

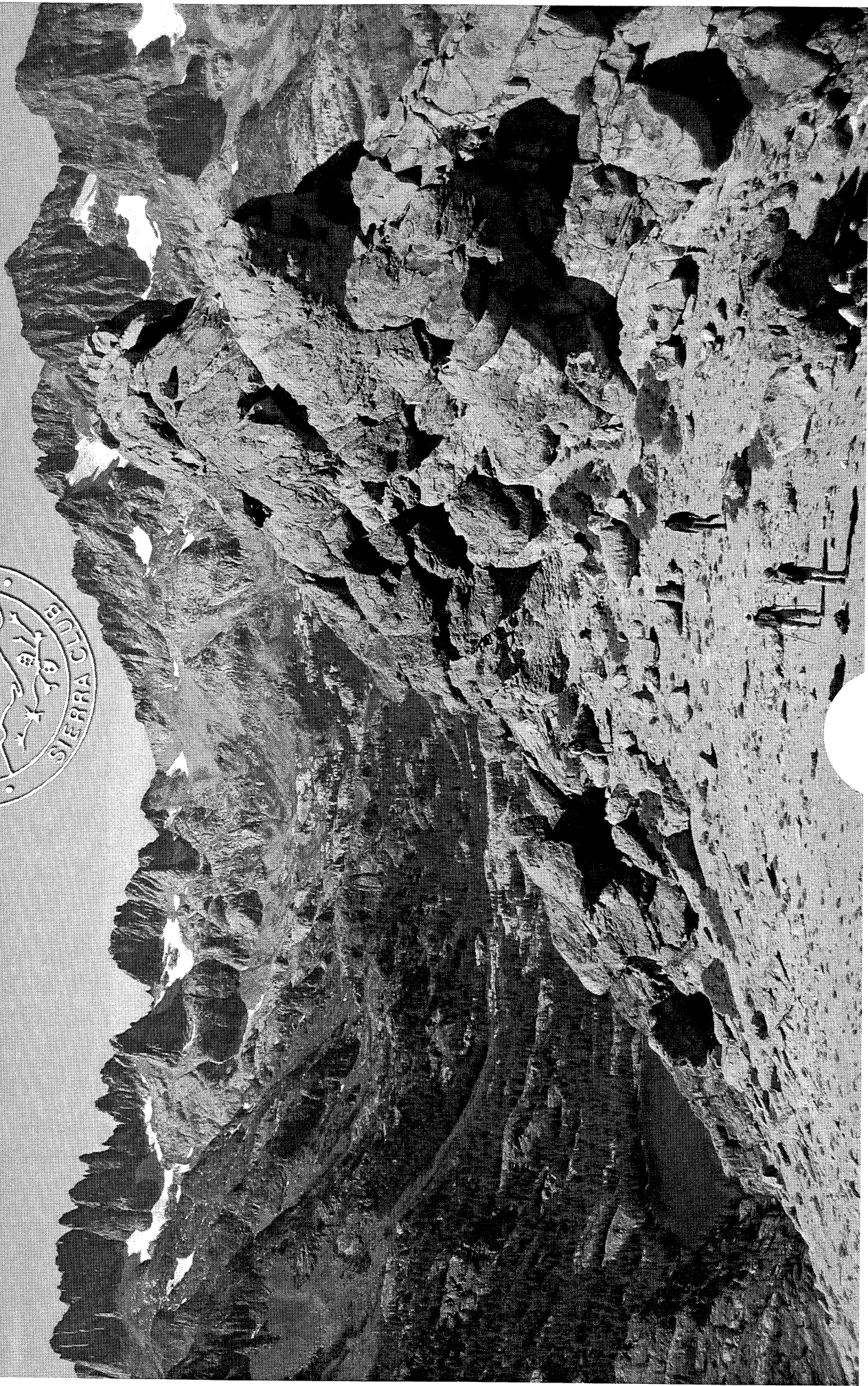
The Sierra

DECEMBER 2004 - JANUARY 2005



ECHO

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 6

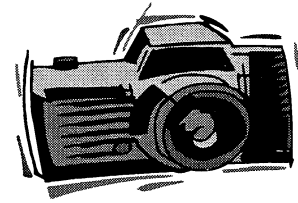


Front Cover

SAN JOAQUIN PEAK

September 25, 2004 - Ron Jones List Finish Climb

Photo by Jeff Solomon



Peak List: See stories inside this issue

Peak 12774

Starr King

Mt. Fuji

Vogelsang Peak

Mt Florence

SPS PROGRAMS

February 15, 2005 - Tuesday Joint Sections Meeting Sponsored by Ski Mountaineers.

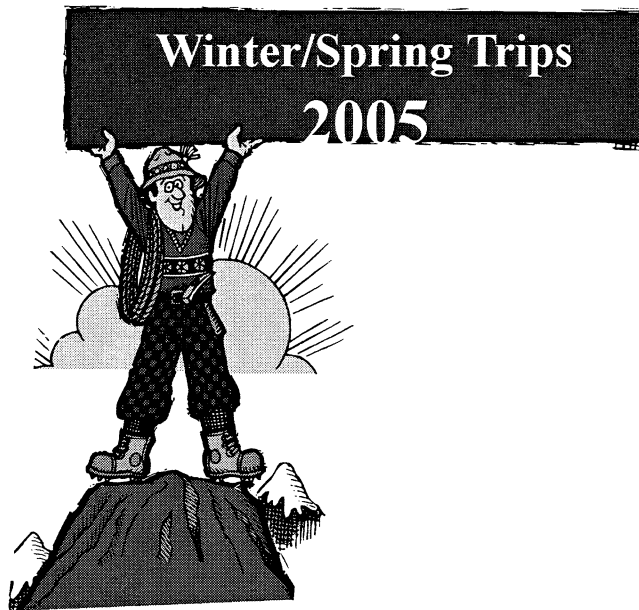
Annual Joint meeting of SMS, SPS, DPS, HPS & LPS will be hosted this year by Ski Mountaineers. Meet and make plans with your friends and learn about activities of these sections. Each section will give a presentation of their scope and upcoming plans. Meet Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Road, in Griffith Park Los Angeles.

San Jacinto

Winter Travel - Smiles

Pictured (left to right) are Kim Wright, Allan Pincus, Bruce Corning, Miriam Cardenas, Joe Krenek, Kent Schwitkis (ldr), Sherry Ross (ass't ldr), Sandy Sperling, Wayne Vollaire, Tom Connery, Patty Rambert and Melissa Kane.

Photo by Edd Ruskowitz



MARCH

MR: Mar 12 Sat Sierra Peaks, WTC Mt Baldy (10064) Snow Climb: Strenuous 3900' gain, 8 miles. Group size limited. Call leaders for reservation & verification of qualifications. Ldr: DON CROLEY. Co-Ldr: TOM MCDONNELL.

MAR 19 Deadline Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in April 2 seminar.

APRIL

Apr 2 Sat Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader! Registrar STEVE BOTAN

MER: Apr 16-17 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS/SMS Sierra Snow Checkoff: M or E snow checkoff. Email or send 2 sase, SC#, resume of snow climbing/training, Ldr: TOM MCDONNELL, Co-Ldr: RANDALL DANTA

I: Apr 16-17 Sat-Sun LTC/WTC Indian Cove Navigation Checkout: Navigation noodles to satisfy basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, campfire. Sun checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info., 2 sase. Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS, Co-Ldr: BOB BRADSHAW

MER: Apr 30-May 1 Sat -Sun LTC, SPS/DPS/SMS Sierra Snow Checkoff: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, 2 SASE or email, Ldr: NILE SORENSON Co-ldrs: DOUG MANTLE & DUANE MCRUER

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.

MAY

TI: May 2-8 Mon-Sun SMS/SPS Onion-Taboose Trip: Join this Sierra Crest ski tour from Onion Valley to Taboose Pass. Ski and climb by day, followed by happy hour in camp. Extended ski pack touring experience req. Trip subject to modifications depending on snow and weather. Send e-mail to Ldrs: TOM MARSH, REINER STENZEL

I: May 7-8 Sat-Sun, LTC - Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in the Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our third annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave no preserved, under the CA Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of SC activists and others. An intermediate cross-country navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of a car camp in the pinyon and juniper forests of the Mid Hills. Potluck and social on Saturday, and also for those arriving early on Friday. Send sase or e-mail. LDR: VIRGIL SHIELDS CO-LDR: HARRY FREIMANIS

MR: May 7-8 Sat-Sun Colosseum Mtn (12,451), Mt Perkins (12,566): Snow climb and camp in Eastern Sierra's Armstrong Canyon restricted to Sierra Club members with ice ax and crampon experience. LDR: BETH EPSTEIN. CO-LDR: ASHER WAXMAN

MR: May 11-13 Wed-Fri Trojan Pk (13,947'), Mt Barnard (13,990'). Climb these two almost-14,000ers from the Owens Valley via George Creek. Send 2 sase or 1 sase to Patty. Ldr: RON HUDSON Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT

Spring Trips Continued 2005

MAY

MR: May 13-15 Fri - Sun SPS Izaak Walton (12,077'), Red Slate (13,163'): Fast paced backpack Fri. to camp at Tully Lake in the Silver Divide, 9mi, 4700'. Sat. climb snow and 3rd class rock to Izaak Walton, 3.5mi, 1700' return. Red Slate either Sat PM or Sun on the way out, class 1-2 from McGee Pass. Experience on snow and 3rd class rock required. Please send climbing resume with SC# and recent conditioning (email OK) to Ldrs: PAUL MORASH (climberpm@yahoo.com), TINA BOWMAN

