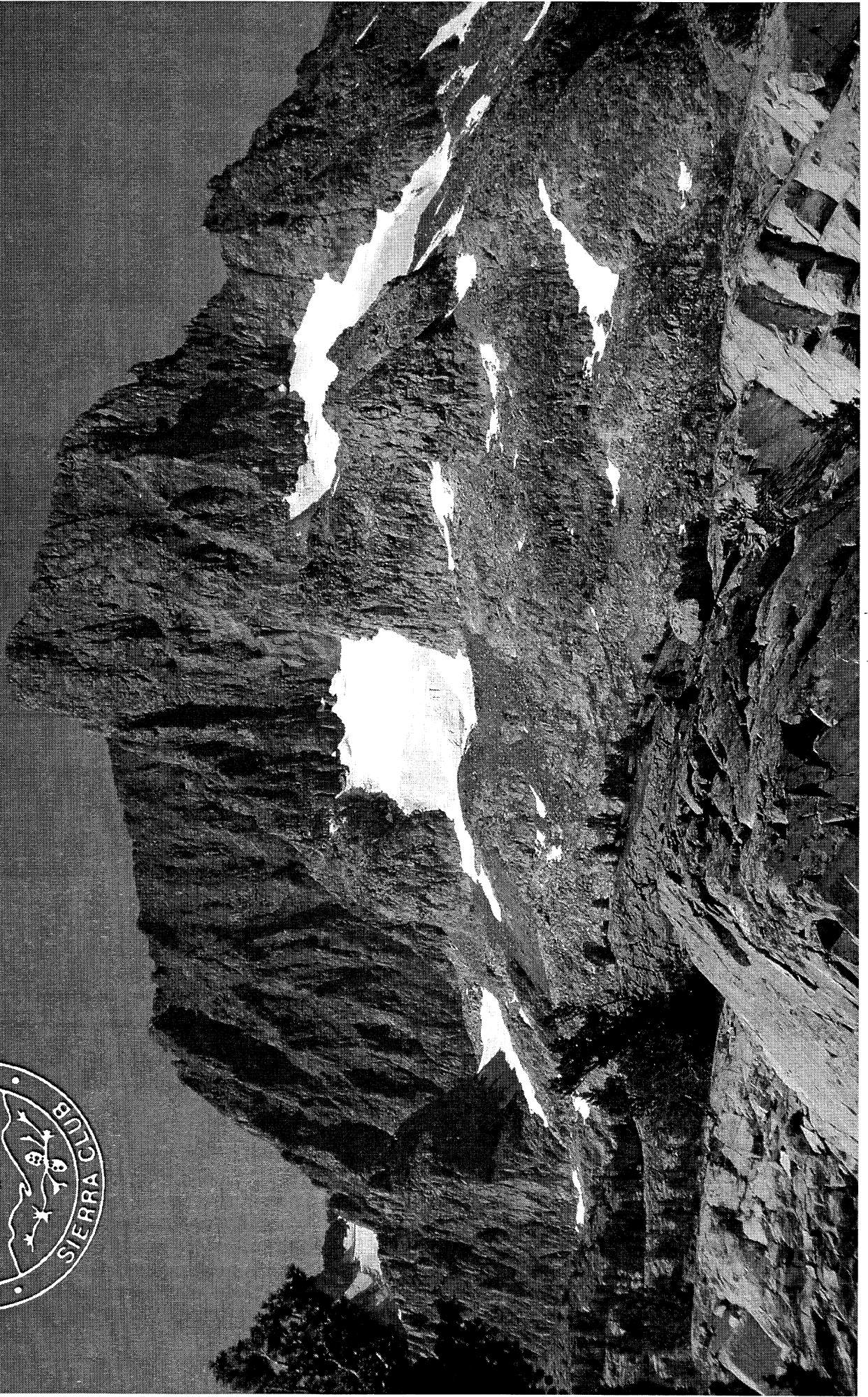
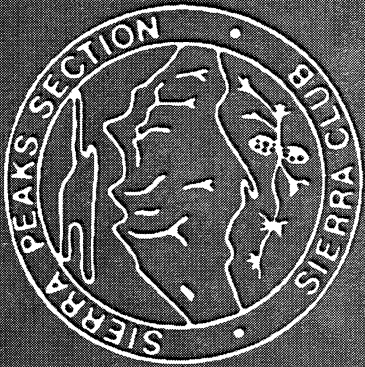
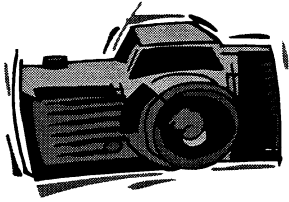


The Sierra ECHO

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2005





FRONT COVER

Banner Peak, photo by Dave Sholle

Peak List

See Stories Inside

Finger

Carillon

Tunemah

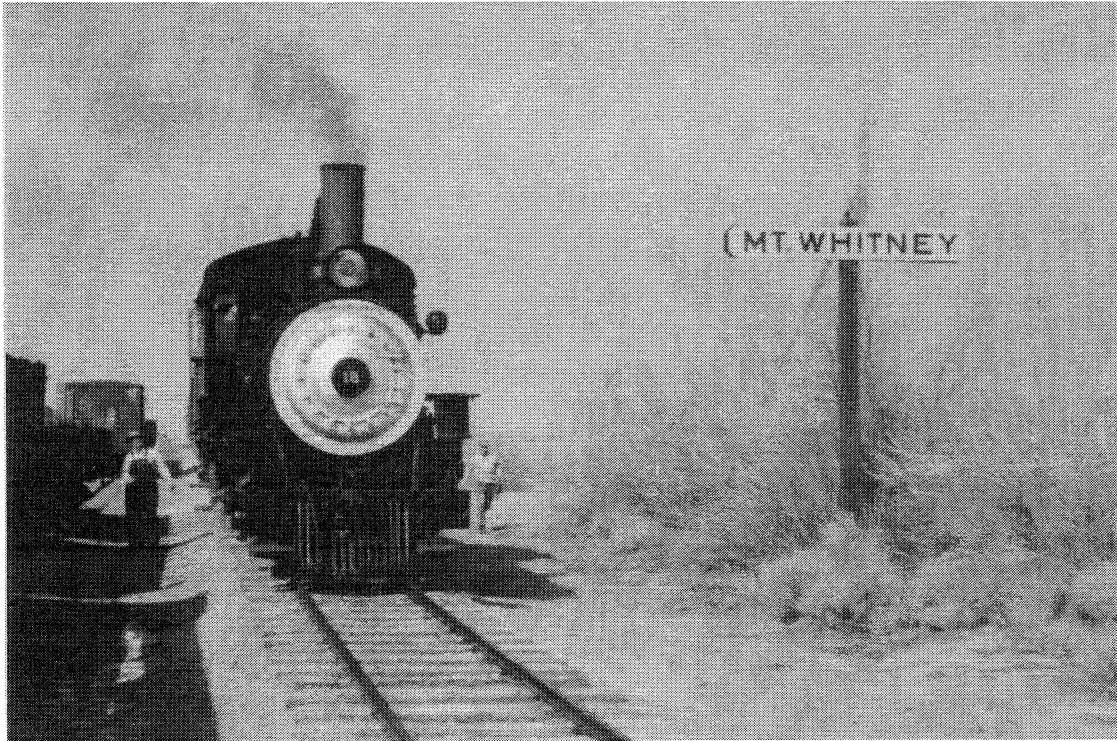
Thor

Carl Heller

Tunnabora

Mt. Russell

The Cleaver



Engine No. 18 - Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Railroad

Photo by Fred Matthews, Feb. 10, 1951 Caption: "Engine number 18 switching Mt. Whitney siding"
The Mt. Whitney siding was about 4 miles south of Owenyo and 13 miles north of Keeler. There was actually a station located there until the 1920's. The "snow" in this photo is probably talc.

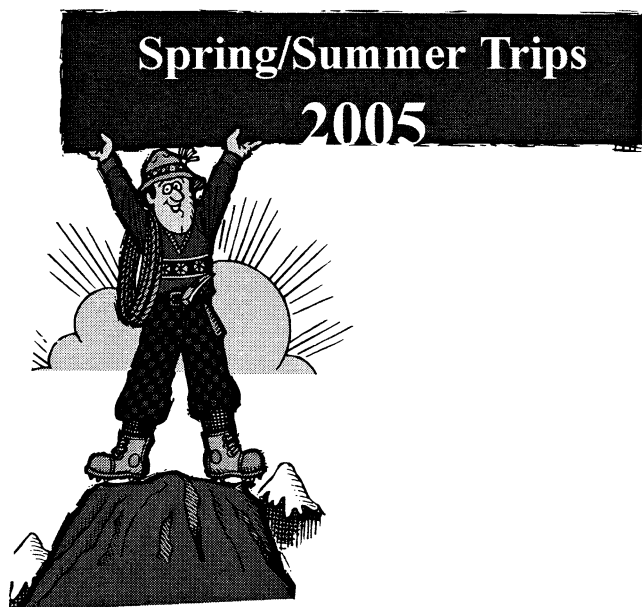
SPS PROGRAMS

SPS meetings are held at 7:30 PM, ground floor of 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, downstairs from the Angeles Chapter headquarters. Newcomers welcome. Parking is free and secure. Enter from Mariposa, just north of Wilshire. Mention Sierra Club at garage gate and get white ticket.

May 11, 2005 - Wednesday Ed Luofs will give a slide show on Auyuituk National Park on Baffin Island.

June 8, 2005 - Wednesday Kent Schwitkis will give a workshop on navigation.

October 16, 2005 - Sunday SPS 50th Anniversary Banquet *Hold this date!* Location and time (5pm?) to be announced. 50 years ago to the day the SPS was formed. Join your fellow climbers commemorating 50 years of climbing in the "Range of Light" Ron Jones reported in his six-part "Echos From the Past" series (Sierra Echo Vol. 39, No. 5, Sep-Oct 1995), "On October 16, 1955, a number of hopeful Sierra climbers attended the Excom meeting at the Angeles Chapter headquarters at the old Philharmonic Auditorium Building on the north side of 5th Street, opposite Pershing Square." The 50th anniversary committee is confirming the day and date - and the banquet committee is making plans for the best banquet ever!



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 Checkoff: 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

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

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.

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. 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

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

2005 Spring/Summer Trips Continued

MAY

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 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. Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR Co-ldr: 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

I: May 28-30 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Olancha Peak (12,123'): Moderate and enjoyable pace for climb of SPS Emblem Pk at the source of Crystal Geyser water in the S Sierra. SPS intro trip geared to new SPS climbers and strong WTC students. Sat backpack 8 mi, 3900' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT at approx 9700'. Sun climb 2nd class Olancha, 7 mi rt and 2400' of gain. Mon backpack out 8 mi and 3900' of loss. Total gain for wkend 6300' in 23 mi rt. Sat and Sun eve legendary community happy hours. Send sase or email to Ldr: ANITA McCARTHY. Asst: PATTY KLINE.

