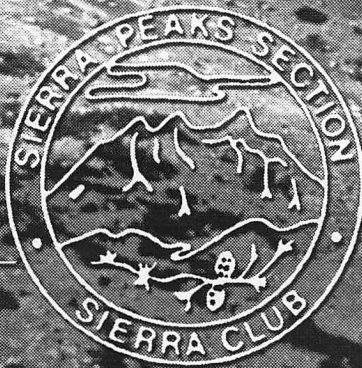


The Sierra

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 6



ECHO

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2000





SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

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

Tickets \$29.00. Order tickets now. Send SASE to Barbee Tidball, include your dinner selection: chicken, salmon or vegetarian.

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.

March 14 - Wednesday - AMGA guide, Kurt Wedburg, speaker.

Kurt Wedburg, will show slides of snow climbing in the Sierra and discuss snow techniques to make your Spring climbing trips in the Sierra safe and enjoyable.

April 11 - Wednesday - Patty Kline, speaker.

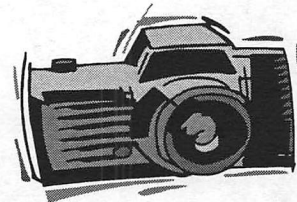
Patty Kline will show slides of her Kumbu trek featuring views of many of the 8000 meter peaks. See how Sherpa country looked before the many guest lodges were built.

May 9 - Wednesday - Ron Hudson, speaker.

Ron Hudson will present slides from his summer 2000 sea kayaking trip to Alaska including wild areas of Glacier Bay and the Stehkinge River near Ketchikan.

Peak List

The Warner Mountains
 Middle Palisade
 Mt. Muah
 Cartago Peak
 Mt. Stanford (North)
 Devil's Crag #1
 Disaster Peak
 Highland Peak
 Round Top
 Freel Peak
 Pyramid Peak
 Mokelumne Peak



Front Cover

Peter Croft

January 10, 2001, SPS Banquet Speaker

Winter & Spring Trips 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.

JANUARY

O: Jan 13-14, Sat - Sun Angeles Chapter Fund Raiser. Ride the Rails, Read Steinbeck - Salinas by Train. See Chapter Schedule for details.

FEBRUARY

O: Feb 2-4, Fri - Sun Angeles Chapter Fund Raiser. San Francisco Chinese New Year Celebration. See Chapter Schedule for details.

O: Feb 4, Sun Natural Science Section, Chaparrosa Pk (5541') Co-sponsored w/ HPS. Moderate hiking in unique desert terrain along a running stream. Learn from naturalists, Ginny Heringer and Sherry Ross. 8mi, 1500' gain cross-country hike. Meet 7:30 AM at Pomona rideshare pt. Rain cancels. Ldrs.: Mars Bonfire, Carleton Shay, Southern Courtney, Byron Prinzmetal.

E/MR: Feb 3 Sat Local Snow Practice, LTC/SPS/DPS Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Dan Richter.

O: Feb 11 Sat Natural Science Section, Plant Walk/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Meet 10AM at parking lot, 1500 N. College Ave, Claremont. Learn about and appreciate our varied CA flora. Rain cancels. Ldrs.: Margo Lowe, Bob Muns.

FEBRUARY

E/MR: Feb 17 Sat Local Snow Practice at Baldy, LTC Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson CoLdr. Bill Oliver.

MARCH

O: March 6-14 Angeles Chapter Fund Raiser, Adventurer's Tuscany, Florence and Tuscan hill towns. See Chapter Schedule for details.

O: March 9-11, Fri-Sun Natural Science Section. Winter Ecology Workshop at June Lake Join local naturalists to learn about the winter environment of the Mammoth/June Lake area. Xc-ski or hike, depending on conditions. Trip satisfies LTC I-rating req. \$60.00 fee covers naturalists, lodging in SC members' homes and 5 meals. Send 2 SASE and check (Natural Science Section) by Feb 28 to Ldr/Reserv.: Ginny Heringer, co-lldr. Sherry Ross. See Chapter Schedule.

TM R: March 31- Apr 1 Sat - Sun, Mt Perkins: Ski Mountaineers/SPS. Climb and ski a classic ski mountaineers/SPS peak via Armstrong Cyn. For advanced skiers/snowboarders and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: Keith Martin.

I/M: March 31 - Apr 1 Sat - Sun, San Jacinto Mtns Snow Camp & Climb(s). HPS/SPS/WTC. Enjoy a weekend backpack in our own snowy (we hope) S Sierra. Take tram Sat (\$TBD) to 8500', backpack 3-4 mi (on snowshoes likely) to Tamarack Valley (9000'), set up camp, play, climb Cornell Pk (9721', cl 3). Sunday climb SJ Pk (10,804') & probably Jean (10,480') & Marion (10,332'), pack out, tram down. Ice axe & crampons NOT required. Send letter with sase (or e-mail address), experience (if any), interests, H&W phones to Leader: Asher Waxman, Asst: Will McWhinney

Trips Winter & Spring 2001 Continued

APRIL

TMR: Apr 14-19 Sat - Thur, Mts Guyot, Joe Devel, Pickering, Newcomb: SMS/SPS. Ski some class 1-2 SPS peaks south of Whitney via Cottonwood Lks. Basecamp near Rock Creek, peak climbs as day tours. Possible detour to Kern Hot Springs. For advanced skiers and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor

MR: Apr 27-30 Fri - Mon, Mt Williamson, Trojan Pk, Mt Barnard: SPS/WTC. The 'classic bushwack' route up 2nd highest mtn in Sierras, an Emblem Peak. Fri we drive up George Ck Rd to end, backpack up to camp on N fork (8 km, 1800m gain). Saturday climb Williamson (4381m) along SE ridge (5 km RT, 1040m gain). Sun we bag Trojan (4251m) and Barnard (4264m) (8km RT, 1120m gain). Mon pack out. Restricted to SC members only, no WTC students. Ice axe experience req'd. Send climbing resume, SASE or email, H&W phones to provisional Ldr: Will McWhinney, Asst: Beth Epstein

M/ER: Apr 28-29 Sat - Sun Sierra Snow Checkoff: LTC/SPS/DPS. For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members w/ some prior basic training in snow. Send 2 sase, SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Dan Richter Co-Ldrs: Tina Bowman, Paul Graff.

MAY

O: May 9-15 Wed - Tue Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Scenic Arizona by Bus & Private Rail Car. See Chapter Schedule for details.