I: May 14 Sat LTC Mt. Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic: 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one to one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a checkoff. Many expert leadders 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. Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR Co-Ildr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

MR: May 15 Sun SPS/SMS Mt Morrison (3748m): A day climb & ski tour of this peak near Mammoth Lks. Hike x-c to the hanging valley east of Mt. Morrison and climb frozen snow slopes in the am. Return by glissading or skiing soft pm snow before returning to cars. 6 mi rt, 4,580 ft gain. . Restricted trip, ice axe & crampon exp req. for climbers. Skiers must have advanced skiing skills, metal edged skis, climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel. SASE or email with SC# to Leader: RJ SECOR. Asst: ASHER WAXMAN

MR: May 17-21 Tue-Sat Castle Pk (9,103'), Mt Rose (10,776'), Mt Lola (9,148'), English Mtn (8,373'), Sierra Buttes (8,591'), Mt Elwell (7,818'), Adams Pk (8,197'): Climb these peaks north of Lake Tahoe. Each is a dayhike or part of a day. Send SASE or e-mail to Patty. Ldr: RON HUDSON Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT

I: May 22 Sun Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino Nat. Forest for either check-out or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC. Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS. Asst: BOB BRADSHAW

I: May 28-30 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Angora Mtn (10,202), Coyote Peak (10,892): Long backpack to remote peaks in Golden Trout Wilderness. Ldr: BETH EPSTEIN. Co-Ldr: KIM GIMENEZ

JUNE

MR: JUN 4-5 Sat-Sun SPS Mt Dade (13,600'+), Bear Creek Spire 13,720'+): Backpack up Little Lakes Valley to Treasure Lakes (4 mi, 1000' gain). Climb Dade via Hourglass Couloir (up to 40 degree slope). Climb BCS via Cox Col & class 3 route. Ice axe, crampons required. Send email with H&W phones, SC#, relevant experience (snow & rock) to Ldr: ASHER WAXMAN. Asst: R.J. SECOR

MR: June 11-12 Sat-Sun MR: Stanford #2 (12,838') and Morgan #2 (13,002'): (Date changed from original announcement). Restricted to SC members with ice axe and crampon exper. Backpack and climb. Send SASE & \$5 permit fee to Ldr. LARRY TIDBALL. Co-Ildr. BARBEE TIDBALL

I: June 11-13 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Kern Peak (11,510): SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 9mi, 1500' gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Pk in 8 mi, 300' gain rt., all x country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 9 mi, 800' gain. Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst.: GEORGE WYSUP

MR: June 16-19 Thu-Sun 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 four cl 2-3 peaks in Yosemite. Ice axe & crampons will likely be needed. Send \$5 permit fee (check made to Ron Hudson) Ldr. RON HUDSON. Co-Ildr. PATTY RAMBERT

C: June 10-12 Fri-Sun LTC/Harwood/WTC Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals, and practice first aid kit. CPR within previous 2 years required to enroll. Fee \$180 with SC#/\$190 non-member (full refund thru May 6). For application e-mail to Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

MR: Jun 23-26 Thur-Sun SPS/SMS Miter (12,770'), Major General (12,400') and McAdie (13,680'): Do the three M's out of Rock Creek. Must be comfortable on high cl 3 rock and proficient with ice axe and crampons. Ldr: REINER STENZEL Asst Ldr: ASHER WAXMAN

I: Jun 24-26 Fri-Sun HPS/SPS Sirretta Pk (9977'), Cannel Pt (8314'), Smith Mtn (9533'), Owens Pk (8453'), Mt Jenkins (7921'): Take a 3-day weekend in scenic So. Sierra & bag up to 3-SPS peaks and 3-HPS peaks. Ldr. WOLF LEVERICH Co-Ldrs: KAREN ISAACSON LEVERICH

Leaders - send the Echo stories and photos from your climbing trips in 2004 and 2005

Echoes from the Chair

January 2, 2005

Hope the New Year finds you all well and ready for another great year of enjoying the outdoors! On January 1, 2005 I went up the Palm Springs Tram to do some snowshoeing. It was a beautiful day of sunshine and crisp clear air and good times with good friends. Thanks to Kent Schwitkis and Sherry Ross for scheduling this annual pilgrimage to San Jacinto. It is the time to make some plans and set some goals. It is also the 50th Anniversary of the SPS.



The snow season has been fantastic from the local mountains to Mammoth and Tahoe. In the next few months, it is a great time to get out with the DPS and the HPS for some conditioning hikes. Join a new group and see a new area. We have so much to choose from in Southern California.

Think about leading a trip for the Sierra summer season to one of your favorite areas. We need lots of trips so the new hikers can get on two SPS sponsored trips and then go on to become SPS members. If you are close to reaching a personal goal (emblem, list finish) and need some help, let some of the leaders know and maybe we can set up a trip to that area.

Enjoy and climb safe,

Patty

SPS December 2004 New Member List

Welcome New Members

Arthur Crespo
1213 Estrado Terrace
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-7179
H(650) 224-0652
W(650) 330-0100 x 1778
crespo@cs.stanford.edu

Haven Fearn
3410 Vista Oak Dr. Apt 234
Martinez, CA 94553-8511

Mark Jones
26141 Red Corral
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
H(949) 643-0850
W(949) 904-7803
mjones@fopa.fujitsu.com

David Koskenmaki
P.O. Box 6181
Frazier Park, CA 93222-6181
(661) 242-1627
koskenmaki@earthlink.net

Jennie Thomas
1305 Palo Verde Rd.
Irving, CA 92617
H(206) 940-0326

New Active Mem- bers

Stephanie Gylden
4630 Stanford Dr.
Culver City, CA
90230
(310) 313-9281
stepneh@comcast.net

Anita McCarthy
2940 Verdugo Rd.
#102
Glendale, CA 91208
(818) 553-8041
summit553@hotmail.com

SPS Accomplishments Re-cap of 2004 Achievements

EMBLEM

Barbara Sholle - 2nd time Emblem plus list finish
#570 Dave Sholle

SENIOR EMBLEM

#134 Patty Rambert

MASTER EMBLEM

R.J. Secor - 3rd time Master Emblem plus list finish
#71 Judi Richardson

LIST FINISH

#63 Ron Jones

SPS Remembers

Ali Aminian
Dick Kely
Mike McNicholas
Paul Lipsohn

Sierra Peaks Section - Meeting Minutes

Management Committee Meeting – October 13, 2004

Location: Conference room, Lower Plaza, Angeles Chapter HQ

Attended by: Patty Rambert, Henry Arnebold, Reiner Stenzel, Gary Schenk. The meeting began at 6:40 PM.

Old Business:

The minutes of the June 19, 2004 meeting were approved.

New Business:

It was moved, seconded and approved that the Echo should be published electronically. Dave Sholle will be asked to present a proposal.**

It was moved, seconded and approved to place past issues of the Echo on CD-ROM for the 50th anniversary of the section.

It was moved, seconded and approved to reimburse the treasurer \$12.04 for postage and supplies.

Purchase of new registers was discussed. A policy is needed for the issue of register thefts now taking place in the Sierra.

R.J. Secor has agreed to become the new Mountain Records Chair. Effective date to be announced.

Outings Chair Report:

Fifty percent of sign-in sheets have been returned to the outings chair so far this year. Leaders are asked to turn in trip sign-in sheets as soon as possible.

Reiner has begun tracking of trips and participants. Ways of continuing this and using it were discussed.

Clarification of new leader requirements is needed.

Banquet Committee Report: A deposit of \$500 was made to the restaurant. Tickets will be printed immediately.

Membership Chair Report: There are 11 new Echo subscribers, 1 returning member, and 23 new active members.

Nominating Committee Report:

Patty Rambert, Reiner Stenzel, Henry Arnebold, George Wysup, Kent Schwitkis, Mike Dillenback, Stephanie Glyden, and Gary Schenk will be on the management committee ballot.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

General membership Meeting:

Patty discussed the upcoming schedule, and recent trips.

Dave Endres gave an enjoyable show on his trip to Ellesmere Island.

** Clarification Note: The statement only meant that someday the management committee feels that the Echo should be available electronically and does not feel the paper copy will be eliminated.

We Get Letters

Been to a SPS meeting lately? Probably not, as the attendance has greatly declined over the last few years despite having meetings only during the months of May through November. Perhaps the location (Angeles Chapter Headquarters) is to blame. In an effort to be centrally located and please everyone, this location causes prospective meeting attendees to travel at least an hour. It took us 1 1/2 hours from Long Beach to drive to the November meeting and over 2 1/2 hours for Patty Rambert. What's wrong with this picture? I am therefore suggesting that the May, July, September, and November meetings be held at a location closer to the people who live south of downtown, while the June, August, and October meetings be held at a north-of-downtown location. For many years we have used this alternating location policy with the banquet. I would like feedback from the membership on this issue.

