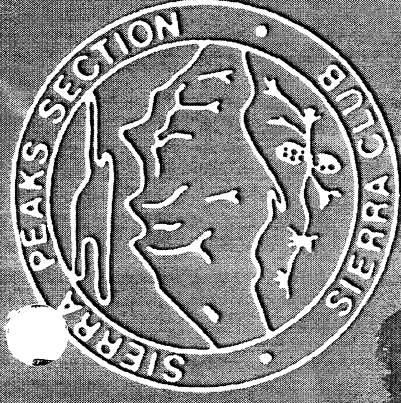


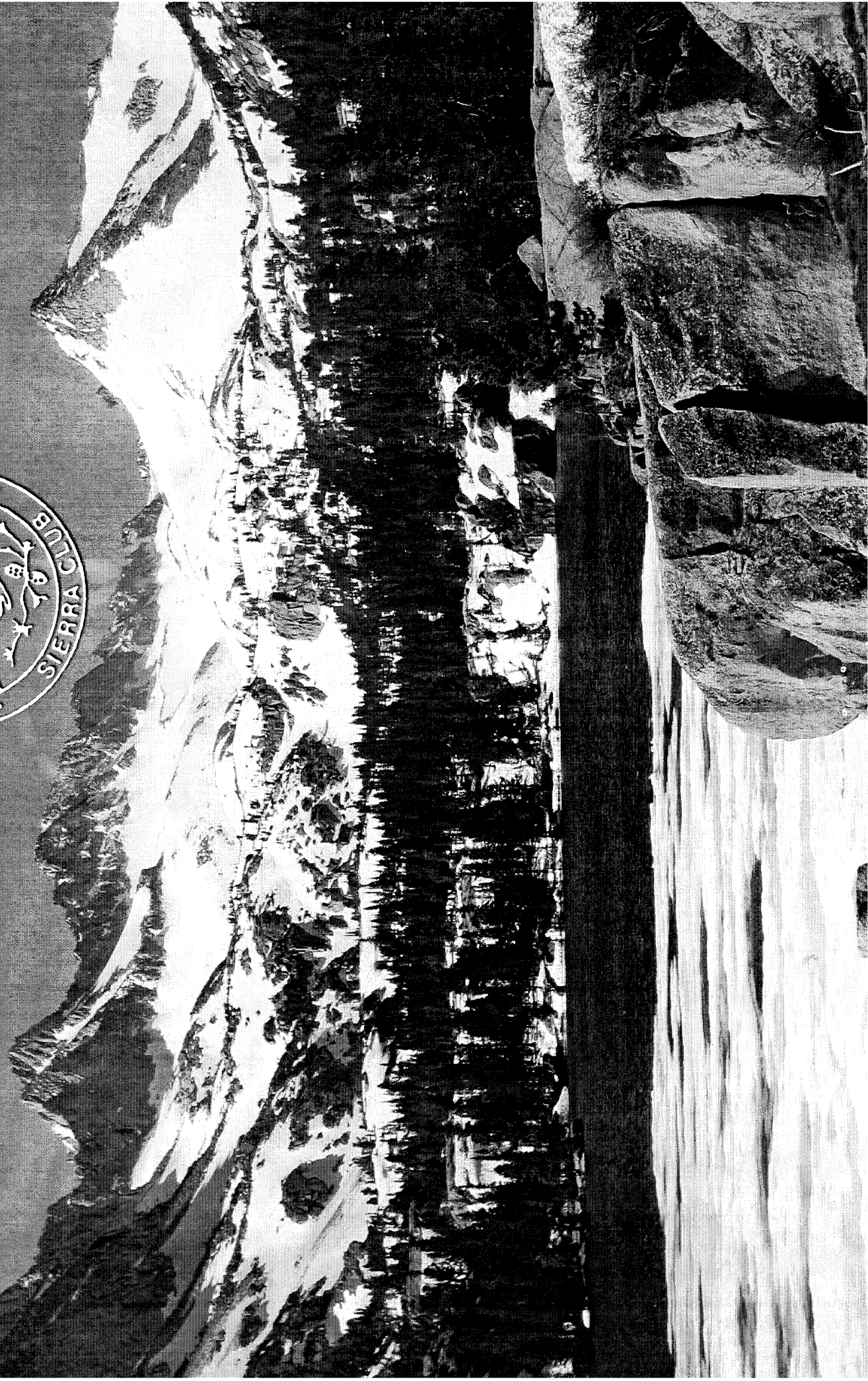
The Sierra

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 4

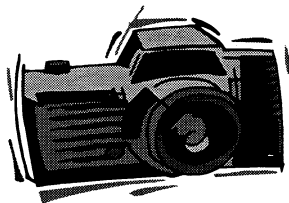


ECHO

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2005



FRONT COVER



**Thompson Ridge
from Blue Lake
Photo by Tina Bowman**

**Peak List
See Stories Inside**

Koip Peak
Mt. Brewer
Mt Goode
Mt Agassiz
Summer Climbing



Update - Get Well Wishes from the SPS to RJ Secor

RJ has returned to his home! He is working on his book again and getting back into the swing of life - although no hiking or driving for awhile. Give him a call or e-mail!

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.

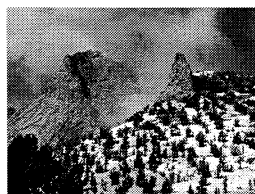
September 2005 - It's climbing season. No section meeting, but there are lots of great trips being led. Sign-up for a great Sierra adventure.

October 12, 2005. SPS monthly meeting. Management Committee meeting and General meeting.

October 16, 2005 - Sunday, SPS 50th Anniversary Banquet *Order Tickets NOW!* Taix Restaurant, Los Angeles will be the site of the SPS 50th Anniversary. Join your fellow climbers commemorating 50 years of climbing in the "Range of Light" Our feature program will be a video highlighting the last 50 years and a commemorative issue of the Echo will be distributed.

Banquet attendees will be first to receive their commemorative edition of the *Sierra Echo*, and will have the opportunity to order the SPS commemorative video with interviews from many past and current SPS members.

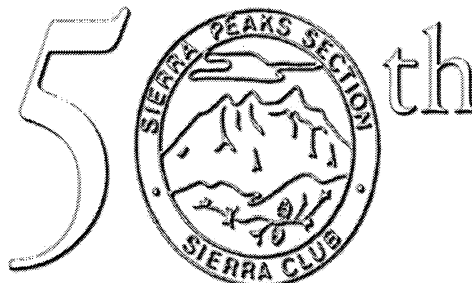
**Correction - Cover Photo
June-July, Volume 49,
No. 3 was of Clark Peak.**



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

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!



Wanted: Sierra Echo Editor

Volume 49.6 the up-coming November/December 2005 edition of the Echo will also mark our 9th year as Echo editors. It is time for a new Echo editor(s) to take over publication of the SPS newsletter.

After almost 9-years as the Echo editor I have decided it is time to retire. With my retirement, Barbara Sholle is also ready to hang up her hat as editor, proofer and all round supporter of my editing efforts. I've had fun, cursed (mainly the computer) and learned alot, but it is time for me to move on to new jobs - like maybe having time to lead more trips with Larry.

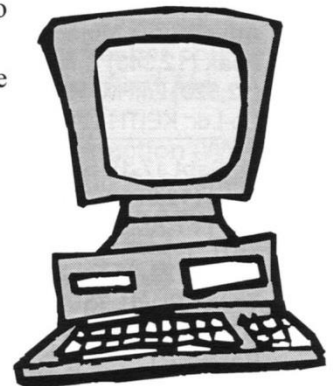
The Echo is published 6 times a year, every two-months and the SPS membership is extremely understanding if an issue is occasionally late. Members are also very good about sending in trip reports and other materials to fill the newsletter. We rarely have to "beg" for material or prod members to send in their reports.

There has been talk about taking the Echo into the information age with an electronic version; that is a challenge possibly the next editor will want to take on. The Echo editor(s) should have basic computer skills, and ideally knowledge, or the desire to learn how to use of the use page layout software.

