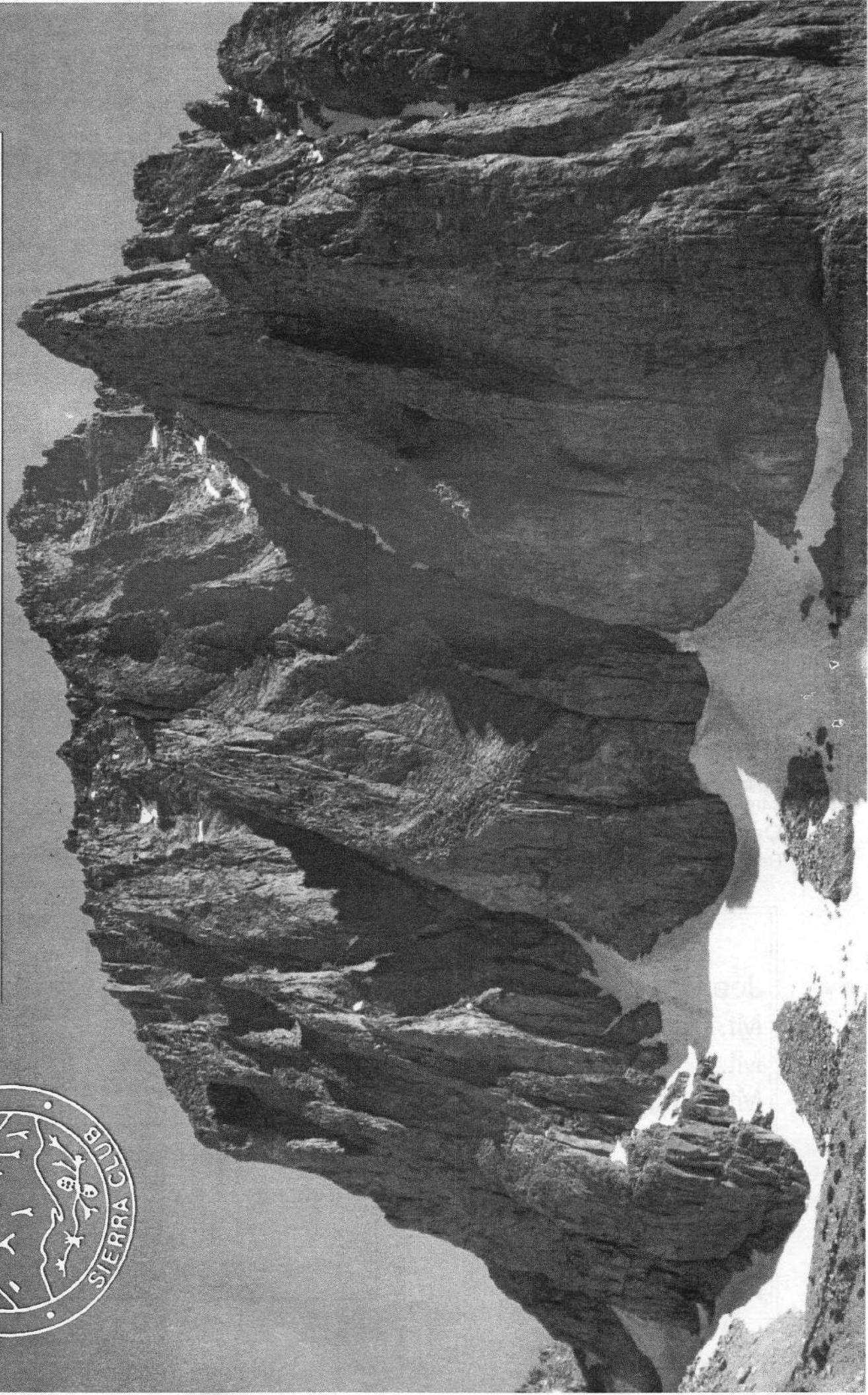
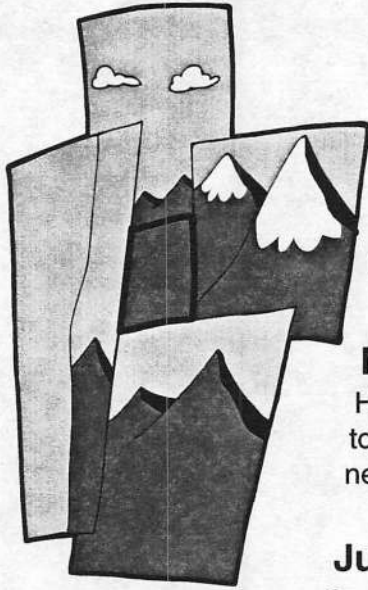


The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

MARCH - APRIL 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).

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 Stehkinine 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.

July 11 - Wednesday - Ron Hudson, speaker

Ron Hudson returns to talk about Orienteering. Ron has participated in a number of orienteering events over the years and he will talk about his experiences and show slides from the events.

August 8 - Wednesday - Bill Oliver, speaker

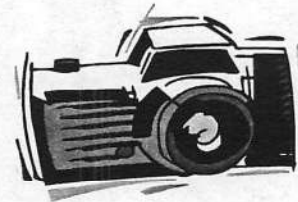
Bill Olliver will give a show on "Gnarly Adventuring on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River" with a complete descent from Vincent Gap, a trip to Allison Goldmine, and descent of Fish Creek. See rappelling down water falls.

September 12 - Wednesday - Larry Tidball, speaker

Larry Tidball will show slides of his climb on the West Rib of Denali.

October 10 - Wednesday - Reiner Stenzel, speaker

Reiner Stenzel will talk about the ups and downs of ski mountaineering.



Peak List

Joe Devel Peak
Mt. Hale
Mt. Young
Mt. Hitchcock
Mt. Guyot
Mt. Perkins

Travel Reports

Kings Canyon
Marshall Islands

Front Cover

Temple Crag
R.J. Secor, photographer

"Everybody needs
beauty as well as bread."

John Muir

Spring & Summer 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.

**MR: May 11-13 Fri - Sun,
Mt McAdie (13,799') Climb & Snow Camp.** Prov.
Ldr: Will McWhinney, Asst: Asher Waxman

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

I/M/E: 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, Asst. Bob Bradshaw.

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

**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: Randall Danta, Co-Ldrs: Virgil Talbot, Neal
Robbins

**MR: May 19-20 Sat - Sun, Mt. Russell (14,088')
and Mt. Carillon (13,517').** WTC/SPS Restricted trip
limited to SC mbrs. w/ experience on exposed 3rd
class, ice axe & crampons. Sat backpack Whitney
Portal to Upper Boy Scout Lake, 2.5 miles, 3000'
gain. Sun alpine start to climb Carillon and Russell, 5
mi le round trip, 3200' gain, pack out. Send 2 SASE
Prov. Ldr: Maria Roa, Co-ldr: R.J. Secor

**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 and climb Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co-
Ldr: R.J. Secor

**I: May 26-28 Sat-Mon, Coyote PK 10,892', Angora
Mtn. 10,198'.** Send 2 SASE. Ldr. Sara Wyrens,
Asst. Harvey Ganz. (see membership report - Jan/
Feb Echo).

Trips Listing Continued page 4

APRIL

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

I/M: Apr 21-22 Sat - Sun Indian Cove Navigation
Sat practice. Sun. checkout. Ldr. 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: Tina Bowman Co-Ldrs: Larry Tidball, Paul Graff.

MAY

I/M: May 5 Sat Mt. Lowe area Navigation Nav
noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) level nav req. Sat
practice. Send SASE Mark Dunbar, Asst. Don
Creighton (see Angeles Chpt. sched for address)

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

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

JUNE

I: June 2-3 Sat - Sun, Olancha Pk (12,123'):
SWTC. Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst: Joe Wankum

M/ER: June 9-10 Sat - Sun, Sierra Snow Check-off: Ldr: Bill Oliver, Co-Ldr: Virgil Talbot

MR: June 9-10 Sat - Sun, Mt. Dade (13,635'):
WTC/SPS Backpack 5 mi, 1000' gain from Mosquito Flats to camp at Treasure Lakes, then climb to summit via Hourglass Couloir. 1.5 mi, 2500' gain. Snow climb restricted trip, ice axe and crampon exper. Send 2 SASE Prov. Ldr: Jason Lynch, Asst. Georgette Rieck

C: June 15-17 Fri - Sun Wilderness First Aid Course. Course now has a wait list see October 26-28 for next offering.

MR: June 16-17 Sat - Sun, Mt. Dade (13,635'):
WTC/SPS Backpack 4 mi, 1500' gain from Mosquito Flats to camp at Treasure Lakes. Sun alpine start to climb Dade Couloir and east ridge, 1.8 mile, 2,400' gain. Snow climb Restricted trip, ice axe and crampon exper. Send 2 SASE and \$5.00 permit fee Prov. Ldr: Larry Gibson, Asst. Greg Foerstel

ER: June 16-19 Sat - Tue, Norman Clyde Pk (13,855'), Palisade Crest (13,553') Ldr: Ron Hudson, Co-Ldr: RJ Secor.

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

MR: June 23-24 Sat - Sun, Mt. Winchell (13,775'):
WTC/SPS Sat 6 mi, 3500' gain backpack from Glacier Lodge to Sam Mack Mdw. Sun climb 1.5 mi, 2,400' gain to summit via 3rd class east arete. Return to camp and hike out. Restricted snow climb, ice axe and crampon Send 2 SASE and \$5.00 permit fee Ldr: Jason Lynch Co-Ldr: Beth Epsein

M: June 30 - July 1 Sat - Sun, Independence Pk (11,742'), Kearsage Pk (12,618') Car camping at Onion Valley with day hikes to pks. Sat climb 3rd class, Independence Pk. Sat night group potluck dinner. Sun class 1 hike of Kearsarge. Ldr: Barbee Tidball, Co-Ldr: Scot Jamison.

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.

I: July 7 Sat, Koip Pk (12,962'), Kuna Pk (13,002') exploratory: Long (16 mi, 4600' gain) dayhike Yosemite NP, explore unlisted Kuna Pk and climb

July 7 continued

listed Koip Pk, to make this outing legitimate. Not for beginners. Can be combined with Jul 8 SPS dayhike of Mt Hoffman and Tuolumne Pk. The leaders will debate the merits of the John Muir Sierrans and demonstrate Leave No Trace day hiking techniques. Ldr: R.J. Secor, Asst: Erik Siering

E: July 7-8 Sat-Sun, Bear Creek Spire (13,708') Rock Checkout: Aspiring "E" and "M" rock checkout trip for aspiring leaders consummated with 4th class climb of BCS Ldrs: Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer

M: July 7-9 Sat-Mon, Tyndall (14,019'): Restricted trip SC mbrs w/ very strong conditioning, exposed 3rd class rock, ice axe and crampons experience. Sat strenuous backpack from Symmes Creek trailhead to Shepherd Pass, 12 mi 5700' gain. Sun climb Tyndall via North Rib. Mon pack out. Send 2 sase Ldr: Maria Roa. Asst: Mike Adams

I: July 8 Sun, Mt Hoffman (10,850'), Tuolumne Pk (10,845') exploratory: Mt. Hoffman is a popular day hike at the geographic center of Yosemite National Park, but it is not on The List. We will explore this peak and climb nearby unlisted Tuolumne Pk on this 10 mi, 3500' day hike. Can be combined with the Jul 7 SPS day hike of Kuna and Koip Pks. The 10 Essentials will be discussed and Leave No Trace day hiking techniques will be demonstrated. Ldr: R.J. Secor. Asst: Erik Siering

MR: July 12-15 Thur-Sun, Carl Heller (13,211'), Cleaver (13,355'), Peak 4245 (13,920') & Russell (14,086'): Not for WTC students. Stren. Fri., 7.7 mi. and 5005' gain/1882' loss climb from Whitney Portal over Cleaver Col, up The Cleaver and down to camp at Wallace Lake. Sat., climb Carl Heller: 2.1 camp: 3773' gain/loss and 6.0 mi.. Monday, sign the Carillon register on the way down the Russel-Carillon Col and back out to Whitney Portal. Restricted to SC mbrs w/ substantial experience on 3rd class rock. Send 2 SASE: Ken Wagner. Asst: Doug Mantle.