Barbara Sholle

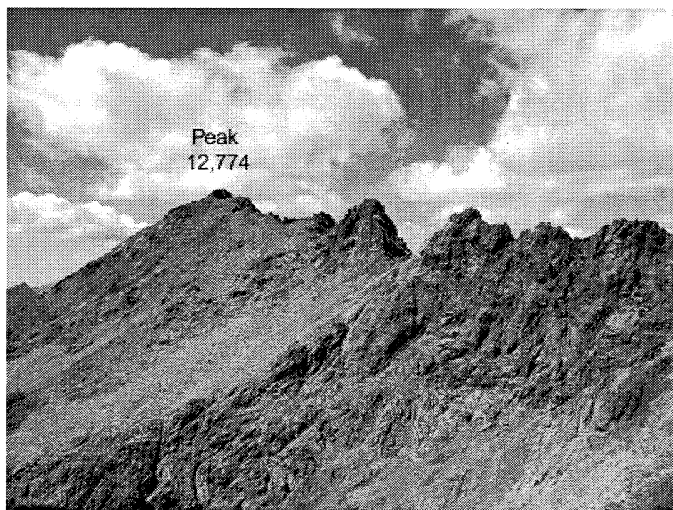
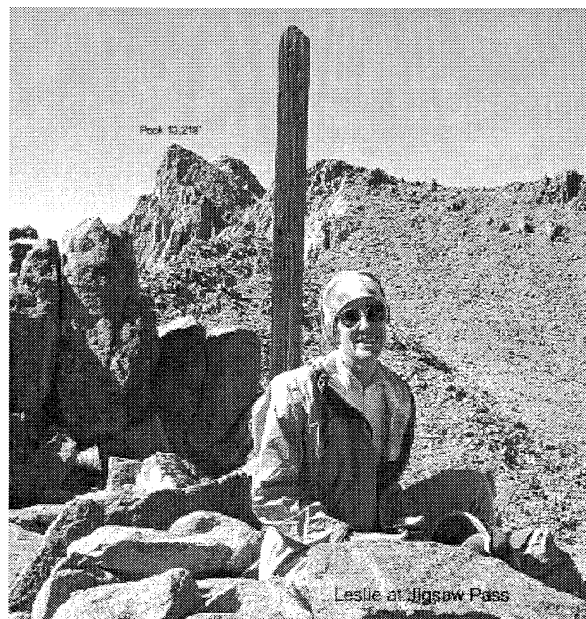
Peak 12,774 in the Black Divide, An Unclimbed Sierra Peak?

Aug. 31-Sep 5, 2004

By Reiner Stenzel

There are about 500 named and numbered peaks in the Sierra Nevada. When I asked R.J. Secor whether any of them have not been climbed, he replied that the second-to-last one is Peak 12,774 in the Black Divide and the very last peak he will never divulge. We talked about doing the divulged #2 this summer but everyone had different schedules and it did not happen. By the end of August I was ready to solo it. In the last moment Leslie Hofherr decided to join the death march into the rugged and remote Black Divide, probably not knowing what's coming up. I once lead an SPS trip across the Black Divide into the Enchanted Gorge (The Sierra Echo 33, #3, pp.10-11, 1989), but over the years I must have forgotten the pain and was ready to go back once more.

Peak 12,774 is located 1 mi south of Mt McDuffie and 1 mi northwest of Wheel Mtn (UTM 11 353962E, 4102532N, NAD27). It is as high as the latter and clearly visible from Bishop Pass. Its southeast slopes are class



2, the summit block is class 3, and other routes are class 4-5. The access to the peak involves a major effort: From the east it is a 12-hour roundtrip from Ladder Creek (which is what we did). From the west it would be a heroic climb out of the Enchanted Gorge. A traverse from the south via Wheel or the north via McDuffie would involve cl 4 terrain. Since it also takes two days to get even close to the peak it is no wonder that this unnamed peak is rarely, if at all, climbed. The lack of

knowledge about this peak attracted me and there was only one way to find out whether R.J. was right, i.e., to look for a summit register.

On Tue, 8/31, we drove from L.A. to South Lake, picked up a wilderness permit on the way, and hiked to camp at the Bishop Lakes.

On Wed, 9/1, we climbed over Bishop Pass, descended Dusy Basin to LeConte Cyn, hiked down the John Muir Trail toward Ladder Creek. We found a suitable crossing of the Kings River at 8700' and started a diagonal XC ascent toward Ladder Creek. In retrospect, this was a mistake since it only prolonged the painful effort of uphill bushwhacking. To minimize the pain it is best to go straight uphill parallel to Ladder Creek on its north side at a suitable distance from the cl 3 slabs adjacent to the creek. The south side is not recommended because of steep cliffs. After climbing some 600' through chaparral the terrain changed to pleasant open forest and meadows. At about 9500' we set up camp since the further ascent to Ladder Lake would involve a steep climb with full packs.

On Thur, 9/2, we were on our way by 6:45am. The predicted cold front had moved in with high winds and low clouds. We ascended steep slabs between Ladder Creek and the impressive north face of The Cita-



12,720' sub peak about 0.1 mi NE of the true summit. There is a whole string of subpeaks along the NE ridge. After climbing for over 6 hours and 4000' up, Leslie decided to save her remaining energy for the long return. But she was essentially at our destination.

I dashed over to the high point (11 353946E, 4102505N), which had a nice cl 3 summit block. By 1:45pm I stood on Peak 12,774 and found a small pile of rocks on the top, which looked more man-made than natural. There was no register under it or elsewhere on the summit. Thus, the question of whether the peak was unclimbed is a matter of definition: Possibly a person placed a cairn on the summit but left no permanent record there. I would be very interested if anyone

del. Then we contoured around the north side of Ladder Lake (10,498') since cliffs blocked the shorter south side. At the west end of the lake we turned south to a small, unnamed lake and followed the intermittent inlet stream in the SW direction. The stream comes from snowfields in a large cirque with a moraine. There is one obvious col (12,100') on the west side of the cirque leading in the direction of our destination, but the chute is cl 4 terrain. We left



the cirque, turned NW and ascended from about 11,400' the cl 2 slopes toward the unnamed Lake 12,050' (UTM 11 354823E, 4103108N, NAD27). There were snowfields on its south shores and a sandy chute on the SW side of the lake. We decided to climb a cl 3 ridge SE of Lake 12,050' which got us into the 12,400' col at the top of the sandy chute. About 1/4mi to the south is another unnamed lake at 11,700' (11 354575E, 4102524N), which drains into the Enchanted Gorge. We descended SW toward Lake 11,700', staying above the lake but below the cliffs on its west side. We found a cl 3 chute that lead to the easy cl 2 east slopes of Peak 12,774. We aimed for the high point west of the lake and reached it at about 1pm. Unfortunately, it was the

knows who might have been there. But from now on the peak does have a register book in a glass jar placed under a newly built summit cairn. Hopefully someone else will sign it some day. Although in a hurry, I took some pictures of the fine views from this peak. Nearby one could look down into the Enchanted Gorge, on Charybdis, Scylla and The Three Sirens, McDuffie, Goddard, Wheel and Devils Crags. Further to the west one could look over the Ragged Spur and Goddard Creek toward the White Divide and beyond. To the east was the Palisade Range and Bishop Pass that we had crossed earlier.

By 2:30pm I was heading down and soon rejoined Leslie for our long hike out. The climb up from Lake

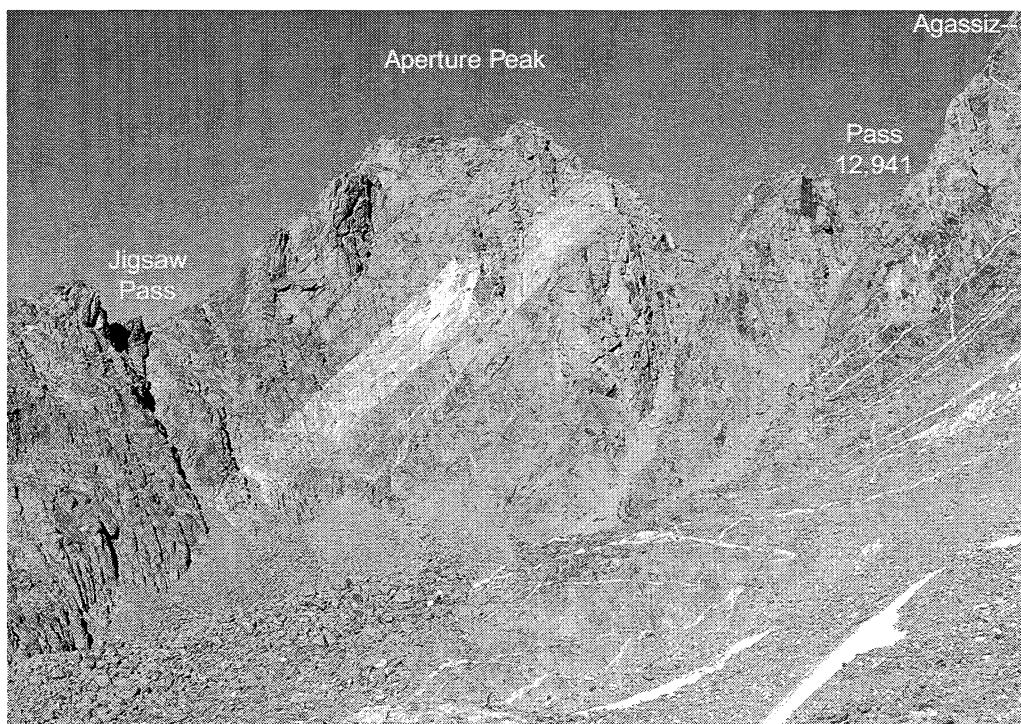
11,700' to Col 12,400' added another 700' climb to our day. This time we descended the sandy chute to Lake 12,050' and carefully crossed the snowfields on its south side. I looked back to the cl 4 ridge that we had once crossed with full packs to climb McDuffie and shook my head.

