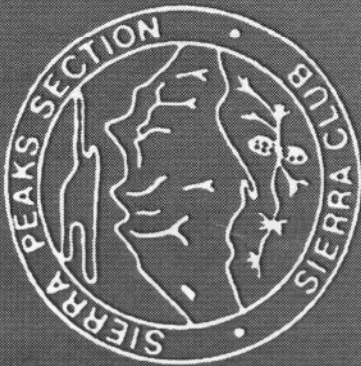


The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY - MARCH 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).

April 10 - Wednesday - Chris Brennen "Adventure Hikes and Canyoneering in the San Gabriels"

The San Gabriel Mountains contain marvelous waterfalls and narrows buried deep in the folds of the range and requiring technical gear to access. Our speaker will describe his adventures in these canyons and the special places he has encountered.

May 8 - Wednesday - Sid "San Jac" Davis, Past SPS Chair (1967) and leader San Jac will present his short film *Forever Yours - San Jacinto Peak*, and recount memorable experiences from his many climbs of San Jacinto Peak. He has made an astonishing 643 ascents between 1964 and 1998. (See photo, right, taken 1995)

June 12 - Wednesday - Rich Henke will show his slides of a unique 70-mile, 10-day canoe trip in British Columbia on the Bowron Lakes from September 2001. See great fall color and wildlife.



LTC - Mountaineering Leadership Course

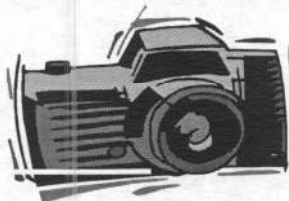
The Angeles Chapter is Offering a Mountaineering Leadership Course in spring 2002 for people seeking advanced leadership ratings. The four-weekend class costs \$100 and covers basics of leading groups over rock and snow with ropes, ice ax and other protective gear. For information visit the Leadership 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.

Front Cover - OOPS!

The Sierra Echo editors goofed with the cover of the Dec/Jan 2002 Echo. The cover photo was not Mt. Ritter hiding in clouds, but rather as the photographer, Tom Ross corrected us - Mount Williamson. The "clouds" are snow banners caused by high winds.

Peak List

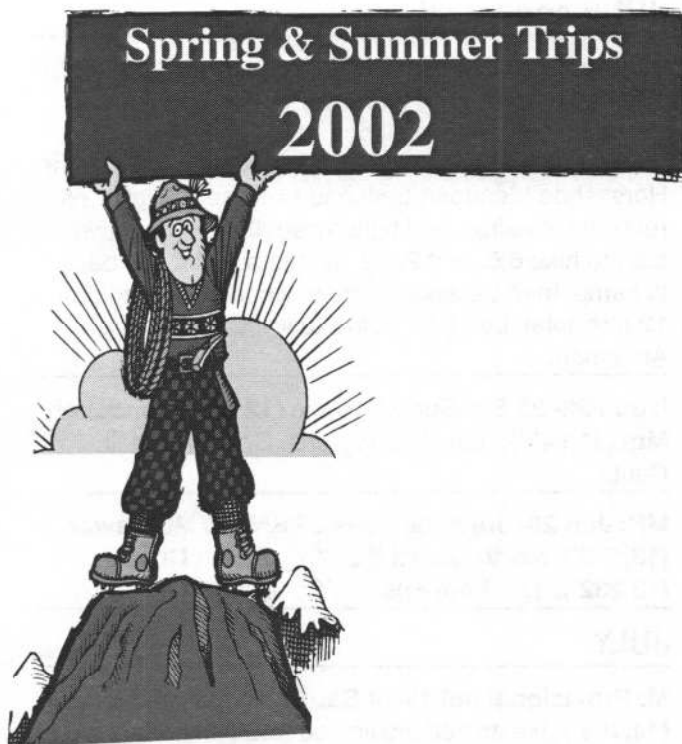
Owens Peak
Mount Jenkins
Mt. McAdie
Clark Range
Mt. Goode
Giraud Peak
Mt. Washington, N.E.



Front Cover

Picture Peak

Photographer - R.J. Secor



MARCH

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-ldrs: 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

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.

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. Happy hour and car camp Sat night. Sun moderate 5 mi rt 3100' gain xc to Pinyon. Send SASE, H&W phones, e-mail, recent exper/cond. to Ldr. Bob Beach co-lldr 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

May continued

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

TM: May 24-27 Fri-Mon SMS & SPS Mt. Brewer 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

ER: Jun 7-9 Fri-Sun Mt Darwin (13,831'). Backpack on trail and xc over Lamarck Col to camp in upper Darwin Cyn., 6 mi, 3600' gain. Sat climb Darwin via the North Face Couloir with ice axe and crampons (3 mi, 3000' gain). Sun out. Send recent experience and conditioning, SC#, 2 SASE, check for \$5.00 for permit fee to Tom Bowman. Asst. Doug Mantle.

MR: Jun 8-9 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Mt. Ritter (13,143') Banner Pk (12,936') 3 Class & Snow (ice axe & crampon) experience. Sat backpack from Agnew Meadows up to Ediza Lake 7.5 mi 1230 gain, Climb Banner Sat then climb Ritter Sun and pack out. Send 2 SASE or e-mail w/ climb resume Ldr. Maria Roa Asst. Mike Adams.

MR: Jun 14-16 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC Mt Keith. Ldr. Asher Waxman, asst. Will McWhinney.

I: Jun 15- 16 Sat-Sun Homers Nose: Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Sara Wyrens.

M: Jun 21-23 Fri-Sun Mt Bradley (13,289'), Center Pk (12,760'): Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Nile Sorenson

I: Jun 22-24 Sat-Mon WTC Kern Peak: (11,510'): Introductory trip in So. Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Mod. pace. Sat backpack 9 mi, 1000' of gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Pk in 7 mi, 3000' gain rt, all x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 9 mi, 1000' gain (with ups and downs.) Send 2 sase, \$5.00 permit fee Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst: WILL Mc Whinney.

JUNE continued

I: June 22-23 Sat-Sun WTC Mt. Langley (14,042'): The southernmost 14'er in the Sierras, and perhaps, the easiest of them to climb (rated Class 1), but still, not that easy. Sat. backpack 6 mi. 1760' gain from the Horseshoe Meadows trailhead to camp at High Lake, relax, acclimatize, and fight mosquitoes. Sun dawn start to hike 6.5 mi rt 2600' gain to summit and back to camp, then backpack 6 mi down to cars, long day 12.5 mi total. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Co-Ldr: Sarah Anderson.

I: Jun 22- 23 Sat-Sun Florence (12,432') Vandever Mtn (11,947'): Ldr Sara Wyrens. Co-ldr Randall Danta.

MR: Jun 29- Jul 2 Sat-Tues SPS/WTC Mt Brewer (13,570'), North Guard (13,327') South Guard (13,232'). Ldr. Beth Epstien, Co-ldr. Kim Gimenez.

JULY

M: Provisional Jul 13-14 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Mt Sill (14,153'): Restricted trip limited to SC members with strong physical conditioning and 3rd class rock and snow (ice axe and crampons) experience. Sat backpack from Glacier Lodge trailhead to camp near Palisade Glacier. Sun ascend Mt. Sill via the North Couloir. Send 2 sase or e-mail Ldr: Maria Roa. Asst: Beth Epstein.

I: Provisional Jul 13-14 Sat-Sun WTC, Lone Pine Peak (12,943): Sat moderate 4 mi, 3600' gain backpack to Meysan Lakes. Sat afternoon lounge or explore. Sun early xc 2 mi, 1900' gain to peak, return to camp and pack out. Send 2 sase with H&W phones, E-mail, conditioning/experience and rideshare info to Ldr: Dan Bovee. Co-Ldr: Will McWhinney.

I: Jul 13-15 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Four Gables (12,720'): SPS Intro. trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack from North Lake over Piute Pass to Lower Desolation Lake, 8 mi, 2000' gain. Sun do Four Gables in 8 mi rt, 1500' of gain with use trail and x-country, some class 2 on pk. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee per person Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

I: July 19-22 Fri-Mon Pettit, Piute, Volunteer Ldrs: Doug Mantle & Tina Bowman. Trip details to be published next Echo.

