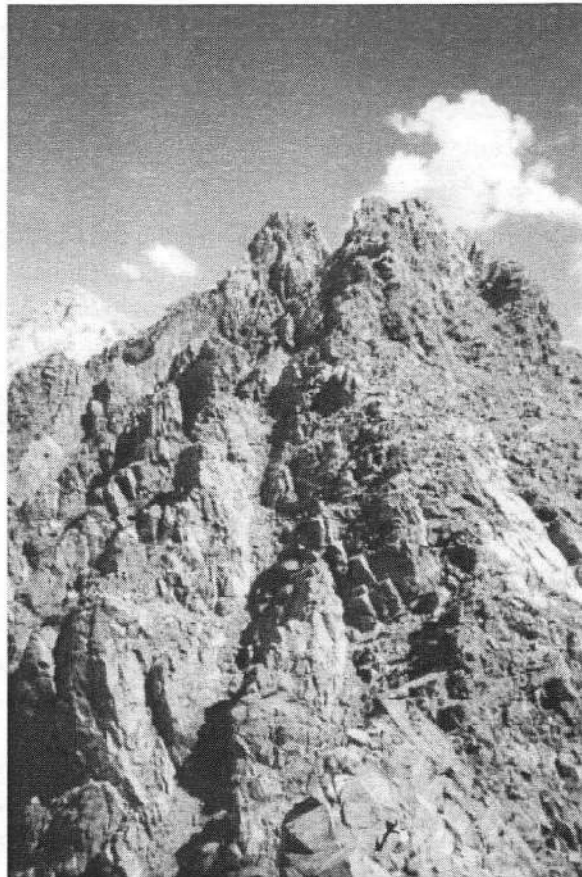
This is an impressive cirque. Above treeline at 12,000', the austere terrain is characterized by brightly colored geologic strata. Mining debris and adits mark the hillsides. The principal mine has three large open horizontal shafts. A snowmelt stream rushes past rusted tooling and the flattened ruins of old structures. Massive Mt Morgan looms to the north. An ore tramway at the highest adit sits atop the Wheeler Ridge at 13,000 feet elevation! We followed the jeep track that switchbacks steeply up to this adit, winding through the crumpled remains of the tramway struts and cabling. The polemonium growing on the slopes here was incredibly dense, the most either of us had ever seen.

The adit cuts a shallow trough in the ridge, through which we walked to a vista of Wheeler Crest and Mt Tom. We tried to traverse to the

southeast ridge of Broken Finger Peak, but without a rope we were stymied by several clefts. We also lacked axe and crampons, so the lingering steep snow tongues barred us from crossing the head of the Scheelite Couloir to bypass these obstacles. Yet this approach to Broken Finger Peak was unappealing in any case. This was confirmed when I later researched the SPS Echo newsletter archives.

The peak derives its name from an injury sustained by Andy Smatko on an unsuccessful attempt on the southeast ridge in May 1967. This fractured ridge (bad pun!) comprises four sheer gendarmes, one of which is overhung in a "V" notch. Andy and his party returned to climb it in October of that year by the northeast couloir (Echo vol. 11, no. 6).

Bob and I retreated, and traced ridgetop to the highpoint above the mine and the Scheelite Couloir. A pair of false summits is passed on shattered cl2-3 volcanic rock before cresting the top. We anticipated and found a glass jar register placed in



1978 by Gordon MacLeod and Barbara Lilley. They had designated it as Pt 13,200'+. We dubbed it "Adamson Point" due to its proximity to the mine. The view into the Couloir is breathtaking. We also scrambled onto a subsidiary cl3 apex that differed in composition; its light granite boulders contrasted with the predominant loose red rock.

Thunderstorm clouds were massing in earnest as we descended the exposed ridge. Just below the crest, Bob spotted a rarely seen High Sierra midget albino marmot as it scurried into its lair. The darkness of cloud cover must have coaxed the otherwise shy, nocturnal animal into emerging briefly. This renowned but elusive marmot subspecies only lives at the high

elevations that sustain its dietary staple of polemonium. We later passed the Morgan Lakes amid thunder and lightning, but reached Mosquito Flat before rainfall.

Stats: 16 miles, 5000 ft gain roundtrip.
Photos: Ruins on slopes, lower left.
Broken Finger, upper right

Baxter, Black and Diamond

June 28-30, 2000
by Reiner Stenzel

These three peaks are located in the California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area which can be entered only from Dec 15 to July 1 each year. Maybe due to this restriction or the 6000'+ climb over Baxter Pass they are not frequently climbed and a trip report may be worth while. Due to a midweek trip I could not find anyone and went solo in the last days of June.

