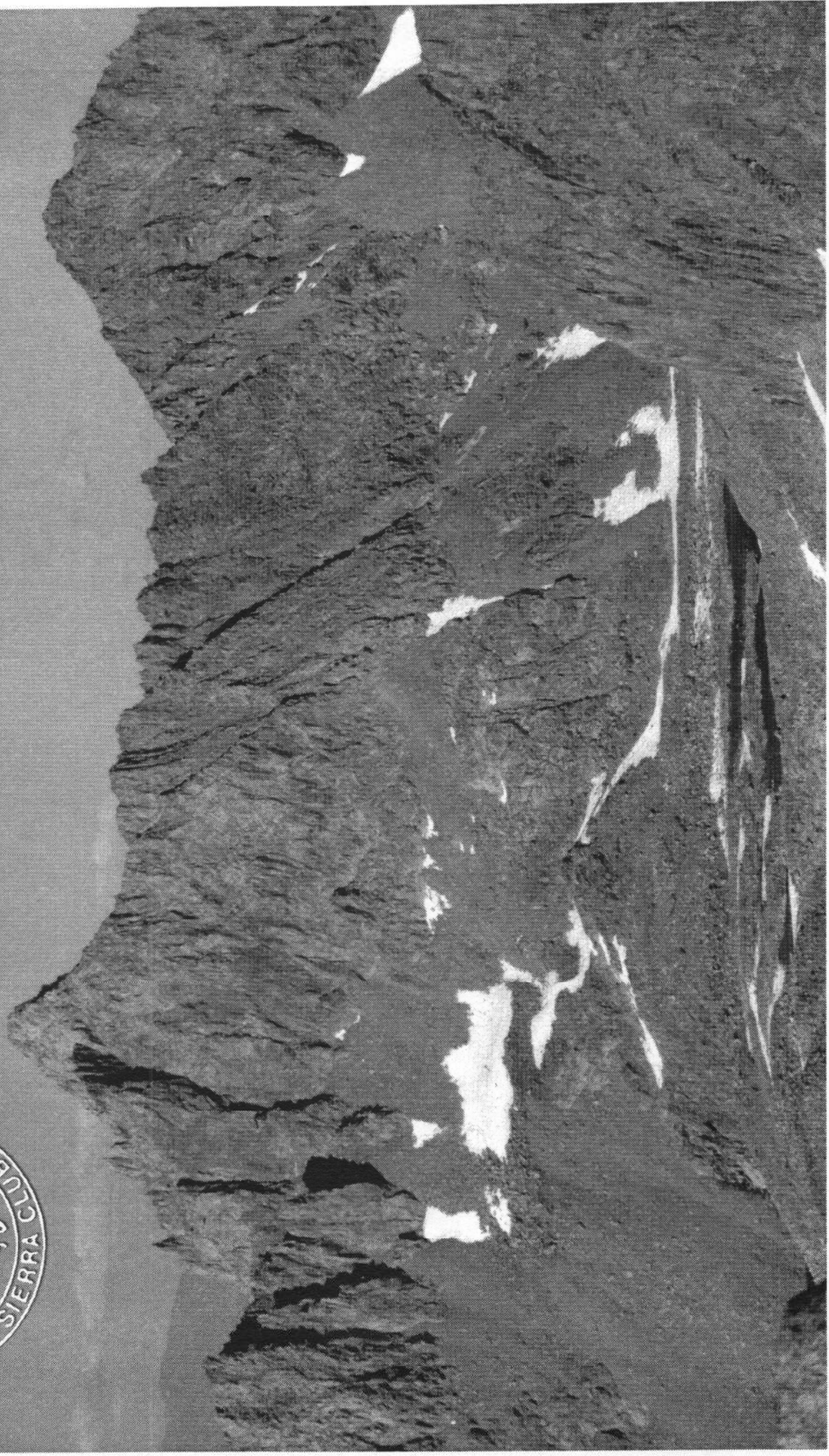
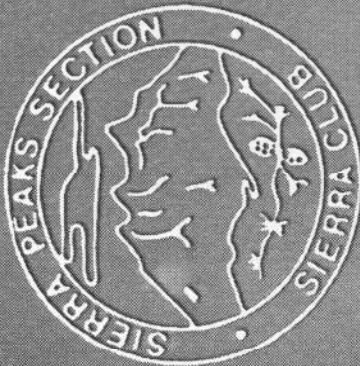


# The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 2002 - JANUARY 2003



# SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SPS meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month - May through November & January. February a joint climbing sections meeting is held. Meeting location to be determined for 2003.

Watch for an announcement in the next Echo - or call Patty Kline.

**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

**February 5, 2003 - Wednesday - Annual Joint SPS/HPS/DPS meeting.** Hosted by the DPS.

**February 12, 2003 - No meeting**

**March 2003 - No meeting**

**April 2003 - No meeting**

**May 14, 2003 Steve Smith** - will show his slides from his trip to climb Mt Elbrus, the highest point of Europe.

## Peak List

Mt. Julius Caesar  
Mallory  
Irvine  
University  
Morrison  
Mt Le Conte  
Mt Marcy, NY



## Front Cover

**Mt. Haeckel & Mt. Wallace from the southwest.** Photo by R.J. Secor.

## *Range of Light* **Echo Cover Contest**

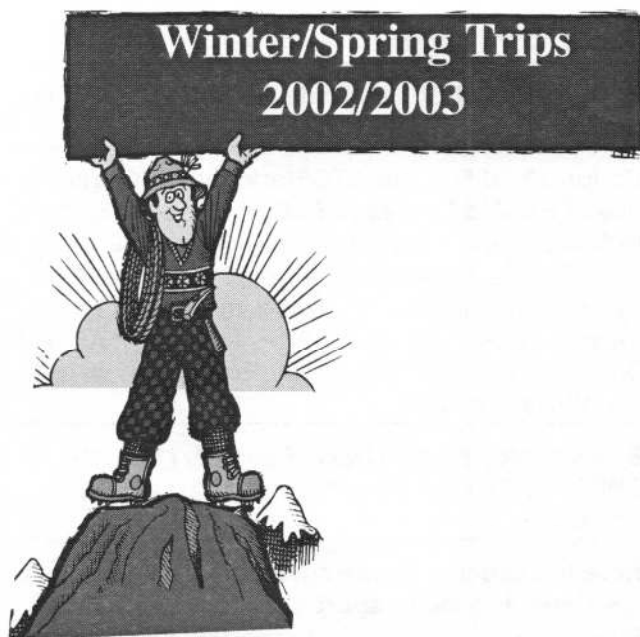
**The April/May 2003 Echo cover will feature one spectacular color photo by an SPS Member.**

**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. Winner will be featured on the Echo cover in color. Runners-up to be printed in black & white either on future Echo covers or in a feature story.**

**Submit your best photo (limit 2 submissions per photographer) in 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 print format**



## 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.

### 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.

### MARCH

**Leaders: March 11th is the Angeles Chapter deadline for summer trips....send yours to the SPS outings coordinator by March 3, 2003.**

**O,I,M&E: Mar 22 Sat LTC Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar:** Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in April 5 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2003. Send SASE to Don Creighton, LTC Registrar

**E/M: Mar 22 Sat LTC Stony Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff:** This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing exper. Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Patty Rambert

### MARCH *continued*

**M: Mar 23 Sun Mt Baldy (10064) Snow Climb** Ldr: Don Croley. Co-Ldr: Will McWhinney.

### APRIL

**O,I,M&E: Apr 5 Sat-Sun Leadership Training Seminar** - location to be determined. See March 22nd for sign-up information.