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-ldr. 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-ldr. 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 2005!

2005 SummerTrips Continued

JULY

I: Jul 9-11 Sat-Mon Mt. Muah (11,016'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike.  SPS introductory trip above Lone Pine geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack to Ash Meadow 7mi, 1000ft of gain. Sun climb Class2 Mt. Muah 4mi, 1500' of gain. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun eve. Mon backpack out in 7mi, 1000' of gain. On this trip we will learn some of the history of the SPS in honor of the 50th Year Anniversary of the SPS, founded in 1955. Send sase to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. RICK JALI.

MR: Jul 22 - 31 Fri - Sun Tunemah, Finger, Reinstein, o.p. Scylla, Goddard Goddard Creek Area: Hike in via Crown Valley and Blue Cyn from near Wishon Reservoir. Do Tunemah, Finger, Reinstein. Visit Goddard Creek, explore this infrequently visited area. Explore many lakes and unnamed peaks. Opportunity for Scylla, Goddard, various unknown peaks via atypical routes. Back via Blackcap Basin in circle route. Many miles, much hiking x-c with backpack, probable class 3+ on routes. E-mail Ldr: RON HUDSON, Co-Ldrs REINER STENZEL, PATTY RAMBERT


I: Jul 23-25 Sat-Mon Mt. Stanford-North, (12,838'): SPS introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed, casual and enjoyable. Sat backpack 6 mi and 1,400' of gain to western most Hilton Lake at 10,353'. Sun climb class 2 Stanford in 5 mi rt and 2,500' of gain, all x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 7 mi and 3200' loss. Send sase, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst: KENT SCHWITKIS. Naturalist: SHERRY ROSS.

I: Jul 28 - Aug 1 Thu-Mon SPS/Loma Prieta, Goat Mtn. (12,207), State Peak (12,620), Marion Peak (12,719): Join this 50th SPS anniversary climb of Goat Mtn. and other nearby peaks. This is a strenuous peak bagging adventure with over 5,000' gain on the first day and substantial cross-country travel. Thursday hike Grouse Lake; Friday climb Goat Mtn. and may be Kid Peak before moving camp to State Lakes; Saturday climb State and Marion Peaks with lots of cross country boulder and scree hopping. Sunday back track and possibly climb Combs Spur; Monday hike out for an early drive home. Send sase with \$5 permit fee to Ldrs: MIKE MCDERMITT, IGOR MAMEDALIN.

LOOK FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CLIMBS


I: July 29-Aug 1 Fri-Mon SPS/NSS Colosseum Mtn. (12,451), Mt. Perkins (12,566), Mt. Pinchot (13,494), Mt. Wynne (13,179): Join the fun and increase your knowledge of the Sierra on this ambitious mid-season climb of four remote peaks. Friday hike on trail to Mule Lake, 7 miles, 5,400'. Saturday continue over Sawmill Pass to make camp at the beautiful lakes below Mount Cedric Wright, then climb cl 1 Colosseum, 6 mi, 3,200' gain. Sunday hike xc on cl 2 terrain to climb Perkins, Pinchot, and Wynne, 8.5 mi, 3,750' total gain. Monday hike out, 11.5 mi, 600' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase to Ldr: DARRICK DANTA. Asst: KEITH MARTIN.

I: July 30-31 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Cloudripper (13,525'): Moderate backpack trip to an SPS peak. Sat backpack from South Lake to camp at Green Lake, 3+ miles, 1300' gain. Optional Sat climb to Hunchback (12,311'), 1+ miles, 1300' gain. Sunday climb to peak, 4 miles, 2900' gain, slight class 3 on summit. WTC req. or equiv. Send SASE or e-mail to Ldr: ED MORENTE. Asst: TOM MCDONNELL

O: Aug 5-7 Fri-Sun SPS/International Community, Alta Peak (11,204'):  Carcamp (campfire, Happy Hours.) in Sequoia National Park. Trail hike at moderate pace Saturday to peak (approx 14 mi rt, 4000' gain), celebrating 50 years of SPS and leader's 30 years with SC. To reserve, Email/sase to leader: ASHER WAXMAN. Asst: MIKKI SIEGEL.

AUGUST

I: Aug 6-8 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC, Red Slate Mtn. (13,123'): SPS Intro trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, causal, and enjoyable. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to McGee Lakes at 11,040', 6 1/2 mi, 2900' gain. Sun climb class 1 Mountaineers Peak, 4 mi rt, 2,200' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun eve. Send 2 sase, \$5.00 to Leader: PATTY KLINE. Asst: JOE WANKUM.

M: Aug 11-12 Sat-Sun University Pk (13,589'), Independence Pk (11,742'):  Carcamp and dayhikes/backpack on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the SPS. Send email (preferred) or sase to Ldr: ASHER WAXMAN. Asst: DAN RICHTER.

I: Aug 20-21 Sat-Sun Mt. Baldwin (12,615), Bloody Mtn. (12,552): Enjoy great scenery and a full moon on this trip in the beautiful Convict Lake area. Saturday pack to Mildred Lake, set up camp, then climb Baldwin, 8.7 mi (4.2 xc), 5,000' gain. Sunday climb Bloody, then pack out, 10.7 mi (2.2 xc), 4,000' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase, to Ldr: DARRICK DANTA. Asst: BARRY HOLCHIN.

2005 SummerTrips Continued

AUGUST

I: Aug 20-21 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC, Mt. Tom (13,652'): Strenuous climb to the top of massive Mt. Tom out of Bishop. Sat. backpack 4 mi., 2200' to camp at Horton Lake. Sun. climb Tom 7 mi. rt, 3700', pack out 4 mi. Send 2 sase/email, \$5 permit fee, conditioning, experience (including WTC group information), H&W phones and rideshare info to Ldr: MELISSA KANE. Asst: EDD RUSKOWITZ.

I: Aug 20-22 Sat-Mon, Mt. Julius Caesar (13,200'): SPS introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack above Honey-moon Lake, camping at 10,600' (7 mi and 3200' gain). Sun climb class 2 Julius Caesar (9 mi rt., 2600' gain with xc.) Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 7 mi and 3200' loss. Send sase, \$5 permit to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst. GREG DE HOOGH.

I: Aug 26-29 Fri-Mon Mt Brewer (13570'), Mt Bago (11870'): Visit this SPS emblem on 4 day pack, bagging Bago on the way just because it's there. 35 miles, 12,000' gain from Onion Valley. No plans to climb North Guard. Email or SASE to George. Ldrs: GEORGE WYSUP, PAT ARREDONDO, GARY SCHENK

I: Aug 27-28 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Mt Goode (13,085'), Mt Agassiz (13,893'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike. Gourmet Backpack! Join us for a weekend of high-altitude decadence. Sat backpack 5 mi, 1400' to Bishop Lake for an elegant dinner. Lift a (plastic) glass of vintage Merlot to toast SPS's 50th anniversary. Sun work off those calories and enjoy gorgeous views with 2 mi, 1900' climb of Goode; depending on conditions may ridge-hop 3 mi, 2000' gain to Agassiz. Send e-mail or sase with your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Asst: GEORGETTE RIECK

SEPTEMBER

M: Sep 3-5 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Mt Tyndall (14,018'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike. Climb in autumn up a 14'er. Strenuous 8 mi 4000' gain up Shepard Pass Trail to Anvil Camp on Sat. Sun climb Tyndall via class 3 north rib and back to camp (6 mi rt, 4000' gain). Mon hike out. Recent 3rd class rock experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. This outing is rescheduled from 2004. Send sase/email \$5 permit fee to Ldr: SCOTT LEAVITT. Asst: PATRICK MCKUSKY.

I: Sep 9-11 Fri-Sun, Trail Pk (11,623'), Wonoga Peak (10,371'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike. Leisurely paced ascents of two unlisted peaks with time to reflect on the just under 50 full years since SPS' founding. Camp Fri pm at Tuttle Cr (5120') near Lone Pine with extended happy hour; move Sat am on paved road to Horseshoe Mdw (10,000'). Sat climb mostly Class 1 Trail Pk, on the SPS' first qualifying list, from the Pacific Crest Trail, 8-10 mi rt depending on route options with 1700' gain. Then, a long happy hour. Sun climb easy Class 2 Wonoga from Little Cottonwood Cr, 2 mi rt with 1100' gain. Send sase with H&W phones & e-mail address to Asst Ldr. Ldrs: GORDON MACLEOD & BARBARA LILLEY. Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING.

I: Sep 9-11 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC Joe Devel Pk (13,327'): From Horseshoe Meadows we'll moderately pack in 11 mi., 1700' gain/1000' loss over Cottonwood Pass to camp at Lower Rock Creek Lake. Sat. climb Joe, 5 mi. 2600', then happy hour and campfire (woohoo!). Sun. pack out. Send 2 sase/email, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: EDD RUSKOWITZ. Asst: MELISSA KANE.

I: Sep 9-12 Fri- Mon Leavitt Peak (11569'), Stanislaus Peak (11233'), Blackhawk Mtn (10247'), Disaster Peak (10047'): Spend Grandparents' Day hiking trails and some xc in the Sonora Pass area on this SPS introductory trip. Leavitt 12 miles 3700' gain; Stanislaus 9 miles 2600' gain; Blackhawk 23 miles 6500' gain (early start!); Disaster 7 miles 3600' gain. Car camps between. Climb any or all. Paved hwy driving. Email or SASE to George. Ldrs: GEORGE WYSUP, PAT ARREDONDO, ASHER WAXMAN

I: Sep 10-12 Sat-Mon Bloody Mtn. (12,552'): SPS Intro Trip geared to new and prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate backpack for class 2 pk south of Mammoth. Sat bkpk 8 mi, 2600' gain to Dorothy Lake. Sun climb class 2 Bloody in 4 mi rt, 2400' of gain, mostly x-country. Mon bkpk out 8 mi, 2600' loss. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send sase, \$5.00 permit fee to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst: KEITH MARTIN.

I: Sep 16-18 Fri-Sun SPS/Wilderness Adventures Mineral Kings' Sawtooth Peak (12,343) & Needham Mountain (12,520): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike. Visit vertical vistas in southern Sequoia N.P. Friday, moderately strenuous 3.7 mile, 2,600 ft gain trail backpack to camp near Monarch Lakes. Possible day-hike over Sawtooth Pass to Columbine Lake. Saturday, strenuous xc 6 mi, 3,700 ft climb of the two peaks. Sunday, return. Must be comfortable with steep, off-trail hiking. Send \$5 permit fee, 2 SASE to Ldr: MARK MITCHELL, Co-Ldr: KEITH MARTIN.