IMR: May 11-13 Fri - Sun, Mt McAdie (13,799') Climb & Snow Camp: Fri backpack to Outpost Camp (3.5 mi, 2500' gain), optional climb of Thor Pk (12,306'). Saturday climb McAdie (class 3) via Arc Pass, traverse to Irvine (13,780') & descend to camp (3.5 mi, 4,100' gain). Sun pack out. Open to strong climbers with ice axe, crampons and 3rd class roped climbing experience. Send resume, sase or email, H&W phones, SC number to provisional Ldr: Will McWhinney, Asst: Asher Waxman

TMR: May 12-16 Sat - Wed, Center, Keith, Bradley SMS/SPS. Ski mountaineering to some class 2 SPS peaks. From Onion Valley ski via University Pass to Center Basin. Set up base camp and ski peaks with daypacks. For advanced skiers and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldrs: Ron Hudson, RJ Secor

May continued

MR: May 18-20 Fri - Sun, Birch Mtn (13,665'), The Thumb (13,388): Fri strenuous backpack (5.5 mi 4200' gain) from McMurray Mdw to Birch Lk. Sat xc snow climb to climb peaks; 4.5 mi 4430' gain. Sun hike out. Restricted to SC members w/ice axe/crampon exp. Prefer resumes w/detailed snow climb experience and LTC training. Send sase, H&W phones, email, recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to Ldr: Tom McDonnell, Asst: Nile Sorenson

I: May 19-20 Sat - Sun, Owens Pk (8453'), Mt Jenkins (7921): SPS/HPS Join us for a leisurely paced moderate weekend in the Southern Sierra. Sat do Owens, SPS class 2 pk in 6 ml rt, 2400' gain, also on HPS list. Sat eve community happy hour and car camp. Sun do Jenkins, HPS class 2 peak with short scramble at top. Sun 13 mi rt, 2700' gain. Send sase with recent experience, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst: Rick Jali

M/ER: May 19-20 Sat - Sun, Sierra Snow Checkoff: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training in snow. Send 2 sase, SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Randal Danta, Co-Ldrs: Virgil Talbot, Neil Robbins

O: May 19 Sat Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Train to CA Strawberry Festival. See Chapter Schedule for details.

TMR: May 26-28 Sat - Mon, Mt Whitney, Mt Muir: SMS/SPS. Ski/climb our highest SPS emblem peak. Ski down open slopes from Trailcrest to Whitney Portal, snow conditions permitting. For advanced skiers/boarders, climbers with ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor

JUNE

TMR: June 1-4 Fri - Mon, Winchell SMS/SPS. Skiing and peak climbing in the Palisade Glacier area. Fri hike to basecamp at Sam Mack Mdw, Sat do Winchell, Mon out. For advanced skiers and experienced SPS climbers. Metal-edged skis, ice axes and crampons, and climbing gear reqd. Send e-mail/sase w/experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Asst: RJ Secor

Trips continued bottom of page 6.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

November 28, 2000

Well the election results are in and they were decisive. No, not the ones in Florida, but the SPS elections for management for the year 2001. Congratulations to Ron Hudson, Matthias Selke, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson and Eric Siering. I hope that the membership of the section will be as supportive of the new management committee as they were of the previous committee. For me it has been a rich and rewarding year, working with all the dedicated and hard working members of the section. It is this spirit of hard work which has made the section as prominent as it has been in the Angeles Chapter and in the Club nation wide.

In the election the proposal to add Mt. Powell to the SPS list was resoundingly rejected by the membership. No need for a recount. There cannot even be made a claim of a butterfly ballot, the choices were pretty clear, Yes or No. And No prevailed. I guess everyone who voted knew what No meant, right?

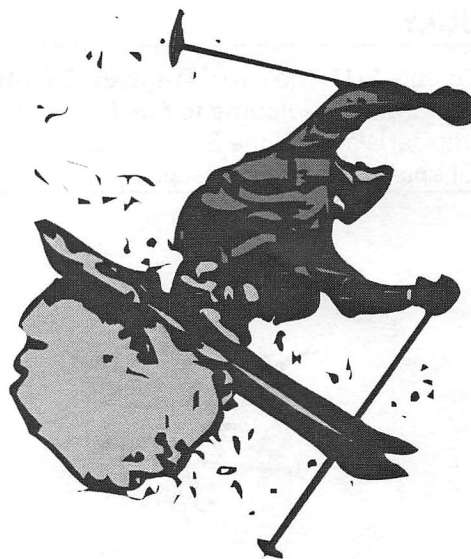
We have had another year of climbing with no significant incidents. We are continuing our leader training programs and continuing to lead challenging climbs. I hope that the coming year will be as rewarding for the section as the past.

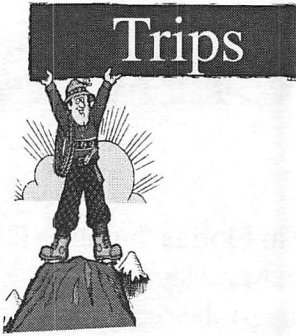
For me the coming year promises to be a little less demanding than the previous few years. I have stepped down from active management positions with SPS and with OCSS. I am remaining in active management with the Ski Mountaineers Section. I hope to see many of the members of the SPS get more involved with the Ski Mountaineers. It opens up another season for exploring the Sierra and can be equally or more rewarding than our summer peak climbs. Ski Mountaineers are running trips with participants on Telemark Gear, Rondonee Gear and even on Snow Boards! Clinics for learning and perfecting back country skills will be held the end of January and the end of February by SMS at Bear Mountain. In addition there are other entry level activities in which interested parties can participate. Some of the co-lead SPS / SMS trips this coming spring will also allow participation by snowshoers for those who have not yet learned the easy way to travel in the mountains.

Getting back to that other election, the one still being contested in Florida. The coming years appear to promise continuing assaults on wilderness areas, sanctuaries and parks. As Sierra Club members we should all remember that without our constant vigilance, the wild places we both enjoy and need must be protected from those who would see them forever altered. We may have lost David Brower, but each of us has the capacity to do the same for the environment as he did. Like us, he too was a mountaineer!

May there be many more illuminating years of climbing in the Range of Light!

Keith Martin
SPS Chair 2000





June continued

I: June 2-3 Sat - Sun, Olancho Pk (12,123)': SPS/WTC. Moderately strenuous climb of emblem pk in Southern Sierra. SPS introductory trip geared to new SPS climbers and strong WTC students. Sat hike 7 mi, 3600' gain

from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT trail. Sat eve community happy hour. Sun climb class 2 pk and out. Total gain for weekend 6500' in 23 mi rt. Send 2 sase, H&W phones, recent conditioning, rideshare info to Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst: Joe Wankum

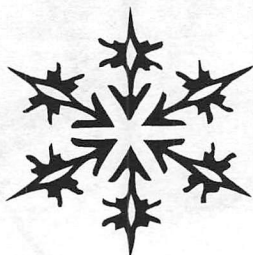
O: June 22-23 Fri - Sat Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Lompoc's Flower Fields by Train. See Chapter Schedule for details.

M/ER: June 9-10 Sat - Sun, Sierra Snow Check-off: SPS/DPS. For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members w/ prior basic training in snow. Send 2 sase, SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Bill Oliver, Co-Ldr: Virgil Talbot

ER: June 16-19 Sat - Tue, Norman Clyde Pk (13,855'), Palisade Crest (13,553)': Two fine and exposed class 4 peaks in the Palisades. Sat backpack up South Fk Big Pine Ck. Plan on snow camp. Sun-Mon climb the pks; Tues out. For strong climbers with class 4 and 5 climbing experience. Ice ax, crampons, climbing gear required. Send e-mail or 2 sase w/experience, conditioning, SC# to Ldr: Ron Hudson, Co-Ldr: RJ Secor.

JULY

O: July 3-17 Tue - Tue Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Welcome to Fiji. Discover the idyllic, tropical islands of the South Seas, Fiji. 15 days. See Chapter Schedule for details.



Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

September 13, 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, Barbara Sholle, Barbee Tidball

The meeting started at 6:35pm

Read and approved the August minutes.

Discussed banquet options. Barbee will investigate suggested venues and speakers and reach a decision.

Finalized candidates for fall SPS Management Committee election as follows:

Howard Eyerly

Ron Hudson

Matthew Richardson

Maria Roa

Matthias Selke

Eric Siering

Joe Wankum

Finalized ballot initiative wording as follows:

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

Treasurer reports a checking balance of \$2586 and a savings balance of \$2435 for a total of \$5021.