**ER: Apr 5-6 Sat-Sun Bloody Mtn (12,552')**: SPS/WTC Ldr: Tom McDonnell Co Ldr: Doug Mantle.

**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

**M/E: Apr 12-13 Sat -Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, 2 SASE, or 1 SASE and email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-ldr: Tina Bowman, Tom Bowman

**M/E: Apr 26-27 Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC Rock Workshop at Indian Wells Cyn** Oriented to rock skills for leading groups on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and short 5<sup>th</sup> class peak climbs. Sat instruction and practice skills. Sun x-c hike and peak climb to employ skills and equipment. Checkouts may be scheduled if sufficient interest. Send resume, \$10 deposit (returned when you show up), \$10 equipment fee (checkout only exempt)(checks to SC) to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Patty Rambert

## MAY

**I: May 3 Sat LTC Mt Lowe (5603') 16<sup>th</sup> Beginning Navigation Clinic:** 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a checkoff. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Recent no-shows require a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send large sase early with check made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Don Creighton

**M/E: May 17-18 Sat-Sun SPS/LTC Sierra Snow Checkout:** Restricted to Sierra Club members in good standing seeking to become leaders, with prior ice axe, crampon, and rope training/experience. Successfully demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E checkoff. Send SC#, sase to Ldr: Randall Danta. Co-Ldr: Virgil Talbot

**I: May 18 Sun LTC/WTC Grinnell Ridge Navigation:** Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones, to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

**I: May 24-26 Sat-Mon Sirretta Peak (9977'), Cannel Point (8314') Taylor Dome (8802') Pinyon Peak (6805') Owens Peak (8453'):** SPS/HPS Car camps. E-mail (preferably) or send two SASE to Ldr: Sara Wyrens Ldr: George Wysup

**I: May 31 - Jun 1 Sat- Sun Olancha PK (12,123')** SPS/K-9 Com. . Send 2 SASE. Ldr. Patty Kline Asst: Julie Rush.

**I: May 31-Jun 1 Sat-Sun Kern Pk (11,510').** E-mail (preferably) or send 2 sase to Ldr: Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr: David Beymer

**M: May 31-Jun 1 Sat-Sun Mt Baxter (13,125').** Send 2 sase OR 1 sase and email, home address, H&W phones to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert

## JUNE

**M/E: Jun 7-8 Sat-Sun LTC/ SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send 2 sase, or 1 sase and email, to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle

## JUNE continued

**M: Jun 7-8 Sat-Sun Mt Dade (13,600'+).** Ldr: Erik Siering, Asst Asher Waxman

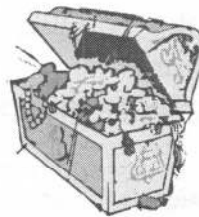
**C: Jun 13-15 Fri - Sun LTC/Harwood/WTC Wilderness First Aid Course (WFAC) :** Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Proof of CPR within previous 2 years required. Course fee includes lodging and meals. Send sase, proof of CPR, \$145 with SC#/\$155 non-member (WFAC-full refund thru 9 May) to WFAC, PO Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834. For course info call Ldr: Steve Schuster

**E: Jun 20-22 Fri-Sun North Palisade (14,242'):** SPS/WTC Trip Ldr: Tom McDonnell Co Ldr: Nile Sorenson.

**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 - Beth Epstien, after the trip. If the trip is postponed or cancelled, report this too to the Outings Chair.**

## AVAILABLE TREASURES

**John Inskeep - 818/790-5461**  
e-mail jzinskeep@cs.com has 350+ topo maps (248 which are out-of-print 15', 102 are 7.5' maps) which need a good home. 105 of the maps



cover the Sierra, 140 desert areas, 50 HPS mtns., 37 of the Colorado Fourtenners and 22 of wester state high points. Contact John to fill in your collection.

## Campy Camphausen -

760/872-2338

e-mail campy@mtnhighwest.com has Echoes from 1973 forward that he is looking to relinquish. Contact Campy to add to your Echo archives collection.

# ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

December 31, 2002

Happy New Year!

Thank-you. I have enjoyed serving as your SPS Chair these two years. During this time we experienced jubilation and tragedy as part of the climbing life. My gratitude goes to the elected and appointed volunteers of the

management committees; in particular, fellow officers Maria Roa, Gary Schenk, Mathias Selke, Joe Wankum, Asher Waxman, and very missed Matthew Richardson. It was a pleasure working with these fine folks.

SPS greatly appreciates all of the candidates in the recent management election. Let us now welcome the incoming team of Joe Wankum, Beth Epstein, Henry Arnebold, Gary Schenk and Patty Rambert. Clubs thrive on both experience and the energy of new faces. The section is clearly in good hands.

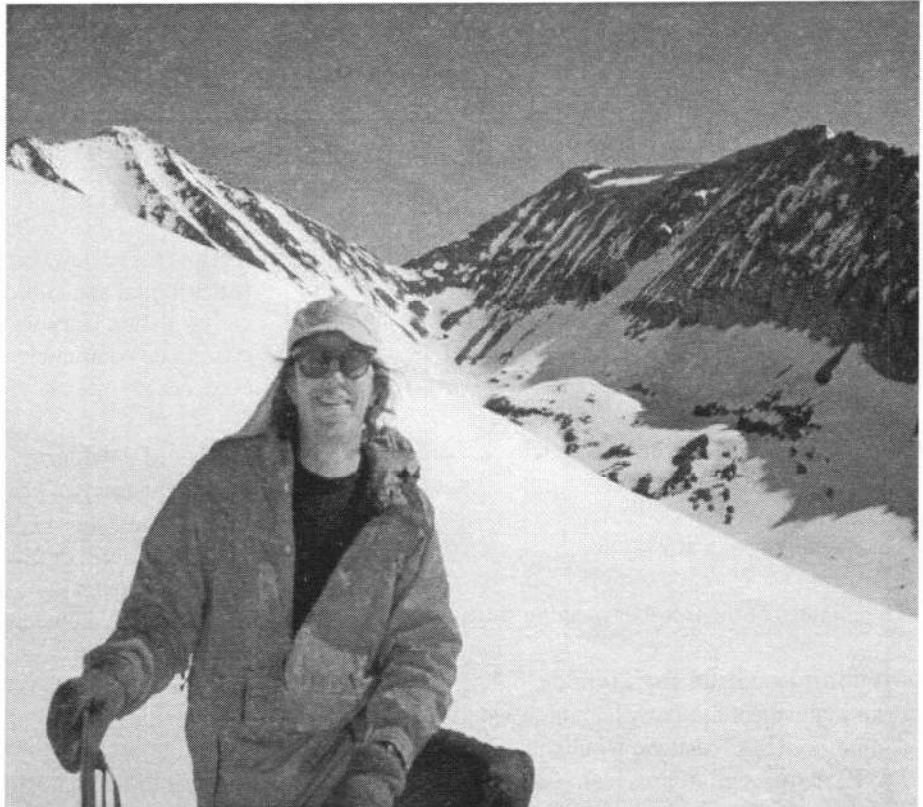
SPS proudly continues to enjoy great trips, list finishes, newsletters, programs and banquets. These are due to the leaders and members of our section. Look about— appreciate the quality of the climbers and comrades with whom you share the summits. They enhance the ascents. Now is the best of times.

Management tasks inevitably distract from outings. I look forward to again climbing and skiing like mad in the Sierra this coming season... along with the occasional soak. See you at the banquet, and soon in the Range of Light.

Cheers,

Erik Siering  
SPS Chair 2002

p.s. PattyK, thanks for those Bohemias.



## Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

### November 13, 2002

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

### **Management Committee Meeting**

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

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

#### **Meeting Location for 2003:**

Prior to the meeting, Patty had informed the Management Committee (M/C) that we would not be able to meet at the DWP after the end of this year. (Part of the reason for this is that the DWP informed the SPS that, in the future, visitors will be required to pay for parking – in addition to the fee the SPS pays to use the meeting room.)

In January, the SPS Banquet will be held in Long Beach. The February meeting is the joint meeting with the DPS and HPS – and the DPS will host this meeting in 2003. The M/C has previously (8/14/02) voted to drop the monthly meetings in March, April, and December. Therefore, a meeting location needs to be arranged only for the months of May through November.

Patty investigated Griffith Park and found that they were not accepting any reservations due to re-modeling during the coming year. The M/C briefly discussed the El Portal Restaurant in Pasadena, but decided that location was too difficult to get to for the people in the south part of town.

On Thursday, Patty will check out a meeting room in the basement of the Chapter Headquarters building. Erik/Ann pointed out that there is no fee for use of the room, that parking is free after 5 pm, and that it is possible to travel to the building by train rather than by car. This will likely be the location for 2003 meetings.

#### **Banquet:**

As soon as the tickets are printed, Gary will mail copies of the tickets along with a log form (to record sales) to all the officers. Erik will send Gary a copy of the last Banquet Program to use as a guide. Gary will bring tickets and a preliminary copy of the Banquet Program to the December

meeting for review. Patty will call the Banquet speaker (Ellen Wilts) and coordinate equipment needs (projector, etc.) with her. Gary will contact Barbee Tidball and coordinate equipment needs (projector, screen, extension cord, etc.)

#### **Duties of Officers:**

During the last two years, the current Treasurer has fulfilled the duties of Membership as well as Treasurer. The M/C briefly discussed this and decided that these duties should again be divided. Also, during the last year, Ann Kramer volunteered and has handled the mailing of leader packets to outings leaders. The M/C decided that this task should revert to the Outings Chair. Erik indicated the incoming Treasurer will need to meet with Maria Roa sometime between the December meeting and the January Banquet to facilitate the handover of the Treasurer records.