2005 SummerTrips Continued

SEPTEMBER

M: Sep 23-25 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC

Tower Pk (11,755'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike. Northern Sierra Class 3 Mountaineers Peak. Strenuous trip (29 miles RT, 4500' gain) restricted to Sierra Club members. Participants must be comfortable on Class 3 rock. Friday backpack from Leavitt Meadows Trailhead to camp at Tower Lake (13 miles, 2400' gain). Saturday climb peak (2100' gain) and pack out part way for short hike out on Sunday. Send e-mail to Ldr: JOHN CHESLICK. Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT



I: Sept 25 Sun LTC/WTCGrinnell Ridge Navigation:

Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino Nat. Forest for either checkout 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

OCTOBER

I: Oct 1-2 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC North

Maggie Mtn (10,234'): SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike Great intro to SPS backpack for recent WTC graduates interested in bagging their first peak in the Western Sierra. Plan on a leisurely start Saturday morning from Hidden Falls campground. Backpack in (2-3 miles) followed by happy hour Saturday night. Sunday morning peak climb (approx. 3 miles, 3000 ft. gain) cross-country. Return to the cars Sunday late afternoon. Send email with experience (including WTC group information) and contact information to Ldr: JENNIE THOMAS. Asst: GREG ROACH.



M/E: Nov 12-13 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS/WTC Indian Cove Rock Check-off:

SPS 50th Anniversary Year and time to encourage new leaders for the next 50 years. M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. At Joshua Tree National Park. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training on rock. Send 2 sases to Ldr: DAN RICHTER. Co-Ldr: PAT MCKUSKY.



SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Climbs include trips that commemorate trips led 50 years ago and trips that celebrate the Section's 50 years of climbing.

Either way - sign-up and join the celebrations! The SPS is 50 years old in October.

**SPS Treasurer's Report
4th Quarter 12/31/04**

Prepared by Henry Arnebold

Checking Account

Income:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| a. Merchandise | \$ 106.00 |
| b. Echo | \$ 550.00 |
| c. Donation (Echo Cover) | \$ 308.51 |
| d. Banquet | \$1,372.00 |
| | \$2,336.51 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| a. Echo Printing | \$ 849.65 |
| b. Postage | \$ 370.91 |
| c. Labels | \$ 20.52 |
| d. Supplies | \$ 12.97 |
| e. Copies | \$ 1.14 |
| | \$1,255.19 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Balance on 9/30/04 | \$1,877.18 |
| Income | \$2,336.51 |
| | \$4,213.69 |
| Expenditures | -\$1,255.19 |
| | \$2,958.50 |

Savings Account

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Balance on 9/30/04 | \$4,852.25 |
| October interest income | \$1.64 |
| November interest income | \$1.59 |
| December interest income | \$1.95 |
| | \$4,857.14 |

**SPS February/March 2005
Membership Updates**

Welcome New Members

Ted Tassop
Alhambra, CA
Theodore.N.Tassop@usps.gov

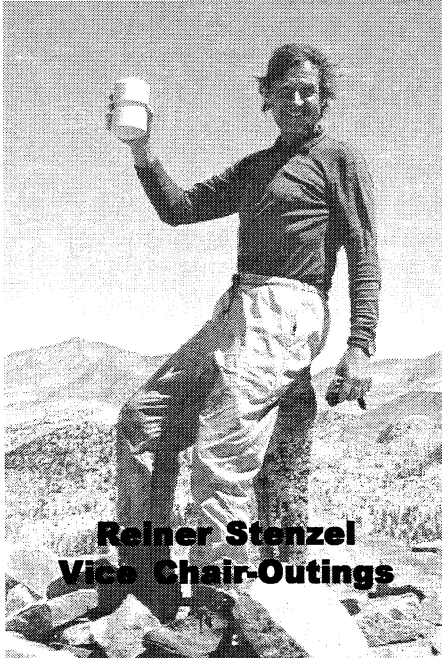
New Addresses/E-mail or Phone

Bob Sumner
PO Box 7337
Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546

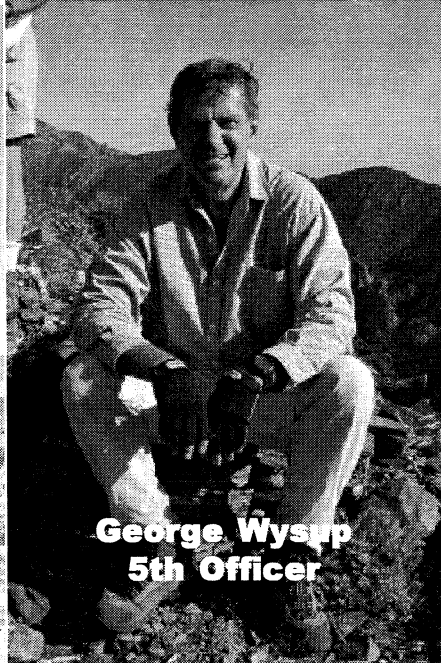
Scott Sullivan
ssullivan@comcast.net
Work Phone 310/449-8218

Echoes from the Chair

Introducing the 2005 SPS Management Committee Officers



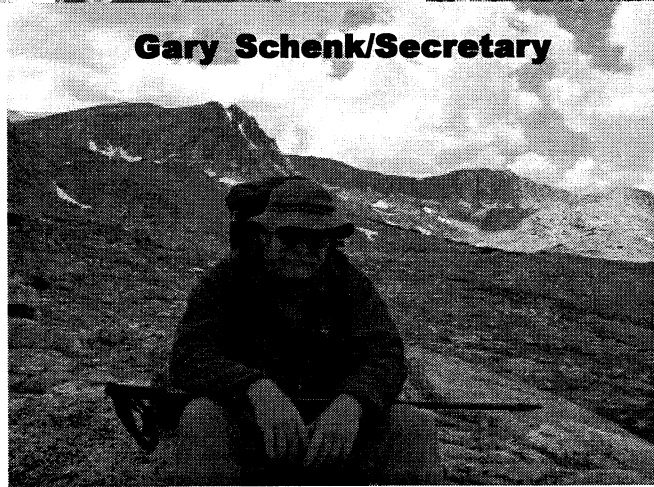
Reiner Stenzel
Vice Chair-Outings



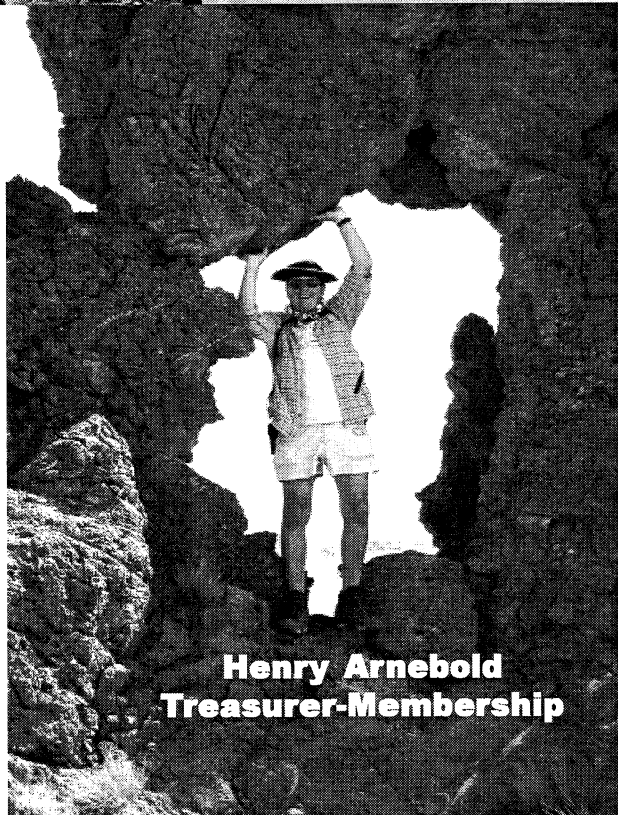
George Wysup
5th Officer



Patty Rambert/Chair



Gary Schenk/Secretary



Henry Arnebold
Treasurer-Membership

Management Committee

- Patty Kline
- Barbee Tidball
- Barbara Sholle
- Beth Epstein
- R.J. Secor
- Duane McRuer
- Doug Mantle
- Dan Richter
- Charlie Knapke
- Sue Holloway
- Steve Thaw
- Rich Gnagy

2005

- Merchandise
- Echo Editor/Conservation
- Echo Editor
- Mailer
- Mtn. Records
- SPS Safety
- SPS Safety
- Archives
- Web
- San Diego Rep.
- Northern CA Rep.
- Central CA Rep.

We Get Letters

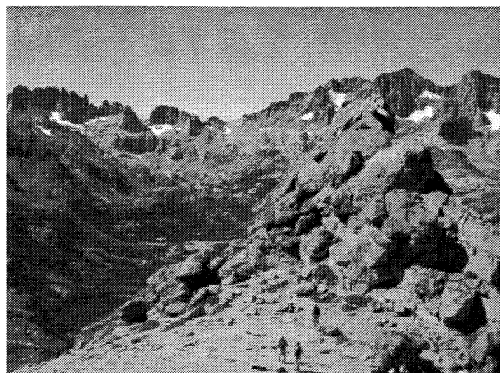
To "The Sierra Echo" Editors,

I see concern is rising over the inexorable and now increasing loss of mountain records. A bold ambitious plan is required.

- (1) Remove all records from all summits as rapidly as possible. Send them to Bancroft Library.
- (2) Replace the records with a quantity of cards telling climbers the address, and form(s) to use when sending in their personal climbing records so that they may be entered in a public database. (Ultimately this would be electronic) Also leave an empty book for those inclined to use books.
- (3) Develop a team effort between Bancroft Library, the State Prison System and Sierra Club to create a public searchable computer database of Sierra climbing records. (Find out how the U.S. census was turned into an electronic data base)
- (4) Have S.P.S. launch an effort to gain copies of climbing records personal and otherwise held by all known climbing clubs and individuals. These to be entered into the database after its initial creation to serve as a "cross check" as well as fill in missing information.

Incidentally I was under the impression that the Purple Mountain Gang had merely swapped the Midway Register with the Milestone register

K. Kyle Atkins



The Echo, Cover Photo December/January 2004/05

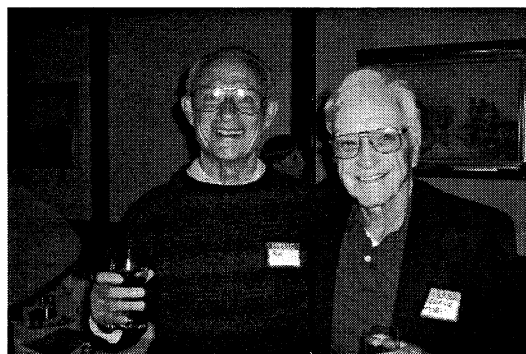
About switching the ECHO to an electronic publication (August/Sept. 2004, page 7) I think the following should be considered in making a decision: 1) No longer being able to sit in an easy chair and leisurely read the ECHO. 2) Membership in the Club and SPS, possibly would grow as the result, by gaining mountaineers whom otherwise may never have learned about the Section. 3) However, there would also be the risk of a decline in SPS membership, as with rare exception, it is not required for participation in the activity, and the information that is found in the Echo, would become available. 4) A loss of subscribers. 5) It could result in some negative changes to the character and cohesiveness of our Section. 6) Possibly continuing to print the ECHO while experimenting with electronic publication.

