

The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 3

JULY - AUGUST 2003

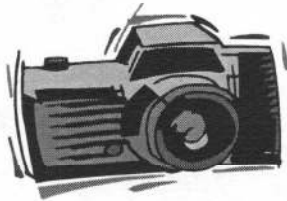


SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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.

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.



Front Cover

Late Afternoon - Taboose Pass

Photo Submitted by Paul A. Lipsohn

We Get Letters

I enjoyed the Echoes from the Past in the May-June issue (p.8). I want to point out that Norman Clyde was not interred at Hawthorne, NV. as reported in 30 years Ago 1973.... For legal reasons, that was what the press was told. Most papers reported that he was interred in Tonopah, NV. Actually, Clyde was cremated and given a "sky burial" by several of his friends. His ashes were spread from the summit of the Northeast Face of Norman Clyde Peak by Smoke Blanchard, his son Bob Blanchard, Jules Eichorn and Nort Brenner. This was illegal at the time, hence the deception of his "internment" in Nevada. All of this information is available in Smoke Blanchard's wonderful Sierra Club Press book Walking Up and Down in the World, Memories of a Mountain Rambler. Sadly, this book is now out of print. If you should happen across a copy in a used bookstore, pounce on it! It is a wonderful read and has a whole chapter on Norman Clyde. Those unfamiliar with Smoke Blanchard will meet another mountaineer as interesting as the great Clyde himself. Dennis Richards

SPS Membership News

Accomplishments

Congratulations to Gary Craig - SPS Emblem

Address Changes

Brian Smith - new e-mail brian@isasi.com

Michael Gosnell - new e-mail michaelgosnell@hotmail.com

Tim Keenan - tim.keenan@attbi.com

Phone Numbers

Henry A. Arnebold (909) 596-6232

Bill Oliver h(719) 548-9280

Dan Clark w(909) 571-6183 & e-mail danclrk@rcc.edu

Peak List

Finger Peak
Tunemah Peak,
Mount Reinstein

EASTER ISLAND (RAPA NUI)

Columbine,
Isosceles,
Langille
Rimbaud,
Woodworth
The Citadel
Aperture
Goode
Mt. Muir

Summer/Fall Trips 2003



AUGUST

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 - Trip rescheduled SEE Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

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.

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER *continued*

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.

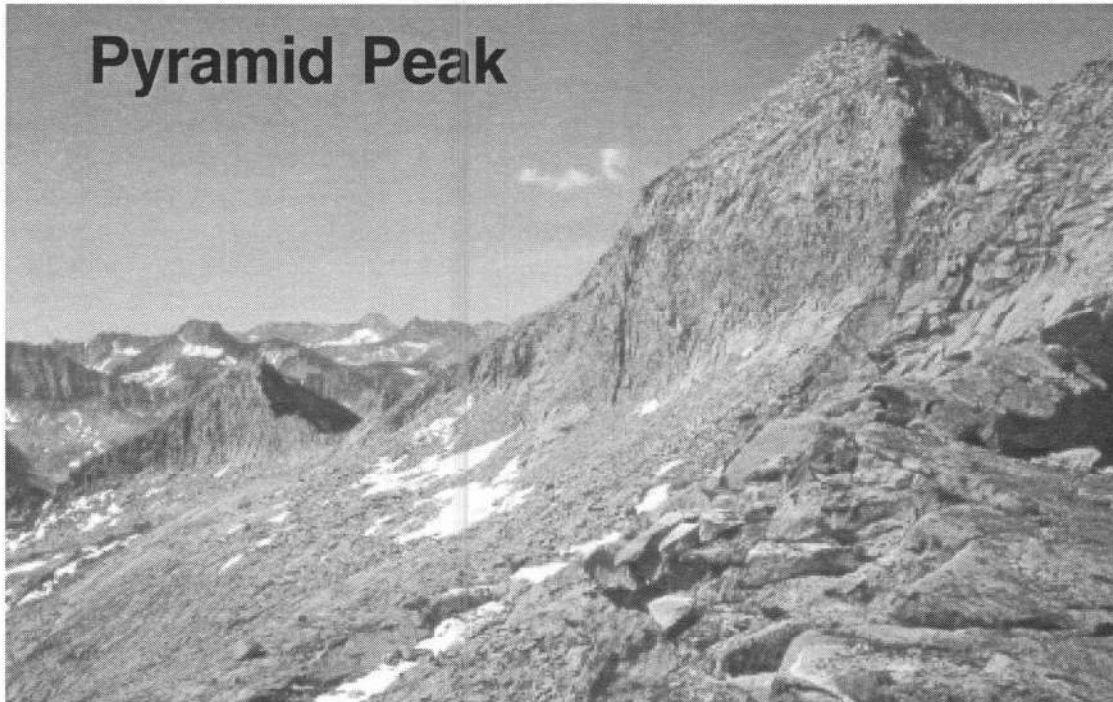
I: Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Mt Bolton-Brown (13538'), Mt Prater (13329') Send 2 sase or email. Ldr: Dave Endres. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

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 Four Gables (12,720') SPS & HPS Intro trip, moderately paced. Saturday backpack to Upper Horton Lake, 5 mi, 2900' gain, then happy hour. Sunday climb Four Gables by S ridge, 6 mi, 2600' gain rt. and pack out. Send email/SASE with carpool info, recent conditioning and experience to Provisional Ldr: Gary Schenk. Asst: Erik Siering.



Pyramid Peak

SEPTEMBER *continued*

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.

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.

I: Oct 11 Sat LTC, Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic. 4 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 check off. Many experienced leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Requires a \$25.00 deposit, refundable at trailhead. Send SAE, deposit (SierraClub) to Reserv/Ldr. Diane Dunbar. Asst. Richard Boardman

I: Oct 31 - Nov 2 Fri-Sun Colosseum Mtn (12,451), Mt Perkins (12,566). Moderate pace. Day one: backpack 5 mi, 3,300' gain to Sawmill Meadows. Day two: backpack to Woods Lake 5 mi 2,900' gain, climb Colosseum, another 1,000' gain. Day three: 1,200' gain to Perkins, 10 mi rt back to camp and pack out another 9 1/2 miles, 6,000' descent. E-mail (preferably) with exper./cond, or send two SASE to Ldr: Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta

NOVEMBER

I: Nov 15-16 Sat-Sun LTC, WTC Indian Cove Navigation. Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level nav.requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

NOVEMBER *continued*

E/M: Nov 15-16 Sat-Sun LTC, WTC Indian Cove Rock Workshop/Checkoff. This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Check offs for M and E rock will take place on Sat. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have a suitable rock climbing experience. Car camp will be at Indian Cove Campground in Joshua Tree National Park. Send sase and/or email, recent climbing resume and rideshare info to Ldr: Virgil Shields. Asst: Ron Hudson

DECEMBER

I: Dec 6 Sat LTC, Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic: 4 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 check off. Many expert leaders will attend; many I rated leaders started here in the past. Requires a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send sase, deposit (Sierra Club), H&W phones to Reserv/Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Asst: Richard Boardman

I: Dec 7 Sun LTC, WTC Warren Pt Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy either Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

JANUARY

I: Jan 4 Sun LTC, WTC, Warren Pt Navigation. Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy either Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

M/E: Jan 31 Sat LTC, SPS, DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice: We will review all aspects of snow climbing, rope travel on snow, use of the ice axe, and snow anchors. For aspiring M & E candidates, and for others who want to practice or brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume, 1 sase and email address, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-ldr: Doug Mantle

FEBRUARY

M/E Feb 7 Sat LTC, SPS, DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice. We will review all aspects of snow climbing, rope travel on snow, use of the ice axe, and snow anchors. For M & E candidates, and for others who want to practice or brush up on aspiring new techniques. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume, 1 sase and email address, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-ldr: Tina Bowman.

SPS Trip Leader Information:

Watch your e-mail for notices and information on leading trips for the SPS. You have been sent or soon will be sent a pdf file that contains forms/information you should have access to when leading trips.

These same forms are also available at the LTC website (or by following provided links on the website).

Contents of pdf file:

1. Copy of this information
2. Waiver form (individual)
3. Sign In Form (with waiver) (2 pages)
4. Emergency Response form (carry two blank copies during outing)
5. Incident Reporting form & instructions
6. Minor Release forms
7. Information from the national outings website
8. Information from the Angeles Chapter Safety Committee Annual Report
Angeles Chapter Safety Policy
9. Information from SPS Management Committee Procedures
Parts 1 & 2 form the SPS Safety Policy

Before your trip: Become familiar with the Angeles Chapter and SPS Safety Policies.

During the trip: Enjoy the Sierra!

After returning home: **Mail the Sign In sheet** to the SPS Outings Chair (Beth Epstein) along with a **report on the peak register(s)**. Also, send a trip report to the Echo editor.

NOTE: If a trip is co-sponsored by another group, mail original sign in sheet to the Outings Chair of the primary sponsor AND send a legible copy to the Outings Chair of the Secondary Sponsor. (The primary sponsor is the group listed first in the Angeles Chapter Schedule writeup.)

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

The SPS has been meeting at the Chapter HQ building for the last couple of months, a couple of miles west of the former DWP site. In the past, I have driven up the Harbor Fwy, then west on the I10 to Normandie or Western. In May, I left the Harbor Fwy where it slowed down, drove west past USC, then north on Vermont, and arrived in less than an hour. If you think the drive is too long, consider the train. At the June meeting, four of 21 attendees arrived by train (Metro rail). From Long Beach, it is about a 45 minute ride (on the Blue/Red Line). (The Normandie Red Line Station is a block from the building.) Remember that the SPS has meetings the second Wednesday of May thru November, with the Banquet in January and the joint meeting with the DPS/HPS/SMS in February.