#### **14ers Climbing Log:**

At a recent Chapter meeting, two historical log books (one dating to the 1930s) were turned over to Ann Kramer. One of the books contains signatures of climbers who have climbed all 14,000 foot peaks in the three Pacific Coast states. The other book contains signatures of those who have climbed at least three 14,000 foot peaks in California. Ann expressed an interest in trying to obtain additional signatures and bring these books up to date. Ann indicated that the SPS was the logical organization to have these record books.

#### **Recent Accomplishments:**

List Finish: Greg and Mirna Roach on Kearsarge Peak 10/12/02

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

### **SPS General Meeting**

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

Erik introduced the evening's presenter, Penelope May, who gave a slide show on climbing Kilimanjaro, high point of Africa – and on volunteer efforts to provide donations to a school in that area.

## SPS Membership Report

### Accomplishments - Congratulations

John Cheslick  
Senior Emblem , Mt. Ericsson  
Sept. 17, 2002

### Welcome - Returning Members

Tim Keenan  
9152 Linda Rio Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Phone H916/369-7608 W916/769-3910

Michael Sansonl  
P.O. Box 6907  
Malibu, CA 90264-6907  
Phone H310/456-1496 W310/456-5446  
E-mail mikesanson@earthlink.net

Edward Lubin  
10941 Strathmore Drive., #56  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone H & W 310/208-5886

### Welcome - New Members

Greg Connally  
105 Waverly Drive  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
Phone H626/575-2871  
E-mail craig\_connally@ieeee.org

Natalya Shulyakovskaya  
269 La Verne Ave., Apt. C  
Long Beach, CA 90803  
Phone H562/434-5099 W714/796-7024  
E-mail natalyafar@hotmail.com

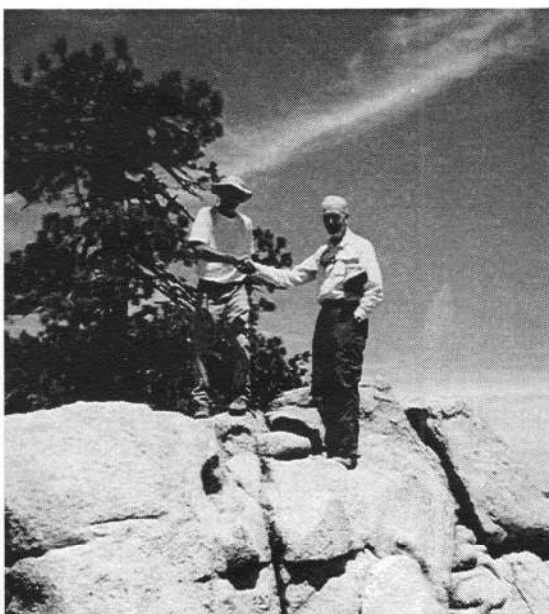
Patricia Arredondo  
13409 Stanbridge  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
Phone H562/867-6894  
E-mail parredo@worldnet.att.net or  
patricia.arredondo@west.boeng.com

Annemarie Mikolaitis  
P.O. Box 7082  
Tahoe City, CA 96145-7082  
Phone H530/583-1310 W916/785-9523  
E-mail annemari@inreach.com

Jan St.Amand  
18240 Sandy Drive #201  
Canyon City, CA 91387  
Phone H661/252-6592  
E-mail janetstamand@hotmail.com

Harry Langenbacher  
1021 N. Lemon Street  
Fullerton, CA 92832

Ted Lenzie  
175 Bayline Circle  
Folsom, CA 95630-8078



## **Rich Gangy's Triple List Finish July 27th 2002!**

Three Triple List Finisher's attended the celebration Duane McRuer in picture here with Rich and Jerry Keating who escaped the camera.

Photographer - Linda McDermott

# Trans-Sierra Ski Tour

## Apr 27-May 4, 2002

by Reiner Stenzel

This report describes a joint SMS/SPS ski mountaineering trip of an East-West traverse of the Sierra Nevada on skis. In 6 days we traveled from Taboose Pass to Cedar Grove along the Cirque Crest and climbed two SPS peaks on the way. The group consisted of five participants,

Duncan Livingston, Susan Livingston (unrelated), Jonathan Meagher, and co-leaders R. J. Secor and myself. Such a trip involves many challenges: Finding a group of compatible and experienced people, organizing the car transportation, having proper equipment, navigating in inclement weather, skiing with full packs in any back-country terrain and snow, climbing peaks and passes with ice axe and crampons, avoiding avalanche terrain, managing a diverse group in situations of stress, etc. For example our car arrangement worked as follows: On Sat, 4/27, R.J. and his father picked Jonathan and me up at the Van Nuys airport and we drove together to Taboose Pass. Duncan drove from Oregon to Bakersfield

where he was picked up by Leslie Hofherr who originally planned to join. They drove over Walker Pass to Taboose. Finally, Susan and Bill drove from their new home in Independence to Taboose. We all converged by midday. A minor problem was a disabled mobile home on the Taboose dirt road which we had to push out of the road to pass. By 1:30pm we had assorted all our shared gear, all cars were gone and we started our one-way trip. Seven days later we were to be picked up by Susan's husband Bill at Road End of Hwy 180 near Cedar Grove. Such one-way trips create a certain uneasiness since there is no option to return.

In the afternoon we hauled our heavy packs with skis up the Taboose Pass trail. It was windy and cool,

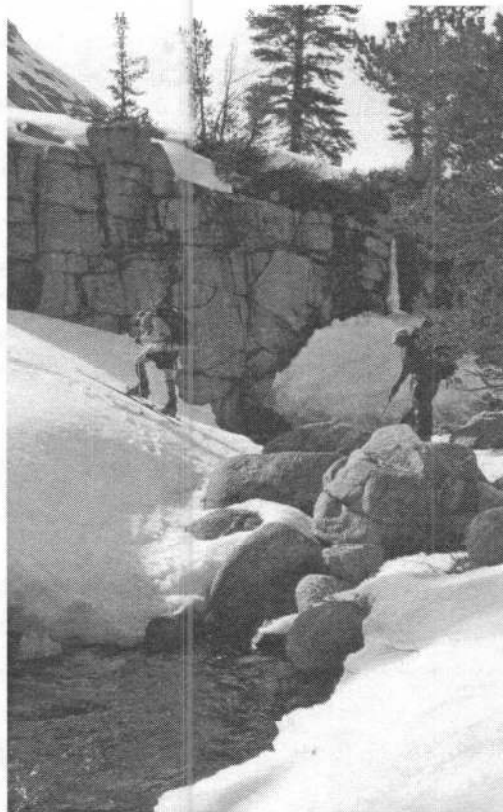
just right for the workout. The snowline was near the first stream crossing (2500m). By 6 pm we were at the second stream crossing and decided to snow-camp near running water. We had three tents and stoves. Soon the temperature dropped below freezing and we retired by 8pm.

On Sun, 4/28, we were up by 6am, enjoyed some morning sun, ate, packed and started to hike at 8:30am. It was faster to hike the rocky trail than to ski up the hard frozen snow. Between 12noon-1pm everyone had made Taboose Pass (11,500'). Cold wind and spindrifts were greeting us. We planned to stay high to ski into the Upper Basin. But the snow disappeared on

the slopes southwest of Cardinal and we had to ski down to the Kings River and climb up again. Vennacher Needle came in sight. Our plan was to ski around its north side rather than to climb over the cl 3 pass just south of the summit. Duncan found a fine campsite with running water (UTM 11 370254E, 4096065N, NAD27, 11,034'). By 6pm we settled down, enjoyed warm drinks and food, and went to bed by 8pm when it got even colder than the night before.

Mon, 4/29, started with a red sunrise, not a good omen. Up by 6am, ready to leave by 8am became our (not universally appreciated) morning routine. The goal was to go over Frozen-Lake Pass (11 368152E, 4096334N, 12,200') into Lake Basin and down to Marion Lake. Head-on,

F-L Pass looks intimidating but when we approached it was just another good workout with ice axe and crampons. By 12 noon we all had crossed the pass, signed a "pass" register, and skied down into Lake Basin. Looking back at the pass we saw an eagle standing still in the upwind air over the pass. Lake Basin is a wonderful touring terrain. We detoured a bit too far toward Cartridge Pass but soon returned down Cartridge Creek toward Lake 10,632' and finally to Marion Lke (10,296'). Our campsite (11 364926E, 4093091N) was at the lake outlet with running water and tree shelter. We needed it since the weather had deteriorated. It was cold, windy and snowing. We cooked out of the tents. Only the unavoidable nature call got one into the





stormy night. It snowed probably 6"-8' overnight.

