

ECHO

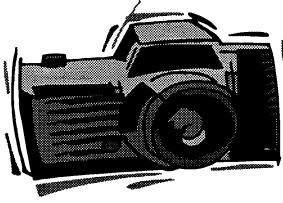
APRIL - MAY 2005



The Sierra

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2

## FRONT COVER



*North Face of Mt. Darwin, 13,830 ft.  
From Lamarck Col, Spring 1959.  
Photo by Tom Ross*

**Peak List**  
See Stories Inside  
Tinemaha Peak  
Pitcairn Island Highpoint



## Get Well Wishes from the SPS to RJ Secor

Mt. Baldy was the tragic site of a mountaineering accident in April. RJ Secor, Mountaineering Records Chair of the SPS, fell while glissading down the Baldy Bowl. RJ is a past Chair of the SPS and author of the climbing guide The High Sierra Peaks, Passes and Trails. RJ is reported to be recovering, although he will have a long road to complete recovery. Friends and fellow climbers may visit or send cards to RJ at Kaiser hospital in Hollywood. He is

out of intensive care and in room 640b. For current information on RJ's recovery, one source is the web site [www.supertopo.com](http://www.supertopo.com) or go to [www.summitpost.org](http://www.summitpost.org) for reports on sightings of the accident.

## 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.

**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 (3 or 4pm?) 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!



## 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 Asst Ldr.: ASHER WAXMAN - Contact Asher for current trip information

**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

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 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: TBD

**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



## 2005 Summer Trips Continued

### JUNE

**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

### 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 MCDERMOTT, IGOR MAMEDALIN.

**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.



Featured 50th Anniversary Trips



## 2005 Summer Trips Continued

**I: July 30-31 Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Clouddripper (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

### AUGUST

**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.

**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 Mountainiers 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: GREG DE HOOGH.

**M: Aug 11-12 Sat-Sun University Pk (13,589'), Independence Pk (11,742')**:



Carcamp and dayhikes/backpack on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. KENT SCHWITKIS.

**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.



**Leaders - Send the Echo stories & photos**

## 2005 Summer Trips Continued

**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. JERRY KEATING.



Ldrs: GORDON MACLEOD & BARBARA LILLEY.

**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.



**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 celebrates 50 years of climbing as a Section in October.**

**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.

**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/WTC Grinnell 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 & NOVEMBER

**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 April/May 2005  
Membership Updates**

**Welcome New Subscribers**

Alex Amies  
192 Woodbury  
Irvine, CA 92960-0296  
H (714) 734-5619  
alexamies@yahoo.com

James Montross  
4 Danforth Ave.  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92627

Jay Sai  
1501 S. Beach Blvd. A115  
La Habra, CA 90631

Charles Irving  
3615 Warseka Ave. # 108  
Los Angeles, CA 90034-3986  
H (310) 837-2595  
cirving@earthlink.net

Jeff Dhungana  
1865 W. Bennett St.  
Long Beach, CA 90810-3223

**New Active Members**

Scott Nelson  
Ed Ruskowitz  
Melissa Kane

**New Addresses**

Bob Hoeven  
P.O. Box 177  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Michael McDermitt  
63 Forest Hill Pky. #3M  
Newark, NJ 07104  
County: Essex  
Home phone: 973 482-4243  
email: [mike@mcdermitt.org](mailto:mike@mcdermitt.org)

Steve Curry  
8448 Day St.  
Sunland, CA 91040-3253

**SPS Treasurer's Report  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 3/31/05**

Prepared by Henry Arnebold

**Checking Account**

**Income:**

a. Merchandise	\$ 54.00
b. Peak List	\$ 3.00
c. Echo	\$1,715.00
d. Banquet	<u>\$1,204.00</u>
	\$2,976.00

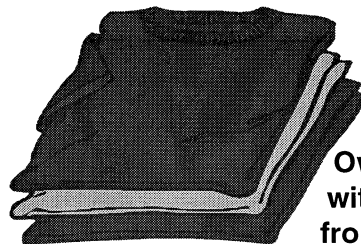
**Expenditures:**

a. Banquet	\$1,568.38
b. Banquet Speaker	\$ 250.00
c. Banquet Refund	\$ 28.00
d. Echo Printing	\$ 463.42
e. Postage	\$ 190.55
f. Supplies	\$ 18.33
g. Copies	\$ 14.61
f. Sales Tax	<u>\$ 12.54</u>
	\$2,545.83

Balance on 12/31/04	\$2,958.50
Income	<u>\$2,976.00</u>
	\$5,934.50
Expenditures	<u>-\$ 2,545.83</u>
	\$3,388.67

**Savings Account**

Balance on 12/31/04	\$4,857.14
October interest income	\$1.65
November interest income	\$1.49
December interest income	<u>\$1.76</u>
	\$4,862.04



**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.

## Mountain Records

Spring climbing trips have begun and summer is right around the corner. Climbers are requested to report to the Outings Chair the condition of peak registers and to help care for the registers. Please look over the list of peaks below, if you are going there please take along the can, book or pencil needed. Thank you.

