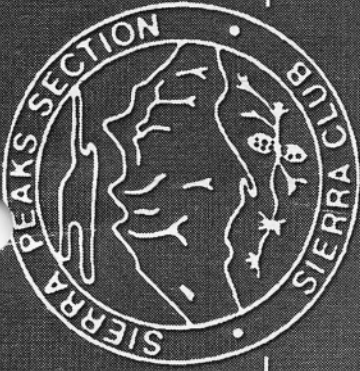


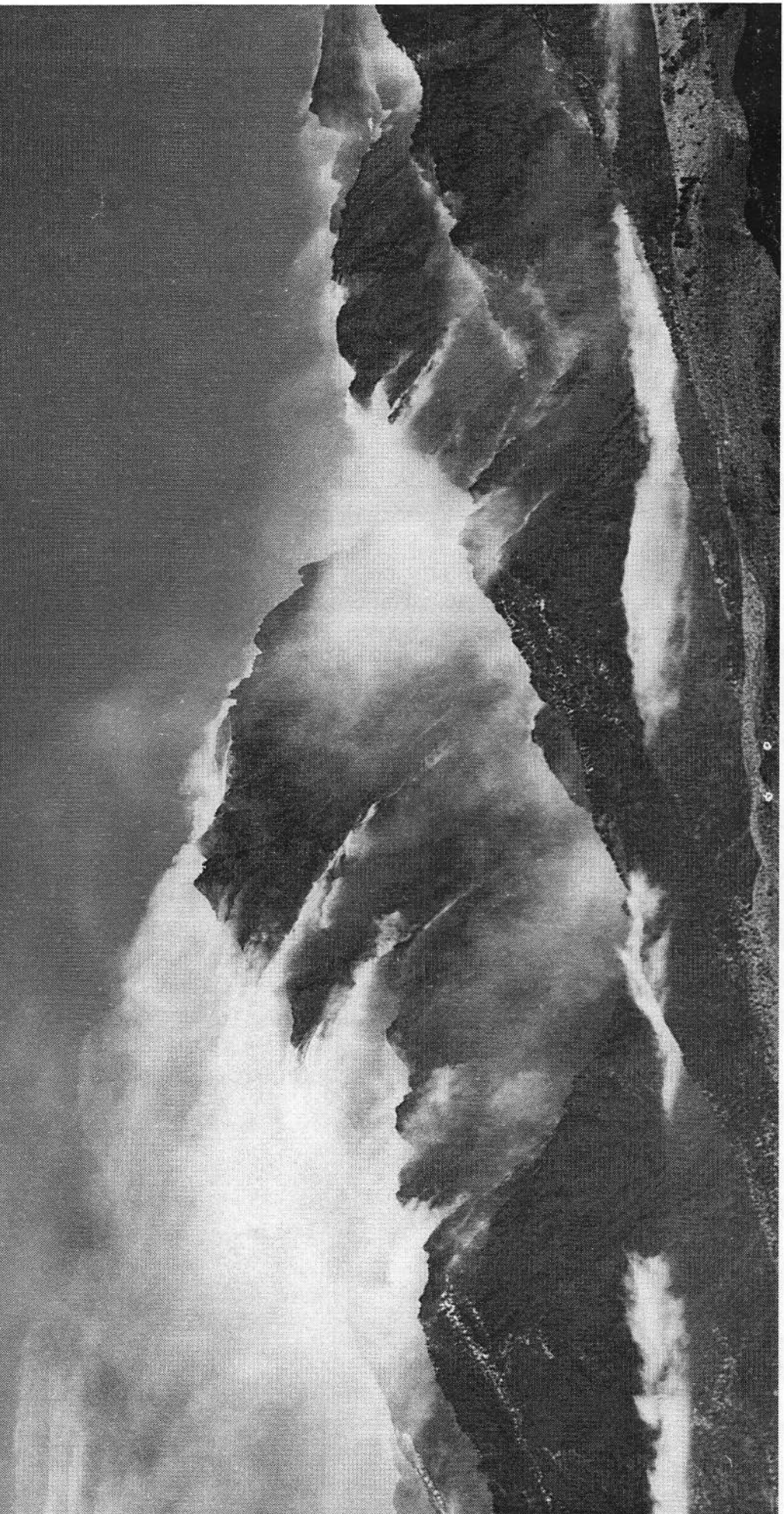
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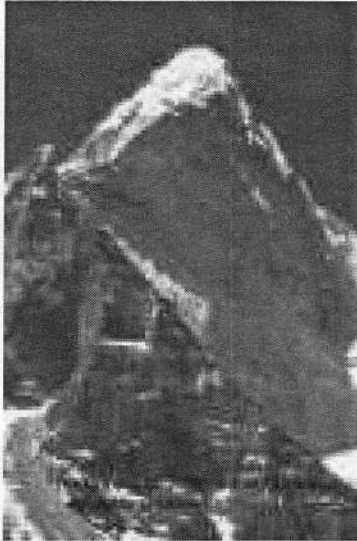
VOLUME 45 NUMBER 6



ECHO

DECEMBER 2001 - JANUARY 2002





SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SPS 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 SC meeting).

February 13 - Wednesday - SPS, HPS, DPS 7th Annual Joint Climbing Sections Meeting. Doug Mantle will present a program on his climb to the classic obelisk peak, Ama Dablam. The peak at a height of 22,496'

is located in the Kumbu region of the Himalayas in Nepal. Situated South of Everest and Lhotse. Ama Dablam was first climbed in 1961 by Mike Gill, Barry Bishop, Mike Ward, Wally Romanes. And by our famous SPS member, Doug in 2001. The Mountain's name means *Mother and her Necklace*. It is considered one of the most beautiful summits in the Himalayas. The Joint meeting will be held at the SPS meeting site -DWP.

March 13 - Wednesday - Jeff Moran Altadena Mountain Rescue. Jeff will talk on mountain safety and group rescue. We will learn the importance of group dynamics in rescue.

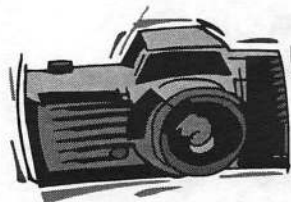
April 10 - Wednesday - To Be Announced

LTC - Mountaineering Leadership Course

The Angeles Chapter is Offering a Mountaineering Leadership Course in spring 2002 for people seeking advanced leadership ratings. The four-weekend class costs \$100 and covers basics of leading groups over rock and snow with ropes, ice ax and other protective gear. For information visit the Leadership Training Committee Web site (www.angeleschapter.org/ltc) or send a SASE to MLC coordinator Ron Campbell, 21432 Dockside Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Apply by March 31st.

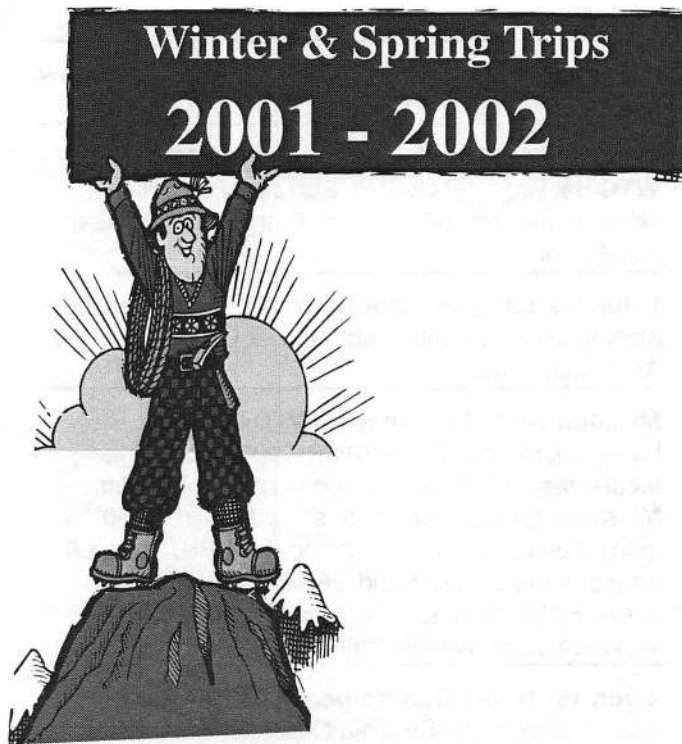
Peak List

Mt. Francis Farquhar
The Sphinx
Hocket Peak
Kid Mtn.
The Miter
Tunemah
Finger
Reinstein
Henry



Front Cover

Clouds on Mt. Ritter
Photographer - Tom Ross



Winter & Spring Trips 2001 - 2002

JANUARY

O: Jan. 12 SAT Natural Science Section Winter Butterfly Observing. Observe over-wintering Monarch butterflies near Goleta and then drive to Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. Bring water, lunch and entrance fee for Gardens. Serious rain cancels. Meet 8 a.m. at Woodland Hills carpool point. Ldr. Keith Martin, Asst. Jim Murphy

FEBRUARY

M/E: Feb 2 Sat LTC/SPS/DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice: We will review all aspects of snow climbing, rope travel, use of the ice axe and snow anchors. For aspiring M & E candidates, and those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs. w/ prior basic training. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE w/ e-mail address, SC#, resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-ldr: Tina Bowman.

M/E: Feb 16 Sat LTC/SPS/DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice: See Feb. 2 description of trip. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE w/ e-mail address, SC#, resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-ldr: Dan Richter.

Feb 23 Sat Sierra Club Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony: Francis P. Farquhar Award presentation to Andy Smatko. SPS members Steve Eckert & Ann Kramer are organizing a group to attend. Tickets \$45.00, Gene Coan, Sierra Club, 85 2nd. St., San Francisco 94015, reservationist. This is not an official SPS trip, but it will be fun if members

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.

get together at the banquet to celebrate Andy's achievement. Make your own travel arrangements. Let Ann and Steve know if your are going.

Feb 24 Sun Angeles Chpt. Awards Banquet: Brookside Country Club, Pasadena. Silent Auction. Tickets \$30.00. Cathy Kissinger, 10541 Oro Vista Ave., Sunland, CA 91040 reservationist. Send SASE w/ dinner choice of chicken or veg.entree.

MARCH

C: Mar 2 Sat CPR & 1st Aid. See Chpt. Sched.

O: Mar 9-10 Sat-Sun Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Angeles Chpt. Fund Raiser, island hopping in Channel Islands National Park. See Chpt. Sched.

RM: Mar 17 Sun Mt Baldy (10,064') Snow Climb: Strenuous 3900' gain, 8 miles. Restricted to SC members with ice axe & crampon proficiency. Group size limited. Call ldrs. for reservation & verify of qualifications. Ldr: Don Croley. Co-Ldr: Paul Graff.