When descending east from Lake 12,050' we dropped down too far and encountered cliffs below 11,200'. We had to reascend some 200' up into the correct chute leading down along the creek to the small Ladder Lake. Shows that careful navigation is vital in this terrain. We contoured around Ladder Lake where we saw the last sunlight on the vertical walls of The Citadel reflecting in the lake. By 7:30pm we were back in camp, exhausted from climbing + - 5000' of talus in the Black Divide. I am sure the new peak register won't be filled for a long time.

On Fri, 9/3, we made a rest day in the morning. When the weather deteriorated, we decided to hike down to the Kings River and up into Dusy Basin. It snowed intermittently. At night the water bottles froze.

On Sat, 9/4, we headed up to Bishop Pass. The cold front had moved through and left a spectacularly clear and calm day. Instead of hiking out we decided to climb in the Inconsolable Range. From Bishop Pass we found a fine trail heading east toward the chutes between Aperture and Agassiz. The trail ends near a moraine (11 363484E, 4108746N, 11,998') below the easiest-looking right (south) chute. This chute leads to a col (11 364045E, 4108565N, 12,941') which provides

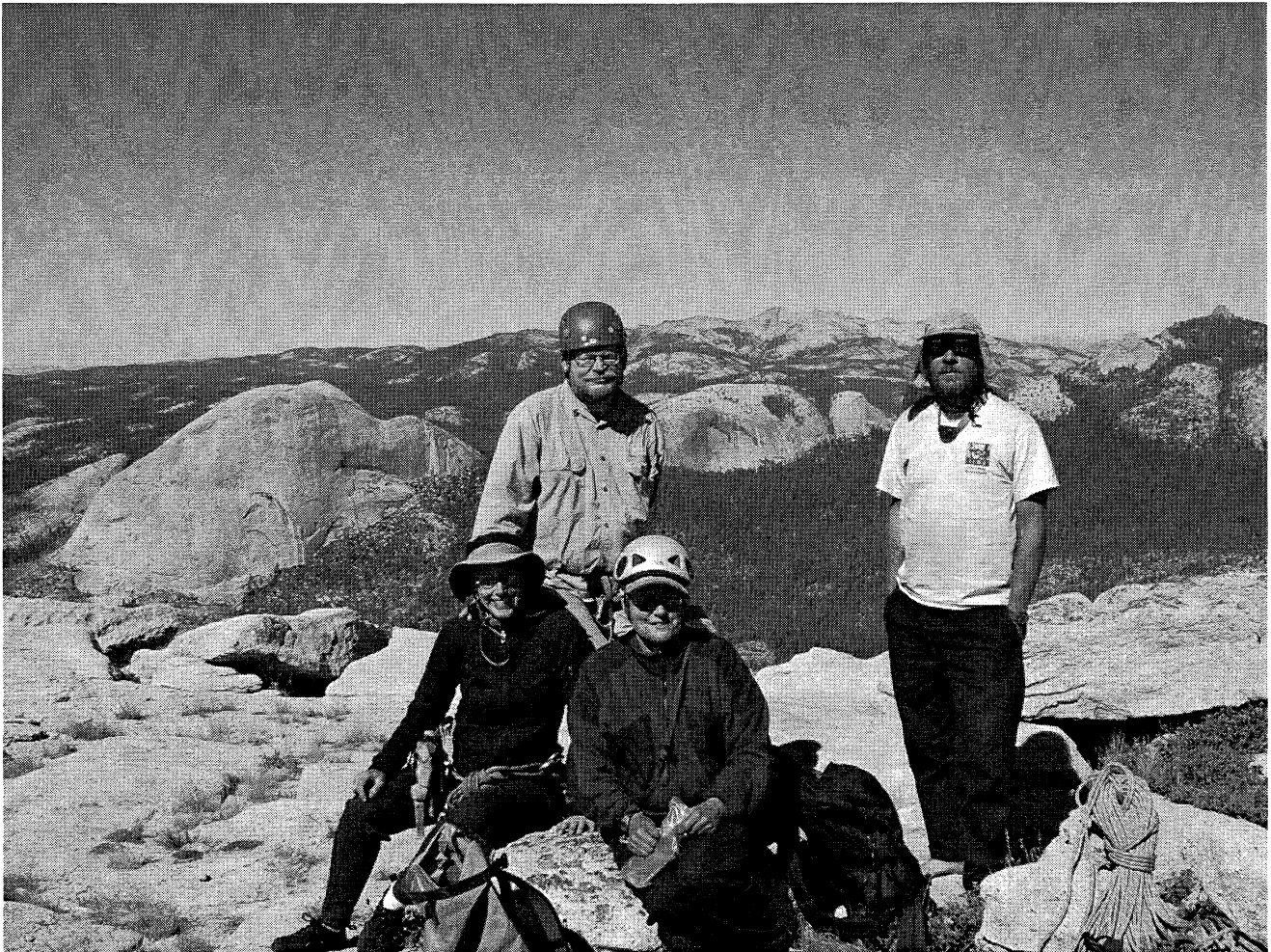
a XC route to Sam Mack Mdw. There was a fresh duck on the col indicating that people travel over it. The left (northern) chute leads to Jigsaw Pass (11 363864E, 4109119N, 12,756'), which provides a cl 3 ascent of Aperture Peak that we climbed last year (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skint/trips/columbine03/columbine03.htm>). The middle chute is cl 4 on both sides. We climbed the "easy" chute to the col where Leslie found a register can hidden under rocks. It was the SRC canister for Aperture Peak! The book had one single entry from 10 years ago by a 71-year old man who had apparently delivered the can but not climbed the peak. In fact, from the pass it would be technical climb to both Aperture and Agassiz. Since it was obviously at the wrong place we packed it up for proper placement. We dropped down the east side of the col, circumnavigate Aperture Pk and reascended Jigsaw Pass from the east. There are large snowfields and a long moraine on the rugged northeast side of Agassiz and Aperture. Below the steep east face of Aperture we stumbled upon the next surprise: On top of a flat talus block there was an abandoned campsite (11 364265E, 4108687N). Everything was left behind: Two tents, two backpacks, stoves, pots, shoes, ice screw, rope, sling, fishing gear, etc. Judging from the decay it must have been there for a season. I saved a tape recorder from the debris to do some further research. Hoping to find no more surprises we contoured around the long NE ridge of Aperture and climbed Jigsaw Pass. Since time was running short we deposited the Aperture peak register at Jigsaw



pass with a note for the next climbing party to bring it up to the summit. Then we descended, retrieved our packs, and headed down to the Bishop Lakes to make camp just before darkness. Next day we hiked out and drove home after an adventurous trip in the Sierra backcountry.

A Traverse of Mt. Starr King

by Gary Schenk



Left to right Half Dome, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk, Judy Rittenhouse, Mt. Watkins, Dave German.

Back in May of 2004, whilst biding some time at the base of Tahquitz Rock, Mary Jo Dungfelder and I mentioned to R.J. Secor that our main goal for the year was to climb Mt. Starr King. R.J.'s ears perked up at this. He had an idea to do a traverse, ascending the NE side and descending to the SE saddle. That sounded quite interesting to us. We agreed to try it the weekend of a SCMA trip to Yosemite Valley, shamelessly abusing their camping policy!

The night before we were to leave, R.J. phoned with bad news. He would have to miss the trip. Bummer. That killed the idea of the traverse. I would not be comfortable descending a route we had not ascended. R.J. emailed us some detailed data on the

SE Saddle route. Armed with that and Bill Oliver's archived report, we felt good about our chances of success.

Friday, October 8, we arrived in the valley. The weather forecasts were ambivalent, with a slight chance of storms, and even snow around 8,000'. We chanced to chat with Dave German and Judy Rittenhouse in camp. When we mentioned our plans for Saturday, Judy and Dave became quite interested. Judy had never been up Starr King, and Dave was intrigued by R.J.'s idea of the traverse. They would be free on Sunday, so we agreed to combine forces.

We started the drive to the Mono Meadows trailhead before dawn. We grabbed our gear; a set of twin ropes and a small rack (one set of stoppers and a half set of cams, including an extra number 1 and 2 Camalot), and left the car at 7:00 AM and started the

approach. As we hiked the trail, we saw much evidence of the fire from last July. That fire had forced John Cheslick to change his Clark Range trip to Northern Yosemite at the last moment. Some spots were light burns, in other areas trees had burned completely to ash.

The weather was fantastic, and would remain so the entire day. We had a delightful hike through the park. After crossing Illilouette Creek, we cut off the trail straight to Starr King. We arrived at the start of the NE route at around 11:00 AM, taking a little longer than we anticipated. The route starts at the highest point reached by trees on the NE side off Starr King. After making sure we were really at the start of the route, Dave headed up. It took him 20 minutes to reach the summit, where he would wait almost two hours for our arrival.

Bill Oliver's route description is right on, and made our climb easier than it otherwise might have been. We third classed up to the big ledge to start the roped pitches. We set a belay anchor, as you definitely would need it in case of a leader fall.

I tied in and took off up the first pitch. Judy, on the belay, plaintively kept asking if I could get a piece in somewhere. I was wondering the same thing, not wanting to take a fall onto the anchor, for sure. The angle is moderate, however, and the rock is well textured and just about perfect. The rock shoes did their job well, and I found myself at the obvious belay, complete with piton, described by Bill. Here I found two good stopper placements for a belay anchor. It was hard to keep up with Mary Jo and Judy, they about wore out my arm.