### Peak Need as Noted

Barnard - container, book  
 Bear Creek Spire - pencil, double book, can (buried in snow?)  
 Bradley - book  
 Center - book  
 Cloudripper - book  
 Eagle Scout - can (exchange), book  
 Emerson - book, pencil  
 Gibbs - can, book  
 Goethe - can, book  
 Granite Chief - book  
 Hitchcock - book  
 Langley - ammo box, big bound book  
 Leavitt - book  
 Lion Rock - book  
 McAdie - book  
 Morgan (south) - book  
 Muir - ammo box, big bound book  
 North - book

North Palisade - remove SPS cylinder, replace with ammo box, big bound book, pencil  
 Pickering - can, book  
 Picket Guard - can, book  
 Pinchot - book  
 Rockhouse - can, book  
 Round Top - book  
 Royce - book  
 Sill - remove broken SC box, replace w/ ammo box, big bound book  
 Silver - can, book  
 Stanford (south) - can, book  
 Tinker Knob - book  
 Trojan - can, book  
 Twin - book  
 Vogelsang - large book  
 Warren - ammo box  
 Williamson - ammo box, book  
 Wynne - book  
 Young - can, book

### Unlisted peaks information

Balcony - can, book (?)  
 Cahoon Rock - can  
 Columbine - can, book  
 Feather - book  
 Hopkins - PVC pipe needs to be replaced/ new book?  
 The Hunchback - can  
 Matthes Crest - book/pencil  
 Painted Lady - can  
 Sherman Peak - can, book  
 Sphinx - can, book  
 Tioga Peak - can  
 Venacher Needle - can, book  
 Versteeg - book  
 Saddlehorn - pencil



<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/>

## **Call to all Trip Leaders**

**Spring climbing is just beginning - and it is already time to look ahead to autumn and winter trips for 2205/2006.**

**Submit your trip plans to the SPS Outings Chair by June 5th for the Nov. - Feb.**

**Angeles Chapter Schedule**

**In celebration of the Sierra Peaks Section 50th Anniversary Charlie Knapke, SPS webmaster with the help of Jerry Keating have put together a history of the early days of the SPS and *A Collection of Ancient Trip Reports.***

**Go to the Angeles Chapter website, then click on Sections, then the Sierra Peak Section. Once you are in the SPS website just**

**click on the anniversary logo**



**and begin your trip into the "ancient" lore of the SPS!**



## Memorable Mountains

Dipping into my file labeled “SPS” catapulted me back to 1973 and started a 32 year movie unreeling in my mind. How could I pick the most memorable peak when in hindsight all qualified as most memorable just because they were Sierra Peaks. Prominent in these reels are the leaders who enabled safe and well-planned itineraries. Dave Dykeman is not here to speak for himself, but since he was the leader for many of my Sierra Days, the peaks that he led are prime in my memory.

Dave took particular care that all participants would make the peak. I was closing in on my Master’s Emblem. Dave prepared the way for me by asking if I minded trading my hard hat to a new, raring-to-go young climber who had ignored Dave’s instructions to bring a hard hat. In turn, Dave promised to place me right behind him. To be second in line in the queue up a mountain notable for its rock fall sounded like a fair exchange to me! Dave then faced the rest of the restless climbers and then mandated the hat and place-in-line exchange while declaring that he was going to moderate his pace to mine! I heard some grumbling, but I felt good, and liked being second in line. We made the summit in good time, I even managed a few rest stops while belays were offered to those that needed them.

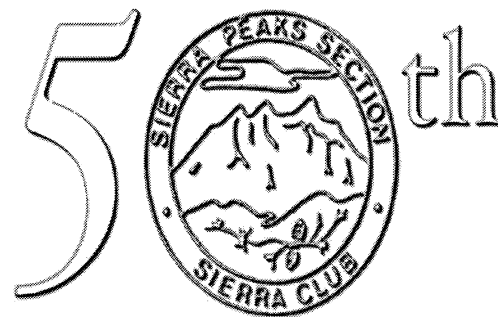
Dave sent us back in small groups to then wait in a place safe from rock fall while the next group would come down. When we had all passed the “ify” spots, Dave then released the participants to go at their own speed. With a whoop, most of the climbers released all that energy that had been stored up by the restraint going uphill and soon disappeared from sight.

I made a leisurely descent and dusk fell before I was quite to camp. I looked back up the trail because I thought that I heard the sound of hooves. And I did. Enough light was left to emblazon a one, rider-less white stark-white horse galloping past me down the trail. I suppose the Ancients would have thought of this as a “sign”. And it was exactly that – symbolizing beautifully that my day had been in the words of John Muir - one of those “vast, calm, measureless mountain days”

I can’t close without quoting John Muir again to express how I feel about Dave’s life, my life, all of our lives. The quote has stayed with me ever since I heard it at Jackie Van Dalsem’s Memorial Service. It comes upon me as a mantra. I particularly remembered this quote when I stood on Seven Gables, the peak, which earned for me my Master’s Emblem. The camp at Sand Piper Lake had been perfect, and what could have more perfect than the backpack over Seldon Pass which had enjoyed a late, high altitude spring infused with butterflies and wild flowers. And then on the return to Florence Lake, I experience an explosion of more moths than I had ever seen in my life. All the way down the switchbacks, lovely yellowish tan and black moths with wings the texture of Japanese lanterns graced my vision. They seemed to be celebrating the few short days of their adult life as they flew among the flowers but not to sip nectar as they have no mouth parts. Their quest was to search quickly for mate and complete the life cycle.

You’ve probably guessed the quote by now;  
 “Nevermore, however weary, should one faint by the way  
 who gains the blessings of one mountain day; whatever her  
 fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, she is rich  
 forever”

Mary Sue Miller



*Memorable Mountains - Continued*

## ***Biker Babes on Mt. Whitney*** (Early October 2003).

As a sometime climber in the Sierra, I think the most satisfying climb I had was when I was on a bicycle trip with about 20 other bicycle riders from Washington State.

