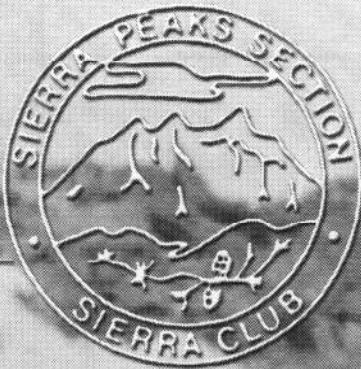


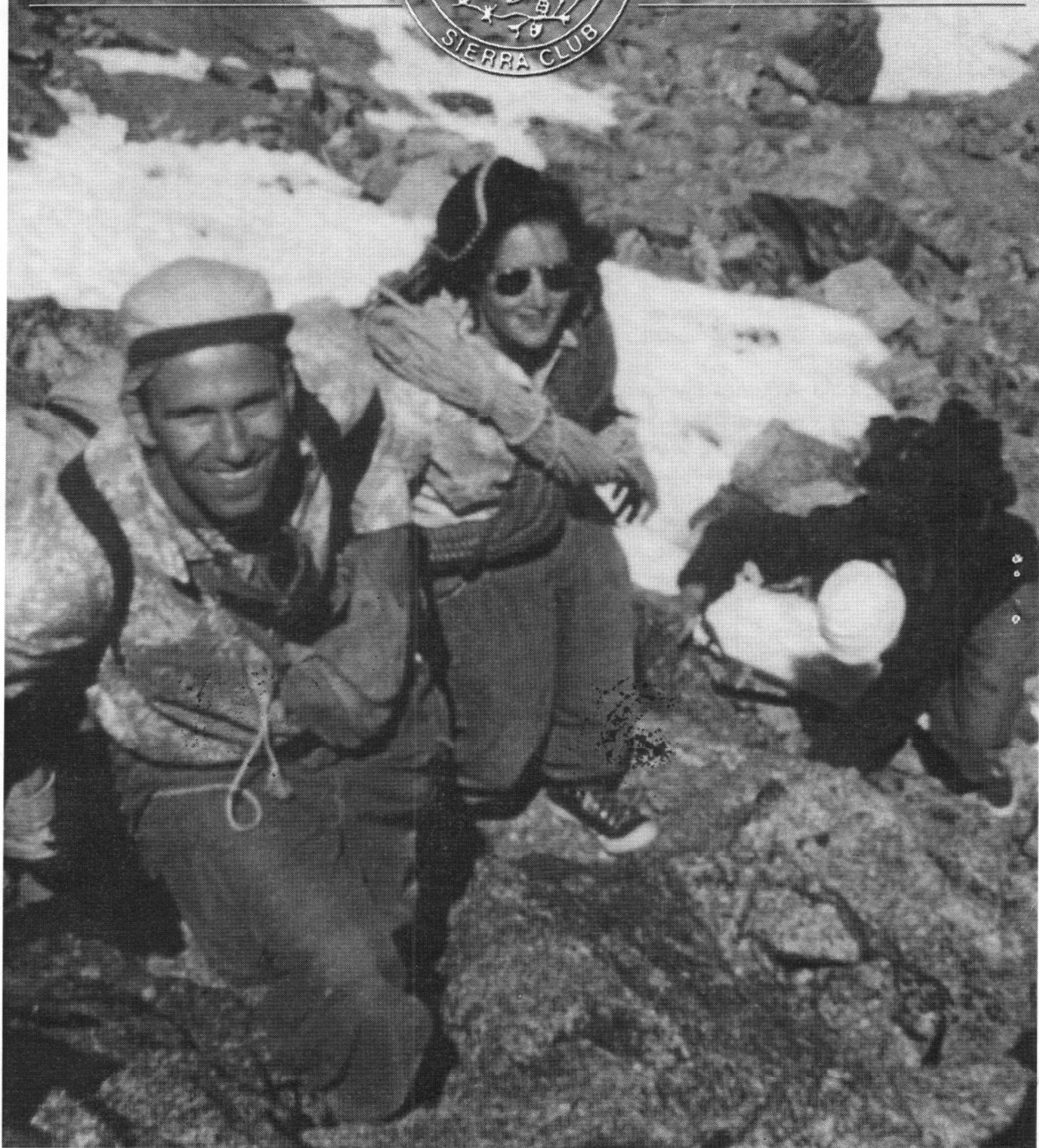
The Sierra

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 4



ECHO

AUGUST - OCTOBER 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. DWP, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles. Free parking (please inform parking attendants that you are attending a SC meeting).

October 9 - Wednesday - Wally & Sherry Ross, biologists, will give a program on birding in the Sierra.

November 13 - Wednesday - Kilimanjaro climbing and charity - Penelope May, Penelope will show her slides of her climb of Kilimanjaro, high point of Africa. See the school where African children attend that Penelope raises money for with each Kilimanjaro trip she leads.

December 11 - Wednesday - Hiking the Pyrenees - Beth Epstein, Beth will show her slides of her September 2002 hiking trip in the Pyrenees of France.

January 8, 2003 - Wednesday - Annual SPS Banquet - Ellen Wilts speaker, We are very fortunate to have Ellen Wilts as our banquet speaker. Ellen's husband, Chuck Wilts, did much to make mountaineering and rock climbing what it is today. Don't miss this historical show with climbs of peaks in Canada and locally. Join your friends and welcome in a new year of climbing in the Sierra. Location: Buon Gusto Trattoria, 5755 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach. 6:00 pm: no host bar, 7:30 pm dinner. Indicate choice of chicken, fish or vegetarian by Dec. 30th. Send SASE with check for \$28.00 to SPS Banquet Chair Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. Question phone Gary at 714/846-2264 or e-mail gwschenk@socal.rr.com.

Range of Light Echo Cover Contest

The April/May 2003 Echo cover will feature one spectacular color photo by an SPS Member.

Get ready to show off your artistic talents. Photos for consideration to be submitted by March 30, 2003 to Barbee Tidball. Judging to be by the SPS Management Committee.

Peak List

Three Sisters
Mt. Gilbert
Excelsior Mtn.
Kern Peak
Chamberlain
Joe Devel
Mt. Izaak Walton
Pickering
Newcomb

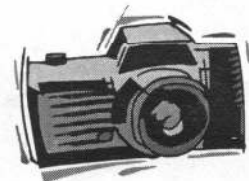
Front Cover

Chuck & Ellen Wilts
1951 North Palisade

Ellen Wilts

SPS Banquet Speaker

Photo by Tom Kendig



Autumn/Winter/Spring Trips 2002/2003



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.

I/ME: Jan 5 Sun LTC Navigation Practice & Check-off. Warren Point/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Co.ldr. Bob Bradshaw

FEBRUARY

M/ER: Feb 1 Sat Baldy Snow Practice. Review all aspects of snow climbing, rope travel on snow, use of the ice axe and snow anchors. For aspiring M and E candidates and for current leaders who want to brush up on new techniques. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE & E-mail. Ldr. Nile Sorenson, Co-ldr. Doug Mantle.

M/ER: Feb 15 Sat Baldy Snow Practice. Local snow climbing practice at Baldy Bowl. For aspiring M and E candidates and for current leaders who want to brush up on new techniques. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE & E-mail. Ldr. Tina Bowman, Co-ldr. Tom Bowman.

APRIL

O,I,M&E: Apr 5 Sat LTC Leadership Training Program. Learn the skills to become a Sierra Club Leader. Enrollment information send SASE to Don Creighton, LTC Registrar, 2235 W. 25th st., Unit 128, San Pedro, CA 90732. Phone 310/519-0364.

I/ME: Apr 12 Sat LTC Navigation Practice. Indian Cove/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Co.ldr. Bob Bradshaw

I/ME: Apr 13 Sun LTC Navigation Check-off. Indian Cove/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Co.ldr. Bob Bradshaw

Note to Leaders: Leaders who have an approved restricted trip must report back to the SPS Outings Chair on the trip. Send the Trip Sign-in sheet to the Outings Chair after the trip. If the trip is postponed or cancelled, report this to the Outings Chair.

