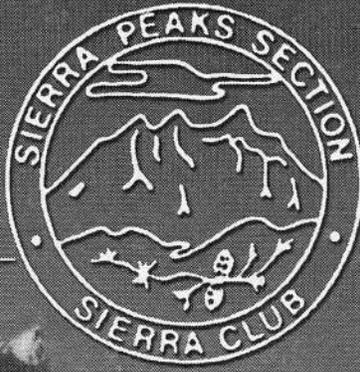


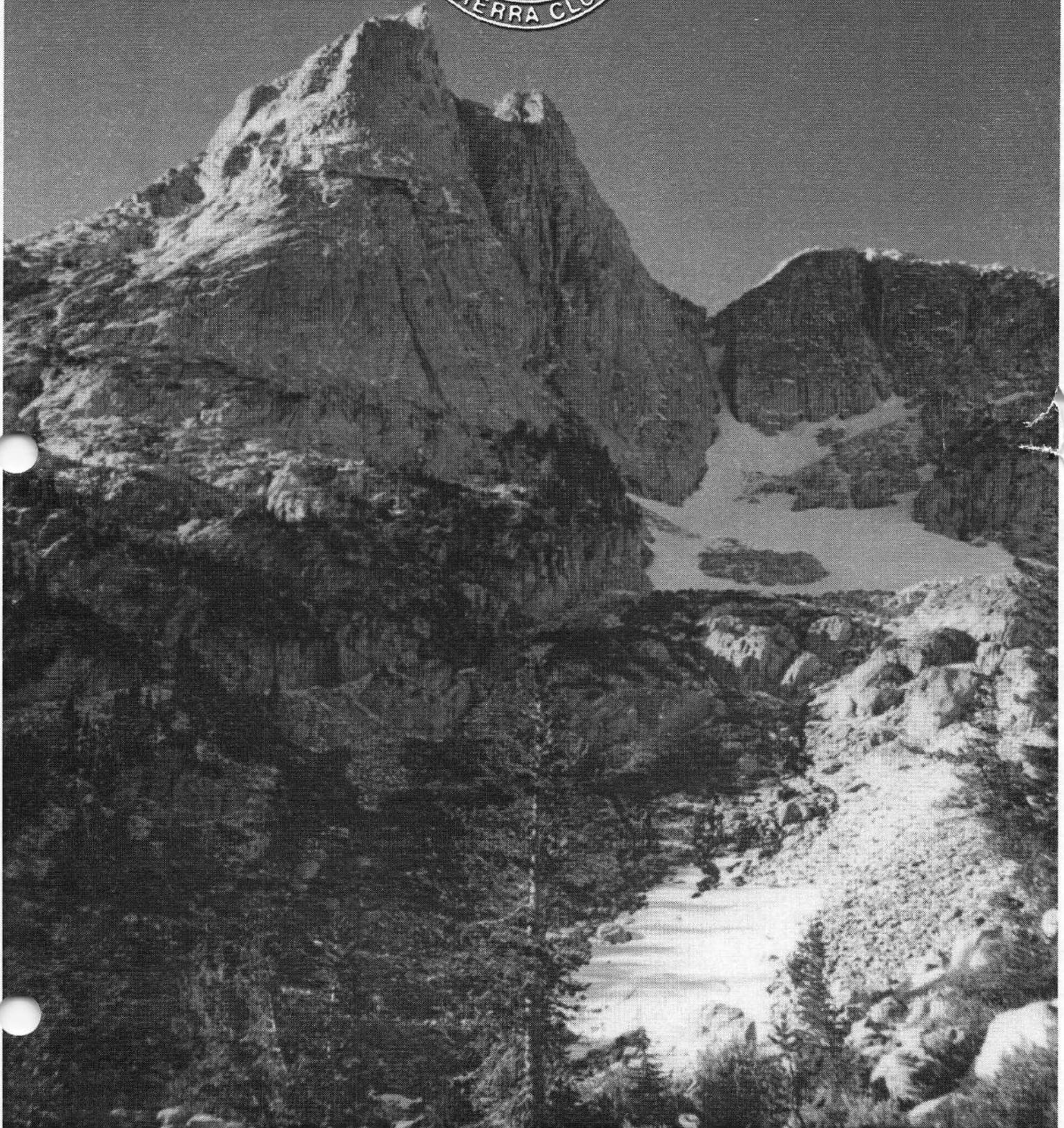
The Sierra

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 1



ECHO

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2001





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).

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 Stehkine River near Ketchikan.

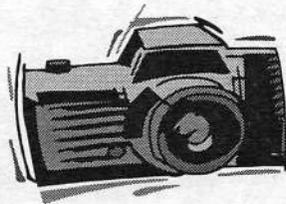
June 13 - Wednesday - Garent Roehm, speaker

Garent Roehm, a former U.S. Park Ranger, who spent 13 years in Alaska, will show slides of his 70 day traverse and climb of Mt. McKinley.

Leaders Plan your 2001 Summer Trips! Angeles Chapter Summer Schedule deadline is March. Submit trip plans to Ron Hudson by March 6, 2001 via mail or e-mail.

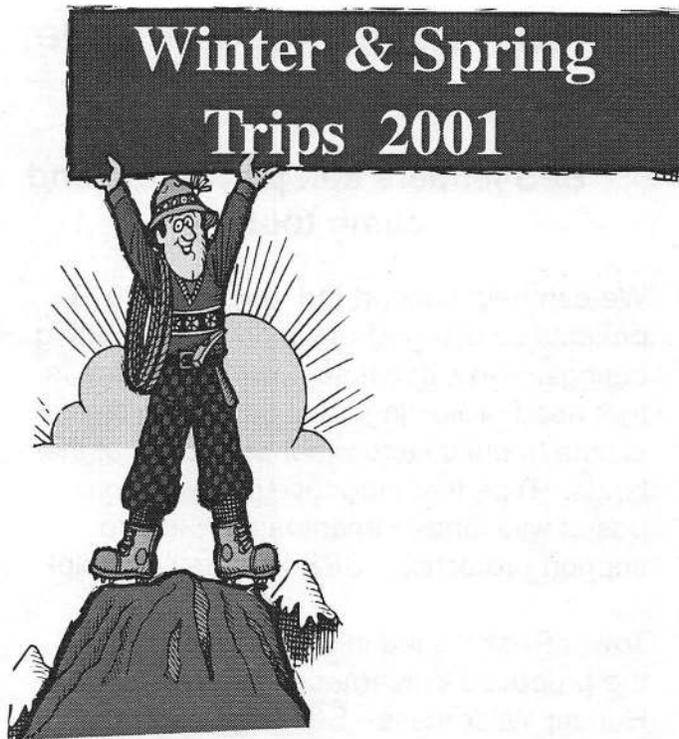
Peak List

Silver Peak
Mt. Hooper
Pickering
Joe Devel
Guyot
Tower Peak
Mokelumne Peak



Front Cover Tower Peak

Barbee Tidball, photographer
See story page 21



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.

FEBRUARY

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.

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. Send 2 SASE and \$60.00 check (Natural Science Section) by Feb 28 to Ldr/Reserv.: Ginny Heringer, co-ldr. Sherry Ross. See Chapter Schedule.

M/E: March 30 LTC Mountaineering Leadership Course application deadline for 4-weekend class. Contact Ron Campbell for info.

TM R: March 31- Apr 1 Sat - Sun, Mt Perkins: Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: Keith Martin.

I/M: March 31 - Apr 1 Sat - Sun, San Jacinto Mtns Snow Camp & Climb(s). set up camp, play, climb Cornell Pk (9721', cl 3). Leader: Asher Waxman, Asst: Will Mc Whinney

APRIL

TMR: Apr 14-19 Sat - Thur, Mts Guyot, Joe Devel, Pickering, Newcomb: Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor

I: Apr 21-22 Sat - Sun Indian Cove Navigation Nav noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) level nav req. Sat practice. Sun. checkout. To receive homework assignment send navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones, email sase to Harry Freimanis, Asst. Bob Bradshaw.

MR: Apr 27-30 Fri - Mon, Mt Williamson, Trojan Pk, Mt Barnard. Ldr: Will McWhinney, Asst: Beth Epstein

M/ER: Apr 28-29 Sat - Sun Sierra Snow Checkoff: 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.

EM: Evenings at Stoney Point Rock Workshops Pre-registration deadline. 6 weekly evening workshops beginning May 24th. Send prior to May 10, 2 SASE or e-mail for equip. list and eligibility requirements. Group size limited. Ldr. Darrell Lee, Asst: Virgil Shields

IMR: May 11-13 Fri - Sun, Mt McAdie (13,799') Climb & Snow Camp. Ldr: Will Mc Whinney, Asst: Asher Waxman

TMR: May 12-16 Sat - Wed, Center, Keith, Bradley SMS/SPS. Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldrs: Ron Hudson, RJ Secor

I: May 20 Sun Grinnell Ridge Navigation Nav noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) or advanced (E) level nav req. To receive homework assignment send nav. exper./training, etc. and sase to Harry Freimanis

MR: May 18-20 Fri - Sun, Birch Mtn (13,665'), The Thumb (13,388). Ldr: Tom McDonnell, Asst: Nile Sorenson

Trips Winter & Spring 2001 Continued

I: May 19-20 Sat - Sun, Owens Pk (8453'), Mt Jenkins (7921'). Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst: Rick Jali

M/ER: May 19-20 Sat - Sun, Sierra Snow Check-off. 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 Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor

I: May 26-28 Sat-Mon, Coyote PK 10,892', Angora Mtn. 10,198'. Moderately strenuous Memorial Day weekend backpack. Southern Sierra exploratory leader's provisional trip. Our route will take us along Deep Creek and Little Kern River and eventually to Coyote Lakes and the Great Western Divide. Sat pack 11 miles, 2,030' gain on trail to camp. Sun trail and xc Class 2 for both peaks, 16 miles rt., 3,500' gain. Mon pack out. 40 miles and approx. 6,800' gain total for 3 days. Send 2 SASE. Ldr. Sara Wyrens, Asst. Harvey Ganz. (see membership report - Echo).

JUNE

I: June 2-3 Sat - Sun, Olancho Pk (12,123'): SWTC. 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: Ldr: Bill Oliver, Co-ldr: Virgil Talbot

ER: June 16-19 Sat - Tue, Norman Clyde Pk (13,855'), Palisade Crest (13,553') 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.

BEAR TRIVIA

Delores Holiday submitted this bit of folk lore or fact for SPS members..... Apparently campers in Alaska have found that ammonia discourages bears from rummaging through camping gear. A small amount of ammonia can be carried in a film canister. The canister left open near your gear will discourage the bears from coming near.

California Wild Heritage Campaign

SPS leaders can play a role and climb too!