The Management Committee (M/C) is looking for another location that would be more convenient to more members. If you have any suggestions, let us know. One suggestion that has been mentioned: Alternate meeting locations between east and west. Some are concerned that this would be confusing. However, with the traffic as it is, this might be the best way to get more member to at least some of the meetings. I expect to put this on the agenda for the September and October meetings and invite all members to let the M/C know what you think on this issue. I especially invite all nominees for next year's M/C to attend and help make this decision on where they will meet.

Patty Kline is again heading up the Nominations Committee. I have asked current M/C members to let Patty know by the August meeting whether they are interested in being on the ballot. Additional candidates will be solicited during August. Members wishing to submit names for consideration by the Nominating Committee should do so by the end of August. Nomination of candidates by petition is also possible. Ballots will be counted and results announced at the November meeting. The primary requirements for candidates: (1) active membership in the SPS and (2) willingness to attend the meetings and help make decisions to manage the SPS.

The annual SPS Banquet will again be held on the second Wednesday of January. Castaways is the top choice among those who have expressed an opinion on location. For a speaker, Patty Kline is in contact with a well known climber. If this is firmed up before the Echo is printed, you may see more about this elsewhere in this issue.

The M/C is reviewing the SPS Bylaws as well as the M/C Procedures. Both documents are a bit outdated and in need of changes. A change to the Bylaws will likely be on the ballot this fall. If you have any comments on needed changes, contact a member of the M/C. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of these documents, let me know (jbwankum@aol.com) whether you would prefer a Word file or a .pdf file. [One change that is planned: To document that the annual changeover of officers takes place at the annual Installation Banquet.]

The SPS Trail Maintenance Committee, formerly chaired by RJ Secor, has been inactive for a number of years. (See the July 1993 Echo for a copy of a Certificate of Appreciation awarded the SPS for maintenance of the Shepherd Pass Trail.) Recently, Gary Schenk volunteered to re-start this activity. Gary is requesting a small grant from the Danny Warner Foundation to help get things started. Expect to hear more from Gary on this in the near future. Your support of this activity will be appreciated.

The deadline for the Spring (February thru June) 2004 Schedule will be coming up in November. Now is the time to plan for those early season snow climbs - and rock/snow practice sessions - as well as easier late spring peak climbs. The southern Sierra offers a number of opportunities for climbs during May and June. Our local mountains offer possibilities of snow climbs of Baldy, San Jacinto, San Geronio. And it has been too long since anyone has scheduled a climb in northern California or the Pacific Northwest.

By the time you read this, many of our summer climbs will be over. Enjoy the remainder of the summer - and help keep this a safe and accident free year. And leaders: Remember to return the sign-in sheets to the Outings Chair (Beth Epstein), those peak register reports to Records (Tina Bowman). And send trip reports to the Echo Editors (Barbara Sholle and Barbee Tidball).

Joe Wankum

Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2003

SPS Management Committee Meeting

Location: Sierra Club/Angles Chapter Office

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

Minutes Taken by: Gary Schenk

Joe opened the meeting at 7: 30 PM

Treasurers Report 3/31/03

Income:

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

Expenditures:

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

Balance on 1/1/03 \$7,779.58

Income \$2,682.00

TOTAL \$10,461.58

Expenditures \$431.04

Balance as of 3/31/03 \$10,030.54

Notes:

1. The Memorial Fund is \$4,775.00 of the above amount
2. There are 267 names on the roster. Approx. 160 active, 50 inactive, 42 Echo subscribers only, and 15 gratis subscriptions.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the meeting of January 29 were approved.

New business

Joe discussed liaison with WTC, with the idea of improving communication and recruiting of new members.

Joe discussed various deadlines for the chapter schedule and the Sierra Echo.

Updating the section bylaws was discussed. Any changes will be placed on this year's ballot.

The section will continue to search for a meeting place convenient to the membership.

June 10, 2003

SPS Management Committee Meeting

Location: Conference Room, Lower Plaza, Angeles

Chapter Hq Bldg

Attended by: Joe Wankum, Gary Schenk, Henry Arnebold, Patty Rambert, Patty Kline, Duane McRuer, Will McWhinney.

Minutes Taken by: Gary Schenk

Joe opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report: The section has \$10,526.19 in checking, \$553.55 in savings. The checking total includes money earmarked for the memorial fund. 282 members are on the roster, including subscribers and gratis; 49 not yet renewed; 13 marked as due later this year.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the meeting of May 14 were approved with minor changes.

Chairman's report: The SPS Echo subscription runs from January thru December, with renewals due by March 31. The membership list currently lists a number of subscriptions as expiring at other times throughout the year. The M/C will work to get the membership rolls back into order by the end of this year.

Work is continuing on updating the by-laws. Proposed changes should be on this year's ballot.

Trail Maintenance: Gary Schenk indicated that he has spoken to RJ Secor, former Chair of the Trail Maintenance Committee. Gary is requesting a grant from the Danny Warner Memorial Fund to re-start this activity and would like membership input on possible projects.

Banquet report: A banquet chair is still needed. The banquet will be held the second Wednesday of January, 2004. A northerly location is desired. Patty Kline will look into the availability of Castaways. Patty has been in contact with a well known rock climber as a potential speaker at the banquet, and mentioned a range for a speaker fee. The M/C gave Patty the ok to sign up the speaker. Although Patty agreed to pursue these tasks, she indicated that she does not want to be banquet chair. Patty Kline indicated that 69 had attended last year's banquet.

Meeting location: Patty Kline mentioned that Lawry's Center (near 110 & 5 Fwys) is a possible meeting site for the future. It is available for \$8/hr.

Posting Bylaws on the SPS web site: The M/C agreed to complete update of the bylaws first rather than post the current documents.

Report continued on page 23

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Prepared by Joe Wankum (July - Aug 2003)

45 years ago (1958) - New emblems (#20 - #30) this year included Walter Collins, Paul Estes, Jon Shinno, Tom Amneus, Jerry Keating, Don Hamilton, Charlotte Parsons, Burl Parkinson, Charles Gerckens, Bill Heuser, and Mary Eide (Miller). The 4th edition of the peaks list, including 227 peaks, re-added Mammoth and Dunderberg that had been deleted a year earlier. (Mammoth was eventually deleted in 1972.) This was the first edition to arrange the list by region and include a climbing difficulty classification.



35 years ago (1968) - Starting from Cottonwood Creek trailhead on a private climb, Art de Goode and Bill Wickmer packed over Trail Pass to near Ramshaw Meadow, then climbed Kern Peak (20 miles, 4300' for the day). The next day, they detoured to climb Muah before returning to their cars, another 17 miles, 3600' gain. During 1968, 32 members completed requirements for an emblem, including Frank Meyers, Hal Broyder, Horace Ory, Jim Jenkins, Frank Riseley, John Thornton, Tim Treacy, Les Stockton, Richard and Barbara Akawie, and Elton/Pat/Larry/Mary Fletcher. The 9th edition of the peaks list included 242 peaks, adding Whorl and Harrington. Split and Clarence King replaced Sill as Emblem Peaks. Topo maps (15') were listed for each peak.

25 years ago (1978) - Roy and Barbara Magnuson completed the List on Round Top (#10 & #11). New Senior Emblems included Jonie Riseley, Jack Gram, Joe Vasilik, Bill T. Russell, Greg Vernon, Dick Jali, Michael Lorr. During 1978, 16 people gained an emblem, including Don Sparks, Jay Titus, Richard Russell, Jane McMahan, Dan Warner, and Mary Sue Miller. George Neuner reported that while descending Williamson during heavy winds, "Three times I attempted to throw down the rappel rope only to have it blown up over our heads. It was necessary for me as the first rappeller to pull the ropes down with me as I descended..." The next day, they found their cars had been broken into and stripped and everything of value stolen. On a different trip, Doug and Cuno packed in, then climbed Hooper and returned to camp. After a brief rest, they made it to the top of Senger at 8:30 pm, then returned to camp in the dark. That left time the second day for Seven Gables and Gemini before the hike out in time for the last boat across Florence lake.

Sep 78 - Greg Vernon scheduled a weekend trip to Newcomb and Chamberlin, then found that the published writeup also mentioned Corcoran. So...an early start got the group into camp by 2 pm, to Corcoran by 6 pm, and back to camp by 8 pm. The next morning, two BMTC students decided they had fulfilled their requirements, and left for home. The remainder of the group then climbed the other two peaks, packed out in the dark, and returned to LA in time for breakfast. A week later, after another successful climb of Corcoran (from the Tuttle Creek roadhead), Gerry Holleman treated the group to an outstanding demonstration of an uncontrolled glissade.

15 years ago (1988) - Don Palmer completed the List (#30). New Senior Emblems included Ret Moore #87, Pete Yamagata, Tina Stough, and Ruth Armentrout, Jack Miller, Wilson Harvey, Larry Tidball #93. New Emblems (8) included Graham Breakwell, Dave Underwood, Patty Kline, Nathan Wong, Dave Petzold, Ross Yates, Reiner Stenzel, Scott Sullivan. Igor Mamedalin replaced Pat Holleman as Echo Editor. Joining Igor was Jeff Solomon as Associate Editor. New members in 1988 included Ron Grau, Bob Henderson, Rayne Motheral, Reiner Stenzel, Rick Beatty. The Jan 88 Echo included an excellent mountain records report by Rob Roy McDonald which indicated that 1987 had set a record for the most (86) trips scheduled. (78 were actually led.) The September Echo indicated that the SPS had 282 members, of whom 23% were women. During the year, one well known member of the section obtained a helicopter ride out after a rock fall on the Hermit. Later in the year, the Sierra Club lost its mountaineering insurance for the second time. (It was renewed in 1993.) Highlight of the year: Establishment of a Trail Maintenance Committee with RJ Secor as Chair leading four trail maintenance trips during the year. (Comments to: jbwankum@aol.com)

Personal Locator Beacons Licensed For Use in United States

By Mike McDermitt

Effective July 1, 2003, a type of device known as a "Personal Locator Beacon" (PLB) is legal for use in the United States. The PLB is a personal, land-based analogue of the "EPIRB" in use on marine vessels and the "ELT" used on aircraft. It is used to alert Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities in emergency situations and because it is a satellite-based system it can be used in remote areas where, for instance, cell phone service is not available. PLBs have been approved for use in Alaska since 1995 under a demonstration program, and have apparently been responsible for the rescue of over 250 persons. The tag line for the PLB system is that it "takes the search out of search and rescue". This not only benefits the party in distress, but also SAR personnel will have a reduced burden and probably a safer one.

