

The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 2

APRIL - JUNE 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. New-comers welcome.

June 11, 2003 Reiner Stenzel will show his slides of his 19-day, 250 mile solo backpack of the John Muir Trail and 7-SPS peaks.

July 9, 2003 Program to be announced.

August 13, 2003 Tony Yearly - will show slides of mountaineering in Peru's Cordillera Blanca on ALPAMAYO. Tony was winner of the SCMA Founder's Award in 2002.

September 10, 2003 Rich Henke - will show his slides of his January 2000 trip to Northern Patagonia to make several first ascents of glaciated peaks including the highest in the range. On the same trip he also backpacked for 9 days to see Torres del Paine, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre.

October 8, 2003 Murray Zichlinsky and Cathy Reynolds - will show their slide show of their climbs of Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa.

2003 Color Photo Contest Results

A number of wonderful photos were submitted by SPS members. Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest. This issue of the Echo features the winner, by Gail Hanna, and the roster features the runner-up, by Rick Jali. Both photos are of Ritter and Banner from nearby peaks.

The next issues of the Echo will feature other contest entries. Look for cover photos and feature photos in the Echo by contestants Paul Lipsohn, Tina Bowman, Ron Hudson and Daryn Dodge.

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries. There is a lot of talent in our section not only as climbers but as photographers too!

Front Cover

2003 Color Photo Contest
Winner - Gail Hanna



Photo taken August 28, 2002

The grand view looking south from the summit of Mt Lyell, the highpoint of Yosemite Park. We are looking at the N.W. Side of Banner and Ritter Peaks and the permanent snowfields.

Peak List

Sawtooth
Lamont Peak
Mokelumne Peak
Palisade Crest
High Points -
Ascension Island

Summer/Fall 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.

JUNE

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 - Trip Cancelled

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. 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 Ldrs: Richard Boardman, Bob Beach.

I: Jun 28-29 Sat-Sun N. Maggie Mtn (10,235'): Enjoy meadows, brooks, vistas and granite of the So. Sierra moderate backpack in Golden Trout Wilderness. Sat. hike from Quaking Aspen to Maggie Lakes, 9.5 mi, 1500' gain. Time for fishing, swimming, and happy hour. Sun. climb peak cross-country, some scrambling, 3 mi rt, 800' gain, then pack out. Send sase or email with experience Ldr: Beth Epstein. Co-Ldr: Kim Gimenez.

JULY

I: July 3-6 Thu-Sun Finger Peak (12,404'), Tunemah Peak (11,894'): SPS/Loma Prieta Strenuous backpack. Prov Ldr: Mike McDermitt. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

ER: Jul 11-13 Fri-Sun Mt Darwin (13,830'): Restricted. Prov. Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Ron Hudson.

M: Jul 18-20 Fri-Mon Goodale (12,790'), Striped (13,179'), Cardinal (13,397'): Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr: Asher Waxman.

M: July 19 Sat Mt. Emerson (13204): Moderate - paced climb. Exper. 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.

M: Jul 19-27 Sat-Sun Kaweahs area: Mt Kaweah, Triple Divide Pk, Whaleback, Lion Rock, Mt Stewart, Lippincott Mtn, and others. Send SASE to Patty. Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert.

MR: Jul 20-27 Sun-Sun Columbine, Langille, Citadel, Wheel, Woodworth, Isosceles: Send Email (pref) or SASE. Co-Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.

M: July 29 - Aug 4 Tues - Mon Mt. Goddard area: other possible peaks are Mt. Huxley, Charybdis, Mt. McDuffie, Black Giant, Scylla, Mt. Fiske, Mt. McGee, Goethe and Mt. Lamarck. Send 2 sase or email, \$5 permit fee Ldr: Keith Martin. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert

Trip listing continued page 4

AUGUST

M: Aug 1-3 Fri-Sun Mt Ansel Adams: 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') Send SASE or e-mail to Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

I: Aug 2-3 Sat-Sun WTC Three Sisters (10,619) Send SASE to Ldrs: Mirna & Greg Roach.

I: Aug 2-4 Sat-Mon Cloudripper (13,525') SPS/ Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

MR: Aug 2-4 Sat-Mon Mt Darwin (13,831') 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 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') Send sase with \$5 permit fee. Ldr: Joe Wankum. Asst: Mike Dillenback.

M: Aug 9-11 Sat-Mon Four Gables, Pilot Knob #2 Send sase & \$5 ck payable to John for permit. Ldr: John Cheslick. Asst: Patty Rambert.

I: Aug 15-18 Fri-Sun Colosseum Mtn (12,451), Mt Perkins (12,566): Moderate pace. Send E-mail (pref) or two sase. Ldr: Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta

ER: Aug 16 Sat Mt. Humphreys (13,986') Strenuous 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') Restricted trip to Sierra Club members. Ldrs: Barbee & Larry Tidball.

I: Aug 16-18 Sat-Mon Four Gables (12,720') Introductory trip. 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') Yosemite Mountaineers peaks. Strenuous trip, 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') Restricted to SC members. Send resume with \$5.00 permit fee. Prov Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Tina Bowman.

AUGUST continued

I: Aug 30 - Sep 1 Sat – Mon Homer's Nose (9023') Moderately paced trip. 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 SASE to Ldr: Patty Rambert. Co-Ldr: Keith Martin.

I: Sep 6-7 Sat-Sun Smith Mtn (9515'), Blackrock Mtn (9635') Intro trip with car camp. Send sase after Aug 15 to Ldrs: Jerry & Nancy Keating.

I: Sep 6-8 Sat-Mon Mt Bago (11,870') Introductory trip in eastern Sierra. 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') Trip restricted to SC members. Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr: Kim Gimenez.

I: Sep 8-11 Mon-Thu Highland Pk, Round Top, Mokelumne Pk, Pyramid Pk (N), Granite Chief, Tinker Knob: 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') Send 2 sase or email. Ldr: Dave Endres. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

MR Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Mt Russell (14,086'), Carillon (13,552') Exposed 3rd class. Restricted to SC members. Ldrs. Will McWhinney, Don Croley

I: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Cirque Peak (12,900') SPS/ WTC or equivalent required. SASE to Prov Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson. Asst: Greg Roach.

I: Sep 13-15 Sat-Mon Banner Pk (12,945') SPS/ WTC moderate trip. SASE to Ldr: Sarah May. Asst: Patrick McKusky.

I: Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Iron Mtn (11,149') 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') Send sase, \$5 permit fee Ldr Joe Wankum. Co-Ldr: Barry Holchin.

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.

