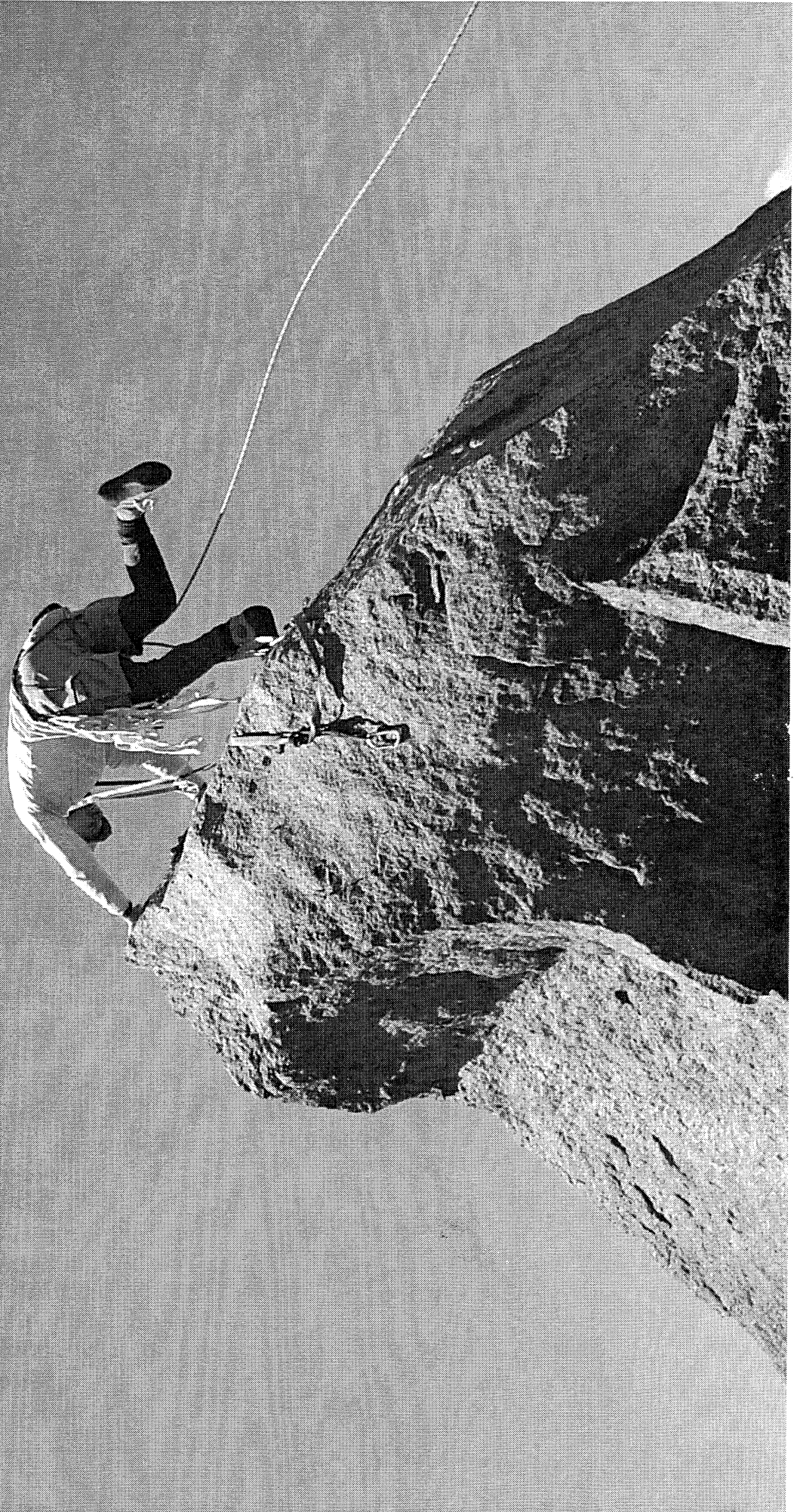
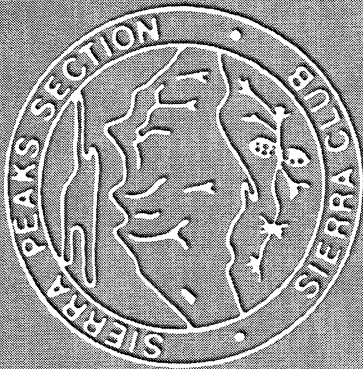


The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 2

APRIL - MAY 2004





Mt. Mary Austin
Diamond Peak
Gibbs
Gaylor

Peak List

See Stories inside
this issue

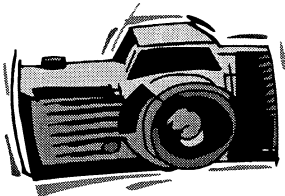
Queen Mary's
Pk, Falkland
Islands

SPS PROGRAMS

SPS meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month - May through November & in January. A joint climbing sections meeting will be held in February. 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 garage gate and get white ticket. Newcomers welcome.

June 9, Wed: Kent Schwitkis will discuss navigation and how to hone your navigation skills.

July, August & September Please note there will be no meetings as our summer outings have taken priority.



Front Cover

**Rich Henke on the summit block of
Thunderbolt Peak**
September 2003, photo by Gary Craig.

Range of Light Echo Cover Contest

*The 2004
August/September
Echo will feature one
spectacular color photo
from an SPS Member*

*Show off your talents as a
photographer.*

*Photos for consideration to
be submitted by July 12, 2004
to Barbee Tidball*

*Judging to be by the SPS Man-
agement Committee. Winner will be
featured on the Echo cover in color.*

*Photos to be judged for 1st color,
2nd composition and 3rd subject.*

*Submit your best color photo
(limit 2 submissions per
photographer) in 5x7 or 8 x 10 print
format. Submitting color negatives
or slides is encouraged, but please
make sure that they are clean, as
retouching is very labor intensive.
Submitted materials will be returned
with SASE. Digital camera photos
should be submitted in the same file
size as stored in the camera.*



MAY

M/E: May 15-16 Sat - Sun , LTC, SPS, DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff For M & E candidates. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE and e-mail, H&W phones. Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldrs. Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer

M: May 22-23 Sat-Sun SPS, WTC Dome Lands Ramble - Rockhouse Peak (8383'), Taylor Dome (8774') Send SASE or email to Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr. Kim Gimenez

M: May 22-23 Sat-Sun Stanford #2 (12,838') and Morgan #2 (13,002'): Trip filled Ldr: Larry Tidball. Co-Ldr: Barbee Tidball

I: May 23 Sun , LTC, WTC Grinnell Ridge Navigation Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send SASE to Ldr: Harry Freimanis Asst. Bob Bradshaw

TI: May 28-31 Fri-Mon, Mineral King Base Camp: SMS/SPS, Ski from Silver City to base camp near Mineral King unless road is open to MK. Snowshoes also ok. E-mail exper.to Ldr: REINER STENZEL. Asst. RANDY LAMM

I: May 29-31 Sat-Mon SPS, WTC Kern Peak (11,510): Memorial Day backpack in Golden Trout Wilderness. Mon enjoy hot springs. Send e-mail or SASE to Ldrs: Mirna & Greg Roach

JUNE

MR: June 4-6 Fri-Sun, Mt. Powell, Mt Thompson: Backpack from Lake Sabrina to Baboon Lakes area. Send SASE, e-mail, climbing resume, and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: GREG VERNON, Asst: R.J. SECOR

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.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

JUNE continued

M: June 5-6 Sat-Sun, Smith Mountain (9533'), Jackass Peak (9280'), Crag Peak (9480'): WTC/SPS, Potluck Sat night. Send e-mail or sase to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Asst: PATTY RAMBERT

I: Jun 5-6 Sat-Sun Olancha Peak (12,123'): Moderately strenuous climb of SPS Emblem peak. K-9s w/ permission. Sat eve community happy hour. Send 2 SASE to Ldr: Patty Kline Asst: Hal Browder

C: Jun 11-13 Wilderness First Aid Course COURSE FULL! Next course TBA Oct/Nov Ldr: Steve Schuster

MR: June 12 - 13 Sat-Sun, Mount Keith (13,977'): WTC/SPS, Ice Axe and Crampons. Send SASE or e-mail, mail \$5 check for permit fee to Ldr: JOHN CHESLICK. Asst: PATTY RAMBERT

MR: Jun 14-15 Mon-Tue, Mt Morgan (13,748'), Mt Mills (13,451'): WTC/SPS, Expect snow climb using ice axe and crampons. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE and \$5 for permit fee to Ldr: RON HUDSON Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT

MR: Jun 16-18 Wed-Fri, Striped Mtn (13,179'), Goodale Mtn (12,772'): WTC/SPS, Expect snow climb - ice axe and crampons. Send climbing resume, 2 SASE or 1 SASE and email, \$5 for permit fee to Ldr: RON HUDSON. Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT

JUNE continued

MR: Jun 19-20 Sat-Sun, Mt. Conness (12,590): WTC/SPS, Fantastic snow climb in Northern Yosemite. Send SASE, e-mail, climbing resume and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: SCOTT LEAVITT. Asst: RANDALL DANTA

I: Jun 19-21 Sat- Mon Kern Peak (11,510'): SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Send SASE to Ldr: Patty Kline Asst: Kent Schwitkis Naturalist: Sherry Ross.