There are several manufacturers which will be offering the device for sale in the United States at an expected cost in the \$300 to \$500 range. Most models will weigh approximately one pound and be about the size of a large 35MM camera although some may be smaller/ lighter. Companies which manufacture and sell PLBs include Microwave Monolithics, Simi Valley, CA (www.micro-mono.com), ACR Electronics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (www.acrelectronics.com) and Northern Airborne Technology, Pembroke, MA (www.nat-inc.com). A noncommercial website specializing in preparedness, www.equipped.com, has a good article on PLBs. It is expected that PLBs will be available for rental use, as has been the case in Alaska. Hopefully that will include places like REI, Sport Chalet, Marmot, etc.

PLBs are designed to require two actions to activate the signal to avoid false alerts. There is a substantial penalty for intentional false alerts but there is nothing actually prohibiting the use of a PLB in non-backcountry emergencies, e.g. a flat tire. However since SAR personnel will be responding to all alerts, the NOAA encourages users to be aware of the responsibility that comes with owning a PLB. In practice, cost alone will probably limit wide ownership of PLBs and therefore also limit improper usage.

Detailed technical requirements (e.g. five year service life) and lack of wide demand to produce scale economies may help keep the PLB cost from becoming competitive with cell phones any time soon.

The COSPAS/SARSAT Satellite System

When activated, a PLB sends out a signal (406.025MHz) which is picked up by satellites in the COSPAS/SARSAT system. COSPAS is an acronym for a Russian phrase meaning "space system for search and distress vessels." SARSAT is an acronym for "search and rescue satellite aided tracking." The COSPAS/SARSAT Satellite System includes two satellite systems, GEOSAR and LEOSAR.

The GEOSAR system consists of satellites in high geostationary orbit, as a result of which these satellites provide coverage of extremely large areas of the Earth. Since the GEOSAR satellites provide constant coverage, the PLB signal will usually be picked up by the satellite immediately. The GEOSAR satellite then transmits the signal to a ground station (described further below). An important optional feature of PLBs is the incorporation of GPS data. A PLB with this feature will be able to provide the GEOSAR satellite with GPS location data in its signal. Otherwise the only information transmitted is that an emergency has occurred and the unique code identifying the owner (which still gives important clues as to the location of the emergency if the owner has left an itinerary).

The LEOSAR system consists of four satellites in low-earth orbits circling the earth around the poles. As the Earth rotates the satellites are constantly covering a moving "footprint". Together the four satellites provide complete Earth coverage within about an hour at mid-latitudes. The LEOSAR satellites are moving with respect to the Earth and they use a Doppler system to provide specific location information regarding the PLB signal. When a PLB is activated, within an hour its signal should be picked up by the LEOSAR satellite, which can then provide an estimate, no worse than 1-3 miles and usually better, of the PLB user's location. This information is then immediately transmitted to a ground station or, if no ground station is then within reach of the LEOSAR satellite, the data is stored for automatic transmission when a station comes into reach. Note that the GEOSAR system is potentially subject to obstructions blocking a signal in which case the LEOSAR system with moving satellites should pick up the signal.

Continued on Page 15

Finger Peak (12,404'), Tunemah Peak (11,894'), Mount Reinstein (12,586')

By Mike McDermitt

Six strong climbers (Randall Danta, John and Chris Kerr, Wolfgang Schweigkofler, assistant leader Doug Mantle, leader the scribe) gathered early Thursday morning at the Rancheria trailhead (7600') located beyond Wishon Reservoir in Sierra National Forest for a four-day trip to climb some of the more remote peaks in the Sierra.

Our inbound route was based on that taken on a similar trip in 1995 led by Allan Conrad and Scott Sullivan (whose report is posted in the SPS archives), which in turn had been related to Allan by Gene Mauk. As compared to the alternatives it involves more cross-country navigation but is more direct and has less exposure to potentially troublesome stream crossings, plus some nice views along the way. Whereas the 1995 trip participants elected to return via a completely different route (which ultimately proved more difficult) we returned via very similar but slightly different route. This inbound and outbound route combination worked well and can be recommended for those wanting to reach and return from Crown Basin in one reasonable (i.e., less than 20 mile) day each way.

From the trailhead, we followed Rancheria trail east to the junction with offshoots leading to Duck Lake and Crown Valley, then continued on the Rancheria trail north to the saddle at 9040+ just past Round Corral Meadow. From here we turned east-northeast cross country to the meadow at Indian Springs where we picked up the Chuck Pass Trail. Randall and Doug had shared several bottles of wine the night before and at least one of them was feeling the aftereffects. Thus as we headed up the trail the question was whether there might be an upchuck going up Chuck, but the pass was attained at noon without incident, whereupon the group stopped for lunch. Afterwards, rather than continue on trail, we headed cross-country eastward on a level then contoured northeast slightly downward, ultimately intersecting the Crown Pass Trail at approximately the 9400' level. After a brief jaunt up the trail we again headed cross-country, first northeast upslope to

approximately the 9700' – 9800' level then contouring southeast, crossing the saddle north of Point 9818'. Upon reaching easy slopes SSSE of the prominent peaklet at 10,600'+ immediately south of Peak 10,776' we ascended north to the ~10,200' level, contoured east beneath the peaklet to the next gully then ascended the gully to reach saddle 10,560+ east of Peak 10,776'/ west of bump 10,720'+. Mosquitos were plentiful as we stopped for a break enjoying dramatic views to the north and south. Continuing, we headed northeast along the ridge passing to the north bump 10,720'+, descended east to cross the flats where the 7.5' topo shows an intermittent stream, traveled northeast gaining slightly to cross a deep slot at its head, then descended east to camp among the group of small lakes just below 9960' in lower Crown Basin. An 11-hour day of approximately 15 miles and +3600' gain was completed at about 6.30pm. Virtually all of the cross country on the route was open forest with good footing and little sidehilling; talus was encountered only on two very short sections.

Friday the group split, with Chris and John heading to Mount Reinstein while Doug led the rest of us to Finger Peak. The route to Finger involved a straightforward ascent east to Mantle Pass above Hummingbird Lake, then up broken scree and talus to the Class 3 Southwest Couloir. Randall and Mike dodged a very large rock which came dislodged as we climbed in the couloir but Randall took a glancing blow from a smaller piece and sustained a small cut above his right eye, as well as broken sunglasses. Happily the cut was superficial and we were soon moving again. Having departed camp at 7am, the short steep ascent (3 – 3 ½ miles, +2600') of Finger Peak was completed in less than four hours. On the climb we estimated the 'mosquito' line (analogous to the snow line in reverse) to be ~11,500'. Therefore we determined to delay our departure from the summit as long as possible, spending perhaps 90 minutes sleeping or identifying the many peaks visible. Eventually we descended, reaching camp at 4pm, after which several of us took a highly refreshing dip in one of the pools next to our

campsite.

John and Chris returned from a successful climb of Reinstein at about 7.30pm after a roughly 12-hour day involving some 11-12 miles and ~3000' gain. Dinner was taken while dodging mosquitos; by their appetite it seemed the mosquitos had climbed even higher, more distant peaks than had any of us.

Saturday the entire group led by Mike was on its way to Tunemah by 6.20am. We hiked up to Mantle Pass and after a short pause descended, passing along the south shore of Lake 10,840+, crossing the outlet stream, then descending southeast. During the descent we met George Tucker on his way up Blue Canyon with full pack. He had hoped to meet us in our camp the night before but had encountered a delay. Soon we continued on, dropping southeast to cross Blue Canyon Creek just west of Lake 10,360+, crossing the outlet stream of the second Lake 10,360+, and then proceeding through up-and-down terrain to a rib or buttress which we climbed to reach Dykeman Pass from the south. From Dykeman Pass we descended east to approximately the 10,500' level then contoured, crossing Alpine Creek and then reaching the base of Tunemah Peak. It was about 11am and as we contemplated the 1500' slog up Tunemah Randall noted 'at times like this amino acid enriched protein bars, gore-tex boots and carbon fiber bear canisters don't help'. Suitably galvanized we began the ascent, which starts with a traverse across steep slopes composed of sharp, very loose scree. Once across this portion it is a long climb up sandy rocky slopes with intermittent to occasionally dense lodgepoles, but the footing is not bad. The peak was first gained at 12.30 by Randall and Wolfgang, with the rest of the group arriving shortly thereafter. In addition to the sight of numerous peaks, the summit offers daunting views into Goddard Creek Canyon. The stay was all too short, as we were descending by 1.30pm. We retraced our outward route without incident and returned in one group at 6.50pm for a 12 ½ hour day of 13 – 14 miles and 4300+ gain.

Sunday everyone was ready for a return to civilization. We were packed and hiking by 6.30am. Our return route differed slightly, but importantly, from the inbound route: after ascending to the saddle west of bump 10,720+, we stayed on the ridge over the first bump west, contoured at 10,640+ to pass south of Peak 10,776', then continued west along south side of the ridge at the 10,600' – 10,700' level

to a point southwest of bump 10,880+ south of Maxson Lake and just west of Peak 10,979' (aka 10,960+ on the 7.5' topo). Although not difficult, much of the last half-mile of this portion consisted of large talus. Fine views were enjoyed the entire way, and there was a surprise when a two pair of recent footprints were noted at the saddle west of Peak 10,776'. After a rest we descended south-southwest down a steep slope, pleasantly surprised that despite much talus and scree we were able to avoid same and pick our way down on easy sandy slopes to the 9800' level where we entered forest and angled slightly more to the west, finally reaching the Crown Pass Trail at about the 9200' level. We followed that trail south to the Chuck Pass Trail then followed the latter west over Chuck Pass and down to Indian Springs. From there we left the trail retracing our cross-country path west southwest to the reach the Rancheria Trail just south of the saddle north of Round Corral Meadow at about the 9000' level. Then it was down Rancheria Trail, hell bent for leather if not the trailhead, which was reached by all within a few minutes of 4.00pm, completing a 9 ½ hour day of roughly 15 miles and +1400'.