On Wed, 6/28, I drove from the Bay Area through Yosemite to Lone Pine to pick up a permit, drove to the empty Oak Creek trailhead (UTM 40 74 391 N, 11 377 132 E, NAD27, elev. 5,900') and started to hike in by 5pm. At 6pm the rain started which was a welcome cooling off. By 8:30pm I found a campsite above the Falls (10,200') on the North Fork of Oak Creek. Saw fresh bear pies on the trail, had no bear canister, slept lightly with my food in the bag and got away with it.

On Thur, 6/29, I started to hike at 5:45 am up the Baxter Pass trail. I took all my gear along since I was not sure where I would camp due to thunderstorm weather. Crossed the corniced Baxter Pass (12,200') at 7:15 am, dropped down to the upper Baxter Lke (11,145') where I hung up the pack and continued with daypack to a small unnamed Lake (11,875', 0.5 mi NE of Baxter Lke). From there it is a straightforward climb up talus slopes to the summit of Mt Baxter (13,136'). There were patches of beautiful polemoniums whose scent filled the air. At 10:15am I signed the peak register as the 5th and possibly last party in 2000, enjoyed the view and took summit pictures. Since the cumulus clouds began to grow I descended back to the lakes, washed up, snacked and, by 1:30pm, hiked the 1,000' back up to Baxter Pass. I left the Baxter Pass trail at the 11,200' level and went XC toward the drainage leading to Black and Diamond. Before the trees gave way to the moraine I found a suitable camp site (UTM 40 76 489 N, 11 377 893 E, elev. 11,155') by 4pm. Luckily, I was prepared for the attack by hungry mosquitoes with a lightweight mesh tent. While taking a nap I was rudely awakened by the first hail balls. For the next

two hours the sky opened up, I disappeared in my bivvy and enjoyed the sound of raindrops on the walls. Later in the evening the sky cleared up, it was a fresh and bug free night.

On Fri, 6/30, I was up by 5am and on my way before 6am, hiking up the talus in the drainage leading to Black and Diamond. At the steep 400' headwall I put on crampons and ascended on hard packed snow. I continued due South in a valley which narrows and steepens as one approaches a snow covered ridge. Black Mtn (13,291') is at the East end of the ridge, not obvious but readily found with a GPS (UTM 40 74 391 N, 11 377 132 E) and requires a steep (>40deg) snow climb in a head-on ascent. At 7:45am I summited, found the peak register in an ammo box, signed in as 3rd party this year, and looked for elusive bighorn sheep which had left fresh tracks in the snow. After last night's rain the air was clear and the view superb, especially of Clarence King, Cotter, and Gardiner to the West. By comparison, Diamond Pk. does not live up to its name. By 8:30am I headed towards it which involves dropping down to a small glacial lake at 11,300' below the headwall before reascending a chute to the Diamond plateau. The descent to the lake was an enjoyable sitting glissade, but the following 1,800' ascent on scree was less exciting. The summit (UTM 40 76 324 N, 11 376 098 E, elev. 13,127') is at the West end of the plateau which drops steeply off toward the North and East and has several "needles" like Whitney. At 12:30pm I signed the register and vowed never to climb this peak 6X like Doug Mantle's signature stated. Since clouds were again rising I left the peak at 1:30pm, headed down to the camp by 3pm, packed and hiked out before the rain started. The hike-out was straightforward except for some interesting routefinding of the unmaintained trail through willows and two stream crossings of the swollen Oak Creek. Did not meet a single person on the Baxter Pass trail. By 6:45pm I was back at the car with tired legs after a day of 4,000' up and 9,200' down. Later soaked into Keough hot spring, slept near Lee Vining, drove next morning to Sonora Pass and climbed Sonora Pk before heading back to Redwood City.