OCTOBER

Too Cold to go Climbing? Check out the EASTERN SIERRA MOUNTAIN FEST. Oct 25-26, 2002 the 1st Annual Eastern Sierra Mountain Fest will be taking place at the Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop, CA. The event features Peter Croft, Lynn Hill, Tom Hornbein, Andrew Mead Lawrence, Andy Selters, Allen Steck and John Wehausen. Friday night dinner and presentations, Saturday presentations and Tradeshow and much more. Contact Eastern Sierra Mountain Fest, P.O. Box 1266, Bishop, CA 93515, Phone 888-395-3952 or 760-873-8405.

NOVEMBER

I/ME: Nov 16-17 Sat LTC Navigation Practice and Check-off. Indian Cove/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Co.ldr. Bob Bradshaw

E/MR Nov 16-17 LTC Rock Workshop/Check-off This intermediate and advanced workshop based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Check-offs for M and E rock will take place Saturday. Restricted trip. Carcamp Indian Cove campground in Joshua Tree. Send SASE or e-mail to Ldr. Virgil Shields, Asst. Gary Embrey.

DECEMBER

O/I/ME: Dec 7 LTC Navigation Practice, Mt. Lowe Area - San Gabriel Nat. Forest Indian Cove/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Diane Dunbar, Co.ldr. Don Creighton

I/ME: Dec 8 Sun LTC Navigation Practice & Check-off. Warren Point/Joshua Tree. Ldr. Harry Freimanis, Co.ldr. Bob Bradshaw

JANUARY

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

August 20, 2002

Climb on! The Sierra season is now in its prime. Enjoy the fleeting summer and saunter lightly through The Range of Light. It has been a balmy year. But perhaps El Nino will return for a wetter upcoming winter?

I note with sadness the passing of Galen and Barbara Rowell, who were killed in a plane crash near Bishop on Aug 12. Both of the Rowells were internationally renowned nature photographers, and Galen was of course also a gifted climber. Perhaps this tragedy will push Bishop to upgrade its airport and let the Mammoth Lakes airstrip nonsense be.

We welcome Gary Schenk to the SPS Management Committee as Fifth Officer. Joe Wankum has ably assumed the task of Secretary. After much anticipation, we are printing the snappy new publicity brochure for the joint Angeles Chapter climbing sections: SPS, DPS, HPS. Thanks to Barbee Tidball for her fine job of facilitating the attractive color layout.

Look for the SPS to be profiled in an upcoming issue of the Adventure16 newsletter, "Footprints." In part, as a correction to a current Summer article that overlooked the climbing accomplishments of our senior members in the Sierra!

Mark your calendar for January 8th. I am pleased to announce our speaker and venue for the annual SPS banquet. Ellen Wilts will present her program on climbing with her late husband Chuck Wilts. It's an enthralling talk. Come see a legend in North American climbing. Both were influential early members of the Rock Climbing and Ski Mountaineering Sections. Chuck chaired both sections, published the "Guide to Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks" and established the Yosemite Decimal System for classifying climbing routes. Together, the Wilts mountaineered, rock climbed and skied extensively. The banquet is returning to Buon Gusto Trattoria in Long Beach. Peter, our host, made us feel right at home with last season's excellent dinner and warm accommodations. Kudos are due our Banquet Chair Gary Schenk in making these arrangements.

Finally, now is the time to give back a little of your time to the SPS. I have enjoyed my past two years as Chair. New faces are sought. Please contact our Nominating Chair Patty Kline asap to run for next year's management committee. It's rewarding, and a great way to become more involved in *your* Section. Earn the recognition and appreciation of your fellow climber members. You need not be a rated or active leader. Election results will be announced at the November meeting.

Cheers, Erik Siering



Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2002

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A. Report by Joe Wankum.

Management Committee Meeting

June 12, 2002

Attendees: Erik Siering, Asher Waxman, Gary Schenk, Patty Kline

The Management Committee meeting was not called to order due to lack of a quorum. Matthew Richardson had sent message that he would not be present. Maria Roa had car trouble and was not present. Joe Wankum arrived late.

Erik passed out copies of the SPS Bylaws to the Management Committee members present.

Matthew's message mentioned above (not part of minutes):

Subj: June SPS Meeting

Date: 6/9/02 1:45:42 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: calalpinist@yahoo.com (Matthew Richardson)
To: erik.siering@hsc.com (Erik Siering), maria_roa@indymac.com (Maria Roa), jbwankum@aol.com (Joe Wankum), asheraw@hotmail.com (Asher Waxman)

Hello all, I wanted to let you all know that I won't be able to attend the SPS meeting Wednesday night. I'll be on a plane to Peru, for an attempt on Huascarán. I'm sorry that I won't be there to take the minutes of our June meeting — and I'll need someone's help to take care of that for me. Joe, would you be able to do that please? I'm attaching a copy of the May minutes so they can be read and approved in my absence. Toward that end, I'd appreciate it if you could take a moment to look them over. If anyone sees something that should be changed, please let me know soon. Thanks for your help, and I'll look forward to seeing you all again in July. Happy trails, Matthew

SPS General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Erik Siering. He gave a brief report on outings.

Erik introduced the evening's presenter, Rich Henke. Rich gave a slide presentation on a September 2001, ten-day canoe trip to the Bowron Lakes in British Columbia, 300 miles north of Vancouver. The route consists of a natural 70-mile rectangle of lakes connected by rivers or short portages.

July 10, 2002

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A. Minutes taken by Joe Wankum.

Management Committee Meeting

Attended By: Erik Siering, Joe Wankum, Gary Schenk, Patty Kline, Ann Kramer, Duane McRuer

The meeting began at 6:35 P.M.

With Maria Roa's prior concurrence, and in accordance with section 3.3 of the Bylaws, Gary Schenk was voted a member of the SPS Management Committee to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of Matthew Richardson. Gary will serve as Fifth Officer and Banquet Chair. Joe Wankum will serve as Secretary and Outreach Coordinator.

The minutes of the May and June meetings were read and approved with changes.

The Management Committee voted to allocate \$200 towards a plaque for Baldy Hut in memory of the SPS climbers (Steve Erskine, Matthew Richardson, and William Stampfl) recently killed while climbing in South America. Maria Roa will coordinate.

Ann Kramer volunteered to prepare leader packets for SPS outings leaders. Asher Waxman will collect the signed waivers. The Management Committee approved expenditure of \$180 by Tina Bowman for 5 boxes of notebooks for summit registers.

The Management Committee discussed the possibility of holding joint meetings with the DPS. Ann Kramer, DPS Chair, will discuss this with the DPS Management Committee.

Erik mentioned that nominations for Chapter awards will be due in the near future.

Ann Kramer will try to get an announcement about the August program on Ski Mountaineering into the Southern Sierran. (The Angeles Chapter Schedule notice for the August meeting did not include information about the program.) Other planned programs are: September – Steve Smith and "Four of the Seven Summits"
 October – Wally & Sherry Ross on birding in the Sierra
 November – Pelelope May on Kilimanjaro
 December – Beth Epstein on climbing in the Pyrenees in France

July Management Comm. continued

January – Banquet - Ellen Wilts
February – Joint meeting with HPS and DPS

Duane McRuer mentioned that the climbing sections should review and comment on the report recently completed by the Outings Task Force.

Barbee Tidball showed a near-final draft of the joint publicity flyer for the SPS, DPS, and HPS.
The meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

SPS General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Erik Siering. Leaders gave a report on recent outings. Erik gave a brief report on upcoming outings.

Erik introduced the evening's presenter, Larry Tidball. Larry gave a slide presentation on his climb on the West Rib of Denali, Alaska, 10 years ago.

August 14, 2002

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A. Minutes taken by Joe Wankum.

Management Committee Meeting

Attended By: Erik Siering, Maria Roa, Joe Wankum, Gary Schenk, Patty Kline, Ann Kramer, Duane and Betty McRuer, Doug Mantle

The meeting began at 6:34 P.M.

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed and approved.

Banquet: Gary Schenk presented a preliminary copy of a brochure for the annual Banquet. Erik suggested adding a picture of Ellen Wilts and a brief introduction for those not familiar with her.

Leader Packets: Ann Kramer indicated that the leader packets she is preparing to send out to leaders will include peak report requests. Ann mentioned that paperwork on restricted trips must be returned even if a trip is cancelled.

Treasurer's Report: Maria Roa reported that there were no changes since the last report.