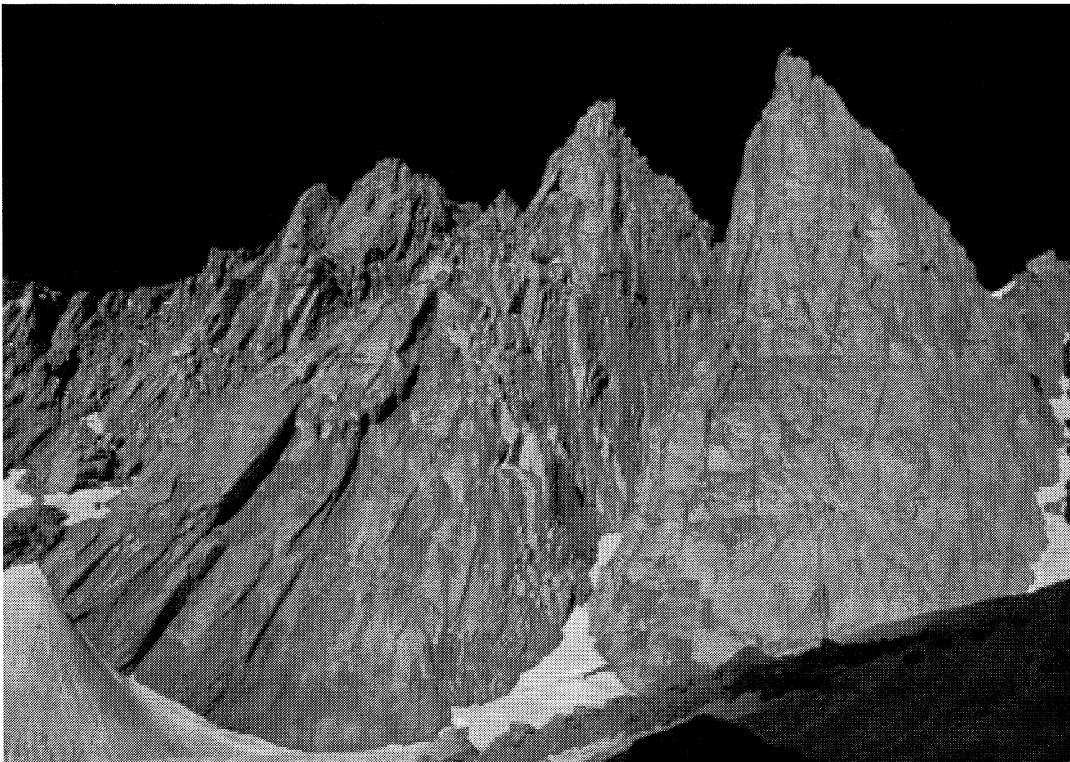
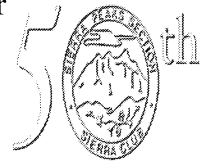
We had all gotten together in the Eastern Sierra to do a series of road bike climbs up the various roads leading to passes such as Monitor, Ebbetts, Tioga and rides up to the trail heads of North/South Lakes, Big Pine, Onion Valley, Bristlecone Pines, and more, including Whitney Portal. Someone in the group casually mentioned that maybe we ought to think about hiking up the trail to Whitney's summit on our rest day as it was only a mere 22 miles and 6,000' gain.

Just about everyone in the group thought that was a really "*keen*" idea. Unfortunately, not all of us were able to get a permit for the day of the hike, including myself and two hardened

ladies, "*Jaded Janine*" who came up with the idea of doing the Mountaineers Route, and "*Sweet Sue*". As it turned out, we found out that if we went up the Mountaineers Route in one day and came down the trail, we wouldn't need a permit. Cool !!! So after a brief instruction to everyone on how to put one foot in front of the other, we took off at about 5 am. We hauled ass by cyclist standards and got up to the

summit by 1 pm, thinking that we would have to wait for our 17 other companions coming up the trail. Not so ..... they had come and gone by the time we got there. Totally miffed that we had been humiliated by the "*trail bunch*" we consoled ourselves by bagging Muir on the way down.

To me it was a great feeling to have so many people that were not trained climbers to pull off a really successful one day climb. Of the 20 people involved, only one person had to turn back. As a note.... cyclists have great ability to ascend, but just about everyone in the following days, suffered greatly from the descent, with incredibly sore thigh muscles ....something new to a cyclist not used to mountain travel on foot.



Wayne Martin  
(Lake Chelan,  
WA)

Whitney  
Pinnacles

photo by  
Larry Tidball

## Tinemaha Peak (12,561')

October 2-3, 2004

By: Greg Gerlach

I woke up Thursday morning wondering if the weekend weather was going to be good enough to squeeze in one last trip. The forecast called for a chance of showers on Friday, with better weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday. Therefore, my plans were set. I gathered up my gear and packed the backpack in preparation for leaving early Saturday morning.

I was up early Saturday morning and on the road by 6:30 a.m. for the 280 or so mile drive to the trailhead. I followed Dave Johnson's driving direction to the Red Lake trailhead, which I got from climber.org. His directions were right on. The road requires a high clearance vehicle, and a four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Upon arriving at the trailhead, I was surprised to see 3 other vehicles and a group of two hikers just starting up the trail. I grabbed my pack and was on the trail heading for Red Lake at 12:30 p.m. This was a good time of year to do the peak because of the cool weather and the fact that the trail would be miserable in hot weather due to the lack of shade. The trail starts off by going steeply up the ridge, levels out slightly as it contours over to Red Mountain Creek, then continues steeply up the canyon along the creek before leveling out again ½ mile prior to reaching Red Lake. I overtook the 2 other hikers at about the half way point to Red Lake. I reached the lake at 4:00 p.m., where I made camp and read and relaxed for the remainder of the evening. At around 10:30 p.m. I heard two climbers returning from a climb of Split Mountain.

The next morning I was up at 6:30 a.m. and hiking towards the peak by 7:30 a.m. I had attempted Tinemaha twice before, and both times failed to get the peak because I did not pay close enough attention to the map. I was not going to make the same mistake a third time. The route leaves Red Lake and ascends steeply northward to a valley. The upper reaches of the valley had recently

received a light dusting of snow during the past week, which melted and refroze to form ice, causing the rocks to be extremely slippery. Nonetheless, I made good progress up the valley, proceeding to the obvious low point just southwest of the peak. From the low point I climbed up the northeast ridge of Tinemaha, passing several peaklets along the way, and arrived on top at 9:30 a.m. The climbing was class 1 through the valley and class 1-2 along the ridge. After signing the summit register, I followed my ascent route back to Red Lake. By the time I started down, the ice on the rocks had melted. I arrived back at Red lake at 11:00 a.m., packed up my gear, then hit the trail. I lost the trail in the willows after about ½ hour on the trail, and it took me another ½ hour of bushwhacking to find it again. I arrived at the trailhead at 2:00 p.m. and was home at 7:30 p.m.