See Photo Page 27

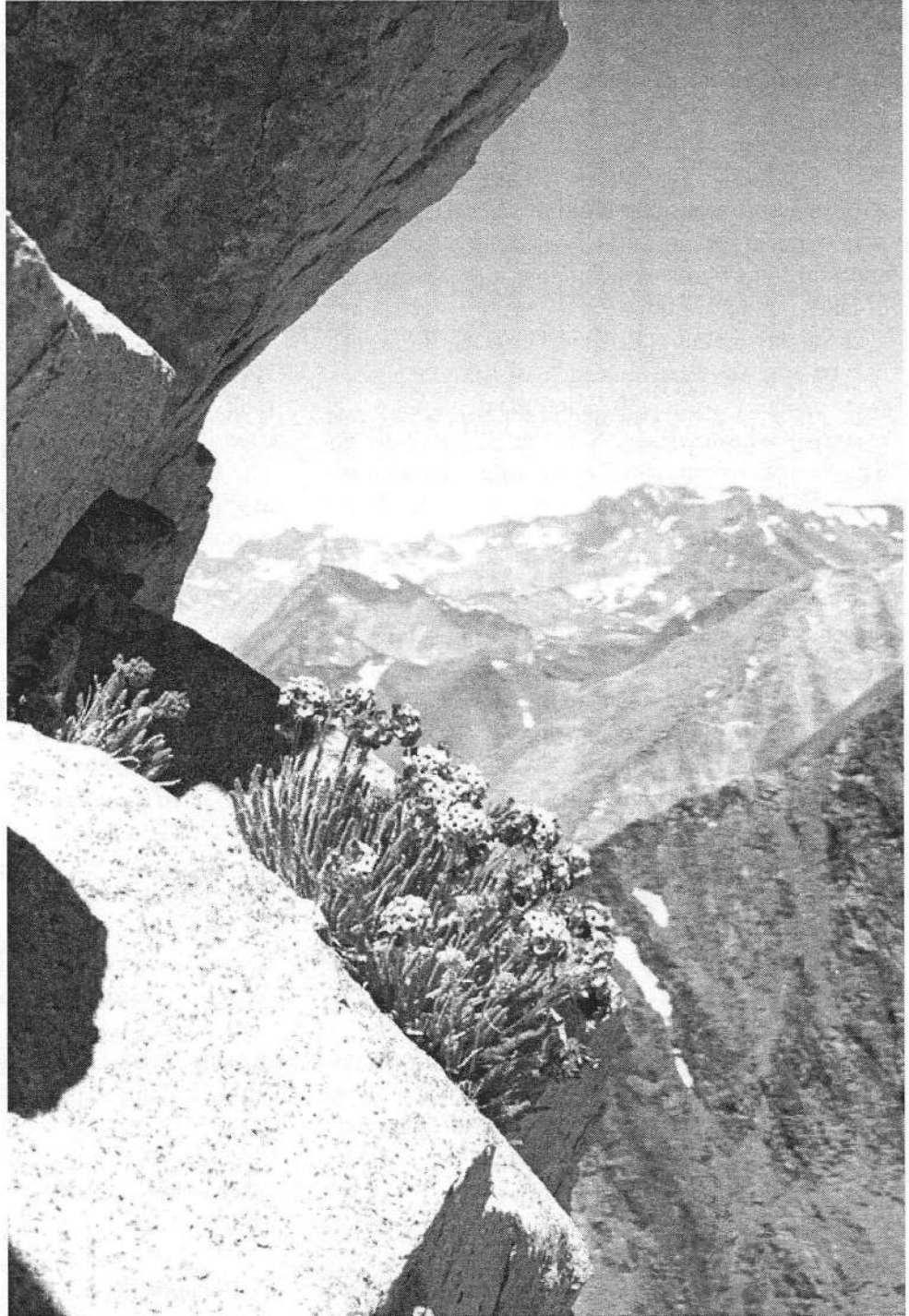
Palisade
Crest
13,553ft.;
Temple Crag,
12,976 ft.;
and Jepson
13,390;

Jul 1-3, 2000 by
Nile Sorenson
Co led with Bill
Oliver

Palisade crest is a tough peak. It is a long way in from the trailhead with lots of cross-country. The approach to the summit is lengthy, along an extended knife-edge crest with difficult route finding. The summit is protected by a full 50-meter pitch class 4 slab that is not easily protected with anchors.

With this in mind we were fired up to go. Bill Oliver and I were leading a pretty qualified and FAST group, which included Erik Siering, Will McWhinney, Mark Adrian, Greg Gerlach, R.J. Secor and Ali Aminian. We didn't even shuttle the packs up the one mile from the hiker parking to the Glacier Lodge ruins. We walked it with full packs starting at 7:00 am on Saturday morning.