Give some thought to having a column for members to submit their comments and suggestions such as micro details for peak climbs; similar to the "Wrinkles" R.J. has in his book, The High Sierra.

Sincerely, Edward Lubin



The front cover of *The Echo*, December/January issue was a photo of SAN JOAQUIN PEAK taken on September 25, 2004 at the occasion of Ron Jones List Finish Climb. The photo was taken by Jeff Solomon and the climbers in the shot were (from top to bottom) Bruce Turner - Igor Mamedalin - Ron Jones - Sylvia Sur Kinney

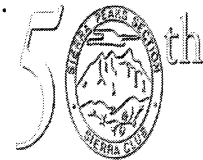


George Toby and Ron Jones, SPS list finishers at 71 yrs & one day; and 71 yrs. & 269 days, second & third oldest to Ret Moore. (Photo taken at the January SPS banquet.

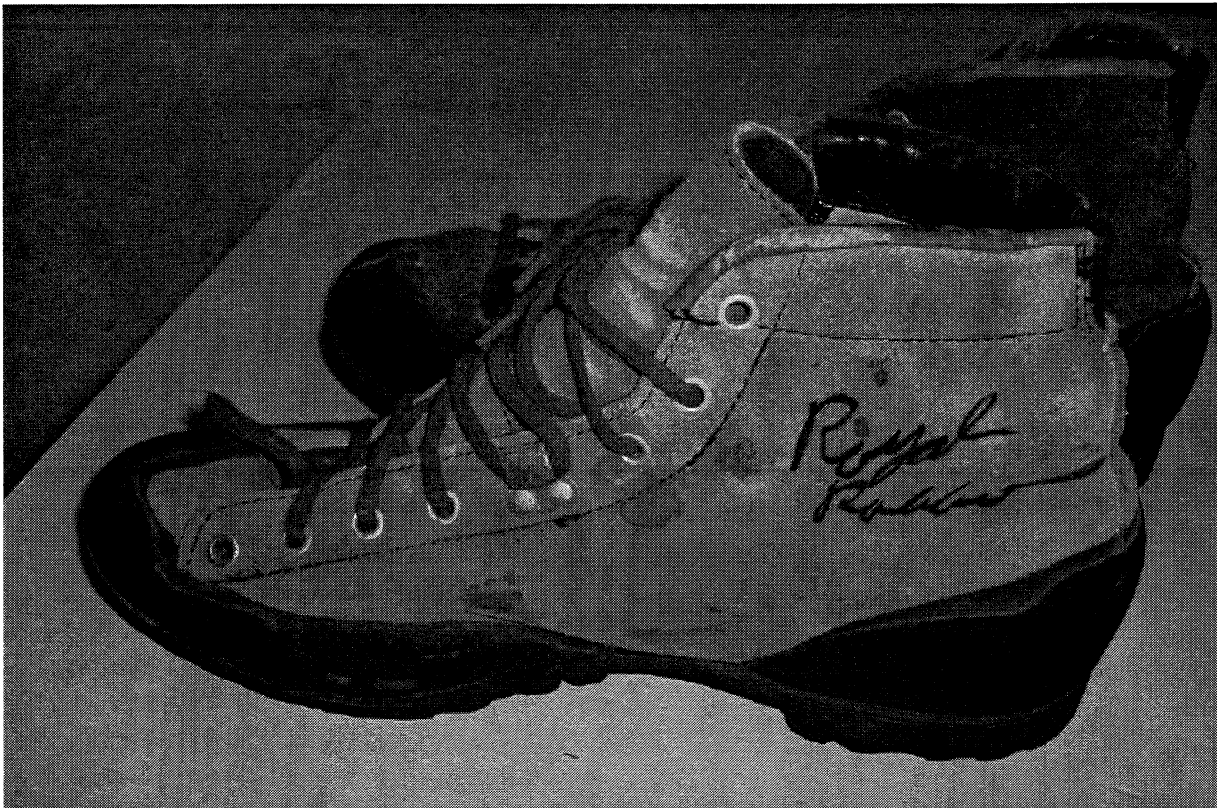
Information provided by Ron Jones

Memorable Mountains

As indicated in the December 2004 - January 2005 edition of the Echo, this year marks the 50th. for the SPS. In honor of this august event, a committee has elected to commemorate the occasion throughout the year rather than with one special edition in December. For the 20th. and 30th. issues, I wrote a brief description of the emblem peaks. However, a recent quadruple Desert Peaks List Finish motivated me to try a new approach. Over Memorial Day weekend last year, Rayne and I participated in the celebration of Sentinel's conquest by Burt Falk, Charlie Winger, Gerry Roach, and Jennifer Roach. Ever the gracious host, Burt arranged for a celebratory party at Old Mammoth Lodge. At the lovely luncheon, someone in the group suggested going around the circle having each individual describe his/her most memorable peak while giving the reason. The answers were as varied as the climbers polled, and the discussion was lively and intriguing. Thus came the inspiration for this column, a marriage of our superlative peaks and SPS personalities. Please consider submitting your most memorable Sierra peak with qualifying detail. Your input can be as pithy as Mallory's "Because it's there." or as long as a page. Considering candidates will help qualify your climbing experiences in Muir's Range of Light, and by contributing your two cents, you can become a part of the section's written history.

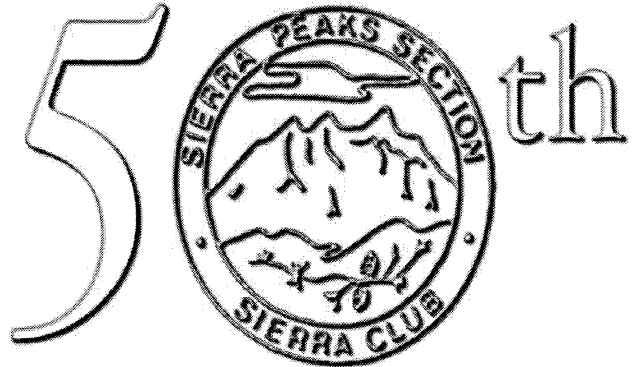


Sincerely, Mary Motheral



Ron Jones's "Royal Robbins" rock climbing shoes bought in 1970 (state of the art at the time) for climbing with the RCS. I had Royal Robbins autograph them at the 2005 banquet. Don't look for them on E-Bay.

MY MOST MEMORABLE
 SPS TRIP
 "The Billy"



In the ambitious days of my youth, I numbered among many SPS goal oriented individuals for whom achieving list completion was the pinnacle of life's accomplishments. So focused was I that the intermediary steps (Senior Emblem, Master Emblem) never even registered. To my dismay, upon applying for THE ULTIMATE DISTINCTION, ever meticulous DAN RICHTER precipitated a major crisis by requesting details. Oh, Lordy. It took several days and one all nighter (nice to be retired!) to sort out the requested info. One plus was that the exercise forced me to review my climbing career to pinpoint the event that stuck most in mind. Not surprisingly, it turned out to be the trip that launched the madness - my first to Angora and Coyote in the early '70's.

Although the two peaks were nondescript, the outing introduced me to three SPS luminaries, PAUL LIPSOHN, BOB HERLIHY (the leaders), and NORM ROHN. Saturday evening, seated near the campfire, this tyro felt as if in the presence of Jim Bridger, John C. Fremont, and Kit Carson, intrepid mountain men all. I vividly remember a generously bearded Norm hunkered over the open fire (this era predates stoves, giardia, permits, Adventure Passes, ad nauseam) fondly tending his billy, of which he very proudly extolled its virtues: it was cheap, practical, easily replaced. What one could do with a #10 tomato can and wire bail! In awe as I was of this clearly competent mountaineer, very much at home in the back country, rebellious thoughts snaked into my mind: The billy was open and thus precluded a rapid boil; it was large - hence, difficult to pack; its bottom was blackened from the flames and would dirty other contents of a backpack. Later, I learned that Norm carried a humongous pack, rivaling that of NORMAN CLYDE, who was notorious for hauling tomes in their original Greek and Latin, iron skillets, and all matter of "necessities" into the Sierra. Of course, Rohn could accommodate extra weight of a large billy! He was an avid hunter, used to dressing elk miles from a road and packing it out after hanging the carcass and quartering it for easy (!) transport - on snowshoes, for goodness sake! Unknown to me that evening, Norm and I later would become climbing buddies, and I came to know him for his many skills and generous character. He was a hunter, orchid grower (especially epiphyllums), field gleaner for hunger projects, and jack of all trades who fashioned much of his mountaineering gear. Knowing my love for plants, he would treat me with hat boxes fully filled with an enormous bloom of ephemeral beauty. DOUG MANTLE described Norm best as a "courtly gentleman."

Who would guess that fascination and curiosity over a stranger's homemade cooking utensil would foster a climbing relationship with this experienced backcountry explorer?

Mary Motheral

Honorable Mountains - Continued

MY FIRST SOLO CLIMB

Alone. Alone at three a.m. on a night in mid September. Alone and restless. Alone with bedclothes twisted, pillow damp. Alone while moon shadows play on the windowsill. Alone for the first time ever in this family retreat set deep in a pine forest.

Silence. Not a sound. Silence and anxiety. Anxiety about the morning's climb.

Why? What am I trying to prove?

In and out of an uneasy sleep.

Finally—finally, tumble out of bed before dawn, before the alarm. Walk barefoot into the kitchen, clothes in hand. Through the windows, a dim glow in the east.

Dress, make toast, sip hot tea. Glance at the dining room table, scene of many a family meal, many a noisy card game. Nobody here now but me. Head for the door.

Outside, a chilly dawn. Drive north on an empty road, median stripes flash by. Dark pines emerge from the gloom. The sky brightens; I don't.

Half an hour. Park in a deserted lot among the aspens. 7,500 feet in elevation. Shadowy—fresh—dewy.

Lace on boots. Strip off jacket. Pull on hat. Cache keys under rear bumper. Hoist my pack.

The trail, flat at first, through the aspens. A gradual climb, then steeper. Pines and firs now—big, dark trees. Look down from the mountainside and see aspen tops, still green on the cusp of autumn. Morning air cool on my face. 8,000 feet.

Soon a stream—noisy, dark, tumbling down. Another half a mile, then a fork. Turn right on the lesser used trail. Steeper now. Rocks, roots, pine needles. The slope begins to taper off. Blue sky visible through the boughs. Pick up the pace. Sweat.

Two more rises then a shallow morning lake. 9000 feet. Stop for a drink. Sit on a large granite boulder, half in, half out of the water.