M: July 21-22 Sat-Sun, Mt Dade (13,635'): Restricted snow climb; ice ax & crampons required. Sat backpack up Little Lakes Valley (4 mi, 1000' gain). Sun climb pk (2500' gain, 2 mi rt) via Hourglass. Leisurely pack out. Ldr: Asher Waxman. Asst: Matthew Richardson

I: July 21-22 Sat-Sun, Mt Langley (14,042'): Sat 6backpack 6 mi, 1200' gain to camp nea Cottonwood Lake #5. Drop packs and ascend peak via Old Army Pass, 6 mi rt, 3000' gain. Re-trun for well-deserved happy hour. Sun backpack out after leisurely morning. WTC or equiv. exper. req. Ldr. Will McWhinney, Co-Ldr. Bill Oliver

Trips Listing Continued next page

July continued

I: July 21-23 Sat-Mon, Mt. Davis (12,303'): SPS intro. trip near Mammoth geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 10 mi, 1500' gain to 1000 Island Lake at 9833'. Sun climb class 2 Davis in 8 mi rt, 2500' of gain, xc. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee per person. Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum

M: July 27-30 Fri-Mon, Thumb (13,356'), Birch (13,602'), Bolton Brown (13,491'), Prater (13,471'): Fri backpack to camp near at Birch Lake (4600' gain). Sat climb Thumb and Birch (4200' gain). Sun climb Bolton Brown and Prater (4800' gain). Mon pack out to cars. Send sase w/ \$5 permit fee. Ldr Ret Moore, Co-Ldr Randy Danta

AUGUST

M: Aug 3-5 Fri-Sun, East Vidette (12,356'), Deerhorn Mtn (13,281'), West Vidette (12,533'): Fri long, strenuous day, first hike in over Kearsarge pass to Vidette Meadow then climb E. Vidette via class 3 east ridge. Sat another long day to climb Deerhorn via class 3 ridge on north, and W. Vidette. Sun hike out. Restricted - class 3 rock experience. Prefer resumes w/detailed climb experience and LTC practice. Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Asst: Nile Sorenson.

MR: Aug 4-5 Sat-Sun, Dragon Peak (12,955'): WTC/SPS Restricted, exper. on exposed 3rd class rock. Sat backpack 2.5 miles, 2200' to camp at highest unnamed lake east of peak. Sun climb Dragon, .75 miles, 1600' gain with exposed traverse to summit block, then pack out. Harness and helmet required. May require ice axe. Not for WTC students. Send 2 sase and email if available Prov. Ldr: Gary Embrey. Assistant Virgil Talbott.

I: Aug 4-5 Sat-Sun, Lone Pine Peak (12,943'): Sat bkpk 4.7 mi, 3600' gain from Whitney Portal to Meysan Lks and group happy hr. Sun climb peak, 2 mi, 2300' gain by 2nd class xc rt over talus & scree to great views, then pack out. WTC/equiv reqd. Send sase w/ \$5 permit fee, Prov. Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson. Asst: Asher Waxman.

I: Aug 4-6 Sat-Mon, Mt. Morgan South (13,748'): SPS intro. trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Casual, relaxed and enjoyable. Sat backpack 4 mi with 1500' of gain to Francis Lake at 11,000'. Sun climb class 2 Morgan in 5 mi rt with 2800' gain, xc. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out. Send 2 sase Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Rick Jali

MR: Aug 4-6 Sat-Mon, Whorl Mtn (12,033'): Allow

3-days to climb this Mtnr's List Peak from the SE Chute via Horse Creek Pass starting at Twin Lakes. Do cl. 2 route up Matterhorn if time. Helmet & harness for third class. Send \$5 permit fee w/ SASE Ldr: Keith Martin, Assts: Steve Thaw, Mike Dodson

MR: Aug 4-9 Sat-Thur, Mt Clark (11,522'), Gray Pk (11,573'), Red Pk (11,699'), Merced Pk (11,726'): Join us in this backpacking foray into the Clark Range of Yosemite from Chiquito Pass trailhead in the Sierra National Forest. Those wishing to climb Mt Clark with us via the southeast ridge (class 3-4) need exquisite mountaineering credentials since this is a "restricted" trip. The other peaks are class 2. Send \$3 for permit fee Ldrs: Igor Mamedalin, David Underwood.

MR: Aug 10-12 Fri-Sun, Whorl Pk (12,033'), Matterhorn Pk (12,278'): WTC/SPS 2 good peaks in N. Yosemite. Fri moderately strenuous backpack from Mono Village to camp at Horse Creek Pass, 4 mi, 3600 gain, then climb 2nd class Matterhorn Pk, 2 mi rt, 1500 gain. Sat head over to 3rd class Whorl Pk, 4 mi rt, 1900 gain. Sun hike out. Trip restricted to SC members only. Not intended for WTC students. Prov. Ldr: Will McWhinney. Co-Ldr: Bill Oliver.

MR: Aug 18-19 Sat-Sun, Dragon Pk (12,955'): WTC/SPS One of the classic Sierra climbs! Sat backpack to camp near Golden Trout Lake, 3 mi, 2200' gain. Sun start early to climb peak via exposed 3rd class route, approx 2 mi rt, 1600' gain, then pack out. Restricted to SC members with appr. rock exper. Not for WTC students. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee. Prov. Ldr: Jason Lynch. Asst: Georgette Rieck.

M: Aug 18-19 Sat-Sun, Mt. Abbott (13,704'), Mt. Mills (13,451'): Climb class 3 peaks from base camp near Treasure Lakes. SPS emblem peak. Participants must have 3rd class rock experience. Send 2 sase Ldr: Larry Tidball. Co-Ldr: Barbee Tidball

I: Aug 18-19 Sat-Sun, Four Gables (12,720'): WTC/SPS Sat backpack to Horton Lake above Bishop, 4 mi. 2000' gain, climb Four Gables via 2nd class S. ridge, 3 mi. 2700' gain. Relax and swap stories. Sun stroll out. Send 2 sase Prov. Ldr: Roman Gunther. Co-Ldr: Ken Wagner

I: Aug 18-20 Sat-Mon, Mt Julius Caesar (13,200'): SPS intro. trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack above Honeymoon Lake, camping at 10,600' in 7 mi and 3200' gain. Sun climb class 2 Julius Caesar in 9 mi rt, 2600' gain with xc. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee per person Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Will McWhinney

Trip List Continued On Next Page

Continued from page 5

M: Aug 19-25 Sun-Sat, Mt Mendel (13,710'), Mt Huxley (13,086'), Mt Fiske (13,508'), Mt Charybdis (13,096'), Mt McDuffie (13,282'), Black Giant (13,330'), Mt Powell (Powell Point 13,360'). Join us for this loop of the Evolution and the Ionian Basins (class 2-3). Starting at Lamarck Col and exiting over Echo Col. Must be comfortable w/ extended cl.3 climbing. Send sase w/ \$5 for permit fee. Ldrs: David Underwood, Co-ldrs Larry Hoak, Igor Mamedalin

M: Aug 25-26 Sat-Sun, Independence Pk (11,742'), Mt Bradley (13,264'): Sat backpack from Onion Valley to camp near Robinson Lk (1400' gain) and climb Independence (1250' gain). Sun climb Bradley (4700' gain), return to camp and hike out to cars. Must be comfortable on 3rd cl. rock. Send sase w/\$5 permit fee Ldr: Ret Moore. Co-Ldr: Penelope May

MR: Aug 25-26 Sat-Sun, Dragon Pk (12,995') & Mt Gould (13,005'). Backpack (approx 2000' gain) if we get permit, otherwise dayhike(s) from Onion Valley (9200'). Exposed class 3 climbing for Dragon. Ldr: Asher Waxman. Asst: Matthew Richardson

I: Aug 25-26 Sat-Sun, Basin Mt (13,181): WTC/SPS Sat easy paced backpack to camp at Horton Lk., 4 mi 2000' gain. Sun climb Basin, 3 mi 3200' gain, with an interminable talus slope, and pack out. Prov. Ldr: Helen Qian. Asst: Greg Foerstel.

SEPTEMBER

I: Sept 5-7 Wed-Fri, Bloody Mtn (12,344'), Mt Baldwin (12,614'), Red Slate Mtn (12,614'): Climb these colorful cl 2 modest peaks near Mammoth. See some interesting geology, minerals, and plant life. Backpack 7 mi, 3000' gain from Convict Lk to camp. 2000-3000' gain for each peak from campsite. Ldr: Ron Hudson, Co-Ldr: Penelope May

I: Sept 8-9 Sat-Sun, Olancha Pk (12,123'): Enjoy a moderately strenuous hike to southern most emblem peak in the Sierra. Sat hike 7 mi, 3600' gain from Sage Flat to camp. Sun climb pk - 4.5 mi, 2900' gain and pack out. Ldr: Virgil Popescu. Co-Ldr: Mars Bonfire.

I: Sept 8-9 Sat-Sun, Mt. Stanford #2 (12,836): WTC/SPS Sat backpack 4.8 mi., 950' gain to camp near Hilton Lakes. Sun climb 2.4 mi. 2500' gain on xc route to peak, return to camp and pack out. Send 2 sase Prov. Ldr: Roman Gunther. Co-Ldr: Jack Knox.

I: Sept 8-10 Sat-Mon, Sierra Buttes(8,591'), Mt Elwell (7,818'), Adams Pk (8,197'): Celebrate Grandparent's Day car camping and climbing these modest northernmost Sierra peaks. Well behaved and trailwise K-9s welcome. Send sase for trip reservation to Igor. Ldrs: Igor Mamedalin, Suzanne Mamedalin, Ret Moore.