The primary purpose of page layout software is to make it easy to combine text and graphics to create the newsletter. Professionals use Adobe InDesign or QuarkXPress but these have a high learning curve. On a more user friendly level there is Adobe PageMaker (which I use), Microsoft Publisher (2000 and up), and Serif PagePlus which are marketed to non-professional consumers. All four have many of the typical features of a good professional page layout program. Publisher and PagePlus do not have as wide an acceptance with commercial service providers (printers) so if purchasing a system check with the printer 1st to make sure they can work with your files. The Echo is published by Universal Reprographics.

This is an ideal job for anyone with internet access. The days of having to drive to the printer are gone. Bob Sumner who publishes the *Sage* lives near Tahoe. I asked Bob what systems he uses and Bob noted "For photo editing, I use Adobe Photoshop. The *Sage* is put together using Microsoft Publisher 2003. When complete, it is rendered into a PDF file using Adobe Acrobat Standard, via the print feature in Publisher. Finally I use CuteFTP Pro to ftp the final PDF file to the printer in LA. There are multitudes of different FTP clients that can be used, including Microsoft's which is included in Windows."

Please contact Barbee Tidball if you would like to learn more about being the Echo editor. Please contact Patty Rambert if you are interested in taking over the job of Echo editor.





SEPTEMBER

I: Sep 9-11 Fri-Sun, Trail Pk (11,623'), Wonoga Peak (10,371'):



SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike.

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 Ldr: EDD RUSKOWITZ. Asst: MELISSA KANE.

I: Sep 9-12 Fri- Mon Leavitt Peak (11569'), Stanislaus Peak (11233'), Blackhawk Mtn (10247'), Disaster Peak (10047) Ldrs: GEORGE WYSUP, PAT ARREDONDO, ASHER WAXMAN

I: Sep 10-12 Sat-Mon Bloody Mtn. (12,552'): SPS Intro Trip 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) Ldr: MARK MITCHELL, Co-Ldr: KEITH MARTIN.



M: Sept 17-19 Sat-Mon Mt. Gayley (13,510'), Temple Crag (12,976'): Ldr: VIRGIL POPESCU, Co-Ldr. PATTY RAMBERT

M: Sep 23-25 Fri-Sun SPS/WTC Tower Pk (11,755') Send e-mail to Ldr: JOHN CHESLICK. Co-Ldr: PATTY RAMBERT



ORDER SPS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET TICKETS TODAY! OCTOBER 16TH IS FAST APPROACHING!

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.

SEPTEMBER CONTINUED

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

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.

Oct 16 Sunday, 5PM, Taix restaurant Los Angeles - SPS 50th Anniversary Banquet.



Commemorative video and Echo publication. Doug Mantle - Master of Ceremonies, Dave Sholle - Video Producer/Director

2005 Autumn Trips Cont.

Oct 29 SAT Outings Management Committee

Outings Assembly: Join the Outings Management Committee for a session on the present and future of the chapter's outings program and learn more about the National Leader Standards. All Sierra Club members are invited, especially outings leaders, provisional leaders, and outings chairs. Save this date! Bring your lunch. We'll meet at 9:30 am-1:00 pm at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr, Pasadena. From 210 freeway eastbound, exit Altadena Dr, north 1.5 miles to park entrance on right. From 210 westbound, exit Sierra Madre Blvd, west 1 block to Altadena Dr, north 1.5 mi. For more information contact Donna Specht 714-963-6345 or e mail donnaspecht@juno.com

NOVEMBER

I: Nov 5 Sat Sawtooth Pk (S) (8,000'+): SPS/HPS Intro trip in the Southern Sierra. 9 mi rt, 2400' gain at a moderate pace. Email or phone leader the week prior to the outing for info. Snow cancels. Ldr: Gary Schenk. Asst: George Wysup.

I: Nov 11 Fri Owens Peak (8,453'): SPS/HPS SPS 50th Anniversary climb. Join the veterans of the SPS on



Veteran's Day as they celebrate the 49th anniversary of the first SPS trip to Owens Peak. Moderate pace, 7 mi rt, 3200' gain. Phone or email leader the week prior to the trip for information on meeting location and time.

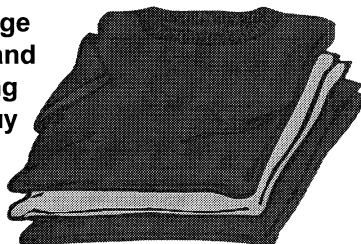
M/E: Nov 12-13 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS/WTC Indian Cove Rock Check-off: SPS 50th Anniversary Year and



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 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



Dear Angeles Chapter Leader,

National Sierra Club now requires all national and chapter leaders to recertify in first aid at least every four years.

The Angeles Chapter is bringing its leadership into compliance with this National requirement as quickly as possible.

+++ HOW TO RECERTIFY +++

The requirement is for currency in first aid only; there is no corresponding CPR requirement. You may satisfy this requirement by taking one of these courses:

- **Red Cross Basic First Aid or equivalent**

This is useful for providing first aid within an hour of professional medical attention, but it does not address many issues a leader may face in administering first aid in the wilderness.

If you are interested in information on the free Red Cross Basic First Aid and CPR classes offered by the Angeles Chapter, go to <http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>.

- **An introductory or refresher course offered by the Wilderness First Aid Course* (WFAC):**

Wilderness First Aid Introduction (WFAI)
~ or ~ Wilderness First Aid Refresher (WFAR) The Angeles Chapter Leader Training Committee (LTC) and the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) sponsor these.

Continued page 6

continued from previous page

+++ ABOUT the WFAI and WFAR +++

Length: 8 hours each course

Location: Harwood Lodge on Mt. Baldy

Fee: \$50 each course (includes lunch and snacks)

Date:

WFAI Saturday November 5, 2005

WFAR Sunday November 6, 2005

Prerequisite:

WFAI: An Angeles Chapter leader rating

~or~

Proof of having ever taken CPR < even if it is expired (No prior first aid instruction is required.)

WFAR: Completion of a wilderness first aid course of 24 hours or more in the past eight years .

How to apply:

WFAI: This introduces wilderness first aid and prepares leaders for advanced training.

Visit <http://home.mindspring.com/~sks.wfac/scheduleWFAI.htm>

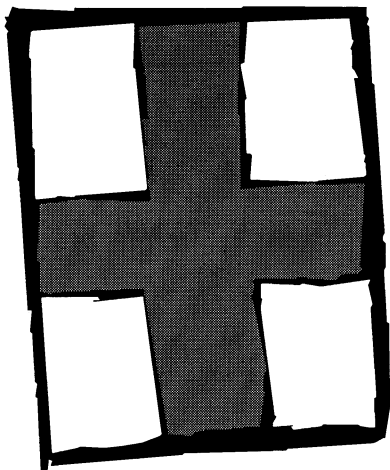
for more information and an application.

WFAR: This keeps the skills you learned fresh and up-to-date.

Visit <http://home.mindspring.com/~sks.wfac/scheduleWFAR.htm>

for more information and an application.

*The Wilderness First Aid Course, Inc., is a 501c3 (educational, non-profit) corporation that is closely allied with the Angeles Chapter LTC and WTC.



Attention leaders - the following letter has been sent to the SPS Outings Chair:

Hello, All!

As outings chairs for entities approved to offer restricted mountaineering outings, I'd like to make you aware of two new requirements, one pertaining to climbing resumes to accompany applications for restricted outings and the other about medical screening forms to be used on all restricted outings. These requirements grew out of an independent review of our program by a well-known mountaineering risk management expert.

Climbing Records

Climbing leader resumes should be updated every two years. Please include Contact information (address, phone, e-mail)

Sierra Club number and expiration

Date of resume

First aid training and currency (type of class, such as wilderness

first aid, and when taken)

Recent training, if any, with some detail about the training,

sponsor, and date

Recent relevant climbs

Where and when

Type of climb (rock, snow, canyoneering)

Level of difficulty

Nature of participation (lead climber, follower, top-roped).