SEPTEMBER *continued*

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/PVSB. Sat. work under direction of Park Rangers on prep. of burn area to help protect Yosemite from 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') Strenuous hikes with total 20 mi 9000' gain. Examine results of mining activity & consider ideas & responsibility for removal of abandoned junk. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Sarah Anderson.

OCTOBER

MR: Oct 10-12 Fri- Sun Tehipite Dome (7708'), Spanish Mtn (10,051'). Backpack restricted to Sierra Club members. Send sase with conditioning and experience to Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

Income: a. Echo	2,599.00
b. Merchandise	78.00
c. Advertisement	5.00
	<u>\$2,682.00</u>

Expenditures: a. Echo Printing	224.35
b. Shipping	13.78
c. Echo Mailing	180.56
d. Supplies & stamps	12.35
	<u>\$431.04</u>

Balance on 1/1/03	7,779.58
Income	<u>2,682.00</u>
	\$10,461.58
Expenditures	<u>431.04</u>
Balance as of 3/31/03	\$10,030.54

Notes: 1. The Memorial Fund is \$4,700.00 of the above Balance on 3/31/03.
2. There are 267 names on the roster. Approx. 160 active, 50 inactive, 42 Echo subscribers only and 15 gratis subscriptions.

SPS Membership Report

Accomplishments - Congratulations

Larry Hoak
Master Emblem & Senior Emblem
July 2002 - Mt Whitney

All other membership information is in the 2003 SPS Roster.

Miscellaneous Items

The price of 7.5' topographic maps is now \$6.00 (plus \$5.00 postage when ordering form USGS in Denver).

The secret for removing tops from glass jar registers which are "stuck" (as discovered by Ted Brasket) is to use the bottle opener on your knife. Go around the lid gently uplifting it every 1/2" or so. If the opener won't fit, use the flat portion of blade.

Interested in plants - especially rare plants where you are hiking? Check out www.cnps.org/rareplants/rediscovering before you head out on that next hike.

SPS Treasurers Report 3/31/03

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

April - May 2003

The SPS congratulates our members who received awards at the recent Angeles Chapter Banquet. The Chester Versteeg Award was presented to Bill Oliver and the Phil Bernays Service Award to Ann Kramer. Outings Service Awardees included Erik Siering, Harry Freimanis, Michael Dodson.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our leaders who have conducted LTP practices/checkoffs during recent months. These outings provide an opportunity for aspiring leaders to get closer to obtaining a rating. We need those new leaders so that we can maintain/expand our outings program in the future.

And a special thanks go to Nile Sorenson, Henry Arnebold, and Will McWhinney who represented the SPS at the annual climber section presentations to WTC students. This provides us a chance to acquaint a significant number of potential members with the SPS and its activities.

Outings co-sponsored by both SPS and WTC are an excellent way of getting the WTCers started with the SPS. And this year, I believe there are a record number of these co-sponsored trips. The SPS Safety Policy requires that leaders of such outings be members of the SPS. Although non-members cannot lead or co-lead trips sponsored or co-sponsored by the SPS, a number of our scheduled outings have non-members as an assistant, which is allowed. Most such assistants will likely qualify for membership on these trips.

Our outings program is what makes the SPS what it is. Beth Epstein, the SPS Outings Chair, has put together an excellent list of outings for the summer. SPS leaders have scheduled outings almost every weekend from now until early fall. In addition to the training outings mentioned above, I believe the current total is 54 peak climbs, of which 20 are co-sponsored by WTC and another 10 co-sponsored by other groups. But there is still room for additional outings. Although it is too late to get trips published in the Summer Schedule, additional trip writeups can be published in the Echo. (Be sure to note that one of the summer outings is a list finish for long-time member Ret Moore on Sep 27-28.)

Now is the time to start making plans for the Winter Schedule - for practice sessions and for late season trips to the Southern Sierra. Make your plans and get those writeups in to Beth.

Patty Kline has lined up a number of interesting programs for our summer meetings. Come join us at the meetings at the Angeles Chapter Hq to learn the status of trips, to let us know the status of the trips you have planned and to provide reports afterwards - and to socialize with fellow climbers and start making plans for future outings.

Our 2003 Sierra climbing season is underway. Let's all do our part to ensure that this is a safe and accident free year.

Joe Wankum/2003 Chair

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2003

SPS Management Committee Meeting

Location: Norwalk

Attended by: Joe Wankum, Maria Roa, Henry Arnebold, Patty Rambert, Gary Schenk

Minutes Taken by: Gary Schenk

The meeting began at 6:40 pm

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as written.

Banquet: Maria gave a 2003 Banquet summary: 69 receipts @ \$28.00 each, 69 expenses @ \$25.00 each for a net gain of \$207.00.

Treasurer: Maria and Henry had completed the treasurer's hand off. Joe, Beth, and Henry were authorized to sign section checks. Henry was authorized to purchase various supplies for treasurer duties.

Chairman: Joe reported that we have 800 of the new climbing sections brochures left. Various methods are being considered to coordinate distribution of the brochures with DPS and HPS to maximize the effectiveness of the outreach. Joe discussed goals for the new year, including recruiting new and present leaders to increase the number of outings in the schedule. Joe discussed the various duties of the members of the committee.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the section change the signers on our Citibank checking account # 3594010716. Remove Gary Schenk and Maria Roa as signers on the account and add Henry A. Arnebold and Beth Epstein as signers. Joe Wankum will continue as a signer on the account.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the section change the signers on our Citibank savings account # 3590023689. Remove Eric Siering, Maria Roa, and Ron Hudson, and add Henry A. Arnebold, Beth Epstein, and Joe Wankum.

SPS Annual Banquet Minutes

The annual banquet was held on January 8, 2003.

Location: Buon Gusto Trattoria in Long Beach.

SPS Chair Erik Siering opened the banquet by welcoming all 71 guests in attendance.

Erik and Ann Kramer raffled off several door prizes including books, calendars and videos, courtesy of the Angeles Chapter, and a copy of *Eiger, The Vertical Arena*, an anonymous donation.

Erik recognized SPS members in attendance who had earned emblems, senior emblems, master emblems and this year's list finishers Greg Vernon (2nd time) and Greg and Mirna Roach.

Erik reported on the status of the memorial fund for members Matthew Richardson, Steve Erskine and William Stampfl.

Erik introduced the outgoing 2002 management committee: Erik Siering, Asher Waxman, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, and Joe Wankum. Past SPS chairs were recognized and the incoming 2003 committee was introduced: Joe Wankum, Beth Epstein, Henry Arnebold, Patty Rambert, and Gary Schenk.