We decided to bushwhack the east side of the stream instead of taking the regular South Fork trail due to concerns about the stream crossing. As it turned out we probably could have made the crossing, but hindsight is always 20-20. The



Polemoniums on Diamond Pk (13,127') June 2000

mosquitoes began pestering us well before Willow Lake. Each donned their protection of choice. We bypassed Willow Lake on the south with hoards of mosquitoes hovering at every stop. There are some use trails that can be followed crossing two streams on the south end of the marshy area around Willow Lake. They are a little difficult to follow but they are there. We reached Elinore Lake at about 1:00

pm. It is wise to follow the description in Secor's book about the approach to the lake going up a chute just west of the stream draining lake Elinore. There is a nice route on the east side of this chute. If you follow the stream, you will pay for it in the brush. We napped till about 3:30 when happy hour began with an assortment of all kinds of offerings. It ruined dinner for most of us. There are good camp spots on some bluffs to the northeast of the complex of lakes that form Elinore.

Sunday morning, Bill's wake up whistle went off at 5 am. We were walking by 6, following the route given by Secor to Scimitar Pass. It goes exactly like he describes. Scimitar Pass is really not a pass. You end up junctioning a ridgeline or crest. Here is where the knife-edge traverse begins. We gained the pass by 9:00.

Starting out on the right side (southwest), the climb begins with easy class 2 climbing. Stay on the right side rather close to the crest for as long as you can. When things begin to get very steep on that side you will need to gain the crest. Once this happens you will need to stay on the crest of the ridge back and forth from side to side searching for the easiest route. From this point on there will be lots of exposure. The climbing will be sustained class 3 or low class 4. It doesn't let up but it will go!!!! We never dropped down on the right side more than 15 or so feet. We had to drop down on the left (NE) side twice to lower ledges to work through.

The second of these times is when you are getting close to the notch. One must drop down into the notch, which is 50 to 100 feet below the ridge crest. Do this on the left side. We reached the notch a little before 11:00. The traverse had been long and exposed. It is easy to get off route.

The class 4 slab is not hard. Since Bill Oliver had led this before, I had the honors. It is a full 50-meter pitch, so don't bring a short rope or you will be hanging in the wind part way up on some questionable anchors. There are lots of cracks in the slab making the climbing easy, but they are shallow, not allowing any stoppers to sink in. I only put in 2 medium sized pieces for the entire pitch.

It took us quite awhile to move all 8 climbers up the slab. We had two ropes, making the rope work a little easier. Bill relieved me on the top rope belay about half way through. The summit block is only about 50 ft of class 3 above the top of the slab. As soon as we got a member of the team up the slab, they moved on their own to the summit. By the time

we had everyone over the slab, we were ready to lower people down. This worked out quite well, and we were all back in the notch by 1:45 pm. We were the first group to have summited this year, this century and whoa!!, this millennium. I asked RJ if we get a 1st ascent for this for the SPS; he said no. The previous entry was August 1999, nearly a year ago.

The traverse back was the same—exposed and, as Bill says, “gnarly”. We reached Scimitar Pass at 3:10 pm. Four of us decided to do Jepson Peak. It is right there near the pass. Ali, Mark, Erik and I took off for Jepson (this took exactly 1 hour round trip to the peak and back to our packs at Scimitar). The Jepson group pulled into camp at Elinore Lake at about 5:50, just under a 12-hour day, a big one but a good one.

On Monday the plan was to climb Temple Crag. Erik, Greg, and Ali signed out and headed home. Our remaining group packed up camp at Elinore and headed down the chute to the drainage below. Rather than drop clear to the stream, we traversed near the bottom of the chute to maintain elevation. This worked out quite well since we intersected the stream several hundred feet higher than we would have. We dumped our full packs near the streambed and headed off with day gear to Temple Crag at about 7:10 am.

We found the going easy up the southeast side to the class 3 chute described by RJ. It is very straightforward. The chute is low class 2 with only one class 3 move. It can be followed all the way to the summit block where the climbing goes class 3 with Big Time exposure. Will and I did the “step across.” It is really a “jump across” and a one-way only jump across since one side is higher than the other. The view was great. We were signing in at 10:05 am.

The descent to the packs was straightforward. We lunched, loaded back up and headed for Willow hole. We did a little bushwhacking on the way back to Willow Lake. We also decided to try the stream crossing on the South Fork trail. There was a rather wobbly plank extending between two rocks about 100 feet upstream from the trail crossing. We all made the crossing. Mark decided to just go for it and waded the stream, cooling off his feet. All were at the cars by 5:10 pm. And of course this group hiked all the way to the cars, deciding to forget the car shuttle. A great climb, and a strong group. Thanks to Bill Oliver for a great co-lead.