Trip statistics: 15.0 miles and about 6,000 feet of elevation gain.

### **Leave No Trace Wasterwater**

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away fro streams or lakes.

For dishwashing use hot water and lots of elbow grease with no soap if at all possible. Then strain the dirty dishwater with fine mesh strainer before scattering the water broadly. Pack-out the contents of the strainer with your other trash.

Animals should not be allowed access to any human food and food waste. Bears and other animals are attached and endangered by human food and trash.

Soaps, even biodegradable, can affect water quailty of lakes and streams. Waste water from washing that is scattered 200 feet from the water source allows the soil to filter.

Think twiceabout swimming if you use sun-screen, insect repellent. Even body oils can contaminate water sources.

## ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE visits SPS Archives

### Early female Section member located

The SPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been busy planning and researching for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting and dinner in the coming October.

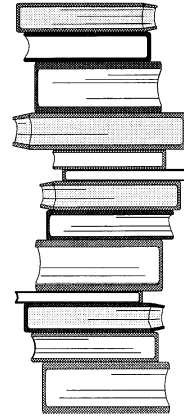
Several Committee meetings have been held, the last at the home of Chair Dan Richter. Many areas of interest have been identified and committee members assigned to cover these topics.

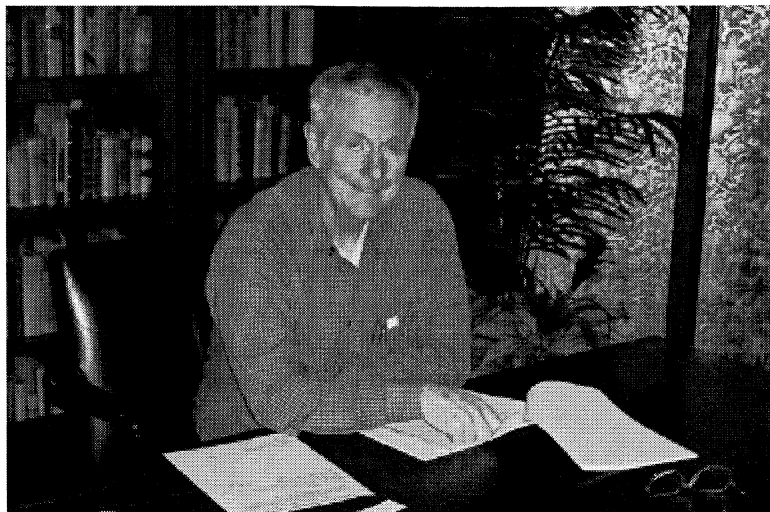
Jerry Keating has been busy planning 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary climbs for the coming season and he is joined by Ron Jones in developing a comprehensive history of pre-SPS Chapter outings in the Sierra as well as the formation of the Sierra Peaks Section in 1955 and the first season of outings.

Toward this goal Barbee Tidball, Jerry Keating and Ron Jones visited the SPS Archives at UCLA on May 30. Section Archivist, Dan Richter in 1998, following the SPS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 1995, had turned over to UCLA Special Collections many boxes of Section records. Except for general memories, we could not find a listing of what was in these records. We visited the Special Collections archives not knowing how much material was present or how it was arranged. We learned that it is easy to access and study these files and the UCLA staff has it well indexed and organized into 16 boxes of material. The three of us spent half a day and gleaned a lot of historical and human interest stories.

One of the interesting items for me was locating the application and acceptance into the Section of one of the early ( not a founding member) woman members of the SPS, Barbara Stott. Back in 1994 –

95 when I was writing my six-part history of the early days leading up to the founding of the SPS I received a note from a Barbara Stott stating that she had been an early member of the SPS while working at China Lake. I telephoned her at her then home in Chester, California ( pop. 2500 ) near Lake Almanor in Plumas County and she confirmed that she became a member in the first year of SPS activity. However, among the early members of the SPS no one remembered Barbara Stott and they questioned that she had actually been a member, or maybe thought she was a member. So, while at UCLA, I checked the five boxes of alphabetized personal correspondence and found Barbara Stott's letter of application. She was a Chapter member and lived in South Pasadena at the time. Barbara wrote in January, 1956, " I read of the new Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club in the last issue of the Southern Sierran and should like to apply for membership"....peaks and dates submitted for membership include: Mt Whitney (1937 x 3); Mt Lyell (1938); Mts. Ritter & Banner (1939); Mt.





Darwin & Half Dome (1940) – WW2 intervened – and she climbed Mt. Conness (1946); University (1947) and Alta (1950) as well as some others - - all before the SPS was formed! Barbara's Section membership was approved on 7 February, 1956. She continues, "My main interest lies in fishing, back packing and camping rather than peak climbing ...in the twenty years of experience I have had in the Sierra" The Section Anniversary Committee can find no written record of Barbara Stott on a Section outing nor does anyone have a personal recollection of her. The earliest Section rosters can not be located and it is likely that Barbara was never very active in our outings.

Most of the material in the UCLA archives is a matter of public record and anyone can apply to look at it. These collection subject matter can be viewed on-line at [www.oac.cdlib.org](http://www.oac.cdlib.org) . Some material is indexed on-line but not our SPS files (The library expects to put our collections index on-line in the future). As the archives are stored in a separat location from the library one must call ahead at (310) 206-0580 two or three working days before visiting, in order for the requested files be brought on-site. The library and room for Special Collections viewing is located in the Young Research Library building in the north-east corner of the campus, north of Royce Hall. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday and most Saturdays. The closest parking is in parking structure 5 or parking structure 3. Access these is from Sunset Blvd.,

turning into the campus on Royce Drive or the un-named drive to the east. After finding and entering the library one must apply and be granted a free UCLA Library card authorizing access to the files. The files are found on the floor downstairs. No materials may be brought into the study rooms and free lockers are provided if, as we did, one brings paper and pens to work with. These materials are furnished inside free of charge.