The weather was warm, clear and calm throughout the four days and the near-constant mosquitos were perhaps the only opportunity for complaint. Successfully gaining these remote peaks made it feel almost like Christmas in July.

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IN HIGH PLACES

EASTER ISLAND

(RAPA NUI)

By Burton "Remote and Unusual" Falk

The Internet is a wonderful tool for those of us who attempt to arrange climbs in remote and unusual places around the world.

Take Easter Island, for instance, that lonely speck of land, 2,294 miles off the west coast of South America and 2,517 miles east of Tahiti, claimed to be the most isolated populated island on earth. (Indeed, Pitcairn Island, 1100 miles to the west, is its closet inhabited neighbor).

Three months before my wife, Jo, and I were scheduled to arrive at the island on the cruise ship *m/s Amsterdam*, I e-mailed an island tour company (rapanuitours.com) in regards to hiring a car and a guide, in order to make an attempt on **Maunga Terevaka**, the island's 1,663' high point.

Shortly thereafter, I received the following reply: "There is no problem, whichever tourists go to do tour and if they wish guide in ingles, German, frances or Spanish in order to offer a package to him. Thank you Francisco Vigouroux."

Well, in our ongoing correspondence—and in spite of even more curious syntax—Sr. Vigouroux and I eventually struck a deal (car, driver and guide—\$150/day cash; credit card, \$10 extra), leaving me only to hope against hope that my guide's "ingles" would be more understandable than the good señor's.

Imagine my surprise then, when stepping off the first tender of the morning (Easter Island's only harbor at Hanga Roa is much too small to dock a large cruise ship), to find that my guide-to-be was a 22-year old native of Rapa Nui, Sabrina, who spoke English perfectly, and that my driver-to-be was Claudia, also in her twenties, the Chilean wife of the director of the local anthropological museum. Although Claudia claimed that her English could stand a lot of improvement, it soon became apparent that she could keep up with Sabrina's comments, and that, in fact, she often contributed useful remarks on her own.

But before we begin our grueling climb—mix yourself a mai tai, grab a platter of pupus—let's review a few salient facts about Easter Island.

1. The island holds claim to several appellations. Because the Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen "discovered" it on Easter Sunday, 1722, its most common name is Easter Island in English, *Isla de Pascua* in Spanish, *Osterinsel* in German, etc. The Polynesians, who truly first discovered the island and settled there circa 400-800 A.D., called it *Te Pito o Te Henua*, i.e., "The Navel of the World." Today, most Polynesians refer to the island as *Rapa Nui*.

2. Rapa Nui is the eastern-most outpost of Polynesia, that gigantic cultural triangle set in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, with corners at New Zealand in the south, Hawaii in the north and Rapa Nui at the east. The island, too, is triangular, 15 miles long, 7.5 miles wide, and 45 sq. miles in area, and was created by the convergence of lava flowing from three volcanoes, with **Maunga Terevaka**, the largest and loftiest of the ancient vents, positioned at the northwestern corner.

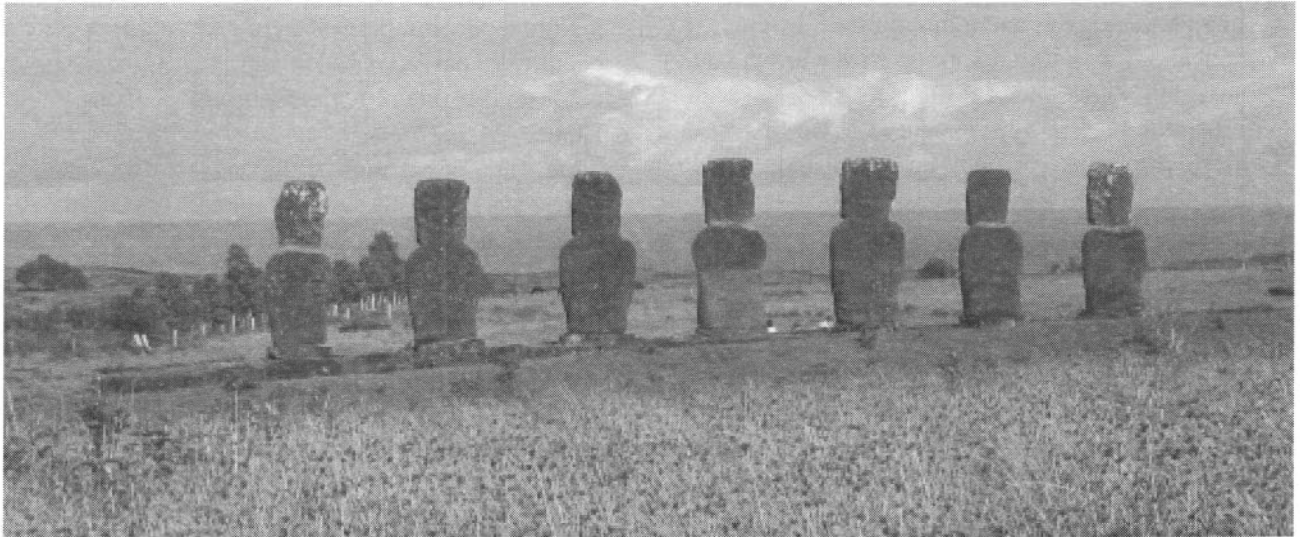
3. Winds and the cool Humbolt Current strongly influence Rapa Nui's subtropical climate. The hottest months are January and February; the coolest, July and August. The average maximum temperature is 71 F.

4. At its peak, the island's population may have numbered as many as 20,000. By the time Admiral Roggeveen arrived in 1722, however, that figure had dropped to about 4,000. Fifty-two years later, in 1774, when Captain James Cook called, he found only a few hundred inhabitants, and they were so impoverished that they could barely afford to part with just a few sweet potatoes.

No one knows for sure why the population dropped so precipitously, but the most recent speculation is that the islanders became involved in a series of bloody civil wars during the intervening period.

In 1862, Rapa Nui's population was further diminished, when blackbirders kidnapped as many as 1,400 islanders, forcing them into slave labor in the cane fields and the guano islands of Peru. Three or four years later, French Catholic missionaries began to proselytize the Rapanui (the people of Rapa Nui), encouraging them to move to their mission in Mangareva in the Gambier Islands, even while French plantation owners offered the islanders jobs as laborers on their Tahitian holdings. By 1879, following a siege of leprosy, the population had sunk to a mere 110.

Today, the island, which is part of the Fifth Region



of Chile, has a population of approximately 3,000, three-quarters of whom are either Rapanui or Rapanui-related.

5. Once covered with lush forests of palms and conifers, Rapa Nui was gradually but completely deforested. Today, the island's landscape is characterized by rolling grassy hills and scattered groves of exotic trees, mainly eucalyptus.
6. Most anthropologists agree that the Rapanui are of Polynesian descent, and that their ancestors probably emigrated from the Marquesas Islands 1,200 to 1,600 years ago. There is some evidence, however—specifically the presence of sweet potatoes on the island—that there was some early contact between Rapa Nui and South America. This presumed intercourse, as you may recall, was the theory proposed by the late Thor Heyerdahl—the Norwegian explorer who sailed the balsa log raft, *Kon Tiki*, from Peru to Polynesia to prove his point.
7. Another enigma presented by Easter Island involves the *moai*, those gigantic statues sculpted out of hard volcanic tuff. Exactly why they were built (and there are hundreds of them), how they were moved from the quarry to various parts of the island, and the manner in which they were subsequently erected can only be guessed at.

But even though Easter Island's archeological relics are truly mysterious and wonderful, Jo and I had visited them two years earlier, and I was returning specifically to bag its highpoint.

The problem was, however, that my only clue to

climbing **Maunga Terevaka** consisted of a map in a guidebook showing an approximate 2-1/2 mile trail extending from one of the island's few main roads, northwesterly, toward the summit.

So, my second surprise of the morning came when, rather than driving out of Hanga Roa northeast on the road toward the anticipated trailhead, Claudia headed our 4-door pick up truck north, toward the cluster of moai—the only group on the island facing the sea—Ahu Akivi. Leaving the pavement behind there, we began weaving our way up a series of dirt roads, gradually ascending the southern slopes of **Maunga Terevaka**. When I inquired as to where we were going, Sabrina and Claudia confessed that they had reconnoitered the route the day before, and that they had found that it was possible to drive to within a few feet of the summit.

I, of course, was delighted at the prospect of bagging such an easy highpoint—but also a bit chagrined at being so uninformed. Still, since I was no longer responsible for route finding, I sat back and began to enjoy the grand views—lush green pastures; the deep blue ocean, stretching off in all directions; brilliant white waves crashing against rocky cliffs; localized rain squalls scudding over the landscape. It occurred to me that this was all very reminiscent of yet another island, also emerald. Yep, you guessed it—Ireland.

Perhaps three miles into the drive, we came to a steep section of road, which an earlier shower had rendered too slippery for our two-wheel drive vehicle to negotiate. We stopped, got out, and climbed some 300 yards to the top of a grassy hill—Rapa Nui's unmarked summit. And it was only 10 a.m.

While taking appropriate summit photos, another

squall passed over, and although we all were drenched, I was still able to take pleasure in one of those delicious highpoint highs.

Heading back toward Hanga Roa, we first visited the “reversed” *moai* site, Ahu Akivi, and then we explored Ana Te Pahu, a series of underground tubes in which lava once flowed. These caves were formerly employed as dwellings, and the intervening sunken pits, protected from the wind, were (and still are) used as gardens.