Barbee Tidball was awarded the 2003 Outstanding Service Award for her many contributions to the section.

Erik then introduced Ellen Wilts who gave an excellent presentation of her climbing exploits with her husband Chuck Wilts, including several spectacular climbs in the Canadian Rockies.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST (May-Jun 2003)

I have received a number of suggestions concerning the SPS, most about future possibilities. However, some have suggested that the Echo include items of a historical nature. I thought I'd try resurrecting the Echos from the Past article that Ron Jones contributed for a number of years. If you have any comments on whether this article should continue, let me know. And, if you would like to take over preparing this article for future issues, let me know that also. (jbwankum@aol.com)

10 Years Ago (1993) – The 36th annual SPS Banquet was held at the Pickwick Center in Burbank, with Randy Danta presenting a program on climbing Everest. (Fellow Everest climber Doug Mantle was in Antarctica and unable to attend.) Those recognized at the Banquet included: Dave Dykeman as the first person to lead the entire SPS list; list finishers #37-40 George Toby, Dave Petzold, Tine Stough, and Erick Schumacher; master emblem #12 (and incoming Chair) Larry Tidball; senior emblem Jane Edgington, second senior emblem R.J. Secor; emblems #512-517 Bob Wyka, Pat Christie, Al Craun, Bob Latter, Brian Smith, and Henry Arnebold. The May-Jun 1993 Echo included a list of 46 scheduled climbs for 1993.

20 Years Ago (1983) – The 26th annual SPS Banquet was held at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello December 8, 1982, with Rick Ridgeway presenting a program on Antarctica. Included in the May-Jun 1983 Echo: A list of 57 scheduled trips, the last being the annual first weekend of November rock climb at Fossil Falls. Chair Jim Murphy reported that the snow fall in the Sierras was at an official all time high. In July of 82, Gordon MacLeod and Barbara Lilley completed the climb of Colorado's 54 peaks over 14,000'.

The following information is an extract from the 1983 Echos from the Past, by Ron Jones.

30 Years Ago (1973) – Honorary SPS member, Norman Clyde, died December 23, 1972 in Big Pine and was interred at Hawthorne NV. Tren Bartlett & Delores Holladay joined the SPS. Richard Riemer earned his emblem. During the previous year: New members included Ret Moore.

40 Years Ago (1963) – Lothar Kolbig led 40 members on an outing near Harwood Lodge in February 1963 to practice snow & crampon techniques; 2 ice axes were broken. On February 14, the Angeles Chapter began its first Basic Mountaineering Training Course. The course was open to the general public and was planned to include 7 lectures and 3 field trips. Instructors included: John Wedberg, Winter Travel; Bob Greenawalt, Mtn Travel; Ron Smith, Rock Climbing; Lothar Kolbig, Climbing Dangers; Harvey Hickman, Equipment & Cooking; Niles & Louise Werner, Desert Travel; Jess Matter, Climbing Miseries & First Aid.



Sawtooth/ Lamont Peaks

September 28-29, 2002

By Sara Wyrens

Lamont 2,300 gain 4.0 mi
Sawtooth 2,500 gain 8.0 semi
loop.

Photo: Sara Wyrens, Michael Gosnell, Maura Raffensperger and David Beymer



David Beymer and I originally scheduled a backpack to Kern Peak for this weekend but had to cancel because of the McNally fire closure. Kern Peak was spared but roads to Blackrock Trailhead were still closed as of the above date. We originally had ten participants but many dropped out when we had to come up with plan B to climb Sawtooth and Lamont. So that left four of us to enjoy this early autumn trip to two easy but very beautiful day hikes. The participants were: Michael Gosnell, Maura Raffensperger, David Beymer (co-leader) and yours truly. I arrived Friday afternoon in time to explore some of the dirt roads around the vicinity and enjoy the incredible sunset in the distance on the horizon. Soon I was not alone as a truck pulled up beside me. It was Dave Freeland, one of the Fireman on the McNally fire Management Team. I told him of our plans for the weekend and he so graciously proceeded to invite myself and Michael to go back to the fire station that evening for coffee and to look at maps; he and another Fireman suggested routes for these and other peaks in the area. We liked Dave's suggested Sawtooth route which was a semi loop for variety, and so it was.

Our day started from Chimney Peak Campground at 9:30 a.m. where we teamed up with David and Maura. From here, we took a short hike up dirt road to the PCT. Our route took us up the well maintained trail exactly three miles to an obvious saddle where we broke off to grab the ridge heading north to Sawtooth. After a short class II

scramble to summit, we then continued north on the ridge, per Dave's suggestion, to find second saddle [UTM NAD 83 (11 04 09 261 E) (39 65 405 N)]. We then dropped down to find obvious intermittent stream, which of course was dry, to make our way back to PCT. Doing the plunge step in deep sand got us into the stream bed quickly; what fun! The rest of the way included some rock scrambling down dry water falls and bush whacking (not much though). We arrived back at camp late afternoon, got cleaned up to go have dinner at "The Grumpy Bear" ten miles up the road. Prime rib was their special for the night so we happily indulged.

Day two to Lamont was uneventful but I'm happy to say the trail was decent most of the way up. Dave our Fireman friend says crews were up earlier in the summer making trail improvements. Like Sawtooth, Lamont has a short scramble to the top. We were back to cars by early afternoon for a leisurely drive back to the city. More good news: The dirt road from Sherman Pass Road to 178 is excellent. Several years ago when I was in the area the road was full of divots, drop offs, large rocks, etc. High clearance was differently needed. Now any vehicle can make it.

Great trip as usual and so glad to be out hiking again after my short recovery absence! Thanks to David, Maura and Michael for all their encouragement!

Mokelumne Peak

by Doug Bear

Recently I rambled through the Mokelumne Wilderness to Mokelumne Pk., elevation 9,334'. It was a very good walk in a wild forest setting to an infrequently visited peak. I had difficulty finding good information on how to drive to and hike up the peak. I also had difficulty finding the Tanglefoot trailhead and made some wrong turns. The Bear River Reservoir is a maze of logging roads, most of which go nowhere. I took some notes on the way out to help those who desire to visit this enchanted little peak. It is a fabulous Summer or Autumn dayhike. I would avoid the area during July 4th, Labor Day or hunting season, unless solitude and quiet is not a must. Midweek should be peaceful.