Medical Screening Forms

These forms are to be used by all participants and leaders on restricted outings (required by the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee). Leaders should have two copies for each member of the outing, one to stay home in a file and one to go on the outing in case of emergency.

If someone becomes ill or injured on the outing, the medical form along with the Emergency Response—Patient Report form can accompany that person in an evacuation and be very helpful to those rendering aid. Forms are available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/>

If a leader has any questions about a medical condition that a participant has, the leader can request that the participant get permission to participate from his or her physician.

Leaders should send one copy of the form to the outings chair with the waiver/sign-in sheet.

Please spread the word to your mountaineering leaders right away about these two new aspects related to restricted outings. Thanks!

Happy trails, Tina Bowman
Chair, Mountaineering Oversight Committee

Echoes from the Chair

September, 2005

The climbing season for '05 is coming to a close. I hope you all got out and had some fun! There were lots of challenges – high water stream crossings, snow and those pesky mosquitoes. It was amazing to see how much Deet one bunch of folks could use in a few days. Also I was accustomed to providing head nets at the trailheads. I was lucky to have climbed with many of you and pick up lots of tips along the way. I watched Darrick with his Jet Boil and I was sold on that one – push the button, water boils quickly and it even has a cozy to keep your coffee warm in the cold morning air. I was able to use the smallest canister and not run out even after 9 start-ups! The wide range of food everyone created had my mouth watering – I added a lot more variety and tasty tidbits to my menu. Precooked bacon is very light 3 oz for a pound of bacon – great addition to bulk refried beans and also to potatoes. Tortillas travel very well in the bottom of a Bearikade canister. Dried Hummus with hot water and olive oil added with a fresh lime squeezed over top is wonderful. OK enough about food – who has some dark chocolate?



We are actively looking for new members for the Management Committee for 2006. Contact Patty Kline via phone as soon as possible. If you have been climbing with the SPS for a season or more and are a member, consider giving some of your time and talents.

I have been doing some evaluations for Provisional Leaders and that has been a great experience for me and also lots of fun and gives me the ability to climb with lots of new members. Encourage others to attend the LTC training coming up in the fall and start on the path to leading trips. Welcome to all the new leaders!

The SPS 50th Anniversary Banquet is coming up – plan to attend, send in your check today to Gary Schenk. Share a copy of the flyer with friends, post it on the web on your favorite climbing site or make copies and bring to outings or your local outdoors store. We all love the Sierra! Let's share the history with everyone young and old! I can't wait to see the video produced by Dave Sholle.

We are all eager to lighten our loads. I received the e-mail newsletter from Glen Von Peski – www.gossamergear.com and it was very interesting so I gave Glen a call and chatted for quite a while. Being a Mountaineer is quite different than being a thru hiker but we all want to cut down on weight. I had seen the Light Trek Poles Plus – 2.6 oz each out in the field – amazing. So for our banquet Glen has donated a certificate for one set of poles to fit the recipient. Check out the site - I ordered the rain gear and a few other items.

On a serious note, as we head into late season trips, please think very carefully of the possibility of unexpected changing weather patterns. Storms are likely to come up and dump snow or there might be thunder and lightening or just very cold winds. Hypothermia is a very real possibility. Keep the group together and look for signs of anyone having trouble. We all try to push hard and reach our goals but conditions may warrant rethinking our plans! Whether it is a scheduled or private trip, carry and use FRS (Family Radio Service) – Walkie-Talkies. Do a radio check before setting out and then have a plan on when to turn the radios on or if the group gets separated, plan on just turning them on until you get back together or find out that everyone is OK. I am not advocating just chatting but to be used only when necessary for safety.

So I feel very fortunate to be able to continue to pursue my goal for 2005. To get my Master Emblem. I have done 30 peaks so far this year (192 total) and I need 1 more Mountaineers Peak for my Master Emblem. So I have to get ready for another trip or two!

Climb high and safe, Patty

P.S. Have lots of fun!

Dr. Andrew J. Smatko

1917 – 2005

Climber, Mountaineer, Writer, Physician

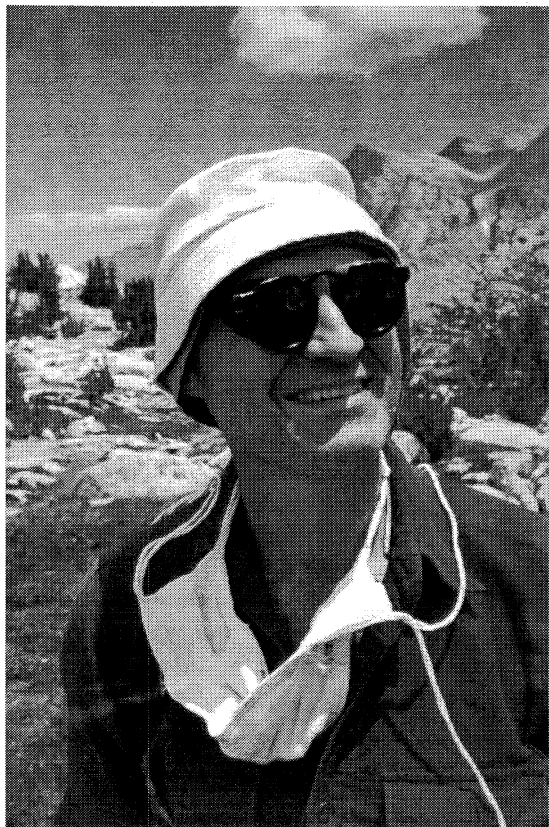
M.D., New York University School of Medicine, 1941
Obstetrics & Gynecology, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 1949

Andy Smatko, an early SPS member and accomplished climber passed away August 21, 2005. Andy is survived by his wife Shirley and son Andy. The Sierra Club web site chronicles Andy as having “thoroughly explored Muir’s Range of Light.” The web site goes on to report “He has climbed virtually every named summit in the Sierra Nevada, as well as most of the un-named peaks. As the “Dean of Sierra Climbers” and an “Indomitable Explorer and Chronicler of the Sierra Nevada,” Andy Smatko’s exploits have been recognized by the Sierra Club through the bestowal of the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award in 2001. Smatko was the first ‘Triple List Finisher’, having reached the summits of the 247 peaks on the Sierra Peaks Section list, the 98 mountains identified by the Desert Peaks Section, and the more than 270 summits of the Hundred Peaks Section. ... When Smatko began his climbing career on New Year’s Day, 1950, there were still many untrodden Sierran high points, however his 300-plus first ascents have left only a handful for those who would aspire to go where no Smatko has gone before.”

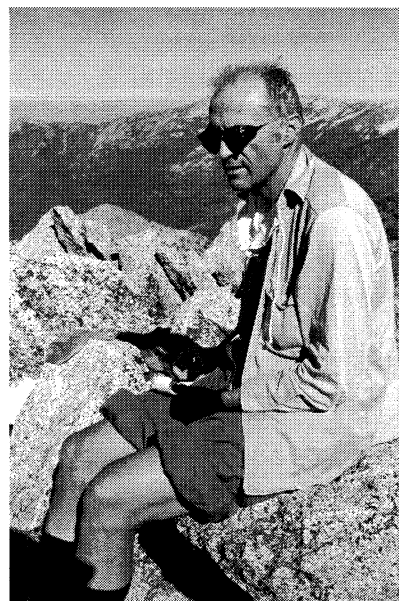
Accomplish climbing guide author:

The Mountaineer’s Guide to the High Sierra, a Sierra Club totebook published in 1972 was edited by Hervey H. Voge and Andrew J. Smatko. In this quote from the book’s preface “Originally, this volume was to have appeared as the third edition of A Climber’s Guide to the High Sierra. That guide was first published in 1954 under the able editorship of Harvey H. Voge, and reissued in a second edition in 1965. But even after just seven years, the volume of information on new routes and ascents compiled by Andrew J. Smatko, the editor assigned to the third edition, was staggering. In fact, after culling his own widespread knowledge of the range and reports submitted by other mountaineers, Andrew Smatko had increased the sheer bulk of the projected third edition of A Climber’s Guide by nearly 30 percent.” The preface goes on to further on note “The A Climber’s Guide remains woven into the fabric of this volume; and this volume emerges still, in Smatko’s own words, as “Hervey’s masterpiece.” But it is Smatko’s, too.”