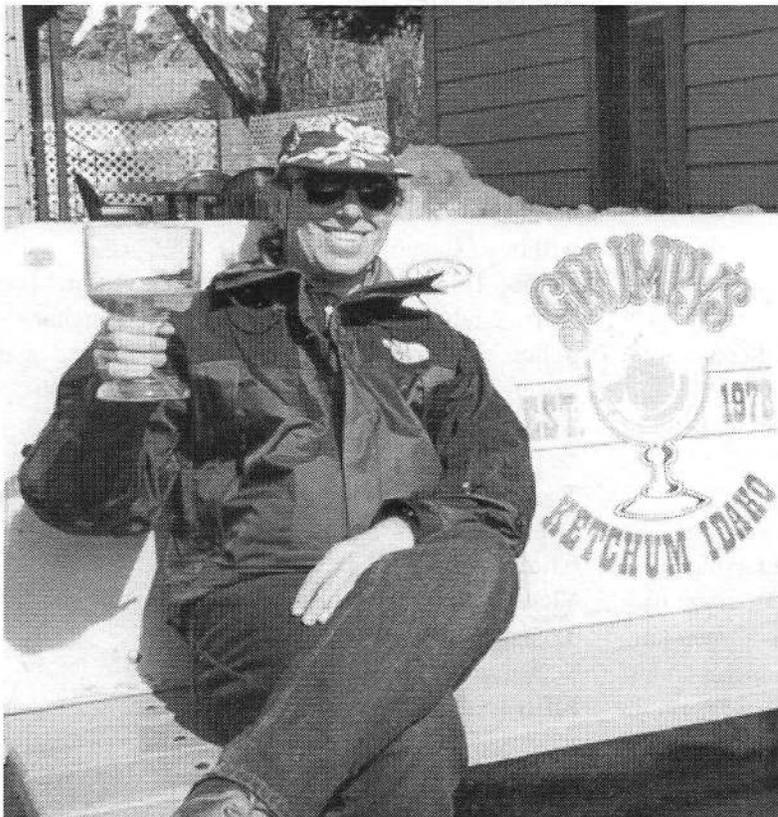
We can help support the Wildlands 2000 projects by doing what we do best - leading outings. Why, because now that the areas that need protecting have been identified it is time to build support for protection of the lands. Trips that introduce people to proposed wild lands - encourage others to support protection. SPS leaders can help!

Tower Peak we led in September 2000 to the proposed Wilderness expansion to the Hoover Wilderness - See story page 21.

Following is a list of areas where you can lead trips and support the CA Wild Heritage Campaign - if you do choose to lead a trip in these areas let me know - we'd like to also list the trip on other CA Wild Heritage trip lists too. Note many of these areas do not have SPS peaks, but they do have spectacular Sierra environments. Most of our peaks are in areas that are already protected. We need to help protect neighboring Wilderness lands too.

- Sherwin Roadless Area - above Mammoth Lakes.
- Dana Plateau & Tioga Lake Roadless Area
- **Mt Warren** - Addition to Hoover Wilderness.
- San Joaquin Roadless area.
- Duncan Canyon, near Forestville.
- Desolation Wilderness, Pyramid Ck. Horsetail Falls.
- White Mtn, Inyo National Forest
- Hoover East-Eagle Peak and Victoria Peak area
- Hoover West-Hawksbeak, Erhnbeck, **Tower**
- Castle Crags Wilderness in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest

For more trip ideas contact, myself Barbee Tidball lbtdball@earthlink.net and I will help you research areas to lead in. Or contact Vicky Hoover vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or Sally Miller sally_miller@tws.org.



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

January/February 2001

Welcome to our 2001 season, the Centennial Anniversary of Sierra Club Outings.

I am proud to be part of the new Management Committee, serving with Ron Hudson, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, and Matthias Selke. A strong group, with which I would readily climb anytime! Please allow me to express my appreciation for the able stewardship of last year's management committee; the Section is sound and vibrant. Further, Ron and Matthew have

selflessly returned as officers.

Most management-appointees have graciously consented to continue for another tour. But the post of Echo Mailer is available. Anyone interested in volunteering a bit of his or her time every other month for this important task should please contact Barbee or me.

The first Sierra Club outing, a model for the High Trips that followed, was led 100 years ago in Yosemite National Park. Ninety-six members attended this month-long basecamp, during which climbs of Mts Dana, Lyell, Hoffman and Lembert Dome were made. The SPS will appropriately strive to lead a number of trips to informally celebrate this milestone. So I look forward to a full slate this year. And, of course, the possibility of a certain September fete in Toulomne Meadows... details to follow.

Ron has assembled a fine schedule of Spring outings, which run the gamut from easy scrambles to prime rock and snow climbs. Leaders, please consider listing Sierra trips of all levels for the summer. Technical climbs are always popular. And the satisfaction of introducing new folks to the Range of Light and our section is so rewarding.

We have great upcoming meeting programs, and are planning for the rest of the year. Suffice it to say that our own members have a wealth of exciting recent expedition memories and photographs to share. Finally, thanks again to Barbee for pulling together another excellent banquet in a new venue. It was well worth negotiating the torrential rains to catch Peter Croft's talk and to socialize with our climbing friends.

Cheers,

Erik Siering
SPS Chair, 2001

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

December 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, Ron Hudson, Barbara Sholle, Barbee Tidball, Erik Siering, Doug Mantle

The meeting started at 7:00pm

Decided on a recipient for the SPS leadership award. Added Jim Crouch and John Patterson to the Mountaineer's list based on the recommendation of the safety committee. Doug Bear's membership entry needs to be updated to reflect that he is on the Mountaineer's list.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet

Date: Sunday, March 18, 2001

No host reception: 5:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Location: Brookside Country Club

SPS Member Dan Richter will be receiving the Chester Versteeg Outings Award. Beth Epstein, Sigrid Sexton, Nile Sorensen, Reiner Stenzel and Robert Beach will receive the Outings Service Award.

Joining Angeles Chapter members for a festive evening as we honor and thank our dedicated volunteers, socialize, enjoy viewing and bidding for artistic and usefull items at the Silent Auction, and generally celebrate the many accomplishments of our Chapter in this past year.

Tickets \$30.00

Send SASE to reservationist : Cathy Kissinger,
10541 Oro Vista Ave., Sunland, CA 91040.
Groups of 10 may reserve a table in advance.

General Meeting

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

New attendees were introduced.

Doug Mantle gave a brief account of his recent Ama Dablam climb.

Peter Croft will be the banquet speaker. The banquet will be at Castaways and cost is \$29.

Barbee Tidball gave the conservation report. The Sierra Club is again working on a fixed anchor policy. The Inyo Forest DEIS maybe revised again. Yosemite approved a new management plan in November.

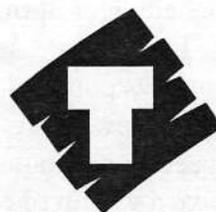
The new SPS management committee was announced as follows:

Chair: Erik Siering
Vice Chair: Ron Hudson
Treasurer: Maria Roa
Secretary: Matthew Richardson
Fifth Officer: Matthias Selke

Ron will also be Outings Chairman, Maria will manage Membership, and Matthias will do Programs.

Ron Hudson announced that Inyo permit procedures have been posted on the web. The first day to reserve permits for 2001 is March 1.

Bill Oliver presented slides from his national trip to Palisade Basin.



Own Your Own SPS T-Shirt. They come with a picture of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area, with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak easily identified on the

back. T-Shirts come in Medium, Large and Extra Large. Colors are sand, ash and yellow. Cost is \$12.00 plus \$3.00 shipping per order. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the \$3.00 shipping charge. Make check payable to the SPS. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.

SPS Membership Report

February 2001

New Members - Welcome!

Kathleen Brown
14630 Mountain Spring Street
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-2648
H 626/961-9107

Ken Hooper
6640 Jaboneria Road
Bell Gardens, CA 90201-3140
H 323/773-1420
W 818/551-0600
e-mail kjhooper2@juno.com

Roy M. Randall
2235 Earl Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039
H 323/663-8907
W 818/551-0600
e-mail zeroy@earthlink.net

Sara Wyrens
7562 Seaspring Dr. #202
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
H 714/960-7271
W 949/851-5010
e-mail s_wyrens@yahoo.com

New Subscribers - Happy Reading!

Deborah Jamieson
17 Ultima Drive
Newport Coast, CA 92657
H 949/494-8674
e mail mom25kipper@aol.com

Returning Members

Doug Bear
20420 Park Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Address Changes

See Page 27 of this Echo.

WE GET LETTERS

September 24, 2000

From Geoff Godfrey

Has the time arrived for the Sierra Club in general and the SPS in particular to mount a campaign to have Mt. Whitney renamed Mt. Muir?

Consider these: It is safe to say that John

Muir's name is substantially more recognizable than is Josiah Whitney's. Muir enjoys worldwide renown; the same simply cannot be said for Whitney. For that matter, how many Sierra Club members who reside on the east coast could correctly describe J.D. Whitney? Because of his association with the Sierra and his efforts to conserve this spot on the planet John Muir is definitely more deserving of having his name adorn the highest point in the contiguous U.S.

The idea for renaming came to me because of the mislabeling of Mt. Muir in the picture on p.1, Sierra Club Bulletin, September/October 2000. Yes, Mt. Muir's east face is spectacular but that impressiveness is in no way evident in this picture. It is distressing and disappointing that the staff of our own Sierra Club Bulletin can't immediately recognize Mt. Muir.

Of course the USGS board of names is bound to trot out any number of reasons why it is inappropriate to rename Mt. Whitney and the Whitney heirs will probably also resist. But when the Sierra Club Bulletin staff can't identify Mt. Muir and a good deal of the world doesn't have a clue as to whom Josiah Whitney was, maybe some drastic changes need to happen. (yes, I notified the Sierra Club Bulletin of the mistake the day the magazine arrived. Their reply was that they took the word of the photographer.)

October 16, 2000
From Kathy Price

Dear Friends:

Jim Adler and I have a lot of duplicate copies of old SPS Echos (also HPS Lookouts). We are going to dispose of them. We are looking for anyone who would like them. Are you interested? Here is the list of what we have.

Volume	Number	Date/s
8	all	1964
9	all	1965
10	all	1966
11	all	1967
12	all	1968
13	all	1969
14	all	1970
31	6	Sept/Oct 1987
31	7	Nov/Dec 1987
32	1-3,5-7	1988
33	1,2,4-6	1989

Continued on Page 14

2001

WILDERNESS PERMIT INFORMATION

Yosemite: Yosemite requires permits for overnight use year round. Day use permits are not required. Applications may be made by mail or phone. Permit applications are processed in random order. Your permit application will be processed for any trip 24 weeks to the day before departure up to 2 days before departure. 60% of permits are issued to reservations and 40% the day of entry on a first come first serve basis. For mail in reservations write Wilderness Permit Reservations, Yosemite, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. To phone in a reservation call 209/372-0740. Advance reservations are \$5.00 per person, make checks out to Yosemite Association, or use a major credit card number with the expiration date. Permits are issued by mail or in person. For general permit and day use information call 209/372-0310 or log on to www.Yosemitese.org/wildpermit. For trail information call 209/372-0200.

Inyo National Forest/ Whitney Zone: See information on Pages 9 -11.

The following areas all have advance permit reservations available. Requests should be postmarked no earlier than March 1, 1999 or later than August 15,2001, unless noted otherwise.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Park: Wilderness Permit Reservations, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, HCR 89 Box 60, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Phone 559/565-3708. Fax 559/565-4239. \$10.00 Reservation fee for permits is required. Group size maximum is 15 for most areas mid May to mid September. Permits may be reserved March 1 up to 3 weeks before start of trip. Web site: www.nps.gov/seki.