Mt. Baldwin (12,614')

July 29-30, 2000

By Will McWhinney

The SPS/GLS group was scheduled to meet at 7:00 am, Saturday, July 29, 2000, at the Convict Creek trailhead. Jim Potter and I drove up Friday morning, with a stop for good lunches at Primo Burgers in Mojave. Owens Valley was very hot, over 100 degrees, and filled with smoke from the week-old Manter Fire. Convict Lake Rd. has a clear sign, right across from the Mammoth Airport. Cows played chicken on the road. The barebones trailhead parking lot was on the right, before the Lodge. The lake and adjacent campground had toilets with sinks, potable running water and trash bins. The Lodge had a store that opens at 7 am and sells hot coffee and hot showers. There was even a fancy restaurant.

The area has a gruesome history. It was once named Monte Diablo, perhaps due to the fantastic colors of Mt Morrison and the Sevehah Cliffs, which loom over the apparent box canyon. In 1871, three escaped prisoners from the territorial prison in Carson City tried to outrun a local posse. They were trapped and in the ensuing gunfight the leader of the posse, Robert Morrison, was killed. The convicts were later captured and two were lynched. In 1992 three youths broke through the ice and died along with their three rescuers. Only weeks before our trip, a hiker broke an arm crossing the creek. Jim and I hiked around the shore of mile-long Convict Lake, including the new boardwalk across the creek. We met Karen in the parking lot and carpooled down to Tom's Place for some truly bad food. There we ran into Asher and his niece Michelle. Asher regaled us with tales of his recent climb of Mt Rainier and had some good blueberry pie, while Michelle bravely admitted this would be her first backpacking trip ever. We left while the band was setting up. Back at the trailhead we ignored the No-Camping sign and slept next to our cars.

Saturday at 7:40 am fifteen of us headed out. The trail follows the lake, and then rises up switchbacks to the side of Convict Creek in a narrow valley. After a section of small firs and pines we came to

the stream crossing, the only good one around. A combination of wet and dry logs, timbers, and rocks, paved our way for a precarious but dry crossing. We had a snack and filtered water before continuing up the narrow, talus-y trail to Mildred Lake. A left turn at a trail junction just before the lake kept us on the south side of the lake and its eastern meadow, which was a little squishy and jumping with frogs. A hillock on the bank of the creek gave us our lunch stop seating. The snow-filled eastern couloir of Red Slate Mtn rose high above us to the west. The use trail up to Bright Dot Lake and Mt Baldwin was easy to find, at the first creek coming down from the south after the lake. It's a good trail that rises through steep switchbacks to a wide ledge halfway up, a moonscape of gray sand. To the southeast lies an outcropping of marble and translucent calcite. We crossed it and continued up to the next small rock ridge. The use trail followed the bottom of a shallow gully to the southwest before climbing up to the high point before dropping down to Bright Dot Lake or continuing up to Baldwin. At 3:30 pm we camped on the nearer, south end of the lake above a small meadow. It was tricky keeping more than 25 feet way from the lake and streams, but a smaller group would have no problem. Jane and Patrick scouted the opposite end of the lake and reported one nice large campsite. Only a few mosquitoes bothered us at happy hour, which among other tasty foods starred Sun Dried Tomato Cheese Bread from Schatt's, Armenian Pizzas from Trader Joe's, humus from Von's, and lemon drops, which, Byron assured us, prevent altitude sickness. We all went to bed early in anticipation of the next morning's summit attempt.

The night turned to day with Jane's wake-up yodel at 5:00 am, Sunday. We all leapt up to greet the day; all except for the five who chose to enjoy the morning at the lake. By 6:15 the hikers headed for a fine use trail which goes up the right side of the northwest ridge. The trail continued below a snow patch, which from a distance looked like a rabbit head with ears. We followed the southern ear to a short band of angled rock, which we surmounted. The footholds were big, wet, and scree covered. Just above was the calcite mine, where we walked

on a path of shining crystals and picked out some small souvenirs for the folks below. The trail continued up a crack of red rock to the south. Once on the slope we followed the trail across the sandy scree for a while, but found better footing close to the southern ridgeline. The ten of us topped out at 8:10 - the lemon drops had worked. There wasn't much of a view to the south because of the smoke; we could only see to Bear Creek Spire. But there were beautiful vistas nearby and we were all pleased with our accomplishment. It was my first lead for the SPS and Rick told us that it was his first Sierra peak. Jane reported that it was her sixtieth climb of the year!

