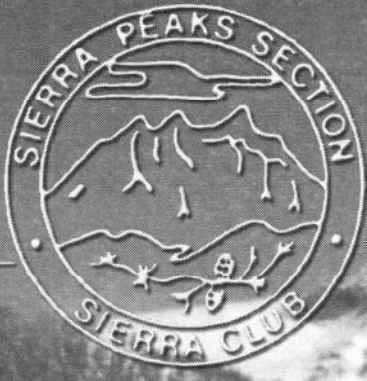


The Sierra

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 1

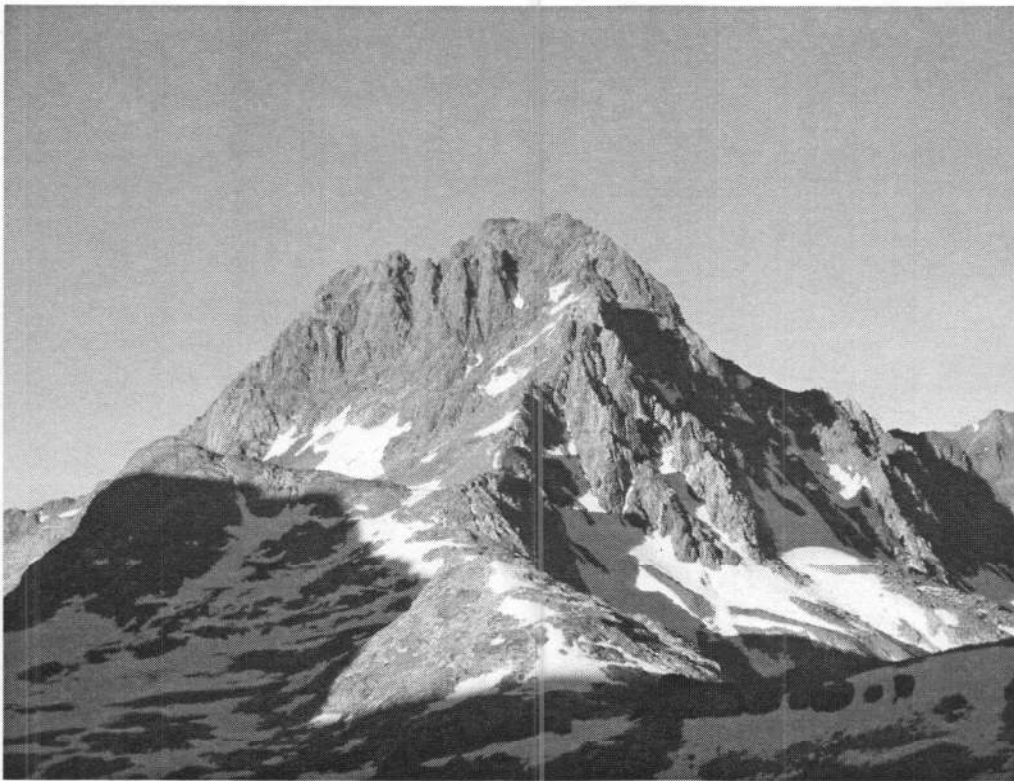


ECHO

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2003



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS



SPS meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month - May through November & January. A joint climbing sections meeting will be held in February. *New meeting Location:* Meetings are held at

7:30pm, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Downstairs from the Angeles Chapter Headquarters - Lower Plaza Conference Room. Free and secure parking. Enter from Mariposa, just N of Wilshire. Mention Sierra Club at parking lot office and get white ticket. Newcomers welcome.

March 2003 - No meeting

April 2003 - No General meeting. Management Committee is planning to meet the first week in April. Anyone interested in attending should contact one of the M/C members for exact time and location.

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

Front Cover

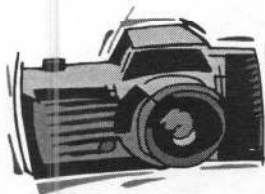
Spanish Mtn - Sequoia in Winter

Photo by Barbee Tidball

Page 2 Photo

Mt. Charybdis

Photo by Scot Sullivan



Peak List

The Hermit
Scylla

Mt Goddard

Mt McGee

Mt Goethe

Mt Lamarck

Mt LeConte

Joe Devel

Mt Pickering

Mt Newcomb

Chamberlin

Mt Guyot

Mt McAdie

Basin Mtn.

Mt. Mills

Mt. Kaweah



Spring/Summer Trips 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.

MARCH

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 Ann Kramer, 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

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

MARCH 31ST SIERRA PEAKS SECTION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE

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

April continued

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-ldrs: 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 3rd, 4th, and short 5th 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') 16th 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. Due to recent no-shows ldrs. 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.

I: May 3-4 Sat-Sun Owens Peak (8453'), Pilot Knob (6200') SPS & Loma Prieta: Car camp with strenuous dayhikes. Sat climb Pilot Knob 6 mi rt, 3400' gain. Sat eve happy hour. Sun climb Owens, 7 mi. rt, +3200' gain. Co-listed with PCS, Loma Prieta Chapter. Email (pref) or 2 sase to Prov. Ldr: Mike McDermitt. Co-Ldr: Ron Hudson

MAY continued

MR: May 9-11 Fri- Sun Olancha Peak (12,123'): Friday cross-country backpack and scramble along creek camping at around 6100'. Saturday climb Olancha peak and back to camp. Total gain 7300'. Some 3rd class rock, ice axe and crampon on summit day. Sunday pack out. Restricted. Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

M: May 10-11 Sat-Sun Bloody Mtn (12,544'): SPS/WTC Sat backpack to Laurel Lakes (2 to 4 mi, depending on snow condition). Sun climb Bloody Mtn via Bloody Couloir (2.5 mi rt, 2700' gain). Ice axe, crampon experience required for the 1500', 38° couloir. Restricted to SC members. Prov Ldr: Helen Qian. Asst: Patrick McKusky

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 NF for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase. 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

MR: June 6-8 Fri- Sun Mt. Sill (14,153') and Mt. Gayley (13,510'): Backpack 7 miles, 3200' gain with some cross-country to camp at Elinore Lake. Sat. climb both peaks, ice axe and crampons, 3rd class, (4000' gain). Belayed climb up possible icy crux move on Sill. Sunday pack out. Restricted to SC members Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

JUNE continued

M/E: Jun 7-8 Sat-Sun LTC/ SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff: For M & E candidates. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members. Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle

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) : 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.

I: Jun 21-23 Sat-Mon Kern Pk (11,510'): SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 9 mi, 1000' gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Peak in 7 mi, 3000' gain rt, all cross-country. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 9 mi, 1000' gain (with ups and downs). Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Rick Jali.

M: Jun 27-29 Fri-Sun Moses Mtn (9,331'), North Maggie Mtn (10,234'): SPS/WTC/Palos Verdes-South Bay Fri backpack 4 mi, 1000' gain, from Mtn Home SP in Western Sierra to camp and climb Moses, 4.0 mi rt, 2500' gain, some cl 3. Sat climb North Maggie, 5.0 mi rt, 3400' gain. Sun leisurely pack out. Email (pref.) or SASE Ldrs: Richard Boardman, Bob Beach.

JULY

I: July 3-6 Thu-Sun Finger Peak (12,404'), Tunemah Peak (11,894'): SPS/Loma Prieta Strenuous backpack. Thurs pack in via trail, xc to Crown Basin, approx 12-14 mi, 3000' gain. Fri climb Finger and unlisted Blue Cyn Pk 4000+' gain. Sat climb Tunemah, 4200' gain. Sun pack out. Email (pref.) or 2 sase Prov Ldr: Mike McDermitt. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

ER: Jul 11-13 Fri-Sun Mt Darwin (13,830'): SPS/WTC Restricted to SC members with ice axe, crampon, 4th class rock, rope use experience, and strong physical conditioning. Fri backpack over Lamarck Col to camp in Darwin Canyon. Sat very strenuous climb of peak via class 4 rock north face route. Sun hike out. Send resume & permit fee. Provisional Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Ron Hudson.

JULY continued

M: Jul 18-20 Fri-Mon Goodale (12,790'), Striped (13,179'), Cardinal (13,397): Friday backpack up legendary Taboose pass trail to camp below pass, 6.5 mi, 4800' gain, share well-deserved happy hour. Saturday climb Goodale & Striped, some class 3, some crud. Sunday climb Cardinal, pack out. Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr: Asher Waxman.

M: July 19 Sat Mt. Emerson (13204): Moderate - paced climb of Emerson via the 3rd class south slope route, 8 miles rt, 4000 feet gain,. We have obtained a group camp site for Fri & Sat night. Sunday you will be on your own, but there will likely be a private, consensus day hike by some. Experience on class 3 rock required. Send email (pref) or SASE Ldr: Ret Moore. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

I: July 19 Sat Mt Marsh (13,550') SPS/SMS Climb a class 2 peak near Whitney Pass, recently named after the person who built the Whitney trail and hut. 10mi rt, 5000' gain. Send Email (pref) or SASE Co-Ldrs: Tom Marsh, Reiner Stenzel.

I: Jul 19-21 Matterhorn Pk (12,279') Introductory trip in eastern Sierra. Relaxed and enjoyable pace of this Emblem peak for a small group. Sat backpack 4 mi, 2500' gain to camp. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Sun climb class 2 pk in 5 mi rt and 2900' gain. Bob Michael gets his SPS Emblem on top. Mon Backpack out 4 mi. Send 2 SASE, \$5.00 permit fee. Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst. Bob Michael.

M: Jul 19-27 Sat-Sun Kaweahs area: Climb far-in peaks, including Mt Kaweah (13,802'), Triple Divide Pk (12,634'), Whaleback (11,717'), Lion Rock (12,360'), Mt Stewart (12,200'), Lippincott Mtn (12,265'), and others. Long (18+ mi) backpack in to camp. Routes on peaks are class 1-3. Send SASE to Patty. Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert.

MR: Jul 20-27 Sun-Sun Columbine, Langille, Citadel, Wheel, Woodworth, Isosceles: SPS/SMS. Climb some fine peaks in the vicinity of the Middle Fork of the Kings River. Enter via Bishop Pass into Dusy Basin, Kings River, Black Divide for beautiful but less visited Sierra Peaks. Class 4 climb Isosceles. 40mi rt, 20,000' gain. Send Email (pref) or SASE. Co-Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.

M: July 29 - Aug 4 Tues - Mon Mt. Goddard (13,568') area: other possible peaks are Mt. Huxley (13,086'), Charybdis (13,096'), Mt. McDuffie (13,282'), Black Giant (13,330), Scylla (12,956'), Mt. Fiske (13,503'), Mt. McGee (12,969'), Goethe (13,264') and Mt. Lamarck (13,417') SPS/SMS/WTC. Backpack in over Lamarck Col and camp at Darwin Canyon, approx. 6 miles and 2600'

gain. From Wed. through Sat. we will climb peaks (class 1, 2 & 3) and move camp to Wanda Lake and possibly the Ionian Basin near Black Giant. On Sunday start heading out and climb a peak or two that we missed and be back at the trailhead Monday. The total is approximately 28 miles round trip with backpack, 26 miles with daypack and overall elevation gain of 18,000 feet (if we do all the peaks). Some of the peaks are optional so there will be time to relax and enjoy the beautiful lakes and scenery. Navigation practice for those interested. Strong, experienced WTC students will be accepted at the leader's discretion. Send 2 sase or email, \$5 permit fee Ldr: Keith Martin. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert

AUGUST

M: Aug 1-3 Fri-Sun Mt Ansel Adams: SPS/SMS Climb a remote, beautiful, and not frequently visited peak in Yosemite N.P. Approach from south with basecamp at Sadler Lke. 30mi, 6000' rt. Send e-mail (pref) or SASE. Co-Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Mark Goebel.