**Trip advertisements continued.
See next page for more adventures!**

JULY continued

MR: July 19-23 Fri-Tue Mt. Pinchot (13,494), Pyramid Pk #1 (12,779), Arrow Pk (12,959), Striped (13,179): Fri hike a strenuous 8+ miles over Taboose Pass. Set camp and climb Cardinal. Sat climb Wynne & Pinchot. Sun climb Arrow & Pyramid. Mon relaxed day climb Striped and op. Goodale. Tues. home. Ldr.: Larry Tidball, Co Ldr.: Barbee Tidball

I: July 20-22 Sat-Mon Julius Ceasar Ldrs.: Patty Kline & Bob Michael. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: July 27-28 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Vogelsang Pk (9880'): Sat backpack 7 mi 1200' gain from the Tuolomne Meadows trailhead up the Rafferty Creek drainage to Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. Explore the lakes around Tuolomne Pass. Sun hike 4 mi rt, 1600' gain to summit and back to camp, then backpack 7 mi down to cars, long day 11 mi total. Ldr: Sarah Anderson. Co-Ldr: Patrick McKusky.

AUGUST

I: Aug 3-4 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Basin Mountain (13,240'): Gourmet Peak Bag! Join us for a 'tasty' trip into the Sierra above Bishop, and help the leaders produce a memorable dinner Sat night and breakfast Sun morning. We'll cap-off breakfast with a climb of Basin Mountain for fantastic views of the Sierra Crest. Cost will be maximum of \$20 per person including permit fees. Send 2 sase, e-mail, diet restrictions Ldr: Ron Campbell. Co-Ldr: Georgette Rieck.

AUGUST Continued

M: Aug 3-4 Sat-Sun Mt. Goethe (13,263') and Mt. Emerson (13,204'): Moderately strenuous trip. Hike from North Lake (9,200') to camp site near Loch Leven Lake (10,500'). Climb Emerson and return to camp for Happy Hour. Sunday climb Goethe and home. Ldr.: Larry Tidball, Co-ldr. Scot Jamison

I: Aug 3-5 Sat-Mon Stanford North: Ldrs.: Patty Kline & Keith Martin Trip details to be published next Echo.

M: Provisional Aug 9-11 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC Mount LeConte (13,960'), Mount Corcoran (13,760'): Fri 7 mi 6000' hike from Tuttle Creek trailhead to camp. Sat 3200' climb up 3rd class ledge system to LeConte summit. Traverse to Corcoran and descend north notch back to camp. Sun walk out. Climb restricted to very experienced SC members. Helmet required and rope may be used. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee, Ldr: John Paterson. Co-Ldr: Mike Adams.

For all trips remember to send a SASE, Sierra Club #, experience and conditioning resume, H & W phone #, e-mail address optional, & rideshare information.

M: Aug 10 -11 Sat-Sun McAdie Ldrs: Asher Waxman, Matthew Richardson. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Aug 10 -11 Sat-Sun Kearsarge & Gould Ldrs: Larry Hoak and George Wysup. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Aug 10-12 Sat-Mon Morgan North Ldrs.: Patty Kline & Rick Jali. Trip details next Echo.

ER: Provisional Aug 23-25 Fri-Sun Palisade Crest: Ldrs: Tom Bowman & Larry Tidball. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Aug 24-25 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Mount Goode (13085'): Sat easy paced backpack to camp near Bishop Lake, 4 mi 1400' gain. Sun climb Goode via south ridge, 1 mi 2000' gain, and pack out. Send sase or e-mail, \$5 permit fee Ldr: Helen Qian. Co-Ldr: Tracy Sulkin.

I: Aug 28-30 Wen- Fri Kennedy, Harrington: Ldrs: Ron Hudson & Patty Rambert. Trip details next Echo.

I: Aug 31 - Sept 2 Sat - Mon: Florence, Needham, Vandever Ldrs: Ron Hudson & Patty Rambert. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Aug 31 - Sept 2 Sat - Mon Needham (12,467'), Sawtooth (12,343'): Sat backpack approx 6 mi to Lower Monarch Lakes (10,380') and set up camp. Rise early Sun and bag Needham followed by Sawtooth, 8 mi, 2600' gain, class 2. Bring secret ingredient for garbage-bag salad and/or happy hour. Most creative wins God Bless America T-Shirt. Mon pack out. Ldr: Georgette Rieck. Co-Ldr: Ron Campbell.

I: Aug 31 - Sept 2 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Mt. Henry (12,196'): SPS intro. trip in western Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Mod. enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 12 mi and 2000' of gain to Goddard Canyon. Sun climb Henry in 6 mi rt, 3600' of gain, all x-country, some class 2 on pk. Legendary happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 12 mi. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee per person, Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

SEPTEMBER

I: Sept 7-8 Sat - Sun Smith & Blackrock Ldrs.: Jerry Keating, W. Whisman & Nancy Keating. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Sep 7-8 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Cirque Pk (12,900'): Sat backpack to Long Lake, 5 mi, 1200' gain from Horseshoe Mdw above Lone Pine. Sun climb peak, 5 mi rt, 1800' on class 2 ridgeline, return to cars. Send 2 sase or e-mail sase Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Asst: Cheryl Gill.

I: Sep 7-8 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC/GLS Sawtooth Pk #2 (12,343') and Needham Mountain (12,520'): A leisurely backpack, but a tough peak climb. Sat leave Mineral King and pack up to Lower Monarch Lake, 6 mi, 2600' gain, then relax and enjoy a potluck dinner. Sun start early and climb Sawtooth and Needham, strenuous 8 mi rt, 2600 gain all xc, then pack down to the trailhead. WTC or equivalent required. Ldr: Will McWhinney. Asst: Teresa Nick.

I: Sept 21 - 22 Sat -Sun SPS/SMS Three Sisters: Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel & TBD. Trip details to be published next Echo.

Sep 21 Sat LTC Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in October 5 seminar. Next seminar: Spring 2003.

M: Sept 27 -29, Fri-Sun Tower Peak (11,755) w/ op. Ehrnbeck Peak (11,249) Loop trip with car shuttle through lands being considered for Wilderness designation. Trip to start at Buckeye Pass from Twin Lakes and complete trip by hiking through Levitt Meadow. Tower Peak is an SPS Mountaineer's Peak and Ehrnbeck is suggested for the adventure. Passably good fishing - although trip 2 years ago saw only small trout. Ldr. Barbee Tidball, Co-Ldr. Scot Jamison.

I: Sept 28-29 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Bolton-Brown (13538') & Prater (13329'): Sat backpack 6 mi, 3900' to Red Lake. Sun climb Bolton-Brown (SW slope) and Prater (SE slope), 7 mi rt, 6000' and backpack out. Send 2 sase or e-mail Ldr: Dave Endres. Co-Ldr: Mike Adams

I: Sept 28-29 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Cloudripper (13525'): Sat backpack from South Lake to camp at Green Lake, 4 mi 1000' gain. Sun climb Cloudripper via north slope, 3 mi 2500' net gain, and pack out. Ldr: Helen Qian. Co-Ldr: Maria Roa.

OCTOBER

Oct 5 Sat LTC, Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader! Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Sep 21. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Spring 2003

I: Oct 5-6 Sat-Sun Irvine & Mallory Ldrs: Ron Hudson & Patty Rambert. Trip details to be published next Echo.

I: Provisional Oct. 5-6 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Florence Pk. (12,432'), Vandever Mtn. (11,947'). Southern Sequoia fall backpack. Sat 5 mi, 2500' gain to camp at Florence Lake and 6 mi, 2200' gain to Florence. Prizes for best happy hour contribution. Sun pack up, climb Vandever on way out, 11 mi, 2600' gain. Send 2 sase Ldr: Dan Bovee. Co-Ldr: Beth Epstein.

I: Oct 12 Sat-Sun Kearsarge Ldrs: Greg & Mirna Roach. Trip details to be published next Echo.

M: Provisional Oct 12-13 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Dragon Peak (12,927') & Mt. Gould (13,005'): Restricted trip 3rd class rock experience. Sat start from Onion Valley above Independence, backpack to unnamed lakes beyond Golden Trout and climb Gould. Sun, climb Dragon and pack out. Send 2 sase or e-mail Ldr: Maria Roa. Asst: Nile Sorenson.