Sierra National Forest: Kaiser, John Muir Wildernesses Wilderness Reservations, Pineridge Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664. Phone 559/855-5355. \$3.00 per person permit fee. Reservation period July 1 – September 15, 1999. Permits issued by pick-up in person only. All areas require overnight permits and group size maximum is 15. Reservations considered by mail only at least 3 weeks in advance. **North of the San Joaquin River – Dinkey Lks, Ansel Adams** Wilderness Reservations, Minarets Ranger District, P.O. Box 10, North Fork, CA 93643. Phone 559/877-2218. \$3.00 per person permit fee. Monarch does not have a quota and therefore does not have permit reservations. Web site: www.r5.fs.us/sierra/.

Toiyabe National Forest: Bridgeport Ranger District, P.O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Phone 619/932-7070. \$3.00 per person permit fee and reservations available for Hoover Wilderness only. Permits issued by mail or in person.

Stanislaus National Forest - Mokelumne, Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant Wilderness Areas: Stanislaus National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 05370. Phone 209/532-3671, Fax: 209/533-1890. No permit or permit reservation fee. Overnight permits are required. Web site: www.r5.fed.us/stanislaus.

Get your permits early and remember to cancel if you can't use a permit you receive. Let's schedule lots of SPS climbs this summer! Barbee

**LEADERS - SUBMIT SUMMER TRIP PLANS TO
RON HUDSON BY MARCH 6, 2001.**

How to get a Wilderness Permit Inyo National Forest

Information Reprinted from U.S. Forest Service Inyo webpage, February 2001

When is a wilderness permit required? Wilderness permits are **required** year-round on the Inyo National Forest for all overnight trips into the Golden Trout, John Muir, Ansel Adams and Hoover Wildernesses. Day use wilderness permits are required only on the main Mt. Whitney Trail for hikes beyond Lone Pine Lake.

Are wilderness permits limited? Many popular trailheads are under a quota: a limited number of people are allowed entry into the wilderness each day, per trailhead. For a list of quota and non-quota trails on the forest see the back page of this handout. Most trailheads have quotas in effect from the last Friday in June through September 15th. The exception to this is the Mt. Whitney Zone where the quota period for both overnight and day use is from May 15th through November 1st. This affects the main Mt. Whitney Trail and the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek (Mountaineer's Route). Outside the quota periods when stations are not open, you may self-issue a wilderness permit at ranger stations and visitor centers on the forest.

Can I reserve a permit? For all trails, except the main Mt. Whitney Trail, 60% of the trailhead quota is available through advanced reservations and 40% is available on a walk-in basis. For these trails reserve a permit by submitting an application for "all quota trails except main Mt. Whitney Trail" to the reservation office following the wilderness permit procedures outlined on the enclosed application form. *The application period begins on March 1st, which is the first day applications are accepted for all dates and all trailheads during the quota season.* Application requests will be processed in order of postmark/fax date. Beginning May 1st, applications will also be accepted by phone. At that time, all methods of applying will be processed as they arrive in the office regardless of application method (fax, mail, or phone).

- **Wilderness Permit Application** (See application following this information)

On the main **Mt. Whitney Trail**, 100% of the overnight and day hike quotas can be obtained through advanced reservations. Applications must be submitted to our reservations office during the month of February for all dates during the quota season. Processing (reservations are awarded through a lottery) will begin on February 15th. It is advantageous to get your application in early in the month. Any remaining openings that are not reserved through the lottery will be filled through the same process as all other quota trails beginning on May 1st.

- **Mt. Whitney Wilderness Permit Application** (log onto web site and download)

Phone reservations: While many of our reservations will be filled via mail or fax from February through April, there will be an experimental phone reservation system beginning May 1st. We will accept reservations by phone from 1pm-5pm, Monday-Friday at (760) 873-2483. This line is for **reservations only**. If you need further information (campgrounds, trail conditions, etc.) please call the ranger station nearest to your trailhead. We expect the reservation line to be extremely busy, therefore you may want to fax or mail your application if you are unable to get through in a reasonable length of time.

How close in advance of my trip can I make a reservation? All reservations (mail, fax or phone) will be accepted up to two (2) days before your planned entry into the wilderness. For example, if you plan to enter the wilderness on Friday, we will stop taking reservations for that day at the close of business on Wednesday. If time does not allow us to mail out a confirmation letter, we will provide the information to you over the phone or fax you a confirmation letter. Keep in mind that with mailed applications, your request **must** reach our office in time for us to process your application. If you are applying within a week of your trip date, it may be prudent to apply via fax or phone.

When can I get the remaining (40%) walk-in permits? Walk-in permits are available beginning at 11am on the day before your planned entry date at ranger stations and visitor centers listed on page 3. These walk-in permits are free. Additionally, any permits that have been reserved, but are not picked up by 10am the date of entry, will be considered "no-show" permits and re-issued on a

walk-in basis. Demand for wilderness permits is high on weekends and holidays.

Are reservations and permits transferable? No, once the forest has issued an advanced reservation for a wilderness permit to the leader of the party, it is valid for that person and that person alone. The permit is a contract between the government and the party leader that authorizes the permit holder to enter into the wilderness with a specific number of people. For further details, review the Inyo National Forest Policy on selling and/or transferring of wilderness permits.

What if I want to hike starting in one of the National Parks? For trips that originate in Yosemite National Park (209) 372-0740 or Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park (559) 565-3766, you must obtain a permit from the appropriate park office. The permit you will receive is good for travel in designated Wilderness on other national forests. If a permit is issued for entry on an Inyo National Forest trailhead, it is valid for travel into the National Parks if they are listed on your itinerary.

What about non-quota trails? Permits for trails that do not have quotas are free and available on a walk-in basis at any ranger station or visitor center that issues permits.

What if I want to go on several different trips during the quota season? If you want advanced reservations for several trips, you must submit a separate application for each trip request. An application for an advanced reservation is only good for one trip request, although you can have alternate date requests, or alternate trailhead requests within each application. Alternate dates must be listed by priority.

Permit pick up: Bring your confirmation letter to an Inyo National Forest ranger stations and visitor centers and pick up your wilderness permit in person. We recommend you pick up the permit at the location closest to your entry trailhead. Your confirmation letter will be exchanged for an actual wilderness permit. For the main Mt. Whitney Trail (day use and overnight), successful applicants will receive a confirmation letter in the mail and must pick up their permit at the Mt. Whitney Ranger Station in Lone Pine. Arrangement can also be made for "night-drop" pick-up that will be explained in your confirmation letter.

Special forest orders: The Inyo National Forest has two special forest orders in place that may influence your choice of trailhead. Bear canister requirements for food storage and Bighorn Sheep area closures prohibiting dogs and domestic goats are in place on some Inyo National Forest trails. Please contact the ranger station closest to your entry trail to find out if these or any other forest orders may affect your choice of trailheads or how to prepare for your trip.

Fees: Fees are for reservations only. Reservation fees are not refundable once your reservation is processed. There is a \$5.00 per person reservation fee, except for trips that enter the Mt. Whitney Zone, where the fee is \$15.00 per person. If you are requesting to enter the Mt. Whitney Zone at any point during your trip you must apply the \$15.00 fee. Examples: A trip for 4 people entering Bishop Pass and exiting the main Mt. Whitney Trail must be accompanied by a \$60.00 payment as the party is entering the Whitney Zone by exiting through the Main Mt. Whitney Trail. A permit request for hiking Onion Valley to Cottonwood Lakes and climbing Mt. Whitney in route would also be \$60.00 for a party of 4. Any overnight trip in the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is in the Whitney Zone, which would include a \$15.00 per person fee.

Processing fee: If you need to change the entry date or entry trailhead of your confirmed reservation, and we can accommodate your requested change, there is a flat processing fee of \$10.00. These changes can be made by phone **only**, Monday-Friday 1pm-5pm, beginning on May 1st. The phone number to call is (760) 873-2483.

If you want to add to the number in your party, this is considered a new reservation. Refer to the procedures outlined earlier in this document for instructions.

Payment: You can make your payment by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), check, or money order. If you fax your application you must pay by credit card. All checks and money orders must be in US funds and made payable to: USDA Forest Service.

Obtaining a permit outside the quota period: Permits for trails outside the main Mt. Whitney Trail will be available on a self-issue basis at Inyo National Forest ranger stations and visitor centers beginning September 16th through the last Thursday in June. Permits for the main Mt. Whitney Trail and the North Fork of Lone Pine Trail will be available on a self-issue basis from November 2nd through May 14th.

Inyo Wilderness Permit Office ·
(760) 873-2483 Reservations and Changes Only
M-F 1pm-5pm - Beginning May 1st.
(760) 873-2484 Fax (760) 873-2485 Wilderness Information



Wilderness Permit Reservations

Application for all quota trails except the main Mt. Whitney Trail

Name _____

Commercial/Organized Group _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____

Fax Number () _____

Primary Mode of Travel (circle one) **Foot** **Stock** (_____ number)

Trip Dates: List several alternate entry dates and/or trails, **in order of preference**, in case your first choice is unavailable. There is no limit to the number of entry dates/trails you can list.

	Date of Entry	Date of Exit	Entry Trail	Exit Trail
1 st				
2 nd				
3 rd				
4 th				
5 th				
6 th				
7 th				
8 th				

Number of People in Party (include self) _____ X **Fee** _____ = _____ **Total fee**

Reservations require a \$5.00 per person fee, unless you enter the Whitney Zone at any point during your trip, then you must apply the \$15.00 per person fee in lieu of the \$5.00 fee. Maximum group size is 15.

Payment Method: (circle one) **VISA** **MasterCard** **Check** **Money Order**

Credit Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration Date (month/year) _____ - _____

Name as shown on Credit Card _____ (Print)

Signature _____

Wilderness Permit Reservations Application Instructions

~ for all quota trails except main Mt. Whitney Trail ~

Step 1. Fill out the application form: Applications will be accepted by mail and fax starting March 1. All entry dates for all quota trails will be available at this time. **Postmarks or faxes dated prior to March 1 will be discarded.**

Step 2. Paying the reservation fee/Sending in the application: If faxing, payment must be made by credit card (VISA or MasterCard only) and sent to (760) 873-2484. If mailing, payment can be made by credit card, check or money order made out to: USDA Forest Service in US Funds only and mailed to: **Wilderness Reservation Office, Inyo National Forest, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514.**

Step 3. Selections: Application requests will be processed in order of postmark/fax date. March 1st applications are processed together and have preference over March 2nd applications, etc.

Step 4. Confirmation: All requests will receive a response from our office. If you are successful, we will mail you a confirmation letter; if unsuccessful, your application will be returned.