O: Mar 23 Swallows Train to San Juan Capistrano: Angeles Chpt. Fund Raiser, See Chpt. Sched.

APRIL

Apr 6 Sat LTC Seminar March 23 sign up deadline

C: Apr 6 Sat CPR & 1st Aid. See Chpt. Sched.

Apr 7 Sun LTC Basic Leadership Training Clinic
Ldrs: Prinzmetal, Richter, McRuer, Courtney

TI: Apr 13 -14 Sat-Sun SMS & SPS Mammoth Mtn, Mt. Wood Ski one day on the lifts, one day in the backcountry. E-Mail exper, address & h/w phones to Co-ledrs: Reiner Stenzel, Erik Siering.

M: Apr 19-21 LTC Mountaineering Leadership Course. Harwood Lodge, Reservationist: Campbell

I: Apr 20-21 Sat-Sun LTC Indian Cove Navigation
Ldrs: Freimanis, Bradshaw

MR: Apr 26-28 Fri-Sun M: Mt Barnard (13,990'), Trojan Pk (13,950'): Classic bushwhack up George Creek. Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Nile Sorenson

April continued

TMR: Apr 27 - May 4 Sat-Sat, SMS & SPS Trans-Sierra Ski Tour. From Taboose to Cedar Grove along the Cirque Crest. Strong skiing abilities and stamina req'd. co-ldrs Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.

RM/E: Apr 27-28 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Snow Checkout Ldrs: Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman

RM: Apr 27-28 Sat-Sun, SMS & SPS, Mt Rixford (12,887'): Sat hike/ski over Kearsarge Pass. Climb Rixford up cl 1 south slope from lake. Restricted Ldr: Scot Jamison. Co Ldr: Larry Tidball

MAY

RM/E: May 4 Sat LTC/SPS Horse Flats Rock Wrkshp/Checkoff Ldrs: Virgil Shields and Darell Lee

C: May 4 Sat CPR & 1st Aid. See Chpt. Sched.

O: May 5 Sun LTC Beginning Nav Clinic Ldrs: D. Dunbar, Creighton

I: May 18-19 Sat-Sun Palos Verdes-South Bay, HPS & SPS Owens Peak (8453') & Pinyon Peak (6805'). Sat moderate 6 mi rt 3100' gain trail and xc to Owens. Hapy hour and carcamp Sat night. Sun modereate 5 mi rt 3100' gain xc to Pinyon. Send SASE, H&W phones, e-mail, recent exper/cond. to Ldr. Bob Beach co-lidr Keith Martin.

TI: May 18-19 Sat-Sun SMS & SPS Dunderberg & Excelsior. Climb/ski two fine SPS peaks in two day trips with Sat car camp. co-ldrs Reiner Stenzel, Randall Danta.

RM: May 18-19 Sat-Sun, Mt Gilbert (13,106') and op. Mt. Johnson (12,871): Mail SASE w/detailed snow climbing exper.to Ldr: Barbee. Tidball Co Ldr: Scot Jamison

May 18 Sat LTC Beginning Nav Class Ldrs.: Prinzmetal, Freimanis, Courtney, Creighton

I: May 19, LTC Grinnell Ridge Navigation Ldrs.: Freimanis, Bradshaw

TM: May 24-27 Fri-Mon SMS & SPS Mt. Brewer Climb and ski an SPS emblem peak over Memorial Day wkd. Cedar Grove to basecamp at Sphinx Lks, day tours to climb/ski Brewer's south face, the North Guard-Brewer cirque and/or slopes of South Guard. 30mi rt, 9,000' gain to summit, cl 3 climbing, black-diamond backcountry skiing. Restrirted. Send exper. phones, e-mail address to Co-ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Alvin Walter.

I: May 31 - Jun 1 Fri - Sat LTC Route Finding & Outing Ldrship Clinic Ldrs.: Prinzmetal, Courtney, Beach

JUNE

RM/E: Jun 1-2 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff Ldrs: Nile Sorenson and Dan Richter

MR: June 1-2 Sat-Sun. Mt Baxter (13,125'): **SPS/WTC** Sat Baxter Pass trail. Sun climb southeast slope to summit and out. Ldr: Patty Rambert, Asst: R.J. Secor.

I: Jun 1-2 Sat-Sun Olancha Peak (12,123'): Moderately strenuous climb of emblem pk Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Maria Roa

MR: Jun 14-16 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC Mt Keith. Fri backpack to Anvil Camp (8 mi, 5000' gain). Spectacular view of Mt. Williamson from trail. Sat climb Mt. Keith, probably on steep snow (5 mi rt, 4000' gain). Sun pack out. Easy going (for SPS). Ice ax & crampon exper. req. Send SASE w/ climbing resume. H&W phones, SC#, email to Ldr. Asher Waxman, asst. Will McWhinney.

I: Jun 15- 16 Sat-Sun Homers Nose: Climb a tough class 1 peak in the Sequoia National Forest, 20 mi rt, 7000' gain. Must be able to bushwhack or mountain bike. Send e-mail, exper., address, h/w phones to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Sara Wyrens.

M: Jun 21-23 Fri-Sun Mt Bradley (13,289'), Center Pk (12,760'): Fri stren. bkpck from Onion Valley over University Pass to Center Basin. Sat xc spring snow climb to climb peaks. Sun hike out. Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Nile Sorenson

O: Jun 21-23 Seattle Train/Fly/Walk weekend Angeles Chpt. Fund Raiser, See Chpt. Sched.

I: Jun 22- 23 Sat-Sun Florence (12,432') Vandever Mtn (11,947'): Mineral King weekend backpack. Sat 5 mi, 2,400' gain to camp and 2,300' 6 mi rt to Florence; community happy hour. Sun bag Vandever and pack out 11.5 mi rt and 2,600' gain. Send e-mail (preferably) or two sase, SC#, H & W phones, recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to: ldr Sara Wyrens. Co-lidr Randall Danta.

MR: Jun 29- Jul 2 Sat-Tues SPS/WTC Mt Brewer (13,570'), North Guard (13,327') South Guard (13,232'). Climb of SPS emblem peak and her sentinels restricted to SC mem. w/ ice ax & crampon exper. Sat hike over Kearsarge Pass to camp at East Lake, 13.5 mi, 3600'gain. Sun climb Brewer then N. Guard, steep snow and exposed clas 3 summit on N. Guard, 6.5 mi, 4725' gain. Mon climb S. Guard, 8.5 mi, 3780' gain. Hike out Tues, 3400' gain on return. Send SASE or email w/ climbing resume of class 3 rock and snow exper. and conditioning, H&W phones, SC#, carpool info.to Ldr. Beth Epstien, Co-lidr. Kim Gimenez.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Dec 20, 2001

Happy New Year! As you read this, it is 2002 and we usher in our 47th season of SPS climbing. The Annual Banquet has also come and gone. Thank-you Barbee, for yet another great job. I hope many members made it to an evening with a memorable program, and a chance to see old friends and make new ones.

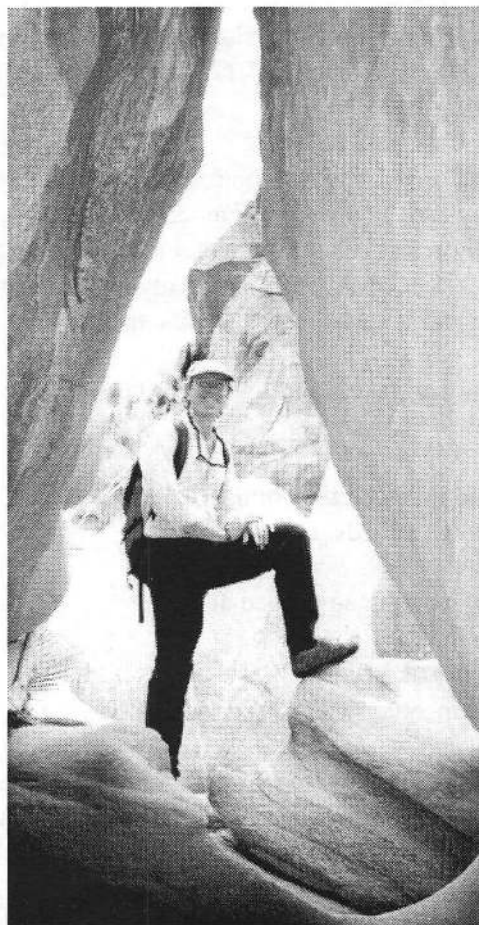
Be sure to attend our next big event, the 7th annual joint peaks section meeting on February 13th. Man, how time has flown since the first one. SPS is hosting again, and welcoming for the first time the Lower Peaks Committee. Doug Mantle will present his ascent of Ama Dablam. If you can only make one meeting this year, catch this one.

Congratulations to the newest SPS List Finishers, Pat and Gerry Holleman. Way to go! They celebrated October 27 with a well-earned and attended party bash in the Southern Sierra on Taylor Dome. See the story and photos in this issue.

Now please welcome the 2002 management committee. It was a strong ballot for the elected positions. Our appreciation to all of the candidates. We have new faces to augment the veterans. Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson and I worked well together last term, and are reprising our roles. Asher Waxman and Joe Wankum are joining us as ViceChair/Outings and Fifth Officer, respectively. I'm excited to again be with one of the strongest and most experienced committees. Most of the management appointees have agreed to return. And Beth Epstein has graciously stepped up to the task of Echo Mailer. Thanks! All members are encouraged to take interest in contributing to the SPS... not everyone has to lead trips. Fresh enthusiasm is our section's lifeblood.

The immediate goal for this year is to increase outreach to new members, both to sustain our membership and to invigorate our activities with new people and ideas. To that end, let's solicit more intro and joint section Sierra climbs. We just presented SPS outings to the Spring schedule (lots of good ones), but there is still time to submit Spring/Summer trips for listing in the Echo and Southern Sierran newsletters. Contact Asher asap.

Cheers,
Erik Siering/SPS Chair 2002



Oct. 10, 2001

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

Minutes taken by Erik Siering

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

Management Committee Meeting

Attended by: Erik Siering, Ron Hudson, Maria Roa, Patty Kline, and Ann Kramer

The meeting began at 6:35 P.M.

Review of the September 12 meeting minutes was deferred (a copy was not available).

Confirmed that the SPS safety committee has written an article on SPS helmet policy for the next issue of the Echo.

Ron mentioned that trip write-ups for next spring are due to him by November 2 for committee review on November 12.