EIR Workshop

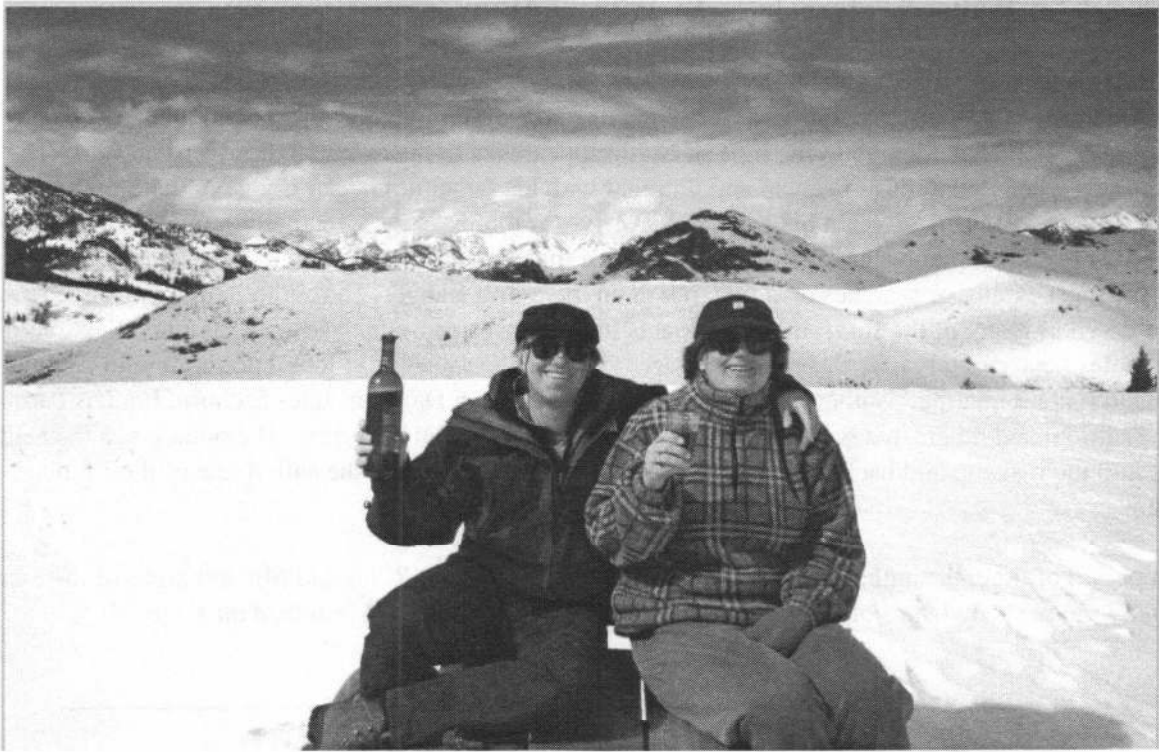
Urgent environmental issues are facing us. In order to ensure good outcomes we need an involved and informed Sierra Club membership.

Responding to Environmental Impact Reports and other such documents is of great importance for Sierra Club members.

That being the case, the Orange County Group, the Legal Advisory Committee of the Angeles Chapter and Cal State University of Fullerton's Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary are cosponsoring a workshop on analyzing and commenting upon EIRs.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 13, 2002 for 9AM to 4PM at Cal State Fullerton, McCarthy Hall, Room 121. Legal and scientific experts will participate and informational materials will be provided. Refreshments will be served and there is a \$10.00 fee. See Chapter Schedule for additional Details.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR



Gotta love Winter! It's time to be skiing and boarding up a storm. This season has been dry locally, but there is good Sierra Nevada snowpack. Between Mammoth Mountain (www.wailersskiclub.com) and Mt Baldy Ski Lifts (50th anniversary!) I'm doing my part, and am looking forward to touring in the Spring. But if you are waiting for the snow to pass, consider our Desert Peaks (angeles.sierraclub.org/dps) for a change of scenery.

Join us downtown for great programs at our monthly meetings. The upcoming presentations have a local mountaineering bent, and are SPS exclusives in the Chapter. March is Jeff Moran of Altadena Mountain Rescue; April is Christopher Brennen with "Canyoneering in the San Gabriels;" May is Sid "San Jac" Davis with a film on his many climbs of Mt San Jacinto. Sid was 1969 SPS Chair, and his talk is an opportunity for an Oldtimers Reunion. Newcomers, and fans of his renowned filmmaking are also invited.

Barbee Tidball is taking a well-earned rest from the SPS Banquet duties after many successful years. Thank-you again, Barbee for all of the memorable fetes. We now welcome Gary Schenk as our Banquet Chair for 2002-2003.

Congratulations to the SPS leaders that were recognized at this year's Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet. John Robinson received the Elna Bakker Nature Interpretation Award, and Charlie Knapke accepted the Chester Versteeg Outings Award. Way to go!

Thanks to Matthew Richardson, Nile Sorenson, and Will McWhinney for again presenting on the SPS at the annual WTC lectures. It's an excellent way for new folks to learn of our section and its activities. Joint section-listed trips are always encouraged too. We have SPS-WTC and SPS-SMS... how about intro-level trips with the Wilderness Adventures and the Natural Science Sections? And those unlisted peaks often make appealing early spring snow climbs.

We're already looking forward to at least two list finish parties in 2002. Send your trips in to Asher Waxman asap. Also note that membership and outreach ideas and materials are welcome and can be directed to SPS Outreach coordinator, Joe Wankum.

BOOK REVIEW

MISSING in the MINARETS

The Search for Walter A. Starr, Jr. By William Alsup

Bill Alsup's new book, *Missing in the Minarets*, is the story and background information on the saga of Walter [Peter] Starr Jr's disappearance in the mountains above Mammoth California in 1933. The book chronicles the events that led up to the time of his disappearance to the eventual discovery of Starr. The story unfolds when Pete fails to keep an appointment with his father at Glacier Lodge in the Sierra above Big Pine, California. Concerned when his son did not arrive, Walter Starr Sr. eventually returned home and when his son did not show up at his law office it was decided that something "unusual had happened." This set off one of the most extensive searches ever undertaken in the Sierra Range. The author, after extensive research, tracked down as many of the surviving participants in this saga as possible and with their recollections as well as notes he accurately tells the gripping story. The author's insightful look into those who participated in the search is fascinating. Names, such as, Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn, Francis Farquhar, Oliver Kehrlein and others, reads like the who's who of Sierra Mountaineering. The book gives the reader insight into the makeup and background of these individuals who rally to the call of one of their fallen brethren.

Over a period of time, the author has made numerous trips to the Mt. Ritter and Minaret areas of the Sierra to personally see the actual sites of Starr's last visit to the Range of Light *(Continued on Page 14)*

New Member - Welcome!

Natalya Shulyakovskaya
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562-434-5099
natalyafar@hotmail.com

Patricia Arredondo
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SPS Membership Report

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We get letters!!!

In the last issue of *The Echo* we published a book review written by Steve Thaw. It has been suggested that the same review had been run a few years early, also in *The Echo* - if that is the case I missed it. *The Echo* did run an announcement just before the book came out in 1998 and in the Jan/Feb 1999 edition a story about editing the book. That said I have found the reaction to Steve's review, published in the Dec/Jan 2002 *Echo* interesting and enlightening. I hope *Echo* readers are inspired to look at the current edition of Close Ups of the High Sierra, by Norman Clyde and perhaps an older copy for comparison.

Barbee Tidball

February 2, 2002

Letter from Glen Dawson

Thanks for Steve Thaw review of *Close Ups of the High Sierra* by Norman Clyde. I have only first and fourth editions and am inspired to order second and third editions. There are enough variations to almost consider them separate books. The first edition has some ten Clyde articles and the fourth some twenty-two. First edition has eleven photos of which five are by Clyde, the fourth has about thirty-seven photos of which at least nine are by Clyde. These two editions both have the core *Close-ups* articles but have differences. Some of [the] writing about Norman is as interesting as his own writing.

Both Walt Wheelock and Wynne Benti deserve credit for good editing. I am happy with both editions I have.