Reminders/Conditions

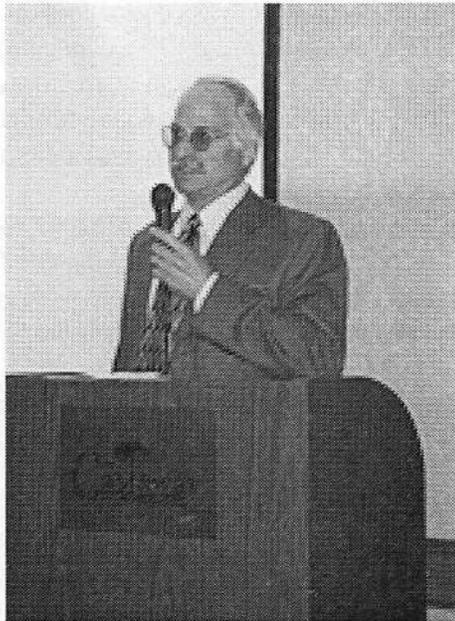
- Only one person per party can send in an application. Duplicate applications even from different names in the party will result in duplicate non-refundable charges. Separate trips must be on separate applications with payment for each application. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining an advanced reservation, no charge will result.
- Once a reservation has been issued, there are no refunds for cancellations.
- You must enter the wilderness on the entry date specified on the confirmation letter. No exceptions.
- If you do not pick up your permit by 10am the day of your departure it will automatically turn into a "no-show" and will be re-issued to another party on a walk-in basis beginning at 11:00am.
- There is a \$10 processing fee to change entry dates or trailheads. If you need to add to your party, there is a \$5/person charge. Details of this service will be provided on your confirmation letter.
- You will exchange your confirmation letter for the actual wilderness permit and receive up to date site-specific information regarding current conditions.
- Inquire about site-specific dog closure restrictions and bear canister requirements prior to planning your wilderness trip.
- Please contact us, stop by the office, or visit our website (www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/permits.htm) to get additional information and current conditions for the Inyo National Forest.

Trailhead Clarification

See Inyo Website for maps and detailed information.

2000 SPS Banquet Was a Thundering Success!

The heaviest winter storm of the season failed to dampen attendance at the January SPS 2000 Banquet.



Scot Jamison presents the Leadership Award to Larry Tidball.

Larry Tidball Earns SPS 2000 Leadership Award

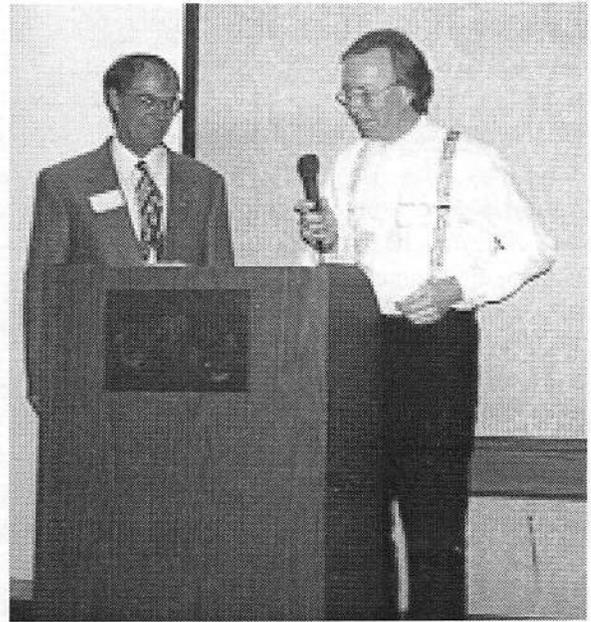
by Scot Jamison

Larry Tidball is well known to any Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, BMTc, WTC or Ski Mountaineer. He started climbing with the SPS section in '73 or '74 on a trip to Mt. Russell with Bill T. Russell. He has been a member of the Sierra Club since '74, and a life member since '87.

Larry has been hiking and climbing practically all his life, starting his career in the Boy Scouts.

Since then, he has distinguished himself by being one of the most popular, caring, safety-conscious and fun-oriented leaders most of us have ever hiked with.

He earned his "M" rating in November of '75, and his "E" rating four years later in December of '79. By the time he completed the SPS list in



Erik Siering 2001 SPS Chair presents Keith Martin 2000 SPS Chair with his "past-Chair" pin.



Larry Tidball accepts the leadership award while Keith Martin, 2000 SPS Chair looks on.

October of '98, he had led at least 156 SPS peaks.

Fortunately for most of his participants, this leader enjoys more than peak bagging. He is a great cook, (Larry is well known for his quesadillas), he reads an awful lot, enjoys the countryside he's in, and sometimes he even takes a fishing rod. Larry takes a genuine interest in making sure everyone on his trips not only reaches his or her goals, but has a good time doing it. *Continued next page.*

Larry Tidball - 2000 Leadership Award Continued

Larry is well known as a navigator and a mountaineer, leading trips involving all skill levels. He has always promoted mountaineering leadership and safety. His many years in the San Gabriel Valley BMTC, both as a group leader and as the area chairman have helped many of us to become better, safer, mountaineers and leaders. He presented the "Equipment Lecture" for BMTC and WTC groups from the late '70's through '96. Currently he presents the Leadership Training Safety lecture.

He was the person who encouraged me to not only go for my "M" rating, but he somehow managed to convince me that I was a proficient enough climber to do Mt. Rainier and other climbs I had always figured to read about, not to climb. Larry also introduced me to "Nap time and Happy Hour". I didn't know that you could relax on a week-end climb. I learned that a Louis L'Amour western was almost as essential on a trip as "ugh" oatmeal.

A few of his other accomplishments are:

SPS treasurer '91-'92

SPS chair '92 - '93

SPS Outings Coordinator '93 -'94

Incidentally, he was instrumental in organizing the "Restricted Trips" that allowed the SPS to lead

technical climbs with the return of mountaineering insurance. He assisted the SPS leaders with the mountains of paperwork involved in leading the trips and coordinating with National Outings for restricted trips. With his guidance, the SPS had 14 restricted trips the year the insurance came back.

In the Rock Climbing Section, Larry was a certified and active leader for the RCS from the late '70's until it's demise in '88 due to loss of insurance. He was rated to lead "T" technical rock climbing trips. He has been an instructor for the RCS Rock Climbing Course and the Mountain Safety Rescue Seminars. Larry was a member of the RCS Safety Committee.

Larry has been the Angeles Chapter Safety Chair from 1996 to present. He is the guy that gets to read all the complaints-as if there were any-about the leaders and trips led. He is qualified to check off potential leaders seeking to earn their leadership ratings. He continues to participate in practice and check-out sessions for "I", "M" and "E" leaders to insure that we lead safe trips.

If you sign up for one of Larry Tidball's outings, you will have the experience of hiking or climbing with one of the best, the best there is.

I was very proud to present the SPS 2000 Leadership Award to Larry Tidball.

WE GET LETTERS Continued

February 2001

From Barbara Lilley

These are (*see following notes*) from the Bishop paper. Perhaps a line or two on these subjects would be of interest to Echo readers (*and we agreed*) --- Thanks for a great banquet. One of the best ever in spite of "the storm of the century". (*Thanks for the banquet compliment!!!!*)

Turn On Headlights Next 34 Miles

US 395 between Big Pine and Lone Pine has instigated mandatory headlight zones. Violation of the signs could result in heavy fines. The CHP will now be watching for speeders and vehicles that do not obey the lights on signs!

"US 395 4-laning project in Inyo to be finished by 2012, Caltrans announces"

Caltrans has prepared a master plan for US 395 and Hwy 14 between Mojave and Lee Vining. The plan is to fully construct 4-lanes by 2012, provided they receive the necessary funding. The proposed construction is planned in phases. Rush Creek currently under construction - 2002; 2001-2003 Fish Springs; 2005-2006 Black Rock and Independence phases; 2004-2007 Manzanar; Olancho - Cartago and Freeman Gulch on Hwy. 14 2009-2012. The areas under construction south of Lone Pine at Ash Creek are scheduled for completion in 2001 and the section from Lone Pine to Olancho will be completed in 2002.

Deadline March 6 for SPS Summer Trips

This is my call for your trip submissions for the July 5 - October 31, 2001 Angeles Chapter Schedule (#287).

I encourage all leaders to lead trips for summer schedule. You can print this out and give to SPS leaders who may not have e-mail.

We are trying to include Anniversary trips, since this is the 100th anniversary of the first Sierra Club Outing (leader - William Colby).

The few introductory trips to easier peaks have had good response and we wish to have more of them, as well as all kinds of trips.

For SPS general format examples, you can use previous trip announcements in the ECHO and the big Schedule. I accept all your writeups even if I have to type or reformat them (sooner the better). Let me know early if you are looking for another leader. I can send message looking for a leader to all the leaders who have e-mail. A leader and assistant(s) should be clearly designated.

David FE, the Schedule editor accepts them up to March 12, 2001. But I have to check through, copy, edit if needed, and make a list for SPS Board approval before I send the trips to him. So I'll need to have each finished writeup in my hands or on my computer by **MARCH 6** for you to be assured your trip will make it timewise into the schedule. If you are uncertain about permit date, or other easily editable matters, I correct an edit copy that I get back from the editor a few weeks after the deadline.

SPS trip leaders (not necessarily the assistant) need to be SPS members so be sure to clear that up with the SPS membership chair so that she can indicate to me somebody who is a new member or leader.

And send in the restricted trip paperwork for ice ax/crampon/rope use type trips by a few weeks after the **March 6** deadline. The forms are easy to do and you can do by computer. They (as well as other forms) are at: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/forms.html>

Reminder that the date for sending in permit requests to Inyo National Forest is March 1.

The USFS has posted the 2001 permit process, plus MSWord application forms, on their WWW site: <http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo/vvc/permits.htm>

Also at that site are trailhead quotas, usage info, links about the National parks permits, and other useful info. <http://climber.org> has a lot of useful info, too.

There are hundreds of reports on previous trips at

<http://www.angeleschapter.org/sps/archives/spsa0001.htm>

And <http://climber.org/TripReports/>

SPS can reimburse you for reservation fee advance.

FYI for persons considering becoming a leader, we encourage you to do this; LTC info is at:

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/ltp1.html#Anchor-14210>

Leaders will need to check themselves whether they are listed in the back of Schedule #286 and provide me with any updated information if it has changed or full info if for #287 if it is not in #286. Page 21 of Schedule 285 has the directory form. Please answer all the info there if you are sending me leader directory info me. The online form indicated there has not always worked.

Send to me by e-mail or post, remember by **MARCH 6**, to

Ron Hudson

SPS/LTC Outings Chair

1590 Avenida del Manzano

Camarillo, CA, 93010-1804

or

Ron Hudson

rfhudson@att.net

SILVER PEAK

JULY 22-23 2000

Greg Roach & Mirna Roach

Our group consisted of Mirna Roach, Igor & Suzanne Mamedalin, Julie Rush, Katherine Sahm, Peggy Albright, and R.J. Secor. We met the group at the end of the Lake Thomas A. Edison Road above the Vermilion campground. There is trailhead parking at the end of the road as it makes a loop around a picnic area complete with tables and restrooms a good place to spend the night after driving up from L.A. We called the ranger station a few days before and they were happy to put our reserved permit out in the night box for us. This is a greatly appreciated convenience that the National Forest will extend to backpackers. It's unfortunate that the National Parks make you come in to their office to pick up the permit even if you have paid for the reservation in advance. We started hiking about 7:30 am for Devil's Bath tub. Take the unmarked trail that heads northeast uphill not the signed Goodale Pass trail that heads East along the lake. There are two stream crossings in about the first mile or so. The trail doesn't quit match the topo map at the beginning of the hike however; the trail leads to Devils Bath tub and is signed latter on at junctions. Stay on the main trail and you will get there easily.