Maria gave a membership/treasurer's report. We have 196 members, \$3,178 in checking, and \$547 in savings.

Patty gave an update on programs. Possibilities for May and June were discussed. Sid "San Jac" Davis will present his program on his climbs of San Jacinto Peak at the May meeting. Patty will contact a suggested speaker for the June meeting.

Banquet tickets and flyers will be available at the November meeting.

Ann reviewed the nomination process for Chapter outings awards.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.

General Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Erik Siering.

Erik brought the meeting to order. DWP has instituted additional visitor sign-in measures. Approximately twenty people attended this month's meeting.

Ron gave a report on outings. He mentioned that trip write-ups for spring trips should be forwarded to him by November 2. He also reviewed recent trips.

Erik introduced Reiner Stenzel, who presented an engrossing slide show on ski mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere. It was further unique in that it was entirely PC-based. Our thanks to Maria Roa for providing the laptop computer and projector. Reiner also brought several of his backcountry skis for demonstration.

At the close of the meeting, it was announced that Pat & Gerry Holleman's SPS list finish would be Oct 27 on Taylor Dome. Details of this private trip were forthcoming.

November 14, 2001

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

Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee Meeting

Attended by: Erik Siering, Ron Hudson, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, Matthias Selke, Duane McRuer, and Barbee Tidball.

The meeting began at 6:45 P.M.

The minutes of the September and October meetings were read and approved.

Ron presented SPS trips for the next schedule to be reviewed by the Management Committee. They were approved.

Maria presented a Treasurer's report. We Have \$3,709 in checking and \$402 in savings. She also gave a membership update. The SPS membership remains unchanged at 196.

SPS programs through June of 2002 were reviewed and approved by the Management Committee for publication in the next chapter schedule.

Barbee gave committee members tickets and publicity flyers for the upcoming SPS banquet, with instructions to go out and sell, sell, sell.

Duane described the Safety Committee's recommendations for helmet use policy on SPS trips. Details can be found in the October-November issue of The Echo.

Matthew reported on his visit to the Orange County Sierra Singles, to represent the SPS at their annual new members' meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Erik Siering.

Erik first introduced fellow recent list finishers Pat and Gerry Holleman, and congratulated them on thier accomplishment.

Ron reviewed completed SPS outings.

Barbee gave a banquet update. Apparently she and Erik have sampled the food to be served, and they found it quite good. She has also seen Dave Sholle's Kilimanjaro presentation, and reports that it is excellent. Barbee also alerted SPS members about several environmental issues. She told of a ruling regarding reductions in special use permits for horse packers in the Sierra Nevada, and gave an update on the status of the environmental impact report for the proposed expansion of the Mammoth air port.

Erik recommended the upcoming Ski Mountaineers meeting program, which will be on the subject of avalanche safety.

Erik introduced Greg Roach, who presented an excellent program about his favorite climbs in the Sierra Navada.

**Sierra Peaks Section
Mountain Records**

We had another good season for placing register books on our listed peaks. Thanks to all who helped out with reports and placing books and containers. The rubber gasket of the box on Pilot Knob north has been repaired. Ron Hudson placed a book on Red Slate, Matthew and Anne-Marie Richardson took an ammo box and book to Lone Pine, R. J. Secor left a book on Lyle, and Greg Vernon placed ammo boxes and books on Owens and Three Sisters. I put books on Sill and Silliman. Keep those reports coming—thanks!

December 12, 2001

Tina Bowman, Mountain Records Chair

**OUTINGS
REPRESENTATIVE LEADS
IN VOTING FOR 2002
CHAPTER EX-COM**

November 27, 2001

Results of ballot count,

Angeles Chapter - Executive Committee Election

Following are the results of this year's election. The first five (5) candidates have been elected to serve two-year terms on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee beginning January 1, 2002.

- 1. Virgil Shields 940**
- 2. Susana Reyes 885**
- 3. Gordon LaBedz 763**
- 4. Gary Embrey 570**
- 5. Paul Arms 551**
- 6. Al Sattler 526
- 7. Garen Yegparian 524
- 8. Bruce Monroe 506
- 9. Don May 503

SPS Membership Report

New Member - Welcome!

John Bees
(former subscriber now a full member!)

SPS Address Changes

Diann Fried
4240 Lost Hills Rd. # 1108
Calabasas, CA 91301-5348
818-880-4094

Jane McMahon
88 Parrell Avenue
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
949-837-1250H
949-495-0050 or 949-589-6935W
jmcMahon@cusd.k12.ca.us

Mary Sue Miller
4899 North Bonita Ridge Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85750-6256
520-529-4619, marysueok@earthlink.net

Sid 'San Jac' Davis
36411 Royal Sage Court
Palm Desert, CA 92211
760-772-3443

Wayne Martin
246 West Manson Hwy. #197
Chelan, WA 98816
877-283-3551
waynesue85@yahoo.com

Bill Heusel
1056 N.E. 117th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97220

Accomplishments - Congratulations!

Elena Sherman
Emblem, 7/13/01 (on Mt. Williamson)

Ron Norton
Emblem, 5/27/01 (on Mt. Williamson)

Carol Snyder
Senior Emblem

Gerry Holleman
Pat Holleman
List Finishers 9/29/01
(on Taylor Dome)



BOOK REVIEW: CLOSE UPS OF THE HIGH SIERRA, BY NORMAN CLYDE,
(1998: Spotted Dog Press, Bishop, California: Edited & Designed by Wynne Benti)

A Reflected Glory - Reviewed by: Steve Thaw

Originally published in 1962 and republished in 1966, and 1976, *Close Ups of the High Sierra* includes a collection of Norman Clyde's articles and photos of and by Clyde, *Summit Magazine*, Walt Wheelock, Tom Ross, Parker Severson, U.S. Navy, and the Clyde file.

In the new edition, the portrait photo of Norman is omitted. Photos of Clyde rappelling, holding of his ice ax, and a profile during a Sierra Club recognition function are not included. The interview by *Summit Magazine* regarding the search for and recovery of Walter Starr Jr. is also not included.

The new version incorporates more Clyde photos and articles, but leaves out such exciting true stories as the ascent of Mt. Cleveland in Glacier National Park, Skiing to Sierra Summits, Climbing the Grand Teton, Scaling Bear Creek Spire, and Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada. Instead, this new edition contains photos injected by others like the glossy cover which minimalizes an original Clyde photo. Why? Why substitute Norman Clyde with another's glossy. Does the reader need these intrusions or just Norman Clyde himself?!

This "classic" is polluted by those seeking "Reflected Glory" by attaching themselves for notoriety. If they are so great, then why don't they publish their own "classics"?! Is nothing sacred?! I have enjoyed my own original editions of *Close ups of the High Sierra*, a signed Norman Clyde of the Sierra Nevada, and several articles.

I have some basis for my feelings toward this new edition. My heart is hopeful that the editor had the best of intentions and appreciates her efforts in bringing Norman Clyde to the reader.

However, I am dismayed with the intrusions of non-Clyde photos, and the omission of Clyde photos and articles. Norman could always stand on his own two feet and reflect his own Glory. Can't we all?!

Mt. Francis Farquhar
(12,893')
&
The Sphinx (9,143')

By Larry Tidball
 October 5-7, 2001

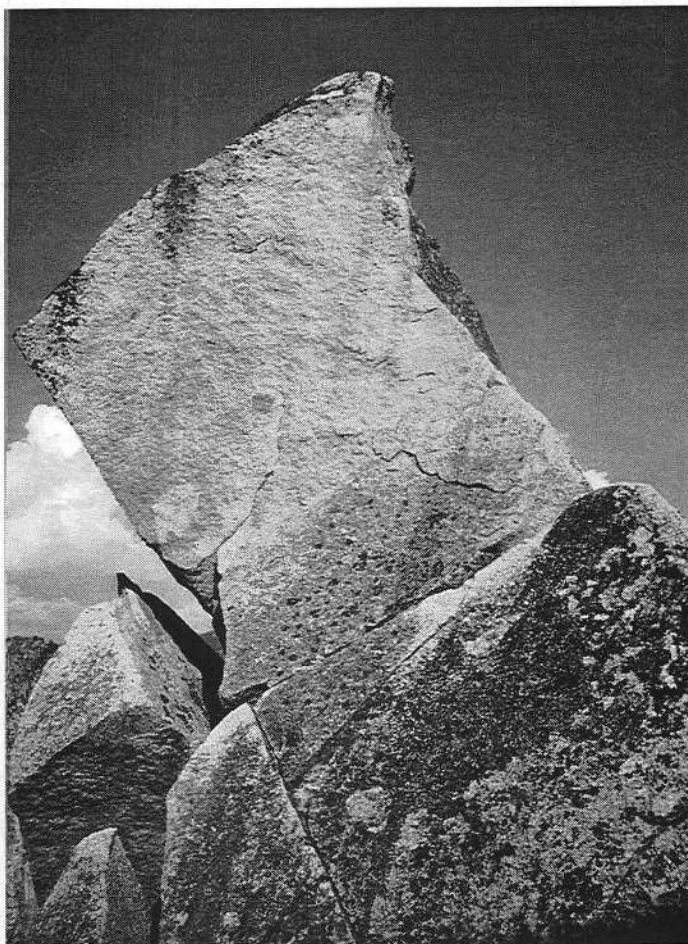
Bill Oliver and I had planned to lead these interesting looking, but unlisted peaks. We had discussed this some years ago when we lead North and South Guard and Brewer, and had passed below unlisted summits. Unfortunately Bill had a last minute work obligation and could not make the trip. Fortunately another E rated leader had signed up, and R.J. Secor agreed to act as the second leader.

The Sphinx is a prominent rock outcropping high on the south rim of Kings Canyon where Bubbs Creek joins the South Fork of the Kings. This formation is visible from the parking lot at "roads end". We met there at 6:30 Friday morning for the hike up Bubbs Creek and the Sphinx Creek drainage. A self-issue permit was obtained at the kiosk. Participants included Will McWhinney, Erik Siering, Craig Connally, and Greg Vernon. On meeting Greg in the parking lot, he informed us that he had climbed The Sphinx many years earlier. Although he had no clear recollections of the route, he thought it would go smoothly enough that we could climb the peak the same day we hiked in. With this encouragement we began our hike up Bubbs Creek, in sweltering heat and humidity for so early on an autumn morning. Along the way numerous view of The Sphinx are available from different angles as the trail switch-backs up through the trees. No matter what view we had, we hoped the route was on an easier, hidden side.