Sierra Echo articles on medicine, example 1959 “Physiology of Muscular Exercise”.



July 20, 1974 , Granite Park below Italy Pass. Andy on the first day of a 9-day trip. More than 23 peaks, including Seven Gables and Gemini, were climbed on the trip.



Climbing on Peak 11,406 on Comb Spur 1975

Photo by Jerry Keating

Andy Smatko SPS, DPS and HPS Accomplishments

compiled by Charlie Knapke with inserts from SPS records.

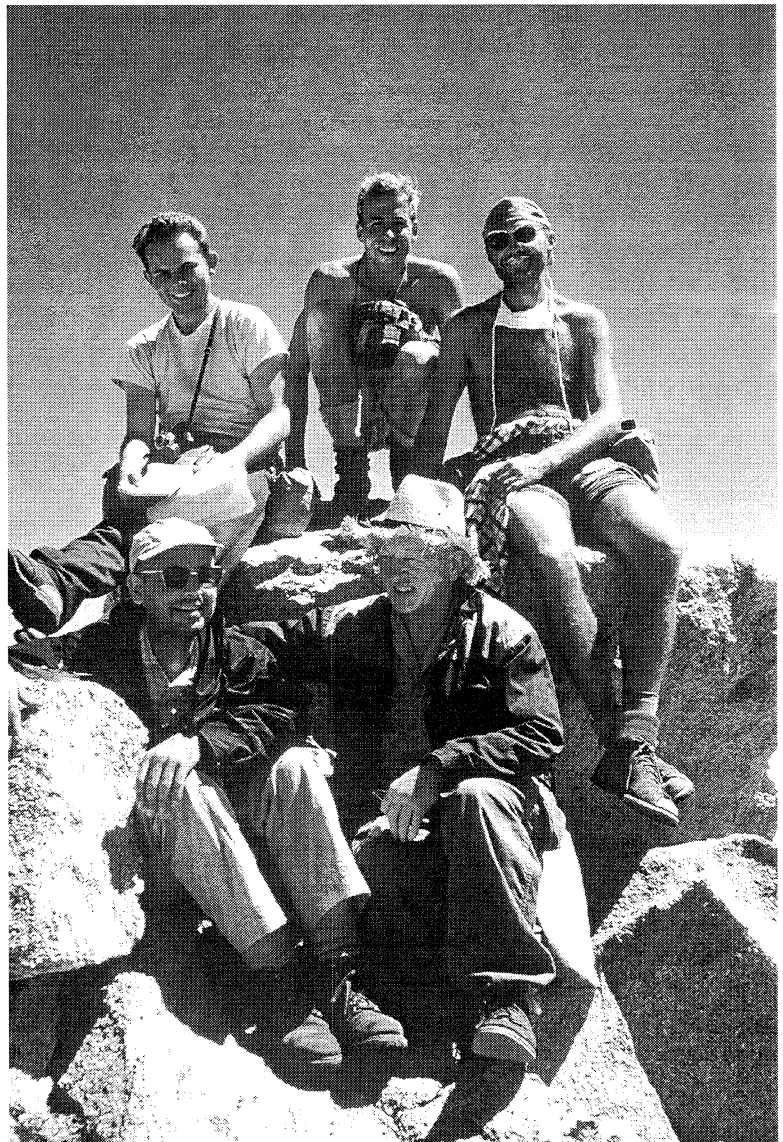
Andy was actually a MAJOR player in the DPS. He is listed as the first DPS List Finisher. I have also found his name in the register of many obscure desert summits. A meeting occurred where Cerro Pinacate was voted on to the DPS List. Only a few members were present. Andy was not. For some reason he became incensed at this. He was adamantly opposed to adding any more Mexico peaks to the DPS list. He attended the next meeting in attempt to get the peak removed. He failed. During this period, he had made a statement in the newsletter that essentially stated: We have more than enough peaks in this country to climb. We do not need to travel to Mexico to climb peaks.

Andy the gave action to his words by setting out to climb the high point of every mountain range in the largest county in this country; San Bernardino County. He accomplished this several years later. Some of these climbing forays were written up in the newsletter in a series of articles which he titled Smatko Scrambles.

1957 Joined the Desert Peaks Section
 1957 DPS Emblem on Montgomery Peak
 1957 SPS Emblem (July 19, 1957, 10th SPS Emblem holder)
 1960 HPS Emblem
 1960 Echo Editor - Sierra Peaks Section
 1963 DPS List Completion on Arc Dome
 1963 Member-at-Large - Desert Peaks Section
 1964 Member-at-Large - Desert Peaks Section
 1964 SPS Master Emblem
 1964 SPS List Completion on Mount Muah (October 25, 1964 1st SPS List Finisher)
 1965 Secretary - Sierra Peaks Section
 1967 HPS List Completion (Triple List Finisher)
 1975 – 1984 Advisor - Backpacking Committee
 2001 National Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award

More Climbing Accomplishments

In 1959 the *Sierra Echo* included a trip report by Dr. Smatko "A Volcanic Christmas Holiday". Andy with 10 mainly SPS climbers summited Popocatepetl, Ixtacchuitl and Citlaltepctl (Orizaba).



Summit of Mt. Trojan, September 3, 1956. Jerry Whittemore, Tom Ross, Andy Smatko. Graham Stephenson, Bob "Doc" Wade.

Photographer: Unknown Photo donated to Sierra Club collection by: Patricia Meixner Gentry

Andy Smatko's accomplishments outside the Sierra were equally as numerous he is listed on one tally of prominences climbed as having achieved the 4th highest number of different summits along with two other well know SPS members.

Most climbs of different 300+ foot (92+ meter) prominence summits.

climber	summits
Bob Martin	5,485+
Barb Lilley	4,400+
Gordon MacLeod	4,400+
Andy Smatko	4,000+

Sierra Club Farquhar Award:

The following was published in the Sierra Echo, July-September 2001, Volume 45 No. 4.

Andrew Smatko, M.D., "Indomitable Explorer and Chronicler of the Sierra Nevada."

What accomplishments qualify the nominee for the award?

Dr. Andrew J. Smatko is the Dean of Sierra Climbers and the modern day version of whole groups of past Sierra Explorers. The sheer numbers are daunting. In over 40 years Smatko has made over 1,800 Sierra ascents, eclipsing even the legendary Norman Clyde. While the earlier Clyde had his pick of first ascents, Smatko had to search diligently and systematically for them. He met the challenge, making over 300 first ascents, by far a record. Clyde can be likened to a sharpshooter, picking off notable first ascents and relentlessly repeating them, while Smatko can be characterized as a carpet bomber. He left no Sierra peak above 11,000 feet elevation unscaled, accounting for well over half his climbs. More than a few climbers have since lamented that he left almost no unclimbed peaks for them. His energy and commitment were likewise phenomenal: he topped 102 summits in 1975, his best season, but also had 70, 80 and even 90 peak years as well beginning in 1953. In his climbs he crisscrossed hundreds of passes and cols, many for the first time (although the number of actual "first" crossings is impossible to determine). In this respect he is in the very first rank of Sierra Nevada explorers.

Smatko did not confine himself only to the planning, exploring, and climbing accomplishments — he was a foremost chronicler as well. When a new edition and version of the Sierra Club classic, "A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra," published in 1954, was needed, the Club turned to Andy to further its Totebook series with a revised guide. Editing and expanding earlier works, Smatko prepared the "Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra," published by the Club in 1972. By taking his own systematic explorations into account, this work included descriptions of many previously overlooked peaks and passes.