MOKELUMNE PK.- THE DRIVE:

From Highway 88 - 9.7 miles paved; 3.7 "good to fair" dirt road (on the DPS "dirt scale"). Carefully driven sedans may make it, but a little clearance is helpful. Also, the road signs changed from my first visit. Look for the "Shriner" or "Tanglefoot" trail signs.

*Paved Portion: Set trip odometer to 0.0. From Hwy.88, drive in toward Lower Bear River Reservoir. Odometer readings may vary.

1.9 Fork on the left - go straight ahead (sign says "South Shore CG 1 and Cole Creek 8") and immediately pass thru a gate (green sign says the road will close Dec.01 or due to weather, which ever comes first).

Cross the Dam (one lane in one spot) elev. 5,800' +

3.2 South Shore CG on the right - continue driving.

4.1 Fork - Go Left onto Nat'l Forest 81 (sign says "Pardoes 2.5, Cole Creek 5.5, Bear River Campground 0.5").

THE SHORTCUT THROUGH THE SUMMER HOME TRACT LEADS TO ROUGHER ROADS

6.6 Junction: Straight ahead is paved, left is dirt - Go straight - Do not go left to Pardoes or Devils Lk. Follow the sign that says "Shriner (or Tanglefoot) Trailhead - 7."

7.4 Junction: Straight ahead is dirt, right is paved - turn right (sign says "Cole Cr. CG 2, Tanglefoot TH 6").

9.7 Junction: Sign says "Salt Springs Overlook 2, Tanglefoot T.H. 4" - turn left (PAVEMENT ENDS).

*Dirt Portion: Set odometer to 0.0 after turning left onto 8N14.

0.0 Sign says "dead-end road 8N14" (it may have fallen).

0.1 Cross Cole Creek on two bridges.

0.4 Dirt roads on left and right - go straight.

1.0 After a short rutted section (sedans be careful) there's a fork on the right - ignore it and go straight.

1.2 Fork on the left - ignore it - go straight.

1.3 Junction: 8N14A on the right and 8N14B on the left and a sign on the right, just past 8N14A, says "Tanglefoot TH". Go straight ahead.

2.75 8N14D on the right - ignore it - go straight ahead.

2.8 8N24 on left "dead end road" - ignore it - go straight.

2.9 Good view of Mokelumne Pk. from the road shoulder (orange, bald summit poking up through the forest).

3.2 Dirt road on the left - ignore it - go straight.

3.4 Dirt road on the right - ignore it - go straight.

BRUSH BEGINS TO ENCROACH ON THE DIRT ROAD (MAY SCRATCH PAINT)

3.7 Tanglefoot Trailhead on the left - PARK - elev. 6,400' (room for a couple of vehicles).

3.8 Dirt road dead-ends at a turnaround. Free car camping is found along the dirt road portion. I camped at the TH (trailhead). This is a densely forested area. No water at TH, so be sure to bring some. Be careful with fire.

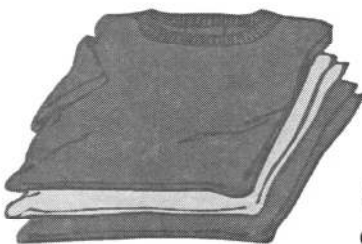


MOKELUMNE PK.- THE HIKE:

Approx. 13-14 mi. r-t with 3,700'+ gain for the round trip. Most hikers would take between 5 (fast) and 9 (normal) hrs. total. It is Class 1+: Trail and easy cross-country (some low brush). Both times I did the hike I saw no one.

From the TH the trail gains about 200' or so and enters the Mokelumne Wilderness after a quarter mile. The trail climbs a little more, then levels off and passes a scenic meadow which can be seen on the left. After a mile or so from the trailhead, a junction is reached (marked by a wood post in 2002). The left fork goes to Shriner Lk., the right fork to Tanglefoot Canyon. Go right and switchback DOWN into Tanglefoot Cyn. The trail bottoms out at 6,300' and now it's 3,000' up to the peak. The creek was dry as I crossed it, but I saw a log crossing on the left (if it was flowing). Regain the trail and switchback upslope to Moraine Lk., 3.5 miles from the trailhead (this is a nice spot for a break and the only sure water along the route). Continue on the trail through delightful red fir forest for about 1.5 miles past the lake. The trail is faint in a few places along this stretch. En route (about 1+ mile from the lake) you'll pass a large flat area covered with short (1 foot high) manzanita. Just beyond this area of short brush the trail begins to zigzag uphill. Leave the trail here and go right (ENE) and hike cross-country about one mile, aiming for the saddle between Mokelumne Pk. and the subsidiary summit 8,628' a mile or so to the west of the peak. The brush is not bad - it is very short. If you aim for the trees you will avoid some of it. Do not climb the subsidiary summit, because the brush gets higher. From the saddle, where beautiful views open to the north, hike east on pleasant terrain for about 1 mile to the summit. The last 300' is hard class 1 or easy class 2 boulders. There's a neat chain of little lakes 800 feet below the summit to the NW. Return the same way. Be alert! Do not wander down the wrong way or you could become very lost. There's 500' of gain on the return from the bottom of Tanglefoot Canyon.

Happy trails!



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 Big Release

Palisade Crest

August 23 - 25, 2002

By Tom Bowman

What's the deal? My legs look like I led a trip through E-barbed wire, not one of the classic Sierra rock climbs up Palisade Crest (13,520'). Yet, the legs of co-leader Larry Tidball and participants Susan Livingston, Paul Morash, and Patty Rambert look normal. I only fell in one stream, after all, and I only sank into mud halfway up to one knee, and only one willow flicked my sunglasses into a bog. It was fine, fine leadership: just right for a provisional E lead, and just perfect for evaluation by none other than the Chapter Safety Chair.

It turns out there are reasons why our ascent was the first of the season and why so few people attempt Palisade Crest in any year. The hike to Elinore Lake (10,990') is one of them: it departs the South Fork of Big Pine Creek at Willow Lake and turns downright nasty. How many approaches combine boulder hopping, bushwhacking, and backpacking into a single, simultaneous experience? This one does, but the intricacies are not described in many places. Along the south side of the drainage, a use trail hugs the cliffs, but heaves up boulders and willow thickets along the way. The north side is pure talus and sunshine, with use trail here and there, if not throughout. Getting to Elinore Lake is plain old hard work, even when participants carry the ropes. It's a talus sandwich, but the payoff is a soft sandy campsite with extraordinary views of the Palisades.