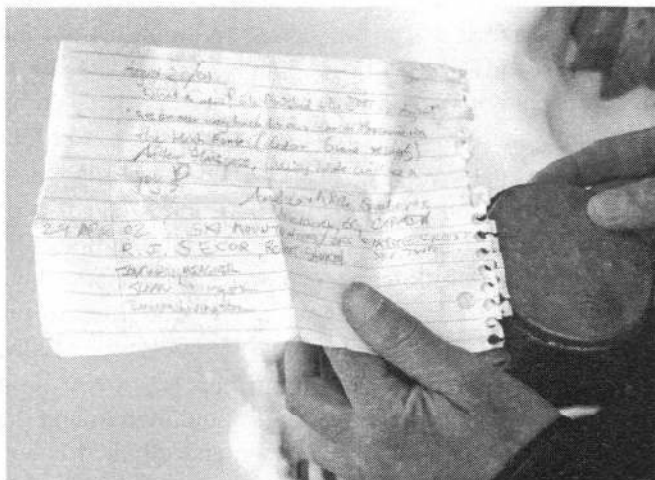
On Tue, 4/30, we crawled out of our frozen tents looking for sunshine. It was coming but a ridge and forest were in the way. So I mellowed and opted for a late start, a big mistake. We carried our tents into



the sun but the ice droplets took forever to melt. When we were ready to move the clouds were coming in. As we ascended toward Marion Pass (11 364923E, 4091307N, 12,040') we ran into a group of 4 skiers who had skied the Cirque Crest from the West. They were on their way to South Lke. Of course, there was a lot to talk and by the time we left it started to snow. As we approached the base of Marion Pass the clouds rolled in. Strong Duncan tackled the pass head-on with ice axe and crampons. Since the other guys mentioned soft snow I decided to ski into the pass via a snowy ledge. Two different routes created confusion in our rear party. The ski route was too advanced, the climb on foot was too arduous since one sinks in to the hips at each step. While Duncan reached the pass, I

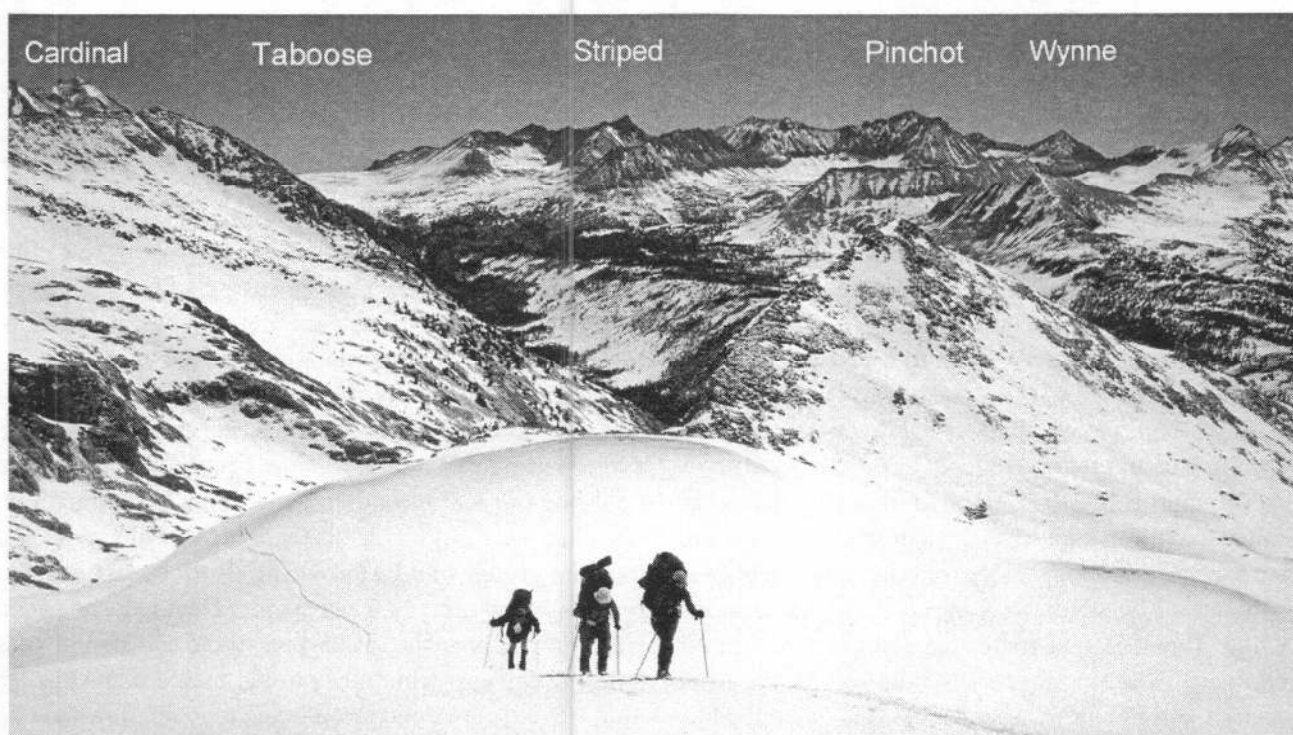
struggled along a 40deg ledge and the rest were calling for help at the bottom. Duncan struggled back down the pass. When I arrived at the top the weather had deteriorated into blizzard conditions. There was no way to ski down without visibility. So I got the shovel out, dug a pit into the snow and set up my tent to get out of the wind to avoid getting hypothermia. Now I regretted that we did not bring our radios for communication. My assumption was that we would wait till the storm would settle and then the group would follow. The storm decayed after a few hours but nobody was in sight. Then Duncan called and reported that the group had found a different pass 0.3mi to the east which they could tackle with skis. By 4pm we regrouped and skied/hiked together down to Lke 11,000' where by 5pm we made camp for the night (11 362393E, 4087573N). More snow fell in the night.

On Wed, 5/1, we were up by 6am and on skis by 8:15am in beautiful morning sunshine. Of course, each morning we started with a pass, this one only 800' up. Duncan took the group on a long gentle tour around a cirque while I took my shortcut on ski crampons. These are essential tools in hard snow on steeper slopes. After crossing a plateau at 11,800' we encountered another ridge (11 364300E, 4089500N, 12,040'). From there we had a clear view of State Pass and State Pk, our next goals. Corniced State Pass looked undoable but 0.25mi to the south-east there was a passage (11 363300E, 4088250N, 12,040'). The descent from the ridge led through a narrow gully which required careful sidestepping on skis or boot cramponing. We climbed the State Pass



ridge on boot crampons. It was an ideal place for lunch and further planning. Some of us wanted to climb State Pk (12,620') and the nearby northeast ridge looked doable. I argued for a quick ascent before the clouds would move in. By 1:30pm R.J., Susan and I started our ascent. We left our packs and skis at the 12,000' saddle 0.2mi NE of the peak. From there we cramponed up the corniced NE ridge reaching the summit at 3pm. After digging 10min in the snow near the highest point we found the peak register and signed in. Great views from the summit in all directions, but a cold wind and spindrifts prevented a prolonged stay. We spotted Duncan and Jonathan setting up their tents at Lke

slopes. It was tempting to ski down to Lke 10,700' but that would require a climb up to the next pass. So we contoured high above the lake but ran out of snow and had to climb over rocks and through gnarly whitebark firs. Duncan took a little ride down getting a scratch which required my largest available bandaid. After the short cl 3 rock scramble we ascended on crampons to a small saddle at (11 361900E, 4085880N, 11,450'). Susan liked to hyperventilate on steep sections so that we stopped for a rest. Each pass is rewarded by skiing down into an open bowl. The following had several lakes which feed the North Fork of Kid Creek where we filled up our bottles. The beautiful terrain, sun-



11,400' between State and Dougherty Pks. We descended carefully on breakable crust. By 4:30pm we were "home" at basecamp and I set up my tent on the frozen lake next to our waterhole. A strange cloud layer moved in from the east and deposited a few inches of snow overnight.