In planning the trip, the leaders had reviewed guidebooks by, Vogue, Smatko, Roper and Secor. Bill had also found one trip report on a climbing archive. All reports seemed to have different routes, or different descriptions of the same route. Nothing

was clear, and we had come prepared with 2 ropes and a sierra sized rack. As RJ said: " what is known about the route on The Sphinx is lies, rumors, hearsay, and speculation." The original plan for the trip was to pack in Friday, climb Saturday and Sunday, and also pack out Sunday. With Greg's vague recollections that it was not too bad, we now hoped to climb The Sphinx the first day to make Sunday easier.

After a brief pause at the Bubbs Creek, Avalanche Pass trail junction, we headed up the trail above Sphinx Creek. We made camp on the West side of Sphinx creek where the Avalanche Pass trail departs the creek. After quickly establishing camp



Granite blocks on the route to the summit - The Sphinx

we donned daypacks and carrying the ropes, continued up the Avalanche Pass trail to a point just South of point 9721'. From here Greg left us to go climb Palmer Mountain, and the rest of us headed North bypassing point 9721'. From here we followed the

ridge 600' downwards to the first rocky dome of the higher Sphinx summit. From this summit we could see down into the notch separating us from the "nose" of The Sphinx. From here we could see the register cairn on top of the overhanging summit rocks.

Previous descriptions were fairly uniform about the approach down to the notch being on smooth lichen covered slabs. Since a slip looked like it would deposit you at the junction of Bubbs creek and the Kings River 4000' feet below we decided to rappel into the notch. I went first on a double rope rappel and found that 120' of rope was just enough reach the notch. Part way down, I rigged a sling to give a directional anchor to keep everyone on a direct line to the notch. Otherwise you could end up "hanging out" some distance away from where you wanted to go. Since the lichen covered slabs did not look all that appealing to lead up in mountain boots, we decided to leave one rope behind to safeguard our return.

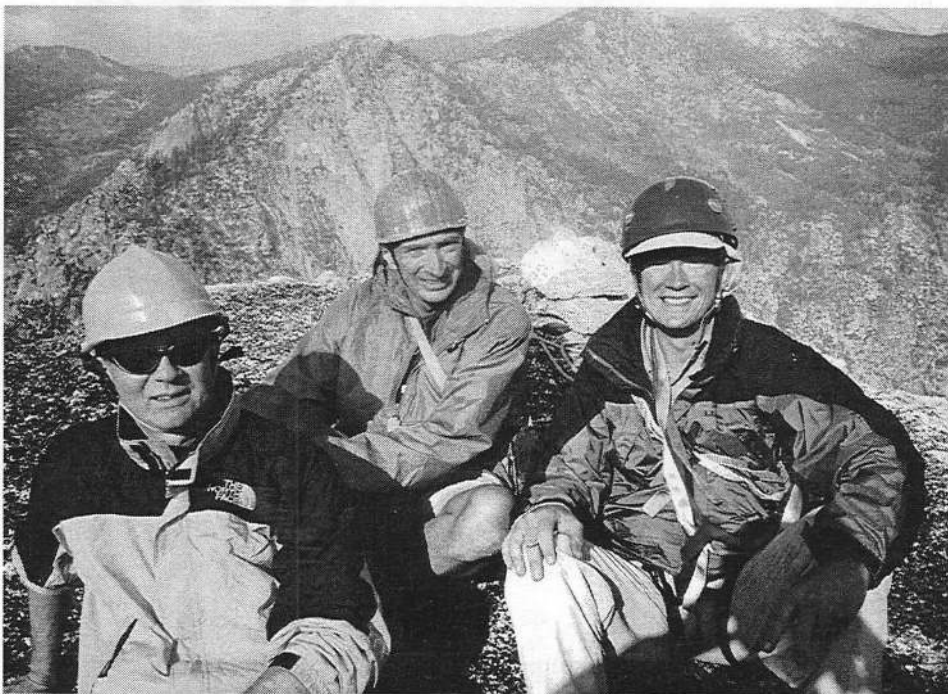
While the others were descending I looked at our options. The East face of the peak (to the right) looked moderately angled, with some vegetation. But getting onto this would require descending the gully and climbing up to reach the broken terrain. I

was worried that if we went this way, the climb to return to the notch could be difficult, as it looked somewhat overhanging. However, from the notch a ledge lead around the corner of the West face. Upon exploring this I found that it went easily (3rd class). Erik decided to wait back at the higher summit. So now RJ, Will, Craig and I followed this 3rd class ledge out onto the vertical North Face of the peak. At the end of the ledge an 8' step was climbed using a crack. This took us to a platform, from which there was no easy exit. One option with 2 cracks on a face lead up to a horizontal ledge, but the overhang above did not offer handholds. To the far end of the platform, a small vertical crack led up to a hole beneath an overhanging block. With a shoulder stand assist to get started, I climbed up the hole to find that it was too small to fit through. While I hung out there, I placed a small stopper, and decided to go down for a rest before trying the overhang above the hole.

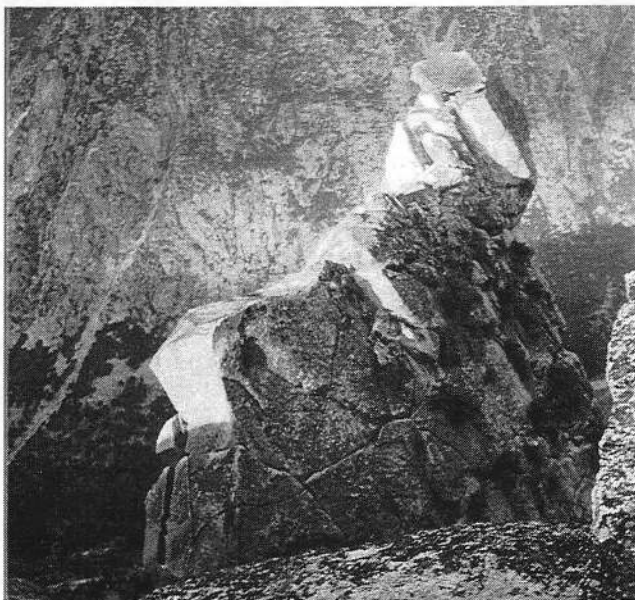
Back down at the platform, Will offered to give the overhang a try. With the use of RJ's shoulder and the security of the upper piece of protection, Will was able to pull up on the big holds at the lip of the overhang and "mantle" onto the top of the block. Will then set an upper anchor, and belayed each of us

up this 15-20' difficulty. We guess the moves might be in the 5.5-5.6 range. From Will's belay point it was a short easy 3rd class scramble up the final ridge to the to the overhanging summit. A glass jar held a spiral notebook placed by Gordon MacLeod in 1974. Only a handful of climbers had signed in since then.

With the short autumn days and clouds gathering we did not spend very long on the summit. We rappelled down the difficult pitch to the ledge, and walked back to the notch. From here Erik was able to give an upper belay. Each of us trailed the



Craig Connally, R.J. Secor, and Will McWhinney on The Sphinx



Summit - The Sphinx

second rope so it could be pulled back down to the notch for the next person. A quick hike back over the wooded summit of 9721' and down the trail got us back to camp just at dusk. Greg was back sooner, and had a campfire going to welcome us. Happy hour and dinner around the campfire followed. Stats: (about 5,300' of gain, 11 miles.)

Saturday we were up and off by 7:00 AM to head for Mt. Francis Farquhar. We (mostly) followed a use trail on the West side of Sphinx Creek to a small lake just below the big Sphinx Lakes. From here slabs to the left side of the drainage are easier than the talus to the right. Since Greg and RJ planned on staying in to climb "the guards" they dropped their packs at the nice campsite at the lower end of the upper lake. From here the very attractive summit of Farquhar is visible. A large notch breaks the Northwest Ridge just below the summit. A smaller notch splits that actual summit. We headed towards the South ridge, by crossing the outlet of the upper lake and heading directly up the slopes of the

small ridge leading to lake 11,010. From here several chutes appeared to lead to the ridge south of the summit. We weren't close enough to tell if they would "go". However, an easier looking ramp was visible leader to a lower notch a little further south. We headed up easy talus to this ramp and up to the notch. From here good talus on the SE slopes leads to the summit area.

At the end of the talus slope is a false summit separated from the true summit by a small notch. This lower summit has a register box from the Sierra Register Committee with a book containing a brief biography of Francis Farquhar, and sign-ins from family members. Since this register was placed in 1990 only a few people have climbed to this point. Since it was past lunch-time, we had a bit to eat before we heading over to the summit spire. (This is not a summit you can eat lunch on!) A drop to the East side and slightly lower than the notch lead to an 3rd class climb up and around to reach the register set amongst the rock as the base of the summit monolith. We took turns reaching up and touching the summit. The register had been placed by Greg (complete with NAWs, China Lake stickers) 22 years prior. Even fewer parties had signed in at this summit than had climbed the lower more accessible one.

After enjoying the great view, we retraced our steps to the lakes were we said goodbye to RJ and Greg. Since the remainder of the trip was "I" rated I could have Will and Erik assist on the hike out. We returned back to camp and had another campfire. Round trip from our camp 9 miles, 4200' of gain. Sunday we hiked out and had a leisurely drive home.

Farquhar would make a great addition to the list. It enjoys stunning views to the North, East, West, and Southwest. The view directly south is blocked by the North face of North Guard. This is an enjoyable climb. We had a great trip in fantastic fall weather, and enjoyed the solitude of the mountains that occurs in October.

VISION QUEST 2001

By R.J. Secor

I call my long, week-after-week hikes in the High Sierra "Vision Quest." Suzanne Mamedalin coined this name, after an 18-day hike I took from Bishop Pass to Cottonwood Pass. I remember sitting next to a campfire in the darkest part of Rock Creek over that 4th of July weekend when she muttered the words, "Vision Quest." And then she giggled and said, "VQ."

My last VQ was in 1997 and I was unable to make another one until this year. VQ '01 was from Tuolumne Meadows to Whitney Portal, generally following the John Muir Trail (JMT), but with some significant side trips for peak bagging and to resupply. I scheduled an SPS exploratory trip to Kuna (& Koip), Hoffman and Tuolumne Peak over July 7-8, 2001, with the ulterior motive of getting someone to pick me up at Whitney Portal and drive me to Tuolumne Meadows. Ben Stein was the first to volunteer (Thanks Ben!) The week before VQ I shipped 17-days of food with some rock climbing gear to Reiner Stenzel to be picked-up from him at South Lake at the start of the SCMA trip to Disappointment Peak.