We arrived at Devil's Bath tub about 10:30 after a detour on some mule packer side trails. The Devil's Bath tub is a beautiful lake. We found good camping about 100 yards from the outlet on the southeastern side of the lake.

At about 11:30 am after setting up camp Igor, R.J., Mirna, and I started out for Silver Peak. We stayed on the east side of Devil's Bath tub and headed up towards the slabs north of the lake at an elevation of about 9800 feet. Here we crossed the stream and had lunch. Above 9800 feet the stream meanders through a beautiful valley, that was green and full of July

wildflowers. Our next goal was the pass above this valley at 11,240 feet elevation. This pass could be seen from our camp at the southeastern end of Devil's Bath tub and is located Northeast of peak 11470 feet and Southwest of peak 11,520 feet [UTM225475]. We climbed up out of the valley on slabs to the left (western side) of a stream cascading down to the valley. Then headed northwest up to the pass. One has a good view of the peak from the pass. It was 3:00 pm when we reached the pass.

The northern side of the pass is steeper than the southern side. We headed down steep talus to the snowfield below and then over to a small lake at 10760 feet. From the lake we headed northwest up to the peak. It is easier to contour around the bump 11480 feet before heading up the southeast ridge to the peak. The peak is rated class 2 and has a nice view of the Margaret Lakes, Cascade Valley, the Silver Divide, and the Ritter Range to the north. Another predominate landmark to the north is Mammoth Mountain.

After climbing the peak we returned to camp by the same route. We were back at the pass by 6:00 pm and back in camp about 8:00 pm. Total gain for the day including the backpack to the lake was 5,400 feet and 13.5 miles.

When we arrived back at our camp at Devil's Bath tub we found the other campers refreshed from their day in camp. They had found a beach, which was perfect for swimming at the inlet of Devil's Bath tub, and a good time was had by all.

Sunday morning we slept in and then hiked back to the cars. We were back to the Vermilion Valley Resort in time for lunch at their restaurant. Then we visited the Mono Hot Springs for a quick soak in the pools and hit the road for home. Thanks to everyone

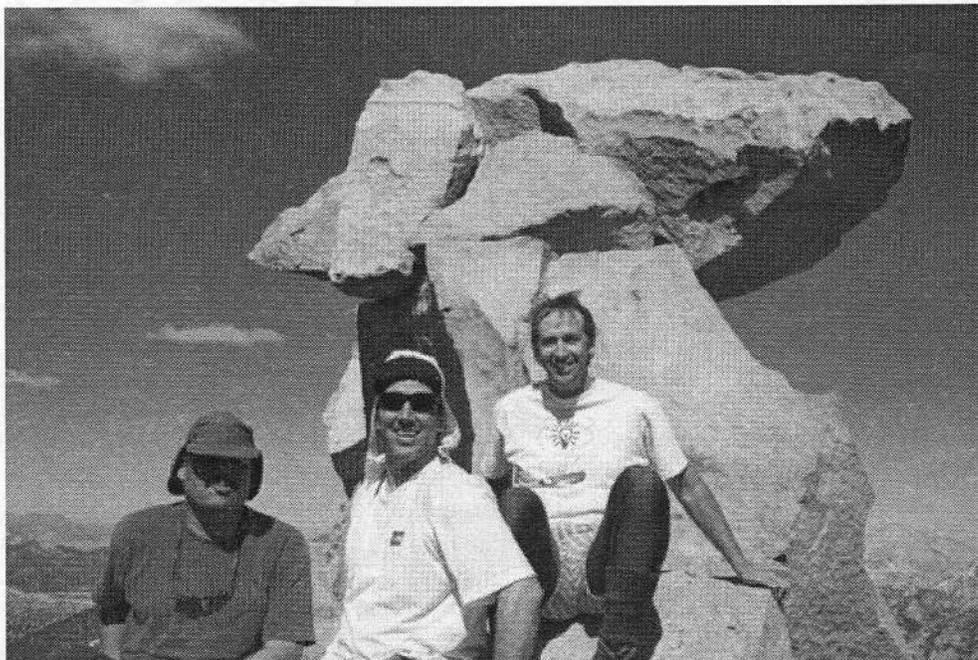
who joined us. It was a fun week-end.

Mt. Hooper

By Jeff Gomillion October 8, 2000

It's so exciting to look at a map and have something jump out at you that you've never seen before. Looking at the SPS archives, or Secor or Ropers guide, it seems that everything has been climbed by every way possible. What's left is to find some adventure that gives you some sense of uniqueness to your climb. Whether it's Temple Crag in December, or Cartago from Cartago, it's always nice to find a "wrinkle" that somehow ties you with the early climbers.

Such was the case with Mt. Hooper. It seems like every climb ever done of this peak is either approached from the John Muir Trail or the Hooper Diversion Dam. Here is where my climbing partner John Jensen (of "John's Chute" of Mt. Henry fame) and I found our wrinkle. We discovered on the Topographic maps a level bench that extends from the head of Tombstone Creek to the Canyon that empties off the South side of Mt. Hooper.



This would allow us to turn a 13+ mile approach to camp at Sally Keys Lakes (the ferry is done for the season), into a 3 mile (albeit x-country) approach to a camp at the newly named "Tombstone Pass". John came up with some incredible aerial photos that verified we wouldn't need machetes to attempt this route.

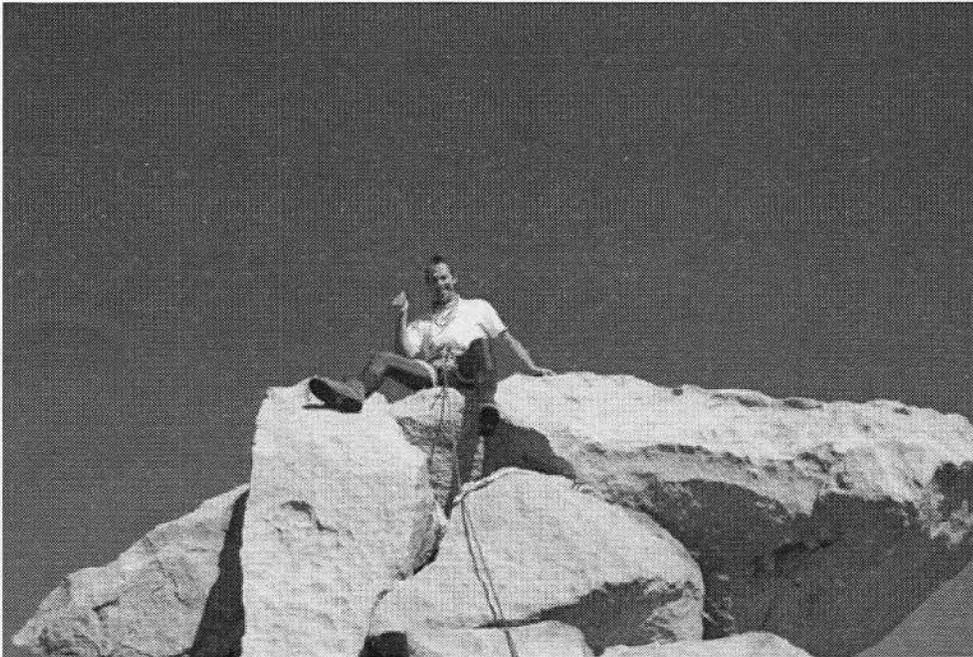
We met our 3rd climbing partner, Ted Jackson, from Folsom (the town) Saturday morning at Prather, and toughed out the nearly 2 hour drive to Jackass Meadow Campground just below the Dam at Florence Lake. There is no trailhead, so we just parked at the locked gate at the entrance to the Southern campground loop. The first ¼ mile of the Hike in is on a Boardwalk constructed for the disabled. As the boardwalk turned north, we turned east and started up the Tombstone Creek drainage. There are numerous possibilities here, but, after skirting the first cliffs on the left, you generally stay between the creek and the ridge to the South. The bushwhacking never got serious, and we gained Tombstone Pass after about 3 ½ hours, including several lengthy stops. The views

from the pass are tree-shrouded but incredible- the Darwin Massif, Evolution Valley and its termination at the San Joaquin, the Hermit, and, what we thought at the time was Mt. Goddard (Mt. Henry). There was absolutely no sign of anyone ever having camped here! It is a dry camp though.

The next morning we were up at 5:30 and off at 7. The traverse of the level bench brought us quickly to the creek draining the South side of Mt. Hooper. Here we found some camp spots- this was the junction of the traverse from the JMT. The route is straightforward from here up to the cirque beneath the Summit of Mt. Hooper. Here we veered west to the Southwest Ridge and up to the Summit Block. The climbing was a nice mix of class 2 to this point. It was now 11:30. We roped up, and I belayed John as he explored around the West Side. The exposure is considerable on that side, and we decided to attack the direct crack on the South side. The crack really wasn't wide enough to gain a foothold in our heavy hiking boots, but was useful as a momentary

continued page 18 MT.

Hooper continued from page 17



hand-jam to reach the hand-holds above. John paused momentarily, but then made the faithful transition move from hand-jam to mantle, and was on top just a moment later. Much to his dismay, when he belayed

1:30, back to camp by 4, and dropped out of the sky to the cars by 6:30. Stats for the 28 hours- approx. 15 mi., 5200' vert. A great way to cap off a fine climbing summer with my best friends!

me, with my 6'5" frame I was able to reach bomber thank god holds just a little higher and could mantle less awkwardly. This route is not rated in Secor or Ropers, and John and I rated it 5.4. Ted at this point was anointed "climbing photographer", yet somehow his signature graces the register.... The views were incredible-Mt. Ritter to Mt. Kaweah; the detached peaks to the west have the best views!

We left the summit at



Plateau of Pickering Story Next Page

Pickering, Joe Devel, Guyot

September 2-4, 2000 by Beth Epstein

Fall arrived as if on cue at the start of Labor Day weekend, and I spent one of my chillier trailhead bivies at the Horseshoe Meadows campground on Friday night in relentless cold wind. The first Alaskan cold front of the season had brought rain, snow, hail and wind to the Sierra the previous few days, but Saturday dawned clear and cold, and the weather was increasingly glorious as the weekend went on — the weather gods smiled on our little band!

And we were an increasingly little band as the date of the trip approached - a group of twelve dwindled to six the week before, the biggest loss being Carlton McKinney, the original leader of the trip, who tore up his shoulder on an ice axe arrest in the spring and decided he'd better wait until the surgeon had fixed it before hauling around a pack. Despite stepping aside, however, Carlton continued to save me the trouble of handling any preliminary details, and even came up the day before to obtain a walk-in permit for our first choice trail entry which hadn't been granted as a reservation. He and one of the participants, Teresa Nick, managed to pull a decent enough lottery number on Friday to snare the last few spaces available over Cottonwood Pass on Saturday. So Carlton was there to send us off in the chill on Saturday morning — Kim Gimenez and I now leading participants Gary Bowen, Judy Hummerich, Teresa Nick and Pete Forsythe.