Memorial Hike to Mt. Baldy: Erik Siering will ask Beth Epstein to bring copies of the Echo to the hike. Erik will bring copies of the Southern Sierran.

Outings Review Task Force (ORTF) Summary: Erik Siering indicated that he will obtain the ORTF Summary from Virgil Shields and forward a copy to the Management Committee.

Joint Meetings: There was no information on a speaker for the joint DPS-HPS-SPS meeting in February. Ann Kramer indicated that there would be no DPS decision on holding other joint DPS-SPS meetings until she hears from DPS members in October. If a decision is made to hold joint DPS-SPS monthly meetings, the joint meetings will start in November 2003. This date was selected to provide adequate time for the transition (i.e., arrangement for speakers and meeting room and publicity).

Meeting Schedule: The Management Committee voted to drop monthly SPS meetings in December, February, March, and April, starting in Fall 2003. The Banquet will continue to be held in January. A joint DPS-HPS-SPS meeting will continue to be held in February. Regular monthly meeting will be held from May through November.

Meeting Logistics: The SPS currently has speakers lined up through next January. February is the joint DPS-HPS-SPS meeting. For now, Patty Kline will book the meeting room at the DWP for meetings through the 1st half of 2003. Patty indicated that if we gave up the room, we were unlikely to ever get it back. [The Management Committee has previously discussed and agreed that the DWP is the preferred location for meetings; that a location further north would likely decrease attendance by those who live to the south.]

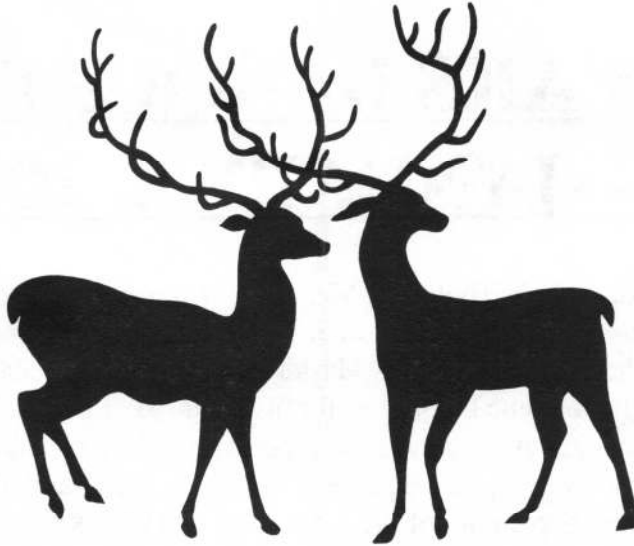
Nominating Committee: Attendees provided Patty Kline with a number of suggestions for potential candidates for the upcoming elections.

Echo Back Cover: Erik Siering indicated that he had asked Echo Editor Barbee Tidball to update the names and addresses on the back cover of the Echo. Maria Roa indicated that Matthew Richardson had been forwarding Address Changes and Peaks List requests to her and that she had been handling these tasks. The Management Committee then decided to change these to Maria's address. Awards information will continue to be sent to the Secretary. Erik will pass these changes on to Barbee.

Web Site Update: Erik Siering indicated that some of the information on the Web Site is out of date. Erik will ask SPS Archivist Dan Richter to provide Webmaster Charlie Knapke with updated information. Erik will also ask Charlie to add information on how to become an SPS member. Joe Wankum will provide periodic updates to Dan, Charlie, and Barbee Tidball.

Awards: Nominations for section and Chapter awards were discussed. Several members were mentioned as having contributed a lot of effort to the SPS in recent years – and deserving of awards. Ann Kramer mentioned that nominations for chapter awards were due on 1 November.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.



Meeting Minutes *continued*

SPS General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Erik Siering. Leaders gave reports on recent outings. Erik gave a brief report on upcoming outings.

Erik introduced the evening's program, a film of the SPS/SMS members (including Barbara Lilley, Rich Gnagy, and SMS founder Walter Mosauer) skiing and climbing in the sierra and the local mountains in the 1950s and 60s. Longtime SMS leader Walt Davie, the film's editor and narrator, was in attendance.

Also shown was a film of 1930s Sierra Club High Camps in the Sierras.

SPS Membership Report

Accomplishment's - Congratulations

Greg Vernon
SPS List Finisher (2nd time) - Aug. 4, 2002
Piute

Reiner Stenzel
SPS List Finisher - Sept. 21, 2002
Three Sisters

Al Conrad
SPS Master Emblem - July 19, 2002
Mt. Morrison

SPS Address Changes

Bill Oliver
1515 Bison Ridge Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Phone 719/548-9280
E-mail GnarlyBill@hotmail.com

George Smith
6157 West 77th Street.
Los Angeles, CA 90045-1641
Phone 310/670-7749
E-mail geofsmith@aol.com

Dee Booth
237 San Mateo Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95030-4320
E-mail rdbooth@att.net

Eric Sieke
3413 Walnut Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Welcome - New & Returning Members

Greg Vernon
632 Sherwood Court.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4943
Phone H760/375-7630 W760/939-1219
E-mail yeti@rockclimbing.org

Michael P. Gosnell
836 Glendora Mountain Road
Glendora, CA 91741-2326
Phone 626/335-2555

Bettye Swart
5 Fulmar Lane
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Phone 949/462-9553

Happy Reading - New Subscribers

Daniel Clark
10069 Altabrisa Way
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
Phone 909/924-2454

SIERRA PEAKS BANQUET

PROGRAM—JANUARY 8, 2003

Chuck and Ellen Wilts met in July of 1941 in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite. Chuck was camping with his family, while Ellen was camping with her older sister and a group of students from Los Angeles City College. Chuck had just received his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Caltech and was planning to continue his studies for his doctorate. Ellen had just graduated from junior high school and was about to attend Los Angeles High School. Shortly after they had met in Yosemite, the city college group, including Ellen and Chuck, were invited to attend a Sierra Club Rock Climb at Stony Point in September of '41. Both Ellen and Chuck began climbing for the first time on that day.

The Second World War began in December and Chuck continued to climb while he worked for the navy on war weaponry, while Ellen had no transportation and had to discontinue sports until after the war. In late 1945, Ellen and Chuck began their love of mountain sports together. They skied, rock climbed, fished, backpacked and ice skated with the Sierra Club. They also folk danced with Sierra Club members. In 1947, they married and before long, they had three children; Chuck, Gail and Janet.

They made many first ascents together, and Chuck delighted in big-wall climbing. They planned trips to Canada, the Sierras, Tahquitz, South Dakota, etc. They went into the Canadian Gong Lakes area and climbed three unnamed and unclimbed peaks. Chuck began to write the *Climber's Guide to Tahquitz Rock* (1955) and later he added Suicide Rock. Although Royal Robbins initiated the decimal rating system, Chuck was the first to publish it in a climber's guide. He collaborated with Royal and Don Wilson to complete this rating system, which is still used today. Chuck developed a mechanical device to test the strength of climbing ropes, and he invented the knife blade piton.

As a professor of Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics at Caltech, he wrote a textbook and he served on the Caltech Admissions Committee for several years. He initiated a rock climbing class for the Caltech Physical Education Department, and taught this class for many years with the aid of Jim Campbell, another Sierra Club rock climber. At night hopefully when no one was looking, he and some of the students climbed the buildings on the campus. *A Climber's Guide to Caltech* was eventually written by the students and dedicated to Chuck.

Ellen is looking forward to presenting her mountaineering and rock climbing program at the Sierra Peaks' Banquet in January, 2003. Her slides are about 50 years old, and most of them are still in good condition. Her program will include climbing slides of Tahquitz, Yosemite Valley and Stony Point, and she will also share the Wilts' experiences when they were climbing in the Canadian Rockies.