7 Jul 01: It rained all of Friday night and for most of Saturday morning. My assistant leader, Erik Siering, had been in the Sierra for the past week dodging rain drops and he wasn't about to do a 16-mile, 4,600' of gain exploratory hike in those conditions, especially with a group of SPS rookies. As there was no other qualified leader present, I canceled the trip. And it was a good thing I did, because Tuolumne Meadows recorded 2" of rain *in one hour* on that day. I thought that the Lord had forsaken the Rainbow Covenant, for a brief time. Gary Schenk had never visited Yosemite, so he received a VIP tour by yours truly.

8 Jul 01: John Eng met Gary and me at the May Lake trailhead on Sunday and we made a routine climb of Hoffman and Tuolumne, with no rain at all. Tuolumne and Hoffman should be on The List; the SPS doesn't have any peaks in the May Lake area. Gary drove me back to Tuolumne Meadows campground and I spent the night in the hiker's area. There was a rain shower that night, right in the middle of the campfire program.

Day 1, 9 Jul 01: Hiked from Tuolumne Meadows to Rush Creek. There was a brief two-hour shower encountered on the climb of Donohue Pass. This was the last significant rain experienced on VQ. 14.8 mi, +2,600', -1,500'.

Day 2, 10 Jul 01: Climbed Rodgers Peak via Clinch Pass, returned via north face. 11.1 mi, +5,000', -4,500'.

Day 3, 11 Jul 01: Rush Creek to Agnew Meadows, took the bus to Red's Meadow. 10.8 mi, +1,300'; -2,900'.

Day 4, 12 Jul 01: Red's Meadow to Lake Virginia. 17.0 mi, +4,500', -1,800'.

Day 5, Friday the 13th Jul 01: Up Fish Creek to Pace Col (aka Grinnell Pass), climbed Red and White Mtn., camped near Laurel Lake. 9.1 mi, +3,800', -3,800'.

Day 6, 14 Jul 01: Tried to ford Mono Creek, but it was too deep and swift for me by myself. Hiked JMT to junction of Bear Ridge Trail. 14.7 mi, +3,200', -3,700'.

Day 7, 15 Jul 01: Hiked to Lake Italy, climbed Hilgard. 10.4 mi, +4,300', -2,900'.

Day 8, 16 Jul 01: Climbed Julius Caesar, crossed Dancing Bear Pass to Seven Gables Lakes. 6.9 mi, +2,500', -2,700'.

Day 9, 17 Jul 01: A "rest" day. Climbed Seven Gables and Gemini. 4.2 mi, +3,200', -3,200'.

Day 10, 18 Jul 01: Crossed Ruskie Pass, climbed Royce and Merriam, camp near Hutchinson Meadow. 10.4 mi, +4,300', -5,600'.

Day 11, 19 Jul 01: Climbed Pilot Knob, hiked to North Lake. 14.3 mi, +3,900', -4,200'. John Wedberg picked me up, gave me a tuna fish sandwich and a big Coca-Cola, and drove me to South Lake where I met Reiner Stenzel, Greg Vernon, Patty

Rambert, and Ron Hudson (Thanks John!). Reiner gave me a big vanilla milkshake, a quart of Coleman fuel, my helmet with some rock climbing gear and my 17 days of food.

Day 12, 20 Jul 01: Hiked over Bishop Pass to LeConte Canyon. It was nice to have some people upset my hiking pace. Stopped at LeConte Canyon Ranger Station and deposited 8 days of food in the bear barrel. Camped at Grouse Meadow. 12.6 mi, +2,500', -4,000'.

Day 13, 21 Jul 01: An interesting day. Hiked to Palisade Lakes, I assumed that Reiner was ahead of me, but in reality he was behind me. Between the lakes I encountered five llamas and three women. One of them asked me, "Do you have any asthma medicine?" Nope. "Do you have a cell phone?" I did and she asked me to call her friend in Bishop who would get her medicine from her doctor; her friend would then hike up Taboose Pass and deliver the medicine to her. I was skeptical of this, but I gave it the old college try. I left my pack with them, asked them to tell Reiner what I was doing, and proceeded up towards Middle Palisade to gain enough elevation to make contact. She gave me the wrong telephone number, so I called Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) dispatch. The dispatcher asked me if the victim was lucid and I told him that she had given me a wrong number. He connected me with Debbie Brenchley, the Sierra Crest/Kings Canyon District Ranger. I told her the story, stressed that it was not yet an emergency, but urgent, and she said she would try to call the friend and doctor in Bishop. I returned to the women and learned that Reiner, Greg, Ron, nor Patty had not appeared. So I did what lonely men do in such a situation: I dined with them and spent the night. 9.5 mi, +4,100', -1,500'.

Day 14, 22 Jul 01: We were supposed to climb Disappointment Peak that day and I waited until 8:00 a.m. for the rest of the party to appear. They didn't show, so I headed towards that day's objective. I never saw anybody and I wasn't about to solo the southwest chute of Disappointment. So I climbed the south face of Norman Clyde Peak. On my descent I heard some rockfall on Disappointment. I tried heading directly to the lower Palisade Lake but was stopped by some cliffs. In the meantime, Reiner, Greg, Ron, and Patty had climbed Disappointment and returned by way of the women's camp. "Are you

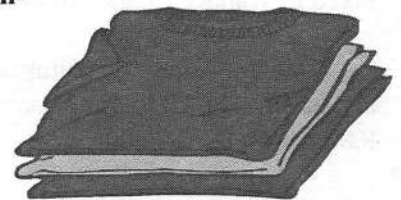
Reiner?" one of the women asked. It turns out they had camped at the lower Palisade Lake. I returned to the women's camp, ate their food and enjoyed their company. 5.3 mi, +3,578', -3,578'.

Day 15, 23 Jul 01: The asthmatic woman was breathing heavily that morning. I found Ron, Patty, Greg, and Reiner camped at the lower Palisade Lake. Oh well. Reiner and I descended Palisade Creek where we met Sandy, the LeConte Canyon wilderness ranger, en-route to make a visual inspection of the asthmatic woman. Reiner and I descended to the mouth of Palisade Creek, crossed the Middle Fork of the Kings River and hiked up Rambaud Creek to the traditional Devil's Crag campsite. 8.8 mi, +2,500', -3,000'.

Day 16, 24 Jul 01: Reiner and I climbed Devil's Crag No. 1. The rock didn't seem as loose as I had remembered it in the past. No one signed the summit register for three years after Dave Dykeman. And it was 12 hours from Rambaud Pass to Rambaud Pass: my longest time to climb it, with the smallest party in my history on this peak. We then summited Wheel, arriving back in camp well after dark. 5.3 mi, +3,500', -3,500'.

Day 17, 25 Jul 01: A "rest" day. We hiked down Rambaud Creek and I gave my helmet and rack to Reiner who cached them at the mouth of Rambaud Creek to be picked up by him and carried out after climbing Observation Peak (Thanks

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 Mountain-eer 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 \$3.50 shipping for 1 and \$4.00 for 2 or more T-shirts. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the shipping charge. Make check payable to the SPS. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.

Reiner!). I returned to LeConte Canyon Ranger Station to pick up the rest of my food. Sandy told me that the asthmatic woman had been rescued by helicopter the day before. The bear barrel was empty! Someone had stolen my food! Sandy filled out a crime report and put out an all-points-bulletin to the SEKI wilderness rangers that night. And then she raided her pantry, enabling me to continue VQ. Oh well, fasting is part of the Native American VQ experience. 8.0 mi, +900', -3,000'.

Day 18, 26 Jul 01: Hiked to Upper Basin. I got lots of food from the JMT thru-hikers for the rest of VQ. I found that people carry too much food and were anxious to give it away. Reminds me of the two Stanford women who "minstrelled" the JMT in 1961 by singing for their supper. 15.0 mi, +5,300', -2,100'.

Day 19, 27 Jul 01: Climbed Ruskin and hiked to Bench Lake. 7.4 mi, +2,400', -3,400'.

Day 20, 28 Jul 01: Climbed Arrow and Pyramid. 9.5 mi, +5,800', -5,800'.

Day 21, 29 Jul 01: Had lunch with Bob Keenan, the Bench Lake wilderness ranger. Hiked to Woods Creek. 11.6 mi, +1,700', -2,000'.

Day 22, 30 Jul 01: Hiked to Center Basin Trail. Encountered the Rae Lakes wilderness ranger below Glen Pass; the only time I was asked to show my wilderness permit on VQ. 14.6 mi, +5,100', -3,100'.

Day 23, 31 Jul 01: Climbed East Vidette and hiked to Tyndall Creek. 10.8 mi, +5,400', -4,600'.

Day 24, 1 Aug 01: Climbed Junction Peak, hiked to Wallace Creek. 10.6 mi, +3,300', -4,300'.

Day 25, 2 Aug 01: Climbed Barnard, Trojan, and east peak of Barnard. Camped at Wallace Lake. 8.8 mi, +5,500', -4,500'.

Day 26, 3 Aug 01: Climbed Tunnabora and Carl Heller. Camped at Wallace Lake. 6.0 mi, +3,300', -3,300'.

Day 27, 4 Aug 01: Hiked to Guitar Lake, climbed Hale and Young (my 700th Sierra summit). 13.0 mi, +4,500', -4,500'.

Day 28, 5 Aug 01: Hiked to Whitney Portal, where my car started. And I had surplus food: one Clif Bar. 8.2 mi, +2,500', -5,700'.

Here are some miscellaneous notes:

Mileage: 289.5 miles, according to TOPO!

Body Weight: I started the trip at 160 lbs., and finished with 143 lbs. I was expecting to lose ten pounds, not 17!

Pack Weight: 23 lbs., not counting food, water, stove fuel or climbing equipment.

Bears: I never encountered a bear. And I didn't carry a bear canister. My usual tactic is to camp and leave my pack at places other than popular wilderness campsites. But I did use the bear boxes at Tuolumne Meadows, Red's Meadow, Bench Lake, Woods Creek, Center Basin Trail, Tyndall Creek, and Wallace Creek.