I: Sept 15-16 Sat-Sun, Mt Pinchot (13,494'), Mt Wynne (13,179'): Sat backpack to Lake Marjorie via Taboose Pass (11 mi, 6,400' gain). Sun climb Wynne and Pinchot (5 mi, 2,800' gain) and pack out WTC or equivalent required. Ldr: Dave Endres. Asst: Barry Holchin

I: Sept 15 Sat, Lamont Pk (7429'): Intro trip with car camp and moderately paced ascent (brief Class 2+) of an SPS qualifying peak near Walker Pass. 4 miles rt mostly on use trail, 2300' gain. Lug soles mandatory. Various Hundred Peaks nearby may be climbed independently on Sun. Send sase after Aug 1 to Ldrs: Jerry & Nancy Keating

I: Sept 15-16 Sat-Sun, University Pk (13,632'): WTC/SPS Sat backpack 5 mi, 2600' gain over Kearsarge Pass to Kearsarge Lakes on trail and xc. Potluck Sat night. Sun steep xc climb 1 mi, 2500' gain to class 2 summit and return to cars. WTC or equivalent required. Send \$5 permit fee, 2 sase. Prov. Ldr: Patty Rambert. Asst: R J Secor

M: Sept 15-16 Sat-Sun, Giraud Peak (12,608'), Mt Goode (13,085') Sat backpack to camp near Bishop Pass (2150' gain) and climb Goode (1800' gain). Sun drop into Dusy Basin, climb Giraud and return to camp. Option to hike out Sun, for a long day, or leisurely return Mon morning. Send sase or email, \$5 permit fee Ldr Ret Moore, Co-Ldr Steve Eckert

I: Sept 15-16 Sat-Sun, Mt Pinchot (13,494'), Mt Wynne (13,179'): Sat backpack to Lake Marjorie via Taboose Pass (11 mi, 6,400' gain). Sun climb Wynne and Pinchot (5 mi, 2,800' gain) and pack out WTC or equiv. req. Ldr: Dave Endres. Asst: Barry Holchin Split

I: Sept 16-18 Sun-Tue, Mt. Gilbert (13,106'): SPS intro. trip in E. Sierra for prospective SPSer's and WTC students. Relaxed, casual and enjoyable. Sat backpack 4 mi, 1500' gain to Treasure Lakes at 10,700'. Sun climb Gilbert in 4 mi rt, 2500' gain. Comfort with class 2 talus required. Legendary happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Sue Holloway

I: Sept 22-23 Sat-Sun, Mt. Silliman (11,188'): WTC students and newcomers welcome on this easy backpack from Lodgepole in Sequoia to camp above Silliman Meadow (4 mi, 1500' gain). Food theme potluck dinner. Sun climb class 2 peak and out (7 mi, 3,000' gain). Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

M: Sept 22-23 Sat-Sun, Dunderberg Pk (12,374'), Excelsior Mtn (12,446): WTC/SPS Fall color and lots of scrambling to these peaks above Virginia Lakes north of Yosemite. Sat backpack 2.5 mi, 1200' gain on Summit Lake Trail to camp at tarn below

Trip List Continued On Next Page

Continued from page 6

pass. Climb Excelsior's N ridge, 4 mi, 2300' more, return to camp for happy hour. Sun leader's choice on Dunderberg - bumpy SW ridge, 5 mi, 2000' gain or pack down and dayhike from cars. Send 2 sase Ldr: Beth Epstein. Asst: Kim Gimenez.

MR: Sept 22-24 Sat-Mon, Mt Lyell (13,114') & Mt Maclure (12,960'): Restricted trip 3rd class rock, ice axe and crampons experience. Sat, from Silver Lake along the June Lake Loop, backpack up the Rush Creek drainage 9 mi, 3500 gain. Sun, via Donohue Pass, climb the glacier to Mt. Lyell, then cross to Mt. Maclure and back to camp. Monday hike out. Send 2 sase Prov. Ldr: Maria Roa. Asst. R.J. Secor

M: Sept 29-30 Sat-Sun, Mt. Baldwin (12,615') & Mt. Morrison (12,277'): Backpack to camp and climb class 2 peaks near Mammoth. Mt. Morrison, which dominates the Sierra from Hwy 395, will be climbed Sat and Mt Baldwin Sun. Ldr: Scot Jamison. Co-Ldr: Larry Tidball

I/M/E: Sept. 30 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, Asst. Bob Bradshaw.

OCTOBER

ER: Oct 5-7 Fri-Sun (or Oct 6-8 Sat-Mon) Mt Francis Farquhar (12,893'), The Sphinx (9,143'): Restricted mountaineering trip to beautiful peak named after Sierra Historian, and nearby rock spire. Friday pack in up Sphinx Creek. Saturday climb Farquhar (Cl. 3). Sunday climb the Sphinx (5.2) and pack out. Limited to experienced club members. Send 2 SASE Ldr: Larry Tidball. Co-Lead: Bill Oliver.

I: Oct 6-7 Sat-Sun, Three Sisters (10,612'): Fall backpack in the Western Sierra from Courtwright Reservoir to Cliff Lake, 4.5 mi, 1200' gain. Laze at lake or explore Dogtooth Peak and return for happy hour. Sunday climb Three Sisters, 3 mi rt xc, 1200' gain. Send 2 sase or email , H&W phones, resume of experience and conditioning to Ldr: Beth Epstein. Asst: Kim Gimenez.

I/M: Oct 21 Sun Sheep Pass Joshua Tree Navigation Nav noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) level nav req. To receive homework assignment send nav. exper./training, etc. and sase to Harry Freimanis, Asst. Bob Bradshaw.

C: Oct 26-28 Fri - Sun Wilderness First Aid Course. Location- Harwood Lodge. Fee \$140/\$150. Prerequisite current CPR certificate. Ldr.: Steve Schuster. Contact WFAC, P.O. Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834

NOVEMBER

I/M: Nov 10 - 11 Sat - Sun Indian Cove Navigation Sat practice. Sun. checkout. Nav noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) level nav req. To receive homework assignment send nav. exper./training, etc. and sase to Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Asst. Bob Bradshaw.

C: Nov 15-18 Thur - Sun Wilderness Advanced First Aid Course. Location O'Neil Regional Park, Orange County. 36 hour course, \$295 plus \$15 textbook. Approved for O - E Ldrs. requirements. Contact Adventure 16 (Deanna) 619/283-2362 ext.156

California Wild Heritage Campaign

Are you still planning trips or are you looking to go on a trip to support the Wild Heritage Campaign? (Note these trips are not Angeles Chapter trips.)

Learn more about the California Wild Heritage Campaign by checking out their web site at <http://californiawild.org>.

Join one of these trips:

June 2 South Fork Merced River Potential Wilderness. Day hike, Contact Vicky Hoover 415/977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org

June 8-10 Sweetwater Mtns. Contact Vicky Hoover 415/977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org

June 29-July 4 Modoc Plateau Potential Wilderness Carcamp and dayhikes. Ldr. Ryan Henson 530/474-4808 or ryan@calwild.org

July 4-8 Ruby Mtns. Backpack Liberty Pass and then on the Ruby Crest trail to Favre Lake, Wines Peak etc. 5-day trip CNRCC/Toiyabe Chptr., After May 1st contact Ldr. Henry Egghart 775/852-5309 or hegghart@nvgbell.net.

July 14-15 Capels and Meiss Potential Wilderness areas. CNRCC/SF Bay Chptr. Ldr. Alan Carlton 510/465-6152 or carltonal@yahoo.com

July 14-15 Eel River Diversion, Snow Mtn. Potential Wilderness Additions Backpack Ldr. Ryan Henson 530/474-4808 or ryan@calwild.org

June 16 or July 28 Duncan Canyon Potential Wilderness Day Hike Ldr. Ed Pandolfino 916/652/7315 or arwildlands@aol.com

Plan your own trip to one of these SPS related areas. Then tell us all about your experience:

- Sherwin Roadless Area - above Mammoth Lakes.
- Dana Plateau & Tioga Lake Roadless Area
- Mt Warren - Addition to Hoover Wilderness.
- Desolation Wilderness, Pyramid Ck. Horsetail Falls.
- Hoover East-Eagle Peak and Victoria Peak area
- Hoover West-Hawksbeak, Erhnbeck, Tower

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

March/ April 2001

A favorite winter Sierra view is the panorama of the Minarets from atop Scotty's ski run at Mammoth Mountain. Now, spring skiing is yielding to thoughts of snow climbs...

The recent Angeles Chapter annual awards banquet was fun. They even had fine John



Courage ale on tap next door. SPS and LTC shared a table at the full-capacity Brookside Country Club venue. Principal among the evening's honored guests was LTC Chair and past SPS Chair Dan Richter, recipient of the Chester Versteeg Outings Award. SPS leaders Beth Epstein, Nile Sorenson, Reiner Stenzel, Bob Beach and Sigrid Sexton received Outings Service Awards. Beth and Nile were both away on trips— it's tough keeping serious outings

folks in town for a banquet! Also present was veteran SPS member Tom Amneus, who was recognized from the dais and audience.

SPS appreciation goes out to Nile Sorenson, Matthew Richardson and Will McWhinney, who presented for our section at the four regional WTC groups. I hear that they really pumped up the enthusiasm of the students for climbing, especially in the Sierra.

The first 2001 Echo newsletter went out in March, due to publishing and mailing slips. With the vacancy at Echo Mailer, I assumed that task and learned the ropes. It's easier now, but of course the post remains available.

Tina Bowman, Keeper of the List, presented proposed changes in the listed peaks to the management committee. These updates, detailed in the March meeting minutes, will be incorporated in the next, 19th edition of the Peaks List. Last year's election resolved that no addition or deletion be made with respect to Mount Powell. "Point Powell" will then be the designation of the SPS objective, same coordinates, to distinguish it from the USGS summit. Also, the

rating of several climbs has been revised, e.g., Clyde Minaret (cl4 was cl3) and East Vidette (cl2 was cl3). Comments are anticipated and welcome.

Cheers,

Erik Siering
SPS Chair 2001

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2000

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A.

Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee

Attended By: Keith Martin, Ron Hudson, Paul Graff, Matthew Richardson, Patty Kline

The meeting began at 7:05.

Paul presented the Treasurer's report. We have \$1,689.87 in checking, and \$1,240.24 in savings. Paul also gave a membership report. The new membership roster was published, and mailed with the last "Echo."

A programs update came from Patty. Sierra-based guide Kurt Wedburg will be our guest in March, and Patty will do a slide show in April on her trek in the Khumbu. In May, Ron will present a program on sea kayaking in Alaska. The June program will be by Garnet Roehm, on his 70-mile Denali traverse. The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Keith Martin.

Sherry Ross gave the program, on birds native to the Sierra Nevada.

February 8, 2001

Location: Grande Room, Los Angeles Zoo
Minutes takes by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee

Attended by: Erik Siering, Ron Hudson, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, Patty Kline

The meeting began at 6:55 P.M.

Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

Ron discussed upcoming outings and SPS mem-

bership requirements for leaders of SPS-sponsored trips.

Maria presented the treasurer's report. The 2000 year-end financial statement was filed with the chapter by the deadline. As of February 5, we have \$6,551.47 in checking and \$541.59 in savings.

Three members have been approved for the Mountaineers' List: Doug Bear, Jim Crouch and John Patterson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

SPS, HPS, DPS Joint General Meeting

The meeting was hosted by HPS Chair, Virgil Popescu.

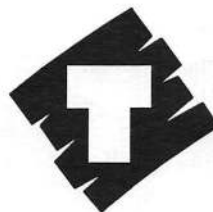
Virgil introduced members of the HPS management committee.

Erik introduced members of the SPS management committee.

Ann Kramer represented the DPS management committee.

R.J. Secor asked a trivia question: What is the origin of the name Pakistan? The prize of a Falcon Guide, Advanced Rock Climbing, was won by Matthew.

R.J. then presented an entertaining program on his 1992 expedition to Broad Peak in Pakistan.



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

New Members - Welcome!

Helen Qian
64 North Oak Ave. #5
Pasadena, CA 91107
e-mail: hqian@earthlink.net
H 626/584-7090

Larry Gibson
1431 San Bernardino Road., #L
Upland, CA 91786
H 909/920-9305
e-mail: lgbison100@earthlink.net

New Subscribers - Happy Reading!

John Monsen
7032 Floramorgan Trail
Tujuna, CA 91042
H 818/951-7714
e-mail: JohnMonsen@aol.com

Mike DePatie
1325 Idlewood Road
Glendale, CA 91201-2042
H 818/545-8010
e-mail: dpte@earthlink.net

Ronald Crowley
1700 N. Raintree Road
Fullerton, CA 92835-4043
H 714/525-7631
e-mail roncrowley@home.com

Acheivements!!!!Congratulations

David Baldwin
SPS Emblem Status

Address Changes

George Sinclair
100 Dunbarton Court
Roseville, CA 95746
H 916/791-4810

E-Mail Changes

Herb Buehler HHBuehler@yahoo.com
David Campbell dcamp111@aol.com
Jane Edginton jedginton@ldg-law.com
Larry Hoak larryhoak@mediaone.net
Scot Jamisom sjami2029@aol.com
Steve Thaw stevethaw@usa.net
David Leth dleth@yahoo.com
Virgil Popescu gillypop@aol.com

SPS Mountain Records

April 2001

PEAK

Agassiz
Barnard
Bloody
Conness
Crag
Dunderberg
Eagle Scout
Genevra
Jordan
LonePine
Muir
Owens
Perkins
Pilot Knob (North)
Piute
Ritter
Three Sisters
Thunderbolt
Tom
Williamson

NEED AS NOTED

Book
Book
Book
Book (?)
Book
Book
Container/Book
Container
Container
Ammo Box/Book
Book
Book (Ammo Box?)
Book/Container
Rubber Gasket
Book
Book (Ammo Box?)
Book/Ammo Box
Book
Book
Container

Listed to the left is the current list of register and container needs. If you are planning a trip to a peak on this list and could help out by carrying a book and/or container, please let me know. Also, please continue to send in your register reports, even for those peaks not in need of a book or container.