The SPS records are stored in 15 file boxes and there is a 32 page INDEX of contents. This file is available for staff copying and Barbee, Jerry and myself have copies for use. For example, Box #1 has 15 file folders entitled Official, Personal Correspondence, Lists , 1957-1998. "Personal and official correspondence between SPS staff with last names beginning with "A", lists of peaks climbed by individuals submitted to SPS for membership and emblem status, SPS membership forms, subscription and renewal forms to Echo." Box #1 contains file folders with names A through E. Box #2, folders with names F through K, and so on through box #5. Then there are boxes and files covering subjects such as Certificates of Appreciation; proposals for changing qualifying peaks; a tape recording "SPS+CMC Remembrance of Dave Dykeman Sept. 25, 1996; Clippings detail specific hikes, weddings of SPS members, news clippings regarding Sierra peaks hikes; Photographs and letter size papers are pasted onto scrap book pages; Echos From The Past; SPS Bylaws and membership lists; and much, much more. I would consider the index pretty well done by someone not entirely familiar with our Section.

Go to UCLA and take a look for yourself.

RON JONES





## IN HIGH PLACES: PITCAIRN ISLAND HIGHPOINT

### Burton “The Third Time’s a Charm” Falk

The evening before the *Clipper Odyssey* was to anchor off Pitcairn Island, my wife Jo bet me \$50 I wouldn’t be able to bag the island’s high point the following day. Well—to end the suspense early—I did, and (reminder to Sweet Thing) I haven’t seen the color of green as yet.

Indeed, Jo, my spouse (and best friend) for almost 48 years, only rarely makes bets, and when she does they involve small sums and sure things. However, because we had been anchored off the island twice previously and hadn’t been able to land, she became emboldened to make, for her, a very large wager (and don’t forget the interest is compounding daily).

Jo and I first visited Pitcairn Island during a January 2000 voyage of the *Crystal Symphony*, heading from Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia, on an itinerary that listed Pitcairn Island as a “port” stop. On our arrival there, however, the Pitcairners came out to the ship, not vice versa, i.e., the *Symphony*’s tenders did not ferry passengers in to the island. A handful of savvy passengers were aware of this fact and hired the Pitcairners to take them, via the island longboats, into the small Bounty Bay landing. I, however, didn’t learn of this unpublicized alternative until later that same evening as the *Symphony* sailed on toward Tahiti.

Three years later, Jo and I sailed on Holland-American’s *Amsterdam*, en route from Valparaiso, Chile to Auckland, New Zealand, an itinerary that once again made a call at Pitcairn Island. On that occasion, however, I made proper preparations, e-mailing both the Island’s administrator, who gave me permission to land, and the Holland-American office, which informed me that the decision as to whether I could hire the islanders to ferry me ashore for an ascent of Pitcairn’s highpoint would be up to the Captain of the ship and dependent on the weather.

Well—to end the suspense early once again—both sky and sea were threatening when the *Amsterdam* arrived off Pitcairn, and the Captain denied me permission to go ashore. His refusal, however, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Indeed, the islanders who braved the high seas to come out and sell their wares (stamps, shirts, baskets, carvings) had only about an hour on the ship before, because of one of the *Amsterdam*’s crew

came down with appendicitis, they had to disembark so that big ship could hightail it to Papeete, Tahiti, where proper medical attention could be provided. Worse yet, because of the increase in the size of the swells, the Pitcairners were unable to land on their island for another 18 hours. Imagine, an afternoon and all night rocking up and down in an open boat! If I had left the ship I would have been stuck on Pitcairn for weeks, perhaps months, awaiting the next passing ship. Jo would have been justified in contemplating homicide.

On the morning of October 16, 2004, however, on my third (and positively last) pass at Pitcairn, the skies were clear and the seas were calm as the small island hove into view. And at 9 a.m., after anchoring about a half mile off shore, the 100 passengers of the *Clipper Odyssey* began to pile onto the islanders’ commodious longboats—loading perhaps 40, sitting cross-legged on the flat open decks, into each. Ten minutes later, stepping off the boat onto the small concrete jetty at Bounty Bay, I experienced the same feeling as Columbus must have felt when he landed on the shores of the New World, as Amundsen did when he arrived at the South Pole, as Stanley did when he found Livingston. At last!, at last!, thank God, at last!

Most everyone is familiar with at least one aspect of Pitcairn Island’s history. If you haven’t read *The Mutiny on the Bounty* by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall (1932), then you’ve surely seen one of the movies recounting the same tale, i.e., the 1935 version, starring Clark Gable as Fletcher Christian and Charles Laughton as Captain William Bligh; the 1962 version, starring Marlon Brando as Christian and Trevor Howard as Bligh, and/or the latest and most accurate remake, *The Bounty*, 1985, starring Mel Gibson as Christian and as Anthony Hopkins as Bligh.

In brief, the story began in December 1787, when the HMS *Bounty*, under the command of Capt. William Bligh, sailed from England bound for the South Pacific on a mission to collect breadfruit seedlings and then to transport the live cargo to the West Indies, where they would be used to provide food for the slaves working on the sugar plantations. Arriving in Tahiti in October 1788, the ship’s crew spent the next five months both collecting the plants and becoming attached to the “pleasures of the

islands" (read women). In April 1789, loaded at last and heading through Tongan waters for the West Indies, a group of the *Bounty's* crew, led by 24 year-old Master's Mate Fletcher Christian, mutinied. Captain Bligh and 18 other non-mutineers were set adrift in an open boat, and in one of the most thrilling sea stories of all time, they, during the following 41 days, managed to sail 3,618 nautical miles west, through cannibal-infested islands, to reach Dutch Timor. Bligh then continued on the England, where, soon afterward, a search for the mutineers was launched.