His exploits were not limited to the Sierra. He was the first to explore many of the desert ranges of California, adding more "Firsts" to his totals. He also played a major role in Sierra Club climbing activities, being the very first "triple list finisher" in the Angeles Chapter. This refers to the combination of his #1 finish of the 247 peaks of the Sierra Peaks Section and the 98 peaks of the Desert Peaks Section, and his #11 completion of the over 270 peaks of the Hundred Peaks Section.

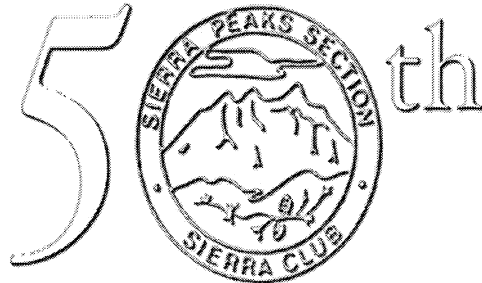
Dr. Smatko managed all this and more while raising a family and maintaining a successful medical practice. He continues that practice today, and an occasional climb as well, at age 83!

We hope that this information is sufficient to support the recommendation by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee of this outstanding mountaineer as the first recipient in the New Millennium of the Farquhar Award. Duane McRuer and Douglas Mantle



Andy using a monocular to verify the highest point. On this independant trip organized by Andy, July 1975, 32 summits were reached between Granite Basin and Copper Creek in Kings Canyon. Photo by J. Keating

Memorable Mountains



NOSTALGIA

As the SPS approaches its 50th anniversary, perhaps indulging in reminiscences about the “good old days” is understandable (even though not all pertain to the SPS).

- ◆ Backpacking in the Sierra before permits, quotas, and campfire and parking restrictions.
- ◆ Downhill skiing before snowboarders showed up on the slopes.
- ◆ Hiking trails before mountain bikers became a safety hazard.
- ◆ Backcountry skiing before the proliferation of Nordic skiers.
- ◆ Being an SPS member before its takeover by fanatic BMTC supporters. (It was certain practices by the BMTC, dared to be questioned by a few, that eventually led to its demise as well as the cancellation of Club mountaineering insurance and the expulsion of its long-established Rock Climbing Sections.)
- ◆ And last but not least, when I was a younger, stronger and faster hiker!

However, highways are much better these days! The four laning of Hwys. 14 and 395 is an on-going process. The 405 is a pain to be sure but imagine Sepulveda Blvd. being the only way out of town to the north—and the 3-lane “Sierra Hwy.” through Mint Canyon (Soledad Canyon as an alternate was deemed to be safer), followed by city streets through Palmdale and Lancaster. Except for Red Rock Canyon, there were few 4-lane sections before reaching Big Pine.

Access roads to the Sierra have improved greatly as well—think of driving up a narrow dirt road (traces of which can still be seen) to Onion Valley. The lower part of the old road up Bishop Creek was okay, but I remember driving across a stream on two planks when the road to Lake Sabrina was washed out by a flash flood, and a burning Volkswagen bus blocking the one lane road leading to South Lake! Anyway, here’s to a great second 50 years (and beyond) for the SPS — keep climbing!

Barbara Lilley

Koip Peak August 27-28, 2005

Alex Amies

The group met at 9 am Saturday morning at Mono Pass Trailhead, located about a mile west of the Tioga Pass entrance to the Yosemite National Park. We got a late start so that I could pick up the permit at the NPS Permit Office at Tuolumne Meadows. For overnight trips originating within the National Park the permit is obtained through the NPS even if the camp is in the Inyo National Forest.

As planned, we packed in to a campsite just over Parker Pass, over the boundary of National Park into Inyo National Forest. The hike was beautiful, especially the alpine meadows above the tree line near Parker Pass. The cheerful chat from our assistant leader, Patty Rambert, made the mood light.

We arrived at camp earlier than expected, about 12:20 pm. Instead of hanging around in camp for the afternoon the group wanted to attempt the peak that afternoon.

After lunch we departed for the peak at about 1:30 pm. The trail wound up a bunch of switchbacks on the slopes of Parker Peak. We got some great views of Mono Lake from the trail.

We left the trail at Koip Pass for a short and easy walk up the talus to Koip Peak, arriving at about 4 pm. After a short break we headed back to camp, arriving at about 6:30 pm.

The campsite was high (about 10,800 ft) and exposed. Luckily the wind was low. After happy hour we all got an early night and still slept in the next morning, some of us sleeping for over 10 hours. After leaving camp at 8:30 Sunday morning, we arrived back at the trailhead at 10:45 am.



Mt. Brewer

George Wysup

3 leaders (Gary Schenk, Pat Arredondo, and George Wysup) with 2 participants (Mary Jo Dungfelder and Stephanie Gylden) met at Kearsarge Pass trailhead at 6:30 Friday morning, Aug 26, 2005. The weather was perfect—nary a cloud and moderate temperatures. There was considerable haze from some prescribed burns in KCNP.

George and Pat had car camped at the east trailhead (9100') for Kearsarge Peak, very near Onion Valley. This is a fine camp site because the steep dirt road requires high clearance AWD and few know about this. Gary and MJ had stayed at The Portal. Stephanie materialized out of nowhere.

THE HIKE IN TO EAST LAKE

George led the bunch, starting at 6:50, at an energy-saving pace (as fast as his old legs could carry all that weight) and with recuperative breaks, to the pass at 11760'. Then we merrily scampered down the trail, past Bullfrog (Jeremiah was one—Joy to the World!) Lake, down the steep JMT to Lower Vidette Meadow, continuing down to Junction Meadow (8200'). We were watching the roaring Bubbs Creek on the way, seeing it get bigger with the Vidette Creek influx and knowing that East Creek would add to the flow before our crossing.

The crossing was obviously passable, but the creek ran deep and swift enough that a dunk was certainly possible. Using 2 poles per person made the crossing uneventful. This allowed us to take 2 welcome breaks, one on either side of the creek. We then continued the 3 miles and 1300' gain up to East Lake, arriving at 5 p.m., where we found several nice campsites and but a single occupant—A friendly fellow from Wausau, WI. I immediately took a liking to this guy because he said I looked 50 years old.

I noticed that I had forgotten my GPS, which would have been very helpful on the Brewer climb.

We set up living quarters, ate, and prepared for the morrow's effort. A brief scout indicated that the creek crossing should be eased by a network of drift logs at the lake outflow. The trip reports were a bit sketchy, but one group said they made the summit in 5 hours, which seemed reasonable because the distance on the map looks to be just a bit more than 3 miles each way with about 4100' gain. It turns out that this is somewhat of an understatement.

Stephanie told of a WTC group that took 15 hours.

Pat had a helpful trip report by Bob Burd with a photo and a route line drawn on it.

Stats for today's effort: 13.8 miles with 4000' gain, 3700' loss.

THE BREWER CLIMB

We set out on the great adventure at a few minutes before 7 a.m., having set a turn around time of 1:30 p.m. I began crossing the log jam, noticing that the darned logs were very slippery with the morning dew on them. I slipped, gaining a wet boot and a scrape on a hand from the incident. The west bank area of East Lake is a swamp, the terrain consisting mostly of ancient deadfall with large holes between the logs. We negotiated that with success, intending to follow the ridge line shown on the map. It was immediately apparent that the 20 meter contour interval on the map masked considerable detail. The route finding was mostly accidental and the resulting path twisted between the 2 handrail creeks bounding the ridge. The good news was that there were frequent spots to replenish our water supply.

Finally we climbed above the obscuring forest and could see our route to the peak (with some question marks). The route was more torturous than we had initially thought. We found a few "feel good" ducks, but the path was unmarked for the most part. In retrospect we should have added a few ducks to kick down on the return.