Later note: The title of the book is *Close Ups of the High Sierra* so [it is] logical that the editor of 4th edition left out articles relating to out of state climbing.

Glen Dawson

February 24, 2002

Letter from Wynne Benti to Scree and SPS

Thanks to Mike McDermitt for his lovely review. Walt Wheelock was my mentor and friend and the intention behind the Spotted Dog Press edition of *Close Ups of the High Sierra* was to continue the La Siesta Press legacy (with the exception of some cover updates and new additions). Walt Wheelock asked me to republish Clyde's work—he held the old La Siesta Press edition in

front of me and said, "Here." Shortly thereafter, Walt discovered that someone has posted the entire La Siesta version on their website, which upset Walt. My attorney at the time, wrote "Hairynet.com" in Montana a letter asking him to remove La Siesta's edition from their site. No response. Eventually, Walt passed away.

After moving to Bishop, I was invited by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce to a fishing season opener dinner for out of town sports writers. I was sitting with my husband next to our vet. The fellow across from me introduced himself and told me that he hosted websites - guess who it was: the owner of Hairynet, so I was able to tell him about the insensitive thing he did (not to mention infringing on Walt's copyrighted compilation) and how he really hurt an old man in the final days of his life. Our entire table had stopped eating; they were listening. The gods were looking down upon us, why else would I sit down across from that one person in a room of 300+ at the County Fairgrounds. Mike excused himself from dinner and left.

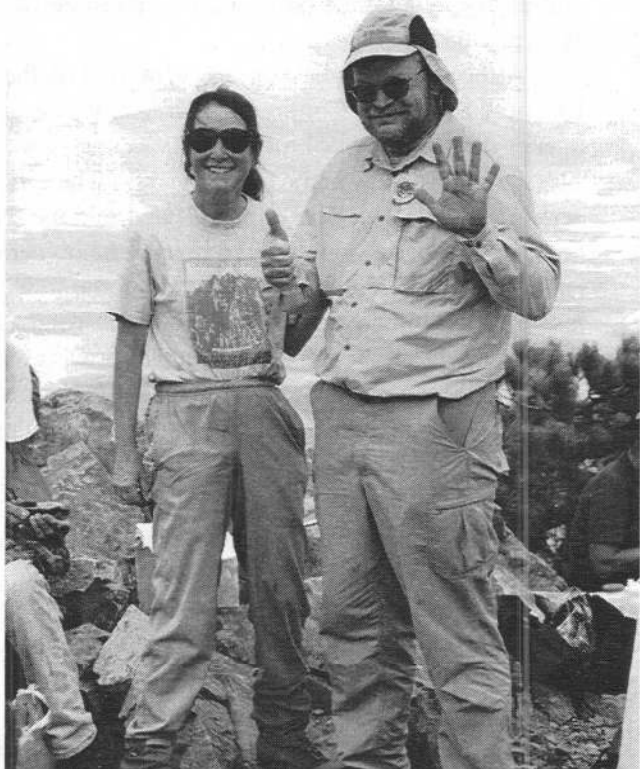
I read a review by Steve Thaw some years ago in the ECHO, apparently republished in a recent issue of *Echo* (though I have not seen it). I don't understand why someone would cast such dispersions upon our effort to keep Clyde's work in print and to introduce Clyde to a new generation of readers. We all know the fate of the book "Norman Clyde of the Sierra Nevada: Rambles in the Range of Light" - it is out of print. I do recall Thaw saying something like the only reason that Spotted Dog Press did this was to bask in Clyde's glory, which is ridiculous. Most people outside of the Sierra Club's climbing sections, the eastern Sierra's local towns, and some well read climbing bums don't even know who Clyde was. Every year I spend a day at Big Pine Elementary School talking to the kids about books. I show them Clyde's book, because he is their local hero. Most of the children don't know Clyde; they are more interested in the ghosts of old miners in Death Valley, and the pictures in my portfolio (prior to becoming a publisher) of Will Smith. Talking to most of the folks up here that knew Clyde, they remember a fellow who rarely bathed, who was always hungry and welcomed an invitation to a meal, and according to one woman, who apparently knocked up a local nurse.

I am proud of our edition of *Close Ups of the High Sierra* and that we have kept this book in print.

Wynne Benti, Publisher Spotted Dog Press, Inc.

Owens Peak & Mt. Jenkins

May 19-20, 2002
by Patty Kline



Patty Kline and Gary Schenk - Owens Peak
Gary signals "6" for completing his last climb
towards becoming a SPS member.
May 2001

OWENS PEAK, MOUNT JENKINS

This was a joint SPS/HPS trip. Owens is common to both lists and Jenkins is only on the HPS list. I led this with Rick Jail as assistant. He was Chair of the SPS in 1966.

Our group of 14 people met at 8:30 am off of Highway 14 at the beginning of the dirt road to Owens. Here are the driving directions. Take Highway 14 to Mojave. Continue north on Hwy 14 to the intersection with Hwy 178 (Walker Pass Road). Continue north on Hwy 14 another 5.3 miles to a dirt road on the left. Turn left. This is 0.4 of a mile past the Homestead Cafe. The dirt road driving is straightforward. On the dirt

road starting at Hwy 14, note your odometer: At 2.6 miles Powers Well, a cattle watering tank is on left (a great camping spot), keep straight. At 2.7 miles, fork, turn right. At 3.2 miles fork, keep left. At 3.8 miles fork, keep left. At 3.9 miles fork, keep left. At 5.2 miles fork, keep right. At 5.8 miles fork, go right. At 6.5 miles fork, go right. At 7.3 miles the remains of a cabin. This is at 5400'. Passenger cars park here. Supposedly 4x4 vehicles and vans can proceed to 7.7 miles, but the extra .4 of a mile isn't worth it. In my 2 wheel drive Pathfinder I almost got stuck about a mile before the passenger car stopping point.

By the time everyone was ready to hike it was about 9:45 am. The pace was leisurely and enjoyable. It was 8 miles round trip and 3200' of gain. We started out on a dirt road which eventually

narrowed into a canyon with a sign "Owens Peak Trail." This trail goes to the right and up the canyon to a small meadow at 6100'. We had a nice break here. Above the meadow the canyon forks. Take the right canyon. There is a good use trail in the right canyon to about 7100' where the trail starts through a field of dark boulders. Follow the ducks through these dark boulders being careful to not go to far east (right) to a field of white boulders which is off route. There is a gradual transition of the 2 fields of boulders. Eventually the use trail ends at a friction slab about 100-150' high with some scrambling. Above the slab are many use trails, which eventually consolidate into one trail near the top.

We spent over an hour on top at 8453' eating

lunch and enjoying the view of the southern Sierra. I pinned an SPS patch on Gary Schenk, who became a member of the SPS on Owens. The peak's name sake, Richard Owens, was on Fremont's 1845-46 Expedition in California, but Owens was farther north and never got to see the peak or the river he was named after.

The same route was taken on the return, getting back around 6:30 pm. The leisure pace gave us time to "smell the roses." Well, maybe pine trees in this habitat. Those on the hike were Robert Amaral, Gary Schenk, Rich Gnagy, Wayne Martin, Susan Gygax, Connie Leonard, Jan Anthony, Colette Simonds, Kathy Brown, Ginny and Jim Heringer and Bill Ramsey. That night we camped at Powers Wells, complete with a community happy hour and dinner. First, second and third prizes were given for the best items.

The next day we hiked Mt. Jenkins. We drove back to Hwy 14 and went south to the Walker Pass Road (Hwy 178). We turned right there and drove west 8.5 miles where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses Hwy 178 at 5245. Our hike was 13 miles round trip and 2700' of gain. Mt. Jenkins was named after Jim Jenkins, who was

killed in 1979 on Hwy 5 near Frazier Park by a reckless driver. Jim was a Wilderness Ranger in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Rick Jail was a personal friend of his and was very interested in climbing this peak. At about 6 miles out on the trail the ENE ridge from Mt. Jenkins can be seen. It meets the trail at 6950', UTM 111521. There is usually a duck here. Take the use trail on this ridge to a flat area at 7320'+, UTM 106520. The ridge gets steeper from here. Keep to the left until you get to the base of several rocking outcropping. The route is ambiguous here because all the tower like outcroppings look like they may contain the register. There is a lot of talus below them. On the far left there is a spire with very little talus and 30 feet of scrambling just below the top of the peak. The summit is 7921'.