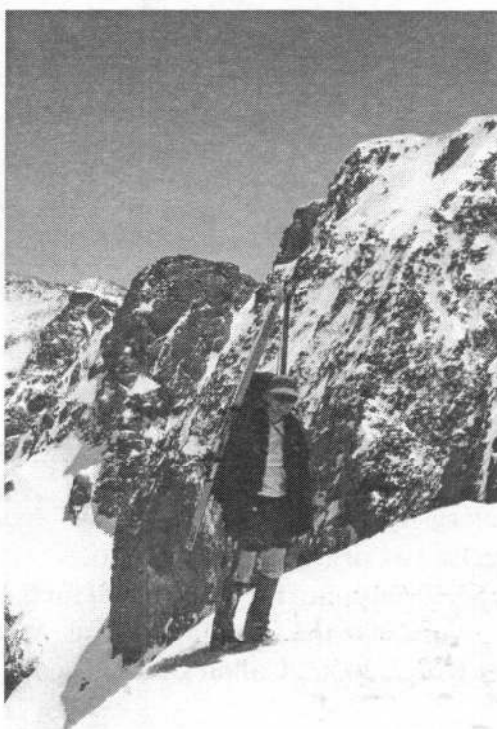
On Thur, 5/2, we had early sunshine in the eastfacing campsite. After the usual morning routine we left at 8:15am. Our route headed up and over the summit of Dougherty Pk (12,241'). I ski cramponed up, the rest boot cramponed but switched to skis when getting stuck in soft snow. It became steep near the top and skiing over rocks with crampons got Susan out of balance. Helpful Duncan gave her and her pack a lift to the summit. We enjoyed the summit views and got ready for a fabulous ski run down Dougherty's south

shine, some puffy clouds in the blue sky and endless snow slopes made this a an experience money cannot buy. At the last lake we started to climb toward the next pass (11 360100E, 4084600N, 11,250'). Cornices were hanging down, the heat of midday created an uneasy feeling about avy conditions. We put on our beacons, made a check and ascended carefully out of the runout zone. Interestingly, we encountered bear tracks which followed the same route avoiding the cornices. After the safe ascent we overlooked the huge bowl of the Glacier Lks with the Goat Crest to the southwest. Goat Crest Pass (11 358600E, 4083400N, 11,500') was slightly higher but there was a 900' drop down to the lakes. Three skiers contoured around the bowl, two hikers dropped down and climbed it out. The snow had become very soft and trailbreaking be-



came a real workout. It was not the ideal time to cross wet slopes when balls began to roll and grow to 3' diam. By 3pm we made it safely into the pass. The views to either side were wonderful: To the east the entire Palisades Range came into view, to the west huge cumulus clouds grew over the Monarch Divide. Susan was overwhelmed by joy and tears, the less emotional crew just captured the moment in pictures. The roller coaster continued with a fabulous ski run down into a small lakes basin 0.4 mi west of Munger Pk. Since there was open water, flat terrain and happy hour approached we called it quits for the day and set up camp (11 358600E, 4082042N, 11,000'). For once the weather remained nice enough to enjoy sitting in a group kitchen. Hot drinks, food and conversation were the reward for a long day. We made plans for the next morning to climb nearby Goat Mtn.

On Fri, 5/3, Susan, R.J. and I took off at 6 am to climb Goat Mtn (12,212'). The snow was perfectly firm for cramponing. Somehow, R.J. managed to sink in to the chest and his response echoed along the Goat Crest. By 7:30am we summited and signed in as the first party in '02. R.J. found two previous entries, I had one from '88, and Susan wrote a thank-you-letter for all of Duncan's help in the register. The views ranged from Olanha



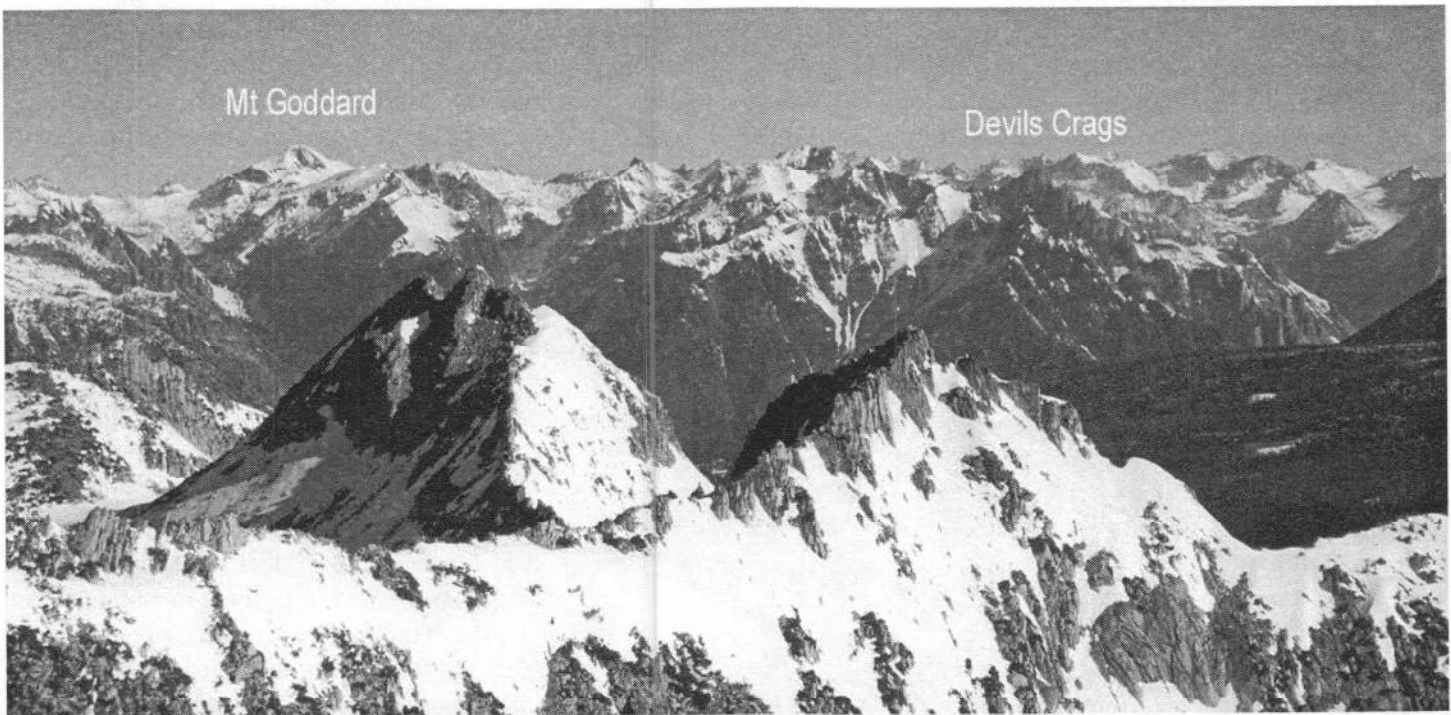
Pk to Yosemite. After taking many pictures we descended to camp. Without rush we packed up so as to ski on prime corn by 10-11am. However, a north facing slope on our last pass (11 358200E, 4081000N, 11,050') forced us to boot/ski crampon up. From then on it was sweet cruising on spring snow down to Grouse Lke (10,469') where we ate lunch and waited for R.J. Below Grouse Lke we entered the tree zone. With GPS we headed for the Copper Canyon trail which was of course covered by snow. Following some faint

ski tracks we cranked tight turns in steep forest terrain until we ran out of snow above Upper Tent Meadow (8,800'). The trail became visible and since it was only 2 pm we decided to hike down Copper Cyn to the Kings River. After days in the high country it was a joy to smell fresh pine trees, see green vegetation, some flowers, birds and two deer. But switch-backing down a few thousand feet with pack and skis on the back caused some sore leg muscles. At Roads End (5,036') we descended upon the closed ranger station, chatted with a young bear-tracking wildlife expert, Susan accosted visitors for food, I took a full monty in the icy Kings River, and we sent out messages to Bill that we are "home". Since there were fresh bear tracks at the river we stashed all the smelly stuff into the bear boxes then slept in the open only to be eaten by early mosquitoes.

On Sat, 5/4, we betted when Bill would arrive. He arrived from Fresno 2 hours earlier than anyone had guessed, having received our message via the ranger. Bill had rented a large passenger van which would hold all skiers, driver, gear and "Kawah", their Bernese mountain puppie. It took a particular affection for R.J. and liked to sit on his lap, weighing almost half of R.J.s weight. There was moaning and groaning until Kaweah fell asleep and snored loudly. At Grant Grove we had a sumptuous breakfast which got us to Bakersfield where we loaded up on milk shakes at Dewars. Then Duncan had to bade farewell for his long trip north to Oregon. We cruised down to LA, split at the carpool place in Van Nuys and everyone was home Sat night.