Discussed potential candidates for various awards.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

General Meeting

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

Approved minutes from August meeting.

New attendees were introduced.

Barbee Tidball updated us on the status of the revised DEIS plan, which was just released. Look for more info in upcoming Echos.

Ron gave the outings report. Brian Smith finished the list on September 9.

Trip leaders are reminded to send register status reports to Tina Bowman.

R.J. Secor presented a program on Mexico's volcanoes.

October 11, 2000

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown

Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Management Committee

Attendance: Paul Graff, Scott Sullivan, Matthew Richardson, Ron Hudson, Barbara Sholle, Barbee Tidball

The meeting started at 6:35pm

Read and approved the September minutes. DWP meeting room is reserved, a receipt is still needed.

Treasurer reports a balance of \$2409 in checking and \$1235 in savings. Ron used email for trip solicitation for all leaders. Peter Croft will be the banquet speaker. The banquet will be at Castaways and cost is to be \$29. Discussed potential candidates for various awards. The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

General Meeting

Ron Hudson chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm. Approved minutes from September meeting. New attendees were introduced. Treasurer reports a balance of \$2409 in checking and \$1235 in savings. Peter Croft will be the banquet speaker. The banquet will be at Castaways and cost is \$29. Barbee Tidball gave the conservation report. RDEIS comments are due December 1. Alternative 1 most closely matches with the SPS desires. Budweiser (Golden Trout) grazing comments are due November 1. Dave Underwood reported a sewage spill into the Merced River in Yosemite during a test. A reservation system is being considered to limit people in Yosemite during high use periods. Ron gave the outings report. Ron Hudson finished the list on 9/30 on San Joaquin.

Jim Lowery of Earth Skills presented a program on tracking.



Sierra Peaks Section

2001

Management Committee

Chair: Erik Siering
Vice Chair/Outings: Ron Hudson
Secretary: Matthew Richardson
Treasurer/Membership: Maria Roa
5th Officer/Co-Programs: Matthias Selke

Programs/Merchandise: Patty Kline
 Conservation/Echo/Banquet: Barbee Tidball
 Co-Echo: Barbara Sholle
 (2000) Echo Mailer: Elena Sherman
 Safety Co-Chairs: Duane McRuer
 Doug Mantle
 Mountain Records: Tina Bowman
 Archives: Dan Richter
 Historian: Bill Oliver
 ExComm Liason: Ann Kramer
 Past Chair: Keith Martin
 Regional Representatives:
 San Diego: Sue Holloway
 Eastern Sierra: Rick Jali
 Central California: Rich Gnagy
 Northern California: Steve Thaw

SPS Membership Report

November 2000

Emblem – Nile Sorenson 7/29/00 on Mt. Lyell
Master Emblem – Greg Gerlach 9/25/00 on Electra Peak

Address Changes

James Murphy
 1462 Paseo Manzana
 San Dimas, CA 91773

CONGRATULATIONS !

**Matthew Richardson
& Anne Marie Turner
October 1, 2000**

SPS MEMBERS' WEDDING



Mountain Records

We had another good season for placing register books on our listed peaks. Thanks to all who helped out with reports and placing books and containers. Kim Gimenez and Beth Epstein placed an ammo box on Matterhorn; Randall Danta placed a container and book on Corcoran; and Neil Robbins and Paul Graff repaired the ammo box on Banner and placed a book there as well. Register books were placed on Dade by Tom McDonnell, Johnson and Maclure by Nile Sorenson, Matterhorn by Mike McDermitt, North by Richard Carey, Reinstein by Erik Siering, Round Top and Split by Bob Sumner, and Thompson by Ron Karpell. A book may also have been placed on Conness by Jason Lynch, but I never received a report following the trip. I also placed an ammo box and book on Dana, cast aluminum cylinder and book on Gabb, ammo box and large bound book on Langley, and a book on Russell. From this season's reports, containers seem to have disappeared from Eagle Scout, Three Sisters and Williamson. Please let me know whether you found registers on these peaks this year--I hate to send a container with someone only to have the original one show up (as happened to me on Hilgard).

November 6, 2000

Tina Bowman, Mountain Records Chair

SPS Election Report

As Keith indicated in his Echoes from the Chair - the proposal to add Pt. Powell to the SPS list was decidedly defeated. The measure was defeated with 77% of voting members casting their vote against adding the peak.

32% of the eligible SPS members voted in the last election for Management Committee and on the Pt. Powell debate. See page 7 for a listing of next year's SPS Management Committee members.

**Adopted Unanimously by the Sierra Club Board of Directors,
November 19, 2000:**

REVISED POLICY **ON USE OF FIXED ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS**

(1) Preserving and protecting wilderness values for future generations is the primary purpose of wilderness. All other uses are subject to this primary purpose. All management actions should enhance, rather than degrade, wilderness values as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

(2) Climbing, including the use of fixed anchors, is an historic and can be an appropriate use of wilderness, consistent with the purposes of the Wilderness Act. However, fixed anchors that cannot be placed or removed without altering the environment were not specifically addressed during the passage of the Wilderness Act. These should be regulated as installations in wilderness; their use in wilderness may be authorized under Section 4c. of the Wilderness Act, which provides that installations can be allowed where "necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act." Within designated wilderness areas, or areas otherwise protected for their wilderness values, climbing, including the use of fixed anchors, should be subject to the same standards as all other activities that are consistent with the preservation of the wilderness character of these lands.

(3) Climbing, including the use of fixed anchors, should be addressed in wilderness management plans, subject to public review, and managed as necessary to protect wilderness resources. The full range of management options, including but not limited to resource monitoring, voluntary use limits, restrictions, permitting, area-specific prohibitions, and the establishment of Limits of Acceptable Change criteria for specific areas, should be considered and implemented as necessary to protect wilderness character when regulating climbing and the use of fixed anchors. Where climbing occurs, all relevant management plans, informational signs and wilderness permits should address guidelines for climbing and the use of fixed anchors.

(4) Site-specific wilderness management plans should include certain minimum requirements for climbing. Climbing should not occur where fragile, rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species may be impacted, where human presence may interfere with essential wildlife behavioral patterns, where recreational activities may interfere with religious or cultural values, or where it would compromise the scenic resource. Fixed anchors should not be used where there is a removable equipment alternative. To minimize visual impacts, slings and other removable equipment should be removed whenever and wherever possible. The use of power drills is prohibited in wilderness areas. Any alteration of rock should be prohibited, except as minimally necessary for the placement of fixed anchors. Impacts from climbing on vegetation should be subject to Wilderness regulations and the removal of vegetation should be prohibited.

Background

- Mountain climbing and wilderness protection have been at the heart of the Sierra Club since its birth 108 years ago. Many early and present Club leaders were active climbers, and the climbing community, both inside and outside the Club, has been a vital champion of wilderness. However, recent developments in the recreational use of wilderness and in the sport of climbing threaten to fray this close-knit relationship.
- Recreational use of wilderness use have increased dramatically. Still besieged by threats from some extractive industries, wilderness increasingly faces new threats from growing recreational uses, including "sport climbing," with a proliferation of the use "fixed anchors." This term refers to protection devices not removed at the completion of a climb, such as bolts, bolt hangers, pitons, and

nylon slings. Bolts, which are driven into holes drilled in a rock, are of particular concern. While the Wilderness Act prohibits the use of power tools, such as climber's drills, for the placement of bolts in wilderness areas, it does not explicitly address climbing activities or equipment that do not involve power tools.