Many people had to go home Saturday evening. Our smaller group Sunday consisted of the leaders and Connie Leonard, Kathy Brown, Wayne Martin and Susan Gygax. All in all it was a great weekend with perfect weather in an area that usually has strong winds in the late spring because of the on shore breeze along the foggy coast.



The West Face of Mt. McAdie:

A Solo Adventure from Miter Basin

By Matthias Selke

The story of this climb began during a rainy day during the winter of 2001. Upon looking at some internet photos of the Crabtree Pass area, I recognized the triple summit of Mt. McAdie in the background of one of the pictures. There appeared to be a chute on the west side of this peak leading all the way to the notch just south of the high point. The only previously reported route on the west side of this mountain is a class 4 buttress climbed in 1954 by Hervey Voge *et al.* Some more research online revealed that Steve Eckert (from the Bay Area PCS group) also noticed a chute on the west face of Mt. McAdie during an ascent of this peak via the regular route. The best approach for the west side of McAdie is a hike up Miter Basin, and a good look at the topo showed that one might climb Mt. Pickering and Joe Devil after descending from the west face of McAdie to the highest tarns west of Miter Basin.

Exploring new routes is one of the fun parts of mountaineering, and thus one morning about six months later – July 18, 2001, to be exact - I drove to Lone Pine, had lunch, and was finally on the Cottonwood Pass trail by 2:30 pm. It's about 12 miles and 1,700' gain to the upper Rock Creek Lakes, the obvious basecamp for an excursion to Miter Basin, and one really does not need a full day for the backpack in. (My first SPS trip ever involved a backpack in to Rock Creek in the morning, and a climb of Guyot in the afternoon for a total of 26 miles for that day. The last stragglers made it back to the Rock Creek campsite after 11 pm. This had been advertised as an intro trip.) I made it to the beautiful meadow and pond along the upper Rock Creek trail (about 0.5 mile below the turnoff to Soldier Lake) by 7:30 pm. There's a well-established campsite with a bearbox at the lower end of the small lake.

Left at 6:30 am the next morning, and followed the right (east) side of the creek leading up into Miter Basin. There's a fairly good use trail leading past the first meadow up to the actual basin above timberline. Miter Basin alone is worth the trip. Mts. LeConte and Corcoran dominate the skyline. Cross-country travel is easy along the flat slabs,

lovely meadows, and gentle streams. Hiked up northwest along easy slabs to Sky Blue Lake, where I met another lone hiker. To get to the next higher lake (the last one before Crabtree Pass), one has to first contour left (west) before turning right to the east. From this lake, it's a short easy hike over class 2 talus to the top of Crabtree Pass, which I reached by 11 am. Indeed, an obvious broad chute goes up the west face of Mt. McAdie from here. The top of the chute cannot be seen from the Pass, as the chute curves slightly about midway, and high buttresses block the view. Up this chute I went – it turned out to be a generic class 2 Sierra chute, with quite a bit of loose rock, and cl. 2-3 rock on either side of the chute which can be climbed instead of the loose crud in the middle. The chute goes up for over 1,000', and it does indeed connect – it ends up right at the notch of the regular route on McAdie. Midway up the chute, an obvious cl. 4 buttress goes up and slightly left toward the summit; this is probably the feature climbed by Hervey Voge *et al.* nearly 50 years ago. From the notch I followed the regular cl. 3 route: Climbed straight up (cl. 3) toward the main summit for 50 ft, then traversed left (west) along narrow ledges until some easy cl. 3 blocks led straight up to the summit. Reached the summit by 1 pm, relaxed for 45 min on top, and then decided to try to get down to Crabtree Pass and do Pickering and Joe Devel. From Crabtree Pass, I hiked to the tarns just west of Sky Blue Lake; this involved much tedious terrain with huge blocks and small cliffs. Then climbed up the talus slope to the saddle just east of Mt. Pickering, and finally walked up the east ridge to reach the summit of Pickering shortly after 5 pm. Was pretty tired at this point, and decided that it was too late to traverse to Joe Devel, as I did not want to descend an unknown route in the dark during a solo hike. Descended the southeast side of Pickering via the sandy plateau, and then down a chute to near Erin Lake, and reached camp just before darkness. Total gain for the day was about 5,200'. A strong party could undoubtedly have bagged Joe Devel as well.

The west face route of McAdie is certainly longer than the normal climb up from the Whitney Trail, but it avoids the ever-worsening Mt. Whitney permit bureaucracy, and it is a wonderful opportunity to visit Miter Basin. Technically, the west face chute on McAdie is the easiest route up this mountain, as it avoids the exposed downclimb into the notch of the regular route. Besides Pickering and Joe Devel, Mt. Corcoran and/or LeConte could also be climbed from Miter Basin.

Clark Range Adventures

August 4-9, 2001

Igor Mamedalin / David Underwood

The objective for this trip was to climb Mt. Clark (11,522'), Grey Peak (11,573'), Red Peak (11,699') and Merced Peak (11,726') in the Clark Range of Yosemite. To avoid paying the exorbitant Yosemite National Park entrance fee and listening to the mandatory lecture safe food handling procedures in a bear habitat, the leader chose to approach these peaks from the Quartz Mountain / Chiquito Pass trailhead in the Sierra National Forest at the southern boundary of Yosemite NP. Reserving the permit through the USFS was not a problem at a remote trailhead without a daily quota. Picking up the permit proved to be a different matter.

Arriving in Oakhurst Friday at 3 PM was a shock; traffic was already dense along the main drag lined with endless fast food joints, strip malls and motels. Oakhurst has become another example of an uncontrolled sprawling eye sore; it is not an idyllic alpine gateway to Yosemite. After cruising up and down the main drag several times looking for that quaint dark brown wooden building with an American flag out front that had been the sacrosanct symbol of the official Forest Service ranger station, I surrendered and asked for direction. The permit dispensing station was housed in a nondescript strip mall across the street from the Shilo Inn and shared quarters with a tourist office and real estate office. And, there was no flagpole in front with an Ameri-

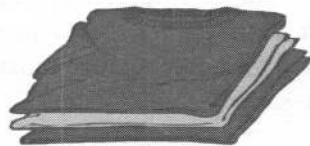
can flag on it! What is this country coming to? Is this another example of privatization and outsourcing of essential government services? Where is the pride?

To reach the trailhead, head north from Oakhurst about 3.8 miles past Yosemite Forks to the junction with Forest Road 10 (a.k.a. Sky Ranch Road). The FR10 signage is missing but the sign for the Sky Ranch is prominent. Turn east and drive for about 27 miles past Kelty Meadows and Fresno Dome campgrounds to its end at the trailhead. The road is partially dirt but graded for passenger cars. Near Kelty Meadows bear left at a major fork while near Fresno Dome bear right avoiding numerous forks to the left. Signage is sparse and a Sierra National Forest Map is extremely useful. Several vehicles were found at this remote trailhead; most of them belonged to a CCC trail crew. Five trip participants arrived that night at the trailhead; the sixth participant arrived in the morning.

Saturday morning we waited until 8:30 AM for the 7th participant to show up; they turned out to be a dreaded no show (to be blacklisted in the SPS database). Striking out from the Quartz Mountain trailhead on a good well signed trail we reached the NP boundary at Chiquito Pass in less than .75 miles and entered Yosemite without paying a fee. From Chiquito Pass we head north on a trail toward the Chain Lakes creek drainage then on through Moraine Meadows and over Merced Pass. On the north side of Merced Pass we joined a trail leading northeast toward Lower Ottaway Lake. After 13 miles and about 2,500' elevation gain we reached our base camp before sundown. Lower Ottaway Lake proved to be about the most picturesque lake that I have ever had the privilege to camp at. No bears were spotted during our stay there.