M: Aug 1-3 Fri- Sun Joe Devel Pk.(13,327"), Mt. Pickering (13,474'), Mt. Chamberlin (13,169'), Mt. Newcomb (13,422') Friday backpack over Cottonwood Pass to camp along Rock Creek, Climb Joe Devel in afternoon. Saturday climb Newcomb and Chamberlin, 12 cross country miles, some rock scrambling with exposure along ridge, 4000' gain. Sunday climb Pickering up talus slopes, 3000' gain, and pack out. Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

I: Aug 2-3 Sat-Sun WTC Three Sisters (10,619) Join us for an enjoyable backpack on the Western side of the Sierra near Courtright Reservoir. Sat backpack 5 miles, 1500' gain to camp at Cliff Lake. Sun climb peak 4 miles rt, 1200' gain, plus 5 miles back to cars. Time for relaxing, fishing, and/or exploring nearby Dinkey Lakes. Ldrs: Mirna & Greg Roach.

I: Aug 2-4 Sat-Mon Cloudripper (13,525') SPS/WTC. Introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective Sierra Peaks Sectioners and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 7 mi, 3000' gain on trail to 6th Lake. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun evenings. Sun climb class 2 pk in 3 mi rt, 2500' gain, all cross-country. Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

MR: Aug 2-4 Sat-Mon Mt Darwin (13,831') SPS/WTC Climb an emblem peak at a relaxed pace. Sat we'll backpack from North Lake through Lamarck Col to camp below the Col, approx 5-6 mi, 3000' gain. Sun climb Darwin via Darwin Glacier and west ridge with an exposed summit **continued on page 6**

MR: Aug 2-4 continued block, 2 mi, 1500' gain, return to camp. Mon pack out. Ice axe, crampon and 3rd class climbing experience required. Restricted to SC members. Send 2 sase or email. Prov Ldr: Helen Qian. Asst: Beth Epstein

I: Aug 8-10 Fri-Sun Amelia Earhardt, Maclure and Donohue SPS/SMS Climb three fine peaks out of Lyell Cyn. Good conditioning required. Send e-mail (pref.) or SASE. Prov Ldr: Leslie Hofherr Asst: Reiner Stenzel

I: Aug 9-10 Sat-Sun Koip Peak (12,962'), Mt Gibbs (12,773') SPS/WTC Join us for a weekend backpack and climb of two peaks near the eastern edge of Yosemite. Sat am, backpack from Dana Meadows (9600') to campsite outside the YNP boundary (6 mi, 1,100' gain). Sat pm hike to Koip and possibly other nearby high points. Sun pack out to Mono-Parker Pass trail junction and climb Mt Gibbs, then return to cars. Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Joe Wan-kum. Asst: Mike Dillenback.

M: Aug 9-11 Sat-Mon Four Gables (12,720'), Pilot Knob #2 (12,245') SPS/WTC Join us for a moderate paced three day backpack and climb of two peaks near Mt Humphreys. Saturday, hike to Desolation Lake from North Lake trailhead 7 mi, 2,600' gain. Sunday climb both peaks, 12 mi, 2,300' gain. Monday pack out. Send sase and \$5 check payable to John for the permit. Ldr: John Cheslick. Asst: Patty Rambert.

I: Aug 15-18 Fri-Sun Colosseum Mtn (12,451), Mt Perkins (12,566): Moderate pace. Fri backpack 5 mi, 3,300 gain to Sawmill Meadows. Sat backpack to Woods Lake 5 mi 2,900, climb Colosseum, another 1,000 gain. Sun climb Perkins, return to camp, 10 mi rt, 1,200' gain, then pack out another 9 1/2 miles, 6,000' descent. Send E-mail (pref) or two sase. Ldr: Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta

ER: Aug 16 Sat Mt. Humphreys (13,986') Strenuous 17 mi, 5000' gain dayhike via Piute Pass for a fast, small, skilled group to climb cl 4 emblem pk. Restricted to SC members on Mnteers List or equiv. Send e-mail or 2 sases. Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldr: Tom Bowman.

M: Aug. 16-17.Sat – Sun Mt. Hooper (12,349') and Mt. Senger (12,286') Ride ferry across Florence Lake in Western Sierra. Backpack 8 miles 3000' gain to camp at Sally Keyes Lake. Climb Mt Senger in afternoon (3000', 3 miles). Sunday hike to Selden Pass and climb Hooper with 3rd class summit block. (3000' gain 5 miles RT.) Rope belay on Hooper restricts trip to Sierra Club members. Ldrs: Barbee & Larry Tidball.

AUGUST continued

I: Aug 16-18 Sat-Mon Four Gables (12,720'): Introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective Sierra Peaks Sectioners and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack from North Lake over Piute Pass to Lower Desolation Lake, 8 mi, 2000' gain. Sun climb Four Gables in 8 mi rt, 1500' gain, use trail and cross-country, some class 2 on peak. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun evenings. Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Keith Martin.

M: Aug 21-24 Thur-Sun Mt Clark (11,522'), Grey Peak (11,573'): Great Yosemite Mountaineers peaks. Thur pack in to camp on trail and cross-country. Fri climb Clark, Sat climb Grey, hike out Sun. Strenuous trip requires good conditioning and rock climbing skills. Restricted to SC members. Send sase with \$5.00 permit fee. Ldr: Henry Arnebold. Co-Ldr: Steve Thaw.

ER:Aug 22-24 Fri-Sun Mt Gardiner (12,907') SPS/WTC Trip restricted to SC members with 4th class rock, rope use experience, and strong physical conditioning. Fri backpack over Kearsarge Pass and Glen Pass to camp in south end of Sixty Lake Basin. Sat very strenuous climb of peak via Sixty Lake Col and southeast knife-edge ridge of Mt Gardiner. Sun hike out. Send resume with \$5.00 permit fee. Prov Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Tina Bowman.

I: Aug 30 - Sep 1 Sat – Mon Homer's Nose (9023') Moderately paced three day Labor Day backpack in Sequoia NP. Sat pack 13 mi 1,300' gain on trail to camp. Sun xc class 2 climb, some bushwhacking 12 mi. rt, approx 2,400' gain. Mon pack out. Send email (pref) or two sase Ldr: Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr: David Beymer.

SEPTEMBER

I: Sep 5 – 7 Fri – Sun Mount Florence (12,561') Vogelsang Peak (11,493') SPS/WTC Intro trip to the Sierra in Yosemite NP. Backpack 13 miles, 2500' gain, and 14 miles, 4500' gain with daypack to peaks. Fri backpack from Tioga Pass Road in Tuolumne Meadows to camp near Vogelsang Peak. Optional class 2 climb of Vogelsang. Sat climb class 2 Mt. Florence. Sun hike out.Ldr: Patty Rambert. Co-Ldr: Keith Martin.

I: Sep 6-7 Sat-Sun Smith Mtn (9515'), Blackrock Mtn (9635'): Intro trip with car camp on Kern Plateau during an uncrowded weekend in area spared from 2002's McNally fire. Leisurely paced xc ascents (brief cl 2) of an SPS peak and an unlisted one. Smith 4 mi rt, 1100' gain; Blackrock 2 mi rt, 700' gain. Send sase after Aug 15 to Ldrs: Jerry & Nancy Keating.

SEPTEMBER continued

I: Sep 6-8 Sat-Mon Mt Bago (11,870') Introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective Sierra Peaks Sectioners and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack over Kearsarge Pass to Charlotte Lake at 10,370' in 8.5 mi, 2600' gain. Sun climb Mt Bago in 2.5 mi, 1500' gain, and explore spectacularly scenic surrounding areas. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out in 8.5 mi, 1500' gain. Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Patty Kline, Asst: Rick Jali.

MR: Sept 6 – 9 Sat-Tues Brewer (13,570'), North Guard, (13,327'), South Guard (13,224'): Climb Emblem Peak and her sentinels on the Great Western Divide. Sat backpack from Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon to Sphinx Lakes, 9 mi, 5,400' gain. Sun climb Brewer & N Guard, 6 mi, 3,900' gain with belay for exposed summit block on N Guard. Mon climb South Guard, 8 mi, 3,400' gain. Tues hike out. Trip restricted to SC members. Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr: Kim Gimenez

I: Sep 8-11 Mon-Thu Highland Pk (10,935'), Round Top (10,381'), Mokelumne Pk (9,334'), Pyramid Pk (N) (9,983'), Granite Chief (9,006'), Tinker Knob (8,949'): SPS/WTC Climb this selection of northern peaks, Ebbetts Pass to Tahoe area. All are day hikes. Class 1-2; short class 3 on Round Top. Send sase/email to Patty. Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert.

I: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Mt Bolton-Brown (13538'), Mt Prater (13329') SPS/WTC Sat backpack 6 mi, 3900' to Red Lake. Sun climb Bolton-Brown and Prater, 7 mi rt, 6000' and backpack out. Send 2 sase or email. Ldr: Dave Endres. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

Leaders send stories of your trips to the Echo. Pictures of SPS climbing adventures welcome.

MR Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Mt Russell (14,086'), Carillon (13,552'): SPS/WTC Enjoy and explore the best scenery in the Whitney area including the Ebersbacher Ledges and Clyde Meadow. Sat backpack from Whitney Portal to Upper Boy Scout Lake (3 mi, 2900' gain). Sun climb Carillon then Russell by the East Arete, descending the south face and returning by Whitney-Russell Col (4 mi rt, 3025' gain), then pack out. Exposed 3rd class. Restricted to SC members. Ldrs. Will McWhinney, Don Croley

I: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Cirque Peak (12,900') SPS/WTC Sat backpack to Chicken Springs Lake via Cottonwood Pass 3.5 mi, 1300' gain and enjoy happy hour. Sun climb peak 2 mi, 1650' gain by class 2 xc route, then pack out. WTC or equivalent required. Prov Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson. Asst: Greg Roach.

I: Sep 13-15 Sat-Mon Banner Pk (12,945') SPS/WTC Sat moderate 9 mi 1520' gain bkpk from Agnew Meadows to camp at Ten Thousand Island Lk (9840'). Sun moderately strenuous 4 mile rt 3100' gain xc to climb Banner; bkpk 3 mi to camp at Ruby Lake (9911'). Mon moderate bkpk 9.6 mi out via Middle Fork of San Joaquin. Ldr: Sarah May. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

I: Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Iron Mtn (11,149') SPS/WTC Moderately paced backpack from Devil's Postpile 6 mi and 1300' gain Sat to camp at Anona Lake.. Climb cl 2 Iron Sat aft or Sun morn, 3 mi, 2050' gain. Pack out Sun continuing along the Beck Lakes trail loop 8 mi or backtrack the way we came in. WTC students and Sierra Peaks Section newcomers welcome. Send conditioning and email or sase to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldrs: Doug Mantle, Tom Bowman.