As a result of discussions occurring in the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, the Wild Planet Strategy Team (WPST) began to study the issue of fixed anchors use in wilderness in early 1997. Over a six-month period, the WPST, in consultation with Sierra Club members and entities, developed a draft policy. This draft policy was widely circulated and eventually approved, as modified in response to comments, by the Conservation Governance Committee, and finally by the Board of Directors at its May 9-10, 1998, meeting.

Subsequently, questions were raised at the Council of Club Leaders by members who felt that the new policy was not sufficiently protective. In September 1998, the Council of Club Leaders passed a resolution asking the Board to reconsider the policy. The Board directed the Conservation Governance Committee (CGC) to appoint a task force to reexamine the issue. In January 1999, the CGC appointed a Fixed Anchor Task Force, composed of Club members representing a wide variety of perspectives, the charge of which was to study the issue and make recommendations.

In the initial policy discussion, some Sierra Club members questioned the need for a Sierra Club policy on as specific of a topic as fixed anchors. The issue has since become part of a broader public debate for federal wilderness managers and other conservation groups. Most notably in May 1998, the United States Forest Service proposed banning the placement of new fixed anchors in National Forest Wilderness Areas. Following much controversy, the Forest Service withdrew the ban and proposed setting new regulations through a negotiated rulemaking process that would involve both conservation and climbing interests, and the Sierra Club has been invited to participate.

The fixed anchor policy now presented to the Board has been approved by the Fixed Anchor Task Force and the Conservation Governance Committee. The task force received many comments from members and entities throughout the process—some favoring a complete ban to all fixed anchors and others favoring no regulation, but most were willing to accept the sort of compromise represented by this policy. Most of the controversy focused on the question of if fixed anchors should be treated as "installations". This issue is also the key point of contention in the on-going negotiated rulemaking being carried out by the Forest Service mentioned above. Both sides of the issue were ably represented on the task force, and after several months they reached agreement on how to deal with the thorny issue of installations, which is embodied in paragraph 2 of the policy. Not everyone is happy with this installation language, but both sides have agreed that they can live with it. The task force chair, Ken Cline, a lawyer and college professor, believes that this approach does not jeopardize our legal position or our political position on this issue or wilderness protection in general.

THE WARNER MOUNTAINS

by Barbara Lilley & Gordon MacLeod

The volcanic Warner Mountains are located in the NE corner of California and are an isolated spur of the Cascade Range. The southern portion is designated as the South Warner Wilderness, which contains seven 8000'-9000' peaks. The terrain at higher elevations is Sierra like, with streams, lakes, meadows, wildflowers, glaciated cirques and, of course, peaks. The east side is much steeper than the west and provides a spectacular view from the highway south of Cedarville. There is an excellent system of trails, and the peaks can be climbed as day hikes or with short backpacks. However, taking advantage of the availability of two vehicles, Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley and the late Bill Sanders set up a car shuttle and, in early August 1998, hiked the 27 mile Summit Trail, climbing all seven peaks en route.

Starting from the southern trailhead at Patterson Meadow (7100'), we stashed packs to climb Emerson Pk. (8999') and then, concerned about a possible shortage of water in the area, carried our packs cross-country up to a beautiful campsite by a large snowbank (spotted from Emerson Pk.), where snow was melted for water. From this camp, first Mt. Cole (8971') and then Eagle Pk. (9872') were climbed the next day; we stayed there a second night.

The following day was a 9-mile backpack with lots of ups and downs and stream crossings to a camp at Mill Creek. From here, Dusenbery Pk. (9097') was climbed by going over the top of Pk. 9121' and descending to the notch between the two. We then backpacked to Patterson Lake, climbing Warren Pk. (9710') en route. The northern trailhead at Pepperdine was reached the next day, after dropping packs and climbing Squaw Pk. (8046') on the way. The car shuttle was undone in time for a nice dinner in Cedarville that evening. Our visit to these scenic mountains was felt to be well worthwhile.

Although it rained the day before starting, the weather was beautiful all five days of the trip. The peaks were all Class 2. No Wilderness Permits are required, but a California National Forest Fire Permit is needed even for stoves. At this time of year mosquitoes were not a real problem, but there were enough flies on Eagle Pk. to justify use of a headnet. The topo maps are Emerson Pk., Eagle Pk., and Warren Pk. (all 7.5'). There is also a Wilderness Map available. For more information, contact Modoc National Forest, P.O. Box 220, Cedarville, CA 96104.

Middle Palisade

August 5-7, 2000

By Keith Martin

Paul Graff and I occasionally like to lead a peak and still leave enough time to enjoy the High Sierra environment we are visiting. We find that doing some peaks in three days instead of two allows us a full day to do the peak climb without time constraints and a safe and leisurely hike out and drive home on Monday. Last year we did Winchell Peak (aka The Donut Peak) in three days and thoroughly enjoyed it. This year we decided to try Middle Palisade.

The group, consisting of Bill Siegal, Susan Livingston, Helen Qian, Paul and myself met at the trail head parking for Big Pine Creek at 8am on Saturday Morning. After filling out the paper work and moving the packs to the trailhead for the South Fork we got started around 8:45 am. Within about half an hour we were at the crossing of Big Pine Creek which most of us did without much incident

by jumping between a couple of rocks about ten yards further up stream from the trail crossing. By 11:20 we were at the junction to Willow Lake. While resting at the junction a pair of climbers passed us saying they tried Middle Palisade and did not make it to the summit. By 2 pm we were at Finger Lake. I had a little trouble finding the use trail to Finger Lake from Brainard Lake. If we had proceeded on a more westerly course aiming at the outlet from Finger Lake, we would have picked up the use trail which stays mostly on the south side of a talus field.

At Finger Lake we were joined by Mike Seiffert and Lorene Samoska who had gotten their own permit and come up a day early. We spent the afternoon reviewing rock climbing techniques such as knot tying, belaying a group up a short pitch and coiling and uncoiling a rope. We then watched

groups returning from Middle Palisade. As they passed our camp in the waning sunlight we got some good tips on the route up Middle Palisade. The first two groups had failed to reach the summit. Combining their reports with that earlier in the day we began to wonder why Middle Pal is so hard. One group said the cause of not summiting was their inability to identify the correct hump on the ridge before they began their climb. Another group seemed to say "Stay off the snow!". A third say "Stay off the rock piles!" (glacial moraines). Hmmm? Should we consider flying?

Looking at the peak from Finger Lake there appears to be three summit blocks. The right (north most), which has some cream colored rock patches directly below it, appears to be the highest of the three when viewed from the lake. This is one of the main causes for error, because this is not the high point. The true high point is the left (south most) of the three peaklets. This peaklet has a unique rock near the top which resembles an outhouse with a slanting roof.

Paul and I had decided to get the group up at 4 am the next morning with a 4:45 start. Hopeful we would be back in camp in time to have the option of hiking out Sunday afternoon if everyone was agreeable. I could not guarantee that this would actually happen. Helen, who had a business commitment which required she be back at work on Monday opted to sign out of the trip Sunday morning. In the last hours of light on Saturday, Paul and Helen checked out the departure route from our camp at the outlet end of Finger Lake. They walked along the east shore of Finger lake to the slopes leading up from the south (inlet) end of the Lake. They found it was easy hiking with a little boulder hopping and a short scramble to get over a section where there was a fifteen foot vertical drop straight into the lake.