The second pitch was the beginning of the crack. This started thin, but quickly widened to an almost parallel 2 inches for its entire length. I walked straight up the crack. In places it was clogged with grass, in these spots I merely stepped out onto the slab, which had great friction. The rack for this climb should contain at least a half dozen number 2 Camalots. This is a long pitch and I was able to only place four pieces, two number 2 Camalots, and a green and a purple Metolius Power Cams. At the end of this pitch, two cams made up the anchor. Extra number twos would have worked here well, and made for a more secure setup.

The angle slacks off on the third pitch, and is really fourth class. We stayed roped however. I followed some small flakes, wandering around some and extending the slings as much as possible. Upon reaching the summit talus blocks, I set an anchor and brought up Judy. Again my arm was put to the test, as Judy jogged up this easy pitch. She took mercy on

me and belayed Mary Jo up.

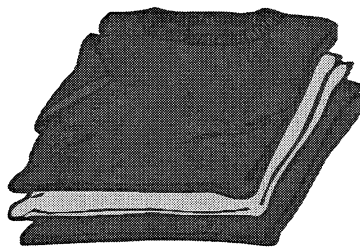
We scrambled to the top to meet up with Dave, and to our surprise, a couple from the Bay Area who had climbed the SE Saddle route.

We spent an hour eating lunch and enjoying the stupendous view: the Clark Range, Lyell, McClure, Cloud's Rest, Hoffmann, and Half Dome were just some of the sights.

We scrambled down to the first rappel station, where we joined forces with our new friends Mischa and Etsuko. Our twin ropes came in handy here. The anchor consisted of a somewhat smallish boulder. The second rap station was another boulder on the large ledge that marks the beginning of the second pitch on the SE route. A couple of solid raps with the palm of my hand produced the sound of a ripe watermelon. Hardly confidence inspiring. While we rappled off, Dave downclimbed to the saddle. Utilizing all of our ropes, the raps went quickly, and we all congregated at the saddle.

We descended directly from the saddle down the steep slabs. I paused to put my rock shoes back on, my friends patiently waiting at the bottom.

We hiked out glowing in our success. Not just in reaching the summit, but in the success of a wonderful day with great comrades spent in the beautiful Sierra Nevada. Our only regret was that R.J. could not have been there. After all, it was his idea.



SPS T- SHIRTS

Own Your Own SPS T-Shirt. They come with a picture of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area, with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak easily identified on the back. T-Shirts come in Medium, Large and Extra Large. Colors are sand, ash and yellow. Cost is \$12.00 plus \$3.50 shipping for 1 and \$4.00 for 2 or more T-shirts. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the shipping charge. Make check payable to the SPS. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.

IN HIGH PLACES,

MT. FUJI JAPAN'S HIGHEST

By Burton "Grandpa-san" Falk

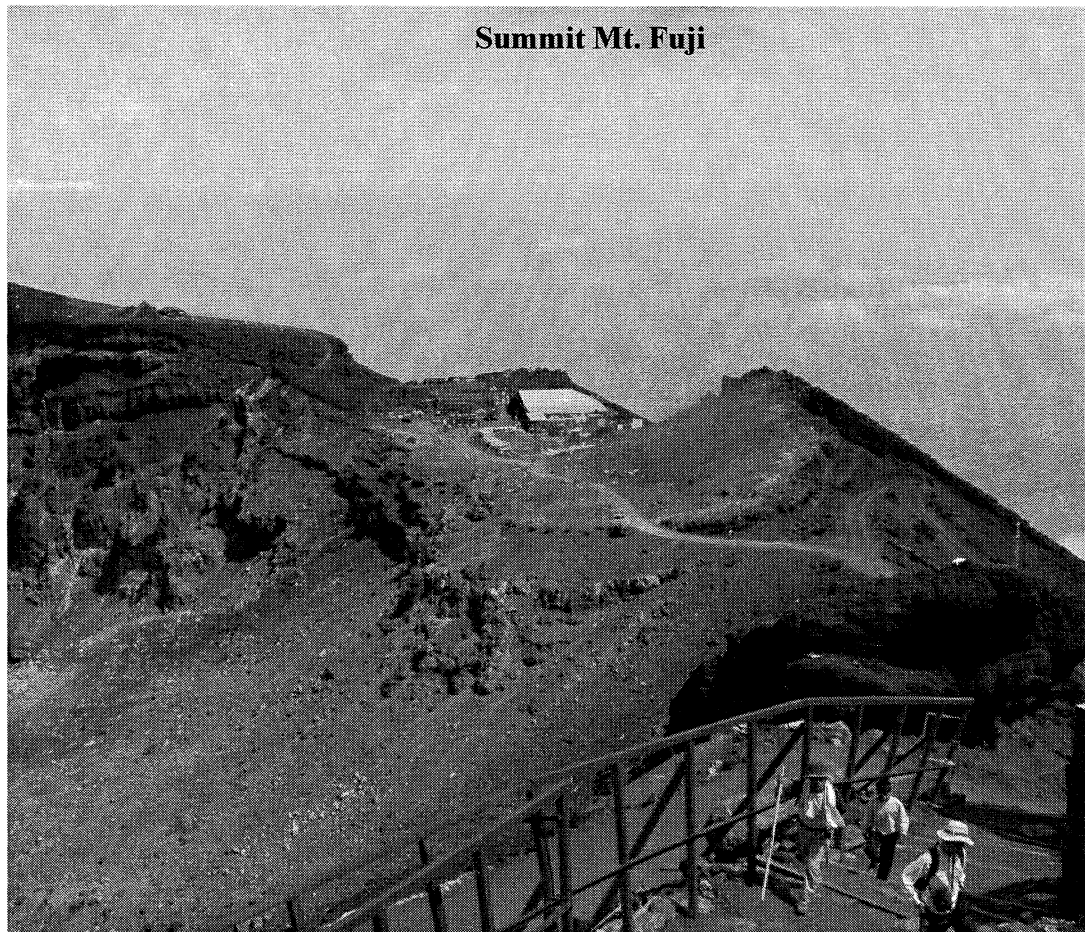
The seed, I'm sure, was planted way back in the late 1940s when my parents gave me a copy of Richard Halliburton's *Complete Book of Marvels* for my 12th birthday. The book, a description of the author's 1920s and 30s adventures, including his 70' plunge into the "Well of Death" at Chichen Itza, his climb of Popocatepetl, his swim through the Panama Canal, where he was charged on tonnage basis as the S.S. Halliburton, and his daring winter ascent of Mt. Fuji, was fascinating. I grew up dreaming of doing all those things and more.

Well, this past summer (2004), I was successful in the second of those ventures (I had climbed Popo back in 1980). And although not a winter ascent, my two oldest grandchildren, Hayley (14), and Nathan (12), cousins, and I bagged Mt. Fuji, an excellent experience if there ever was one.

Indeed, after lying fallow for 56 years—proving either that I have a long memory or that I could have used more fertilizer—the idea for a Mt. Fuji climb didn't finally take root until the summer of 2003, when my wife, Jo, and I were

scheduled to take Hayley and Nathan to the Big Island of Hawaii to observe the lava then flowing in Volcanoes National Park and to swim with the dolphins at Waikoloa. Unfortunately, just a week prior to that adventure, I found myself in Honolulu undergoing a double bypass operation, thus scrubbing the plan. Bummed though I was about missing the trip (and a season of Sierra peakbagging, as well) I did have plenty of time to ponder plans for a make-good trip during the summer of 2004, and, if I do say so myself, I came up with a good one. Yep, thanks to good old R. Halliburton, I thought of Mt. Fuji.

That, however, was the easy part. Considering the way young peoples' lives are scheduled nowadays it soon became apparent that setting a date for the adventure would be the big problem. Hayley, for instance, who lives in La Canada, was signed up for an invitational soccer tournament to be held in Sweden in mid-July, while Nathan made the Lafayette (CA) All-Star Little League team, and needed to be in town for the July Bay Area playoffs. In addition, the two cousins—best of friends—were scheduled to take part in an annual family Sierra backpack during the last week of July.



After a careful inspection of calendars, it was finally decided that the grandkids would fly together to Honolulu on the morning of Sat. Aug. 7, where Jo and I would meet them (we would come over from Maui, where we usually hole up for the summers). The plan was to spend the first night on Oahu, a move that we hoped would cut down on the kids' jet-lag upon their arrival in Japan, and which would also give us a chance to take them to Pearl Harbor on that first afternoon as a prelude for our visit to Hiroshima.

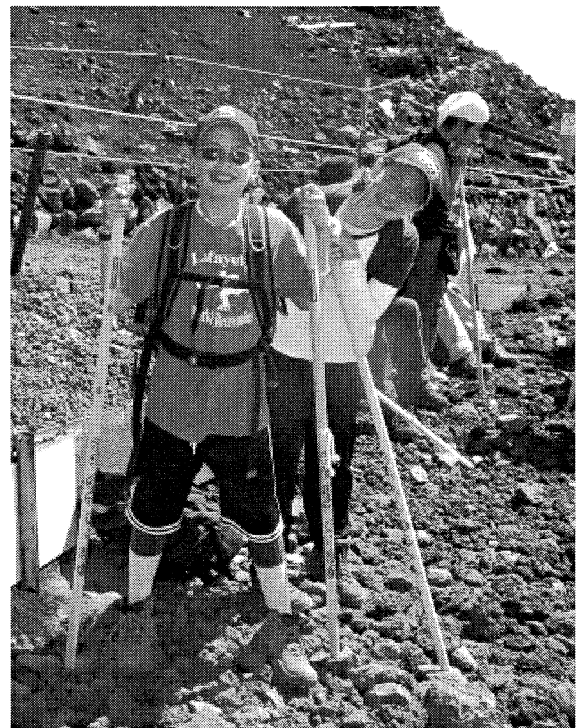
And so it was that on Monday afternoon, Aug. 9, after losing a day crossing the International Date Line, we arrived in Japan. The following morning, still a bit groggy, we took a morning tour of Tokyo, after which we walked around the city's fabled Ginza district, where, in addition to scoring an excellent sushi lunch, the kids discovered the Sony Building, where they had a "cool" time with hands-on trials of many of that company's latest, some as yet unreleased, products. Still later that afternoon, we descended into the vast, bustling Tokyo underground, where by guess and by gosh we made our way, via subway, to the temple and adjoining market at Asakusa—and then, by subway and train, back to our hotel in Shinagawa. Whew! We dined at a noodle shop at the train station that evening, a meal which would have been perfect were it not for the fact that the Japanese are still allowed to smoke in their restaurants. The following morning we left Tokyo by bus for a visit to the Kawaguchi-go 5th Station on Mt. Fuji, followed by an afternoon boat ride on Lake Ashi and an ascent by tram of Mt. Komagatake in the nearby Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park.