Sunday morning we continued on the trail toward Red Peak Pass leaving the trail where it becomes level with Upper Ottaway Lake. Heading south around the outlet from Upper Ottaway Lake over some talus we gained the prominent saddle between Ottaway Peak and Merced Peak. From the saddle four of the participants headed up a low 3rd class ridge to gain the summit of Merced Peak while Terry Turner and Suzanne Mamedalin lingered in the fine sunshine soaking in the views. After Merced Peak the four peak baggers traversed northwest across open slabs

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 \$3.50 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.



toward Red Peak staying high above Upper Ottaway Lake. Crossing the trail just below Red Peak Pass we headed straight up Red Peak staying on talus and scree west of some prominent gendarmes. From the summit of Red Peak, to save distance, the leader persuaded the group to drop directly down toward our camp at Lower Ottaway Lake instead of retracing the route back to the trail. The direct route down proved to be quite unstable with numerous blocks of talus easily dislodged. Nonetheless, with some cursing and a couple of near misses everyone arrived in camp safely before sundown and in time for happy hour. Terry Turner, one of the peakless participants, sprained her knee on the way back from Upper Ottaway Lake and was nursing it with ibuprofen and cold water (no ice in the vicinity).

After the two peak day everyone earnestly assessed their state of wellbeing and the topographic to arrive at the conclusion that the group was not in the mood to move the base camp to the vicinity of Mt. Clark. Mt. Clark was to be saved for another day. On Monday morning Bruce Turner decided to walk Terry Turner out to the trailhead early due to the swollen and painful knee. The leaders and Herb Beuhler decided to make a stab at Grey Peak from our base camp at Lower Ottaway Lake. Heading north to a prominent saddle between point

11093' and point 11304' we made good time and gained the saddle easily. However, from the saddle we observed a significant drop with crud filled chutes to the drainage between Grey and Red peaks. Again after diligently assessing our wellbeing and counting the numerous contour lines we concluded that obviously Grey Peak would go real well with Mt. Clark at a later date. From the saddle at 10,800' a drop to 9,600' was anticipate before a 2000' gain to the summit of Grey Peak. After climbing point 11093' for a view we descended back to camp for a leisurely afternoon.

Tuesday morning we broke camp and retraced our steps back to the trailhead. Along the way we encountered a large trail crew hewing stone in the hot sun to build a formidable trail to Lower Ottaway Lake opening it up in the future to equestrians and packers. Sad, another remote relatively pristine spot of a paradise to be overrun, overused and destroyed. During our whole time at Ottaway Lakes we encountered only a few members of the trail crew on their day off bagging Red and Merced Peak.

I appreciate the faith in my leadership exhibited by the participants and I thank David Underwood for the excellent assistance and superb comradery. I apologize for the unwarranted expectations vainly raised in the hope of claiming the other two elusive summits.

(Continued) that he explored and so loved. Using some of Starr's own photographs, Bill Alsup was able to locate the exact locations where Starr traveled. Many hours were spent pouring over the peak registers located in the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley. The author was able to authenticate the exact dates of Starr's peak climbs in the area. From these records he was also able to track down other climbers who visited the region during the same time. Judge Alsup, using his investigative skills learned as a successful trial lawyer, is able to put together all the gathered evidence to accurately record the events as they occurred. The author's persistence led him to discovering many lost or even soon to be discarded files and letters, which gave new insights to the story.

This book is must reading for anyone who ever walked off the trail and explored new territory. For those of us who climb to high places, this book truly does give us a feeling that today when we climb we are really standing on the shoulders of those who came before.

Reviewed by, Hal Browder

Member American Alpine Club

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GOODE-GIRAUD

September 15-17, 2001

By Ret Moore

Eight climbers met at the Bishop Pass trailhead parking lot about 7 AM Saturday morning. The participants were Brent Crookham, John Dorsey, Steve Eckert (co-leader), Jim Edmondson, Vishal Jaiswal, Elmer Martin, Ret Moore (leader) and Linda Roman. Brent and I had been climbing some peaks in the Tioga Pass and Red's Meadow areas, so we arrived Friday evening after a dinner in Bishop. I was relieved to find plenty of parking spots in the lot. My experience in the past has been that if you arrive too early or too late you must park on the roadside a considerable distance down the road and hike up to the parking lot. But I guess after Labor Day, the crowds thin out.

After the usual introductions we were on our way up the trail past South Lake and arrived at Bishop Lakes in plenty of time to set up camp and have lunch before setting out for our first objective - Mt. Goode (13,085). Elmer had carried a very large pack up to camp and was feeling the altitude, so he decided to stay in camp. Jim had already climbed the peak and also stayed back. The climb is moderate with no route finding problems from Bishop Lakes and we were on top early enough in the afternoon that we spent nearly an hour talking and spotting peaks before we started back down the mountain, arriving back in camp in time for an early Happy Hour before dinner. We soon learned one of the reasons the Elmer carried such a large pack - he had a wide assortment of delectables, including a bottle of fine wine.

During and after dinner we had a lively discussion on terrorism and other geopolitical subjects. As the temperature dropped quickly after the sun disappeared behind Mt. Goode, I retired to my nearby sleeping bag to continue the discussion. Alas - the warmth of the bag coaxed me to sleep and I'm afraid I missed some of the most profound theories that were laid out for analysis.

Sunday we expected a long day on our quest for Giraud Peak (12,608) and were up before full light and were on the trail toward Bishop's Pass by 7 A.M. Elmer was still having trouble with the altitude and he decided to sign out before we left. Also John said he had a chest cold and figured he would not do the peak either. I talked him into hiking up to Bishop's Pass to see how he felt after he stretched his legs. He must have felt better, because he stayed with us all day and finished the climb in fine style.

We followed the trail down into Dusy Basin to the point where it takes a permanent westerly direction and climbed the ridge between Dusy Branch lakes and Rainbow lakes. This ridge was followed up to an obvious steepening where we contoured around to the right and worked our way up to the saddle between Giraud and peak 12266 (this is the route described by Secor). To avoid fourth class climbing, you must drop down over the saddle. By following the base of the steep slope, and keeping on second class rock, you will drop down 350 to 400 feet before you arrive at the entrance to a broad second class chute heading directly toward the peak and reaching almost to the summit. We did not go all the way to the beginning of the chute, but went up the rock to the north of it, avoiding about 50 of the drop. Although there is some third class rock by this route it is well worth it just to avoid the sand in the chute. We dropped into the chute at the upper end and scrambled up the last 100 or so feet to the summit.

We stayed a while on top enjoying some breath taking views of the back side of the Palisades in one direction and Devil's Crags in the other. On the return we decided to take a different route, following the northwest ridge down to a little saddle where you first encounter black rock. Here there is a steep narrow chute harboring a multitude of loose rocks. Not good for a larger party, unless you are climbing early in the season when there is snow in it. We went one at a time, waiting until those below reached a sheltered position before moving above. Still, it was dicey and slow going. So even though this route is shorter and avoids regaining three to four hundred of lost elevation, we did not save any significant time, but certainly saved some effort. Over the ridge between Rainbow lakes drainage and Dusy Branch and we were soon on the seemingly long gentle trail to Bishop Pass, I think we all reflected on a satisfying day as the sun dropped behind the western peaks.

To quote from Steve Eckert's earlier web report, "most of us rolled back into camp around 6:30 PM, after almost 4500' of gain, but Vishal came in an hour later with bad knees. John's chest cold had been getting worse all day, so he hiked out as it got dark rather than risk waking up to worse. More people participated in this night's political debate, and we stayed up later knowing we were in no rush the next day. Jim signed out at dawn the next morning, the rest of us started late for the 1.5-hour stroll to the cars. Breakfast in Bishop and an afternoon of passing cars in Yosemite" (or being passed on 395 for some of us) "capped off a fine trip. Colors and frost indicate summer is over in the high sierra!"

IN HIGH PLACES: PENULTIMATE PEAKBAGGING

NEW ENGLAND HIGHPOINTS

By Burton "Shall We Pray?" Falk

On September 22, eleven days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, my wife, Jo, and I flew from Los Angeles to Boston on a United Airlines flight operating at only a 30% load factor. Arriving at the Logan Airport Hyatt Harborside hotel that evening, we discovered that it too was experiencing an occupancy slump, and that many of its personnel had already been laid off in the wake of the abrupt travel slowdown. The remaining staff members were gamely performing double-duty, and, in fact, the maintenance superintendent (who came up to make a minor repair in our room that evening) helped serve us our breakfast the next morning. Needless to say, everyone was unusually friendly and accommodating, and Jo and I both felt a bit patriotic about traveling, helping in a very limited way the troubled travel industry to get back on its feet.