Soft scree made for an easy descent back to the mine. Loose rocks on the rock band below the mine meant we had to be careful of each other. We were back to camp by 10 am. At 11:30 we regretfully left our weekend retreat and lifted our packs for the

return trip. Asher and a couple of his friends wanted to hike out more slowly, so we appointed Karen deputy sweep, a role which she filled admirably. The crossing was again made nervously but successfully and we reached our cars by 3:40 pm.

Jim and I waited for Asher, et al., and when they arrived we all headed for dinner at Los Amigos in Bishop, where we got big portions of tasty food at reasonable prices with very enthusiastic service. Leaders: Will McWhinney and Asher Waxman. Participants: Arlene Reiss, Byron Cook, Gary Bowen, Jane Gibbons, Jim Gannon, Jim Potter, Joy Kobayashi, Karen Raasch, Michael Seay, Michelle Owen, Patrick Wood, Rick Gordon, Suzanne Tanaka. Some of the participants were members of the SPS, some of the GLS, and some, like the leaders, were members of both.

ALERT!

COMMENT DEADLINE FOR BUDWEISER GRAZING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NOVEMBER 1, 2000

By Todd Stuart Shuman, Sierra Club Co-Contact

The Golden Trout Wilderness (GTW) is a very special place in the southern Sierra Nevada. Located just southeast of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park and just south of Mt. Whitney, this designated wilderness of over 300,000 acres contains scenic river gorges, old-growth alpine forests, and some of the largest meadows in the whole Sierra Nevada.

The 193,000 acres of the GTW that lie within the Inyo National Forest contain the northern reaches of the "Wild and Scenic" South Fork of the Kern River, Mulkey Creek, and the Golden Trout Creek watershed — the last remaining habitat areas for pure strain Volcano Creek golden trout, the California State Fish.

The GTW also provides summer grazing pastures for one of the largest and most influential multinational corporations in the world: Anheuser-Busch, the brewer of Budweiser, Busch, and Michelob beers. For the last decade, cattle owned exclusively by this company have grazed, trampled, and compacted the wet and moist meadow areas of the Whitney and Templeton grazing allotments. Much of this land remains damaged from the impacts of cattle grazing. The Inyo National Forest (NF) is currently seeking comments on a recently prepared environmental assessment concerning continued grazing of these two allotments by Anheuser-Busch.

Members of the public now have until November 1, 2000 to express their opinions to the Inyo NF about five alternatives presented in the EA. I strongly encourage you to submit comments concerning this EA. The Inyo NF needs to hear from you!

Below are some requests and arguments that you can make concerning the Templeton/Whitney EA:

Request that the Inyo NF select Alternative A — Non-use (or rest from cattle grazing) for 10 years — in its final decision.

You can present these arguments as to why Alternative A should be selected:

#1 Implementation of Alt A will promote the Desired Habitat Condition for the Kern Plateau much more rapidly than any other alternative presented in the EA. Nearly all the Inyo NF resource specialists agree with this claim, as documented in the appendices of the EA.

#2 Implementation of Alt A will implement the intent of the recently signed Volcano Creek Golden Trout Conservation Strategy, signed by the Forest Service, the CA Dept. of Fish and Game, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

#3 Implementation of Alt A will lead to compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board water quality standards. Alt A is the only alternative capable of meeting (or likely to meet) such standards.

#4 Implementation of Alt A will reduce annual Inyo NF spending on monitoring and administration for this area from 80,000 dollars per year to 40,000 dollars per year. Moreover, if these allotments are rested for ten years, much rehabilitation/restoration work will not need to be done, saving the taxpayer much more money. If the area is grazed, much more rehabilitation/restoration work will need to be done, at a much greater cost to the taxpayer.

The next best alternative presented in the EA is alternative D, which would reduce the number of cows on the allotments and reduce the the grazing season by one third. While this alternative is an improvement compared to current management, you might note that alternative D fails to incorporate provisions that would require the resting of meadows from grazing every other or every third year. You might also note that alternative D will allow many damaged meadows (such as Big Whitney Meadow and Volcano Meadow) to be grazed at 40 percent utilization rates during the early part of the grazing season. For these reasons, alternative D is decidedly inferior relative to alternative A for promoting the restoration of damaged riparian and meadow areas on the allotments.

The other alternatives presented in the EA propose no stocking rate reductions and will allow substantial grazing of damaged meadows to continue. Implementation of any of these three alternatives will prevent riparian and meadow restoration from occurring at substantial and meaningful rates.