Thanks again for the help in keeping our records up to date and in filling needs.

Tina Bowman\Mountain Records



We Get Letters !

April 2001

March 11, 2001

Penelope May

I am leading my 3rd trip to Kilimanjaro in June, this time as a fund-raiser for the local African school.

Information on Penelope's climb:

Climb Kilimanjaro & Help Local African Village School

May 31 - June 13, 2001

\$3,400 including air fare, overland transport, meals, porters, hotels, park fees and permits.

Optional safari to Serengeti and the Eclipse in Zambia.

Join fellow Club member - Proceeds from climb go to the school...desks, books, floors, windows, all desperately needed. Call or e-mail for more details - Penelope May 909/659-5343 or britfoot@aol.com.

Sierra Club 2001 National Elections

Ballots are in the mail or you can vote by logging onto <https://vote.election.com/sierra2001> (you will need your election validation number from your paper ballot)

All votes must be received by
April 25, 2001

Cast your vote for the Board of Directors and on 2 important policy questions.

1. Sprawl/Population 2. Grazing.

April 5, 2001

**Peter Stephens, Wilderness Assistant
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

I just finished reading the January-February 2001 edition of The Sierra Echo. Thank you for printing the section on Wilderness Permit Information.

.... new number for the permit office..559/565-3766. The old number is in the process of being phased out and will no longer be valid after this season.

March 14, 2001

Hal Browder

There is a big push by the Madera County Supervisors and the Eastern Madera Chamber of Commerce, which is dominated by local motel/hotel operators, to stop the Yosemite Valley Plan. Yosemite Restoration Trust, The American Alpine Club, Wilderness Society, the National Parks & Conservation Association and the Sierra Club Yosemite Committee all feel this is a good plan and should be funded.

The local Madera County opponents to the Plan want no Plan and unlimited access to the Park to pursue any activity they so desire including restoring up to 4,000 so called lost parking spaces in the Valley.

Their interpretation of recreation maybe far different than what you and I may feel is appropriate for this magnificent place. The locals see Yosemite as a cash cow to further their economic gains.

Please support the VIP.

Send e-mail or letters to: Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Department of the Interior, 1849 C street NW, Washington D.C. 20240.
e-mail: Gale_Norton@ios.doi.gov.

Updated Information: Yosemite Restoration Trust has merged with the National Parks Conservation Association. The NPCA will continue efforts to restore Yosemite under the title the Yosemite Restoration Project. The project is to be headed by Steven Krefting. Hal Browder and Janet Cobb from the Yosemite Restoration Trust will serve on the Advisory Council. YRT will also continue as the Yosemite Regional Trust working on protecting corridors and lands leading to and surrounding the Park.

“Can’t See the Forests for The Fees” *Fee Demo Update*

Article reprinted from *Words of the Wild* March 2001, Newsletter of the Sierra Club’s CNRWC

“Can’t See the Forests for the Fees” is a complaint being heard from coast to coast as the recreation industry’s Recreation Fee Demonstration Program increases grip upon America’s public lands. Enacted as a legislative rider in 1996, Fee Demo provides authority for federal land managers to charge and retain user fees for a wide range of recreation products, goods and services. “Hiking”, “Fishing”, “Camping” and “Skiing” have suddenly become commodities while citizens have become “customers.”

The good news is that opposition runs deep. Over 200 environmental, conservation and recreation organizations oppose this program.

The bad news is that with the Bush Administration, it’s going to take very widespread and vigorous opposition to end this program created largely for introducing the profit motive into public land recreation management.

Corporate backers of Fee Demo have recently drafted Phase II legislation which, if enacted, would take pay-to-play recreation to the next level. Specifically it would extend the demonstration for two additional years, create a revolving slush fund with which to develop new fee sites, authorize up to 20 public-private fee partnership demonstration projects and bring wider array of fees under the Fee Demo umbrella.

Scott Silver, in Oregon, who has studied Fee Demo more closely than anyone, notes, “An article in the Spokane proposal Spokesman Review of Mar. 21, 2001, headlined ‘Cuts crimp Colville Forest fun’, helps make clear the fact that fee demo is NOT providing ‘supplemental’ recreation funding nor is it providing better service than has traditionally been enjoyed at public recreation facilities. In fact, Fee Demo receipts are barely making up for the recreation budget reductions being imposed by Congress and the level of service is, if anything, declining. Fee Demo is accomplishing nothing more than replacing the traditional progressive public lands funding mechanism with an alternate funding mechanism (i.e., a regressive user tax)...Sadly, Congressional funding will continue to be cut until the only funds available will be recreation user fees.”



ACTION NEEDED:

- 1) Write your elected officials and ask them to **OPPOSE** Fee-Demo and instead work for adequate Congressional funding for appropriate public lands recreation. Ask them to **SUPPORT**, through *cosponsorship*, not just *one* but **two new bills to end fee demo** on Forest Service lands: HR 908, by Rep. Capps (D-CA) as well as Rep. Bono’s (R-CA) HR 1139.
- 2) Write letters to the editors or your local papers and encourage others to do the same.
- 3) Contact Vicky Hoover for copies of the Sierra Club’s flyer—*Selling Our Birthright: Recreational User Fees on Public Lands*, which will help you spread the word widely on why we need to oppose fee demo.

For additional information contact Recreation Issues Committee:

Sunny Sorensen (2 95-9525

Alan Aronson (310)322-2323 amara.ciix.netcom.com

Tanya Tolchin, staff liaison: (202)675-2385, tanyatolchin@sierraclub.org

or Scott Silver, Wild Wilderness (541)385-5261, or online at www.wildwilddemess.org

or John Edkins Free Our Forests Ojai, California <http://www.freeourforests.org>

FEE - DEMO CONTINUED

Here in Southern California the following information has been circulated:

Subject; Adventure Pass Conviction (Note article edited for *Echo* publication)

On January 9 Terry Dahl was tried and convicted by a federal judge for parking his car in the National Forest without purchasing an Adventure Pass. This conviction carried no penalty. Terry Dahl's defense attorneys have filed for appeal arguing that the Adventure Pass program is illegal and unconstitutional which was not addressed by Judge Snyder.

- 1) Mr. Bartsch was taken before a federal Magistrate Dec. 30, 1998 for failure to purchase the Adventure Pass. Magistrate Chapman dismissed the citation stating that since he was in the forest exercising his first amendment rights, he was not subject to the recreational fee. Also she stated that as long as this is a demonstration program and not permanent law it is discretionary. She also notified the local Forest Service to stop writing real citations. Because of this court appearance, the Forest Service has since written only one real citation and that was in Los Padres Nation Forest to Terry Dahl.
- 2) According to Dr. Jerrell Ross Richer who is under contract by the Forest Service to conduct the Adventure Pass survey public questionnaire, only 54% of forest visitors are buying the Adventure Pass. Public support and compliancy are determining the success of this program. The Forest Service (by their own admission) has written more than 95,000 Notices of Non Compliance (NON) here in Southern California since the Adventure Pass Pilot Program first started June 1997. This NON threatens a \$100 fine if the recipient does not purchase an Adventure Pass within 14 days, but the NON do not seem to be followed up upon after they are written.
- 3) The State of Idaho, U.S. Attorney Mr. Richardson stated that as of Jan. 12, 2000 and will no longer prosecute forest visitors who refuse to pay the recreational parking fee in that state.
- 4) Careful not to incriminate yourself.
- 5) Never tell a ranger that you refuse to support the program - this is how most people in the country have received real citations.

A Kings Canyon Loop Trip - by Bob Ayers

Over 17-22 July of 2000, three of us took a pleasant off-trail walk in KCNP. One peak in six days – hardly an SPS trip. But very enjoyable.

We backpacked up the Copper Creek trail and, following the beginning of Roper's "High Route", over to a camp at Grouse Lake. Then took two more days following Roper, over to 2nd Horseshoe Lake and then to Marion Lake.

On day four we backpacked from Marion over Cartridge Pass, doing the SW Ridge route on Ruskin on the way, and down to the lake on the S side of the pass. We had heard that the long-abandoned Cartridge Pass trail was in bad shape over the pass: not so, it in fine condition.

Day five found us packing down into the upper Muro Blanco and then up along the King's South Fork to the Muir and thence to Bench Lake. The only unpleasant part of this six-day ramble was the first mile upstream along the creek, where a few decades of down trees obliterate the old trail.

On our last full day we went over Secor's "Arrow Pass" route to Woods Creek and down the creek to an established campground. We found Secor's description spot-on – and finding, and mostly sticking, to a deer trail as the route falls into King's Canyon was a blessing.

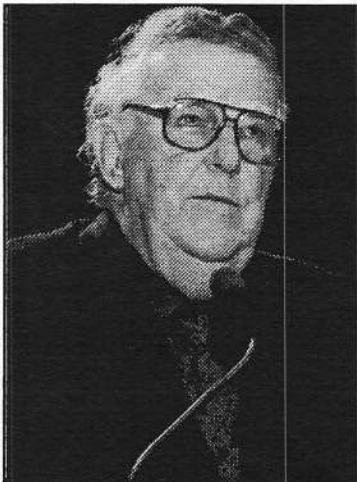
This trip was all cross-country except for the first half-day and last half-day and the short stretch from the top of the Muro Blanco to Bench Lake. It goes right by Marion and Arrow in addition to Ruskin. Highly recommended.

Banff Mountain Book Festival and Mountain Summit 2000

Climbers from around the world gather to reminisce and discuss the past, present and future of climbing



Opening night celebration at the Whyte Museum in Banff, from left to right: Dr. Thomas Hornbein, Leo Houlding, Guy Lacelle, Catherine Destivelle, Junko Tabei, Charles Houston, Barbara Washburn, Jack Tackle, Brad Washburn, Wade Davis, Jeff Lowe, Kurt Diemberger, Royal Robbins. Kneeling: Pat Morrow, Ed Douglas (back). Photo courtesy: Banff Centre for Mountain Culture and Banff Mountain Book Festival



"I have always regarded George Leigh Mallory as a heroic figure.

He brought Mount Everest to the notice of the world, explored most of its routes, and finally disappeared when heading for the summit on the north side. What happened to him has always been a puzzle. Did he die before reaching the summit or on the descent? Nobody knows, and to me it has been of small consequence: He was still a great man.

But now an expedition has made great effort and discovered Mallory's body after 65 years. They have searched it, taken personal items and specimens, photographed it extensively and sold the terrible pictures to almost every newspaper and magazine in the world. I have found the photographs revolting; surely this heroic figure should have been left in peace."