M: Jun 24-27 Thurs-Sun Eisen (12,160'), Lippincott (12,265') and perhaps more: Join list seekers in grueling backpack from Mineral King. Class 3, ice axe, crampons. Send SASE to Ldrs: Doug Mantle, Tom Bowman, Tina Bowman.

M: Jun 25-27 Fri-Sun SPS, WTC Mt Ritter (13,157') Snow Climb: Strenuous 5000' gain, 17 miles rt. Restricted trip, ice axe & crampon. Group size limited. Call leaders. Ldr: Don Croley Co-Ldr: Tom McDonnell

I: Jun 26-27 Sat-Sun, Florence Peak (12,432') & Vandever Mtn (11,947'): WTC/SPS, Introductory outing in Mineral King. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE plus e-mail, with recent experience, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: MIKE DILLENBACK, Co-Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS

M: Jun 26-27 Sat-Sun Mt Darwin (13,831'): Climb the emblem of the Evolution region. Restricted trip, crampon, ice axe and roped climbing exper. Send SASE to Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-Ldr: Kim Gimenez

JULY

ER: Jul 1 - 4 Thu-Sun, Disappointment Pk (13,917'), Middle Palisade (14,012'): WTC/SPS, Restricted trip, cl 3, crampon & ice axe exper. Send SASE or ESASE to Ldr: TOM MCDONNELL. Co-Ldr: NILE SORENSON

MR: Jul 2-6 Fri-Tue, Matterhorn Peak (12,279'), Whorl Mountain (12,033'), Twin Peaks (12,323'), Virginia (12,001'): Send sase or email with class 3 experience to Ldr: BARBARA SHOLLE. Asst: DON SPARKS

M: July 9-11 Fri-Sun Tower Peak (11,758'): Long drive, fast-paced/long backpack for this 3rd cl. climb in No. Yosemite. Send climbing credentials w/SASE to Ldrs: DOUG MANTLE, PATTY RAMBERT

I: Jul 10-11 Sat-Sun, Bloody Mtn (12,552'), Mt Morrison(12,277'): Climb near Convict Lake at a moderate pace. Email or SASE to Ldr: GEORGE WYSUP Co-Ldrs: P. ARREDONDO, G.SCHENK

JULY continued

Jul 15-19 Thu-Mon Natural Science Section/Wilderness Adventures/Sierra Peaks Section/Orange County Sierra Singles/Palos Verdes South Bay Group/Long Beach Group/Pasadena Group

I: Yosemite NP/Tuolumne Meadows Car Camp. Join us for four days of hiking and naturalizing in the spectacular Tuolumne Meadows area of Yosemite National Park. Advanced level hikes to climb Mt. Dana and to hike down to the Waterwheel Falls. Lower level hikes in the Tuolumne Meadows area. This trip satisfies the Natural Science requirement for "I" rating. Includes naturalist instruction on hikes. Pot luck dinner Sat night. Send sase, \$45 (Natural Science Section) carpool information, interests and conditioning to Resv/Ldr. Keith Martin, Asst Ldrs: KENT SCHWITKIS, SHERRY ROSS, GINNY HERINGER, JIM HERINGER, JIM MURPHY. *No refund after June 24 unless trip fills and have suitable replacement.*

I: Jul 17-19 Sat-Mon, Mt. Stanford (North), (12,838'): Intro trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send SASE, \$5 permit fee per person, to Ldr: PATTY KLINE Asst. RICH GNAGY

MR: Jul 24-27 Sat-Tue, Mt Clark (11,522'), Gray Pk (11,573'), Red Pk (11,699'), Merced Pk (11,726'): Join us for strenuous 4 day backpack and climb of 4 cl 2-3 peaks in Yosemite. Send SASE and a \$5 check payable to John for the permit. Ldr: JOHN CHESLICK. Asst: PATTY RAMBERT

M: Jul 30 - Aug 1 Fri-Sun, Mt Ansel Adams, Electra: SPS/SMS, Climb two remote, beautiful, and not frequently visited peaks in Yosemite N.P. Exploratory trip to consider A. A. for the SPS List. Approach from south with basecamp at Sadler Lke. 30mi, 6000' rt. Good conditioning and cl 3 rock exper. required. Send SASE, e-mail Ldrs: REINER STENZEL, MARK GOEBEL.

M: Jul 31-Aug 1 Sat-Sun, Moses Mtn (9,320'), North Maggie Mtn (10,234'): WTC/SPS, Join us for a fun backpack Western side of the Southern Sierra. E-mail, SASE, and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: GREG ROACH. Asst. PATTY RAMBERT

MR: Jul 31 - Aug. 1 Sat-Sun, Dragon Peak (12,955') and Mount Gould (13,005'): WTC/SPS, Helmet and 3rd class climbing exper. required. Send SASE or e-mail and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: HELEN QIAN. Asst: WILL MCWHINNEY

AUGUST

I: Aug 6-8 Fri-Sun, Amelia Earhart (11,982') and Donohue (12,023'): SPS/SMS, Climb two fine peaks out of Lyell Cyn. Good conditioning required. Send e-mail with climbing experience to Ldr: LESLIE HOFHERR. Asst. ERIC SIERING

I: Aug 7-8 Sat-Sun, Cirque Peak (12,900'): Introductory trip in eastern Sierra. Send SASE with \$5.00 permit fee to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. KEITH MARTIN

MR: Aug 7-8 Sat-Sun, Mt Sill (14,153'): WTC/SPS, Restricted trip, 3rd class rock and snow (ice axe and crampons) experience. Send 2 sase or email. Ldr: MARIA ROA. Assts: B. EPSTEIN and A. WAXMAN.

ER: Aug 19-22 Thur – Sun, Clarence King (12,905'), op. peaks Mt Cotter (12,721') & Rixford (12,887'): Restricted trip. Rock climbing experience a must. Sun pack out. Send SASE to Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL. Co-Ldrs: TOM & TINA BOWMAN

I: Aug 20-22 Fri-Sun, Pilot Knob North (12,245'): Wilderness Adventures/SPS, Intro Trip suitable for WTC students. Send check for \$10 permit fee (payable to Wilderness Adventures), 2 SASE (or 1 SASE & email), to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN. Asst: MARK MITCHELL

M: Aug 20-23 Fri-Mon McAdie(13799'), Mallory(13845'), Irvine(13780'): SPS/WTC, Backpack to Meysan Lakes. Climb of McAdie limited to qualified individuals - comfort on 3rd cl rock reqd. Send 2 business SASE (better yet esase) to Ldr: BARRY HOLCHIN. Co-Ldr: JOE WANKUM

I: August 21-22 Sat-Sun Mt. Agassiz (13,891'): SPS/WTC, Sat. \$5 permit fee. Send 2 SASE or email to Scott. Co-Leaders Dan Bovee and Scott Nelson

MR: Aug 21-23 Sat-Mon, Middle Palisade (14,012'): WTC/SPS, Restricted with class 3, crampon & ice axe experience. Send SASE, resume w/ experience \$5 permit fee to Ldr: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON, Asst: PATRICK MCKUSKY

I: Aug 21-23 Sat-Mon, Mt. Conness (12,590'): Introductory trip in Yosemite. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send SASE, \$5.00 permit fee per person, to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. RICK JALI

I: Aug 27-29 Fri-Sun, Lone Pine Peak (12,943'), Thor Peak (12306'): Backpack and Car-camp. Intro trip Unimproved car camp in Alabama Hills area. Send check for \$5 permit fee (payable to Leader), 2 SASE (or 1 SASE & email) to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN. Asst: PATTY RAMBERT.

AUGUST continued

I: Aug 28-29 Sat-Sun, Mt. Lamarck (13,417'): WTC/SPS, Introductory outing. Send check for \$6 permit fee, email or 2 sase, to Ldr: MIKE DILLENBACK, Co-Ldr. JOE WANKUM

SEPTEMBER

M: Sep 4-6 Sat-Mon, Mt. Tyndall (14,018'): WTC/SPS, Climb in autumn up a 14'ner. Strenuous. Recent 3rd class rock exp. required. Send SASE and email address and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: SCOTT LEAVITT. Asst: PATRICK MCKUSKY

I: Sep 10-12 Fri-Sun, Mt Hoffman (10,850'), Tuolumne Peak (10,845'): Leisurely paced, xc ascents of two prominent unlisted, cl 2 peaks northwest of Tenaya Lake in Yosemite NP.. Send 2 SASE to Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING. Ldrs: BARBARA LILLEY & GORDON MACLEOD

M: Sep 10-12 Fri-Sun Carl Heller (13,225'), Tunnabora (13,563'), Carillon (13,550'): SPS/SMS, Send email (or SASE) w/ H&W phone, email, recent experience and conditioning to Ldr: ERIK SIERING. Asst: REINER STENZEL.