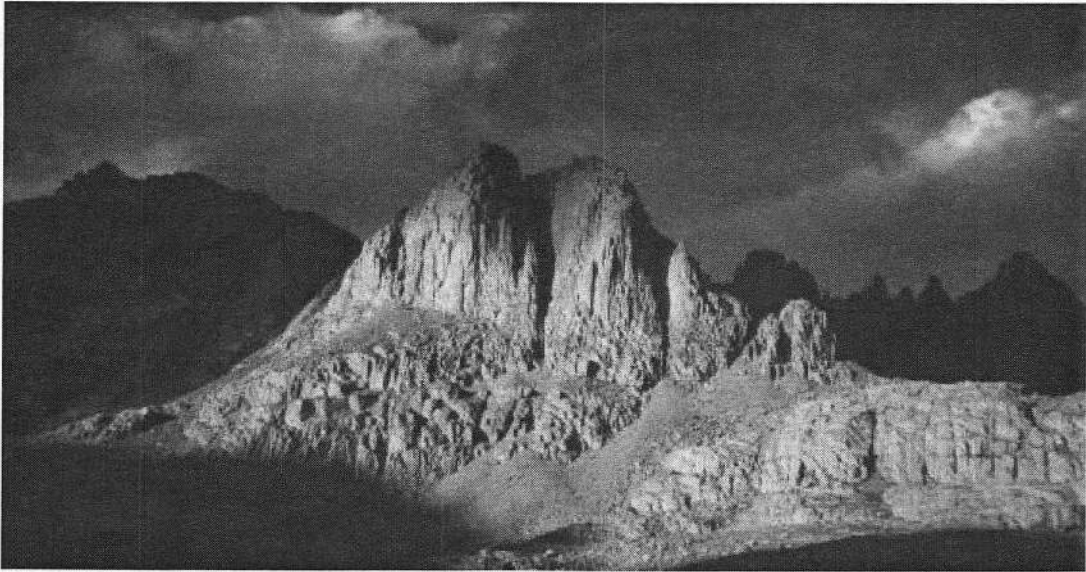
Boots: I started this trip with a new pair of light hikers that I bought at Target for ±\$15.00. I estimate that they last ±400 miles.

"How do you mentally do such long trips?:" It's easy. One day at a time.

continued from page 15

All sides of the peak appear to be 5th class except for one – the NW Chute. From the drainage NE of Sky Blue Lake, slog up the NW Chute alluvium to the 3,820 meter contour interval, then turn right (South) to the base of the upper chute, which looks like a steep set of stairs with a headwall at the top at this point. The final 200 feet went like this: climb up easy class 3 ledges for 80-100 feet until everything looks quite steep. Work right (West) on good ledges out onto the arete. Climb up the arete on big beautiful blocks for maybe 80-100 more feet of vertical (at one point ducking through a tunnel) as the arete curves left and flattens out. Move over more enormous blocks (with deep gaps between them) to the summit, which is the north peak. I was disappointed that there was no register, there may have been one on the lower south summit, but I did not visit it (the traverse appeared to be 3rd class). This is a good class 3 climb with cumulative exposure on excellent rock. Obviously one can climb directly to the summit, but it would be something other than class 3. The next day, as I climbed up and down the middle peak of Mt. McAdie I thought "this is a lot like the Miter – good stuff." -Doug Bear

Hockett Pk. (8,552'); Kid Mtn. (11,860'); The Miter (3,880m+)



No, this was not a scheduled trip! Just wanted to share some information on a few Sierra summits I visited in 2001. Although “unlisted”, they are still worthwhile, seldom visited peaks, and I enjoyed each of them. HOCKETT PK. was climbed in conjunction with Angora and Coyote. On a hot afternoon in mid June, I started at the Jerkey T.H. just north of Lloyd Meadows. The unmaintained “cutoff” trail climbs steeply to Jerkey Mdw., and is preferable to the maintained meandering one. Then it’s downhill to the Little Kern, which is crossed via a suspension bridge. I then went east and north on trail to Trout Meadows Forest Station, a dilapidated, but sometimes manned cabin, 6.5 miles from the car. There is a spring there, which came in handy as water was scarce in the vicinity. I prepared dinner on one of the picnic tables, slept under the stars on a thick bed of pine needles, and was often awakened by the loud calls of nocturnal beasts. The next morning I set off for Hockett Pk., a wild, densely forested, remote summit. The old trail to Hockett Mdws. (shown on the 15’ topo) has been reclaimed by vegetation, and cross-country traveling through rugged forest is required to bag this one. I walked across Trout Mdw., then up (brushy) to the SW ridge of Pk. 8,344’. Above 7,000 feet, the pines begin to outnumber the bushes, and the going is easier. I followed the ridge as it curved east and up to peak 8,344’ and signed the register. Hockett Peak is visible from the summit, and a brief walk through dense forest brought me there. Some of the trees on top had been cut down (I have no idea why). I found a 20 year old Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod register which hadn’t been signed in 3 years. The summit views included Red and Mt. Kaweah. The round trip stats for this peak (from the Jerkey Parking lot) are 18-19 miles with 5,000’ gain. The final 3 miles to the peak can be a navigational challenge. I don’t think there’s an easier way than the one I described here. KID MTN. was climbed in July from Sage Flat. I had hoped to see a Norman Clyde register there. Kid Mtn. was his final “first ascent of a peak” (1940). I searched all the rock piles and found no register save the lid of an old tobacco tin. Anyhow, there are two ways across the major obstacle, Big Pine Creek – a drive across bridge at Glacier Lodge, and a footbridge at Sage Flat Campground. Above that the slopes appear brushy, but it’s low (knee high) stuff and not too troublesome. A lot of it is avoidable by looking around as you go. There are some delightful foxtail pines along the higher slopes. The last 1,000 feet of gain is easy walking in sand and gravel with occasional talus. The views on top include the awesome Middle Palisade and Norman Clyde Peak. The round trip stats are (from Sage Flat CG) 5-6 miles r-t with 4,400’ gain via the class 1-2 north slopes. THE MITER was visited in August. It is an excellent peak and a very nice climb. It is a bit of a way in, but I was camped at Sky Blue Lake, and it was something to behold. It looks like a granite rendition of a headdress worn by a Pope or Bishop (thus its name). I decided to try to climb it. *continued page 14*

IN HIGH PLACES: HIGHPOINTING IN MICRONESIA, PART IV

SAIPAN AND GUAM

By Burton "Unless I Were to Admit
Otherwise" Falk

"One minute, I'm walking across the pedestrian bridge, heading for Tijuana, and the next minute I'm stretched out on the ground, wondering if anyone got the license of the truck that hit me. Two men helped me to my feet. A woman handed me my wallet—empty, of course, which she'd found lying a few feet away. My throat was sore. It took me a few minutes to realize that I'd been mugged by someone who had come up from behind, squeezed the nerve bundles on either side of my neck, and dropped me like a sack of cement."

And that was just one of the many stories our companion, a retired correspondent for UPI, told my wife Jo and me during our five-hour layover in the Guam International airport, awaiting our flight to Saipan.

We were languishing there because, due to a delay in our early evening flight out of Yap, we missed our original connection to Saipan, and the next flight, scheduled to leave Guam at 1:15 a.m., was also delayed—until 4 a.m. By the time we did arrive in Saipan, retrieved our bags, took the jitney to the hotel, checked in, and fell zombie-like into bed, it was 5:30 a.m. Dawn was beginning to glow like a red ember on the eastern horizon.

* * * *

Forming a 426 mile-long, bow-shaped archipelago, the Mariana Islands stretch from Guam, the southernmost and largest island (208 sq. mi.), to Uracas, the northernmost. Saipan, the second largest of the islands (47.5 sq. mi.), lies 100 miles north of Guam. The Philippine Sea laps up on the islands' western shores; the North Pacific Ocean washes in from the east. To the east also lies the Mariana Trench, 1,835 miles long and up to 35,827 ft. deep, the greatest known ocean depth in the world. The islands themselves, tips of a massive underwater mountain chain, can lay claim to being the tallest peaks in the world—if you measure them from their

base to their highest point. In fact, the highpoint of the archipelago would stand 10,000' higher than Mt. Everest, were that Himalayan peak to be measured in a similar manner.

The first to inhabit the islands were the Chamorro, a people who may have arrived as early as 1500 B.C. Because of language and other cultural similarities, it is believed that they migrated from South-East Asia, probably Indonesia. Interestingly, the Chamorro were the only Micronesians known to cultivate rice prior to contact with the Europeans.

On March 6, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan and his crew from the *Trinidad* became the first Europeans to set foot on the Marianas. The Portuguese navigator (who was working for the Spanish crown at the time) named the islands either *Islas de los Ladrones*—the Islands of Thieves or *Islas de las Velas Latinas*—the Islands of Lateen Sails, depending on which guidebook you read. In 1668, they were renamed *Las Marianas*, in honor of the Spanish queen Maria Ana of Austria, by the Spanish priest Luis Diego Sanvitores, who that same year, along with five other Jesuit priests, set up the first mission in the islands.

In 1898, as a result of the Spanish-American War, the U.S. gained possession of Guam (along with the Philippines and Puerto Rico). The following year, Spain sold the balance of the chain (a.k.a., the Northern Marianas) to Germany, who coveted the islands for the production of copra. In 1914, at the onset of WWI, Japan seized control of Northern Marianas, and proceeded to replace the German coconut plantations with fields of Japanese sugar cane. Between the World Wars, up to 45,000 workers, mostly poor tenant farmers from Okinawa, emigrated to the Northern Marianas to help tend the fields. On December 8, 1941 (which, because of the International Date Line, was December 7 in Pearl Harbor), Japan attacked Guam, sending 5,000 troops ashore, causing Guam's naval governor to surrender within a matter of hours.

* * * *

Jo and I had planned to make a day trip to nearby Tinian, just 3 miles south of Saipan, to take a look at the airfield from which the B-29 *Enola Gay*, at 2:45 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, began its mission to drop the "Little Boy" atomic bomb on Hiroshima (where 75,000 Japanese died instantly and another 125,000 thereafter). By the time we began stirring, however, it was almost noon, and we just weren't in a mood for any more sightseeing. Instead we decided to lounge around the Pacific Islands Club, which, booked solely on the recommendation of our travel

agent, was substantially more posh than we had expected. In fact, after wandering the grounds for awhile it dawned on us that we might as well take advantage of the resort's elaborate water features, including a meandering circular stream, complete with a whirlpool, "The Long River," on which, floating on large inner tubes, we dallied for an hour or two. We also enjoyed watching several young Japanese men attempt, usually comically, to bogie board down a giant standing wave, "The Point Break Wave Machine," created by pumping a huge volume of water up an inclined concrete plane.

We dined at the hotel's excellent beachfront restaurant that evening, a somewhat somber occasion, however, as we had earlier observed a memorial bronze plaque commemorating the U.S. Marines who lost their lives on the very same beach during the invasion of Saipan on June 15, 1944. Three thousand five hundred Americans, almost 30,000 Japanese and over 400 Saipanese were killed in the course of the 3-1/2 week battle for the island.

We found it somewhat ironic that most of the guests vacationing at the hotel were Japanese.