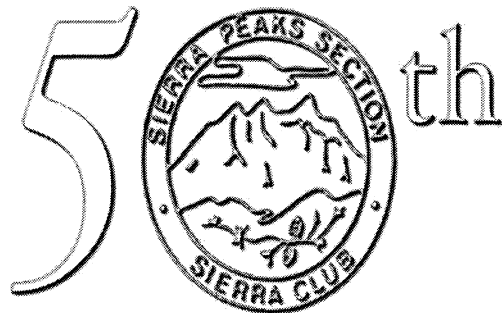
“Why?”

Look around. Sunlit red cliffs soar up on my right. Shadowed gray talus slopes tumble down on my left. The peak, my goal, out of sight beyond the precipice at the end of the lake.

“Don't know.”

Look around once more. Clear water lapping gently at the lake's edge. Reflections mirrored across the smooth morning surface. Felled trees, old and weathered, piled along the outlet. Summer footprints still visible in the damp sand; the area deserted now that fall is in the air.

On my feet again. Follow a fishermen's trail through a meadow leading to the far end of the lake—the ground soft underfoot. Boots drip with dew. Next, a willow thicket—choked and impassable. Turn up the slope to the right. Tangled scrub aspen—also impassable.



Quandry.

Why continue?

Back to the willow thicket.

Because I can't stop.

Begin to fight through the branches in the dry creekbed. The leaves, yellow and mottled, falling off at the touch. Redolence of willow. Then, scratched and bleeding, out at the base of the precipice.

Another decision. Climb the abrupt rock face, or chance the steep talus slope to the left?

Opt for the talus—large, split, treacherous rock, lying at the angle of repose.

Climb, balance, jump, concentrate. Watch my steps carefully, listen for movement. No irrelevant thoughts here. No one will find me if I slip.

Up and up, heart pounding, until a stop to catch my breath. Gaze at the lake below, quiet and still. Summer's bright promise now faded; fall's frosty touch, the snowy drifts of winter just around the corner. How many seasons do I have left?

Up and off again. 10,500 feet. Talus meets a sheer wall. Work along the base to a break. Scramble up a scree-filled chute. Set off small slides. Taste dust. Wipe sweat from eyes.

At last, an open ridge above timberline. My summit suddenly in full view. Bright sun. Deep blue sky. Not a single cloud.

This route rarely climbed, if ever.

Ridge melds into an easy slope leading to the peak's prominence. A surprisingly smooth approach considering the rugged setting.

Continue in a trance as my mind's eye soars into the morning sky above.

Look down and see generations of Indians filing through valleys below. Look down and see argonauts discouraged at the sight of these very mountains.

Look down and see myself, a small shadow moving slowly up the barren slope. Insignificant, ephemeral. A split second on the rush to eternity.

Enough. Back to the task at hand.

Slow trudge. Labored breath. The final outcropping just ahead.

Finally, the summit, eleven and a half thousand feet. Large reddish-gray rocks, broken and shattered. Smashed by countless bolts of lightening. Split by centuries of hard winter ice.

Warm and inviting at noon on this late summer's day.

Breathtaking views soar away in every direction. To the east, a high-desert landscape, backed against a long north, south range. To the west, closer, a ridge of high alpine peaks, bejeweled by a scattering of dark sapphire lakes at their base.

Make a slow revolution with arms outstretched. The Range of Light. All mine when I use it. California—still golden.

Heart filled. Questions answered. A lone celebration. Alone but not lonely.

Burton Falk

Tag Line from Author

"Name this mystery peak, and the author will buy you a drink the next time he sees you."

REMEMBERING PAUL LIPSOHN

Occasionally, like for the annual New Year's trips, he was known as "El Jefe Azul". I'm not sure why. Maybe this was a good natured "touche" to "The Red Baron" (Les Stockton, a friend). Arguably, it derived from his hiking uniform: a faded, turned-up, blue knit cap, white T-shirt, and blue jeans (yep).

Fair enough, but more than by that outfit, he was known by his arthritic 1960 VW bus, "Rosie" (50 MPH max, no matter what). The later bug "Bluey" doesn't count.

This "Blue Boss" was Paul Lipsohn, a peak bagger's inspiration in his prime, 35 years ago. He raced through the HPS and DPS Lists, and was instrumental in adding bunches of peaks to both. He had also topped 200 SPS peaks, and chaired all three climbing sections (earning one of the earlier Chester Versteeg Awards) before emphysema slowed him to a crawl. Even then, sticking more to private and solo trips, he kept on tackling goals such as topping all the benchmarks in San Bernardino county, and walking the perimeter of the United States (which he completed, it had to be counter-clockwise and close to the borders, he insisted).

Paul sought out challenges, and would address them unruffled, whether he led 60 of us, or nobody showed up. Well before other folks, Paul:

"

Set the high-altitude barf record (17 times) on Mexico's Popocatepetl.

"

Led the first large groups up-canyon in Zion to climb the Guardian Angels*. Paul also later did exploratory hikes in that area, including Great West Canyon.

"

Before Bill Russell, it was Paul leading Pathfinder backpacks up the HPS peak, Big Iron, including at least one with no participants except co-leader George Hubbard.

"

Traversed Toro to Rabbit - - still rarely done.

"

Staged a two-day, November trip to Mt. Stewart in the Sierra: 42 miles, 11,000 feet of gain. Years later, he would never get the joke, and rather forgot the stats, when George Hubbard and I would rib him "Hey, Paul, wasn't that trip about 115 miles and 80,000 feet of gain?". He never corrected us.

"

Took a group of 30 and more right on past the intended Pico Risco, deep in the Baja, on to a high point dubbed "Pico Fiasco", probably by Barbara Reber, and back very much in the dead of night.

"

Led 61 up HPS peak Smith on a Christmastime hike.

"

Pioneered DPS peak Palmer from the bottom.

"

Before even Ron Jones, sought out Big Picacho from the West.

"

On his San Bernardino benchmark quest, fashioned a holiday special to Srcuge and Mother Grundy.

"

Did a two day, February, snowshoe trip to Granite Chief and Tinker Knob, along with Mt. Rose, from Bellflower. Wife Donna noted the odometer, he'd gone only 100 miles that weekend? Uh, no, 1100.

"

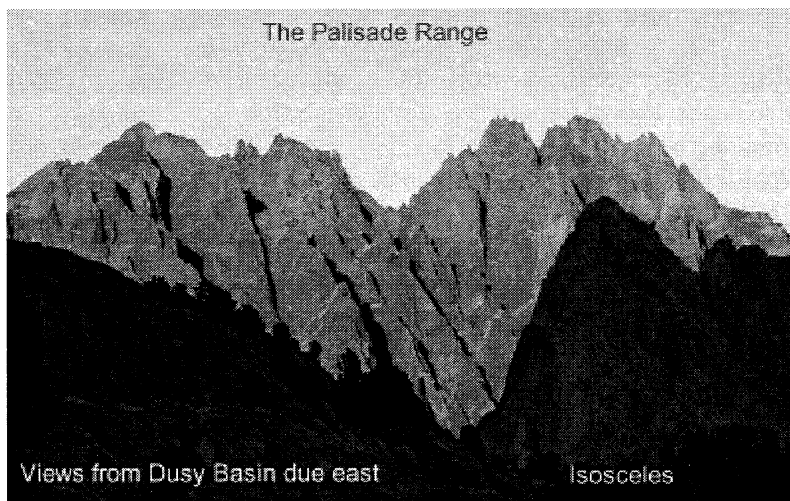
He ushered 70-year-old friend, Fred Bodie, through the entire DPS List (hey, back then, 70 was old!). He, Fred, and Bob Herlihy were all to finish that List together but Herlihy was killed by a lightening strike. Paul pursued naming a peak for this friend, and another peak, now Jenkins, for another friend who tragically died in the mountains, Wally Henry. He was unsuccessful in

both cases, but the information he got from the experience later enabled him to succeed in the naming of Heald Peak, in the Southern Sierra.

Paul very much had a real life, too: A long marriage to Donna who passed away just a few months before him; three now-grown children. Paul's Sierra career grew out of the many family trips to Huntington Lake in the 1960s. Paul was a crackerjack rubber chemist with patented innovations that greatly helped the company. Like Dick Akawie, there is little doubt that the occupation later did Paul in, but he had zero interest in pursuing lawsuits for that damage.

Paul also lavished volunteer time on the Red Cross, for whom he became a huge volunteer and key person/disaster coordinator.

Paul spoke with a remnant New England nasal twang, and though far from loud, he was a chatty fellow, an optimist, straight-forward, a problem solver.



Typically one time Rosie was acting up more than usual. After a tire blowout and a bent flywheel cover, the accelerator broke. Paul didn't waste a frown...I don't ever recall him cursing or complaining, not just on this trip. He changed the tire, hammered out the cover, and fitted a string from the fuel line in the back, outside and up to the driver's side window. Off we went, Paul's arm hanging out in the cold, tugging the line to get acceleration, shaking his head, but laughing too.

One more memory: once, off route (Paul eschewed compass work, 'nuff said) the group commenced to complaining. Paul and I got ahead a bit, whereupon he stacked up a duck and thus convinced everyone we were on track. On we went.



This was as honest, decent, and admirable a fellow as I have ever met, and among others, folks like Dolores Holiday, George Hubbard, Mike Manchester, the Pettijeans, Mac, Harvey Mudfoote, not to mention the late Dick Akawie and Vi Grasso, would gladly bear testament to that. Paul was my first Sierra hero; we all shall miss him.

– Doug Mantle

* When the campfire celebrants would get carried away with “Old McDonald” or whatever, Paul would sheepishly laugh and just sit back. He never drank much, an occasional Tres Equis beer was all, but he would tell “the duck joke” and one in which “the beer and the cantaloupe lay” with conviction.

UNCLIMBED (?) PEAKS OF THE HIGH SIERRA

by **R.J. Secor**

“Are there any unclimbed peaks left in the High Sierra? In 1938 Richard Leonard published a list of peaks for which no records then existed, as an appendix to *Mountain Records of the Sierra Nevada* [MRSN]. There are now records of ascent for all of these peaks, *except for one*. I will not climb this mountain, nor will I reveal its location, living with the idea that there will always be one last unclimbed peak in the High Sierra.”

I wrote those words in the second edition of *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails* [PP&T], and, as it turns out, I spoke too soon. Since then, I acquired a set of Sierra Club Bulletins (SCB) from 1900 to 1964 and a set of the 30-minute maps of the High Sierra, published by the USGS in the first half of the 20th century. These were the two primary sources for the creation of “Mountain Records of the Sierra Nevada,” a mimeographed paper listing all known ascents of some 900 peaks from the northern boundary of Yosemite National Park to Olancho Peak.

Both of these sources used the elevations from the 30-minute maps. It was not a problem determining the records for named peaks, but for unnamed, numbered peaks, guidebook authors started with the 30-minute elevations, then the 15-minute elevations, and now we have the 7.5 minute elevations. Inevitably, some of these unnamed peaks fell through the cracks.