Sunday morning we got up as planned and followed the route scouted out by Paul and Helen the afternoon before. As the first light of dawn was brightening in the east, we were at the slopes at the south end of Finger Lake. After surmounting the first of three steps in the slope, we came to a snow slope firm enough to justify wearing crampons. With crampons, ice axes and helmets on, the group quickly fell into a steady rhythm and the ascent of the next two slopes went quickly. As the sun began to peak above the horizon, we were at the base of the moraine viewing our route to the step off point from the glacier to the rock at the base of the climb. We proceeded directly, partially over moraine and

partially over snow. We surmounted the glacier by 8am and were stowing our ice axes and crampons and putting on our harnesses at the bottom of the ledge which leads to the chute which leads to the summit. We followed this ledge upwards to the right about a hundred feet, bypassing the first chute which appeared after about 30 or so feet of climbing and proceeding to the second chute which appeared after about 100 feet of climbing. At the north end of this chute there is a pinnacle which divides this chute from the chute which leads directly from the glacier to a notch to the right of the summit. Climbing this chute up a few hundred feet, we intersected the chute to the summit. Proceeding up and slightly to the left, we climbed towards the notch just to the right of the summit. The route was sustained third class. It had a series of small ledges, most of which were filled with loose rocks, not unlike Black Kaweah. We kept the group close together and tried to avoid the inevitable rock fall. Wearing helmets is an essential safety precaution for this climb.

About fifty feet below the summit we proceeded to the left directly for what we assumed was the summit block. By 10:20 am we were about ten feet below the top where we reached a ten foot high step which required an exposed fourth class move to ascend. The complete party was on the summit by 11:00am, where we spent an hour enjoying the view and signing the register. While on the summit, Paul scouted out for a better route to get off. He discovered that a third class route proceeded from the chute about fifty feet below the summit to a point about twenty feet to the left (south side) of the summit. We followed this route and were soon back in the chute leading down.

As we began down climbing, we encountered two separate groups of three and two climbers coming up to the summit. We were concerned about rock fall from these groups when they began their descent. We proceeded down slowly, one of the participants having more trouble with down climbing than with the climb up. We minimized the danger from rock fall from our own group by maintaining strict control of the spacing of the group. We were back at the step off to the glacier by 3 pm. Although the possibility of getting back to the trailhead before dark was now infeasible, I was glad that we had plenty of daylight left to get back to camp. We retraced our path of the morning, taking advantage of every opportunity to glissade.

Continued on Page 14,

Muah and Cartago

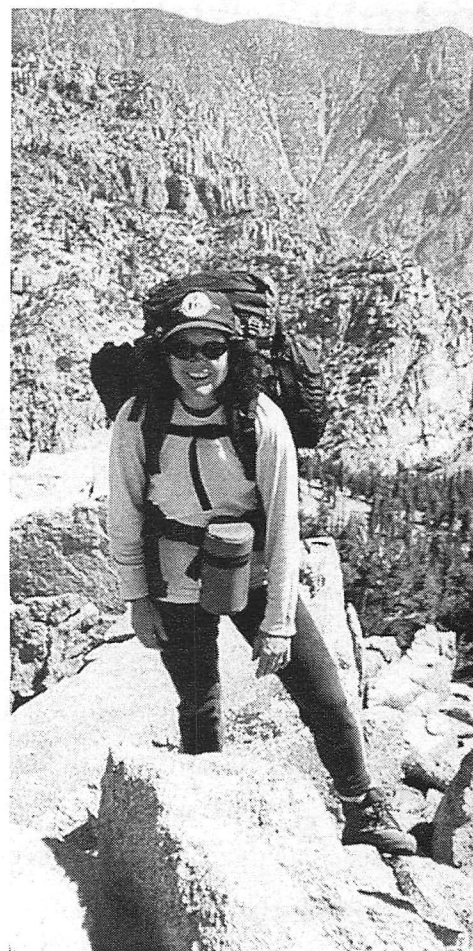
June 10-11, 2000

A private Trip
by Reiner Stenzel

These two peaks are typically done from Horseshoe Meadows on a 31 mi, 5,500' round trip which makes it a rather strenuous weekend. Cartago alone can also be done as a dayhike out of Owen's Valley which is really an arduous hike (9 mi rt, 6,700'). The present write-up shows how to do both peaks in 1.5 days without involving a death march. It is a one-way hike from Horseshoe Mdws via both peaks with a descent to the town of Cartago and a short car shuttle back to Horseshoe Mdws (18 mi rt, +3,600', -9,700').

On Fri eve, Susan Livingston and I met in Olancha, parked one car at the Cartago Pk "trailhead" (UTM 4020124N, 11 407129E, NAD27, elevation 3,800'), and continued in the other car via the Cottonwood Rd to the Horseshoe Mdws trailhead (UTM 4034059N, 11 395165E, elev 9,900'). Sat morning, by 6 am, we started to hike via Trail Pass, Mulkey Pass, along the PCT to Diaz Creek (UTM 4030500N, 11 39800E) where we ascended XC the NW slopes of Mt Muah. This shortest ascent requires bypassing several false peaks along the ridge before reaching the true summit (UTM 4028767N, 11 399182E, elev 11,016'). By 10:15 am we entered the first signatures in 2000 in the peak register. We spent an hour on the summit reading the 35 year old register, taking pictures, and enjoying the views on a sunny day. Then we descended into Ash Mdws, where we picked up the PCT near Sharknose Ridge, and followed it South to UTM 4022400N, 11 398900E. From there we descended XC into Death Canyon to find a nice campsite at UTM 4021818N, 11 399701E, elev 9,500', where the creek splits. We made camp by 4:30 pm near the running stream. Cleaned up, relaxed in the afternoon, made a campfire in the evening to keep the bugs away, prepared for the bears which left many fresh tracks nearby. Earlier in the day we ran across two of them. We also enjoyed meeting several through hikers on the PCT on their 5 month journey from Mexico to Canada.

On Sun, at 6:15 am, we ascended the right fork of the intermittent creek to UTM 4022000N, 11 400600E, elev 9,800', then turned South to climb the Cartago plateau (10,200'). It's a maze of steep towers in a sandy terrain with gnarly foxtail pines. We headed to the "right" peak at UTM 4020320N, 11 401153E, climbed the cl.3 summit block (10,480'), and signed in at 7:45 am as second party in 2000. Great views of Olancha, Mineral King, Langley,



Susan on Mt Muah, 6/10/00

Owen's Lke and the Great Basin. By 8:30 am, we left and headed East to peak 9,921', passed it on the North side, and descended along a ridge starting near UTM 4021000N, 11 403250E, staying North of the creek in sections 33-35 on the 7.5' Olancha topo. Others have chosen the ridge South of the creek, found it painful, and suggested to stay North. Well, it was no pleasure either. After 3 hours of descending 6,700' XC on steep slopes, through forest and chapparal, traversing dry creekbeds on loose shale, and plunge stepping through desert sand, we were down at the car (3,800') by 11:45 am. In 90deg weather we were ready to jump into the LA Aqueduct, were it not for that barbed wire fence. The trip odometer read 18.3 mi total, no death march, but no leisure trip either. Can highly recommend a GPS and 2 quarts of water. By 1 pm we had shuttled back to Horseshoe Mdws and began our drive home to LA.

Bambi's Mom Does Big Air

Aug 11, 2000

by Erik Siering

Yes, Virginia, deer can fly. When rudely prodded by a speeding automobile.