I: Sep 11-12 Sat-Sun Lone Pine Peak (12,943): WTC/SPS Sat backpack 4.7 mi, 3600 gain from Whitney Portal to Meysan lakes and group happy hour. Sun climb peak, 2 mi, 2300' gain by class 2 xc route over talus and scree to great views, then pack out. WTC/equivalent required. Send SASE or email, H&W phones, \$5 permit fee, to Ldr: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON. Asst. ANNE BITTNER

I: Sep 11-12 Sat-Sun, Florence Pk (12,432'). WTC/SPS, Send email (or SASE) to Ldr: MARIA ROA. Asst: HELEN QIAN.

I: Sep 11-12 Sat-Sun, Silver Pk (11,878'): WTC/SPS, Send e-mail or SASE to Ldrs: TINA AND TOM BOWMAN

I: Sep 11-12 Sat-Sun Basin Mtn (13,18 1'): WTC/SPS/HPS, Intro trip, moderately paced. Send SASE and check for \$5 permit fee to Ldr: GARY SCHENK. Asst: PATTY RAMBERT

I: Sep 11-13 Sat-Mon, Mt. Julius Caesar (13,200'): WTC/SPS, Introductory trip Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send SASE, \$5 permit fee per person, to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. JOE WANKUM

I: Sep 17-19 Fri-Sun, Yosemite NP/Koip Peak (12,962'): 3-day backpack & climb. Send check for \$10 permit fee (payable to Wilderness Adventures), 2 SASE (or 1 SASE & email) to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN. Asst: BETH POWIS

SEPTEMBER *continued*

I: Sep 18-19 Sat-Sun, Mount Tom (13,562'): WTC/SPS, Gourmet Backpack! Join us for a weekend of high-altitude decadence. Send SASE with e-mail and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Asst: GEORGETTE RIECK

I: Sep 18-19 Sat-Sun, North Maggie Mtn (10,234'): WTC/SPS, Moderate backpack trip to North Maggie Mountain. Send SASE or email, if recent student - WTC leader's name to Ldr: ED MORENTE. Asst: TOM MCDONNELL

MR: Sep 18-26 Sat-Sun, Mt Guyot (12,300'), Joe Devel Pk (13,327'), Mt Pickering (13,474'), Mt Chamberlin (13,169'), Mt Newcomb (13,422'), Mt Whitney (14,491'), Mt. Muir (14,012'), Mt Young (13,176'), Mt Hale (13,494') and possible other peaks Week long backpack lots of miles and lots of elevation gain. Send SASE to Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL. Co-Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL

MR: Sep 24-26 Fri-Sun, Tower Peak (11775'): Climb this Northern Sierra Mountaineer's Peak. Strenuous trip. Send SASE with \$5.00 permit fee. Ldrs: HENRY A. ARNEBOLD and STEVE THAW

O: Sep 24-26 Fri-Sun, Yosemite Volunteer in Parks Program: Saturday work under direction of Park Rangers. Potluck Bar B Que on Saturday night. Sunday do your own thing or join leaders on hike. Send 2 SASE to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN, Asst: JOYCE WHITE

I: Sep 24-26 Fri-Sun, Pilot Knob # 2 (12,245'): Send check for \$6 permit fee (made out to leader), email or 2 SASE to Ldr. MIKE DILLENBACK. Asst. K. C. REID

I: Sep 26 Sun Grinnell Ridge Navigation: LTC/WTC Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones, to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

OCTOBER

M: Oct 1-4 Fri-Mon, North Guard(13,327') and Francis Farquhar(12,893'): Enjoy High Sierra in the Fall. Send SASE or email (preferred) to leader with class 3 experience. Ldr: JIM CROUCH. Asst: REINER STENZEL

OCTOBER *continued*

I: Oct 2 Sat Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic: LTC/WTC 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a checkoff. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Recent no-shows require a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send large sase early with check made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR. CO-LDR: RICHARD BOARDMAN

Oct 2 Sat Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day to register for Oct 16th LTC seminar. See ad back pages of Angeles Chpt. sced.

M: Oct 9-10 Sat-Sun M: Moses Mtn. (9331'), North Maggie Mtn. (10'): Late season backpack to the Mineral King area. Take time to learn from our naturalist about the fauna and flora. Send email (preferable) or sase to Ldr: BARRY HOLCHIN. Co-Ldr: KENT SCHWITKIS. Naturalist: Sherry Ross

Oct 16 Sat Leadership Training Seminar

I/M: Oct 24 Sun LTC, WTC Sheep Pass, Joshua Tree National Park Navigation. Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level nav.requirements. Sat for practice. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send SASE to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

C: Oct 29-31 Fri - Sun Wilderness First Aid Course (WFAC): LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging and meals. CPR within previous 2 years required. Fee \$165 with SC#/\$175 non-member (full refund through Sept 24). For application send e-mail or sase to Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

NOVEMBER

I/M: Nov 13-14 Sat-Sun LTC, WTC Indian Cove, Joshua Tree National Park Navigation. Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level nav.requirements. Sat for practice. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send SASE to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

DECEMBER

I/M/E: Dec 5 Sun LTC, WTC Warren Point, Joshua Tree National Park Navigation. Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level nav.requirements. Sat for practice. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send SASE to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

Echoes from the Chair

So the spring snow-climbing season is well underway. At the general meeting, Reiner Stenzel gave a review of the successful joint climbs with SPS/SMS and I gave a brief summary of the successful climb of Diamond Peak – 9 friends summited in the sunshine and good snow. If you have done a trip recently, please send in a report. We all enjoy, and are interested in hearing about your personal experiences.

My spring has been filled with some new cross training experiences. I participated in the World Rogaining Championships in Arizona on May 8 and 9. It was a 24-hour event that involved map and compass cross-country navigation to locate controls in the wilderness and return to the start within the 24-hour period. My partner was Keg Good from Virginia who was an experienced Orienteer and Rogainer. We had a successful route and came in 4th in the 40 – 54 year old Women's Veteran class. Ron Hudson also competed in a Men's Super Veteran team (55 and over) and came in 3rd place. Congratulations Ron!

To get ready for the SPS climbing season I continued to do more adventures to get me in shape. During February I climbed several DPS (Desert Peak Section) peaks including a trip to the Las Vegas area to climb Moapa Peak, Mormon Peak (unlisted), Muddy Peak, and Mount Stirling. Amazing to climb desert peaks in the snow! Then on to Sandy Point and Last Chance in Death Valley in March to find more snow at the summits. Then I was off to Zion in April for the ACA (American Canyoneering Association) Rendezvous. Before it started, I was off to climb two spectacular Desert Peaks – North Guardian Angel and South Guardian Angel. During the Rendezvous I descended four canyons - Birch Hollow, Behunin, Majestic Mountain and Hook Canyon, and the classic Pine Creek Canyon with swims, wading and rappels.

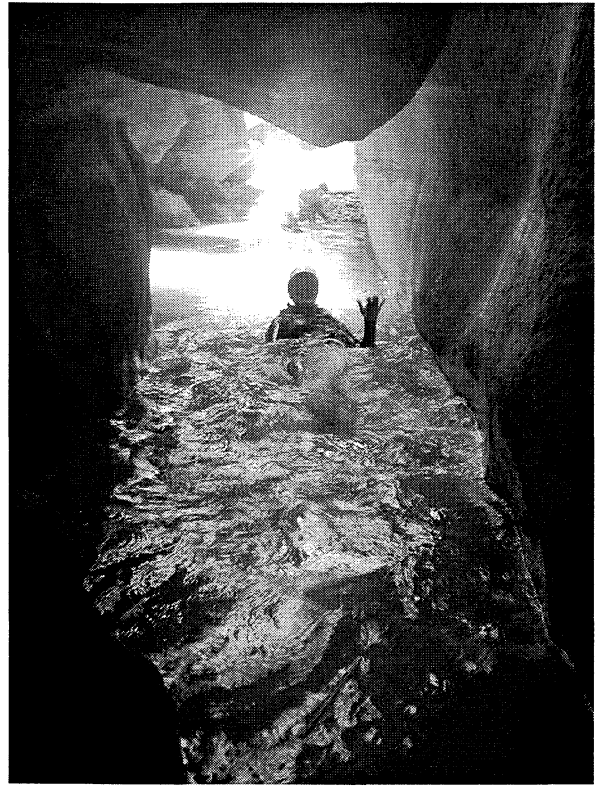
The 2005 SPS Banquet will be held on Saturday, JANUARY 8, 2005 – HOLD that date. If you would like to get involved with obtaining door prizes, let me know. The location is Taxi Restaurant on Sunset near downtown. Patty Kline is working on getting the presenter. More details will follow soon.