So, armed with the historic MRSN and the SCBs, the modern TOPO! software and the manuscript of the third edition of PP&T, I reexamined Richard Leonard’s list of “Unclimbed (?) Peaks of the High Sierra” (an appendix to MRSN) and came up with the following peaks for which no records exist. In other words, from my perspective, they are unclimbed.

I used a modified version of the UIAA standards for the 4000m peaks of the Alps, namely elevation, morphology, and alpinistic characteristics. For example, I ignored those 8-9,000-foot bumps on the sides of Kings Canyon and instead selected high peaks with distinctive summits that are beautifully contoured on the map. I even found two named peaks with no records!

But this list does not include that one unclimbed peak that I discovered years ago. I want to believe that there will always be one unclimbed peak in the High Sierra.

These altitudes are from the TOPO! California State Series.

Peak 11,400+ (0.5 mi S of Glacier Lake, Sawtooth Ridge)

Peak 11,371 (0.9 mi SE of Gray Peak)

Peak 10,840+ (0.7 mi NNW of Olive Lake, Silver Divide)

Peak 11,480+ 2.2 mi SW of Finger Peak (Kettle Ridge)

And my Mystery Peak, which I hope shall always be unclimbed.



Conservation 2-Liners continued from page 23

Owens Valley Committee Foundation Visitor Center Open in Lone Pine

A well attended reception opened the OVC Foundation (OVCF) Visitor Center in Lone Pine on Saturday, February 19th. The opening was made possible by a generous donation from one of OVC’s members and was made in honor of Betty Brown and OVC founder Betty Gilchrist. Attendees viewed the document and text library as well as the interpretive displays. The Center is open to the public. OVCF is involved in education, science, service and legal fundraising dealing with land and water management in the Owens Valley. This particularly involves lands owned by the City of Los Angeles and that are managed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The center will be open most Mondays through Fridays in from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Call 760.876.1845 for further details or come in and see us at 134 E. Bush St. in Lone Pine (across the street from the Post Office). From Information posted on CONS-CNRCC-DESERT-FORUM.

Finger Peak (12,404') and Tunemah Peak (11,894')

August 5-8, 2004

By: Greg Gerlach

Thursday, August 5. I've had my eye on these peaks for several years. It seemed, however, that every time the peaks were led I had something else scheduled. I finally decided to set the dates and just go for it. I drove up to Fresno Wednesday evening and stayed at the Motel 6. The next morning I was up and on the road early, picked up my permit at 8:00 a.m. from the Sierra National Forest Ranger Station located in Prather, and was hiking up the Rancheria Trail by 9:35 a.m. I continued up the trail, passing Cabin Creek, Cow Meadows, Deer Meadow, Crown Valley and Crown Creek along the way. The trail disappeared just shortly after crossing Crown Creek in a jumbled mass of downed trees. I finally found the trail about ½ mile from the creek near the national park boundary. From there, I gained about 1,400' to the top of the ridge, then dropped down into beautiful Blue Canyon. I continued up the canyon for another 3 miles, finally stopping and making camp at 8:00 p.m. in Big Meadows just ahead of the descending darkness. The 18-½ mile hike in took me about 10 ½ hours

Friday, August 6. I was up at 6:30 a.m. and hiking along the trail at 7:30 a.m. towards Finger Peak. The trail in the canyon is indistinct and overgrown, particularly above Big Meadows, and it really saves time and effort to look for it. The trail finally disappeared altogether at the 9,300' elevation, but the route finding in the upper canyon was straightforward and the hiking relatively easy. Upon reaching Lake 10'400', I prepared my daypack, then headed north at 10:30 a.m. toward Finger Peak. I made my way up the canyon, passing several lakes along the way, then trudged 1,600' or so up the southeast slope to the summit, arriving on top at 1:00 p.m. The climbing was mostly class

1-2 with an easy class 3 section at the top. I read the entries in the peak register and was surprised to see that I was only the second person to climb the peak this year. Also, the peak register was placed on July 20, 1977 and is 2/3 full. After signing the summit register, I made my way back to Lake 10,400', arriving at 2:30 p.m. I gathered up my gear, then hiked over to Lake 10,401', which is just west of Dykeman Pass. I set up camp and spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing and reading.

Saturday, August 7. I was up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking at 7:00 a.m. towards the day's goal, Tunemah Peak. I ascended to 11,040' Dykeman Pass, then dropped down 800' to Alpine Creek. I contoured around the base of Tunemah's west ridge, then switchbacked up the sandy slope to the top of the ridge. I continued up the ridge, passing a false summit along the way. The climbing was class 1 up the sand and class 2 along the ridge. I reached the top of the peak at 9:30 a.m., then browsed through the summit register, which was placed on August 12, 1972 and is about 1/3 full. Also, I was the first person to climb Tunemah this year. After signing the register, I retraced my steps back to Alpine Creek and over Dykeman Pass to Lake 10,401'. I gathered up my gear, then started the long hike out at 12:30 p.m. From lower Blue Canyon it is a 1,400' grind up to the top of the ridge. Once at the ridge, the hiking is relatively easy to Crown Creek, and I had no trouble following the trail through the downed trees. I arrived at Crown Creek at 6:30 p.m., where I decided to call it a day.

Sunday, August 8. I was up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking toward the Rancheria Trailhead by 6:30 a.m. Upon crossing Crown Creek, I misplaced the trail and spent the next 15 minutes looking for it. I finally found the trail and quickly and uneventfully hiked pass Crown Valley and Cow Meadows, finally reaching the Rancheria Trailhead at 11:00 a.m. The 11-1/2 mile hike out took me about 4-1/2 hours.

Trip statistics: 53 miles and about 12,400 feet of elevation gain.

Carl Heller, Tunnabora, Mt Russell, The Cleaver, Carillon, Thor

21-24 Sep 2004

By Reiner Stenzel

This peak-climbing trip was jointly sponsored by the Sierra Peaks Section and the Ski Mountaineers Section, which also does summer peak climbs. Due to the difficulty of getting wilderness permits for the Whitney zone, the trip had to be rescheduled to a mid-week date, causing a small turnout. We were a group of four, Daryn Dodge, Steve Eckert, R.J. Secor and myself. With three list finishers in the group one objective was to explore unlisted peaks and some new routes on SPS peaks. In particular, Mt Carl Heller was our goal since it is a challenging climb and there were no previous trip descriptions in the SPS Archives or on climber.org. All six peaks we climbed are in the vicinity of Tulainyo Lake, 1.5mi NE of Mt Whitney.

We met on Tue, 9/21, 8am at Whitney Portal and hiked up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek (trail starts on the north side of the creek) to the Upper Boy Scout Lake (about 3mi, 3000' gain). There

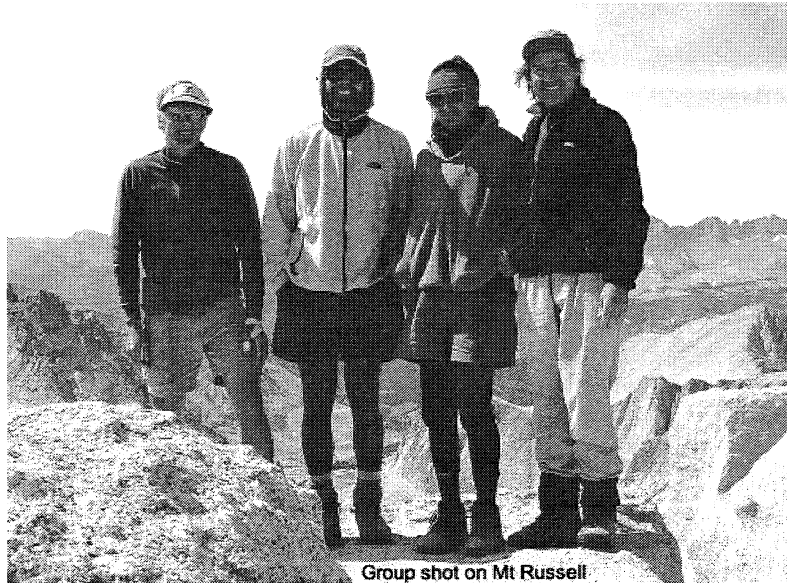
we set up camp for the next three nights. Camping at the next higher lake, Tulainyo Lke (12,800'), is not ideal.

On Wed, 9/22, we left camp at 7:15am and hiked up the standard route (SE slopes) to the Russell-Carillon Pass (13,280'). It is a 1300' climb on sandy slopes with dispersed loose rocks. However, the north side of the pass to Lake Tulainyo is steep. We headed first to Tunnabora Pk (13,565') since R.J.'s objective was to take pictures of the East Ridge of Carl Heller in the morning sun.

The peak register was stolen and we replaced it with a new SPS booklet. From Tunnabora one has a great view of the steep and rugged walls of the peaks between Vacation Pass and Tunnabora. The highest peak just south of Vacation Pass is Mt Carl Heller (Peak 4031m; UTM 11 383943E, 4052342N, 13,242', NAD 27). R.J. needed more time for his pictures and decided to forgo the climb of Carl Heller, which he had done before.

Three of us descended Tunnabora, headed west to a steep 200m drop off toward Wallace Lake but contoured NW above the lake at about 3700m. There is a multitude of peaks along the ridge and from nearby it is not easy to decide which one is the highest. However, it is no problem with a GPS. We first attempted an ascent over smooth granite slabs straight up to the summit but soon realized that this got us into class 4 terrain. Then we followed R.J.'s advice to ascend a broad chute southwest of the summit. But from the base one cannot see a broad chute, only narrow gullies at the southern end of the granite slabs. We ascended one, starting at UTM 11

383796E, 4052080N, 12,391'. Halfway up to the ridge we turned left since the gully led to a wrong peak. We climbed over a small ridge, which led into the mentioned broad chute SW of the summit. Now the correct peak became visible. Its south face consists of nearly vertical granite columns. After



Group shot on Mt Russell

ascending the broad cl2 chute to the ridge we climbed north on the cl 3 ridge until we ran into the vertical walls. Luckily, there were narrow ledges along the broken vertical slabs. We contoured parallel to the wall until we found a tilted slab, which could be ascended with a layback. After this short cl4 move we were on the true ridge and very soon on the summit. There we found an SPS cylinder and were eager to read the book, but to our disappointment it was also stolen. Since we had no more register books, we left a signed sheet of paper in the cylinder. By radio we

contacted R.J. on the neighboring peak. We enjoyed the views, the fine weather, a snack, then descended the same route that we came up. Daryn got a few scratches when a big boulder tumbled down. Then it was a long XC hike out from near Wallace Lake to Russell-Carillon Pass.