We crossed an area of gentle slabs, moistened by snowmelt. Gary filled a bottle, noticing later that he was giving a ride to a wriggly critter that he named "Walter". [After Walter bagged the peak, Gary tossed him back into his home. Walter seemed unfazed by his adventure, but it was hard to tell for sure.] We attained the ridge, where it was necessary to climb a tricky route through the broken up boulders. Some of us questioned the "2nd-classness" of the route, but later we decided it was more likely class 2.14 than class 3. We continued climbing, looking for the place to turn left to attain the south face. We spotted the summit (the roundish one on the right, not the pointy one on the left) as the time hit 1:30. Cheating a bit on turn around time, we continued (after all, it's an emblem peak), figuring that we could make it back with no problem before dark hit us at an anticipated 7:45 p.m. We reached the summit at 1:45 or so, and headed back at a bit after 2.

The route down through the "class 2" wasn't much quicker than the route up, and I managed to miss a left turn. Now I was wishing I had my GPS and that we had placed more ducks. We reached the

slabs, dropped Walter off, and continued along what we thought was the route. Mostly we were correct. Then we reached a point where further progress demanded rappelling, which is beyond the scope of an I-rated trip, plus we had no ropes. So we retraced our path for a considerable distance in the dimming daylight until we found a familiar spot and some ducks. Phew! I thought we had a chance to make it out before the moonless darkness descended on us.

Alas, we too soon ran out of sunlight with about 500' of descent remaining. Breaking out the headlamps we probed a variety of paths, the depths of which our LED headlamps were unable to penetrate. We could hear our south handrail, Ouzel Creek. The first several paths proved to lead to places that repulsed our continuing. Finally we found a route that went. I noted that, based on my altimeter, we should now be very close to the lake. Gary, in the lead, tossed a rock to a responding splash. Yep; the lake. We made our way north along the shore through the swamp, finally reaching the log jam at the lake outlet. Figuring that negotiating the jam might lead to injury we just went down the creek a few feet and crossed the knee deep rushing water to the camp. The weather was blessedly warm, so there was no hypothermia issue at all. The time was approaching 10 p.m. We had equaled the time taken by the WTC group, but most of our time was spent on the downhill, not the usual statistic.

No one seemed terribly interested in cooking dinner.

Stats: Who knows, but perhaps 9 miles with 4400' gain/loss.

ANTICLIMAX:

THE RETURN TO ONION VALLEY

The trip plan was to include a climb of the unspectacular Mt Bago. As we breakfasted we decided that we were, collectively, too fatigued and out of gas and mentally bonked to want to do that. We opted to extend ourselves to hike out on Sunday, beginning shortly after 9 a.m. Which we did—dragging very slowly and painfully to Kearsarge Pass by 5:30. We reached the cars in daylight, but barely.

Stats: the reverse of the trip in.

A late but tasty dinner at Pizza Factory replenished us for the late and traffic-free drive home.

Kudos (a herd of African antelope) to young Stephanie, whom I had never before met. She was a game climber; strong and skillful and without a whine. She fit in well with this very compatible group.

Doing Goode and Eating Well

Story and photos by Ron Campbell

Mount Goode (13,085 ft.)
Mount Agassiz (13,893 ft.)
Aug. 27-28, 2005

The pine duff (also known as “dirt”) nicely set off the linen tablecloth and brass candlesticks. The vintage wine, custom packaged in plastic bottles, complimented the smoked salmon blinis, marinated Portobello mushrooms and Godiva Belgian Chocolate ice cream.

That’s the way it was at the Decadent Wilderness Weekend III. Oh, yes, and we climbed a couple of 13ers too.

Seven of us met at the South Lake parking lot shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday. The weather was sunny but not hot – ideal hiking weather. We arrived at Bishop Lakes by 11 a.m., a full hour ahead of my pessimistic forecast.

I had originally planned to climb Mount Goode on Sunday, descend the southwest side, contour to Bishop Pass and then climb Mount Agassiz. After Tom McDonnell and Patrick McKusky both assured me that I was nuts, I privately crossed Agassiz off my plan.

But when we arrived at Bishop Lakes Goode was right there, calling to me. Right then, co-leader

Georgette Rieck and I decided to climb Goode immediately, before dinner, and set aside Sunday for Agassiz.

From Bishop Lakes, Goode looks about a football field away. That turns out to be the wrong cliché?: It’s more like a Rhode Island away. First, Bishop Lakes is the wrong starting point. You have to aim somewhat north of the peak to reach a sandy area above the first talus slope; the best way to get there is from Saddlerock Lake, just north and 100 vertical feet below the Bishop Lakes basin.

The climber’s second decision is what to do

after reaching the sandy area. You can take a diagonal toward the peak through a field of boulders ranging in size from microwaves to SUVs. That was my decision.

Or you can exercise the miraculous virtue of hindsight: Stick to the sandy area until you are directly below the summit; then head straight up through a well-worn talus field. All seven participants summited Goode after a four-hour climb; we easily could have shaved 30 or even 60 minutes from that time by staying low longer.

Back in camp, it was time for the gourmet potluck. We spread an autumn-themed linen tablecloth on the ground, added the candlesticks and

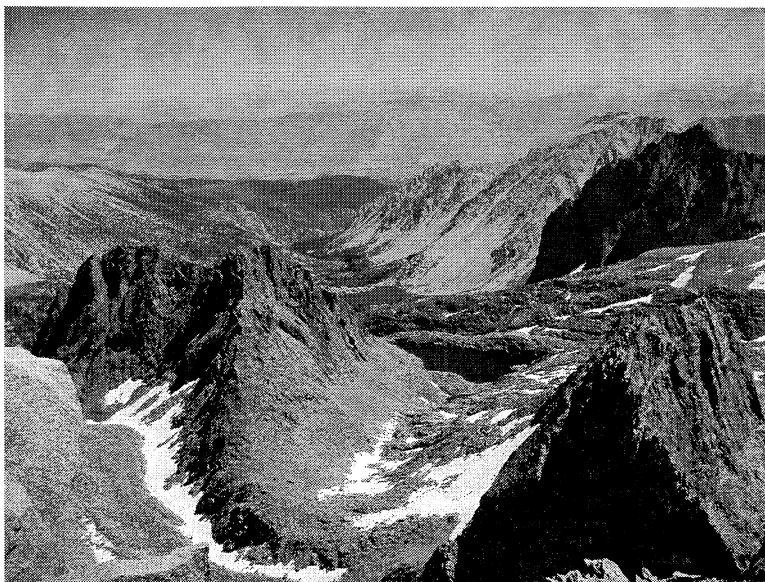


Mount Goode

attempted to light the candles in the erratic wind.

Next we broke out the appetizers: smoked salmon on blinis (small buckwheat pancakes) with cream cheese, capers and, a heavenly touch, fresh dill; Kalamata olives; fresh shrimp with cocktail sauce; Portobello mushrooms and miniature plum tomatoes, marinated in olive oil, balsamic vinegar and garlic; and stuffed grape leaves.

Diners had a choice of three red wines, each tastefully packaged in Nalgene or Platypus bottles: Frei Brothers Petit Syrah (2003), Fat Bastard Merlot (2003) and Black Mountain Fat Cat Cabernet (2002).



Mount Agassiz

Georgette helpfully left the cork in her Fat Bastard. (And yes, that really is its name, and yes, it's French.)

We had two entree choices. Most diners chose, well, both. First off the mountaineering stove was capellini (angel hair pasta) in puttanesca sauce with goat cheese and freshly grated Parmesan. Next up: shrimp and rice with Mandarin oranges and almonds in a sesame ginger sauce.

For dessert, Georgette whipped out a surprise package, a 7-lb. cooler loaded with, oh, 6-1/2 lbs. of dry ice and two pints of ice cream – Godiva Belgian Dark Chocolate and Santa Barbara Vanilla Bean.

Diners drizzled their ice cream with Kahlua. The ice cream would have been outstanding by itself; with the Kahlua it was as blissful as the night sky. We toasted ourselves to bed at 9:30 p.m. after a suitably slow-paced dining experience. Any restaurant critic who could survive the hike would have given it four stars.