Both unfortunate and unsettling, I recently struck a deer while driving in Kings Canyon National Park. One morning after sunrise, shortly before reaching the Road's End trailhead for my dayhike of Cross Mountain, I spotted a pair of mule deer crossing ahead. I slowed for others that might follow from the right shoulder. I saw none. Until just as I passed, when a large doe bolted directly from the brush. No time to brake or swerve.

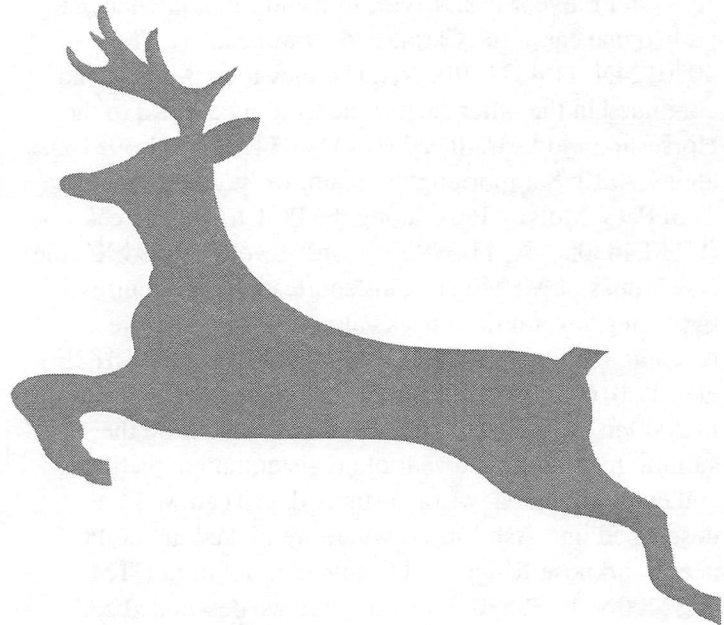
The doe's torso collided squarely with my front bumper, propelling her off the ground and twenty feet to the opposite shoulder of the road. She landed hard and rolled several times in a dust cloud.

My truck hadn't struck the deer's head or legs, but I was still astonished and relieved to see the doe spring back up and scramble into the woods with her companions. I only hope that she suffered minimal shock or discomfort. No blood was spilled, despite the substantial depression in my Toyota 4Runner's crumpled front end.

SUV haters should note that both driver and animal would have fared much worse if I had been driving a compact passenger car.

The deer would have come over the lower hood and into the windshield on impact. Yet another objective hazard to be considered by climbers and hikers. So exercise additional caution driving the mountain roads, particularly around dawn and dusk. For the sake of both the wildlife and yourself.

Mule deer were grazing in a meadow nearby as I hiked along Sphinx Creek later that day. But their customary baleful gazes now seemed more like disapproving stares!



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Continued from Page 12

By 5:30 pm all were safely back at our base camp. Most of us were in our sleeping bags by 8 pm.

I awoke at 6 am, and enjoyed a leisurely breakfast of hot cereal and hot coffee. Mike and Loraine opted to stay late since they had a separate permit. The rest of us, now well rested, headed down the trail at 8 am. By 10:30 we were back at the trail head. After cleaning up and changing into clean clothes, we headed for a well deserved feast at the Pizza Factory in Lone Pine.

MT. STANFORD (NORTH)

AUGUST 5-7, 2000
BY PATTY KLINE

The 7 of us met at 9:00 am at the Davis Lake trailhead at 9,860'. It can be a little confusing to get to this trail head if one looks casually at maps. Here are the directions from R.J. Secor's, The High Sierra. Peaks. Passes. and Trails. "Rock Creek Road leaves Highway 395 at Tom's Place. It goes south, past Tom's Place, and climbs up the canyon of Rock Creek approximately 9 miles to Rock Creek Lake. The Davis Lake Trailhead, the northern terminus of the Hilton Creek Trail, is 0.6 mile further up Rock Creek Road." This is confusing because the Hilton Lakes roadhead, where we will be starting, is also called the Davis Lake Trailhead.

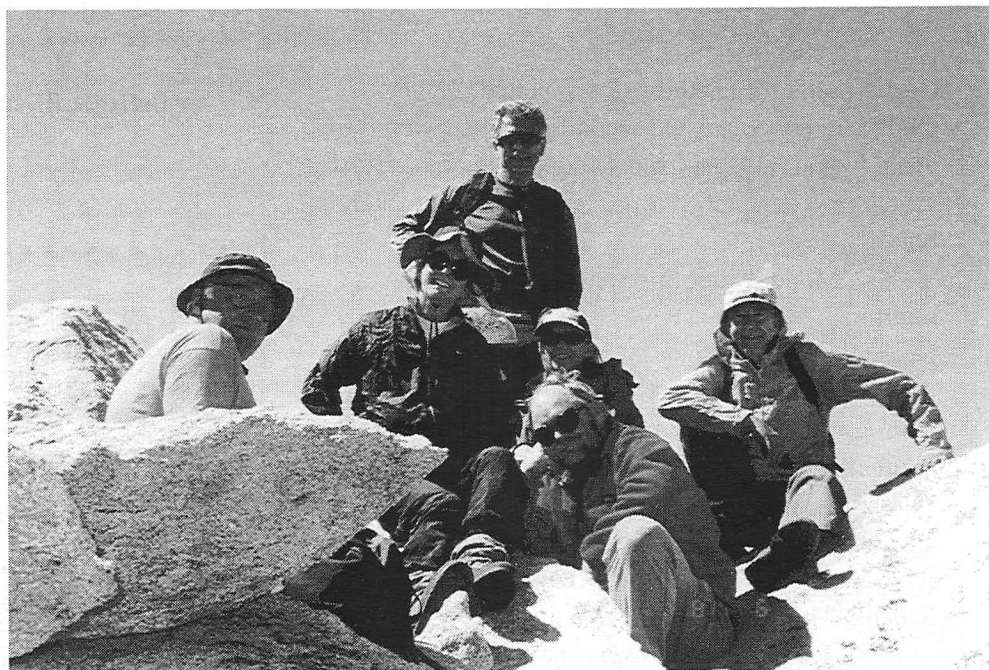
Mt. Stanford is on the Mt. Abbot 7.5 minute USGS Quadrangle Map. The Mt. Morgan 7.5 minute quad was used on the hike in.

We were very careful to leave no food or scented items in the cars at this roadhead. There was broken glass in the parking area from the week before. This being a leisure trip, we started at 9:20 am for our 4.8 mile hike to Hilton Lake #3 at 10,300' with a total gain of 1,310' counting the ups and downs in the trail. The weather was perfect without wind and no clouds. There was a trail junction at 4.1 miles at 9920'. We took the left branch. The right branch went to Davis Lake. After a snack along the way we got to Hilton lake #3 at 1:20 pm. Happy hour started

early for Rick Jali and me, but by 4:00 pm everyone had joined us. Food and drink were set up on a natural granite table perfect for the occasion. Annemarie Mikolaitis won a pink scarf as first prize for her homemade pasta salad. The second prize (sunglasses holder) went to Parvis Esna for his tequila shooters with lime and Persian dessert.

The next day we left for Stanford and 8:00 am. Beyond Hilton Lake #4 about 1 mile away, the trail turns into a use trail. Stay right of the inlet. The inlet is easy to loose. This takes you to a series of grass filed hanging valleys with the inlet stream running through. Some of the hanging valleys have lakes.

Above the highest hanging valley the navigation gets more complex. From here you can see the saddle south of Stanford Lake. Walk toward the saddle. To the right is a second class route to the top with a lot of sand at the bottom. At the top is a
Continued next page.