Climbing Palisade Crest opens with a second helping of talus. A quick trip plan suggests a 2,500' summit day, but my altimeter counted 4,100' and my watch recorded thirteen hours. The hike up to Scimitar Pass (13,451') climbs onto a permanent snowfield by way of talus slopes, short talus descents, talus traverses, more talus ascents, and finally loose moraine, which some leaders avoid and, unfortunately, others don't. The snowfield is not steep, but this year it was all frozen sun cups. Exiting the snowfield onto more talus, the route climbs more steeply to the pass, which is really just a low spot on the crest that is accessible from both sides.

At this point, things get more interesting. The route traverses the slabs and flakes along the crest and eventually descends onto a pair of chock stones wedged into a bridge across a deep notch just below

the summit pinnacle. You can see the chock stones from Elinore Lake, and the blue sky under them as well. Picking the class 3 route went easily, with Larry's memory from many years ago coming in handy at various points. The class-3 moves seemed self-evident most of the way, yet we never really found an easy route all the way down into the critical notch. We came up a little bit short and rappelled about 15 feet to save time. The final move onto the bridge is almost a jump, and it felt a little awkward, given the exposure. We tried an alternate route on the return leg, following a few ducks, and it went well, but I sure would not have considered it class 3 going the other direction. I doubt the participants would have been willing to down-climb this route to the notch, and I would have been pretty unhappy too, so the reputed easy class 3 descent remains a mystery to this group.

In contrast, the 160' class 4 slab that leads to the summit area felt like a vacation. It was a real pleasure after traversing the crest; the 45° slab has excellent traction and loads of cracks running everywhere. This kind of climbing is pure, low stress fun. Placing a few safety chocks along the way was easily done, but the climbing never felt difficult. The real trick was having two 50m ropes, which were just long enough for the pitch, so that a time-consuming intermediate belay/rappel station could be avoided. The final summit pinnacle is easy class 3 climbing. Amazingly, Tina Bowman says she spotted us at the belay anchor (she did a killer day hike of Temple Crag and Gayley on Saturday and spent most of the night driving home while we enjoyed happy hour and watched the moonrise).

In spite of all the hard work, the endless, endless talus, and the need to keep the group moving on the long summit day, Palisade Crest really is a spectacular and engaging climb. The crest and summit pinnacle combine good class 3 climbing with breathtaking views and the scenery surrounding Elinore Lake is extraordinary too, especially in the moonlight. Perhaps that's why the group returned in such high spirits, somewhat relieved after a long and challenging adventure.

Still, I doubt any of them is as relieved as I am. If this trip passes muster, I will have completed all the many steps toward an E rating, and I am waiting for the sense of liberation to sink in. Perhaps that sensation will replace the nicks and cuts that remind me of the talus and brush. Larry says one forgets the talus. That's a good idea because everything else about Palisade Crest is extraordinary.

IN HIGH PLACES, **ASCENSION ISLAND**

By Burton “Out to Sea” Falk

Last October, my wife, Jo, and I embarked on a mid-Atlantic cruise, beginning in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, making calls in the Cape Verde Islands, Ascension, St. Helena, Tristan de Cunha and South Georgia, and disembarking thirty-five days later at Stanley, in the Falkland Islands.

I, of course, was intent on climbing everything I could lay my feet on. What follows is the first of a three-part report on those adventures:

Regarding the Canaries, Tenerife’s 12,198’ **Mt. Tiede** is not only the archipelago’s loftiest peak, but the highest point in all of Spain as well. And, as noted in my previous article on **Tiede** (The ECHO, May-June 1992), the mountain is an active volcano.

On the morning of October 6, prior to boarding the *Explorer* in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Jo and I revisited Las Cañadas National Park, where we discovered that, although tourists can still ride the cablecar to **Tiede**’s 11,500 level, the trail continuing on to the summit is closed due to noxious gases being emitted there. The mountaineer’s trail winding up the northeast side of the peak—and eventually merging into the gondola trail—is likewise closed to the summit.

Setting sail the following morning, we found that the staff of the *Explorer* included several guest lecturers, i.e., two ornithologists, an ichthyologist, a geologist and a military historian. Thanks to Bill Romey, professor geology at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York, we gleaned these additional facts regarding **Tiede** and the Canaries: 1. As measured from its base below sea level, **Tiede** is the third tallest volcano in the world (after Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa). 2. That what had long been suspected has now been confirmed—a huge prehistoric landslide occurred on the north slope of **Tiede**, causing an enormous quantity of debris to cascade several miles out onto the sea floor. This in turn created a colossal tidal wave, the size of which, were it to recur today, would devastate a number of low-lying cities around the Atlantic. 3. The current thinking is that the Canaries were formed much in the same manner as the Hawaiian Islands, i.e., that a

tectonic plate slid over a hot spot in the earth’s mantle, thus creating a rash of volcanic islands as it progressed.

After sailing due south for four days, our first port of call was Praia, on the island of Sao Tiago, the capital city of the Cape Verde Islands. Unfortunately, as we were to spend only one day in this island nation, population 440,000, and because **Pico de Fogo**, its 9,280’ high point, is located on yet another island, Fogo, there was no way I could arrange a climb. Still, since I intended to return someday to make the ascent, I did make inquiries into the logistics involved in doing so.

What I found was that all international flights to the Cape Verdes arrive on the island of Sal, 150 miles to the northeast of Fogo. From the U.S., the most direct way of getting to the Cape Verdes is via a once a week South African Airways’ flight from JFK to Johannesburg, which makes a stop in Sal. Direct flights for Sal can also be boarded in Lisbon, Portugal and Dakar, Senegal. Once in Sal, one can catch an intra-island flight to Fogo, and from there, after renting a car, continue on to a small inn located inside Cha des Calderias, the crater from which **Pico de Fogo** arises. Incidentally, the geological situation on Fogo is similar to that on Tenerife, i.e., after an original 11,500’ volcano was formed, a gigantic section of its eastern side collapsed into the sea, substantially reducing the peak’s height, and, no doubt, creating yet another gigantic tidal wave. Once you reach the Cha des Calderias, **Pico de Fogo** can be easily climbed in one day.

The Cape Verdes, frankly, are not the most beautiful islands in the world. Because they lie only 400 miles off the west coast of Africa, at the same latitude as the Sahara Desert, they receive little rainfall. The nation’s sky is often darkened with dust blowing over from mainland Africa, where the process of desertification continues at a rapid pace.