At 5:30 a.m. a few of us were awakened by a rockslide on Picture Puzzle Peak. At 6 a.m., I tried to arouse those who weren't disturbed by hundreds of tons of moving granite. Just three of us were awake,

fed and ready to hike when we set out for Agassiz at 7:20 a.m.

We summited Agassiz shortly after 11 a.m. The views were among the most spectacular I have ever seen in the Sierra. Just to the south, Sill, North Palisade and Thunderbolt seemed close enough to touch – but you already know how poor a judge of distances I am. Tom and Humphreys dominated the horizon to the north. To the southwest we enjoyed a fine view of the Black Divide.

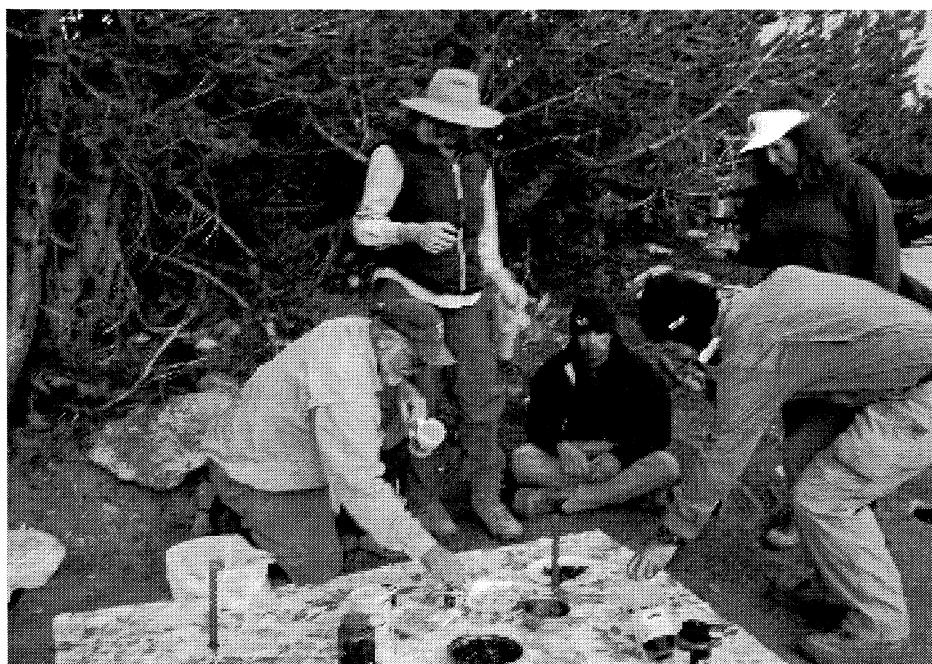
While taking in the scenery from the summit, we supped on roasted garlic and three cheese potato chips with leftover Kalamata olives.

The descent was extremely tedious. I'm sure there is a good route off Agassiz. I am equally certain that it was not the route we took.

A few hours later we returned to the parking lot, toasting a fine weekend with Sam Adams Summer Ale.

Participants were Lisa Buckley, Daryn Dodge, Marlen Mertz and recent WTC graduates Roger Behrens and Brandon Mosst.

My thanks to Georgette for her usual great co-lead, to Lisa for her help on Agassiz and to Daryn for carrying that heavy cooler of ice cream up and down Mount Goode without even once asking what was inside.



Dinner is served!

Sierra Summer 2005

Trip Report

by Patty Rambert

QUESTION:

Where has the Chair been?

ANSWER:

“Gone Climbing”

The season started off with having to cancel the SPS Trojan & Barnard trip that was to be led by Ron Hudson and myself due to lots of snow and unsettled conditions. Maybe next year!

Starting the season with 162 peaks, I head up for the SPS Northern Peaks trip – Thursday, May 17 – Sunday, May 22 led by Ron Hudson and myself. Susan and Bill Livingston and Tom Sakowych joined us. The peaks we climbed included Castle Peak – rain, snow, wet rocks, windy; Mt. Adams – windy, snowy, cold and Susan broke her leg on the return, 1 mile from the car; Mt. Elwell – foggy in morning, afternoon was quite nice; Sierra Buttes – just a fun walk and snowshoe, the ladders were clear of ice and snow, view was spectacular; Mt. Lola – long and beautiful hike, clear and sunny.

SPS/WTC trip to Perkins and Coliseum – Sat, May 28 – Mon., May 30 led by Beth Epstein and Asher Waxman. A small group of us reached the summit of Perkins and others had to turn back.

I climbed Mt. Shasta – Sat., June 11 and reached the summit at 9:15 a.m. via Avalanche Gulch for my 57th Birthday climb. It was a private trip arranged by Gerard Lewis and included a bunch of his friends including the four of us that drove up together in the Four Runner (Edd Ruskowitz, John Cyran, Wayne Vollaire and myself.). We were treated to a great barbecue and bread pudding at Edd’s parents in Redding after the climb.

SPS Clark Range trip Thursday, June 16 – Sunday, June 19 led by Ron Hudson and myself. Randall Dante, Darrick Dante, Alex Amies, Alex Smirnoff, Shane Smith and Larry and Barbee Tidball

joined us. It snowed overnight and into the next morning, so we spent the day in camp. Hoping it would clear up and reading magazines and books (we tore them apart to share). The next day we were able to climb Mt. Clark and Gray Peak. That was a challenging combination! Hiked out the following day.

Private trip Friday, June 24 – Sat. June 25 with PCS member Charles Schafer joined by Alex also Bay Area, Darrick Dante and myself. We climbed Mt. Muah from Horseshoe Meadow (X2 for me) and the next day climbed Cartago and hiked out down to Cartago making it a loop trip with car shuttle.

Private trip Tuesday, June 28 – Thursday, June 30 with Darrick & Sarah Dante, and Ron Hudson and myself to climb Coyote and Angora. Still plenty of snow near the summit of Coyote, Angora was clear and we descended directly down to camp. Hiked out the next day.

SCMA Rock Climbing trip to Courtright



Patty leads crossing a swollen creek in the Clark Range

Reservoir from Friday July 1 to Tuesday, July 5 lots of people were there including Dave German, Judy Rittenhouse, Ron Hudson, Leslie Hoeffler, Keith Martin. I climbed on Dusy Dome, Power Dome and hiked to Dog Tooth Peak and climbed at Tiger Cage. Fun to climb again with ropes, etc.!

I led CMC trip to Mt. Sill and Polemonium Peak on Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10. Snow conditions were great in the L shaped snowfield and also on the traverse to Polemonium. Ellen Holden led the technical pitches on Polemonium followed by Jan

Lorenzen and then they brought all of us up! So fun – 2 14er's in a day.

Private trip organized by Bob Suzuki from Bay Area. Jeff Fisher, Ron Hudson and myself. Sunday, July 17 – Thursday, July 21. Climbed Forester and Electra – lots of snow one day, then moved camp and climbed Red and Merced and unlisted peak Ottoway. The last day hiked out 20 miles – WOW.

One day off to resupply in Prather and then off to the SPS Trip led by Ron Hudson and myself from Saturday, July 23 to Thursday, July 28 with Susan and Bill Livingston and Jim Conley. Hiked to Coyote Pass and the next day went in to Blue Canyon and got in position to climb Finger Peak, next day Tunemah, next day Reinstein. Incredible remote area with great lakes and flowers. The final day hiked out 25 miles – long walk!

Private trip organized by John Cheslick Friday, Aug. 5 – Monday, Aug. 8. Climbers included Gary Schenk, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Darrick Danta, Susan Livingston and myself. It poured rain the first afternoon, several climbed Bago. The next day we climbed West Vidette with thunderstorms threatening. The next day we all attempted Deerhorn but only Susan and I continued to the summit. Wonderful climb but Susan and I encountered a lot of lightning/thunder on the descent but it all eventually cleared and it was a beautiful afternoon. The next day some hiked out and John, Susan and I climbed East Vidette. Good climb but after descending 1200' or so I realized I had left my Garmin Rhino GPS/Radio at the summit area below the summit block. Oops, hopefully someone will retrieve it and return it to me!