In the meantime, Christian and his cohorts returned to Tahiti, where, after 16 of the men elected to settle on that island, the nine remaining mutineers, plus 18 Tahitians, 12 of whom were women, sailed off to seek a new home where they would be safe from capture. The spot they finally chose was the lovely but lonely Pitcairn Island, 304 miles from its nearest inhabited neighbor, Mangareva.

The part of the Pitcairn story you may not be familiar with, however, is that the first years on the island were described by one writer as "an orgy of jealousy, treachery and murder." The mutineers, it seems, treated the Polynesian men badly, and, especially after the accidental death of one of the women, there were not enough "consorts" to go around. By 1794, all the Polynesian men had been killed, and only four mutineers were left. Six years later, in 1800, just one lone mutineer, John Adams, nine women and 19 children remained.

That nucleus, however, was enough to spawn the present Pitcairn Island population (which currently stands at 47; nearly half of whom possess the surname Christian, the rest being Warrens, Browns and Youngs), plus another 1,500 or so direct descendents now scattered throughout the South Pacific, many residing on Norfolk Island, where in 1856 the entire Pitcairn population was temporarily resettled.

Following our landing, the "long-hike" group, for which I had signed up, set off, first passing through Adamstown, the only village on the island, continuing on to the cemetery, the elementary school and then up a somewhat exposed climb to Christian's Cave, a site where Fletcher Christian had allegedly planned to take refuge in case the English, who didn't take mutiny lightly, ever came looking for him.

From the cave's vantage point I had a good view of the entire island, except, unfortunately, for the highest cloud-covered ridge, my long-sought goal. Similar to most of the "high" islands in the

South Pacific, Pitcairn is of volcanic origin. And although it's small (only 1.7 sq. miles in area), almost half of the island is suitable for agriculture and human habitation. Glancing at my map, I was struck by the personally descriptive names for many of the island's geographic features, e.g., Ned Young Ground, John Catch-a-Cow, Nancy's Stone, Little George Coconuts, and the ever popular Where Dan Fell.

Climatically, the island enjoys a sub-tropical climate, with mean monthly temperatures varying from about 65 degrees F in August to about 75 in February. Pitcairn's original forest, as observed in 1767 by its European discoverer, Captain Philip Carteret of the HMS *Swallow*, who named the island in honor the first to sight it, the son of Major Pitcairn of the Marines, has almost completely disappeared, and the island's hillsides are now covered with secondary brush such as hibiscus, rose apple and guava, along with ferns, lantana, coconut palms and non-indigenous grasses.

It is also interesting to note that, although Pitcairn was uninhabited at the time the *Bounty* mutineers arrived in 1790, the remains of a vanished civilization were clearly visible. Indeed, the neo-Pitcairners discovered four platforms with roughly hewn stone statues, similar, apparently, to those on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Unfortunately, the English, being good Christians, destroyed the platforms and threw the images into the sea. Evidence that remains, however, including burial sites, stone axes and petroglyphs, indicates that Pitcairn was occupied for a considerable period prior to the advent of the mutineers—the most recent speculation being that the island's very first inhabitants back-migrated there from Rapa Nui.

My "long hike" group started off again, retracing our steps back to the school, and then continuing on to the site of John Adams' grave, the only known burial site of an original mutineer. From there, we trekked west a mile or so up an unpaved road to Big Ridge, where, making a sharp left turn on Palawa Ridge, we arced around southeast to the island's unnamed 1,140' high point.

The actual summit, I'm sorry to report, turned out to be a bit disappointing, especially considering all the trouble and expense I had gone to in getting there. Indeed, the ridge top was shrouded in an ever-forming cloud, limiting the view, and a simple picnic table was the only evidence indicating that I had conquered my long-coveted goal.

We lingered on the top for a few minutes, and

then began our descent east along a road leading past the weather station and the taro ground. Arriving at one of the island's "major" intersections, we then continued north, up a hill to Observation Point, where we were afforded another superb but precarious view of Bounty Bay and Adamstown. At that point we had, in effect, almost completely circled the island. Time was fleeting, however. In the village below a luncheon for the passengers of the *Clipper Odyssey*, hosted by island Mayor Steve Christian, was about to be served, and so, reluctantly, we began our descent.

The meal, the *piece de resistance* of which was grilled freshly-caught Yellow-fin Tuna, was excellent, and it was fun to mix with the shy but otherwise friendly islanders. About 3:30 p.m., after a bit of souvenir shopping, Jo and I hiked back down to the Bounty Bay jetty, loaded on one of the *Clipper Odyssey's* Zodiacs and headed back for our ship, which that same evening departed for Puka Rua, an atoll in the Tuamotu Islands of French Polynesia.

### ODDS & ENDS

Pitcairn has recently been subject to a spate of unsavory attention due to a long trial in which charges of sexual assault were brought against several of the island men. In fact, on October 24, 2004, the day after the *Clipper Odyssey* left Pitcairn, six of the seven men accused—including Mayor Christian—were found guilty on several of the counts. The verdicts came as no surprise as most of the defendants admitted they had sex with underage girls (in one instance a five or seven-year-old girl), however the accused maintained they had only engaged in what was considered to be a traditional Polynesian practice. Making the situation even more bizarre is the fact that all the islanders profess to be devout Seventh-Day Adventists, a strongly fundamental evangelical sect.

Citing the "unique" conditions on Pitcairn, two of the guilty were sentenced to community service, while the others were given prison terms, to be served on the island—so they can help out in case of emergency—ranging from two to six years. The verdicts, however, are sure to be appealed, the primary argument being that Britain has no judicial authority in Pitcairn as it never made a formal claim to the island, and, furthermore, that the islanders were never informed that British legislation, such as the Sexual Offences Act of 1956, was applicable to them.