And, the country is very poor. Due to the lack of water, agriculture is difficult if not impossible. Over fifty percent of island’s Gross Domestic Product, in fact, comes from remittances sent home by Cape Verde men who have emigrated abroad to find work. Additionally, although the islands have several nice beaches, because of the lack of a supporting infrastructure, revenue from tourism is still a dream. Furthermore, the Cape Verdese speak Creole and/or Portuguese—neither an especially tourist-friendly language. If that weren’t enough, there is little if anything in the way of indigenous arts



and crafts
(except for
CDs and
tapes of
morna, a
musical form,
the lyrics of
which are

“sophisticated expressions of tragedy, the instruments similar to those played in Portuguese folk music”) to take home as souvenirs.

Because of all these negatives, my wife (of 45 years, by the way) says she has “definitely, absolutely, positively, completely and totally no interest” in making a return visit to the Cape Verdes. Since she seems to be somewhat on the fence in this matter, I’ll hedge my bets by asking if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining me in bagging a rarely climbed high point, way out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean?

Continuing south for another five days—and crossing the equator while doing so—we arrived off the north coast of Ascension Island at 4 p.m. on Oct. 16. Because it was late in the day, rather than landing our group of seventy passengers at the small town of Georgetown, we instead launched the *Explorer’s* fleet of Zodiacs and cruised around Boatswain Bird Island, a volcanic stack off the northeast corner of Ascension. This was an interesting excursion, especially for the birders on board (and there were a flock of them), as the guano-covered rock island was teeming with frigate birds, white and brown boobies, fairy terns, black noddies and the graceful, long-tailed tropicbirds, known locally as Boatswain birds. Ascension itself was once a great birding site, but following the 1815 introduction of cats, brought in to suppress rats that had survived and prospered after an earlier shipwreck, the island’s bird population, with the exception of the Wideawake terns, virtually disappeared. The U.K., which holds possession to Ascension, is currently sponsoring a cat and rat eradication program on the island, and it now seems likely that birds will gradually return to their old nesting sites.

In a series of lectures prior to our call at Ascension, we learned:

1. Ascension, like the Canaries and Cape Verdes, is of volcanic origin. Unlike those island groups, however, Ascension lies almost directly on the mid-Atlantic rift, and thus was formed as a result of the spreading and/or lateral faulting of two tectonic plates. Other geologic facts: There are 44 dormant craters on the island; the last major volcanic activity occurred about 600 years ago, and the possibility of additional volcanic activity remains strong.
2. Until just a few years ago, due to the presence of sensitive military installations, Ascension was off-limits to tourists. Today the island, which now encourages tourism, is used mainly for communications purposes. The U.S. Air force, for instance, operates a surveillance station and an auxiliary airport, leased from the U.K., at Wideawake Field on the island’s southwestern corner. A tracking station for Ariane rockets and a satellite communications center, both run by the U.K. firm, Cable and Wireless, and the Atlantic Relay Station for the BBC’s World Service are located on Ascension, as well.
3. The U.S. built the airstrip on Ascension during WWII so that some 25,000 planes could be flown from mainland factories, via Brazil, to the war effort in North Africa and Europe. The motto of pilots who made the flights to the small, difficult-to-locate island was, “If I don’t find Ascension, my wife gets a pension.” Navigational instruments, it seems, were a bit more primitive in those days.
4. There are no permanent residents on Ascension. Virtually all the 1,008 people (2001 census) who live on the island work there on a contract basis. The majority of these folks hail from the island of St. Helena, 700 miles to the southeast, another U.K. possession, where employment opportunities are scarce. These expatriates are known as ‘Saints.’
5. Other than arriving on a ship like the *Explorer* or by a private vessel, there are only two other means of getting to Ascension. The fastest method is via the bi-weekly RAF Tristar (L-1011) out of the RAF base at Briz Norton, England, a flight that makes a refueling stop in Ascension on its way to (and on return from) the Falkland Islands. The

second, much slower, way is via the Royal Mail Ship *St. Helena*, which makes four runs a year to the island from Cardiff, Wales. The *St. Helena* does make more frequent runs to Ascension from St. Helena, but, since St. Helena has no airport, it is even harder to reach than Ascension. Allow 13 days to sail from Wales to Ascension, via Tenerife.

6. Besides cats and rats, there are several other invasive threats to Ascension's native habitat. One of the newer, more pervasive pests is that which the locals refer to as Mexican Thornbush, but which we know here in the western U.S. as mesquite, and in Hawaii as kiawe. This pesky plant seems to have developed a special attachment to Ascension, and is currently running rampant at the lower, dryer elevations of the island.

Green Mountain, Ascension's 2,817' highpoint, is located just a bit southeast of the dead center of the triangular-shaped island, which in itself is a mere 8-1/2 miles wide at maximum. To ascend the peak one can either hike, bike or drive (4X) up a very steep, switch-backed road to a deserted farm known as the Red Lion. From the farmhouse, which possesses a unique Swiss-like clock tower on its main building, follow a signed road as it gradually dwindles into a wide path leading east, across a ridge affording good views of the island, and then onto an increasingly steep and slippery trail, ascending into a dense rain forest. The trail becomes so slippery, in fact, that ropes have been placed along the steepest sections as an aid to helplessly slithering climbers. If you should ever decide to attempt this climb, my advice is to wear something you really don't care about. If it's as wet as it was the day we were there, you'll be covered with mud by the time you return.

You'll know you're nearing the summit of **Green Mountain** when you suddenly break out of the dense vegetation at a small man-made lake called 'The Dew Pond.' Follow the trail around to the far side of the pond, and there you'll find a rain-sodden summit register. The actual summit lies a few feet beyond the register, however the lush foliage makes it a bit hard to locate.

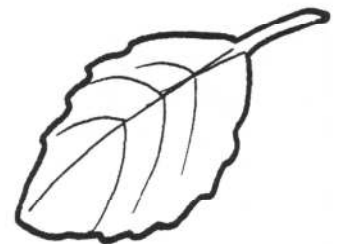
Months prior to the cruise, I had, by e-mail, arranged for Ascension's Chief Conservation Officer, a woman named Tara (no last name disclosed), to act as my guide for a climb of Green Mountain. On the morning I was to make the climb, however, Tara decided instead to lead a large group of fellow

passengers on a trail around **Green Mountain**, a couple of hundred feet below its summit. The upshot was that I got Dave (again, no last name given), a cabinetmaker from London, who was on Ascension as a part of a yearlong cat/rat eradication program, as Tara's replacement. Also, because I had mentioned my impending climb to a number of fellow passengers, four additional hikers belatedly opted to join in on the summit excursion. Well, in spite of all the last minute changes, the hike worked out quite well. Everyone, I think, enjoyed the muddy adventure. Our round trip time from the Red Lion and back was about 2 hours. Although neither Dave nor Tara would accept a personal gratuity, I was able to make a donation to the conservation efforts on the island in appreciation of their kindness and consideration.