Then another private trip organized by John Cheslick from Friday Aug. 12 – Monday, Aug. 15 including Susan Livingston, Jim Conley and myself. We had mules bring our gear in to Big Pete Meadow over Bishop Pass. The next day we hiked to Helen Lake below Muir Pass, set up camp and Susan and I climbed Mt. Fiske and encountered another Lightning storm and had to sit it out below the summit. The next day we summited Charybdis, that is a very neat climb – thanks John for the excellent route finding. We had many more plans but the weather was turning for the worse so we decided to pack up and get out of town. It had rained all-night and continued in the morning. Everything was



Charybdis

soaking wet and we packed and went over Muir Pass and continued to Evolution Lake and on to Darwin Bench and then to the area below Lamarck Col. We arrived there soaked to the bone and chilled. The decision was made to go over Lamarck Col and continue down and hike out. An unexpected snow blizzard with white out conditions developed before we all got over the Col and it dumped 6-8' of new snow on everything. I developed hypothermia and was barely able to continue. It was suggested that I should just be left there in an emergency bivy bag. Still able to make some conscious decisions, I suggested that with assistance some items could be retrieved from my pack to warm me up. I tied a shirt on my head over my soaking wet buff (polypro bandanna) and under my hood and my hands were wet, cold and unable to move so my gloves wouldn't go on so I put a pair of socks on my hands and put my thumb in the heel area and fingers in the toes, ate a Balance Bar that was in my outside shell pocket and then danced around in hysteria in this desperate situation. Within 5 – 10 minutes I was warmed up enough that I could hold onto my ice ax and descend from Lamarck Col and traverse to the talus near the lake and continue all the way out to North Lake. It took 11 hours from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. The next day I drove home from Independence and the whole way I was just so happy to be alive. That evening I took my granddaughter Jade Elaine Rambert (3 years old) to Gallop Park to watch the sunset and just celebrated another day!

At this point, I was not sure if I wanted to head

out on another extended trip but I decided that if I didn't I might not return to the mountains. I considered what I was heading in to and said, "I am ready". I had climbed with most of the people before and had been to the area, so it was going to be familiar and everyone was very experienced and super fun. So off I went on a CMC Trip to Milestone Basin from Sunday, August 20 – Thursday, Aug 25. The organizers were Ron Norton and Joe White and the participants were Wane Kent Johnson, Ann Kaminiski, Nancy Pallister, Mike Zimmerman and myself. I shared with Ron and Joe my recent experience and they were so wonderful and we all committed to staying together. Up Shepherd Pass trail to a wonderful wooded campsite just above the Pothole, Anne had been there before so she showed us about 6 bivy spots and the stream was right there! I stowed my ice ax and helmet because the conditions didn't seem like I would need that equipment. The next morning we got over Shepherd Pass and on to Milestone Creek area. Ron and Joe wanted to know which peaks "I needed". I mentioned that we might want to consider doing Midway first and then Milestone. They agreed and I so I was able to get Midway the one I needed and then Milestone just looked so great, I climbed it again with all of them!!! The next morning 3 of us took off for Table Mountain (that being one of the Mountaineers Peaks I needed), kind of intricate route finding to the plateau but we had great notes and pencil sketch from Ellen Holden from when she had done it years ago. So before we knew it we were walking the 1/3-mile across the summit plateau. Gorgeous day views for miles, breezy and clear! We returned to camp and moved up the Kern to an area where we could approach the gully up to Thunder. Thunder was a super climb with lots of ups & downs, traverse across the middle summit and then on to the 4th class summit block. On the top again! The next day we hiked all the way out from the Kern River over Shepherd Pass back to the cars 7 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. about 9 hours. Great trip back to a great area with fun folks!

Rest day in Independence and then on to Tioga Pass Road for the SPS Provisional lead for Alex Amies Saturday, August 27 – Sunday, August 28. We (Alex Smirnoff, Eric LeFleur, Bob Hoeven and Ann, Ron Eckelmann, Alex Amies and myself) hiked in and set up camp and then did Koip Peak in the afternoon. Back to camp for a very happy Happy Hour. Relaxing breakfast and were back to the cars by 10:30 a.m. Everyone went off to do whatever he or

she had in mind. Alex and Alex headed to do some rock climbing on one of the close domes. I didn't have my rock shoes so I ended up at the Mobile Station for some tasty food with Ron, Bob and Ann.

Not ready to sit still yet, I headed out on a private trip on Monday, Aug. 29 – Wed., Aug 31 with Ron Eckelmann from Silver Lake to Thousand Island Lake. The show of flowers is still spectacular in that area. The next day climbed Mt. Davis via North Glacier Pass and then on the West Side of the southeast ridge. The talus was yucky and I got off route but we finally made it to the summit over some snow, etc. What a view, we could see all the Northern Peaks and lots to the south also. Then hiked out the next day.

On Thursday, Sept. 1 did a private day hike with Ron Eckelmann to climb Excelsior Mountain from Virginia Lakes. Great weather, flowers were plentiful and Burro Lake was iridescent as you looked down on it. Called RJ Secor to see how everything was going, it was his Birthday and he had just had lunch with Henry Arnebold and Larry Hoak. RJ said "This was a very special day for him, he thanked me for the call!" Ron Eckelmann spoke with RJ and they talked about the very early days when RJ was 14 and they did a bunch of hikes, etc.

So that is the end of the trips for now. I drove home from Independence to Orange County. First was to get my gear back in shape. I had had several equipment failures – some would say I told you so – my camelback had several micro holes/leaks, my thermarest had a puncture in the bottom, the water filter needed a replacement part that had been sent in the mail and the tent floor needed some repair. Constant use leads to abuse (failures). But at least my gear gets well used.

So tomorrow Monday, Sept. 5, I will drive to Lodgepole to get set for a trip to the Kaweah's from Crescent Meadow TH. Black Kaweah would be the Mountaineer peak I need.

After that the fall will include more trips – Temple /Gayley, Tower Peak, North Maggie and possibly a couple of Mountaineers Peaks – Bear Creek Spire and Cathedral Peak. Then the season will change and it will be many months before I return to the Sierras.

So let's all think about our goals for 2006 and make some plans and join some friends for the next climbing season.

Climb High and Stay Safe!

Conservation 2- Liners

Giant Sequoia needs protection- trees over 30" diameter being logged.

The Sequoia Task Force of the Sierra Club is protesting the Forest Service's decision to allow commercial logging to go forward in a logging project that is TODAY (8/2/05) bulldozing huge swathes and removing ancient trees, many several centuries old, on ridgetops adjacent to five giant sequoia groves in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. This timber sale is called the Saddle Fuels Reduction Project and is all about removing big trees, not about fire control. This project will take more than 5 Million Board Feet of big timber! We have asked for an immediate halt to this project!

The Giant Sequoia National Monument was created in April of 2000. The Proclamation's provisions was supposed to stop bulldozing, logging and exploitation of Monument lands. It called for restoration from a century of logging. However, the Proclamation did allow a few timber sales that had been approved prior to the creation of the Monument to be completed as a short term transition for the timber industry. The Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, whose department included the Forest Service, announced that this logging was estimated to be completed within about two and a half years of the signing of the Proclamation.

At the time of the signing of the Proclamation, the Saddle Project contract termination date was March, 2004. That meant logging should have been completed by November of 2003 because of seasonal closure of the forest for winter. BUT, quietly in the backroom of the Forest Service, the contract deadline was changed giving the industry until 2005. Then the deadline was changed yet again so the industry now can log until 2006.

The Sierra Club cheered the creation of this Monument as the realization of John Muir's dream to have all Sequoias protected throughout their range.

For more information go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/sequoia/>

Protest the implementation of the Saddle Project by writing letters to your Congressional representatives and to the Supervisor of Sequoia National Forest, 1500 West Grand Avenue, Porterville CA 93257.

August/September VOL. 49 NO. 4

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

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