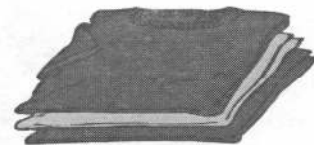
In retrospect, the trip went very well and we were all satisfied. Terrain, navi-

gation and weather were not always easy. The tour definitely requires stamina, skiing and mountaineering skills and appeared harder than the "Sierra High Route". We had minor equipment problems (Susan's new ski crampons were not tested at home hence did not fit, Jonathans and R.J.'s randonnee bindings released during kick turns on steep slopes, we also should have brought the FRS radios since the group consisted of 2 fast, 3 slow skiers). But we had adequate fuel and food for a seventh day. Navigation with my new GPS (Meridian Platinum) which now stores topo maps was absolutely reliable provided one carries enough batteries. On the other hand the cell phone did not work on any of the peaks or passes we climbed. It's safety aspect is overrated. The group was real fun, of course with ups and downs. Things went smoother after 2-3 days when it became clear that the return is not better than what lies ahead. Susan's happiest time started after Goat Mtn with Cedar Grove in sight. Arriving at Roads End was certainly most gratifying for everyone, especially for the leaders that everything went well. Thanks to everyone for making this another great Trans-Sierra trip, and special thanks to Mr. Secor, Leslie and Bill for providing our transportation.




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**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.



## Coloradans' Sierra Odyssey LeConte, Mallory, Irvine, University and Morrison

July 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Allan Conrad

Being a Colorado resident makes it impractical to get to the Sierra on a regular basis. Due to the insistence of a couple of other Colorado Mountain Club members, three of us spent a week peak-bagging and rain-dodging. The end result was that I had finally climbed my fourth peak in Area 18 and qualified for the Master Emblem.

Another objective was for me to finish the list of Mountaineer's peaks, but Mt McAdie had to be postponed until another day as very threatening weather dissuaded us from getting much beyond the saddle between Mallory and Irvine. The gully above Meysan Lake leading to this saddle was traversable with little snow travel; fortunately so, because we had left our ice axes in the truck. Found ourselves going up and down this gully on the day we scrubbed McAdie and climbed Irvine. The following day we climbed LeConte via the NW chute [traversed the cliff containing the chockstone on the left, rather than around the chockstone] and then did Mallory before finding a path down into the gully for the trek back to camp. A visitor to our camp was Will McWhinney, there with a WTC group.

After goofing off for a day, we climbed University via the route described by Selke (*ECHO*, Vol 38, No.3). We'd describe the destination notch as the "notch shaped like a W without the middle peak to the right of the false summit as viewed from the moraine north of University Pass." We thought it was

a great route! (This peak was particularly satisfying in that my first attempt was in 1970 from Center Basin, when my ten-year old ran out of gas about 12,600'.) The next day found us on the ridge approaching Dragon when thunder forced our retreat. After waiting 200-300 feet below the ridge for a while in hopes of clearing weather, we descended to treeline where the subsequent lightning display was magnificent and the graupel pelting was numbing. We found the Toyo Miyatake photo exhibit at the Eastern California Museum portraying the Manzanar internment period to be commendatory.

After getting to Convict Lake the next morning and seeing many thunderheads, we headed for Mono Lake, Bodie and Bridgeport. Storms continued the whole day and the prospects of clear weather on the next did not seem too prospective based on the weather report. However, the next morning was clear and the climb to Morrison went off without a hitch. Even this senior citizen was on top in five hours. Having descended the rib immediately above the rest room at the end of the Convict Lake road, this may be a preferred route, with appreciably less bush-whacking, for gaining the elevation up to and to the left of the hanging valley. From the road at the top of the rib to the summit there is a veritable path.

## Mt. Julius Caesar

July 20-22, 2002

by Patty Kline

At 7:45 am on Saturday morning our group of 9 met at the Pine Creek trailhead. This trail goes to Honeymoon Lake, above which it is indistinct. This trailhead is found by driving about 10 miles north of Bishop on Highway 395 to Pine Creek Road and go west for about 9 miles to the end of the road at 7,400' just below a pack station. Walk on the road that goes through the pack station before reaching what looks like a trail. The wooded trailhead accommodates many vehicles on level ground for

sleeping the night before. A few of the participants found nice places to set up tents. Besides myself and Bob Michael, my assistant and professional geologist, there were the following people: Bill Siegal, Gary Schenk, Stehane and Kristen Mouradian, Annemarie Mikolaitis, Janet Harvey and Bettye Swart.

It was after 8:00, after introductions, waiver signing, etc when we started our 8 mile hike with 3200' of gain to a meadow *continued page 14*

about Honeymoon Lake at 10,600'. Although the trail starts in a thick pine forest, soon you are on a road with nice views of the Sierra marred by a now defunct tungsten mine. It is hot too, but there are a couple spots to get water. After the road turned into a trail again we passed Pine Lake and Upper Pine Lake. The dust was 6 inches deep churned by 1000's of pack stock in 1998, but this seems to no longer be the hot destination for packers to go because the dust and pack animal flop has been just average this year and the 2 preceding years.

The trail above Honeymoon Lake is not maintained, but there are many ducks, a lot of them of them correct. Where the trail seems to end, take the short stretch of slabs and talus (class 2) to a stream crossing through brush. Go west up a hill about 1/3 of a mile to a meadow. Cross a large stream

and you have your pick of beautiful campsites. It even says campsite on the Mount Tom 7.5 Quad.

This trip was led an "SPS intro trip" at a relaxed leisurely pace with time for naps, extended lunch hour and several geology mini lectures by Bob Michael. We were in camp at 4:45 pm. Next on the agenda was happy hour. Cream cheese/cracker appetizers by Janet Harvey were offered and well as Bettye Swart's tequila shooters with fresh orange wedges dipped in cinnamon as a chaser were the best. Both of these women plus other participants got prizes such as bandanas and mini Nalgene bottles.

Sunday we left at 7:45 am for Julius Caesar. As the trail leaves the meadow it is very easy to follow. Granite Park starts above the tree line, and is one of the nicest spots in the Sierra. topped only by the Big Arroyo and Evolution Valley for me. The way becomes somewhat indistinct through her

e. At the upper most large lake, at the elevation 11,800 feet, be sure to stay to the north. There is a trail that leads down to the lake, which will take you out of your way. Italy Pass has a trail that has survived in pieces between the switchbacks to the top of the pass at 12,440 feet. Just north of the pass is a use trail that goes up the southwest side and deteriorates in many spots with too many ducts to be correct. Parts of this trail are class 2. Just before the top of the peak, the east side has some large blocks which are class 3, but on the west side there is a class 2 route which is harder to perceive on the way up than down. The views were wonderful, especially of Bear Creek Spire. Statistics for the day were 10 miles and 2600' of gain.

Monday morning we went back to the roadhead, and then on to Bishop for lunch. I have given up on Whiskey Creek as a place to eat. They are starting to serve slop. Everyone in the group but Annemaire, Kristen and Stephane, who had a long drive north, ate at La Casita for good Mexican food at one big table for all of us. This was a scenic and great trip. Thank you so much to Bob Michael for being my very capable assistant



Julius Ceasar, July 21, 2002 - Front: Stephane & Kristen, Annemarie, Petty. Middle: Bettye and Janet. Back: Gary, Bill & Bob.

# Mount LeConte

## August 9-11, 2002

By John Paterson

Mount LeConte is a classic mountaineer's peak and I decided to have our group climb it by the infrequently traveled Tuttle Creek trailhead. I lead this trip as a joint WTC/SPS that allowed more Sierra Club members to participate. There were seven of us, myself, Mike Adams (assistant Leader), Sheryl O'Rourke, Gary Maxwell, Kristen Mahaffey, Gary Bowen, and Tom McDonnell.

I met everyone at 6:30 a.m. at the Tuttle Creek campground, just outside of Lone Pine, on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. From there we drove about .4 miles west to Granite View Drive, a dirt road. We drove on Granite View west for about 2.4 miles until it forked near some houses. From there we took the right fork, northwest, for 2 miles where there was a place to park 2-3 cars. We left our 2 wheel drive vehicles here and then drove in our 4 wheel drive cars another .5 miles to the trailhead. There is room for 4-5 cars here.

We started our hike at 7:30 a.m. with light packs along a good trail until we stopped at the cabin after a mile of hiking. The cabin is in great shape with all walls, chimney, ceiling, and stove intact.

From the cabin we headed up the hill past the cabin storage shed and well and then south back towards Tuttle Creek. We hiked a very rough use trail that ran roughly parallel to, and 800 feet above, the Tuttle Creek drainage. The trail is very easy to lose and then the trip turns into a bushwhacking adventure. We were able to keep track of the trail but it was difficult because there are lots of different use trails that require different levels of bushwhacking. After roughly 4 miles we crossed to the south side of Tuttle Creek where the traveling was relatively easy for about .5 miles until we started hitting talus. I found it best to travel along the talus with the thickets on the north.

We arrived at camp at about 3:30 p.m. after a 6.5 mile hike and a 4,200 foot altitude gain. Our camp was located at the top of the tree line at about 11,000 feet. There are about 5 decent places for tents and water is located due north (5 minutes from camp) coming from the LeConte & Corcoran drainage. We spent the rest of the day chatting and resting for the long climb on Saturday.