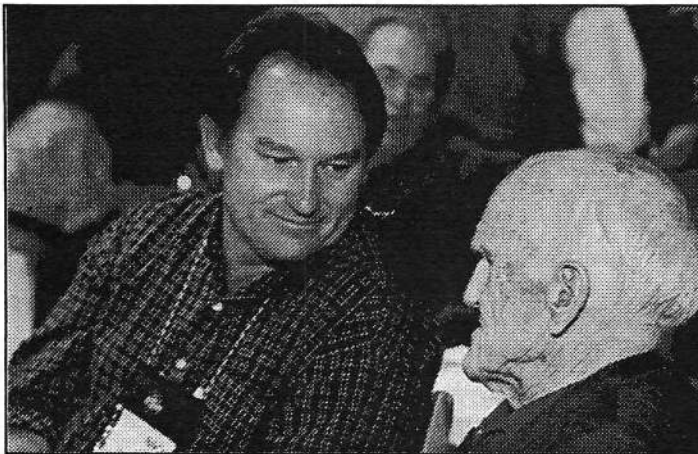
— SIR EDMUND HILLARY, BANFF MOUNTAIN SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKER, 2000 —

Spotted Dog Press presents book award to Brad Washburn

Last October, fellow SPSer, Andy Zdon, and I flew from Las Vegas to Banff via Salt Lake on our annual pilgrimage to the Banff Mountain Book Festival. This was our third year as a corporate sponsor of the Banff Center for Mountain Culture and our first year as a sponsor of the Banff Mountain Book Festival Mountain Image Award. The Mountain Image Award was presented to Bradford Washburn (on behalf of editor, Antony Decaneas), for the book Bradford Washburn Mountain Photography. As

an award sponsor, it was a real honor to present the award to the 91 year old Washburn at the ceremony last November 2nd. Washburn accepted his award to resounding applause and was about to walk off stage back to his seat when I whispered to him that he needed to go back stage. Explaining that his book was up for another award, the humble fellow responded, "What the hell for?"

Washburn, who spent seven decades photographing mountain landscapes and who participated in nearly 70 expeditions to Alaska, also



Andy Zdon, author of *Desert Summits: A Climbing & Hiking Guide to California and Southern Nevada*, chats with fellow geologist Brad Washburn at one of many private parties. Photos clockwise: Brad Washburn dons favorite headgear; Sir Chris Bonington; Wynne Benti presents award to Brad and Barbara Washburn; Yvonne Chouinard; Lynn Hill; Reinhold Messner; Ed Viesturs, Rick Ridgeway and Charles Houston listen to a lecture from last year's festival.

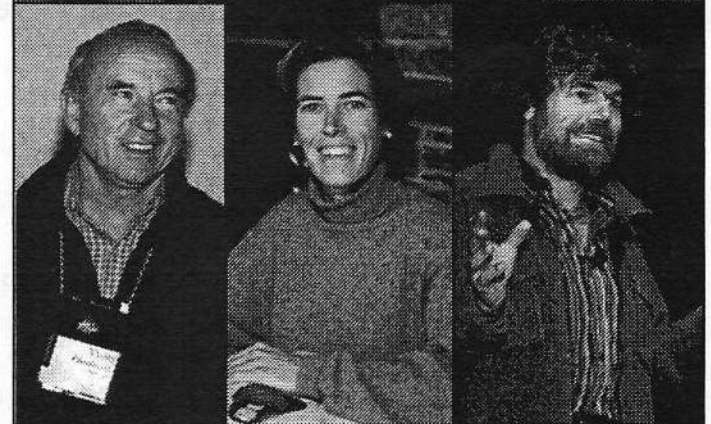
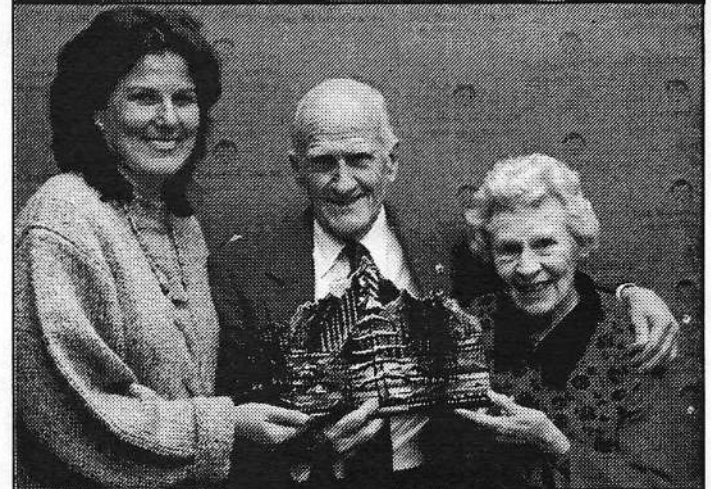
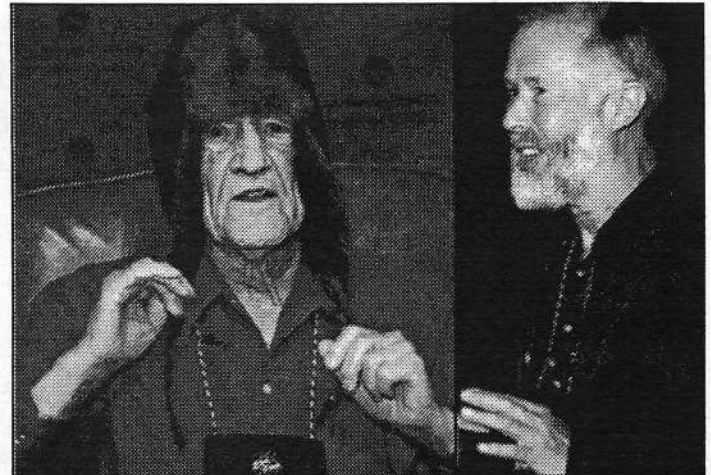
received the Festival's Grand Prize sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada. Brad again received a very lengthy standing ovation upon receiving his second award. In the audience was Barbara Washburn, Brad's wife of 60 years and the first woman to climb Mt. McKinley.

Preceding this year's Banff Mountain Book Festival, amidst Canadian beer, fine food, great views of the Canadian Rockies and a lot of parties, was The Banff Mountain Summit, a two-day intensive celebration of world mountaineering held at the Banff Springs Hotel. Invited to the Summit to share their thoughts about the past, present and future of climbing were Sir Edmund Hillary, Sir Chris Bonington, Kitty Calhoun, Ricardo Cassin, Yvonne Chouinard, Peter Croft, Wade Davis, Catherine Destivelle, Kurt Diemberger, Ed Douglas, Anderl Heckmair, Lynn Hill, Thomas Hornbein, Leo Houlding, Charles Houston, Jeff Lowe, Reinhold Messner, Royal Robbins, Junko Tabei (the first woman to climb Mt. Everest), and Jack Tackle.

Ethical standards and their overall influence on our culture, from the environmental degradation of climbing routes, eradication of native species and insensitivity to local mountain cultures to the public's appetite for mountaineering tragedy, was the persistent topic of discussion throughout the Summit and Mountain Book Festival. The controversy that surrounded the 1996 Everest tragedy, the discovery of George Mallory's frozen body on Everest with the ensuing tabloid-style frenzy and worldwide distribution of photos, certainly helped inspire this year's discussion. Sir Chris Bonington examined the success of the two most popular books on mountaineering, *Into Thin Air* and *Touching the Void*, their common theme in a panel called "Doom and Destruction: The Dominance of Tragedy in Mountain Writing." The Summit's opening speaker, Sir Edmund Hillary, who with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made the first ascent on Mt. Everest in 1953 voiced his opinion about the Mallory discovery in his opening statement.

Fascinating and often touching, the Mountain Summit was a wonderful and historic tribute to the world's mountaineering community.

-Wynne Benti



Joe Devel Peak, Mt. Hale, Mt. Young, Mt Hitchcock and Mt. Guyot

August 23 thru September 3, 2000

By Mirna A. Roach & Greg Roach

This was a nine-day backpack in the southern sierra to climb all the peaks on the list in that area we "needed". Our trip went fine considering the weather situation. We climbed 5 out of 6 peaks; we still left Kern Point. Elaine and Dave Baldwin joined us for the first two days of the trip.

Saturday: It was a beautiful cool day with some clouds. We went in over Cottonwood Pass and hiked 12 miles to Lower Rock Creek; it did not start raining until 4 PM just as we were getting to Lower Rock Creek.

Sunday: It turned out to be a beautiful day, and we were able to climb Joe Devel without any thunderstorms. We crossed Rock Creek at the Pacific Crest Trail and worked our way northeast staying above the wet meadows in the morning. We crossed Perrin Creek and climbed up the southwest side of Joe Devel looking for rocks to step on instead of sand. We reached the summit in time for lunch. After enjoying the view we took a more direct route down to the Pacific Crest Trail. There was time for fishing in Rock Creek after the climb. Greg caught 6 golden trout, I fried them, and they were very tasty.

Monday: Elaine and Dave Baldwin left to go back out over New Army Pass. We were supposed to head toward Guyot Pass and climb Guyot Mt; but unfortunately, Greg's toe swelled up and it was painful for him to walk. He soaked his toe in the creek all morning long, and I gave him 400 mg of Motrin throughout the day. Well, that afternoon he felt much better, and we spent the rest of the day resting, playing cards, and reading. Oh, by the way the clouds were building up by noon; Greg mentioned that the clouds' pattern were like those typical of a changing weather pattern. Well, about 2 PM it started raining and there was thundering and lightning over New Army

Pass and Cottonwood Pass.

Tuesday: We decided to go ahead and try to go over Guyot Pass and perhaps climb Mt Guyot. The weather did not look promising; it was cloudy, foggy, gloomy, and a very cold day. So, we decided to we kept walking bypassed Mt Guyot and headed to lower Crabtree Meadow; it was only a 6 mile day, but it was good that we went directly to lower Crabtree Meadow because it rained that afternoon. We found this beautiful huge tree with branches that served as an umbrella and gave us sufficient cover for lunch and shelter. It started to rain harder later on that afternoon. We even had to dig a trench around our tent. It just kept raining until we went to bed. That evening we were trying to decide whether to climb Mt. Hitchcock first or Hale & Young the next day. We left it up to the weather conditions.

Wednesday: We got up at 4:30 AM and the sky was crystal clear and we could see stars. So, we decided to climb Hale & Young today. We set off up the trail toward Mt. Whitney and picked up the John Muir Trail. About one half mile past Timberline Lake we left The John Muir Trail and hiked up the slope between Peak 38797 and Mt. Young. We got to Mt. Hale at 10:00 AM and spent half an hour at the summit then headed over to Mt. Young. By now, we saw thunder clouds on the eastern side of the Sierra Crest and to the north. In fact, the Owens valley was full of clouds. The clouds were also starting to build to the west. So, we headed down and had lunch at one of the tarns above Timber Lake. After lunch we headed back to camp, then around 3 PM we were about a mile from camp when it started to rain again. The rain didn't last for long and the clouds disappeared as the sun set.

Thursday: It turned out to be a clear day,

again we got up early and headed to Mt Hitchcock. We took the trail to Crabtree Lakes but soon headed up the ridge after crossing the first meadow. The climb up the East Ridge was steep and sandy until we were near the summit. The climb to Mt Hitchcock only took half of the day; soon we were having lunch at the upper Crabtree Lake looking at the north sides of Mt. Chamberlain and Mt. Newcomb. This is really a beautiful spot the lake was crystal clear and the sky was really gorgeous today. It was a pleasant change from the "John Manure Trail". We continued back to camp following the stream down to the lower Crabtree Lake, and we found a good place to bathe and rinse our shirts. There was a sheltered spot on the north side of the lower Crabtree Lake and just had a wonderful time bathing and just enjoying the spectacular views. We got back to camp around 3 PM and no significant event happen afterward. We had the Crabtree Meadows area all for ourselves; a bunch of hikers that had been there the day before were gone. There were about four deer grazing in the beautiful meadow and Greg did some fishing that afternoon. By the way, packers and hikers heavily use this whole area.