Despite the rush for permits, we saw hardly anyone all weekend except beleaguered weather refugees hiking out on Saturday. After topping Cottonwood Pass, we stopped for a rest out of the wind at Chicken Spring Lake, where Judy decided she wasn't feeling well enough to enjoy the rest of the weekend and signed out. I was sorry to see her go and hoped the group would not continue to shrink. We headed down past Soldier Lake to the intersection of Rock Creek, and after our leisurely 6.5 hour hike in, made camp on a rocky bench above the meadow and the inlet to the pretty lake. Kim and I scouted the approach to the Southeast Ridge route on Pickering, hiking upstream on the west side of Rock Creek to the stunning meadow above, where the Corcoran-Leconte Ridge soared above the trees in the warm afternoon light and the high buttresses of Pickering and Joe Devel were close at hand. Another party was camped here; it was obviously a

beautiful place to spend some time. Hiking back we caught the packers trail on the east side of the creek — it was dusty, steep and loose and we used our cross-country route in the morning.

Despite our small group we had a bountiful happy hour. Teresa brought wine, cherry tomatoes, chocolate and little pizzas; Pete brought a wonderful carrot cake. We sat on the rocks and watched the shadow of Joe Devel lengthen over the meadow and talked about the next day. The group seemed strong and I had proposed an attempt on Guyot if all went well after the first two peaks.

We were off for Pickering by 6:45 the next morning and soon at the upper meadow. We followed the north side of the Erin Lake outlet to the good slabs which had looked so steep from below. The Adler-Price Southeast Ridge route as described by Secor is supposed to turn right before the lake, but we just continued slightly left and straight up the buttress per Kim's suggestion, onto solid high class 2 talus, heading for the first pinnacle, the little closed contour on the 7.5 min map (UTM 854417). I was concerned about the possibility of getting cliffed out below the pinnacle and made the group wait for what probably seemed like an eternity until I was sure it would go. We got off the buttress below the pinnacle wall by turning left and downclimbing a short class 3 crack, and heading up 25 feet of scree to the top of the ridge. At the end of the big plateau, I looked for the saddle mentioned in the route description, but only saw the vaguest of notches in the subtlest of ridges trending to the right from the summit. We diagonalled to the rib minimizing the frustration of the sand as best possible, and were soon on talus and the summit. What views! It had taken us 3 hours, and we spent a few minutes reading the register and snacking before heading off to Joe Devel.

Per Steve Eckert and RJ's descriptions, we headed toward the low point in the saddle to Joe Devel on the south/east side; best just to get down off the ridge right away to the sandy ledges. The low point doesn't make a good crossing, and the next couple of notches didn't look all that great, being windier and in shade and offering a prospect of more loose scree than our sunny south side. So we just kept going, staying on mostly solid rock which got a little looser here and there, traversing slightly up toward a corner, knowing we needed to get up onto the other side before we got too far along. Around that corner was a short gully with very little loose rock and suddenly we were on the

ridge at the 4000 meter level, with a couple of bumps to go. I took everybody up at least one of the false summits, but we were on top by noon, making the traverse in 1 hr 40 min. We had lunch out of the wind and read the registers — Joe Devel gets a lot less visitation than Pickering. My favorite entry was from Randall Danta — “All four! 2:10 pm” I knew exactly what he meant because I was struck hard by the potential of a traverse between Chamberlain, Newcomb, Pickering and Joe Devel on my first glance at the map.

It was 12:30 and everyone seemed strong, so I brought up the subject of Guyot. I had looked at the map and roughly estimated that we could be back in camp by 6. Gary seemed the most suspicious, and Pete was wavering. Gary's protestations weren't persuasive to the others since he had assured them I must have fallen and died while they were waiting for me to scout the Pickering buttress, and he reluctantly agreed to go along and give it a shot.

So down we went on Joe Devel's sandy southwest slopes, heading for base of the west ridge and mostly pleasant walking through open forest. Okay, there was some sidehilling. We continued to traverse at the 3350 meter level, more or less, across a few small ridges and gullies, arriving at the PCT at the Guyot saddle at 3:00, later than I expected, but now we were so close I

didn't suggest aborting. We were short on water — all the streams had been dry and we ended up pumping out of a hollow in the summit rocks — and everyone was slowing down a bit. After climbing the high point to find the register had been moved to the end of the ridge, it was 5 pm. The views from Guyot are marvelous, with the Kern river drainage open wide

before us and Big Five Lakes hanging up high across the Chagoopa Plateau. We were back at the saddle at 6 pm, and everyone turned up their motors as best

they could and we headed down the PCT to Rock Creek. I kept waiting for the lynch mob but the group was tired and just wanted to get back to camp. (I kept thinking, “Carlton wouldn't have gotten us into this!”) Travelling up Rock Creek through what must be lovely country in the daylight, we passed a couple of packers' camps in the increasing darkness, with tempting campfires and lawn chairs. We were back in camp at 8:45, after what Teresa's Topo program later revealed was a 15.5 mile, 7500' day. Everyone was very gracious about my gross underestimation of time and we all had a little dinner and agreed to a leisurely morning.

We lazed around in the sun in the morning, packing up and departing by 9:30, reaching the cars in 5 hours. We all stopped for shakes at the Frosty Chalet in Lone Pine. These peaks were more enjoyable than many people predicted — marvelous views and quite good footing to be found. The traverse was interesting and I would recommend it to fast hikers with an early start. I'd also recommend using Tom Harrison's map for planning routes which cross the various maps in the region — I wish I had! My thanks to our little group, who hung together and made the weekend a fun adventure, to Carlton for all his preliminary work, and to Kim for her enormous assistance, as always.



Meadow near Soldier Lake

Tower Peak – Proposed Wilderness Area

SPS Labor Day Weekend trip to learn about and support the proposed Hoover Wilderness expansion areas.

By Barbee Tidball

In 1988? the Forest Service proposed giving this area Wilderness designation in its Humboldt-Toiyabe Land Management plan. We decided to lead a trip to Tower Peak through this proposed Wilderness addition rather than the traditional SPS approach from Yosemite. Leavitt Meadows and the West Walker River are reported to be a beautiful area with good fishing, and there was the prospect of some excellent peak climbing.

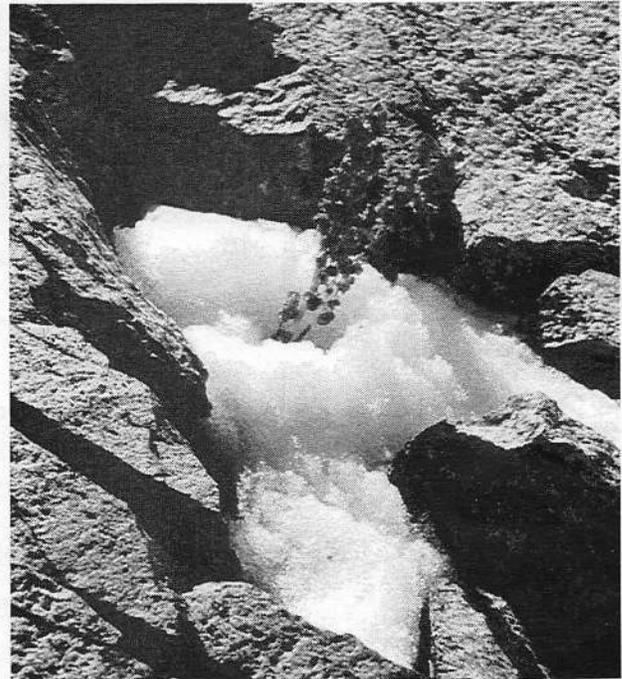
After confusion over meeting times and trip dates and then the prospect of stormy weather the leaders, Barbee & Larry Tidball and one participant, Jack Wickel met at the trailhead near the Leavitt Meadow packstation on Hwy 108 to Sonora Pass, with backpacks and fishing gear under a rainy sky. We headed out hoping the weather would clear as the weekend progressed.

Our route followed a well-maintained trail along the Walker River to Piute Meadows. The area has been cared for by Tom Forsell, an incredibly dedicated and very pro-wilderness ranger for the past 17 years. This is not a rugged and wild wilderness area. The trail follows along the river twisting up through rock sections and along forested paths and open meadows. At one point we came upon a couple small lakes (ponds actually) with a beautiful display of *Nuphar polysepalum*, Cow-lily or Yellow Pond-lily. The large yellow flowers and huge floating leaves are far more common in the northern Sierra than the rugged Eastern Sierra.

Upper and Lower Piute Meadows have a history of recreational and ranching use. Leavitt Meadow Packstation currently serves the area and there are numerous fishing trials near the campgrounds along the main highway. The trailhead is not far from the Marine Corps Cold Weather Camp. Campsites near the meadows and surrounding lakes offered many sites for fishermen. Jack and Larry are both fly fishermen and I like to at least pretend I can fish.

Our first day we hiked to Upper Piute Meadow.

At the lower end of the meadow is a comfortable ranger cabin. The cabin is situated with a view of the peaks and is surrounded by the most unusual garden. Over the years a "rock" garden has developed incorporating colored stones and stones of unusual shapes to create a "flower" border around the cabin's front porch. The front "lawn" of the cabin is a sun shape 15' round design. Rock lined paths around the cabin lead to the outhouse and coral. (Maybe the cabin should be considered a historic structure or an in-holding in the future Wilderness designation.)



We saved exploring the cabin for later and went on to find a great campsite on top of a knoll at the upper end of the meadow. From camp we could climb up and see views of the meadow and Tower Peak when the clouds broke open. We made camp just in time to set up tents and eat dinner before the rain that had kept us lightly wet all day turned into a real storm. The storm poured down on us all night and continued into the next morning.

We had planned to get up early and head for Tower Peak the second day, but the onset of winter kept us in our sleeping bags. Later when we decided to dodge the rain and get out of our tents for breakfast we discovered that there was a beautiful white layer down to at least 9000' and just above our campsite elevation. Day two was spent reading in the morning. By afternoon the weather was clearing and Jack and I grabbed our fishing gear.

Continued on the next page



Jack and Larry heading towards the peak.

PhotoBarbee Tidball

Day two was a disappointing day – bad weather for climbing and lousy fishing. Jack is a proficient fly fisherman and he was able to land a good number of fish — all WAY TOO SMALL for the pan! It appears that the area has been perhaps too popular of a fishing destination.

Day three dawned sunny and we were on the trail heading up to Tower Pear. The views of the ridges and peaks were wonderful – the first snow fall of the season is always special. From Upper Piute Meadow to Tower Lake the trail is easy to follow. There is one area just before the ascent to Tower Lake where a few trails appear to criss-cross – but all routes lead up to the lake.