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR DINNER AT BUON GUSTOS
& FOR ELLEN WILTS' TALES OF CLIMBING IN
CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WEST**

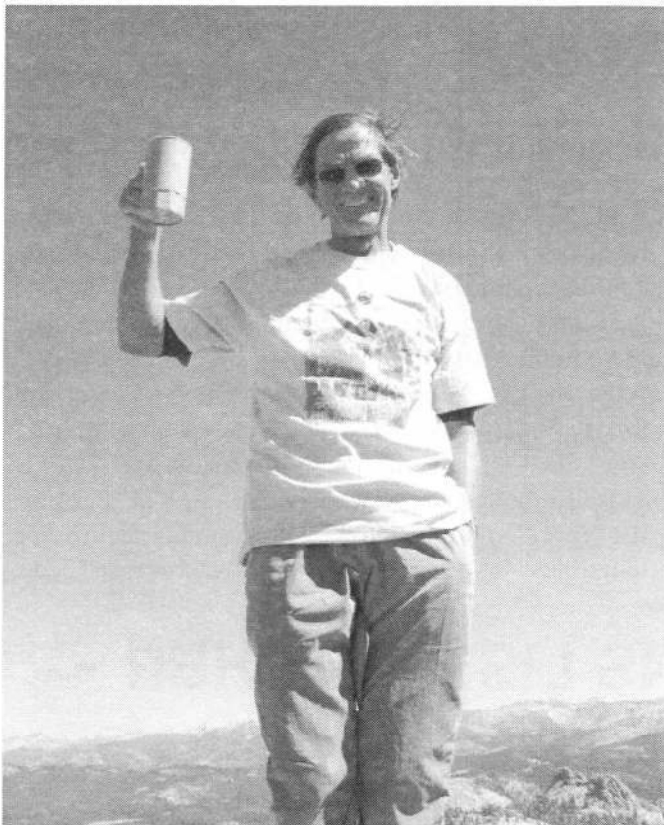
Three Sisters - List Finish Trip

sep 21, 2002

By Reiner Stenzel

Three Sisters is a nice peak to finish the SPS List. From Courtright Reservoir it is an easy dayhike and close to the trailhead there is a fine campground for the list-finish party. On Fri night most of the 28 participants arrived at Trapper Springs Campground on the west side of Courtright Res. (8184'). The attendants were Barbara Berne, Gary Bowen, Craig and K-9 Katie Connally, Darrick Danta, Randall Danta, Wally Drake, Steve Eckert, Rick Gordon, Leslie Hofherr, Delores Holladay, Pat and Gerry Holleman, Ted Lenzie, Susan, Bill and K-9 Kaweah Livingston, Mike McDermitt, R. J. Secor, Helen Shen, Elena Sherman, Dave and Barbara Sholle, Jan StAmand, Ryuta Stenzel, Scot Sullivan, Bob Suzuki, Asher Waxman, and Ron Webber.

Hunting season started at midnight and it was not exactly peaceful. On Sat, 7 am, we walked 10 min to the Cliff Lke trailhead, signed in and took off 30 min later. Safety in numbers prevented a hunting incident. We hiked 2 hours to Cliff Lke (9438') where we regrouped before leaving the trail. It was a picture-perfect summer day. During the break, Leslie took a quick dip into the lake and Ryuta caught a trout. We



proceeded along the south shore of Cliff Lke, climbed up a chute to the plateau above the lake and headed XC to a spring from which a small creek runs into Island Lke. At the spring, about 0.3 mi NE of Three Sisters, we regrouped again, directing the trailing party by radio. The spring produced cold clean water for drinking and for cooling our five champagne bottles. The last effort was the ascent into the saddle between higher Sister 1 (10,612') and lower Sister 2 (10,438') and to scramble over rocks and through gnarly whitebark pines to the summit. Partly happy, partly sad I opened the register box of my last SPS peak. While signing in with a #247, Randall popped the first cork and the party on the summit started. We had cheese, crackers, smoked salmon, various dips, chocolate and, of course, plenty of champagne to toast with. Randall sang in Bavarian, I toasted to all my sisters, and R.J. kissed them. We took many pictures, including the formal ones of list finishers and section chairs. The view from the summit was alone worth the hike. On this cloudless day we could see a 180-degree panorama of Sierra peaks from the Kaweahs in the south to the peaks in Yosemite to the north. The San Joaquin Valley baked in 100-deg haze but the Coastal Range was faintly visible. Below us were several blue lakes. The Sisters Ridge has at least four rock outcroppings (or little sisters) which I climbed on an earlier occasion. Likewise, nearby Dogtooth is a fun cl 3 scramble (actually, the lower tooth is cl 4-5). The



group, spread out over the rocky summit area, enjoyed the cloudless summer day for a long time. After promising more partying, I convinced everyone to descend by 1 pm. The tigers rushed to beautiful Cliff Lake and took a long break to wait for the trailing party. Some took a refreshing swim in the lake, and Ryuta pulled out six more trout. After regrouping we hit the trail and hiked down at an individual pace, arriving at the campground between 4-5 pm. The day before, I had reserved 5 adjacent campsites so that we had a nice area for ourselves. We had constructed a hot shower under trees, prepared plenty of firewood for the evening.

As the sun got lower we started with happy hour, cold drinks and hors d'oeuvre. I fired up the coals for my Dutch oven to prepare a big pot of beef stew for dinner. Everyone contributed with so many delicious foods,

appetizers, salads, main dishes, fresh trout, deserts, fruit, and abundant wine, beer, soft drinks, even marshmallows to roast over hot coals. As it got dark we all sat around the campfire and it was my turn to tell stories about my climbing experiences and adventures. For this purpose I had prepared 247 pictures on my laptop which turned out large and bright enough for everyone to see. So here is the essence of my story:

I grew up in the "old" country, hiked as a boy throughout Germany and especially liked the Alps. I

learned to ski in Austria while staying with a youth group in backcountry huts. In the mid-sixties I came to Caltech for further graduate work. The first time I traveled to the Sierras I fell in love with it. But outdoors activities were limited in the busy years of graduation, newly married, starting a career and raising a family with three kids. I climbed Mt Fuji during my honeymoon in the late 60s, Mt Whitney on a Sierra crossing in the 70s. In the early 80's my son joined the Boy Scouts and I became an Assistant Scoutmaster leading many of their outdoors activities. To become more proficient I took the Sierra Club's BMTC course in 1986, taught it next

year, followed up with AMTC, became an M-rated leader in 1988, and climbed some 22 SPS peaks that year. At the same time I joined the Ski Mountaineers Section, learned the telemark turn, and began



List finishers and Chairs on summit of Three Sisters

leading T-rated ski trips. During the years of the mountaineering insurance fiasco I acquired the taste and confidence for solo climbs. I also joined the CMC and lead their trips. Undoubtedly, the SPS List stimulated my climbing activities. Although I never imagined to finish the List I continued to climb new peaks and in time passed from basic to senior to master emblem. After some 200+ peaks it dawned to me that it was possible to finish the last 40 peaks as well. Last year I got the list "fever" and climbed 32 peaks, among them some tough class 4-5 peaks like Devil's Crags, Norman Clyde,

**CONGRATULATIONS LIST FINISHER -
REINER STENZEL**

Palisades Crest, T-bolt and Disappointment. For those climbs I gratefully acknowledge the company of expert leaders like R. J. Secor, Ron Hudson and Greg Vernon. This year I only had to finish some distant "orphans" and to plan the party.

Now some special things to mention about my list-finish: I enjoy two activities in the mountains, climbing and skiing. In the first half of the year I lead many ski mountaineering trips for the SMS. Many of these trips involved climbs of SPS peaks on skis. To my knowledge I have skied more SPS peaks (37) than any other list finisher. Some SPS peaks we skied straight to/from the summit (Ritter, Goddard, Trojan, Birch, Tinemaha, Dana, Silliman, Basin, Bago, Morgan, Pickering, etc.), others we skied to the summit block or a steep ridge and climbed the rest (Alta, Brewer, Matterhorn, Whitney, Red&White, Perkins, Powell, Thompson, State, etc.). I have skied across the Sierra Nevada three times (High Route, Cirque Crest, Onion Valley-Mineral King) and hiked the John Muir Trail in summer time, climbing SPS peaks on the way. Experiencing the mountains in all climates is very special. Ski trips offer unique sceneries, exhilarating ski runs, but challenges from route finding, weather and avalanches. There are no mosquitoes, no bears, hardly any humans, one can ski across lakes and glide over talus and scree slopes. However, in summer time one enjoys better weather, easier climbing, green meadows, wildflowers, swimming, fishing, and eating off the land. Both seasons offer wonderful experiences. Thus, I like both skiing and mountaineering. I have led many joint SPS/SMS trips to promote skiing among climbers and climbing among skiers, in short, ski mountaineering. I am trying to establish a ski mountaineers list of peaks, passes and traverses. It will partly overlap with the SPS list so that there is interest in joint activities.