We arrived back at the harbor at Hanga Roa precisely at noon, just as Jo was stepping off an incoming tender. Perfect timing.

After delicately explaining Sabrina and Claudia’s presence, Jo and I decided that getting to know the two islanders would be even more interesting than sightseeing, so we invited them to join us at lunch at a new restaurant in town, the Hanga Roa Grill, where, seated on the terrace, we enjoyed an excellent meal—*cerveche* for Sabrina and Claudia, mouth-watering grilled fresh mahi-mahi for Jo and me, topped off with a bottle of a really nice Chilean chardonnay.

During lunch, Sabrina explained that she had become proficient in English while spending a portion of her high school years in the States. In fact, when the teen-ager arrived to stay with relatives in Muskegon, Michigan in mid-January, she was faced not only with learning a totally unfamiliar language, but also coping with a vastly harsher climate. Although related to virtually every Rapanui on the island, Sabrina hoped to continue her education in New Zealand, and then live abroad for at least a few years.

Claudia, on the other hand, was perfectly content in Rapa Nui. She met her husband-to be, also a Chilean, while visiting the island on a diving tour a few years ago. Since then, by dint of her warm personality, she had become accepted in the island’s somewhat parochial society, and had no aspirations of returning to her hometown of La Serena, Chile.

And I, luxuriating in a postprandial glow, reflected upon my exceptional circumstances. There I was on the lanai of a fine restaurant in the middle of the South Pacific, in the company of three attractive, interesting women. I had bagged a rarely climbed highpoint and I had a half a glass of wine left to savor. Could life be any sweeter?

About 2:30 p.m., reluctantly dragging ourselves away from the table, we headed for Playa Anakena, one of the island’s two beaches, where Hotu Matu’a, Rapa Nui’s first ruler is said to have lived. Located

next to a coconut palm shaded park and five beautifully carved *moai*, the strand of gleaming white coral sand is one of the most beautiful spots on the island.

Our final destination of the day was the Padre Sebastian Englert Anthropological Museum in Hanga Roa, through which Claudia’s husband gave us a personally guided tour. At 5:30 p.m., Jo and I boarded the last tender back to the ship, and, a half an hour later the *m/s* Amsterdam was westward-bound for Pitcairn Island a two day voyage.

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Whereas my plans to climb Easter Island’s highpoint worked out better than I anticipated, my scheme to bag Pitcairn Island’s highest, 1,099’ Pawala Valley Ridge, failed miserably.

Months prior to our trip, I e-mailed both Holland American Lines, operator of the *m/s* Amsterdam, and Leon Salt, the Commissioner of Pitcairn Island, in regards to prospect of disembarking the ship, while it was standing off Pitcairn, in order to make an ascent of the island’s summit. Salt e-mailed back assuring me that there was no problem as far as he was concerned, and that the islanders (by the way, there are only 44 left, all presumably direct descendents of the HMS *Bounty* mutineers) would be happy to ferry me back and forth from the ship for a small fee. He warned me, however, that the Captain of the Amsterdam would be the one to make the decision, since landing on the island was often dangerous due to large swells.

Well, to make a long story short, the night before we were to arrive, Captain Edward Van Zanne sent me a formal typed letter denying me permission to go ashore the following morning.

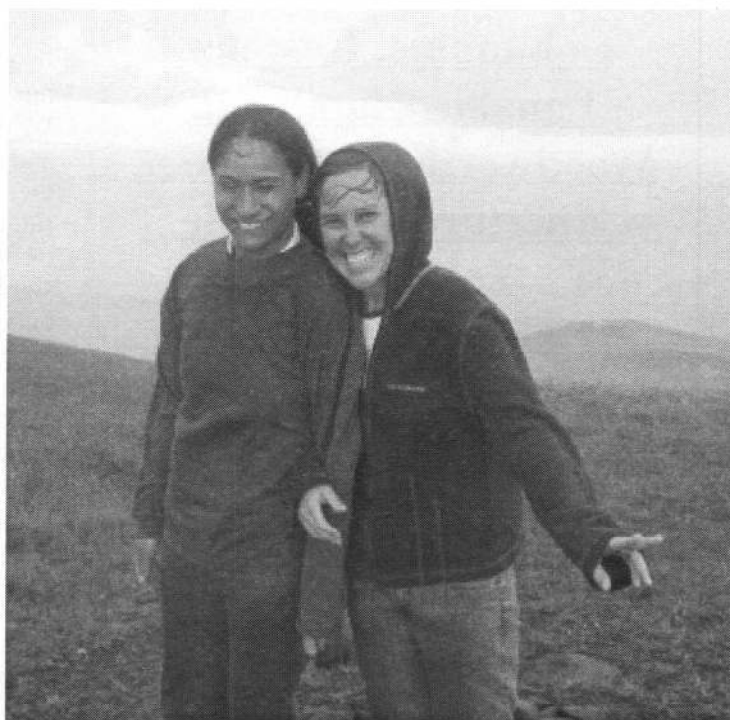
Oh, boy! I snorted. I hissed. I fumed. I made a captain doll and stuck pins in it.

The next morning, though, I began to appreciate the good Captain’s wisdom. Positioned a half-mile off the small island—a British possession, by the way—it was apparent that the South Pacific was no longer quite so pacific. Indeed, low clouds and a strong wind were the order of the day, when, at 9 a.m., three longboats, pitching and rolling ominously, left the island, and began heading for the Amsterdam. Coming about on the lee side of the big ship, the islanders boarded, quickly spread out their goods (T-shirts, stamps, souvenirs fashioned of shells and wood, etc.), and settled in for a day of merchandising. Only an hour later, however, the

Captain announced over the P.A. system that, because one of the Amsterdam's crew had fallen ill (appendicitis, as it turned out), we would be leaving Pitcairn at noon rather than 3:30 p.m., and hightailing it as fast as possible to Papeete, Tahiti, where proper medical care was available.

The upshot was that, had I been able to leave the ship that morning, I would have been stranded on the island indefinitely. Jo would have continued on alone to Tahiti, Bora Bora and points west, contemplating various ways to murder her highpoint-compulsive husband.

And that wasn't the end of it. At a cocktail party the next evening, Captain Van Zanne took me aside to tell me that after leaving the ship, the islanders, due to the rough seas, had been unable to land for 18 hours. Think of it—eighteen hours of pitching and rolling in small open boats! In an awkward gesture of gratitude, I attempted to give the astounded officer a big hug, but managed only to wrinkle his crisply elegant white suit. I was, however, able to apologize for any sharp abdominal pains he may have recently experienced.



Sabrina & Claudia-Guides on the island

Personal Locator Beacons Licensed For Use in United States. Continued from page 9.

The USMCC and the AFRCC

In the United States, the various ground stations in the COSPAS/SARSAT system (there is one in Southern California so LEOSAR performance should be good!) relay PLB distress signals to the US Mission Control Center (USMCC) in Maryland operated by the NOAA. In general, all land-based distress signals are distributed by the USMCC to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley AFB in Virginia. The AFRCC has responsibility for all inland SAR in the United States. However the Air Force has apparently classified PLB signals as 'missing person alerts' which technically shifts responsibility for responding to PLB alerts from the AFRCC to local sheriffs and various state emergency management agencies. Nevertheless the AFRCC has agreed to act as the point of contact in relaying distress alerts from USMCC to the various state and local authorities with which it currently has notification arrangements.

PLBs and SAR

Once the appropriate SAR authorities have been notified, the actual search can begin. Every PLB must be registered with the NOAA. The registration is not done at point of sale but is the responsibility of the owner. The NOAA maintains the database and provides owner information to SAR authorities in an emergency. If the PLB owner intends to rent the unit, then the owner must provide a 24-hour contact with access to current rental user information. Finally, once the SAR mission is under way, the PLB also transmits a second signal at 121.5 MHz for use by SAR homing devices. This is particularly important for PLBs not equipped with or connected to a GPS, as it means that SAR personnel, once the LEOSAR system has provided a location within 1-3 miles or less, should be able to find the distressed party relatively quickly.

Columbine, Isosceles,
Langille, Rambaud,
Woodworth, The Citadel,
Aperture and Goode

July 19-27, 2003

By Reiner Stenzel

This outing involved climbing some beautiful, remote and not frequently visited Sierra peaks. Most of these peaks are not described in the trip archives of the SPS or climber.org, which is the purpose for submitting this report. The trip was jointly sponsored by the Sierra Peaks Section and the Ski Mountaineers Section. The SPS encourages exploratory trips to non-listed peaks. The SMS has started a summer climbing program to visit areas where we ski occasionally. With a fine group of seven people we climbed 8 peaks in the area between the Palisade Range and the Black Divide. Our participants were Steve Fausset, Diane Purkey, Fred Gabbard from the San Diego area and Bill Burke, Leslie Hofherr, R.J. Secor, and myself from the LA area. We experienced all the fun of summer time in the Sierras: Beautiful sceneries, fine climbing, some sunny days and some wild thunderstorms from monsoon weather, exciting river crossings, swimming, fishing, and living together as a group. We got immersed into climbing history when we found a 104-year-old peak register. We had close calls with lightning and rock fall, but the trip was incident-free and we climbed more peaks than planned. Below are the details:

Sat, 7/19, 7:30am, we met at South Lake to hike the trail up to Bishop Pass. By 12 noon we experienced the first rain drops on the Pass. It was the typical weather pattern for the next week: Tropical moisture would produce afternoon rain and thunderstorms. In Dusy Basin we established camp at Lake 11,388, 0.4 mi W of Isosceles Pass. By 3 pm we set up tents in the rain. Clouds shrouded the mountains. Later it cleared and we went fishing. Caught only one trout, but could have caught lots of yellow-legged frogs. By dinnertime we had another downpour and we ate in the tents. Overnight the clouds disappeared.