For more information regarding any questions, feel free to contact Todd Stuart Shuman at 818-956-0207 or through email at sstuart@lausd.k12.ca.us

To receive a paper copy of the 200 page EA, contact Del Hubbs, Environmental Assessment Team Leader, at (760) 876-6211, or write to Del Hubbs, Inyo National Forest, Mt. Whitney Ranger Station, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA, 93545. To view the EA electronically, go to http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/kern/tw_intro.htm to download the document and find a link to the Adobe website if needed. [Adobe Acrobat Reader software is needed to view and download the document.]

Written comments on this EA should be sent to:

**Lucinda McKee, District Ranger, Inyo National Forest,
Mt. Whitney Ranger Station, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA, 93545.**

Continued from Page 35

Maintained Trails

Alternative 1,3 and 4 leave all trails open to human and stock usage except Mt. Whitney and Meysan Lakes, which are currently closed to stock. Alternative 2 designates some hike only trails, Shepherd, Taboose, Sawmill and Baxter.

Fires

Elevational restrictions: Alt. 1 – 10,400' all areas; Alt. 2 10,000' N of Glacier divide/Bishop Creek and 10,400' S; Alt. 3 – no restrictions; Alt. 4 – establish wood gathering areas.

Commercial and non- Commercial Allocations

Alternative 1 has the greatest chance to increase commercial use of the Wilderness. Alternative 2 reduces commercial use levels. While encouraging non-wilderness operations for commercial outfitters. Following is comparison of commercial service day allocations for the Eastside. The numbers indicate service days.

Alt. 1

Packstock 13,600, Mountaineering and Backpacking 3,820, Winter Mountaineering /touring 1,000.

Alt. 2

Packstock 10,000, Mountaineering and Backpacking 3,000, Winter Mountaineering /touring 750.

Alt. 3

Packstock 18,767, Backpacking 2,399, Mountaineering Guiding & Winter Mountaineering. 2,312.

Alt 4.

Packstock 18,000,. Backpacking 2,300, Mountaineering Guiding & Winter Mountaineering. 4,000

RDEIS/WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Barbee Tidball

The following is a brief outline of some of the significant issues to SPS'ers that are included in the (RDEIS) Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes and Monarch Wildernesses. Comments are due on the RDEIS by December 1, 2000.

The RDEIS has a number of proposed management issues that WILL affect your access to the Sierra Wilderness. Some of the changes you may support and others you will not. Groups sizes in one alternative are limited at 8 persons. Winter mountaineering may become subject to permits and "approval". More study of the RDEIS is needed and I will make available to members with their e-mail address listed in the roster a copy of suggested comments before Thanksgiving. If you do not have your e-mail address listed send me a request at lbtidball@earthlink.net. If you do not have e-mail send a SASE and I will mail a hard copy for your use.

For full copies of the RDEIS contact the Forest Service at 760/873-2448 or 559/297-0706. Or log onto the Inyo Forest or Sierra National Forest web sites.

REMEMBER COMMENTS ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2000.

(See The Sierra Echo, July-August 1998 for the DEIS comments)

RDEIS for the Management of the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes and Monarch Wildernesses. Portions of Monarch were removed with the April designation of Sequoia National Monument. The Wildernesses fall under jurisdiction of individual Forest Plans – Sierra (1991), Inyo (1988), John Muir is part of the 1991 and 1988 plans, Minarets Wilderness Mgmt. Plan, Dinkey does not currently have a plan. The purpose of the RDEIS is to establish a consistent Forest Plan for all 3 Wildernesses.

Four Alternatives address and provide changes to current management for three main topics. The Forest Service's preferred alternative is #1.

- + **Visitor Use Management**
- + **Commercial Services Management**
- + **Recreational Packstock Management**

Visitor Use Management

Trailhead quotas were originally established to distribute usage. Current research indicates that there is not a direct relationship between use and impact. Many soil and vegetation impacts occur at low levels of use and do not become worse as usage increases. It may in fact be better to concentrate use rather than disperse it. Trailhead quotas have been re-analyzed for disbursement and time factors, with a goal of looking not only at numbers but also the dates of the quota season for some trailheads. Visitor use must be managed at a sustainable level that provides solitude and mitigates impacts.

Commercial Activities Management

Commercial usage has increased over the past 15 years. Commercial access is determined by either service days or trailhead quotas. The RDEIS looks to establish equity of access to Wilderness for all users.