Next morning, under a lowering sky with intermittent rain, we rented a car and headed north, stopping only for a tasty seafood lunch in Kennebunkport, ME, and then again at the wondrous L.L. Bean store in Freeport, ME, where we purchased a pair of hiking poles. That night we stopped at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Millinocket, ME, where, by asking for the hiker's rate, we got a substantially better deal than we would have with the normal AAA discount.

The following morning, Sept. 24th, leaving Jo deep in dreamland, I drove northwest 18 miles to the gatehouse at Baxter State Park, paid an \$8 entry fee, then continued on another 7.7 miles to the Katahdin Stream Campground, where I parked in a day-use parking area.

Starting off just after 8 a.m. in a cool drizzle, I followed the Hunt Trail (which is part of the Appalachian Trail) northeast 5.2 miles, gaining about 4,200 feet along the way, finally reaching the 5,267' apex of Baxter Peak, the highest point on multi-summitted **Mount Katahdin**, the high point of the State of Maine, and the northern terminus of the 2,025 mile-long Appalachian Trail, at 12:30 p.m. On the top, alas, rain and raw, wind-driven clouds obscured my views. Tarrying only long enough to take one summit photo, I turned around and was back at the car by 4:20 p.m.

The jolting 2nd class rock-hopping during the mid-portion of the climb, both ascending and descending, had been hard on my arthritic right hip, and by the time I pulled into the motel parking lot I could barely extricate myself from the car, much less walk. Thank God for a viox and a long hot shower, followed by a toothsome Maine lobster dinner and a glass or two of chardonnay at the motel's dining room (claimed to be the best restaurant in town). Jo swears I fell asleep that night before my head actually touched the pillow.

Next morning, we had breakfast at the Appalachian Trails Café (famous for its squash doughnuts) in downtown Millinocket (a blue collar mill town, if there ever was one), and then started off on a gloriously bright and clear fall morning, (or as John Cheever might say, a "polished" morning), heading for New Hampshire's high point, 6,288' **Mt. Washington**, and points beyond. During my previous day's climb of Katahdin, the rain and clouds had kept the autumn's arboreal display decidedly subdued, but on this fine day, driving south and west across central Maine, the northernmost leg of our nine-day highpointing trip, we were rewarded with magnificent views of New England's famous fall foliage.

Arriving at the entrance to Mt. Washington's privately owned toll road about 4:30 p.m., just a half an hour before it closed to uphill traffic, we paid our fare (\$16 per car and driver, plus \$6 for every additional adult passenger) and were soon driving up the mountain's steep north slope, rapidly ascending through several climatic zones, reaching the above tree line summit at 5 p.m. Unfortunately, Mt. Washington is a stark reminder as to what can happen if a perfectly good wilderness area is left open for unsupervised commercial exploitation. Amid a forest of antennae, a slew of buildings, several ugly parking lots and a set of cog-rail train tracks, we rock-hopped some 10 yards to a sign proclaiming the actual summit, where we traded taking photos with another couple. Departing the scene of the crime about 5:30 p.m., we sped on to Stowe, Vermont, where we encountered one of those infamous good news/bad news situations. The good news was that our accommodations at the Golden

Eagle Resort Motor Inn were very good indeed; the bad news being that our late dinner at the highly recommended seafood restaurant just across the street, The Partridge Inn, was pathetic.

Next morning, I erred in selecting a route up nearby 4,393' **Mt. Mansfield**, the high point of Vermont, assuming that the 1.2 mile round trip "Cliff Trail" would be easier than the 2.8 mile round trip "Long Trail." Although a gondola (part and parcel of the Stowe Ski Area) provided most of our elevation gain, the ensuing Cliff Trail was a bit too treacherous for Jo, who three years ago had a double laminectomy, and who consequently needs to be extra careful of her back. After bravely negotiating the wet, rocky path for about 15 minutes, she decided that the climb was just too much. I accompanied her back to café at the top of the gondola, and then made the high 2nd class ascent solo.

Although Jo was clearly disappointed in not bagging the peak, consolation turned out to be only moments away. Just a few miles south of Stowe, in Waterbury, VT, there lies a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream plant (all of whose products are manufactured from milk and cream supplied by local dairies), where, after a guided tour of the plant and a tasting session, we downed two large, fast-melting ice cream cones, while sitting on a park bench, gazing out at the hills of New England, which on that warm afternoon were magically transforming from the soft green of summer into the bright finery of autumn. Later, continuing west, we ferried across Lake Champlain, arriving at the posh Mirror Lake Inn Resort and Spa, in Lake Placid, New York about 7 p.m., just as it started to rain.

To be perfectly truthful, I was not at all



Jo Falk - Summit of Mt. Washington

unhappy about the inclement weather, as at that point I was limping around like Chester on the old TV "Gunsmoke" series. There was no way, I thought, that I could make the 15 mile round trip, 3,600' gain ascent of New York's 5,344' high point, **Mt. Marcy**, the following day. That night, on the 11 o'clock news, the weatherman called for up to 3" of rain during the following 24 hour period. We closed the blackout drapes and drifted off listening to reassuring pitter-patter of rain on the roof.

Imagine my chagrin the next morning when, throwing open the drapes, I discovered that, although it was still overcast, the rain had stopped. I

considered making a late run for the mountain, but that notion lasted only until I put a little weight on my right hip. Ouch! Instead of making the climb, we spent the day doing laundry, browsing through the resort town's bevy of boutiques, and making plans to return to conquer the mountain the following summer.

On Tuesday, September 26, yet another polished day, we left Lake Placid, heading for Wilmington, Delaware. Early that afternoon, while speeding south on the Garden State Parkway, just west of Manhattan, we witnessed for ourselves that the familiar twin towers of the lower New York City skyline were, indeed, missing. And then the horrible realization sunk in that only a mile or two across the Hudson River lay a still smoldering funeral pyre. In neighboring New Jersey, an area so terribly affected by the dark event, virtually every car was flying an American flag. The cloud of gloom that descended on us didn't lift until later that evening, when we shared a convivial dinner with friendly in-laws in Wilmington.

On Wednesday morning, September 27th, we drove to the intersection of Ebright and Ramblewood Drives in the Wilmington suburb of Dartmouth Woods, on the southeastern corner of which we found a sign indicating we had arrived at **Ebright Azimuth**, Delaware's 448' highpoint. Unfortunately, as we subsequently learned, the sign is incorrect. According to the very latest information, the true state highpoint is located some 300 yards west of the intersection in a privately owned mobile home park. Because of the access problem attendant with this newly discovered high point, the Board of Directors of the Highpointers Club has unanimously approved a resolution deeming that a visit to the Ebright/Ramblewood intersection will be considered an "official" ascent—at least until entry rights to the trailer park can be worked out.

After taking the obligatory "summit" photos, we then hightailed it north, in part via Pennsylvania SR 209, a beautiful highway that wends its way for 20 miles through the billboard-free Water Gap National Recreation Area, heading for the 1,803' apex of New Jersey, a forested, rolling hill, named, somewhat unimaginatively, "**High Point.**"

Bagging the apex of the Garden State, which overlooks the Delaware Water Gap, involves a scenic 5.7-mile drive south from I-84, followed by a short walk from a large parking lot. Unfortunately, by 3 p.m., when we reached the huge obelisk marking the high point, the once fine day had been dulled by a

high overcast, and a cold wind made up step lively.

Back in the car again, we sped north, heading for Massachusetts' highpoint, 3,487' **Mt. Graylock**, located in the Berkshire Mountains in the northwestern corner of the Bay State. Arriving at the base of the 7.3 mile road leading to Graylock's summit just as the sun was about to set, we noticed a sign on the roadside gate stating that the park closed at sunset, and that the gate would be shut and locked shortly thereafter. I have been locked in on two previous occasions (once at the parking lot of the Palm Springs Aerial Tram, once on the Cahuilla Indian Reservation), but because I was carrying tools in my car in both instances I was able to remove the gates' hinges and make my getaway. With a rental car and no tools, however, I figured we could be stuck there all night. Deciding that discretion was the better part of you know what, we drove back to nearby Pittsfield, Mass, where, after finding a so-so motel, we enjoyed a surprisingly good dinner.