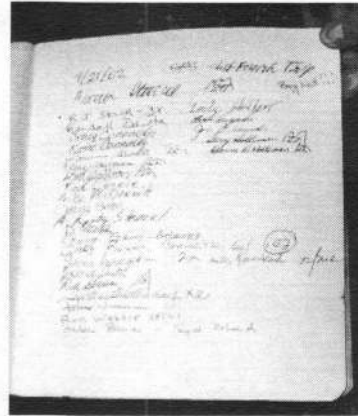
To return to my climbing experiences, I have soloed half the List including some exciting peaks



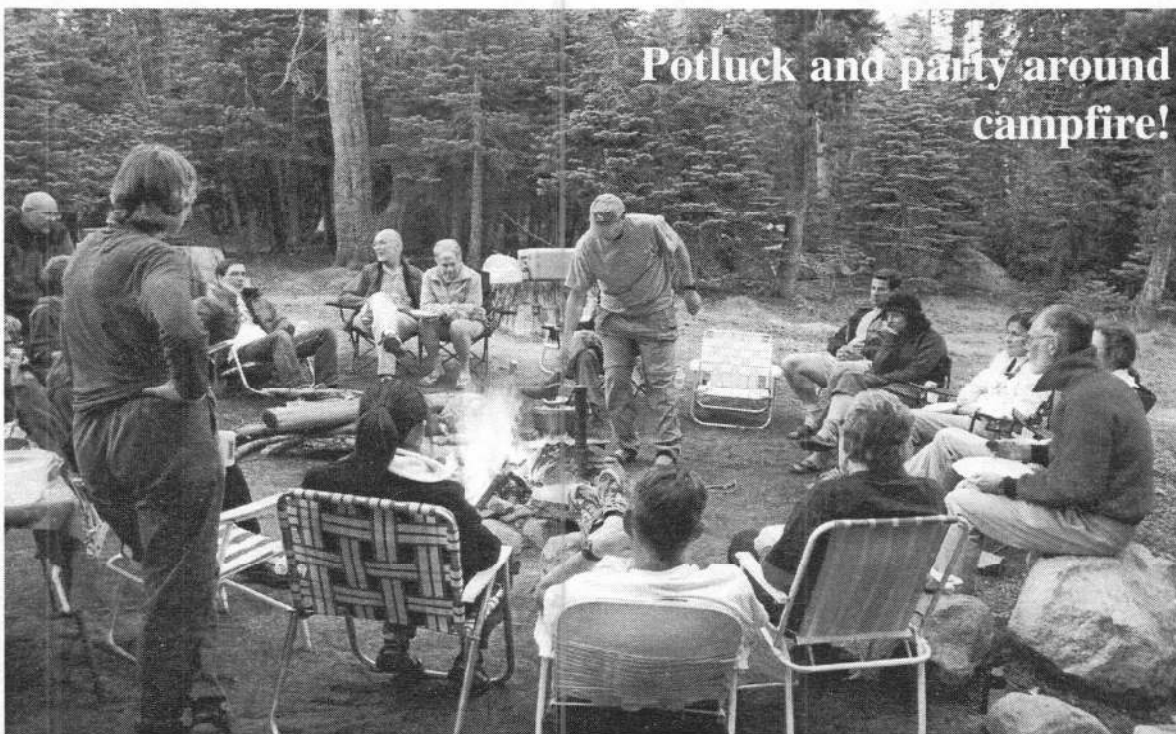
Climbers below summit of Three Sisters.

(North Pal, Mid Pal, Darwin, Sill, Bear Creek Spire, Charybdis, Cathedral, Clark, Glacier Ridge, Abbott, and snow-covered ridge on Russell). I have led groups up to 15 people (Powell and Thompson, 5/28/00), but also enjoy to share adventures with one partner. On all lead trips I had only one unpleasant experience, an unpredictable person who signed out, got himself into a near-fatal accident (lightning stroke on Bear Creek Spires), forced us to search at night, activate a Search and Rescue Team, only to find that he survived a night under snow near the summit. Once, I got myself into a typical beginner's trouble on North Guard, i.e., climbed off route unroped into cl 4-5 terrain. Only twice I aborted a planned climb (fresh snow on Abbott, cornices on Triple Divide). I have had no accidents on 247 peak climbs (was born on a Sunday). But I have had some close calls such as a near-strike from a tumbling table-sized boulder released by climbers above me on Winchell, skiing across a snow slab which fractured, riding out a sizable wet snow avalanche on Ritter, surviving a blizzard stuck on a pass, breaking through snow into a hole to the chest with skis and pack on a 4 day solo ski trip, getting hypothermic after swimming to a distant islands on a cold lake, and standing face-to-face with an upright bear with my foodbag between us. My nicest experiences include walking through fields of wildflowers on climbs of northern Sierra peaks (Disaster, Stanislaus, Sonora in July), skiing T-bolt's North Couloir on firnglider skis in June, watching the colors of the sky at sunrise after

spending the night on top of Whitney, sunbathing at the sandy beaches of Benson Lke, eating sautéed King Boletes with fresh trout, blueberries for desert. My longest trip was the JMT, 19 days, 250 mi, 50,000', and 7 SPS peaks. My longest day hike was to Mt Lyell, 25 mi, 5000'. The largest ascent in one day was 8000' to Colosseum via Sawmill Pass (9/22/01). Most peaks per day were three (N Guard, Brewer and S Guard, 10/15/88, and Rogers, Foerster and Electra, 6/26/99). The most exhilarating climbs were Devils Crag #1 and Norman Clyde; the least interesting ones were Granite Chief and Kern Point. My latest climb of the year was Owens Pk in December (12/ 29/99), my first one in



The Summit Register!



the year was Alta Pk in February (2/12/00). Outside the Sierras, I climbed and skied in the Alps (Haute Route Zermatt-Chamonix on telemark skis), Canadian Rockies and Selkirks, Norway, climbed Mt Fuji, skied Mauna Kea, and, of course, Lassen and Shasta.

Now, after finishing the List, I began to reflect on the most obvious questions: Why did I climb the List? What do I do after it? Well, I climbed it because I simply like climbing and skiing, the physical and mental challenge which it requires, the reward of summiting, I enjoy the nature, the freedom, friends to share it with, photography, etc. The List was my guide, not always my goal, but I am grateful to have done it since it led me to so many beautiful places in the Sierra. Finishing the List is no reason for me to retire, rather to search for new goals. On my mind is an SPS

“Extension List” of some 50 worthy, but unlisted peaks (The Sphinx, Furquhar, Starlight, Polemonium, Fin Dome, Feather, Caltech, Mary Austin, Woodworth, just to name a few). In contrast to the main list this one should be flexible and any comparable peaks would qualify. I am also happy to repeat some fine SPS peaks and help others to climb/lead them. On the ski mountaineering side, I would like to complete 50 Sierra peaks on skis. I also would like to establish a suitable list for ski mountaineering. I think all these goals are worthy, not too far-fetched, and may be accomplished in my 60's with the help of good friends.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Gerry Holleman for co-leading this SPS/SMS trip and all participants to share the fun on the summit and the party.

Mt. Gilbert (13,106')

May 18-19, 2002 - by Barbee Tidball

Spring in the Sierra and a group of SPS'ers with and without snow shoes headed in to climb Mt. Gilbert. The trip sheet had stated "Bring your usual backpacking gear, ice axe, crampons, and snow shoes" But some of the participants didn't believe me and came sans snow shoes. At the start of the trip it looked like the snow shoeless climbers were the lucky ones – but once we were over 10,000' the snow shoers won! Our shoeless climbers were valiant though, and post holing, waist holing and snow plowing they trudged on with the group.

Our plan had been to hike and snow shoe in an easy 4+ miles and 1,000 feet gain to camp near Treasure Lakes. We passed the small pond around 10,600' avoiding the wet areas and worked our way through the snow towards the lakes heading more or less southwest and trying to pick a route the snow shoeless climbers wouldn't die on. A ridge presented itself with possible better footing and up we went to plus/minus 11,000'. It was there that I looked down towards the lower Treasure Lakes and realized my error. We were West of our destination by a ridge.