Sun, 7/20, we got up at 6am and hiked out with daypacks by 7:15am. The first destination was Columbine Peak. We ascended the pass between Isosceles and Columbine, then climbed the class 3 NE ridge to the summit reaching it by 10am. Although not a high peak (12,662') the summit views are outstanding. On can see the impressive Palisade Range and the

distant Black Divide. Since there was no peak register we placed a spiral notebook into a plastic box and signed our seven names. Clouds were billowing in the distance. We descended into Isosceles Pass. Bill returned to camp and the rest went on to Isosceles Peak. We traversed to the 12,250' saddle SE of the peak, climbed the easy ridge to a gully where we encountered a short section of class 4. Some stayed back, some continued after signing out. The climb was easy although exposed, and only one person asked for a rope. After reaching the high point on the ridge which, according to the 7.5" topo map is the 12,321' summit we spotted another serious gully, Further NW was another high point with a tilted summit block looking like a diving board. This was real class-5 terrain for which we improperly equipped with my 50' 9mm rope. Beyond the cl 5 pillar was a very broad gully separating the lower NW ridge from the main ridge. We placed a summit register on what we defined the summit (next to the number 12,321' on the topo map), took pictures and then descended due to the deteriorating weather. The cl 4 section was safely downclimbed with some assistance of a long sling. By 1 pm we were back at camp, had lunch and packed out. By 2pm we left camp, hiked XC to the trail, stashed the rope and excess gear behind some trees (marking the location with a GPS) and descended the many switchbacks down to LeConte Canyon. This time we were spared from the rain but not from the hungry mosquitoes. We camped in the forest near the Middle Fork of the Kings River and luckily had no bear encounters at night.

Mon, 7/21, we were up at 5:30am and ready to hike out another hour later with daypacks to Langille Peak. We crossed the Kings River by carefully balancing over logs, then ascended XC the steep forested slopes S of the creek from Hester Lake. Beyond the treeline, at the 10,000' level, one encounters a headwall with waterfalls and an "obvious" gully to ascend. A small stream was coming down the gully requiring careful climbing on slippery rocks. Beyond that it was a cl 2 climb up the SW slopes of Langille Peak (12,018'). We summited by 10 am and found a peak register in a rusty coffee can. It was from 1971, only partially filled and there were gaps of 5 years where nobody had climbed the peak. Our 7 signatures were the first entry in 2003. We found a memorable signature by Galen Rowell. At 11:30am we descended the same route we came up. The logs across the river were precisely located with the help of a GPS. We were back at camp by 2pm and an hour later hiked down the John Muir Trail to Grouse Meadow. R. J. had a long talk with the LeConte Ranger and joined later. Grouse Meadow is a beautiful area where the Kings River quietly meanders through a green meadow. We saw deer in the meadows, trout in the river, and heard a grouse. We washed up in the river, cooked and ate, and were



eaten by zillions of mosquitoes.

Tue, 7/22, we left Grouse Mdw at 7:30am, found a stream crossing with logs, and hiked with full packs up the forested terrain N of Rambaud Creek. Beyond the treeline we encountered low brush, then open slopes and eventually talus as we ascended to our basecamp at the lowest Rambaud Lake (10,300'). There were some nice campsites among trees with a fine view of the impressive Devils Crag. Our plan was to camp there for three nights and to climb peaks with light daypacks. After lunch some of us headed out to an easy peak, Rambaud Pk (11,044'). Except for a steep chute with lots of loose rocks it was a cl 2 climb. At 2pm we reached the summit and found a register box, a white PVC pipe. Unfortunately, the notebook inside was completely wet and unreadable. Later I dried it and sent it to the Bancroft Library to let the experts inspect it. We replaced it with a new spiral book, covered it with a plastic bag, and left four signatures in it (Steve, Fred, Leslie, and Reiner). When the first thunder was heard we hiked down. At a pretty lake some of us had a swim. By 5 pm we were back at camp. The fish were jumping and I caught 7 trout to supplement the freeze-dried dinner. Rain arrived at dinnertime and our fish dinner was served after darkness. At night we had heavy rainfall.

Wed, 7/23, we were up at 6am to a cloudy morning. By 7:30am we headed up the creek drainage

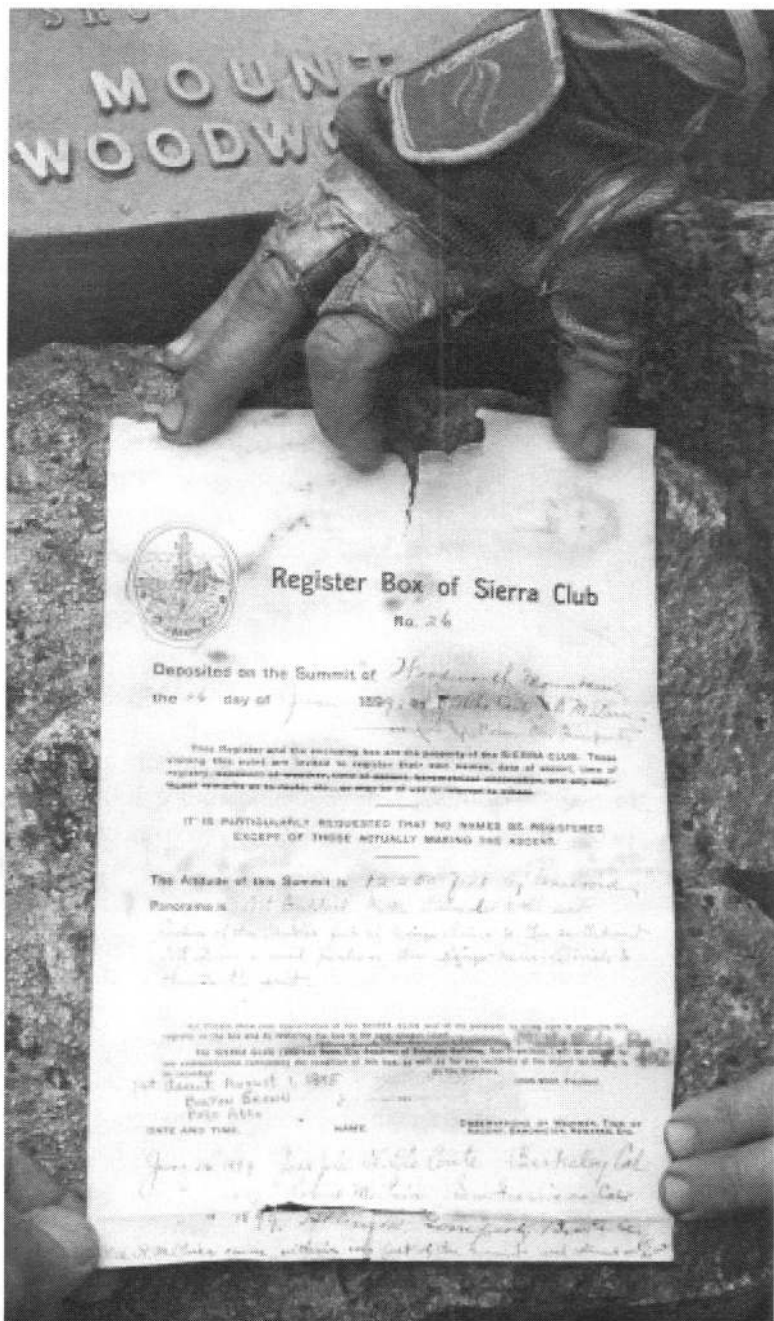
to Rambaud Pass. There was still plenty of snow in the upper drainage and on the moraine below the pass. The ascent of 11,600' Rambaud Pass involves a scramble over steep loose rock that created a few scratched legs but luckily no falls. From the Pass we headed south, staying west of the Devils Crag and Black Divide, to Mt Woodworth. After ascending a steep chute and a long talus slope we summited at 11am. Had a fine view of Tunemah and Finger in the west. To our great delight we found the original precious register of this remote summit. It was in a brass cylinder with screw cap, water tight, with perfectly preserved contents. It contained a small sheet of paper written with fountain pen by Bolton Coit Brown from 1895! Further documents included a formal Sierra Club Register form with sign-in sheets containing many historic names like Prof. J. N. LeConte, Glen Dawson, Price, Gombertz, etc. Some early trips had large numbers of participants who usually ascended from Simpson Meadows. There was a little bit space left on the last page of this 1899 register where we entered our seven names. What an honor and delight to find such a precious piece of history in such a remote place of the Black Divide. After photographing all the documents we closed it carefully and put it back in place for the next visitor. If it ends up in the Bancroft Library at least a fine copy should be left on the summit. In addition to the old brass cylinder there was also a fine cast aluminum SRC box with a brand new bound notebook from 1992. We also

signed it on page one as the first party in 2003. Our trip back into history was interrupted by the first raindrops. We climbed carefully down on the now slippery rocks. By 1 pm, when we reached Rambaud Pass, it was pouring. Our plan was to climb Wheel in the afternoon but this was not prudent in thunderstorm weather. Wet and cold we hiked down to camp and disappeared in the tents till it stopped raining. At 4pm Leslie went fly-fishing and I joined with reel fishing. By a stroke of luck I caught a big 12" trout. It made the day and a wonderful dinner. By evening lightning and thunder was again over the Devils Crags Range and by night it rained lots.