Our summer is filled with many trips. Sign up and meet new friends. The next deadline for submitting trips for the November to March schedule is preferably before June 15 to Reiner Stenzel but he is willing to accept some late submissions before July 1. If anyone is interested in leading a practice or skills review trip, I think that would be a great addition to our fall and winter schedule. Gary Schenk, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Susan Livingston and I have scheduled a private weekend climb with Kurt Wedburg (SMI – Sierra Mountaineering International) to improve, update and review our ice/snow and rock skills.

I have been thinking of having an unofficial SPS Yahoo Group where we could share ideas, thoughts, look for partners, find out about recent climbs and private trips, etc. Would anyone be interested in hosting such a group?

Due to a very low attendance at our General Meetings and the active climbing schedule of the Board Members, we will only have General Meetings in July, October, and November. Come out and join us on a SPS trip this summer! The next meeting is Tuesday night, June 9 with Kent Schwitkis presenting Orienteering.

So let's all keep climbing and see if we can get some more Emblems, List Finishers and fun safe times in the Mountains. **Patty**



**Zion National Park canyoneering trip -
Patty swims through narrows in Pine**

National Sierra Club

2004 SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ELECTION

The results are in and the Sierra Club membership voted resoundingly to support traditional conservation and outings related issues.

Elected to the Board were 5 candidates, who were selected by voters from the list of Nominating Committee and Petition candidates. Petition candidates, who many of the controversial news stories evolved around were not elected. 22.67% of the membership voted in this election, up from last year by about 12%, but still a low showing for a grass-roots outings and conservation organization.

Elected to the Board were:

Lisa Renstrom 141,407 votes
 Jan OConnell 132,262 votes
 Nick Aumen 123,622 votes
 Sanjay Ranchod 123,332 votes
 David Karpf 110,756 votes

Other candidates received a maximum of 9,765 votes each. The new Board members were elected by a clear majority. Congratulations to the new members.

SPS Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 3/31/2004

Checking Account

Income:

a. Echo	\$2,350.00
b. Merchandise	\$43.50
c. Banquet	<u>-\$1792.00</u>
	\$4,185.50

Expenditures:

a. Echo Postage	\$444.49
b. Echo Printing	\$573.18
c. Merchandise Taxes	\$18.00
d. Mailing Supplies	\$40.82
e. Banquet Speaker	\$300.00
f. Banquet	<u>\$1150.00</u>
	\$2,526.49

Balance on 12/31/2003	\$4490.66
Income	<u>\$4185.50</u>
	\$8676.16
Expenditures	<u>-\$2526.49</u>
	\$6,149.67

Savings Account

Balance on 12/31/2003	\$4837.75
January Interest Credit	\$1.63
February Interest Credit	\$1.54
March Interest Credit	<u>\$1.64</u>
	\$4,842.56

Sierra Peaks Section

Management Committee Meeting – November 12,

Location: Conference room, Lower Plaza, Angeles Chapter Headquarters

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

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses for incidentals related to the banking accounts approved. A year end financial report is being prepared.

Secretary's Report: Ret Moore has achieved List Finish Status.

Trail Maintenance Committee Report: The forest service will be happy to cooperate and wishes to know what plans we may have. The need to coordinate with the Warner Memorial Fund is next on the committee's agenda. The membership will be canvassed for suggestions.

Outings Chair: Recruitment of next year's Outings Chair has begun. Joe reminded the management committee that it is not necessary for the outings chair to be an elected member of the committee. Leader packets need to be mailed as soon as feasible in 2004.

Joe feels we need more information on the number of participants on this year's trips for comparison with past years.

50th Anniversary: It is time to begin planning for the section's 50th anniversary. One idea is to publish all past issues of the Echo on CD.

Membership Dues: Dues are due on January 1.

General Meeting: Ed Lulofs presented slides of his circumnavigation of the Donjak Glacier in the Yukon.

American Alpine Club Library Newsletter Exchange

Last year, Jon Inskip donated his (1961 - 2001) collection of SPS Echos to the American Alpine Club Library in Golden, Colorado. The library subsequently suggested a newsletter exchange with the SPS; i.e., to exchange copies of the Echo for the 3 times a year American Alpine News.

At the beginning of this year, the SPS Management Committee agreed to the exchange and added the library to the Echo distribution list. Echo copies from late 2001 to the present were gathered and sent to the library to avoid a gap in coverage.

Discussions within the M/C resulted in a decision to have the copies of the American Alpine News sent to the SPS Chair, who will forward the copies at the end of the year to Dan Richter to include in the SPS Archives.

The American Alpine Club Library has a collection of 10,000 books and over 200 journal titles devoted to mountaineering and rock climbing, as well as maps and videos. The Library also houses the collection of the Colorado Mountain Club. Members of the public are welcome to do research at the library and can also request fee-based research by the staff. Those who are not members of the American Alpine Club or Colorado Mountain Club can gain full library privileges by joining the Friends of the Library library@americanalpineclub.org or 303-384-0112).

Mt Mary Austin

April 2-4, 2004 by Jim Crouch with photos by Reiner Stenzel

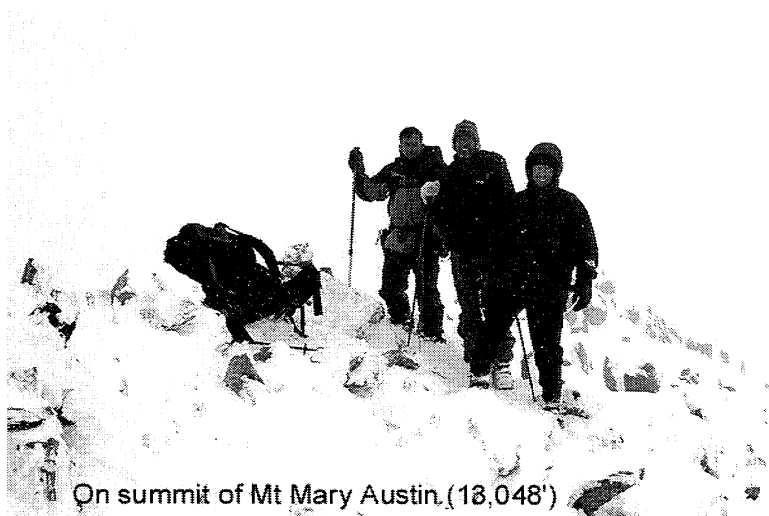


Rugged ridge between Sardine Canyon and Little Onion Valley

Mark and I set out Thursday afternoon from San Diego in northbound I 15 traffic. Then on the I 215 north of San Bernardino we encountered stop and go traffic due to an accident over the pass at Oak Hill. We eventually cleared the traffic and Friday morning we joined the other participants at the trail head (2175m or 7136' on the Onion Valley Rd). They were Leslie Hofherr, Brad McHose, Angel Ocana, Stefan Schiede, Reiner Stenzel (co-Ldr on this joint SPS-SMS trip), Mark Vogt, and I. (Tele skiers were out numbered by randonee 3 to 4.) Under partly cloudy skies the group set off hiking on the old mine road (2175m or 7136' on Onion Valley Rd) past Sardine Canyon and to Little Onion, CA (2380m) where we left the road for bushwhacking through manzanita, sage, and ultimately stream crossing through willows. After crossing we went up the middle of the relatively flat valley aiming for the climbers left side of the first bench in the canyon. After again crossing the stream we found the bottom of a chute with enough snow to get our skis off our backs. As the chute slowly steepened the snow became harder. Exiting near the top brought us to easier terrain, but still very hard snow. After more climbing

we arrived at the last stand of trees in the canyon (elevation 3270m, 10,730') under threatening skies for our camp. The four tents were quickly setup and a luxurious snow kitchen dug — camp was established. The kitchen gave a pleasant venue for dinner and getting to know each other or catching up after our approach and climb to altitude.