Rather than turn back and plow through the snow further, loosing elevation that we'd worked hard to gain I studied the terrain ahead of us and the

peaks in the distance – it didn't look like we needed to turn back. The group headed on up and set camp around 11,300' or 11,500' near an open stream and exposed rocks. It was perfect campsite. Ahead of us we could see a chute that seemed to lead right up to the Sierra Crest and surely on towards Mt. Gilbert.

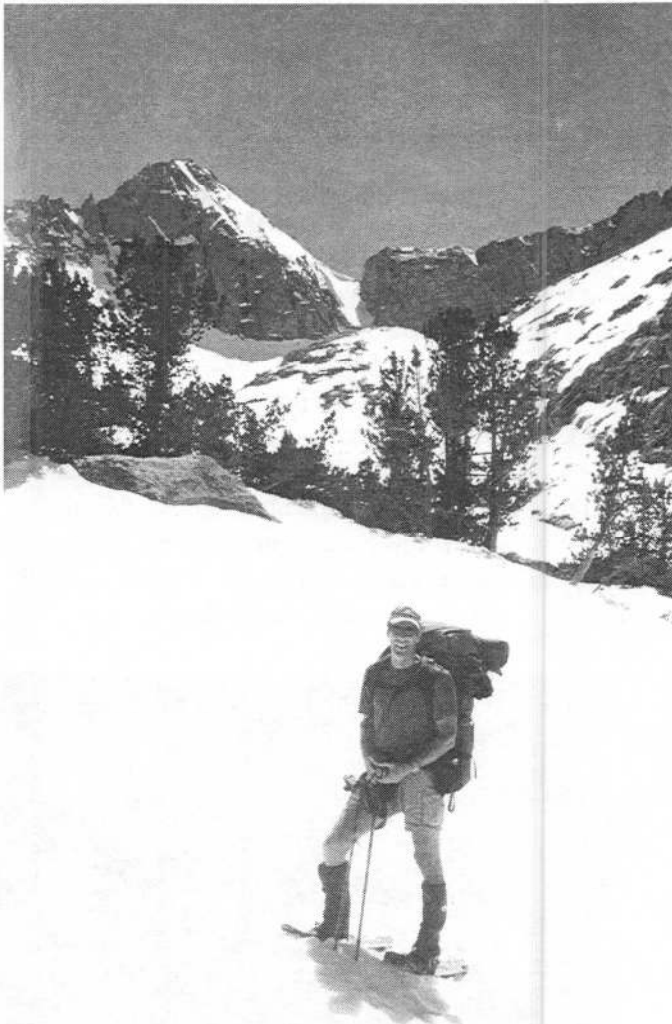
The next morning we put on crampons and headed out to try to obvious chute. It was a classic Sierra climb on snow. The weather was partly cool and the sky bright blue with a mix of clouds and sunshine. Perfect weather. The chute we climbed is about 210 degrees SW of the Southern end of South Lake. The notch or saddle we climbed up to is



Gary Schenk & Scot Jamison climbing up to the Sierra Crest



**Tom - Snow Shoe-less McDonnell
One TOUGH Hiker!**



**Paul Morash with the notch over the
Sierra Crest behind.**

clearly visible for miles. Topping out at the notch we found the sloping western face of the Sierra Crest leading SE towards a ridge and Mt Johnson and an open direct route to Mt. Gilbert. We crossed the snow to the plateau south of Mt. Gilbert and then scrambled up the rocks to the summit at 13,106'. (Note this route may be similar to the route Matthias Selke took in October 1994)

Lots of time was spent on the summit enjoying the view – then it was time to head back and break camp for home. The route back was easier for the snow shoeless climbers – lots of glissades till it got way too wet and snow became patches. Back at the cars we changed into dry clothes and drove down to Rock-in Rhino for pizza and beer. It was Beer-thirty and time to celebrate our Spring Sierra snow outing.

Thanks to snow shoers – Scot Jamison (my carpool, tent sharer and co-leader) Jeff Ho, Patty Rambert and Paul Morash. Congratulations and thanks to the snow shoeless – Tom McDonnell and Gary Schenk. It was a Great Trip!



Spring Climbing at its best! Barbee & Scot on the summit.

Excelsior Mtn

May 18-19, 2002 - by Reiner Stenzel

This report describes a fine ski mountaineering weekend in the eastern Sierra Nevada. The original plan of this joint SPS/SMS trip was to climb/ski Dunderberg and Excelsior. But Dunderberg was not skiable and no SPSrs "needed" it so we left it for another year. Instead, we attempted Leavitt Pk, only to be blown off the ridge by an incoming storm. Here are the details:

On Sat, 5/18, 6 am, a group of 10 participants met at the Virginia Lakes trailhead. These were R. J. Secor, assisting for Randall Danta who had a sprained ankle, Ted Lenzie from Sacramento, Jim Crouch and

tracks, others must have been on the summit without signing in. A cold wind blew over the top and we huddled in the rocks on the lee side. The views were superb: Blue Mono Lke, white Saddlebag Lke, endless snow slopes and peaks in Yosemite and further south. With some imagination we could see our fellow SMS'rs ski False White Mtn below us. By 1 pm we retreated from the summit and started our ski run down on mostly corn snow. A few places of unconsolidated snow did not stop the fun. But on the lower slopes the sunbaked snow was soft and balls began to roll and grow when turning. It was time to



Group on the summit.

Ted Sledzinski from San Diego, Joy Goebel, Diann Fried, Leslie Hofherr, Chris Lohman, Maciek Malik and myself from the LA area. We hiked up the dry trail past the Virginia Lakes (9,800') and hit skiable snow above 10,000' near the Frog Lakes.

Switchbacking up a great snow slope we left the trail where it descends northwest toward Summit and East Lke. We headed southwest toward a second ridge 0.5 mi northeast of Peak 12,126'. The east facing slopes had excellent snow coverage but on the ridge and on southwest facing slopes it was hiking time. After climbing a third slope we reached the 12,200' ridge north of Excelsior and scrambled up to the summit (12,446'). It was a pleasure to sign the register as the first group in 2002. However, judging from old ski

get off the slopes. By 3 pm we were back on the trail which disappeared from time to time under the snow. Another hour later we reached the cars, looking back at the nice slopes where we left many visible ski tracks. Everyone had enjoyed the day. Since brown Dunderberg was no match for the next day, we relocated to Sonora Pass with the goal of doing Leavitt Pk on Sunday. We camped just below the pass where Sardine Creek crosses Hwy 108. Happy hour, fondue dinner and a good Chardonnay made a fine end of the day.

On Sun we got up at 5 am, packed and drove up to Sonora Pass to start climbing by 6:30 am. The day started with a bloody red sunrise, (*continued Page 15*)

KERN PEAK

JUNE 22-24, 2002
by **Patty Kline**

The weather was perfect for this 3 day SPS "intro" trip. Not a cloud in the sky and not too hot. It was co-listed as a Wilderness Travel Course, offered by the Sierra Club every winter. All but a couple of the 15 people were associated with "WTC". It is nice to see a lot of new faces on an SPS trip.

The Blackrock Trailhead started at Blackrock Saddle at an elevation of 8900'. Take Hwy 14 or Hwy 395 to the Inyokern turn off and proceed N on Hwy 395 for 10 miles. There is a left turn to Kennedy Meadows. Don't let the remaining 45 miles to the roadhead fool you. It takes 1 1/2 hours to drive this on winding mountain roads. It is 25 miles to Kennedy Meadows. Go beyond Kennedy Meadows on 22S05 to Fish Creek (which is a good spot to camp where I paid \$5.00). Go beyond Fish Creek to Troy Meadow on 35E07 to the Blackrock (Ranger Station) Information Center, 37 miles from Hwy 395. From here take 21S03 an additional 8 miles to its end at the Blackrock Trailhead. Non-quota permits

can be picked up the morning of the trip or the day before during regular office hours at the Blackrock Information Center. A fire permit, which is required for stoves, is issued only in person.