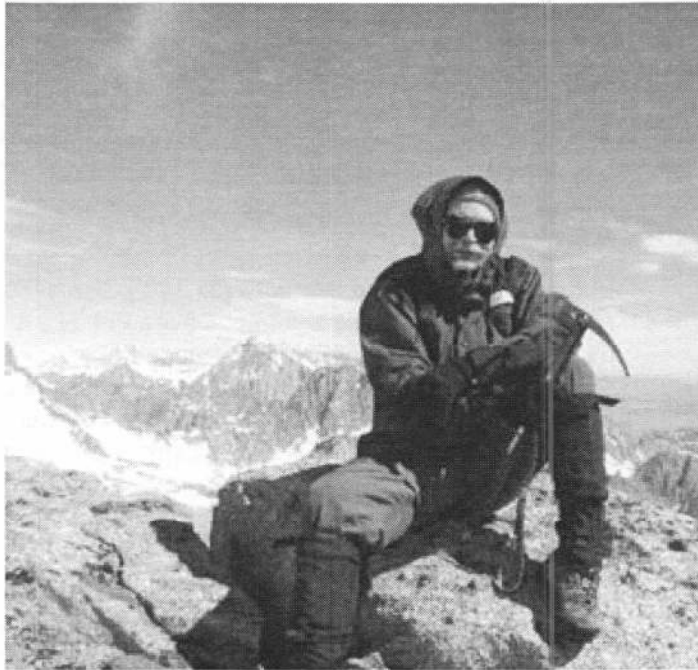
I: Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Mt Conness (12,599') SPS/WTC Visit beautiful Tuolumne Meadows after the summer crowds have left. Sat am, backpack from Tuolumne Meadows (8600') to Young Lakes (6 mi, 1900' gain). Sun climb Mt Conness (6 mi rt, 2600' gain) at the northeast boundary of Yosemite and pack out. Send sase, \$5 permit fee Ldr Joe Wan-kum. Co-Ldr: Barry Holchin.

I: Sept 27-28 Sat-Sun Lamont (7429') List Finish: Join us for moderately paced climb of Lamont Peak (4 miles rt, 2000 feet gain) on Sat morning and a gathering Sat pm to celebrate Ret's completion of the SPS list and four score years of adventurous living. On Sunday some of us will make an informal climb of Sawtooth #1 (8000'). Send email (pref) or sase Ldr: Ret Moore. Co-Ldr: Duane McRuer.

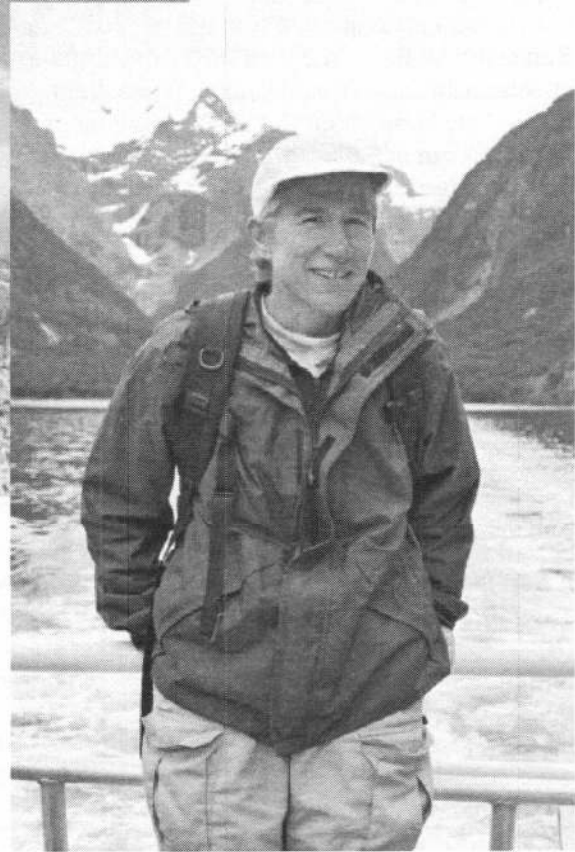
O: Sep 26-28 Fri-Sun Yosemite Volunteer in Parks Program SPS/Palos Verdes-South Bay. Sat. work under direction of Park Rangers on preparation of a burn area to help protect Yosemite Park from the devastating wild fires which have been plaguing the western forest lands. Potluck Bar B Que on Sat.night. Sun. do your own thing or join leaders in hike in Yosemite Valley area. Stay in reserved Yellow Pines Campgrounds and get free Park entry pass. Send 2 sase Ldr: Keith Martin. Assist: Joyce White.

I: Sep 27-28 Sat-Sun Basin Mt (13,181'), Mt Tom (13,652') SPS/WTC Sat backpack 4 mi 2200' gain to camp at Horton Lake, climb Basin 5 mi rt, 3200' gain. Sun climb Tom 7 mi rt 3700' gain, backpack out 4 mi. Strenuous hikes with total 20 mi 9000' gain, so recent conditioning above 10,000' required. Examine results of mining activity & consider ideas & responsibility for removal of abandoned junk. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Sarah Anderson.

trips schedule continued page 10



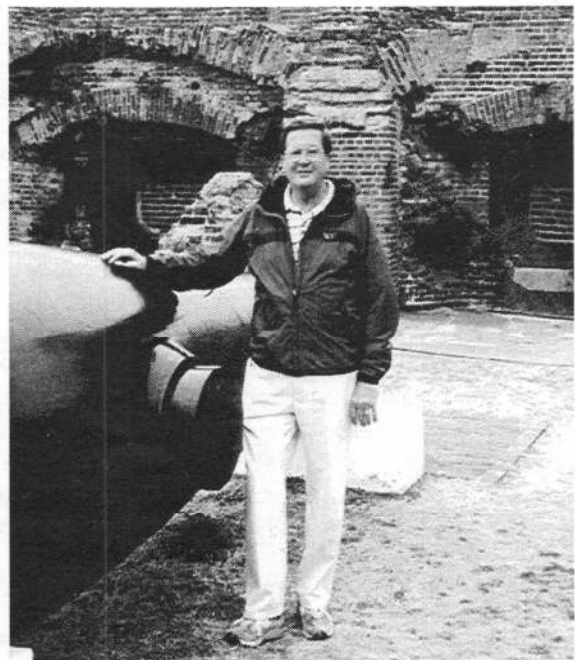
Gary Schenk
Secretary/Banquet Chair



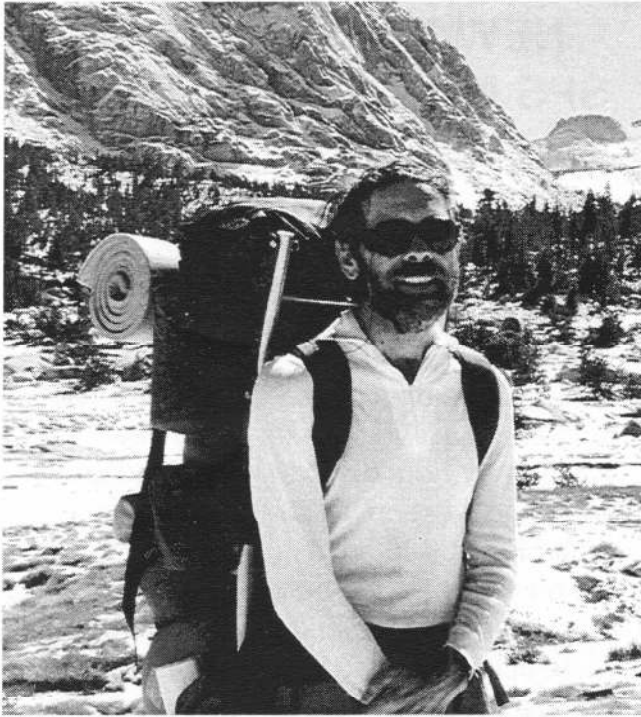
Beth Epstein - Vice Chair/Outings/Mailer



Patty Rambert
Fifth Officer/Outreach



Henry Arnebold - Treasurer/Membership



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our 2003 climbing season.

I'd like to start with a special thanks to our banquet speaker Ellen Wilts, who presented an interesting program on early climbing in California and elsewhere.

Our new Management Committee (see photos page 8) includes returning member Gary Schenk (Secretary), Beth Epstein (VChair/Outings), Henry Arnebold (Treasurer), and Patty Rambert (Outreach). A strong team as well as a strong group of climbers.

Most of the SPS appointed staff have agreed to continue in their present position for another year. However, the banquet chair for next year has not been finalized. And the Echo Mailer position is available now that Beth has taken on

other responsibilities. If you are interested in becoming more active, here is your chance to get started. Let me know if you are interested in this position.

Last Year: I'd like to express my appreciation to Erik Siering and last year's M/C (also including Asher Waxman and Maria Roa) for having tackled a number of problems, and either solving – or setting the stage for solving them. Last year, the cost of the DWP meeting facilities was beginning to pull the budget out of balance. With a decline in the number of attendees at the off-season meetings, the M/C voted last summer to limit the monthly meetings to May thru November, with the banquet in January and the joint meeting with the DPS and HPS in February.

And Erik started discussions with the DPS on the possibility of holding joint meetings, with the DPS chairing the meetings in the winter and the SPS in the summer. Stay tuned for more on this subject in the coming months.

Later, when we learned that attendees would be charged for parking, our facilities coordinator (Patty Kline) started a search for a new location. After reviewing several possibilities, the chapter headquarters building was selected as the new meeting site, starting with our next meeting in May.

The Present: An article published in a recent Echo pointed out that our membership is aging. There are few new emblems. Most of the accomplishments are senior or master emblems or list finishes by members who got their start 10 or 20 or more years ago. Trying to reverse this trend and get more new members to become active is the challenge for the new M/C. To get more members, we need something to offer them – and that something is outings.

The SPS currently has 100 rated leaders. If you are one of those leaders, try to schedule at least a couple of outings. And consider planning some outings that will attract new members: intro trips or climbs of the emblem peaks. We could also use some early season trips in the southern Sierra or training outings in the local mountains. Or trips further afield: northern California or out of state.

If you do not yet have a rating, I encourage you to work on obtaining one. We should have plenty of current leaders to mentor and assist members aspiring to obtain a rating.

If the deadline for the Schedule has passed, your write ups can be published in the Echo or the Southern Sierran. If you, our leaders, will plan the trips, the M/C will work on reducing the lead time needed for publication.

The Future: With the 50th anniversary of the SPS coming up in a couple of years, it is time to start giving some thought on how we might celebrate this event. Please let the M/C know any suggestions you have on this subject.

Joe Wankum/2003 Chair

OCTOBER

MR: Oct 10-12 Fri- Sun Tehipite Dome (7708'), Spanish Mtn (10,051'). Backpack 10 mi through rolling country to camp near Crown Creek. Saturday climb exposed 3rd class with belay to summit of Tehipite Dome overlooking Kings Canyon NP, return uphill to camp (5 miles), pack up and move camp 6 miles to near Spanish. Sunday hike class 1 Spanish and follow trails out 9 miles. Restricted to Sierra Club members with appropriate experience. Send sase with conditioning and experience to Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

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 Epstein, after the trip. If the trip is postponed or cancelled, report this too to the Outings Chair.