Friday night the wind blustered and five to six inches of snow accumulated at camp. Saturday morning, after breakfast we set out at about 8:00 am under cloudy skies, through snow flurries, and at times very limited visibility. The route is up canyon to the Parker Lakes and then to the hanging valley on the north side of the main canyon. From the valley we climbed to the saddle west of Mount Mary Austin. There was new snow covering the rocky slopes. The ridge east to the summit was "Class 2" covered by one foot of fresh snow, exposed to more winds and still the low visibility. At noon six of us gathered on the summit. After an unsuccessful search for a register we signed in on a sheet of paper and left it in a plastic bag under a newly constructed cairn on the 13,048' summit in hopes (ex-



On summit of Mt Mary Austin, (13,048')

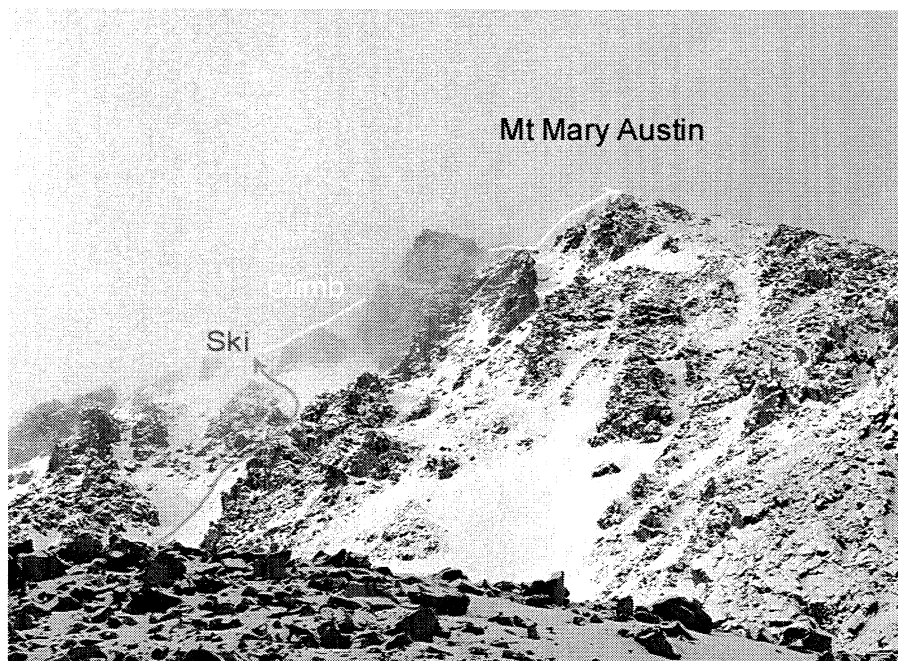
(before breakfast!) Brad, Angel, and Stefan had signed out to ski some of the chutes tempting them up in the canyon. We remaining four enjoyed breakfast in camp then packed up and skied out. We were treated to gentle bowls and new, very nice snow. Our skiing was burdened only by our heavy packs. We descended a different chute than our ascent and found it to be the preferred route. It is to climber's right of the obvious chute, behind a rib at the bottom of the bench. The willows along the stream below 2600m (8530') were budding – what a difference from our wintry

peptations) that the next party would put it into the register. Our descent was the way we came. Along the ridge we got glimpses through the clouds of the slopes of Acroductes and Baxter Peaks to the north. The strong skiers had a blast skiing down the bench to the Parker Lakes. From the Parker Lakes we made a short tour to the end of the Little Onion Valley to the impressive south face of Black Mountain (13,291'). The waning storm gave us some tantalizing looks at blue sky and even, briefly, our own shadows. The return to our camp was an easy run from the end of the canyon.



Telemarking in Little Onion Valley

Saturday night we again got snow, but little wind this time. Sunday morning we were treated to clear skies and sunshine. Early in the morning



camp. Our way out kept to the south side of the canyon which gave somewhat better travel conditions – no escaping the willowy stream crossing, however. At Little Onion we took a break and adjusted clothing for the higher temperatures of the hike out on the mine road. Soon we arrived at the cars, changed clothes, reset our watches/clocks, and departed for our homes.

This was a challenging, but enjoyable outing. Thanks to all participants and to Reiner for his help.

Diamond Peak

May 1-2, 2004

SPS Leaders

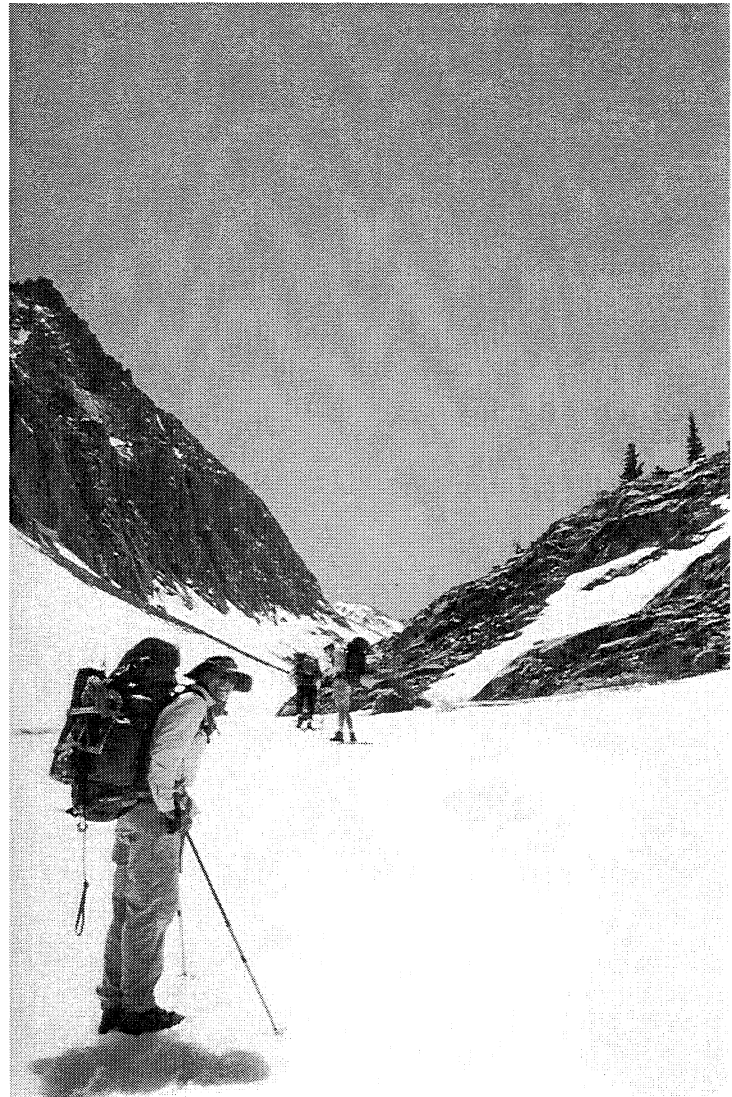
Ron Hudson & Patty Rambert

It was superb weather. Cloudless and hardly a breath of wind the whole weekend. Nine of us started up the Baxter Pass trail at 8AM Saturday. Took us 7 hours to the 10,800' point where there was considerable snow cover. Our camp there was some tents on snow and others on rock. There was not much snow below 10,000' – some snow in avalanche gullies even at 8,000' but really not a lot considering it was early May. The unmaintained trail has some bushy areas, but no big problem hiking.

At 6AM Sunday we started for the peak. The snow conditions were ideal. Pretty firm all day with no postholing. No suncups. We used crampons up the steep (to 45 degrees) gully leading from the bowl between Black and Diamond. We chose the widest-righthandmost- chute to the plateau area before the summit. The summit view was nice. Lots of snow on the peaks, but ice starting to break up in the Rae Lakes below.

So all nine of the group made the summit. Black Mtn beckoned close, but would have taken too long for the group to do it and return to the cars at a reasonable time on this two day trip. Two fast ones signed out and went over to Black. The rest of us went back down to camp, glissading on the softening snow. Then we hiked down to the cars, arriving at the carpark at a respectable 4 PM.

Ron Hudson



Summit Photo - Gary Schenk, Scott Sullivan, Patty Rambert, Susan Livingston, Shannon Scott, Joe Stephens (Hidden), Ron Hudson, Mary Jo Dungfelder in foreground.

This joint SMS/SPS trip was planned to take advantage of the opening of Hwy 120 to Tioga Pass, to get easy access to some great skiing in the Tioga Pass/Tuolumne Meadows area. Eight people met Saturday morning at the top of the road at Tioga Lake, the eight included: Wally Drake, Carmen and Jim Garvey, Thomas Johansson, Angel Ocana, Eric Watts, and myself on a first lead trip with Reiner Stenzel as my assistant leader. The road was closed half a mile before the Park entrance.

After the usual trailhead organizing we headed up the hill towards the Dana meadows, with the plan to find a camping spot and continue to Mt Gibbs with daypacks. Instead of circling around through the meadows we took a more direct route through the trees following the base of the Dana plateau. Some steep slopes with hard snow delayed our progress. By around 10.30am we decided we had carried our heavy packs far enough and setup camp on a bench overlooking the Dana meadows, close to Dana ridge running down to the Dana Fork. Carmen decided to stay in camp and the rest headed off more briskly towards the Dana Fork. The Dana Fork drainage was narrow to start with but higher up it opened out into a large snow-filled cirque with sparse trees, great skiing.