Friday: We started hiking around 7:30 AM heading back to Lower Rock Creek and planned to climb Mt Guyot on the way there. It looked like a nice day, but we saw some clouds down by the Kern trench and other clouds coming from the southwest. We got to Guyot Pass around 9:30 AM by now the clouds were all around but up above us there was still blue sky. The clouds on the western side of the Kern River looked ominous as we headed toward the peak. From the saddle to the peak it's about 1.5 miles with 1500' gain. We did not stop at any time and rushed to the summit; by now there were thundering sounds by the Whitney area, New Army Pass, and Cottonwood Pass, the clouds were surrounding us but still up above us it was clear. We hurried up to sign the register and ran back down the ridge back to the saddle where we left our packs. The clouds and fog kept creeping up both side of the ridge, by the

time we reached our packs it started to hail. We got cover by putting the ground cloth between a rock and a tree where we had left our packs. It hailed for at least half an hour; we had lunch then but I got really cold. The hail turned into snow the next half-hour that made the whole area look like a winter wonder land. It was beautiful to see the snow falling, but I was getting worried because it did not stop. So, we decided to get out of the ridge and continue hiking toward Lower Rock Creek. The place looked fantastic, it felt like Christmas time. We got to Lower Rock Creek around 3 PM by now the sky was partially clear. The rest of day was windy, breezy, and cold.

Saturday: We only hiked about 5 miles, up Rock Creek passing Upper Rock Creek Lake on our way. Upper Rock Creek Lake is in a large open meadow and has a great view of the Sierra Crest. We continued up the trail and set up camp at Soldier Lake. Now we were up at timberline above the thick forest at a beautiful lake. We were happy campers. The fishing is good here too.

Sunday: We hiked 9 miles back to the cars over Cottonwood Pass and reached the trailhead about 2:30 PM. It turned out to be a great trip considering the weather.

CONGRATULATIONS

DAN RICHTER

2001 RECIPIENT

CHESTER VERSTEEG
AWARD

IN HIGH PLACES

THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

By Burton "Because It's There" Falk

My wife, Jo, and I just returned from making the very first recorded ascent of the lowest national high point in the world. Yep, it happened this past January, while we were visiting the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), way out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman, on Jo's side of the family, will no longer be my children's and grandchildren's most famous relative. No doubt, as soon as my book, *Into Thick Air*, is published, I'll be signing autographs and publicity photos. The question will be should I inscribe them "Climb every

mountain," or just plain "Excelsior?" Could there be a knighthood in store? Like Sir Edmund (Hillary), Sir Burton has a ring to it.

Then again, maybe what I climbed wasn't the lowest national highpoint in the world (the Maldives' could be lower). Maybe what I climbed wasn't even RMI's true high point. Also, even if it was, maybe I didn't make the first *recorded* ascent. More likely still, maybe no one really gives a hoot.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is comprised of two of the most isolated island chains on earth. And because of their remoteness, three of the nation's 34 major islands—Bikini,

Eniwetok and Kwajalein—have become famous or infamous, depending on your point of view, the first two having been sites for 67 nuclear bomb tests between 1945 and 1958, while the third, the largest atoll in the world, is currently a target and tracking site for missiles test-fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base here in California.

RMI is located about half way between Hawaii and New Guinea, just above the equator, and is scattered over 750,000 sq. miles of the Pacific Ocean. Lying parallel to one another, about 150 miles apart, the eastern chain of islands is named Ratak "toward dawn," while the western chain is called Ralik, "toward sunset." The total land area in the whole of RMI is a mere 69.9 sq. miles.



Lagoon at Likiep, photo from the MI Visitors Authority

Because of its interesting itinerary, Jo and I signed on to visit Micronesia in January and February of this year, during the first leg of the Crystal Symphony's 2001 world cruise. "Cool," I thought. "I'll be able to bag a few rare high points." Then as I began researching the locations of the various island highs, reality set in. *The Lonely Planet Guide to*

Micronesia, for instance, states that RMI's 34' high point is located on Likiep Atoll. Checking it out, I discovered that the only practical means of getting to Likiep was via a once-a-week Air Marshall Islands flight, leaving from and returning to Majuro Atoll, on which the capital of RMI is located, a trip that afforded a mere two-hour stopover on the high point island.

Regarding Palau and Guam, the Symphony's two other Micronesian ports of call, I found that bagging their highpoints would be possible only if everything (car rentals, weather, guides) fell perfectly into place. And that would put a lot of pressure on us, as "missing the boat" in a region so

remote would be a really bad idea. Islands like Pohnpei, on which the highpoint of the Federated States of Micronesia is located; Yap, the most traditional destination in Micronesia, and Saipan, home of salubrious beaches and historic WWII sites, were not to be visited at all.

Meanwhile, since the cruise would take 13 days to sail from Los Angeles to RMI (including a day each at—yawn—Honolulu and Lahaina), Jo and I began a campaign to convince Crystal Cruise Line to let us embark the Symphony at Maui, thus saving us 7 days on board. Crystal was adamant. “No way,” they replied.

Finally, 5 months before we were to set sail, we decided, “Hey, let’s do this trip on our own.” It was one of the better “Heys of Our Lives.”

So, what do you know about atolls? Well, because 29 of RMI’s 34 major islands are atolls (the other 5 being “low” islands), it’s important to know how they were formed, as this in turn explains why the high point of the nation is so low.

The first step in fashioning an atoll involves an undersea volcano building up until it breaches the ocean surface, thus forming an island. Think of the Big Island in Hawaii, which continues to grow even as you read this article.

Step number two—and this only can occur in tropical or subtropical zones, no more than 30 degrees north or south of the equator—is for a ring of coral to grow around the new island, creating a fringing reef. As you probably know, a coral reef is a living organism made up of millions upon millions of polyps with calcareous shells. Anchored to the rock-hard skeletons of ancestors, it too gradually builds its way to the ocean surface.

The final step occurs a few million years later, when, due to subsidence and erosion, the volcanic island disappears completely. All that is left is the coral reef encircling a newly created void—now called a lagoon. Voila, an atoll!

Even today—check it out if you don’t believe me—the Air Marshall Islands (AMI) web site indicates that their once a week flight from Majuro to Likiep and back operates on *Thursdays*. Taking them at their word, and also considering Continental Micronesia’s famous Island Hopper flights, which fly thrice weekly from Honolulu to Guam, via Majuro, Kwajalein, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk (and back again the next day), I laid out our itinerary so that we’d be in Majuro on a Thursday, then I called my travel agent to arrange our flights. She called back a day or two later to report that, while the Continental

reservations were no problem, she could not book the Likiep seats, as AMI was not responding to her e-mail request.

Concerned, I e-mailed AMI directly to make my own reservations—or at least confirm the current Likiep schedule. After two weeks, I too had received no answer. I then e-mailed our hotel in Majuro, the Outrigger, to see if they could obtain an updated AMI flight schedule. The hotel promptly e-mailed back that the Likiep flight would operate only on *Sundays* throughout January 2001. I called my travel agent, and rearranged our schedule.

Still lacking Likiep reservations, however, I finally decided to call AMI in Majuro directly, where a woman answered, “Hello?” When I inquired, “Air Marshall Islands?,” she replied, somewhat reluctantly, I thought, “Yes.” Inquiring about the Likiep flight, she told me the flight would operate only on *Saturdays* in January. Sensing that was the best information I was going to get, I reserved two seats (\$240 each, round trip), after which I called my travel agent to once again rearrange our schedule.

For the most part, Micronesia consists of four mid-Pacific archipelagos—the Marshall, Gilbert, Caroline and Mariana Islands—a vast region into which, archeologists believe, Austronesian-speaking people from S.E. Asia began migrating almost 4,000 years ago. Although the western-most islands, such as Palau and Yap, are thought to have been the first areas populated, the earliest artifacts uncovered in Micronesia to date—carbon-dated back to 1960 BC—were discovered on Bikini.

The first European to set foot in Micronesia was Ferdinand Magellan, who, during the first round-the-world voyage, landed on Guam in January 1521. Eight years later in 1529, Alvaro de Saavedra, on yet another Spanish expedition, made the first European sighting of the Marshall Islands. Somewhat inexplicably, it was the English sea captain, John Marshall, who visited the area in 1788, 259 years after de Saavedra, for whom the islands were eventually named.

In 1885, following a quarter century of copra plantation development by German businessmen, the Marshalls became a German Protectorate. In 1914, the Japanese, using World War I as an excuse, seized control of the Marshalls, along with most of the rest of Micronesia, and then proceeded to colonize and fortify the region in a rather blatant extension of their own empire. Following WWII, the Japanese having been ousted, the United Nations ceded most of Micronesia as a Trust Territory to the United States

(with the Gilbert and Ellice Islands going to Britain). In 1978, the Marshallese drafted and approved their own constitution, and in 1986, RMI became an independent nation—although it still maintains special, mostly financial, ties with the U.S.

Today the population of RMI numbers approximately 50,000, about 23,000 of whom live on Majuro.

Jo and I landed at the Majuro airport in the midst of a midday shower on Thursday, January 24. After checking into the modern lagoon-front Outrigger Hotel, we walked into the long, narrow town called D-U-D (for three once-separate communities, Delap, Uliga and Darrit), where we came upon the office of the Marshall Islands Visitor Authority—a fortuitous discovery, indeed.

Stepping inside the air-conditioned office, we met Benjamin Graham, the Authority's young, bright and personable general manager. Explaining our desire to climb the high point of the country, Ben first directed us to the office's large map collection, which included charts for every major island in the young nation. Scanning the U.S. Government map for Likiep Atoll, I discovered that most of the data had been gathered by the Japanese in the mid-Thirties during their occupation of the island. Although depths of passageways through the coral reefs and lagoon anchorages were abundant, land elevations were rarely indicated. We found no helpful highpoint information, whatsoever.

Ben said that he, too, had heard that the highpoint of RMI was on Likiep, but he wasn't aware of how or by whom that fact had been determined. He then volunteered to contact a Likiep resident, Joe de Brum, a person who should know all about the atoll, as his two great-grandfathers, Jose de Brum, a Portuguese whaler, and Adolph Capelle, a German businessman, had purchased the island from a Marshallese chief back in 1877. "In fact," he said, "Joe is a really great guy. I'll radio him and ask him to give you a tour when you arrive Saturday."

The next day, Friday, Jo and I visited the Alele Museum, Library and National Archives in D-U-D, where, in addition to perusing the small but excellent collection of Marshallese artifacts, we again looked for definitive information on the country's high point. Once again we came up empty handed.

On Saturday morning, January 26, our small Air Marshall Islands plane touched down on Likiep's grass runway about 11:30 a.m.—a mere 2-3/4 hours late. AMI, it seems, runs more like a taxi service than a for-profit airline. That morning, for instance, they

had so many passengers who wanted to fly to the intervening atoll of Wotje that they decided to first run a plane up there, then come back and pick up the Likiep passengers.

The delay was forgotten as soon as we stepped out of the plane, however. Standing there in the midday sunshine were both Joe de Brum and his wife, the latter of whom placed leis around our necks. And that was just the start of our memorable visit.

During the next two hours Joe, who is a very lively 70 years of age, squired us around his family's island, first leading us through the "mansion," built by his grandfather, Joachim de Brum, about 1900. This commodious three-room building once served as home to a man who could have been straight out of a novel by Maugham, Michener or Conrad. Not only was Joachim a benevolent Lord Jim sort, but he also possessed enough interest and insight to photographically record the turn of the century life on his island, an important collection, now stored in the Alele Museum in D-U-D, which Jo and I had viewed the previous day.

Next Joe walked us over to the island's new 12-unit hotel, which is situated in the lee of a coconut palm grove, on the lagoon side of the atoll, overlooking a curving white sand beach. Since the beach itself drops off rather steeply into the lagoon, the color of the calm waters change from crystal clear to turquoise to dark blue in a very short distance. It's very pretty.