Which brings us to the highpoint of Japan, Mt. Fuji. The peak, 12,385' (3,776m) in elevation, is a dormant volcano which, when it last erupted in 1707, covered the streets of Tokyo with ash. Its picture-perfect cone—arguably the nation's most familiar symbol—lies 35 miles WSW of the metropolis of 8.1 million, but because of the usual haze it can be seen from the city only on a few clear days in the late fall, winter and early spring.

And because Fuji does lie so close to the densely populated Tokyo/Yokohama/Nagoya area, climbing the peak has become quite a popular endeavor. *The Lonely Planet Guide to Japan* suggests that some 180,000 climbers make it to the top every season (which officially runs from July 1 to Aug. 31), or, on average, 3,000 each evening. Yeah, that's right—each evening. In order to be on the top for sunrise most Japanese opt to hike to the summit overnight. Frankly, I don't understand this mentality.

Why not climb during the day, when it's warmer and you can see where you're going? I guess I shouldn't think of this as a purely Japanese idiosyncrasy, however. On Maui, too, otherwise perfectly sane Americans arise at some insane hour to drive to the top of Haleakala to see the sun peep over the clouds.

There is, in fact, so much traffic on Fuji that four "ascending" trails and three "descending" trails, lead to and from the summit. And, although the ascending trails all begin at 1st Stations along the forested base of the mountain, most hikers begin their treks from 5th Stations (the 10th Stations being located on the crater rim), where the paved roads end. Because it's closest to Tokyo, the Kawaguchi 5th Station, lying at 7,560' (2,305m) on the north side of the mountain, is the most popular trailhead. Another trail, the Subashiri, begins at a 6,560' (2,000m) 5th Station on the east side of the peak, and then joins the Kawaguchi trail at about 10,980'. The Gotemba Trail begins on the ESE side of Fuji at a considerably lower elevation, 4,725', and since there is no road, a 1,600' climb is necessary just in order to



reach the 5th Station. The route that Hayley, Nathan and I chose was the Fujinomiya Trail, not only because it has the loftiest starting point—a 7,870' (2,400m) 5th Station, but also because it was closest to the hotel at which we were staying the night prior to the climb, the Hakone Kowakien, situated in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, about an 1-1/4 hr

taxi drive from the trailhead.

At 6 a.m. the next day, Thursday, Aug. 12, Hayley, Nathan and I walked out the front door of the hotel, where we found our previously arranged for taxi awaiting us. Thirty minutes later, upon emerging from the forest near the city of Gotemba (and because the cloud cover of the previous day had disappeared), we beheld our first unimpeded view of the majestically symmetric peak. It sounds trite I know, but the sight was breathtaking.

Arriving at the Fujinomiya 5th Station at 7:15 a.m., the first thing we did was purchase traditional wooden hiking staffs, not only practical for trail use but, because of the wood-burned impressions (at \$2 a pop) we had applied at each of the stations leading up to the crater rim, also as fond souvenirs.

We started up the moderately steep trail—which begins at timber line—precisely at 7:30 a.m., and we reached the crater rim at 1:15 p.m., i.e., 4,500+ feet of gain in 5-3/4 hours. We could have gone a bit faster, I suppose, but we did take time out for the wood-burning ceremonies at every station. *The Lonely Planet Guide* considers 4-1/2 hrs. a standard time for the ascent, while the personnel at the Fuji Visitor Center near Kawaguchi-go suggested allowing 6-7 hours for the climb. Since we were keeping pace with most of our fellow climbers, including two American service families vacationing from Okinawa, we thought we were doing just fine.

Following a brief rest at the 10th and final station, we continued up a short but treacherous path to the abandoned weather station on the very highest point of the crater, after which we returned to the 10th Station, where we coughed up \$7 each for a cup of ramen. Starting down at 2:15 p.m., we reached the 5th Station trailhead at 5:15 p.m.—a three-hour descent as compared to a *Lonely Planet* standard of 2-1/2 hours. Because we were passing most folks on the way down, I'd be inclined to take the *Lonely Planet* standards with a grain of salt.

Our on-the-ball taxi driver was waiting for us at the trailhead (even though we told him we probably wouldn't be back until 6:30 p.m.), so in another hour and a half (there was more traffic in the afternoon) we were back in our hotel luxuriating in hot showers, after which we enjoyed yet another excellent sushi meal.

Should you plan to climb Mt. Fuji, here are a few additional considerations: 1.) Private cars are not allowed up the mountain during the climbing season, so you have to take either a taxi (fare, about \$80, which is not bad if you can split it four ways) or

a bus (fares around \$12) from one of the towns at the base of the mountain. There is also a direct bus which runs from Tokyo's west side Shinjuku Station directly to the Kawaguchi-go 5th Station, a 2-1/2 hr. trip, which will set you back about \$26. 2.) Although the official climbing season extends from July 1 to Aug. 31, you can avoid the big crowds by making the ascent either a bit before or after the season. Keep in mind, however, that transportation services may be less frequent off season, and also that some of the station huts may be closed. 3.) We had ideal weather on the day of our climb, so we didn't need the coats or rain gear we had stuffed in our packs. The conditions on the mountain, however, are subject to rapid change. Take along plenty of warm clothing, especially if you're considering an overnight/sunrise climb. 4.) It would be wise to schedule a two or three day window in which to make the climb in case of inclement conditions. Had the weather been uncooperative, which it became shortly after our climb when the area was hit by the fringe of a typhoon, we couldn't have—because of our tight schedule—made our ascent. 5.) The proper name for the mountain in Japanese is either Fuji-san or Fuji-yama (san and yama being Chinese readings of the *kanji*, or characters, for mountain.) In English, the proper term is Mt. Fuji. San, by the way, is also an honorific used in place of a title such as Mr. or Mrs., e.g., "Falk-san." Another fine example, in my opinion, would be "Most honorable grandpa-san."

The next day, Friday, August 13, happy and relieved at having the climb under our belts, we left the Mt. Fuji area via Shinkansen (bullet train), heading west for Kyoto. Shinkansen (which translates as "new trunk line"), by the way, is one of Japan's niftiest features. The trains, which run on welded rails thus eliminating the usual clackety-clack, can reach speeds of 180 m.p.h. They are smooth, comfortable, precisely on time, and you can specify a non-smoking car, which is always a good idea in Japan.

On Saturday morning, August 14, we toured Kyoto (1.4 million population), once the island nation's capital (794-1868 A.D.), where we visited the Nijo Castle and the Kinkaku (Golden Temple), and that afternoon we continued on to nearby Nara (population 363,000), the country's first capital city (710-785 A.D.), where we took in the Todaiji Buddhist temple, considered to be the largest wooden structure in the world, the Scared Deer Park and the Kasuga Shinto Shrine.

On Sunday, we proceeded further west to

Miyajima, an island in the Inland Sea, where we dined on out-of-season oysters (the Japanese claim to have a special process which makes this possible), viewed the famous floating *torii* gate, one of the most photographed sites in the country, and walked around the Shinto Itsukushima shrine, which dates back to the 6th century. That same afternoon, we turned back to Hiroshima (population 1,090,000) where we visited the Peace Memorial Park, a stark reminder of the morning of August 6, 1945, when the city became the target for the first ever offensive atomic weapon, a blast that left an estimated 200,000 dead or dying. Hayley and Nathan, I think, were most moved by the park's Children's Peace Memorial, which was inspired by a 10 year-old leukemia victim, Sadako. The mortally ill young girl believed that if she could fold 1,000 paper (origami) cranes (Japanese symbols of longevity and happiness), she would recover, but she died after completing only 644. Since then, school children from all over Japan have heaped literally millions of paper cranes on the site. In the park, too, is a flame, which, hopefully, is not eternal—it will be extinguished if and when the last

expansive park on an island in the middle of a river, featuring a giant carp pond, a view of nearby Okayama-jo (Crow Castle), a rice paddy, a Yatsuhashi zigzag bridge and clouds of mosquitoes. Take along repellent!

Our last day of touring was spent in Osaka, Japan's third largest city (population 2.48 million), opting first for a morning walk through the Osaka Castle, which, although impressive, is "merely a 1931 concrete reconstruction of the original, which was completed in 1583," after which we cruised the city's extensive river system on an "Aqua Liner," a long, sleek ship akin to those that ply the Seine in Paris. At mid-day it began to rain hard, so we spent the afternoon and evening exploring a giant department store (Hankyu, I think) across the street from the central train station, where, in the top floor food court, we enjoyed both a sushi lunch (the dishes came trundling past our table on a conveyor and the staff knew what a California roll was) and, later, a dinner at a shabu-shabu restaurant, where the cheerful staff helped us with both meal selection and preparation even though they couldn't speak English

and we couldn't speak Japanese. Indeed, during our entire trip we found the Japanese to be uniformly friendly, helpful and courteous, and we attempted to respond in kind with bows, smiles and many *arigatos*.