As usual by this time Reiner was powering ahead since otherwise it would get too late for a summit attempt. Reiner, Eric, and Angel made it to the summit

Gibbs and Gaylor

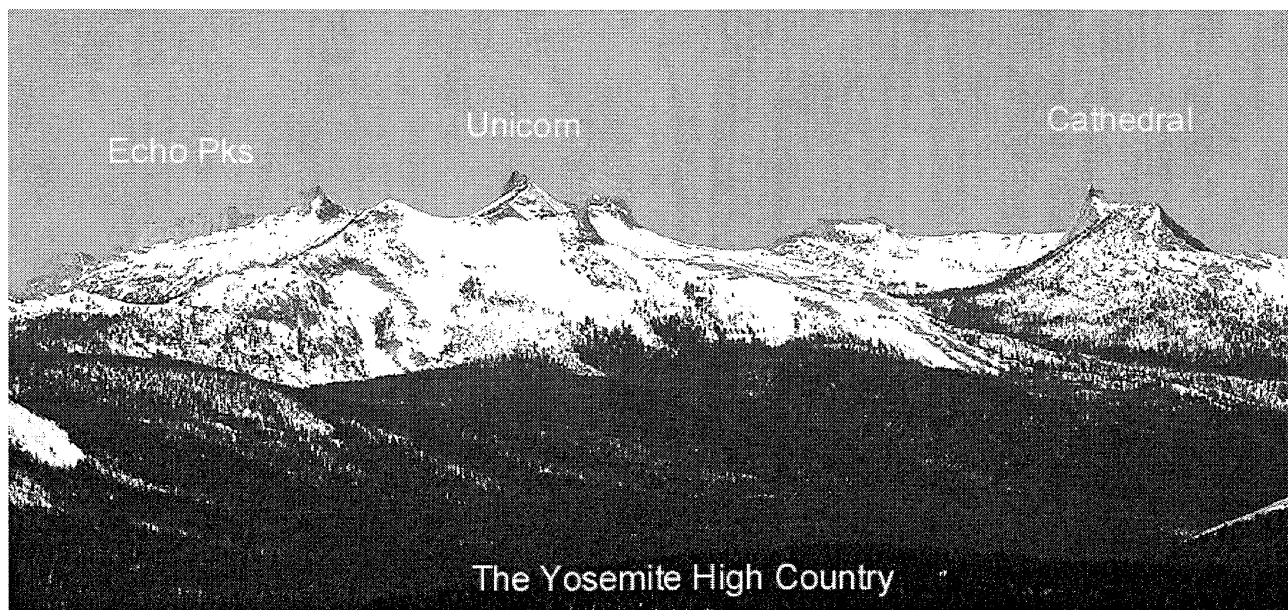
May 1-2, 2004

SPS/SMS Leaders

Jonathan Meagher & Reiner Stenzel



of Mt Gibbs via a rocky ridgeline after having climbed up as high as possible on skis. They ascended the ridge 0.5 mi west of the summit, which involved a short class 3-rock/snow scramble. Then they followed the dry ridge to the 12,773' summit. The views were great in all



The Yosemite High Country

continued from page 13

directions but there was no summit register. According to info from the SPS, the registers on Dana and Gibbs vanish often due to the heavy traffic in the summer, hence are no longer replaced. The three "hermanos" had a great ski run down into the Dana Fork.

Wally and Thomas skied up to the ridge and then skied directly down to Jim and I, waiting below. The four of us enjoyed the great mid-afternoon snow conditions on the ski down the Dana fork, before putting on our skins and heading for camp. Angel, Eric, and Reiner followed some way behind, staying in contact by radio. The evening proved warm enough for Eric to take a quick shower to freshen up after a warm day and mosquitoes to appear around dusk.

Sunday morning dawned clear and sunny. Surface hoar sparkled in the sun. We packed up and headed out around 7.30am, back towards Tioga Lake and our cars. This time we kept to the meadows the whole way and made much better time, taking our skins off at the park entrance for a short ski down to the car at Tioga Lake.

A large crowd of skiers/climbers was at the road end and we missed to see the other SMS group (Mark and Randy's group) heading up to Mt Dana. We dumped our heavy packs, put on light daypacks and decided for a quick ski tour up Mt Gaylor. Skis were put on straight away after climbing the roadside snow bank. We were able to skin up the whole way on the southeast side, although it got a little narrow just before



making the east ridge. This route avoided most of the crowds of people and the snowmobile towing lazy skiers up the peak. Angel, Eric, Thomas, Reiner, and Wally climbed the short but steep summit, while Eric and I rested on some rocks for the ski down.

We skied down the northeast face, which had some short steep sections, with the snow getting heavier as we descended. After a couple of binding releases we were back down at the road. A short hike brought us back to the cars before 2pm. It was a fine ski weekend. In Owens Valley it was 90+ degree summer weather.

by Jonathan Meagher with photos by Reiner Stenzel



IN HIGH PLACES:

TRISTAN DE CUNHA, SOUTH GEORGIA, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Burton "Vividly Imaginative" Falk

CONSUMERS ADVISORY: While the facts and figures in the following article are otherwise accurate, Mr. Falk, in spite of what he might imply, has not climbed the highpoints of Tristan de Cunha, South Georgia, or the Falkland Islands. Although usually the very paragon of veracity, Falk is, unfortunately, possessed with a vivid imagination when it comes to highpoints.
The Better Business Bureau

TRISTAN DE CUNHA It was on the bright, sunny morning of October 22, following a 3-day, 1317 nautical mile voyage from St. Helena, when the *MV Explorer* dropped anchor off the north shore of Tristan de Cunha. As "The Little Red Ship" began to roll in the heavy swell, Jo and I and our 68 fellow passengers lined up along the deck to take our first look at the beautifully symmetric volcanic island. Today we would be visiting the tiny British possession—a mere 6 miles in diameter, with a population only 285—considered by its residents to be the most remote island in the world.

Indeed, Tristan de Cunha, set in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, about halfway between Buenos Aires and Capetown, if not the planet's most remote island, is surely one of the most difficult places to visit. It has no airport, and only 5 ships, including the *Explorer*, call there on a regular yearly basis. Should you be interested in climbing Tristan's highpoint, 6,760' **Queen Mary's Peak**, your best bet would be to book passage on the South African ship, *SA Agulhas*, out of Capetown, which, every fall, while supplying both Tristan and the weather station at nearby Gough Island, lingers in the vicinity for some three weeks. To ensure safe landings in the usually rough seas, by the way, the *Agulhas* carries its own helicopter.

And speaking of rough seas, the jetty built around the island's small harbor offers very little protection, so for small boats such as the *Explorer's* Zodiacs to enter or exit, timing the incoming swells becomes crucial. Our landings that morning were made with the help of an islander who, monitoring

the surf from a hillside above the harbor, used hand signals to notify our Zodiac pilots when to come speeding in through the narrow passage.

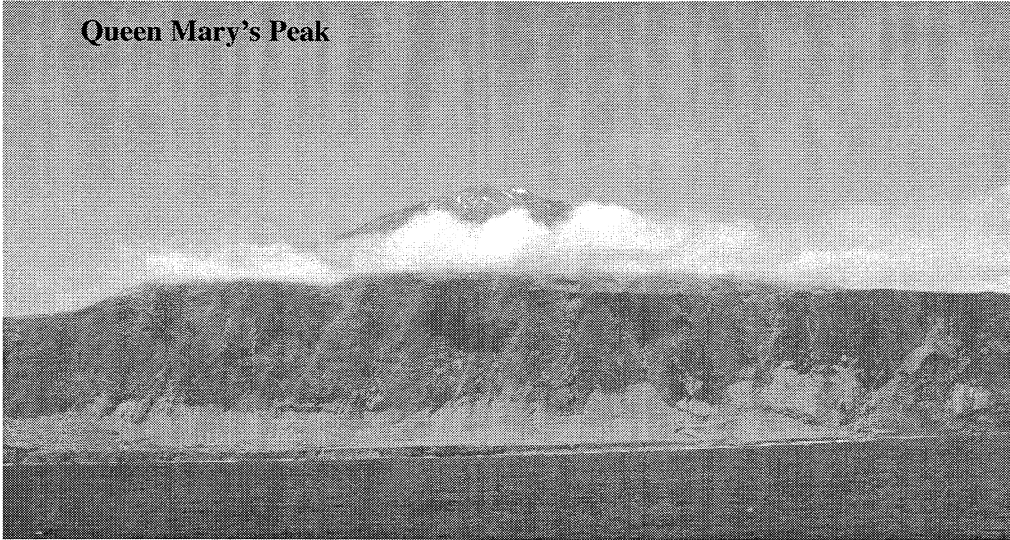
For the twenty of us who signed up for a "strenuous" climb on Queen Mary's Peak—and who were consequently granted first priority to come ashore—our entry into the harbor was somewhat akin to surfing the face of a big wave, a thrill ride if there ever was one. Once on dry land—and after regaining our collective composure—we all squeezed into five small vehicles helpfully provided by the islanders, and started off on a counter-clockwise drive along the shoreline, passing first through Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, the island's only community; crossing green pastures, where milk cows and sheep grazed, and, after skirting a farm area known as the "Potato Patch," finally reaching the end of the road. All these sites, by the way, lie on an alluvial fan spread out along the northwestern coast of the island, the only practical spot for such development.