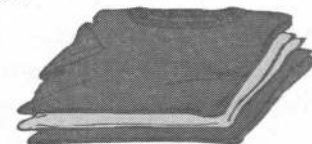
We got underway for the 9 mile and approximately 1500' gain with the ups and downs at 10:00 am. Aren't these leisure trips great! 2 miles from the start Casa Viejo Meadows were bright green, as were all the other meadows along the way. We had our longest break at Bear Keg Meadow, which was lunch. It was nice to get off the dusty trail about 5:00 pm to camp at Redrocks Meadows at 8600'. The streams were very warm in and through the meadows. There are a lot of hot springs in the area, the most well known being Jordan Hot Springs, which was too much out of our way to want to go there. There are 2 very well developed fire rings with log benches, one of which is associated with a livestock corral. We chose the fresher area away from the corral with twice as many level areas we needed for our tents.

We started about 8:00 am for Kern Peak at 11,510' on Sunday morning. After heading N on a nice trail for about 1/10 of a mile it was hard to find a continuation. The only evidence of the trail was from

(Mt Excelsior continued)

high winds and low clouds over the ridge. A storm was forecast for Monday but seemed already on its way. Two participants joined in the last moment, Ruth von Rotz and Angel Ocana. We ascended the ridge on hard frozen snow which turned R. J. back. Only those with ski crampons could ski this snow. On the dry ridge it was hiking time. We proceeded along the ridge to Pk 11,245'. From there we could see Leavitt Pk (11,569') drifting in and out of the clouds. Since it was probably another 2 hours to the summit, dark clouds to the west indicated snow at any time, and we had lost one leader it was time to call it quits. We waited for the sun to soften the east facing slopes and enjoyed skiing the bowls below Pk 11,242'. The energetic team had several runs on eventually fine corn snow. More skiers came up to this popular telemarking terrain. We skied till noon, then packed up and went on our long drive home. High winds turned Owens Valley into a dust bowl. Thanks to R. J. for assisting again. We all had an adventurous ski mountaineering weekend.

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.

blaze marks on trees, cut about 3-5 years ago. Follow these blazed trees another 1 / 10 mile until the trail becomes very obvious again, heading NW in several switchbacks in 2 miles from camp to a saddle at 9700' at UTM 840155. From here leave the trail and take the broad S ridge 2 miles to the top of Kern Peak. The hike is in an open forest until the tree line near the top of the peak. There are the remains of a shelter on top. We sat in and around it for a nice 45 minute lunch and the great views. It was all class 1 except for one class 2 move at the top. The total gain for the day was 3000' and 8 miles round trip. Monday we retraced our steps from camp to the roadhead, experiencing the 800' gain from Casa Viejo Meadows to our vehicles.

Both Saturday and Sunday nights we had community happy hours with prizes awarded for the best munchies. Both nights in a row Jane Tirrell got

first prize. She won a blue scarf on Saturday night for her salami with cream cheese sandwiched in the middle. By Sunday night we were all so hungry that her horse raddish dip won on its own, Jane getting a mini Nalgene bottle as the reward. Also given away was another mini Nalgene bottle and a carabiner key chain.

This was a very nice trip. Will McWhinney, as always, did an excellent job as my assistant.

Will was in charge of a WTC group in West LA with Bill Oliver this year, and all but 4 in their group came for this trip. The participants were Ron Hohausner, Nimia del Rosario, Bonnie Young, Drew Rothmund, Jodi Saign Vance Handley, Charles Rosenberg, Carla Slepak, Jane Tirrell, Elizabeth Untiedt, Ed Vanderfliet, Lisa Meseke and Ken Jones.



**WTC - future SPSers on the summit of Kern Peak
with Leaders Patty Kline & Will McWhinney**

Chamberlain, Newcomb, Pickering & Joe Devel

A One-day Traverse

July 5, 2002 - By Nile Sorenson

These four 13,000 ft. peaks create a cirque forming a drainage that gives rise to Perrin Creek. This creek is far from any trailhead and is entirely cross-country up the ravine from Rock Creek. That may be why these 4 peaks are typically climbed in pairs from various other approaches.

Using the approach from upper Perrin Creek a class 2-3 traverse of the four peaks can be accomplished in a single day with a little route finding and minimal up and down. This has several advantages. Obviously, four 13,000 foot peaks in one day is a peakbaggers dream. Views from all 4 are spectacular, particularly looking at the west side of the LeConte-Corcoran group. Additionally, the descent from any of the four directly down into the cirque is class 2. This means that it is possible to "bail out" of the traverse at any time if a team member is tired or an injury were to occur, or you decide you have had enough for one day and want to go back to camp.

First step, one must get to Perrin Creek. It takes a day. The cut off from Rock creek to get into the drainage is not obvious. Cross over lower Rock Creek about 200 yards west of the trail leading to the Rock Creek Ranger station. Perrin Creek forms a large grassy meadow area on the north side of Rock Creek. It doesn't look like a side stream coming in. As one ascends the Perrin Creek drainage, a definitive creek bed becomes more obvious. Stay in and around the mostly dry creek bed. There is good camping anywhere up in the drainage above 11,400 feet and water year around, even though the creek below that elevation really disappears after June.

On July 5, 2002 I did the traverse in about 11 hours starting on the south slopes of Chamberlain and ending with Joe Devel. It may be easier route finding to go the other way. This will become apparent upon further reading. I started on the class 2 southeast slopes of Chamberlain. It took less than 2 hours to summit. Next, it is necessary to drop down to just under 12,400 ft. to get across to Newcomb. Don't drop down too quickly. There is a small class 3 move before reaching the low point between the 2 peaks. The ascent back up to Newcomb is an easy, sandy climb. It took me 2 hours from Chamberlain's summit to reach

Newcomb at an easy pace.

Going from Newcomb to Pickering is the trickiest part of the entire day. You stay on the west side of the ridge without crossing until you go toward Pickering's summit block. The low point between the 2 peaks is obvious as you come down Newcomb. Head directly for the low spot. It will be necessary to drop to about 12,680 ft. As you approach the low point, you encounter some steep gendarmes and steep chutes very close to the low point. Descend the chute right next to these gendarmes. Do not go down any of the earlier inviting chutes—they cliff out. Once you are below the low point on the ridge connecting Pickering and Newcomb, you make a gradual ascent toward Pickering taking the easiest way. Do not be tempted to ascend too early, or you will pay for it and have to come back down. I was still on a gradual ascent at 13,000 ft. The chute you want to go up is wide and sandy at the top. It dumps you out on the summit plateau, which gives an easy traverse to the summit of Pickering. (Just a side note: if you are traversing the opposite way, you don't have to worry about which chute to go up—you come off Pickering and head to the gendarmes near the low spot and on to Newcomb.) It took me 2 hours to go from Newcomb to Pickering.

From the summit of Pickering you have the summit of Joe Devel remaining. It is right there. Traverse along the east side of the ridge connecting Joe Devel with Pickering. Stay 30 feet under the lowest point then start ascending still on the eastern side. Cross over the ridge to the west side about 200 yards south of the low point at a rather prominent gendarme. Once on the west side, ascend an easy slope to the summit plateau. I signed in on Joe Devel at 1:55 pm—a fine day.

As you go back toward the ridgeline forming the cirque, don't go down the chutes right near the summit plateau of Joe Devel where you just came up. They are inviting at the top, but will cliff out down below. It is preferable to travel southwest along the long ridge from this peak for several hundred feet before going down. This will descend rather easily down to camp. I reached camp at 11,400 ft. just after 4:00pm. Your time will probably be better since you know where to go. (Another side note: If you started with Joe Devel, you would end up at Chamberlain which gives a very easy descent toward Guyot Peak and then you could get 5 peaks in one day—after all, there was still 4 to 5 hours of daylight left...)

This is a fun traverse and a rewarding one with wonderful views and generally good rock.

Mount Izaak Walton

August 17-18, 2002 By: Greg Gerlach

I left Los Angeles at 2:45 p.m. for the long drive to the western side of the Sierras, arriving at the Bolsillo campground at 9:30 p.m. The campground is conveniently located adjacent to the ranger station, which put me in a good spot for picking up my permit the next day.

The next morning I waited anxiously for the ranger station to open at 8:00 a.m. Since I was the only person in line, I was soon out the door and making the drive to the Vermillion Resort located at Edison Lake so that I could catch the 9:00 a.m. ferry. The boat makes one trip across the lake in the morning and a second trip across the lake in the afternoon. The \$15.00 round trip fair did not seem out of line considering that it saves about 5 miles of hiking each way.