Don Creighton To Be Remembered and Honored at Chapter Banquet

Our Spring & Summer climbing schedule is missing one significant leader on the LTC trips. Don Creighton passed away in February. The following words are from Will McWhinney, Chair, Outings Management Committee

Don was an inspiring leader and an effective club member. He gave enormous amounts of time, energy, and expertise to furthering the club's mission by his support of the Palos Verdes-South Bay Group, the Leadership Training Committee, the Wilderness Training Committee, the chapter office, and other Sierra Club pursuits.

His life touched many lives and we will miss him very much. The chapter passed a resolution last month thanking him for his service to the LTC and on April 27 will honor him with an award.

NEW MEETING PLACE SPS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Starting with our Wednesday May 14th meeting, we will be in a new location. It is the same building as the Angeles Chapter Headquarters at 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90010.

Here are the directions. Turn left or north on Mariposa if you are traveling east on Wilshire, or right or north on Mariposa if you are going west on Wilshire. Mariposa is just west of the 3435 building. Turn right into the driveway for the building. Mention the Sierra Club at the parking lot office and get white ticket. Parking is free after 5:30 PM. We are meeting in the Conference Room Lower Plaza level towards the front of the building.

It is not as complicated as it sounds. The SPS was paying \$75.00 a meeting at the Department of Water & Power. It is free here. In 2003 the DWP was going to start charging each person \$5.00 for parking. You can't beat the price here. Free!

Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet

Sunday, April 27, 2003

Join the SPS in honoring Bill Oliver as he receives the Chester Versteeg Outings Award and others at the Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet. Brookside Country Club, 1133 N Rosemont Ave Pasadena. Tickets \$30.00. Silent Auction. No Host Reception 5.00, Dinner 6.00. Send SASE to Cathy Kissinger, 10541 Oro Vista Ave, Sunland, CA 91040, phone 352-3361. Note if vegetarian dinner is desired.

Other SPS members receiving awards include Ann Kramer, Harry Freimanis, Byron Prinzmatal and Erik Siering

We Get Letters

January 16, 2003

On behalf of the San Antonio Ski Hut, it's committee members and users, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your generous donation.

The San Antonio Ski Hut is a gem in a metropolis, and should be maintained so all can enjoy it for many years to come. The San Antonio Ski Hut is internally funded and operates on a break-even basis, at best. Any fundraising events/activities you might suggest would be of great interest.

Your donation will be deposited to our general account, and will be used for maintenance, including outhouse restoration and upstairs insulation.

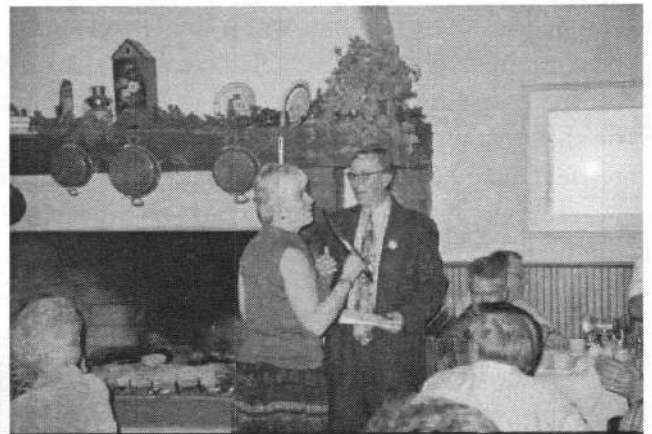
Thank you again, Gil Estrada
Chair, San Antonio Ski Hut

You may have read in the March edition of *The Southern Sierran* that Charles Gerkins died at the end of January. One thing not mentioned in the article is that he was responsible for the fine cast aluminum cylinders that the SPS uses to hold register books on most of the peaks on our list and a few not on it. He had the cylinders cast and then machined them himself. The next time you sigh with relief when spying the cylinder nestled on a summit—knowing you're in the right spot after several false summits, perhaps—think of the fine, generous man who donated the cylinders to the SPS and thank him in your heart.

Tina Bowman/Mountain Records Chair

The 2002 SPS Banquet

Ellen Wilts Presented a Wonderful Program on her years climbing in the Sierra



Barbee Tidball Earns SPS 2002 Leadership Award

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

New Sierra Peaks Record Is Set *Climber Summits Six Peaks in the Sierra in 24-Hours* by Doug Mantle

Records are sitting ducks. Some are invisible and some weigh over 6,000 lbs. Both views are reflected in the SPS record for peaks climbed in a day.

For 30 years most of us assumed the record was five. Bernard Hallet ("High Sierra Stompers") and friends barely broke a sweat, I always assumed, in summiting Guyot, Chamberlin, Pickering, Newcomb, and Joe Devel peaks one day in the early 70s. Amazing Cuno Ranschau did it (we waited past 10 p.m. for his return) in 1974. Others did it, too, and I seem to recall that Ron Jones (if anyone was capable it was he) did five involving more gain, including Russell and Whitney. Five!

That's more effort than I ever mustered, despite five trips to the Guyot area: I couldn't summon the impetus to attempt all five; meanwhile, almost 30 years passed. I grew old.

Ah, the record was, in fact, tougher still. It seems the legendary Arkel Erb (5th list finisher ran down peaks, etc.) once slept astride Hitchcock, upped and bagged that, then did the five.

So the record, unheralded, is six SPS peaks in a day.

Items seemingly no more related than cheeseburgers: Mattias Selke recently reported climbing Mt. McAdie via a nice route up from Crabtree Pass, unnoted in the climbing guides, class 3. I couldn't get a Whitney permit to do McAdie this June. Also, I had just done some tough trips, including PP&V with Tina. Also, I could get an Army Pass permit this weekend. CONVERGENCE!

August 2nd, I packed over Army Pass, then up past Erin Lake, three quarts of water and a pot of snow in tow, to try and equal this SPS milestone. Past the Joe Devel-Mt. Pickering saddle, I camped 12 1/2 feet below the Joe Devel summit in nice flat sand that PM, reading Carlos Fuentes, basking in, even for July, warm weather at 13,200 ft., very eager to go. I awoke at 3:15 am. on Sat, off by 3:50, I tagged #1 and was off by headlamp, actually stumbling up a better route (S side, then on the crest where it turns N) than I had found on Friday (W side) in the light. By 5:30 a.m. I had retrieved a quart of water at the saddle en route to #2 and was underway in very smokey daylight. A breeze thereafter cleared the whole county. Mt. Pickering gave way very easily, on its E side until the final 1/4 mile, which was done on the crest.

The next leg, Mt. Newcomb, is likely better done by just screeing way down to the sand, but I kept as close to the crest as possible, up, down, up and arrived at a snowfield near the #3 summit at 8:06 am. I melted 3 quarts of water, dumped my sleeping bag, stove, etc., and ventured out on the pioneering part of the day.

This is the "class 3" traverse from Newcomb to Crabtree Pass, to be followed by the more certain class 3 chute & face up Mt. McAdie (13680+). Part I of the traverse goes well N of the ridgeline, then its best (as I confirmed thrashing my way unsuccessfully along the crest) to dump the ridge, and traverse at around 12,500 ft.; N of the two high lakes above Sky Blue Lake, to Crabtree Pass.

10:20 am. - #4. 1:06 p.m. back nearly, but not quite, over Newcomb (I avoided controversy, claims of doing 7, and RJ Secor) to my gear where I downed another quart of H2O, packed it all up, and nevertheless then encountered RJ).

Ok, maybe it wasn't BC Brown & JN LeConte before Gardiner, but it was an uplifting encoun-

ter as we joined forces to scale #5, Chamberlin, RJ's last peak of his Vision Quest for 2002 (I think). We summited at 3:00 p.m.

We had 30 years of topics, from 1973 Taboose Pass, and Wally Henry, to Caltech and Mt. Powell and dead rangers to converse on en route to Guyot Pass where we reluctantly parted at 5:00 p.m.

Sans all my gear I stormed up the first 1,000 ft toward Mt. Guyot in 1/2 hour but faded toward the register (now kept on the benchmark, not highest but quite farthest). I arrived at 5:52 pm By 7:15 I collapsed at Guyot Creek and thought little of the next day and 17 miles out (done via Old Army Pass and down an excellent trail on the South fork of Cottonwood Creek -both better ways than the norm, I think).

The stats: 15-1/2 hours, more than 6,000 feet gain, and a record equaling six SPS Peaks in a day. A Peter Croft couldn't have done it . . . he would have nodded off on the endless class 2-3 early on. A number of SPSers could have easily kept up, but might ask "why?" It took me 30 years and the unexpected convergence of several factors, but I did it, now pass the Motrin.

Charles Gerckens

1920 — 2003

A Remembrance by Gene Mauk

I first met Charles by chance at a Glendale coffee shop in 1989. That chance meeting opened the door to a lasting friendship. Over the ensuing years we met for lunch on a nearly weekly basis, continuing until recently when his health problems finally overwhelmed him.

Through his first hand accounts I learned much Angeles Chapter history. He told his stories in a plain, straight forward manner. It was easy to see though, that he had a great love for his Sierra Club friends and for the Club itself.

He joined the Sierra Club about 1940. He just missed being a charter member of the Sierra Peaks Section, joining that group just one or two months after its formation. He was an SPS emblem holder. He was very active in the Ice Skating Section, being Chair for several years. He led many outings. He told of leading the Section's annual November trip to Dollar Lake for a true wilderness ice skating experience. He led this trip for many years. The Section finally gave up the outing after the Forest Service closed the Poopout Hill road.

He is perhaps best known in the SPS as the person who provided the Section with the aluminum canisters that adorn a majority of the peaks on our list. He designed and supervised the making of the casting patterns and worked closely with the foundry crew to see that the castings were properly produced. He then took successive batches home and in his garage and on his lathe machined the mating surfaces of the

bodies and caps to their exacting "slip fit" dimensions. He supplied these canisters on an on going, as required basis for many years. The nominal bills he submitted to the section never came close to covering his true expenses for this service.

A few of his many other services to the Chapter include: Countless hours of volunteer work at Harwood Lodge, the San Antonio Ski Hut and the Keller Peak Ski Hut. He carried the Chapter's 65 lb. chain saw up to and then back down from the San Antonio Ski Hut numerous times when it was needed to accomodate wood cutting work parties that cut downed wood approved by the Forest Service. He was in charge of the saw and personally tended to its upkeep including the regular sharpening of the chain's teeth. He also made several carries of major supplies to the Hut, including pipe and lumber. One of the stories he told involved his making multiple carries of 4x8 sheets of plywood to the hut.

By the time I became acquainted with Charles his days of active participation were over but he remained intensely interested in the Chapter's activities until the end. He delivered his final batch of canisters to the SPS about two years ago. The Angeles Chapter has lost a work-horse and a true legend.

God bless you, Charles.

Basin Mountain

Aug. 3-4, 2002 Ron Campbell & Georgette Rieck

Ah, decadence.

Smoked salmon washed down with a rich merlot on a mosquito-free (though breezy) evening in the High Sierra. Cream of asparagus soup. Chicken teriyaki.

Jealous yet?

The first annual gourmet peak-bag left the Horton Lakes trailhead a half-hour past the announced starting time of 8 a.m. Saturday, getting things off to a suitably relaxed start. We had four participants on the joint WTC-SPS trip and, alas, three no-shows condemned to wonder what they missed.