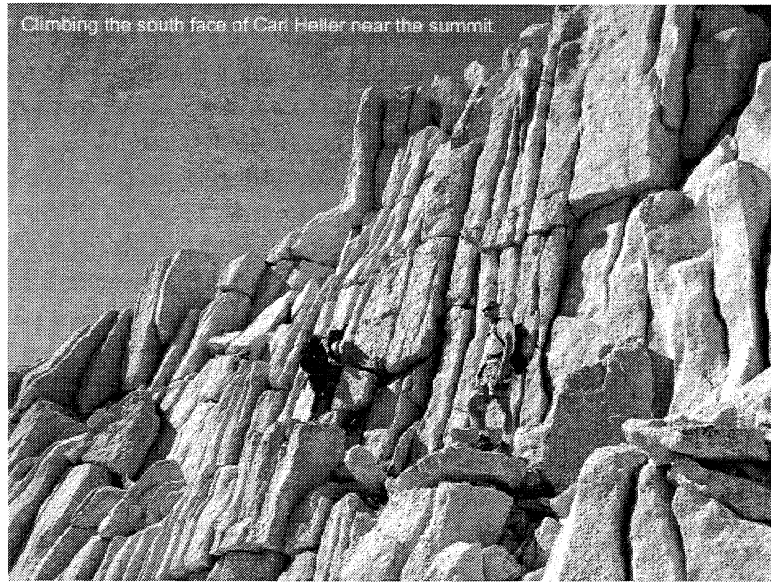
Steve was feeling the altitude. By 6:30pm the last made it over the pass and by 7:30pm we were in camp by last daylight.

On Thur, 9/23, we left camp earlier for a 3-peak climbing day. The first adventure was to explore the "Rockwell variation" to the Russell-Carillon Pass. This route goes NW along the inlet stream of the Upper Boy Scout Lake into a cirque SE of Mt Russell. From there one climbs a steep, sandy, 1000' chute with loose rock to a col just at the start of the east ridge of Mt Russell above the R-C Pass. After regrouping we climbed Mt Russell via the cl 3 East Ridge. It is a long ridge with some exposure, a false east summit and finally the true west summit. We were glad to find a peak register. This peak is climbed frequently and a booklet is filled every few years. On our return we followed a different route, the cl 3 North Arete, which R.J. had once done. The "R.J. variation" starts at the east summit and initially follows the north ridge until this turns into cl4 terrain. Then one has to go on the north face, which consists of steep slabs with sandy ledges. By carefully connecting the ledges we descended down to snowfields, a moraine and finally Tulainyo Lake. This lake is the highest in the Sierra Nevada, has green-blue cold water, no fish, and interesting formations of penitent snow (tilted, conical, giant suncups, 3 to 5 feet deep, some down to the bare ground).

Our next destination was "The Cleaver" or Peak 4079m, 0.1mi east of Tulainyo Lake (UTM 11 386055E, 4050783N). Remembering the previous 12hr day, Steve decided to forgo this peak and meet us on Carillon later. We contoured around the north side of the lake, and then ascended the peak from the west first on talus, then on ledges below the cl 3

northwest ridge. It was an enjoyable short climb. There was no register on this summit. But R.J. came prepared with a new booklet and two stacked soup cans, which may last till someone "collects" this register, too. We talked by radio to Steve who was

relaxing on the summit of Carillon, our next destination. After descending from The Cleaver we contoured around the south shore of Tulainyo Lake, ascended Russell-Carillon Pass and the easy west slope/ridge to the summit of Mt Carillon (13,552'). We



Climbing the south face of Car Heller near the summit.

enjoyed the evening sun, read through two volumes of register books, and then headed down the sandy southeast slopes to the Upper Boy Scout Lake. This was only an 11hr day.

Fri, 9/24, was the day to hike out, but not necessarily to go home. We all had different plans: Daryn and Steve signed out to climb Thor Peak in the morning. Daryn later reported that they approached the small pinnacle (supposedly near Pinnacle Pass) on Pinnacle Ridge, and after a few dead ends, managed to find a class 3 route up to the top of the ridge to the east of the small pinnacle. They found through Steve's GPS and coordinates published in R.J.'s book for Pinnacle Pass, that the pass was actually a tenth of a mile to the east on the ridge. Easy class 3-ridge walking led to the area of the pass and on to the bowl under Thor Peak. Due to a lack of footprints in the area, it appears that pinnacle pass is seldom used by climbers.

R.J. headed to Tuttle Creek to take more pictures for his new edition. I went to Bishop Pass to finish my last three peaks in the Inconsolable Range, to be described separately. This was a great week of peak climbing. Thanks to R.J. for assisting with the lead and to everyone for a good time together. P.S. More color pictures can be seen on the website <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/trips/heller04/heller04.htm>

Mountains of the High Sierra List

by Andy Martin, oldadit@iname.com, January 6, 2005

I. Introduction

For a few years I've been interested in compiling a list of the 50 most prominent peaks in California's Sierra Nevada range. One problem is defining the area covered by the Sierra. The central valley forms a good western limit, and the Owens River traces a partial eastern boundary, but the north and south limits are somewhat arbitrary selections of major prominence key saddles. In addition, these limits might include some low elevation foothill peaks that hardcore Sierra hikers would not find interesting.

It seemed some sort of elevation cut off would be useful to shrink the area to the heart of the Sierra - say 10,000 feet. Then it occurred to me that R. J. Secors nice guidebook "the High Sierra - Peaks, Passes, and Trails" by the Mountaineers, \$19.95, 368 pages, covers the most spectacular area of the Sierras.

This area is 40 miles wide, East to West, and 150 miles high, North to South. It is roughly centered on Mount Humphreys at 37 degrees 15' north. After looking at the peaks in this area it seemed a list was warranted.

Notable peaks with big prominence that are excluded from this region include Freel Peak, Mount Patterson, White Mountain Peak, and Olancha Peak. While Freel, Patterson, and White were not sure bets to make my "entire Sierra" listing, losing Olancha Peak was unfortunate.

It turned out that about 20 of the 50 peaks were already covered in my previous CA prominence work. For the remaining 30, information from the California Mountain Atlas on Aaron Maizlish's www.peaklist.org web site helped identify the peaks to be added. The National Geographic TOPO! CA maps on CDROM were used to double check the Mountain Atlas listings. Also, Edward Earl's CA Winprom listing was looked over as another check.

II. Peak Notes

The top 50 peaks by prominence in the High Sierra (HS) are relatively well known and hiked. 46 are described in Secors book, which has interesting first ascent and alternate route info for many of them.

Two of the peaks left off by Secor, Reversed Peak and Red Mountain, are well down on the eastern foothills of the range, and probably of little interest to Secor, though they may have great views of the Sierra Crest. The other two, Tioga Crest HP and an unnamed peak east of Little Claire Lake, are roughly 12,000 foot high peaks that Secor might consider adding to future editions of his book.

For those who love alpine summits, I believe this list compares favorably to the Colorado Fourteener roster, though the average elevation is probably closer to 12,000 feet than 14,000+ feet. On a prominence basis there are 15 peaks of 2K prominence on the HS 50, and about 20 on the Fourteener roster. However, the runt of the HS 50 list still has over 1200' feet prominence, while I'd guess that the Fourteener list has at least 10 peaks with less prominence.

The lowest elevation summit of the HS 50 list is 8,836' Half Dome. However alpine fanciers will have to grant that the top is virtually treeless ;) In addition, without the cables Half Dome is Class 5, thus might be considered the most technical of the peaks listed - in its unaltered state.

37 of the peaks are on the SPS (Sierra Peaks Section) list of 247 peaks, and Kuna Peak is very close to SPS listed Koip Peak. Thus all SPS completers have hiked about 75% of the High Sierra 50 list.

Andy Smatko and Tom Ross hiked all 50 of the High Sierra peaks, long before the list was available. Bill Schuler and Gordon MacLeod have climbed 49. (*"I have climbed all 50 many years ago. Dr. Andrew Smatko MD and I were on most of the 50 peaks together"* letter from Tom Ross to author)

III. List trivia

This is the first USA list where I've used Lat/Long in place of quad names for peak and saddle locations. With the TOPO! program this info is relatively easy to get. With a quad index you can use these values to get quad names if needed.

You might also note that summit elevation is given in place of key saddle elevation. The saddle value

can be computed by subtracting prominence from elevation. For example, for Mount Whitney 14491 – 10071 gives a saddle elevation of 4,420. This is the first contour above the saddle (clean prominence), and the map has 10 foot contours at the saddle.

It should be noted that not all elevations are taken from the latest 7.5' maps. Some of these quads are metric, with 20 meter contours, and no summit elevation given. This leaves 66 feet of uncertainty for elevation. Often the old 15' maps give an elevation in feet for these peaks, and this was used in a few cases.

Following most of the prominence values is a "+XX" figure which gives possible additional prominence due to saddle and peak elevation uncertainty. Usually this is simply the 40 foot or 20 meter contour interval of the saddle map. However, in a couple cases lakes near the saddle, or saddles at map edges (metric on one map, feet on another), allow us to tighten these values.

MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH SIERRA

Compiled 2005 by Andy Martin oldadit@iname.com, Aaron Maizlish www.peaklist.org, and Edward Earl esquared@k-online.com.

Prominence: Elevation difference between a peak and the lowest contour that encircles it and no higher summit.

Notes:

RJS = Page number for peak in R. J. Secors book "The High Sierra", 1992. The list covers all peaks in the area outlined by this guidebook.

SPS = Index number for the peak in the Sierra Peaks Section peaks list, August 2001, by Tina Bowman.

[15'] = Elevation taken from the older 15' quads. This is done in some cases where the 7.5' quad does not have a summit elevation.

MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH SIERRA, MISSED CUT BUT CLOSE

| PEAK | LOCATION | PROMINENCE | ELEVATION | SADDLE | RJS & SPS |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Lippincott Mtn. | 36:31 -118:34 | 1,225 +40 | 12,265 | 36:28 -118:33 | 79 6.4 |
| Camiaca Peak | 38:04 -119:19 | 1,219 +40 | 11,739 | 38:04 -119:20 | 339 - |
| Bloody Mountain | 37:34 -118:54 | 1,201 +66 | 12,552 | 37:33 -118:55 | 278 18.9 |
| University Peak | 36:45 -118:22 | 1,188 +66 | 13,589 | 36:44 -118:21 | 110 9.1 |

MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH SIERRA, NOT IN TOP 50, INCOMPLETE

| PEAK | LOCATION | PROMINENCE | ELEVATION | SADDLE | RJS & SPS |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Palmer Mountain | 36:45 -118:34 | 1,241 | 11,254 | 36:45 -118:34 | -- |
| Merced Peak | 37:38 -119:24 | 1,206 +40 | 11,726 | 37:39 -119:20 or 37:38 -119:21 | 312 20.1 |
| Mitchell Peak | 36:44 -118:43 | 1,205 +40 | 10,365 | 36:42 -118:43 | -- |
| Mount Lewis | 37:51 -119:11 | 1,204 +40 | 12,324 | 37:50 -119:12 | 302 - |
| Center Mountain | 38:09 -119:29 | 1,191 +40 | 11,271 | 38:09 -119:30 | 351 - |
| HP Volcanic Ridge | 37:40 -119:10 | 1,184 +62 | 11,486 | 37:40 -119:10 | 298 - |
| Round Mountain | 37:12 -118:26 | 1,181 +33 | 11,188 | 37:12 -118:29 | -- |
| Mount Langley | 36:31 -118:14 | 1,165 +66 | 14,025 | 36:32 -118:15 | 35 3.5 |
| Mt. Clarence King | 36:50 -118:27 | 1,160 +66 | 12,905 [15'] | 36:50 -118:27 | 126 9.9 |

MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH SIERRA

| PEAK | LOCATION | PROMINENCE | ELEVATION | SADDLE | RJS & SPS |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Mount Whitney | 36:35 -118:17 | 10,071+10 | 14,491 | 32:06 -108:35 | 51 4.7 |
| Mount Ritter | 37:41 -119:12 | 3,957 +66 | 13,143 | 37:39 -119:03 | 298 19.3 |
| North Palisade | 37:06 -118:31 | 2,895 | 14,242 | 36:53 -118:22 | 191 14.4 |
| Mount Conness | 37:58 -119:19 | 2,630 +40 | 12,590 | 37:55 -119:15 | 336 22.2 |
| Mt. Morgan (S) | 37:24 -118:44 | 2,628 +40 | 13,748 | 37:23 -118:45 | 264 17.11 |
| Mt. Humphreys | 37:16 -118:40 | 2,563 | 13,986 | 37:14 -118:41 | 250 16.3 |
| Bear Creek Spire | 37:22 -118:46 | 2,560 +80 | 13,720 +40 | 37:19 -118:44 | 256 17.7 |
| or Mount Gabb | 37:23 -118:48 | 2,581 +40 | 13,741 | "" | 265 17.6 |
| Mount Dana | 37:54 -119:13 | 2,417 +40 | 13,057 | 37:51 -119:13 | 303 21.8 |
| Eagle Peak | 38:11 -119:24 | 2,358 | 11,847 | 38:07 -119:28 | 351 - |
| Mount Hoffman | 37:51 -119:31 | 2,290 +40 | 10,850 | 37:52 -119:26 | 334 - |
| Tower Peak | 38:09 -119:33 | 2,183 | 11,755 | 38:08 -119:29 | 351 22.13 |
| Twin Peaks | 38:05 -119:21 | 2,123 +17 | 12,323 | 38:03 -119:19 | 340 22.7 |
| Mount Pinchot | 36:57 -118:24 | 2,077 +66 | 13,494 | 36:59 -118:25 | 132 10.5 |
| Mount Kaweah | 36:32 -118:29 | 2,027 | 13,802 | 36:35 -118:32 | 87 6.8 |
| Mount Warren | 37:59 -119:13 | 2,007 +40 | 12,327 | 37:59 -119:18 | 336 22.1 |
| Mount Tom | 37:20 -118:39 | 1,972 +40 | 13,652 | 37:19 -118:41 | 254 16.6 |
| Kuna Peak | 37:49 -119:12 | 1,922 +40 | 13,002 | 37:46 -119:15 | 302 [Koip] |
| Mount Keith | 36:42 -118:21 | 1,902 +66 | 13,975 | 36:40 -118:21 | 109 8.9 |
| or Mt. Stanford | 36:42 -118:24 | 1,900 +66 | 13,973 | "" | 108 8.4 |
| Mount Lyell | 37:44 -119:16 | 1,894 +66 | 13,114 | 37:42 -119:12 | 315 21.5 |
| Mount Darwin | 37:10 -118:40 | 1,871 +40 | 13,831 | 37:07 -118:33 | 231 15.7 |
| Needham Mtn. | 36:27 -118:32 | 1,800 +80 | 12,520 +40 | 36:33 -118:33 | 78 2.10 |
| Reversed Peak | 37:48 -119:06 | 1,781 +10 | 9,481 | 37:48 -119:05 | -- |
| Red Slate | 37:30 -118:52 | 1,723 +40 | 13,163 [15'] | 37:29 -118:51 | 276 18.4 |
| San Joaquin Mtn. | 37:43 -119:06 | 1,692 +66 | 11,600 | 37:44 -119:09 | 302 19.9 |
| Mammoth Mtn. | 37:38 -119:02 | 1,647 +66 | 11,030 | 37:36 -119:02 | 279 - |
| Mt. Williamson | 36:39 -118:19 | 1,640 +131 | 14,370 +66 | 36:37 -118:18 | 62 5.9 |
| Mount Goddard | 37:06 -118:43 | 1,568 +40 | 13,568 | 37:07 -118:40 | 222 13.9 |
| Matterhorn Peak | 38:06 -119:23 | 1,559 +40 | 12,279 | 38:05 -119:22 | 342 22.9 |
| Black Mountain | 36:49 -118:23 | 1,546 +66 | 13,291 | 36:46 -118:22 | 129 9.11 |
| Cold Mountain | 37:57 -119:26 | 1,541 +40 | 10,301 | 37:58 -119:24 | 335 - |
| Spanish Mountain | 36:55 -118:53 | 1,531 +40 | 10,051 | 36:57 -118:53 | 157 11.8 |
| Split Mountain | 37:01 -118:25 | 1,525 +66 | 14,058 | 37:04 -118:27 | 173 12.1 |
| Mt. Morgan (N) | 37:31 -118:47 | 1,482 +40 | 13,002 | 37:27 -118:46 | 274 18.6 |
| Mount Hooper | 37:18 -118:54 | 1,469 +40 | 12,349 | 37:17 -118:52 | 254 16.11 |
| Mount Gabb | 37:23 -118:48 | 1,461 +40 | 13,741 | 37:23 -118:47 | 265 17.6 |
| or Bear Creek Spire | 37:22 -118:46 | 1,440 +80 | 13,720 +40 | "" | 256 17.7 |
| Piute Mountain | 38:02 -119:33 | 1,461 +40 | 10,541 | 38:03 -119:31 | 340 22.12 |
| 1 m. SSW Rafferty Pk. | 37:48 -119:22 | 1,365 | 11,357 | 37:48 -119:20 | 319 - |
| Vandever Mtn. | 36:24 -118:35 | 1,360 | 11,947 | 36:24 -118:34 | 76 - |
| Half Dome | 37:45 -119:32 | 1,356 +40 | 8,836 | 37:45 -119:31 | 314 20.6 |
| Mount Guyot | 36:31 -118:22 | 1,342 +66 | 12,300 | 36:31 -118:21 | 36 3.6 |
| Dunderberg Peak | 38:04 -119:16 | 1,334 +40 | 12,374 | 38:04 -119:17 | 339 22.5 |
| Midway Mountain | 36:39 -118:29 | 1,328 +66 | 13,664 | 36:41 -118:26 | 88 7.5 |
| HP Tioga Crest | 38:00 -119:16 | 1,311 +40 | 11,911 | 37:59 -119:15 | -- |
| Crown Point | 38:07 -119:27 | 1,306 +40 | 11,346 | 38:07 -119:25 | 350 - |
| Acrodictes Peak | 36:52 -118:22 | 1,306 +66 | 13,182 | 36:50 -118:22 | 131 - |
| 1 m. E Little Claire Lake | 36:26 -118:30 | 1,280 +80 | 12,080 +40 | 36:25 -118:31 | -- |
| Arrow Peak | 36:56 -118:29 | 1,280 +66 | 12,959 | 36:55 -118:29 | 131 10.7 |
| Red Mountain | 37:31 -118:44 | 1,266 +30 | 11,466 | 37:30 -118:44 | -- |
| Mount McGee | 37:08 -118:44 | 1,264 +40 | 12,944 | 37:07 -118:42 | 229 15.11 |
| Excelsior Mtn. | 38:01 -119:18 | 1,246 +40 | 12,446 | 38:00 -119:19 | 339 22.4 |

Conservation 2-Liners

by Barbee Tidball

EIS for Trail and Commercial Pack Stock Management

John Muir & Ansel Adams Wildernesses

In April 2005 the Forest Service plans to issue an EIS on commercial pack stock usage and a trail management plan for the subject Wildernesses. The EIS will address and attempt to determine the amount, type and locations where these activities should occur. There is currently only a 45-day comment period planned on the EIS.

The final plan will revise the Wilderness Management Plan adopted April 2001. SPS members submitted comments on the Wilderness Plan and members need to be prepared to make their voices heard again this Spring.

Habitat Protection

Mountain Yellow-legged Frog

On 12-20-04, a federal judge sided with the Center for Biological Diversity and ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to map out and protect essential "critical habitat" areas for the Southern California mountain yellow-legged frog. A proposal must be issued by 9-1-05 and final plan by 9-1-06.

With a total known population of only 79 adults, the Southern California mountain yellow-legged frog is probably North America's most endangered amphibian. It has disappeared from 99 percent of its range and now occurs in just seven populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service listed it as an endangered species on 7-2-02 as part of a sweeping agreement with the Center to protect 29 imperiled species from coast to coast. Now the species' habitat will be protected as well. Scientific studies using Fish and Wildlife Service data show that species with critical habitat are recovering twice as fast as species without it.

The Center has also petitioned to list the mountain yellow-legged frog as an endangered species throughout its entire range in California and Nevada and is working to protect the Chiricahua leopard frog, relict leopard frog, California red-legged frog, Mississippi gopher frog, Yosemite toad, Sonora tiger salamander, and California tiger salamander.

*See Page 16 for more
Conservation 2-liners*

Yosemite National Park's Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS

The National Park Service in Yosemite has now just completed a series of public meetings during the comment period for the Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River Revised Comprehensive Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The revision focuses on the river corridor boundary in El Portal and user capacity for the entire 81-mile corridor in Yosemite.

This document amends the one released in June 2000 and addresses issues identified by U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2003 on the Plan. The Court determined that there were two deficiencies: (1) the revised plan must implement a user capacity program that presents specific measurable limits on use, and (2) the revised plan must reassess the river corridor boundary in the El Portal Administrative Site based on the location of Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

The Draft Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS identifies and analyzes four alternatives: Alternative 1—the No Action Alternative; Alternative 2—Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) Program with Interim Limits (preferred); Alternative 3—Segment Quotas with VERP; and Alternative 4—Management Zone Quotas with VERP. For more information visit www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

Written comments regarding this document must be submitted in writing by March 22, 2005, and should be directed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, Draft Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, California 95389, Fax: 209/379-1294, Email: yose_planning@nps.gov

Sierra Club National Elections

Ballots are in the mail and once again we are being asked to select the leaders of the Sierra Club. These are important elections - SPS members are encouraged to learn about the candidates and to vote.

This year you are also being asked to again look at the Sierra Club's position on immigration. Review the issue and please vote.

**Ballots are due - Monday, April 25, 12:00p.m.
(Pacific Time)**

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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: Beth Epstein, 4048 E. Massachusettes street, Long Beach, CA 90814-2825.

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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