Mt. Stanford (north) - August 6, 2000

Back: Parvis Esna; Middle: Rick Jali, Patty Kline, Annemarie Mikolaitis, Ron Eckelmann; Front: Gary Schenk.

Pete Yamagata
ANNOUNCING - Northern Sierra Peaks
Guide in now online.
<http://www.lanset.com/pyamagata>
Key word: THOUSAND PEAKS

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Mt. Stanford, continued from page 15.

snow melt pond that drains into Stanford Lake. Walk along the rock dam on the NE of this pond to the end. Now traverse up the steep second class slope up to Mt. Stanford. There is easier going to the north. This summit is very deceptive because peak 12,931 to the north is more visible, and is 100' higher than Mt. Stanford. Don't go too far north. Stanford at 12,838' is not visible until you are almost there. Don't let the false summit to the SE lure you either. There are a few class three moves at the top. but they are very easily done without a rope.

There was not much room on top, only 2 or 3 people could fit. The view of Pioneer Basin Red and White Mtn. and Red Slate were impressive. The group left the peak at 4:00 pm.

We got back to camp at 7:30 pm, ready to party. The happy hour food contest was won by Gary Schenk for his three times melted dark Ghiradelli chocolate and second prize was won again by Parvis Esna for his Tequila shooters. Gary scored post cards of SPS peaks and Parvis a water bottle.

Monday morning we left at 8:45 am, returning to the cars about 11:30. Everyone was pleased that the parking lot had been bear attack free for the last 3 days. We then made the drive to Bishop where we had lunch at Whiskey Creek. I highly recommend this restaurant. The moment came for saying goodbye with hopes of climbing again together The participants were Parvis Esna, Annemarie Mikolaitis, Ron Echelmann and Gary Schenk. The scenery was exquisite.

I want to thank everyone for joining Joe Wankum and me for this great trip. Also many thanks to Joe who was my wonderful assistant leader.

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e-mail at erik.siering@hsc.com

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Devils Crag #1, continued from page 17.

found some slings on very questionable anchors. We were back to the pass by 4:00. Here we did high fives and parted ways. Erik headed up for Wheel, and Doug and I made for camp to pack up and head for Grouse Meadow before dark.

That night as I looked at the beautiful stars and moon illuminating Grouse Meadow, with a full stomach from eating Doug's food, I had a very satisfied feeling of accomplishment. We had a strong team. We had done the Crag on the arête. We had been safe and used great care. We were done. Somehow it seemed that the eyes of providence and maybe Dave Dykeman were smiling on us.

Devil's Crag # 1

September 8-11, 2000

by Nile Sorenson

Devil's Crag has the reputation of being one of the most difficult peaks on the SPS list. The peak has loose rock, is very exposed for almost the entire climb, and is a long way from any trailhead. Doug Mantle, Erik Siering and I decided to make the climb. Erik is closing in on a list finish, and the Crag loomed as one of the major obstacles yet to be climbed on his dwindling list. Doug, having climbed this Peak 7 times previously (that is not a typo—it says “seven”), was recruited, or coerced or volunteered, (I don't know which) to increase the possibility of our success. Somehow, I as the third, just fit into the picture and was glad to be along.

Fitting for the difficulty of the peak, we would not meet at a trailhead and hike in. The plan was to meet at a spot nearly 20 miles into the back country. I would be coming from South Lake, Erik would be coming off a National trip climbing the Palisades, and Doug would be doing some peaks in the Devil's Crag vicinity several days ahead of our rendezvous time. After all, if you are doing an out-of-the-ordinary peak, one might as well have an out-of-the-ordinary meeting place.

Bears were everywhere in the Le Conte Canyon along the John Muir trail. I arrived in Grouse Meadow in the early afternoon and spent some time napping and looking for a good place to cross the stream. The crossing of the middle fork of the King's River is sometimes formidable. This late in the year it was not too bad.

The next morning I crossed and ascended the slope north of Rambaud creek. The description by Secor is accurate in that one does not want to climb near Rambaud creek unless you like bushwhacking. Staying high on the slopes north of the creek is the key. In a couple of hours I arrived at the lakes high up in the basin between Devil's Crag and Wheel. I dumped my gear and headed for Rambaud Pass to climb Wheel.

Rambaud Pass is a loose chute with plenty of sliding scree. As I approached the crest of the pass huffing and puffing, I spotted Doug, lounging in the afternoon sun, watching me slaving away in the scree. We exchanged greetings. He had been exploring Simpson's meadow area that day and had soloed the Crag the day before (WOW). I headed

off to climb Wheel and he headed for camp. Wheel is a nice ridge climb with just a touch of class 3. It took just over an hour from the pass. The register shows only about 3 entries per year. Wheel offers a nice view of the approach and climb of Devil's Crag. (Although it really didn't do me any good). I hustled down the ridge and made it back to camp. Within less than an hour, Erik came rambling in having made it from Palisade basin. Our climbing team was now complete, with a rendezvous 20 miles from the nearest trailhead!!!

The next morning we left camp at 6:00 am. The scree on Rambaud pass hadn't improved. There are several route descriptions on Devil's Crag. We chose, based on Doug's experience to climb the Northwest Arête. From the small saddle adjacent to White Top, we traversed the southern face of White top. There is a small ledge system with minor up and downs that goes across the face to the notch between White top and the arête connecting to Devil's Crag. From this notch, we ascended on the south side and crested the arête. Once on the arête there are lots of up and downs with plenty of exposure. The rock is relatively loose.

The balance of the climb is on or near the arête. The route finding problems come and go, but there are not a lot of choices. The exposure is significant (thousands of feet on either side) and sustained. At times I found myself holding onto boulders and rocks that I wondered how they could stay on the arête. I didn't recognize the “Rabbit Ears” described by Secor, until we were right in them. Summiting at 11:29 am, we had done almost 4 solid hours of continuous exposed class 4 climbing. I would suggest that there were some class 5 moves. Doug had graciously allowed me to lead the entire climb with no coaching as to route finding. We spent a significant amount of the time using ropes. WOW, this had been a good one. We all noted Dave Dykeman's signature in the register with rather melancholy feelings, knowing that this signature was placed just minutes before he fell to his death 4 years and 1 week previous to our climb. Not much was said about it till later. Although Doug had been to the peak in the interval, we were the first SPS group to sign in since Dave. The register shows only 5 different people signing in during 5 years—definitely a tough peak.

We did at least 4 raps to back off with some down climbing on belay in spots. Anchors at the rap stations need to be looked at very carefully as I

Continued on Page 16.

9.9: Nine Days, Nine Peaks

September 9-17, 2000

Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin

Thirteen people signed up initially for this weeklong peak-bagging extravaganza in the northern Sierra. Saturday morning only ten were present at the Sonora Pass PCT trailhead. In addition to the leaders, the participants were: Gary Bowen, Pete Yamagata, Ret Moore, Jim Conley, Bob Emerick, Rick Jali, Darius Mehr (from Connecticut) and Matthew Sidgwick (from Tokyo). Of course, we also had one K-9 along to keep the bears at bay: Smokey, the Rottenweiler. The morning was clear and crisp with snow from the Labor Day dusting still lingering on the surrounding summits. Most of the peaks on this trip were located and climbed using directions published in Pete Yamagata's *Northern Sierra Peaks Guide*. In this trip report, each day's climb will be individually summarized and any relevant route deviations or suggestions noted.