We arrived at Horton Lake just in time for a mid-day nap and lunch. At 6 p.m. the festivities began. Frank Van der Wall offered edamame (lightly salted fresh soybeans).

George Rieck countered with Yukon River cold-smoked salmon, spiced with jalapeno and served in croutades (pastry cups about the size of a quarter, a half-inch deep). The salmon croutades were the clear taste sensation of a trip with many sensations.

Georgette meanwhile spread out a tasteful red-and-white checked tablecloth (held down by rocks in the now-stiff breeze off the lake). She set on it a plate of Kalamata olives with French feta cheese and champagne crackers, later supplemented with marinated red peppers. Somewhere along the way – it got confusing – George pulled out a package of shrimp-flavored chips; they offered a light break from the almost overwhelming croutades.

My wife had recently returned from Spain bringing me two varieties of Knorr's dried soups that I have never seen in American stores. I spent

several anxious hours (okay minutes – but they were anxious) deciding between Crema de Esparragos (just what you think it is) and Crema de Langosta (lobster). My campmates were delighted with the Crema de Esparragos.

It was time at last for the main courses. Frank made bowtie pasta – the first time I have seen a thick pasta cooked successfully at 10,000 feet – with a pesto and salmon sauce. Georgette served chicken teriyaki. We had so much food that I left my

offering – crab quesadillas – unopened in the bear canister.

I brought three screw-together plastic wine goblets. Frank politely refused my offer of a fourth goblet in favor of his titanium cup. Frank brought a Blackstone Merlot while George offered a Turning Leaf merlot. I broke the merlot

monopoly with a Fetzer Cabernet. We toasted each other, the great food and the marvelous mountains around us.

Even the most decadent peak-bag gets serious at a predictable point – when the climbing begins.

We left camp at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, crossing a bridge over the outlet stream, just before the stream drops into a canyon. We then worked our way along the southern shore to the first inlet stream, which we followed south to a pair of lakes. From the upper lake at 11,480 ft., we climbed an obvious south-

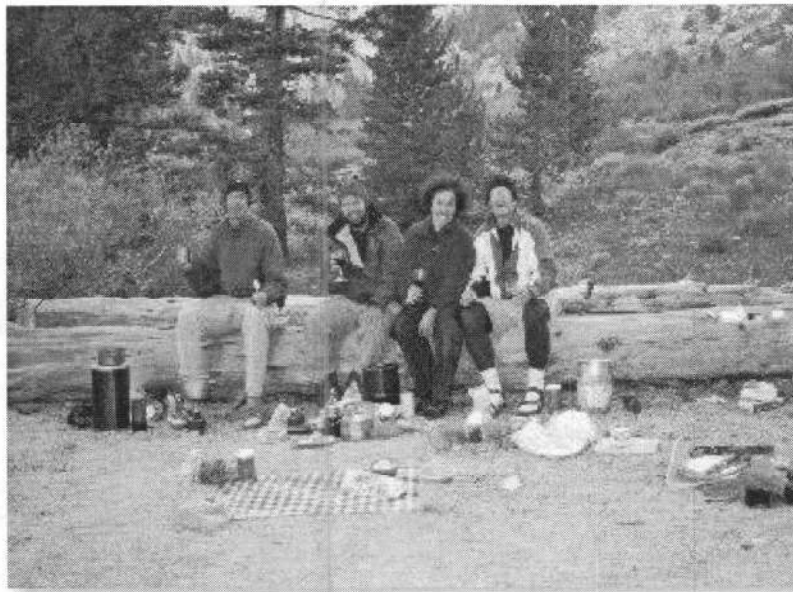


Photo: Gourmet peak-bagers Frank Vander Wall, Ron Campbell, Georgette Rieck and George Rieckn celebrate the Sierra's good tidings.

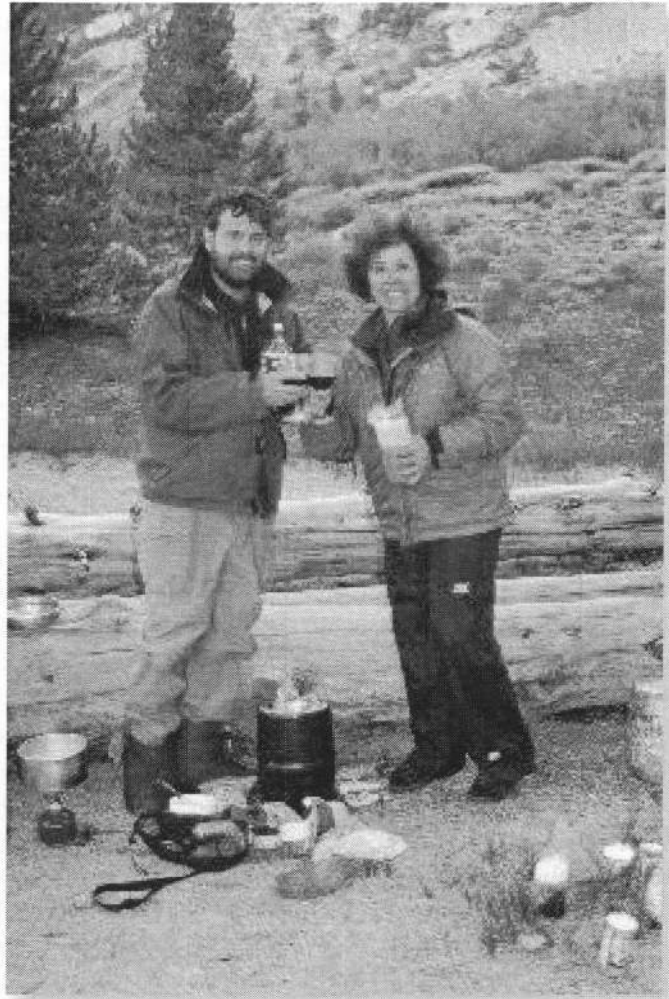
trending ridge just to east of the lake. The ridge eventually merges into a bowl well to the left of a semi-permanent snowfield. At about 12,000 ft., we turned left (nearly due east) toward the apparent high point. This is a false summit. We worked our way around its right (southeast) side, dropping perhaps 50 ft. to a notch separating the false and true summits. We then easily made our way up a series of ramps to the summit.

The top gave us superb views of Humphreys, Emerson, Table and Agassiz, The hanging valley just west of the summit of Tom was especially dramatic. Basin is plainly not a destination peak. Only a handful of parties had signed the register in June or July. This is too bad. The peak is cross-country all the way and scree or talus for much of the distance, making it a test of conditioning. (It certainly tested mine.) And the views are outstanding.

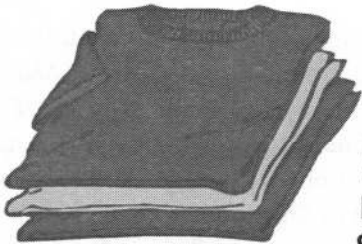
From the summit we dropped down the steep northeast slope of the mountain to about 11,800 ft., where we turned almost due west to intercept the upper lake. Once we reached the camp, one more surprise awaited us – a 12-lb. watermelon that Georgette had lugged up the trail. I believe it would have tasted great under any circumstance, but after a climb it was heavenly.

We got off the mountain late, thus missing an important, unwritten trip objective – a visit to Schatts in Bishop. But on Monday, Georgette and I each got something in the mail almost as good as a fresh sourdough loaf – Godiva chocolates. Two of our no-show participants sent us each a box, no doubt hoping to bribe us into silence about their identities. It's the best bribe I've gotten in years.

— Ron Campbell



Ron Campbell & Georgette Rueck - Toast at Horton Lake



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.

The Hermit, Scylla, Mount Goddard, Mount McGee, Mount Goethe and Mount Lamarck

August 26-30, 2002

By: Greg Gerlach

Monday, August 26. Five people were interested in doing the trip when it was being planned, but when all was said and done only Bob Wyka, John Fisanotti and myself were at the Northlake trailhead at the designated time to start the trip. The group started up the trail towards Lamarch Col around 8:00 a.m. We made reasonably good time, arriving at the col around lunchtime. The descent was another matter, however, taking around 4 ½ hours to get to our campsite located on the western edge of Darwin Bench near a large lake.

Tuesday, August 27. Bob, John and I were up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking along the trail at 7:00 a.m. towards The Hermit. Upon arriving at Sapphire Lake, we prepared daypacks and headed west over McGee Lakes Pass towards Mc Gee Lakes. From the second large McGee Lake we made our way to the lake located southwest of The Hermit. The group started for the summit at 11:15 a.m., electing to climb the first chute located south of the summit to a notch. The chute had an abundance of loose rock, which took awhile to navigate safely. From the notch, we dropped down about 100-150' below the eastern ridge as we made our way towards the summit block, finally arriving on top at 12:30 p.m. After signing the summit register the group made its way back towards the notch, staying just below the eastern ridge. Bob, John and I decided to descend to the lake by taking the next chute over from our ascent route, which went very well because it was mostly sand. We retraced our route back to Sapphire Lake, than made our way to Wanda Lake for the night. The group found a nice campsite around 7:00 p.m. located on the western shore of the lake near the peninsula.

Wednesday, August 28. The group was up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking around 7:10 a.m. for the day's peaks: Mount Goddard for John and Scylla for Bob and I. We ascended to Wanda Pass, where John departed for Goddard and Bob and I headed off for Scylla. Bob and I descended to lake 11,592, going around its eastern shore. We

continued on to lake 11,837, again going around the eastern shore of the lake. Bob and I prodded along to the lake located at the base of Scylla. We proceeded about half way around the lake along its eastern shore, than headed up the northwest slope of the peak, summiting at 11:30 a.m. After signing the register, Bob and I retraced our steps back to Wanda Lake, arriving around 3:30 p.m. In the meantime, John headed west from Wanda Pass to the summit of Goddard, staying on the south side of the Goddard Divide. The route was primarily class 1-2 and he arrived on top around 12:15 p.m. After signing the summit register, John retraced his steps back to camp, arriving around 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 29. Bob and I were up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking toward Mount McGee at 7:00 a.m. Instead of climbing McGee, John decided to hike to our planned campsite located at the lake where we had spent our first night. Bob and I climbed over Davis Lakes Pass located west of Wanda Lake, then down the other side to Davis Lakes. We passed the first large Davis Lake along its southern shore and the second large Davis Lake along its northern shore. The extensive talus fields along the route made the going somewhat tedious at times. From the second large Davis Lake we contoured up to the large talus fan that emanates from the chute that leads directly up to the notch located between the middle and western summits of McGee. The route up the chute contained a mixture of decent class 3 rocks along the sides to miserable and loose class 2 scree. We ascended to the notch between the two peaks, than headed southeast along the ridge to the higher middle peak, summiting at 11:00 a.m. Bob and I were only the second and third persons to climb the peak this year. After signing the register, we retraced our steps back to camp located at Wanda Lake, arriving around 3:00 p.m. Bob and I packed up our gear and headed off to our planned campsite at Darwin Bench, meeting up with John around 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 30. Bob and I were up at 6:00 a.m., packed our gear and started hiking towards Mount Goethe by 7:00 a.m. Instead of climbing Goethe, John decided to hike to Lamarck Col and Climb Mount Lamarck. Bob and I climbed up toward the lower lake located south of Mount Goethe, where we prepared daypacks. We continued around the lake's northern shore and up towards the summit. The class 1 sand along the lower section of the peak and the class 2 talus fields along the upper section of the peak made the going some- *continued page 18 - lower*

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 led 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 11th. 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 3rd 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 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 3rd 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.