In the early afternoon, our entire passenger group reassembled at the Two Boats Club, about halfway up **Green Mountain**, where we enjoyed a tasty barbeque lunch. Following the repast, many of us hiked out on Wideawake Fairs, a rocky plain near the U.S.A.F. base, to view an approximate 200,000 pairs of nesting Wideawake terns (a.k.a. Sooty terns). Most of the rest of the group spent the afternoon snorkeling at Comfortless Cove, one of the few places on the island where it is safe to swim.

We returned to the *Explorer* by Zodiac late that afternoon (by the way, there is no pier for docking in Ascension, only a landing), to enjoy a cocktail party and dinner hosted by the officers and staff of the *Explorer* in honor of an array of Ascension VIPs, including the island's resident administrator (who reports to the governor of St. Helena), the commander of the U.S. Air Force base (a surprisingly young fellow), and the captain of the *Maersk Gannet*, a tanker permanently moored off of the island, from which the *Explorer* refueled earlier in the day.

At the evening's conclusion, after bidding fond farewells to the friendly islanders, the *Explorer* began its two-day voyage to St. Helena, famous as the site of Napoleon's final exile, but also notable for the fascinating but endangered flora and fauna to be found on 2,685' **Diana's Peak**, the island's highpoint. Tune in next time for more exciting mid-Atlantic adventures.



IN HIGH PLACES

By Burton A. Falk

Exploring the Highest Sierra, by James G. Moore (2000) A Book Review

One of my favorite bookstores anywhere is The Booky Joint of Mammoth Lakes, CA. Two years ago, I walked out with an armload of purchases including James G. Moore's *Exploring the Highest Sierra*, fresh off the Stanford University Press. It wasn't until this past summer, however, that I finally got around to reading *Exploring*, and now, having scrutinized it from cover to cover, I'm willing to bet good money that virtually any SPSer could enrich his or her Sierra experience by also getting cozy with the volume.

First of all, to be totally upfront, I must say that the title, *Exploring the Highest Sierra*, is somewhat misleading.

I assumed that the book would be a history of the early explorations of the highest Sierra, an area, by Moore's definition, lying primarily within the boundaries of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. I thought it would be a work somewhat parallel to Farquhar's *History of the Sierra Nevada*. I found this to be true, however, only for the first 170 pages of the 420-page work.

The fact is that Moore is a Senior Research Geologist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, CA, and his idea of "exploring" includes not only the discoveries made regarding the surface features of the two Parks, but of the later determinations regarding their underlying geologic structures, as well. If you're into geology, you're going to love this book.

Indeed, Moore takes only one chapter, "Exploration," to deal with the earliest non-native explorations of the Sierra, i.e., John C. Fremont's two expeditions into the Sierra (1844 & 1845-46); the U.S. Dept of War's 1853 effort to survey possible rail routes from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, led by Lieutenant Robert S. Williamson; George H. Goddard's survey, while working for the California Surveyor General, of Carson Pass as a possible railroad route to the Golden State in 1855; the California Geological Survey, headed by Josiah D. Whitney and led in the field by William H. Brewer, a party that included such notables as Clarence King, James T. Gardiner and Richard D. Cotter (1864); and, of course, the Sierra Club's own John Muir, who independently began his own explorations of the Sierra beginning in 1868.

Chapter two, "Mapping," includes material on the early surveyors of the Sierra (with a good account of Clarence King's frustrating attempt to become the first to climb Mt. Whitney), along with descriptions of their mapping tools. Due, no doubt, to Moore's long involvement with the U.S. Geological Survey, there is an abundance of information on that group's efforts, including a history of the USGS' publication, in the late 1890s, of the first 30-minute topographic maps of the area ("...sold at five cent per sheet. Orders for one hundred sheets, or over, whether for the same or different sheets, will be sold at the rate of two cents per sheet."), and its subsequent development and publication of the 15-minute and 7.5-minute maps.

The balance of *Exploring* is devoted to matters geologic, with subsequent chapters entitled, "Time, Minerals, Rocks, and Plates," "Metamorphic Rocks," "Granitic Rocks," "Mineral Deposits," "Cenozoic Volcanic Rocks," "Glaciers and Glaciation," "Landslides," and "Geologic Structures." Because of the enormous amount of material contained in these latter chapters, I'll only mention a few of the highlights.

"Time, Minerals, Rocks, and Plates," for instance, presents a rudimentary introduction to the science of geology, including an explanation of the geologic time divisions (Paleozoic, Mesozoic, etc.), a description of the most common minerals to be found in rocks, and a brief explanation of plate tectonics. "Metamorphic Rocks," explains the phenomenon of Sierra "roof pendants," which are the remains of sedimentary beddings that, after "morphing" into materials such as slate, schist, quartzite and marble, were stranded on the top of newer, uplifted granitic material. "Because of their dark and variegated colors, the masses of metamorphic rock are generally easy to spot in the field. During metamorphism, much of the rock became dotted with pyrite, an iron sulfide mineral commonly called 'fool's gold.' The pyrite weathers readily to iron oxide, which stains the rocks a rusty brown, distinctly darker than the surrounding light-gray to nearly white granitic rock. Many of the place names emphasize such color contrasts. **Black Kaweah Peak** is underlain primarily by dark metamorphosed crystal-rich dacite. Black Divide and **Black Giant Peak**...are (also) made

up of dark-colored metamorphosed volcanic rocks.”

“Granitic Rocks” begins by explaining batholiths, which are essentially large masses of granitic rock. The Sierra Nevada Batholith, which is 400 miles long and more than 50 miles wide in places, began its formation about 150 million years ago, when the oceanic Farallon plate slid under the continental North American Plate. As the subduction continued, it is believed that water was baked out of the downgoing plate, which, along with other volatile constituents, then lowered the melting point of rock that they contacted and thus induced melting. The resulting magma was collected in chambers that eventually cooled and solidified into plutons, which collectively formed the huge granitic batholith.

The chapter concludes, “About 80 million years ago, the subducting slab shallowed considerably and magmatism swept far to the east, leaving the area of the present-day Sierra Nevada and bringing an end to the development of the eastward-growing batholith...Erosion initiated by later regional uplift stripped away the overlying rocks to expose the batholith.” *Voila*, SPS peaks!