If you really, *really* want to get away from it all, we suggest you give Likiep your utmost consideration. No TVs, no telephones, no traffic—just a gentle trade wind and some most friendly people you'll meet anywhere. Keep in mind, however, that there is only one flight a week into and off of the island—so you have to stay for a minimum of seven days. Also be advised that there is BYOB policy in effect, as no alcoholic beverages are sold there. Although you can buy all your meals at the hotel, many guests prefer to bring a few supplies of their own. Catching and preparing your own fish dinners also seems to be quite popular.

Next, Joe showed us a small Japanese-built solar-powered ice plant, the product of which allows the island fishermen to preserve their catches while awaiting the arrival of the factory ship. We then continued down a dirt road to a well-maintained Catholic church possessing some of the

most beautiful stained glass windows you can imagine. And all this on an island with a total population of only 200.

Lastly, we boarded the lone vehicle on Likiep, a very small pick up truck—Jo and Joe in the front, me on the truck bed—and drove out to where Joe thought the high point might be. “My guess is that these mounds I’m going to show you were thrown up during a big typhoon,” he said. And, sure enough, there, near the west end of Likiep Island, we found a series of 10-15’ high hummocks, shaded by towering coconut palms. Picking out the one we thought the highest, I strapped on my crampons, roped up, and after a grueling 30 second climb, with only one ice axe arrest, there I was—“The top of the world, ma!”

We took the appropriate photos, and then headed back for the airstrip, where we arrived just in time to board our return flight. As we lifted off from

the verdant island, we could see Joe standing in the shade of the coconut palms, waving us goodbye. We were truly touched by his warmth and hospitality. We can’t begin to thank him enough.

Two days after the “climb,” we left RMI, heading for Pohnpei, where we planned to bag the high point of the Federated States of Micronesia. In retrospect, we believe that the best part of our visit to this new island country was getting to know the Marshallese people, a very friendly and warm-hearted bunch, indeed. The “aloha” spirit, that has begun to disappear in the hustle and bustle of today’s Hawaii, remains in full force in RMI. If you should ever decide to visit the Marshalls, just flash a smile in anyone’s direction, and you’ll get a broader one back in return—we guarantee it!

FOREST PLAN BEING DEVELOPED FOR ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

by Tim Allyn Sierra Club-Regional Organizer- California Wild Heritage Campaign

The four southern California forests are undergoing land management planning revisions at this time and we need your help. The LMPR will become our forest management plan for the next 12 to 15 years. It is imperative we work with the forest service to develop a plan that will act to preserve the precious resources(watershed protection, ecological diversity, wildland recreation, wilderness) our forests have provided to past generations, our generation and hopefully, to future generations.

Please visit the below sites to view the invitation by Jody Cook, Supervisor of the Angeles and the SCCS site to view comments made at earlier meetings.

Below are listed some points I hope you will help us pass on to the Forest Service. Additionally, upcoming meetings are listed. Finally, you can download forms to be filled out listing your concerns and mail them back to the forest service and/or you can answer the 2 questions below and mail/fax into the USFS.

Please remember that our National Forests are not protected from development and degradation. The health and beauty of our natural forest environment relies on our ability to see that our forests are managed to promote this life sustaining health and beauty.

Questions to be answered and sent -

1.”What I value most about the National Forests in Southern California is...”

2.”My vision for the future of the National Forests in Southern California is...”

Send answered questions to Jody Cook, Angeles Forest Supervisor, 701 N. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006, fax -(626) 574-5233 .<http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/angeles/>
<http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sccs/Workshop/workshops.htm#Los>

Upcoming Open Houses

Friday, April 20

Angeles NF Supervisor’s Office
701 N. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 3-8 pm

Wednesday, April 25

Lake View Terrace Rec Center
11075 Foothill Blvd.
Lake View Terrace, CA 3-8 pm

Thursday, April 26

Los Angeles River Center
570 West Avenue 26
Los Angeles, CA 3-8pm

Bullet Points (continued on page 25)

*Keep all roadless areas roadless and protected from vehicle use and development.

Mt Perkins

Mar 31-April Foolsday, 2001

by
Reiner Stenzel

In the Alps most mountaineers, certainly the guides, are both climbers and skiers. In our Sierra Club Chapter, with a few exceptions, the peak climbers (SPS) don't ski and the skiers (SMS) don't climb peaks. With both skills, however, the spring trips to our Sierra Nevada become some of the best adventures. Thus, by scheduling joint SPS/SMS I hope to find others to share the fun of skiing and climbing. This report describes how our recent ski mountaineering trip to Mt Perkins went. The description may also fill a gap of trip reports for Perkins in the SPS archives.

Mt Perkins (12,566') is a cl 2 SPS peak on the Eastern Sierra crest, and the ascent via Armstrong Cyn makes a classic ski tour. We had a fine group of qualified people: Three climbers (2 list finishers!), propelled by snow shoes, one snowboarder, using short ascent skis, and five telemarkers. They were Steve Eckert, Brian Smith, Susan Clark, Wally Drake, Mark Vogt, Reed Moore, Joy Goebel, Keith Martin and myself. We met Sat at 6 am at the intersection of the Black Rock Springs Rd and Hwy 395, drove up to the Sawmill Creek Road, switched into 4WD cars at the power house, and ascended 2.6 mi on a dirt road (#12S01) to Scotty Spring (UTM 4088807N, 382280E, NAD 27, elev 5,660'). Perhaps one could have driven further up the old mining road, but nobody brought a humvee. Starting at 7:30 am on a sunny morning we muscled up 2,000' to the snow level near 8,000'. Just below Rudy Mine (8,400') a side trail leads into Armstrong Cyn. Here we skied/snowshoed up the steep, long, and remote canyon. Our scenic lunch spot was at the 10,000' level with views into Owens Valley 6,000' below and, in the opposite direction, the end of the canyon with steep chutes, a long ridge and our goal,

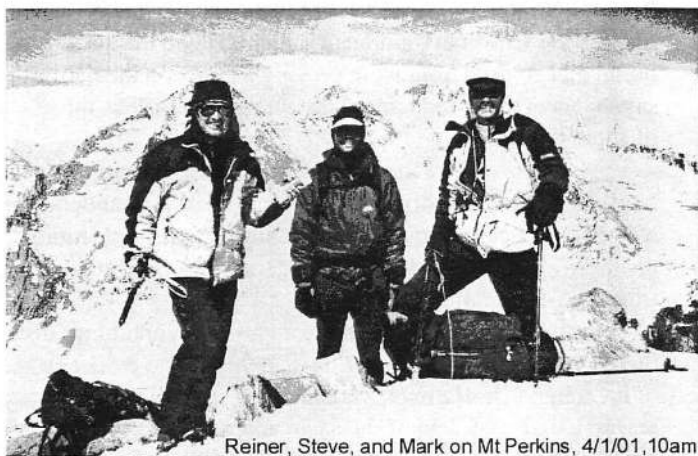
Mt Perkins, 2,500' above us. Our peace was slightly disrupted by an avalanche from Perkins, triggered by a cornice breakoff. We continued ascending the canyon to about 10,300' where, by 2 pm, we selected a safe and scenic campsite among the last trees. After the 4,500' climb without running water, the first job was to melt snow and replenish lost fluids. Then we set up tents, a snowshelter (Steve's cave) and a snow kitchen. Most of us drifted into in a relaxed state of mind. Only Wally and Reed climbed further up for an afternoon ski run. An avy beacon exercise found little enthusiasm until we finished our early 4 pm dinner. The wind picked up and by 6 pm everyone crawled into their bags. One reason was my request for an alpine start next morning, i.e., a 4 am wakeup call (could not announce that it was really 3 am due to change to daylight savings time). At last daylight, the mountains were in the clouds and the wind blew hard, so we were not quite sure about our summit attempt the next morning.

On April foolsday the wind was gone (no joke), the sky clear, and we proceeded as planned. By 5 am we cramponed up the slopes to the end of Armstrong Cyn. Joy and Wally did not feel up to the peak climb and stayed at basecamp with radio contact to the rest of the group. There are two chutes leading up to the ridge, a left (southern) one which is longer but less steep than the right (northern) one. The choice was clear, why make detours? But even the steep (40-45 deg) right chute to the crest was long

and exhausting. By 8 am seven of us were on the 12,000' ridge. We left our skis since the ridge was unskiable, i.e., mixed rock and snow. We had a spectacular view to the west over many snow covered Sierra peaks, especially Mt Clarence King, Brewer, the Kaweahs stood out. But a cold wind blew from the west and low clouds hung over the San Joaquin Valley. On the Mt Pinchot topo map the ridge to the summit looks flat and straightforward. However, the 20m contour spacing does not resolve several 30' obstacles along the ridge which, combined with cornices amount to a class 4 adventure. So we decided to contour below the ridge on the western slopes. We headed toward the first obvious high point on the ridge only to find out



that Perkins was still half a mile further north. Perkins has distinguished red-brown rock while the ridge is grey granite. So we backed down from the ridge to continue our traverse. The western slopes are full of gullies separated by steep walls which makes it a slow and tiring traverse. We cramponed over steep snow fields and climbed over cl 3 rock walls. After the third gully Keith radioed that the tail of the group was getting tired. He, Brian and Susan turned back while I continued with Steve, Mark and Reed. After traversing at least six gullies we finally made it to a broad chute which led to the summit. By 10 am we stood on the top of Mt Perkins, tired but satisfied. We called the others by radio, ate and drank, took pictures, and dug out the peak register from a plastic cylinder. It must have been rained on and was now frozen. Mark volunteered his armpits, and we managed to open a page without breaking it. It was a pleasure to sign it as the first group in 2001, and as #211 in my SPS stamp collection. The cold wind eventually drove us down and we retraced our steps. By 12 noon we were back at



Reiner, Steve, and Mark on Mt Perkins, 4/1/01, 10am

the main gully where our skis were waiting. Steve pulled out a handy plastic sheet, sat down in the now soft snow, and glissaded down the gully. This is the joy of peak climbers. Skiers prefer a series of pretty turns instead of a broad straight track. But in a 45 deg chute this requires some skill. Jump turns are a must, rear ski weighting vital to avoid forward dives. While Mark and Reed were discussing to switch to the



less steep chute I tried some jumps and it worked fine in the soft snow. So we all descended the steeps. It is anaerobic, exhilarating, requires absolute concentration of mind and body to avoid a nasty fall. Snow conditions can change from soft snow to hard pack within a few turns. The upper gully was of similar caliber as Bloody Couloir or the Wahoo Gully. But all fun comes to an end. By 1 pm we were back at basecamp, eating lunch and packing up. As we descended the snow got really soft. Wally elegantly snowboarded through the mush with a full pack. The skiers had to struggle a bit more with balance. Engineer Steve used his frictionless seat to glissade with full pack. It was faster than skiing and had the advantage that you could not fall any lower. Snowshoers Brian and Susan had a real struggle on the steeps. Keith joined the struggle because each fall with a cement-filled pack costs at least a hundred calories. After we paid our dues in Armstrong Canyon it was still a long slog down the dry trail to Scotty Springs. Big lenticular clouds covered Owens Valley. By 5:30 pm, the last ones were back at the cars. Although the bodies were a bit tired after the 6,500' descent, everyone was in good spirits. We had challenging climbing and skiing, great weather, a fun group with a variety of skills, and a patient co-leader Keith who deserves all my thanks for making the trip possible and enjoyable. Last, but not least, the trip will be remembered for a rare display of an aurora borealis on Fri night.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST *(continued from page 21)*

*Keep free flowing and free flowing segments of rivers, creeks, streams free from diversions and dams. Include a comprehensive review of potential wild and scenic rivers in the plan. Candidates: upper San Gabriel River (West, East and North forks), Little Rock Creek, Big Tujunga Creek, San Francisquito Creek, Elizabeth Lake Canyon, Piru.