The next morning, refreshed, we hired a 4x4 taxicab, owned and operated by Bertha Ada, a very friendly, very informative Saipanese woman, and

headed north along the island's west coast. Passing miles of mini-malls (all with peeling paint, all home to at least one poker parlor), and through the capital city of Garapan, population 15,000, our first stop was Banzai Cliff, at the northern tip of Saipan, where hundreds of Japanese civilians committed mass suicide.

The tragic story here is that, following the invasion, as American forces advanced ever northward on the island, entire Japanese families, shamed by the thought of capture and/or fearing torture, gathered on the top of the beautiful seaside precipice and prepared to die. Lining up their children in order of age, the next-to-youngest child pushed the youngest over the edge, a process that continued until the mother pushed her first born over the side. The father then thrust his wife over the precipice, after which he ran backwards to join his family in death on the jagged rocks below. Today, the site is arrayed with plaques and other memorials, commemorating the unnecessary deaths.

We then drove to the top of Suicide Cliff, an 820' precipice overlooking Banzai Cliff, where several of the Japanese Military staff also committed suicide.

Still at the northern end of the island, we visited the Last Command Post, a shell-cratered concrete



Banzai Cliff, Saipan

bunker, carved into the face of a cliff, where the Japanese Commander of Saipan, Lt. General Yoshitsugo Saito, realizing defeat was imminent, committed hara-kiri by thrusting his sword into his stomach, while his aide shot him in the head.

Heading back toward mid-island, we drove almost to the top of 1,545' **Mt. Tagpochau**, the high point of Saipan, which under normal weather conditions can be easily reached by car. During inclement weather, however, the dirt road can turn slippery, and a 4x4 may be necessary. A short flight of stairs leads from the parking lot to the actual summit.

Standing in the tall wind-blown grass, under a brilliant mid-day sun, surrounded by a scattering of crucifixes, crosses, and statues of the Virgin Mary (the predominate religion in Saipan is Roman Catholicism), we enjoyed panoramic views of the lush tropical island—a welcome break after a morning spent reliving the horrors of war.

Because we had checked out of our hotel that morning, Bertha then drove us directly to Saipan's modern airport at the south of the island for our flight to Guam.

* * * *

Following WWII, the Marianas, with the exception of Guam, became a United Nations Trust Territory, administered by the United States. In 1975, the people of the Trust Territory voted to become more closely allied with the U.S., and consequently the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) was born, thereby conferring U.S. citizenship on the islanders, and establishing for them a government similar to that of Puerto Rico. Guam, on the other hand, still remains a U.S. Territory, and although the Guamanians are also U.S. citizens, they are not afforded as much self-government as CNMI residents. In 1987, not surprisingly, the Guamanians also voted to become a commonwealth, however their appeal has languished in Washington, D.C. ever since.

The current population of CNMI is approximately 70,000, 90% of whom live on Saipan, with another 5% on Tinian. In addition, some 40,000 low-paid Chinese and Filipinos work in Saipanese garment factories, the goods they produce enjoying a duty-free status in the U.S. Because these foreign workers are often mistreated (long hours and prison-like living conditions), these factories have become a serious bone of contention between the U.S and CNMI.

The population of Guam numbers about 165,000, approximately 40% of whom are Chamorro, most of

the rest being either Filipino or hailing from other Micronesian Islands. Guam is also the residence for some 23,000 U.S. mainlanders, 6,300 of whom are in the military.

* * * *

Jo and I arrived in Guam in mid-afternoon, and by the time we reached our Tumon Bay hotel, the Royal Orchid, and got settled in, it was time for dinner. We walked a half mile to the Hilton Hotel, where we dined at Roy's (yes, the same Roy's as those in Hawaii), amid a plush and quiet ambiance, much different from the noisy Roy's we know and take pains to avoid in Kahana, Maui.

The following morning, we rented a car and drove some 15 miles south of the capital city, Hagatna (formerly known as Agana), to a turnout just opposite the Cetti Bay Vista Point. Parking in a grassy field, we began our hike toward 1,332' **Mt. Lamlam**, Guam's highpoint, an adventure I described in my journal as follows:

"Most Guamanians think that the annual Good Friday ascent by cross-bearing Catholics ends up on the top of Mt. Lamlam. Actually, the yearly religious event ends on the summit of Mt. Jumullong Manglo, elevation 1,282', amid a small forest of crosses. Mt. Lamlam is one of the several slightly higher bumps on the ridge stretching out north of Mt. Jumullong Manglo.

"Due to recent rains Jo and I discover that the use trail leading up the mountain is slippery and eroded, and we manage to crash and burn a couple of times on our ascent. Approaching a saddle on the summit ridge, we enter a field of tall, sharp-edged grass, completely overgrowing the path. We push on, however, turning south (right) at the saddle, reaching the top of Jumullong Manglo in about an hour. As from the top of Mt. Tagpochau in Saipan, the views are awesome.

"Returning, I leave Jo at the saddle and head off for toward the bumps to the north, in an attempt to locate and climb the highest. (Although I had a U.S.G.S. topo map of Guam, its detail was too small to ascertain which bump was in fact Lamlam)

"Crashing through more tall grass, I soon come to an area of sharply eroded limestone (similar to deep, jagged suncups), covered with a matting of vines and spider webs. It takes 10 or 15 minutes to stumble through this obstacle course, and I have bloody shins by the time I reach the other side. Also, although I'm pretty sure they're nocturnal, I can't help but think of the poisonous brown snakes that have overrun this island, effectively killing off

all its bird life.

"Struggling up through more dense tropical underbrush, I reach the top of the first of the knobs in about a half an hour. Unfortunately, there is no USGS survey marker on the summit, and a couple of the knobs further north look like they may be slightly higher. Since I told Jo I'd be back in 45 minutes, and because it would take at least an hour round trip to reach just the next bump, I head back. On the way down, I decide to claim I've reached the top of Guam—I mean, who would ever know, unless I were to admit otherwise."

We hiked back to the car; drove around the south end of the island, and that night enjoyed a great teppanyaki dinner at the Gurji restaurant, also at the Hilton Hotel. Next morning we flew from Guam to Honolulu, our Micronesian adventures coming to an end.

ODDS & ENDS During our three week sojourn in Micronesia, we ascended the high points of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the State of Yap (see prior issues of THE ECHO), the island of Saipan, and the Territory of Guam. Because of a no-show guide, we failed to climb **Ngihneni**, the 2,595' high point of both the State of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The 3,166' highpoint of CNMI (and, in fact, of all of Micronesia) lies on the remote, unpopulated island of Agrihan, rarely visited, and then only by research ships. Another problematic Micronesian high point, that of the Republic of Kiribati (pronounced **kiri-bahs**), lies on Banaba, a depleted guano island, at the extreme southwest corner of that island nation. Although there is no airstrip on Banaba, one can arrange for passage to and from the island on a supply ship out that makes irregular voyages

out of Tarawa.

Should you have an interest in Micronesia, I suggest reading "Micronesia," by Lonely Planet Publications, and "Micronesia Handbook," by Neil M. Levy. They're both excellent. Another volume worthy of consideration is "Adventuring in the Pacific," a Sierra Club book by Susan Margolis, which, although diluted somewhat by covering Polynesia and Melanesia, contains a wealth of information on Micronesian history, nature life and ecology.



Jo Falk at Memorials site on top of Banzai Cliff

Tunemah, Finger, Reinstein and Henry

Aug. 24-28, 2001 Reiner Stenzel

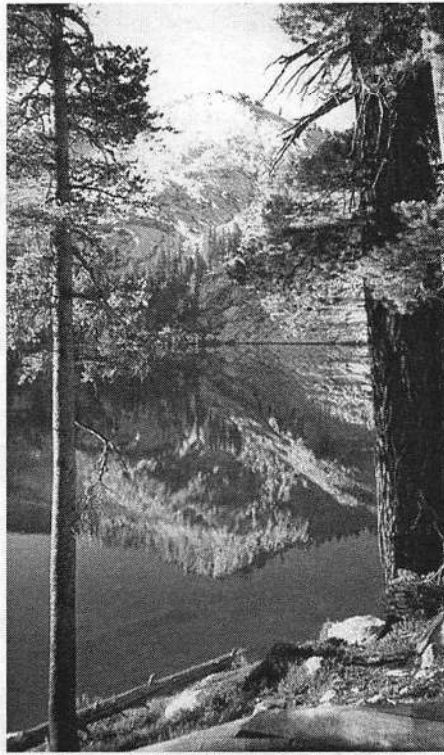
This private trip report describes a loop through the White Divide and LeConte Divide connecting four remote SPS peaks. It was a private trip done spontaneously at the end of the summer and went very well. Here are the details:

On Thur, 8/23, I left L.A. at noon to get a wilderness permit in Clovis 15min before closing time (4:30pm). This allowed me to get an early start on Fri, 8/24. I left at 6am from the Rancheria trailhead south of Wishon Res., reached Crown Valley by 9am, Tehipite/Kettle Dome by noon, and then dropped into beautiful Blue Cyn. The lower part has a nice trail and is very lush. Unfortunately, the air was bad from wild fires in Kings Cyn. N.P. Found lots of berries to eat. Saw the cutest teddy bear, about a foot long, followed soon by a snorting mama bear which told me to keep distance. Above 8,000' the Blue Cyn trail is at times difficult to find, but it pays off to search for it, otherwise it is slow bush whacking. After the 2,500' ascent of Blue Cyn and a 19 mi day I called it quits at 6pm and camped at Lke 9,700' (UTM 4096700N, 11 345600E). In order to go light I had left my bear canister behind, slept with my food, but luckily had no four-legged visitors at night. Not a soul around, just an owl was circling above my bivvy in the moonlight and nearby some deer were digging and blowing air.

On Sat, 8/25, I was up at 5:30am and hiked out an hour later. Went XC due east to the 10,400' plateau just north of Lke 10,401', then ascended Dykeman Pass (11,040') where I hung up my pack and continued with light daypack toward Tunemah. After dropping 800' into Alpine Creek Cyn it is a 1,600' climb on talus to the summit of Tunemah (11,894'). I climbed the first chute up to the ridge which avoids the sandy terrain but on the ridge I encountered a false high point prior to the real summit which was reached by 9:20am. Not much traffic on this peak, only one party in 2000, I was the

second in 2001. Below me several forest fires were burning on inaccessible slopes above the Kings River. To the east one could see the Enchanted Gorge, the Black Divide with Devils Crag on which I stood exactly one month earlier, and the distant Palisades Range. By 10am, I retraced my steps, retrieved my

pack, then dropped down to Lke 10,400' 1 mi south of Finger, a fine place for lunch and a dip into the lake. Then I climbed up the c12 southeast slopes of Finger, left my pack at the 11,600' level, and reached the 12,404' summit by 3:30pm. The last section is an enjoyable c13 climb and the summit block has space for just one person. The north face is an impressive vertical wall. After enjoying the views, taking pictures and signing the book, I headed down to the 11,600' pass 0.5 mi east of Finger and dropped down into the Goddard Creek drainage. Staying above the 10,000' level I hiked up the beautiful open valley to Lke 10,232' where I set up camp at 6:30pm. Not a soul in sight. Felt the exercise of climbing two SPS peaks in a day (+5,900').