“Mineral Deposits” explains why, because the Sequoia and Kings Canyon N.P. area is comprised primarily of granitic material, few metallic ore deposits occur therein. The two primary sites that do (or did) contain precious metals, the Kearsarge and Mineral King Districts, are comprised of metamorphic pendants not yet eroded away. Tungsten, too, is found in the Sierra, especially in “a distinctive garnet-bearing metamorphic rock called tectite.” In 1916, a major tungsten ore deposit was discovered near Pine Creek, a few miles north of Kings Canyon N.P., in the Bishop Creek Pendant.

The short chapter, “Cenozoic Volcanic Rocks,” describes the Sierra’s three volcanic phases, the first of which, 3.4 million years ago, produced the Stony Flat Lava Flow, 3 miles west of General Grant Grove; the second, 2.4 million years ago, fashioning the Templeton Mountain and Monache Mountain Rhyolite domes; and the third, a mere 700,000 years ago, creating the Big Pine Volcanic Field.

“Glaciers and Glaciation” describes, among many related subjects, the debate that raged between Josiah Whitney, who contended that the Yosemite Valley was created by faulting and subsidence, and good old John Muir, who was convinced that glaciation had shaped both the valley and much of the rest of the Sierra landscape.

Needless to say, Muir won the argument, discovering not only the first live Sierra glacier on Yosemite’s Black Mountain in 1871, but then going on to measure the flow rate of a small glacier on **Mt. McClure**: “(Muir) planted 5 stakes across the glacier in a straight line, as determined by ‘sighting across from bank to bank past a plumb line made of a stone and black horsehair.’ After a period of 46 days he found that the stake nearest the center, offset the farthest, had moved 47 inches, about one inch per day.”

In “Landslides,” Moore contends that large slides are not common in the Sierra Nevada, probably due to the nature of the bedrock: “the Sierra is largely underlain by hard, crystalline solid rock...” Despite their paucity, there have been a few noteworthy slides, including one that “slid off the steep west wall of Moro Rock and moved south nearly 2 miles, down to the gorge of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River.” Two lakes in the bottom of Kern Canyon are also the product of rockslides, the larger of the two, Kern Lake, probably having been formed in the spring of 1868.

“Geologic Structures” probes several perplexing questions, including the poser, “What holds up the Sierra Crest?” Moore muses on this subject at length, first suggesting that since the granitic crustal rocks are low in density (because they are high in silica content) they would naturally tend to “float.” He then declares that, “density difference within the crust, as well as differences in the thickness of the crust, cannot account for most of the height of the range.” Instead, it appears that “a north-trending rib of hot, low-density asthenospheric material (i.e., the plastic layer at the bottom of the Earth’s mantle) can account for both the uplift and the westward tilt of the mountain block.” “Geologic Structures” also considers the earthquake faults of the Sierra (with a good account of the March 26, 1872 Lone Pine earthquake—magnitude about 7.6), along with discourses on geologic joints, dikes, domes and exfoliation.

Following an Afterword, Moore devotes 35 pages to an excellent do-it-yourself geologic guide to five Sierra roads and trails, including State Highway 180, from Fresno to road’s end in Kings Canyon’s Cedar Grove, and the John Muir Trail, from Mt. Whitney north to Paiute Creek.

Last but not least, there is a dandy glossary of terms.

All in all, *Exploring the Highest Sierra* is a worthy read for any SPSer curious about the manner in which the peaks he or she climbed (or will climb) were formed.

CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

BARBEE TIDBALL

Carma - Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed CARMA project in the Inyo Mountains of the Inyo National Forest. is currently being reviewed and commented on through June 23, 2003. The Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy, or CARMA, is a project proposed by Caltech, the California Institute of Technology. The Draft EIS/EIR analyzes in detail the special use permit application for the CARMA project submitted by Caltech to the Forest Service. Alternatives analyzed include construction and operation of the project at the location proposed by the proponent, Juniper Flat, as well as a site at Cedar Flat in the Westgard Pass area, and a No Action Alternative. The Cedar Flat Alternative is identified as the Forest Service's preferred alternative.

The proposed project would combine six existing antennas from the Owens Valley Radio Observatory with nine existing antennas operated by the Berkeley-Illinois-Maryland Association, currently located at Hat Creek in Northern California. In addition, the University of Chicago would join the CARMA project with an array of eight new antennas.

If the Forest Service, the Federal Land Agency, approves the project, the Regents of the University of California (UC), the State Lead Agency, would also need to approve UC's further participation and funding of the project. To this end, the two agencies have prepared a joint Draft EIS and EIR in order to streamline the analysis process and to make it easier for interested members of the public to be involved in the public review process.

SPS members are encourage to think about not only the impact of the antennas on the Inyos but also on the views of the Inyos from the Sierra. More information on CARMA can be found through the California Native Plant Society. Please send your comments to Forest Supervisor Jeff Bailey, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514.

Sierra Nevada Alliance - Tenth Annual Conference August 16-17, 2003. This event will be held at the Ebbetts Pass Community Hall, Arnold, CA near Big trees State Park. For more information log on to www.sierranevadaalliance.org

Nature Conservancy makes Sequoia Foothills a long term protection project. The Sequoia Foothills project is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Sequoia Riverlands Trust. Its goals are protection and long term stewardship of the land. Beginning in 1982 when the Conservancy purchased the Kaweah Oak Preserve the lands protected include blue oak and interior live oak woodlands along Sierra river corridors.

Mammoth Airport Expansion Blocked The U.S. district court ruled that the \$30-million expansion of the Mammoth Lakes airport was to be halted. The judge found that the project's environmental impacts had not been adequately reviewed. The judge's order will delay the airport project for a year or more while a more complete environmental review is conducted. This ruling may impact the FAA funding for the proposed airport expansion.

Environmentalists have long argued that the airport expansion would lead to an increase in construction of homes and commercial development in the area. The site selected also has water, noise and other environmental concerns. The expansion could more than double the number of people visiting Mammoth.

Bill Manning, Mammoth Lakes airport manager was quoted in the *LA Times* saying "If we have to do further environmental studies, that's what we will do. It is simply a delay"

April/May/June VOL. 47 NO. 2

Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

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

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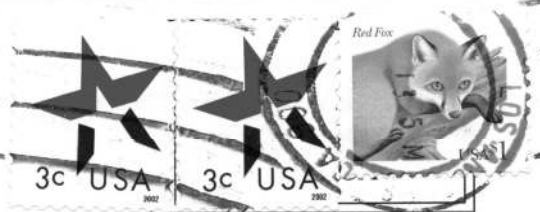
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SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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