*Recommend for Wilderness: roadless areas - Salt Creek, Fish Canyon, Tule, Red Mountain, Magic Mountain (corridor or close new road bisecting area from North FS boundary to Hydrant Heliport; purchase private property or provide access from Hydrant/Heliport along 3N17) Strawberry, Pleasant Veiw, West Fork, Cucamonga, Sheep Mtn Addition (adjoining West, South and Southwest borders of existing)

*Recommend for Wilderness - Condor Peak Area (presently managed as Semi-primitive non-motorized and motorized - '87 R.O.S. Map, Preferred Plan) area bordered by Mendenhall Ridge Road to the north between Mendenhall Peak and 3N17, western border 3N27 (powerline corridor), South border runs along north and west shoreline Big Tujunga Reservoir, border moves West along northern side of Big Tujunga Canyon Road, moves north at 3N29 and follows (excludes), adjoins at Mendenhall peak excluding private property.

*Recommend for Wilderness - Pine Mtn, Silver Mtn, Fish and Roberts Canyon, Brown's Gulch area (presently managed as Semi-primitive non-motorized and motorized - '87 R.O.S. Map, Preferred Plan)

*Conserve all rare and declining forest habitats such as montane meadows, oak woodlands and old growth forests.

*In order to promote forest ecosystem health, prioritize low impact activities over all other activities.

Thank you for your interest and action regarding this important issue.

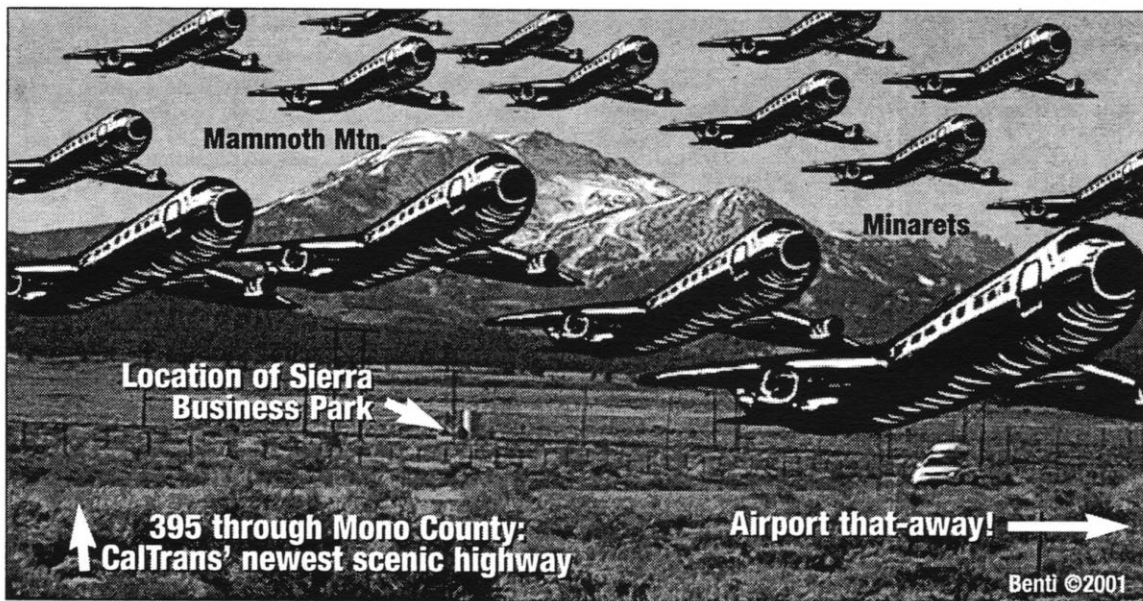
Tim Allyn
Sierra Club, Regional Organizer- California Wild Heritage Campaign
ph: 213 387-6528 x202 email: tim.allyn@sierraclub.org

Walk the forest, enjoy the forest, protect the forest.
www.californiawild.org

Welcome to CalTrans' newest scenic highway: Industrial parks & 1,700 Boeings per day

The Mammoth Yosemite Airport Expansion Project proposes widening runways from 50 to 150 feet to accommodate 1,700 projected Boeing 757 and 737 takeoffs and landings per day.

California Attorney General requests FAA to withdraw its "Finding of No Environmental Impact"



The FAA doesn't think 1,700 landings per day by Boeing 757's and 737's (from Dallas/Ft. Worth and Chicago's O'Hare) will have any environmental impact. Despite its own scenic highway designation of 395 through Mono County, F. Katy Walton, CalTrans Division Chief in Bishop said in a letter dated 2/20/01, "CalTrans does not take a position on the appropriateness of land use."

When money talks, the environment walks.

On December 13, the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved the Sierra Business Park, a "light" industrial park to be developed on the site of a mineral-exhausted 37-acre gravel pit located within the safety zone of the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport at the intersection of Highway 395 and Hot Creek Road. Ironically, CalTrans published an article in its December magazine that officially christened Hwy. 395 through Mono County, *California's newest scenic highway*. The industrial park violates Mono County's own General Plan which states: "The Airport Safety Zone shall be kept free of all unrelated airport land uses... No industrial land uses shall be permitted." (II-97 Land Use Element 2000)

The Sierra Business Park will be subdivided into 35 lots each with its own septic tank, a total of 8,750 gallons. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, in Victorville is reviewing the project. Because of the 8,750 septic gallons and the "light manufacturing" designation, there is concern about potential groundwater contamination from the disposal of solvents in septic systems and on-site. Unlike sewage treatment ponds, septic tanks offer no protection to groundwater or soil from illegally

dumped solvents. Cleanup of contaminated sites is expensive with studies starting at \$50,000. Few small businesses in Mono or Inyo Counties can pay for environmental remedies as evidenced by the many gas stations that went out of business in 1999, unable to afford tank upgrades as required by law. Today, 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 June Lake-ians support an industrial park so far away from their community with seemingly little direct benefit? Was the Sierra Business Park put before the public as a distraction from what was happening several hundred feet across the highway? While the public's attention was focused on the Sierra Business Park controversy on December 13, the Town of Mammoth Lakes quietly submitted its Mammoth/Yosemite Airport EA to the Federal Aviation Administration on December 14. Shortly thereafter, the FAA signed off on the FONSI—Finding of No Significant Impact.

On February 22, the California Attorney General's office wrote a letter to Elisha Novak at the FAA. The following are highlights from that letter:

"...This expansion project will bring commercial jet service (757's from Dallas/Fort Worth and O'Hare International Airports) to Mammoth Yosemite Airport... We have significant concerns about the adequacy of these important environmental documents under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We therefore request that the FAA withdraw the FONSI and Final EA and cure the defects identified in this letter... further, even if the FAA does not withdraw the FONSI and EA, the FONSI must be circulated for public review before the FAA makes a final determination whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required for this project...

...The EA and FONSI Do Not Adequately Disclose that, in Terms of Projected Passenger Use and Commercial Air Service, this Project has Expanded Significantly Over Time...

...In 1986, passenger enplanements were projected to be 20,000 per year by 2007. In 1997, the enplanement projection rose to 125,000 in 2015. In the most recent EA, enplanements are projected to be 287,500 in 2017 and 333,800 in 2022. The EA predicts that 900 Boeing 757 take-offs and landings per day, 800 Boeing 737 take-offs and landings per day, and an assortment of other, smaller aircraft will serve the projected passengers of 2022. The EA and FONSI do not, however, make clear that in terms of projected passengers and service, the Airport project has grown significantly since 1986. Rather, the EA implies that the project has been reduced in scope, stressing that the project no longer includes a crosswind runway, golf course, or 9,000 foot runway...

... The failure of the FONSI and EA to highlight that the service capabilities and projected use of the Airport have grown substantially over the last 14 years undermines the purposes of NEPA. NEPA requires agencies to "emphasize real environmental issues" so that the public can understand, and decision makers can use, the required environmental documents. 40 C.F.R. § 1500.2(b). In this case, the "real environmental issues" extend far beyond mere land disturbance; as discussed below, this project has the potential to profoundly and permanently affect the regions' natural resources. Further, NEPA is designed to "encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisions which affect the quality of the human environment."

...In the October 2000 draft EA, the Project Applicant asserted that it had "to date uncovered no significant environmental impacts caused by the expansion of the Airport that could not be satisfactorily mitigated." The California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) expressly took issue with this finding, stating that "the proposed project has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and as such NEPA requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared." (Letter from Darrell M. Wong, DF&G, to William Manning, Airport Manager (11/14/00) p. 2.)...

...In support of its position that an EIS was required, DF&G provided detailed comments, discussing potential impacts to air quality, adjacent U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") lands, and water quality, and the threat of bird strikes, impacts to species with habitat in the immediate area (such as the sage grouse, mule deer, and area raptors, including the bald eagle), and cumulative impacts. DF&G cited literature, studies, and specific sections of the draft EA in support of its argument that impacts were possible and an EIS was required. DF&G also noted that the

draft EA failed even to mention the Owens tui chub, a federal and state-listed endangered species located in the vicinity of the project, and recommended that consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service...

...The BLM...commented that its "review of the document has raised concerns regarding the potential for off-site impacts to adjacent public lands and resources," noting that the area "is known for its significant wildlife and recreation values." (Letter from Steve Addington, BLM, to William Manning, Airport Manager (1/14/00).) BLM stated that the draft EA was "deficient" in "assessing potential impacts to those values" and in "identify[ing] appropriate measures to mitigate impacts to those values." (Id.) The University of California's Sierra Nevada Research Laboratory ("SNARL"), located only one-half mile from the runway, also commented, echoing many of the concerns raised by DF&G, and pointing out that the noise analysis in the draft EA failed to assess the impact of jet noise on the SNARL facility. (Letter from Daniel R. Dawson, SNARL, to William Manning, Airport Manager (11/14/00).) And the California Department of Transportation noted that before the FAA could legitimately conclude that there would be no adverse impacts to traffic on U.S. 395, a thorough traffic intersection operation study was required. (Letter from Carolyn Yee, Caltrans, to William Manning, Airport Manager (11/14/00)...)...

... Notwithstanding the substantial objections and concerns of numerous state and federal agencies – agencies having relevant expertise and responsibilities concerning the area's resources – the Project Applicant submitted a final EA on December 14, 2000, and the FAA thereafter signed a FONSI... the final EA fails to address substantively the numerous, detailed question raised by the agencies. NEPA requires a federal agency such as the FAA to prepare a detailed EIS for all major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C). "Human environment" is defined "comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.14. While an agency may avoid preparation of an EIS where there is no evidence that the project will have significant effects on the human environment, see 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C), such a decision is supportable only where the agency has taken a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of the action and its decision is "fully informed and well-considered."

What can we do? Before completing consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on the airport's impact on listed species, the FAA adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact on the airport project, despite objections from USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Game. The FONSI was not circulated for public comment or noticed in the Federal Register, few people even knew about the project and as a result the FAA received little input from anyone, including environmental organizations.

Action ASAP: Write to the FAA (cc: CA Attorney General) and object to the FAA's lack of compliance with NEPA and the EA. Request that the FAA withdraw the FONSI and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be reviewed by the Public.

Address your letter to: Elisha Novak, FAA, 831 Mitten Road, Burlingame CA 94818-1301, FAX (650) 876-2733

cc: Janill Richards, Deputy Attorney General
State of California, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

More info: To see a full copy of California Attorney General's letter to the FAA online visit Hwy6.com/FAA.htm – Wynne Benti, Toiyabe Chapter

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