The ferry left a little late, but it did not matter since I had all day. Upon arriving at the other side of the lake I promptly started hiking up the trail on my way to the peak. I headed east on the trail, eventually meeting up with the John Muir Trail. I continue hiking north up the trail, passing Pocket Meadows along the way, to the 9600-foot contour line shown on the topo map. I left the trail and headed eastward cross-country, eventually meeting up with the stream that drains the basin located southwest of the peak. I hiked up this isolated and beautiful basin to Lake 10,800'. I took all of my overnight gear out of the pack, which I left at

the lake, and then headed up the southwest slope toward the peak. The climbing was mostly class 1 except for a little class 2 along the way and the class 2 summit crags. It took me about one hour to make the summit from Lake 10,800. The summit register was placed in June of 1985 and is about ¾ full. The only other party to summit this year was a Wilderness Adventure group on July 20, 2002.

I started down from the mountain at 4:00 p.m., arriving at the lake where my overnight gear was stashed in about ½ hour. I scooped up my gear and headed down the basin. I had originally planned to camp along Silver Pass Creek, but the water was not flowing and all I could find were pools of stagnant water in the creek bed. I finally found an acceptable camping spot along Mono Creek just below Pocket Meadow.

The next morning I packed up my gear and headed for Edison Lake to catch the 9:45 a.m. ferry. I had about one hour to wait, so I caught up with my reading. Once the ferry arrived it was a ½ hour ride to the Vermillion Resort where my car was parked. The drive home was long and tiring, especially the road to Huntington Lake because of the long line of slow moving vehicles with boats. I made it back to Los Angeles at 4:30 p.m., with plenty of daylight left to clean up my gear and start thinking of the next trip. Trip statistics: 14 miles round trip and about 4,500 feet of elevation gain.

Southern Sierra

September 7-8, 2002 By: Jerry Keating

When originally planned, this SPS trip was to climb two easy peaks on the Kern Plateau and allow participants to get a distant look at how well the Southern Sierra had started to recover from the 73,724-acre Manter fire of summer 2000, which started in Domeland and spread downward toward Kennedy Meadows. That plan had to be scrapped because an even more massive fire named McNally broke out July 21 nine miles north of Kernville and quickly made its way onto the Kern Plateau. Although the McNally fire didn't reach Smith Mtn., our main objective, it did spread into the Golden Trout

Wilderness and approach Blackrock Mtn., our second climbing objective.

Containment of the McNally fire was reported on August 29—nearly six weeks after its origin near the Road's End Resort on the Kern River. That resort was among three residences, five commercial properties and six outbuildings destroyed in the fire. The acreage ultimately grew to 150,696—more than twice the size of the Manter fire. The fire-fighting cost, as of September 8, was \$53.3 million and still growing. All this because a Bakersfield resident, lacking a required permit, (*Continued page 22*)

EDITORIAL Wilderness as Legacy

May 25 2002

Wildness can be a perishable thing, succumbing to the bite of the chain saw, the ruts of the all-terrain vehicle and the seemingly inevitable crush of development. As California's population soars this generation has an obligation to future generations to save these places before they are overwhelmed by civilization. Congress can take a great stride this year by passing the proposed California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002, introduced Wednesday as S 2535 by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). The measure would add 2.5 million acres to the state's federally protected wilderness system in 77 areas ranging from the desert of the southeast to the misty forests of the state's North Coast. The measure also would add 473 miles along 22 streams to the federal wild and scenic rivers network.

The plan would establish 39 new wilderness areas and add to 34 existing ones. California has 14 million acres of wilderness, much of it in remote parts of the Sierra Nevada, the Mojave Desert and the northern forests. The Boxer bill would expand wildernesses in both the Angeles and Los Padres national forests, including California condor habitat in Ventura County. Rep. Hilda L. Solis (D-El Monte) will bring a companion measure to the House. The Wilderness Act of 1964 provides for setting aside areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." All the land in Boxer's proposal already is in federal ownership. Wilderness status prohibits commercial activity such as logging, mining and livestock grazing, although existing mining and grazing can continue. There can be no motorized travel. Over the years, the most popular uses of wilderness areas have been hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. Now, an increasing number of Americans are visiting the backcountry to ski and snowshoe, hunt and fish, raft the streams, climb the peaks and simply enjoy the quiet and solitude.

The passage of wilderness legislation is always contentious. But Boxer and her environmental supporters have worked for two years to limit opposition by consulting with local interests, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and others.

One congressman says the bill violates the proper balance between people and the environment. In fact, wilderness allows humans to enjoy the land with minimal impact, as they should.

Some say there's already enough wilderness. But Henry David Thoreau had a response that is even more to the point today than when he wrote it in "Walden" in 1854: "We need the tonic of wildness.... We can never have enough of nature." Passage of the Boxer bill would be a good tonic for California. .

Reprinted with permission of the LA Times.

(*Southern Sierra continued*) started what she believed to be a safe campfire along the Kern River.

The fire spread rapidly, but the areas of greatest interest to SPSers include: from the river up to almost to Sherman Pass and then northward before turning eastward and enveloping Bonita Meadows and the Bald Mtn. Botanical Area. The fire also crossed the Cherry Hill Road but was stopped before reaching Big Meadow. Sirretta Peak was spared as were Taylor Dome, Smith Mtn., Crag Peak and Kern Peak.

Nine Mile Canyon Road was kept open to the Kennedy Meadows area, but travel beyond the South Fork of the Kern was banned to allow firefighters to move without delay. The incident command center, including tents and trailers, was located at Kennedy Meadows and was still there in September during the mop-up operations. Kennedy Meadows CG remained open, but all campgrounds on the Kern Plateau, including the one we'd hoped to use at Troy Meadows, were closed.

With 20 persons on the trip roster, the leaders opted to substitute BLM's Walker Pass CG as the meeting point and list "Cow Heaven Peak" (7166') on the Kiavah Plateau as the prime objective. That peak first shows up in SPS literature as one John Robinson and three others climbed in February 1959 on the way to Scodie Mtn. Their climb, however, started from peak's

desert side and came up Cow Heaven Canyon. Our approach, instead, would be from the Walker Pass side and benefit from the thick pinyon forest along the Pacific Crest Trail. Starting at the campground (5050'), the route follows the PCT for 4.9 miles to the Kiavah Plateau (6880') and then proceeds cross country for 0.75 mile in a southeastly direction through a partly burned area to the peak.

Eleven participants started for the peak Saturday morning, and 10 signed in at the summit. The register was started on March 16, 1980, by Gordon MacLeod, Harvey Hickman and Bill Sanders, who had come up from Cow Heaven Canyon. Next entry was by Cuno Ranschau on March 29, 1981. After that, there were eight other parties, the largest of which had three members.

Signing in as our summit party were MacLeod (2X!), Barbara Lilley, Rich Gnagy, Rayne & Mary Motheral, Bruno Geiger, Delores Holladay and the leaders, Jerry & Nancy Keating and Walt Whisman.

The view from the summit was exceptional. The haze above the McNally fire had cleared, and the Whitney group, the Great Western Divide and Olancho Peak were easy to identify. Domeland also was clearly in view, as was Sirretta Peak.

After a long-happy hour Saturday evening at camp, Sunday activities were the choice of the individual participants.

SPS Annual Banquet

January 8, 2003

Presents Ellen Wilts

**Speaking of first ascents
in Canada and the west**

Ticket Order form

**Mail checks made out to the SPS and
this form to Gary Schenk, PO Box 1414,
Huntington Beach, CA 92647**

Name _____

Number of tickets @ \$28 each _____

Dinner selection:

Vegetarian__ Chicken__ Fish__

**Location: Buon Gusto Trattoria
5755 E. PCH, Long Beach**

6 PM no host bar, 7:30 dinner

August/September/October VOL. 46 NO. 4

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Secretary: Joe Wankum, 3627 Garnet #34, Torrance, CA 90503. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Treasurer: c/o Chair: Erik Siering 9359 Llincoln Blvd. #1252, Los Angeles, CA 90045-7101

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: Joe Wankum, 3627 Garnet #34, Torrance, CA 90503, e-mail jbwankum@aol.com. 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.

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