Although the convicted Pitcairners may express doubt about the legitimacy of Britain's claim to Pitcairn, the Brits themselves have no reservations in that regard. Indeed, the British Dependent Territory, administered by the Pitcairn Island Administration in Auckland, NZ, also includes the uninhabited Oeno, Henderson and Ducie Islands, the latter two of which provided day-long stops for the *Clipper Odyssey* prior to our arrival at Pitcairn.

Ducie Island, 290 miles east of Pitcairn, is a low coral atoll, which, because of the extermination of its non-indigenous rat population, has once again become home to tens of thousands of sea birds, especially Murphy's Petrels. During our visit to the island, we had to be careful not to step on the fuzzy fledglings, two or three of which were sitting under each and every of the island's plentiful heliotrope bushes (Ducie's one and only species of plant life).

Henderson Island, 105 miles northeast of Pitcairn, is a raised, flat-topped coral atoll, surrounded by 50' high sheer limestone cliffs, having no known source of fresh water. The island is covered with dense, prickly vegetation, which provides an excellent habitat for several species of endemic land birds, including the Henderson flightless rail (which I was lucky enough to photograph) and the Stephen's lorikeet. Because of its uniqueness, Henderson Island has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



### **Yosemite Valley EA continued**

- Send in written suggestions and concern regarding the project at any time. Please note that decisions regarding actions in the Yosemite Valley Plan will not be revisited.

Mail: Superintendent, Attn: Rehabilitation of Valley Loop Road EA, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389,  
 Fax: 209/379-1294, Email: Yose\_Planning@nps.gov

# Conservation 2-Liners

by Barbee Tidball

**Snowpack reports.** Climbers will use ice axes and crampons long into the summer this year. Based upon snow survey results for May 1, we can expect snow climbing conditions for weeks to come. Some of the courses (locations where snow pack surveys are taken) are only losing one inch per week. Northern Sierra snow water equivalents are at 144% of normal, the Central Sierra is at 145%, and, Southern Sierra at 171%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 151%. The last time there was this good a snow pack was in 1998 and prior to that in 1983 there was a record snow pack year. Snowmelt should be providing good stream flow well into the summer and this means snow in the higher elevations for climbers. This also means that stream crossings could be more dangerous due to higher volumes of water flowing.

Some examples of the current snow depth include:

- Dana Meadows (9,800 feet): 91 inches,
- Grace Meadow (8,900 feet): 136 inches,
- Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 feet): 67 inches,
- Peregoy Meadow, near Bridalveil Creek Campground (7,000 feet): 99 inches.

Snowpack generally loses about an inch per day this time of year, which increases to up to 2 inches per day when longer days and higher temperatures occur in summer.

## **Park Road Repair - TEA-21 Comments due by May 31, 2005.**

The latest developments in Senate committees show that more than \$150 million in funding have been cut from park road repair and alternative transportation in the latest version of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorization bill. Park roads and alternative transportation programs are already billions of dollars behind in funding. Further cuts mean further delays in making both park roads and alternative transportation systems adequate and safe. Please write to your representative and senators and urge them to support increasing the funding for Park Roads and Parkways program.

On March 10 Congress resumed work to renew the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the House of Representative ap-

proved its version of the bill. Key senate committees have also reported out their version, cutting more than \$150 million from park road repair and alternative transportation. TEA-21 is the law that decides how the federal gas tax revenue is to be divided among the states and federal transportation programs, including the programs that repair park roads and provide alternative modes such as visitor shuttle systems and bike and pedestrian pathways in the parks. Congress has been working to renew the law and increase funding levels for the past two years.

The bill is now on the Senate floor. It is anticipated that Sen. Akaka, (D-HI) will be offering an amendment to increase funding to the levels requested by President Bush for Park Roads and Parkways program—the program that pays for the renovation and upkeep of the roads and transit systems in the national parks. Please contact your Senator and urge that he/she support the Akaka park roads amendment to TEA-21! Following Senate floor action, a conference committee of the House and Senate will work out the differences between the House and Senate bills. The deadline is May 31, but it is likely that the negotiations will go beyond that date and the deadline will be extended.

## **Rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Environmental Assessment Comments due by June 1, 2005**

Yosemite National Park is planning to repair and improve the Northside and Southside Drives. The existing road surface and culvert system are in very poor condition. User-designated, unauthorized roadside parking is also becoming a problem as it impacts roadside vegetation.

This proposed project would repair and resurface existing road pavement, drainage structures, and define roadside parking throughout the project area. No widening or realignment of the roadway, off of the existing road bench, would be undertaken. There are no proposed changes in parking capacity.

Public participation in the planning process is critical. Here are some ways to stay involved in the Rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Environmental Assessment process:

- Visit the park's planning web site at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning) for more information.

*continued on page 16*

## Wilderness Planning for the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) TRAIL & COMMERCIAL PACK STOCK MANAGEMENT

The DEIS is available for public review and comment. **Comment period closes June 15, 2005**

This DEIS amends the 2001 Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Plan as relates to commercial pack stock usage of Wilderness and it proposes to establish a trail system in the two wildernesses. The big questions being studied by this DEIS are

1. Should commercial pack stock operations continue to be authorized and if so what type, amount and locations should be permitted.
2. What trails will be maintained and how will the trails be managed.

The DEIS under the statement of Purpose and Need for Action states that "The need for the Commercial Pack Stock Management Direction and Trail Plan for the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses is as follows:

1. There is a need for establishing additional management controls for commercial pack stock operations in order to achieve and maintain desired resource and experimental conditions identified in the 2001 Wilderness Plan and record of Decision.
2. There is a need for a trail plan that accurately identifies a system of trails for all users and appropriate trail management objectives for each system trail, consistent with the desired condition of areas within the two wildernesses as identified in the 2001 Wilderness Plan and Record of Decision.