On the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 18, we took the Shinkansen back to Tokyo, transferred to the Narita Express, and that night we flew on to Honolulu, where we arrived, because of the date line, on the morning of Aug. 18 redux.

It was a wonderful trip. The climb of Fuji was a lot of fun, but spending the time with Hayley and Nathan was the best



Torii Gate Miyajima

nuclear weapon in the world is destroyed.

Monday, August 16th found us visiting a small but well-preserved district in Kurashiki (pop. 435,000), where a number of former black-tiled warehouses have been converted into an eclectic collection of museums and shops. That afternoon we continued on to Okayama (population 593,000), where we strolled through the Koraku-en, an

part. Jo and I hope to do something similar next summer, however we intend to include our third (and last, so far) grandchild, Angela, who will turn 10 next year, on that one. And although we won't be jumping into a sacred well in Chichen Itza or swimming the Panama Canal ala Halliburton, you can bet there'll be a mountain involved.

VOGELSANG PEAK

By east face left side gully route & MT. FLORENCE

By Bernice Lake exploratory routes

Private Trip July 7-12, 2004; by Ed Lubin

Climbing team members for Vogelsang Peak (11,516') in Yosemite National Park were Doris Gilbert, Jack Barrett, George Denny, Vance Handley and myself. Only Vance and I attempted Mt. Florence (12,561'). The 7.5' quadrangle maps used were: Vogelsang Peak, CA, and Mount Lyell, CA.

George backpacked to Fletcher Lake adjacent to Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, Tuesday, July 7th. * The rest of us stayed at Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp that night, which cost \$96.00 for a four person tent cabin, towels and shower facilities included. We had dinner and breakfast there. Tel. (209) 372 8413.

From the Dog Lake parking lot near Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp, we connected with the John Muir Trail, then Rafferty Creek Trail, as we backpacked to Fletcher Lake on Wednesday, making camp with George.

There are bear boxes for campers to use and we also had canisters, but two bags of trail mix were accidentally left in one of our backpacks. The resident bear had a real treat that night. The only damage to the open, in mint-condition, classic Kelty, was a torn baffle.

On Thursday, with Vance and I backpacking, the five of us took the Vogelsang Pass Trail up to the tiny snow-fed rivulet at the base of the east ridge of Vogelsang Peak, the beginning of our climb. Doris had found the route information on Summitpost.org.

The route took us below the east ridge, up a snow filled couloir and onto a short pitch of class 3 rock at the summit. It was a delightful climb with exceptional views, including those of Half Dome and Clouds Rest. (Trekking poles without snow baskets were used. Depending on snow conditions an ice axe and crampons could be needed.)

We separated back down on the Vogelsang Pass Trail. George, Jack and Doris first went the short distance to the Pass for the sublime view; then they returned to Fletcher Lake to backpack out on Friday. Doris had made telephone reservations for Jack and her to have dinner and breakfast at Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, \$50.00 per person. She later said the

meals were excellent.

Vance and I headed south over Vogelsang Pass, down the Lewis Creek Trail, destination Bernice Lake. We were seeking to find a more direct route to Mt. Florence, with less distance and gain than any documented one known by me, including Florence Creek.

Bernice Lake is in a beautiful setting, and can be reached in slightly less distance than on trail, by heading uphill just beyond where Lewis Creek Trail crosses the outlet stream. We had the lake to ourselves for two of our three nights there - except for mosquitoes.

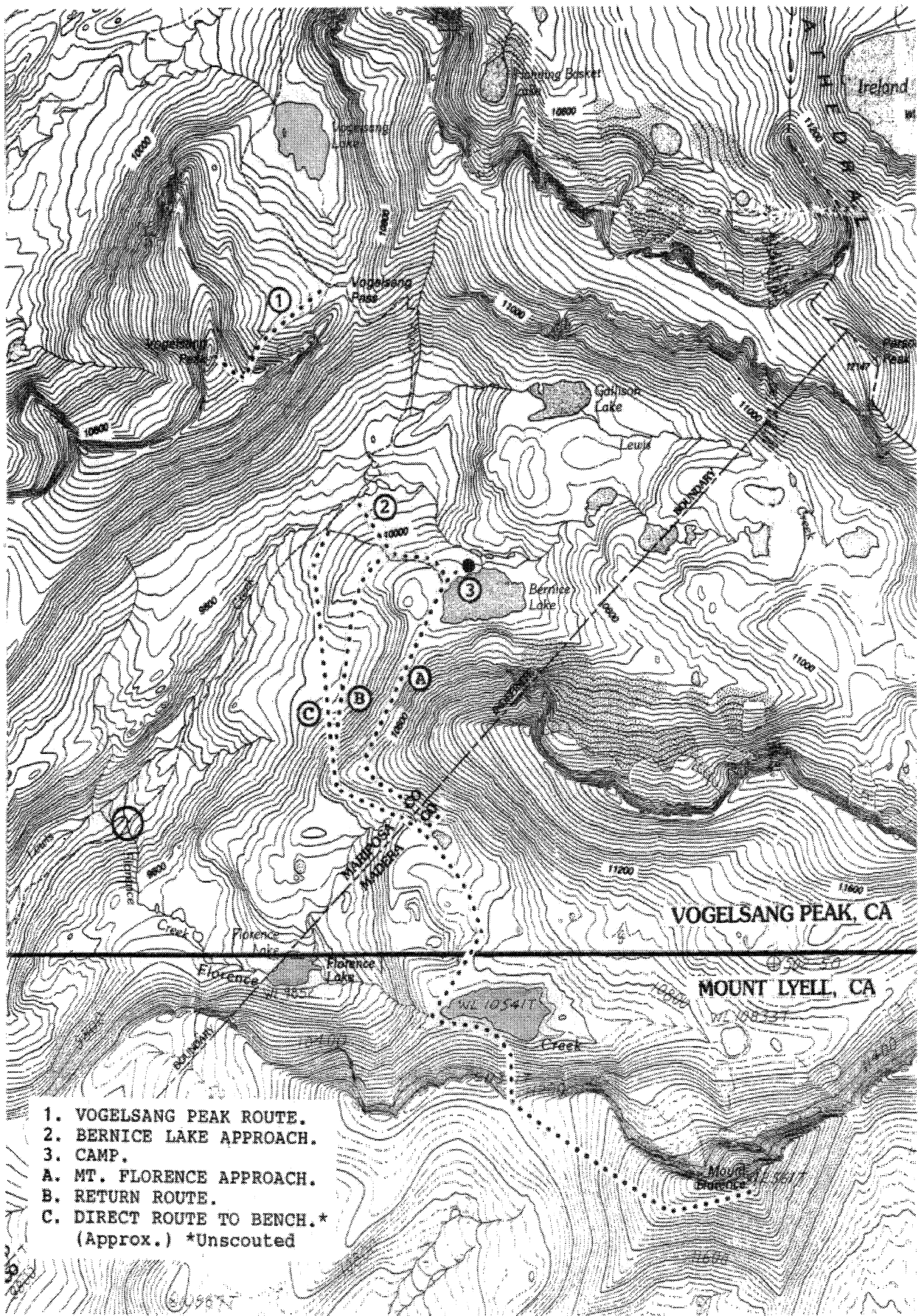
We scouted the initial part of our exploratory route on Friday; then I went fishing, which was good for ten inch Brookies using spinners.

Believing that my fishing rod was lost, one of my trekking poles was utilized. I keep about three feet of duct tape wrapped around the right pole to easily identify it from left, and for certain types of repairs. A few inches was used to join the spinning reel to the pole. A hole for the line was fashioned by bridging the wide, round-bottomed slot in the poles basket, also with duct tape! Good casts could be made with the contraption. My rod turned up after fishing.

The couple of trout not released by me were prepared for dinner by cutting them into small pieces (small pot) sealing in foil, and cooking for about twenty minutes in boiling water. The trout was good, but with seasoning it would have tasted even better. Vance's Alpine Aire freeze-dried Potatoes and Cheddar with Chives, combined well.

Traveling at a slow to moderate pace we started for Mt. Florence at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. We traversed very gradually up to the crest of the ridge south of Bernice Lake; at first on smooth terrain, then talus for much less distance than expected, then on scree. We continued contouring up on the south side of the ridge to about 10,600 feet, seeking a way down the unexpected cliff beneath us.

The band of cliff is mainly composed of large



sheets of smooth granite inclined roughly, sixty degrees. Our descent route of about 200 feet to the small unnamed lake at the cliff base, was the only questionable part of our peak approach, intended to be no higher than class 3. An easier way down the formation may exist.

From the cliff we went toward the couloir on the south side of Lake 10,541', located above Florence Lake. At that lake we converged with the Florence Creek approach to Mt. Florence. We were 3 hrs 10 minutes from camp, and took a thirty minute break to rest and eat.

There is large talus solidly lining the south shore of the lake, and up the whole couloir. The scree at the saddle soon gave way to big talus as we climbed toward the summit. The talus extended clear to the Southwest Ridge of Mt. Florence, was unexpected, and slowed our progress even more. At 6 hrs 45 minutes from camp, only about 800 vertical feet and one-half mile short of our goal, we stopped. After taking 45 minute to rest and feel the serenity, we headed down at 3:30 p.m.