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 3rd class climbing. This is a classic route that is rarely done.

continued

what tedious at times. Bob and I summited around 10:30 a.m. and spent about ½ hour reviewing the summit register, which was placed in 1963 and is about ¾ full. After signing the register, we retraced our steps back to the lower lake located south of Mount Goethe, picked up our gear and headed off toward the col. Bob and I made the col at 3:00 p.m., just in time to meet up with John after his climb of the class 2 south ridge of Mount Lamarck. It took John about one hour to get to the top of the peak from the col and 40 minutes to descend back to the col. From the col the group headed off towards North Lake, reaching the cars at 5:30 p.m.

Trip statistics: 45 miles and about 15,000 feet of elevation gain for Bob and myself and 40 miles and about 13,000 feet of elevation gain for John.

Some Climbing Notes on a Loose Mountain (Mt. Mills)

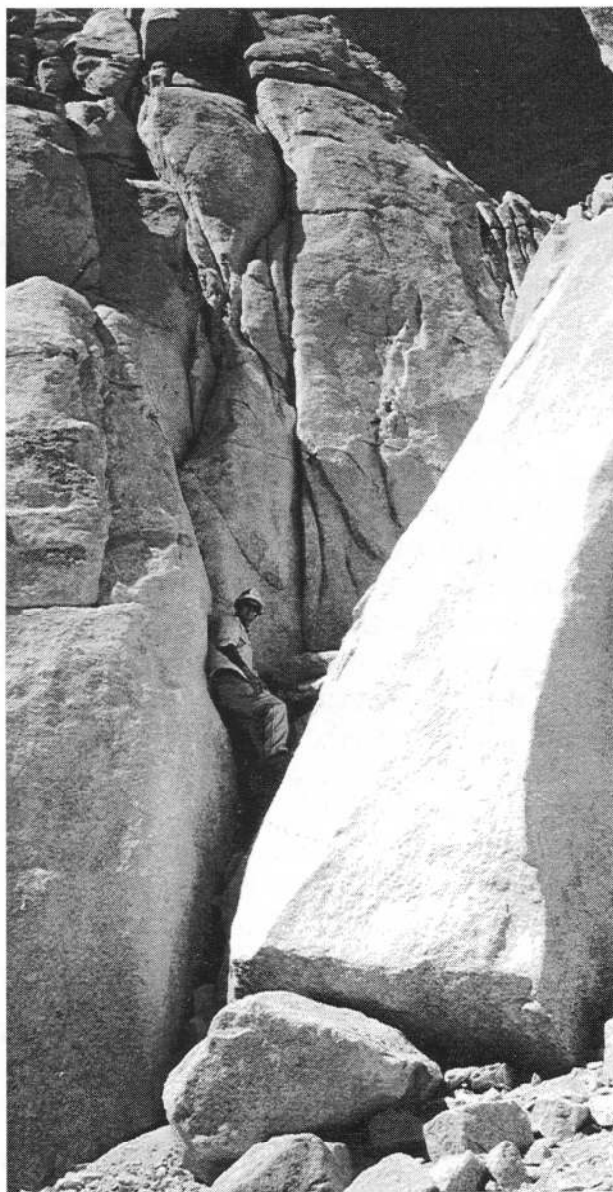
By Matthias Selke

Craig Connally and myself ascended Mt. Mills via the usual East Couloir on a dayhike this past September 18. We were able to identify some features that are not described in the guidebooks and which may be of help to future climbers. (It seems that a number of parties have had route finding problems on this peak. For a particularly graphic example - good reading during the winter months when there is nothing better to do - interested readers are referred to a report by our friends in the Bay Area PCS at <http://www.climber.org/TripReports/1997/255.html>)

There are in fact three couloirs right next to each other in the center of the huge east face of Mt. Mills. The one on the left (south) looks easiest, but based on the above-mentioned PCS report it leads into loose and dangerous cl. 4 climbing. The small one in the middle is filled with large brownish talus. We did not investigate this feature, but it looks like it may dead end rather quickly. The one on the right (north) is the couloir with the huge chockstone at the bottom. It's impossible to miss in a dry year, but during high-snow years, the chockstone may be completely hidden under snow until late in the season. In this case, climbers should take the right couloir in the center of the east face. The chockstone is climbed on its left side. The rock near the top of this cl. 3 pitch is extremely loose; we rappelled over the main chockstone on the way back rather than climbing over the loose stuff right at the edge; a decent anchor can be found on the north side of the wall above the chockstone. The main couloir angles slightly to the right, and leads up over several short loose cl. 3 sections and extraordinarily loose sandy sections in between. No more than 20-30 yards after the chockstone, well before the next cl. 3 step, some ledges - probably cl. 3 - lead up the right (north) wall of the chute. This appears to be the start of the Van Dalsem variation mentioned in some guidebooks. (Apparently, some parties have assumed that this variation starts below the chockstone. This is clearly impossible, as the chockstone is at the bottom of the chute - there would be no ledges to climb below the chockstone.) These ledges are much more obvious upon looking down when one is higher up in the couloir. This variation then proceeds along the crest of the rib that forms the northern wall of the East Couloir. The actual east couloir does not lead directly to the summit plateau (contrary to some guidebooks). It eventually ends at the second notch north of the

plateau. About 150 ft below the notch, broad cl. 2 ledges lead left (south) toward to the next chute. It seems possible to simply move further left (south) past this chute and then climb onto the plateau. However, we climbed the chute to its top which is at the first notch north of the summit plateau. A short cl. 3 pitch out of the notch over solid rock (by far the most enjoyable pitch of the whole climb) leads onto the summit plateau. The wonderful view does make the ascent worthwhile. Nevertheless, extreme caution is advised on this peak. The rock is extraordinarily loose. We were amazed that large SPS groups (15 climbers) have gone up and down the East Couloir. Helmets are a very good idea on Mt. Mills. Both of us felt that while this was an interesting and worthwhile climb, we would be in no great hurry to repeat the route and knock some more rocks down this couloir.

Photo Below: Chalk Stone at base of Mills



The Following information was submitted to The Echo by Mary Sue Miller on Marcy 9, 2003.

A Step Too Far **By The Last Friend**

*(Story written by Don Hudson,
ex-SPS member to commemorate the
passing of David O. Hammond)
1-29-1937 to 9-6-2002*

Sept 4 this year was a Wednesday. The rocky Colorado Mountain climbing was great. We were at Crestone Mountains, Saguache County. Thursday would be the more difficult, Pinnacle climb. This proved to be true. The slanted slate rock proved quite an obstacle and in order to continue it would be necessary to tie the line between Don and myself. Don was never keen on this climb but went along with me because I was either keen, inflexible, unswerving obstinant or obnoxious. Eventually we decided to return and pitch our tents on the side of the Mountain. We retired and I leave the rest of the story to Don.

Hallo, it is early morning and, I did the usual before fixing a camp breakfast. I opened my hiking companions tent and gave him a shake and a shout to wake up. I carried on fixing the coffee. I then gave him another shake, but no response. I then looked into his face and started shaking. Perhaps it was I who was shaking. I had to find the car keys that he carried on him. I left his belongings, gathered my stuff and headed down thousands of feet to the Nissan Palsar below. It was a vertical descent of 5000 feet. My descent on this day was much quicker than climbing up. I unlocked the car door and found the cell phone in the glove box. I called 911 and got a message through but then I waited and waited for the rescue party to arrive. I explained where the tent was. I did not want to go back up there. I returned the cell phone to the glove box, grabbed my suitcase from the car, locked the car, and headed down with some of the rescue party. Others went up the hill to the tent and my companion. I met some friendly fire and rescue

people at the base an left the car key there. Although I still had a weeks vacation left, I just returned to L.A. early, still in a shaken state. Now over to a forensic consultant.

I received a phone call from Sargent Industries. Somehow I don't think this would have happened with Lockheeds or Big B. I spoke with the Coroner and inquired what had happened to the bag in the tent, bag outside the tent, the tent, David's body and car. Well, the tent and bags were left up there. Why? "Do you realize it took us 3 days to bring the stretcher down with TLC?" they said. "We did not bring anything else down, the tent and bags are still up the mountain. The tent was not even taken down." An investigation was carried out to eliminate any foul play. The Colorado Coroner now needed next of kin in order to properly deal with the body. If he had been a homeless person he. could act, but it was obvious because of his attire that somewhere there had to be family. I volunteered to fly to Tucson to find a will, but how do you break into a locked house? Perhaps newspaper and honey applied to a window pane, so when the window breaks the neighbors do not hear breaking glass. The Tucson police were not being too cooperative with the Colorado Sheriffs. I remembered that there used to be a lodger in David's house and so a phone call to Human Resources at Sargent's helped me locate the gentleman. Yes, he still had a key for the front door, but he knew that there was a heavy duty steel frame outer gate that was locked and he did not have a key. Leaving LAX I took 2 foot long lock cutters, thick screwdrivers, crowbar. etc. Fortunately, I was not arrested. Upon arrival it was a flush brass lock which was difficult to get to. Perhaps there was more than one way to climb a mountain or. as we found. come down a mountain. The outside frame to the gate was sprung and the lock disengaged, the gate was pulled open and the outside elastic frame rapidly sprung back. I know the lock is still out and the outer gate will not close now. The neighbors heard nothing. The reluctant help of the Tucson police was not required. With some excellent help *continued next page*

Sargent Controls & Aerospace - Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 30
Septmeber 26, 2002

As many of you may have heard, we were recently notified that David passed away while on a camping trip in the mountains of Colorado. David retired from the company in February 2000 but was still doing some consulting work for Aerospace engineering on a part time basis.

Born in England, David came to the States in 1965 to work at Boeing in Seattle, Washington, where he took a mountain climbing course and ski lessons. He later worked at Lockheed in Burbank prior to coming to Sargent Controls in 1973, becoming an employee in 1974. He spent many long hours in the engineering qualification test lab (Huntington Park) in those early years, qualifying hydraulic control valves for the TRIDENT and LOS ANGELES Class submarine programs.

Over these many years I have found David to be both a competent and dedicated engineer. He excelled in the areas of mechanical design and stress analysis. He also enthusiastically embraced each new assignment. He worked in many areas and supported not only Marine products but Quadrants and Pedestals, Ball Screws, and of course recently Aerospace.

David's love was to travel. He was known to have visited every continent and at least scaled the base camp of every major peak on the planet. He also loved to share his trips with friends by documenting in great detail the places he visited and providing copies for our perusal, as well as showing the pictures he took while there.

David's motto to live by: If you have the "four traffic lights", health, wealth, time, and no family constraints, you can enjoy extensive travel. GO' GO! GO!

David loved convertible MG sports cars - he had two which he was restoring - in addition to his everyday car (not an MG). He was also known to be very charitable and contributed to many charities and to some less fortunate friends and relatives.

David was a good colleague. He will be missed.

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Continued....

we now sifted through a multitude of file cabinets looking for a will. As a warning to us all, there has to be a better way. Tenacity brought success. Now we have the names of some English beneficiaries, but are the addresses current? Sent an open letter with all names and addresses to my brother in England. At 1:30 p.m. it was time to ask him to copy th e-mail and enclose the e-mail to 6 different English Addresses. Yes, we got a response from a second cousin. The Coroner needed a family member in order to dispose of the body. The two family members went to Colorado to the funeral after passing away on the mountain A classic way to go.