Next morning, on our ascent of Mt. Graylock—a virtual drive up, by the way—we talked to a park ranger who confessed they never bothered to lock the gate.

We then began our drive south toward **Mt. Frissell**, on the south shoulder of which lies the 2,380' highpoint of the State of Connecticut (the actual summit of Mt. Frissell is in Massachusetts). Only 2.4 miles in round trip, and involving a mere 960' of gain, this was the summit that almost did us in.

The story here is that as just we were about to leave the car at the trailhead parking area, we heard the rumble of approaching thunder. Because we both had Gortex jackets and Mickey Mouse ponchos, however, we weren't particularly concerned with the prospect of rain. After fifteen minutes of level hiking on a good use trail, we encountered a steep slope of rather formidable rocks (or at least they were formidable for Jo, who hasn't had much rock experience). Gamely struggling up though the obstacle course, we arrived on the brush-covered summit of Round Mountain just as a mighty cannonade of thunder detonated directly overhead. My first impulse was to get off the top pronto, especially since we were both holding aluminum hiking poles, a.k.a lightning rods. The question was should we turn back, or should we continue onward? Not willing to give up what we'd already gained, we opted forward, quickly descending to a saddle just below Mt. Frissell, at which point it began to rain really, really hard, like the proverbial cow pissing on

the legendary flat rock. And, of course, the wind began to howl. We pulled our yellow ponchos over our Gortex jackets, but we were still getting drenched. Water filled our boots, and we slogged with each step. Coming to a stop, perplexed as to what to do next, who should come up from behind but two equally soggy highpointers, man and wife, hailing from the Washington, D.C. area. This provided us some comfort, as it seemed far, far better to drown in company than to drown alone. I was about to suggest a short prayer service, followed by a chorus of "Rock of Ages," when the Washingtonians splashed off—rather abruptly, I thought—toward the summit. Jo and I decided to continue on, too, and in 10 minutes or so we reached the brass stake and small rock cairn marking the Connecticut high point, where, oddly, our new acquaintances were nowhere in sight. A few moments later, while attempting to take summit photos—which really required an underwater camera—the sopping-wet D.C. duo reappeared, coming in from the opposite direction. They had overshot the easily missed high point, and had continued down the trail another quarter of a mile.

We quickly snapped pictures of each other, and then, in the continuing downpour, started back toward the cars. Unfortunately, we discovered that the steep rocky portion of the trail had turned into a waterfall, and that the footing was treacherous. Since we had to be ultra careful due to Jo's back, the couple from Washington got way ahead of us and finally vanished for good. By the time Jo and I finally arrived back at the car, we were soaked to the skin, and we had to change every stitch of clothing we were wearing. To add insult to injury, we'd missed lunch entirely.

But, hey, we weren't through yet. We were going to bag three state highpoints that day or bust.

Driving east through rural northwestern Connecticut, we reached Hartford just as the last light faded from the sky, and just as a new thunderstorm (or maybe it was the same old one) crashed down around us. Continuing east on State Highway 2, and then north on I-395, it rained so hard at times that even the fastest wiper speed couldn't keep our windshield clear.

The highpoint of Rhode Island, 812' **Jerimoth Hill**, lies on private property, and as such it has become somewhat of a *cause celebre*. After years of acrimony and many a covert ascent, the Highpointer's Club reached an agreement with the owner of the property to allow for a handful of

scheduled highpointer visits per year. If, however, it's not possible to make the "climb" on one of those few days, the Club has deemed that just parking on the highway next to the Jerimoth Hill sign counts as an official ascent—and that was what we intended to do.

We left I-395 at Exit 22, followed Connecticut SR 101 east for 4.7 miles, crossed the Rhode Island State Line, and then drove another 0.7 of a mile until we came to the Jerimoth Hill sign located along the north side of the highway. The exact time I "ascended" by 49th State highpoint was 8:15 p.m., on a very rainy Friday, September 28.

If I had been able to bag New York's Mt. Marcy, I would have finished the 50 State list with Rhode Island—but it just wasn't in the cards. On Nov. 8, back home in Palm Desert, I had my right hip replaced. (I'm doing fine, by the way, no need to send cards or flowers). Next summer, along with a retinue of friends and family, including, hopefully, all three of our grandchildren, Jo and I will return to Lake Placid, where, on the ultimate peakbagging trip, I will conquer my pesky 50th.

From Jerimoth Hill we drove wearily back to the Harborside Hyatt in Boston, where at 10:30 p.m., after quick showers, we inhaled delicious Maine lobster dinners in the hotel's bayside restaurant. And even though we were bone tired, we were still able to marvel at the wondrous view of Boston's gleaming skyline, shimmering across the wind-swept, ink-black waters of Boston Harbor.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, Jo and I left Boston for Europe, where we planned to ascend a certain national highpoint located in a *Jardin Exotique*, overlooking the Cote d'Azur. But that's a story for another installment of "In High Places."

CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

BARBEE TIDBALL

□ **Yosemite gets approval to begin improvements**

March 14, 2002 *Fresno Bee* report: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) - Plans to rebuild lodging, expand campgrounds and remove parking lots in Yosemite Valley were given the go-ahead Thursday.

Park officials said they received final approval from the Department of Interior, after urging from Congress, to begin the first phase of the \$441 million Yosemite Valley Plan, which took two decades to complete. The plan, which was signed in November 2000 by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, is aimed at reducing human impact on the breathtaking 7-mile long valley. It has been criticized by some environmentalists as a development scheme masquerading as restoration.

The first \$105 million phase includes rebuilding employee housing and parts of Yosemite Lodge damaged in the 1997 flood that wiped out campgrounds and spurred action on the plan after three decades of debate on the park's future. A parking lot where diesel buses idle at the base of towering Yosemite Falls will be converted into a picnic area. An Indian culture center will be built. Shuttle buses will be purchased and bus stops will be improved. The plan ultimately will remove much of the parking in the valley, but those improvements will take much longer and are not included in the phase scheduled to be completed in the next two and a half years. Campsites will be added in four locations, including Camp 4, which is popular with rock climbers who travel from around the world to scale the park's granite walls.

One new element of the plan is a \$2 million campground study at the request of Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, to replace campsites destroyed when the Merced River crested its banks five years ago.

Jay Watson of The Wilderness Society said he's concerned that efforts to increase camping could jeopardize plans to return the former campsites to meadows along the river. "I just don't want to see the single largest restoration project sacrificed," Watson said. "What's the sense of spending money to rebuild a facility that's eventually going to get flooded out again?"

□ **Sierra Club National Elections**

It's that time again – Sierra Club Elections. SPS members are encouraged to vote. Make sure your ballot is received by noon April 24th. Information on the candidates can be found on the Sierra Club's Web site – including candidate statements. 13 candidates are running in the Board of Directors 2002 election. The nominating Committee for the 2002 elections was chaired by Susan Heitman (a friend to the SPS during the years when the Club's Fixed Anchor policy was being developed). In this election, as has occurred in National elections for the past few years, will see candidates that represent the Club's existing structure and candidates who represent the "John Muir Sierrans". Of the petition candidates Brademeyer, Hanscom, Rauch and Voss represent the John Muir Sierrans who are looking to change the Club. For some history on this issue see The Sierra Echo, March-April 2000, Volume 44. As a club member you need to decide where you think the future of the Club should be directed.

Candidates 2002-2005

Nominating Committee: Jim Catlin - Utah, Larry Fahn - California, James Mays - New York, Chuck McGrady - North Carolina, Patrick Murphy - Illinois, Charlie Ogle - Oregon, Lois Snedden - Nevada, Bernie Zaleha - Idaho

Petition: Brian Brademeyer - South Dakota, Marcia Hanscom - California, Nancy Rauch - Pennsylvania, Rene Voss - Maryland, and Ben Zuckerman - California

Directors whose terms expire in 2002 are: Anne Ehrlich, Larry Fahn, Kim Mowery, Charlie Ogle and René Voss.

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

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Beth Epstein, 4048 East Massachusettes St., Long Beach, CA 90814-2825.

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

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