We switchbacked down a band of snow in the couloir, using our trekking poles for aid, and retraced our route to the small unnamed lake near the base of the aforementioned ridge cliff band. Instead of attempting to climb the cliff by our descent route or find another way up, we used our planned alternate approach to the peak in reverse.

Hugging the cliff, we hiked west to the base of ridge buttress, then contoured down to the northern end of the bench below it and Bernice Lake, dropping, altogether, about 600 feet. We then continued north gradually up to the Bernice Lake Trail, reaching it at 9:00 p.m. at dark. We were in camp 13 hrs 10 minutes after leaving. Planning such a late start had cost us the peak, but it still was an enjoyable day.

Analyzing approaches:

1. The feature of approach (A) is camping at forested Bernice Lake.
2. From the Lewis Creek Trail there is little saving in distance and gain over climbing Mt. Florence by using the Florence Creek route; its base circled on map.
3. Crossing the talus field in traversing the ridge south of Bernice Lake, was hardly as exerting as the talus encountered from the south shore of Lake 10,541' up.
4. But there may be unavoidable exposure in descending the cliff on the south side of ridge.

5. Approach (B) has minimal talus, no exposure, and camp is still at Bernice Lake, but there is little distance and gain advantage.

6. (B) could be used either for the peak approach, or in both directions if a safe way up the cliff cannot be found.

7. The bench on approach (B) is reachable directly from the Lewis Creek/Bernice Lake Trail junction, creating a third approach (C).

8. The round-trip distance for backpack is two miles less, r.t. distance on climb to Lake 10541' over one mile less, r.t. gain 1200 lower than climbing the peak by way of Florence Creek. Not having taken the Florence Creek route, a terrain difficulty comparison cannot be made between it and our approaches.

9. A comparison with approach (C) is possible by camping at its base, and taking the Florence Creek route in one direction on peak climb.

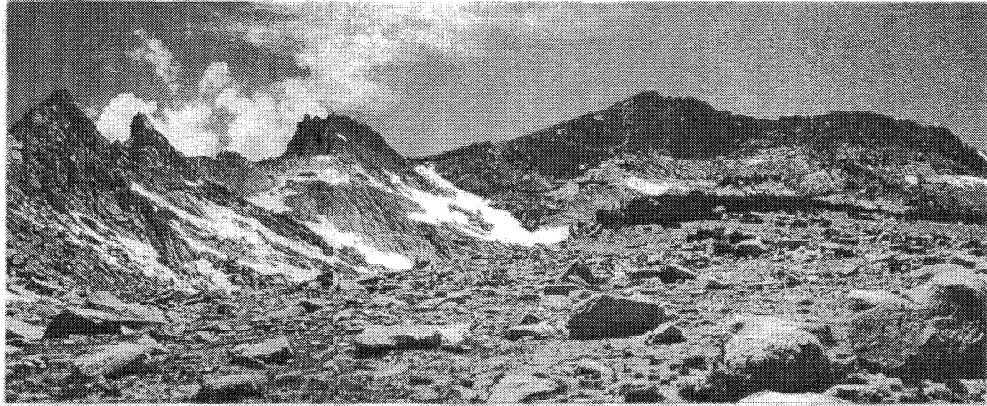
Vance and I returned to Fletcher Lake on Sunday, and set up camp. Fletcher Lake and Vogelsang High Sierra Camp were now humming, including a group who were on a ranger - led type hike which overnights in back country, High Sierra Camps. What an experience! The ranger invited us to a program on astronomy that night. It was excellent.

A huge helicopter had landed in the meadow early evening to evacuate an injured person. I do not know the circumstances. Fletcher Peak is popular for technical climbing.

Our backpack out at a quick pace on Monday, took 3 hrs, 45 minutes. For us the weather had been ideal; but we spoke with a naturalist on the way out who told us current studies have indicated that pika in the Park had moved to a higher habitat. The previous study was made in 1914. Global warming?

We showered at Toulumne Meadows High Sierra Camp (hours limited) and very refreshed, headed home, briefly stopping for lunch in the Mobil Station restaurant located at Tioga Pass Road and Hwy 395; amazingly good food for a gas station in the middle of nowhere.

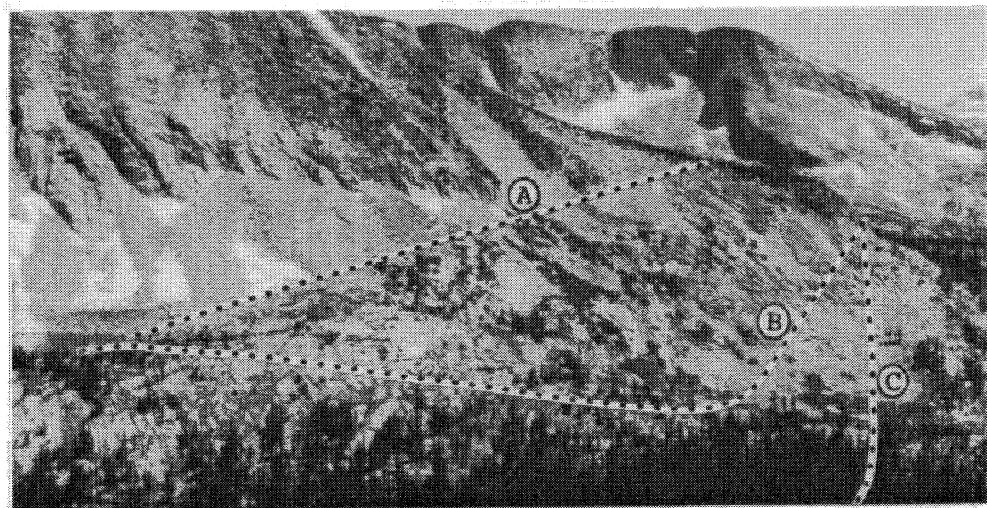
*"Upper" Fletcher Lake on the 15' Tuolumne Meadows Quad., and in at least one guide book.



Panoramic view of Vogelsang Peak including East Ridge, from our ascent point on Pass trail. Ascended couloir in center. (Composite.)



Jack, Doris, Vance, George and me, at the top of couloir. Vogelsang Lake and Fletcher Peak in the background. (Camera timer was used.)



(A) Approximate approach to Mt. Florence from Bernice Lake to our most westerly point on ridge south of lake. (B) Return route from ridge buttress. (C) Direct approach. (Viewed from Vogelsang Pass.)

SPS 50th Anniversary 2005

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The long awaited BIG year for the Sierra Peaks Section has arrived. Our climbing section was officially formed in October 1955.

Plans are being made for a celebratory banquet, a commemorative issue of *The Sierra Echo*, special publications of past Echoes, memorial trips will be led and many more ways of marking the 50th anniversary are being conceived.

The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee is beginning to gather ideas and organize commemorative material. Following is a list of 50th Anniversary planning volunteers - Any others interested, please contact Dan Richter.

Dan Richter, Chairman (Organizer)
Mary McManus
Mary Motheral
Jerry Keating
Ron Jones
Duane McRuer
Barbara Sholle
Barbee Tidball
Barbara Lilley
Gordon MacLeod
Erik Siering

Leaders:

March 1, 2005

Deadline for trips.

Summer/Fall Schedule

ANNIVERSARY CLIMBS - LEADS

The next Schedule deadline for planning trips to lead is March 10, 2005 for the Angeles Chapter Schedule. Trips for the July-October 2005 schedule are due to the SPS Outings Chair By March 1, 2005

Commemorative trips

Leaders are needed to lead the same peaks which started our glorious section. The first Sierra Peaks Schedule was published in 1956 and 20 trips were offered. Leaders are encouraged to look over the following 1956 list of peaks led and plan their own commemorative climbs.

May 5-6	Deer Mtn.
May 26-27	Maggie Mtn.
June 2-3	Mt. Gilbert
June 9-10	Trail Peak
June 23-24	Matterhorn Peak
June 30 -July 1	Alta Peak
July 7-8	Mt. Whitney (Mtnrs route)
July 14-15	Mt. Ritter
July 28-29	Goat Mtn.
August 11-12	University Peak
August 18-19	Mt. Lamarck, Mt. Darwin
August 25-26	Mt. Irvine
September 1-3	Mt. Williamson.
	Mt. Barnard, Trojan Peak
September 8-9	Mt. Silliman
September 15-16	Cardinal Mtn
September 22-23	Mt. Morrison
September 29-30	Tunnabora Peak
October 5-6	Mt. Rixford
November 11	Owens Peak

2005 SPS ECHO SUBSCRIPTION & RENEWAL FORM

SECTION 1 MEMBER INFORMATION

To continue your ECHO subscription and renew your membership for 2005, fill out this section with your information that will be published in the SPS roster. Your need to renew for 2005 is confirmed by the "04" digits appearing on your mailing label. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2005.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ S.C.# _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Mark this box for address or phone change or correction

SECTION II MEMBER TYPE

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

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

NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____

NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION III SUBSCRIPTION CLASS

Regular ECHO subscription: \$15.00 annual rate.

Sustaining ECHO subscription: \$25.00 annual rate. Sustaining subscriptions include first class postage for the ECHO and a donation to the SPS operating fund.

Make checks payable to **SIERRA PEAKS SECTION**. Mail this form and a check for \$15.00 or \$25.00 to the 2005 section Treasurer: Henry Arnebold, 2459 Escalante, La Verne, CA 91750-1136.

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