At Tower Lake we were greeted with a completely white winter scene. Our route continued over the snow up to the ridge. At 10,000'+ we found white pine and flowers along an alpine creek peaking out from the snow. Asters, Ranger Buttons, Sorrell, Mimulus and many other late summer flowers had been caught by the snowstorm. We crossed the area in the morning on 6-12" inches of snow, by afternoon on our return the snow was starting to melt and we saw bear tracks. Apparently between our morning crossing and afternoon return a bear had crossed over the mountain ridge heading towards Mary Lake.

The route to Tower Peak follows on up the ridge directly toward the peak. We planned to climb the

peak via the Northwest class 3 chute. At about 11,000' we were climbing in thigh deep snow up and around trees and rocks still with our sights on the chute and the summit. We passed rocks covered in beautiful rime ice and filled our boots with the powdery snow. At about 11,500' we arrived at the chute.....the wet, ice covered, chute. The beautiful Winter storm had apparently rained and snowed at the mountain tops rendering the chute unclimbable for us in boots with light gloves and no gear.

Defeated but not disappointed we headed down, stopping along the way at the rock towers over looking Piute Meadows.

This proposed Wilderness area has been a favorite place for many outdoors enthusiasts and as such should be preserved. Wilderness caretakers will have to resist the temptation to "care" too much for the land – but the Peaks from Hawksbeak to Ehrnbeack, Tower and Forsyth provide this area with a wild and challenging back drop that is complemented by the accessible meadows and lakes.

SPS leaders – other suggested climbs in the area include: The west face of Hawkspeak class 5+, accessed from Upper Piute Meadow to Kirkwood Lake. Ehrnbeack Peak with a class 3 Northeast ridge approach also accessed from Kirkwood Lake.

Mount Lyell - July 28-30, 2000

We passed through fire and ice to make the summit of Mount Lyell. Really.

Smoke from the Manter Fire, which scorched much of the Domelands, darkened our drive north to Yosemite on Thursday. More on the fire later.

The five of us – Ken Wagner, Nile Sorenson, Tom McDonnell, Tim Everett and Ron Campbell — got off to a leisurely start from Tuolumne Meadows at 8:15 a.m. Friday. Ken, who had wanted to start at 7:30, quickly made up for lost time by setting a fast pace. The rest of us begged for mercy after the first 100 yards or so, and we settled into relaxed stroll mode.

The pace fit the scenery. For the first eight miles, the trail to Lyell meanders through the meadowy canyon of the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne. The river curves sinuously through the grass and washes across polished boulders, inviting even hard-core mountaineers to pry off their boots and cool their toes in the water.

Unfortunately, things got ugly somewhere past Mile 8. With no decent warning at all (unless you count all those squiggly lines on the topo), we left the canyon and hauled our 40- and 50-lb. backpacks 1,000 feet up a steep, winding trail. After 2.5 miles or so, the trail topped out at 10,200 feet near an unnamed lake. There we made camp.

The potluck featured a garlicky humus, served with pita bread, as well as Swiss cheese and crackers, fresh bell pepper and pasta with pesto.

Nile provided the evening's entertainment: an exhibition of virtuoso bear-roping. Nile claims to be undefeated in single combat with Mr. Bear. It took him no more than eight or 10 attempts to get his rope over a good branch. Then a pair of nearby campers told us that a bear had raided our camp the night before and taken food from the branch Nile had just snared. Nile immediately hauled down his rope and tried, with great enthusiasm, to find a second branch. As he flung rocks at trees, his companions – at great personal risk – dug out Nile's climbing helmet and suggested he wear it.

We got to bed at 8:30 p.m. and arose at 5 a.m. Saturday. We left camp at 6:15 a.m., taking a minimum of water. We followed the Pacific Crest Trail south for a half-mile, abandoning it when the

trail veered east toward Donohue Pass. We worked our way southwest, around a 10,800-ft shoulder of Amelia Earhart Peak, to a series of small lakes and rivulets where we filled our water bottles. Ken led us up a series of steep, rocky ramps until we reached the foot of the glacier at 9 a.m.

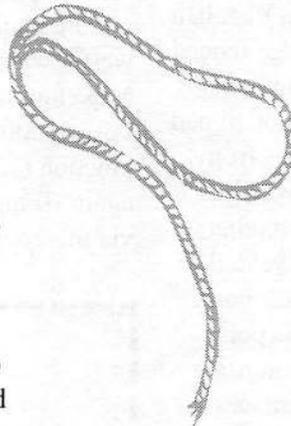
Thousands of sun cups pocked the ice like potholes on a back alley. The ice was hard, but the unpredictable spacing and depth of the sun cups – some hip-deep – made for slow traveling. Those with trekking poles moved fastest; ice axes were poor substitutes. We reached the bergschrund at 10:30. Ken led us over a snow bridge on Lyell's west ridge and then up a tricky 50-foot section of ice, snow and wet granite to dry ground. We reached the summit (13,114 feet) at 11:15.

All the way up, the sky was a cobalt blue. But when we reached the top we found ourselves in a shroud of smoke. Lyell Canyon, just five air miles away, was barely visible. Ritter and Banner were shadowy rumors. The Manter Fire had grown, and we were seeing its work.

We descended via third-class rock and a short glissade (interrupted, inevitably, by sun cups) to the Lyell-Maclure saddle. It was now 1:45 p.m. Four of us decided to try for Maclure while one remained behind. We climbed a knife-edge ridge, reaching the top (12,960 feet) at 2:25. In the meantime, the wind had risen, blowing smoke far to the east. The summiters enjoyed a crystalline view of Half Dome.

Now came the hard part. By mid-afternoon there was no hard snow anywhere on the glacier, and the sun cups were as big and ugly as a fleet of Edsels. All of us fell at least once, most several times. Nile, the fastest, took 18 minutes to trudge the half-mile from the saddle to a moraine at 12,000 ft. The glacier extends a few hundred feet lower on the east side of Lyell. We decided to pick our way down a series of stone ramps to the south and west, avoiding the snow wherever possible. We reached camp just before 7 p.m.

The trip out Sunday was uneventful. Two rangers we met along the way seemed unimpressed by our account of the killer sun cups. Oh, they told us, you can see them from the road. Now they tell us.



Oh, Mock-a-looney!

North Ridge Route on Mokelumne Peak Suzanne and Igor Mamedalin

Inspired by Pete Yamagata's suggestion, Ret Moore, Suzanne and Igor (and Smokey, the Rottenweiler) set out to explore a route up Mokelumne Peak via its north ridge. On previous occasions as recorded in the summit register, the peak was climbed via this route by Dale Van Dalsen (3.2 hours) and by Larry Tidball (3.0 hours). This route is suitable only to those with 4WD vehicles.

Starting from highway 88 near the Tragedy Springs picnic area one heads south on a dirt road marked for "Mud Lake". Fifty feet from pavement one comes across an OHV sign for Mud Lake and Allen Ranch (5 miles). Follow the OHV track past a few A-frame cottages to a signed fork at 1.1 miles from pavement. Take the left fork signed for Allen Ranch; the right fork goes to Mud Lake. At 2.6 miles from pavement is another signed fork; take the left fork signed for Allen Ranch (2 miles); the right fork offers another opportunity to visit Mud Lake. At 4.2 miles from pavement one encounters Allen Ranch, a crumbling log home/barn at the edge of large fenced meadow. Continue past the ranch, past a sign post for the Cole Creek trail, and uphill to a major signed Squaw Ridge OHV track junction (5.6 miles from pavement on the odometer, but the sign advertises 7 miles back to highway 88). Turn west for another .2 miles to the Plasse Trading Post site (two welded rails and an inscription commemorating Mormon emigrants) and park. The OHV track to this point had plenty of steep ups and downs over protruding rocks and roots; a high powered, high clearance vehicle could probably negotiate this road, also.

Fifty yards down the OHV trail from the Plasse Trading Post site is the Mokelumne Wilderness marker and the Munsen Meadow Trailhead sign. The trail is signed for Cole Creek Lakes at 2.5 miles, Black Rock Lakes at 2 miles, Long Lake at 3.5 miles, Munsen Meadow at 5 miles, and Camp Irene at 9.5 miles. Follow the trail for about 1.5 miles to a fork signed for Black Rock Lakes and Long Lake (2 miles); take the right fork toward Long Lake. At about 2 miles is another signed fork with the right fork going to Cole Creek Lakes and the left toward Long Lake; take the left fork shortly passing a dinky lake or mosquito pond (presumably

one of the Cole Creek Lakes). Here the trail briefly gets faint as numerous paths attempt to circumnavigate various obstacles. Follow the trail to another signed junction about 3.25 miles from the wilderness boundary. The left fork is signed for Long Lake (.25 miles), the south fork is signed for Munsen Meadow (1 mile) and the right fork is signed for Shriner Lake. The 15 minute topo map suggested that following the Shriner Lake cut-off would bring us closest to peak. Unfortunately the Shriner Lake trail cut-off proved to be a long abandoned and unmaintained trail. Following blazes and occasional ducks we hopped over fallen trees, rocks and brush past a dry lake and a drying lake until we lost the blazes and the ducks. Once lost, we headed southeast toward a prominent saddle at the base of Mokelumne's north ridge. Gaining the ridge, we followed it for another 1.5 miles without any problems to the summit.

On the return journey we tried to re-trace (find) the Shriner Lake cut-off trail but the elusive blazes and ducks got away from us again as we approached Long Lake. With Ret Moore navigating, we regained the maintained trail from Long Lake and headed north on it to the trailhead. Advise to future peak baggers: forget the Shriner Lake trail cut-off!!! After reaching the final fork before Long Lake, continue on the trail to Munsen Meadow (labeled on the 7.5 minute map) and then take the trail heading southwest toward the prominent saddle at the base of Mokelumne's north ridge. From the Plasse Trading Post (8,600') there is an 800' loss to the triple trail junction (7,800') before one starts going up hill again. Total distance and elevation gain for this peak via this route is about 13 mi. round trip, 2,500' gain.

ACTION

SPS Needs Your Help:

Wanted Echo Mailer

Duties include placing labels on Echos, sorting for bulk mailing and mailing at the Central Mail facility, Florence Ave., Los Angeles, CA. Contact Erik Siering if interested. at H 310/645-0033 or W 310/416-5535 or e-mail at erik.siering@hsc.com

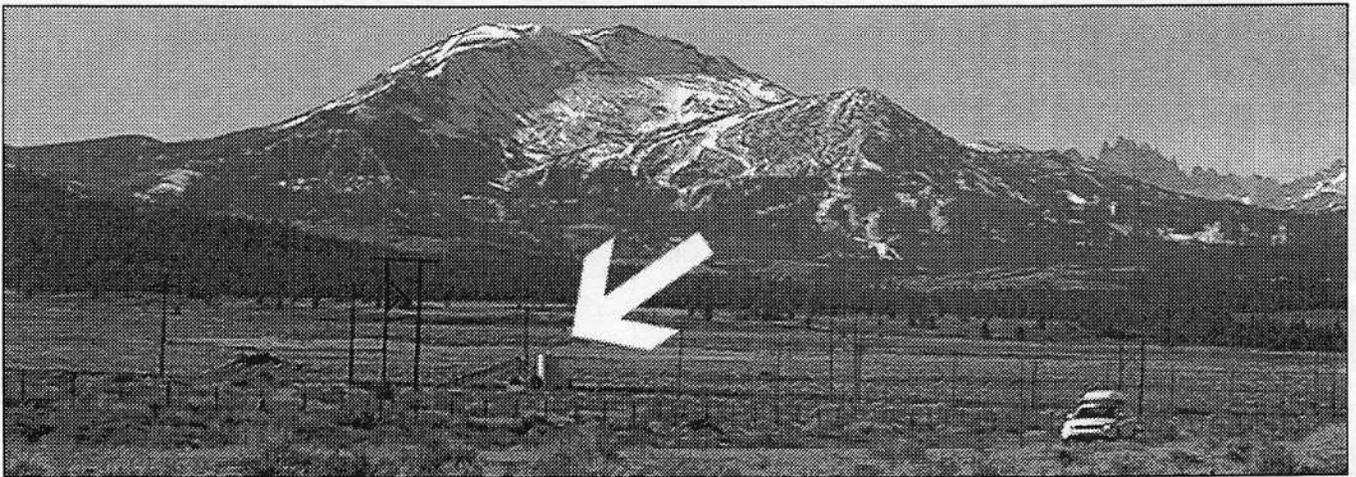
"As long as it looks better than L.A., they won't care."