Thur, 7/24. The plan was to climb The Citadel and Wheel in a long day hike. Assuming that thunderstorms build up in the afternoon I had called for a 4:30am rise and hike out by first daylight. But Sierra weather is unpredictable. It was raining at 4:30am, and an hour later it thundered in the morning. Finally, by 7am it cleared and we got off to a late start at 7:30am. We crossed the rugged range N of Rambaud Creek and got temporarily separated in different chutes, which charged some moods. After rejoining we dropped to Lake 11,300, ascended another pass 0.2 mi E of that lake, and then worked our way up the SW ridge of The Citadel. We did not ascend the ridge out of the obvious saddle (11,400', 0.4 mi SE of the peak) but took an easier a chute at about 0.25 mi SE of the peak. At 11am we summited The Citadel (11,738'). Although not a very high peak it offers a fine view on the Palisade Range to the East and the Black Divide to the West. It has steep walls dropping down to Ladder Lake and the Kings River. There was no peak register on the summit. Since I had no more notebooks left we simply signed a sheet of paper, placed it in triple plastic bags under a cairn on the summit. By 12:30pm cumulus clouds were growing everywhere and we started our descent. We chose a XC route to Lake 10,982 via a steep pass 0.5mi NE of that lake. As we reached the lake by 1:30pm part of the group wanted to go on to Wheel, the rest wanted to return to camp. The mood grew like the weather, highly charged. Finally, R.J., Steve and Diane headed for Wheel while I accompanied the rest back to camp. Just after we arrived at camp, the first big raindrops fell, and then all hell broke loose. Thunder, lightning and heavy downpour drove us into the tents, worried how the rest of the group would survive. Some lightning was within less than 2000'. An hour later R. J. and Diane returned totally drenched. By 4pm Steve came "home" all shaken up. He was caught by the storm in the NE chute of Wheel and literally ran down for his life. Insult to injury, R.J.'s bottomless tent got flooded and he had to borrow dry clothes and move into Steve&Diane's tent. R. J. describes the events as follows: "After climbing The Citadel, Steve, Diane, and I headed toward Wheel Mountain. It started to rain at

the start of the real climbing, so Diane and I headed back to camp while Steve continued up. We had intermittent showers on our way back to camp. Upon arrival at camp, I crawled under my tarp, slid into my sleeping bag, and proceeded to read The Atlantic Monthly, occasionally stopping to listen to the rain drops striking the roof of the tarp, while I was snug under its shelter. Later, it began to rain really hard, with rolling thunder. "The Lord has forsaken the Rainbow Covenant!" I thought when my pillow (a stuff sack with socks and a fleece sweater) began to feel wet. I raised my head and the wall of water pressing against the stuff sack easily pushed it aside, flooding my ground cloth, pad, sleeping bag, and me! My clothing was soaked; so I secured things as best I could under the tarp, picked up my umbrella, and sought shelter. There was a similar wall of water against Reiner and Leslie's tent, Bill and Fred's tents were one-person models, but Steve and Diane's tent was huge. Diane let me in, helped me get out of my wet clothes, and draped a sleeping bag over me. Steve soon arrived in a similar condition, not from an overwhelmed shelter but from surviving lightning, hail, and heavy rain on Wheel Mountain, without summiting. The rain eventually lessened, and I made an appeal for dry clothing from the others. I want to thank Fred Gabbard for the long underwear, Diane for the small fleece top, Bill Burke for the fleece trousers, Reiner for the large fleece top and Steve for the warm cap and dry socks. Steve, Diane, and I cooked dinner under their tent's roomy vestibule and we zipped their two sleeping bags together, making a big quilt that we all slept under that night. The sun was out the next morning, and all of my gear was dry by 9:00 a.m., except for The Atlantic Monthly".

Fri, 7/25. We were up at 6am, in the sun at 7am, tried to dry out our tents, clothes and gear. After beaten twice by thunderstorms on Wheel our plan was to hike back to Bishop Pass and climb some more peaks there. At 8:30am I started with part of the group while the rest would follow when their gear was dry. Our two groups would stay in contact by radio. We descended down the Rambaud Creek drainage, admired some pretty white firs with their upright cones and saw an eagle passing over the range without moving its wings. We crossed the Kings River over slippery logs, hiked past Grouse Mdw where the campground was flooded, and arrived at the LeConte Ranger Station by midday. On the way we took pictures of "our" peaks, The Citadel and Langille. The afternoon climb into Dusy Basin was a good workout. The first raindrops were felt at the footbridge over the Dusy Branch. Having learned our lesson from the day before we set up camp at the first opportunity, near Lake 10,742'. But this time, it stopped raining after we had set up camp. Nevertheless we stayed in order to regroup. We enjoyed a long, relaxed afternoon. Bill and Fred retrieved the gear stash in Dusy



stream crossing at 11,600', climbed a gully N and parallel to the end moraine up to the 12,200' level, then turned back N to the obvious chute leading to Jigsaw Pass (12,700'). The chute has a lot of loose rock. The pass is marked by a wooden post and has a pass register, a rusty can with loose sheets of paper and some business cards. From Jigsaw Pass we ascended the class 3 NW slopes of Aperture Pk. Several traverses on ledges were needed to avoid class 4 terrain. On the summit (13,265') we had a wonderful view of the Palisade Range, Inconsolable Range, Big Pine Lakes, Dusy Basin and beyond. The summit register consisted of a small glass jar with loose sheets of signed papers, some dating back to 1971. We added ours with 6 names and reported back by radio to Diane in camp. We had a relaxed time on the summit, as the thunderstorm clouds appeared to be far away. We descended the N slopes of the mountain, then headed W to Jigsaw Pass and down the chute where we discovered the faint use trail over the moraine, indicated on some topomaps. It joins the Bishop Pass trail at the 11,700' level in a gully S of the moraine. As we hiked down the trail it started to rain again, déjà vu! From 5-7pm a heavy thunderstorm moved through our area. Frequent lightning struck and thunder followed within seconds. Later we had a delicious dinner with mountain sorrel soup and sautéed onion.

Basin. I caught another pan full of trout for dinner. We had a spectacular evening sky that night with red thunderstorm clouds over the Palisade Range.

Sat, 7/26. As usual, we got up at 6am, packed and hiked out about an hour later. We hiked over Bishop Pass to the Bishop Lakes and established a campsite near the snow surveyors' hut. On the way Leslie spotted a bear in Dusy Basin. We also saw deer and eagles in the backcountry. Wildflowers were abundant. After we had set up camp and dried our gear we were ready to climb another peak. Instead of doing the obvious one, Mt Agassiz, we elected to go for the more challenging Aperture Peak via Jigsaw Pass. At 11 am we climbed up the trail toward Bishop Pass, went XC near the last

Sun, 7/27. Although this was our day to hike out some of us had that urge to climb a peak a day. At 5am the guys got up while the girls turned

around in bed. We headed for nearby Mt Goode (13,085'), to do at least one peak on the SPS list. The lower part of the SE slopes was an unpleasant sand climb but the upper part along the E ridge was a nice class 3 climb. We summited at 8am, signed the nearly full peak register and R.J. added a new booklet to the box. Then we headed down, packed, were on the trail by 10:30am and at South Lake by 12:45pm. For the last time we regrouped at Sizzlers in Bishop, enjoyed a good lunch together and then drove home. Everyone was satisfied with our adventures in the mountains. My thanks go to R.J. for his help in leading this trip, contributing to this report and to Bill for obtaining another wilderness permit.

by Geoff Godfrey
Geography of California

A Look at Mt. Muir

The whole Sierra along the line of faultage has the contour of a wave about to break. It swings up in long water—shaped lines from the the valley of the San Joaquin and rears its jagged crest above the abrupt desert shore. Seen from close under, some of these two—and three—thousand foot precipices have the pitch of toppling waters. As they rose new—riven from the earth their proportions must have been more than terrifying. ¹

There are seventeen mountains in California which exceed 14,000' in elevation; fifteen of those peaks are located in the Sierra Nevada. It is a geologic irony that Colorado with more than triple the number of fourteeners, fifty-four, has as its highest point Mt. Elbert, which tops out at 14,433'. ² Mt. Elbert is sixty-two feet shy of Mt. Whitney's 14,495'.

California's fourteeners, from highest to lowest:

	<u>15 min. maps</u>	<u>7.5 min. maps</u>
Mt. Whitney	14,494	14,494
Mt. Williamson	14,384	14,375
White Mountain	14,246	14,250
North Palisade	14,242	14,242
Keeler Needle	14,240	14,240
Mt. Sill	14,162	14,162
Mt. Shasta	14,161	14,162
Mt. Russell	14,086	14,086
Day Needle	14,080	14,080
Third Needle	14,080	14,080
Polemonium Pk.	14,080	14,000
Split Mt.	14,058	14,058
Mt. Langley	14,042	14,042
Middle Palisade	14,040	14,040
Mt. Tyndall	14,018	14,018
Mt. Muir	14,015	14,015
Thunderbolt Pk	14,000 ³	14,003
Starlight		14,200

Though Mt. Muir ranks as the second lowest fourteener in California, every hiker who has

struggled to the summit of Mt. Whitney via the established trail cannot have failed to have been impressed by Mt. Muir's brooding, precipitous east face. This sheer, 2000'+ granite face overshadows one as he/she trudges up or down the switchbacks between Trail Crest and Trail Camp. Nowhere else in California, except maybe in Yosemite, does such an imposing granite spectacle present itself in such close proximity to the hiker.

The small peak that bears Muir's name at present seems hardly commensurate in importance among the features of the Sierra Nevada with the greatness of the man whose love for the 'Range of Light' inspired the movement for the conservation of its scenic treasures. ⁴

Climbing Mt. Muir from the west side is a quick and relatively easy scramble from the main trail leading to Mt. Whitney, though there is some disagreement among guidebook authors about the length of this scramble. One claims a 400 foot climb, another claims it to be 200 feet. ⁵ No matter, from atop the peak one commands an expansive view of the Sierra which includes close-ups of the Whitney massif and its nearby 14,000' needles, and Mts. Langley and southern Sierran peaks. To the west stands Kaweah Pk. and its surrounding peaks, plus views to the east of the Owens Valley and Death Valley ranges. There are many Sierra peaks from the top of which one marvels at stunning views; however, the view from Mt. Muir's summit has been enjoyed by few.

Using data provided by the USFS on hiking permits issued for Mt. Whitney from 1996 through 2002 and then extrapolating backward to 1873 the year of first ascent, it can be estimated that in excess of 700,000 hikers have reached Whitney's broad summit. ⁶ On the other hand numbers provided by current and former officers of the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, indicate that a fraction of Whitney's ascenders, approximately 800-1000 hikers, have stood atop Mt Muir's postage-stamp sized summit. ⁷

There is room for error in these estimates, as much as 25% or more is possible. This rather large margin of error is due to several insurmountable factors, such as the lack of records of climbs and the loss of records of climbs. These two factors alone make accuracy in extrapolating, not to mention

estimating, problematic.