Peace to everyone.



Mt Kaweah

Aug. 15, 2002
by Reiner Stenzel

Mount Kaweah is a frequently climbed SPS emblem peak. The standard route is an easy, but boring and energy-draining 3000' talus climb on the south face from the High Sierra Trail. The present report describes a shorter, more interesting class 3 climb up the steep northeast face from Kaweah Basin, as briefly mentioned by R.J. Secor. To our knowledge the route is not described in the SPS/PCS trip archives and rarely mentioned in the summit register. It starts at Kaweah Pass (0.4 mi NE of Mt Kaweah, UTM 11 3 68 047E, 40 43 762N, elev 12,397'), involves a 1400' cl 3 climb to the northeast ridge and tops out just below the summit. Route finding and loose rock are the main challenges, but the peak can be climbed in 2 hrs. It is a fun climb when one crosses Kaweah Pass, as we did on this private trip. I did my last orphan peaks (Kern Pt and Picket Guard, #246) and Leslie Hofherr wanted to add another emblem peak. Here is the route description:

Just below Kaweah Pass there is a large unnamed lake at 12,320' or 3770m. Looking from the lake to the NE face of Mt Kaweah one can see several chutes ending in talus fans. We started with the most obvious one whose talus fan aims at the middle of the lake. Wrong chute! It leads into a snow/ice field and cl 4-5 headwall. After a humiliating retreat we tried the next chute south. It has a small talus field which points exactly to the south end of the lake, as mentioned by Secor. The chute is not very pronounced but it is THE correct one. Ignore the next big chute 300' south of the lake. For perfectionists, start at UTM 11 3 68 107E, 40 43 363N, elev 12,505', and aim for the highest point on the ridge which is close to, but not the summit. The chute leads soon to a steep cl 3 section, and then mellows out into easy looking terrain. But in the Kaweahs virtually every rock is loose. On steep sections one can easily trigger a rockslide from above. We were either "simul-climbing" (in parallel) or took turns in climbing/hiding. We avoided passing close to and below big boulders since they could be destabilized and roll down. It was a great exercise in cat-like climbing. When our chute turned south and away from the summit area we climbed onto a ridge to the right and proceeded until we could enter a new chute to the right. This chute is a continuation of the chute starting at the middle of the lake but has the cl 4-5 section further below. We ascended this

chute that steepens to high cl 3 and tops out on the northeast ridge of Mt Kaweah. Suddenly, we were in flat terrain. The summit of Mt Kaweah (UTM 11 3 67 720E, 40 43 130N) was about 300' northwest of us and an easy stroll up. After 2 hrs of concentrated climbing on loose rock we had a relaxing time on the summit, reading the three register books, taking pictures and enjoying lunch on a perfect summer day. Unfortunately, the views from our 13,800' vantage point were obstructed by smoke from a large forest fire near the southern Kern River. We admired the impressive peaks of the Kaweah Ridge to the north but could not see Mt Whitney to the east. After an hour on the summit we descended. Experience from earlier climbs in similar terrain taught me to carefully mark the ascent route with numerous cairns, in particular the entrance to the correct chute. We followed our ducked route since a wrong chute can easily lead into cl 4 terrain. Down climbing may



be physically easier but the loose rock in cl 3 terrain calls for full attention. The descent took as long as the ascent, about 2 hrs. Looking back at the bottom we were delighted to have climbed this short but challenging route safely without a scratch. From Kaweah Pass we descended to our base camp at a small lake at the start of Chagoopa Creek (UTM 11 3 69 327E, 40 42 984N, elev 11,767'). There are no campsites at the upper lake or the Pass since the terrain is a landscape of rugged boulders. By the way, Kaweah Pass is described as a cl 2 pass leaving the impression of an easy traverse. However, with full pack the descent into Kaweah Basin requires extreme caution since most rocks are loose, just like on Mt Kaweah. From the pass aim well to the right of the first lake (0.5 mi north of the Pass) so as to avoid the steep cliffs that are not visible from the Pass.

In retrospect, the described route is fun for a small group of experienced climbers. It may not be advisable for big groups or in incremental weather due to random rock falls whose impact marks is everywhere visible.

CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

BARBEE TIDBALL

Arctic Oil - In a defeat for President Bush, the U.S. Senate narrowly voted to maintain a ban on oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Republican-controlled Senate voted 52-48 against the tactical maneuver that listed the anticipated sale of oil-drilling leases in the Alaskan refuge as a \$2 billion revenue-producing component of the fiscal year 2004 budget.

Sierra included in California Wilderness Coalition's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places list.

"The Bush Administration has refused to enforce one key policy: the Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This landmark conservation measure, adopted by the Forest Service in 2000 but suspended by the current administration, protects the last wild national forest lands -- 58.5 million acres in the U.S. and 4.4 million acres in California -- from development, logging, and road-building. In December 2002, a federal court reinstated the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, sweeping away a judicial challenge. Now the Bush Administration is expected to dismantle the rule administratively. If enforced, the rule will save the threatened roadless areas of the Los Padres National Forest, the Cleveland National Forest, and **Duncan Canyon (Tahoe N.F.)**, plus threatened portions of the Plumas National Forest (Humboldt Summit Roadless Area), and the **Medicine Lake Highlands (Mt. Hoffman Roadless Area on the Modoc and Klamath N.F.)**. Without the rule, all these areas are in imminent danger of development or logging."

Yosemite gets a new Superintendent and Valley camping plans are reviewed AGAIN.

January 2003 Superintendent David Milhalic retired and turned the reins over to Michael J. Tollefson. One of the new Superintendent's projects will be working with Rep. George P. Radanovich (R-Mariposa) whose district includes Yosemite. Rep. Radanovich has requested new studies on campgrounds in the Valley. The current plan for the Valley is to restore the riparian trees with erosion controlling natural vegetation and to keep 500 campsites. The Congressman wants to area restored to numbers closer to the 849 level from the pre-flood period. The battle to restore riparian lands was critical to development of Valley restoration plans. The Congressman is requesting that the Park study building campsites strong enough to withstand Merced flood waters. If accepted then there also will be questions as to funding.

A Tiny 'Early Warning' of Global Warming's Effect; The population of pikas, rabbit-like mountain dwellers, is falling, a study finds. The drier conditions of recent decades called a factor. *The Los Angeles Times*; Los Angeles, Calif.; Feb 26, 2003; Usha Lee McFarling; (Copyright The Times Mirror Company; Los Angeles Times 2003.) Reprinted with permission of the Times

A shy, flower-gathering mammal and longtime icon of the West's high peaks may be the first animal in North America to fall victim to global warming.

Pikas—tennis ball-sized critters that whistle at passing hikers and scamper over loose, rocky slopes of the High Sierra and the Rocky Mountains—have disappeared from nearly 30% of the areas where they were common in the early parts of the 20th century, according to a study released Tuesday.

The comprehensive survey found the sites that lost pikas were on average drier and warmer and at lower latitudes than sites where the animals remain, said Erik Beever, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist based in Corvallis, Ore., and the study's lead author. A close analysis, Beever said, indicated that such factors as cattle grazing and proximity to roads had some effect on the animals, but that warmer and drier conditions in recent decades have been a major factor in their rapid disappearance.

The finding is supported by earlier surveys in the United States that found the animals missing from much of their previous range, and from work on pikas in the Yukon, where 80% of the animals have recently died out in some areas after extremely warm winters. Many of the far north's ice-loving animals, such as polar bears, walrus and caribou, have declined in number or suffered lower reproduction rates in recent years as their sea ice and tundra habitats have been radically reshaped by warming in the Arctic. But the current study is the first to link warming to the widespread dying out of entire populations of animals. It found that the pikas no longer existed in seven of 25 sites where they once were plentiful. The animals *continued on page 24*

are not in danger of becoming extinct, scientists said, but they could soon disappear from vast stretches of the American West and could be radically reduced in number.

Beever said he was most surprised to find groups of animals disappearing over decades, rather than in centuries or millennia, as they have during climatic swings of the distant past. His study, in the current issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*, may be an "early signal" of what alpine and subalpine environments throughout the world will face if temperatures continue to rise as predicted, Beever said.

Globally, temperatures have risen about one degree in the last 100 years, and by several degrees in some parts of the Arctic—a rise attributed to both natural cycles and the human production of greenhouse gases. The warming has melted glaciers around the world and has altered the behavior of many animals. Pikas, relatives of rabbits despite their hamster-like appearance, are exquisitely adapted for ferocious cold, but they cannot withstand the heat. They typically live at altitudes above 7,000 feet and have been found as high as 19,000 feet in Asia. The animals are active year-round, surviving the winter by subsisting on small haystacks of grass and wildflowers they collect and cure in the sun during the short alpine growing season.

The animals are well-known to mountain hikers for their whistles and their haystacks and are often photographed with mouthfuls of flowers looking for all the world like they are about to deliver a tiny bouquet. The almost unbearably cute animals—also found through the mountains and steppes of Asia—are thought by some fans to be the inspiration for Pikachu, the popular Japanese Pokemon character.

With a normal body temperature of 104 degrees and thick, furry pelts that keep them from shedding heat, the animals can die in minutes from overheating if their body temperatures rise just a few degrees, said David Hik, an ecologist and expert on Arctic and alpine animals at the University of Alberta.

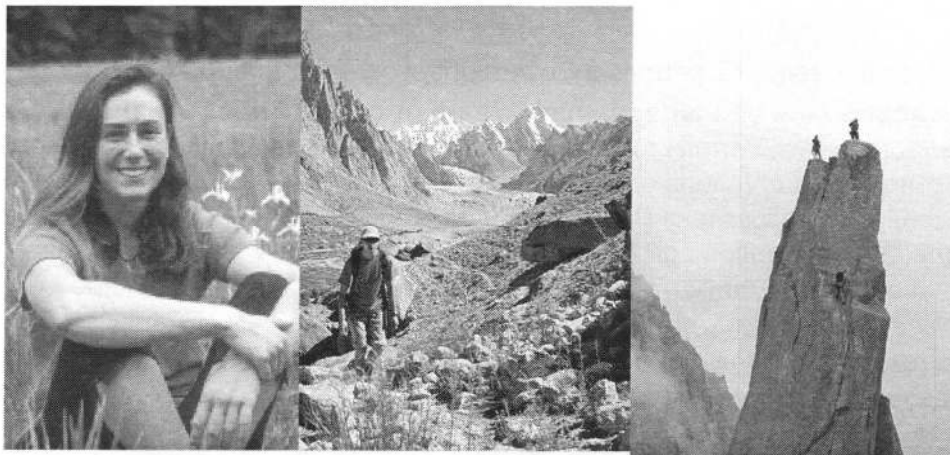
Hik, who studies a cousin of the American pika—the collared pika—in the central Yukon, saw pika populations plummet during the warm winters from 1998 to 2000. "We see these populations blink out, just like that," he said. "These little guys are very sensitive to warm climate conditions." With recent colder winters, the pikas in the Yukon have started to recover, he said. He suspects that the American pikas will have a harder time, however, because the populations are more isolated from each other atop distant mountaintops and because they face higher temperatures. "Sadly, I'm not surprised," he said of Beever's findings.