Mono staffer repeats comments of a Mono County Supervisor about the reaction of visitors from Southern California to the Sierra Business Park.

The Eyesore on CalTrans' Newest Scenic Highway

CalTrans can make or break this deal by granting or not granting access to an industrial park on Highway 395 at Hot Creek Road, just designated in December 2000 by CalTrans as: "California's newest scenic highway."

A letter from you to Thomas Hallenbeck, District Director, CalTrans, 500 S. Main St., Bishop CA 93514 could make the difference.



Arrow shows location of the approved Sierra Business Park. Mammoth Mountain and the Minarets in background. Industrial zoning for the park includes "light manufacturing" and does not exclude the use of solvents. Digital photo taken on 1/3/00.WB.

I have skied at Mammoth Mountain for thirty years, and like many, have long enjoyed the unobstructed view of Mammoth and the Minarets, just over that rise on Hwy 395, as one drops into the Mammoth Lakes Valley. So, when I received an email on December 13 from Liz Tenney, saying that the Mono County Board of Supervisors had approved, in a vote of 3 to 1, an industrial park with "light" manufacturing at the intersection of Hot Creek Road and Hwy 395, I couldn't believe it. When the Supervisors gave the go-ahead to the Sierra Business Park, a 37 acre parcel purchased by its current owner and developer for \$10,000, the property value skyrocketed. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area offered to buy the property to save the view of the mountain from the highway. The developer told them they could have it for \$10 million, so Mammoth backed out.

The USFS tried to work on a land trade, offering the developer, a Mr. Morgan, a parcel on the other side of 395 next to the airport, attempting to concentrate development on one side of the highway. Morgan's highway frontage property is vastly more valuable than anything the USFS could give him. He wasn't interested in their deal.

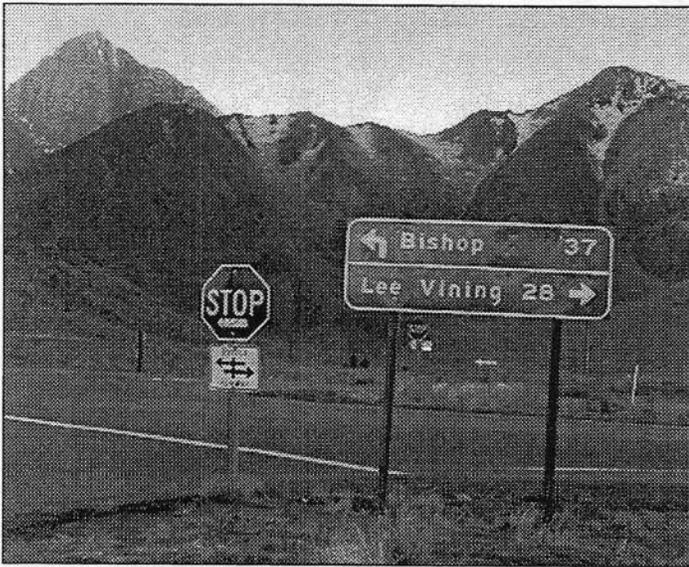
Joann Ronci, real estate agent and Mono County Supervisor representing June Lake collected 2,000 June Lake signatures in support of the project. Ronci apparently arranged for bus loads of June Lakers to attend the December Board Meeting where they heckled and booed the Mammoth

Lakes residents who spoke out in opposition of the project, including members of the Range of Light Group who had worked hard to keep the Sierra Business Park out of the scenic corridor.

The 37 acre gravel pit, mineral resources now completely exhausted, has been divided into 35 lots, each with a 250 gallon septic tank, a total of 8,750 gallons. Each lot will be developed by different owners and each owner will have his own perception of the surrounding environment. Some might know that putting solvents into a septic system is wrong, while others won't know and others won't care.

Though Morgan got his park through on the industrial zoning of the airport, the Mono County Board of Supervisors never required him to hook up to the airport's sewer system. By hooking up to the sewer system, all sewage from the park would be centralized in treated ponds where bacteria could break down waste, including solvents.

Scattered or "leapfrog" development of private parcels outside of concentrated development such as community centers creates mini-contamination sites. Few private businesses in Mono or Inyo Counties can afford to pay for environmental remedies as evidenced by the many gas stations that went out of business when they couldn't afford to pay for tank upgrades as required by new regulations. Dozens of properties hang in limbo, old tanks left to seep underground, owners unable to sell, sellers unwilling to buy.



The entire Mono County Planning Commission opposed the approval of the Sierra Business Park with the exception of one member, Bill Waite who, like Mono County Supervisor Joann Ronci, the project's biggest supporter, is from June Lake twenty or so miles from the site. Why would people from June Lake support a site that is seemingly of no direct benefit to their community? The project's developer owns a house in June Lake. And, money talks.

Mono County Supervisors voted 3 to 1 in favor of the industrial park with one abstention. Rowan, an electrical contractor and the one abstention vote, had a "business conflict." He also didn't run for re-election when his term ended last year. Inwood, who voted "yes" in what was to be his swan song, was voted out of office last June. Though the politics were shady and questions arose to the validity of most of the 2,000 signatures, Mono County did require the following of the Sierra Business Park's developer: One unlighted sign at the intersection of Hwy. 395 and Hot Creek Road; 25 foot maximum height on all structures (with the exception of the sixty-foot batch plant tank already on the property); no signage above the first-floor level.

Supervisor Farnetti of Mammoth Lakes, suggested that a big screen be erected to block the view of the industrial park by motorists heading southbound on Hwy 395, an idea that was approved and will be implemented the County's General Plan.

Ironically, in December, the same time Mono County Supervisors approved what may become the biggest eyesore on 395, CalTrans published an article in its December issue of its magazine, christening Hwy 395 through Mono County, "California's newest scenic highway." CalTrans owns the access to the property. Right now, the project developer's attorney is working a deal with CalTrans for permanent access.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, in Victorville must review and approve the project. Because of the 8,750 septic gallons and the "light manufacturing" designation of the



Left: Looking across 395 to the Sierra Business Park entrance with Mt. Morrison behind. Right: Looking south on 395. Arrow indicates industrial park location. Digital photos taken on 1/3/00.WB.

project there is concern about potential groundwater contamination from the disposal of solvents in septic systems and around the site.

A local Mammoth group known as PESTER met with representatives from Mono County on January 3. Some points made at that meeting:

- 1). Work with the Sierra Business Council and CURES to put a dollar figure on the economic value of a Scenic Highway/Byway
- 2). Develop a land trust for conservation easements
- 3). Review the County's General Plan conservation, open space, circulation and land use elements to see where language could be strengthened in favor of scenic values and highway policies; then go to the Mono County Board with some proposed General Plan amendments.

The idea is to get the Mono County Supervisors and Planning Commission to give residents who want to protect the scenic and environmental quality of Mono County the same opportunities to come to the table as they do developers, who seem to have little problem getting Mono County to adjust zoning and ordinances to meet their project needs.

The Eastern Sierra needs your help. SPS members can contribute through their personal knowledge and experience of these places. Letters to the Mono County Board from those who spend their dollars here would have helped on this issue.

Get on Liz Tenney's email list by contacting her at tenney@qnet.com or go to her site: www.pesther.org/aboutpesther.html. John Walter, Range of Light Conservation Chair, walter@qnet.com, knows what issues are hot.

By the time this reaches your mailbox, perhaps it won't be too late to write a letter to Thomas Hallenbeck of CalTrans and let him know that industrial parks do not fit the image of what a scenic highway should be.

— Wynne Benti, Chair, Friends of the Eastern California Museum, SPS member since 1985 • www.hwy6.com

Views from the Eastern Sierra Threatened

Proposed Observatory would disturb endangered plants & be an eyesore from the Sierra to the Inyo.

Report excerpted from - <http://www.bristleconecnps.org/conservation/Observatory/Observat.htm>

A consortium known as the Combined Array for Research in Millimeter Astronomy (CARMA) plans to construct an observatory consisting of 52-20' x 20' concrete pads, a 4000 sq. ft. control building, a 1600 sq. ft. fabrication shop with a 12' ceiling, a diesel generator, fuel storage tanks with a 60,000 gallon capacity, and a microwave tower at Upper Harkless Flat (UHF). To access the site, the existing road to Harkless Flat (from the paved Waucoba road) would be upgraded to become a 16' wide improved dirt road.

According to a vegetation survey the area contains at least 14 CNPS-listed species as well as examples of undisturbed native plant communities which have not been adequately described. There is a relictual population of bristlecone pines just outside the proposed site, and an old growth juniper woodland within. UHF is in an area proposed for wilderness designation by the California Wild Heritage Coalition, and is in an inventoried roadless area subject to President Clinton's recent initiative for roadless area protection.

CARMA has received \$350,000.00 of taxpayers' money to hire the project manager to "shepherd" the project through the Inyo National Forest's permitting process. Unfortunately, CARMA forgot to mention that the Forest Service would have to violate its own planning regulations were it to allow construction at Upper Harkless Flat.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1): Contact Inyo National Forest Supervisor Jeff Bailey and remind him of his obligation to protect the wilderness qualities of inventoried roadless areas and uphold the Forest Service Roadless Area Protection policy. So long as Supervisor Bailey continues to do his job, UHF will be safe.
- 2): Contact the National Science Foundation (NSF) and ask that it cease funding.
- 3): Contact Senator Barbara Boxer. Thank her for her efforts to protect Upper Harkless Flat last year and point out to her that project proponents have renewed their efforts to disturb the site
- 4): Visit the area yourself. The California Native Plant Society and California Wild Heritage Coalition will be conducting field trips this spring.

Addresses:

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1130 O Street, Suite 2450
Fresno, CA 93721

Mr. Jeff Bailey, Spvr.
Inyo National Forest
873 N. Main St.
Bishop, CA 93514

Dr. Rita Colwell, Director
National Science Foundation
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Membership Report

February 2001 Continued

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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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