Leaving the vehicles at that point, we hiked along the coast for another mile or so, and then, as noted in my journal, "about 10 a.m., we started up a ravine on a precarious use trail, eventually arriving on a steep sheep pasture under an even steeper brush-covered cliff. Somehow, once upon this slope, a competition got started, and, although I was chugging along at what I considered to be a fairly decent pace, I ended up barely missing a Bronze for the USA, with Barry, a pilot from the U.K., Cecilia (a lithe, sixty-something Norwegian woman, who, in spite of the fact she smoked, was in remarkable condition), and Tom (an international banker from Vanuatu, who I later learned was under investigation by the FBI for alleged financial misdeeds) arriving on the cliff top



Jo on Tristan De
Cunha

Queen Mary's Peak



ahead of me.

Most of my fellow hikers were birders, primarily interested in the Yellow-nosed Albatross soaring gracefully in the updraft along the precipice's edge, and so they were content to sit on the cliff top and munch their box lunches. I, however, took off up Queen Mary's slopes, and, in the 45 minutes I had available before promising to return, I'm pretty sure I must have made it to the crater's rim - a mere 4,000' of gain - and back.

About 3pm, following a rapid down climb, we loaded into the waiting vehicles, and were transported back to Edinburgh just in time for a reception hosted by the island's UK-appointed administrator. This was a noteworthy affair, not only because of the delicious local rock lobster (actually crayfish) served as an appetizer, but even more so because we got a chance to mix with locals, as interesting a bunch as I've ever met.

The recorded history of Tristan de Cunha starts way back in 1506, when the island was first discovered by the Portuguese explorer, Tristao de Cunha, who modestly named it after you know who. In 1816, Tristan was settled by the British, who at the time were concerned that the French would use the island as a base from which to rescue Napoleon, then exiled in St. Helena. Two years later, realizing that there was little if any interest in liberating the former Emperor, the garrison was withdrawn, at which time everyone left except for one Corporal William Glass, a Scot. Glass, as it turns out, liked the Tristanian life style, and he asked for and received permission to stay on the island with his wife and children. Over the intervening years, a few others, including a handful of stranded sailors and whalers, were attracted to the self-sufficient island, and today

the population has grown to such an extent that if you were to look in a local telephone book—were there such a thing—you would discover a whopping seven surnames listed, including several members of the original Glass family, one of whom we met at the reception.

Another

interesting aspect of Tristan's history concerns a 1961 incident, at which time, alarmingly, a small volcanic cone began to grow on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Fearing for the worst, all of the islanders were evacuated, first to South Africa, and then to Wales. In 1963, however, after it became apparent that there was no continuing danger, all but five of the 264 Tristaners opted to return to their island homes. These hearty folks relish their independence and solitude.

The following morning, October 23, another bright and sunny day, the *Explorer* sailed 26 nautical miles to the west, to visit the uninhabited Nightingale Islands. This small archipelago is home to several species of birds, including rockhopper penguins—cute little animals that come equipped with bright orangish-yellow feathers protruding from either side of their heads, giving them a rather foppish look. Although the swell was too high to land our Zodiacs, we did get in close enough to take good telephotos of the fashionable birds.

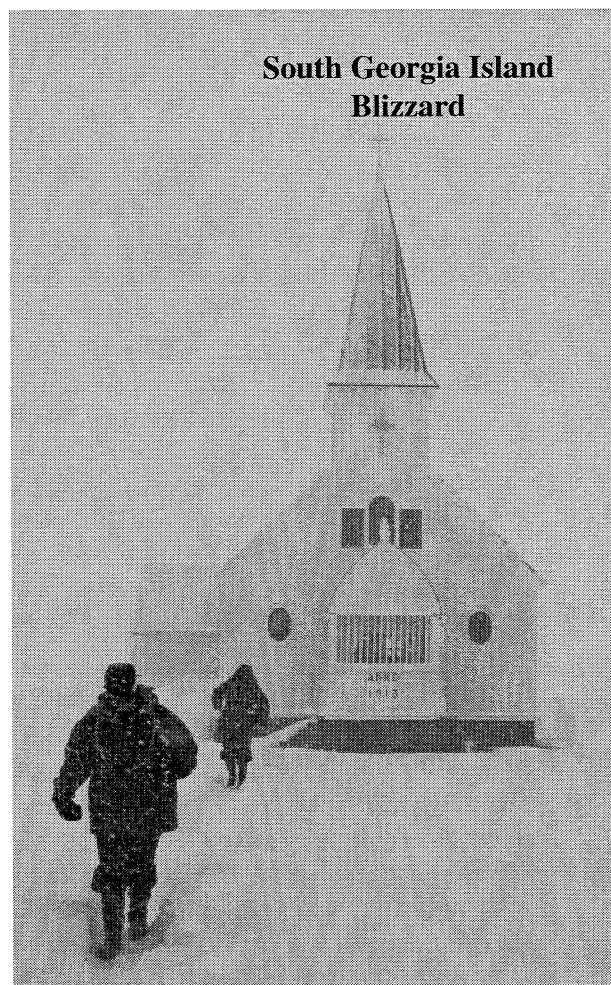
SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND Leaving the Tristan de Cunha area, the *Explorer* next headed west south west for South Georgia Island, a 5-day, 1,355 nautical mile voyage, during which we: 1.) made a half day stop off of Gough Island (a World Heritage site, where no landings are permitted) to observe, while in our Zodiacs, several groups of subantarctic fur seals, a smattering of elephant seals, and hundreds, if not thousands, of various sea and shore birds, 2.) encountered our first ice bergs, and 3.) sailed, rock and rollingly, through the “roaring forties,” and into the “furious fifties.”

The island of South Georgia, also a British

Possession, is located in the Southern Ocean, below the Antarctic Convergence, and is approximately 110 miles in length, and, at maximum, 20 miles wide. Although once the scene of an active whaling industry, the island would be uninhabited today were it not for a handful of scientists and a few commandos—the island was invaded by Argentina during the 1982 Falklands War—stationed at the British Antarctic Survey Station at King Edward Point, and for the husband and wife team of Tim and Pauline Carr, who manage a small museum at nearby Grytviken, an otherwise deserted Norwegian whaling station.

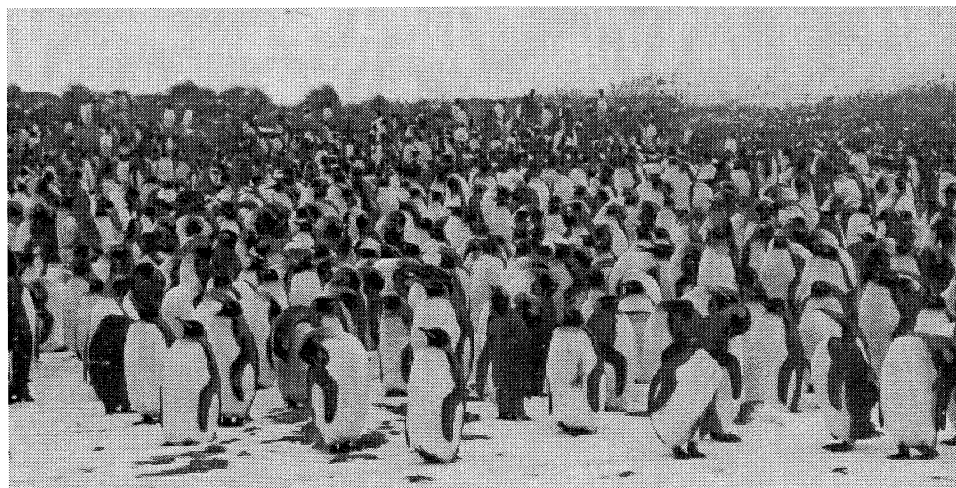
South Georgia is perhaps best remembered as the place on which, in April 1916, Capt. Ernest Shackleton and his 6-man crew landed—following a treacherous 870 mile journey in a small boat—while making a desperate effort to seek help for the remaining crewmembers of Shackleton's ship *Endurance*, who were left stranded on Elephant Island, off the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. Arriving on the southwestern side of South Georgia, the daring team somehow managed to cross the intervening snow and ice covered mountains before reaching a whaling station at Stromness Bay on the north side. Thanks to their heroism, the entire crew of the *Endurance* was eventually rescued. In 1922, "The Boss," as his shipmates referred to Shackleton, returned to South Georgia on his way to another Antarctic adventure, but while at Grytviken he died of a heart attack. Fittingly, one of the *Explorer's* first stops was to visit Shackleton's gravesite on King Edward Cove, just a short walk from the former whaling station.

Later that same afternoon, while the *Explorer* was anchored off Grytviken, so we could visit the museum, an extremely heavy snow began to fall. In fact, while Jo and I were walking toward the restored chapel behind the museum, the snowstorm turned into a total whiteout. The point is that somewhere in that swirling cloud, about 11 miles south of Grytviken, lay the island's highpoint, 9,625' Mt. **Paget**. And it seemed as if Jo and I walked for a long time, and that some of it was uphill. What



I'm suggesting is that it's very possible that we could have reached the summit. I mean, who can really say for sure?