In meeting the above needs, the proposal must achieve the following purposes:

3. Determine the extent that commercial pack stock activities are necessary in these two wildernesses.
4. Determine appropriate party size limits for commercial stock operations.
5. Establish camping limitations on commercial pack stock operations.
6. Analyze and disclose the cumulative effects of commercial pack stock operations in the John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses.

7. Determine appropriate campfire limitations for commercial pack stock clients.
8. Determine the suitability of trail use by commercial pack stock.
9. Include, where appropriate, monitoring requirements to facilitate responsive adaptive management of the special use permits.
10. Determine the appropriate level of grazing associated with commercial pack stock."

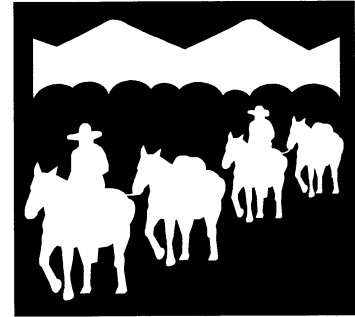
There are currently 19 pack stations operating in these two wildernesses. The DEIS does not consider designating trails for "foot traffic only".

Trail design and management is being considered under 5 different Trail Classes. A Trail Class 1 for example is a trail 0" - 12" wide, with native surface, possibly rocks and log obstacles to 36" high. A Trail Class 2 is 12" -18" wide, Class 3 up to 24" wide and Class 4 24" wide. Trail Class 5 is determined to be not suitable for wilderness. Trail Class 1 trails receive very low use by highly skilled wilderness travelers where Trail Class 3 and 4 are used by stock parties.

The Forest Service prepared a summary chart of the Alternatives discussed in the DEIS. This summary highlights the main points for each Alternative. Alternative 1 - maintains the status quo and follows the 2001 Wilderness Plan. Alternative 2 is three proposed action alternative with group size limits of 15 persons and 25 stock; designated campsite locations and existing trails being used except where stock are not recommended.

Please review this summary. The full DEIS can be read at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo)

Send your comments to:  
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Summary Table, adapted from the Forest Service DEIS. by Barbee Tidball

Issue	Alt 1 – No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5
<b>Use Levels and Stock Numbers</b>					
<b>Service Days</b>	Allocated service days from 1996-2001 high 2 yr. average. Westside 2,855 & east 13,300. Busiest packers Reds Mdws., Rock Ck., & Mammoth.	Use controlled by destination quotas, campsites and party size. Includes allocations for outfitter guides, llamas.	Use controlled by destination quotas, campsites and party size.	Service days at 20% reduction	No commercial stock operations.
<b>Quotas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trailhead quota for 15 people and 25 stock.</li> <li>Commercial operator may “borrow” next days quota allowed up to 20 persons in Inyo.</li> <li>FS authorized all wilderness permits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destination quota w/site specific party size limits.</li> <li>15 people and 25 stock, w/ seasonal limits</li> <li>Stock quotas daily/seasonal</li> <li>FS authorized all wilderness permits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trailhead quota for 15 people and 25 stock w/ seasonal limits.</li> <li>Site specific party size limits</li> <li>Threshold for clients and stock.</li> <li>Few destination quotas.</li> <li>FS authorized all wilderness permits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trailhead quota for 12 people and 20 stock.</li> <li>No borrowing</li> <li>Reduction in party size at some trailheads.</li> <li>FS authorized all wilderness permits.</li> </ul>	No commercial stock operations.
<b>Primary Operating Area</b>	N/A	Identified operating area.	Identified operating area.	In effect, no overlap of areas for spot and dunnage trips	None
<b>Trail Management &amp; Suitability</b>					
<b>General Trail Plan</b>	2001 Wilderness Plan direction Trailhead quota system	Defines Maintenance and prioritizes trail work	Defines Maintenance and prioritizes trail work	Defines Maintenance and prioritizes trail work	N/A
<b>System Trails</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inyo 1988 inventory</li> <li>Sierra 2001 inventory</li> <li>Whitney &amp; Meysan Lks closed to stock</li> <li>Trail classes used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with rec. categories.</li> <li>Trail classes used.</li> <li>No new trails</li> <li>Whitney &amp; Meysan Lks closed to stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with recreation categories allowing higher trail class levels than Alt 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with recreation categories allowing lower trail class levels than Alt 2.</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>System Trails Suitable for Comm. Pack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only use on existing inventory.</li> <li>Off trail allowed if FS emergency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of system trails except those identified as “not recommended for stock”</li> <li>Off trail emergencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of system and user trails except 62.8 miles identified as “not suitable for stock”</li> <li>Off trail emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of system and user trails except 165 miles identified as “not suitable for stock”</li> <li>Off trail emergencies</li> <li>More restrictive plan</li> </ul>	None authorized for commercial stock
<b>User Trails</b>	Require approval, use trails approved in 2004	Use trail approvals based on destination quotas.	Use trail approvals based on destination quotas.	Very few use trails approved	None authorized for comm.. stock
<b>Campsites</b>					
<b>Campsites</b>	100 feet from water	Required to use designated stock camps when holding stock over night with option of reserving site.	Required to use designated stock camps optional assigned campsites..	All campsites for commercial pack stock designated and limited to these sites.	None authorized for commercial stock
<b>Campfires</b>					
<b>Campfires</b>	Elevation closures, 10,000-N & 10,400-S Site specific closures	Elevation closures and packers allowed to pack in wood and charcoal outside wilderness.	Same as Alt 2 for full service trips in designated sites only.	See Alt 1	See Alt 1
<b>Grazing</b>					
<b>Strategy</b>	Utilization standards Range readiness suitability direction	Grazing managed by capacity for grazing. 82 zones identified	Grazing managed by capacity for grazing. At risk meadows closed.	Stronger grazing controls	None authorized
<b>Drift fences</b>	Allowed as needed for protection of resources or safety.	Same as Alt 1	All drift fences retained with additional constructed	Few fences allowed	None

**April/May VOL. 49 NO. 2**

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

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