We started our climb at 5:30 a.m. promptly. From camp we traveled over about 200 yards of talus

to the base of the cliffs below the LeConte & Corcoran drainage. We followed the cliffs to the West for about 400 yards, climbed some talus, and hopped on a ledge system that lead up the cliff face. This is a wide ledge you take that goes up to the east. Where the ledge system meets the stream we followed the stream up to the northwest. After we climbed some talus we traveled to the right (north) side of the LeConte/Corcoran valley where we traversed some large ramps back and forth gaining altitude. It was best to stay as far north in the valley, along a northwest ramp, to avoid a giant talus hole in the middle of the valley.

Once we were due east of LeConte we traversed (southwest) along a moraine bench that took us to the base of Corcoran at the bottom of the North Notch. We were able to top off our water bottles from some snow runoff at the base of Corcoran. From here there is a 30-degree scree (in summer) slope that forks towards the North Notch (left) and LeConte (right). We took the right scree slope until the slope forked again. We went right again until we hit the end of the scree slope at the base of some large blocks.

We climbed onto the top of the blocks along a loose ledge that ran north until it turned into a very loose, narrow, scree gully that lead to the base of the East Arete route. At the top of the gully there is a notch that leads to the north side of LeConte and Meysan Lake can be seen. The East Arete route is on the south side of this notch (don't go to the other side) and starts off below the arete.

We climbed from the top of the gully to the left below the top of the arete. The climbing is a mixture of class 2 and 3 but not much exposure. We followed the arete up until we eventually were able to climb on top. If you go too far to the left you hit a very steep gully and you need to backtrack about 40 feet and climb up.

Once we reached the top of the arete we could see the LeConte summit block. From here there is some easy 3<sup>rd</sup> class climbing to the summit. We reached the summit at 12:50, had a quick lunch and Mike Adams replaced the Nalgene bottle with the register inside with a Sierra Club aluminum register container.

From LeConte's summit we dropped about 100 feet to the top of a huge gully that eventually drops down into Iridescent Lake. We climbed into a tight chimney one at a time and lowered our packs so we would not get stuck. Tom, the first down, initially got stuck due to his pack but got out quickly. The waterfall pitch is about *continued page 16*

300 feet below the top of the gully.

About 50 feet above the waterfall pitch we traversed south, to the left, around a rib. From there we dropped into a wide gully and dropped down about 300 feet to a notch. We traversed around the notch, dropped down again into another gully. Below we could see two notches, the higher one very narrow, the lower one a little wider and more inviting. I checked out the higher notch but the down climbing was class 4. From the lower notch it looked like there was a drop off to a cliff but we were able to traverse around to the left along a series of small ledges until we could drop into the next gully.

I think we traversed another rib or two until we reached the last rib. There are lots of cliffs but by slowly lowering and looking for only class 2-3 we wound up all right. Don't climb up any of the gullies until you see Corcoran or you will end up on one of the peaks between Corcoran and LeConte. At the last rib we could see through a keyhole that dropped down about 300 feet into the next gully. Here we went straight up. I climbed up a short pitch of about 20 feet of difficult 3<sup>rd</sup> class where I set up a belay station. I belayed almost everyone up to the top of a 40-foot steep section. I used a short 80-foot rope throughout the trip that was a perfect length and light.

From the top of this block we traversed along some narrow ledges to the gully below the North Notch. From here we climbed up about 300-350 feet of scree to the top of the Notch where we dropped through. It is better to stay to the left of the gully where it is easier to drop into the scree field below Corcoran. We reached the North Notch about 5 p.m. which was far too late for my tastes so we skipped doing Corcoran which was a quick 30-45 minutes away.

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*Burt's High Pts. continued*

older guy in the white shirt had just climbed his 50th state high point. Ten or more made their way over to shake Grandpa Burt's hand, asking repetitive questions that Grandpa patiently answered. How long did it take to do all 50? ("30 years, though when I started with Mt. Whitney back in the '70's I didn't know I was starting"). Did you climb Denali? ("Yeah, got caught in two five day storms, one when we were just four hours away from base camp and had given all our food to another set of climbers. We sat there for days chewing paper salami wrappers"). What was the hardest of the 50? ("Granite Peak, in Montana"). Aunt Kim unveiled commemorative

Our group started really slowing down due to the very loose rocks and scree and everyone was very tired by now. We tried to stay very close to make sure we did not drop rocks on each other and made it down. From there we retraced our path to the cliffs overlooking our camp. It took a very long time for our group to travel through the talus so we reached the cliffs about 8:30 p.m., just as it got dark.

From here I navigated down the ramps until I hit the stream on the far south side of the LeConte/Corcoran valley. We followed the stream until we hit the ledge system that traversed due west above the cliffs. From there we dropped back down and then traveled east and then south to our camp. We had a very long day and did not get back to camp until 9 p.m. but we found the camp right away and were all relieved!

The climb took much longer than I had anticipated. The scree and loose rocks slowed us down more than I realized but everyone made the peak. I would recommend not taking any more than six very experienced climbers on this route. Helmets should be mandatory due to the loose rocks.

The next morning we got going at 8 a.m. and we reached the cars by about 11:30 a.m. We did lose the main trail on the way down but were able to continue traversing east along Tuttle Creek until the many use trails eventually converged. From there we dropped down to the cabin again and took the main trail back to our cars.

We all then drove to Lone Pine to have pizza at the Pizza Factory and everyone gave me a hard time about my "death march". Everyone did great and the climb included a tremendous amount of difficult navigation and lots of sustained 3<sup>rd</sup> class climbing. This is a classic route that is rarely done.

mugs, champagne and homemade cookies, and we spent fifteen or twenty minutes bathing in the reflected glow of Grandpa Burt's remarkable accomplishment. He is (roughly) the 110th person ever to climb all 50 state highpoints.

"We did get rained on, but by the time it fell we were tramping back down in the forest with a steady, celebratory gait. Later, at the hotel, Grandpa and Grandma presented all with commemorative t-shirts and we had a feast including venison, chicken, lobster, yellowfin tuna, with plenty of red and white wine to wash it all down with. Everybody was in highest spirits; it was a fine day for the Falks and the highlight of this long trip of highlights."



## IN HIGH PLACES: MT. MARCY, NEW YORK

I could say that a funny thing happened on the way to my 50<sup>th</sup> State highpoint, but, as it turns out, a whole lot of things happened, none of which were very funny.

The thing is that last year I was a 65 year-old climber, a bit slow, but with good endurance, and this year I'm a 66 year-old bionic man, who, during the 6 month period 11/01 to 5/02 has endured a total hip replacement, arthroscopic knee surgery, and the removal of a melanoma from just under my left eye. Every anesthesiologist in the Coachella Valley knows me by my first name. I've currently got a deal where I earn frequent flyer miles for going under. Additionally, my right leg is now 3/8" longer than my left, which is why I'm clumping around with equalizing orthotics in my boots.

But am I unhappy? Well, maybe a little. Actually, I'm pretty pleased with my progress, and I'm especially delighted that orthopedic surgeons now have the ability to replace worn out joints. I can't imagine spending the rest of my life limping around with a cane or, worse yet, being confined to a wheelchair. To be unable to ever climb again would make me terribly sad.

All of which is a prelude to explaining why I didn't climb Mt. Marcy last September, during my nine-summit "List Finishing Trip." Although I was successful in bagging eight of the rascals, unfortunately, after the climbs of Maine's Mt. Katahdin and Vermont's Mt. Mansfield, my arthritic right hip was just too sore to think about the 15 mile, 3,500' gain trek required to bag Mt. Marcy.

Mule-headedly, this past August, my wife, Jo, and I returned to New England, where we were joined by several members of our immediate family. To bag my 50<sup>th</sup> State highpoint had, during my period of recuperation, become a big deal. Even our grandkids were intent on making the ultimate climb with their weird grandpa.

Our son Steve, who, along with his wife, Nancy, and their children, Nathan and Angela, we met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire a few days before the Mt. Marcy climb, is a dandy writer. The following are his descriptions of this past summer's three highpoint ascents:

### RE Mt. Washington, NH:

"At 6,288 feet, Mt. Washington is the tallest mountain in the northeast, and is renowned for its

frighteningly bad weather. There are several ways to get to the summit, including hiking and driving, but the most exciting way is to take the Mt.