Halfmoon Lake, Sierra National Forest

On Sun, 8/26, the goal was to climb Mt Reinstein and to head for the base of Mt Henry. Left by 6:45am, dropped the pack at Reinstein Pass, climbed the c12-3 NE ridge, and summited by 9:20am. Splendid views of black Mt Goddard, blue Martha Lke, wide Goddard Creek to the south and Goddard Cyn to the north. Took pics from the 12,586' summit, called home for reassurance, signed and read the register of this peak which seems rather popular with Outward Bound groups. From Reinstein Pass I dropped 1,000' down to Martha Lke, contoured around its SW side and, after a lunch break and swim, headed down Goddard Canyon. In the afternoon I had another 1,200' workout over Hell for Sure Pass (11,300') before dropping down the west side of the LeConte Divide. Lakes and scenery in the Red Mtn Basin were very pretty. By 7:15pm I arrived at the

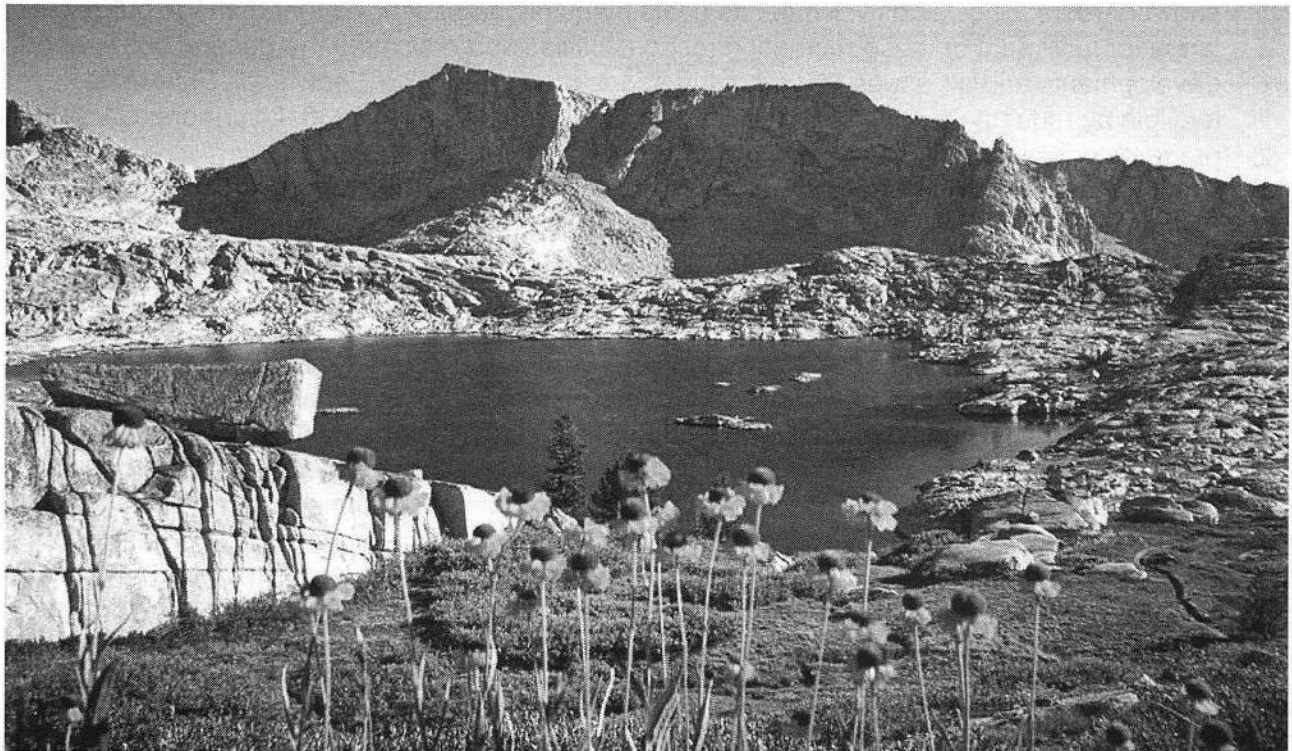
Lower Indian Lake which was my destination for camping. On this fourth day I saw humans again.

On Mon, 8/27, I had again a 6:30am start, but with light daypack up the west ridge of Mt Henry. This is not the best choice since near the 11,500' saddle the ridge is a roller coaster due to various chutes from the south. It is better to climb one of these chutes from the Turf Lks which I did for the return. By 8:20am I sat on the summit (12,196'), signed the register and enjoyed the fine views in the relatively clear morning air of a late summer day. I enjoyed every moment since this was the last summit for this trip and now I had to start my long return trip through three topo maps. By 11am I was packed, dry from a dip into the lake, and headed down south. I passed Fleming Lke, headed down to the Post Corral Creek, up the North Fork of the Kings River to Big Maxson Mdw. Most enjoyable were the gentle waterslides, green pools and warm granite slabs on the Kings River below the Gauging Stn. I arrived at the deserted Maxson Mdw by 5:30pm and decided to stay instead of climbing another 1,000' to Halfmoon Lke. My freeze-dried dinner was supplemented by a dessert of freshly picked blueberries. Although hot by day the temps at night dipped below freezing in the 8,400' valley.

Tue, 8/28, by 6:30am I headed up the switchbacks to beautiful Halfmoon Lke, climbed

over Crown Pass (10,188') down to Crown Lke where I had a snack and swim. The lake has a long sandy beach like Benson Lke in northern Yosemite. The next few hours were spent on dusty trails: South along the Scepter Creek, west over Chuck Pass along Woodchuck Creek, again south along the Rancheria Creek, finally arriving at 4:30pm at the Rancheria trailhead south of Wishon Reservoir. After another 5 hour drive I was home.

In retrospect the trip went very well. The weather was excellent, there were no problems with bears, no mosquitoes, easy stream crossings, easy peaks, no crowds, no trailhead quota; I feasted on blueberries, thimbleberries, goose berries, Sierra currant and could have caught lots of trout if I had brought my fishing gear. But it was not exactly a leisure trip with four 12-hour-days in a row. And then there is always some risk of going solo into remote XC terrain (not good to break a leg on Tunemah where the handy does not work and next help may come in 6-12 months). But otherwise it's a wonderful late summer trip.



Hell-for-Sure Lake

CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

Barbee Tidball

- **Fixed Anchors in Wilderness to be Addressed by Interagency Policy Council** (*Policy Update from January 2002 Vertical Times, published by the Access Fund*) This December wilderness officials from the four major federal land management agencies - US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and UF Fish and Wildlife - will meet to discuss wilderness policy issues. Management of fixed anchors in wilderness is on the agenda for the Interagency Policy Council.

Jason Keith, Access Fund Policy Analyst, has been working with agency officials to develop a policy solution to use of fixed anchors in designated wilderness. The Access Fund submitted a position paper on the subject to members of the Interagency Policy Council, as well as to other officials such as Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior. This position paper outlines a solution - which was generally endorsed by the "stakeholders" involved in the Negotiated Rulemaking advisory committee - for the federal land agencies to use in managing wilderness climbing.

It is the Access Fund's position that some level of fixed anchor use must be allowed wherever climbing is allowed, and the appropriate level of use should be established on an area-by-area basis. Surveys of the climbing community show that the vast majority of climbers support this position.

- **Snow Lands Network** - An independent organization has been formed out of the Sierra Club's Nordic Voice. Marcus Libkind, Jim Gibson, Janet Hoffmann, Bill Flower, Gail Ferrell and Charley White represent snow mobile and skiers and they make up the Board of Directors for the new organization. As an independent organization Snowlands Network hopes to be able to react quickly to management decisions and actions by the Forest Service and other agencies. Contributions to Snowlands are tax deductible. "Snowlands network is dedicated to winter environmental issues and is working to ensure that the Forest Service and other agencies provide high quality opportunities for winter backcountry recreation for skiers, snowshoers and snowboarders. Snowlands will meet its goals by monitoring agencies that manage our public lands for fulfillment of these recreation responsibilities and educating the general public about developments and all issues that affect the sports they love." The *Snowlands Bulletin* is available by request - please send requests to Snowlands, P.O. Box 230, Livermore, CA 94551 or log onto their web site at www.snowlands.org.

- **Packers Raising Prices to Compensate for Reductions in the Number of Horses** - FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - Fewer pack horses will be trotting across the high Sierra next summer.

A federal judge in San Francisco ordered that commercial packers in the Ansel Adams and John Muir wilderness areas cut a fifth of their overnight trips next summer and reduce the number of people and horses on each trip.

The reduction will be in place while the U.S. Forest Service analyzes the impact of pack animals on 800,000 acres of wilderness in remote areas of the Sierra and Inyo national forests.

The order this month by Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte followed her ruling in June that the Forest Service violated federal law by issuing permits to packers without completing an environmental analysis. Conservation groups sued last year, claiming that horses and mules had damaged alpine meadows.

Dave Dohnel, owner of Frontier Pack Train in June Lake on the eastern Sierra, said he will have to raise prices 20 percent to 30 percent to compensate for the cuts. "Not everyone can put a 50-pound pack on their back and walk to these beautiful areas," Dohnel said. "Horses belong in the wilderness. But the groups that brought this suit don't want to see us in there at all."

Laporte said she sympathized with the packers, but said economic harm does not outweigh the cost of environmental damage.

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EDITORS: Barbee Tidball & Barbara Sholle. Mailing Address 3826 N. Weston Place, Long Beach CA, 90807, Phone (562) 424-1556. E-Mail: bsholle@aol.com. Echo cover layout by David Sholle. ECHO copy deadlines are the third Saturday of even numbered months. Please send trip reports, photos, slides, articles, jokes or any other item of interest for publication. E-mail, Computer Disks IBM format/MSWORD-WIN or Word Perfect are appreciated. If you would like your submission returned to you, please enclose a SASE.

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