Day 1: Leavitt Peak (11,570'). Leaving the PCT trailhead we headed south along the well maintained trail. We left the trail when we were southeast of the summit and ascended Leavitt's southeast ridge without any problem. There was fresh snow in places along the route and we executed a few standing glissades on the way back. Everyone made the summit. After returning to the trailhead, we found a primitive camping spot off highway 108 about 2 miles east of the pass. For future reference, the trailhead for St. Mary's Pass about .5 miles west of the pass can be used to stay overnight (Sonora Pass trailhead is posted as a no-camping zone).

Day 2: Stanislaus Peak (11,233'). Crossing Sonora Pass one more time we headed for St. Mary's Pass trailhead .5 miles west of the pass. From the trailhead we followed an obvious trail all the way to the base of Stanislaus' summit cone. From there we easily traversed the class 2 rubble to reach the summit. Eight people made the top. After returning from the peak, we headed west along highway 108 to the Kennedy Meadow area and doubled up at the USFS Baker Campground (\$10 per night; the more convenient Deadman Campground was full). That evening most of the group descended on the Kennedy Meadow Resort Restaurant for their Sunday prime-rib special. At \$13 the generously sized prime-rib special is a very good deal that

included soup, salad, bread, potato and desert. The folks at the Kennedy Meadow Resort were reserved but friendly toward us Sierra Clubbers.

Day 3: Black Hawk Mtn. (10,348'). By 7:15 am, Bob Emerick, Pete Yamagata and Igor left the Black Hawk trailhead (.3 miles short of the Kennedy Meadows Resort). Everyone else demurred from taking on the 20 mile 4,500' gain death march and instead took the day off to relax in camp and/or hike up to Relief Reservoir for a swim. Marching through private property, around Relief Reservoir and up to Lunch Meadow we made good time on the trail. All trail junctions were adequately signed. From Lunch Meadow we gained Black Hawk's eastern ridge and entered a granite slab wonderland; it was a pleasure to get one's hands on good Sierra granite again. After passing over the false summit we ascended the true summit by 2 pm. After signing in and eating lunch, we dropped directly north into the drainage that eventually leads to Saucer Meadow (on the trail). The drainage route went well and we had the pleasure of negotiating additional granite slabs that seemed at times like endless sidewalks. After reaching the trail, we retraced our steps to the trailhead arriving there at 7:30 pm: another fine and rewarding 12-hour SPS death march! We returned to Baker Campground for another night.

Day 4: Disaster Peak (10,047'). From Kennedy Meadow we drove up the Clark Fork to the end of the road at the Disaster Creek trailhead. Heading up the trail, absorbed in conversation, we plodded too far north before heading cross country in search of the old trail that side hills up toward Disaster Peak. A faint use-trail connecting the two trails heads east from the middle of the 2nd meadow encountered along the main trail. If one reaches the 3rd meadow with a cattle gate across the trail, then one has gone one meadow too far. We eventually found the old trail and six people made it to the summit. While on the summit, some clouds rolled in threatening a rain that never materialized. After returning to the trailhead Darius and Matthew decided to spend the rest of their West Coast vacation touring Lake Tahoe and other more civilized attractions. The remaining group drove east along highway 108 to the Leavitt Meadow Campground (\$5 per night) for the night.

Day 5: Highland Peak (10,935'). From Leavitt Meadow we drove north on 395 gassing up at Walker for \$2.39/gallon and then on toward Ebbetts Pass via highway 89 and highway 4. From the PCT trailhead six of us started for the summit at 9:30 am. The trail drops about 500 feet before regaining the lost elevation at Noble Lake where one leaves the trail to follow a faint use trail toward the Highland summit. Another 200-foot drop awaited us between the obligatory false summit and the true summit of Highland. Around 2 pm five of us reached the summit infested by flying ants, lady bugs, and one weasel. Retracing our steps we reached the trailhead by 6 pm and decided to spend the night there rather than moving on toward the next peak. At the trailhead we noticed a parked vehicle with a bashed in window (vandalism?); however, after we all bedded down for the night, the trailhead parking lot was visited by a sheriff's patrol car (we guessed that they were aware of the general problem of vandalism in the area).

Day 6: Round Top (10,381'). From the Highland trailhead parking lot we drove over Carson Pass on highway 88 to the Woods Lake Campground (\$11 per night) next to the Round Top trailhead. Along the way we decided to splurge and eat out for breakfast. We all feasted at a great breakfast served up by the Alpine Restaurant in downtown Markleville. After registering at the campground, we followed the Winnemucca Trail to the PCT and then west along the PCT to Round Top Lake from which several prominent use trails lead to the Round Top summit. The summit block has some fun 3rd class rock moves; four people made the true summit. While we were climbing Round Top, Ret Moore checked out to climb Dicks Peak and Mount Tallac overlooking Lake Tahoe on his own (he already "had" Round Top).

Day 7: Freel Peak (10,881'). In the morning Jim Conley decided to head home early to get a peek at how the mice had played while the cat was away (he is a responsible business owner and employer). The remaining members of the group drove on toward Luther Pass on highway 89 and were rejoined by Pete and Ret for the climb of Freel Peak. We headed north on forest road 051 (dirt road) from its junction with highway 89 about .5 miles east of Luther Pass. At all forks we took the left fork until we crossed a bridge. At that point we parked and headed west along a trail to its junction with the Tahoe Rim Trail. We followed the Tahoe

Rim Trail along Freel's west slopes to a prominent saddle and then followed a use trail to the summit. Seven people made the summit. After returning to the cars, Rick Jali and Gary Bowen decided to get an early start on their drive home. The remaining group drove on to the Lyons Lake trailhead for Pyramid Peak. Although the junction is not well marked, it is the first paved forest road heading north from highway 50 after passing the prominent Strawberry Inn.

Day 8: Pyramid Peak (9,983'). In the morning Mike McDermitt joined the group and five of us headed up the trail toward Lyons Lake. From Lyons Lake we continued east toward the high lakes at the base of Pyramid Peak intending to try a route along the north ridge. Along the way Pete persuaded us to abandon our foolhardy endeavor and to instead exit onto the west ridge. We followed the west ridge to the summit where we encounter a plethora of other climbers basking in the sun. The north ridge appears to be a possible class 2-3 route from the high lake. On the return we followed the west ridge back to the trail and then the trail to the cars. At this point Pete, Mike and Bob decided to take a pass on Mokelumne and head home. Ret Moore, Suzanne and I continued on to the trailhead for Mokelumne.

Day 9: Mokelumne Peak (9,334'). Mokelumne was climbed via the north ridge route suggested to us by Pete Yamagata. Complete directions and an account of the climb can be found in the accompanying trip write-up.

We enjoyed this week long outing and the company of all of the people that have come out (and some came quite a distance!) to join us in these peak climbs. We especially appreciate Bob Emerick for assuming the honored post of assistant leader on the two days that Suzanne chose not to attempt a particular peak. Smokey, our Rottenweiler, added 6 new summits to his Sierra list and due to his persistent vigilance we were never bothered by any bears, deer or chipmunks. Doing northern Sierra peaks in many ways feels like DPS outings; one always has a comfortable truck/car to return to after a climb and one is able to camp in style with good food prepared off the tailgate and various beverages dispensed liberally around the campfire.

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Elena Sherman, 11277 Ryandale Drive, Culver City CA 90230.

AWARDS: Notification of accomplishments send to section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. To purchase awards merchandise - Emblem pins (\$15.00), senior emblem pins (\$15.00), master emblem pins (\$15.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS. all prices include sales tax.

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