Washington Cog Railway. While others describe this operation's quaintness, I'll say simply that this ride is unsafe and that people will soon die. As you ascend the 3-mile, 37% grade with occasional 1,000 foot exposures on each side, the 100-year old primitive steam train jerks and berks along a track so steep that at points you can barely stand up, and the hour-and-a-half ascension gives you plenty of time to concentrate on all of the things that could possibly go wrong and which would lead to your own gristly and spectacular death. The sole fireman, who shovels a mere ton of coal to keep the steam boiling, could pass out from exhaustion. The lone brakeman, spinning 100 year old, manually controlled and primitive brakes, could blow it. The engine might throw a rod or the boiler might explode and the whole train would fly down the track at speeds exceeding 120 mph before finally derailing in a spectacular and fiery crash. The track, already rusted and markedly crooked in places, could cause a derailment and the train would slowly spin off the track and then tumble a thousand feet down the rocky hillside. The wooden trestle, already faded and warped by the harsh weather, might collapse (again, as it has in the past), launching the passenger car end-over-end down the mountain. None of these scenarios are impossible or even improbable; it was cool and fun for the whole family!! The top of Mt. Washington, with its massive visitor's center, was crowded with tourists. We ate lunch, enjoyed views that were limited by summer thunderclouds, and remarked that while Grandpa was just days from his 50<sup>th</sup> state highpoint, this was seven-year old Angela's first and ten-year old Nathan's second."

### RE Mt. Mansfield, Vermont, climbed via the toll road and the Long Trail

"We topped another state the next morning by hiking an easy couple of miles across a rocky ridge to Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's 4,393' highpoint. There were fifty or more people hanging out among cold misty clouds, and while we sat there eating tuna sandwiches I figured out that this was my 10<sup>th</sup> state highpoint. Later we passed up important Vermont landmarks, including Chester A. Arthur's birthplace, and instead toodled around Stowe for the afternoon. We visited Cold Hollow Cider Mill for fresh pressed cider and their "famous" cider-based donuts, which weren't good enough to warrant mention in this diary."

**RE Mt. Marcy, New York's highest:**

"To get to New York we took the auto ferry across Lake Champlain, which is enormous, beautiful, and popular. I was a disappointed in myself because I'd never even HEARD of Lake Champlain before. It's a major geographic feature, and my ignorance is comparable to an easterner not ever having heard of Lake Tahoe. So, though stunning in its beauty, Lake Champlain made me feel like a dork, and so I hate Lake Champlain for that.

"Poem quality dairy farms dotted the way to Lake Placid, where we all met with Aunt Elisa and Niece Hayley, and Aunt Kim and Uncle Bruce for a **Family Reunion With A**

**Purpose:** we were all there for The Big Climb. Unfortunately, before we headed out for the pre-climb dinner, we watched the Weather Channel and learned that a big storm was headed across the Great Lakes and would, without doubt, unleash thunderstorms across New York State the following day. Radar maps showed red and yellow bands — not the wimpy green bands — heading our way. They showed the lightning strike charts.

"It's never good when they show the lightning strike charts.

"Later, at a stop for a thousand gallons of Gatorade and 600 Powerbars, I spoke quietly with Dad about the weather, and we agreed that — due to travel reservations constraints — we had to give the hike a shot; we agreed to try and get up and off Mt. Marcy before the thunderstorms arrived. There was a fair amount of anxiety amongst all of us, with most fretting about the 15-mile (8 hour plus) day that lie ahead and me worried about whether any of the shorter members of my family were going to be seared medium well by a thick bolt of lightning the following day.

"Up at 6AM, seven of us — Burt, Nancy, Elisa, Kim, Bruce, Hayley (age 12), Nathan (age 9), and me — gobbled up coffee and boiled eggs and headed for the Adirondak Loj trailhead; Angela (age 6) hung

back at the hotel with Grandma Jo. The sky was gray and threatening, and it was clear to all of us that we were probably going to get rained on. Maybe hard. We turned threat into advantage, and all of us hightailed up the wide and nicely graded trail through stunning pine forests and rock streams. Taking just a 5-minute break every hour, we motivated ourselves seven miles and 3,500 vertical feet up until we left the trees behind and moved out onto slabs of exposed rock. A cloud and strong winds — but no rains — shrouded the top as Hayley and Nathan arrived first, at about 11:30, with the rest of us close behind. Grandpa Burt was, of course, last, bringing up the back of the pack like he always



has, making sure no one is left behind. As he approached the metal disk — the "benchmark" — that distinguishes the top of Mt. Marcy, we began chanting "Grandpa! Grandpa!" Nathan and Hayley were the first ones to greet Grandpa, jumping and cheering; with arms outstretched; giving him the greatest gift they ever could. The sky gray, the wind howling, the air cold, the hike long: this was a real mountain summit. We retired quickly to a less windy place where word spread among other summiting climbers that the *continued page 16*

## CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

BARBEE TIDBALL

**Rivers Need Protection Too:** The California Wild Heritage Act of 2002 - Senate Bill S.2535 as introduced by Senator Boxer will include protection of many of the waterways in the Sierra by expanding the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

California Wild designates 22 new wild & scenic rivers - including 16.75 miles of the North Fork Mokelumne River; 3.2 miles South Fork Tuolumne River; 18.8 miles Upper Owens River, Glass & Deadman creeks; Cottonwood Creek for 21.9 miles; Dinkey Creek for 25 miles, 11 miles of the Kings River and 29.4 miles on the lower Kern River.

Protection of these rivers will protect the free flowing character of the river segments and will preserve adjacent watersheds thereby keeping our water cleaner. For more information on river protection contact Friends of the River at [www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org).

**Sierra Nevada Alliance Reports "The Sierra Not Getting Fair Share!"** "Clearly, the Sierra Nevada is a chest of natural treasures for the state of California. However, this year, a bill to establish a conservancy to provide state funding for conservation projects throughout the Sierra failed to pass the California legislature.

The Sierra is 29% of the state's land mass, supplies 60 percent of the state's water, and is one of the premier recreational destination in the world. The Sierra is recognized internationally for its habitat and biological diversity. Yet, the region receives less than 1% of state funding outside the Tahoe basin for conservation improvements, acquisitions, and resource management. The Santa Monica mountains, California Coast, and even the San Diego River, among other regions have a state conservancy to address resource need - but not the Sierra.

A diverse set of stakeholders called the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Working Group, formed by the Sierra Business Council and hosted by the Natural Resources Agency, worked many hours to change this. The Sierra Nevada Alliance was the sole regional conservation organization invited to numerous meetings and phone calls creating language for a bill to establish a Sierra Conservancy.

...The final bill, AB 1130, established a Board composition that would give the Sierra a majority of representatives and the Governor a majority of appointments. It also contained a controversial county opt-in provision for fee simple acquisitions, but would have allowed the Conservancy to pursue easements throughout the range. In the end, the bill's lead author Assemblyman Dickerson (R-Shasta) was uncomfortable with the modifications demanded by some groups as it neared final legislative deadlines and the bill was not brought to a floor vote.

The effort is not over. The Alliance is speaking to other regional and statewide groups to ensure the region receives its fair share next session."

**SnoPark permits:** REI is no longer making these parking passes available - apparently the State paperwork became way too cumbersome. Parking permits can be purchased at California State AAA offices. The permits are available to members and nonmembers of AAA. Then while you are skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding or post-holing to your next Spring peak keep your eyes open for motor vehicles (snow mobiles) that trespass into the Wilderness. If you see any report your observations. These reports are needed to assist with management of the Sierra. Note vehicle descriptions, take photos and note any other information relating to noise, safety, wildlife, damage to public property, etc. Snowlands Network is gathering this information through their User Conflict Tracking Project. Incident Report forms can be found at their web site [www.snowlands.org](http://www.snowlands.org).

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

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**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes to Secretary: Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail to all regular subscribers 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: Henry Arnebold 433 W. Renwick Road, Glendora, CA 91740-5568

**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: Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. 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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**SECTION II  
MEMBER TYPE**

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'active' member. My section activity this past year was \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., climb, program). Only 'active' members may vote in the section elections held in October.

Other SPS members residing at the above address are listed below. (Fill in this section if you wish to receive just 1 ECHO; otherwise fill out a separate application for each ECHO subscription desired).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.# \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.# \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'inactive' member.

I wish only to subscribe to the ECHO; I am not an SPS member.

After March 31st or a lapse in membership, I wish to be reinstated as an active member. My last year as an SPS member was \_\_\_\_\_. I have done the following activities to qualify me for reinstatement:

I hereby apply for membership in the SPS. The six peaks that qualify me for membership and the dates climbed are listed below. At least two of the peaks climbed were with the SPS. My Sierra Club membership number is listed above.

Peak Name	Date Climbed	With SPS?	If yes, Leader Name

**SECTION III  
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CLASS**

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