The difficulty stems from a continuing debate within the SPS about the best place to store mountain climbing records. Persuasive arguments have been advanced by two main camps; one holds that mountain records should remain on top of the mountain where nature itself may disintegrate them, while the other decrees that those records should be deposited in some safe place where research or other activities may be conducted. Add to that mix the fact that a very small percentage of hikers collect historic signatures and the difficulty in accurately estimating number of successful ascents becomes evident.

The name "Mt. Muir" first appeared on the Mt Whitney 30 minute quadrangle map in 1907.⁸ According to Erwin G. Gudde in his, "California Place Names," Alexander G. McAdie of the U.S. Weather Bureau named Mt. Muir. Gudde further states, "... Muir has been commemorated in the nomenclature of the state more than any other person." Professor Gudde lists 10 officially named sites, and there are dozens of schools, buildings, etc. which are named for John Muir. For Josiah D. Whitney, Gudde lists four officially named Sites.⁹

Did John Muir climb the peak named after him? He came tantalizingly close during his first unsuccessful attempt to climb Mt. Whitney. When Muir realized that he had mistakenly climbed what is now known as Mt. Langley, he moved northwards and began climbing from what is now known as Crabtree Meadows. He climbed until nightfall, "Therefore, though tired, I made up my mind to spend the night climbing, as I could not sleep. I took bearings by the stars. By midnight I was among the needles."¹⁰ "There I had to dance all night to keep from freezing, and was feeble and starving next morning."¹¹ As he danced the night away on that cold October night in 1873, did Muir make his way to the summit of a nearby needle or was he in fact farther along the trail among the other needles which dot the trailside until the final one hundred-yard ascent of Mt. Whitney?

John Muir was the twelfth person to reach the summit of Mt. Whitney. According to Francis Farquhar in his History of the Sierra Nevada, on his subsequent successful ascent of Mt. Whitney. Muir approached and ascended Whitney from the north.¹²

Considering Muir's mountaineering skills and his penchant for roaming extensively throughout the Sierra, it may be concluded that Muir did scale "his" peak. The question is, when? The name Mt. Muir first appeared on a map in 1907.¹³ According to R.J. Secor, the first recorded ascent was in 1919. From

1919 through 1936, Muir's name does not appear in the climbing records.¹⁴ John Muir died in 1914.

The question of if Muir climbed "his" peak remains to be answered by a more qualified researcher; someone who can gain lengthy access to Muir's personal notes and journals. Muir was an avid and competent diarist. In the introduction to her book of Muir's journals, "John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir," editor Linnie Marsh Wolfe states. "The sixty extant journals of John Muir were written over a period of forty-four years, from 1867-1911. Closely allied with them is a mass of notes scribbled upon loose sheets and bits of paper of all shapes and sizes"¹⁵ Given that mass of data, the odds are high that somewhere in these documents will be found a reference to his ascent of Mt. Muir.

The fact that Colorado has more fourteen thousand foot peaks than California yet none exceed Mt. Whitney has more to do with geologic time than any other factor. As one moves from East to West across the U.S., mountain ranges become younger. The Appalachian Mountains are the oldest chain, the Rocky Mountains Colorado's mountains, are younger, and the Sierra Nevada the youngest.

Geologists date the rise of the Sierra Nevada to the Mesozoic Era, 65 million years ago. The Mesozoic Era, which lasted from 240 million years ago (mya) to 65 mya's, is divided into three major time groups, known as Periods. The periods within the Mesozoic Era from oldest to most recent are entitled Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. It was during the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods in a mountain building upheaval known as the Nevadan Orogeny, that the Sierra Nevada took on most of its present day form.¹⁶

*The most common and familiar Mesozoic rocks are the granitic plutons that make the core of most of the major mountain ranges in California. These rocks formed after material was subducted with the ocean plate below the continental plate, then melted to form enormous magma bodies. The deep melt cooled and crystallized over millions of years.*¹⁷

The Mt. Whitney group viewed from Lone Pine, CA, can be imagined as the bottom row of teeth of some gargantuan giant. These "teeth" are nothing more than granitic plutons, which, in this case are badly in need of serious orthodontia. One must drive a mile or more north of Lone Pine, CA on Hwy. 395

to be able to see the giant's tooth that is named Mt. Muir.

Mt. Muir, located at the southern end of the Mt. Whitney ridge, was formed, as were all the Whitney group and many other Sierran peaks, by a geologic process known as "jointing." Mary Hill, in her "Geology of the Sierra Nevada," describes jointing as "...the more or less even planes along which the rock cracks-generally up and down as well as in two horizontal directions. Jointing makes sharp, steep faces like the east side of Mt. Whitney." Another characteristic of granitic rock is sheeting, "...the cracking of rock along curved surfaces parallel to the surface of the rock." Both jointing and sheeting provide a great deal of spectacular Sierran scenery. ¹⁸

Mt. Muir remains one my favorite Sierran spots. Ignored by hundreds of thousands of hikers, in its own special way it is one of those not-so-hidden jewels whose charm is in the stunning view gained from its summit. Discounting its rather formidable east face routes, Mt. Muir can be lumped in with the mostly boring grind from Whitney Portal to Whitney summit. Yet the scramble to Muir's summit is a refreshing, though short, jolt from that long trudge. In a perverse sort of way, I like Mt. Muir *because it is so close yet so infrequently visited*. And this irony has not escaped me: That a peak named for one of the world's most famous conservationists, whose efforts and accomplishments helped make hiking the huge attraction it has become, is visited by so few of those hikers.

Footnotes

1. "Lands of the Sun," Mary Austin, 1927
2. "Colorado Fourteeners," Roger Edrinn
3. "Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra." Hervey H. Voge and Andrew J. Smatko, p. 308
4. Francois Matthes quoted in "California Place Names," Erwin G. Gudde, p. 214
5. "The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails" R.J. Secor, p. 49, states that the peak is 200' above the main Whitney trail. "Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra" Hervey Voge and Andrew Smatko, p. 308, state that the peak is 400' above the trail.
6. E-mail letter from Andrew McClory, USFS
7. E-mail letter from R.J. Secor in which he believes that 1000 or more have climbed Mt. Muir.
8. "Place Names of the Sierra Nevada Peter Browning, p.155.
9. Gudde, op cit. p. 214
10. "John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir" Linnie Marsh Wolfe, p. 187. Wolfe notes here, "Muir was now on the crest near what is now known as Mt. Muir, about five hundred feet below the summit of Mt. Whitney."
11. Wolfe op cit, p. 187
12. I have summarized Farquhar's description of Muir's climb of Whitney: In what must have been three grueling days and two chilly, late October nights, Muir, on foot and without sleeping bag or modern, lightweight foods trekked round-trip from Independence, CA to the summit. The distance, climbing difficulties, lack of trail, elevation gain and loss, and personal privation involved in this feat would sorely tax even the most accomplished mountaineer of today were he/she to attempt to duplicate this act. Anyone not yet convinced of how rigorous was this ordeal must remember that Muir hiked round-trip from Independence, not Lone Pine. The majority of today's Whitney climbs do not originate in Lone Pine, rather, they begin approximately 10 miles west of and 4000' above this tidy berg. Farquhar, op cit. p. 176-177.
13. Browning, op cit, p. 155
14. E-Mail letter from R.J. Secor in which he lists the names of all climbers (twenty-nine) from 1919, the year of the first ascent, through 1936.
15. Wolfe op cit, Introduction, p. xiii
16. "Rediscovering the Golden State," William A. Shelby, p. 41
17. Selby op cit, p. 40
18. "Geology of the Sierra Nevada" Mary Hill, p. 69

Echo Editor's notes:

Elevations noted for the fourteeners were from older maps, newer 7.5 min map elevations provided for comparison, as referenced from R.J. Secor's book.

Also some of the listed peaks are considered spires and not typically referenced as peaks.

Correction: Footnote #7. Tina Bowman is the SPS Mountain Records Chair person.

Information on peak registers, as provided by Tina Bowman:

The SPS position is to leave registers on summits. On popular summits, therefore, I've tried to substitute or add ammo boxes, which hold more books. People may debate what is best to do with registers especially in view of the fact that some historic registers have simply disappeared (been stolen) in the past and that in some areas there is resistance to registers. In the Desolation Wilderness, for example, the official national forest policy is no registers, but we have also had a problem of registers disappearing in other areas where there is no policy against them but some people find them offensive (trash).

Sometimes people send the SPS registers when a container is too full. These go either into the SPS archives or the Sierra Club archives at Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley. Most of these books come from very popular peaks, where the books fill fast. At this time, they have little historical value, but since one never knows, we do keep them.

One of the joys of mountaineering is enjoying a fine register on a summit. Some years ago, Robin Ingraham, as the main force of the Sierra Register Committee took some historic registers off Sierra Peaks and placed them in Bancroft. Some of those were copied, and the copies taken back to the summits. True, it's not the same to look at a copy, but these books were in some danger of being stolen. Mr. Ingraham subsequently agreed not to remove more registers from the peaks on the SPS list. Some, such as the one on Devil's Crag, he had already removed.

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Report continues from page 6

Echo - To encourage subscriptions, Duane McRuer made several suggestions on things to include in the Echo; e.g., having old-timers like Jerry Keating submit articles on past events, characters. Duane also indicated that the Southern Sierran would like to receive and print trip reports.

The M/C meeting adjourned around 7:30 pm.

A general meeting followed the M/C meeting. After results of a number of outings were reported, Reiner Stenzel gave an interesting slide presentation on a 19 day, 250 mile, 7 SPS peak solo backpack of the John Muir Trail. Approximately 21 people attended the meeting.

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