In California, Utah and Nevada, the animals are marooned on isolated mountaintops that are separated by large—and much warmer—valleys that serve as a kind of pika no man's-land. If temperatures rise in their home territory, the animals can't migrate to higher mountains or colder latitudes without facing a trek through warmer areas that would likely prove lethal, Beever said. Pikas are severely constrained in their choice of where to homestead. They require loose, rocky slopes, which offer a somewhat cooler refuge during midday heat and a place to hide from predators. But they also need meadows nearby to collect plants. Warming could affect pikas in a number of ways. They could simply overheat and die when they go out and forage, Beever said. Much of their hay gathering must occur during the peak of summer, and the animals routinely make more than a dozen trips per hour when they are "haying." Beever added that climate change could also alter the vegetation mix the animals rely on, giving them less to eat. Warming could also shrink the habitat that is available, forcing the animals to move higher up mountainsides and away from good food sources. The deaths could also be related to a lack of snow cover during warm years, Hik added. Without insulating blankets of snow over their rock tunnels, animals could freeze when temperatures do fall between warm spells, Hik said. When rain falls instead of snow during winter, vegetation can ice over and be unavailable to pikas, which supplement their haystacks with year-round foraging, he added.

Although concerned by the report, some scientists said it was premature to blame the drop in the pika population on global warming, because the new study did not prove that the animals' decline was temperature-related. They noted that populations of small mammals are known to go through boom and bust cycles caused by disease or famine. "We really need to know the mechanisms before we can establish any cause and effect," said Terry Root, a Stanford University biologist who last month published a paper linking changes in timing of migration, and reproduction in hundreds of plant and animal species, to global warming. "If you don't know the mechanism, it could be any number of factors."

Lenny Bernstein a chemical engineer who helped write part of a recent *continued lower page 25*

DPS BANQUET - MAY 7, 2003



"Most people try to get really good at one aspect of climbing - I'm trying to do it all"

OK Adventurers. This one will have you on the edge of your seat. Our speaker is Steph Davis, billed by "Rock/Ice Climber" as the most accomplished all-around female climber in the world!

From http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/features/siadventure/12/inside_out/:

Davis ... is the only woman to have free-soloed at the 5.11+ grade and over the last six years she has cranked six first ascents, including peaks in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Patagonia and Baffin Island with Chin, Keenan Harvey, Russell Mitrovich, Dean Potter, Brady Robinson and Seth Shaw.

Davis spent five seasons, a total of 10 months, attempting to climb Fitz Roy. She had topped the six other major peaks in the Fitz Roy range, including a treacherous new route on Aguja Poincenot. Howling winds and severe storms had kept her waiting in a forest at the base of Fitz Roy for two weeks before she and German climber Philip Flaemig gunned for the Franco-Argentine route (rated 5.10+) of the 11,073-foot massif in a 20-hour push that began at 2 a.m. on Jan. 15. "It was torturing me," she says. "I wasn't going to stop going down [to Argentina] until I climbed that stupid mountain. It turned out to be one of the most satisfying moments of my life."

**DPS Banquet to be held at the CASTAWAY, 1250 Harvard Rd., Burbank, I-5 Burbank Exit
Dinner selections. Cost \$28.00.**

CHICKEN STEAK VEGETARIAN

SEND WITH A SASE AND YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO DPS TO: Dean Acheson, Programs Chair,
3726 Brilliant Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065.

continued from page 24 U.N.-sponsored report on climate change said there was not enough evidence to link the wildlife declines to climate change, because animals face so many other destructive pressures. "To say all of this is climate related is overstating the case," he added.

However, environmental advocates said they were alarmed to find evidence that species were being affected by climate change in the continental United States and not in distant Arctic regions where such issues were predicted to occur first. "In the U.S., we've been blithely going about our business believing climate change wasn't going to impact us," said Lara Hansen, a senior scientist and climate expert with the World Wildlife Fund. "Except for glaciers [that are shrinking], we haven't seen impacts yet. This study says, 'Yes, we're seeing changes to animals.'"

2003

WILDERNESS PERMIT INFORMATION

Yosemite: Yosemite requires permits for overnight use year round. Day use permits are not required. **Applications may be made by mail, phone or on the web.** Permit applications are processed in random order. Permits may be reserved 24 weeks to 2 days before departure. 60% of permits are issued to reservations and 40% the day of entry on a first come 1st serve basis. For mail in reservations write Wilderness Permit Reservations, Yosemite, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. To phone in a reservation call 209/372-0740. Log on to the web for electronic applications. Advance reservations are **\$5.00 per person** (non-refundable), make checks out to Yosemite Association, or use a major credit card number with the expiration date. Permits are issued by mail or in person. To reserve a permit and day use information call 209/372-0310 or log on to www.Yosemitesecond.org. For trail information call 209/372-0200.

Inyo and Sierra National Forests: Quotas apply to all wilderness visitors - private and guided trips. Information can be found at www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo. Quota season is in effect May 1st to November 1st for the John Muir, Ansel Adams and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses. Other areas remain the last Friday in June through September 15th, these areas include Cottonwood Pass trail in Golden Trout and Sample Meadow, Deer Creek, Billy Creek and Potter Pass trails in the Kaiser Wilderness. Non-commercial reservations are available for permits for the first 60% in advance with a reservation fee. 40% will be available for walk-in at no fee. Reservation fees at **\$5.00 per person** and are non-refundable. Except in the Whitney Zone where fees are **\$15.00 per person**.

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance for all trailheads except Mt. Whitney.

Inyo National Forest reservations (eastside entry): Phone 10:00AM to 4:00PM Mon-Fri 760-873-2483, or Fax: 760-873-2484. **E-mail reservations are not available.** Mailing address: Inyo National Forest, Wilderness Permit Office, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514.

Mt. Whitney: Whitney Lottery will be used. Applications for day or overnight will be accepted by mail and Fax only, starting Feb. 1st until Feb. 28th for all dates during quota season. **Note there are spaces available after May 1, 2003 for the Whitney area - see the website for listings.**

Sierra National Forest (westside entry) reservations may be made by mail only (no phone, e-mail or fax accepted) up to 3-weeks prior to start date. Reservation will be confirmed by mail and will include instructions for how to redeem your confirmation card for the actual Wilderness Permit. website: www.r5.fs.us/sierra/

Ansel Adams- South, includes trail heads South of Middle Fork of San Joaquin River. Kaiser, John Muir and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses reservation: Wilderness Reservations, Pineridge/Kings Ranger District, P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651. Phone 559/855-5360.

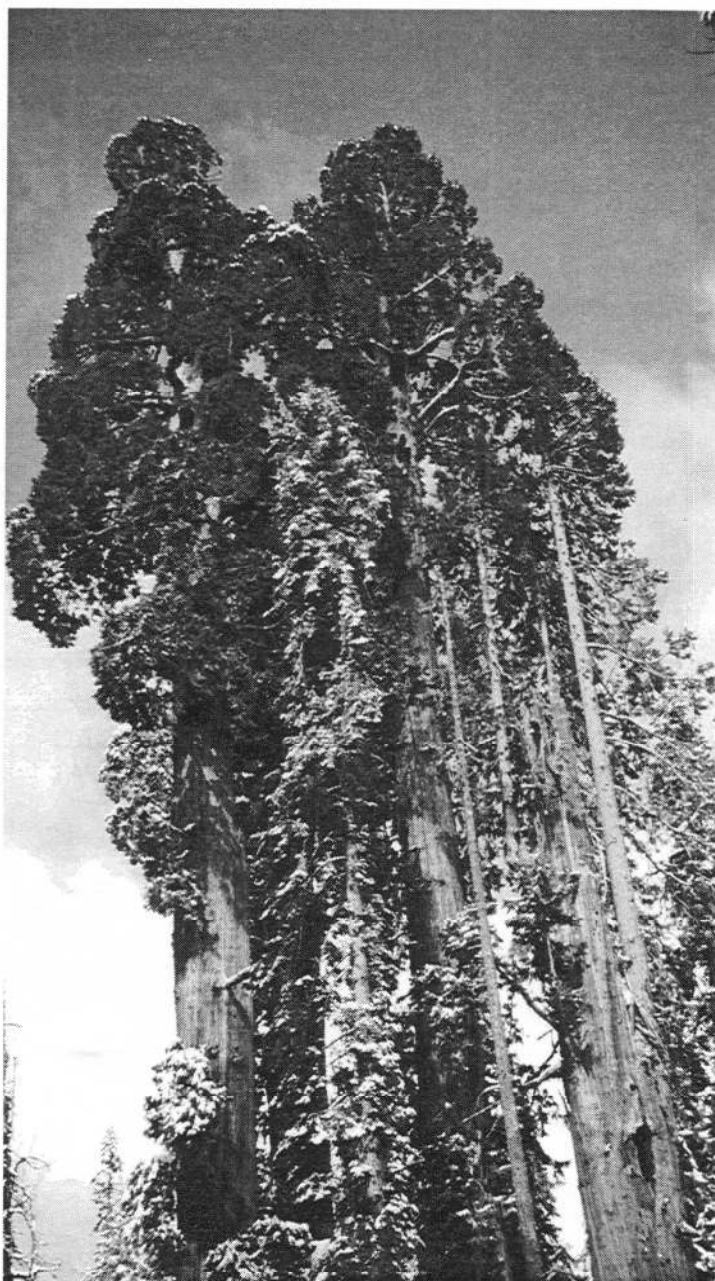
Ansel Adams – North, includes trail heads North of Middle Fork of San Joaquin River: Wilderness Reservations, Minarets/Mariposa Ranger District, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643-9734 Phone 559/877-2218

Stanislaus National Forest - Mokelumne, Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant Wilderness Areas: Stanislaus National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 05370. Phone 209/532-3671, Fax: 209/533-1890. No permit or permit reservation fee. Overnight permits are required. Web site: www.r5.fed.us/stanislaus.

2003 PERMIT INFORMATION CONTINUED

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Park: Applications may be made by mail, fax or phone only. Wilderness Permit Reservations, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, HCR 89 Box 60, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Phone 559/565-3708. Fax 559/565-4239. **\$15.00 Reservation fee** for permits is required. Group size maximum is 15 except Redwood Canyon which has a 10 person limit. Group size limits in effect mid May to mid September. Permits may be reserved March 1 up to 3 weeks before start of trip. Web site: www.nps.gov/seki.

Toiyabe National Forest: Bridgeport Ranger District, P.O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Phone 619/932-7070. **\$3.00 per person** permit fee and reservations available for Hoover Wilderness only. Permits issued by mail or in person.



MOUNTAIN RECORDS

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

Tina Bowman
Mountain Records

<u>Peak</u>	<u>Need as Noted</u>
Alta	book
Bear Creek Spire	pencil, book
Dunderberg	book
Eagle Scout	container (exchange), book
Kern	book
Morgan (south)	book
Morrison	book
Muir	large book, ammo box
North	book
Perkins	container, book
Ritter	wire for ammo box
Royce	book
Ruskin	container, book (none found 9-8-02)
Tom	book
Tyndall	book
Warren	ammo box
Williamson	canister? ammo box?

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tina Bowman
283 Argonne Ave
Long Beach, CA 90803-1743

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