November 2 was another interesting day in South Georgia. As Chris Cutler, one of the ship's naturalists, noted, "A force 8-9 storm whipped the surface of the sea with intense winds and produced
continued page 23



Conservation 2-Liners by Barbee Tidball

- ❑ Fee Demo – On May 28, 2004 hikers and other forest users will no longer be required to purchase and display an Adventure Pass in the Monterey Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest; the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in the San Bernardino National Forest near Coachella Valley; the lands south of Interstate 8 in the Cleveland National Forest; and Mt. Palomar north of Hwy 76 in the Cleveland National Forest east of Escondido.

The dropping of the Adventure Pass requirement is not a victory for anti-Fee Demo proponents. The areas selected are lightly used, so revenues from each area were not considered important.

- ❑ Yosemite – Opportunities for Public Participation as planning continues. In 2004 Yosemite is going forward with a User Capacity Program for the Merced River Corridor. Using Wilderness capacity management as a model along with various required mandates the park managers will be reviewing comments to develop and implement a program for the Merced River Corridor that meets the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as well as having a commitment to visitor experience and resource protection (VERP). Review issues on the Merced River at www.nps.gov/yose/planning and consider attending a planning open house in Yosemite Valley. The next planning meetings to be held in the Valley are scheduled for May 26 and June 30th.

In May 2004 Yosemite plans to begin massive construction projects including upgrading utilities near the river in the Valley. This work begins after a U.S. District Court Judge ruled against shutting down construction after a suit by Friends of Yosemite Valley and more than 50 other environmental groups. The suit had been filed in 2000 to stop down parts of the Yosemite Valley Plan (YVP). The YVP will reduce the number of utility crossing of the Merced River for 14 to 3. Construction work includes almost \$200 million authorized by Congress after the floods for repairs and reconstruction.

- ❑ **Southern California Forest Plans – <sierraclub.org/ca/socalforests> NOW is the time to make your comments heard on the Management Plans for our Southern CA Forests. The Sierra Club has prepared one of the alternatives being considered. We need to make sure the Forest Service hears our support for this alternative. Attend one or more of the Forest Service’s open house meetings between now and June 17th. Show mining companies, off-road vehicle groups, and others that you care. File your comments with the Forest Service supporting the Club’s backed alternative. Check out the web site or call 213/387-6528 x 203 for more information.**
- ❑ Planning a significant climbing event? Consider these guidelines – Yosemite National Park’s General Management Plan, Superintendent’s Compendium lists appropriate day use on established trail only for groups up to 35 persons. For cross-country routes group sizes of up to 8 persons are suggested. These quantities do not reflect trailhead quotas, they are planning figures for group size.
- ❑ **Bush Administration has placed fewer species on the endangered list, and removed more, than any other presidency.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have sufficient funds and staff to protect the 225 plants and animals that qualify as proposed endangered species. A recent report by the Center for Biological Diversity shows that delays in protection have contributed to the extinction of 83 species between 1974 and 1994. Fish and Wildlife need \$153 million to list all of

these species and to protect their habitats. The Bush Administration, however has repeatedly requested only a fraction of that amount from Congress...\$12 million for the current year...and has actually refused Congressional offers of additional funds. You can help, write your representative, and ask Congress for \$153 million as well as the development of a five year plan to protect these species and their habitats.

- ❑ Did you ever wonder how big a 6" cathole is? Leave Not Trace principle – Dispose of Waste Properly includes digging of a sufficient cathole for human waste. If your cathole is the correct width and depth you should be able to drop a water bottle in the hole.
- ❑ Did you know – It takes 1 year for cheat grass an exotic weed to grow back in a fire burned area, but it takes 20 years for indigenous sage brush to return to its pre-fire state.
- ❑ Sierra Nevada Conservancy - 2 Assembly Bills in California, AB 1788 (Leslie) and AB 2600 (Laird), are being debated on protection of the Sierra. Both bills note the importance of the Sierra to the state as a source of water, recreation, tourism, and timber. They call for the creation of a conservancy that will promote protection of the natural and cultural resources of the region, including protecting water quality. Both allow the conservancy to fund acquisition of land or conservation easements.

The conservancy, if formed, would be an independent organization housed inside the California Resources Agency. It would operate in partnership with landowners, local, state, and federal governmental agencies, and nonprofits, but is not a regulatory agency. Funding for the conservancy would come from existing and new propositions like Propositions 40 and 50 including the \$30 million set aside in Proposition 50 for EPA mercury clean-up funds, and USDA fuels management monies.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy effort began 5-years ago and it now faces 3 major issues:

1. What are the boundaries of the Sierra?
2. Who should be represented on the Conservancy Board - a 20 member board which would include 10 local county supervisors or Governor appointed 7 member board.
3. What will be the role of local County supervisors? AB 2600 calls for "consultation" with Sierra local government, while AB 1788 requires local counties to approve projects within their boundaries. (Note as of April AB1788 has been dropped pending resolution of this issue.)

Economically the Sierra could greatly benefit from formation of the Conservancy, which is supported by Gov. Schwarzenegger, but compromises between statewide interests and local control will have to be made. For more information see Sunday, *LA Times* article 5/16/04, or log on to <http://www.sierraconservancy.org>, or www.sierranevadaalliance.org

Call to all Trip Leaders

Its time to plan trips for the next schedule!

Submit your plans to SPS Outings for the

Oct - Jan Schedule by June 15th

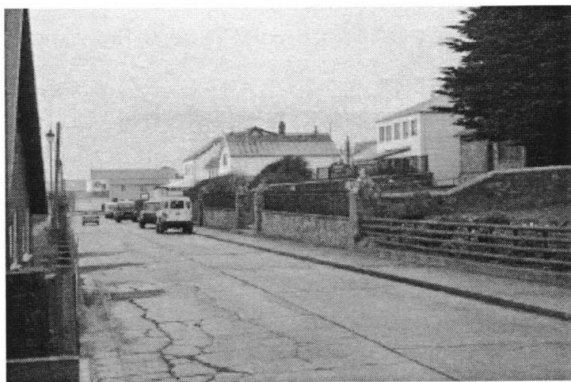
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS On November 7, after at last reaching the Falklands, yet another British possession, we spent the entire morning Zodiacing around Berkeley Sound, at the north end of East Falkland Island, looking at birds. And even though we spotted all kinds—Magellanic and gentoo penguins, rock shags, streamer and crested ducks, and upland and kelp geese—I couldn't help but thinking that perfectly good highpointing time was slipping away. Birders can be a real pain in the tail feathers at times.

The upshot was that by the time we tied up in Stanley, the islands' capital, located on the extreme east side of East Falkland Island, there was no time to rent a car and drive to the **Mt. Osborne** area on the extreme western side. I had to content myself with accompanying Jo on a walking tour of the little town, where 1,600 of the Falkland's total population of 2,200 reside.

The afternoon was not a complete bust, however. I did learn that hiking the islands can be dangerous unless you first stop by an office in Stanley and pick up a map indicating the locations of the numerous land mine fields left as an aftermath of the 1982 Falklands (or Malvinas, if you're Argentine) War. I also discovered that when, in 1690, Captain John Strong of the sloop *Welfare* made the first recorded landing on the islands, he named them in honor of Viscount Falkland, the Treasurer of the British Navy. Drat! After all these years thinking that they were somehow named after my fine old German family.

And that was how the final curtain came down. Next morning, November 8, our incredible expedition came to an end. After sailing some 7,000 nautical miles since leaving the Canary Islands on October 7, Jo and I, and most of the *Explorer's* other passengers and crew were to be bussed to the Royal Air Force base at Mt. Pleasant, where we would catch a mid-day charter flight for Santiago, Chile.

But before heading into the austral sunset, let me mention just one final highpoint consideration. While in Stanley on the afternoon prior to leaving, I talked to an islander regarding the prospects of climbing **Mt. Osborne**, and he told me that, as far as he knew, if you had a proper vehicle, you could probably drive to its summit. Well, the thing is, I fell asleep on the long ride out to the airport that final morning, and even though the summit was somewhat out of the way, it's very possible that while I was napping the bus made it to the top. It's a stretch, I agree, but you know as well as I do that stranger things have happened.



Main street Falkland Island
continued from page 17

some truly impressive waves. Winds gusted to 50 knots...The *Explorer* hove-to about nine miles from shore and simply rode out the storm as we realized that our chances for a landing in these conditions were impossible."

In other words, we lost a full day. And that meant that, even though we were able to visit the wondrous king penguin colony on Salisbury Plain on November 3, and observe the wandering albatross chicks in their nests on Albatross Island on November 4, we would have to cut our scheduled visit to the Falkland Islands short by one day. This in turn meant that my plan to climb the Falkland's highpoint, 2,312' **Mount Osborne**, was in serious jeopardy.

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PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Treasurer: Henry Arnebold 2459 Escalante, La Verne, CA 91750

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Michael Dillenback, 22611 Evalyn Ave., Torrance, CA 90505-3430

AWARDS: Notification of accomplishments send to section Secretary: Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. To purchase awards merchandise - Emblem pins (\$15.00), senior emblem pins (\$15.00), master emblem pins (\$15.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS. all prices include sales tax.

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