Recreational Stock Forage Management

Protection of plant species, meadows and riparian areas are the concern when determining recreational stock management. Areas used by recreational stock (not cattle and sheep) need to be managed to provide for a functioning habit where grazing occurs; need to have sufficient vegetation for feed with out damaging meadows or riparian areas; and needs to take into consideration protection of sensitive species.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES ACTION

Visitor Use

Trailhead Quotas – Listed here-in is a selection of trailheads frequently used by the SPS that changes are proposed for.

Legend NC = Non-commercial, C = Commercial

Eastside Entry

Kearsarge Pass 60/day current quota

Alt. 1 60/day NC and 15/day C – Alt. 2 40/day – Alt 3 60/day – Alt 4 60/day

Lamark Lakes 16/day current quota

Alt. 1 15/day NC and 25/year C – Alt. 2 10/day – Alt 3 16/day – Alt 4 16/day

Little Lakes Valley 24/day current quota

Alt. 1 24/day NC and 5/day C – Alt. 2 24/day –
 Alt 3 24/day – Alt 4 24/day
 McGee Creek 24/day current quota
 Alt. 1 15/day NC and 15/day C – Alt. 2 20/day –
 Alt 3 24/day – Alt 4 24/day
 Meysan Lake 15/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 50/year C – Alt. 2 20/day –
 Alt 3 24/day – Alt 4 24/day
 Minaret Lake 10/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 60/year C – Alt. 2 10/day –
 Alt 3 10/day – Alt 4 10/day
 Mono Pass 24/day current quota
 Alt. 1 20/day NC and 10/day C – Alt. 2 20/day –
 Alt 3 24/day – Alt 4 24/day
 Whitney Day Hike 150/day current quota
 Alt. 1 100/day NC and 0/day C – Alt. 2 50/day –
 Alt 3 150/day – Alt 4 150/day
 North Fork Lone Pine Creek 15/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 5/day C – Alt. 2 15/day –
 Alt 3 15/day – Alt 4 15/day
 Piute Pass 32/day current quota
 Alt. 1 30/day NC and 15/day C – Alt. 2 30/day – Alt 3 32/day – Alt 4 32/day
 Sawmill Pass 15/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 25/year C – Alt. 2 10/day – Alt 3 15/day – Alt 4 15/day
 Shepherd Pass 15/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 5/day C – Alt. 2 10/day – Alt 3 15/day – Alt 4 15/day
 Taboose Pass 15/day current quota
 Alt. 1 10/day NC and 40/year C – Alt. 2 10/day – Alt 3 15/day – Alt 4 15/day
 Tuttle Creek no current quota
 Alt. 1 50/year NC and 0/year C – Alt. 2 5/day – Alt 3 no quota – Alt 4 no quota

Westside Entry
 Florence 72/day current quota
 Alt. 1 36/day NC and 5/day C – Alt. 2 40/day – Alt 3 72/day – Alt 4 72/day
 Isberg. 33/day current quota
 Alt. 1 22/day NC and 13/day C – Alt. 2 21/day – Alt 3 33/day – Alt 4 33/day

Cross Country Group Size

Alternatives 1,3 and 4 remain at existing levels of 15 persons and 25 stock.
 Alternative 2 limits cross-county to 8 person and 8 stock.

Issuing of Permits and Quota Periods

Forest Service will continue to issue permits and quotas will be in effect year-round in Alternative 1 and 2. In Alternative 3 and 4 a non-Forest Service entity would issue permits. Alternative 3 would maintain current time periods and Alt. 4 would go to a year round system. Note with year-round quotas the Forest Service would be “approving by itinerary all winter mountaineering and touring trips.”

Campsites

Standards and guidelines for campsites are established. Alternative 1 sets levels of management criteria and Alternative 2 reduces the number of campsites. Alternative 3 and 4 continue to manage campsites on a case by case basis.

Distance From Water

Alternative 1 - 100' with exceptions to 50'	Alternative 2 - 100', no exceptions
Alternative 3 - 100' with exceptions to 25'	Alternative 4 - 25'

Use Trails

Alternative 2 would eliminate all user created trails that have nay resource impact. Alternative 1 would set management criteria for maintaining or eliminating user created trails. Alternative 3 and 4 reflect current management and do not have criteria for management.

Continued Page 33.

BISHOP COMMENTS MEETING

Join me Thursday, November 2,
 2000 at the Forest Service Dialog &
 Comment Meeting
 Where: Bishop Home Street Middle
 School, Multipurpose Room, 201
 Home Street, Bishop, CA
 Lets get a group together and
 carpool to the meeting.
 Barbee Tidball 562/424-1556 or
 lbtidball@earthlink.net

September October VOL. 44 NO. 5

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

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